

საქართველოს ახალგაზრდა იურისტთა ასოციაცია GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION



Joint Statment of NGOs

On July 11, 2009 the Parliament of Georgia approved with the first reading a package of amendments to the Law on Assembly and Manifestations, Law on Police, and the Administrative Offense Code of Georgia.

We see this package as a step back in the path to democracy as it

- Prolongs administrative detention without any justification
- Introduces particularly severe sanctions for the acts less dangerous for the public
- In absence of appropriate regulations allows usage of non-lethal weapons

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jeopardizing human health and lives

- Disproportionately limits freedom of assembly

Adoption of the amendments under current political circumstances indicates that the Government does not make an effort to overcome internal crisis through a dialogue, cooperation or compromise, but rather stirs up the confrontation and creates risk of escalated violence.

We call upon the Georgian Government not to adopt amendments with the current formulation in a speedy manner

We call upon the Georgian public to stand against the attempt to restrict civil liberties

We call upon the international organizations to actively engage in the legal assessment of legislative initiative

We call upon media to insure broad coverage of the issue for the public-at-large

Tbilisi

July 14, 2009

Signatories:

Georgian Young Lawyers' Association

Open Society - Georgia Foundation

European Integration Forum

Public Movement "Multinational Georgia"

Transparency International Georgia

National Union for Education

Union "21 Century"

Georgian Lawyers' Union

Caucasus Network of Women

International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy

Eliso Chapidze – Journalist

Lasha Tughushi – Journalist

Nino Nekishvili – Journalist

Ani Mirotadze – Journalist

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Marine Chitashvili – Psychologist, TSU professor.

Levan Adeishvili – Lawyer