



## **Georgia – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 13 December 2012**

### **Any reports on police corruption in Georgia.**

A Practice Insight document published by the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, in a section titled “The process of police reform”, states:

“Among the most decisive early moves against corruption was the dismissal of a large number of current officers – some 16,000 officers in total. The traffic police – considered the most corrupt branch of the institution – was particularly hard hit. In October 2004, salaries were increased to 350-500 Georgian laris (GEL) (approximately EUR 150–210), from an average wage of 80–90 GEL (approximately EUR 35-40). Incentives for taking bribes – such as meagre pay and the need to recoup the original investment made to buy their positions – were thus removed.” (U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (February 2010) *Police reform in Georgia: Cracks*, p.1)

In a section titled “The impact of the reforms” this document states:

“In terms of reducing street-level corruption, the initial measures taken by the Georgian government proved to be enormously effective. Indeed, the reform of the traffic police is widely recognised as a remarkable anti-corruption success story of post-revolutionary Georgia. Satisfaction with the reform is reflected in increased public trust in the police derived from the reduction in street-level corruption.<sup>4</sup> Citizens are now more inclined to report cases of corruption through a hotline service or directly to the offender’s superior. The reform also appears to have resulted in improving police efficiency.” (ibid, p.2)

This section also states:

“However, these early indicators of success do not capture the complete picture, and in recent years, shortcomings in the reform process have resulted in a range of negative consequences. Despite its ability to reduce low-level corruption, the Georgian government has been less successful in tackling human rights abuses by the police and increasing institutional accountability.” (ibid, pp.2-3)

A Prime-News report refers to the perception of corruption in Georgia as follows:

“Transparency International has published the results of the 2010 Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), reflecting people's perceptions in 86 countries around the world. Georgia has taken fifth position after Finland, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland. Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs has published the results of the survey. According to the Global Corruption Barometer, 77 percent of Tbilisi’s residents state that the Georgian government has been effective or extremely effective in fighting corruption. Compared to other

countries included in this poll, Georgia has the highest rate of respondents who say that their government's actions to fight corruption have been effective or extremely effective.” (Prime-News (8 March 2011) *Georgia Takes Fifth Position In Fight Against Corruption*)

Paragraph 14 of a Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly report states:

“The Assembly expresses its satisfaction with the considerable reforms that have been implemented with regard to the police forces. As a result of these reforms, corruption in the police forces and ill-treatment of detainees have been almost eradicated.” (Council of Europe: Parliamentary Assembly (25 March 2011) *Honouring of obligations and commitments by Georgia*, p.4)

The US Department of State country report for the events of 2010, in “Section 4 Official Corruption and Government Transparency”, states:

“Police corruption was low at the patrol police level. The relatively high salaries for police officers provided an incentive to refrain from using their positions to extort money from citizens.” (US Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Georgia*)

A US Congressional Research Service report, in a section titled “Background”, states:

“Since President Mikheil Saakashvili came to power in late 2003, Georgia has made notable progress in increasing economic and political freedoms and reducing police corruption and crime.” (US Congressional Research Service (15 October 2012) *Georgia’s October 2012 Legislative Election: Outcome and Implications*)

An Irish Times article states:

“Mikheil Saakashvili has run the country ever since and, though he has drawn criticism for his attitude towards opponents and for his handling of Georgia’s five-day war with Russia in 2008, he is praised for modernising central Tbilisi and purging its once notoriously corrupt police force.” (Irish Times (18 August 2012) *Georgia on my mind*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

### **References:**

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