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H U M A N R I G H T S I N A R M E N I A

HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMENIA

2023

AD HOC REPORT

POLICE

Content

Introduction	3
Judiciary	4
Police violence and torture	6
Violence against lawyers	8
Political persecutions	10
Grigori Khachaturov	10
Armen Ashotyan	11
Incidents involving officials and their close associates	12

Introduction

Since 12 December 2022, Azerbaijan has been blocking the only road connecting Artsakh to Armenia. Despite the decision of the International Court of Justice, which obliges Azerbaijan to ensure the unimpeded movement of people, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor, Azerbaijan's illegal actions are aimed at the exact opposite. By regular violations of the ceasefire, on April 23, Azerbaijan established a checkpoint in the Lachin corridor, completely banning humanitarian transportation to Artsakh, even hindering the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The population of Artsakh and the authorities are warning about the imminent famine and humanitarian disaster if the complete blockade continues. In parallel, various public and political figures and citizens in Armenia regularly organize demonstrations and movements demanding the lifting of the blockade of Artsakh, which remain unanswered by the international community and the authorities of the Republic of Armenia.

In the conditions of Azerbaijan's belligerent policy, numerous security issues remain unsolved. On January 19, 15 military servicemen were killed due to a fire that broke out in the barracks of a military unit of the RA Ministry of Defense located in the territory of Azat village, Gegharkunik region, which flared up anger among the general public. On May 26, the Azerbaijani military invaded the territory of Armenia and abducted servicemen Harutyun Hovakimyan and Karen Ghazaryan, who were supplying food to defence positions, and were sentenced to 11 years and 6 months in prison in a show trial in Sumgait.

In the conditions of this unprecedented crisis, the intensifying political persecutions, violence by law enforcement officers, usurpation of judicial power and disrespectful attitude of the authorities towards human rights continue to increase in post-war Armenia.

In the first half of 2023 the intensity of the cases of torture and violence against citizens and lawyers is accompanied by new manifestations of impunity and patronage, which is why the Helsinki Committee of Armenia considers it necessary to publish this ad hoc report.

Judiciary

In 2023, the persecution and dismissal of judges who were not desirable to the executive power continued. On February 27, the Supreme Judicial Council terminated the powers of judge Zaruhi Nakhshkaryan. The disciplinary proceedings, which were initiated on the basis of the motion by the RA Minister of Justice, were related to the comments made by Z. Nakhshkaryan regarding the proceedings against judge Anna Pilosyan. Former judge Anna Pilosyan's powers were terminated in December 2022 for delaying the rulings in 4 civil cases¹. Z. Nakhshkaryan defended A. Pilosyan, noting that judges are overloaded with work. According to the Ministry of Justice, Z. Nakhshkaryan committed a violation of the judge's rules of conduct by including the following thought in the [Facebook] post: "People who voted in favor, you are the ones to live with this decision, not Pilosyan, not the society, but you!"²

On June 9, "Zhoghovurd" daily published an article describing the private meeting of the Chairperson of the Supreme Judicial Council K. Andreasyan with some of the judges of the RA Criminal Court of Appeal³. According to the media outlet, during the private meeting K. Andreasyan distributed ballot papers to the judges and proposed to elect a "shadow chairperson" of the court, with judge Rubik Mkhitarian as the preferred candidate. Except for R. Mkhitarian and judge Armen Danielyan, all judges, according to the publication, rejected the proposal and did not participate in the voting. Later, reporters of Factor TV tried to get comments from the judges mentioned in the article but the judges avoided talking without denying the fact of the meeting⁴.

On June 13, based on the motion of the Minister of Justice another disciplinary proceeding was initiated at the Supreme Judicial Council, this time against the judge of the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan, Davit Harutyunyan⁵. The reason was D. Harutyunyan's interview before the general meeting of judges held on April 7, where he criticized the SJC for terminating the powers of more than 20 judges in half a year, expressing skepticism about the SJC's impartiality, given that the Council's decisions are made by absolute consensus⁶. D. Harutyunyan's powers were terminated on July 3, at an open court session, which reporters were not allowed to attend⁷.

¹ See "Judiciary" section of "Observer #1. 2022" of the Helsinki Committee of Armenia, <https://bit.ly/3JWaSeZ>

² "Zaruhi Nakhshkaryan's interview about the overload of judges was considered a disciplinary violation", Hetq, 21.02.2023, <https://hetq.am/hy/article/153448>

³ "Miscalculation": details of the disgraceful scandal of Karen Andreasyan's failed coup d'état", 168 hours, 09.06.2023, <https://168.am/2023/06/09/1885203.html>

⁴ "Judges avoid talking about the publications about their meeting with Karen Andreasyan, and Rubik Mkhitarian calls them fabrications", Factor TV, 30.06.2023 թ., <https://factor.am/663371.html>

⁵ "Disciplinary proceedings initiated against judge Davit Harutyunyan", News.am, 13.06.2023, <https://news.am/arm/news/765229.html>

⁶ "Not all judges were notified. fair election was disrupted: Davit Harutyunyan", News.am, 07.04.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ltohv-2upqc>

⁷ "SJC decided to terminate the powers of judge Davit Harutyunyan", Radio Liberty, 03.06.2023, <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/32486885.html>

On 2 June 2023, the European Association of Judges adopted a statement on the issues affecting judicial independence in the Republic of Armenia⁸. Among other considerations, the statement includes criticism of the election of non-judge members of the SJC by the parliamentary majority without disclosing the ground of their selection, which gives reason to believe that their appointment was politically motivated. The reference specifically referred to Karen Andreasyan, Chairperson of the SJC of the Republic of Armenia, who held, until immediately before his election, office as the Minister of Justice.

K. Andreasyan was a member of the ruling “Civil Contract” Party before being elected as member and chairperson of the SJC. During his tenure as Minister of Justice, K. Andreasyan came to the public attention in 2021, when he commented on hanging Prime Minister N. Pashinyan’s photo on his office wall:

“Nikol Pashinyan, being the head of the country, is the head of all of us. In general, the photo of the head of state is a symbol, and yes, there are times when, during work, looking at the photo, I remember that we must be honest, impartial and comply with all the requirements that the prime minister has set before us”⁹.

During the preparation of this report, the European Union of Judges sent a letter to the RA authorities and international organizations, stating that with the disciplinary proceedings against many judges in RA, the “European standards are deliberately disregarded and ridiculed”¹⁰. The Union stressed that judges, like everyone else, have freedom of expression and the right to point out problems and abuses in the judicial system, and criticized the role of the Minister of Justice in initiating disciplinary proceedings, noting it could violate the principle of separation of powers.

⁸ “Statement on current issues affecting judicial independence in the Republic of Armenia”, European Association of Judges, 02.06.2023, <https://www.iaj-uim.org/iuw/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/EAJ-statement-on-current-issues-affecting-judicial-independence-in-Armenia.pdf>

⁹ “I look at Pashinyan’s photo and remember...”, 30.09.2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuHqtdnCzE4>

¹⁰ See the letter of the European Union of Judges, July 14, https://www.iaj-uim.org/iuw/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EAJ-Board-letter_Armenia_14-July-2023.pdf

Police violence and torture

In the first half of 2023, numerous cases of torture and violence by the police were recorded with the involvement of high-ranking officials of the law enforcement system. On January 12, in Charentsavan Police Department, the police officers beat Arman Khalapyan, who was summoned to the Division with regard to the case of his son. According to lawyer Sasun Rafayelyan, his defendant was beaten in the presence of the Head of the Department Mher Minasyan in his office¹¹.

On April 10, Arsen Ghaitmazyan, head of Dilijan Police Department of Criminal Investigation, beat minor Araz Amiryan, a waiter in the “Haghartsin” restaurant-hotel complex, which was recorded by cameras¹². According to the latter’s lawyer, A. Ghaitmazyan was under the influence of alcohol and complained that payment for the overnight stay was requested from him in advance¹³.

On June 17, after conducting a search of his house, the police officers took Tigran Arakelyan, a former member of the “Armenian National Congress”, to the Investigative Committee and tortured him¹⁴. According to his report, with the participation of Azat Gevorgyan, Head of the Investigative Department of the RA Investigative Committee, and Argishti Kyaramyan, Chairperson of the RA Investigative Committee, his wet body was exposed to electric shock, they beat him, threatened to throw him out of the window, after which the police forced him to change his bloodstained clothes to cover up the incident. According to T. Arakelyan, A. Kyaramyan personally threatened his family, saying that he would not see his wife and child again and that his family would be destroyed. The Investigative Committee hurried to refute the information, saying that T. Arakelyan was accused of “extortion and assisting in publishing malicious information about officials”, without specifying about who¹⁵.

Of the participants in the described violence, investigative action was only initiated against Arsen Ghaitmazyan following the spread of the video of the beating. Nevertheless, even in that case A. Ghaitmazyan was not prosecuted on the ground of “active remorse”¹⁶. It should be noted that so far only two judgments of conviction have been rendered in Armenia on the ground of torture¹⁷ but they did not apply to the high-ranking officials involved.

¹¹ ““In Charentsavan Unit, the police tortured a citizen and they are trying to cover up the case”: lawyer”, News.am, 22.06.2023, <https://news.am/arm/news/766905.html>

¹² “A high-ranking police officer beat a minor and went unpunished”, Radio Liberty, 01.06.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVBgxQbjN4s>

¹³ “The boy asked to pay for the room, and the head of the criminal unit said he himself would decide when and how much to pay: tells the lawyer”, News.am, 02.06.2023, <https://news.am/arm/news/763348.html>

¹⁴ “Kyaramyan stood on my feet, poured water on me, the investigator exposed me to electric shock: Tigran Arakelyan”, News.am, 23.06.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OSyUkdbatE>

¹⁵ “Tigran Arakelyan claims that he was tortured in the Investigative Committee”, Radio Liberty, 23.06.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8MHji5VgjQ>

¹⁶ “Head of Dilijan police unit of criminal investigation accused of torturing a minor was released”, <https://factor.am/664295.html>

¹⁷ These refer to the case of Armen Aghajanyan, who was tortured in “Nubarashen” penitentiary in 2018, and then, according to the official version, committed suicide, as well as the case of torturing H. and N. Arakelyan brothers in a police car in 2019.

In addition to the described cases, violence was used by the police during the operations against illegal drug trafficking in Yerevan clubs. On April 23, during such an operation in the Polygraf Club, according to those in the clubs, the armed police officers beat, bullied, cursed the customers, and after apprehending them, kept them in the department for several hours¹⁸.

¹⁸ “*Visitors of Polygraf speak out about police beatings, swearing and humiliation*”, Radio Liberty, 25.04.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1EiFNX1U5Y>

Violence against lawyers

In 2023 lawyers also became victims of police violence. On February 9, lawyers Marzpet Avagyan and Emanuel Ananyan were beaten in Erebuni Police Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to the latter, during the confrontation of a minor defendant, an argument started with the detective who was confronting him and insults were uttered. In the corridor M. Avagyan demanded clarifications from the detective but police officers twisted his arms and beat him and E. Avagyan. The incident stopped after the intervention of investigators who were in the same building¹⁹. According to the minor defendant, before that he had been beaten up by a group of police officers of Erebuni Department, covering his head with clothes and putting their feet on his head.

On June 7, lawyer Karen Alaverdyan was subjected to violence in Central Police Department. According to K. Alaverdyan, after the court session more than 20 police officers from different departments of Yerevan and the patrol service approached him and his client on the street, inviting them to the police station. His client agreed and was taken to the Central Department in a patrol car. K. Alaverdyan followed them, however, he was not allowed to enter for 5-10 minutes. When the lawyer finally managed to go up to his client, he heard him screaming from behind the door, demanding not to hit him. Entering the room, K. Alaverdyan saw his client handcuffed on the ground being beaten by five or six police officers. The lawyer tried to intervene and stand between him and the police officers demanding to stop the violence. The police officers removed the lawyer by force, chained him and used tear gas. K. Alaverdyan was arrested and held in custody for 6 hours without informing the Chairperson of the Chamber of Advocates, although this is explicitly required by law. As for the defendant, he had many injuries, his eardrum was damaged, and he suffered cigarette burns on his face²⁰.

In 2023, in relation to the cases of physical violence and assault against lawyers, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe expressed deep concern in its letters addressed to the President of the Republic of Armenia and called for a full and impartial investigation of the incidents²¹. Cases of violence and torture in police stations, including unprecedented violence against lawyers, have been condemned by a number of non-governmental organizations²². RA Human Rights Defender also responded to the violence against lawyers, initiating a deliberation

¹⁹ "There was a barrage of blows, there was no part of the body that was not hit: Hrant Ananyan about the lawyers who were beaten by the police officers", Iravaban.net, 10.02.2023, <https://iravaban.net/415237.html>

²⁰ "Press conference on violence against the lawyer in the police. LIVE", A1+, 13.06.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3k-rvls14Uo>

²¹ [https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/HUMAN_RIGHTS_LETTERS/Armenia - Armenie/2023/EN_HRL_20230303 Armenia Assault-against-lawyers-Marzpet-Avagyan-and-Emanuel-Ananyan.pdf](https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/HUMAN_RIGHTS_LETTERS/Armenia_-_Armenie/2023/EN_HRL_20230303_Armenia_Assault-against-lawyers-Marzpet-Avagyan-and-Emanuel-Ananyan.pdf)
[https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/HUMAN_RIGHTS_LETTERS/Armenia - Armenie/2023/EN_HRL_20230616 Armenia Violences-against-lawyers.pdf](https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/HUMAN_RIGHTS_LETTERS/Armenia_-_Armenie/2023/EN_HRL_20230616_Armenia_Violences-against-lawyers.pdf)

²² "Police violence is becoming systemic. statement of NGOs", Hetq, 03.07.2023, <https://hetq.am/hy/article/157741>

procedure²³. On June 26, the international day of support for victims of torture, the lawyers' community announced a one-day strike as a sign of protest²⁴.

With regard to the incidents in the police stations, it is noteworthy that the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia last year decided to remove the cameras that were installed with the EU funding in the police stations, including in the interrogation rooms²⁵.

²³ <https://ombuds.am/am/site/ViewNews/2474>

²⁴ "Lawyers go on strike over assault against them", Hetq, 26.06.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOjdAjkvM5U>

²⁵ "Cameras will be installed in police stations", Arka, 13.12.2019, https://arka.am/am/news/society/Vostikanakan_bajanmunqnerum_/

See also the report on the work carried out in 2021 under the RA Police Reform Strategy 2020-2022 and the Action Plan arising thereof,

<https://www.police.am/resources/police/uploads/files/protocols/46146112e4f412a77ec527791d56597a.docx>

Political persecutions

Politically motivated persecution of public, political and military figures continues in Armenia. The criminal cases initiated in the previous period against opposition figures for political reasons are in progress, except for the case of Igor Khachaturov²⁶.

Grigori Khachaturov

On 21 February 2023, Major General Grigory Khachaturov was arrested, and on May 16, he was detained²⁷. The events were preceded by the motion of the Prosecutor General Anna Vardapetyan in the National Assembly to initiate criminal prosecution against the former Minister of Defense, Leader of “Armenia” faction Seyran Ohanyan, who was associated with the case of alienation of the land belonging to the Ministry of Defense 14 years ago. According to the prosecutor’s office, the land was actually sold to G. Khachaturov, who pledged it for 18 million AMD and thus carried out “money laundering”²⁸.

According to G. Khachaturov’s lawyers, the information presented by the Prosecutor General contained data not corresponding to the reality, and no other person involved in the case was arrested²⁹.

Prior to being appointed Prosecutor General in 2022, Anna Vardapetyan held the position of assistant to the RA Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. As it was revealed from the video leaked on the Internet, during her tenure A. Vardapetyan edited the decision to involve Rafik Hayrapetyan, the son of the former president of FFA R. Hayrapetyan, as an accused in the criminal case³⁰.

Criminal prosecutions against the Khachaturov family began right after the change of power in 2018. From the wiretapping of the scandalous telephone conversation regarding the “decision” to detain his father Colonel-General Yuri Khachaturov, it was revealed that N. Pashinyan himself ordered the director of the National Security Service Artur Vanetsyan and the head of the Special Investigation Service Sasun Khachatryan to detain the general³¹. During the opposition demonstrations held in May 2022, Y. Khachaturov’s other son, Igor Khachaturov, was detained and accused of assaulting a police officer. The accusation was based on the testimony of the same police officer³². After nearly a year of criminal prosecution, I. Khachaturov was acquitted³³.

²⁶ See “Political persecutions” section of “Observer #1. 2022” of the Helsinki Committee of Armenia, <https://bit.ly/3JWaSeZ>

²⁷ “General Grigori Khachaturov detained”, Hetq, 16.03.2023, <https://hetq.am/hy/article/154170>

²⁸ “The Prosecutor General submitted a motion to give consent on initiating criminal prosecution against Seyran Ohanyan”, Hetq, 07.02.2023, <https://hetq.am/hy/article/152913>

²⁹ “The defense attorneys in Grigory Khachaturov’s case accuse the Prosecutor General of lying”, Hetq, 20.03.2023, <https://hetq.am/hy/article/154281>

³⁰ For further details see “Observer #1 (77). Human Rights in Armenia 2022” Report of the Helsinki Committee of Armenia, page 11, <https://armhels.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/%d4%b4%d5%ab%d5%bf%d5%b8%d6%80%d5%a4-2022.pdf>

³¹ “The wiretapped conversation of NSS chief Artur Vanetsyan and SIS chief Sasun Khachatryan”, Hetq, 11.09.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS0dDrBeBfQ>

³² ““An idea was born in a sick brain that Igor Khachaturov must be detained”: Mihran Poghosyan”, 168 hours, 31.05.2022, <https://168.am/2022/05/31/1713148.html>

³³ “Igor Khachaturov acquitted”, A1+, 10.05.2023, <https://a1plus.am/hy/article/454706>

Armen Ashotyan

On June 15, former Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotyan was arrested and then detained. A. Ashotyan was accused of abuse of office and money laundering while minister and while chairperson of the board of trustees of Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi³⁴. Oppositionist A. Ashotyan, who is also the vice-president of the Republican Party of Armenia³⁵, was charged back in November 2022, choosing recognizance not to leave as a measure of restraint³⁶. According to the charges, in 2015, A. Ashotyan induced Rector Mikael Narimanyan to buy apartments on behalf of the university from the “Tsovasar” hotel complex belonging to Ishkhan Saghatelyan’s family³⁷. The Investigative Committee claimed that A. Ashotyan attempted to offer the services of his lawyers to the witnesses and the accused in order to influence the course of the case, which was why they motioned for his detention.

After the detention, A. Ashotyan's defense attorney Tigran Atanesyan presented a number of information with regard to the case, particularly that the apartments purchased on behalf of the Medical University are still in the university's balance sheet, and their market value has even increased³⁸. According to the defense attorney, the circumstances of the case exclude the legality of both money laundering and other charges.

³⁴ “Armen Ashotyan arrested”, Hetq, 15.06.2023, <https://hetq.am/hy/article/157170>

³⁵ <http://hkh.am/hy/executive-body/bio/59/>

³⁶ “Armen Ashotyan charged under 2 articles”, Hetq, 17.11.2022, <https://www.hetq.am/hy/article/150240>

³⁷ See the statement of the RA Investigative Committee, 15.06.2023
<https://investigative.am/news/view/ashotyan-dzerbakalum-mexadrang.html>

³⁸ ““It follows from the recording that it was not Armen Ashotyan who put pressure on them but rather they tried to put pressure on him”: Defense attorney”, Hetq, 20.06.2023, <https://hetq.am/hy/article/157328>

Incidents involving officials and their close associates

In the context of the described violence and persecutions, a number of recorded cases of disdainful attitude towards human rights, which took place with the involvement of high-ranking officials and their close associates, become even more pronounced.

On April 2, Diaspora Armenian Karen Mkrtchyan, coming across the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Alen Simonyan in the Cascade complex, called him a “traitor”. The NA President’s bodyguards immediately immobilized Mkrtchyan and A. Simonyan cursed and spat in his face thereafter³⁹. Alen Simonyan did not apologize to Mkrtchyan for the act that aroused public indignation, instead, in a post on his Facebook account, he said that he was sorry for going out of his way because of the insult and apologized to the citizens of Armenia for the incident⁴⁰ (K. Mkrtchyan is a citizen of Canada).

Seeing Nikol Pashinyan near the office of the “Civil Contract” Party on April 25, a citizen called him a “traitor” and he was apprehended thereafter. The police reasoned bringing Samvel Vardanyan into custody the suspicion of carrying a cold weapon⁴¹. After the incident, S. Vardanyan, who worked as a hotel administrator, was fired by his employer - according to Vardanyan - out of concern for running into problems with the authorities⁴².

Another similar case was recorded during the preparation of this report. On July 3, Davit Avetisyan, the son of Varuzhan Avetisyan, a member of the “Sasna Tsrer” group, was arrested from the vicinity of the English Park of Yerevan. Seeing Prime Minister N. Pashinyan, Davit Avetisyan called him a “traitor” and “scum”, which the police assessed as hooliganism and kept Avetisyan in custody for two days. A criminal case has been initiated against the latter on the ground of hooliganism⁴³.

One of the most controversial events of 2023 was the incident between Gayane Hakobyan, the mother of Zhora Martirosyan, who fell in the Artsakh war of 2020, and Ashot Pashinyan, the son of the RA Prime Minister. The members of “Sons’ Call” NGO, including G. Hakobyan, saw A. Pashinyan in the vicinity of the Administrative Court on May 17, after which G. Hakobyan offered him to get into the car and go to Yerablur military pantheon. According to Pashinyan, he wanted to get out of the car after a while, but G. Hakobyan did not stop it⁴⁴. Then Pashinyan jumped out of the vehicle and informed the law enforcement officers about the incident. After a short while, G. Hakobyan and two other parents of the fallen servicemen were apprehended by the police. On

³⁹ ““I was held by 2-3 people and the President of the National Assembly of Armenia spat in my face” - details of the incident”, News.am, 02.04.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87pU4DFDQxI>

⁴⁰ “Alen Simonyan apologized to all citizens of the Republic of Armenia”, Radio Liberty, 06.04.2023, <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/32352349.html>

⁴¹ “The citizen who called Nikol Pashinyan “Nikol-traitor” released - Human rights defender”, News.am, 25.04.2023, <https://news.am/arm/news/756783.html>

⁴² “How do you dare say something to the elected president? - Samvel Vardanyan, who called Pashinyan a “traitor”, was fired”, Aravot, 26.04.2023, https://www.aravot.am/2023/04/26/1337625/?fbclid=IwAR1CzAbPak-GV6uSS4Qx40b6J_Ne0Kq64_8r5y3WbrRk1HQip1iZ6uLtPMU

⁴³ “Varuzhan Avetisyan’s son released”, News.am, 05.07.2023, <https://news.am/arm/news/768900.html>

⁴⁴ “Ashot Pashinyan came to the court with bodyguards and admitted that he got into the car of his own free will”, Pastinfo, 05.06.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WddcNJGlvK8&t=18s>

May 20, G. Hakobyan was detained and accused of kidnapping the Prime Minister's son. The incident attracted great public attention, many gatherings were held in support of G. Hakobyan.

The entire criminal process against G. Hakobyan, which lasted less than a month, was accompanied by many controversial episodes. After the confrontation between A. Pashinyan and G. Hakobyan, one of the latter's defense attorneys, Vahan Hovhannisyan, said that the Prime Minister's son appeared for the confrontation wearing a T-shirt with the portrait of his father Nikol Pashinyan and the words "Nikol 100%" on it⁴⁵. As a sign of protest, G. Hakobyan announced a hunger strike. Through his lawyer Ruben Melikyan, G. Hakobyan sent a message from "Abovyan" Penitentiary, claiming that "all judgments against her are made not in courtrooms but in Nikol's offices"⁴⁶.

After being deprived of liberty for more than two weeks, the measure of restraint for G. Hakobyan was replaced with house arrest⁴⁷. Four days later, without clarifying the reason, G. Hakobyan gave up defense⁴⁸, and on the same day, in a closed court session she was sentenced to conditional imprisonment and released from the courtroom⁴⁹. As it turned out later, G. Hakobyan admitted her guilt and the case went through an accelerated procedure⁵⁰.

⁴⁵ "Ashot Pashinyan appeared for the confrontation wearing a shirt with his father's portrait and the words "Nikol 100%" written on it - Lawyer", Hayastan News, 19.05.2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9QTAHv6ChM>

⁴⁶ "Gayane Hakobyan stopped the hunger strike", Radio Liberty, 21.05.2023, <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/32420993.html>

⁴⁷ "Gayane Hakobyan's detention replaced with house arrest", Hetq, 05.06.2023, <https://hetq.am/hy/article/156790>

⁴⁸ "Gayane Hakobyan gave up defense", Radio Liberty, 09.06.2023, <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/32451810.html>

⁴⁹ "Gayane Hakobyan was sentenced to 4-year conditional imprisonment and released from the courtroom", Radio Liberty, 09.06.2023, <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/32452042.html>

⁵⁰ "The court decided to release Gayane Hakobyan from the courtroom with 4-year conditional imprisonment", Radio Liberty, 09.06.2023, <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/32452011.html>