

# AI Facial-Recognition Surveillance Deployed Against Anti-Government Protesters in Tbilisi

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Georgia

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

## Summary

Georgia's Interior Ministry expanded a Russian-built AI facial-recognition system (Polyface) and bought 251 AI cameras to identify and fine Tbilisi protesters — ~■2 million in fines, 486 detentions Nov 2024–March 2025 — AI enabling protest suppression, not public value.

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                  | Score |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| Evidence of impact / measured public value | 1/3   |
| Transparency, fairness & accountability    | 0/3   |
| Transferability / demonstrated replication | 1/3   |
| Scalability beyond pilot                   | 2/3   |
| Governance, capability & sustainability    | 0/3   |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-30

Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs / Emergency Response Centre 112 (Polyface system, Papillon AO) — accessed 2026-07-30

AlgorithmWatch: Russian surveillance face recognition in Georgia — accessed 2026-07-30

OC Media: Georgian Dream is watching — AI-powered surveillance used against Tbilisi protesters — accessed 2026-07-30

OCCRP: Georgia's surveillance surge — Chinese cameras spark protest crackdown fears — accessed 2026-07-30

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