



PRESS RELEASE

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Twenty-eight* Political Parties Sign Code of Conduct For Free and Fair Elections

Skopje, Macedonia...The National Democratic Institute today announced that twenty-eight* political parties in Macedonia have signed a Code of Conduct for Free and Fair Elections. The Code was negotiated with political parties for the upcoming Parliamentary elections to be held September 15. If respected, the Code will make a strong contribution to preventing election-related violence and promoting a peaceful and stable election environment.

The following parties have signed the Code:

Democratic Albanian Alliance	NDP
Democratic Center	New Democracy
Democratic League of Bosniacs	Party of the Turks
Democratic Party of Serbs	PDP
Democratic Union	People's Movement for Macedonia
Democratic Union for Integration	Republican Party
Democratic Union of Vlachs	Republican Party of Macedonia
DPA	SDSM
Liberal Democratic Party	SPM
Liberal Party	United Party of Roma
Macedonian Alliance	Union of Roma
Macedonian People's Party	VMRO-DPMNE
Movement for the Reconstruction of Macedonia Napred-Makedonijo-Forca	VMRO Macedonia
	VMRO-REAL

“It is now up to the parties to keep their commitment to citizens to conduct the campaign in a fair, non-violent way,” said NDI Country Director Sheila Fruman. She added that there will be a media campaign to promote the Code because it is vitally important that citizens in Macedonia know about the Code and the commitments made by the parties for their conduct during the election. “The goal is to have an election that is without fear of violence, coercion or intimidation,” she said.

* This number reflects the addition of six parties to the original twenty-two that were reported in NDI's original press release in Skopje on June 24, 2002.

The Code of Conduct for Free and Fair Elections will be monitored by Citizens Association MOST, a non-governmental organization that is planning to have observers in the polling stations on election day.

Parliamentary elections in September will be the first since the implementation of the August 2001 Ohrid Agreement that ended months of inter-ethnic conflict. The elections will mark an important moment in Macedonia's democratic transition. To promote conflict prevention and the integrity of the electoral process, NDI is working with a multi-partisan and multi-ethnic group of leading political parties on responsible election organizing, voter canvassing, and polling observation, and with MOST on a large-scale nonpartisan election monitoring initiative. The Institute will also conduct a pre-election mission. NDI's Macedonia program is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.