



**March 1, 2018**

**Statement by the member organizations of the Georgian National Platform on the case of Archil Tatumashvili**

We, the organisations, members of the Georgian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Platform, express deep regret about the death of Archil Tatumashvili, a Georgian citizen, on February 23, 2018, in Tskhinvali.

We have learned from different sources that Archil Tatumashvili died as a result of violence against him and that the official explanation of the events issued by the de facto authorities in Tskhinvali is far from reality.

The civil society is deeply concerned over the escalation of the situation. We believe that the body of the deceased Archil Tatumashvili should be immediately handed over to his family in order to deescalate tensions. Any further delay in this process may aggravate the situation and risk causing uncontrolled processes, which is in the interest of the occupation regime, but not the population under the rule of this regime.

We call on the Russian Federation and its regime in Tskhinvali to hand over the body of the deceased Georgian citizen to his family. We also call to allow the other two unlawfully detained Georgian citizens to cross the occupation line without any delay and return to their families peacefully.

We call on the international community to enhance control and pressure over the Russian Federation to resolve the crisis.

We do not trust that the occupation regime will ensure fair investigation of the case. The Russian Federation and its occupation regime are directly responsible for the death of a peaceful citizen, as a force exercising effective control over the territory of the former Autonomous Republic of South Ossetia. We believe that this case should be discussed by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

At the same time, we want to underline that the occupation rule was and will always be provocative, destructive and anti-humane, which brings damage to the societies divided by the conflict.

We believe that peace initiatives and consistent steps should continue to the benefit of the citizens living on both sides the occupation line.

***Signatory Organizations:***

1. Civil Forum
2. European Initiative - Liberal Academy Tbilisi
3. Europe Foundation
4. Rondeli Foundation
5. Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)
6. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
7. World Experience for Georgia
8. Human Rights Centre
9. Foundation "Multi- Ethnic Resource Centre on Civic Education Development"
10. Free Choice
11. Association of Tea Producers Georgia "Georgian Tea"
12. Georgian Association "Woman in Business"
13. Association for the Farmers' Rights Defence
14. Enterprise Innovation Development Center
15. Local Democracy Agency Georgia
16. Civil Society and Democracy Development Center
17. Georgian Trade Union Confederation
18. Railway Workers New Trade Union
19. Association Merkuri
20. United Public Movement "Multinational Georgia"
21. Youth Alternative
22. Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Association "Toleranti"
23. Thomas Jefferson Research Centre
24. Peaceful and Business Caucasus
25. Save The Future Generation
26. Youth Union Euro Club
27. Union "Anti-Violence Network of Georgia"
28. Women Enterprise" Fund Georgia
29. Teachers' Union "Education and Universe"
30. Levan Mikeladze Foundation
31. "School-Family-Society" Association
32. Energy Efficiency Centre Georgia
33. Journalism Resource Center

34. Young socialists of Georgia
35. International Organization of Human Rights protection and Prisoners social welfare
36. International Center for Civic Culture
37. Civitas Georgica
38. Caucasian House Georgia
39. Foundation "Caucasus Environment"
40. Media Monitoring Centre of Georgia
41. People's Harmonious Development Society
42. Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"
43. Energy Efficiency Foundation
44. Union "Healthy Children"
45. Women's Information Centre
46. Green Caucasus
47. New Generation for Democratic Georgia
48. Junior achievement of Georgia
49. Georgia Press Association
50. Association for the efficient use of the Georgian energy resources
51. Union "Ecotech"
52. Disarmament and Non-violence
53. Association "Atinati"
54. Abkhazeti – My Home
55. Penal Reform International
56. Association "Psychea"
57. Coalition for Independent Living
58. Women's Political Resource Center
59. The Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia
60. International Business and Economic Development Centre