

# **PRESS-RELEASE on 26 of June, 2009, the V Conference “Together Against Torture”**

We Have to Implement UN CAT Articles, Istanbul Protocol, and OP CAT, as well as Principles of International Humanitarian Law

On 26 of June, 2009, the V Conference “Together Against Torture” was held at the Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel, Conference Hall “Lile”, 20 Telavi Street, Tbilisi ·  
Conference organizers were:

Public Defender of Georgia and “Empathy”, The Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture (RCT/EMPATHY, Georgia); several other NGOs were co – organized this event.

Co – organizers were Georgian Medical Association (GMA) and Penal Reform International (PRI), as well as Georgian Centre for psycho – Social and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT) and Young Lawyers’ association (GYLA).

The Conference was held within the Program of the RCT/EMPATHY “Strengthening the System of Rehabilitation of Torture Victims in Georgia”, and Memorandum of Collaboration (Public Defender of Georgia and RCT/EMPATHY, Georgia)

Financial support of the program is provided by the European Union, . United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and IRCT Centre Support Grant.

Information support was provided by:

- International Rehabilitation Council for Victims of Torture (Copenhagen, Denmark).
- Public Broadcasting of Georgia

The real materials, special reports of the Public Defender and the Centre “EMPATHY” with specific facts on Consequences of War in Georgia; As well as the special report of the Young Lawyers’ Association on Implementation of Anti- Torture Plan of Actions in Georgia; The Memorandum of Collaboration signed by the Public Defender and RCT/EMPATHY was presented as well, that presents the Model of NPM in Georgia; The strategy of governmental agencies toward to war victims and victims of ethnic cleansing was presented by the Ministry of Health of Georgia; The situation on implementation of OP CAT in Georgia was reviewed as well; and the Fifth Declaration “Together Against Torture” - We Have to Implement UN CAT Articles, Istanbul Protocol, and OP CAT, as well as principles of International Humanitarian Law

-that includes notes and recommendations for the Government and Parliament in relation to prohibition of torture and was approved at the Conference and sent to Mr. Michael Saakashvili, the President of Georgia; Mr. David Bakradze the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia; and Mr. Nika Gilauri, the Prime Minister of Georgia.

An exhibition-sale of artworks by victims of torture and ethnic cleansing was organized during the Conference too.

The specific publications were distributed during the conference as well.

The IRCT Video Clip was circulated during the Day at the Public Broadcasting of Georgia; The Conference was reviewed during the News, special interviews with Public Defender, RCT/EMPATHY Director was presented by the Channels: Rustavi 2, Imedi, Public Broadcasting of Georgia.

70 representatives from Governmental and Non Governmental organizations, as well as international and intergovernmental agencies were participating in this Conference.