

## **Media Alert No. 119/2024**

“Parliament Accreditations Suspended Over Attempted Interviews”

### **Reply 2 of the Parliament of Georgia**

#### **Parliament's Media Accreditation Rule**

The Parliament of Georgia introduced an annual media accreditation for media professionals reporting on the Parliament of Georgia to enter its premises. The decision was made based on the analysis of existing situation (i.e. problems arising from a lack of any accreditation rule) as well as experiences from the EU member countries. The accreditation has been in force since 1 March 2023.

According to the accreditation rule, national media has quotas of 10 groups (3 persons per each group) of media professionals to access to the Parliament of Georgia on their daily work.

The Parliament reserves the right to suspend the accreditation for 1 month or 6 months of any journalist whose behavior violates the accreditation rule by interrupting a smooth running and activities of the Parliament. The reasons of suspension/revoking are indicated in the media accreditation rule; and the media agrees with these rules while obtaining the accreditation. They include the following three misconducts: (1) recording private areas of staffers/MPs without prior consent; (2) recording screens of private gadgets of staffers/MPs/visitors without prior consent; (3) chasing interviewees after his/her refusal to interview.

The suspension of accreditation can be for 1 or 6 months. It is an individual responsibility; thus, in case of revoking the accreditation of a journalist, his/her media company is allowed to maintain other groups of journalists in the Parliament. In other words, if one journalist's accreditation is suspended, other 9 groups of journalists of this media company still maintains its journalists and has every opportunity to continue its uninterrupted functioning. Therefore, the complaint that the media cannot obtain interviews after suspension of a single journalist is an absolute lie.

In addition, MPs and the Chairman of Parliament hold hours'-long interviews with ALL journalists at dedicated press points every day. These press point interviews provide every opportunity for every accredited media to ask questions and obtain answers from parliamentary respondents.

#### **Statistics**

As of 6 June 2024, accreditation was granted to 625 journalist in 2023-2024, including:

- 286 in 2023.
- 339 in 2024.

There were 22,839 entrances of journalists throughout 2023-2024. Out of 22,839 entrances, journalists violated the media accreditation rules and got their accreditation suspended 14 times (0,06%).

### **Temporary Suspension of Accreditation**

Regarding the temporary suspension of accreditation of the indicated journalists, the following are the reasons of the suspension:

- 21 May 2024, Maka Chikhladze (TV Pirveli) – Maka Chikhladze continued chasing the interviewee and recording him despite interviewee's explicit refusal to interview. The accreditation was revoked for 1 month (from May 21 to June 23). Following is the evidence:
  - [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10225633236760490&id=1315975058&mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=brKQZ9Mz8PP6xwDv](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10225633236760490&id=1315975058&mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=brKQZ9Mz8PP6xwDv)
  - <https://tvpirveli.ge/ka/siaxleebi/politika/72042-otsnebis-tsulit-sheiaragebuli-deputatebi-dadian-da-chekhaven-im-jurnalistebs>
- 3 June 2024, Nini Balanchivadze (Mtavari TV) – She continued chasing the interviewee and recording her despite interviewee's explicit refusal to interview. The accreditation was revoked for 1 month (from June 3 to July 3).
- 4 June 2024, Sopho Gozalishvili (Formula TV) – She continued chasing the interviewee and recording her despite interviewee's explicit refusal to interview. The accreditation was revoked for 6 months because the journalist repeatedly violated the Media Accreditation Rule (from June 4 to December 4).
- 5 June 2024, Nata Kajaia (TV Pirveli) – She continued chasing the interviewee and recording her despite interviewee's explicit refusal to interview. The accreditation was revoked for 1 month (from June 3 to July 3). Following is the evidence:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1454120625193871&rdid=B3zEy1X7RLtF7qD9>
  - [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10225633157318504&id=1315975058&mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=ZE4M8hEN6PITXmHk](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10225633157318504&id=1315975058&mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=ZE4M8hEN6PITXmHk)