

Levan MESKHORADZE (LL.M.)

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of birth: 21 November 1983
Address: 12v Kipshidze str., apt. 43, 0162 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel.: +995 577 111114
E-mail: Levan.meskhoradze@gmail.com

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Professional lawyer with 12 years of experience at national and international level, specialized in international and human rights law, rule of law, criminal justice reform and policy, legal training and management.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Oct. 2016 – to date **Team Leader of EU Project “Combating All Forms of Discrimination in Georgia”**
- Overseeing and contributing the implementation of specific activities, e.g. increase capacity of the Public Defender's Office to address the human rights situation of various minorities and vulnerable groups; designing reform opportunities and applying appropriate measures to eliminate structural and systemic deficiencies identified in the Office; evaluating internal regulations and policy documents; enhancing capacity of the Public Defender's Office as operational institutional mechanism foreseen under anti-discrimination law; expertise anti-discrimination legislation and practice; organize awareness-raising campaigns to combat prejudices that lead to discrimination; producing all relevant reports; leading and managing the project (team of 7 experts).
- Mar. 2016 – Sept 2017 **Team Leader of EU Project “Support to the Public Defender's Office of Georgia”**
- Position summary: preparing and maintaining the project; liaison with EU project manager to assure the overall direction and integrity of the project; overseeing and contributing the implementation of specific activities, *inter alia*, drafting laws, preparing constitutional complaints, submissions before international human rights bodies, *amicus curiae* and etc; conducting a project evaluation review to assess how well the project was managed monitoring overall progress and use of resources, initiating corrective action where necessary; producing all relevant reports; leading and managing the project (team of 7 experts).
- Sept. 2008 – Mar 2016 **Agent of the Government of Georgia to the European Court of Human Rights; Head, Department of the State Representations to the International Human Rights Courts, Ministry of Justice of Georgia**
- Position summary:** Representation of Georgia in cases before the European Court of Human Rights and United Nations Treaty Bodies, including inter-state cases against Russia (in relation to the massive expulsion of ethnic Georgians from Russia in the Fall of 2006 and the conflict of August 2008); Coordinating the process of the domestic execution of the judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights; reporting and recommending the Government on the harmonization of the Georgian legislation with the standards of international human rights law; advising the Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court of Georgia on the perfection of the compliance with the human rights standards in criminal proceedings; leading and managing the office of the state representation (team of 10 staff members).
- As an advocate of Georgia presented more than 150 cases before the European Court of Human Rights and United Nations treaty bodies; gained a particular reputation in the application of international standards to criminal law and procedure, all aspects of litigation and acted in cases

covering a wide range of international law issues including State Responsibility, rule of law and judicial independence.

Most notable cases in the Strasbourg Court include:

Georgia v. Russia (I) (application no. 13255/07) – the case, which essentially concerned the existence of an administrative practice involving the arrest, detention and collective expulsion of Georgian nationals from the Russian Federation in the autumn of 2006, was accomplished successfully. In the Grand Chamber judgment the European Court of Human Rights held that there had been: a violation of Article 4 of Protocol No. 4 (prohibition of collective expulsion of aliens) of the European Convention on Human Rights; a violation of Article 5 § 1 (right to liberty and security); a violation of Article 5 § 4 (right to judicial review of detention); a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment); violations of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) in conjunction with Article 5 § 1 and with Article 3; and a violation of Article 38 (obligation to furnish all necessary facilities for the effective conduct of an investigation).

Georgia v. Russia (II) (application no. 38263/08) - the Court declared the application admissible by a decision of 13 December 2011. The application was lodged in the context of the armed conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation in August 2008. The applicant Government alleges that, in the course of indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks by Russian forces and/or by the separatist forces under their control, hundreds of civilians were injured, killed, detained or went missing, thousands of civilians had their property and homes destroyed and tens of thousands of people were forced to leave Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In their submission, these consequences and the subsequent lack of any investigation engaged Russia's responsibility under Articles 2, 3, 5, 8 and 13 of the Convention, Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No. 1 and Article 2 of Protocol No. 4.

Ashlarba v. Georgia (application no. 45554/08) - the case concerned alleged structural deficiency in the law which punishes individuals for their membership of a criminal syndicate and which was introduced in Georgia in 2005 as part of a legislative package aiming to fight against the criminal underworld and organized crime. In the Chamber judgment the European Court of Human Rights held that there had been no violation of Article 7 (no punishment without law) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Natsvlishvili and Togonidze v. Georgia (application no. 9043/05) – in this case the Court for the first time examined in detail the compatibility of **plea-bargaining arrangements** with the right to a fair trial. The European Court of Human Rights held: that there had been no violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 2 of Protocol No. 7 (right of appeal in criminal matters) to the Convention;

In the above case, represented the Georgian Government in oral hearing held before the European Court of Human Rights. Webcast of the hearing:

http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=hearings&w=904305_15102013&language=lang

Khoniakina and others v. Georgia (application no. 17767/08) – the case concerned the retirement pension of a former Supreme Court judges, which had been modified under a retroactive legislative amendment. In the judgment the European Court of Human Rights held that there had been: no violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) of the European Convention on Human Rights; and, no violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) to the Convention.

Goginashvili v. Georgia (application no. 47729/08) - in this case the Government of Georgia demonstrated before the Court that complaint procedure system introduced in Georgian prisons in 2010 was effective for the purposes of Article 35 of the convention. On the merits, the Court found there had been no violation of Article 3 of the Convention as the prison authority had provided the applicant with prompt and systematic medical care.

Mar. 2008 – Aug. 2008

Head, Division of International Legal Affairs, Department of Public International Law, Ministry of Justice of Georgia

Position summary: supervising the projects implemented under the limb of international organizations; coordinating of international legal affairs with international organizations (UN, CoE, OSCE, NATO, EU); dealing with the issues of European and Euro-Atlantic integration; Reporting

to the UN human rights treaty bodies; Coordination on international legal cooperation with foreign States.

Aug. 2007 – Mar. 2008 **Adviser in international legal issues, Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia**

Position summary: Identification and analysis of the major trends and developments in the field of human rights, criminal law and criminal justice policy; drafting and compiling analytical reports and recommendations to the Chief Prosecutor.

Oct. 2002 – Nov. 2004 **Legal Assistant, NGO Georgian Young Lawyers' Association**

Position summary: Providing free legal aid to the vulnerable groups of the population; Preparation of the materials for raising the legal awareness of the vulnerable groups; Assistance to the lawyers in their daily work.

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

9-10 November 2018 **International consultant of the Council of Europe**; training to judges and prosecutors on the international standards on combating torture and investigation of ill-treatment cases

August 2018 – to date **Consultant of the Council of Europe**; member of the working group for the development of HELP course on building skills for an effective investigation of hate crimes

March-September 2018 **Consultant of the Council of Europe within the project "Fight against Hate Crime and Hate Speech in Georgia"**

Conducting baseline study in respect to the above-mentioned action to present project plan and review the compliance of national criminal, civil and administrative legislation and other policies with standards of the Council of Europe human rights monitoring bodies

2017 – to date **Member of OSCE Working Group on the Rights of Hate Crime Victims**
Office of the Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), OSCE

2011- to date **Council of Europe consultant** within the Joint Programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe: "Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and harmonisation of national legislation and judicial practice in line with European Standards in Georgia"

Sept. 2016 **International Consultant** within the Council of Europe Project "Support to Criminal Justice Reform in the Republic of Moldova"

Conducting review of the practical guide on the procedure for the execution of judgments and decisions rendered by the European Court of Human Rights

2016 – 2017 **Committee on the reform of judicial system in Georgia**

Member

2013 – 2016 **Human Rights Dialogue between European Union and Georgia**

EU Focal Point in Georgia

2009 – 2016 **Committee on the Reform of the European Court of Human Rights**
DH-GDR, CDDH, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Member

2008 – 2016 **Office of the Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), OSCE**

National Contact Person for the Hate Crime Department

2008 – 2016	<u>Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)</u> Council of Europe, Strasbourg Member
Jan. 2012 – Sept. 2012	<u>Drafting Group “A” on the Reform of the Court</u> GT-GDR-A, Council of Europe, Strasbourg Member
Sept. 2009 – Nov. 2009	<u>Committee on Effective Remedies for Excessive Length of Proceedings</u> DH-RE, CDDH, Council of Europe, Strasbourg Member
Mar. 2008 – Apr. 2009	<u>European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)</u> National Contact Person

TEACHING AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

2008 – to date	<p>Expert of the Council of Europe/American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI)/Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia (PROLoG)/Georgia Bar Association (GBA)</p> <p>Training to judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers on the standards of the European Convention of Human Rights applicable to the domestic criminal and civil proceedings. Non-exhaustive list of activities in this regard include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018 Sept – Training to judges of the Supreme Court of Azerbaijan. • 2018 (June-July) – Developing module for High School of Justice on the application of ECHR on domestic level (USAID/PROLoG). Conducting ToT to judges of Tbilisi City Court and Tbilisi Court of Appeals. • 2017 - Developing module for Legal Aid Service on case law of the ECtHR in respect to Georgia pertinent to criminal proceedings; conducting trainings to central and regional staff (legal aid lawyers) on the above topic (USAID/PROLoG). • 2010-2017 – within the Council of Europe Project “Application of the European Convention on Human Rights and harmonisation of national legislation and judicial practice in line with European Standards in Georgia”: conducted trainings to prosecutors from Chief Prosecutor’s Office as well as regional offices on various aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights pertinent to criminal proceedings (investigation of right to life and ill-treatment cases; imposition of pre-trial detention measure; national laws and standards developed by the European Court of Human Rights; grounds for detention under the convention and case law of the Court; fair trial standards; fight against organized crime; plea bargaining procedure and ECHR; search and surveillance activities under domestic laws and case law of the Court; prohibition of discrimination and investigation of hate crimes). • 2014-2018 – within the USAID/PROLoG: conducted trainings to lawyers of Georgian Bar Association on the application of the ECHR in criminal and civil proceedings. • 2017 to date – national expert of EU project “EU4Justice”: conducted continuous trainings to Judges of the Supreme Court of Georgia on specific aspects of the ECHR and relevant domestic legislation. • 2017 to date – national expert of the High School of Justice: trainings to judicial candidates on the ECHR standards in civil and criminal proceedings. • 2018 to date - national expert of the Georgian Bar Association: trainings to lawyer candidates on the ECHR standards and UN human rights instruments.
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2007 – to date Lecturer at Universities and Law Schools
Courses in Public International and Human Rights Law

EDUCATION

2011 – to date Iliia State University
PhD Student

2011 March – April George Mason University, Office of Continuing Professional Education
Virginia, USA
Executive Courses in Public Policy and Management

Sept. 2006 – Jul. 2007 Riga Graduate School of Law
Riga, Latvia
Degree: Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Public International and European Law

Sept. 2001 – Jul. 2006 Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
Tbilisi, Georgia
Degree: Diploma in Law (with high honours, equal to the master degree)

PUBLICATIONS

„Some Aspects of Six Month Rule under the Recent Case Law of the Strasbourg Court”, Georgian Bar Association, Tbilisi, June 2016

Author of the book-Compilation on “Plea Bargaining and the Right to Fair Trial: National Law and Practice of Strasbourg Court”, American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROL Initiative), Tbilisi, May 2016

Author of the book on “Essential Aspects and Procedures on Enforcement of Judgments and Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights”, American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROL Initiative), Tbilisi, January 2015

Co-author of the book-Compilation on ‘Legal Drafting, Motions, Appeals and Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights’, publication provided by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROL Initiative), Tbilisi, June 2012

‘The Role of Pilot Judgment Procedure in the Context of the Institutional Reform of the European Court of Human Rights’, *Georgia and the Contemporary Challenges to the European Convention on Human Rights* (Tbilisi: GTZ), 2009

SPECIAL AWARDS

2013 – was granted the first level professional degree by the Minister of Justice of Georgia

2010 – became the winner of the annual nomination of the *Best Manager* of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia

LANGUAGES

Georgian: Native; English: Fluent; French: Passive

COMPUTER SKILLS

Excellent knowledge of all main Windows applications, Internet browsers and e-mail programmes; Proficient knowledge of the law research databases such as HeinOnline, Westlaw, LexisNexis, etc.

REFERENCES, RELEVANT DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

Available upon request

CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION

I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and I authorize the recipient of this CV to handle it in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.
