European Parliament
2024-2029

TEXTS ADOPTED

P10_TA(2026)0408

Case of Paata Burchuladze and political prisoners under the Georgian Dream Regime

European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2026 on the case of Paata Burchuladze and political prisoners under the Georgian Dream Regime (2026/2992(RSP))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to its previous resolutions on Georgia,

– having regard to Rules 150(5) and 136(4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Paata Burchuladze, 71, a prominent opera singer and civic activist who has made an outstanding contribution to Georgian and European culture, was sentenced in May 2026 to seven years in prison on politically motivated charges, including the alleged organisation of group violence and calling for the overthrow of the constitutional order, following mass demonstrations on 4 October 2025 in Tbilisi;

B. whereas Burchuladze, a Georgian-Austrian citizen, has consistently rejected the charges; whereas grave concerns persist regarding the fairness of the proceedings, the proportionality of the sentence and his detention conditions, including prolonged isolation, severely restricted contact with the outside world and inadequate medical care, given his age and health;

C. whereas his case must be seen against the backdrop of growing Russian influence and systematic erosion of democracy, judicial independence and fundamental freedoms, where the regime systematically weaponises the judiciary and state institutions to silence dissent, journalists and civil society;

D. whereas the European Parliament has repeatedly condemned the persecution of political opponents and called for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience;

E. whereas these developments, including the crackdown on peaceful

protesters and the misuse of restrictive legislation to curtail fundamental freedoms, are fundamentally incompatible with the Georgian people's European aspirations and Georgia's obligations under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement;

1. Strongly condemns the conviction of Paata Burchuladze, Irakli Nadiradze and Paata Manjgaladze; calls for their immediate and unconditional release, along with all political prisoners and illegally detained persons, regardless of political affiliation, in particular former President Mikheil Saakashvili, Giorgi Baramidze, Nika Melia, Elene Khoshtaria and Mzia Amaglobeli, and all peaceful protesters in detention; demands that Members of the European Parliament be granted unhindered access to those detained; holds the Georgian authorities fully responsible for their life, health and safety; calls for immediate, unhindered access to independent doctors for the detainees;

2. Calls on the self-appointed Georgian authorities to fully respect international fair-trial standards, and to guarantee Burchuladze's access to adequate medical care, legal assistance and regular contact with his family; calls for full respect for Burchuladze's right to unhindered consular access;

3. Urges the Georgian authorities to end the politically motivated prosecution and judicial harassment of artists, opposition figures, journalists and activists, and to guarantee full freedom of expression, assembly and association;

4. Calls for independent investigations into allegations of excessive use of force, intimidation and mistreatment of protesters, and for those responsible to be held accountable under the law;

5. Reiterates its unwavering support for the Georgian people and their democratic aspirations, stressing that respect for the rule of law, the European Convention on Human Rights and fundamental rights is indispensable to any progress towards EU accession;

6. Regrets certain EU Member States' failure to hold to account those responsible for Georgia's democratic backsliding; urges the EU to maintain a coordinated response in this regard; reiterates its call for targeted sanctions, including asset freezes and an EU entry and transit ban, against those responsible for undermining democracy, the rule of law, as well as serious human rights violations, in particular Bidzina Ivanishvili, Irakli Kobakhidze, Shalva Papuashvili, Kakha Kaladze and other senior officials, as well as judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Member States and the self-appointed Georgian authorities.