



YERKIR

Union of NGO for Repatriation and Settlement
Union d'ONG pour le Rapatriement et la Réinsertion
Союз общественных организаций «Еркир» по репатриации и освоению
Հայրենադարձության եւ հիմնավորման կազմակերպությունների միություն

Press-release
March 12, 2010

THE GEORGIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE FILED NEW CHARGES AGAINST THE JAVAKHETI POLITICAL ACTIVIST VAHAGN CHAKHALYAN

The Georgian authorities have filed two new charges against the Javakheti political activist Vahagn Chakhalyan, who was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment on April, 2009. The first charge is based on the failed attempt of Georgianization of the Armenian Church in Javakheti village Samsar in July 2005, the second one is based on the protest manifestation at the Georgian-Armenian border checkpoint "Zhdanovakan-Bavra" in December 2005. Vahagn Chakhalyan and his lawyers were informed about this on March 11, 2010 by the investigators of the Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda Police departments Spartak Khechoyan and Gevorg Kspoyan, who visited the Javakheti political activist for interrogation in Rustavi colony of strict regime.

According to the investigators, it was the recently published book by Vahagn Chakhalyan "Prison - political notes" that served as a basis for filing new charges against its author. The Akhalkalaki police allegedly found in this book "such evidences" that allow bringing in 2010 new charges against Javakheti political activist by the criminal cases opened back in 2005, i.e. 5 years earlier.

"Yerkir" Union strongly condemns this new manifestation of political repression against Vahagn Chakhalyan by the Georgian authorities and their henchman Chief of Police of Akhalkhalaki, Samvel Petrosyan. By this the Georgian authorities once again expose the motives that lie behind the shameful trial against Vahagn Chakhalyan. It is obvious that this new action against the Javakheti political activist is one of the links in the chain of Javakheti Armenians' intimidation campaign in anticipation of the elections of local self-government bodies to be held on May 30 in Georgia.

"Yerkir" Union by expressing its concern on the processes taking place in Javakheti in anticipation of elections, states that it will consistently continue its struggle for the liberation of Javakheti political activist, political prisoner Vahagn Chakhalyan and realization of the rights of the Javakheti Armenians.