**Press Release 12/12/2019**

**The NGO Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture RCT/Empathy responds to the current situation in The Parliament of Georgia on the issue of life-long judge appointments and declares the following:**

**It causes our deep concern that the violence towards political opponents, civil activists and journalists is in progress, people are being arrested on political grounds; journalists are banished from venues and treated improperly.**

**We believe that amid such a political crisis, the process of life-long appointment of judges should be stopped immediately.**

**The judges, selected and chosen by only one political group cannot be legitimate for the citizens of Georgia on the whole.**

**At the same time, we apply to diplomatic representatives on international community in Georgia and ask them**

**. To intervene towards the ruling political force rapidly and establish the format of negotiations on reformation of court system in Georgia**

**. To urge the ruling party to stop the process of life-long judge appointment till the end of the negotiations.**

**RCT/Empathy,**

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