



**მედიაცენტრი • MediaCentre**

## **International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy Statement N1**

Tbilisi, January, 5, 2008  
10.00 a.m

The 2008 extraordinary presidential elections are being held on January 5<sup>th</sup> in 76 election districts around the entire territory of Georgia, except for the conflict zones. The total number of election precincts is 3,505.

The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) is monitoring the elections and has observers in most of the election precincts around Georgia.

By 10 am on January 5, ISFED reported that the voting began peacefully around Georgia, though some of their observers had problems entering some election precincts. These precincts were: #9 election district – Nazaladevi, election precinct # 45, where a complaint has been filed. Observers also were not allowed to enter in Batumi district #79, polling election precincts # 35, # 37, # 54 and in #35 district of Khashuri, precinct # 6, district # 50 Sachkhere, election precinct # 25. After the intervention of ISFED lawyers, the observers were allowed to enter all these election stations.

In Nazaladevi district #9, election precinct# 52, when the observers arrived at 6.30 a.m to observe the opening of the election precinct, it was already open, half an hour ahead of schedule. And the sealing wax on the stamps and bulletins were already open.

In #24 Dmanisi district, polling place #22, because of weather problems, district election commission members could not bring different colors and sizes of envelopes on time. The #37 election district of Akhaltsikhe, at election precinct# 6, received 1200 ballots instead of 1340.

In the #40 Akhalqalaqi election district, election precincts# 1, # 2, # 3, #4, #5, #6, #13, #22, #23; # 46 election district of Lentekhi #55 election precinct and # 55 Khoni election districts, election precincts # 27 were open late. It is notable that in the election precincts above, casting of lots was not done.

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