**Press-Release 31/10/2019**

**Litigation between State Regulation Agency for Medical Activities and Non-Governmental Organization RCT/Empathy**

**Today, at 17.00 in the Administrative Cases Panel of Tbilisi City Court will be held the second trial between the State Regulation Agency for Medical Activities and the NGO RCT/Empathy. The Agency claims the RCT/Empathy in violation of state licensing conditions, what is absurd in itself, because in the legal basis the Agency refers to the conditions intended to inpatient facilities. The RCT/Empathy has never had inpatient facility license.**

**The previous trial was held in 15/10/2019. The Agency didn’t attend the trial, but despite this fact, the trial was held and adjourned at the request of the judge Valeriane Filishvili, who asked for time to clarify the issue.**

**The RCT/Empathy carries out advocacy, including forensic medical expertise in various high-profile cases, namely, in relation to the occupied territories, Tatunashvili and Kvaratskhelia cases, alleged cases of torture by police, politically motivated torture cases, also June 20-21 “Gavrilov Night” victims’ cases. The RCT/Empathy is the only non-governmental, non-profit organization, that holds forensic medical and forensic psychiatric licenses and documents cases of inhuman treatment in accordance with international standards (Istanbul Protocol, Minnesota Protocol). We believe that this fact has become the basis for the motivated prosecution of the NGO center “Empathy”. Our lawyer, Mr. Giga Lemonjava and the representative of NGO GDI, Mr. Eduard Marikashvili, defend the RCT/Empathy’s interests in the court.**

**RCT/Empathy**

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