

## Publicly documented cases of denying entry to anti-regime Russian and Belarusian activists in Georgia from 2022 to 2024

### Year 2022

1. On October 30th, Russian opposition politician [Lubov Sobol](#), an ally of Alexei Navalny, was denied entry into Georgia. As reported by the Russian publication, Lubov Sobol had been in Armenia in August and intended to travel from there to Georgia, but was denied entry at the border.
2. On January 31st, Russian opposition leader [Dmitry Gudkov](#) announced that he had been denied entry into Georgia. As noted by the politician in a video posted on his personal Facebook page, he arrived in Tbilisi from Ukraine with an official invitation, but was refused entry by border guards. Dmitry Gudkov's entry denial was based on Article 11, subsection "i" of the Law of Georgia on the Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons.
3. Russian oppositionist [Igor Efrimov](#) was denied entry into Georgia on February 2nd. According to him, the border guards did not provide a specific reason for the refusal and sent him back without explanation. Efrimov is a Russian opposition politician and one of the leaders of the Libertarian Party. He states that due to political repression, he has been compelled to reside in Armenia for the past six months.
4. Russian oppositionist [Andrei Davydov](#) was denied entry into Georgia on February 15th. Andrei Davydov regards the denial of entry at the border as purely political. As the politician observes, he was not provided with any explanation for the refusal. "This decision is purely political. I suspect that Moscow provided a list of citizens whose presence in Georgia is unwanted. Other citizens from the Russian Federation crossed the border without hindrance. Once my information was entered, a message was sent to the border guards, who then contacted Tbilisi to make a decision."
5. On March 6, Russian journalist (host of Dozhd) [Mikhail Fishman](#) was not allowed to enter Georgia. He first flew to Baku from Russia, and then went to Tbilisi with his family, but for an unknown reason he was not allowed to enter Georgia.
6. On March 10, [David Frankel](#), a Russian journalist of the independent, activist media group "Mediazona", was not allowed to enter Georgia. As Frankel himself writes, the border guards did not know what to do and were "waiting for the answer from somewhere above".
7. On June 13, the citizen of the Russian Federation, journalist and blogger [Insa Oguzi](#) was not allowed to enter Georgia. According to Oguzi, if she returns to Russia, she will be arrested, as a criminal case has been opened against her. Although she requested international protection at the border, she was refused entry to Georgia. Among them, the representative of the Public Defender could not visit her.
8. On June 21 Pussy Riot member [Olga Borisova](#) was not allowed to enter Georgia. Later, she wrote on Twitter that Igor Bendega wrote to the Border Service of Georgia that she is a terrorist. Borisova writes: "that Bendega has been "defaming" her on social networks for years and blocked many of her accounts: "Now he wrote to the border service that I am a terrorist and they believed him."
9. On July 19th, Russian blogger [Alexei Romanov](#) was denied entry into Georgia. He shared this information on his Facebook page, stating, "I believe that my denial of entry into Georgia is connected to the media reports I released in Georgia last fall,

covering the rallies where people demanded the release of Mikheil Saakashvili. Misha is a major thorn in the side for one Georgian oligarch."

10. **On September 4**, Kremlin critic, Russian photojournalist [Vasili Krestianinov](#) was not allowed to enter Georgia. He relates this fact to his work. During his three-month stay in Georgia, he organized and took part in actions directed against Russia.
11. **On September 7**, [Dmitry Aleshkovsky](#), a Russian journalist and philanthropist, was not allowed to enter Georgia. Aleshkovsky is the co-founder of the charity fund («Нужна помощь»). He also founded a media portal («Такие дела»), which he directs. In July, the Ministry of Justice of Russia included Dmitri Aleshkovsky in the list of "foreign agents" media outlets.
12. **On September 8**, [Mitya Aleshkovsky](#), a Russian journalist critical of Putin's regime, was not allowed to enter Georgia. He is the founder of "Nuzhna Pomosh" and "Takie Dela" publication. "I lived in Georgia before the war. I connect my non-entry to Georgia with my political vision, regarding the current war in Russia and Ukraine, because before the war I had no problem with entering. Recently, I was assigned the status of a foreign agent in Russia, although I am not a politician and I have never been involved in political life," says Aleshkovski.
13. Pussy Riot activist [Nika Nikulshina](#) was not allowed to enter Georgia **on November 1**. After waiting at the border for about 2 hours, the employees of the border service did not explain anything verbally and only handed over the document.
14. **On November 2**, Mediazone manager [Gala Latigovskaya](#) was refused entry to Georgia. In a conversation with the media, she said that she did not receive any explanation from the border guards.
15. Проект journalist [Katya Arenina](#) was refused entry to Georgia **on November 14**. The border guards handed her a document in which "other reason" was named as the reason for the refusal.
16. **On December 20**, the editor of "Kholodi" [Aleksey Ponomaryov](#) was not allowed to enter Georgia. He was delayed for more than an hour at the airport, and in the end he was not allowed to enter Georgia.

## Year 2023

17. **On February 2**, [Igor Efremov](#), a Russian opposition politician and one of the leaders of the Libertarian Party, was not allowed to enter Georgia. As he says, due to political repression, he has been forced to live in Armenia for the last half year.
18. **On February 13**, [Anna Rivina](#), the founder of the "No Violence" Foundation, was not allowed to enter Georgia. Rivina has been living in Georgia for the past few months. As the human rights defender notes, she flew to Georgia from Yerevan and waited for the border guards' answer for almost 3 hours, but in the end they did not let her into the country. According to Rivina, when she arrived in Georgia, she was stopped at the border for several hours before, but was still allowed later.
19. **On February 20**, the Russian writer and journalist, the founder of Radio Armazas, [Philip Dziadko](#), was not allowed to enter Georgia.
20. **On April 28**, [Evgeny Gatsak](#), a Belarusian activist, was refused entry to Georgia. Gatsak has been living in Georgia for two years, and a few days ago, he moved to Turkey. He was refused to return to Georgia at the Sarfi customs.

21. **On June 2**, [Viktor Shenderovich](#), a Russian writer and activist, was not allowed to enter Georgia. Due to his anti-Putinist stance and activism, Shenderovich has been declared a "foreign agent" in Russia.
22. **On May 9**, Chechen activist [Zhaladi Gerev](#), who spent 3 years in a Russian prison, was not allowed to enter Georgia. According to Gerev, after the Georgian border guards saw Chechnya as his place of birth in his passport, they took his documents for verification.

#### **Year 2024**

23. **On March 28**, Russian activist [Igor Miglani](#) was not allowed to enter Georgia. Miglan moved to Georgia in 2022, after the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. In April of the same year, together with other activists, he organized the project "Emigration for Action", which helps Ukrainian refugees remaining in Georgia. The project provides medicines to the citizens of Ukraine and conducts educational and charitable events to support them.
24. **On February 22**, **Anna Mukhina**, a Russian activist who took part in collecting signatures in support of the opposition candidate Boris Nadezhdin, was not allowed to enter Georgia.
25. **On February 25**, [Maxim Ivantsov](#), a Russian activist and head of the non-governmental organization Frame, where the space was set up to collect signatures for Boris Nadezhdin, an opposition candidate in the Russian presidential elections, was denied entry into Georgia.