

26.07.2017

The appeal of Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform member organizations to the Georgian Authorities on the issue of abolishing the status of self-governing for the 7 Georgian self-governing city

Carrying out decentralization strategy and establishment of local self-government that fits European standards was the core aspect of the Association Agreement with the EU and of the local self-government reform. It was the first, important success of the self-government reform that the Self-Government Code was adopted and the first respectable progress was noted, with having 7 new self-governing cities that were in line with the reform strategy.

Self-Government reform was the single most successful reform that was liked and supported not only in Georgia, but among democratic institutions and states in Europe. To support the reform, enhance its abilities and increase the effectiveness of population inclusion, European and American institutions have supported numerous projects and have spend sizeable resources. Consequently, with the support of the Georgian society and Georgia's strategic partners, the process of establishing a new tyoe self-government system that fits with democratic standards had began. Further enhancment of self-government and bringing it closer to the population is only possible by pursuing it, increasing its intensity and depth.

It is alarming, that one of the most successful reforms of recent times and its results face existential threats, at the detriment of the interests of the Georgian population.

The decision of the Georgian Government and the Parliament, to stop or reject the continuation of the commenced reform, reject approximation of the self-government to the people and refusing to engage in dialogue with the population whether to abolish the status of the newly established 7 self-governing cities – cannot be supported and will be assessed as clearly a step backwards and in the process, it will also worsen the quality of democracy in the Country.

Furthermore, the Parliament planned hearing of President's veto, who has rejected the law adopted by the Parliament on abolishing the 7 self-governing cities.

Given the above-mentioned, we call upon Georgian authorities to revise its decision on abolishing the 7 self-governing cities, to continue the reform and to present the public its decentralization and self-government reform strategy.

Signatory Organizations:

1. Liberal Academy Tbilisi
2. The Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia
3. Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)
4. Europe Foundation
5. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
6. International Center of Geopolitical research
7. Int. Center for Civic Culture
8. Association "Green Alternative"
9. New Generation for Democratic Georgia
10. Article 42
11. Local Democracy Agency Georgia
12. Institute for Euro-Atlantic integration and strategic studies (
13. Save Future Generation
14. Multiethnic Resource Center for Civil Education
15. The Greens Movement of Georgia /Friends of Earth
16. Association School-Family-Society
17. Free Choice
18. Rural Communities Development Agency
19. Association "MERKURI"
20. Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Violence and Pronounced Stress Impact
– EMPATHY
21. Caucasus Environmental NGO network (CENN)
22. International Center for Democratic Initiatives
23. Georgia's Reforms Associates
24. Association for the Farmers' Rights Defence
25. Student Youth Council
26. Caucasus Mosaic
27. Teachers' Union "Education and Universe"
28. Democracy Development and Civil Society Center
29. Georgia International Development Agency
30. Repatriates Union
31. Georgian Tea Producers Association,, Georgian Tea”
32. Association “Atinati”
33. Youth Alternative
34. Partnership For Road Safety
35. Georgian Association Women and Business
36. Railway New Trade Union
37. Friendship Bridge- Kartlosi
38. Georgian Press Association
39. Georgian Press Association

40. Center for Development and Engagement
41. Association Peaceful and Business Caucasus
42. Peaceful and Business Caucasus
43. International Business and Economic Development Centre
44. Civil Forum for Peace
45. Association "Imedi" for Refuge Women's Peace Movement
46. Public Development Academy
47. Enterprise Innovation Development Center
48. Association "Droni"
49. Fund Caucasian Ecology
50. International Press Institute - Georgian national committee
51. IDP Association "Consent"