



ISFED

May 26, 2011

Statement of International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy Regarding the Dispersal of the Protest Rally on May 26

International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) responds to the dispersal of rally participants on Rustaveli Ave. by the forces of Ministry of Internal Affairs on May 26. The organization believes that during the dispersal of the rally excessive force was used, particularly by beating the rally participants and by preventing journalists from properly performing their professional duties.

ISFED considers both Government of Georgia and rally organizers to be responsible for the occurred. Therefore, we believe, that the unlawful acts of both representatives of riot police and rally participants should be investigated completely and objectively. All delinquents should be charged according to adequate measures foreseen in the law.

We believe that peaceful development of events is of utmost importance today. Due to this, ISFED calls to:

Government – to investigate the delinquencies in a timely, objective and impartial manner; the measures used against the offenders to be adequate to their unlawful actions; further groundless chase and threatening of the rally participants not to be carried out;

Mass Media – to provide the precise, objective and within the norms of Journalist Ethics Charter coverage of the rally, its dispersal and further developments, since during the rally inaccurate and incomplete coverage was observed to be carried out by certain media sources;

Citizens – for their further actions to be peaceful and in full accordance to the law;

Rally organizers – for their further statements and actions not to be against the requirements set forth by the Constitution of Georgia and other normative acts.

International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy expresses condolences to the families of the deceased during the dispersal of the rally.

**International Society for Fair Elections
and Democracy**

**Address: 7 Vazha-Pshavela Ave.
0160 Tbilisi, Georgia**

**Tel: (995 32) 98 39 98
Fax: (995 32) 37 22 13**

**E-mail: info@isfed.ge
Website: www.isfed.ge**