



## **LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO NARIAI**

### **MEMBERS OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

Gedimino pr. 53, LT-01109 Vilnius, LITHUANIA Tel. + 370 5 2396844 E-mail: Andrius.kubilius@lrs.lt

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To: Government of the Republic of Lithuania  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania  
Embassy of Georgia to the Republic of Lithuania

24<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

### **CONCERNING GEORGIA'S SLIDE INTO OPPRESSIVE RULE**

Homeland Union–Lithuanian Christian Democrats strongly condemn the continuing persecution of political opposition in Georgia in terms of threatening and physical assault. We are gravely concerned over the latest news about prominent members of the National Movement, namely Giga Bokeria, Nika Melia, Tengiz Gunava and others being injured by the representatives of the Georgian Dream party in the 53<sup>rd</sup> polling station of Kortskheli. According to the reports, Georgia's municipalities UNM Leaders, members and MP's were violently assaulted by groups of wrestlers, athletes and Georgian Dream activists – organized by the Government of Georgia – at a polling station of village Kortskheli, Zugdidi Municipality.

In the light of this political assault we call upon Georgian government to grant immediate and fair investigation. The ruling coalition must refrain from such kind of disgraceful methods of political behavior and take all measures necessary to reverse the trend of democratic erosion in Georgia.

It is our deepest conviction that Lithuania as well and other EU members must not be indifferent to the politically motivated oppressions in Georgia, if its European aspirations are to be advanced. Hence, we call upon Lithuanian government to react with a firm statement: this must stop! The Georgian ruling coalition must engage in constructive political debate with the opposition and to prove, that its resolve for reform is sincere. Otherwise, European perspective of Georgia will require serious reconsideration in the European Parliament and European Commission.

Andrius Kubilius  
Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania

Audronius Ažubalis  
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania