



Georgian Association

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC

Statement of Georgian Association and friends of Georgia on Independence Day 2024

More than 100 years ago in 1921, when Georgians fled their homeland to avoid repressions by Soviet rulers, they escaped the political regime that they could not tolerate as it no longer resonated with the aspirations and hopes that they had for their motherland. Many were ousted for their political views and positions.

Georgians in Georgia and abroad worked hard over the 70 years of Soviet occupation to regain independence. The fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, spurred the hopes of the country's democratic future. A new Constitution not only laid a foundation for independent Georgia, but also enshrined the Euro-Atlantic orientation of the past and future generations.

Today, we fear that retaliatory arrests of activists and demonstrators who are in support of protecting the Georgian Constitution and country's Euro-Atlantic integration, retaliatory arrests of activists, leaders and organizers of constitutionally-protected civic protests, and intimidation including through their family members, create fertile ground for political persecution and harassment that may again create generation of political refugees and immigrants as it did in 1921.

We find unacceptable the political repressions that may set Georgia back by 100 years and drive more Georgians out of the country that they worked so hard to build in close partnerships with our European and American partners.

On this Independence Day of 2024, the Georgian diaspora in the US stands in solidarity with citizens of Georgia who are fiercely, bravely and tirelessly defending the Constitution and the Euro-Atlantic future of independent Georgia.

Strength is in Unity - ძალა ერთობაშია!

Board of Directors, Georgian Association in the USA