

**Arrests, Searches and Seizure
4-8 December**

Date	Place/Person	Story	Source
December 4-7	- Rustaveli Metro Station - Freedom Square Metro station	Police forces searched ordinary citizens and passersby, and physically assaulted protesters at Rustaveli and Freedom Square Metro stations. The police explain that these actions constitute "superficial inspections" and are based on Article 22 of Georgia's <i>Law on Police</i>. This article grants law enforcement the authority to conduct superficial inspections of individuals, objects, or vehicles when reasonable suspicion exists. During a superficial inspection near the "Freedom Square" metro station, police detained two individuals.	1. https://www.facebook.com/reel/1079851013609734 2. https://www.facebook.com/reel/1761296304644940
December 4	Movement „Nabiji“ office	On December 4, law enforcement officers from the criminal police entered the premises of the youth movement "<i>Nabiji</i>". Investigative procedures were conducted at the location. Journalists present attempted to pose questions to the officers; however, the masked law enforcement personnel declined to provide any responses. When inquired about the reasons for wearing masks, the officers stated that it was "due to the cold."	1. https://tvpirveli.ge/ka/siaxleebi/politika/88013-organizatsia-nabijis-opisshi-kriminaluri-politsiaa-shesuli?fbclid=IwY2xjawHC0GRleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHWZx9xeErdXlN_ddZ5o1J98RV0TaSoaeUdE0Z8mV2SlfSPYqeK5NpTI8w_aem_iP7y6PUff3mSAXvJLm3V_A 2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYbh2BQiOWo
December 4	Coalition for Change	On December 4, information regarding police entry into the office of the "<i>Coalition for Change</i>" was disseminated via a Facebook live broadcast by one of the coalition's leaders, Nika Gvaramia. According to Gvaramia, the police intended to conduct a search; however, after being asked to produce the proper documentation authorizing such a search, they	1. https://www.facebook.com/nika.gvaramia.129/videos/1203891214046046 2.

		left the office without providing any explanation. Before the live broadcast concluded, footage showed police officers exiting the party's office, while some remained stationed at the entrance.	
December 4	Party Girchi More Freedom /Droa	On December 4, a search was conducted at the office of the political party "<i>Girchi-More Freedom</i>" (member of <i>Coalition for Change</i>) The search was attended by Elene Khoshtaria, chairperson of <i>Droa</i>, who later made a statement to the media. <i>"This is an expected action. Here, we have banners, blankets, fireworks, Snickers, eggs—everything necessary for a protest. They came to document things like lasers, paints, and other items,"</i> Khoshtaria commented. Later, Nika Gvaramia, acting as a legal representative, requested to be present during the search. This led to a confrontation with the police. Gvaramia was forcibly detained by officers. During the initial altercation, he was thrown to the ground and later dragged to an unmarked vehicle. Following Gvaramia's detention, another activist, Gela Khasia, a member of the <i>Coalition for Change</i>, was arrested near the same office on Luarsab Sharashidze Street at Figris Gora.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33226553.html
December 4	Youth office of UNM	Representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted a search at the youth office of the <i>United National Movement</i>. According to the ministry, items seized as evidence included helmets, gas masks, a large quantity of pyrotechnics, electrical transmission devices, computer equipment, Molotov cocktails, paints, and various chemical solutions, which are now subject to forensic examination. However, a member of UNM's youth team, Beka Papashvili, wrote on Facebook that the "Molotov cocktails were planted." Later, UNM members reported that five individuals were taken from their office: Davit Gedenidze, Vakhtang Gagnidze, Irakli Ardia, Saba Birkaya, and Mishiko Janikashvili. Tamar Kordzaia, one of the coalition's leaders, stated that all procedural rights were violated during the operation, noting that authorities did not present a search warrant or court order and denied requests for legal representation.	1. https://www.facebook.com/share/1As3WFfysC/ 2. https://publika.ge/nacionaluriodzraobis-wevrebis-cnobit-mati-ofisidan-5-piri-waiyvanes/

December 4	Ilia Glonti's Apartment	Representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted a search at the residence of Ilia Glonti, the administrator of the Facebook group "<i>Daitoves</i>." During the operation, investigators seized and sealed his personal phone and laptop. According to the representatives of the MIA, the search was part of an ongoing investigation under the Criminal Code. The investigation involves violations of Article 225, addressing the organization, leadership, or participation in group violence, and Article 239 Prima, which pertains to public incitement to violent actions.	1. https://www.facebook.com/kharibegashvililene/videos/1252112246065371/ 2. https://publika.ge/ilia-ghlontis-sakhlshi-chkhreka-dasrulda-daluqes-misi-telefoni-da-leptopi/
December 4	Nancy Woland	On December 4, law enforcement officers conducted a search of the apartment of Nancy Woland, founder of the Facebook group "<i>Daitove</i>." The search lasted approximately two hours. According to Woland, authorities seized a pepper spray, which she described as a self-defense tool that "<i>every woman should have</i>," a gas mask she used during protests when tear gas was deployed, and her mobile phone. Woland reported that officials did not explain the basis or context of the search. She interpreted the actions as an attempt to silence activists and suppress protest movements, stating, "They want to silence those who fight and attend protests, to suppress this protest momentum, and allow Russia to take over the country."	1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6SZKAT4tl 2. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/ბზრეკა-დაკავება-კონფისკაცია-4-დეკემბერი/33227400.html
December 4	Irakli Miminoshvili's apartment	19 years old Student Irakli Miminoshvili is an active participant in pro-European protests. Before his arrest, his home was searched for approximately one hour. His lawyer was not allowed to attend the process. Law enforcement officers confiscated a computer, a phone, and various small electronic devices from his residence. He has been charged with organizing, leading, or participating in group violence, as well as hooliganism. These charges fall under Articles 225 and 239 of the Criminal Code.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33226920.html
December 4	Zviad Tsetskhladze's Apartment	Police conducted a search at the home of Zviad Tsetskhladze, the founder of "<i>Dapioni</i>." According to <i>Dapioni</i>, the search lasted several hours, and Tsetskhladze's lawyer was only allowed entry after a decision was made to detain him.	1. https://publika.ge/dafioni-chveni-akhalgazrduli-modzraobis-damfudznebeli-da-lideri-zviad-ceckhladze-daapatimres/

		Law enforcement officers seized gas masks, clothing, and spray bottles from Tsetskhladze's residence. Zviad Tsetskhladze was also detained. Police have charged him under Article 225 of the Criminal Code, which pertains to organizing, leading, or participating in group violence.	
December 4	Ana Kvanchilashvili's apartment	According to Ana Kvanchilashvili, before the police conducted a search at her home, where her husband, Saba Jajanidze, was present, law enforcement officers went to her mother's residence, where her mother and Ana's 9-year-old twin children were staying. Five uniformed officers deceived her mother, claiming they were there to inspect the gas system. When her mother refused to open the door, they threatened to break it down. Under this pressure, her mother eventually opened the door. The officers stormed into the house and conducted a search. Reports indicate that nothing was seized during the operation.	1. https://www.instagram.com/publika.ge/reel/DDKdp8dulOI/
December 4	Saba Jajanidze's apartment	Police conducted a search at the residence of Saba Jajanidze, a lecturer at Ilia State University. Lawyer Tamar Gurchiani shared on social media that the police were conducting the search without a witness or lawyer present. <i>"A search is being carried out at Saba Jajanidze's apartment based on an investigator's ruling (urgent necessity). The investigative action is being conducted without the presence of a witness or lawyer. I recorded this live video before the lawyer arrived. Saba is the husband of my friend, Ana Kvanchilashvili," Gurchiani wrote.</i>	1. https://publika.ge/policia-chkhrekas-atarebs-iliaunis-leqtoris-saba-jajanidzis-sakhlshic/
December 3	Dodie Kharkheli's apartment	On December 3, police officers approached activist and blogger Dodi Kharkheli near her apartment. After she dropped off her child at kindergarten, police detained her and placed her in a vehicle. Footage captured by a bystander shows Kharkheli being stopped by officers, during which she remarks, <i>"This is Russian terror."</i> <i>"I had just dropped off my 3-year-old child at kindergarten when several men approached me as I was leaving. Realizing something was happening, I attempted to go live on my phone, but they didn't allow it. Unfortunately, they took my phone and forcibly twisted my arms. I started making noise, honking the car horn, and asking passersby to start a live broadcast. Thankfully, someone</i>	1. https://tabula.ge/en/news/726793-kharkhelis-advokati-dzveli-gamodziebis 2. https://mtavari.tv/news/171386-shss-ambobs-rom-dodi-kharkheli-ar-daukavebiat?utm_source=chatgpt.com

		<i>did, and the situation gained attention, ensuring that this information reached you.</i> <i>After that, everything was conducted very politely. Even during the search process, things remained calm. The only reason I don't have any injuries now is because everything happened publicly and in front of many cameras. This is the only protection we citizens have—maximum transparency," said Dodi Kharkheli.</i> According to her lawyer, the investigation has been initiated under Article 157 of the Criminal Code, which pertains to the violation of an individual's private life or the handling of personal data.	
December 5	David Kezerashvili's apartment	On December 4, law enforcement officers conducted searches in properties owned by Davit Kezerashvili, founder of the television company "Formula" and former Minister of Defense. These actions coincided with the European Court of Human Rights' release of a decision regarding Kezerashvili's case.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33228103.html
December 4	Aleksandre Elisashvili's arrest	On December 4, 2024, law enforcement officers detained Aleko Elisashvili, a leader of the political coalition "Strong Georgia," near the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Tbilisi. The Ministry of Internal Affairs reported that Elisashvili is accused under Article 156, Part 2(a) of the Criminal Code, which pertains to persecution involving violence or the threat thereof. Elisashvili's attorney claims that during the arrest, excessive force was used, resulting in facial injuries, bruises, and possible rib fractures. The charges against Elisashvili relate to an incident on December 2, 2024, on Kostava Street in Tbilisi, where Elisashvili allegedly assaulted Ali Babaev, chairman of the "National Congress of Azerbaijanis of Georgia," due to political affiliations. Elisashvili, a former member of parliament and Tbilisi City Council, is known for his activism and authorship of several books about Tbilisi. His supporters view the arrest as politically motivated, while authorities maintain it is a legal response to alleged criminal conduct.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33227683.html

December 4	Member of Lelo Party – Vepkhia Kasradze and Vasil Kardzelashvili	The Ministry of Internal Affairs has detained two members of the <i>Lelo</i> party, Vefkhia Kasradze and Vasil Kadzelashvili. They are featured in secretly recorded footage released several days prior to a protest demonstration. According to pro-government media, the footage allegedly shows them discussing "violent plans." The <i>Lelo</i> party dismissed the accusations as nonsense and believes the incident was staged for propagandistic purposes.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33226618.html
December 6	Activist Luka Jabaia's arrest	Luka Jabaia was arrested at his home in Tbilisi. His lawyer, Rusudan Agurashvili, tells "Publika" that he is being accused under Article 225 of the Criminal Code. Jabaia has been transferred to the Dighomi isolation facility. <i>"He was arrested at home this morning. He is accused under the first part of Article 225. As far as I know, because I haven't received the case materials yet, what I know verbally from the investigator... the phone has been confiscated, and a personal search was likely conducted, based on which the phone was seized. I currently do not have information on any additional investigative actions taken,"</i> says the lawyer. Article 225, Part 1, involves organizing or leading group actions accompanied by violence, rioting, damage or destruction of property, use of weapons, resisting or attacking law enforcement with weapons. The crime is punishable by imprisonment for a term of six to nine years.	1. https://publika.ge/siskhlis-samartlis-wesit-20-wlis-luka-jabua-daakaves/
December 5	Arrest of activist Saba Skhvitaridze	Saba skhvitaridze was arrested on December 5. During the trial, Saba Skhvitaridze claimed that he had been abducted and tortured. According to him, police officers neither explained the reason for his detention nor provided any clarification before handing him over to an unidentified operational group in the Gori area. <i>"I was taken to a facility in Dighomi, handed over to four masked individuals, and beaten. They searched me, and then other masked individuals carried out acts of violence against me using various objects. They even broke a piece of wood over me,"</i> Skhvitaridze recounted.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33229589.html 2. https://publika.ge/advokati-saba-skhvitaridze-ambobs-rom-masze-policiis-shenobashi-fizikurad-idzalades/

		At the hearing, the prosecutor argued that Saba Skhvitaridze physically assaulted a police officer and caused injuries, alleging that Saba struck the officer in the head with an object, which required the officer to be hospitalized. According to defense attorney Irakli Chomakhashvili, the prosecution presented only a 29-second video as evidence. He asserted that the confrontation was initiated by masked individuals, who provoked the incident. <i>"They [the masked individuals] had no identification or insignia, nor did they clarify that they were police officers. When asked who they were, they could not provide an answer. These unidentified masked police officers verbally abused the defendant,"</i> Chomakhashvili stated.	
December 5	Arrest of Activist Anri Kvaratskhelia	On the morning of December 5, police detained protest participant Anri Kvaratskhelia from his home. According to his lawyer and family members, the police failed to present a warrant despite being asked, and their entry into the house was described as forceful. Kvaratskhelia's family stated that during the protests, they distributed coffee, face masks, and saline solutions to participants, with photo and video evidence available to support this claim. They believe the police raid was retaliation against protest participants. Kvaratskhelia's lawyer, Lasha Tsutskiridze, told <i>TV Pirveli</i> that Kvaratskhelia was detained by investigative authorities at 8 a.m. "Regarding the search and arrest, the police did not present a warrant to the residents of the apartment. The entry into the home was, as the family described, violent. The charge is likely assaulting a police officer, and we expect formal charges to be filed tomorrow. His position is clear: he attended the protest, expressed his	1. https://publika.ge/dilis-8-saatze-aiyvanes-binidan-sakhlshi-shesvlis-momenti-iyo-dzaladobrivi-anri-kvarackhelias-advokati/

		views peacefully, and caused no harm or injury to any police officer," said the lawyer. Kvaratskhelia's wife recalled the moment police entered their home, stating that despite requests, they failed to produce a search warrant. She also reported that she and Anri Kvaratskhelia's sister, who was also in the house, were verbally abused and physically assaulted, with one officer grabbing her by the throat. "Someone was quietly opening the door. When we heard the noise and asked who it was, they claimed to be a neighbor. Given the current events in the country, we were suspicious and asked them to state their name," she said. Kvaratskhelia's sister, who was also present in the apartment, confirmed that they participated in protests and distributed coffee, face masks, and saline solutions to fellow protesters.	
December 5	Arrest of Onise Tskhadadze	On December 5, comedian Onise Tskhadadze was detained. According to his brother, Onise Tskhadadze was arrested at his home in Terjola by the oligarch Ivanishvili's special forces. The investigation accuses him of participating in group violence, a crime under Article 225, Part 2, of the Criminal Code. On December 7, Tbilisi City Court Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili imposed a two-month pretrial detention as a preventive measure.	1. https://mtavari.tv/news/171660-iumoristi-onise-tskhadadze-daakaves 2. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html
December 5	Arrest Andro Chichinadze	On December 5, officers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs detained actor Andro Chichinadze at his residence. Chichinadze has been an active participant in pro-European protests, advocating for a European future alongside his friends. He believes that comprehensive strikes across all sectors are essential to safeguard this future and to impede the current government's actions, which he deems illegitimate. Chichinadze asserts that such strikes are a pivotal method to express dissent and to convey to the government that their policies will not be tolerated. On December 4, Chichinadze announced his participation in the strike by posting "I am on strike" on social media.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html 2. https://go.on.ge/3qbo

		On December 5, 2024, the Tbilisi City Court, presided over by Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili, imposed a two-month pretrial detention on Andro Chichinadze. The investigation accuses him of participating in group violence, a violation under Article 225, Part 2, of the Criminal Code.	
December 7	arrest Saba Tsimintia's	On December 5, law enforcement officers detained 25-year-old Saba Tsimintia near the Tbilisi City Court. He was attending the court hearing of his friend, Luka Jabua, who is accused of organizing violence during pro-European protests.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230562.html
December 5	Ruslan Sivakov's Jano Archaya's Guram Mirtskhulava's arrest	The investigation accuses the individuals of participating in group violence, a crime under Article 225, Part 2, of the Criminal Code. This offense is punishable by imprisonment for a term ranging from 4 to 6 years. On December 7, Tbilisi City Court Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili imposed a two-month pretrial detention as a preventive measure.	1. https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/33230527.html