



Inside IRIS Georgia

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Inside IRIS Georgia is a monthly newsletter published by IRIS Georgia, a USAID contractor implementing the Rule of Law Program in Georgia.

IRIS Georgia is a satellite office of the IRIS Center at the University of Maryland. IRIS is an internationally-recognized source of research and advisory expertise for addressing economic growth and governance issues in transition and developing countries. See the Web site at <http://www.iris.umd.edu> for more information.

IRIS publishes an invaluable legal textbook



IRIS recently published a Georgian translation of Andras Sajó's book, *Limiting Government - An Introduction to Constitutionalism*. Andras Sajó is a professor at the Central European University (CEU) and is Global Faculty at the New York University School of Law. Professor Sajó was the founding dean of Legal Studies at CEU and he has been deeply involved in legal drafting

throughout Eastern Europe. In addition, he has contributed to the drafting of the Ukrainian, Georgian and South African constitutions.

Professor Sajó's above-referenced book is specifically relevant to Georgian readers because of its focus on the experiences and challenges of constitutionalism in post-communist countries. The book contains a theoretical framework based on the thinking of the classics of constitutionalism. In light of the upcoming constitutional debates in Georgia, this book will be read with great interest not only by lawyers and students, but also by politicians and journalists

as well.

To complete this project, IRIS contracted highly qualified translators and editors and managed intensive coordination for more than 9 months. Legal editing of the translation was undertaken by one of the best Georgian legal scholars, Tevdore Ninidze, who also wrote an excellent foreword for the book. IRIS worked hard to ensure equally high quality in the design and printing of the book. We believe that the Georgian publication of this book is one of the most important contributions that IRIS has made towards strengthening the Rule of Law in Georgia.

IRIS grantees go online



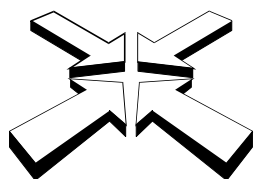
In January, two more Georgian NGOs established an online presence. Through the support of the IRIS Center, Alfami and the

Liberty Institute, each launched separate websites for their organizations.

Alfami's website has an artistic outlook and focuses on the role of painters, artists and other cultural actors in resolving important human rights issues. The works of Georgian artists and photographers are featured on the site.

The website of the Liberty Institute offers a variety of information about the activities of the organization, including descriptions of ongoing projects, news updates, reports and other publications. Visitors to the website can also subscribe to the Liberty Institute's newsletter.

Featuring IRIS grantee
The Pluralism Center



As a recipient of a grant as part of the IRIS Georgia "Human Rights and Georgian Culture" program, the Development and Cooperation Center/ Pluralism Center is taking an academic and discussion-oriented approach to presenting cultural and human rights ideals. Project staff includes wide spectrum of scientists and art workers, who are highly qualified and respected in the Georgian society.

Looking at the fields of Georgian law, philosophy, ethics, media, and cinema, experts in these respective fields are publishing articles in

books as well as online, emphasizing the role of Georgian cultural ideals in the formulation of human rights policy. In addition, a related film is planned to weave together these different aspects, and regional discussion groups will be organized to solicit community involvement and input.

The Pluralism Center project will hold group discussions where the film will be shown in the regional cities of Rustavi, Telavi, Signaki, Gori, Kutaisi, Zestaponi, Poti and Zugdidi. Books with the final text of *Human Rights and Georgian Culture* will also be distributed. Major state

institutions, such as the Parliament of Georgia, the Georgian Academy of Sciences, and the central libraries will also receive copies of the text to make available to the public.

Alfami publishes campaign postcards



Alfami's postcards communicating messages about fundamental constitutional rights

At the end of December, Alfami, an IRIS grantee, published their first series of postcards communicating messages about fundamental constitutional rights. The postcards are intended to reach a wide audience and feature classical and modern Georgian artwork. There were 32 different postcards published; 16 depicting artworks of well-known classical painters and 16 depicting the works of modern artists. Creating the postcards, which involved learning and understanding fundamental human rights guaranteed by the

Constitution of Georgia and international norms, proved to be very interesting for the artists themselves. The postcards selected for printing contain messages and short descriptions of the respective constitutional norms on various rights and civil liberties, such as freedom of conscience and religion, the right to privacy, freedom of information, the right to family life, freedom from racial or any other discrimination, the right to silence, protection of cultural heritage, the right to education, freedom from censorship, and consumer rights.

The postcards will be distributed through various channels. Alfami tries to reach diverse segments of the population and go beyond the target audiences which frequently fall under the focus of public awareness activities. The majority of the postcards will be distributed at regional exhibitions and meetings, as well as at railway stations, subways, post-offices and super-markets as free items situated where they can be picked up by ordinary citizens.

Liberty Institute's newsletter focuses on corruption

Anti-corruption activities have become a major strategic priority for IRIS Georgia. Accordingly, partners of IRIS, including the Liberty Institute, have also shifted their attention to corruption-related issues.

The December issue of the Liberty Institute's newsletter *Liberty* focuses entirely on corruption. In his article "*Kormlenie*" in Georgia, Zurab Adeishvili, the newly appointed Minister of Justice, reviews the major factors of corruption in our country. The Minister also presents his own perspective on anti-corruption and proposes methods of fighting corruption. The author emphasizes the

urgency of adopting a package of new anti-corruption laws, such as the Law on Unjustified Property that failed to pass in 2001, the necessity of implementing reforms within law enforcement agencies, customs and tax systems, the importance of establishing an independent, competent and fair judiciary, and the significance of openness and transparency of administrative agencies. In another article, *Palermo's "Cultural Revolution" and the Renewal Projects of the City Administration*, Enzo Lo Dato, Executive Director of the Sicilian Renaissance Institute, describes events that took place in Palermo in the

1990s. The purpose of the article is to show how different people and different cultures fight against corruption.

Under the "Region" headline authors discuss the case of corruption uncovered by the Liberty Institute's regional office at the Rustavi Orphanage where all funds and resources intended for the children were expended by the head of the orphanage for her private purposes.

The children in the orphanage also suffered from enormous moral and physical terror from the orphanage administration.

The newsletter features

its regular questionnaire, but this time it focuses on corruption. Citizens can reveal cases of corruption in their regions by completing the questionnaire and submitting it to the Liberty Institute, which will take adequate steps and involve relevant public agencies to stop these practices.

The Liberty Institute intends to continue its anti-corruption campaign through publishing activities. The newsletter will regularly cover corruption-related issues and the successful experiences of other countries in addressing this problem.

Corruption charges brought against orphanage director



The Prosecutors' Office of Georgia has initiated a criminal case against Ms. Irene Imerlishvili, Director of the Rustavi Orphanage, after representatives of the Liberty Institute revealed the corruption and the psychological terror that had been inflicted upon children by the Director.

The Liberty Institute held a press conference in its Rustavi office, which was followed by a visit to the orphanage together with attending journalists.

Children of the orphanage told the journalists that Irene Imerlishvili, her son (a former police officer) and other employees of the orphanage often beat them. One of the children told how he was hit with a gun by one of the policemen in the office of the Director. Similar stories were told by other children and employees of

the orphanage.

In addition, it was discovered that the management of the orphanage misused funds allocated from the state budget and donations contributed from private persons. Boxes of new clothes were found in the cellar of the orphanage, while children were dressed in ragged and dirty clothes. Data in the children's registry was distorted and did not match the real number of children in the orphanage. Coverage of this case by

Rustavi 2 TV channel caused popular outrage. The Prosecutors' Office was immediately involved in the case, which was followed by the termination of the Director's authority by the Ministry of Education.

On December 19, 2003, the Liberty Institute held a roundtable meeting where it initiated the creation of a governing board for the orphanage.

Introducing IRIS staff

Maureen Donaghy, Program Manager



Maureen Donaghy

Maureen recently began working as a Program Manager for the Georgia Rule of Law Project from the IRIS headquarters in College Park, where she is also working projects concerning judicial reform in Peru. She has a

master's degree in international development from American University in Washington, DC where she focused on development management and policy and she also holds a bachelor's degree in

Comparative Government with a concentration in Women's Studies from Georgetown University. Before joining IRIS Maureen worked for several international NGOs based in the Washington, DC area.

IRIS Georgia's calendar of events – January 2004

Date	Events
Jan 8, 9	Green Wave radio program on Rustaveli and eastern Renaissance GYLA's town hall meeting in Gardabani on equality of spouses during divorce Ozurgeti Teachers Union's training for teachers on conducting Karl Popper debates
Jan 12, 13, 14	GYLA's town hall meeting in Dusheti; meeting with NGO's on freedom of religion GYLA's town hall meeting in Telavi; meeting with local NGOs on the right to property GYLA's town hall meeting in Bolnisi on women' rights Ozurgeti Teachers Union's Karl Popper debates on children's rights
Jan 15	GYLA's town hall meeting in Dusheti on the rights of detainees and witnesses GYLA's town hall meeting in Bakurtsikhe on family law and divorce Green Wave's radio program on the founding of Georgian liberalism – <i>Tergdaleulebi</i> Alfami's presentation of the film <i>Lonely Scenes of Freedom</i>
Jan 16, 17	GYLA's town hall meeting in Martkopi on children' rights GYLA's town hall meeting in Dvabzu on freedom of opinion and religion GYLA's town hall meeting in Kutaisi; meeting with local NGOs on the right to legal counsel Ozurgeti Teachers Union's movie demo and discussion on the rights to live and be brought up in a family
Jan 19	Liberty Institute's debates in Gori and Akhaltsikhe on the draft Law on Unjustified Property ICCC radio discussion on human rights and the Georgian culture
Jan 21	GYLA's town hall meeting in Lanchkhuti on the rights of detainees GYLA's town hall meeting in Gori on participating in decision making by local government Ozurgeti Teachers Union's Karl Popper debates on children's rights
Jan 22	GYLA's town hall meeting in Terjola on inheritance law Green Wave's radio program on the history of Georgia in the 13th-19th Centuries
Jan 23	AYEG's meeting with agency staff on healthcare issues Liberty Institute's debates in Telavi on the jury system Liberty Institute's debates in Poti on corruption and local self-governance Alfami's photo exhibition <i>The Victim</i> (through Jan 26)
Jan 24, 25	ICCC radio discussion on human rights and the Georgian culture Ozurgeti Teachers Union's movie demo and discussion on the rights to live and be brought up in a family Alfami's film demo, meetings and exhibition and booklet and postcard distribution in Kakheti
Jan 26	GYLA's town hall meeting in Lanchkhuti on family law AYEG's conference for businessmen involved in veterinary services (through Jan 27) ICCC radio discussion on human rights and the Georgian culture Ozurgeti Teachers Union's demonstration of a documentary
Jan 28	GYLA's town hall meeting in Bakurtsikhe on inheritance law GYLA's town hall meeting in Kumisi on minority rights GYLA's town hall meeting in Kareli on the right to property UNAG's site visits to Rustavi/Gardabani/Aktaklia, Karatakia, Karajala (through Jan 30) UNAG's workshops for Sakrebulo of Aktaklia, Karatakia, Karajala (through Jan 30) Liberty Institute's debates in Rustavi on the jury system Liberty Institute's debates in Kutaisi on the draft Law on Unjustified Property
Jan 29	Green Wave's radio program on Vazha Pshavela Institute of Law roundtable discussion on freedom of religion
Jan 31	ICCC radio discussion on human rights and Georgian culture Ozurgeti Teachers Union's theatrical performance

Editorial Policy

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