

The cases investigated by the Estonian and Georgian Security Services

Contrary to the international standards, the analysis of judgments in the cases investigated by the State Security Service shows that the majority of cases investigated by the Anti-Corruption Agency of the State Security Service do not contain risks to the state security.

To illustrate that the current work of the State Security Service needs to be fundamentally audited, the Democracy Research Institute compared cases investigated by the Estonian and Georgian Security Services:

Cases investigated by the Estonian Security Service	Cases investigated by the Georgian State Security Service
<p>On November 20, 2015, the Supreme Court of Estonia found the Secretary General of the Estonian Center Party guilty of forging a document that allowed the party to use a large amount of money of unknown origin.¹ The crime was solved by the Estonian Internal Security Service.</p>	<p>In 2015, the State Security Service launched investigations into 29 criminal cases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraud (Article 180 of the Criminal Code) - 5 criminal cases • Misappropriation or embezzlement (Article 182 of the Criminal Code) - 3 criminal cases <p>In 2015, the State Security Service arrested 2 people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Kvemo Bolnisi Public School No. 1 for taking a bribe² • Chief specialist of the Gardabani Municipality Infrastructure Construction and Spatial Planning Department for taking 300 GEL as a bribe³
<p>In 2016, the Estonian Internal Security Service completed an investigation into the activities of the management of an Estonian energy company (Eesti Energia Tehnoloogiatööstus). It also examined the activities of large companies, the large-scale operations and purchases of which were of strategic importance.⁴</p>	<p>In 2016, the State Security Service launched an investigation into 47 criminal cases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 cases of fraud (Article 180 of the Criminal Code) • Misappropriation or embezzlement (Article 182 of the Criminal Code) - 2 cases • Commercial bribery (Article 221 of the Criminal Code) - 5 criminal cases <p>At the same time, in 2016, the State Security Service arrested 4 people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chief specialist of the Keda municipal administration on charges of taking a bribe⁵

¹ Estonian Internal Security Service, Annual Review, 2015, P. 36

² <https://ssg.gov.ge/news/121/antikorufulculma-saagentom-qrtamis-aghebis-faqtze-erti-piri-daakava>

³ <https://ssg.gov.ge/news/78/antikorufulculma-saagentom-ori-piri-daakava>

⁴ Estonian Internal Security Service, Annual Review, 2016, P.35

⁵ <https://ssg.gov.ge/news/135/sus-is-antikorufulculma-saagentom-qrtamis-aghebis-faqtze-erti-piri-daakava>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A forest guard of Khoni Forest District on charges of taking a bribe of 3,000 GEL⁶
<p>In 2019, the Tallinn court found the communications manager of the Estonian Railway Infrastructure Department guilty of committing a corruption crime of a particularly large amount. In particular, he knowingly falsified official documents and used them for public procurements organized by him. He was arrested in 2016 by the Estonian Internal Security Service.⁷</p>	<p>In 2019, the State Security Service launched investigations into 91 criminal cases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 frauds (Article 180 of the Criminal Code) • Fraud and negligence (Articles 180 of the Criminal Code and 220¹ of the Criminal Code) - 3 cases • Property damage through fraud and unauthorized access to the computer system (Articles 185 and 284 of the Criminal Code) - 1 criminal case <p>At the same time, in 2019, the State Security Service arrested 6 people for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a bribe for illegal logging in the village of Orvila, Akhmeta district⁸ • Taking 700 GEL as a bribe in exchange for the appointment of a person as a conductor in the Tbilisi Transport Company Ltd (Article 19, paragraph “b” of part 2 and paragraph “a” of part 3 Article 180 of the Criminal Code of Georgia)⁹ • Receiving 800 GEL, through fraud, in exchange for assisting a person to get a driver's license without passing theoretical and practical exams.¹⁰
<p>On November 3, 2020, the Tartu City Court convicted former Deputy Mayor of Tartu, who was arrested by the Estonian Internal Security Service for particularly large-scale procedural violations.¹¹</p>	<p>During 2020 and 2021 (including February), the State Security Service launched investigations into 75 criminal cases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 cases of fraud (Article 180 of the Criminal Code) • Misappropriation or embezzlement (Article 182 of the Criminal Code) - 2 criminal cases • Property damage by deception (Article 185 of the Criminal Code) - 1 criminal case

⁶ <https://ssg.gov.ge/news/165/sus-is-antikorufciulma-saagentom-qrtamis-micemisa-da-qrtamis-aghebashidaxmarebis-faqtze-ori-piri-daakava>

⁷ Estonian Internal Security Service, Annual Review, 2019, P. 60

⁸ <https://ssg.gov.ge/news/445/saxelmtsifo-usaftrxoebis-samsaxuris-antikorufciulma-saagentom-qrtamis-aghebis-faqtze-1-piri-xolo-qrtamis-micemis-faqtze-4-piri-daakava>

⁹ <https://ssg.gov.ge/news/485/saxelmtsifo-usaftrxoebis-samsaxuris-antikorufciulma-saagentom-taghlitobis-mcdelobis-faqtze-erti-piri-daakava>

¹⁰ <https://ssg.gov.ge/news/493/saxelmtsifo-usaftrxoebis-samsaxuris-antikorufciulma-saagentom%C2%A0-taghlitobis-mcdelobis-faqtze-erti-piri-daakava>

¹¹ Estonian Internal Security Service, Annual Review, 2020-2021.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing, sale or use of forged credit cards or charge cards (Article 210 of the Criminal Code) - 1 Criminal case <p>At the same time, in 2020, the State Security Service arrested 8 people for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a bribe in exchange for transferring forest fund to be used as pasture for 6 months¹² • Requesting a bribe of 800 GEL in exchange for the employment in the Kutaisi City Hall¹³ • Group commercial bribery and manufacturing and sale of a forged document (Articles 221 and 362 of the Criminal Code), falsifying health documents.¹⁴ • Taking a bribe of 300 GEL for the patronage of persons involved in illegal logging, by using official position.¹⁵
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¹² <https://sbg.gov.ge/news/586/saxelmtsifo-usaftrxoebis-samsaxuris-antikorufoiulma-saagentom-qrtamis-aghebis-faqtze-2-piri-daakava>

¹³ <https://sbg.gov.ge/news/604/saxeltsifo-usaftrxoebis-samsaxuris-antikorufoiuli-saagentos-tanamshromlebma-erti-piri-daakaves>

¹⁴ <https://sbg.gov.ge/news/659/-antikorufoiuli-saagentos-tanamshromlebma-pasuxisgebashi-misces-otxi-eqimi>

¹⁵ <https://sbg.gov.ge/news/693/antikorufoiuli-saagentos-tanamshromlebma-erti-piri-daakaves>