

NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

MAIN FINDINGS OF MONITORING

The following tendencies have been revealed over the period from 7 to 20 July:

- The use of hate speech towards the United National Movement (Giorgi Shengelaia, a film director), also in the context of developments in Ukraine with regard to the current Ukrainian government and so-called Mason-Zionist regime (a viewer, Obiektivi);
- Islamophobic and Turkophobic
- statements made by Patriots' Alliance again (Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi);
- Xenophobia observed in statements concerning social issues, including the abolition of moratorium on the sale of land to foreign citizens by the decision of the Constitutional Court. Such rhetoric alongside politicians was also applied by representatives of wider public;

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Joint Statement of Non-governmental Organizations Concerning Sexist Fragment of TV Program on GDS TV

July 14, 2014

We would like to react to a fragment from the TV program "Bina -18," aired by GDS TV Studio on July 9, which contained humiliating visualization of a female body. We believe that aforementioned footage represents openly sexist interpretation of roles of women and men in society and further reinforces negative stereotypes among the society. Therefore, this fragment requires adequate assessment.



No doubt that the freedom of expression implies the right to express any idea and opinion; however legal guarantees of the freedom of speech and expression do not relieve media from responsibilities and duties inherent to this profession.

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20, 7-20 JULY



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HATE SPEECH

REZONANSI, 9 JULY

GIORGI SHENGELAIA, film director: “Everyone in the United National Movement is equally evil physiologically and by expression of their faces.”

ASAVAL DASAVALI,
14-20 JULY

GIORGI SHENGELAIA, film director: “Many view them as a political problem, but I view the United Na-

tional Movement as a biological problem!”

OBIEQKTIVI, GAMIS
STUDIA, 20 JULY

TV viewer: “...The United National Movement brought these sheer fascists, sporting swastika by the way, to the government of Ukraine with the help of America and Europe and they set up battalions analogous to Nazi SS paramilitary groups. So we, the Georgian nation, are left

alone face to face with that huge Mason-Zionist regime, the fascist regime. There is only one solution to that... and it is the union of Orthodox Christian nations.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2380802



DAVIT TARKHAN-
MOURAVI, Patriots’

Alliance: “Aziziye mosque was the evil in a religious disguise.

ISAMOPHOBIA/TURKOPHOBIA

KAVKASIA TV, BARIERI, 14 JULY

DAVIT TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots’

Alliance: “Aziziye mosque was the evil in a religious disguise. It was the intelligence center of Turkey; an educational center of Turkey which would brainwash people...

“Visit Turkish websites and you will read statements there claiming as if Adjarians are Turks, not Georgians... You will read there that they are Turks and Georgia has always belonged to Turkey...

“They obtain education [in Turkey] and then come back believing that Georgia has never had as closest a friend as Turkey...

“If you now let me recount that during thousand years Turkey took more than 200 boys

and girls annually as a sort of tax [to be paid by Georgia] and If you wish, I can list wars [with Turks] and how much blood was spilt in those wars...

“My opinion is very negative [about granting citizenship to Muslim Meskhetians]. I believe that Mikheil Saakashvili was trying to sell Adjara to Turkey; to this end, he tried to award citizenship to as many Turks as possible - which is an adventure, in my opinion - in order to enable them to demand a new referendum under the Kars agreement in 2021.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2376303

XENOPHOBIA

OBIEKTIVI, GAMIS STUDIA, 18 JULY

JONDI BAGHATURIA, Burjanadze-

United Opposition: “Singaporization means that we, Georgians, will no longer be owners of this land. There will be someone else, a different ethnos. Probably part will be owned by Turks, another part by Chinese and the third part by Indians...”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2381489

OBIEKTIVI, GAMIS STUDIA, 18 JULY

JONDI BAGHATURIA, Burjanadze-

United Opposition: “An empty place is never left unfilled. Chinese, Turks and Indians will settle there, who are arriving here, who have money, who will build a house on the land of Georgian peasant, who will get ownerships of forests and rivers and meadows and in contrast to our indigent peasant, will set up a small size enterprise and will be

SALE OF LAND TO FOREIGN CITIZENS

REPORTIORI.GE, 8 JULY

LASHA TUGUSHI, journalist: “This decision [the Constitutional Court ruling abolishing the moratorium imposed on the sale of land to foreign citizens] in a wider sense is not beneficial for us; even more so, it is damaging!

“Lack of control on land issue is not good. In 2007, with regard to this issue, the former government tried to take certain decisions, but the Constitutional Court abolished those decisions back then. The Constitutional Court has turned into a founder of antinational politics!”

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=32491>

ALIA, 11-14 JULY

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People’s Assembly: “... This land law and antidiscrimination law are not accidental.

given the right to sell butter but at a higher price.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2381433

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 18 JULY

IRAKLI MACHAVARIANI: “A villain is arriving from somewhere... I did not allow not only lousy Ukrainians but American officials to dare to teach me...”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2379636

OBIEKTIVI, GAMIS STUDIA, 20 JULY

A TV viewer: “There is a war, the genocide of Georgian nation underway to drive the Georgian nation out of Georgia and to allow Chinese, Arab to settle here. They are all dear to me, but I want my Georgians first and foremost, my Georgians are dear to me first of all.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2380773



JONDI BAGHATURIA, Burjanadze-United Opposition:

“Singaporization means that we, Georgians, will no longer be owners of this land. There will be someone else, a different ethnos. Probably part will be owned by Turks, another part by Chinese and the third part by Indi-

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SALE OF LAND TO FOREIGN CITIZENS

Beginning from p. 3

Georgian peasants have anyway small plots of land and when you force them to sell it that means that you are destroying village. After you grab everything from me physically, you launch spiritual attack on me...

“The second problems is the ‘transparent’ non-governmental organization led by Gigauri. According to her, a huge hostility was done by suspending the sale of Georgian lands. Have anyone heard of worse treason of the country?”

GEWORLD, 16 JULY

AKAKI ASATIANI, Union of Georgian Traditionalists: “A recent lift of moratorium on the sale of land will have terrible implication – they will buy everything; if there is a visa-free travel to the European Union no Georgian will be left in Georgia... The population will be driven out of the country and the land will be left to foreigners. When enemy invaded, this was exactly what it did here...”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6052>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 7-13 JULY

MERAB SHATIRISHVILI, Georgian Reality – Assembly of Wise Men of Nation:

“Imagine, a Kakhetian cannot buy land and is forced to pay to Indian for lease!

“If we want to accede the European Union with such anti-Georgian approaches than let us hand over this country to an alien and scatter around the world as unqualified workers! Georgians are anyway fleeing the country and the country is becoming empty!”

DISCRIMINATION ON RELIGIOUS GROUND

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI,
18 JULY

IRAKLI MACHAVARI-ANI: “People (Albanians) who live in the middle of Europe managed – and this requires huge talent - to adopt Islam, i.e. in the middle of Europe... You know where we are and what countries surround us and we managed to preserve the

faith and the honesty and the conscience, perhaps not in an ideal conditions, but we must not be compared to Albanians, though, I do not want to offend anyone.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2379570

ALIA, 9 JULY

The Alia newspaper, spreads the information of

Newspost, which is based on bolnisi.ge information agency, about a protest of Orthodox Church against the opening of children’s summer camp in the Christian-Protestant-Baptists praying house in Bolnisi. The text of the journalist discriminatory refers to Evangelist-Baptist denomination as a sect:

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DISCRIMINATION ON RELIGIOUS GROUND

Beginning from p. 4

“They distributed fliers printed by the eparchy, which recounts a brief history of Evangelist-Baptist sect.”

Source: <http://bolnisi.ge>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 7-13 JULY

MERAB SHATIRISH-VILI, Georgian Reality – Assembly of Wise Men of Nation: “... How dare Jeho-

vah’s witnesses to translate their sectarian magazines into Megrelian and Svan languages?! How may the state turn a blind eye to that?!

“... If we should be happy about the association with the EU ensuring that sects will be given carte blanche in Georgia and conduct their activity undermining the Georgian statehood, then this is not something to be happy about and celebrate -

this is a tragedy!”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 7-13 JULY

DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist: “In due time, Lomaia and Shashkin filled up the education ministry with sectarians of various faith denouncing god and what this people have in common is the animosity towards Orthodox Christianity...”

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

ALIA, 11-14 JULY

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People’s Council: “A person versed in world politics knows that the expansion today takes place not by sword and fire but through economy, money and brainwashing. This means that brainwashing institution was established in the entire America and England. This is a huge financial machine and involves our TV channels and non-governmental organizations. There is also a decree issued by America to weaken the national government and strengthen NGOs...”

“American ideologists declared that they defeated the Soviet Union. Now they are to defeat Orthodox Christianity.”

ALIA, 10 JULY

LASHA AMIREJIBI, People’s Council: “Missis Ashton is not aware what the [United] National [Movement’s] broom in the ass means; had she experienced and felt that she would not have talked like that. There will be many statements from Europe, that is the only job they do, nothing else. Now, the main thing is for the government not to be frightened. Our government becomes often frightened by statements of Europeans and Americans...”

“All perverseness comes from them; had it not been for Europeans and Americans, the United National Movement would not have acted so wantonly.”

GEWORLD, 9 JULY

DAVIT LASURASHVILI, the Dean: “Today they are trying to portray the phrase ‘each inch of land is saturated with Georgian blood’ as a trite expression, although this is the reality.”

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ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from p. 5

The mind of a person who is under the influence of foreign countries cannot tolerate this...

“Joe Biden said that he is not interested in our culture and that we should view the protection of gays and lesbians as superior to the national culture...

“People perverted in such a way are unable to defend their culture, traditions and there will be nothing valuable for them any longer. During the adoption of the antidiscrimination law we, clerics, said that after the adoption of this law Georgian and Christian laws will be rejected and I will repeat the same today. The Georgian population will inevitably come to face that critical and heartbreaking event that is called the slavery of foreigners.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6035>

ALIA, 10 JULY

LEVAN CHACHUA, person released with a status of a political prisoner: “It

[Georgian Dream] and the United National Movement are controlled by one and the same heads from abroad...

“The history of the Church says that if you want to control and manage society you have to first pervert it, uproot it. The biggest defender is the Church and that’s why there is such a fierce fight against it. Those conductors are managers of the world elite, who lobby desirable governments in various countries, stage coups, buy state officials... During the Soviet Union we were a republic of Russia, now we are being run from the US Embassy.”

GEWORLD.GE 16

JULY

Georgia and the World:

“That is how the former US Secretary of State James Baker, the ex-Foreign Minister of Germany Hans-Dietrich Genscher (whom Shevardnadze considered his friends) and his wife were laughing during Shevardnadze’s burial ceremony.

“...This is exactly what the West’s approach towards

Georgia and Georgians is. They do not view us as equal, full-fledged people and need us only for achieving their mercantile intentions!...”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6047>

ALIA, 9 JULY

NINO SAMKHARADZE, journalist: “What segment of Western politicians is interested in the fate of United National Movement? Why Philip Dimitrov, a person expelled from his country, categorically calls on our government to take into account statements by him?...”

“...There are three types of countries in the American political classification: countries of our type are called the third world countries. Guess how they view us? If we do not chide this country it will not come to its senses.”

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ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from p. 6

KVIRIS KRONIKA, 7-13 JULY

GIORGI POPKHADZE, journalist: “Dimitrov is the shame of the European Union!... Dimitrov should better stay silent and keep in mind why he was expelled from his country.”

KVIRIS KRONIKA, 7-13 JULY

GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist: “With the Association Agreement the state assumed a direct obligation to share the practice which is not only unacceptable for the Georgian people, but is extremely worrying and irritating for even Europe... This concerns the enhancement of the rights of sexual minorities and especially, new regulations introduced in terms of juvenile justice... “...That person [Joe Biden] is one of the first of those Western high officials who is ready to sacrifice the entire country in order to save Saakashvili... The statement of this person about the enhancement of the rights of

sexual minorities will, primarily, affect Georgia. “...Yes, if America finally sets the intention that those perverts should enjoy special privileges in any part of the world it will make this intention true. I am sure, Georgia will be one of the first among their targets (we will be used to the maximum extent as a testing lab for various experiments).”

KVIRIS KRONIKA, 14-20 JULY

GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist: “Everything is acceptable in the European society – ratting upon, slandering and if ‘need be’, instigating a criminal proceeding against priests [referring to a statement by NGOs about illegal nature of the participation of clergy in pre-election propaganda] because of them preaching from ambio something that is unacceptable for some... How long society can tolerate the wantonness of libertarian-pederast-human rights defenders and when people

may revolt to put the end to these dark forces once and for all...”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 7-13 JULY

ZAZA DAVITAIA, journalist: “Agitation in relation to European integration is still continuing in Georgia! Antidiscrimination law which has been tailored to the European model is still topical! Some liberal pederasts still shout out with strange bravado, that stupid motto: ‘I am Georgian, therefore I am European!’

“... Of course Zviad [Gamsakhurdia] would have never divided and disposed of Georgian land! “And of course, Zviad would have never said: ‘I am Georgian, therefore I am European!’ ...

“Be also sure that Zviad would have not allowed wantonness of bureaucracy controlled from and bought by foreign countries! “That is why Zviad Gamsakhurdia was killed!”

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ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
14-20 JULY

SHALVA KHACHAPURIDZE, lawyer: “Damn Europe! Let it stay where it is; let that woman who looks like a goat and travels around, Katherine Ashron, take care of her own Europe! They have destroyed Ukraine and we see what evil tricks they are doing there. Let them mind their own business!”

OBIEKTIVI, GAMIS
STUDIA, 18 JULY

NINO RATISHVILI, presenter: “We remember all statements by Bildt full well;

whether anyone wants Georgia or not, it is an Orthodox Christian country; they offend Orthodox Christians and then the authors of such statements arrive here and they are received as great democrats and are flattered...”
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2381478

OBIEKTIVI, GAMIS
STUDIA, 18 JULY

A TV viewer: “That so-called Europe have always betrayed Orthodox Christians and have always been enemies of these people and enemies of Georgians.”

A TV viewer: “They do not ask Abkhazia, do not ask Samachablo, i.e. South Ossetia whether or not they want that association, that antidiscrimination law and where they are heading under the instruction of America in order not to irritate Russia, people turned into slaves.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2381460
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2381470



GIORGI GABEDAVA, person released from prison with the status of political prisoner:

It seems infringing a priest’s private life, provoking him and enraging him and then filming and releasing that is acceptable whilst filming and releasing orgies of pederasts is not?

DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUND OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 14-20 JULY

TAMAZ VASHADZE, the former Tbilisi Mayor: “These villains toppled Zviad (Gamsakhurdia) and destroyed the country – homosexuals have taken over Georgia! Watch archive materials from the 1st channel what Kitovani told Zhvania at a parliament session: ‘Be grateful that I toppled Zviad or otherwise, had he remained in power you and people of your ilk would have been incarcerated in #8 prison cell together with Mamed!’”

ALIA, 9 JULY

GIORGI GABEDAVA, person released from prison with the status of political prisoner: “For example, if I film misbehavior of a pederast and then release this material, I will be punished for that... It seems infringing a priest’s private life, provoking him and enraging him and then filming and releasing that is acceptable whilst filming and releasing orgies of pederasts is not?”

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DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUND OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Beginning from p. 8

“...The Georgian identity, talent is being deliberately annihilated. Apart from this misfortune, a large segment of youth is already on the path of degradation; these liberal-pederast ideas have stupefied this people.”

ALIA, 11-14 JULY

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE,

People’s Council: “We have signed the Association Agreement and it also emphasizes the approach that we are expected to raise our children so that from the age of 14 they decide themselves on their gender identity. Children should perceive same-sex marriage and they must perceive this disease as something normal. “...10 years ago they adopted such amendments to the law; there was a big fuss kicked up but no one knew back than that this would be followed by a same-sex marriage; that is where we are heading for.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 7-13 JULY

Executive Council of National Committee for the

Restoration of Supreme Council, the Authority of President of Republic of Georgia Zviad Gamsakhurdia: “We want to underscore the relevance of Asaval-Dasavali to our traditions and morals... This newspaper is the only one in Georgia which exposes these forces and fights against sins of Sodom and Gomorrah and against such sinners”...

PIA.GE, 17 JULY

DAVIT KVLIVIDZE, the

Dean: “They created something like a state [Kazantip] in Crimea; around 17 ha of land had a fencing; there are states there, they have their king, priest, but there are lesbians, gays and children are perverted and God denounced there.”

http://pia.ge/show_internet_dajjest_news.php?id=5567&lang=geo

REPORTIORI, 17 JULY

LADO SADGOBELASH-

VILI, journalist: “A territory adjacent to circus is almost entirely seized by representatives of sexual

minorities... What is more appalling is that they do not experience any shortage of customers. During night they consider themselves patrons of that place and emboldened by support of liberal-pederast non-governmental organizations of various faiths, they launch attack on honest citizens.

“...It is worrying that the wantonness of sexual minorities has reached its peak. The dignity of those selling their bodies appeared to have developed to such a point that they deem photographing them as the offence...”

KVIRIS KRONIKA, 7-13 JULY

GELA ZEDELASHVILI,

journalist: “If you are faithless, if you are an unconditional defender of LGBTs and flatter with pederasts, then you are supposed to be a modern person and everything is achievable for you; you can serve any government you want and no one will dare to even touch you.”

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DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUND OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Beginning from p. 9

KVIRIS KRONIKA, 7-13 JULY

GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist: “Even in Holland, where the protection of rights of representatives of that damned LGBT community is implemented on the highest level, people with common sense are in a very bad situation... God forbid, sodomites step up their activity to such a level that the congregation has to defend sacred things from their attacks; but if we look with open eyes at the processes

going on around us, this time is not too far. Quite the contrary, the threat has already approached our doors and the disaster is inevitable.”

KVIRIS KRONIKA, 14-20 JULY

GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist: “Everything is ahead yet; we will see the main destroying wave of repressions when the clique of liberal-pederast-perverts will encompass everything and the country will be inundated with their spies.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 7-13 JULY

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: “Such terrible things were written there [Zurab Karumidze’s literary work] about Svans, their rituals and sadist-masochist homosexual passions in the yard of Holy Virgin Church of Lamaria (!!!) that I collected all this and addressed the Prime Minister Garibashvili personally: ‘choose either this nullity or Georgian people and our sacred things!’”

TOPIC OF GENDER

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 7-13 JULY

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: “...Bera Ivanishvili’s TV channel has become an arena of liberal-pederasts cursing family, parents, Georgian traditions in general and spirituality!..

“Liberal-pederasts ridicule father and son relationship of Bidzina and Bera Ivanishvili from the television channel owned by the latter! This is a genuine ideological sabotage! This is a real spiritual sabotage!”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 14-20 JULY

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: “Indeed, how you, dear reader, imagine Bidzina Ivanishvili being a presenter of a program on GDS TV company and in the same TV company liberal-pederasts staging a show offending Georgian awareness and spirituality?!”

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: “In the mentioned letter I also expressed hope that Bidzina and Bera Ivanishvili would react adequately to this appalling thing and would prevent this immoral wantonness of stupid liberal-pederasts in their TV channel.”

Joint Statement of Non-governmental Organizations Concerning Sexist Fragment of TV Program on GDS TV

Beginning from p. 1

In modern society media has an immense potential to facilitate social changes. It is able to either hinder or hasten the structural changes towards gender equality. In the cultural context wherein women often become victims of sexist attitudes and stereotypes, the presentation of a female as an object by TV channel and thus strengthen traditional perception of the roles of men and women, is totally unacceptable.

We believe that for the TV Company which has the ambition to practice responsible and not tabloid journalism, planning to produce social and political programs in the future, broadcast of sexist content encouraging gender inequality should be unacceptable. Public attitude towards the GDS TV Company will largely depend on how adequately the editorial board will reconsider the case and how the public

criticism of the program will affect the future editorial policy of the company. A modern understanding of the role of media is much broader than it being perceived as a mere business project. We hope that the GDS will be more focused on media's social responsibility than its commercial interest. This means being accountable to every social group and reflecting their needs and interests.

Media Development Fund
Georgian Democratic Initiative
Tolerance and Diversity Institute
Article 42 of the Constitution
Human Rights Monitoring and Education Center
Sapari
Media club Frontline Georgia
Rusudan Gotsiridze, Bishop of the Evangelical Baptist Church
Georgian Church of Evangelical Faith
Open Society-Georgia

Gender Equality
Society for Positive Changes
Women Information Center
TASO foundation
Women's Fund in Georgia
National Violence Protection Center
Gender Equality Network
Georgian Young Lawyers Association
Georgian Regional Media Association
Association *Tolerance*
Civil Council on Defense and Security
Georgian Institute of European Values, GIEV
Partnership for Human Rights, PHP
Civil Development Agency, CIDA
Association of Germans of Georgia
Ainung
Media Monitoring Center of Georgia
International Center of Women's Education and Information
Identoba
Association *LGBT Georgia*

MAIN FINDINGS OF MONITORING

Beginning from p. 1

Discrimination on religious ground applied by media (Alia newspaper) and individual respondents;

- Anti-Western sentiments incited in connection to the criticism of the activity of non-governmental organization, the rights of sexual minorities and the United National Movement; the West portrayed as the force fighting against Orthodox Christianity. In this respect, the criticism was heightened towards the Georgian Dream which, alike the United National Movement, was portrayed as the force controlled by the West;
- The discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation manifested in misinterpretation of the Association Agreement with the EU as well as in relation to the Kazantip event planned in Anaklia;
- A program aired by the GDS TV company containing sexist interpretation of the roles of women and men was perceived by a segment of Georgian media as the act directed against Georgian awareness and not as a gender problem.