



**2020 Parliamentary Elections**  
**Second Interim Report of Pre-Election Monitoring**  
**(5 July - 3 August)**

**4 August 2020**

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## I. Introduction

The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) has been monitoring the pre-election period of the October 31, 2020 elections of the Parliament of Georgia since June 1. The monitoring is implemented with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union (EU). Second interim report of the pre-election monitoring covers the period from July 5, 2020 through August 3, 2020, as well as individual events that began prior to July 5 and continued or became known during the monitoring period.

## II. Key findings

Through observation, the organization has identified **8 cases of possible vote buying, including 4 by majoritarian members of the Georgian Parliament and officially nominated majoritarian candidates, 1 by Lelo for Georgia, 2 by the United National Movement and 1 by a majoritarian member of Tbilisi Assembly from Chugureti District; cases of dismissal based on possible political motive in 5 municipalities; 5 cases of intimidation/harassment based on possible political motive; 2 cases of possible use of administrative resources; 2 cases of withholding social assistance based on possible political discrimination; 1 case of intimidation of ISFED observer; 1 case of interference in political activities; 1 case of interference in pre-election campaigning by the Church; and 1 case of creating obstacles for registration of a political party.**

ISFED has found that possible vote buying identified as a trend in the first interim report of pre-election monitoring remains an important challenge. ISFED's second interim report identifies 8 such incidents including possible vote buying in Tsageri, Ambrolauri and Oni on behalf of current majoritarian MP Gocha Enekidze, who has officially been nominated as a majoritarian candidate by the Georgian Dream in the respective district.

Elements of possible vote buying have also been found in activities of opposition parties Lelo for Georgia and the United National Movement, which carried out social assistance initiatives. In particular, Lelo for Georgia provided assistance to a boarding house for the elderly in v.Gldani, and head of Khelvachauri Municipality Organization of the United National Movement provided groceries to two families.

In the present report are reflected cases of dismissals based on possible political motive in five municipalities. Dismissals of mayoral representatives in administrative units have taken place in individual municipalities, possibly in connection to the purpose of administering pre-election campaign in a more effective manner and involving mayoral representatives in this process. ISFED observers found similar facts in 4 municipalities of Zugdidi, Martvili, Tkibuli and Chiatura.

An act of possibly politically motivated intimidation/harassment was found in Marneuli. During search performed by Marneuli Police in the family of one of the active members of the European Georgia, the police possibly attempted to plant drugs. The video of the incident was disseminated by ISFED observer. In addition, representatives of opposition party Lelo for Georgia informed ISFED observers about facts of intimidation/harassment that make it difficult for them to conduct political activity and election campaign.

In Kaspi, a civil activist was pressured in an attempt to force him to cancel a protest rally against Heidelberg Cement, based on the motive that it would have negative implications for the ruling party during the ongoing election campaign.

Instances of possible use of administrative resources were found in Sachkhere and Lagodekhi. Notably, during working hours on July 8, civil servants and employees of budgetary organizations in Lagodekhi

Municipality had a meeting at the Georgian Dream office, possibly to receive party instructions for the pre-election period on how to work in favor of the Georgian Dream ahead of the parliamentary elections.

Cases of withholding social assistance based on possible political discrimination were identified in Khelvachauri and Khashuri. In Khashuri, a family believes that the municipality's refusal to give them assistance amounts to political discrimination because they do not support the ruling party. In addition, mayoral representative in v.Erge, refused to provide pandemic-related social assistance to an elderly person in Khelvachauri and told the person to apply to the National Movement for assistance, because the family is viewed as a supporter of the United National Movement.

In Sagarejo, ISFED representative was pressured by the ruling party. In particular, the observer was implied to "stay calm and not to be very active" during the pre-election monitoring.

During the reporting period, ISFED identified involvement of a high-ranking Orthodox cleric in the election campaign in Marneuli. During a Sunday sermon, Bishop of Marneuli and Hujabi Eparchy Giorgi Jandeliani announced that he was going to prevent the person who betrayed national interests, Georgian Dream majoritarian candidate Zaur Dargali from entering parliament. In his address to parish he also added that those who choose to stand next to Zaur Dargali would have to answer before their ancestors. Bishop of Marneuli and Hujabi Eparchy is a high-ranking cleric and people perceive his words as the Church's position.

### **III. Recommendations**

#### **To the authorities and political parties**

- Political parties should not engage in the form of relationship with voters that contains elements of vote buying and should ensure integrity of their actions;
- Officially nominated majoritarian candidates should refrain from directly providing social assistance, in order to not violate requirements of the law and create perception of vote buying and attempts to influence voters' will;
- In their charity work, majoritarian MPs should remain anonymous and donate to charity funds;
- Majoritarian MPs should refrain from participating in events funded from the State and/or local budget;
- Prosecution should investigate adequately, promptly and in a transparent manner possible planting of drugs in Marneuli, to eliminate any suspicions about political motive;
- Central and local authorities should not subject activists, political opponents and opposition-minded individuals to intimidation/harassment and/or discrimination; they should not allow dismissal of public sector employees based on political motive;
- Authorities, political parties/candidates and their representatives should not pressure observers and interfere with observation activities.

#### **To the local self-government bodies**

- They should act according to the principle of integrity when providing assistance from state and local budgets and rule out discrimination of individuals in this process based on their political views and/or party affiliations;

- Local self-government bodies should be guided by the principle of neutrality in their activities. Use of mayoral representatives in villages for party purposes and politically motivated dismissals are unacceptable.

#### **To the religious organizations**

- During liturgy religious organizations should not use their influence on parish and believers and make calls in favor of and/or against any political subject.

### **IV. Possible vote buying**

#### **Ambrolauri**

On July 8, majoritarian member of the Georgian Parliament Gocha Enukidze sent groceries to a socially vulnerable family of Tariel Gogsadze residing in v.Velevi, Amrbolauri Municipality. Employees of the bureau visited the family with representatives of the village and personally handed them the groceries.

#### **Tsageri**

On July 9, socially vulnerable families of Tatia Tsverava and Nana Kvirikashvili, residing in villages of Okureshi and Zubi, Tsageri Municipality, were given groceries on behalf of Gocha Enukidze.

Notably, Gocha Enukidze has been officially nominated by the ruling party as a majoritarian candidate in the unified majoritarian district of Ambrolauri, Oni, Tsageri, Lentekhi and Mestia.

#### **Oni**

On July 29, majoritarian MP of Racha-Lechkhum-Svaneti and majoritarian candidate of the unified majoritarian district of Amrolauri, Oni, Tsageri, Lentekhi and Mestia, Gocha Enukidze visited Oni Municipality to examine the situation following a natural disaster. Gocha Enukidze was visiting the municipality with PM's advisor Sozar Zubari. The MP also visited v.Glola and personally provided medication, food and other essential items to those affected by the natural disaster. [The MP published information about it on his personal Facebook page.](#)

On July 31, [the MP had a meeting with locals affected by the natural disaster in v.Glola and participated in distribution of assistance.](#) He was there with the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure and Oni Municipality officials.

#### **Chugureti**

On July 11, majoritarian member of Tbilisi Sakrebulo from Chugureti District, a member of the Georgian Dream faction Rima Beradze [gifted](#) a fridge to the family of Sultanishvilis, who are officially recognized as socially vulnerable. She also brought them groceries.

According to Rima Beradze's assistant Maka Samniashvili, Manana Sultanishvili had applied to Rima Beridze several times in writing, requesting assistance. The family is socially vulnerable with a small child. Because they did not have a fridge, they could not take food from a free diner and store it. Therefore, Rima Beradze and her staff contributed 20 laris each from their salaries and brought the family a fridge that cost about 200 laris.

#### **Gldani**

On July 21, members of Lelo for Georgia regional organization in Gldani visited a boarding house for the elderly “Barbare Otsdaerti” in v.Gldani. Representatives of the party gave clothes and sweets to beneficiaries of the boarding house, about 15 individuals, and listened to their problems. Head of the regional organization, Levan Tskhadadze told ISFED that this was a charity event paid for with personal funds and it was not targeting any potential voters because boarding house beneficiaries are gradually relocated to different municipalities. According to him, the charity event was planned after manager of the institution contacted them. During the visit to the boarding house, one of the party representatives wore Lelo for Georgia t-shirt.

### **Khelvachauri**

[On July 22](#), head of the municipal organization of the United National Movement in Khelvachauri and a member of Assembly, Mikheil Bolkvadze had a meeting with population of v.Salibauri and provided groceries to one of the families. This is the second case when Mikheil Bolkvadze is giving groceries to individuals for different reasons. Mikheil Bolkvadze told ISFED observer that children in this family are orphans, their mother is dead, which is why he gave them groceries.

### **Khelvachauri**

[On July 8](#), member of Khelvachauri Assembly Mikheil Bolkvadze, together with other representatives of the United National Movement, visited Napie Kurshbadze, whom the municipality withheld assistance from allegedly because of his support of opposition, and gave him groceries.

### **Ozurgeti**

Organization of the Georgian Dream in Ozurgeti and the bureau of Ozurgeti MP and chairperson of parliament Archil Talakvadze provided pandemic-related assistance to socially vulnerable families in cities and villages of Ozurgeti Municipality in April-May. Notably, the assistance - groceries had been allocated by the Embassy of Turkey in Georgia and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) for helping indigent families in Ozurgeti.

According to the information shared [on the Facebook page](#) of the head of the GD regional organization in Ozurgeti, Merab Chanukvadze, the assistance for families facing social hardships was distributed by members of the regional organization and the head of Archil Talakvadze’s majoritarian bureau.

## **V. Dismissals based on possible political motive**

### **Martvili**

In Martvili, employment contract of mayoral representatives in several villages was not extended based on alleged political motive. According to received information, it is planned to replace these representatives with more experienced individuals ahead of the elections.

Martvili mayor said that according to amendments made to the Law on Civil Service on 18 February 2020, mayoral representatives and other individuals became employees that are hired on the basis of administrative contracts. Therefore, Martvili City Hall signed administrative contracts with mayoral

representatives on April 6, 2020, which expired on June 24, 2020. Upon expiration of the term, the city hall did not renew contracts with 4 representatives in administrative units of Martvili Municipality. According to the documents provided, these are the representatives of Veditkari, Tamakoni, Inchkhuri and Onoghi communities.

ISFED observer contacted former mayoral representative in Onoghi community. He said that he did not expect to be dismissed during a pre-election period. He thought his contract would be extended at least till the end of October. During interview he refrained from openly stating his thoughts about the motive of his dismissal.

## **Zugdidi**

Similarly, contracts for mayoral representatives in Zugdidi Municipality were not extended. Zugdidi Mayor representative told ISFED that in administrative units of Chitatskari, Jikhashkari, Tsvane, Kakhati, Akhalkakhati, Grigolishi, Shamgona and Anaklia, administrative contracts for mayoral representatives were not renewed upon expiration on August 1. They were notified about it 1 month prior. Head of Lelo for Georgia organization in Zugdidi believes that the mayoral representatives were primarily dismissed due to predominant support of opposition forces in these villages.

## **Tkibuli**

From July 14, 2020, mayoral representative in Tsutskhvati administrative unit Murman Kuprashvili was dismissed after expiration of his administrative contract. From June 13, 2020, under the order of the mayor, all administrative contracts were extended - according to public information provided. Term of other representatives was extended for more than 1 month. In an interview with ISFED, Murman Kuprashvili said that it was a political decision and it was necessary “at this stage”.

## **Chiatura**

ISFED observer found out that employment contracts for mayoral representatives in territorial units of Zodi, Khvashiti, Tsirkvali and Nigozeti (Chiatura Municipality) were not extended.

According to public information provided by Chiatura Municipality Mayor’s Office, over the last three months staff changes took place in 6 out of 16 administrative units. The Mayor’s Office refused to provide any additional information about these changes, citing the Law of Georgia on Protection of Personal Data.

## **Tbilisi**

On July 17, yard-keeper Khatuna Askargizi was dismissed from Tbilisi Improvements Service for absences without prior warning. Coordinator contacted the cleaning service. They said that Khatuna Askargizi had committed a disciplinary misconduct.

According to Khatuna Askargizi, her dismissal was politically motivated because she participated in a protest rally in v.Khidiskuri of Kaspi Municipality on July 14, where protesters demanded drinking water. Leaders of the UNM were present at the rally. Khatuna Askargizi was interviewed by Mtavari Channel on

village problems. One month later, on July 17, Askargizi missed work due to health problems. The same day, an employee of the cleaning service Tamaz Melikishvili notified her about the dismissal.

Askargizi had been working at Tbilisi Improvements Service for 10 years and she had not received a single warning during this time. According to Askargizi, her family is harassed by the authorities due to their political views. Her husband Jambul Sionoghli had been working at Tbilisi Improvements service for years. During the 2018 presidential election, he served as a coordinator of the united opposition in v.Khidiskuri. Following the elections, he was dismissed from work for appearing half hour late. According to Khatuna Askargizi, a family of 11 members was left without any income and they need social assistance.<sup>1</sup>

## **VI. Intimidation/harassment based on alleged political motive**

### **Marneuli**

On July 17, at around 4:00pm in v.Araplo of Marneuli, Marneuli Police conducted search in the family of Galip Aliyev, one of the active members of the European Georgia. Official reason for search was the fact that Galip Aliyev was keeping an unregistered weapon (a pistol) at home. A video of the search recorded by one of Aliyev's family members shows that the police possibly planted drugs. In connection to this case, a member of European Georgia Akhmed Imamkuliyevev submitted an application to the prosecution service [on July 18](#).

[According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs](#), the search was performed based on judge's warrant and locals that had gathered at the scene interfered with the investigative actions of the police. As a result, investigation was initiated under para.2 of art.353 (resistance, threats or violence against representative of law enforcement or other government body, perpetrated by a group) and para.1 of art.381 (non-execution or interference with execution of sentence or any other court decision) of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

### **Khelvachauri**

On July 25, head of Lelo for Georgia campaign office in Khelvachauri, Merab Abashidze told ISFED observer that three individuals employed at different positions refused to cooperate with the party, citing different reasons.

A man who is employed by a construction company said that if he continued to cooperate with the party, he would have problems with the company. Another man who works as an accountant cited the same reason for leaving the party, and the third person, a woman, who was appointed as coordinator by the party, announced several days later that she was unemployed but if she cooperated with the party, her family members would have problems at work, so she left Lelo for Georgia office. Head of the office refused to disclose identities of these individuals, upon their request.

### **Khelvachauri**

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<sup>1</sup> For information about possibly politically motivated dismissal of Jambul Sonogli, see ISFED pre-election monitoring report for the second round of the 2018 presidential election; p.17. The report is available at: <https://isfed.ge/geo/news/2018-tslis-saprezidento-archevnebis-meore-turis-tsinasaarchevno-monitoringis-shualeduri-angarishi>

On July 30, Khelvachauri Municipality Sakrebulo terminated a mandate of a majoritarian member Vazha Tavdgiridze (United National Movement) for being absent from the Sakrebulo's meetings for six months. According to the Sakrebulo, the medical certificate Form 100 confirming that Vazha Tavdgiridze had stage 3 of cancer, was undergoing a treatment course and was not able to move freely was not an excusable reason.

According to Khelvachauri Municipality Sakrebulo's Chairperson Nadim Varshanidze, Form 100 is just a paper and it is insufficient. He said that the MP should have also presented a medical bulletin and other medical documents. In an interview with ISFED observer, Sakrebulo lawyer could not specify what other documents Tavdgiridze was required to submit.

Chairperson of Khelvachauri Sakrebulo faction "United National Movement - Christian Democrats" Mikheil Bolkvadze believes that this fact amounts to political harassment and says that the majority wanted to break up the faction (the faction consisted of 3 members and following Tavdgiridze's dismissal it dissolved). The UNM is planning to appeal the decision in court.

According to the Code of Local Self-Government, if a member of Sakrebulo is not participating in work of Sakrebulo for six straight months for inexcusable reason, s/he may be dismissed (art.43.1.e). Reason of the absence is examined by relevant commission of the Sakrebulo, according to the rules provided in the Sakrebulo's statute (art.43.5). According to the statute of Khelvachauri Municipality Sakrebulo, legal and procedural affairs commission of the Sakrebulo examines the reason of the absence. Upon confirming that the absence is inexcusable, the commission prepares findings and submits it to the Sakrebulo (art.8.5).

This means that the law does not provide a list of concrete documents that should be used for examining the reason of the absence. Instead, the reason should be examined on a case-by-case basis, in view of particular circumstances of the case. In this particular case, Form 100 and the statement of the individual concerned should have been considered as valid excuse.

## **Kaspi**

Civil activist Irakli Miladze [announced on social media](#) about a protest rally against Heidelberg Cement to be held on June 11, at Parnavazi Street in the city of Kaspi. Following the announcement, he was summoned to Kaspi Mayor's Office, where deputy mayor Zaza Maridashvili spoke with him and asked him not to hold the rally. He said that it would negatively affect the ruling party in the pre-election period. This information was confirmed to ISFED's observer by Miladze.

At the mayor's office Miladze was told that the self-government had already started working on the problem and they were going to sign a memorandum with the company, in order to solve the problem of cement dust scattered by cement trucks on Parnavazi Street on a daily basis, endangering health of locals. The protest rally was still held. After the rally Miladze reported that his Facebook accounts were blocked for five days.

## **Kobuleti**

On July 30, a rally concerning the problem of drinking water in Khetsubani, Mukhaestate and Buknari was held [outside Kobuleti City Hall](#). According to the rally organizer, Elene Chkhartishvili, after the rally was announced on Facebook, she was contacted by her fellow-villagers, friends of the mayor and asked her to meet with the mayor alone, without locals, in the village center at night. The meeting was held and

they talked about the water problem, however the mayor's friends told Elene that the mayor liked her and in exchange for not holding the rally, she was offered to nominate herself and they would hire her in the self-government. After Elene refused the offer, her mother received a threatening phone-call from strangers the following day. The call was made from an unknown number. She was told that she would better silence her child while she could because she is a student and her future would be ruined. According to Elene Chkhartishvili, locals were also intimidated and as a result, they did not participate in the rally.

Kobuleti Municipality Mayor Mirian Katamadze did not answer calls of ISFED. Mayor's representative in v.Buknari, Giorgi Kebuladze confirmed that meeting took place; he explained that the meeting was at night because the following day the mayor was leaving for a working meeting and he could not leave the issue unattended. Giorgi Kebulia rules out any fact of intimidation.

## **VII. Use of administrative resources**

### **Sachkhere**

On the official Facebook page of Sachkhere Municipality it was [reported](#) that in v.Jalaurta representatives of the Municipal Development Fund introduced a new project to locals concerning rehabilitation of roads in the village. According to the information published by the municipality, the project is implemented through personal efforts of Sachkhere majoritarian MP Paata Kvizhinadze and the works will commence in the nearest future.

The Georgian Dream has nominated Paata Kvizhinadze as a majoritarian candidate in the district of Sachkhere, Chiatura and Kharagauli.

### **Lagodekhi**

On July 8, at around 11:40am, civil servants and employees of budgetary organizations in Lagodekhi Municipality had a meeting at the Georgian Dream office during working hours. ISFED has identified several civil servants that attended the meeting at the campaign office of the GD in Lagodekhi, including head of the city hall's administrative office Giorgi Mchedlishvili and employee of the city hall's supervisory office Ivane Managadze. The meeting was also attended by members of the Sakrebulo Ivane Khachidze and Nino Kitsmarishvili. ISFED observer tried to find out what kind of meeting was held at the party office. They responded that it was another working meeting.

Later Hereti Radio [reported](#) about the meeting and said that civil servants attended training at the GD campaign office concerning how to work in favor of the GD during the pre-election period of the parliamentary elections.

## **VIII. Interference with political activities**

### **Gori**

On July 9, members of Lelo for Georgia organization in Gori arrived in the village of Ditsi that borders the occupation line, in order to meet with locals. However, the State Security Service and the MIA officers did not allow them to cross the police checkpoint at the village entrance. Representatives of the party waited for two and a half hours but they could not get an answer as to why they were not letting them in the village. According to members of Lelo, restriction of their movement amounts to interference with political activities.

## **IX. Pressure on ISFED observer**

### **Sagarejo**

On July 14, ISFED observer in Sagarejo was visited by a distant relative, who is an employee of Sakrebulo and the Georgian Dream supporter, and possibly engaged in activism in favor of the ruling party during vacation time. The person said that was questioned about the observer, whether or not she supported the GD. The guest did not specify name of the individual on behalf of whom she/he was acting. However, from what he/she said it was clear that he/she represented the Georgian Dream. The observer was told through the relative to remain calm during the pre-election monitoring and not to be very active.

## **X. Interference of the Church in pre-election campaigning**

### **Marneuli**

Bishop of Marneuli and Hujabi Eparchy Giorgi Jamdeliani used hate speech in his [sermon](#) on July 26. He said that he was going to prevent the person who betrayed national interests, Georgian Dream majoritarian candidate Zaur Dargali from entering parliament. According to the bishop, Dargali “is a reincarnation of the bloody cult, the destroyer of our independence, our statehood and the violator of our territorial integrity, Nariman Narimanov.” He also added that those who choose to stand next to Zaur Dargali would have to answer before their ancestors.

Notably, a rally demanding [removal of Nariman Narimanov’s monument](#) was held on July 16. The Bishop of Marneuli and Hujabi Eparchy made a speech during the rally. Dimitri Lortkipanidze, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry’s organization “The Primakov Georgian-Russian Public Center” and Levan Chachua, leader of the party Georgian Idea, were present at the rally. The party Georgian Idea applied to the CEC for registration for the 2020 parliamentary elections and is currently in the process of registration. According to media reports, party Georgian March infamous for its anti-Western sentiments was also present at the rally, however the party leaders have [denied this information](#).

## **XI. Withholding social assistance based on alleged political discrimination**

### **Khelvachauri**

Mayoral representative Nadim Bolkvadze refused to provide pandemic related social assistance to an 84-year old resident of v.Erge, Napie Kurshubadze, who is a mother of several children. The refusal was due to the fact that a member of Napie Kurshubadze’s family was interviewed live on air during a briefing of the UNM about the problem of drinking water. ISFED observer found out that other citizens with the

same status received groceries, while the mayoral representative in v.Erge suggested Napie Kurshubadze to apply to the UNM for assistance because she was their supporter.

In an interview with ISFED, Napie Kurshubadze's family member confirmed that Nadim Bolkvadze withheld social assistance from them and told them to apply to the UNM instead. According to her, Napie Kurshubadze was refused social assistance because another member of the family spoke about drinking water problems together with a member of the UNM Mikheil Bolkvadze live on TV.

On July 23, ISFED observer contacted representative of v.Ergi, Nadim Bolkvadze. Despite asking him many times what kind of assistance locals received and who provided the assistance, the observer could not get a response. Nadim Bolkvadze denied having told Kurshubadze's family member to apply to the UNM for assistance. Apparently, the question irritated Ergi representative very much as he cursed at the ISFED observer.

## **Khashuri**

During the pandemic, the City Hall used funds allocated from the local budget to provide groceries to some of the families residing in Khashuri Municipality.

On July 3, ISFED observer was contacted by a socially vulnerable family and informed that despite many requests, they did not get any assistance from the local government. According to the family housewife, they have not been receiving social assistance since the Georgian Dream came into power. She believes that their assistance was canceled based on political motive because they do not support the ruling party.

ISFED requested information from the City Hall on how other families received assistance from the municipality. The observer was informed that the local budget allocated up to 40,000 laris for groceries; however, citing confidentiality the city hall refused to provide information on whether the family was included on the list of beneficiaries. Civil activist Zaza Mekhrishvili told ISFED observer that under the instructions of Khashuri Mayor Giorgi Guraspashvili, the authorities provided help only to those families that support the ruling party.

## **XII. The process of registration of parties and candidates**

### **The case of electoral registration of the Republican Party**

On July 17, 2020, the Central Election Commission, under [the order of the chairperson N29/2020](#), refused the request of the Republican Party of Georgia and its representative to register the party for the 2020 elections on grounds that the application for registration had been filed after the deadline. In particular, according to the CEC, the application was not submitted within the timeframe provided in Article 197.1"b" of the organic law of Georgia "the Election Code of Georgia", according to which to obtain the right to participate in elections of the Parliament of Georgia, the party should submit corresponding application signed by its leader(s) to the CEC chairperson from January 1 till July 15 of the parliamentary election year. The application of the party was submitted to the CEC on July 15, 2020. Therefore, the request for registration was denied due to failure to submit the application within the prescribed timeframe.

[According to the Republican Party](#), they did not miss the deadline because they sent their application to the CEC by post on July 14. The post could not deliver the application to the CEC on July 14 but the party fulfilled its obligation and sent the application within the prescribed timeframe, while there are no other requirements about form of submission of the application, [including prohibition to send it by post](#).

On July 20, 2020, Tbilisi City Court satisfied the complaint of the Republican Party against the CEC.

### **XIII. Monitoring mission and methodology**

The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) is monitoring parliamentary elections in all electoral districts of Georgia, through 68 long-term observers.

Main areas of the pre-election monitoring include:

- Activities of the election administration;
- Public meetings and political activities of electoral subjects;
- Cases of harassment/intimidation or alleged politically motivated dismissals;
- Possible instances of vote buying;
- Use of administrative resources;
- Social media monitoring.

Sources of information in the process of the monitoring include public information requested from administrative agencies, as well as information provided by electoral subjects, media, NGOs and individual citizens and discovered by social media monitoring. ISFED verifies each report by interviewing witnesses and all sides of the incident.

ISFED publishes statements and reports to keep public informed on periodic basis about violations and trends identified during the pre-election period.

ISFED maps all reports of pre-election incidents and possible violations on the interactive incident map available at the Georgian Elections Portal: <http://www.electionsportal.ge/eng/>.

Anyone can report a possible violation to the Elections Portal by sending a text to a toll-free number 90039 or by going to [http://www.electionsportal.ge/eng/new\\_incident](http://www.electionsportal.ge/eng/new_incident).

The pre-election monitoring of ISFED is made possible by the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union (EU).