

*We, the journalists and staff of Rustavi 2 Broadcasting Company, would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for the support of freedom of expression and freedom of media and, what is more important, for taking active stance on supporting democratic development of Georgia and its integration in the European structures.*

*It is apparent that the ruling party that has gained constitutional majority is keen on establishing a total control over media and in this regard silencing the critical voice of Rustavi 2 is a the main aim. Killing or marginalizing Rustavi 2 will irreparably harm media pluralism and key democratic institutions in the country. If the government does not change the course of action, it will be very hard to reverse the decline of democracy in Georgia.*

*Rustavi 2 will continue to use all legal means available in order to defend its rights. However, the pattern of decision making on all issues related to the lawsuit clearly indicates that without pressure from international community as well as the Georgian society defending democracy in Georgia, very soon we might face dramatically altered media landscape in Georgia, were pluralism of opinion as well as holding government accountable for its actions or inactions will be in scarce supply.*

*Therefore, we firmly believe that your expressed support and engagement are of key importance. By defending rights of Rustavi 2 Broadcasting Company, you stand on the guard not only of the fate of one media outlet, not even the fate of media freedoms, but the future of democracy in Georgia and its successful integration into Euro-Atlantic structures which is choice of the Georgian people.*

*Once again, please receive our genuine gratitude for your unconditional support and firm position in defending democratic values for the better future of our country.*

*Rustavi2 Broadcasting Company*

*5a, Sandro Euli, Tbilisi, Georgia*

