



ბანკოთმარჯობისა და დემოკრატიის ცენტრი

STATEMENT

REGARDING THE APREST OF NIKA MELIA, THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY

23 February, 2021 Year

We would like to respond to the fact that this morning, a special operation was carried out in the United National Movement (UNM) office and Nikanor Melia's arrest, the Chairman of the UNM.

In the recent period, Georgian civil society and international partners have been urging the opposing parties to find ways to defuse the current situation and de-escalate tensions. Unfortunately, these calls were not heeded. We believe that overcoming the political crises in a democratic state that Georgia aspires to establish requires a non-violent political environment and consensus between actors.

In this regard, it is disturbing that the Georgian authorities' decision to detain the leader of the opposition has further aggravated the existing differences between the political actors and jeopardized the process of reaching an agreement between them. We think that in this situation, the Georgian government could and should have taken into account that such a step would have deepened the current political crisis.

To ensure political stability and peaceful development of the country, it is important to find a quick, effective solution and return the processes to the format of dialogue through facilitators so as not to polarize society further and jeopardize the country's European and Euro-Atlantic integration process.