

Georgian Journalist Vakhtang Sanaia Assaulted by Three Attackers

State reply

On February 25, 2021 (around 2:30am) in Tbilisi, three attackers assaulted journalist Vakhtang Sanaia. He was abused physically and verbally because of his journalist activities.

On February 25, 2021 Investigation Unit of the Tbilisi Main Division of the Patrol Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, launched investigation under the Article 126 (1) (b, d) of the Criminal Code of Georgia on the violence committed by group of persons against Vakhtang Sanaia and Nana Murusidze.

Based on the performed operative and investigative activities, it was established that on February 25, 2021 (around 02:30am) in the adjacent territory of No3 Tskneti Street, Tbilisi, 3 persons committed violence against journalist of the TV broadcaster "Formula" - Vakhtang Sanaia based on his professional activity as a journalist. During the violence, defendants used offensive and abusive language towards Vakhtang Sanaia's professional activity.

After the committed violence, with the discriminatory grounds, one of the defendant threatened Vakhtang Sanaia to kill him, which caused reasonable fear for Vakhtang Sanaia that the threat was real. The violence was committed against Nana Murusidze as well.

According to the forensic analysis report, Vakhtang Sanaia suffered a minor bodily injury as a result of the accident, without a health deterioration.

The prosecution indicted the three of the attackers of aggravated persecution of a person because of professional activities, while one was additionally charged with violence and the other - with coercion in violation of Article 156 (2) (a) on three counts, Article 126 (1) and Article 151 (1) of the criminal Code of Georgia, respectively.

On February 26, 2021 Tbilisi City Court issued an arrest warrants against the defendants as a preventive measure.

Currently, an investigation is underway on the above-mentioned criminal case.