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DAVID GOGILASHVILI STORY

Davit Gogilashvili, a third-year student at the Business and Technology University (BTU), has been charged with failure to comply with a lawful order issued by a police officer and insulting a law enforcement officer. His arrest occurred on November 30, 2024, at 00:51, on Lesia Ukrainka Street. On November 29, 2024, Davit Gogilashvili peacefully protested against the ruling party's anti-European policies. He spent several hours with his friends and family in front of the First School. As the special forces initiated the dispersal of the peaceful protesters, employing both special means and pursuit tactics, Davit and his companions attempted to leave the area, heading toward Lesia Ukrainka Street. Initially, law enforcement allowed the group to move; however, shortly after, members of the special forces pursued them and used physical force against Davit's companions. Attempting to avoid confrontation, Davit continued to climb Lesia Ukrainka Street. However, the street was soon blocked by police forces. A member of the special forces subsequently pushed Davit to the ground and forcibly escorted him toward the First School. For a brief period, Davit, visibly injured, was captured on live broadcast by Pirveli TV Company cameras. On Lesia Ukrainka Street, the cameras recorded an instance of physical violence directed at him. Once Davit was removed from the camera's field of view, special forces members subjected him to severe physical abuse, including punching him in the face, verbal abuse, and intimidation. Additionally, law enforcement officers reportedly searched Davit, confiscated his mobile phone, and continued his physical assault.

Gogilashvili was detained for a period at a public transport stop located in front of the Parliament, and all this time, the police officers continued to subject him to physical abuse. According to the detainee, he experienced frequent blackouts and loss of consciousness. He recalls that a riot police officer kicked him in the face with his foot, causing him to lose consciousness. He cannot precisely recall whether he regained consciousness shortly thereafter or was awakened by another blow. Davit stated that his face and hands were covered in blood. Despite his injuries, the officers continued stamping on his body, primarily targeting his face. Furthermore, one officer reportedly taunted him, asking, "What happened, doesn't it hurt?" before striking him again. For a brief period, when the beating ceased, Davit saw his friend, who had also participated in the rally, lying nearby, visibly beaten and bloodied.

According to Davit's account, the officers warned him: "Don't come here again; you see what happened to you, and you won't survive the next time." He perceived this threat as a serious and credible warning of potential harm to his life. Davit took the threat seriously, and realistically, he became increasingly uncertain about whether he would survive the ordeal. When he unexpectedly encountered a friend during his arrest, he refrained from speaking to them out of fear that doing so might provoke further violence. He described feeling mentally disoriented with limited ability to process the events as they unfolded.

After the initial assault, Davit Gogilashvili was taken to the alley of April 9 Street. There, he was reportedly led through a cordon of heavily armed riot police (RoboCops), where he was subjected to further physical abuse. After passing through the riot police, Davit was then led through to police officers, where the physical assault continued. Following this, Davit was placed in a police car and transported to the Digomi Police Department.

Upon being taken to the Digomi Police Department, Davit Gogilashvili was no longer subjected to physical abuse. However, while being escorted to the eighth floor, he caught a glimpse of his bloodied face in the elevator mirror, which triggered a panic attack. Officers reportedly shouted derogatory remarks at him, including: "Aren't you a man? Why are you panicking?" Davit was then taken to a restroom, where officers forcibly washed his face and attempted to stop the bleeding from his nose by stuffing it with toilet paper, and then they used regular printer paper. At the Digomi Police Department, Davit was detained for approximately three hours. During this time, he requested medical assistance and the opportunity to make a phone call, but both requests were denied. At around 3:00 AM, police officers contacted Davit's parents and assured them that he had not been beaten.

After being detained at the Digomi Police Department, Davit Gogilashvili was transferred to the Mtskheta Temporary Detention Center. Upon arrival, he was kept in a police car until approximately 9:00 AM. During the journey, police officers reportedly viewed videos of the protest participants on various platforms (including TikTok) while making derogatory comments and cursing at the protesters. In the vehicle, police officer Giorgi Chareqashvili, who was seated in front of Davit, pushed his seat back, pressing against the injured detainee's knees. Officer Menabde remained in this position for some time, apparently resting, while Davit was forced to endure further discomfort. By 9:00 AM, the officers began processing Davit's documentation for placement in the temporary detention center. However, due to the severity of his physical condition, a first aid team was called. After an initial evaluation, Davit was transported to a hospital for medical treatment.

According to the documentation provided by the emergency medical service brigade, Davit Gogilashvili sustained intracranial trauma and multiple physical injuries inflicted by members of the special forces unit during the rally. He exhibited symptoms including severe headaches, nausea, episodes of loss of consciousness, and knee pain.

At the Mtskheta Medical Center, Davit's condition was evaluated. The medical team classified the course of his illness as acute, with the overall severity assessed as moderate. Diagnostic tests conducted at the facility confirmed a broken nose, for which appropriate medical procedures were performed. The condition was similarly classified as acute. Davit was charged with acts under Article 173 of the Administrative Offences Code of Georgia in court. The case remains ongoing and is scheduled to be heard by Judge Nino Enukidze.

Two police officers testified as part of the proceedings. However, neither officer was directly involved in his detention. The officers provided intentionally false testimony to substantiate the contents of the administrative offense report they had filed. Furthermore, the police failed to present any objective evidence to corroborate the alleged commission of the offenses for which Davit is being charged.

The defense presented multiple pieces of evidence during the case review, including video recordings broadcast by various television stations and written documentation supporting Davit Gogilashvili's account. At the defense's request, an eyewitness was also questioned. The eyewitness corroborated Davit's explanation of events and contradicted the testimonies provided by the police officers. The initial hearing of the case was scheduled for January 9, 2025. However, it was subsequently postponed to January 16, 2025, due to the declaration of a public holiday.

According to available information, the Special Investigation Service has initiated an investigation into law enforcement officers' potential abuse of official authority. The officers' actions and the alleged abuse of authority may be classified as torture and degrading or inhuman treatment under applicable legal standards. The Special Investigation Service questioned Davit Gogilashvili as part of the investigation.

On December 26, 2024, the Special Investigation Service formally recognized Davit Gogilashvili as an affected person in this case through a resolution.