

**Concentration Camps, Gulags and Repressive Penitential System as Driving Force
Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism in 20th and 21st Centuries: Soviet Russia,
Cambodia, Chile and Georgia Cases**

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Abstract: the paper deal with elaboration and clarification of true nature of repressive and cozy political systems with endorsement of authoritarian and totalitarian political regimes that humiliating and abusing human rights and by doing so, making obscuring fully implementation of democratic values and principles in political life of the society. These harsh repressive leverages and tools in form of creating Concentration Camp network, like Gulag system in the Soviet Russia in 1923-27 years, with endorsement of repressive Penitential System create a basic for political snub not only for concrete national statehood (for example, Pinochet military junta regime in Chile or Pol-Pot-Yeng-Sari bloody regime in Cambodia) but also for the whole international society. The paper exams four concrete case-studies on national level of analysis of massive abusing human rights and infringes main freedom and liberation values on systematic bases not only in aegis in state institutions (political police, death squads, authoritarian government, para-military internal police units, etc.) but also what is more severe and rigid penitential system. Namely, human abuses, tortures, massive killings, inhuman treatment in the penitential system – prisons, concentration camps and the most inhuman punishment cells are illustrated in Soviet Russia/USSR (1917-1953), Cambodia (1975-1979), Chile (1973-1988) and Georgia (2004-2012). It is to note that thanks to international human law principles and norms and with endorsement of the proper international legal institutions (for example, World Organization against Torture (OMCT) and the UN Special Commission for Human Rights as well as the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) has created a special criteria in order to assess and evaluate the concrete cases of systematic human right violations in the penitential system. Here is to indicate concrete such mechanism endorsed in 70-es of the 20th century, the UN Special Commission for Human Rights has set up ad-hoc international working group on investigating human rights ultimate breach-cases in Chile during General Pinochet Junta governance period. The group has concluded that the prisoners and detainees were torturing and the Junta's special service DINA tailored the following physical abuses and psychological tortures that later on becoming a description for systematic human right violation case recognized as contradiction to the international law principles and norms. According to the Commission were identified based on Chile's 1973-1988 Case-study, four main methods of human abuses taken place, including in the Penitential system of the country in that period of time: ***severe mockery, murder simulation, prisoners depriving of sleeping and keeping separately at individual camera cell for psychological torture.***

By the way, these four main abuses, above-mentioned, dedicated on case of Chile in the 21st century have been reinforced even more inhuman abuses added to the list and based on authoritarian regimes of Georgia and other Post-Soviet space actors. The total such repressive and butcher methods used in the national penitential systems generally are to be indicated as follow:

- **Prisoners depriving of ability to sleep and consumption of food**
- **Overnight Interrogations & Sleep Deprivation**
- **Detention Without Trial in the Penitential System for indefinite period of time**
- **Murder simulation/ Mock Execution**
- **Physical assault**
- **Keeping separately at individual camera cell where was possible to review how prisoners had been executed (hanged or shot down) or near to morgues**

- **Severe mockery - compel to drink some liquids with notification of poisoning the liquid and causing terrible death**
- **Hooding**
- **Strangulation**
- **Forced Consumption of Psychoactive Drugs**
- **Stress Positions/Hanging by Arms**
- **Solitary Confinement**
- **Cases of death squads in prisons and in concentration camps** (A **death squad** is an armed group that conducts extrajudicial killings or forced disappearances of persons for the purposes of political repression, genocide, or revolutionary terror. These killings are often conducted in ways meant to ensure the secrecy of the killers' identities)

Above-said indicates on how the international society considers human right provision violations and what are criteria's of torture and physical abuse cases. To compare these criteria's to what processes were occurring in the concentration camps organized by the modern authoritarian regimes in the Post-Soviet space (notable in Russia and in Georgia), which is accorded to famous American political scientist Fareed Zakaria could be labeled as "non-liberal democracy" is very possible to make direct correlation with the systematic human right violation confirmed as international crime from the international law perspectives. In that retrospect is important to underpin emergence new type of political regime – labeled as "hybrid authoritarian" or "soft authoritarian" regime on its origin. In this case, it means that these countries are moving rapidly toward incorporating even more illiberal features (less institutional protections of civil liberties)

However, in order to prevent such brutalities and inhuman attitudes there are several international legal acts and resolution under various intergovernmental universal and regional organizations (like, the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, etc.). Herewith to noteworthy underpin that there are key international legal binding documents augmented above-mentioned provision dealing with prevention and elimination of the human right severe and ultimate infringements and violations in the Penitential system at large. Among these documents could be identified as follow:

- ✓ UN Charter
- ✓ 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ✓ 1965 the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- ✓ 1966 the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ✓ 1984 the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- ✓ European Convention on Human Rights and Its Protocols (ECHR)
- ✓ UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
- ✓ The Council of Europe PA Resolution#1900 (2012) "The Definition of Political Prisoner", etc.

Backed up with these solid legally and political binding documents are those important tools and mechanisms promoting further on prohibiting and preventing political purges and implying concrete mechanisms for combatting against those political systems and institutions who are suppressing and repressing key political liberties and freedoms.

However, even in globalized world society is emerging such type of the abnormal political system committing massive atrocities and political crimes. Here is summary of comparative studies of two such systems in case of Pinochet Junta Chile and Saakashvili Authoritarian rulership in Georgia.

In 2013 in the Western Georgia in Zugdidi's region has been discovered hidden arms barrel attached with video disks on physical abuse and ill-treatment episodes (including rape scenes). The discovery was associated to para-military illegal group members, i.e. so-called "Georgian Death Squadron" combatants allied to then ruling political party "United National Movement" and organized and run by famous Georgian "butchers" brothers Megis and Levan Kardava. The cadres included more than 13 000 illegally watched tapes. The scenes were so-terrible and horrific that

incumbent government of Georgia is trying to avoid of demonstrate these cadres to the public convenience. It directly indicates on committing of ***systematic political crime*** done by then ruling authoritarian regime of Mikhail Saakashvili and his clan. The cadres contain not only torture scenes but also illegal surveillance and personal private life episodes. The main author of the systematic crime is to be and full responsibility is laid to President Mikhail Saakashvili who is mentally deceased being and practically his illness associated with sexual immorality and sexual malevolent complexity very similar that of experienced by Germany Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. Hence, the systematic criminality has originated from the very natural substance and environment created and led by the previous authoritarian regime leadership by Mikhail Saakashvili and those sadist peoples who were assembled and gathered, included into “the death squad” groups. The political pundits have set up a new type of Fascism in the 21st century and the regime is to be judged and punished in similar manner as it was happened in 1948 in Nuremberg and entered in history as “Nuremberg Trials”. The regime’s sadistic orientation is very vivid and when it has derived is very actual question to be forwarded. In doing so, there are several important features that demonstrate that Georgian authoritarian regime (2004-2012) was backed on following brutal backgrounds:

- *From historic perspective, the Georgian Fascism was started from 14 February of 2005 when President Saakashvili during his official presentation speech at the Parliament introduced a political jargon “Zero Tolerance” and motto “Everyone is to be sent to prison”. The political statement was repeated lately by then Ministry of Internal Affairs Vano Merabishvili with following words addressed to all staff members (police officers) of the law enforcement agencies: “Kill everyone who resists you in any kind way and eliminate at place without any arrest any criminals”. The policy “Zero Tolerance” launched by Mikhail Saakashvili made used to be too akin to similar initiative launched by Chilean Dictator and Head of military junta Army General Augusto Pinochet. He declared in 1975 a special decree#1009 enabling to Chilean law enforcement agencies (first of all DINA –secret police of the junta): “preventive arrest of beings who are considered as threats to state security”. These beings have been arrested and jailed not by trials but by Ministry of Internal Affairs. The same practice was experienced by the Mikhail Saakashvili brutal regime one to one;*
- *Existence in the country at least 190 political prisoners and 25 political exiles, confirmed by the Parliament of Georgia on December 5th of 2012, fully indicates that in Georgia the previous undemocratic authority committing “systematic political crime” and endorsed hard authoritarian regime style governance. The same indications have been seen in Chilean history in time of Pinochet’s bloody dictatorship – more than 30 000 political prisoners since 1973 till 1990 period;*
- *Massive tortures and physical abuses conducted into leading law enforcement institutions – at the Ministry of Prisons and Legal Corrections and at the Ministry of Internal Affairs (since 2006 due to the “reformation process” performed by then Minister of Internal Affairs Vano Merabishvili, who later convicted in committing crimes, including human abuses and tortures and plead guilty in the transactions and sentenced in 10 years in prison, transformed as “Soviet NKVD – secret police” type of monster, incorporating internal and external securities into common totalitarian repressive bulk). The “prison video-tapes” caused and inspired so-called “broom revolution” in September of 2012 was linked to the Ministry of Prisons and Legal Corrections and its leadership. The system was very alike to Chilean Pinochet dictatorship system – in 31 December of 1973 was set up a special penitentiary agency “National Executive Secretariat for Detainee Affairs” and in June of 1974 was set up distinct special police structure – Directorate for National Intelligence (DINA). The agencies were created by General Pinochet based on his decrees as compared to Private Mikhail Saakashvili’s relevant decrees on*

creation the Ministry of Prisons and Legal Corrections and new type – Ministry of Internal Affairs.

These above-mentioned facts are perfectly demonstrated how dangerous authoritarian and dictatorial bloody authorities are in the 21st century.

Herewith is important to stress out that this above-mentioned case regarding authoritarian regime implications and its harassment atrocities committed including in the Penitential system in 2004-2012 have been verified and confirmed by the following legal documents and papers endorsed and adopted by the Parliament, key political institution in Georgia since 2013. These documents included:

- ❖ “On the Legal Assessment of the Facts of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2004–2012 and the Inadmissibility and Complete Prevention of Their Repetition” – The Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia was adopted on 10 July 2016;
- ❖ Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia “On the Persons Incarcerated on Political Grounds” – the legal binding document was created by the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee in accordance with the paragraphs a, c, d and e of the Article 3 of the N1900 Resolution (03/10/2012) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and was adopted on 5th December 2012;
- ❖ The Law of Georgia on Amnesty adopted and approved by the Parliament of Georgia on 12th January 2013;
- ❖ “A National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia 2014-2020” was adopted by the by the Government of Georgia in April 2014 as a signal of Georgia’s readiness to comply with the highest international standards and indicated on de-politicization of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and cancelation of the Ministry of Prisons and Legal Corrections.

These steps and measures have drastically improved situation in Georgia and analysis based on comparative studies method between two authoritarian regimes in Chile and Georgia indications on implication of the international community into national political transformation to eradicate last remnants of the totalitarian governance in 21st century.

Very Sincerely,

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Ex-Political Prisoner in 2009-2013 at Concentration Camp#18 during Presidency of Saakashvili Authoritarian Regime in 2004-2012. The Political Prisoner status was officially granted by the Parliament of Georgia **on 5th December 2012 in accordance to the Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia “On the persons incarcerated and persecuted on political ground”** and the case is being under hearing at the last stage by the European Court of Human Rights, Application#75969/14 “Vakhtang Maisaia against Georgia” lodges on 26 November 2014 (Torture and Abuse Case).

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