Koka Katsitadze

Head of the Special Investigation Service

№09 M. Asatiani St.

Tbilisi, Georgia

Oldenzaal, June 2025

Dear Mr. Katsitadze,

I am writing to call for justice for jailed journalist Mzia Amaghlobeli, who was arrested during the peaceful protests in Batumi on 11-12 January 2025. I also call for police officers to be brought to account for the use of unlawful force and other violations against the peaceful protesters in Batumi, specifically the Chief of Batumi Police Irakli Dgebuadze, and also in connection with allegations of torture or other ill-treatment against detainees by police.

As you will know, Mzia Amaghlobeli is standing trial for allegedly using violence against Irakli Dgebuadze, and faces prison if found guilty. There is video footage in which she is seen slapping him on the face, against the background of abusive actions by the police force in the streets of Batumi against peaceful protesters, and following Amaghlobeli’s earlier, manifestly arbitrary arrest. There is also footage of Dgebuadze swearing and insulting her.

I call on you to ensure that Irakli Dgebuadze and all police officers involved in arbitrary arrests and alleged ill-treatment of peaceful protestors, are immediately suspended in their duties until all allegations against them, including but not only those from 11-12 January 2025, are promptly, impartially and effectively investigated.

I further demand full respect for Mzia Amaghlobeli’s and all Georgian protesters’ human rights, including the right to a fair trial.

Yours sincerely,