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Press release

**THE ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES AND THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY IN KUTAISI ORGANISED A FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN GEORGIA**

**Official launch during a press conference in Strasbourg,  
Council of Europe, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) and the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) in Kutaisi organized a fundraising activity in support of internally displaced people in Georgia. The official launch took place in Strasbourg on **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 at 11.00** in the building of the Council of Europe, with the participation of Nugzar Shamugia, the Mayor of Kutaisi and Ioseb Khakhaleishvili, the LDA Delegate, representatives from ALDA, the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe, the City of Strasbourg (partner of the LDA Kutaisi) and Georgian officials.

The recent tragic events in Georgia caused a huge flow of population leaving many internally displaced people without a shelter and any means for living. We have all been asked to help. Therefore ALDA and the LDA Kutaisi are organising a fundraising activity to support those in need. The resources that we will collect by ALDA will be transferred to the LDA, which is part of the local coordination team for the support of the IDPs, only for the purpose of helping these people.

Created in 1999, ALDA is a European NGO supported by the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe and is based in Strasbourg. It aims at promoting local democracy, citizens' participation and the respect of human rights. It coordinates a network of 12 LDAs in South-Eastern Europe and in South Caucasus. Thus, the LDA Georgia was set-up in September 2006 with the aim of improving capacity-building of local authorities, increasing citizens' participation especially among women and young people and to fight against human trafficking.

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As for Georgia, you will find other info on the regular activities of the LDA at the present website [http://alda-europe.eu/alda/front\\_content.php?idcat=26](http://alda-europe.eu/alda/front_content.php?idcat=26)



**Shelter in Kutaisi, August 2008**