



## TI GEORGIA UNVEILS GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER 2005 RESULTS

9 December 2005, Tbilisi – Today, Transparency International Georgia unveiled the results of the 2005 Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) to mark International Anti-Corruption Day. According to the survey, progress has been made in those sectors that were targeted for reform, however, the overall rate of optimism regarding Georgia's future levels of corruption has dropped.

### 2005 BAROMETER IN GEORGIA

According to the Barometer, Georgians rated the following institutions as corrupt, in order of most to least corrupt: 1) Judiciary, 2) Customs, 3) Political Parties, 4) Tax Administration, 5) Medical Services, 6) Parliament, 7) Private Sector, 8) Registry and Permit Services, 9) Police, 10) Media, 11) Education, 12) Utilities, 13) NGOs, 14) Military, and 15) Religious Bodies.

In comparison with the results from last year's GCB survey, significant improvement was seen in perceptions of Police, which had previously been identified as the most corrupt institution. Improvements were sited in licensing and education sectors as well.

**The Judiciary is considered to be the most corrupt institution in Georgia, followed by Customs and Political Parties. Fifty-one percent of Georgians surveyed this year identified the Judiciary as the most problematic sector.** Unlike the second and third most corrupt sectors where the difference between the two is only one percent, the Judiciary is ahead of the second most corrupt sector, Customs, by as much as fourteen percent.

Religious bodies, NGOs, and the military continue to be considered the least corrupt institutions.

### BRIBERY

**Seven percent of respondents indicated that they or a family member had had to pay a bribe over the past 12 months.** This number has decreased compared to last year's results; however, the amount of the bribe has increased. Of the seven percent of respondents who said that they or their family members had paid bribes, twenty-seven percent paid more than \$1000. In sixty-one percent of cases, the bribe was directly requested.

### FUTURE OPTIMISM

Last year Georgia made the biggest leap in its perceptions about corruption and ranked as one of the three most optimistic countries in regards to eradicating corruption. This year optimism related to future decline of corruption has decreased by twenty-two percent. In 2004, sixty percent of respondents expected corruption levels to decrease over the next three years. According to the 2005 Barometer, only **thirty-eight percent** of respondents now believe that corruption levels will decrease over the next three years.

Part of the explanation for this decline can be attributed to the end of the post-revolution euphoria. However, in spite of benefits from some reforms, the public remains concerned about the consistency of the government's anti-corruption campaign.

**Those reforms that targeted specific sectors were well received by the general population, however, people recognize the need for future reforms.** It is especially problematic that the public sees the Judiciary as the most corrupt institution: in order to affect change democratically, Georgian citizens need to be able to count on the Judiciary as an effective instrument to challenge corruption.

*The Global Corruption Barometer is a public opinion survey, which assesses the general public's perceptions and experience of corruption. It is carried out by Gallup International through Georgian Opinion Research Business International (GORBI) based upon methodology developed by Transparency International.*