

[Translated by Transparency International, 28 Sept. 2010]
Supreme Court of Georgia

I have the honor to inform you that according to the new legislation, trial by jury is now being introduced into the Georgian courts. This is a very important change in the Georgian justice system and much more will be done to thoroughly inform you on it, than this humble letter.

In Georgia, as well as in the main part of civilized world, citizens themselves define the principles of fairness. The prosecutors, defense attorneys, professional judges and other people will participate in this process together with you.

We are not in a hurry, because we know such changes must be carried out step by step, so that citizens have no difficulty in understanding the essence of the changes and are actively involved in the process. This is why we would like to inform you that:

- At the first stage the jury court trial will start functioning only in Tbilisi and consider only the cases of murder committed in aggravating circumstances;
- Gradually the jury trial will be introduced throughout the whole country and consider all crimes entailing imprisonment;
- A juror can be a citizen of Georgia over 18 years of age, having no personal interest in the case;
- The jurors will be selected randomly from a unified list of the Georgian population ;
- 12 jurors will be selected for each court case;
- Jurors will hear the position of prosecutors and lawyers, explanations of the judge, study all evidence and will independently make a decision whether the person is guilty or not.
- Acquittal by the jury will be final and cannot be appealed;
- Jurors are protected by the State and any attempts at influencing the juror will be punished with the full severity of law.

We further plan to conduct an information campaign for several months and through this provide you with all the information on all relevant issues.

We are grateful for your attention. I will be happy to receive any questions and remarks you may have after reading this letter. Your opinions are very important to us.

Sincerely,

Konstantine Kublashvili

Chairman of the Supreme Court