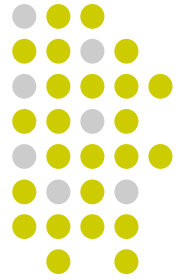




# Newsletter №12



## Review of the Week

The following trends were identified in the period of June 24-30.

- TV Company *Maestro*, based on the publications of the Information Center of Kakheti, ICK offered the most qualified coverage of the main story of the week – another incident in the village of Samtatskaro. On the other hand, there were factual inaccuracies revealed in the coverage of Rustavi 2 and TV *Imedi*;
- Hate speech was mostly used with regard to the United National Movement, UNM in the context of the partial publication of video recordings reflecting torture, both by the journalist (newspaper *Asaval-Dasavali*) and by the respondents (Writer Tamaz Tsivtsivadze; Poet Jansug Charkviani; Deacon of the Sameba Cathedral Elizbar Dekanoidze);
- Discrimination on religious grounds occurred in the context of anti-Islamic and anti-Western attitudes. In addition, there were attempts of labeling certain persons as fighters against Orthodox Christianity and as members of the sectarian and Masonic forces;
- There were cases of ethnic discrimination through the segregation of persons as biologically Georgians and non-Georgians;
- Discrimination of the rights of sexual minorities took place on the part of the Presidential candidate of the Public Assembly, while the host of the talk-show *Mtavari Kitkhva* (Channel 9) tried to oppose the respondent in a professional manner;
- Unjustified parallels were made by the respondents (Director Goga Khaindrava; Temur Shashiasvili, Whites) and by the journalists (*Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper) as well, linking video recordings reflecting torture found by the Ministry of Interior earlier to LGBT persons, their rights defenders, and the sources of funding of non-governmental organizations, in order to compromise and marginalize vulnerable groups and non-governmental organizations.
- Cases of sexist expression as well as stereotypical attitudes by the respondent (Koki Ionatamishvili, Tbilisi City Council) and by the talk-show host (TV Company *Kavkasia*) were revealed.

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24.06 –30.06.2013



MONITORING

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## Incident in Samtatskaro

### Main Topic

#### Rustavi 2, Kurieri, June 29

*Kurieri* dedicated extensive news story to the incident in the village of Samtatskaro on June 28, when about 200 local residents invaded the house of Khoja Suliko Khozrevanidze, threatening to kill him and burn his house, and demanding him to close the prayer house. Khoja's wife was slightly injured in the incident. Since there is no video footage of the incident, members of the Suliko Khozrevanidze's family describe events in detail in the TV story.

Journalist incorrectly presented the core of the incident, noting in the editorial text that "residents of the village are against the conduct of prayers by the Muslims that do not reside in the village and against the construction of a mosque as well. Local Christian Heretians plan adequate measures in response." First of all, presenting the demand of the part of the village residents as an ultimatum of the entire village is incorrect, especially when besides Khozrevanidze's there are other Muslim families living in the village. It would have been also appropriate if the journalist refrained from using phrases like "local Christian Heretians", as some of the locals may be citizens of Georgia of other religions, including Muslim. The phrase that "locals plan adequate measures in response" sounds totally inadequate against the background of the occurred violent incident.

The second factual inaccuracy on the part of the journalist is related to the information concerning the construction of a mosque, which is incorrect as, in this case, we deal with the functioning of the Muslim prayer

house in the private property building, rather than with the construction of a Mosque. Journalist makes such inaccurate generalization on the basis of a discriminatory comment of one of the village residents:

**Mikheil Tarkhnishvili, resident of Samtatskaro:** *"Why there should be a Mosque here and not a Church?"*

Besides, the journalist generalizes incorrectly by stating that locals are against the prayer performed by non-residents of the village against the background of the numerous widely covered incidents when part of the Samtatskaro population did not allow local Muslims to perform prayer either.

Journalist notes in the story that the investigation of the incident has already been launched with the charges in threat, however the comment of law enforcers is not offered. It's worth noting that according to *Maestro TV*, based on the official information, the Ministry of Interior initiated the criminal case not only with charges in threat, but with regard to the interference in religious practice as well. Therefore, in order to provide society with the complete information it is important that journalist verifies facts with official sources.

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2081995](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081995)

#### Imedi, Oronika, June 29

*Imedi TV* covered the incident from the angle of the ultimatum and threats against the Khozrevanidze family, posed by the part of the village residents, rather than from the point of view of the offense against his family. The journalist notes that the locals were trying to break into Khozrevanidze's house while, according to other media outlets, about 200 persons have actually invaded his house and the incident was deescalated only after police interfered (please, refer to the publication of ICK at <http://ick.ge/articles/14818--video.html>). It is also omitted in the story that Khoja's wife was injured in the incident (according to Rustavi 2 she was slightly injured, while in the interview with ICK Khozrevanidze's wife Emine Khozrevanidze states that "Suliko's sister was also here and without her help they would have probably ran over me when I fell. I have injuries on my leg.")

## Incident in Samtatskaro

Similarly to Rustavi 2, *Imedi* also incorrectly accentuates the construction of a Mosque. The journalist notes that confrontation “moved from the Mosque to the clergy’s house.” Besides, there is a comment of a local resident standing against the background of a building designated for the prayer and pointing to the private house which even in an architectural sense does not look like a Mosque.

**Resident of Samtatskaro (no title):** *“How can we allow them to build a Mosque on this Christian land? We have very good and friendly relations, but we will not allow them to build a Mosque here.”*



Prayer House in Samtatskaro

Similarly to Rustavi 2, *Imedi* also accentuates the issue of non-resident Muslims visiting Samtatskaro to pray, and it is not noted even in the backgrounder of the story that local residents also had the problems in performing prayer besides those who come to the village for prayer.

Comment of the law enforcers is not included in the story and it is not noted that the investigation of the incident had been launched already. There is a single comment of the Governor of the village, who explains the incident with a special interest of the village youth toward those coming to the village to pray from other regions.

**Gulo Nadirashvili, Governor of Samtatskaro:** *“Those from Pankisi came here last Friday; they also brought them from Tsalka and Marneuli. The youth asks why they bring them from other villages. Probably, they do not have believers here so they impose on us people from other villages.”*

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2084000](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2084000)

### Maestro, News at 9, June 29

TV Company *Maestro* provided the most professional coverage of the incident from the point of view of legal responsibility, basing mainly on the report by the Information Center of Kakheti and statement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

According to the news story of *Maestro* TV, the criminal case was initiated not only with charges in threat, but with regard to the interference in religious practice as well. It is also noted that the dispute is related to the functioning of the Muslim prayer house obtained several months earlier, rather than to the construction of a Mosque, as noted in Rustavi 2 and *Imedi* TV reports.

Even though, there is no mentioning of the ICK materials reflecting the physical injuries of Khoja’s wife, generally *Maestro* accurately describes the essence of the incident. It is

Continued on p. 4

## Incident in Samtatskaro

Continued from p. 2-3

also important that TV Company offers the statements made by non-governmental organizations and Public Defender accentuating the measures of the Ministry of Interior aimed at ensuring the public order.

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2084020](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2084020)

Public Broadcaster, Moambe, June 29

In difference with Rustavi 2 and *Imedi*, Public Broadcaster did not make factual inaccuracies noting that the dispute was over the functioning of the prayer house rather than the construction of a Mosque. It was also noted that Khoja's wife received physical injuries. However, there was no information on the initiation of the criminal case by law enforcers, while information on the addresses of the Public Defender and non-governmental organizations were touched upon in the news story.



Emine Khozrevanidze

The main shortcoming of the story, along with the incomplete information, was that *Moambe* cut it down to small voice-over and brief sound-bite failing to prepare a full story for its prime-time news. The Law on broadcasting regulating the content of the Public Broadcaster obliges it to properly reflect the issues of minorities in its programs.

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2084025](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2084025)

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Obiektivi, Night Studio, June 29

Listener of *Obiektivi* raised on air the issue of confrontation in Samtatskaro from the point of view of the "comparative advantage" of the majority's opinion ("Let them come to Samtatskaro and see how much he pays them. Only five men want that Muslim thing and 1000 - don't"). Respondent, expert Vakhtang Dzabiradze refrained from a direct comment in response.

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12631>



**Father Elizbar Diakonidze, Deacon of the Sameba Cathedral:** "This is not a sect of heretics! This is a group of lechers! One should not kill them washing away their crime with blood but drive them all into the reservation and lock the door at them."

## Hate Speech

Hate speech was mostly used with regard to the United National Movement in the context of partial publication by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of video recordings of torture.

Kviris Oronika, June 24-30

**Father Elizbar Diakonidze, Deacon of the Sameba Cathedral:** "This is not a sect of heretics! This is a group of lechers! One should not kill them washing away their crime with blood but drive them all into the reservation and lock the door at them."

Kviris Oronika, June 24-30

**Tamaz Tsivtsivadze, Writer:** "Personally, I am for pulling up the "Nazis" tale and shoving up a broom into the exposed body parts."

Kviris Oronika, June 24-30

**Jansug Charkviani, poet:** "If they wanted to commit such crimes they should have engaged with their pederasts, it would have been easier... Sometimes I have horrible thoughts - should one treat these bastards and scoundrels as they treated others?!.. Fuck them all, I cannot stand this anymore, sometimes I think we should catch them and rape with brooms and sticks!"

Asavali-Dasavali, June 24-30

**Giorgi Gigauri, journalist:** "Right of Suicide for Vano Merabishvili!" should be their slogan instead of "Freedom to Vano Merabishvili!"

"How can you talk to the killers of innocent youth, rapers of tied up men and their lackeys other than with the hate speech, of course, if you do not have the Soros's excrements circulating in your veins instead of blood."

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/975/975.pdf>



## Discrimination on Religious Grounds

Alia, June 26

Representative of Orthodox Christians' Assembly assesses the right of Muslims to construct religious buildings as propaganda of Islam, and segregates the citizens of Georgia as indigenous population and minorities.

**Zaza Nanobashvili, Orthodox Christians' Assembly:** *"As you are aware, the previous government opened up an era of building up Mosques in Georgia. In essence it was propaganda of Islam rather than the response to the violation of religious minorities' rights. The state does not take into account the rights of indigenous population of the state and cares more for the interests of minority. Our Patriarch undertook several significant steps in this regard and our State should follow with some effective measures."*

Obiektivi, Nights Studio, June 29

The phone call of the listener contains anti-Western and anti-Islam statements. The guest in the studio, expert Vakhtang Dzabiradze, without any sort of justification transforms the discussion on Western values into the issue of legalizing the same sex marriage.

**Listener:** *"We need neither NATO nor creation of a Western state here. Just give the freedom to people, so we can decide the issue of Georgia's orientation. We aspire for relations with Orthodox states while the new government as well as the previous one turned Georgia into an arena for Muslim countries. We'll soon correct this."*

**Vakhtang Dzabiradze, expert:** *"When we talk about the Western values, unfortunately everybody thinks this means legalization of the same sex mar-*

*riage. Naturally, if Georgia has this problem of Western values... Frankly, Personally I am against it and I would not wish its legalization. That's why we fail to clarify and communicate to the Georgian people that we do not want this, but we want freedom."*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12631>

### Attempt of Presenting as anti-Orthodox, Masonic Forces

Asaval-Dasavali, June 24-30

Journalist Jaba Khubua labels journalist David Paichadze and the former human rights defender Giga Bokeria as fighters against Orthodox Christianity, by recalling the incident when the followers of the radical Orthodox Priest Basil have physically confronted them.

**Jaba Khubua, Journalist:** *"For a long time already, David Paichadze in terms of ideas, politically and spiritually is "married" to Giga Bokeria – affirmed enemy of Georgian national values, Orthodoxy and Mother Church. The Georgian society remembers Bokeria-Paichadze couple holding the stones, chasing Georgian Orthodox Christians, and trying to smash their heads."*

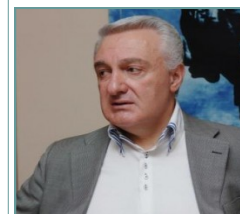
<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/975/975.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, June 24-30

Respondent tries to present the Presidential Candidate of the Georgian Dream Coalition, Giorgi Margvelashvili as a member of Masonic sects which he equates with Soros.

**Temur Shashiashvili, Whites:** *"I am deeply sorry that Mr. Bidzina supports the representative of Soros as a candidate for Presidency... This is a tragedy of Georgia - the members of foreign sects, Masonic sects still maintaining leadership here."*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/975/975.pdf>



**Temur Shashiashvili, Whites:** *"I am deeply sorry that Mr. Bidzina supports the representative of Soros as a candidate for Presidency... This is a tragedy of Georgia - the members of foreign sects, Masonic sects still maintaining leadership here."*

## Discrimination on Ethnic Grounds

*Kviris Qronika*, June 24-30

Journalist Dali Barabadze in an interview with the newspaper discriminates Mitropolit of Kutaisi, Kalistrate on ethnic grounds and segregates human beings on the basis of biological Georgians and non-Georgians. The journalist, basing on the facts stated by her, offers entirely personal interpretation of the canonical law. As a rule, reference to the opponents as “Armenians with changed surnames” (Margaritov) in a negative context takes place despite whether or not the person openly declares his/her ethnicity, which is a matter of a self-identification.

**Dali Barabadze, journalist:** “My surname is purely Georgian, while Mitropolit Kalistrate has a changed last name. Even though he is Margaritashvili, he is Margaritov – he has a changed surname. The root of his last name is not Georgian. According to a Canonical Law, a person with a non-Georgian surname by no means can be a Mitropolit, but unfortunately every-

thing is allowed here. Father Giorgi, as well as other holly clergy, used to say about priests with changed surnames – stay away from people like this, they declined their own surnames, what kind of good will they do for you.”

<http://www.alia.ge/com/news/view/1423>

*Obiektivi, Night Studio*, June 24

The guest of the *Night Studio* Rezo Mishveladze discusses the legal initiative by the former MP Guram Sharadze, which in essence is a discriminatory norm implying identification of the ethnicity in the ID cards of the citizens of Georgia. The respondent spreads inaccurate information, stating that Georgia is a single country in the world that does not identify the ethnicity of a citizen in an official identification documents. The hosts Gia Areshidze and Valeri Kvratskhelia do not react in response.

**Rezo Mishveladze, writer:** “Georgia is the only country on Earth where the ethnicity of a citizen is not identified [in official documents]. Why could not we indicate the ethnicity in our official documents? Those Nazi criminals have almost driven us to the point of committing suicide.”

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12540>

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## Sexual Minorities

### International Resonance of May 17 events

Newspaper *24 Hours*, TV Company *Maestro* news, and *Qronika* at *Imedi* have broadly covered the assessments of the NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen visiting Tbilisi, with regards to the developments related to the International Day against Homophobia on May 17.

**Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO Secretary General:** “Violence that we saw in Tbilisi’s streets on 17 May must not take place in a democratic society... Democracy means the respect of minorities, including political minorities.”

<http://24saati.ge/index.php/category/news/2013-06-27/39059>; <http://24saati.ge/index.php/category/news/2013-06-28/39085.html>; [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2080568](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2080568); [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2081899](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081899); [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2081904](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081904); [http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2083016](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2083016)

Public Broadcaster and *Rezonansi* newspaper covered the resolution by the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council assessing May 17 events.

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2083080](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2083080); [http://rezonancedaily.com/index.php?id\\_rub=7&id\\_artc=16195](http://rezonancedaily.com/index.php?id_rub=7&id_artc=16195)

## Sexual Minorities

### Assessment of Rasmussen's Statements Concerning May 17 Events

Channel 9, Mtavari Kitkhva, June 26

Presidential Candidate of the Public Assembly Nino Burjanadze considers NATO SG's assessments of May 17 events as insulting and believes that protection of sexual minorities' rights is not main priority for Georgia. In response, the host of the program Eka Beridze opposes the guest in a professional manner, raising the question on why the respect of human rights should not be a priority for the state and why LGBT persons should be made exceptional in terms of human rights.

**Nino Burjanadze, Democratic Movement:** *"Today I was absolutely shocked and, directly speaking, even insulted that the main problem in Georgia's democratic development and on its path towards the NATO membership is the respect of LGBT rights – turns out that the violence we saw in the streets of Tbilisi is concerning, however, nobody recalls either the violence of May 26 or the prison videos... and omitting this while recalling the LGBT rally, while there was no excessive violence, thanks to god, there was pure emotion, only..."*

*Protection of LGBT rights is not the main priority of Georgia's population."*

**Eka Beridze, host:** *"Why Mrs. Nino, are LGBT persons exceptional in terms of human rights?..*

*How Protection of human rights cannot be a priority for a state, whether they are members of LGBT or not? Why should they be exceptional?"*

In response, the Respondent develops the argument concerning the unacceptability of "propaganda of LGBT inclinations" which substantially is a vague term. Besides, she draws unjustified parallels between the loss of the state territories, socio-economic problems and fight against the Church, which as completely irrelevant topics in the context of Minorities' rights, is aimed at adding some more dramatizing the situation.

**Nino Burjanadze, Democratic Movement:** *"In this case, we talk about the defense of "propaganda of inclinations" by these people, which is unacceptable for our society. I am saying that this cannot be a number one priority for the country that does not have a control of 2/3 of its territory; 2/3 of the population of which lives below the poverty level and where men are massively raped in prisons. This is such a disaster that we are not even talking about the rape of women, right?..*

*If the protection of LGBT persons is a main priority... If the presidential candidate of the Georgian Dream Coalition continues struggle against Georgian Church, Georgian traditions, and introduction of values unacceptable for the Georgian perish with the same level of intensity, then the candidate of the Georgian Dream might find himself in a position of fighting for the second or the third place in elections."*

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2080244](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2080244)

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2080247](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2080247)

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2080253](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2080253)



**Nino Burjanadze, Democratic Movement:** *"In this case, we talk about the defense of "propaganda of inclinations" by these people, which is unacceptable for our society. I am saying that this cannot be a number one priority for the country"...*

Continued on p. 8

## Sexual Minorities

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Maestro, Politmeter, June 27

**Irakli Batiashvili, Public Assembly:** *"It is insulting for us as it turns out that the violation of LGBT rights is more important on our way to the NATO membership than our boys dying in Afghanistan and fighting there, by the way, in others' war. This is not our war."*

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2081961](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081961)

### Legal Regulations

Maestro, Politmeter, June 27

Representative of the Christian Democrats Levan Vepkhvadze incorrectly interprets Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights as implying the restriction of freedom of expression basing on morality.

**Levan Vepkhvadze, Christian Democrats:** *"If we legitimize this restriction – the government as well as the Parliament should be working towards this goal, which by the way is based on the European Convention – many of the problems of the country will be solved."*

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2081961](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081961)  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2081959](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081959)

Rezonansi and 24 Hours, June 26

Newspapers cover the legal initiative by the MP from the Georgian Dream Coalition aimed at significant restriction of the products which in his opinion "encourage and promote violence, homosexual, bisexual, and polygamy contacts." As noted in the article published by 24 Hours, the abovementioned initiative by Davitashvili causes certain controversy even among the members of the Parliamentary majority. To confirm this, the newspaper brings the quote of the majority leader.

[http://resonancedaily.com/index.php?id\\_rub=7&id\\_artc=16148](http://resonancedaily.com/index.php?id_rub=7&id_artc=16148)  
<http://24saati.ge/index.php/category/news/2013-06>

Public Broadcaster, Moambe, June 25

In a prime-time news *Moambe* covered the Constitutional suit of the organization *Identity* demanding the acknowledgement of two orders of the Ministry of Health as anti-Constitutional. According to these orders, homosexuality is included in the list of the risk-groups for blood donation along with the drug addiction, persons infected with AIDS and other categories.

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2079445](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2079445)

Obiektivi, Night Studio, June 28

**Viewer:** *"If Ivanishvili does not take care of people's welfare and adopts that gay law, entire Georgia will be alarmed. Be aware, he will leave the same way he came and no one will help him, neither Putin nor..."*

In response, the guest in the studio, former MP Petre Mamradze without any justification, intentionally links the issue of homosexuality to the National Movement.

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12616>

### Unjustified Parallels

Respondents as well as journalists draw completely unjustified parallels linking video recordings reflecting torture of persons found by the Ministry of Interior to LGBT persons and their rights defenders, and the sources of funding of non-governmental organizations in order to compromise and marginalize vulnerable groups and non-governmental organizations.

Asaval-Dasavali, June 24-30

**Jaba Khubua, journalist:** *"Enjoy, these grants aimed at the defense of pederasts and lesbians flow like a stream and why would our NGO guys get into a trouble of protecting the rights of people tortured and smashed by Saakashvili regime?!"*

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**Jaba Khubua, journalist:** *"Enjoy, these grants aimed at the defense of pederasts and lesbians flow like a stream and why would our NGO guys get into a trouble of protecting the rights of people tortured and smashed by Saakashvili regime?!"*



## Sexual Minorities

**Goga Khaindrava, film director:** *“I am anticipating these representatives of LGBT to start rallies in support of those executioners who used to rape men in the police. This was the way of his private life – he lived with men, so what? Let these LGBT persons come out and defend this butcher’s rights!”*

**Temur Shashiashvili, Whites:** *“I was told abroad to stay alarmed as billions will flow to Georgia over the next couple of months. Who for? For the same non-governmental organizations that were eagerly defending the sexual minorities on May 17.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/975/975.pdf>

## Reproduction of Incorrect Information

Representative of the Alliance of Patriots David Tarkhan-Mouravi spreads the incorrect information that sexual minorities in Israel have serious problems in terms of realization of their rights.

Notably, Israel is considered to be one of the most progressing countries in the Middle East and Asia region with regard to LGBT rights.

[Obiektivi, Night Studio, June 27](#)

**David Tarkhan-Mouravi, Alliance of Patriots:** *“Nobody carries out the propaganda of homosexuality in Israel and nobody can, actually. Which foreign HR defender would dare to lecture Israel demanding something? By the way, there are no rallies of some transvestites, or gay parades and rallies in Israel. No one tries to hinder the Jewish traditions and culture, no one imposes homosexuality, lesbianism, or anything else of this sort, no one tells them to decline their Jewish roots, say no to the traditions etc.”*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=12600>



**Koki Ionatamishvili, National Movement [as of June 27]:** *“How amusing is that the whole day a very beautiful girl talks from the Ministry of the Finance... She is a wonderful girl, but she talks about such hard topics”...*

## Sexist Expression

[Kavkasia, Spektri, June 27](#)

Both the respondent and the host have numerous used sexist expressions with regard to the head of the press-service of the investigative agency of the Ministry of Finance while commenting on her statements concerning the detention of officials of Tbilisi Municipality and City Council. At the same time, the attitude deeply rooted in stereotypes was revealed by the respondent Koki Ionatamishvili who promotes the thought that there are some topics too “hard” for women.

**Koki Ionatamishvili, National Movement [as of June 27]:** *“How amusing is that the whole day a very beautiful girl talks from the Ministry of the Finance.”*

*“She is a wonderful girl, but she talks about such hard topics.”*

*“Appearance of a person does not really matter, we just said this jokingly, and however she really is a beautiful girl.”*

**David Akubardia, anchor:** *“As you said rightly, beautiful girl from the Ministry of Finance. You could have also assigned such a beautiful girl.”*

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2081924](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081924)

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2081944](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2081944)



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## Civil Sector

Georgian Young Lawyer's Association (GYLA), Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI), Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC), Transparency International Georgia (TI), Article 42 of the Constitution, Media Development Foundation (MDF), the organization "Identity" and ALPE Foundation released the joint statement on June 29. With regards to the incident of June 28 and recent events in the village of Samtatskaro, the non-governmental organizations called for government's prompt and effective actions to ensure safety of the local Muslims and aimed at the conflict resolution.

*"The Ministry of Internal Affairs should strengthen measures to ensure public order in the village of Samtatskaro and in case of violation, prevent such facts in a timely manner and bring offenders to justice. In addition, it's necessary to adopt special measures of protection of Suliko Khozrevanidze's family still being under pressure and threat; the government should react promptly to the actions of the representatives of the local authorities represented as sides of the conflict that are obviously beyond the scope of their competency due to their actions; On the basis of the principles of respect of justice and freedom of religion, Georgian government should work out a policy of religious conflict resolution", - as noted in the statement.*

<http://mdfgeorgia.ge/index.php?menuid=15&lang=1&id=143>

Ombudsman also called on the Minister of Internal Affairs to undertake prompt and effective measures.

<http://ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=1001&lang=0&id=1741>

Special statement concerning the speech of the Georgian MP (majority), Guguli Magradze at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in which she discussed incidents of May 17 was released by the organization *Identity*, on June 28.

According to *Identity*, "Member of Georgian parliamentary majority Guguli Magradze purposefully deceived her European colleagues at Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly where incidents of May 17 IDAHO Day in Georgia was discussed. Through inaccurate evaluation of the events and purposeful distortion of the facts she achieved the change in the evaluation of the incidents of May 17. She managed to omit term "massive violence" from the evaluation."

Further, the statement provides detailed information on all inaccuracies contained in the MP's speech:

<http://identoba.com/2013/06/28/magradze/>

