

## Introduction

Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani, located in the Republic of Georgia, is the oldest gold mine worldwide and therefore a unique heritage site<sup>1</sup> not only of Georgia, but of humankind.<sup>2</sup> In complete disregard of its cultural and historical value, the Government of Georgia, on December 12, 2014 revoked Sakdrisi's cultural heritage status. This decision was made as a private gold-mining company RMG Gold (registered in the offshore zone) asked the Government a permit for disassembling the site. The decision was made on the same day when the permit was requested, in an expeditious and nontransparent manner, without any consultations with the stakeholders concerned, and in violation of Georgia's legislation. The very next day, early in the morning the company blew up Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani site.

This is not the first case in Georgia when a cultural heritage has been sacrificed in the interest of financial gains.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, it is worth noting that it is not the extremely poor local population that benefits from the financial gains, but private corporations, majority of which are registered in offshore zones. As Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani is not an isolated case, we are very concerned that such incidents might also happen to other sites of cultural heritage. Below is the detailed information on how the events have developed in past couple of years in relation to Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, Sakdrisi was granted the status of cultural heritage in 2006. Since 2007, the law on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage was invalidated and the new law on the Cultural Heritage was adopted (excluding the word "protection" from its heading).

<sup>2</sup> See the Letter by the Head of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz – the largest cultural institution in Germany and one of the most important and most prestigious worldwide: available at [http://www.dvarch.de/rep\\_docs/DVA\\_000010\\_2013\\_Stellungnahme\\_Sakdrisi.pdf](http://www.dvarch.de/rep_docs/DVA_000010_2013_Stellungnahme_Sakdrisi.pdf),

see also "Excavations proved that the Sakdrisi gold mine is the oldest in the world" – paragraph 23 under "6. Conclusions" at the following link:

<http://archeosciences.revues.org/2037?lang=en>

<sup>3</sup> See page 46 of GYLA's research (text available in both English and Georgian languages in the same document):

[http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/2013/reabilitaciis\\_procesi\\_fasads\\_migma\\_-\\_batimis\\_reabilitacia\\_mokle\\_mimoxilva.pdf](http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/2013/reabilitaciis_procesi_fasads_migma_-_batimis_reabilitacia_mokle_mimoxilva.pdf)

and see chapter 5 of the GYLA's research, page 30: [http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/2013/Rehabilitation\\_Process\\_Beyond\\_the\\_Facade\\_-\\_Batumi\\_Rehabilitation\\_\(Executive\\_Summary\).pdf](http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/2013/Rehabilitation_Process_Beyond_the_Facade_-_Batumi_Rehabilitation_(Executive_Summary).pdf)

## Timeline of the events, surrounding the ancient mine of Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani:

Sequence of events	Year	Date	Important events	Links to the relevant information
1	2004	2004-2011	The German and Georgian scientists made an important archaeological discovery, later on establishing that Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani is the oldest known gold mine in the world dating back to the early fourth-third millennium BC.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See the video within the article, interview with the German archaeologist, Thomas Stoellner: <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27499882">http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27499882</a></li> <li>2. Short information on the research by Bochum museum: <a href="http://www.bergbaumuseum.de/index.php/en/research/projects/early-mining-landscapes/salt-copper-gold">http://www.bergbaumuseum.de/index.php/en/research/projects/early-mining-landscapes/salt-copper-gold</a></li> </ol>
2	2006	March 30;  July 17;  November 7	<p>Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani is granted the status of the immovable site of cultural heritage.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Archaeological protection zone is established around the Sakdrisi.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>The site is granted the status of “Category - National Significance“. According to the law on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage, the “Category of National Significance” represented the highest level of significance at the national level, and therefore, the highest level of protection mechanism.<sup>6</sup></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Excavations proved that the Sakdrisi gold mine is the oldest in the world”; see paragraph 23 under “6. Conclusions” at the following link: <a href="http://archeosciences.revues.org/2037?lang=en">http://archeosciences.revues.org/2037?lang=en</a></li> </ol>

<sup>4</sup> Under the Order #3/133 of the Minister of Culture, based on the law of Georgia on the Law of Georgia on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage;

<sup>5</sup> Under the joint Order by the Minister of Culture and Minister of Economy (the link includes the maps, reflecting the archaeological protection zone, although the text is in Georgian): [https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com\\_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=1108308&lang=ge](https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=1108308&lang=ge)

<sup>6</sup> The law of Georgia on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage (invalidated later on), Article 18:

[https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com\\_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=11932&lang=ge](https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=11932&lang=ge) and Ordinance of the President, according to which Sakdrisi was granted the status of the “Category of National Significance” [https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com\\_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=99220&lang=ge](https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=99220&lang=ge)

<b>3</b>	2013	April 26	The private company – RMG Gold addresses Prime Minister, informing that it faces problems in mining because of the cultural heritage status granted to the mine. Prime Minister referred the issue to the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia (hereinafter – the Ministry of Culture) for examination.	1. See paragraph 2.1. of the legal research by GYLA, pages 6-7: <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a>
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<b>4</b>	2013	May 28;	The Ministry of Culture creates a special commission to examine the issue of Sakdrisi. The Commission concludes that the status was granted to Sakdrisi in violation of the law, and considered that the justification of the Sakdrisi being the oldest mine in the world is not convincing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See paragraphs 2.2. and 2.3. of the legal research by GYLA, pages 7-9: <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a></li> <li>2. See paragraph 2.4. of the legal research by GYLA, pages 9-10: <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a></li> <li>3. See paragraph 2.5. of the legal research by GYLA, page 10: <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a></li> </ol>
		July 5;	The status of the site “Category – National Significance” was revoked by the Minister of Culture; this automatically caused invalidation <sup>7</sup> of the status ‘cultural heritage site’ <sup>8</sup> of Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani.	
		July 10;	Following invalidation of the status of the “Category of National Significance”, the site was taken off the list of the Cultural Heritage of National Significance based on the presidential ordinance. <sup>9</sup>	
		October 7;	Archaeological protection zone of the site is invalidated.	

<sup>7</sup> Under the Ordinance of the President of Georgia (the link is available only in Georgian):

[https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com\\_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=99220&lang=ge](https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=99220&lang=ge)

<sup>8</sup> Under the Georgian legislation, ‘cultural heritage *site*’ is entitled to a greater protection than ‘cultural heritage’. Despite the revoking of the status ‘cultural heritage *site*’, Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani still represents the ‘cultural heritage’ protected under the legislation of Georgia (the law of Georgia on the Cultural Heritage).

<sup>9</sup> Ordinance #563 of the President, July 10, 2013;

		November 18.	The Court declared admissible the lawsuit filed by Green Alternative (GYLA's partner organization), <sup>10</sup> which has appealed the decision on the revocation of the status of the "Category of National Significance"(see #12 below).	4. See the ruling of the Tbilisi City Court on officially accepting the lawsuit of the Green Alternative (available in Georgian): <a href="http://greenalt.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ganchineba_sar_chelis_carmoebashi_migebis_taobaze.pdf">http://greenalt.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ganchineba_sar_chelis_carmoebashi_migebis_taobaze.pdf</a>
<b>5</b>	2014	January 8; March 14;  April 11- May 6	<p>It is discovered that parts of the Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani site were demolished. The demolition was documented in writing on January 8 by the archaeologist and on the video recording by the Studio Monitor<sup>11</sup> on March 14.</p> <p>GYLA addressed the Chief Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, requesting to initiate an investigation based on the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia (Criminal Code of Georgia, Article 259<sup>1</sup>, which covers illegal archaeological works and damaging archaeological object).</p> <p>Despite our request for public information, the Prosecutor's Office did not inform us whether the investigation has been initiated or not. GYLA has appealed the denial of public information. With 9 months' delay,<sup>12</sup> the Prosecutor's Office provided the information that the investigation has started based on the Article 332 of the Criminal Code of Georgia (which</p>	<p>1. See the video footage, recording the traces of wide-scale works (from 4:33 to 4:59) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAQ CmApCmso">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAQ CmApCmso</a></p> <p>2. See part 3.2 at page 14 of the legal research by GYLA: <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a></p> <p>3. See part 3.2 at page 14 of the legal research by GYLA: <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a></p>

<sup>10</sup>The mission of Green Alternative is to protect the environment, biological and cultural heritage of Georgia through promoting economically sound and socially acceptable alternatives. Web-site of the organization: <http://greenalt.org/home/>

			covers abusing authority). According to GYLA's assessment, the investigation carries only a formal nature and has not yet produced any concrete results (i.e. witnesses have not been questioned, etc.)	
<b>6</b>	2014	March 13	The Ministry of Culture issues the permit and the company gains the right to conduct broad-scale works at Sakdrisi following its second attempt.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See part 2.7 at page 11 of the legal research by GYLA: <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a></li> <li>2. GYLA's comment: <a href="http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2029">http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2029</a></li> </ol>
<b>7</b>	2014	April 11- May 7	On behalf of two citizens of Georgia, GYLA submits administrative complaint to the Government of Georgia, requesting to revoke the decision of the Ministry of Culture, which granted the right to the RMG Gold to conduct broad-scale works on the site of Sakdrisi. The Government refuses to consider the administrative complaint, arguing that citizens, who are not directly affected by the results of the decision, do not have the right to appeal it.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GYLA's legal evaluation on the refusal to consider the complaint: <a href="http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2106">http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2106</a></li> </ol>
<b>8</b>	2014	May 15	GYLA appeals the decision of the Government in Court. The Court establishes an important precedent, according to which <b>any citizen of Georgia has the right to appeal a legal act, if the appeal aims to protect cultural heritage</b> (see #7 above). Awaiting the final decision of the Court, GYLA also submitted a request for interim measures, to order termination of the wide-scale works that were damaging Sakdrisi.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See page 13 of GYLA's legal research: <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a></li> </ol>
<b>9</b>	2014	May 30	Based on GYLA's litigation, the company is prohibited from continuing broad-scale works (as an interim measure) before	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See page 13 of the legal research by GYLA:</li> </ol>

<sup>11</sup> Studio Monitor is the close partner of GYLA that works on the investigative journalism: <http://monitori.ge/en/>

<sup>12</sup> #13/77096 correspondence from the Chief Office of the Prosecution in response to GYLA's FOIA request (requests date back to April 11 and May 6);

			the final decision of the Court (see #10 below).	<a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a> 2. News on the Court decision: <a href="http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2137">http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2137</a>
<b>10</b>	2014	June 6	<b>GYLA publicizes the results of the research on Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani, which revealed that the Government has violated the law by granting the company a right to conduct broad-scale works; the research also reveals the failure of the law-enforcement bodies to investigate demolition of certain parts of Sakdrisi and suspicious ownership of the company (registered in the offshore zone), raising doubts that the corruptive interests might exist between the company and the state.</b>	1. <b>Update on the presentation:</b> <a href="http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2156">http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2156</a> 2. <b>Link to the research paper:</b> <a href="http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf">http://gyla.ge/uploads/publications/researchpaper.pdf</a>
<b>11</b>	2014	June 13	Tbilisi City Court has upheld the lawsuit of GYLA's partner – Green Alternative and has invalidated the decision of the Ministry of Culture, according to which the status of the site was illegally revoked (see #4 above). <sup>13</sup>	The documentation is available in Georgian, which is available upon request.
<b>12</b>	2014	June 13-December 12	The negotiations about the future of Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani are ongoing among the Ministry of Culture, the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (hereinafter – the Agency), the RMG Gold and the National Museum of Georgia, with participation of the Bulgarian experts; however, the situation radically changes on December 12 (see #14 below).	GYLA has the documentation in Georgian, which is available upon request.
<b>13</b>	2014	December 12	<b>On December 12, the Ministry of Culture and the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation make decisions in the circumstances that raise significant doubts that there is a corruptive interest and that the process was pre-</b>	1. <b>GYLA's legal response:</b> <a href="http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2376">http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2376</a> 2. <b>Request of the CSOs towards the Government:</b>

<sup>13</sup> The decision of the Court which invalidated the illegal revoking of the status (available in Georgian): [http://greenalt.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/court\\_decision\\_Final.pdf](http://greenalt.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/court_decision_Final.pdf)

planned.  
Specifically, overall 13 legal actions and 4 legal decisions are made in one single day, which is practically impossible, considering the general practice when the Government takes months for one simple legal decision/action.

<http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2375>

Specifically, on December 12, the following 13 legal actions were made:

1. The RMG Gold addresses the Ministry of Culture, requesting a permit to disassemble the Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani;
2. The Ministry of Culture sends the request of RMG Gold to the Agency;
3. The Agency calls upon the session of the section responsible for strategic decision;
4. The members of the section examine the issue and make a decision of recommendatory nature – to revoke the status of the site<sup>14</sup> (the decision was made with 4 votes against 2. Out of those 4 votes, 3 members of the section were newly selected by the head of the Agency, without any prior criteria/regulation, two weeks earlier);
5. The members of the section send the official decision to the Head of the Agency;
6. The Head of the Agency issues a decree revoking the status of the site;
7. The Head of the Agency sends the decision to the Minister of Culture;
8. The Minister takes the site off the list of the protected cultural heritage;

<sup>14</sup> Under the Court decision, mentioned in the #11 above, the status of the site was re-granted to Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani, because the Court established illegality of revoking the status;



9. The Minister informs the Agency of taking the site off the list;
10. The Minister publicizes the Order on taking the site off the list at the official Legal Herald of Georgia;<sup>15</sup>
11. The order of the Head of the Agency is publicized at the Legal Herald;<sup>16</sup>
12. The Head of Agency issues an official decision, allowing the RMG Gold to disassemble the site;
13. The Agency sends the decision to the RMG Gold in writing of the permit to disassemble the site.

The above legal actions included the following 4 legal decisions, made on December 12 as well:

1. The decision of the section of recommendatory nature to revoke the status of the site;
2. The Decree of the Head of the Agency, revoking the status of the site (based on the above decision of the section);
3. The Minister's Order, under which the site is taken off the list of the protected cultural heritage;
4. The official decision of the Head of Agency, allowing the RMG Gold to disassemble the site.

Those decisions are made on Friday, without notifying the stakeholders - civil society and the wider public having an interest in the issue and engaged in the process. As the decision was made on Friday, it was made possible for the company to carry out its activities during the weekends, while, due to the weekend, stakeholders were practically

<sup>15</sup> See the order at the following link of the Legal Herald (in Georgian):

[https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com\\_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=2619092&lang=ge](https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=2619092&lang=ge)

<sup>16</sup> See the order at the following link of the Legal Herald (in Georgian):

[https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com\\_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=2619112&lang=ge](https://matsne.gov.ge/index.php?option=com_ldmssearch&view=docView&id=2619112&lang=ge)

			denied the possibility to appeal the decision or take any legal action against it.	
14	2014	December 13	<p>Early in the morning, RMG Gold blows up the world’s most ancient gold mine of Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani.</p> <p>Additionally, it should be underlined that it would be impossible to install the dynamites in such a speedy manner (early next morning following notification of permit on the previous day); this indicates that the dynamite was installed long before the permit was requested by the company and issued by the Agency. Moreover, the footages obtained several days before the blow up show the drilled holes prepared to install the dynamite in the ancient caves of the mine.</p> <p><b><u>It is notable, that even the illegal decision of the Ministry of Culture to grant the right to “disassemble” the site, did not provide the right to <i>explode</i> the site.</u></b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The video recording depicting the blow up of the world’s oldest gold mine; footage was obtained by the volunteering group: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JmvoCEnBRw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JmvoCEnBRw</a></li> <li>2. See 9:58 – 10:21 of the video footage, reflecting the drilled holes prepared for the installation of the dynamite. The video footage was obtained by the volunteering group: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj6vrM7Pk8w&amp;feature=share">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj6vrM7Pk8w&amp;feature=share</a></li> </ol>
15	2014	December 13- up to day	RMG Gold conducts the broad-scale works at Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani, demolishing it, under the name of “disassembling” the site, the right to which it does not have and which is illegal (“disassembling” and “blow-up” are essentially contradicting actions).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See GYLA’s statement: <a href="http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2376">http://gyla.ge/eng/news?info=2376</a></li> <li>2. See the attached photographs and the video indicated in the #14/1 above.</li> </ol>
16	2014	December 15	GYLA addresses the Ministry of Culture and the Agency and requests FOIA of all the decisions made on December 12 that led to the dynamite explosion on December 13 <sup>th</sup> .	GYLA has the documentation in Georgian, which is available upon request.

<b>17</b>	2014	December 17	GYLA receives the requested FOIA information from the Ministry of Culture and the Agency (see the #16 above).	GYLA has the documentation in Georgian, which is available upon request.
<b>18</b>	2014	December 18	Following the analysis of the obtained documentation, GYLA launches petition together with its partners and requests the Parliament to create the investigation commission.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The link to the text of the petition in Georgian: <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dypOPwAjU0H3TOWqCacyD1nmR2_T_f8dT_A0r2wMGoDc/viewform?c=0&amp;w=1">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dypOPwAjU0H3TOWqCacyD1nmR2_T_f8dT_A0r2wMGoDc/viewform?c=0&amp;w=1</a></li> <li>2. The link to the list of signatures to the petition submitted to the Parliament: <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AIYtdRht-Y4dFdtamI1b0RwU3BUYs1MVHV2cXdPOFE&amp;usp=sharing#gid=0">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AIYtdRht-Y4dFdtamI1b0RwU3BUYs1MVHV2cXdPOFE&amp;usp=sharing#gid=0</a></li> </ol>
<b>19</b>	2014	December 19	GYLA appeals the decision of the Agency on behalf of the two citizens (the decision under which the status of the site was invalidated and under which the permit to disassemble the site was issued).	GYLA has the documentation in Georgian, which is available upon request.
<b>20</b>	2014	December 20	Co-workers of GYLA started another petition, on behalf of the citizens, in English – addressed towards the countries and people outside Georgia, since the Government of Georgia itself did not react to the demolition.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Link to the petition: <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vFTH9J2sv6b_QzMYw7aBAS5BfaZ1xhYZEwiWsJ3xsWI/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vFTH9J2sv6b_QzMYw7aBAS5BfaZ1xhYZEwiWsJ3xsWI/viewform</a></li> </ol>
<b>21</b>	2014	December 23	<p>GYLA files a petition to the Parliament with the request to set up a parliamentary investigative committee on the matters of Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani.<sup>17</sup></p> <p>The petition was accompanied by more than 2’350 signatures (the numbers have been increasing since then).</p>	See #18/1 above.

<sup>17</sup> Article 55 (paragraph 2, sub-paragraph c ) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia, which envisages a possibility to initiate creation of a temporary investigative commission if there is a particular public and state interest.

<b>22</b>	2014	December 24	GYLA officially receives the notice from the Ministry of Culture, saying that the citizens of Georgia do not have a right to litigate on the issues relating to the protection of cultural heritage, despite the fact that the Court has already established otherwise (see #8 above).	GYLA has the documentation in Georgian, which is available upon request.
<b>23</b>	2014	December 25	<p>Creation of the investigative commission regarding Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani is initiated at the Parliament by one of the oppositional political parties and the initiative is supported with 58 votes against 14. The initiative covers the same requests as the petition launched by GYLA and signed by more than 2'350 citizens.</p> <p>Despite the decision to create the investigative commission, the specific members of the commission have not yet been selected and the commission did not start its work so far.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Link to the official website of the Parliament of Georgia, describing the session during which the initiative to set up an investigative commission was upheld: <a href="http://parliament.ge/en/saparlamento-saqmianoba/plenaruli-sxdomebi/the-extraordinary-plenary-session.page">http://parliament.ge/en/saparlamento-saqmianoba/plenaruli-sxdomebi/the-extraordinary-plenary-session.page</a></li> <li>2. Link to the official website of the Parliament of Georgia, reflecting allocation of mandates within the investigative commission which has not started its work so far: <a href="http://parliament.ge/en/saparlamento-saqmianoba/komitetebi/saproceduro-sakitxta-da-wesebis-komiteti-148/axali-ambebi1133/the-sitting-of-the-procedural-issues-and-rules1.page">http://parliament.ge/en/saparlamento-saqmianoba/komitetebi/saproceduro-sakitxta-da-wesebis-komiteti-148/axali-ambebi1133/the-sitting-of-the-procedural-issues-and-rules1.page</a></li> </ol>
<b>24</b>	2014	December 26	GYLA submits arguments to the Ministry of Culture (citing the decision of the Court - see #8 above) to prove that the citizens of Georgia have a right to litigate for the protection of the cultural heritage (in response to the letter described in #22 above).	GYLA has the documentation in Georgian, which is available upon request.

25	2014	December 30	<p>The Prime Minister of Georgia makes a statement that the Government of Georgia will support prolongation of the license for the RMG Gold to conduct mining at Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani.</p> <p>Had the Government not prolonged the license, RMG Gold would no more have a permit to continue mining at Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani starting from 2014, December 31, 24:00.</p>	<p>News report in Georgian:  <a href="http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/sazogadoeba/311502-saqarthvelos-mthavroba-kompania-rmg-isthvis-licenziis-gagrdzelebas-mkhars-utcers.html?ar=A">http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/sazogadoeba/311502-saqarthvelos-mthavroba-kompania-rmg-isthvis-licenziis-gagrdzelebas-mkhars-utcers.html?ar=A</a></p>
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As demonstrated above, the present case involves several illegal actions by the Government institutions and by the private company – RMG Gold itself. The decisions of the Government and subsequent actions of RMG Gold were made in gross violation of the law, circumventing the Court decisions and the interests of the citizens of Georgia.

The above timeline reflects the short details of the events, compiled by GYLA. Any questions or additional information (such as the copies of the official decisions, session protocols obtained through FOIA, GYLA’s complaints and legal arguments, any clarifications, etc) can be obtained through directly contacting us at one of the below e-mails:

The contact e-mail, administered by GYLA staff members on behalf of the initiative group aiming to protect Sakdrisi-Kachaghiani:  
[sakdrisikachaghiani@gmail.com](mailto:sakdrisikachaghiani@gmail.com)

The contact information of the Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association (GYLA):

**E-mail:** [gyla@gyla.ge](mailto:gyla@gyla.ge)

**Tel:** (995 32) 299 50 76

**Website:** <http://gyla.ge/eng/news>