



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL RELEASES THE GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER 2007

- **Judiciary remains most corrupt institution as education, police, tax administration, and medical services all worsen**

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Tbilisi, Georgia – Berlin-based Transparency International, the global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption, has published the results of the Global Corruption Barometer. The Barometer, which surveys 63,199 respondents in 60 countries, offers a broad spectrum of data on common experiences of corruption, including which institutions most frequently demand bribes, where citizens see the greatest degree of corruption, and how they see both the future development of corruption and their governments' efforts to eradicate it. The Barometer ranks institutions from most to least corrupt.

In Georgia, the judiciary remained on the top of the list as least trusted state institution while religious bodies remained on the bottom as most trusted. The most significant improvement was observed in the area of licensing and permits, which moved from eighth in 2005 to eleventh in 2007 (lower rank means less corruption). This puts registry and permits above NGOs and media. More positive assessment was given to the tax administration as well. It moved from fifth in 2005 to eighth in 2007.

Three institutions slid backwards from 2005, the most recent Barometer. Education, previously ninth on the list now places fifth most corrupt. Police also worsened from tenth to sixth, and medical services dropped from seventh to fourth place.

Corruption Level

Respondents showed less certainty about the possibility of the corruption situation improving in the coming three years. In 2005, 38% of respondents said that corruption would decrease, while in 2007 33% gave the same answer. Similarly, in 2005 only 8% said that corruption levels would increase over the next three years in comparison with 20% in 2007.

Over the past four years, the number of Georgians that think corruption would increase in the next three years has been increasing. At the same time, the number of those that think corruption would decrease in the coming three years has been decreasing steadily.

Assessment of Anticorruption Campaign

In 2007, Thirty four percent of respondents assessed the government's anticorruption campaign as very or somewhat effective (7% very effective and 27% somewhat effective), 21% said that it was neither effective nor ineffective, and 29% said that it was very or somewhat ineffective (somewhat ineffective 19% and very ineffective 10%). Seventeen percent gave no response.

Methodology

The Global Corruption Barometer 2007 from Georgia was conducted by the Caucasus Research Resource Center on behalf of Transparency International. The survey was conducted face to face in urban areas. Three thousand forty-one respondents eighteen years old or older were interviewed. Field work was conducted from October 7, 2007 to October 31, 2007.

Transparency International Georgia

Transparency International Georgia (TI Georgia), a national chapter of Transparency International, was established on 7 May 2000 as a local non-governmental organization committed to combating corruption in Georgia through the promotion of transparency and accountability. Our mission is to serve as the primary source of information on corruption reform in Georgia, assist the Georgian Government and the broader public in facilitating reform in sectors where corruption exists, and build and strengthen institutions. To fulfill this mission, TI Georgia: establishes programmatic activities that target structural corruption in specific sectors; promotes access of local populations to information on existing problems

and changes initiated to address these problems; encourages input on reform from local and international experts; assists the Government in drafting policy; and produces analysis and public policy recommendations on current activities and on future reform.

Transparency International Secretariat

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption. It brings together civil society, business, and governments in a powerful global coalition. TI, through its International Secretariat and more than 90 independent national chapters around the world, works to stem both the supply and demand of corruption at the local, national, and international levels. In the international arena, TI raises awareness about the damaging effects of corruption, advocates policy reform, works towards the implementation of multilateral conventions, and monitors compliance by governments, corporations, and banks. At the national level, chapters work to increase levels of accountability and transparency, monitoring the performance of key institutions and pressing for necessary reforms in a non-partisan manner.

For more information about the GCB and Transparency International's other research, visit www.transparency.ge.

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