



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

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ROLAND BLUM, THE MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE, RAISED THE PROBLEM OF THE JAVAKHETI ARMENIANS

The Deputy of National Assembly of France - Roland Blum, in the framework of the visit of the delegation of French parliamentarians to Tbilisi on April 13-16, 2010, during his meetings with the representatives of the Georgian parliament and government raised the issue of violations of human rights of the Javakheti Armenians. The French parliamentarian noted that the Georgian authorities are hesitant to solve the Javakheti Armenians' problems in accordance with the European democratic standards aimed at protection of ethnic minorities.

During his meetings, Mr. Blum drew particular attention to the issue of the Javakheti political activist Vahagn Chakhalyan, who is convicted by the Georgian authorities on trumped-up charges to 10 years' imprisonment. The French parliamentarian stated that the Georgian authorities, carrying out repressions against the Javakheti activist, are guided by clear political motives. Georgian officials did not accept the arguments of the deputy, attempting to convince Mr. Bloom that Vahagn Chakhalian is a "usual hooligan", who is serving his "deserved sentence".

Briefing on the results of the discussions with the Georgian senior officials on Javakheti issues, Mr. Blum assured the "Yerkir" Union that he would continue his efforts aimed at protection of the rights of Javakheti Armenians and, in particular, he would take steps to raise the issue of Vahagn Chakhalyan at the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly section on April 26 - 30, 2010.