

NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

MAIN ISSUES OF THE WEEK

The following tendencies have been found during the 26 May – 1 June period:

- While reporting on the incident in Gardabani part of the media highlighted political aspect of the conflict, while another highlighted only its ethnic aspect;
- Hate speech came from respondents (Rezo Amashukeli, poet; Robert Sturua, director) against the National Movement; against the leadership of the Ministry of Culture (Levan Anjaparidze, director), and from a journalist (Asaval-Dasavali) against Georgian writers;
- A Georgian Dream representative (David Lortkipanidze) tried to justify physical violence against a National Movement representative, while a respondent (Rezo Amashukeli, poet) demanded physical violence against a Georgian Dream Member on the pages of a newspaper;

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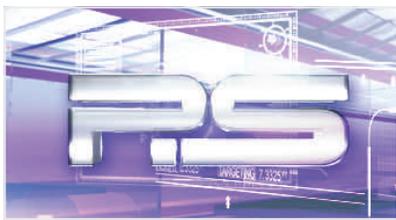
15, 26 MAY - 1 JUNE



RESPONSE

29 MAY

Rustavi 2 satisfies complaint of NGOs to self-regulatory body



Rustavi 2 Broadcasting Company self-regulatory body has satisfied the complaint lodged by the Union of Muslims of Georgia, Media Development Fund (MDF) and Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI). NGOs appealed to the self-regulatory body for

6 April video-report of P.S. program about construction of a mosque in Adjara.

According to the complaint P.S. TV report has violated 5 norms of the Code of Conduct of Broadcasters (see *No to Phobia!* newsletter #9).

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MAIN ISSUES OF THE WEEK

Beginning from p.1

- Leaders of the Patriots' Alliance and media union Obiektivi were sounding anti-Turkish sentiments. They did this mostly through Obiektivi TV and internet portal Geworld.ge;
- Besides Turks, instances of xenophobia were also directed against the Arabs, Iranians and Iraqis. A report in the Kviris Palitra newspaper used one criminal incident to generalize about foreigners, presenting them as violent people and criminals;
- An international festival organized by domestic and international Christian-Evangelical groups was presented by media (Alia newspaper as a "sectarian" and "anti-Christian heretical" gathering.
- Anti-Western sentiments were related to the Association Agreement with EU and false information about it, Lugar Laboratory, anti-discrimination law, and the West being presented as the enemy of Orthodox Christianity. Most active here were the following media outlets: Saqinform, Asaval-Dasavali, Geworld.ge.
- The topic of anti-discrimination law was still active, with the rise of criticism directed against the ruling party.

RESPONSE

Continued from p. 1

On 29 May review of complaint was held and besides members of self-regulation commission the hearing was attended by the interested parties.

The decision of Rustavi 2 self-regulatory body states that aim of journalist or of P.S. program was not to mislead viewers or to make incorrect statement about minorities, which is confirmed by general balance of the report and journalist's attempt to circulate opinions of all interested persons.

Despite that the self-regulatory satisfied the statement and P.S. editorial board has been recommended to especially carefully approach making of reports on religious minorities. "There may be certain defects in the report of dispute, although this should not be counted as biased position of a journalist, as disputable phrases are result of carelessness," the broadcaster clarified.

THE ISSUE OF THE WEEK –GARDABANI INCIDENT

While reporting on 28 May Gardabani incident, which started at first as a verbal exchange between young people and then turned into a physical fight, media mostly limited itself to description of the situation. News reports of most TV channels highlighted ethnic aspects of the conflict, while Rustavi 2 made focus on political affiliation



of the participants involved in conflict. Kurieri anchor named the sides not as ethnic Azeri and Georgians like they did on other channels, but as “conflicting locals”.

Local government representative spoke about National Movement artificially provoking ethnic conflict:

INTERPRESSNEWS, ALIA, 30 MAY

AMBAKO AVALIANI, acting head of administration of Gardabani Municipality: "Ramin Bairamov who is the chairman of the National Movement in Gardabani district provoked so many people and caused controversy between Georgians and Azeris. He has his own group which he directed to beat three ethnic Georgians, this caused dissatisfaction among Georgians, which was followed by verbal exchanges, and then a fight yesterday."

HATE SPEECH

SAKINFORMI, 28 MAY

RESO AMASHUKELI, poet: „You have drunk enough of Georgian blood. I know many people would like to do it, but please, leave Kote and Goka Gabashvili to me. Also, please, do not touch the hermaphrodite Akaki Minashvili. I must make him run on Rustaveli in the pink tights“.

http://sakinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19034:2014-05-28-11-56-32&catid=100:sazogadoeba&Itemid=396#ixzz33BrNUPtQ

REPORTIORI, 26 MAY

LEVAN ANJAPARIDZE, director: „I need to restrain myself not to touch some people... I swear, I am restraining myself not to skin some people [the leadership of the Ministry of Culture] in the street like pigs. I cannot see them as people any more!"

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=28005>

PIRVELI, 30 May

ROBERT STURUA, director: “... The cows endanger normal people. And the Nazis also endanger Georgia that is on a hard road! The National cows.“

P.S. And what do I have against a normal cow (in India it is even considered a holy animal)? So I change the name: the National cattle!“

http://pia.ge/show_internet_daijest_news.php?id=2867&lang=geo

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist: „All Britain and Europe are reading the lesbian-homosexual and zoophyte dirt-filled junk of these three men [Zura Karumidze, Zaza Burchuladze and Lasha Bughadze]... Do you think these all-reading European bosses will not impose the “pederasts’ law” on us after this?“

JUSTIFICATION OF VIOLENCE/CALLS FOR VIOLENCE

ALIA, 29 MAY

DAVID LORTKIPANIDZE, Georgian Dream: „For Chiaberashvili to get beaten it is sufficient what he wrote about Mother of Georgia – that she has vagina in one hand and phallus in another“.

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

REZO AMASHUKELI, poet: „I warn David Zurabishvili – if I meet him somewhere, I will break his another leg too! He must beware me!“

INCITEMENT OF HATRED

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 30 AND 31 MAY

The whole of the Night Studio program was dedicated to the information spread by Obiektivi that on 29 May the Turkish border guards did not let the population of village Kirnati in Adjara to conduct their agricultural works and crossed the Georgian border, which was not confirmed by the Georgian officials.

The whole of the program incited hatred towards the Turks.

DAVID TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots Alliance:

“... We will not give up anything to anyone and if we have to break the heads of those Turkish border guards, we’ll break those heads. It is violence when a Turkish border guard is telling you to get out, and when I am there, I will beat him to a pulp.“



“Saakashvili government sold Adjara to the Turks, and the new government has not been firm enough... Nobody will give anything up to these Turks.

...I want to remind everyone that Turkey has taken over 33% of Georgia’s territory.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2347603

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2347530

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2347567

VAZHA OTARASHVILI, Patriots Alliance: “Some foreigner came over to Georgia, who had been destroying you for three centuries, who began to abolish kingship in Georgia in 1723, and now is approaching you like a friend...”

The Georgian TV channels are enchanted by these Turkish series, they have stupefied the people... They are airing the films of their own conquerors 24 hours a day. These are traitorous TV channels.“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2347574

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2347605

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INCITEMENT OF HATRED

Beginning from p. 4

SOSO ZAALISHVILI, anchor: "... Now, when the Turkish military is coming on the Georgian territory, is taking away lands of Georgian peasants, this is the beginning of a occupation. This is the beginning of an open occupation."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2348383

TURKOPHOBIA

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 27 MAY

DAVID TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots Alliance: "Here are Adjarians, they have the land of their fathers, and they cannot legalize it, on the contrary, they have taken the lands from the people, and given them to the Turks.

... Turkey, which is attracting our youth, to take them to Istanbul, educates them there, and mainly giving them religious education, this is one thing. Another is that they work with many young people and influence their minds, afterwards many think that Turkey is our homeland and is Georgia".

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2344670

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2346765

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 27 MAY

VIEWER [telephone call-in]: "The madrassa story is a painful story. Not only their habitus changed, but honestly, all their understanding is changing, and there was a fact I heard about on TV, that only one person in Adjara new Knight in the Panther's Skin by heart, while 15 girls new Koran by heart. What can I compare this with??"

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2346767

GEWORLD.GE , 28 MAY

ZVIAD IRMADZE, Anti-Globalization Centre "Iverians": „Turkey has its own interests, its plan, and we should not be surprised that in certain aspects it contradicts the existence of the idea of Georgian statehood."

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5926&lang=ge>

GEWORLD.GE , 28 MAY

MERAB BLADADZE, "human rights activist": "The Nationals have taken the real estate people of Batumi received from their fathers and sold it to the Turks for 1 lari... Today 18 thousand Turkish owners are registered in Batumi, can you imagine this? Our shining Batumi has been corrupted, even Gonio and Kvartiati villages have been defiled by the Turks."

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5927>

GEWORLD.GE, 28 MAY

B.S. [incognito respondent]: "You cannot hear Georgian speech in old Batumi any more... Excuse me, but the Russia is not an occupier for me, an Adjarian person, because I have already been conquered by the Turk and nobody is greater occupier than the Turk for me... An Adjarian man is more pained by the fact that on his land the Turk has been established... Arrogant Turks are aggressive on the streets of Batumi."

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5927>

XENOPHOBIA

KVIRIS PALITRA, 26 MAY-1 JUNE



The issue of an Iraqi citizens suspect in an attempted rape of a minor, which was covered in xenophobic context in the Georgian media, was reported in a speculative way by Kvirisi Palitra newspaper. This incident was generalized in relations to the foreigners as such, with statistics of foreigners being arrested brought as an illustration.

„Recently Tbilisi was shocked by a terrible fact – several citizens of Iraq attempted to rape a 15 year-old boy. Unfortunately, this is not the only case when foreign citizens get arrested for various violations in Georgia... According to the data for March of this year, 188 foreign suspects and convicts were kept in Georgian prisons".

Despite the fact that, as statistics indicates, most of the foreigners have been arrested for illegal border crossing and financial crimes, the newspaper is unfoundedly connecting the incident with much more serious crime – sexual violence , presenting foreigners in general as a serious criminals.

NETGAZETI, 29 MAY

The article reports on the problem of selective tourism.

RADA GVASALIA, Batumi resident: "Iraqis are dirty. Iranians too."

KHATUNA INASARIDZE, "Ialkani" hotel: "Iranians are very dirty... Everyone avoids letting in Iranians".

INGA RUSUDAN, "Bekro" hotel: "Iranians have their own sort of smell too, they have uncultural way of eating".

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/Life/31963/htm>

GEWORLD.GE, 28 MAY

ZVIAD IREMADZE, Anti-Globalization Centre "Iverians": „...Georgia does not belong to Georgians any more. Walk on Plekhanov at 10 p.m., and you will see whose this country is – ours or the foreigners'. This avenue is full with Arabs, Iranians and Iraqis."

[http://geworld.ge/View.php?](http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5926&lang=ge)

[ArtId=5926&lang=ge](http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5926&lang=ge)

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

ALIA, 28 MAY

ZHANA ASANIDZE, journalist: „Mr. Zaza (to Nanobashvili), lets get back to the information from the social networks. They say that on 6-8 June there is the 'sectariant' gathering in Tbilisi Sports Palace, covered under the form of a "festival". This is a usual anti-Christian heretical gathering and no one should attend it! “

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

GEWORLD.GE, 28 MAY

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People's Assembly: "Considering that today there is a global genocide, aiming for both spiritual and physical destruction of, everything gets clear. So it is suspected that these viruses [discovered in Georgia and studied in cooperation with Americans in the Lugar Laboratory] are being spread on purpose... This is aimed at the final destruction of the Georgian people, Georgian identity... I am very suspicious about this laboratory [Lugar]..."

There are much more dangerous agents in Georgia than the Russian agents. Especially dangerous are the agents of those Masonic movements that want to turn the world into a single nation."

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5921>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

TEMUR SHASHIASHVILI, "Tetrebi" political movement: „Dispersal of the rally by Saakashvili government on 26 May was directly sanctioned by the then US Ambassador John Bass!.. Yes, Americans gave the full carte blanche to the Georgian government on 26 May – go, beat, shoot and kill your own people!

... A ruling group member that avoids signing this agreement [Association] must be happy, because nobody knows how events will develop and what kind of difficult problems this agreement will create for Georgia!"

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

SAKINFORMI, 26 MAY

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, editor-in-chief of Saqinform: „...By signing Association Agreement with EU Georgia will officially lose its independence!..

By the shameful association with this structure that is destined to disintegrate Georgia will become a deprived-of-rights subject of the one-sided agreements and obligations! Americans and Europeans look at Georgians with disgust to this day, because they believe we are primitive slaves, wild highlanders and 3rd-rate uneducated people!

Georgia will get empty like Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, Georgian workers will go to Europe, and here only Chinese and Iranians will be left; Armenians will populate Samtskhe-Javakheti, and Azeris - Kvemo Kartli... As to Adjara, it will be overwhelmed by Turkish population and the region itself will move to Turkey by that time!

When Georgia gets into free trade regime with EU countries, it will have to produce and use only the products which satisfy the European standards, which will finally decimate the agriculture, small and medium business. And at the same time the Russian market will be closed for Georgia again....

There will be a technical control system in Georgia that destroys 80% of Georgia's old cars... Drugs, food and goods in Georgia in general will have a sharp rise of prices...

And the most alarming thing: Georgia will be obligated to ratify the Regional Languages European Charter, which it signed in 1999!.. This is not an innocent project for regional languages, but a prerequisite for proclamation of the autonomy for Samegrelo, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli."

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19003:-l-r&catid=115:redakciisagan&Itemid=530#axzz3492Id3AM

Continued on p.8

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from p. 4

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

TEMUR KHACHISHVILI, former Minister of Internal Affairs: „The road we are on now will not lead us into EU, but will turn us into its colony. I am not against what is good in EU coming into Georgia, but only evil values from there are established here.“

VALERI GELBAKHIANI, former Parliament member: „If Georgia signs economic part of the EU Association, it will destroy Georgia’s economic potential!... We shall be a 3rd world country and no one will be interesting in the development of our economy!“

ALIA, 28 MAY

ZAZA NANOBASHVILI, The Orthodox Christians Convocation: „There [in Europe] anti-Orthodox movements are strong, they force traditional countries into quagmire“.

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

GIORGI RAZMADZE, priest:

„In England they allow a 9 years old child to choose his sex, if he is boy how to become a girl and vice versa, by using various methods and drugs... They want to do such things in Georgia too. That’s how it started in England, adoption of certain laws, and in the end same-sex marriages were allowed.“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

LEVAN VASADZE, businessman:

„... You have shamed Georgia [by adoption of anti-discrimination law] ... and you did this not for the real European values, which are Christian values, but for the slaves of those anti-human, occultist forces that have been corrupting and destroying traditional Europe during the last years, destroying the faith in family and God there...“

NETGAZETI, 26 MAY

ARCHIL CHKOIDZE, Eurasian Choice:

„In my opinion this unrest in Ukraine was instigated by the West, despite this they turned out powerless before Russia... In order for us to protect our citizens and their security we must develop close ties with Russia. Because it is obvious that the West cannot protect security of Georgia.“

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/31837/.htm>

PIRVELI, 26 MAY

ARCHIL CHKHOIDZE, Eurasian

Choice: „Unfortunately, the West and US do everything to push Georgia into a conflict with Russia and then claim that Georgia has become a victim of aggression... The war was not started by the Georgian side, it was started by Mikheil Saakashvili under the orders from America, which has been lately confirmed by John McCain “.

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=14812&lang=geo

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

MEDEA RUSISHVILI, "Asaval-

Dasavali" reader: „Supporting filth is not democracy, it is a crime and if democracy and the West really demand such a filth [adoption of the anti-discrimination law], then we don’t want such democracy and such West!“

Continued on p.9

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from p. 8

GEWORLD.GE, 28 MAY

ZVIAD IREMADZE, Anti-Globalization Centre “Iverians”: „NATO as an alliance is an alliance of political criminals. As to EU, the Baltic states are a clear example of what can happen to us as a result of getting close to this organization... Riga – a city that was great in the Soviet time, and where people were making their honeymoon trips, is left without people now.“

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5926&lang=ge>

SAQINFORMI, 27 MAY

“...How he [Irakli Alasania, Minister of Defense] is using Georgian guys as cannon fodder, just like his predecessors, and they are turned hired occupiers fighting for the criminal interests of the US masters“.

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19008:2014-05-27-07-48-10&catid=99:actual1&Itemid=419#ixzz33Bdm6Tzm

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 30 MAY

TV VIEWER [telephone call-in]: „We may want to join NATO and station here their troops and their air defense systems, but who will provide maintenance for this? It will be Turkish army, which is a NATO member... They will bring Turks here, and while Mr. Alasania said we must station the defense systems – does he want to turn Georgia into a polygon?“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2348393

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

DITO CHUBINISHVILI, journalist:

„Mr Shalva, I think you have not stated yet your position about this so called anti-discrimination law in our newspaper, which we call, excuse me, the pederasts’ law.“

SHALVA NATELASHVILI, Labor

Party: „By adoption of this law he [Bidzina Ivanishvili] has crossed everything, and because of this Ivanishvili will go into history as an establisher of the sexual minorities as a special sect!“

IMEDI, REAKTSIA, 30 MAY

SHALVA NATELASHVILI,

Labor Party: “The dream Mr Ivanishvili has realized is probably the



dream of the sexual minorities, by the anti-discrimination law... This law will be followed by the law legalizing same-sex marriages and legalization of their prerogative to adopt children.“

Continued on p.10

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW

Beginning from p. 9

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY – 1 JUNE

LEVAN VASADZE, businessman: „By



this law you have prohibited to name filth as filth, ignominy as ignominy. The most shameful behavior of a person is to threaten people with putting them to jail and destruction of their property and business... Take any mention of legitimization of filth out of it, however they may be ordering this to you from the West, and prohibit propaganda of filth in Georgia."

IMEDI, REAKTSIA, 30 MAY

LEVAN VASADZE, businessman:

„This law has been adopted to multiply the unnatural minority in Georgia... We don't prohibit this dirty lust to anyone, but by this law, this is shameful..."

If this law starts to work, this will be worse tragedy for me than the loss of Abkhazia.“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2348426

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY – 1 JUNE

DAVID ISAKADZE, archpriest:

„Republicans and Nationals have turned the Parliament into their own

home, where they adopt the laws legalizing sodomy together, contrary to the will of the society!“

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 28 MAY

TV VIEWER [telephone call-in]:

„I want to tell Zviad Dzidziguri that he is a supporter of gays and should not wear chokha [Georgian traditional clothes], such people must not wear chokha and be in the Parliament.“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2344662

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY – 1 JUNE

MEDEA RUSISHVILI, Asaval-

Dasavali reader: „How do they get such disgusting ideas [adoption of the anti-discrimination law], how can they put this on paper and make it public. How can they appear in public after this and look people in the eyes? Perhaps they see everyone naked and in their minds rape them too!!!“

JABA KHUBUA, journalist:

“This documentary, aired by the 1st channel on 17 May, which is a clear example of the LGBT propaganda, is a direct result of that so called “anti-discrimination law”, which had been joyfully adopted by the Parliament of Georgia, proclaiming sodomy and lesbian love as a natural norm.“

DISKRIMINATION BY SEXUAL IDENTITY

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: "Are the Georgian people financing the Public Broadcaster from their own poor pockets, so that they can watch it airing an advertisement of filth and deadly sin?!"

IMEDI, REAKTSIA, 30 MAY

SHALVA NATELASHVILI, Labor Party: „The only thing society asks from them is not to stage parades on Rustaveli... So that the undesirable direction does not become fashionable, does not become contagious, you know that fashion and some contagious syndromes cause many things, right?“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2348527

LEVAN VASADZE, businessman: „The minority multiplied as a result of the unnatural corruption has no connection to the natural minorities. There is no scientific proof that this is genetically necessary cross for a person... This is a norm of person's behavior, a conscious choice that is directed at the dirty lust .“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2348426

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 26 MAY –1 JUNE

BASIL MKALAVISHVILI, priest: „The memory of 17 May is disgusting for all Georgians, since they want to turn this day into a holiday for the sodomites. That is why God gave as a sign, you see what kind of God's wrath fell on Dariali gorges“.

GENDER THEMES

MARIAM APTSIAURI, journalist: "...An interest to this [riding motorcycle] is growing in the representatives of the weak sex too.“

REPORTIORI, 29 MAY

MERAB METREVELI, journalist: „I want to give a belated outraged reaction on the campaign against violence towards women... Are they killing as many women in our country, as they are killing men? The ratio won't even be 1 to 10. If you are against murders that have become more often in the country, you should be against violence in general, what has violence against women to do with this? Sometimes I am thinking that some rights defenders consider violence against men to be acceptable“.

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=28368>