

# Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Co Ltd in Georgia

*China Watch*

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NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR  
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# INTRODUCTION

For four years, Civic IDEA yearly has been publishing several reports about the Chinese companies that, within the framework of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, actively continue to operate in the Georgian market, and more specifically in the infrastructure sector of Georgia, and are responsible for the construction of the main highway, roads, bridges in Georgia. and on the construction of tunnels. If you move from the Eastern part of Georgia to the Western part of Georgia, you will find many abbreviations of different Chinese companies on your way while going through the Ricoti Mountain pass. This is exactly the pass where the construction of a 51.6 km long road is planned, which includes 96 bridges and 53 tunnels. The structure of the Ricoti Pass section is divided into four parts:

<http://www.georoad.ge/?lang=geo&act=project&func=menu&uid=1392986222>

I section

11.7 km

II section

12,2 km

III section

13 km

IV section

14,7km

Chinese Companies	Ricoti Pass Sections
China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited	Chumateleti-Khevi section (Section I) 11.7 km
Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group	Khevi-Ubisa section (Section II) 12.2 km
China Road and Bridge Corporation	Ubisa-Shorapani section (Section III) 13 km
Guizhou Highway Engineering Group & China National Technical Import and Export Corporation	Shorapani-Argweta section (Section IV) 14.7km

In our reports, we have already reviewed the activities of China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited and China Road and Bridge Corporation in Georgia and the related misconduct based on a comparative analysis of foreign examples. This time we offer an analysis of the projects won by Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group in Georgia and its shady practices in Uganda and mainland China.

## ABOUT HUNAN ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION GROUP CO LTD

Chinese state-owned company Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Co Ltd (HNRB) was founded in 1954. Their primary business activity covers the construction of roads and bridges. Currently, the company has about 4000 employees. The official shareholder of the company is the Chinese company Hunan Construction Investment Group Co., Ltd.

<https://cn.kompass.com/c/hunan-road-bridge-construction-group-corp/cn139896/>

<http://www.hnrb.cn/qiyegaikuang/>



# TIMELINE OF SCANDALOUS ACTIVITIES

Due to shoddy construction works conducted by HNRB, the 328-meter Tuojiang Bridge collapsed in China, causing [the death of 64 people](#).



2007

20 provincial leaders

and the chiefs of the HNRB

[were jailed for 19 years](#) for bribery,

malpractice, negligence, and organized crime in China.



2009

[The agreement](#) on the construction works of the Khevi-Ubisa road, was signed between Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Ltd and Roads Department of Georgia.



2018

The protests against the Masaka–Bukakata

Road project first transpired in Uganda, when they temporarily halted the HNRB's

operations, resulting in intervention from local authorities.



2019

the new trade union of railways announced through its Facebook page that [the](#)

[conciliation procedure of the collective labor dispute between "Hunan Roads and Bridges](#)

[Construction Group LLC" and the new trade union of railways of Georgia has started.](#)



2020

The truck drivers of the Georgian branch

of the Hunan Roads and Bridges Construction Group [held a protest and presented demands](#)

[to the employing company.](#)



2020

250 employees of the Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group in Kharagauli [went on strike](#) to demand a salary increase.



2021

[Georgia Fair Labor Platform](#), carried out an

safety inspection of the Hunan Roads and

Bridges Construction Group LLC's branch in

Georgia and [found 15 violations](#) related to

labor safety conducted by the company.



2021

100 inhabitants in Uganda sued an Arab contractor, Osman Ahmed Osman & Co, and its sub-contractor, HNRB, for [failing to reimburse the damage](#) caused to their lands and homes during the stone quarrying for the road construction.



2021

[Chinese company Hunan Road and Bridge](#)

[Construction Group won the tender for the](#)

[construction works of the 12-kilometer section of the Samtredia-Grigoleti road](#), despite the

overdue within the construction works of the

Khevi-Ubisa road, multiple violations of labor

rights, extremely negative evaluations on the

labor platform.



2022

# HUNAN ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION GROUP CO LTD IN GEORGIA

Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Co Ltd officially registered its representative office (branch) in Georgia on May 10, 2019, in the public registry of Georgia under the name "Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Ltd". However, Hunan Road & Bridge Construction Group Company Ltd has been registered on the Unified State Procurement Portal of Georgia since November 28, 2018. According to the data of the public registry of Georgia, the company owns 43059.00 square meters of non-agricultural land in Borjomi Street N2 in the city of Khashuri.

The company attracted our attention for the first time by winning the tender announced within the construction works of the Khevi-Ubisa section (F2) of the E-60 highway. It is noteworthy that the aforementioned section of the road is part of the 51.6 km long highway connecting the East and West parts of Georgia. As we have seen in previous reports, the construction of all four sections of the highway mentioned above is carried out by state-owned Chinese companies.

The project of the construction of Khevi-Ubisa road is financed with funding from Asian Development Bank, and the total cost of the procure-ment is 732,296,478.02 GEL.

A total of ten bidders took part in the tender. Hunan Road & Bridge Construction Group Company Ltd won the tender by submitting the lowest price.

Unfortunately, as usual, there is no additional information regarding the selection process and compliance issue of the documents submitted by the company in the Georgian electronic Government Procurement system. The Roads Department of Georgia also refuses to provide this information for the reason that only the entity participating in the tender can request additional information and clarifications regarding the selection process.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the lack of information about the aforementioned project and the construction company, Civic Idea was able to find interesting facts within publicly available sources. As a result of the analysis of the circumstances, it was revealed that the construction of the Khevi-Ubisa road section is not going as well as the Roads Department of Georgia represents through social media or other Internet resources:

<https://bs.napr.gov.ge/GetBlob?pid=400&bid=boVlyOwlsX3qmYsntmLmFI5dwxVnOk%5BL%5DYOtMSmLpWle4cQulBlwvJ7PYsBxiDaL>

<https://tenders.procurement.gov.ge/public/?lang=ge>

<https://bs.napr.gov.ge/GetBlob?pid=101&bid=boVlyOwlsX3qmYsntmLmFAtmpjohPo20SGHpi9gDmPpUUZ89LGIYIwCsPwGplcMk>

[https://www.gov.ge/files/495\\_68788\\_913473\\_2164.pdf](https://www.gov.ge/files/495_68788_913473_2164.pdf)  
[https://www.gov.ge/files/495\\_68788\\_913473\\_2164.pdf](https://www.gov.ge/files/495_68788_913473_2164.pdf)  
<http://www.georoad.ge/?lang=geo&act=project&func=menu&uid=1392986222>

[https://www.gov.ge/files/495\\_68788\\_913473\\_2164.pdf](https://www.gov.ge/files/495_68788_913473_2164.pdf)  
<http://www.georoad.ge/?lang=geo&act=tenders&func=menu&uid=1541504393>

<http://www.georoad.ge/?lang=geo&act=tenders&func=menu&uid=1541504393>

<sup>1</sup> See Report N7 by Civic Idea within the project "China Watch" - <https://civicidea.ge/en/3306-2/new/>

<https://www.facebook.com/georoad.ge/photos/a.2785140384893378/2785140794893337/>

## 1. NON-FULFILLMENT OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS WITHIN THE DEADLINES

- The Draft contract between the Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Co Ltd and the Roads Department of Georgia was approved by the Government of Georgia on November 9, 2018.

- In November 2018, information was spread through Internet publications that.

*"The agreement on the construction works of the Khevi-Ubisa road was signed between Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Ltd and Roads Department of Georgia."*

- According to the same publication, the construction was supposed to be completed in three years. However, the Ministry of Infrastructure told the publication BM.GE that

*"By the end of 2022, a part of the new Rikoti highway (Khevi-Ubisa and Ubisa-Shorapni sections.) will be opened, and the entire 52-kilometer road will be put into operation from 2023".*

- Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group cannot blame the delay in construction works on the emergency situation caused by Covid-19 in 2020, since it is clear from Annex N3 of Resolution No. 211 of April 1, 2020 of the Government of Georgia that Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group was entitled to continue/conduct construction works during the state of emergency.

- Therefore, it is unclear what caused the delay in construction works, and it is even more unclear why the Georgian government does not use the rights granted by law despite the constant violation of contractual obligations by Chinese companies.

## 2. DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEES

- On January 30, 2020, the new trade union of railways announced through its Facebook page that the conciliation procedure of the collective labor dispute between "Hunan Roads

[https://www.gov.ge/files/495\\_68788\\_913473\\_2164.pdf](https://www.gov.ge/files/495_68788_913473_2164.pdf)

<http://www.buinessstime.ge/index.php?page=content&id=3785&MenuItemID=17>

<https://bm.ge/ka/article/rikotis-axali-magistralis-nawili-wels-gaixsneba/116718>

<https://alservice.ge/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/181s-danarTi-N-3-4.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/rkinigzispr-ofkavshiri/posts/3196504037044885/>

and Bridges Construction Group LLC" and the new trade union of railways of Georgia has started.

- According to information published by the trade union:

<https://www.facebook.com/rkinigzispr ofkavshiri/posts/3196504037044885/>

"The subject of the collective labor dispute brought by the employees on the construction of the Rikoti highway is:

1. Regulation of individual contracts of people employed in "Hunan Roads and Bridges Construction Group" LLC in accordance with the law (essential terms of the contract, paid vacation, sick leave, and other issues regulated by law);
2. With the participation of the professional union, implementation of labor safety standards and development of control mechanisms (individual and collective protection);
3. Regulating the wage system and increasing wages;
4. Establishing/adjusting the daily and weekly working rate, overtime hours, and holiday pay rate;
5. Signing a collective agreement with the "New Railways Union," which, along with additional social guarantees, includes corporate health insurance, regulation of hygiene norms, bathrooms, rest facilities, and transportation issues;

- On October 12, 2020, the Internet publication BM.GE reported that the truck drivers of the Georgian branch of the Hunan Roads and Bridges Construction Group held a protest and presented demands to the employing company.

<https://bm.ge/ka/article/rikotze-momushave-chinuri-samsheneblo-kompaniis-tanamshromlebi-gaificnen--gancxadeba/65887>

- Regarding the event of October 12, 2020, Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group announced that:

"The management team of the company organized a meeting with the protestant employees, where the mentioned problematic issues were discussed. The meeting took place in the mode of dialogue and an agreement was reached on most of the demands. The management of the company promised the employees that they will respond as soon as possible to the remaining issues."

<https://bm.ge/ka/article/rikotze-momushave-chinuri-samsheneblo-kompaniis-tanamshromlebi-gaificnen--gancxadeba/65887>

- However, it seems that the company has not fulfilled its promises, as in May 2021, it was again reported that 250 employees of the Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group in Kharagauli went on strike to demand a salary increase:



<https://mtavari.tv/news/42495-protesti-kharagaulshi-gzis-mshenebeli-kompania>

<https://georgiatoday.ge/road-construction-workers-go-on-strike/?fbclid=IwAR3mR3-E0hDB4TmI1fSmv9dodhgX9sZrVlOcBMIVwl5ypqAD8H5GovPuqxY>

<https://nbg.gov.ge/monetary-policy/currency>

"Employees of the company say that their salary is not suitable for the work performed by them. Due to the economic crisis created in the country, employees are no longer able to support their families."

- One employee mentioned that his daily salary is 28 GEL (equal to 6.7 euros at the exchange rate of the relevant period), which is not enough for existence. The employees demanded a 30% salary increase.
- Another demand of the employees was compliance with labor safety norms in the work area.
- Unfortunately, we do not know how the protest among the employees ended because there is no information regarding this issue within public sources. Anyway, it is a fact that the Chinese company offered Georgian employees degrading pay for hard work and did not "bother" to introduce labor safety rules. In addition, the company constantly violated the labor rights of employees.

### 3. VIOLATION OF LABOR SAFETY REGULATIONS

<https://shroma.ge/about/>

<https://shroma.ge/monitor/inspection.php?lang=ka&uid=001632>

<https://shroma.ge/monitor/inspection.php?lang=ka&uid=001632>

<https://shroma.ge/monitor/inspection.php?lang=ka&uid=001632>

- 2021 On May 27, 2021, Georgia Fair Labor Platform, which is an informal coalition of independent trade unions, civil society organizations and activists working to improve labor conditions for workers in Georgia, carried out a safety inspection of the Hunan Roads and Bridges Construction Group LLC's branch in Georgia and found 15 violations related to labor safety conducted by the company.
- After five months, Georgian Fair Labor Platform carried out a re-inspection of the company, although the employer still had not fully fulfilled all the obligations and recommendations and still hadn't rectified the detected violations.
- According to the information posted on the Georgian Fair Labor Platform, it is also apparent that Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group was fined a total of 15,000 GEL due to violations of the Labour Safety regulations.

Here are the [results](#) published on the platform:

<https://shroma.ge/monitor/inspection.php?lang=en&uid=001632>

## Summary of findings

Violation identified	Compliance status
1. Failure to develop and/or implement a risk assessment policy	✓
2. Lack of training, including safety training	✓
3. Lack of first aid, fire safety and emergency/evacuation procedures	✓
4. Failure to inspect or maintain safety of equipment and personal protective gear	✓
5. Failure to provide employees with functioning personal protective equipment	✓
6. Inadequate sanitary & hygienic standards	✗
7. Lack of general protective measures (ventilation, protective shields for machinery, etc.)	✓
8. Failure to ensure safety standards guaranteed under technical regulations (electrical safety, cylinder safety etc.)	✓
9. Failure to ensure safety standards guaranteed under technical regulations (electrical safety, cylinder safety etc.)	✗
10. Failure to ensure safety standards guaranteed under technical regulations (electrical safety, cylinder safety etc.)	✓
11. Failure to ensure safety standards guaranteed under technical regulations (electrical safety, cylinder safety etc.)	✓
12. Failure to ensure safety standards guaranteed under technical regulations (electrical safety, cylinder safety etc.)	✓
13. Failure to ensure safety standards guaranteed under technical regulations (electrical safety, cylinder safety etc.)	✓
14. Failure to ensure safety standards guaranteed under technical regulations (electrical safety, cylinder safety etc.)	✓
15. Failure to ensure safety standards guaranteed under technical regulations (electrical safety, cylinder safety etc.)	✓

🕒 = Pending reinspection ✗ = Has not complied ✓ = Complied

## CONSTRUCTION OF THE THIRD SECTION OF THE SAMTREDIA-GRIGOLETI ROAD OF THE EAST-WEST E60 EXPRESSWAY

On September 21, 2022, the online platform - [Interpressnews](https://www.interpressnews.ge/ka/article/727265-samtredia-grigoletis-mesame-monakvetis-mshenebloba-icqeba/) published news regarding the construction of the third section of the [Samtredia-Grigoleti road](https://www.interpressnews.ge/ka/article/727265-samtredia-grigoletis-mesame-monakvetis-mshenebloba-icqeba/). The project is financed by the European Investment Bank, and the value of the contract signed with the supplier is 324.6 million GEL. According to the agreement, construction works must be completed in 2 years.

[Chinese company Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group](https://batumelebi.netgazeti.ge/news/437462/) won the tender for the construction works of the 12-kilometer section of the [Samtredia-Grigoleti road](https://batumelebi.netgazeti.ge/news/437462/), despite the overdue within the construction works of the Khevi-Ubisa road, multiple violations of labor rights, extremely negative evaluations on the labor platform. [According to the Roads Department of Georgia](https://batumelebi.netgazeti.ge/news/437462/), the company Todini Costruzioni Generali S.p.A. initially worked on constructing the Samtredia-Grigoleti road, but the latter did not fulfill its obligations. The Roads Department of Georgia did not specify in its statement what type of violations the supplier above conducted. Bringing clarity to this matter becomes especially important because the new company that won the tender - Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group, is not only internationally discredited and has a bad reputation but also because it has been recorded overdue and violations within the implementation of a similar project in Georgia.

*It is interesting why the Roads Department of Georgia chose a supplier with such a bad international reputation within road construction and various violations even in Georgia.*

The conclusions of the [China Watch](https://civiclea.ge/?s=China+Watch) report carried out by Civic IDEA are usually similar. In Georgia, Chinese companies win tenders for massive projects financed by international organizations and financial institutions. Generally, the international reputation of the companies mentioned above is questionable. They are involved in various scandals, are being prosecuted, and are sanctioned by several international financial institutions. Projects won by Chinese companies in Georgia are always completed with violations of laws, gaps, and violations of contractual obligations or, worse, still need to be completed.

Unfortunately, Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group is no exception to this cruel practice. It is a fact that the Roads Department of Georgia did not show the utmost care and good faith during the selection procedure of the supplier. The department did not inspect the company's international reputation and shut its eyes to violations that occurred during the construction works of Khevi-Ubisa road. Accordingly, there is reasonable doubt about the existence of related parties and corrupt transactions within the tender.

To better understand the scandalous reputation of the company, as in other reports, we will offer here an overview of its negative practices, using the examples of Uganda and mainland China.

## HNRB IN UGANDA

In the last few years, Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Co. Ltd. (HNRB) has been actively winning infrastructure contracts on the African continent. It heads projects in [Kenya](#), [Nigeria](#), [Rwanda](#), etc., and even opened local offices there. Although the implementation of most of the projects in Africa has just started, scandalous stories are already coming out from the region. Uganda represents one of the examples.

In 2013, the Government of the Republic of Uganda, represented by its Uganda National Roads Authority, secured a loan from Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) to renovate the Masaka–Bukakata Road (41km), which represents one of the critical paths in Uganda and “[connects Masaka](#) to the Bukakata landing site and the Lambu fishing village on Lake Victoria”. The project execution was expected to start in 2015 and last three years. Nevertheless, it was delayed due to another scandal around Katosi road construction, where [the contractor company appealed to the court](#) to halt the process, which completely diverted the attention of the government. Initially, the costs of the Masaka–Bukakata Road project was expected to amount to US\$70 million; however, its price was reduced to US\$51 million in 2018 (it is unclear what the remaining US\$19 million of the total loan was spent on) and was awarded to Arab and Egyptian companies, that later sub-contracted the Chinese Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group Co. Ltd. “[The road construction project envisages](#) clearing and grubbing within the right way, earthworks, rock fill in swamps, construction of drainage network and construction of pavement layers.”

[https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/project-related-procurement/publication\\_of\\_award\\_of\\_contract\\_for\\_works\\_lot\\_2.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/project-related-procurement/publication_of_award_of_contract_for_works_lot_2.pdf)

[http://www.enghunan.gov.cn/hneng/News/Localnews/202206/t20220613\\_25574736.html](http://www.enghunan.gov.cn/hneng/News/Localnews/202206/t20220613_25574736.html)

<http://en.hncc-china.com/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=show&catid=25&id=202>

<https://www.unra.go.ug/news/excitement-as-masaka-bukakata-road-is-commissioned>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150311203455/http://munnovoice.com/?p=1346>

<https://projectstoday.com/News/Uganda-govt-commences-construction-of-NyendoBukakkata-road>





<https://www.facebook.com/thenewvision/posts/hunan-road-bridge-construction-group-co-ltd-in-charge-of-constructing-bukakata-/10158429393674078/>

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/unra-lists-24-completed-roads-bridges-and-ferries-3546902>

<https://witness.co.ug/masaka-bukakata-road-project-affected-persons-sue-contractor-over-compensation/>

Already in 2019, the Uganda government issued the permission for launching the construction works. The road building was successfully implemented for three years, and the pandemic did not prevent the works. Moreover, HNRB, as one of the contractors, has donated over 10,000 face masks and other medical products to the residents to win their loyalty. Even though the construction of the Masaka–Bukakata Road ended in June 2021, after several months, the Chinese contractor HNRB has been embroiled in a big scandal.

In November 2021, over 100 inhabitants sued an Arab contractor, Osman Ahmed Osman & Co, and its sub-contractor, HNRB, for failing to reimburse the damage caused to their lands and homes during the stone quarrying for the road construction. It appeared that during the extraction, HNRB used explosives that cracked the houses and plantations of the local population, also jeopardizing their health, as several women and animals nearby the explosions suffered from multiple miscarriages due to the constant blasts. The protests from locals had transpired already in 2019, when they halted the company's operations, resulting in intervention from local authorities. The responsible contractors, together with the local leaders, promised to reimburse all the damage caused during the construction. Initially, they

were supposed to give compensation before resuming the work; nonetheless, the company engineers convinced residents to allow them to proceed and to pay later after the project was fully implemented. Since the promise was not kept, Masaka high court has summoned the two companies to appear in court and obliged them to visit the victims, assess the damage, make a report and proceed further with the compensation.

Source:

[https://twitter.com/unra\\_ug/status/1295327269439844355](https://twitter.com/unra_ug/status/1295327269439844355))



## HNRB AS A THREAT TO CHINA ITSELF

HNRB has also jeopardized the lives of Chinese citizens in Fenghuang county, Hunan province. On August 13, 2007, due to shoddy construction, the 328-meter Tuojiang Bridge over the Tuo river collapsed, causing the death of 64 people, 22 injured and an economic loss of 39.747 million yuan (nearly US\$ 6 million). More than 120 medical staff worked on-site, while around 1560 rescuers were gathered to conduct the emergency operation. Similar cases are

[https://www.terraviva.com/reports/More\\_than\\_20\\_jailed\\_over\\_2007\\_China\\_bridge\\_collapse\\_state\\_media\\_999.html](https://www.terraviva.com/reports/More_than_20_jailed_over_2007_China_bridge_collapse_state_media_999.html)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S209575642200040X>

[https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-08/14/content\\_6026695.htm](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-08/14/content_6026695.htm)



<https://www.ctvnews.ca/china-bridge-collapse-leaves-dozens-dead-1.252557?cache=yes%3Fclipid%3D104056%3FautoPlay%3Dtrue%3FautoPlay%3Dtrue>

[https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-08/14/content\\_6026695.htm](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-08/14/content_6026695.htm)

frequent in the history of the Chinese state, but it can be assertively said that the collapse of this particular bridge is among the worst large-scale events due to its severe and disastrous consequences. After the tragedy, the then Prime Minister, [Wen Jiabao](#), ordered an investigation and promised to punish everyone guilty of this catastrophe. The investigation team staffed by the representatives of the communications, construction, health and supervision ministries was formed under the leadership of [Li Yizhong](#), director of the State Administration of Work Safety.



<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/221019.htm>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/china-bridge-collapse-leaves-dozens-dead-1.252557?cache=yes%3Fclipid%3D104056%3FautoPlay%3Dtrue%3FautoPlay%3Dtrue>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/aug/14/china.jonathanwatts>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-bridge-idUSPEK18727520070816>

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/news/news080122-2.htm>

The construction of the Tuojiang Bridge started [in March 2004](#) and was scheduled to open in late August 2007. Therefore, it collapsed exactly at the opening time and had yet to be launched officially. The bridge was [designed](#) by the Hunan Huagang Transportation Design Institute and carried out by the Fengda company based in the western Hunan province. The main contractor of the US\$1.6 million project was Hunan Road and Bridge Construction (Group) Ltd. Co., or HNRB, at that time, known as RBC.

According to the investigation, more than 100 workers, including the local farmers, were removing the scaffolding when the bridge collapsed. It also highlighted that, like other bridges in China, this construction [was poorly designed and built too quickly](#). [One of the survivor workers claimed](#) that the four stone arches, built for decorative purposes, were too large and not dry enough to remove the scaffolding. Li Yuanzhong also underlined that [administrative breaches](#) were one of the reasons behind this tragedy. On the whole, Hunan Road and Bridge Construction (Group) Ltd. Co. “severely violated the [basic procedures and quality standards of construction](#) blindly speeded up the process of the project and arbitrarily modified the construction plan. The site

management was in a mess, and the construction was of low quality, which gave rise to serious safety hazards for the project.” The company claimed that it was only responsible for [building the core structure of the bridge](#) and not the surroundings (such as the four stone arches mentioned above) where the dangerous void was formed. Despite pleading no guilt, [the company's manager Xia Youjia, and project supervisor, Jiang Ping](#), were arrested together with five other suspects. Chen Zhibing, chairman, and Liu Xiaodong, general manager of the board of Hunan Road and Bridge Construction Group, [were removed from all administrative and party positions](#). By the end of 2007, over 32 people, including government officials and contractors, were disciplined for their involvement in the incident. "The bridge collapse was a severe man-made accident, according to investigation results," - concluded the investigation. Already in 2009, 20 provincial leaders and the chiefs of the HNRB [were jailed for 19 years](#) for bribery, malpractice, negligence, and organized crime.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/666624.shtml>

<https://www.toledoblade.com/frontpage/2007/08/14/China-bridge-collapse-kills-22-44-missing/stories/200708140025>

[https://covid-19.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-12/26/content\\_6348035.htm](https://covid-19.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-12/26/content_6348035.htm)

[https://www.terraviva.com/reports/More\\_than\\_20\\_jailed\\_over\\_2007\\_China\\_bridge\\_collapse\\_state\\_media\\_999.html](https://www.terraviva.com/reports/More_than_20_jailed_over_2007_China_bridge_collapse_state_media_999.html)



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## About Civic IDEA

Civic Initiative for Democratic and EuroAtlantic Choice – Civic IDEA is a nongovernmental organization based in Georgia, covering global issues.

The mandate of the organization serves the realization of Democratic and Euro-Atlantic choice, institutionalizing it and bringing to every citizen.

Democratic and Euro-Atlantic choice means the formation of free and fair state based on equality, where citizens equipped with the rule of law feel safe and secure.

Civic IDEA has been actively monitoring China's growing influence in Georgia.

Civic IDEA case studies Georgia, however, the reports are written with a comparative perspective of similar practices in other countries.

Today, China's activities in Georgia do not pose a direct, visible and immediate threat, but the ignorance of respectable and authoritative organizations, security services of our partner countries, numerous EU studies, recommendations and decisions by the Georgian government is another clear example of the disruption of foreign policy incentives and a vague vision concerning Georgia's long-term success and the development.



## Our Team

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