

GEORGIA

TASK 1



Mass demonstration and civil encounter in the street of Tbilisi, 1991. From the collection of Ani Gagua

Discussion

Religion under Totalitarian Rule

For pupils from 7th grade onwards
Duration: 45 minutes

Divide into groups and research about religious communities in the soviet union. Present to the rest of the group shortly about each religious communities in the Soviet Union.

Listen to the testimony of **Malkhaz Songhulashvili** and his experiences of resisting KGB recruitment.
https://youtu.be/j-xaD372b_Q



Discuss:

- Compare the story of attitudes of modern Georgian state security officers against the Evangelist-Baptist church in 1990's and Soviet KGB style. Can you notice the difference? Which changes in state agenda can we identify?
- Have you heard about the attitudes of the Soviet regime against religion in your family? Ask your grandparents and relatives about their experience and compare it with knowledge you have gained during the lesson and discussion.
- Can you notice the difference in approaches against the orthodox church and the so-called "Sectas"?
- Why was it important to the Soviet regime to control religious institutions?