

The escalating human rights crisis in Georgia

The International Federation for Human Rights and its members,

Deeply concerned by the escalating human rights crisis in Georgia following the fraudulent October 2024 parliamentary elections and the subsequent suspension of Georgia's accession negotiations with the European Union,

Condemning the systematic use of excessive force against protesters during the peaceful mass demonstrations, including acts that likely amount to torture or other forms of ill-treatment, as well as the politically motivated mass arbitrary detentions, judicial harassment, and the unlawful imprisonment of protesters, including opposition leaders, journalists and civic activists, accompanied by flagrant violation of their fundamental fair trial rights,

Strongly condemning the violent, concerted and ongoing crackdown on the rights to freedom of association and expression, including through the enforcement of the newly adopted, Russia-inspired "foreign agents" legislation especially since July 2025, designed to delegitimize, intimidate and silence the political opposition, civil society organizations and independent media,

Deeply alarmed by the escalating judicial harassment of human rights defenders and civil society organizations as part of the increasing efforts of the Georgian authorities to entirely dismantle civil society organizations and independent media outlets, including by launching a criminal investigation on fabricated "State sabotage" charges and subsequently freezing the bank accounts of leading civil society organizations in March and late August 2025,

Noting with grave concern that this repressive campaign might deprive thousands of crucial legal, financial, medical and psychosocial support, as well as access to independent information,

Deeply concerned about the ongoing persecution of LGBTQI+ individuals in Georgia, including human rights defenders, through discriminatory legislation, government-backed violence and hostile rhetoric,

Noting with grave concern the destructive role of State-sponsored disinformation, hate speech, and politically motivated smear campaigns targeting opposition figures, human rights defenders, civil society activists and independent media, creating a climate of pervasive fear and hostility,

Denouncing the erosion of the independence of the judiciary and the prevailing culture of impunity for perpetrators of severe human rights violations,

Call on the Georgian authorities to

- Immediately end all forms of politically motivated persecution, including judicial harassment, physical violence, and smear campaigns against human rights defenders, independent media workers, activists and opposition members, and immediately release all individuals arbitrarily detained for exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and free expression,
- Repeal all repressive legislation impeding freedom of association and expression, including the "foreign agents" legislation, the amendments to the Law "On Grants" and the legislation targeting the LGBTQI+ community, bringing Georgia's legislation in line with its international obligations and ensuring a safe environment for civil society organizations and independent media,

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- Ensure accountability for police brutality by launching independent, thorough and effective investigations into all documented cases of excessive use of force by State agents, holding all perpetrators accountable.

FIDH and its members also call on the international community to

- Stand in unwavering solidarity with the people of Georgia and support its vibrant civil society, including by providing flexible financial support to Georgian civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and independent media outlets,
- Monitor and publicly condemn the human rights violations committed by the Georgian authorities by issuing regular joint statements, including in multilateral fora,
- Establish an independent fact-finding mission under the auspices of a relevant international body to thoroughly investigate allegations of systematic violence against protesters and the crackdown on human rights in the country, and report its findings publicly,
- Use all available accountability mechanisms, including universal jurisdiction, to hold perpetrators to account, and impose targeted individual sanctions on government officials, members of the security services, prosecutors, judges and other actors identified as responsible for the grave human rights violations committed in Georgia.