

# NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

## MAIN ISSUES OF THE WEEK

The following tendencies have been noted during the week of 18-24 August:

- Calls for violence by the respondents against the representatives of the National Movement;
- Xenophobic statements by the former minister of internal affairs [Kakha Targamadze] in the context of the

decision by the President of Georgia to reject his appeal for the Georgian citizenship:

- Unfounded statement about sexual identity related to political speculations. In the media outlets subject to the monitoring both the respondents and the representatives

**Continued on p.2**

# 23, 18-24 August



## The Monitoring Council of the Public Broadcaster criticized the decision by Board of Trustees

On 22 August the Monitoring Council of the Public Broadcaster discussed the effectiveness of the Broadcaster's Self-Regulatory Council and the decision of the Board of Trustees by 18 June on the complaint of the NGOs concerning the hate speech aired by the Broadcaster while reporting on the tradition of the Christmas eve Jerusalem.

The Monitoring Council has shared the position of the NGOs that the Board has based its decision on interpretation of the freedom of expression regulations while avoiding its main function – to discuss the case within the framework of the Code of Conduct.

9 NGOs and one individual aired their complaint to the Public Broadcaster's self-regulatory agency on 14 April, stating their case based on the violation by the Broadcaster of the Code of Conduct's articles concerning unacceptability of discrimination.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Calls for violence                              | 2   |
| Unfounded statements concerning sexual identity | 3   |
| Xenophobia                                      | 3   |
| Homophobia                                      | 3-4 |
| Kazantip  | 4   |
| Anti-Western sentiments                         | 5-6 |

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.

## MAIN ISSUES OF THE WEEK

- of media pointed at the false information published by the web-portal *Exclusive News*, claiming that the brother of the National Movement representative Giorgi Vashadze was in a same-sex marriage. Unfounded claims about sexual identity were also made by the media [*Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper] about representatives of the ruling GD team [Levan and David Berdzenishvili];
- Homosexuality was being identified with the National Movement [Rezo Amashukeli, poet; *Asaval-Dasavali*], the Kazantip festival [Temur Shashiashvili, “Tetrebi”];
  - Zaza Miminoshvili, The Shin musical group] and the West [geworld.ge; Avtandil Ungiadze, Orthodox Parents Union];
  - Anti-Western sentiments in the homophobic context were incited by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Abkhazia [Dima Jaiani];
  - Anti-Western sentiments were also noted in relation to the U.S. foreign policy and President Saakashvili’s domestic policies.

## CALL TO VIOLENCE

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 18-24 AUGUST**

**TRISTAN TSITELASHVILI, military expert, colonel:** "If they dare to do anything, I, Tristan Tselashvili, will personally, together with my comrades, confront them, and I will not stop until I physically destroy the last National!"

**PRIME TIME, 18 AUGUST**

**GIA KORKOTASHVILI, radio anchor:** „Any National [member of UNM] walking in the street may become an object

of someone’s verbal or physical attack. And the main reason is that he is a National...

If and other people who love Georgia will have to go out with stones in our hands, we’ll do it. We’ll not let the Nationals return to power, we shall break the faces of those who tries to return to power... I swear by anything, I will go out with a sharp stone and tell them directly what I have to say.“

## UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS CONCERNING SEXUAL IDENTITY

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
18-24 AUGUST

**DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist:**

„Yes, many are well known from the Saakashvili's group... some – for having a brother who is a wife.“

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO 21 AUGUST

**REZO AMASHUKELI, poet:** „This little person in fact created this horrible machine, and I suspect that he has a deviation of the sexual orientation, I am talking about Adeishvili [Zurab Adeishvili, former Minister of Justice], and I can

## XENOPHOBIA

MAESTRO, 9 O'CLOCK NEWS, 18 AUGUST

**KAKHA TARGAMADZE, former Minister of Internal Affairs:** „It seems that the Turks, Indians, Arabs are more important for the country. I am a citizen of Russia and I will stay Russian citizen. You Georgians should worry, since you have such a President, and I have no problems.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2395135](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2395135)

## HOMOPHOBIA

REPORTIORI, 18 AUGUST

**REZO AMASHUKELI, poet:** „As to the hermaphrodite Akaki Minashvili, what right does he have to open his mouse at all ?!...“

I remember well how he was followed by those pederasts, it was all before my eyes. None of them is a man.“

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=36235>

claim this because of the people who surrounded him.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2396795](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2396795)

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
18-24 AUGUST

**DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist:** „How will Levan Berdzenishvili make Georgian society remember him – by the “War of Frogs and Mice”, or by what Mr Rezo Amashukeli describes in the following way – the Berdzenishvilis entered the prison as brothers and left it as sisters!...“



**KAKHA TARGAMADZE, former Minister of Internal Affairs:** “It seems that the Turks, Indians, Arabs are more important for the country. I am a citizen of Russia and I will stay Russian citizen. You Georgians should worry, since you have such a President, and I have no problems.“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
18-24 AUGUST

**JABA KHUBUA, journalist:** "Yes, in this country membership of the National Movement is considered a sin and shame just like sodomy and even if Vashadze and his brothers tear themselves apart, they cannot change this attitude from the Georgian people!“

Continued on p.4

## HOMOPHOBIA

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 18-24 AUGUST

**ZAAL ZHVANIA, Political Prisoners for the Homeland:** „The TV channels, instead of talking about homosexuals, should pay attention to the people who were repressed by the Saakashvili regime and did not lose their humanity.“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 18-24 AUGUST

**IRINA SARISHVILI, Imedi party:** „No family will be glad to have a person of non-traditional orientations as its member, so what I don't want to have in my house, I also don't want to get legalized in the state.“

## KAZANTIP

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
18-24 AUGUST

**TEMUR SHASHIASHVILI, Tetrebi:** „As the Crimean Cossacks explained to me, when during the Kazantip a man comes to another man, wanting to do something to him, he does not have a right to say no. Such a horrible thing is this Kazantip“.

REPORTIORI, 19 AUGUST  
**MALKHAZ CHANTURIA, deacon:** "We call on all the Georgians not to take part in this Sodom-Gomorra called Kazantip".

KAVKASIA, TODAY,  
20 AUGUST  
**AVTANDIL UNGIADZE, Orthodox Parents Union:** „It is clear that this [Kazantip] is filth... We believe that it will promote perversion and Sodom-Gomorrization of

Georgia and making it a huge brothel. It seems this is the general goal and this government is doing this just like its predecessor.“  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2397471](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2397471)

MAESTRO, 9 O'CLOCK  
NEWS, 20 AUGUST

**ZAZA MIMINOSHVILI, The Shin:** „Each year there will be 17 May [speaking about Kazantip] and we must always think about it in time, not to be late.“  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2397380](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2397380)

REPORTIORI, 20 AUGUST

**Rally participants:** „We demand from the government to prevent this perversion, since in the country where they preach the Orthodox Christianity you cannot hold such immoral festivals.“  
<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=36349>

REPORTIORI, 20 AUGUST

**Address of the persons opposed to Kazantip to the Prime Minister:** “Kazantip is drug addiction, sodomy, corruption of the young generation and area for other unspeakable perversion”...  
<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=36355>

KAVKASIA, TODAY 20  
AUGUST

**Participant of the rally protesting against holding Kazantip in Georgia:** „Georgia is a country with such holy places here, that there is no place for them here. We demand these gays to go away“.  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2397471](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2397471)

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

**ASAVA-DASAVALI,  
18-24 AUGUST**

**DIMA JAIANI, Minister  
of Education and Culture  
of Abkhazia:** „Pederasty is  
not Europe! And of  
Europe is pederasty, then  
I don't want such  
Europe!“

**ASAVA-DASAVALI,  
18-24 AUGUST**

**KAKHA KUKAVA, Free  
Georgia:** „We are a half-  
colony and we are de-  
pendent on the West fi-  
nancially, ideologically  
and in many other ways.  
That is why Karl Bildt  
will do what they did to  
Gamsakhurdia and  
Shevardnadze!“

**OBJEKTIVI, NIGHT STU-  
DIO, 23 AUGUST**

**ARCHIL CHKOIDZE,  
Eurasian Choice:**

„[Georgian troops in Af-  
ghanistan] are fulfilling  
the U.S. task, they need  
cannon fodder, the  
Americans need it...  
What was better? The re-  
gime of Saddam Hussein,

during which people lived  
there?.. They weren't kill-  
ing anyone... Let's take  
statistics and compare,  
how many people died  
during the Hussein re-  
gime and how many died  
after the United States  
invasion...

In Syria Americans sup-  
ported the rebels who  
burned Christians, the  
people who ate human  
organs.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?  
video\\_id=2399487](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2399487)  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?  
video\\_id=2399487](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2399487)

**GEWORLD.GE,  
20 AUGUST**

**HAMLET CHIPASHVILI,  
political scientist:**

„American ambassadors  
knew very well what  
what Saakashvili had been  
doing for years but they  
were silent. Their direct  
task was to corrupt the  
society, and the best can-  
didate for doing this was  
Saakashvili, he is natu-  
rally corrupt anyway...  
Saakashvili had relations  
with the influential  
groups and what he was

doing was American's or-  
der. It was in America's  
interests to arm the rebels,  
or AL Qaeda, and other  
NATO members were do-  
ing this too. So, all the  
crimes committed by Sa-  
akashvili were done by  
recommendations from  
U.S.“

[http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?  
ArtId=6129&lang=ge](http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6129&lang=ge)

**ASAVA-DASAVALI,  
18-24 AUGUST**

**DITO CHUBINIDZE,**

**journalist:** „Neither Geor-  
gians nor the soul-sold  
leaders of the world at  
that time spared or pro-  
tected the man [Zviad  
Gamsakhurdia], the first  
President of Georgia],  
who had been President  
for just 6 months, and to-  
day these Carl Bildts,  
filthy ones and partners of  
devil, are protecting the  
shameful and immoral  
Mikheil Saakashvili!“

**Continued on p. 6**

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

GEWORLD.GE, 20 AUGUST

**GIORGI GACHECHILADZE, journalist:** „But if they [government] say no to Kazantip, the Western liberals and local liberasts will be concerned, they are afraid to be blamed for the treason to democracy and alliance with Russia (because Russia has prohibited propaganda of pederasty, which our European teachers saw as its great “sin”)“.

INTERPRESSNEWS, 20 AUGUST

„According to Ungiadze, the Kazantip festival is ordered by the West. He says the West also ordered adoption of the anti-discrimination law and the ongoing religious annexation of Georgia by the foreign country...

The rally participants have addressed the Prime Minister, saying that if the Western orders go against the key interests of Georgia as an Orthodox and national-traditional state, the signs of which are obvious, the Prime Minister will necessarily have to make a firm choice. ”

<http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/sazogadoeba/294153-qkazantipisq-motsinaaghmdegeebi-irakli-gharibashvils-mimarthvas-ugzavnian.html?ar=A>

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 23 AUGUST

**TV VIEWER:** „EU and NATO countries turned a blind eye on it, and they still do this regarding the fact that the human rights of the voters are discriminated against, and this discrimination is used by the LGBTs and sexual minorities for their profit...

NATO does not interest me anymore, because NATO has degraded in relation to Russia...”

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 23 AUGUST

**TV VIEWER :** „America in my opinion is the occupier of Georgia, but an ideological occupier, because if Garibashvili or somebody say something, Mr Ambassador comes out and makes comments, teaching us. We do not belong to ourselves...

They are surprised by Russia saying it must defend its territory, even on Ukraine’s territory, but Barack Obama said he must protect the population in Iraq. Which population does he protect in Iraq? And Russia protects the Russians.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2399495](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2399495)