

Annex 1

Case №1

On 4 February 2021, an investigation was initiated in the Investigative Division of Tbilisi Prosecutor's Office, on alleged Influencing of the PDO (Public Defender's Office) representatives in order to prevent them from conducting their official activities in penitentiary facilities of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, crime prescribed under article 352 §1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

The Public Defender's proposal of 20 January 2021 directed to the General Prosecutor served as a ground for initiating investigation. The said proposal referred to the facts of influencing the PDO representatives in penitentiary facilities with the purpose to interfere with the official activities of the Public Defender.

According to the Public Defender's proposal, on 14 January 2021 two PDO representatives visited penitentiary facility №15 with a view to discharge their professional duty, however they failed to do so, due to the events which occurred there.

On 31 October 2020, the employees of the National Prevention Mechanism of the Public Defender's Office visited penitentiary facility №15 in order to monitor course of parliamentary elections. They were verbally attacked by a group of aggressive inmates aiming at interference with their activities, which forced the representatives of the PDO to discontinue the visit.

On 4 December 2020 the employees of the National Prevention Mechanism of the Public Defender's Office visited penitentiary facility №8 in order to conduct monitoring, where specific inmate was aggressive particularly against the PDO representatives and addressed them with abusive comments.

On 13 January 2021 the PDO representatives visited penitentiary facility №8 with a view to meet with medical staff members and to inspect hotline connectivity. During the visit, the inmate involved in the accident of 4 December 2020 once again expressed aggression towards the PDO representatives.

The similar situation was detected on 13 January 2021 in penitentiary facility №17. Namely, during visit particular group of inmates behaved aggressively to the PDO representatives, in addition they demanded from the latter to stop executing visits to penitentiary facilities.

The Public Defender's proposal states, that in each of the above mentioned incidents the employees of penitentiary facilities did not step in in any manner and did not attempt to somehow de-escalate the situation, which would in turn allow PDO representatives to exercise their professional activities. Accordingly, the PDO expresses doubt, that aforementioned instances of aggression were committed with probable criminal complicity of the penitentiary facilities' administration representatives.

In the course of investigation, all PDO representatives were interviewed, namely, those were visiting specific penitentiary facilities of the Ministry of Justice to conduct their official activities on dates mentioned in the Public Defender's proposal and who considers that their professional activities were interfered by inmates, as well as by penitentiary facilities' administration representatives.

On the basis of Tbilisi city court ruling, video footage demonstrating PDO representatives' movement in penitentiary facility №15, penitentiary facility №8 and penitentiary facility №17, were examined using technical means.

On the basis of the video footage examination and the information received from interviewing PDO representatives, the identification process regarding inmates, as well as Special Penitentiary Service facilities' administration representatives, which in any manner were in contact with them, is in active progress. The investigation will encompass every detected criminal episode. Currently, all possible investigative and procedural actions are being conducted in active manner.

Case N2

On January 5, 2021, the Investigative Division of the Adjara Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation under Article 333, §1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, on the alleged fact of exceeding official powers committed against convict G.N. placed in the penitentiary Institution N3, by the employees of the same institution.

The investigation was initiated on the grounds of the statement of convict G.N., who was placed in the N3 penitentiary institution, who stated that the employees of the N3 penitentiary institution insisted from him to deliver money to collect so-called "thieves for the common."

The following investigative actions were carried out: witnesses including the convict G.N. were interrogated. Employees of the N3 Penitentiary Institution who were also interrogated as witnesses, stated that no illegal activities had taken place in the N3 Penitentiary Institution and that the information provided by G.N. was false and that the paper records presented by G.N. to the investigation, asserting the fact of collecting "thieves in common" were allegedly created by the convict himself.

Multiplex graphic examination of the documents held during investigation revealed that the handwriting on the papers presented by G.N. is executed by the convict himself. The case remains under investigation.

Case N3

On October 16, 2020, the Detective Division of Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia launched an investigation under Article 223¹, §1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, on the alleged fact of the membership of the 'criminal underworld'.

The investigation was initiated on the grounds of inquiry report of the interview with G.N. - a convict placed in the special penitentiary facility N3, in which the convict was stating that while he was in the №2 facility of the Special Penitentiary Service located in the city of Kutaisi, he used to be contacted by so-called „spectators” on various issues, including collection of so-called "thieves in common".

The following investigative actions were carried out: witnesses including the convict G.N. were interrogated, information relevant to the case was obtained from the Information Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Special Penitentiary Service.

Prosecution has not been launched and the status of a victim has not been granted to a certain person at this stage. The case remains under investigation to examine the circumstances indicated in G.N.'s testimony.

It is noteworthy that the convict G.N. appears in case N2 as well.

Case N4

On February 13, 2021, the Central Criminal Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the Main Division for Combating Organized Crime, and the Division Against the Criminal Underworld launched a criminal investigation under Article 223¹, §1, of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

The investigation was initiated on the grounds of the operative information, according to which specific persons who were serving their sentences in the particular cell of the N3 penitentiary institution together, were purported to have connections with so-called "thieves in law" living abroad. The inmates of this cell operated under the "thieves'" instructions, as well as utilized their criminal authority to influence other inmates in the penitentiary, organized and participated in the "underworld meetings".

Witnesses were interrogated, covert investigative actions were carried out, but mentioned facts have not been confirmed at this stage. The case remains under investigation.