

**Regarding alert No. 23/2025 about Georgia, published on the Platform of Journalists within the framework of the Council of Europe**

**Answer of the Special Investigation Service:**

On February 17, 2025, alert #23/2025, with the title "Police Attack, Interfere, and Harass Georgian Journalists Covering Renewed Protests" was posted on the Journalists' Safety Platform.

The investigation into the possible facts of illegal interference in the professional activities of some journalists/cameramen at the protest rally held in Tbilisi on February 2, 2025, referred in the Alert, is underway at the II Division of East Georgia of the Special Investigation Department of the Special Investigation Service based on a report received from the non-governmental organization Media Ombudsman, into the fact of violent abuse of official power by employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia against participants of the rally held in D. Agmashenebeli Alley, Tbilisi, with the elements of the crime under Article 333 (3b) of the Criminal Code of Georgia, in particular:

The investigator of the Special Investigation Service made a phone call with the journalist of the TV company "Mtavari Arkhi" - **Dea Mamiseishvili**, as well as with the journalists of the online publication "Media April": **Vakhtang Kareli and Nata Uridia**, who did not visit the Investigation Service and refused to cooperate with the investigation.

"TV Pirveli" journalists **Diana Chirgadze** and **Khatia Samkharadze**, as well as journalist of "Mediachecker" **Ninia Kakabadze**, during a phone conversation with an investigator of the Special Investigation Service agreed to be interviewed, however, they have not visited the investigative body yet.

**Akaki Sikharulidze**, a journalist for "Guria News" was interviewed about the case, however, the information he provided did not reveal any interference in his professional activities.

In addition to the mentioned above, regarding the incidents of February 2, 2025, the other journalists/cameramen mentioned in the Alert: **Luka Bachilava, Giorgi Pataraia, Vladimir Chkhitunidze, and Giorgi Kvizhinadze**, the Special Investigation Service didn't receive any reports regarding these individuals.

As for the possible facts of illegal interference in journalists' professional activities committed against "On.ge" Editor-in-Chief **Vincent Khabeishvili**, reporter of "Publica" **Natia Leverashvili**, and journalist of "Open Caucasus Media" - **Givi Avaliani** during the protest rally held near the Parliament on February 4, 2025, the I Division of East Georgia of the Special Investigation Department of the Special Investigation Service conducts the investigation into the fact of violent abuse of official power by individual employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia against the participants of the protest rally and on the fact of illegal interference in the journalists' professional activities, with the elements of the crime provided under Article 333 (3b) and Article 154(2) of the Criminal Code of Georgia.