

## About Students' Conference

Friday, 23 June, 2006 at Tbilisi State University (Address: Chavchavadze avenue 1, Building1, I. Javahishvili Conference Hall) was organized a Students' conference on "Urgent Problems of Corruption in Georgia". The conference was organized by Transnational Crime and Corruption Center Caucasus Office (TraCCC CO) and Tbilisi State University Political Science Department. Participants of the conference were students, journalists, lawyers, political scientist, grantees of the TraCCC CO. All the speakers presented their papers in Power Point program.

Vice Provost of the University, Ivane Bokeria participated in the opening ceremony of the conference. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of the studying issues of corruption in general, and specifically in Georgia. He highly appreciated the activity of TraCCC CO and a practice of giving course of lectures on "Political Corruption" at TSU.

Tamara Loladze, 1 year students, Department of Journalism, gave a presentation on "Political Theory of Corruption". She spoke about the definition, reasons and environment provoking emergence and development of corruption, its historical roots, circumstances, objective and subjective factors of sustaining and flourishing of the phenomenon. The report had a general theoretical character and was not oriented on one specific country.

Irakli khvadagiani, 1 year students, Department Journalism, gave a presentation on "Organized Crime in Georgia". He gave very impressive historical overview of the development of this institution from medieval ages to the recent times. Speaker gave very reasonably constructed material. Main concept was the idea, that the corruption and the organized crime traditionally flourished in the process of degenerating of governmental institutions and moral values. Edward Shevardnadze regime was given as the best example. The thief in law, Jaba Ioseliani, gained the leading positions at the Shevardnadze administration. When Ioseliani died he was buried with honor at the "Didube" pantheon for the outstanding public activists. Several questions were given to the

speaker; among them most interesting was the question about the interdependence of the strong state power and the corruption and organized crime.

Giorgi Tabagari, 3-rd year student, Department of Political Science gave a presentation on “Corruption in Post Revolutionary Georgia”. He gave information about success of Saakashvili administration in reforming education, defense, security and other sectors of public affairs. In the meantime he gave very interesting materials about “misusing” finances from Presidential and Special Funds, as the government does not specify the expenditures, as well as incomes of the funds. Participants put numerous questions dealing with the sources of the report, how reliable they were. Speaker figured out that predominantly he used materials of the Yong Lawyers Association and mass media, radio station Liberty, newspapers, like 24 hours and Resonansi.

Nino Topadze, 3-rd year student, Department of Political Science gave a presentation on “Corruption in Fine Art of Georgia (Case Study in the School of Ballet). The report described the case, which happened in school of ballet during Shevardnadze regime. The main point of the speaker was that the corruption during previous years was so high, systemic and overwhelming, that it dominated even in the fine art. Speaker personally was a victim of the corruption, so she perfectly knew the scheme of corruption. The report was very well presented. The author used many beautiful pictures of ballet dancers. She created the special atmosphere of beauty and love destroyed by very common evil, corruption. Her last point was that nobody even tried to fight in this school corruption, because it was senseless. During Saakashvili regime all the staff of this ballet school was changed, so speaker hopes that the situation will be much better in future.

All the participants indicated that conference was well organized well prepared and students were just excellent.