

GEORGIA RULE OF LAW PROJECT

Quarterly Report

January 1, 2002 – March 31, 2002

USAID/Caucasus/Tbilisi

Contract # 114-C-00-01-00136-00

Strategic Objective 2.2

Presented by:

The IRIS Center at the University of Maryland

University Research Corporation International



**Quarterly Report
April-June 2002
Georgia Rule of Law
USAID Contract No. 114-C-00-01-00136-00**

Overview

Activities continued to increase during the second calendar quarter of 2002, as another grantee began activities, production began on the television and radio public information campaign, the staff expanded, and several consultants began their work. Adoption of the new Law on Licensing was a significant legislative success, and increased cooperation with the Constitutional Court, State Chancellery, and Public Defenders Office (Ombudswoman's Office) provided important new opportunities for implementation of a variety of projects.

Implementation Activities

In this report we provide a summary of the activities under each task carried out by IRIS Georgia and its grantees. Attached are the deliverables required under the work plan, listed by task and designated as provided either electronically or in hard copy, where electronic versions are unavailable.

Task 1: Raising Public Awareness, Raising Public Confidence

Activity Summary

This task is primarily performed by IRIS Georgia sub-grantees. The Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), the Liberty Institute (Liberty), and Internews Network (Internews) provide a variety of public information initiatives. During this quarter the advertising consultant hired by IRIS Georgia to assist Internews with its public service announcement campaign became very active.

Coordination continued to work well with the partners on this task. Liberty and GYLA worked together on the Internews projects, participating in the selection of topics, development of ideas, and providing legal advice. The twice-monthly meetings continued to provide IRIS Georgia and the partners the opportunity to monitor activities and promote ongoing cooperative efforts.

GYLA Activities

GYLA Tbilisi, Rustavi, Kutaisi and Gori offices all actively participated in both Tasks 1 and 2, as did the mobile legal clinic. The planned office in Telavi was delayed because of the difficulty in securing appropriate staff. GYLA has been actively working to solve this problem with staff from other offices visiting and providing consultations, and the training of the Telavi office staff members. The official opening of the Telavi office is now scheduled for September. During the quarter staff from the GYLA Tbilisi office visited the regions to identify potential partner NGOs for future activities.

Town hall meetings and community mobilization efforts were directed from the abovementioned offices and by the visits of the mobile clinic. During the quarter, the regional offices activities were heavily directed toward public awareness as they sought to inform the communities about the availability of GYLA legal services. There were a total of 26 town hall meetings, reaching almost 360 people directly. The mobile legal clinic visited 65 different locations and met with over 1100 people.

One of the primary activities of GYLA during the quarter was assisting individuals and organizations in their effort to obtain information from the government under Chapter 3, the Freedom of Information provisions, of the General Administrative Code. Over 20 different agencies were asked for information. In some cases GYLA consultants assisted applicants in preparation of FOI requests. GYLA's appeal, related to the refusal of the Tbilisi Mayor's Office of an FOI request, was decided successfully (This case is mentioned in the previous quarterly report).

GYLA prepared more than 30 different articles and advice columns (frequently asked questions) for Georgian newspapers during the quarter, and published numerous topical pamphlets. In April religion-related materials were collected and bound for round-table discussion. In May, a GYLA magazine (Almanakh #16) on several constitution-related issues was published.

Liberty Activities

Liberty organized three Press Club sessions during the quarter. They covered conscripts' rights, freedom of association, and the draft laws on religious organizations. The sessions were quite successful, with attendance averaging 35, including a wide range of participants. Each session was covered by at least two national newspapers. The attendance has been consistent over the past two quarters, reflecting the extent to which the sessions have become an accepted part of the media and human rights scene in Tbilisi. Two roundtables were organized in the Telavi and Akhaltsikhe regions to address problems related to conscripts' rights and transparency of local administrative agencies' governance. A meeting in Tbilisi with journalists focused on human rights reporting in the press.

Liberty published five newsletters, a guide to human rights reporting, and two regional human rights reports (in total 3,500). The publications are high quality both from substantive and design aspects. Regional offices were actively involved in distribution of the publications among local

community members. Liberty participated in the Tbilisi Book Festival and presented its publications related to our project. More than 200 copies of different newsletters and brochures were distributed, including a set of publications given to the President of Georgia. Another 135 individuals and organizations expressed their interest in getting copies of Liberty's future publications on a regular bases.

All four regional offices were fully operational during the quarter. The network of active local citizens willing to maintain close cooperation with the Liberty central and regional offices was expanded and better organized. The results of this network began to emerge as the number of human rights abuses reported increased.

Internews Activities

Internews was extremely active during the quarter making considerable progress on their television shows, radio programs and public service announcements.

A five day, six-city bus tour took place from March 31st through April 5th in the cities of Poti, Kutaisi, Akhaltsikhe, Telavi, Gori and Tbilisi. In each city, two meetings were held. One was to discuss the television production with a pre-selected TV station and the other was a meeting to identify potential topics for the shows. The meeting to identify the topics was attended by members of IRIS Georgia, Internews, NGO's, local media and local government officials.

A five-day follow-up conference took place from April 29th through May 3rd at the Internews office in Tbilisi. Five members from each targeted city, along with representatives of IRIS Georgia, Internews, GYLA, Liberty, and two foreign consultants attended the conference. The first three days of the conference focused on finalizing the selection of topics. The last two days focused on the production of the Public Service Announcements, which featured several sessions run by IRIS Georgia's foreign consultant, Jerry Hunnicutt.

In May, Internews solicited ideas from local writers for the PSA's. All of the ideas were submitted and reviewed by Internews by June 15th. Internews also finalized all of their personnel for the PSA production in May by identifying two directors to work on the project.

During June, Internews sent a production crew to each of the targeted cities to shoot footage that would be used in the television shows. These crews had attended a two week training seminar run by Internews' foreign expert, Don Morfoot, before they went on this assignment. Internews and Don Morfoot reviewed the footage, and the packages were edited by the middle of June. Shortly thereafter, IRIS Georgia staff reviewed these packages and provided their comments.

Jerry Hunnicutt, IRIS Georgia's foreign consultant, made a second trip to Tbilisi from June 16th to June 25th. During this trip, the topics for the PSA's were discussed in great detail and eight PSA scripts were approved for production. Another four topics were discussed and the task to generate better scripts was assigned to a team of two local writers. Jerry also worked with the directors to discuss production techniques and a production schedule, which were finalized before his departure.

Internews also worked closely with IRIS Georgia, GYLA and Liberty to identify the appropriate legal language for the PSA's and started work on a post-production schedule to air the PSA's.

By the end of June, Internews had produced three television shows and 8 radio programs. The remaining television shows were finished during the first week of July and the remaining radio programs and PSA's will be completed during the month of July.

Statistical Summary

	Number of publications	Copies distributed
GYLA		
Brochures	6	10150
Newspaper	33	NA
Legal Periodical	1	500
Materials for round-table on religion	1	70

Liberty		
Newsletters	5	2000
Human Rights Reports	2	1000
Human Rights Reporting Guide	1	500

	Number of meetings	Attendance
GYLA		
Town Hall	26	359
Mobile Legal Clinic Visits	65	1079

Liberty		
Press Club sessions	3	100
Regional Roundtables	2	55
Tbilisi Roundtable	1	30

List of Deliverables

GYLA

Deliverables in hard copies

Publications

Tbilisi office

On April 11, 2002 GYLA Legal Aid Center published in the newspaper “Resonansi”:

1. Article “Early release of the convict”
2. Article “Law violations during various means of transport ”
3. Answers to the frequently asked questions (Notarized will; Early release)

On April 25, 2002 GYLA Legal Aid Center published in the newspaper “Resonansi”:

4. Article : “Call up for military service is starting”
5. Answers to the frequently asked questions (Call up for the mandatory military service)

On May 16, 2002 GYLA Legal Aid Center published in the newspaper Resonansi:

6. Article: “Is the right for freedom of religion and confession protected in Georgia?”;
7. Article: “Who has to be applied in order to get the violated right rehabilitated”;
8. Answers to the frequently asked questions (Freedom of religion; Victim’s rights and obligations.).

On June 27, 2002 GYLA Legal Aid Center published in the newspaper “Resonansi”:

9. Article: “Witness and his rights and responsibilities under criminal procedure”;
10. Article “Search and withdrawal according to criminal procedure”.

During the quarter leaflets for the Legal Aid Center on the following topics were published:

11. Identification and registration rules for Georgia citizens’ and foreign residents living in Georgia

12. Administrative law violations during driving of the different means of transport
13. Early release of the convict
14. Rights of the called-up persons

15. Almanakhi #16 (GYLA Law Magazine) on Constitutional Law

16. Materials prepared for the Round-Table discussion on the law on religion.

Kutaisi office

In April following articles and answers to the questions were published in the newspapers:

17. Article "Benefits to the vulnerable families for 2002 year utilized electricity and natural gas costs compensation", Newspaper "Akhali Gazeti", 2-9 April, # 20;
18. Article "Real existence of self-government will affect the local budgets too", Newspaper "Akhali Gazeti", 2-9 April, # 20;
19. Article "Property rights of spouses", Part I, Newspaper "Akhali Gazeti", 9-16 April, # 21;
20. Answers to the questions, Newspaper "Akhali Gazeti": 16-23 April #22;
21. Article "Property rights of spouses", Part II, Newspaper "Akhali Gazeti", 23-30 April, # 23;
22. Answers to the questions, Newspaper "P.S." 1-7 April #13;
23. Answers to the questions, Newspaper "P.S.", 22-28 April #16;
24. Article "Improvement of the criminal procedural legislation", Newspaper "Erisioni", April #19;

In May the following articles and inserts were published:

25. Article: "About Publicity of information": May 7-14 Newspaper "Akhali Gazeti"
26. Article: "Illegal Detention", May 6-12, Newspaper "P.S."
27. Article: "Secret Information" Part 1, Newspaper "Akhali Gazeti", May 21-28;
28. Answer to the questions, Newspaper "Erisioni", May #20;
29. Article: "Secret information" Part 2, Newspaper "Akhali Gazeti", May 28-June 4;
30. Article: "Attempt to commit crime", Newspaper P.S., May 20-26.

In June the following articles and inserts were published:

31. Answers to the questions; newspaper "Akhali Gazeti", June 25 – July 2
32. Answers to the questions; newspaper "Akhali Kutaisi", June 12
33. Answers to the questions; newspaper "Erisioni", June, # 6 (21)
34. Article: "The newspaper "P.S." won the case"; newspaper "P.S." June 10-16
35. Article: "The court decided in favor of the journalist"; "Akhali Gazeti", June 11-18

Rustavi office

The following Inserts were published in the newspaper Rustavi (April 8-15):

36. Article "Detention rules and terms";
37. Answers to the questions (The General Administrative Code).

In May 2002 the following articles were published in the newspaper "Rustavi":

38. Article "Freedom of Information", May 2-9
39. Identification and registration rules of the citizens of Georgia and foreign countries' citizens, living in Georgia, May 16-20

Liberty

Deliverables in electronic format

1. Agenda and list of participants of LIBERTY Round Table Discussion on Rights to the Conscripts (May 26th)
2. Agenda and list of participants of LIBERTY Round Table Discussion on Transparency and Access Of Public Information (June 15)
3. Agenda of Press Club Session on right of Association
4. Agenda of Press Club Session on Freedom of Religion
5. Agenda Press Club Session Rights of the Conscripts

Deliverables in hard copies

1. Brochure, How to prepare human rights review
2. Brochure, Human rights review #1
3. Brochure, Human rights review #2
4. Newsletter #1-2
5. Newsletter #3
6. Newsletter #4
7. Newsletter #5

Task 2: Support for Legal Aid Organizations

Activity Summary

GYLA Activities

GYLA was extremely active with legal consultations during the quarter. For instance, in the Tbilisi office there were 4127 consultations, with 964 meetings in person, 2,949 telephone calls and 117 field consultations. Of these consultations, 67 were with journalists. Approximately 200 consultations were for criminal and administrative law issues, while the balance involved civil matters. These numbers were repeated on a smaller scale in the regional offices. The chart below reflects the national totals.

GYLA undertook 43 new cases during the quarter, which are classified below in the statistical summary. There were favorable decisions in 17 cases, including some begun the previous quarters. There were two successful defamation cases. One related to the lawsuit between the editor of the newspaper “Poti” and the chair of the Poti city council. The chair of the city council withdrew the complaint and the court dismissed the case. In the second case GYLA represented a Kutaisi journalist for the newspaper “P.S.” in a defamation suit, handled by the Kutaisi office, by the Kutaisi vice-mayor. The district court reversed the decision of the first instance court and returned it for re-consideration. In another successful case brought on behalf of a wife for

domestic violence by her policeman husband, the court sentenced the policemen conditionally to jail for one year. He was also dismissed from the police force. Successful criminal cases include three unlawfully detained persons. Two of these were released from the internal affairs offices. The court conditionally released the other detainee.

The Constitutional Court accepted for hearing a GYLA case challenging the constitutionality of the law on “Assembly and Manifestation”. There were two additional constitutional cases in preparation at the end of the quarter, a Criminal Procedure Code case and a challenge to a Georgian reservation under the European Convention on Human Rights regarding treatment of refugees.

Liberty Activities

More than 300 persons applied to Liberty’s 4 regional “ombudsmen” and central office staff members for help on different human rights related issues. In addition to providing consultations and advice, other kinds of assistance such as issuing written statements and accompanying persons during meetings with government officials, was provided.

The Liberty human rights network recorded over 50 instances of human rights abuse. This group of local citizens and advocates identifies violations and provides the information to Liberty, allowing for public attention and assistance to the victims. Some of them were directed to legal aid centers, while others were assisted in bringing the violation to the attention of different levels of government officials. Liberty closely monitors the developments in these cases and maintains close contacts with the victims. In many cases the documented facts were shared with other human rights organizations and joint actions were initiated.

Article 42 Activities

Article 42 finalized the establishment of its indigent criminal defender office at the Tbilisi District Court during the quarter. The organization hired six lawyers, out of 86 applicants, through a very competitive selection process, including a test of knowledge of Georgian criminal law and procedure. The project was formally announced on 1st May 2002, and the Chairman of the Tbilisi District court, Mr. Davit Sulakvelidze met with lawyers to discuss their efforts. While case referrals were initially slow, as word of mouth spread about the service and some successes, the number of consultations and cases increased. Unfortunately, case resolution is still not high since prosecutors have begun seeking continuances when they see Article 42 attorneys at the defense counsel table.

Cases handled during the quarter include robbery, drug crimes, murder, hooliganism, forgery, damage of health, and attempted rape. Several cases were successfully ended, with either reduced or probated sentences. The majority of the cases were still pending at the end of the quarter. The number of consultations and requests for representation steadily increased as people learned about the service, and Article 42 has been gradually increasing its caseload in response.

Public Defender's Activities (Ombudswoman's Office)

IRIS Georgia's cooperation with the Public Defender's Office (PDO) has grown significantly during the quarter. The nature and mechanism for providing legal and human rights assistance and expertise to the office in Constitutional Court cases as well as European Court of Human Rights cases were discussed. At the end of the quarter the proposed arrangement was being reviewed by USAID.

IRIS Georgia also discussed the mechanisms for providing technical assistance and international expertise on legislative matters affecting human rights. The draft law on religious freedom was identified as the first subject for assistance, and the comments of Professor Herman Schwartz were being translated at the end of the quarter.

Discussions were also held about providing the office with a significant number of books for its libraries and public information centers around the country. While the initial focus had been on the 10 offices, discussion was expanded to include the 64 information centers at regional libraries. Materials will include basic Georgian legal texts, human rights materials, and Western publications on human rights and Council of Europe and European Human Rights practice and procedures. The estimated 1900 volumes should be provided before the end of August.

Statistical Summary

Cases Begun	Total	Civil	Criminal	Administrative
GYLA	43	6	14	23
Article 42	25		25	

Consultations	Total	Civil/Other	Criminal	Administrative
GYLA	6348	5890	259	199
Article 42	19		19	
Liberty	310	(Human Rights)		

List of Deliverables

GYLA
GYLA Deliverables in hard Copies

1. Case of Ms. M. Gusueva (Tbilisi)

Order #185 issues by Vice-Premier of City Tbilisi, by which the apartments of building #10 located on Vaja Pshevela Avenue 51, Block 1, were transferred to the Housing Fund of the Vake-Saburtalo district government's office.

2. Case of Mr. Valerian Shakiashvili (Gori)

Decision #2/499 of the Gori first instance court. Mr. Shakiashvili was acknowledged to be a victim of the political repression.

3. Case of Mr. O. Agladze (Gori)

Decision #2/446 of the Gori first instance court. Court satisfied the claim of O. Agladze asking for double pension.

4. Case of Mr. A. Basiladze (Kutaisi)

Decision of District Court of Kutaisi (May 17, 2002). Court annulled the decree No.49 of Terjola district election committee. Mr. Basiladze was allowed to be registered as candidate for sakrebulo elections.

5. Case of Ms. M. Kavtaradze (Tbilisi)

Decision #2/922 of Tbilisi Mtatsminda-Krtsanisi first instance court. Court decided to divorce M. Kavtaradze and imposed on her husband payment of alimony in amount of 50 Lari

6. Case of Ms. M. Giorgadze (Tbilisi)

Order #79 of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Court did not satisfy appeal of Ms. M. Giorgadze asking for re-investigation of the criminal case.

7. Case of Mr. E. Gogberashvili (Tbilisi)

Order #136 of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Supreme Court annulled the decision of the Gldani-Nadzaladevi first instance court of April 23, 2002 by which the convict, E. Gogberashvili was conveyed to the No.1 jail for the term of 1 year. According to the Supreme Court's order Eldar Gogberashvili was conveyed back to the No.9 Institution.

8. Case of Ms. K. Aitsuradze (Tbilisi)

Decision of Tbilisi Didube-Chugureti first instance court (June 25, 2002). Court sentenced Ms. Aitsuradze conditionally for one year and released her from the court room immediately.

Article 42

1. Case #7

Criminal case against Darejan Basiladze.

Decision of June 18, 2002

The court recognized some evidences inadmissible, but this did not bring any legal result.

Decision of regional court was remained unchanged. Defendant was refused in appeal.

2. Case #13

Criminal case against Zaira Tutadze.

Decision of June 10, 2002

Defendant's appeal was partially satisfied. The lawyer's demand about civil responsibility of defendant was satisfied and the defendant was obliged to pay \$900 instead of \$34,000. The

regional court's decision was changed based on article 59 of Georgian Criminal Practice Code of Georgia.

3. Case #16

Criminal case against Gorge Urmishvili.

Order of June 10, 2002

The rules of criminal procedure had been violated: the time of preliminary imprisonment was not extended. Imprisonment was changed into the police supervision.

4. Case #17

Criminal case against Alibala Mekhrabov.

Decision of June 19, 2002

The regional court sentenced him to 4 years deprivation of liberty. The district court sentenced him to three years. Case will be sent to the Supreme Court.

5. Case #18

Criminal case against Gari Karapetov.

Decision of June 18, 20002

The regional court of Gori sentenced him to 4 years deprivation of liberty. The Tbilisi District Court sentenced him to two years.

6. Case #19

Criminal case against Alekhsander Jirkvelishvili.

Decision of June 17, 2002

Case was returned to the regional court. The defendant was under supervision of police and the District Court changed it to written undertaking not to leave a place and proper behavior.

Task 3: More Open and Transparent Administrative Process

Activity Summary

IRIS Georgia conducted a key part of its administrative code implementation plan during the quarter, with three desk audits performed. American consultants, in conjunction with local experts and IRIS Georgia staff attorneys, conducted audits of the appeals process within the Tax Department at the Ministry of Finance, and the Passport and Citizenship Office at the Ministry of Justice. IRIS Georgia chief of party similarly conducted a review of the process for making one time emergency social grants at the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection. Final reports of these audits and recommendations were expected during July and early August, and implementation with the respective ministries was anticipated to begin during September.

The Tax Department review by Jeffrey Lubbers was complicated both by the recent elimination of the Revenue Ministry and the transfer of the office back to the Finance Ministry, and active efforts to substantially revise the tax code and its procedures. The report and recommendations will focus on both revisions of current practices and suggestions for possible legislative changes.

The Passport and Citizenship Office review by Cooley Howarth addressed current practices as well as the possible transfer of certain additional functions from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. At the Ministry of Health, the emergency grant authority has only recently been transferred to the regions, and the review focused on both broad issues such as eligibility and criteria, and controls over regional distribution of funds.

During the quarter discussions were begun with the State Chancellery about assisting them in a review of the procedures used by the President to hear appeals of administrative decisions from the ministries and agencies. IRIS Georgia proposed a process for conducting a review of current procedures similar to the desk audits discussed above, and making recommendations for a more transparent procedure. At the end of the quarter the Chancellery had indicated a favorable response to the proposal, and discussion of details was to begin during July.

As a part of cooperation with the State Chancellery, the IRIS Georgia chief of party presented remarks to a workshop of the Public Service Bureau attended by over 80 government employees about the significance of the General Administrative Code and its application to the broad range of government activity.

IRIS Georgia staff was asked by the National Bank of Georgia to provide training for its staff on the Freedom of Information provisions of the General Administrative Code. This session was especially well received, and resulted in a request for a similar session for lawyers of the commercial banks.

IRIS Georgia developed the plan for a cooperative monitoring process with other NGOs of compliance with the open meetings provisions of the General Administrative Code during the quarter. A brochure was drafted describing the provisions of the open meeting rules in simple but comprehensive terms, and a violations reporting form was developed. These were presented to the USAID NGO Roundtable in early July, and publication and distribution of the brochure, as well as the initiation of the monitoring project through the IRIS Georgia website, were anticipated for July and August.

List of Deliverables

Deliverables in hard copies

1. National Bank training materials
2. Agenda of the meeting at the State Chancellery

Deliverables in electronic format

3. Maia Kopaleishvilis memo on National Bank training

Task 4: Support for Legislative Drafting

Activity Summary

The Law on Licensing was passed by the Parliament and signed by the President during the quarter. IRIS Georgia had been extremely active in the drafting of this law and its movement through the Parliament. Its adoption in May was somewhat unexpected because there were no interested parties pushing it. The law's terms provided that 30 different laws for the various agencies given licensing authority had to be revised by September 1, 2002. IRIS Georgia began working with the Georgian Young Economists Association to develop a comprehensive plan for preparing the amendments, and at the end of the quarter the agreement with the YEA was being finalized. Meanwhile the Ministry of Justice expressed its support for IRIS Georgia and YEA efforts to facilitate the drafting process.

The various draft laws on religious freedom were undergoing active consideration during the quarter both by the government and the NGO community. The importance and sensitivity of this issue lead to discussions with USAID and the U.S. Embassy here about the appropriate role of IRIS Georgia. It was determined that IRIS would work in the background, and through its partner GYLA. This background work would include providing access to international experts and their commentary on the legislation for the Public Defender's Office and the Parliamentary Secretary of the President, both agencies that had contacted IRIS Georgia for assistance on the legislation.

The local expert's work on revising the law on state secrets continued during the quarter, with his initial research and report comparing the General Administrative Code and state secrets law were delivered to IRIS. Two informational workshops were held with local government officials, and plans were developed for a local and international conference during the next quarter to begin the drafting process.

The Parliamentary Secretary of the President requested IRIS Georgia assistance on preparing a draft law on personal secrets. A preliminary draft from the Department of Informatization was received, and the planning process for providing assistance was initiated.

IRIS Georgia senior staff attorney Gia Getsadze was actively involved in working on legislation proposed to radically weaken the Law on the Bar. IRIS Georgia and other contractors were asked by USAID to offer assistance to ABA-CEELI on this critical issue, and Gia used much of his personal time in this effort. His work was recognized with a certificate of appreciation from the USAID Rule of Law adviser.

List of Deliverables

Deliverables in electronic format

1. Law on licensing passed by Parliament and signed by the President (In Georgian and English)
2. Report on April 20th workshop on state secrets legislation

3. Report on April 15th workshop on state secrets legislation
4. Short-notes of the meetings with the key government officials on state secrets legislation
5. Comparative analyses of the General Administrative Code and legislation on State Secrets

Task 5: Information and Training

Activity Summary

IRIS Georgia's new web page went on line during the quarter (www.iris.ge), with English and Georgian sites, extensive links to other projects and organizations, description of activities, and English translations of a wide range of laws. Some parts of the page were still being refined at the end of the quarter, and IRIS was planning to add additional features soon, including a place to report problems or violations of the open meetings laws in conjunction with its monitoring project under Task 3.

IRIS conducted a two-day conference on the new amendments to the Law on the Constitutional Court in Bakuriani. There were over 40 attendees, including the chairman and many members of the Court. In preparation for the conference, IRIS prepared a book that included Chairman Ketsuriani's article on the new amendments and other commentary. The proceedings of the conference were recorded, and a transcript is being prepared that will be edited in to proceedings of the Conference and commentary. The transcription of the tapes had been completed and the editing process was underway at the end of the quarter.

The translation of Wolfgang Gaul's book on the formation of the Georgian Constitution was completed, and its editing was nearing completion. Discussions with publishers were initiated at the end of the quarter, with a publication target of mid-September.

During the quarter GYLA purchased books for its head and regional offices and for some of the regional courts. In total 213 books were purchased, with 118 volumes for the Tbilisi office, 20 volumes for the Kutaisi office, 17 for the district court of Kutaisi, 17 for the Kutaisi City Court, and 41 for the Zestafoni Court.

The court-monitoring project in the Tbilisi District Court was still in process during the quarter, with additional information being secured, and the most effective presentation of the data being considered. The draft report was being revised to incorporate the new ideas. Anticipated completion date for the report is mid-August.

Some discussions were held with USAID about the electronic database project with the Ministry of Justice, including issues relating to the economic sustainability of the database. IRIS's further steps were held up pending clarification of questions concerning coordinating USAID database assistance across contractors and projects.

Two consultants for IRIS Georgia who worked on agency desk audits made presentations while they were here. Jeffrey Lubbers spoke to the Tbilisi District Court Administrative Law Chamber, and the Institute of Law, Georgia Academy of Sciences. Cooley Howarth discussed

American domestic relations law (his other specialty in addition to administrative law) at GYLA, and U.S. administrative law to students at the Georgian Institute of Public Administration.

List of Deliverables

Deliverables in electronic format

1. Agenda of Bakuriani Constitutional Court Conference
2. List of participants of Bakuriani Constitutional Court Conference
3. GYLA invitation on Library presentation
4. List of books purchased by GYLA

Deliverables in hard copies

5. Book published for Bakuriani Constitutional Court Conference

Task 6: Enforcement of Judgments

There is no activity scheduled for this task during the first year.