



Lack of Legitimacy in the Caucasus: A Potential Cause for Instability?

Six Months after Flawed Presidential Election in Armenia

By the end of 2008, all three countries of the Southern Caucasus will have held presidential elections. The elections in Armenia and Georgia were marked by mass protests and, in Armenia, by violence against civilians. The fairness of October's presidential election in Azerbaijan is already open to serious doubt and the main opposition parties have decided to boycott. As a result, the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia lack real popular mandates. Can such regimes hope to find peaceful solutions to emerging crises in the region? Could their lack of legitimacy lead to another war?

Please join us for a roundtable discussion on the regional implications of Armenia's presidential election.

Thursday, September 11, 2008

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

1800 Massachusetts Ave, NW

(SEIU building)

Washington, DC

Discussion participants:

Zhanna Alexanyan, an investigative journalist from Armenia who is visiting the United States to present her eye-witness account of the human rights violations and murder of peaceful demonstrators following the March Presidential elections.

Arsen Kharatyan, a human rights activist and youth movement leader engaged in founding of pro-democracy civic groups *Sksela* and *Hima*. In the months following the presidential elections, he was arrested three times for political activity and was forced to leave the country.

Karen Hakobyan, a human rights advocate/trainer, who was the president of Hujs (Hope) human rights organization for over 13 years. He has been monitoring abuses in Armenia and organizing a number of advocacy campaigns on human rights issues.

Moderator:

Jeff Goldstein, Senior Program Manager, Freedom House

Please RSVP to Elena Postnikova at Postnikova@freedomhouse.org
or 202-747-7038

Please note that this invitation is not transferable

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