

# საქართველოს ახალგაზრდა იურისტთა ასოციაცია GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION



## NGOs' Address to Victimized Prisoners and Members of their Families

Following the October 2012 elections public has been expecting objective investigation of acts of torture and inhuman treatment in the penitentiary system, which would serve as a precondition for elimination of torture in Georgian prisons. The expectation was further reinforced by solid promises made by the authorities and the government about launching the investigation. Nevertheless, public is still unaware of the intensity of the investigation, as well as the indicators of how effective it has been.

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Therefore, on February 4, 2013, NGOs released a statement calling for identification of acts of torture and inhuman treatment in prisons and making of concrete and efficient steps for their effective investigation.

NGOs would like to address prisoners who fell victims to torture, former prisoners, probationers and members of their family, calling for their active involvement for restoring their violated rights and dignity.

For the effective investigation of acts of torture and ill-treatment, it is crucial that any traces of violence are documented in a timely manner. Although investigating authorities should document torture during investigation, traces of torture and violence (both physical, mental and psychological) may weaken and disappear, which will further complicate documenting acts of torture in the future. Therefore, you should apply to an independent forensic, psychological and medical institutions (both mental and somatic healthcare), for timely description and documenting of existing traces of torture and violence.

We all understand that these services are not free of charge but require making of certain financial expanses; however, this may serve as grounds for legal and medical rehabilitation and material compensation. We stand ready to provide an assistance and contribute to fair resolution of the problem.

*Georgian Center for Rehabilitation and Torture (GCRT)*

*Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)*

*Global Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP)*

*Penal Reform International (PRI)*

*Youth for Justice*

*Coalition for Civil Development*

*Public Defender*

*Article 42 of the Constitution*