



კოალიცია
დამოუკიდებელი
და გამჭვირვალე
მართლმსაჯულებისთვის
Coalition for
an Independent and
Transparent Judiciary

The Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary Welcomes Parliament's Decision on Draft Law on Jury Trial

On 1 May, the Parliament of Georgia once again debated the draft law concerning the right of an accused person to refuse a jury trial and providing such a possibility only in the event the parties agree on that. This draft law was returned to the legislative body after it had been vetoed by the President. Member organizations of the Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary also had remarks concerning the draft law, which were repeatedly expressed.¹ Representatives of non-governmental organizations called on the parliament of Georgia not to support the initiated amendment and to preserve the right of an accused person to refuse jury trial on the basis of substantiated motion.

On 1 May, the parliament of Georgia once again returned to the consideration of the draft law. The legislature did not endorse either the remarks of the President or the draft law and consequently, the norm existing in the Criminal Procedures Code remained in force.²

The effective norm provides a possibility for an accused person to decide whether or not his/her case will be heard by jurors. An accused person also retains the right to submit a substantiated motion to a court to reject the jury trial.

Keeping the effective norm in force by the parliament of Georgia is a clearly positive step. Organizations who sign this statement welcome the decision of the legislative body, having accommodated comments that were made in relation to the draft law and ensured a legislative guarantee for the protection of interests of an accused person.

Deputy Chairman of Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary

Coalition Members:

Article 42 of the Constitution
Multinational Georgia
Solidarity to Illegal Prisoners
Georgia Small and Medium
Enterprise Association
Civil Integration Foundation
Georgian Lawyers for
Independent Profession
Liberal
Center for Protection of
Constitutional Rights
International Society for Fair
Elections and Democracy
Association Green Wave
The Union "21 Century"
Georgian Young Lawyer's
Association Human Right
Center
Transparency International
Union of Meskhetian Democrats
Liberty Institute
Georgia Bar Association
Civil Development Agency
United Nations Association of
Georgia
The European Law Students'
Association
Civil Society Institute
Open Society Georgia
Foundation
Institute of Democracy
American Chamber of
Commerce
Association of Civic Initiatives
and Employees Defense
Eurasia Partnership Foundation
Institute of Development of
Freedom of Information
Human Rights Priority
Tbilisi Media Club
Human Rights Education and
Monitoring Centre
Foundation for the Support of
Legal Education

¹ http://www.coalition.org.ge/article_files/152

² http://parliament.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3484%3A2013-05-01-23-23-18&catid=2%3Anews&Itemid=433&lang=ge

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