



# Inside IRIS Georgia

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### In this issue:

New PSAs from Internews	1
Burglary at Article 42	1
New publication from IRIS Georgia	1
Featuring IRIS grantee: The Institute of Law	2
Tuning in to Human Rights	2
Legal aid training for NGOs	3
New publication from GYLA	3
Second edition of FOI Guide published	3
IRIS Georgia calendar of events	4

*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.

## New PSAs Promote Understanding of Legal Rights



Citizens are free to provide or deny explanation to police

A series of IRIS-funded anticorruption and human rights public service announcements (PSAs) - "Know the Law and Be Protected"—were

broadcast on several TV channels during 2002-2003. IRIS will continue the project in the coming year and, together with its grantee Internews Georgia, has produced five new PSAs scheduled to air beginning in January 2004.

The new PSAs follow the style of previous PSAs but are slightly different. Topics of the new PSAs include the right to legal counsel, participation in

public administrative processes, rights during police searches, gender equality in inheritance and property issues, and the right to give or not to give explanations to police. IRIS staff, with US advertising expert Jerry Hunnicutt, helped Internews produce the PSAs. IRIS Georgia is confident that the new PSAs will help viewers better understand their legal rights and be as popular with Georgian citizens as the first set of PSAs.

## Project Data among Losses from Burglary at Article 42



On the night of October 28, 2003, several unidentified persons robbed the office of Article

42 of the Constitution, where IRIS funds a free legal aid project. The items stolen from the office were five computer processors. The project office was left with only one computer.

This burglary significantly undermines the operation of the project—all the

materials recorded in the stolen hard disks, including reports, motions, case descriptions, etc., were lost.

IRIS Georgia reacted to this incident by warning its grantees to improve their security practices and regularly back up computer data.

## Second edition of FOI Guide published

IRIS Georgia recently published the second edition of its Guide to Freedom of Information (FOI). Intended for journalists, NGOs, public servants and others, the Guide explains provisions of Chapter 3 of the General Administrative Code of Georgia in the form of questions and answers.

Unlike the earlier version, this edition addresses procedural issues experienced by NGOs, public servants and private citizens in the application of FOI provisions. These issues were identified with the help of IRIS grantees, including Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Liberty Institute and the

UN Association of Georgia.

The Guide is being distributed through IRIS Georgia's grantees. It is also available for download from IRIS Georgia Web site at: <http://www.iris.ge/en/resources.html> > *Research papers and guides.*

**Featuring IRIS grantee  
The Institute of Law**



*The Institute of Law*

In October 2003, IRIS awarded a one-year grant to the Institute of Law of the Georgian Academy of Science to draft fundamental Commentaries on the human rights provisions of the Georgian Constitution. Leading Georgian human rights lawyers will analyze each human rights–related article of the Georgian Constitution in light of concepts and doctrines developed by relevant international organizations, including the European Court of Human Rights.

While writing the commentaries, authors will hold monthly roundtables with representatives of the government, NGOs, universities and political

parties. One of the authors (of what will eventually be a formal publication) will present a report at each meeting.

Participants of the roundtables will consider issues that, on the one hand, are a matter of concern of the general public and, on the other hand, are particularly problematic for Georgia’s future. Other issues to be considered at the roundtables are draft laws and constitutional amendments, which are frequently initiated by different interest groups, are based on incorrect interpretation of the constitutional norms, and are directed at restricting constitutionally guaranteed rights and

freedoms. Thus, the Institute of Law project will serve as a permanent forum to address the most pressing human rights–related legislative issues in a timely and professional manner.

After each roundtable, the authors’ group will write analytical articles on the respective topic and publish them in various publications. The project also involves equipment donation for a reading room at the Institute of Law, in order to facilitate legal research and make reference books more available to a wider audience. The reading room will also be used for holding roundtables and discussions.

**Tuning in to Human Rights**



*Radio programs can cheaply and effectively reach a countrywide audience*

Of IRIS-Georgia's new grants program, "Human Rights are Part of Georgian Culture," two projects will use radio to highlight aspects of Georgian culture echoed by the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recent human rights court decisions. Radio programs can cheaply and effectively reach a countrywide audience, especially listeners in rural areas.

The International Center for Civil Culture (ICCC), in an eight-month

project, will tie events of well-known novel *Samoseli Pirveli* to different articles of the UN's Declaration of Human Rights, such as equality before the law and the right to freedom of movement. Radio clips will also be broadcast recalling the works of Georgian writers and their campaigns for personal dignity and freedom.

Radio Green Wave, in a 12-month project, will also broadcast programs and clips, portraying Georgian historical

events and famous figures as periods and heroes that have characterized human rights values, such as Ilya Chavchavadze, and the concept of *tergdaleulebi*. Each week, a 45-minute program will be aired on a Georgian historical or cultural aspect that takes into consideration current events in the country concerning human rights. Green Wave will also produce and broadcast daily clips with quotations on liberalism and democracy from famous Georgian figures.

## Legal aid training for NGOs



Joe Dailing's presentation

In October 2003, IRIS Georgia, together with its visiting legal aid expert Joe Dailing, organized training and a roundtable for attorneys and management staff of Georgian legal aid centers. Topics for the training and roundtable were selected based on the initial assessment by Mr. Dailing of the work and

management structures of legal aid centers funded by IRIS Georgia, as well as on the interviews with representatives of these organizations.

On October 18, IRIS Georgia conducted training in legal aid and case management information systems in the Tbilisi office of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA).

The training session primarily focused on the benefits of an integrated case management system, case management systems used in the US,

and discussion of the types of information a local case management system should contain to best respond to local needs. Training was primarily conducted for IRIS Georgia-funded legal aid centers, with the participation of ABA/CEELI-funded project of Article 42.

IRIS Georgia also held a roundtable on organizing effective legal aid with a broader spectrum of Georgian legal aid organizations, such as Union 21st Century, Justice and Liberty, Center for the Defense of

Constitutional Rights, Article 42 and GYLA, with Liberty Institute staff involved in fact-finding activities.

The roundtable served as a forum for interactive discussions on issues of utmost importance to the effective management of legal aid organizations, such as organizational structure and its relation to its mission statement, management of human and material resources, collaboration with similar organizations, accountability to donor organizations and effective public relations.

## New publication from GYLA

The Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, with the financial support of IRIS Georgia, recently published the textbook *Liberty and Security of a Person*, based on Article 5 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The material includes:

- An overview of the Convention and other international documents regarding liberty and security of the individual;
- An analysis of practice of the

European Court of Human Rights regarding detention and other related issues;

- An analysis of practice of the European Court of Human Rights in the area of protecting liberty and security of the individual;
- Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights based on Article 5 of the Convention (19 cases).

GYLA published 500 copies of the textbook.

## IRIS Georgia prepares Conference transcripts

IRIS Georgia recently published a booklet of transcripts of the Conference on Constitutional Court Legislation and Practice, held in May 2002. The 150-page booklet documents presentations and discussions of 40 participants at the two-day meeting. These conference materials should be extremely useful for those interested in constitutional review and the function of the Constitutional Court of Georgia. The conference generated many recommendations for further development

of constitutional justice in the country. The record of live and dynamic debate also helps keep the spirit of the conference alive, which makes reading the text both academically informative and enjoyable.

The manuscripts are also available for download from the IRIS Georgia website at: <http://www.iris.ge/en/resources.html> > Other.

**Introducing IRIS Georgia staff**  
**Maia Kopaleishvili, Staff Attorney**



Maia Kopaleishvili

Maia works with IRIS grantee UNAG on the implementation of FOI provisions and coordinates IRIS activities under Task 3: More Open and Transparent Administrative Processes.

Maia has a law degree from Tbilisi State University. In addition, she has completed a number of post-graduate courses abroad. Before the Rule of Law program, Maia had worked at private firms,

government agencies, and Tbilisi State University.

A native Georgian, Maia speaks Russian and German.

**IRIS Georgia’s calendar of events – November 2003**

Date	Events
Nov 3, 4	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Shindisi GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Gardabani
Nov 5, 6	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Laituri GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visits to Abisi and Ananuri Green Wave’s radio program on Christianity as preacher of tolerance and charity
Nov 7, 10	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Sakulia GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to IDP community
Nov 11	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Tsagvli, Mleta and Martani Liberty Institute’s press club session: "Facts of Human Rights violations during pre-election campaign and voting process"
Nov 12	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Naruja GYLA’s town hall meeting in Dvabzu on Article 42 of the Georgian Constitution
Nov 13	Liberty Institute’s roundtable discussion in Gori: "Facts of Human Rights violations during pre-election campaign and voting process in Shida Kartli" Green Wave’s radio program "History of Georgia and VI century B.C. (Settlement of Jews in Georgia) to XI century"
Nov 14	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Doesi and Kistauri GYLA’s town hall meeting in Gori on human rights
Nov 17	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to IDP community
Nov 18	GYLA’s town hall meeting in Tamarisi on the right to health GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Sagarejo Liberty Institute’s roundtable discussion in Poti: "Facts of Human Rights violations during pre-election campaign and voting process in Imereti region"
Nov 19	GYLA’s town hall meeting in Gori on freedom of religion GYLA’s town hall meeting in Natanebi on the European Convention of Human Rights GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Chineti
Nov 20	AYEG’s conference for entrepreneurs working on the production of food and tobacco Green Wave’s radio program on Ilia Chavchavadze GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Kvareli GYLA’s town hall meeting in Poti on women’s rights
Nov 21	GYLA’s workshop on the Criminal Procedures Code (through Nov 23) GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Koda
Nov 24	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to IDP community GYLA’s town hall meeting in Tsereteli on freedom of information Internews’s documentary on the right to legal counsel will be aired on Rustavi 2 TV channel
Nov 25	GYLA’s town hall meeting in Zugdidi on human rights Institute of Law’s roundtable "Human Dignity, as the main and fundamental right"
Nov 26	GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Jumati
Nov 27	GYLA’s town hall meeting in Telavi on the right to health AYEG’s conference for entrepreneurs working on the production of food and tobacco Green Wave’s radio program on Georgian Folklore and traditions
Nov 28	GYLA’s town hall meeting in Tskaltubo on children’s rights GYLA’s mobile legal aid clinic visit to Pasanauri GYLA’s roundtable on freedom of religion/presentation of GYLA Guidebook

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