



Election Update IV (May 10- 20)

The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy continues monitoring of pre-election period for local self-governmental elections and by-elections of Parliament of Georgia to be held on May 30, 2010. In the fourth edition of electronic bulletin of "Election update" ISFED presents the monitoring findings by May 20, 2010.

Registration of electoral subjects and observers

For present the registration of electoral subjects is over. The deadline for registration of observer organizations was May 20. By that time 32 local election monitoring organizations registered at the Central Election Commission:

1. "New Generation – New Initiative";
2. "International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy";
3. Fund "Association of Help of the Disabled Persons"
4. Georgian Young Lawyers' Association";
5. Legislative Development Society;
6. Transparency International– Georgia;
7. " Center of Democracy";
8. Association " Academy for Peace and Development";
9. Society " Batumeli";
10. Public Movement – Multinational Georgia;
11. International Organization for Truth and Law, Oppressed and Prisoners Rights' Protection and Social Insurance;
12. Association for Free Development and Protection of Rights;
13. "Healthy Universe";
14. "International Centre of Civil culture";
15. "Free Choice";
16. "Society for Cooperation with Europe";
17. "Eurasian International Commonwealth;
18. Non commercial legal entity " Center for Democracy and Freedom";
19. "National Centre of Cooperation Development of Non-Governmental Sector and the Government";
20. Professional Union of Workers and Students for Professional Education and Preparation of Qualified Staff of Georgia;
21. International Union of Human Rights Protection and Assistance "Ndoba"
22. Registered Union "Youth Republican Institute"
23. Registered Union " Youth Movement- Our Generation"
24. Association of Georgian Armenians " Nor Serund"
25. Association of Professional Unions of Georgia
26. " Center for Human Rights"

**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**



ISFED

27. Association “ Justice and Freedom”
28. “ Alliance of Public Initiatives”
29. “ National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia”
30. “Youth for Future”;
31. “Union for Fight against Economical Crimes, Corruption and Smuggling”;
32. “Coalition for Independent Living”.

And 22 international organizations:

1. European Centre for Minority Issues (only in # 24 Dmanisi Election District);
2. Georgian National Representation of International Society of Human Rights;
3. OSCE/ODIHR;
4. British Embassy to Georgia;
5. American Centre for International Labour Solidarity;
6. International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES);
7. United States Embassy to Georgia;
8. Embassy of Estonia to Georgia;
9. Embassy of France to Georgia;
10. Office of Special EU Representative in South Caucasus;
11. EU European Commission;
12. State Institute - Eastern European Training Center;
13. Baltic to Black Sea Alliance;
14. International Republican Institute (IRI);
15. Embassy of Italy to Georgia;
16. Central Commission on Election and Referenda (CEC) of the Republic of Belarus;
17. EU Congress of Local and regional authorities;
18. Central Election Commission of Bulgaria;
19. Central Election Commission of Latvia;
20. Central Election Commission of Ukraine;
21. Central Election Commission of Armenia;
22. Association of United States of American and Caucasus for Democracy and Peace.

**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**



ISFED

Election Administration

In the monitoring period 73 long-term observers of ISFED have been monitoring the pre-election period in 73 electoral districts of Georgia. 1 observer monitored the Central Elections Commission.

In the monitoring period (May 10-20) the Central Election Commission: 1. deliberated and adopted the respective decisions regarding complaints submitted by political parties and observer organizations. In this period 18 complaints have been submitted to the Central Election Commission;¹ 2. Discussed and adopted the respective decisions regarding allocating additional funding to the District Election Commissions. CEC allocated additional 200 000 GEL which will be evenly distributed among every District Election Commission³ 3. Registering local and international observation organizations; 4. Starting printing the voting ballots. CEC offered every observation organization to monitor the process of printing voting ballots. Six printing houses are publishing the ballots: “ Politransi”, “ Saari”, “MVP”, “ Kechera”, “ Komi” and “Kabadoni +”.²

No later than 20th day prior to the election³ was the last date for entering the necessary data into the voting ballots for majoritarian elections of Sakrebulo (number of candidates, first name, last name, nominating party/ electoral block) by the District Election Commissions. Respectively, on May 10, every District Election Commission completed entering the above-mentioned data into the voting ballots.

The Code of Ethics of Election Administration

On 13:00 on May 15, the members of the central, district and precinct election commissions all over Georgia simultaneously signed the Code of Ethics. By signing the Code of Ethics the Chairmen and members of the central, district and precinct election commissions that they will be guided by the law and respect it. According to the Central Election Commission 48 064 members of the election administration signed the Code of Ethics.⁴

On May 15-16 ISFED’s Long-Term Observers checked whether every member of district and precinct election commission signed the Code of Ethics. According to the findings, the commissions’ members from the “Labor Party of Georgia” did not sign the Code of Ethic countrywide. Out of checked 515 election precinct the Code of Ethics was posted at 462 election precincts. The Code of Ethics was not posted at 49 election precincts. On May 15, the members of precinct election commissions of # 14 **Dedoplistskaro**, # 63 **Abasha**, and # 70 **Poti election** districts did not sign the Code of Ethics.

¹ Data from the web-page of the Central Election Commission (www.cec.gov.ge)

² ISFED is not observing the process of printing the voting ballots

³ Paragraph 3 of Article 122 of the Election Code of Georgia

⁴ http://www.cec.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=13&info_id=6558

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



ISFED

Voters' Lists

ISFED's Long-Term Observers obtained from the district election commission countrywide the number of voters in election districts who: 1) in their identification cards have notification "without address"; 2) upon the application of the owners' of the apartments have been revoked their registration" 3) Based on May 2 decree of the Central Election Commissions have themselves registered at respective district election commission for participating in May 30 elections.

According to the information provided from the election districts, the total number of voters without addresses is **41 884**, the total number of voters with revoked registration is **11 470**, and the total number of voters who reregistered in the respective election districts is **189**.

Campaign Environment

During the monitoring period, political parties/their majoritarian candidates and mayoral candidates participating in the upcoming elections have been conducting pre-election campaign in various regions of Georgia. "United National Movement", "Christian-Democratic Movement" and "Alliance for Georgia" have been most active in terms of pre-election campaigning.

None of ISFED's Long-Term Observer experienced problems from electoral subjects in any of election districts during conducting the pre-election monitoring, but in # **69 Chkhorotsku** election district the majoritarian candidates of most political parties said to ISFED's Long-Term Observer that the time-table of their meeting with the voters is not the public information. It is confusing to ISFED on what such approach is based.

In the monitoring process ISFED's Long Term Observers observed the following facts:

Pressure

On May 14, Nazi Salukvadze, the Head of Election Staff of National Council in village Melekeduri in Ozurgeti District, addressed with statement to the # **60 Ozurgeti** Election District Commission. According to Salukvadze, the Acting Gangebeli of Ozurgeti Municipality Mamia Baramidze intimidated her via the telephone conversatio. Besides the statement, Salukvadze submitted the recording of the above-mentioned telephone conversation, with the fact of intimidation. After the deliberation the District Election Commission announced that if they would have the confirmed facts, they would react. ISFED believes that Ozurgeti District Election did not investigate properly the above-mentioned fact and adopted biased decision.

The Chairman of # **25 Zemo Magharo** Precinct Election Commission of # **13 Sighnagi** District Commission intimidated the member of the same commission appointed by the Republican Party. The Chairman threatened the member not to publicize the errors in the voters' lists which this member discovered (126 voters of # **26 Magharo** election precinct have been included in the voters' list of # **25 Magharo** election precinct).

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



In # **12 Gurjaani** election district, the employee of Gamgeoba of local Municipality Tamaz Abramishvili (on leave) and the representative of Gurjaani election staff of “United National Movement” was fired for interfering with journalist’s professional activities. Abramishvili, interfered illegally with the professional activities of Tamar Kviriashvili, the Correspondent of Kakheti Information Center. The journalist was filming the public servants leaving the premises of the headquarters of “United National Movement” who are not on leave, when Abramishvili verbally assaulted and attempted to abuse physically her. The journalist was forced to leave the territory of the headquarters. According to her “she managed to film Lela Javakhishvili, Acting Head of the Staff of Gamgeoba, leaving the headquarters of “United National Movement”. Also near the headquarters there were parked the cars belonging to the state organization and still used by the candidates. When they saw that I filmed all these facts, I was not allowed to continue filming”. ISFED’s Long Term Observer met with Kakha Mosulishvili, the Chairman of staff of “United National Movement”, who confirmed the fact of incident and said it was caused by personal motives. Gela Mtvlishvili (the Head of Information Center) denies the existence of any personal motives, as the journalist does not have any relations with Abramishvili. ISFED call every electoral subject to respect free media and refrain from intimidating their representatives.

Use of Administrative Resources

In # **2 Vake** election district, in the reading hall of the library located on # **24 I. Chavchavadze Street** the headquarters of “United National Movement” is located. Though the staff of the library continues to work, but because of the fact of locating the headquarters of “United National Movement” in the reading hall, it is not functioning. According to the Head of the Library, the reading hall will be functioning again in its capacity after the elections.

In # **11 Akhmeta** election district, in Atskuri secondary school the headquarters of “United National Movement” is located. In the same school # **9** election precinct is located. The school director is the majoritarian candidate of “United National Movement” in village Khodasheni, which together with village Atskuri constitute the same majoritarian district. The school director is engaged in the pre-election campaign, and the acting school director is the father of the Head of Staff of Gamgeoba of Municipality. The acting school director is meeting with the school students and calling them to vote for “United National Movement” and its candidate.

According to Z. Endzeladze, the Head of local office of the “National Council” in # **52 Bagdati** election district, in village Pirveli Obcha Tinatin Nemsadze, the majoritarian candidate of “United National Movement” accompanies the tractor which is cultivating the lands of local villagers and says that that “United National Movement” allocated the tractor to the village. If the voter is not the supporter of “United National Movement” his land is not cultivated. Rozeta Pataridze, the majoritarian candidate of the “National Council” in the same village, confirms the fact, as the tractor was taken away from her yard and her land was not cultivated. Such fact was observed in # **54 Samtredia** election district, though the local population avoids talking about this fact.



In # **44 Amrolauri** election district, in early May the National Council addressed the Head of Local Resource Center (now the majoritarian candidate from “United National Movement”) with a request for holding the pre-election meeting with voters at the school building. The Head said that none of the party will be allowed to hold the pre-election meetings at the schools. Though, on May 13, K. Japharidze, the majoritarian candidate of “United National Movement” held the meeting with the teachers of # 2 secondary school in the school yard. Regarding this fact he said that the meeting took place only on the school yard and not in the school building. Noteworthy, the school yard belongs to the school and it is not proper to view it separately.

In # **58 Tskaltubo** election district the Republican Party contacted ISFED’s Long Term Observer and informed that on the premises of # **50 Chuneshi** election precinct the headquarters of “United National Movement” is located. After the discovery of the fact the party left the building. The representative of ISFED visited the election precinct (on 17:30) and requested the Chairman of the Precinct Election Commission to show the registration journal. The Chairman told that the journal was not at the election precinct as the secretary of the commission took it home. ISFED considers that by doing so the secretary of the precinct election commission violated his/her duties. Herewith, it is evident that the Chairman of the Precinct Election Commission did not properly fulfill his duties and the administrative sections should be applied to him according to Paragraph 1 of Article 37¹ and Paragraph 4 of Article 39 of the Elections Code of Georgia. As, Sub-paragraph “A” of Paragraph 1 of Article 39 and Sub-paragraph “D” of Paragraph 1 of Article 39 of the Elections Code of Georgia, a Chairman of Precinct Election Commission has full administrative responsibility at the district election commission and he personally is responsible for keeping the election documentation, including the registration journal.

On May 16, in # **70 Poti** election district, in Poti city center, the Federation of Automobile Sport Federation held the auto race. The event was attended by the representatives of Poti government, the majoritarian candidates and the representatives of party list of “United National Movement”. Noteworthy, the race was held under the auspices of “United National Movement” as at the location of start the big poster “I love Poti” and number 5 was posted.⁵ ISFED calls the election administration to investigate this fact and if the cost of making billboard was covered out Poti local budget, based on Paragraph 3 of Article 76 of the Elections Code of Georgia; according to Article 76² of the same Code the respective violators from the local government should be fined.

In the pre-election period in Tbilisi and other cities the cases of posting the pre-election agitation materials on the residential houses were observed. It is a prerogative of “councils” of the residential houses to adopt a decision of allowing posting the pre-election agitation materials on their territory and any instances of posting such materials should be agreed with them. ISFED checked such facts and tried to clarify whether there were agreement/contract between “councils” and electoral subjects. ISFED addressed “United National Movement” with the official letter regarding the contracts with “Councils”. By now ISFED has not received the response to the above-mentioned letter.

⁵ See the annex (photo)



ISFED checked the residential houses in Tbilisi and Kutaisi and presents the monitoring findings: in several cases according to the Chairpersons of “councils” the contracts between the “councils” and electoral subjects have been adopted. In several cases such contracts have not been adopted, and in most cases the chairpersons of the “councils” have not been informed about the necessity of adopting such contracts. For example, in # 5 **Isani** election district, in the main entrance of # 17 block of **Vazisubani** settlement, the poster of Zura Gachechiladze, the majoritarian candidate of “United National Movement” is posted; in the main entrance of # 5 block of **Vazisubani** settlement, the poster of Shota Khabareli, the majoritarian candidate of “Ivanishvili-Public Democrats” is posted. The respective contracts have not been adopted with the chairmen of the “councils”. In # 59 **Kutaisi** election district, in the main entrances of the blocks # 3, # 5, # 6, # 8, # 13, # 16, # 17, # 19 of **Bukhaidze Street** the posters of Taniel Meskhi, the majoritarian candidate of “United National Movements” are posted. Out of the chairpersons of these blocks, only the chairman of # 8 block said that she gave a verbal authorization for posting the poster of the party. As for the contracts, they have not been adopted with any of the “council” of these blocks.

Damaging of the Agitation Materials

The facts of damaging of agitation materials of electoral subjects have been observed in # 59 **Kutaisi**, # 60 **Ozurgeti**, # 62 **Chokhatauri**, # 70 **Poti** election districts. Namely:

On May 15, in # 59 **Kutaisi** election district, Vika Nakashidze, the majoritarian candidate of “Alliance for Georgia” in Nikea election district held the briefing regarding damaging of the pre-election agitation materials. According to her in the previous evening, on May 14, the party representatives posted the posters. The next day out of 300 posters only one was still remaining- near the police building.

In # 6 **Gogole** election precinct in # 62 **Chokhatauri** election district, in the village center, the posters of “Christian-Democratic Movement” were torn down 40 minutes after posting. On May 11, according to the Chairman of Chokhatauri representation of “Christian-Democratic Movement” the posters were torn down in village **Khidistavi** and **Moedana**.

On 01:00, on May 12 in # 60 **Ozurgeti** election district Lela Natsvaladze, the chair of Ozurgeti representation of National Council and the majoritarian candidate in # 1 election district damaged (tore down) the poster of “United National Movement” posted on the poll in front of her house. Khatuna Salukvadze, the representative of “United National Movement” submitted the complaint to # 60 **Ozurgeti** election district commission. The commission deliberated on the complaint and according Article 126¹⁹ of the Election Code of Georgia fined Natsvaladze in the amount of 1000 GEL. According to the Commission the poll is the state property and the law does not prohibit posting the agitation material on it. Natsvaladze did not sign the protocol and plans to appeal to the court.

ISFED calls the election administration, even if the complaint would not be lodged to the respective election district commission, the election administration should investigate such fact on its own



initiative. Respectively, according to the Article 126¹⁹ of the Election Code of Georgia, each electoral subject which will interfere with use of pre-election agitation material should bear the responsibility.

Other

On May 14, in # **14 Dedophtskaro election district**, David Alugashvili, the member of „Christian-Democratic Movement” verbally insulted Ilia Martkophishvili, journalist. The journalist submitted the complaint on physical assault. According to the representative of “Christian-Democratic Movement” he reacted upon the journalist’s dissemination of unsubstantiated information via internet. The local police opened a criminal investigation (Article 154 of the Criminal Code of Georgia) on interfering with conducting of the journalistic professional activities, though it did not proceed as the instance of physical assault could not be confirmed. ISFED’s Long Term Observer witnessed this incident.

Election administration representatives’ trainings

On May 20, at the training for the members of # **11** and # **13** precinct election commissions of # **11 Akhmeta** election district, Aleksande Jughashvili, the trainer of the Central Election Commission, provided incorrect information to the training participants. Namely, he said that on the Elections Day a voter upon leaving the voting booth should show to the people present at the polling station to which electoral subject he/she voted for.

In # **69 Chkorotsku** election district Valeri Gulua, the majoritarian candidate of “United National Movement” was at the same time the trainer for the commission members. Though, on May 13, after discovering of this fact, he renounced the position of the trainer.

Taken into account these two facts, ISFED casts a doubt the criteria of selection of trainers by the Central Election Commission. ISFED calls the Central Election Commission to remove immediately these people from the positions of trainers for the members of election administration and insure providing the correct information to the participants of the trainings conducted by the above-mentioned trainers.

International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy is continuing the pre-election period monitoring and will present the final report on pre-election monitoring one day prior to the election, on May 29, 2010.

Annex I

May 16, 2010. The auto race hold in Poti, with the poster "I love Poti" + 5



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



60 Ozurgeti election district. The agitation material posted on the traffic sign.



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



ISFED

Annex III

60 Ozurgeti election district. Election agitation material on the building of precinct election commission.



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