



The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform strongly condemns the fact of deprivation of life of Giga Otkhзорia at so-called administrative boundary line and urges International community to respond

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform strongly condemns the fact of deprivation of life of Giga Otkhзорia, citizen of Georgia, at so-called border checkpoint of Khurcha-Nabakevi village, Zugdidi.

According to media information, on May 19, 2016, G. Otkhזורia, inhabitant of village Bargebi, Gali region, was trying to transport products at so called border checkpoint of Khurcha-Nabakevi village, when he had a quarrel with so-called border-guard. Following the quarrel the so-called border-guard has shot him several times. Giga Otkhזורia died the same day as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. At the same time, video footage was released later that day that shows how so-called border-guards cross the Georgian-controlled territory, at first physically abuse G. Otkhזורia and then shoot him.

On May 21, 2016, General Prosecutors Office of Georgia made a statement regarding launching criminal case against so-called border-guard Rashid Kanjioghli for the premeditated murder of G. Otkhזורia and illegal carrying and transportation of firearms.

The abovementioned fact represents deprivation of the right to life and international legal liability lies on Russian Federation, as the State conducting effective control on occupied Abkhazia region. It also should be noted that on November 22, 2014, an agreement was signed between Russia and Abkhazia region on Alliance and Integration. The mentioned document, together with other issues, regulates the issue of joint protection of the so-called administrative boundary line between Abkhazia and the rest of Georgia. Based on the abovementioned agreement Russian Federation controls this so-called administrative boundary line with border troops.

Additionally we would like to admit, that the mentioned fact reveals the alarming situation in occupied Abkhazia region in terms of human rights and ones more exposes serious problems of security on so-called administrative boundary line. Facts of gross violation of human rights in occupied Abkhazia region and difficult conditions of population is also described in details by Public Defender of Georgia in his parliamentary report on the Situation of the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia 2015.

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform extends condolences to the family of Giga Otkhזורia. And Urges:

The text of the statement is prepared by the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association.

Government of Georgia:

- Conduct effective and thorough investigation of the fact of deprivation of life of Giga Otkhozoria as soon as possible;
- Ensure the security of citizens of Georgia living nearby so-called administrative boundary line;
- Ensure the discussion regarding the incident in Khurcha on the international level and take effective steps for strengthening security mechanisms or activating some more additional security tools for so-called administrative border line (ABL) as well as in the occupied territories;
- Use all available diplomatic and international mechanisms to hold Russian Federation responsible for this specific crime and to prevent the facts of deprivation of lives of citizens of Georgia in future;
- Hold regular meeting in frames of preventing incidents in Gali region and responding on them;

International community:

Intensify efforts, including with Russian federation

- in order to ensure presence of representatives of international organizations in region;
- in order to ensure security of citizens of Georgia living nearby so-called administrative boundary line.

Signatory Organizations:

1. Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)
2. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
3. European Initiative - Liberal Academy Tbilisi
4. Transparency International Georgia (TI)
5. Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
6. Open Society Georgia Foundation
7. Local Democracy Agency Georgia
8. Human Rights Centre
9. "Women Enterprise" Fund Georgia
10. Foundation "Multi- Ethnic Resource Centre on Civic Education Development"
11. Center of Development and Democracy
12. Union "Anti-Violence Network of Georgia"

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13. Caucasus Environmental NGO network (CENN)
14. World Experience for Georgia
15. Georgian Trade Union Confederation
16. Peaceful and Business Caucasus
17. IDP Association "Consent"
18. "School-Family-Society" Association
19. Foundation "Caucasus Environment"
20. Georgian Association "Woman in Business"
21. People's Harmonious Development Society
22. Civil Council on Defense and Security Issues
23. Institute for Euro-Atlantic integration and strategic studies
24. Association "Psychea"
25. Association for the efficient use of the Georgian energy resources
26. Association European Studies for Innovative Development in Georgia
27. Association "Atinati"
28. Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"
29. Student Youth Council
30. International Society "Caucasian Mosaic"
31. Civil Society and Democracy Development Center
32. Youth Alternative
33. EU-Georgia Business Council
34. Human Rights House Tbilisi
35. Public Advocacy
36. Healthy World
37. Youth for Justice - Georgia
38. Union "Healthy Children"
39. Association of Tea Producers Georgia "Georgian Tea"
40. Caucasian House Georgia
41. Enterprise Innovation Development Center
42. Save The Future Generation
43. Bridge of Friendship – Kartlosi
44. Georgian Institute of Politics
45. Junior achievement of Georgia
46. Association "Imedi"
47. United Public Movement "Multinational Georgia"
48. Association "MERKURI"
49. Partnership For Road Safety
50. Teachers' Union "Education and Universe"
51. Union "Article 42 of the Constitution"
52. Georgia Press Association
53. Studio "Re"
54. Young socialists of Georgia

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55. The Greens Movement of Georgia
56. Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters
57. Association for the Farmers' Rights Defence
58. Women's Information Centre
59. Civitas Georgica
60. Association DEA for Disabled Women and Mothers of Disabled Children
61. Women's Initiatives supporting Group
62. Caucasus Institute for Economic and Social Research
63. Repatriates' Union
64. International Center of Geopolitical research
65. European Integration Forum
66. International Center for Advancement of Research, Technology & Innovation (ICARTI)
67. International Business Development and Investment Promotion Centre
68. International Business and Economic Development Centre
69. International Fund of Sustainable Development
70. International Center on Conflict and Negotiation
71. Community Development Association
72. Community Foundation GENIUS LOCI
73. Civil Society Institute
74. Gori Information Center
75. Human Rights Priority
76. Europe Foundation
77. Journalism Recourse Centre