

## **Titsian Tabidze - a victim of the existing regime**

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**Abstract:** The era of "Great Terror" in the 1930s, and especially in its second half, is a traumatic period of special importance in the history of Georgia, as well as other post-Soviet countries.

The era, whose main creator was Joseph Stalin, born in Georgia, was distinguished by the brutality characteristic of the regime. The main goal of the architect of such a regime was the final subjugation of society by completely eliminating political opposition, suppressing dissent, instilling fear and terror in society.

**Keywords:** Titsian Tabidze, Joseph Stalin, "Tsiferkantsele", Nino Makashvili, Fascist-Nationalist group, anti-Soviet activity.

**Introduction:** The repressions of the 30s of the 20th century affected almost all spheres of public life in Georgia, and Georgian writing was no exception. The government at that time forced Georgian writers and poets to create works in praise of the Soviet government and its leader, and those who did not agree to this were either shot or exiled to distant Siberia.

The victim of that regime, which killed many innocent and talented people, is the Georgian symbolist poet Titsian Tabidze, one of the founders of the

"Tsiferkantseli" movement, who was arrested and shot on charges of anti-Soviet activity. During these repressions, intelligent people of Georgia were shot. This is the face of the regime.

**Main part:** In today's article, we want to talk about this legendary poet and his tragic fate.

How the Soviet government fought against Georgian writers and poets at the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, the Department of Agitation and Propaganda and the Main Department of Political Education were created, which had the unlimited right to interfere and censor the fields of science and art.

In the field of literature, the grand master of this work was APWR (Association of Proletarian Writers of Russia), whose branch also functioned in Georgia. The Soviet government confronted disobedient writers and poets who refused the party and leader's sermons, opposed them to proletarian writers and expelled them from the Writers' Union.

In 1937, Lavrenti Beria, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia, marched directly against unruly Georgian writers and poets. The tragic story of Titsian Tabidze is also connected with his name.

On June 1, 1937, at the meeting of the Soviet Writers' Party of Georgia, one of the proletarian writers said that he knew that the saboteur Agniashvili was in Titsian Tabidze's apartment, that the "Tsisperkhantselebi" (Iashvili, Tabidze, Leonidze and others) were connected to Bukharin, Kamenev and thousands of others in Moscow. Rubles were received in exchange for some negotiations.

The Union of Writers adopted a resolution to call a session of the Presidium and, among other issues, raise the issue of Titsian Tabidze's expulsion from the Union. Tabidze was indeed expelled, and the proletarian writers proudly announced that "a counter-revolutionary organization was operating in the Union of Writers, we broke its spine, if there are any tails left, we must find them and throw them out."

Indeed, after being expelled from the Union of Writers, Titsian was arrested and accused of have been recruited into several counter-revolutionary organizations by different individuals at the same time. Titsian's wife Nino Makashvili wrote that Titsian was arrested in October 1937 by Lavrenti Beria's personal order. Beria summoned Titsian Tabidze to his office, accused him of friendship with Russian writers and demanded to blame for poet Paolo Iashvili, who was driven to suicide by Beria two months before Titsian's arrest. When Titsian refused to desecrate his friend's memory, Beria ordered his arrest. This story may not be true, but his contemporaries later said that when Titsian Tabidze was arrested, tortured and asked to tell them the name of the leader of the conspirators squad, he wrote down Giorgi Saakadze, and then they searched for the Georgian commander for a long time among the writers who survived the repressions.

As for Titsian's friendship with Russian writers, he was really friends with Mayakovsky, Yesenin, Pasternak and others, this friendship was more like brotherhood, Boris Pasternak on his deathbed had two letters under his pillow, Rilke's and Titsian's. After Titsian's arrest, the writer was left with blank pages on

his desk, his wife, Nino Makashvili, gave them to Pasternak, who started writing his immortal novel "Doctor Zhivago" on these pages.

On the night of October 1937, he said goodbye to his beloved wife and only daughter Nita with these words: "Know one thing, you will never be ashamed to mention my name and look people in the eye."

The "Stalin List" of November 22, 1937, is a unique document in the history of the "Great Terror", which was approved for the Georgian SSR. In terms of the number of convicts (439 people), the list of November 22 is only shorter than the list of August 10, 1937, in which 555 people were included. The list includes public figures, high officials, and ordinary people. This article presents a quantitative and content analysis of the list. In the history of the "Great Terror", the list of Georgia dated November 22, 1937, is the first document on which the Politburo agreed to Lavrentiy Beria's proposal - the cases of convicts in Georgia should be judged by the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs' (NKVD) so-called "Special Troika"<sup>1</sup> (Тройка) where the three members were judge and jury and not by an external session of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR<sup>2</sup>, since the arrest and the trial rates were lagging behind each other.

Throughout the entire Soviet Union, Georgia was the only exception, where people included in the "Stalin's list" were tried by the Special Troika.

**How did Titsian Tabidze die?** Titsian Tabidze spent his last days in People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. This period is introduced to us by the Secretary of the Internal Affairs Committee (IAC) of the Soviet Union. Case N10. 817.

"The work of the Department of Internal Affairs and Public Affairs of the People's Committee - N10,817 - consists of 22 pages, it is written in Russian language and includes so called Malicious activity detection process of Titsian. At the February-March 1937 plenum of the Central Committee (CC) Stalin declared state terror.

The Soviet Union was a one huge prison, but then the total cleansing began, an unprecedented hunt for people... The investigating and punishing authorities were active. The processing of citizens considered suspicious had 2 forms – covert (CC and IAC) and open (in meetings and press). Both of them we're going similar to each other, but about them or their relationship, they didn't have any idea. Only at the last moment did these two lines cross the border.

On March 15, 1937, at the 10th Congress of the Communists of Georgia, Lavrenti Beria came out with report. On the one hand, he talked about the invisible achievement of the "Soviet Georgia", on the other hand, he took all the anger out on himself attacking "Trotskyists", vandals, other bandits - the main intelligence, from writers he was especially discussing about Paolo Iashvili, Konstantine Gamsakhurdia, Mikheil Javakhishvili, Giorgi Leonidze, Titsian Tabidze. After all, they have already reached the rap of several writers, now it is the turn of others.

The prisoners indulged in the IAC testified false and destructive practices. On March 27, Lida Gasviani (before arrest - Deputy Director of the Department of Philology) named the members of the Trotskyist and Fascist parties (Gamsakhurdia, Chichinadze, Javakhishvili, Abasheli) and on April 3, he announced that the book of

Titsiani's poetry was released by the decision of Agniashvili., in which the poems are involved about Gr. Robaqidze, Lominadze and Dumbadze. This was the first sign of Grigol Robaqidze - Titsiani's teacher and friend, who stayed in Germany and became a fascist and Lominadze and Dumbadze - Trotskyists i.e. they were enemies of the people.

Their closeness and their patronage were considered to be very important crime to the poet. On March 21, Budu Mdivani (the former chairman of the Georgia) points out that Gasvian has drag Titsian with other writers of terrorism and diversity. As you can see Titsian has been terrorist. On June 12, Davit Tsereteli (before arrest - Director of the Literary Foundation) shows that the government is also in a state of disarray, discussing the ineffective party regime, he criticizes Beria. The government must be changed and Beria should be thrown out.

On October 9, Pavle Sakvarelidze (before arrest – the chairman of “Federation”) named Titsian Tabidze as an active member of the Fascist-Nationalist group.

On the same day, with the decision of the House Committee, that was proved by people’s commissar Goglidze (lived in Griboedovi St. N18.), an arrest warrant was issued - N1.344. The poet was condemned by articles 58/10 and 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure of the Ministry of Justice. Being in a separate room was sentenced. Order was taken by lieutenant Krimian, 2nd Sub-Government. He also searched the poet's apartment. It is signed by the head of the 4th division - Kobulov, "Spravka" is added with griffin "Soviet Secret".

Nita Tabidze, the daughter of the poet, remembers that she heard the sound of a car at two a.m. in the morning. Her parents were pale. They slept like the dead. I opened the door, there were four of them, does Titsian Tabidze live here? I was asked and they showed me the paper to take him to interrogation. I woke my father up, he was sitting in the living room, his hands were trembling and it was hard for him to put out his cigarette. They searched the house. They took a Russian painting by Firosmán, a portrait of my father and a painting by Andrey Beli - "Old life". At 3 a.m., they were done to search the house.

The poet ended up in Ortachala prison. On the second day, October 10, Titsian filled the prisoner's application form with red ink and signed. What? After that, before december 10, the case N10.817 is silent, we don't know how it went, or if it continued. The poet was in a separate cell. As the security worker Vakhtang Arzanov admitted during the interrogation in June 1954, Krimiyan was torturing Titsian so cruel, so that he could be made to be a member of the Organization.

After two months of torture, on December 10, the protocol on the questioning of Titsian Tabidze was formalized. , which was signed by the heads of the 4th section of the 6th sub-section of the House Committee Dagishvili and “operrtsmunebuli” Pankov. All the papers are signed by Titsiani.

**Interrogation protocol:** "In the interrogation protocol, poet indicates that he was a member of the "Cisperkhancelebi", which had nationalist-fascist character. He was also a member of the National Council of Ministers, and it was the leded by Tsiani, Paolo and Grigol Robaqidze, and their idea was supported by Valerian

Gafrindashvili, Nikoloz Mitsishvili, Ali Arsenishvili, Rajden Gvetadze, Sergo Kldiashvili, Kolau Nadiradze, Shalva Afkhaidze, Ivane Fifia, Giorgi Leonidze.

The group served as an official until 1928, and as a fact, it existed before Titsiani's arrest. Some members, for example, Grigol Robaqidze, joined the fascist movement. Titsian "admits" that it turns out that he has tried to create a "Union of counter-revolutionary writers". For this purpose, he connected to Pasternak, Tikhonov, Pavlenko, Tinianov, Ba-Zhan, Tiniani, Korneichuk and others.

They translated and stamped Georgian national and historical writings. It seems that Titsiani, Paolo, Mitsishvili, Leonidze were called to work for the government. Politicians and so disguised counter-revolutionary work, gathered new growth. The goal was to fight with the hands of the councilors, rehabilitation of "Bourgeois-Nationalist" formations, they applied diversity, terror".

**Accusative conclusion**, which was brought to Titsian: "There is only one protocol of Titian's interrogation, it was also made in two months later, in the days before the case was closed. The case was handed over to the prosecutor's office.

The meeting was concluded on December 14. It is told in the conclusion that terrorist-diversity, vandal, spy organizations were exposed and destroyed, with which Georgian National Center is united.

The goal of the center was to destroy the power of the Soviet Union. Creating one of the capitals of the Bourgeois State of the Democratic Republic of the Georgia.

"Approved" that since 1933 Titsian has been in the fascist organization and worked on the literary front. He had connection with the Trotskyist organizations, that he was spy for France.

The accuser points out that Titsian admitted himself to the police. On the basis of the testimony of the whistleblowers, the work was handed over to "Sameul". On October 15, the meeting protocol N67 was drawn up. The narrator was KadaGishvili, which also indicates that Titsian Tabidze was named by Gasviani, Mgaloblishvili, Sakvarelidze, Darakhvelidze, Mitsishvili, Tseretli, Mikadze, Lominadze and Kvitashvili. The chairman and members of "Sameul" did not sign the protocol, but the protocol was stamped with the seal of the House of Representatives and is written in red ink – "Rastrelia. Imushestva prinadl, lichna emu konpiskovac". The signature is unspecified.

Titsian Tabidze was shot on the same day, December 15, 1937, so that "Sameul" did not even have his case formally reviewed. His family was told that he must be relocated and they should sent him warm clothes.

Nino Makashvili waited for 28 years for his spouse, until the last minute of her life. And his mother took her son's clothes on the balcony and cried loudly - Titko, son, where are you now..."

**Conclusion:** The repressions carried out in 1937-1938, known as the "Stalin Terror" or "Great Terror," occupy a special place in the history of the 20th century. In less than two years, the Bolshevik regime mass-executed and deported over a million Soviet citizens. Within the framework of the "Great Terror," the trials by "Stalin's Lists" hold particular significance. This operation included mainly citizens living in the city, such as members of the Intelligentsia, high-ranking officials, military

personnel, and clergy. In contrast to other operations, the number of individuals sentenced to the highest punishment - execution - was much higher.

Titsian Tabidze has a special voice in Georgian poetry. The poet felt with all his essence the great burden and responsibility of being a Georgian. For him, being Georgian was not an unchangeable phenomenon given once and for all. Georgianness meant constant spiritual training to remain faithful to traditional values, to understand the historical past of the nation and thus to understand its future.

Titsian Tabidze was among those geniuses and titans who could not be accepted by the current regime because of their worldview. The regime lost one of the important personalities in the form of Titsian, who spoke a great deal about the development of Georgian culture.

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