



FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
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Human Rights Hub

SHOTA NARSIA STORY

Shota Narsia, a researcher and doctoral candidate in political science, is charged with failing to comply with a lawful order issued by a police officer and with insulting a police officer.

On November 30, 2024, at approximately 10:00 PM, Shota Narsia participated in a peaceful protest. Later, at around 1:30 AM, the situation on Zubalashvili Street escalated as Narsia proceeded toward the intersection of Zubalashvili and Lesia Ukrainka Streets. At that point, special forces officers struck Narsia in the head. After he fell, they dragged him several meters on his back. During this altercation, Narsia was subjected to both verbal and physical abuse. During the assault, he dropped his mobile phone but was denied the opportunity to retrieve it. He was struck in the face and torso, causing him to lose consciousness. Furthermore, during his arrest, his personal belongings were not confiscated.

The arrested protester was transported to the Digomi police station by law enforcement officers, during which psychological abuse continued. Additionally, the officers threatened to prosecute him under the Criminal Code. Upon arrival at the police station, Narsia refused to sign the arrest report, as it contained false information alleging that he had cursed and insulted the police officers.

Due to Narsia's refusal to sign the protocol, the pressure on him intensified. He was subjected to shouting, verbal abuse, and even threats of being thrown from the 8th floor. Furthermore, he was sternly warned that if he participated in any future rallies, he would face corresponding punitive measures.

Due to the multiple injuries sustained during his arrest, Narsia required medical attention and diagnostic testing. He was initially examined by the detention center's doctor; however, an ambulance was not called. Narsia was scheduled for further medical evaluation due to severe pain in his kidneys. Additionally, he exhibited visible injuries and bruising.

Shota Narsia's case was adjudicated by Judge Nino Enukidze. The protester was charged under Article 173 of the Administrative Offences, which pertains to failure to comply with a lawful order of a police officer and insulting a police officer. Despite the absence of evidence substantiating any legal violation, Judge Enukidze relied on the false testimony of two police officers, found Narsia guilty, and imposed a fine of 2,800 GEL. Notably, none of the officers who testified had participated in Narsia's actual detention.

Subsequently, the Special Investigation Service launched an investigation into the alleged abuse of official authority. Shota Narsia was questioned by the Special Investigation Service while in the detention center and later underwent a comprehensive medical examination. Ultimately, Narsia was granted victim status; however, no members of the special forces involved in his arrest were held accountable.