

მიმართვა საქართველოს ხელისუფლებას და რელიგიურ
გაერთიანებებს

Address of Georgian Civil Society Organizations and Civic activists to the European Socialists Party (PES)

Dear President Stanishev,

Dear Secretary-General Post,

We, the undersigned representatives of the Georgian civil society organizations and civic activists, would like to address you at this important moment in the history of modern Georgia and urge you to take immediate and adequate actions responding to the grave challenges to the pluralistic and participatory democracy in the country, as a result of the actions of the ruling party Georgian Dream, a sister party to PES, which adds on to the ongoing state capture by the informal governor of Georgia and the chair of the party Mr. Ivanishvili.

The much promised and awaited change of the electoral system (transition to the fully proportionate one), which had been achieved as a result of the mass youth-led street protests during summer 2019, and which was a consensus request of all the

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opposition parties but also of the civil society for nearly a decade, was rejected by the ruling party in the Parliament on November 14. A process was staged, as if the current majoritarian MPs whose names were also among the initiators of the changes to the Parliament (36), rebelled against the proposed amendments. In fact, the public has no doubt that this was an artificially manipulated process from the very beginning and that it has been masterminded by the chair of the ruling party, oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili, who has been a single-handed decision-maker in the Georgian Dream. This irresponsible step of the ruling party, pushes the political process out of parliament into the street, thereby jeopardizing public safety and stability in the country.

The situation is developing and evolving rather dynamically, people took it to the street, some of the ruling party representatives have also broken off from the party, and, if there is no immediate adequate reaction from the ruling party there is a serious risk of crisis deepening and the processes going out of control.

We believe that the actions taken by the ruling party are in conflict with the foundational values and principles of PES, but also are clearly against all five values of the moral compass for political action as stated in 2013 PES Fundamental Programme:

□□□□□□□□ democracy, equality, justice, and solidarity □□ as this decision is clearly against the will of the people of Georgia and undermines the equal political playing field.

Having conveyed to you the information on the latest developments, but also the sentiments of the people of Georgia, we believe that the Party of European Socialists, which is probably the party closest to the ordinary people, is best placed to have a strong reaction to these actions by its sister party, which violates the principles of participatory democracy and is aimed at clinging to power against the will of people. We ask you to remain vigilant regarding the developments in Georgia, but also, not to have any illusions and be misled by the claims from the ruling party representatives that this was a demonstration of internal party democracy. Rather, this is a continuation of the process of the state capture by the oligarch Ivanishvili, who wishes to prolong his rule in Georgia through these pseudo-democratic processes.

We remain at your disposal should you need any clarification or questions.

Signatories:

1. Transparency International Georgia

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2. Georgian Democracy Initiative
3. Open Society Georgia Foundation
4. Georgia's Reforms Associates
5. Economic Policy Research Center
6. Society and Banks
7. Atlantic Council of Georgia
8. Georgian Farmers Association
9. Regional Center for Strategic Studies
10. Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
11. Georgian Young Lawyers Association
12. Green Alternative
13. In depth reporting and Advocacy Center
14. Sapari
15. Human Rights Center
16. Civil Development Agency
17. Tolerance and Diversity Institute
18. Centre Empathy
19. Media Development Foundation
20. International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)
21. UN Association of Georgia
22. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
23. World Experience for Georgia
24. Article 42 of the constitution
25. Equality Movement
26. Dusheti Development Fund
27. Kutaisi Information Center
28. Public Monitoring and Research Center - Kharagauli
29. Liberty Institute
30. Media Development Fund
31. Economic Policy Research Center
32. Salome Barker - Civic activists
33. Mariam Bajelidze - Civic activist
34. Giorgi Mzhavanadze - Civic activist
35. Zuka Berdzenishvili - Civic activist
36. Shota Dighmelashvili - Civic activist
37. Giga Makarashvili - Civic activist

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38. Tatusha Arveladze - Civic activist
39. Mariam Geguchadze - Civic activist
40. Nodar Rukhadze - Civic activist
41. Sopo Kuchava - Civic activist
42. Lexo Machavariani - Civic activist
43. Jaba Zarkua - Civic activist
44. Giorgi Noniashvili - Civic activist
45. Zaza Abashidze - Civic activist
46. Mariam Dolidze - Civic activist
47. Tamar Kuratishvili - Civic activist
48. Giorgi Gabriadze - Civic activist
49. Ana Charkhalashvili - Civic activist
50. Gegi Salukvadze - Civic activist