



# **The Coalition for Media Advocacy believes that government's interference in media editorial policy and content is unacceptable**

The Coalition is extremely concerned by the dangerous precedent set by Judge Urtmelidze's decision to fire current management of Rustavi 2 to replace them with provisional management in order to ensure fair and adequate media coverage of events. Coverage of events is part of editorial decisions, self-regulation, while censorship is prohibited and such decision puts operation of media as an institution at risk.

The Coalition believes that appointment of plaintiff's candidates, who are also stakeholders in Rustavi 2 proceedings, as the new managers does nothing to fulfill the cause cited in the decision - ensuring management of Rustavi 2 by unbiased individuals.

The Coalition remains hopeful that other judicial bodies will realize the treats that the said precedent poses for all media outlets, for civil society, business and the democratic development of the country.

Violence, civil confrontation and disruption of journalistic reporting must be avoided at all costs.