



## PRESS RELEASE

09 December 2015, Yerevan

### ***Break the corruption chain through ending impunity! Annual Anti-Corruption Award Ceremony***

On 9 December 2015, the “Armenia Young Lawyers Association” NGO and CSOs’ Anti-Corruption Coalition organized the Annual Anti-Corruption Award Ceremony in the Framework of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” project implemented with the funding of the European Union and co-funding of the OSCE Yerevan Office.

Mr. Karen Zadoyan, AYLA President, “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project Manager, Coordinator of the Secretariat of CSOs’ Anti-Corruption Coalition opened the ceremony with a welcoming speech. “You know that this day is celebrated all over the world. People who attach importance to anti-corruption values, honesty, integrity, and other values gather together. Last year the UN Anti-Corruption Coalition celebrated this day under the motto “Break the Corruption Chain.” It is important this year as well, and the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC), which took place in 2015, added another important motto to lead the entire movement. It was “Ending Impunity: People, Integrity, Action!” Mr. Zadoyan said.

“This year, we have worked constructively and participatory. The most important task and the goal that we set for ourselves was involvement of the society and business in the fight against corruption. This fight is not only the problem of government agencies but also of the whole society and each citizen,” Mr. Suren Krmoyan, the RA Deputy Minister of Justice said.

“The fight against corruption is a priority for the OSCE Office in Yerevan. The OSCE Office pays great attention to anti-corruption reforms. We also support the active participation of NGOs in monitoring the reform process. The Office also participates in various events aimed at raising awareness on corruption issues,” Mr. Andrey Sorokin Ambassador, the Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan said.

Mr. Jose-Maria Medina-Navarro, Deputy Head of the Cooperation Section at the EU Delegation to Armenia, stressing the importance of this day, talked about the criminalization of illicit enrichment. He also noted that it was a platform that allows them to effectively collaborate with the Ministry of Justice and civil society.

The award ceremony followed the speeches.

Mrs. Haykanush Tutunjan received the award “**Citizen of the Year.**” Ms Nelli Babayan, journalist of “Aravot” Daily was recognized the “**Journalist of the Year**” for raising the corruption issues that exist in business sphere. “CivilNet” was recognized “**Mass Media of the Year**” for the TV Series “From Your Pocket” where the corruption problems in the area of public procurements were raised. “The Green Bean” Coffee Shop was awarded the prize “**Business**



Armenian Young Lawyers  
Association  
Address: 7 Nalbandyan str.,  
suite 2, Yerevan, Armenian,  
0010

Tel: +37410 54 01 99  
Fax: +37410 58 02 99



Freedom of Information  
Center  
Address: 1/3 Buzand str.  
Yerevan, Armenia, 0010

Tel: +37410 56 03 60  
Fax: +37410 56 03 60



The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.



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The Project is co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan  
Tel: +374 10 229610  
Fax: +374 10 229615

The OSCE Office in Yerevan has been operating since 1999, and its mission is to support Armenia in developing its democratic institutions and strengthening civil society, acting in the areas of legislative reform; combating corruption and trafficking; environmental activities; raising awareness for human rights; media freedom; gender equality, etc.

**Organization of the Year**” for voicing the corruption problems in business sphere. Miss Ani Samsonyan, Student of the Anti-Corruption School for Young Leaders received the award of the RA Ministry of Justice **“Young Citizen of the Year”** for elaboration of the best scrip of anti-corruption film. Civic Initiative for the Protection of Rights of Persons recognized as Temporary Disabled was awarded the prize **“CSO of the Year”** for the protection of maternity rights.

The project aims to increase the role of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promoting anti-corruption reforms and their implementation. In the framework of the project the capacity of CSOs and the media to engage in monitoring and watchdog activities will be built. Anti-corruption training workshops will be organized throughout Armenia with the purpose of enabling CSOs and media organisations to better comprehend the issues related to anti-corruption and freedom of information. These activities aim at deepening the existing opportunities for carrying out anti-corruption activities. Small grants will be given for raising the effectiveness of public monitoring and implementation of appropriate monitoring, watchdog and investigative activities. A sustainable dialogue between CSOs and the Government will be developed with the participation of CSOs, to strengthen the anti-corruption institutional mechanisms.

The project is co-funded by the European Union and the OSCE Office in Yerevan, and is implemented by the “Armenian Young Lawyers Association” NGO – Applicant and “Freedom of Information Center” NGO – Partner. The project duration is 3 years (January 2014 – December 2016) and the budget is 650.000 EUR, of which 585.000 EUR contributed by the EU and 15.600 EUR contributed by the OSCE Yerevan Office.

**Armenian Young Lawyers Association (AYLA)** was established in 1995 with a Mission to promote to the establishment of the rule of law, democracy and formation of the civil society in Armenia, where the people are aware of their rights and their rights are protected.

**Freedom of Information Center (FOI)** operates over 10 years. The Mission of FOI is to promote application of the RA Freedom of Information Law, contribute to the transparency and openness of the Armenian government system and to stimulate civic society's involvement in the governance system.

**For more information please contact: Mrs. Narine Karapetyan, PR Coordinator, on business days from 9:00 – 18:00. Tel. 540199; Fax 580299; URL <http://www.ayla.am>**



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Address: 7 Nalbandyan str.,  
suite 2, Yerevan, Armenian,  
0010

Tel: +37410 54 01 99  
Fax: +37410 58 02 99

Freedom of Information  
Center  
Address: 1/3 Buzand str.  
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Tel: +37410 56 03 60  
Fax: +37410 56 03 60

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Delegation of  
The European Union  
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Tel: +37410 54 64 94  
Fax: +37410 54 64 95

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