Challenges of Protection of Property Rights of Citizens in Touristic Zones

04.04.2011

Presentation of the Report "Problems related to the Property Rights Protection" (The case of village Gonio)

On April 5, 2:00 pm Open Society Georgia will present Report “Challenges of Protection of Property Rights in Georgia” at the Tbilisi Marriott Hotel, Ballroom.

On April 4, the Open Society Georgia published a press-release about the presentation.

“Protection of property rights became more challenging in Georgia especially after declaring Svaneti, Anaklia, Gonio and Black Sea adjacent territories to be touristic zones and launching large-scale infrastructural projects. Under the existing circumstances interest of potential investors is growing more and more, what creates feasible background for the perspective of economic development in the future. On the other hand, except positive outcomes, following the transformation of these territories into touristic zones interests of local population have been vastly infringed.

Against a backdrop of particular interest in properties of local citizens a number of property rights violations have been recorded in these zones up to now.

All the above quoted urged NGOs engaged in these problems to make prompt reaction on the matter. Four NGOs with Open Society Georgia Foundation's support started implementation of the project: “Protection of property rights in new touristic regions” that envisages study of the concrete cases on the spot meeting with local population, collection of relevant data according to legal methods via requesting public information.

The report "Problems related to the Property Rights Protection" to be presented on April 5 unveils the results of the first stage of the research. The report highlights cases of deprivation 271 Gonio inhabitants of lands, which were bestowed to them and legalized in 2007-2010. Report provides for legal assessment and analysis of the ties with ongoing processes in the country.

Cases took place in Svaneti are being studied now, where locals own real estate for centuries as the so-called "traditional ownership" and this property in most cases is not registered. Representatives of international organizations, NGOs, government, media and political parties will be invited to the presentation.

"We strive for drawing attention of civil society on the cases of property rights violations in order to prevent and eliminate that kind of facts. We’d like to propose our recommendations to decision-makers as to achieve systematic solution of similar issues" - Tinatin Bolkvadze from the Open Society Georgia Foundation, says.

The project is carried out by Association "Green Alternative", Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Transparency International Georgia and Regional Media Association of Georgia with the support of Open Society Georgia Foundation.