



**THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection**

*Dr Janusz KOCHANOWSKI*

**RPO-573287 - I/07/AB**

00-090 Warsaw Phone: +48 22 635 42 46  
Al. Solidarności 77 Fax: +48 22 827 64 53

Warsaw, *14/11/2002*

**Mr Thomas Hammarberg**  
**Council of Europe Commissioner**  
**for Human Rights**  
Council of Europe  
F - 67075  
Strasbourg Cedex  
FRANCE

*Dear Thomas,*

As the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, I have received from the mass media disturbing information about the political situation in the Republic of Georgia. It was with deep regret that I received the news about the disturbances taking place on the streets of Tbilisi, in which the Commissioner for Civil Rights of the Republic of Georgia, Mr Sozar Subari, was injured.

The freedom and equality of citizens, tolerance towards different viewpoints, respect for the rights of the individual, freedom of expression and the right to assembly – these are today the foundations of a democratic state of law. The Commissioner for Civil Rights is the guardian of these values both in time of peace and during such times of particular unrest which are currently to be observed in Georgia. It is also for this reason that the attack on the Ombudsman – the defender of democracy – must arouse justified opposition.

In connection with the above, I am turning to you – as the representative of an organisation particularly distinguished in the development of human and civil rights and freedoms – with an appeal for the undertaking of particular steps in response to the latest events in Georgia.

*Yours  
Janusz*