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*Regional Forum –  
Combating and Preventing Torture and Ill-treatment  
in the South Caucasus*

22-23 March 2012

Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel, 20 Telavi Street, Tbilisi, Georgia

**For immediate release**

The South Caucasus Regional Office of Penal Reform International (PRI), in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), is organizing a regional forum on March 22-23 at the Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel in Tbilisi.

The regional forum will focus on pressing issues in the field of torture prevention, the effectiveness of existing monitoring mechanisms and the possibilities for their further improvement. The importance of the psycho-social rehabilitation of torture victims and the obligations of states in this regard will also be discussed.

Participants will include government officials, representatives of the National Preventive Mechanisms and local civil society organizations, including public oversight mechanisms. International experts, including a UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture member, will also provide their input.

The regional event aims to provide opportunities for inter-country learning and exchanges of experience. It will also seek to provide recommendations for the authorities in the South Caucasus aimed at improvements of the ability of the respective states to prevent torture and ill-treatment in their respective institutions.

The regional forum is organized in the framework of PRI's project on strengthening institutions and building civil society capacity to combat torture in 9 post-Soviet countries. The project is funded by the European Union.

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**Penal Reform International  
South Caucasus Regional Office  
16 Kikodze street, 0105 Tbilisi Georgia  
Tel: (995 32) 298 35 60**