

Message from the chair

On behalf of the board and members of Transparency Azerbaijan I would like to thank you for the interest you take in our work. The year of 2007 was important for Azerbaijan and our organization: the country saw adoption of its National Strategy for Increasing Transparency and Combating Corruption for 2007-2011 to take over from the similar State Program for 2004-2006. The National Strategy refers to Transparency Azerbaijan as a strategic partner of the state in the area of combat against corruption. This year we have put into operation a fifth Advocacy and Legal Advice Center in Sheki, in addition to the existing centers in Baku, Ganja, Lenkoran, and Guba. We started an extensive program of on-site legal sessions to outreach population, especially in rural areas, followed by the launch of a series of training for public officials, including but not limited to the police, the military, teachers, officials of Registry of Real Estate, etc.

We also finalized a 27 month partnership project with Baku Stock Exchange; released Business Opinion Survey on the problems of corruption, hosted Transparency International 2007 Regional Annual Meeting for 81 international and about 200 Baku based participants, funded by the Government of Azerbaijan with contribution from USAID.

Fuad Suleymanov,
Chairman of board

About Transparency International

Transparency International is an international non-governmental organization, leading anti-corruption movement all over the globe. Berlin based Transparency International Secretariat coordinates anti-corruption activities in more than 90 countries of the world through its national chapters. The chapters are independent local NGOs free to choose their own polices and raise funds for their activities. Transparency International is based on the principle that as corruption is a country specific phenomenon, local organizations can be much more efficient than any efforts taken or imposed from the outside.

About Transparency Azerbaijan

Transparency Azerbaijan was established in October 2000 by representatives of civil society and academia; fully accredited as a national chapter in October 2001 and re-accredited in August 2006. We work mainly in the areas of public awareness raising, business ethics and research into reasons and forms of corruption in Azerbaijan and ways to reduce this destructive social phenomenon. We also render legal aid to witnesses and victims of corruption and assist the Government in drafting policy and legislative acts.

Corruption Perception Index 2007

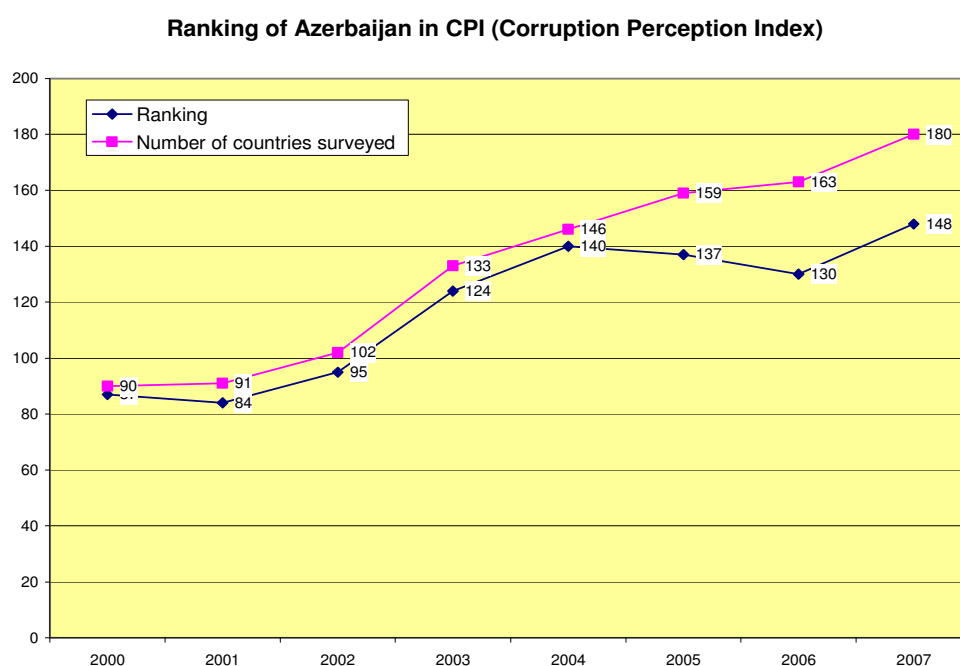
On 27 September 2007 Transparency International released its most well known product – Corruption Perception Index for 2007, which ranks countries in terms of the degree in which businesses people and country analysts, both residents and non-residents perceive corruption to exist in the public and political sectors. That year Azerbaijan received 2.1 point (out of total 10 for corruption free country) and ranked 148 among 180 countries surveyed that year.

Ranking and score of Azerbaijan in Transparency International Corruption Perception Index 2000- 2007

Year	Place among other countries	No of countries surveyed the year	Score from 0 (very poor) to 10 (excellent)
2000	87	90	1.5

2001	84	91	2.0
2002	95	102	2.0
2003	124	133	1.8
2004	140	146	1.9
2005	137	159	2.2
2006	130	163	2.4
2007	148	180	2.1

The Diagram below represents the score of Azerbaijan in Corruption Perception Index for 2000-2007 on the scale from 0 (for a country perceived as overrun by corruption) to 10 (for a corruption free country).



Transparency Azerbaijan' specific place among country's civil society institutions

The chapter is the only civil society organization in Azerbaijan which assists the population to build up resistance against corrupt practices of petty officials by providing them with legal advice under Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) project. The chapter has clearly demonstrated that the civil society can efficiently serve as barrier between the populace and corrupt officials, as well as productivity of the government – NGO cooperation in combating corruption.

Another major contribution of the chapter is spreading of business ethics skills among SMEs, as well as legal and businesses administration students, alongside with dissemination of Business Ethics code concept among local SMEs.

Chapter's centres in Ganja, Lenkoran, Guba and Sheki serve as NGO hubs and training grounds for young activists in the provinces, while the central office in Baku specialises in providing expertise on the state of corruption and assessment of efforts of various anti-corruption players in the country.

Our donors

British Government (FCO and Global Opportunities Fund)

OSCE Office in Baku

USAID and ABA CEELI

Government of Azerbaijan

Transparency International

2007 Projects

- ALAC (Baku, Ganja, Lenkoran), donor USAID and ABA CEELI, (Baku and Ganja – 6 months, January- June 2007, Lenkoran 8.5 months – 15 October 2006 - June 2007)
- Capacity Building for 5 ALAC Centers, donor OSCE, (4 months, November 2006 – February 2007)
- ALAC Sheki, donor OSCE, (11 months – February - December 2007)
- ALAC Guba, donor OSCE, (11 months – February - December 2007)
- Capacity Building for ALACs, (4 months, September – December 2007)
- Corporate Governance and Transparency as Challenge for Azerbaijan Businesses, donor British Embassy and Global Opportunities Fund (October 2005-December 2007)
- Transparency International 2007 Regional Meeting for CEE and CIS, donor Government of Azerbaijan and USAID, (April- August 2007)
- Business Opinion Survey, donor Statoil Azerbaijan a.s. (July 2005-December 2007)

Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers (ALAC) project

The goal of the ALAC is to provide citizens with the means to become actively involved in the fight against corruption in their societies. Direct beneficiaries of the project include ordinary citizens who do not have access to information and justice.

Legal aid. A corruption hotline provides citizens with a convenient channel to report corruption, even if they do not live in the city where the centers are located. The hotline also acts as a “screening” mechanism, allowing genuine cases to be referred to the centers for face-to-face consultations. The hotline is staffed by volunteer law students, overseen by legal assistants. It is also possible to make complaints in writing or via web site, although experience is not particularly efficient as few people are initially able to articulate the act of corruption concisely.

If there is prima face evidence of corruption, as reported to the hotline, more detailed legal advice and counseling is provided during face to face meetings with lawyers. This involves helping clients to articulate and identify the act of corruption, assisting them to draw up effective complaints (e.g., evidence, documentation) and providing advice as to how to pursue the complaints. TI does not legally represent or “take on” individual cases. Rather, it empowers complainants to act.

Advocacy. Fact-based advocacy is critical to the success of the ALACs. Indeed, it is the centrality of this advocacy component, which differentiates the ALACs from purely legal clinics. In other words, data generated from real complaints is used as the basis for advocacy campaigns. TA uses a range of advocacy tools, e.g., regular press conferences, radio phone-ins providing advice and publications.

Education. Anti-corruption education is organized for special target groups: rural population, refugees, legal students, public officials, etc.

Transparency Azerbaijan succeeded in designing and implementing of additional activities to original ALAC's pillars.

Capacity Building: support is provided to state authorities to strengthen their capacity to process complaints. Transparency Azerbaijan developed good working relations with the Ministry of Education and is a member of the anti-corruption working group of the Ministry. The Ministry of Education is the only public agency, which openly recognizes facts of corruption and takes, however feeble, institutional measures to combat it. This agency was the first to put together its anti-corruption action plan. TI AZ believes that this Ministry is unique in its attitudes, as it is the only public agency to have encountered with the organized resistance, i.e. by several student groups, such as Dalga, Say No to Corruption in Education, etc.

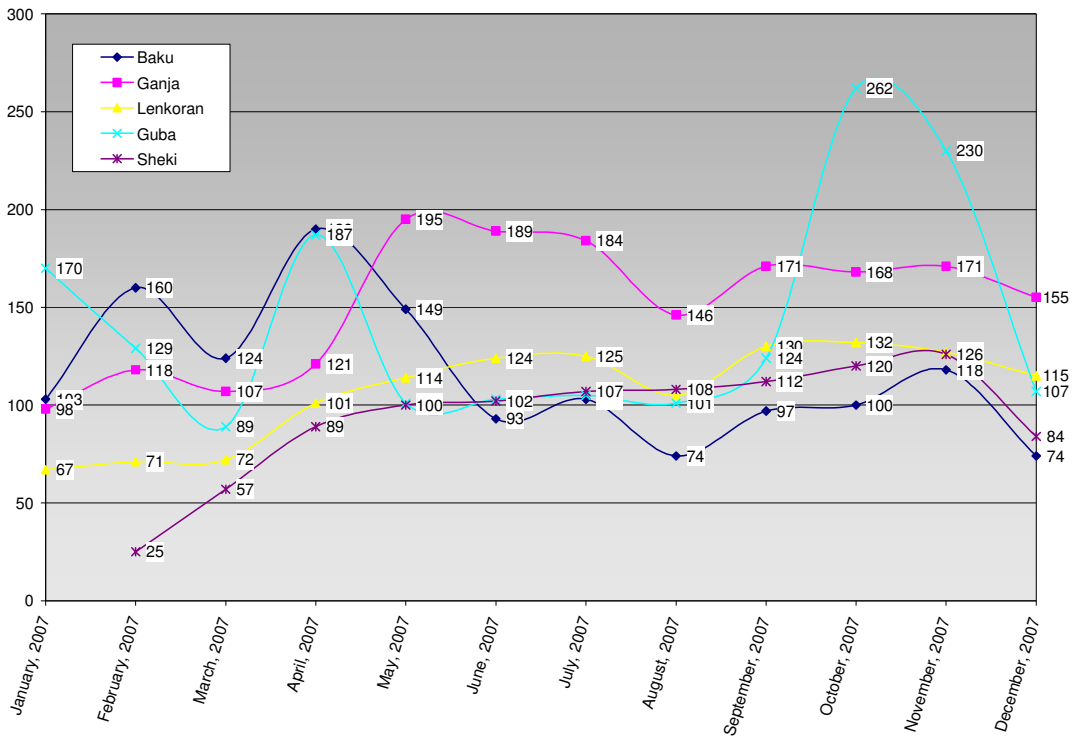
Transparency Azerbaijan is a member of the anti-corruption network with participation of the government, civil society and mass media.

Public outreach campaign through mobile trainings and seminars: Since the end of the year 2006, Transparency Azerbaijan runs a special public outreach program focusing on various groups (civil society activists, disabled, rural population, national minorities, refugees and IDPs, public officials etc). under FCO/British Embassy and OSCE Baku office funding. Five ALAC centres in the capital city of Baku, as well as in Ganja, Lenkoran, Guba and Sheki have accepted total of 7,229 initial calls/contacts from citizen's victims or witnesses of corruption; rendered legal advice to 1,976 customers and accepted 876 formal complaints in writing. Such an extensive coverage was possible due to organization of 306 workshops for mostly rural population, as well as covering civil society activists and public officials, total of 6,823 people.

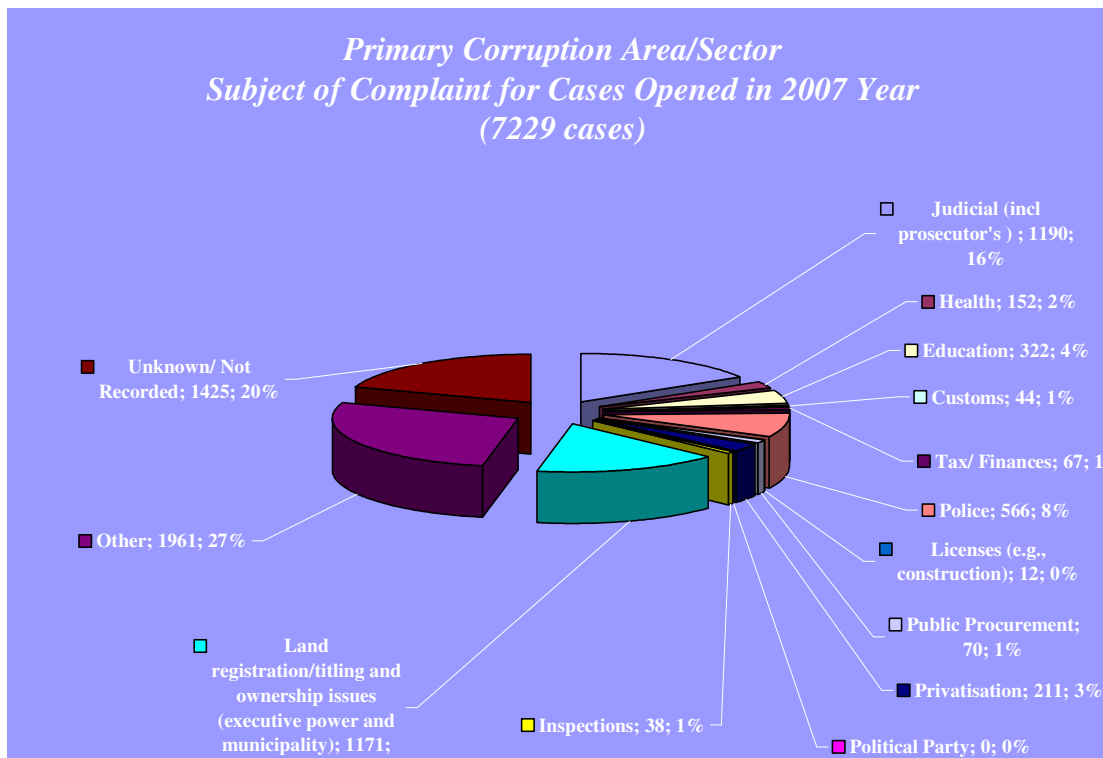


Photos above: Workshops for population in rural areas

Statistics of initial calls/contacts by citizens for 2007



Areas of complaints for ALAC as of December 31, 2007



As demonstrated below, the areas of the utmost public concern since the project start in 2005 and 31 December 2007 were: the judicial system, police, and system of education, municipalities and local executive power bodies.

Other activities and events

- Participation in the group of independent observers for the test exam, part of Public Notaries recruitment program, conducted by Ministry of Justice of together with The State Students Admission Commission.
- Participation in the group of independent observers for the test exam, part of judges selection program, conducted by Ministry of Justice of together with The State Students Admission Commission.
- A Cartoon Exhibition titled *Face to Face with Corruption*, displaying works of young and mature artists to raise public awareness towards corruption.

Our partners

State Anti-corruption Commission
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Internal Affairs
State Registry of Real Estate
Ministry of Defence
Anti-corruption Department under General Prosecutor's Office
Constitution Research Foundation
Entrepreneurship Development Foundation
Azerbaijan Marketing Society
Corruption and Society magazine
Centre for Innovations in Education
Society for Human Rights
Legal Education Society
Association of Azerbaijan Lawyers
Eurasian Lawyers' Association
Young Lawyers Union
Fund of Struggle Against Corruption
Anti-corruption Network of NGOs

2007 publications

- Azerbaijan's Yawning Gap Between Reforms on Paper and In Practice, Transparency International Global Corruption Report 2007

Members of the board and executive

	Name	Main occupation	Role within TA
1	Fuad Suleymanov	Ph.D. in Legal Studies, Civil Society Programs Manager, OSI – Assistance Foundation – Azerbaijan.	Founder Chairman of Board
2	Sabit Bagirov	Entrepreneurship and Market Economy Development Assistance Foundation, ex-chairman of Board, Ph.D. in Engineering, President	Founder Ex-chairman of board

3	Durdana Mamedova	Head of Department on Constitutional Issues, Constitution Court of Azerbaijan Republic, Ph.D in Law .	Founder Board member
4	Rena Safaraliyeva	Associate Professor of Chair of English Stylistics, State Languages University, Full Doctor in Linguistics	Founder Executive Director Board member without the right of vote
5	Rashid Hajiev	Director, Media Rights Institute	Board member
6	Intigam Aliyev	Director, “Advocate Service” private law firm	Board member
7	Annagi Hajiyev	President, Azerbaijani Lawyers Association	Board member

Our employees and contact details

Website: www.transparency-az.org and www.alac-az.org

Baku central office			
Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1001 Jafar Jabbarly street 16, floor 1, apt 7 Tel: (99412) 418 11 09; 497 68 15 Tel/Fax: (99412) 596 20 38 Toll free: (088) 707 07 07 E-mail transpaz@azeronline.com			
	Position	Name	Education
1	Executive director	Rena Safaraliyeva	Ph. D degree in General Linguistics from Foreign Languages University, Moscow and Full Doctor degree, Azerbaijan Languages University
2	Senior Project coordinator	Jeyhun Atayev	Master degree in oriental Studies from Baku State University
3	Senior lawyer	Yusif Agayev	Master degree in Law from Kazakhstan State University
4	Senior legal assistant	Jamila Razzagova	4th year student of Law, Baku State University
			rena@transparency-az.org
			jeyhun@transparency-az.org
			yusif@transparency-az.org
			jamilya@transparency-az.org

5	Project assistant	Aysel Aghayeva	2 nd year student of Economics at Khazar University	aysel@transparency-az.org
6	Administrative/finance officer	Zamina Alieva	Baku Computer College, diploma in administration and IT	zamina@transparency-az.org
7	Accountant	Natavan Hajieva	Master degree in accounting, Public Economy Institute, Tashkent	natavan@transparency-az.org
8	PR/Media Specialist	Yusif Abasov	Master degree in International Relations, Baku State University	yusifa@transparency-az.org
Ganja center				
Ganja - Az 2010, Azerbaijan Javadkhan st., 12 Tel/fax: (994 22) 56 55 97 Toll free: (088) 202 02 02				
8	Lawyer/office director	Sevinj Mammadova	Bachelor degree in Law, Azerbaijan International University	sevinj@transparency-az.org
9	Assistant	Nijat Huseynov	3rd year student of Linguistics at Ganja State University	nijat@transparency-az.org
Lenkoran center				
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10	Lawyer	Ehtiram Fattayev	Bachelor degree in Law, Azerbaijan International University	etiram@transparency-az.org
11	Coordinator/office director	Afig Malikov	Master Degree in Ecology, Lenkoran State University	afiq@transparency-az.org
Guba center				
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12	Lawyer	Eldar Kerimov	Master degree in Law, St-Petersburg State University	eldar@transparency-az.org
13	Coordinator/office director	Samir Alibekov	Bachelor degree in Geography, Azerbaijan State University	samir@transparency-az.org

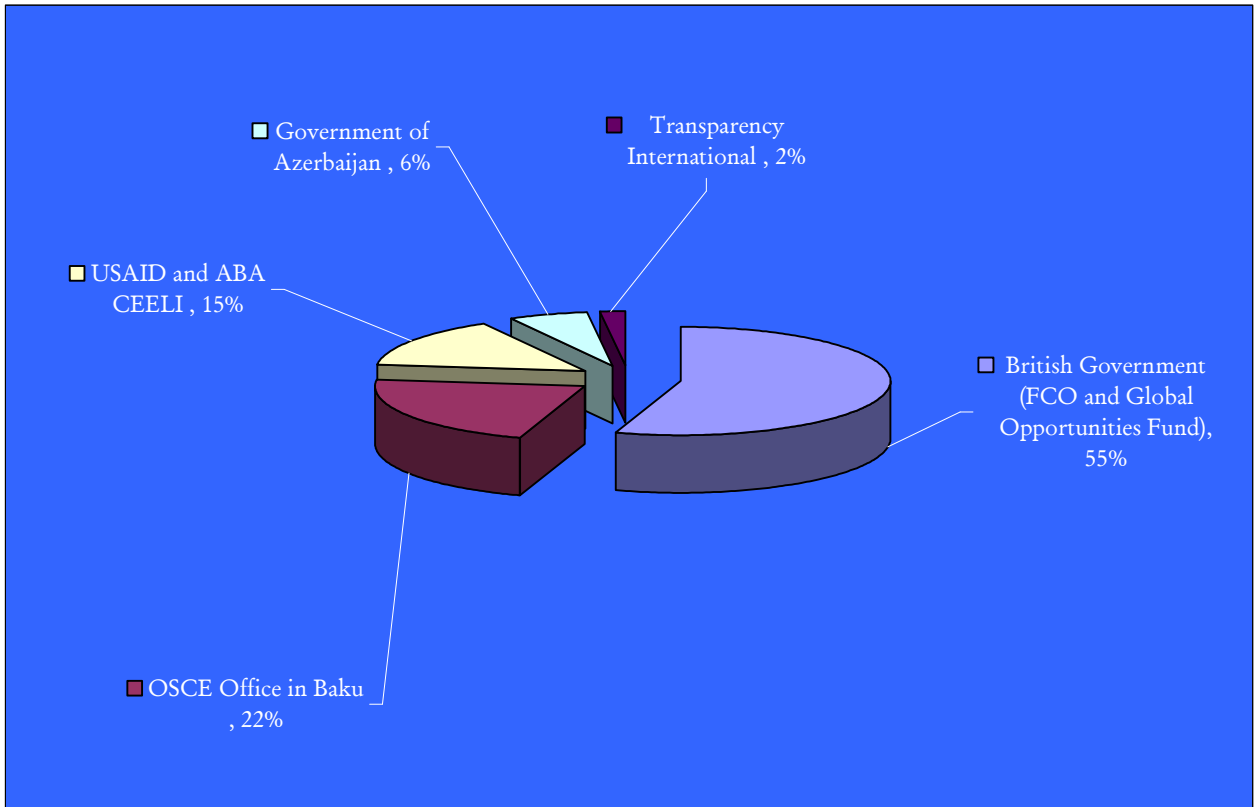
Sheki center

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Toll free: (088) 505 05 05

14	Lawyer	Kamala Mammadova	Bachelor degree in Law, Dagestan Government University	kamala@transparency-az.org
15	Coordinator/ office director	Elshan Mammadov	Bachelor degree in Economics, Economic University	elshan@transparency-az.org

Financial Data

TI-Azerbaijan Donors in 2007



Our revenues in 2007 Euro 224,605

Our expenditure in 2007 Euro 220,440

Our expenditure by categories (in Euro)

