

Mr. Mikheil Saakashvili
President of Georgia
Administration of the President of Georgia
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Georgia
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Brussels, 15 March 2011

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) which represents around one million European lawyers through its member bars and law societies from 31 full member countries, and 11 further associate and observer countries.

On 21 December 2010, the CCBE sent a letter regarding the situation of lawyers in Georgia. In the letter, we expressed our concern about the reported human rights violations against a number of Georgian lawyers, and urged the Georgian authorities to take the necessary steps to investigate these cases, bring those responsible to justice and release all illegally arrested lawyers. The CCBE also urged the authorities to ensure that all actions and threats against lawyers in the legitimate exercise of their professional duties are immediately and effectively stopped. A copy of the letter has also been sent to the officials of the EU institutions. I attach our letter of 21 December 2010 again for your information.

On 23 December 2010, the CCBE sent a letter urging you to consider the situation of the Georgian lawyer, Mariana Ivelashvili, and to grant her clemency. Mariana Ivelashvili is still detained in a prison in Tbilisi and suffers from a life-threatening illness. I have also attached our letter of 23 December 2010 for your information.

Until now the CCBE has not received any reply to the letters of December 2010.

We would greatly appreciate receiving information regarding the latest developments and any progress that has been made concerning the above-mentioned matters.

Yours sincerely,



Georges-Albert Dal
CCBE President