



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Published on 19 October 2026

FOURTH SECTION

Application no. 37616/25
Giorgi GAKHARIA
against Georgia
lodged on 1 December 2025
communicated on 29 September 2026

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CASE

The application concerns the allegations by the applicant, a former Minister of the Interior and Prime Minister, and currently one of the opposition leaders in Georgia, that he was subjected to a State-orchestrated campaign of political persecution, in the course of which he was subjected to two violent physical attacks carried out by State agents.

Notably, on 15 January 2025, the applicant was allegedly subjected to physical and verbal assault by a group of public officials, including a member of Parliament, D.S., and the deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, G.M., while he was staying at a hotel in Batumi. As a result, he sustained various injuries, including a concussion and a fractured nose. One month later, on 17 February 2025, upon his arrival at Tbilisi Airport, he was attacked by a group of unidentifiable persons who verbally insulted him and threw eggs at his face.

The investigation into the hotel incident was opened promptly and several relevant investigative actions have been carried out. The applicant claims, however, that the proceedings have stagnated since 18 June 2025. As regards the airport incident, despite his complaints with the Special Investigative Service, the Tbilisi Police Department, and the General Prosecutor's Office, the applicant does not know to date whether any investigation into the incident has been initiated.

The applicant complains of a violation of Article 3 of the Convention taken alone and in conjunction with Article 14.

QUESTIONS TO THE PARTIES

A. Questions specific to each incident:

1. *Concerning the incident of 15 January 2025:*

1. Has the applicant been subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, in breach of Article 3 of the Convention? In this connection, did the alleged involvement of public officials in the incident engage the responsibility of the State under the substantive limb of Article 3 of the Convention?

2. Having regard to the procedural protection from inhuman or degrading treatment (see *Labita v. Italy* [GC], no. 26772/95, § 131, ECHR 2000-IV), was the investigation into the applicant's assault by the domestic authorities in breach of Article 3 of the Convention?

2. *Concerning the incident of 17 February 2025:*

1. Has the applicant been subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, in breach of Article 3 of the Convention? In this connection, did the treatment complained of reach the threshold of Article 3 of the Convention? Were State agents involved in the alleged assault on the applicant at the Tbilisi Airport?

2. Having regard to the procedural protection from inhuman or degrading treatment (see *Labita v. Italy* [GC], no. 26772/95, § 131, ECHR 2000-IV), was the investigation into the applicant's assault by the domestic authorities in breach of Article 3 of the Convention?

B. General question:

3. Did the applicant suffer discrimination on the grounds of his political opinion, contrary to Article 14 read in conjunction with Article 3 of the Convention?