

NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

MAJOR FINDINGS OF MONITORING

The following tendencies have been revealed during the weeks of August 4-17:

- The hate speech was yet again addressed to the members of the United National Movement;
- Racist expression by the news agency *Sakinformi* was related to the current developments in Ukraine and was based on the

Russian sources and contained unverified facts. A photo illustration of article of a unidentified black person was portrayed as the warrior of a Ukrainian government forces.

- Xenophobia was mainly expressed by the members of Alliance of Patriots in relation to Turks;

continued on p. 2

22, 4-17 AUGUST



JOIN STATEMENT OF NGOs ON A DISCRIMINATORY REPORT BY THE GEORGIAN PUBLIC BROADCASTER

8 AUGUST 2014

On August 6, the main news program of Georgian Public Broadcaster, *Moambe*, reported a fatal incident caused by the negligence of parents, which took place in the US state of Kansas. A 10-month-old child died after being left by parents in the car under 30C degree heat. We believe that the report as presented by GPB deepens intolerance among society by indicating the sexual identity of parents and misinterpreting the facts.

continued on p. 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hate speech	2
Racism	2
Xenophobia	3
Unjustified reference to ethnic and religious identity	3
Religious discrimination	4
Anti-Western sentiments	4

WWW.MDFGEORGIA.GE

WWW.GDI.GE



The newsletter was made possible by the generous support of the American people rendered through the USA Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of the newsletter are the responsibility of Media Development Foundation (MDF) and Georgian Democracy Initiative do not necessarily reflect the views of the USAID or the USA.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF MONITORING

Beginning from the p.1

- Ethnic, religious and sexual identities were mentioned without justification in a number of cases.
- Religions discrimination by the representative of a church took place against the Jehovah witnesses. *Geworld.ge* published misleading facts about the Armenian places of worship as well as about the representatives of various confessions;
- Anti-Western sentiments were on the rise in the light of Association Agreement, Kazantip festival and concerning the LGBT rights. The sentiments were expressed likewise while reviewing the comments of European politicians concerning the legal prosecution of ex-president Micheil Saakashvili, often it was linked to corrupt interests.
- Kazantip festival was portrayed as an event of sexual minorities linked to the western values.



SAKINFORMI:

“The Doubts about the representative of Homo negritosus specie was said to be stolen from the local ethnographic museum by the Ukrainians, according to the initial version of the news it was taken as a souvenir by armored vehicle ...This rare breed used to be the advisor to Saakashvili’s Army”.

HATE SPEECH

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

DIMITRI CHUBINIDZE, Journalist: “ Those who raped 26 000 thousand Georgian men and stuck the brooms in their backs, they do deserve to be hooked on stick and then to be hung on the walls of *National Movement* headquarters, right on the way to the airport!”

RACISM

SAKINFORMI, August 5

“The Doubts about the representative of Homo negritosus specie was said to be stolen from the local ethnographic museum by the Ukrainians, according to the initial version of the news it was taken as a souvenir by armored vehicle. Nevertheless this presumption was canceled due to the clothes of the Ukrainian Nationalist found in the vehi-

cle. Apparently the dark-skinned man decided to use his natural camouflage. Once he tried to speak in Georgian, all the doubts cleared away. This rare breed used to be the advisor to Saakashvili’s Army.

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19944:2014-2008-&catid=109:arno&Itemid=538#axzz3AkVt5DeQ

XENOPHOBIA

GEWORLD.GE, August 14

VAJA OTARASHVILI, *Alliance of Patriots*: “We are careless for those unique world historical cultural heritage [Georgian historical monuments on the territory of Tao Klarjeti, Turkey] they are falling apart with the “support ” of our “friend and a partner” (or may be a historical enemy).

...Not to mention the pro-Turkish state, or “family” orientation of Saakashvili’s fascist government, or Georgian TV air time overloaded with Turkish soap-operas, while Georgian cinematography is counting its days... genetically modified products from Turkey, that are full of pesticides and chemical fertilizers have totally substituted on the market the products cultivated by Georgian peasants.”

ALIA, August 8

JANA ASANIDZE, Journalist: “ Georgia has imposed a stricter visa policy. Government of Saakashvili granted a visa-free entry in Georgia to 118 countries. Most of these countries are so called “starved” countries. Tbilisi is crammed by the people of unidentified origin, maybe this was the reason for applying the stricter visa-regime?”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

VAJA KHACHAPURIDZE, IDP: “I have a truthful information that the agricultural land of IorMughanlo was sold out by the “Nats-gang” for a minimal price. And it was not sold to the locals, but to some Arab crook. Exactly a crook! I said it intentionally, because an honest foreigner would never have anything in common with the *National Movement* representatives!”

INJUSTIFIED REFERENCE TO ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

SAKINFORMI, August 18

ARNO KHIDIRBEGASHVILI, *Sakinformi* chief editor: “[David] Cramer was partly right about this – Misha Saakian and Iulia Grigorian, have much more in common, than just Armenian origins.”

http://sakinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20086:2014-08-18-07-23-21&catid=98:politics&Itemid=457#ixzz3AvoLleHC

KVIRIS QRONIKA, August 11 - 17

MAMISA JAFARASHVILI, Organizer of protest rally: “There is one money lender from the times of Misha, his name is Eduard Ninuashvili, he managed to throw out people from around 40 houses, he is a chief Jehovah follower. He is under the protection of “Republican Party”, namely David Usupashvili.”

continued on p. 4

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

ALIA, August 5

BASIL MKALAVISHVILI, priest: “Rapid growth of the sect of Jehovah followers paved the way to this debauchery. During my preaching I used to predict that due to inertness of the Patriarchy Jehovah followers would become stronger, they would influence the ruling powers and eventually the patriarchy too.”

It is obvious that the sectarians and their advocates – Bokeria, Tutberidze, Ugulava and all that gang are against the church and the Orthodoxy in general.”

GEWORLD.GE, August 6

Journalist reports misleading information about the visit of officials in the Armenian church. **NIKA MAISURADZE, Journalist:** “President of Armenia – Serj Sargisyan visited Georgia in 2008. Those Armenian guests together with the member of the parliament Goga Khachidze broke into the door of the church, which they claim as theirs.”

In August 10 of 2008, someone mistreated the church named after Saint George in village Kanda. There are plenty of sectarians living in Kanda, most likely they committed this crime...”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6104>

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, August 5

TV Viewer: “For whom are we building this country? whose country are we building here? are we building it for non-Christians or we are building a real Georgian orthodox country? those are the questions I want to pose.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2390459

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, August 17

TV Viewer: “That young man (Irakli Alasania) once dared and let the Georgian army be blessed by Molah in the mosque, he should not have done that...”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2396025&rc=1



BASIL MKALAVISHVILI, priest:

“Rapid growth of the sect of Jehovah followers paved the way to this debauchery”.

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

GEWORLD.GE, August 12

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SOCIETY

ZUGDIDELI: “Unfortunately Georgian parliament adopted the Anti-discrimination law, which is the part of a long-term plan and is imposed by the West.

...Apparently, we have incorporated the so-called western motto: “in order to enslave a person, you should abuse him first and then turn him into your herd”... I would like to repeat one “cosmic“ phrase of an antichrist follower – polish-Jew, member of the “committee of 300” named Zbigniew Brzez-

inski: “Orthodoxy is the number one enemy to the world after the fall of the Soviet Union.”

<http://www.geworld.ge/ViewGE.php?G=11427>

ALIA, August 5

BASIL MKALAVISHVILI, priest: “We have forgotten the words of the God and everything that is Christian, we have decided to become civilized Europeans to be associated with the European family and to adjust their system. Why is the “Kazantip festival” unexpected for us?! I am addressing the priests

continued on p. 5

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

who were celebrating the signing of an Association Agreement; we should have organized a protesting demonstration at that time, rather than in Anaklia.

...In Moldova the Euro-laws are already adopted and “father and mother” are prohibited there. In Georgia it started in the parliament when the pseudo Georgians like Berdzenishvili and Davitashvili decided to remove out the identification of fathers name from IDs.

The place we are heading to, promises us debauchery of the youth, abuse of a sacred family, termination of the traditions, offence of relatives, incest and most importantly the ignorance of a religion.”

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, August 13

REZO AMASHUKELI, poet: “...Because of their misbehavior and because of those, whatever they are called - the LGBTs, 85% of the population inclined towards Russia, since they would never tell us to marry our cousin who is also a boy...”

You came here with your candies, with McDonalds and with your shows in order to take away the whole generation from us, you have taken away youth, nobody wants to read a book. You fight vigorously against the church, but why? Because you want to erase my existence and my sustainability, you want us to be like those in Europe. This is not going to happen. Georgians will sacrifice themselves to this, you know why? Because genetically Georgians have some kind of immunity against that...

What do they want (America)?, to eradicate my culture and everything I have ? All those shows serve exactly this purpose.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2393365

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2393367

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2393392

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

TAMAZ TSIVTIVADZE, writer: “...It is difficult for me to understand American and European men, many times they appeared to be men, when I considered them as women and vice-versa!..

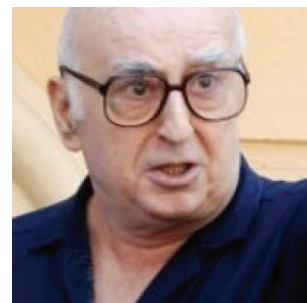
Nevertheless I am pleased to note that McCane and his buddies acted very manly, when they wrote letters of protest instead of love letters to our prime minister!

It has to be underlined Jaba, that their legislation grants them too much rights! For example, a representative of a working-class (especially if he is handsome!) can easily marry the male president of that country and spend a honey moon sitting on his body!”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 4 - 10

REZO AMASHUKELI, poet: "Who is this McCain? - an incurable disease?!"

Georgian society turned against Russia and leaned more to the West initially, but Americans and Europeans patted Saakashvili head and this bloody gang for so long, that 80 % of the public turned back to Russians!"



REZO AMASHUKELI,

poet: „...85% of the population leaned towards Russia, since they would never tell us to marry our cousin who is also a boy...”

continued on p. 6

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

GEORGIAN PUBLIC BROADCAST,
Moambe news program, August 12

GOGA KHANDRAVA, movie director:

“I will have comprehensive information about the fraud that Carl Bildt has committed. How he used to allocate this finances in different lobbyist organizations in Europe.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2396297

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

REZO AMASHUKELI, poet: ...“Is this Carl Bildt a crook or Bolt?; nobody can ever convince me that he loves Saakashvili just because! Saakashvili was the failed project of Bush Administration, in which they have invested lots of money, that’s why it is so difficult for them to let him go.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, *Sakinformi*

Chief editor: “ They [Carl Bildt and other senators] do not care about Saakashvili, their concerns about unacceptable political revenge against Saakashvili is just a maneuver. They just want to force Georgia to share the sanctions of EU and USA against Russia and then place NATO military bases on the territory of Georgia.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: “God forbid, but if it is officially confirmed that those Bildts are the bribe taker pseudo politicians, Georgia will lose its last hope about the democracy of Europe and USA!”

KVIRIS QRONIKA, August 4-10

NINO SAMKHARADZE, Journalist:

“To question the fairness of the government that was elected by people will result in an aggression against the Western politicians who prefer to protect Misha, rather than the interests of Georgian people... I wonder what if Obama’s administration had broken up the rally with armed forces and if he had killed the peaceful demonstrators, if he had raped the prisoners and had announced the zero tolerance, what would have been the reaction of Saakashvili’s friend John McCain? Most probably he would have recalled his past and would have shot down Obama and his rule with his gun.”

ALIA, August 7

NINO SAMKHARADZE, *Alia*: “What do you think was the price that the “Nationals” paid to Carl Bildt and other leading western politicians to buy their vigorous protection in return?”

continued on p. 7

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

SAKINFORMI, August 4

ARNO KHIDIRBE-GISHVILI, Sakinformi

Chief Editor: “If anything stinks in our house, they are Ambassadors like Dimitrov, because they advocate and sponsor the criminal, who have committed the most severe crime against the entire human kind!”

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19916:2014-08-04-06-58-01&catid=100:sazogadoeba&Itemid=396#ixzz3AB1XCzkt

KVIRIS QRONIKA, August 11-17

GELA ZEDELASH-VILI, Journalist:

“Certainly, Georgians have always had someone across the borders, to whom they could complaint and act as a traitor for the leading politicians in Georgia, we would also ask for their punishment. We had exactly this kind of relationship with Shah-Abas, Agha Mahmad-Khan, with the members of Soviet Union’s “politbureau” and today we maintain this kind of

relationships with people like: Stephan Fule, John McCain or Karl Bildt.”

RESONANSI, August 13

Newspaper published the information by agency *eprn.ge* about the planned protest rally *No to NATO* organized by the *Eurasian Choice* .

Eurasian Choice : “There will be documentary photo exhibition about the cruelty that America and NATO military bases have committed in different parts of the world. The members of the demonstration will request to hold general referendum in order to clarify what does Georgian nation really wants: integration with EU or integration in Customs Economic Union and strategic cooperation with Russia.”

SAKINFORMI, August 4

ARNO KHIDIRBE-GISHVILI, Sakinformi

Chief Editor: “Let’s be realists – It has been several months since the nonofficial war is on between USA and Russia, USA was the catalyst of this war...this is the war between two Universes - devil against God. Putin is leading one side and Saakashvili another one...”

If Putin had fulfilled his promise, that he voiced at the meeting with Sarkozy in August 2008 (hang him with his testicles) Georgia and Ukraine would have been sovereign and blooming countries!”

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19909:115:redakciisagan&Itemid=530#ixzz3AAqFOdve

continued on p. 8

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from the p.7

SAKINFORMI, August 5

“So let’s put it that way, Saakashvili wants to poison Georgians, Azeri’s and Armenians, this will facilitate the revolutionary process and will help USA to create a southern corridor towards Caspian. The plan also envisages creation of strategic base between Russia and Near East.”

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19929:---2-----&catid=102:samartali&Itemid=473#ixzz3AAucT8Z7

GEWORLD.GE, August 7

“USA and EU forced Ukrainian Nationalists to overthrow the legitimately elected president, then again USA and EU initiated the punitive expedition with the support of hired foreigners (Officially named as “Antiterrorist operation”). They were even more evil than their fascist predecessors”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6108>

GEWORLD.GE, August 13

“Neo-Nazis encouraged by the leaders of USA and EU have abolished and terminated the cities in Donetsk and Lugansk, they were announced as the zones of humanitarian disaster by those loving-enemies.

Neo-Nazis are fighting against the Orthodoxy, they kill the church servants, and they demolish the churches and cultural monuments.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6113>

GEWORLD.GE, August 6

“Orthodoxy is the most persecuted religion”

NIKA MAISURADZE, journalist: “Some religious Europeans are forced to act against their trust and obey the anti-Christian policy of European rule.

For example in Ireland (There are 3000 Orthodox Christians, 0, 07% of the population) almost all the

churches are obliged to hold the wedding ceremony for the same-sex marriages...for instance, in North of Ireland (There are no Orthodox Christian there) military protestant and catholic organizations are still operational, they are ready to organize massacres for protecting their political ideas.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6104>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, Public Council : “ We are incapable of building our government because this America is sitting on our back...”

How can I trust the West, which has killed Zviad Gamsakhurdia because of his national policy, but he is eagerly protecting Saakashvili who loathe Georgian people and is against and Orthodoxy?!”

continued on p. 9

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

DAVIT ISAKADZE, deacon: “European American institutions exercise pressure on the governments to indoctrinate this kind [LGBT] of lifestyle in their countries. They try to do it covertly in traditional countries like Georgia.”

OBIEQTIVI, Night Studio, August 12

NINO RATISHVILI, anchor: “Why do you think we adopted, for example, Anti-Discrimination Law? Because Hamarberg managed to convince Bidzina Ivanishvili...

...We are going to be out of reproducers and birth givers in this poor country.”

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=18131>

HOMOPHOBIA

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

REZO AMASHUKELI, poet: “If you try to convince us all the time, that we have to protect human rights and you propagate loudly that homosexuals are the good guys, then why do you hide that you are pederasts and homosexuals?...or maybe you are embarrassed of your homosexuality, my friends? if not why can't you keep your mouth shut and seize the propaganda and advocacy of LGBT!”

MISLEADING SPECIFICATION OF SEXUAL IDENTITY

GEORGIAN PUBLIC BROADCASTER, *Moambe*, July 6

IRAKLI CHIKHLADZE, anchor: “Tragic accident in America – In the state of Kansas a couple of nontraditional orientation forgot that they had left 10 month daughter in the car, meanwhile the temperature exceeded 30 degrees.

The couple went to watch the series of “Game of thrones”. According to the information, they smoked marihuana during the show. There is no good news about the baby – sadly she passed away.”

<http://1tv.ge/news-view/73994>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 11-17 August

ELISO KILADZE, Newspaper *Qronika*: “By the way, Meskheli [Amiran Meskheli former deputy minister of Internal Affairs] never used to hide his sexual orientation. He even wrote a notice earlier, that he has nontraditional sexual orientation and should not be sent to the army.”

continued on p. 10

MISLEADING SPECIFICATION OF SEXUAL IDENTITY

OBIEQTIVI, *Night Studio*, August 13

REZO AMASHUKELI, poet: "You were brothers when you entered the prison [Speaking of the brothers Levan Berdzenishvili (GD MP-s) and Davit Berdzenishvili] but you came out as sisters when you were released. I am warning you do mind yourselves, there is a limit to the patience of Georgian people."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2393384

ALIA, August 7

GIORGI RAZMADZE, priest: "Speaking of Koka Kandiashvili, what is his approach to this [Kazantip], he has become so active lately. I wonder what is his orientation, what does he like and what does he want? We all know the answer, but let him say it, and then we will answer properly to Kandiashvili and all the others like him."

KAZANTIP

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, August 11-17

DAVIT ISAKADZE, deacon:

"Lying with mankind as with womankind, there was a complete set of LGBT life-style. Drugs, alcohol and nudity, all these was happening in front of the public. When they leave, debauchery will stay there. Our kids will immerse themselves into drugs and into the sin of Lying with mankind as with womankind..."

They make fun of orthodoxy by naming their seducer, so called, government 'synod of Kazantip'."

REZONANSI, August 14

AVTANDIL UNGIADZE, *The Union of Orthodox Parents:*

"Kazantip is nothing else then debauchery, Lying with man-

kind as with womankind and illegal drugs."

ALIA, August 7

GIORGI RAZMADZE, priest: "There was exactly same kind of thinking and lifestyle in Sodom and Gomorrah, when a holy trinity in the shape of an angel went there, they intended to harass. This is why that place is still on fire. Is this what they want to happen in Anaklia?"

ALIA, August 5

BASIL MKALAVISHVILI, priest: "All the anti-Orthodox powers are concentrating on Georgia now... how can it be beneficial to any sensible person the event where thousands of gays, homosexuals, lesbians and others are arriving?"

...God sent the great flood because of perversion; God cleared away Sodom and Gomorrah because of the gays. This is what we are cooking up for us with this so-called festival. "

ALIA, August 8

LEVAN JAVAKHISHVILI, journalist: "...It is quite possible that great misfortune will happen in Anaklia because of

"Kazantip..."

It will be too late then to regret that we have opened our doors widely to the historic anomaly of Crimean Tatars, which is called "Kazantip."

JOIN STATEMENT OF NGOs ON A DISCRIMINATORY REPORT BY THE GEORGIAN PUBLIC BROADCASTER

Beginning from the p.1

- The US source of this information reported about one parent whose negligence led to the death of the child. The First Channel of GPB, however, placed emphasis on a "same-sex couple" without mentioning that the couple had 5 children.
- The anchor of *Moambe* misinterpreted the incident by identifying the sexual orientation of the parents thereby creating a preliminary negative attitude towards the LGBT community. In particular, the anchor said: the "gay couple left 10-month-old daughter in a car - child died because of the heat".
- As Washington Post reports, only in 2014, at least 21 children have died after being left in cars in the heat in the US. The editorial board of *Moambe*, however, selected just one tragedy suffered by the same-sex couple and left other 20 cases unmentioned in its report. Naturally, the matter of public interest in reporting such type of incidents is lives of children whilst the sexual orientation of their parents has no relevance to the matter.

A person's gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religious or other affiliations, can only be mentioned if it is essential for the story covered; for example, if a person's sexual orientation constitute the ground for a crime. In the given case the sexual orientation of parents is not essential for reporting the incident. Observing this standard is especially important when it comes to covering negative events so as to ensure that media avoid deepening nega-

tive stereotypes. As a result, the channel violated Article 15.9 of the Code of Conduct for Public Broadcaster, which refers to sexual minorities. In particular:

"Homosexuals frequently become victims of offensive stereotypes. Homosexuals and bisexuals constitute a minority and the programme authors should remember that they too, like others, represent a part of society.

We should mention a homosexual's sexual orientation in a programme only if it is directly associated with its subject matter. Otherwise we shall violate the right of personal inviolability and contribute to the stereotype's consolidation."

This is not the first instance of non-governmental organizations releasing a public statement and filing a complaint with the self-regulatory body of the broadcaster concerning discrimination on various grounds and hate speech by the GPB.

We believe that the role of the broadcaster's self-regulatory body in establishing professional standards is of utmost important. The decision of the GPB's Board of Trustees took on the NGOs' complaint on July 18, in which the majority of trustees justified the use of hate speech by the legislation on freedom of expression and refused to assess the ethical and professional norms of the disputed case, does not contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Code of Conduct of Broadcasters. In particular, "the purpose of the Code is to ensure that

any broadcasting licensee and especially, the public broadcaster be equally responsible for observing standards of professional ethics and be accountable to the public as being necessary to protect ethics and human values, strengthen social consensus and promote tolerance in a democratic society" (Article 4.1).

The public broadcaster is a TV channel serving all citizens of Georgia regardless of their identity. Therefore, it is unacceptable for the broadcaster to be a source of discrimination. The channel must realize its accountability to all citizen and react adequately to each and every instance of encouraging stigmatization of certain groups and inciting intolerance.

Media Development Foundation, MDF

Identoba

Georgian Democratic Initiative, GDI

Tolerance and Diversity Institute, TDI

Georgia's Reforms Associates, GRASS

Union Sapari

Association "LGBT Georgia"

Institute of Nonviolent Communication

Human Rights Education and Monitoring Centre, EMC

Women's Initiatives Supporting Group, WISG

Transparency International Georgia, TI