

## Tbilisi Residents Polled on Current Situation in Georgia

**27 April, 2009**

**After two weeks of the protests started on 9<sup>th</sup> of April in the capital of Georgia, on fifteenth day of the protest rally Georgian NGO initiative ‘Civil Manifesto’ conducted phone polling on the current situation.**

**500 Tbilisi residents were randomly interviewed by phone on 23-25 April 2009 in Tbilisi. Standard methodology was used.**

Purpose of the survey was to study social opinion in regard with the ongoing political events in the country i.e. in relation to the protest manifestations started as from April 9. In this concrete case, subject of the research was the necessity of a dialogue, also possibilities and preconditions for the conversation between the government and the opposition. In other words, conducting the survey would have given us a chance to study opinion of the population living in the capital on the issue of the political crisis that could have been overcome by the means of a dialogue.

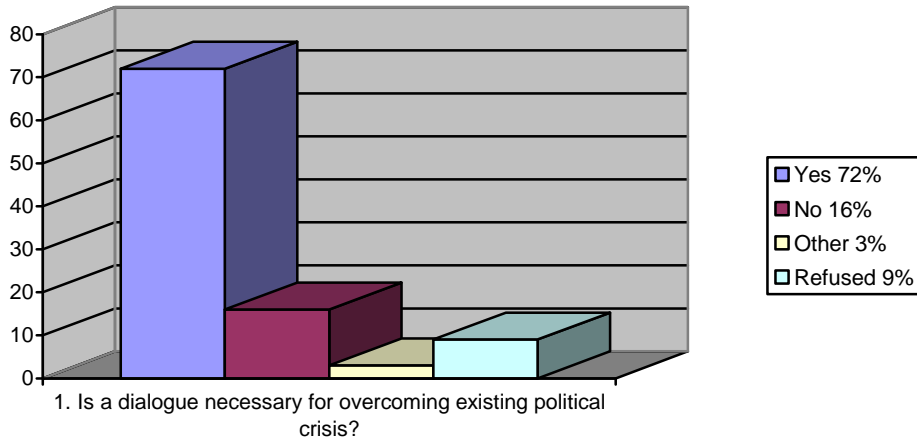
The questions included in the questionnaire were made after a small pilot survey (with 20 respondents) had been conducted. 500 respondents in total participated in the survey. This number is representative for the population residing in Tbilisi. Respondents were selected randomly. Interval (170) was selected by anonymous telephone reference book of Tbilisi population.

Principle of multiple choice was used while asking the questions to the respondents (s/he had possibility of choosing more than one answer for the asked queries or could have offered his/her own version). Therefore, after having summarized the percentage of the given results (except the first query), total number of the answers were more than 100%.

<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>26</b>

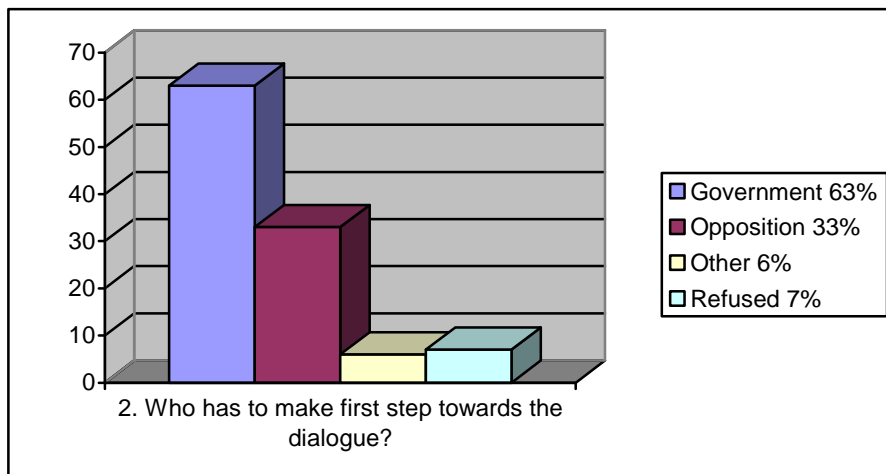
**1. Is a dialogue necessary for overcoming existing political crisis?**

- a. Yes 72%**
- b. No 16%**
- c. Other 3%**
- Refused 9%**



**2. Who has to make first step towards the dialogue?**

- a. Government 63%**
- b. Opposition 33%**
- c. Other 6%**
- Refused 7%**

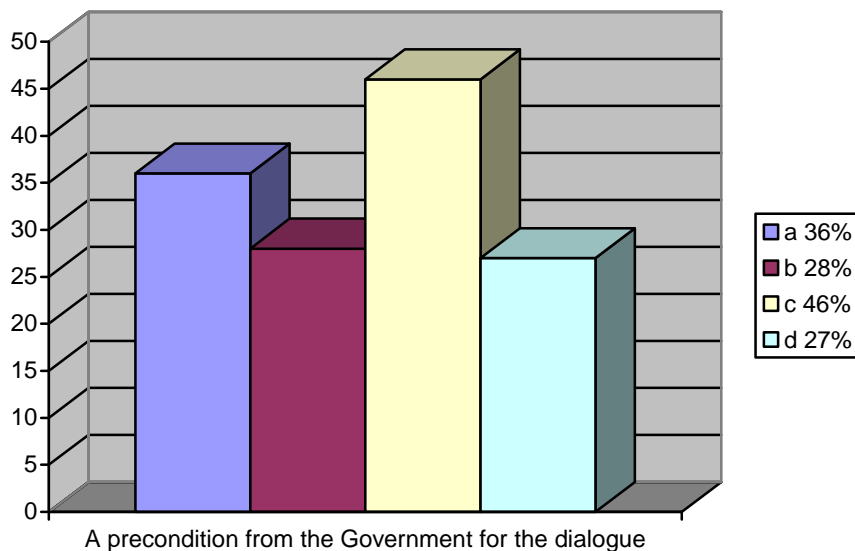


Under the category of the answer “other” the main approach of the people questioned was to start dialogue by the both parties or to involve the well-known figures in the process since the factor of trust is lost in the society.

### 3. What could be a precondition for the dialogue?

#### From the side of the Government:

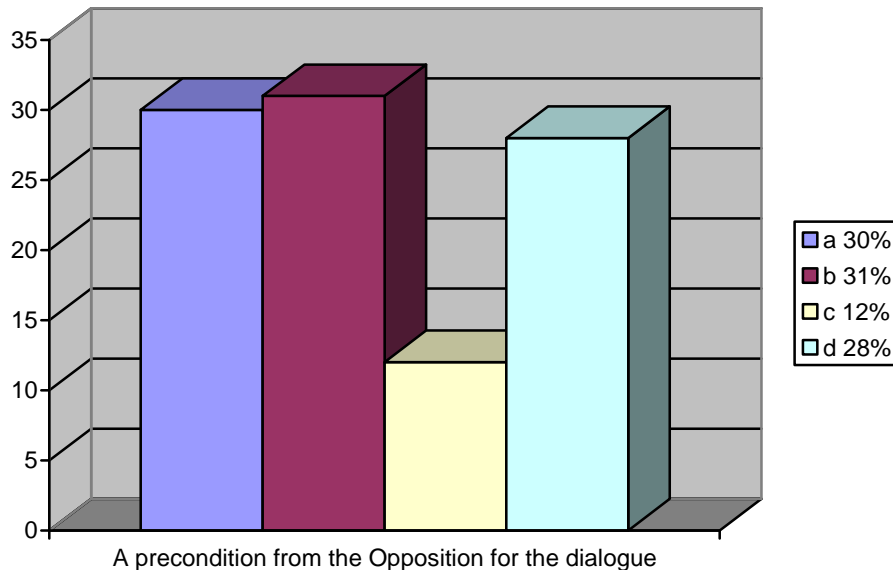
- a. To unseat lawenforcers 36%;
- b. To unseat head of the Supreme Court 28%;
- c. To give 50% of the broadcasting time to the opposition on the channel of the public broadcast 46%;
- d. Other 27%.



In the answer – “other” the following phrases were prevailing: “Misha should leave”, “I wish Georgia could won”, “Resignation of the president would not change anything”, “The opposition should stop their demonstrations”, “Debates should start in live broadcasting”, “Commander-in-chief should leave”, “Government should resign”, “Saakashvili along with his ministers should resign”, “Head of election committee should resign”, “constitutional changes should take place”, “The president should resign”, “New election should be organized”, “Misha along with the government should unseat”, “murderers should be imprisoned”.

## 2. From the side of the Opposition:

- a. On certain territory blockades should be removed – 30%
- b. Demonstrations have to be extended till the dialogue takes place – 31%
- c. Number of cells should be reduced – 12%
- d. Other – 28%



On the question “Other” the following phrases are given: “Demonstrations should be stopped for some time” “All this should have some kind of end”, “Movement in the city is hampered”, “Cells should be removed”, “More novelty should be added to the demonstrations”, “We need new forms of demonstration”, “Population feels discomfort while walking in the street”, “Garbage should be taken away”.