

**Criminal Cases**  
**29 November 17 December**

*The present document concerning the ongoing criminal cases is based on publicly disclosed information provided by media outlets and investigative authorities. It is subject to periodic updates in accordance with publicly available data. The document was prepared by "Georgia's European Orbit" and Human Rights' Center of the University of Georgia. The information provided is intended for informational purposes.*

N	Date	Place/Person	Story	Source
1.	December 4	Irakli Miminoshvili	<p>19 years old Student Irakli Miminoshvili is an active participant in pro-European protests. Before his arrest, his home was searched for approximately one hour. His lawyer was not allowed to attend the process. Law enforcement officers confiscated a computer, a phone, and various small electronic devices from his residence.</p> <p>He has been charged with organizing, leading, or participating in group violence, as well as hooliganism. These charges fall under Articles 225 and 239 of the Criminal Code.</p>	<a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33226920.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33226920.html</a>
2.	December 4	Zviad Tsetskhladze	<p>Police conducted a search at the home of 19 years old student, Zviad Tsetskhladze, the founder of the yout movement "<i>Dapioni</i>." According to <i>Dapioni</i>, the search lasted several hours, and Tsetskhladze's lawyer was only allowed entry after a decision was made to detain him.</p> <p>Law enforcement officers seized gas masks, clothing, and spray bottles from Tsetskhladze's residence. Later, Zviad Tsetskhladze was also arrested. Police have charged him under Article 225 of the Criminal Code, which pertains to organizing, leading, or participating in group violence.</p>	<a href="https://publika.ge/dafioni-chveni-akhalgazrduli-modzraobis-damfudznebeli-da-lideri-zviad-ceckhladze-daapatimres/">https://publika.ge/dafioni-chveni-akhalgazrduli-modzraobis-damfudznebeli-da-lideri-zviad-ceckhladze-daapatimres/</a>
3.	December 4-6	Tornike Goshadze	<p>The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia claims that 34-year-old Insaf Aliev, 24-year-old Tornike Goshadze, 20-year-old Giorgi Giorgadze, and 20-year-old</p>	<p>1. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/sha/re/1GEQcePRx9/">https://www.facebook.com/sha/re/1GEQcePRx9/</a></p>

4.	December 4-6	Giorgi Giorgadze	Nikoloz Javakhishvili participated in group violence during pro-European protest rallies. The judge imposed pretrial detention on all five defendants as a preventive measure, and the preliminary court hearing has been scheduled for January 16, 2025, at 12:00 PM.	2. <a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/ჯგუფური-ძალადობისთვის-დაკავებულები/33229770.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/ჯგუფური-ძალადობისთვის-დაკავებულები/33229770.html</a>
5.	December 4-6	Insaf Aliev		
6.	November 30	Nikoloz Javakhishvili		
7.	December 4	Aleksandre Elisashvili	<p>On December 4, 2024, law enforcement officers detained Aleko Elisashvili, a leader of the political coalition "Strong Georgia," near the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Tbilisi. The Ministry of Internal Affairs reported that Elisashvili is accused under Article 156, Part 2(a) of the Criminal Code, which pertains to persecution involving violence or the threat thereof.</p> <p>Elisashvili's attorney claims that during the arrest, excessive force was used, resulting in facial injuries, bruises, and possible rib fractures.</p> <p>The charges against Elisashvili is relate to an incident on December 2, 2024, on Kostava Street in Tbilisi, where Elisashvili allegedly assaulted Ali Babaev, chairman of the "National Congress of Azerbaijanis of Georgia," due to political affiliations.</p> <p>Elisashvili, a former member of parliament and Tbilisi City Council, is known for his activism and authorship of several books about Tbilisi. His supporters view the arrest as politically motivated, while authorities maintain it is a legal response to alleged criminal conduct.</p> <p>On December 16 at the request of the Prosecutor's Office, the court modified Aleko Elisashvili's preventive measure, substituting pretrial detention with bail.</p>	<a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33227683.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33227683.html</a>
8.	December 4	Vepkhia Kasradze		<a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33226618.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33226618.html</a>

		(Member of Lelo Party)	The Ministry of Internal Affairs has detained two members of the <i>Lelo</i> party, Vefkhia Kasradze and Vasil Kadzelashvili.	
9.	December 4	Vasil Kardzelashvili (Member of Lelo Party)	They are featured in secretly recorded footage released several days prior to a protest demonstration. According to pro-government media, the footage allegedly shows them discussing "violent plans." The <i>Lelo</i> party dismissed the accusations as nonsense and believes the incident was staged for propagandistic purposes.	
10.	December 6	Luka Jabaia	<p>Luka Jabaia was arrested at his home in Tbilisi. His lawyer, Rusudan Agurashvili, tells "Publika" that he is being accused under Article 225 of the Criminal Code. Jabaia has been transferred to the Dighomi isolation facility.</p> <p><i>"He was arrested at home this morning. He is accused under the first part of Article 225. As far as I know, because I haven't received the case materials yet, what I know verbally from the investigator... the phone has been confiscated, and a personal search was likely conducted, based on which the phone was seized. I currently do not have information on any additional investigative actions taken,"</i> says the lawyer.</p> <p>Article 225, Part 1, involves organizing or leading group actions accompanied by violence, rioting, damage or destruction of property, use of weapons, resisting or attacking law enforcement with weapons. The crime is punishable by imprisonment for a term of six to nine years.</p>	<a href="https://publika.ge/siskhlis-samartlis-wesit-20-wlis-luka-jabua-daakaves/">https://publika.ge/siskhlis-samartlis-wesit-20-wlis-luka-jabua-daakaves/</a>
11.	December 5	Saba Skhvitaridze	Saba skhvitaridze was arrested on December 5. During the trial, Saba Skhvitaridze claimed that he had been abducted and tortured. According to him, police officers neither explained the reason for his detention nor provided any clarification before handing him over to an unidentified operational group in the Gori area. <i>"I was taken to a facility in Dighomi, handed over to four masked individuals, and beaten. They searched me, and then other masked individuals carried out acts of violence against me using various objects. They even broke a piece of wood over me,"</i> Skhvitaridze recounted.	<a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33229589.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33229589.html</a> <a href="https://publika.ge/advokati-saba-skhvitaridze-ambobs-rom-masze-policiiis-shenobashi-fizikurad-idzalades/">https://publika.ge/advokati-saba-skhvitaridze-ambobs-rom-masze-policiiis-shenobashi-fizikurad-idzalades/</a>

		<p>At the hearing, the prosecutor argued that Saba Skhvitaridze physically assaulted a police officer and caused injuries, alleging that Saba struck the officer in the head with an object, which required the officer to be hospitalized.</p> <p>According to defense attorney Irakli Chomakhashvili, the prosecution presented only a 29-second video as evidence. He asserted that the confrontation was initiated by masked individuals, who provoked the incident. <i>"They [the masked individuals] had no identification or insignia, nor did they clarify that they were police officers. When asked who they were, they could not provide an answer. These unidentified masked police officers verbally abused the defendant,"</i> Chomakhashvili stated.</p> <p>The following days, Irakli Chomakhashvili, among those detained in connection with the protests, only his client has been transferred to Rustavi, to the #6 penitentiary facility, which is a strict-regime facility. The lawyer, citing Sakhitaridze, claims that there are unsanitary conditions in the cell. He also stated that he received a promise from the Ombudsman to visit the detainee and inspect the cell.</p> <p>In addition, Chomakhashvili is demanding an explanation from the Minister of Justice regarding the reasons for transferring Sakhitaridze to Rustavi prison.</p> <p><i>"Today I visited Saba in the #6 penitentiary facility in Rustavi, which is a strict-regime facility. I want to note that, among those detained in connection with these protests, only Saba is being held here, and it is unclear to us why. I am asking the Minister of Justice to make a statement about why this happened. I have also informed the Ombudsman and immediately requested a visit with Saba, including a visit to this specific cell, because it has unsanitary conditions and does not meet international standards. According to him, of course, the Ombudsman promised that they would visit Saba and inspect this specific cell. For me, this is exactly what is unclear, and it is the first time that a defendant has been placed not in Gldani's #8 facility, but in Rustavi, and both Saba and I associate this with revenge. Therefore, I am addressing all relevant bodies for immediate action, because, in our opinion, this is a basis for revenge, and at the very least, to dispel these thoughts and substantiate why they are acting like this,</i></p>	
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12.	December 5	Onise Tskhadadze	<p>On December 5, comedian Onise Tskhadadze was detained. According to his brother, Onise Tskhadadze was arrested at his home in Terjola by the special forces. The investigation accuses him of participating in group violence, a crime under Article 225, Part 2, of the Criminal Code.</p> <p>On December 7, Tbilisi City Court Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili imposed a two-month pretrial detention as a preventive measure.</p>	<p><a href="https://mtavari.tv/news/171660-iumoristi-onise-tskhadadze-daakaves">https://mtavari.tv/news/171660-iumoristi-onise-tskhadadze-daakaves</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html</a></p>
13.	December 5	Andro Chichinadze	<p>On December 5, officers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs detained actor Andro Chichinadze at his residence. Chichinadze has been an active participant in pro-European protests, advocating for a European future alongside his friends. He believes that comprehensive strikes across all sectors are essential to safeguard this future and to impede the current government's actions, which he deems illegitimate. Chichinadze asserts that such strikes are a pivotal method to express dissent and to convey to the government that their policies will not be tolerated.</p> <p>On December 4, Chichinadze announced his participation in the strike by posting "I am on strike" on social media.</p> <p>On December 5, 2024, the Tbilisi City Court, presided over by Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili, imposed a two-month pretrial detention on Andro Chichinadze. The investigation accuses him of participating in group violence, a violation under Article 225, Part 2, of the Criminal Code.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://go.on.ge/3qbo">https://go.on.ge/3qbo</a></p>
14.	December 5	Ruslan Sivakov		<p><a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html</a></p>

15.	December 5	Jano Archaya	The investigation accuses the individuals of participating in group violence, a crime under Article 225, Part 2, of the Criminal Code.	
16.	December 5	Guram Mirtskhulava	<p>This offense is punishable by imprisonment for a term ranging from 4 to 6 years.</p> <p>On December 7, Tbilisi City Court Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili imposed a two-month pretrial detention as a preventive measure.</p>	
17.	December 10	V.T's N/A	The Ministry of Internal Affairs has arrested a participant of the protest under the Criminal Code. The arrested, V.T., born in 1997, is charged with participation in group violence. V.T. faces up to six years imprisonment. According to the Ministry, V.T. took part in group violence during the protest, disobeyed law enforcement officers, and threw various objects at them. The investigation is being conducted under Article 225, Part 2, of the Criminal Code.	<a href="https://publika.ge/shss-m-siskhlis-samartlis-kodeqsit-saprotesto-aqciebshi-monawile-kidev-erti-adamiani-daakava/">https://publika.ge/shss-m-siskhlis-samartlis-kodeqsit-saprotesto-aqciebshi-monawile-kidev-erti-adamiani-daakava/</a>
18.	December 8	Giorgi Akhobadze  (Doctor)	<p>Giorgi Akhobadze was arrested (on drug-related charges and is being prosecuted under Article 260, Part 6, of the Criminal Code) on the night of December 7–8 while returning home from a protest rally held on Rustaveli Avenue.</p> <p>Following the arrest, Akhobadze's lawyer stated that the accused claimed drugs had been "planted" on him. In court, Akhobadze described the arrest, stating that several individuals restrained him, and he felt them reaching into his pocket. While he tried to resist, the number of people made it physically impossible.</p> <p>"A [police officer's] hand went into my pocket, and they planted this substance or item. From that moment until the search was completed, I verbally protested and argued, of course within the bounds of decency—no offensive words—just arguing with those arresting me, saying how such a thing could happen," Akhobadze said.</p> <p>Lawyers argue that there is no video evidence in the case. "They stopped a passing car, asked him to step out for identification purposes, and suddenly many officers in black uniforms with 'police' labels arrived and began searching him. There was no warrant. As for evidence in the case, the only testimony comes from police officers who claim he had drugs on him, which were allegedly</p>	<a href="https://publika.ge/aqciis-shemdeg-dakavebul-eqims-giorgi-akhobadzes-aghkvetis-ghonisdziebis-sakhit-patimroba-sheefarda/">https://publika.ge/aqciis-shemdeg-dakavebul-eqims-giorgi-akhobadzes-aghkvetis-ghonisdziebis-sakhit-patimroba-sheefarda/</a>

			discovered during the search. However, we know under the new standards that video recording is mandatory during searches, and such a video does not exist in the case. According to the officers' statements, they claim that recording was impossible due to their large number of individuals around," said the lawyer.	
19.	December 9	Dean Mamuka Jorbenadze	On December 9, the Dean of the Faculty of Visual, Performing, and Film-Television Arts, Mamuka Jorbenadze, and four students—Guram Mikheladze, Davit Gvianidze, Giorgi Davitadze, and Andro Kakabadze—were arrested under the criminal code for group violence. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in early December, a group of protesters entered the Batumi Art University to hang a banner near the rector's office. The lecturer, Tea Tsaguria, did not allow them to do so, which resulted in verbal abuse from Mamuka Jorbenadze, the dean of the university. According to the MIA, Mamuka Jorbenadze and his students later physically attacked Tea Tsaguria's husband, Irakli Devadze, and his friend, I.N., inside the university building.	<a href="https://publika.ge/bea-gazdeliani-ganyofilebashi-meubnebodnenshenze-vicit-striptizs-rom-cekvavchakhdilio/">https://publika.ge/bea-gazdeliani-ganyofilebashi-meubnebodnenshenze-vicit-striptizs-rom-cekvavchakhdilio/</a>
20.	December 9	Guram Mikheladze - Student		
21.	December 9	Davit Gvianidze- Student		
22.	December 9	Giorgi Davitadze - Student		
23.	December 9	Andro Kakabadze – Student		
24.	December 12	G.Kh.	According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, G.Kh., born in 1998, is accused of damaging 7 surveillance cameras on Rustaveli Avenue during a rally, together with accomplices. The investigation is ongoing under Article 187, Part 2, Subparagraph “g” of the Criminal Code, which pertains to group damage to property and is punishable by up to 6 years of imprisonment.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/v/14dMkgXdYZ/">https://www.facebook.com/share/v/14dMkgXdYZ/</a>
25.	December 6	Revaz Kiknadze's arrest	On December 6, representatives of the Central Criminal Police Department arrested Revaz Kiknadze, accusing him of organizing, leading, or participating in group violence. On December 6, Kiknadze published a letter from the detention facility, stating that the police were pressuring him to provide false testimony. According to Kiknadze, they demanded that he name individuals who were allegedly “funding” the activities. As a form of protest, Revaz Kiknadze declared a hunger strike. By court decision, he was sentenced to two months of pretrial detention.	<a href="https://publika.ge/dakavebul-rezo-kiknadzes-aghkvetis-ghonisdziebis-sakhit-patimroba-sheefarda/">https://publika.ge/dakavebul-rezo-kiknadzes-aghkvetis-ghonisdziebis-sakhit-patimroba-sheefarda/</a>

26.	December 8	Nika Katsia	<p>Journalist Nika Katsia, a participant in pro-European protests, was arrested on December 8. According to his lawyer, Nino Lominadze, law enforcement officers waited for Katsia near his home, forced him into a car, and took him to another location, where he was searched on the street. As Katsia told his lawyer, the police filmed the search, but nothing was seized.</p> <p>During the court hearing on December 9, Katsia stated that he was treated mockingly during the arrest: <i>“They insulted me with vulgar language. At first, I thought I was being attacked by a gang. Then I realized I had been taken to a building known as ‘CrimPol.’ I began to stutter from nervousness, and they mocked me for that too. I had never stuttered before... They called me things like, ‘You’re a damn bastard, you’re a screwed-up guy.’”</i> Katsia said, adding that there were three cars and around 10 people present during his arrest.</p> <p>The judge sentenced Katsia to two months of pretrial detention. He has been charged under Article 260, Part 6, Subparagraph (a) of the Criminal Code, which pertains to the purchase and possession of a particularly large quantity of narcotic substances.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33232754.html">https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33232754.html</a></p>