

## **Media Alert No.138/2024**

### **Georgian TV Crews Attacked While Reporting**

#### **Information by the Prosecution Service of Georgia regarding alert N138-2024 published on the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists**

The Special Investigation Service launched an investigation into the facts of persecution committed against Manuchar Mzhavanadze and Vladimer (Lado) Menabde. Manuchar Mzhavanadze and Vladimer (Lado) Menabde were granted victim statuses and prosecution was launched against V. I. and A. I. under Article 156-2-a<sup>1</sup> of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

The criminal case involving Beka Pirveli and Shotiko (Shota) Sadagashvili is currently under investigation conducted by the Special Investigation Service.

23 August 2024

#### **Special Investigation Service**

##### **Information on the fact of violence against the journalist and cameraman of the "Mtavari Arkhi"**

Based on the obtained evidence as a result of operative and investigative actions carried out by the Special Investigation Service, 2 persons were arrested for the fact of persecution and violence against the journalist and cameraman of the "Mtavari Arkhi".

The investigation established that on July 25, 2024, in the morning, TV company "Mtavari Arkhi" journalist Vladimir Menabde and cameraman Manuchar Mzhavanadze were carrying out journalistic/professional activities in the village - Supsa, Lanchkhuti municipality. While working on the reportage, the accused V.I. verbally and physically abused them. At the same time, the journalist was physically assaulted by V.I.'s brother A.I., who punched him several times in the head and face, as a result of which Vladimir Menabde suffered physical pain and received an injury to his lip. A.I. also damaged the video camera of the TV company "Mtavari Arkhi" and verbally insulted the journalist and cameraman.

On July 26, 2024, the Special Investigation Service arrested V.I. and A.I., citizens living in Supsa for prosecuting a person because of his professional activity under Article 156 (2a) of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

The crime shall be punished by imprisonment for up to three years.

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<sup>1</sup> Persecution committed with violence or threat of violence.