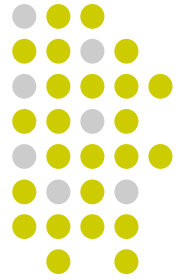




Newsletter №4



Monitoring Findings

The following tendencies have been observed for the reporting period – April 29 – May 6:

- A clear line between discriminations on the grounds of ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation was often difficult to draw as all these forms of discrimination were mainly applied intermittently, by respondents and sometimes journalists, in a political discourse;
- Discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation was commonplace in discussion of political issues; moreover, totally unsubstantiated parallels were drawn between this topic and issues of education (Asaval-Dasavali newspaper);

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Topic of the Week

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 do not necessarily reflect the views of the USAID or the USA Government.

Video featuring sexual scenes on social networks

One of main topics of the week was the TV coverage of the video featuring sexual scenes, which was released in social networks for discrediting a human rights defender, Girogi Paresishvili, and event that unfolded thereafter.

The release of footage of private scenes in social networks is a clear breach of both the legislation and ethical standards, however, after such fact occurred a question

emerges: How correct is for media to identify what type of sexual intercourse was featured in the surreptitious footage released in the Internet. The subtlety of this topic depended on finding the right balance between the public interest and the protection of privacy - the video contained homosexual scenes whilst the target of the footage claimed it was fabricated. Given that Giorgi Paresishvili publicly, including via media, accused senior public officials, namely, the

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29. 04 –05.05.2013



MONITORING

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Monitoring Findings

Topic of the Week

Continued from p. 1

- Hate speech applied both by respondents and journalists towards people mainly stemmed from unacceptability of opinions and actions rather than ethnic origin and/or religious belief or sexual orientation of addressees; in this regard the Asaval-Dasavali newspaper was again in the lead;
- In terms of ethnic discrimination, dominating topics were anti-Chinese attitudes and homophobic assessments;
- In terms of religion, the reporting period saw reports on prejudices (Kviris Palitra newspaper) as well as attempts to provide explanations of prejudices (Rustavi 2; P.S.);
- Topics of the week were surreptitious video featuring sexual scenes of a journalist Girogi Paresishvili and Patriarch's initiative about criminalization of abortion. Media covered the former topic in a neutral manner whereas failed to provide opinions of representatives other confessions about the latter topic.

Video featuring sexual scenes on social networks

Continued from p. 1

deputy interior minister, the deputy chief prosecutor and the advisor to the prime minister of striking a corrupt deal and claimed that the release of fabricated video was a retaliation from them, it is natural that there was a public interest for the society to know what kind of surreptitious filming was used to blackmail Paresishvili.

It must be noted that the broadcast media covered this topic as delicately as possible, in the context of a protest rally staged to demand the protection of privacy, and basically avoided directly identifying that the video contained homosexual scenes.

Kavkasia TV channel's news program, 4 May

The most balanced report on the mentioned topic was produced by the Kavkasia TV channel. It only reported that the video of sexual intercourse among three persons was released against Paresishvili, without identifying the gender of persons concerned, which would have hinted about the type of sexual relationship.

The source of that footage – kvercxebi.com, which was blocked some time later of the release of the video, was identified visually in the report. The report did not contain that episode of the incident that occurred during the protest rally, in which several citizens verbally abused participants in the rally demanding the protection of privacy, by calling them “pederasts.” The fact of verbal abuse was only mentioned in the text of the author of the report.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029313

Channel 9, 3 May

In contrast to Kavkasia TV channel, the news program of Channel 9, specified that the video released by social networks featured the sexual intercourse among two men and one woman, thereby identifying a homosexual nature of the relationship.

The report almost entirely beeped swear words of several citizens abusing human rights defenders during the protest rally, except one episode in which one of the citizens inquired about a religious belief of one of participants in the rally:

Topic of the Week

Video featuring sexual scenes on social networks

“Are you Christian? Go and at least read treatises of John Chrysostomto. You...”

It should be noted that this episode in which Christianity is pitted against the right to protect sexual life of a person was not broadcast by any other TV channel. It is desirable for media to avoid establishing such stereotypes.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029299

Imedi TV, 4 May

Imedi's news program unjustifiably linked the rally protesting against surreptitious filming of private to a religious topic. The presenter of the news program explained the dissatisfaction of several citizens with the rally of human rights defenders in the following way:

“The dissatisfaction was caused by the fact that the rally was held just days before the Easter.”

It is worth noting that none of respondents in the report made such a comment and even if they did, it would have been irrelevant and speculative in light of the main topic which concerned the protection of privacy, on the one hand, and blackmailing of that person who accused senior officials for corruption, on the other.



The report of Imedi news program also included the episode where rally participants were called “pederasts.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029320

Rustavi 2 news program, 4 May

Rustavi 2 covered the video footage released in social networks in the context of similar videos featuring homosexual scenes, which were released by the prosecutor's office in January, and placed an emphasis on the fact that in the January footage faces of participants were blurred in contrast to recent footage released in social networks now.

Giorgi Gabunia, presenter: *“In January the whole of Georgia watched scenes featuring intercourse of homosexual men and public figures although the faces of people in that*

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Hate Speech

In the reported period, hate speech was used both by media representatives and respondents. In terms of respondents, journalists either agreed to such manifestation or left them without reaction.

It should be noted that the hate speech stemmed from unacceptability to opinions and actions rather than ethnic origin and/or religious belief or sexual orientation of addressees, although discrimination on the ground of religious belief and sexual orientation was also observed to some extent. In terms of unacceptability of opinions, the subject of hate speech from an Asaval-Dasavali newspaper journalist was the historian Lasha Bakradze because of his criticism of the phenomenon of Stalinism; in terms of unacceptability of actions, the subject of hate speech of the actor Dima Jaiani was the United National Movement (UNM) because of the president vetoing the amendment to the Law on Common Law Courts; in the last case the subject was not identified at all.

Asaval-Dasavali newspaper; 29 April – 5 May

The journalist of Asaval-Dasavali paper, Giorgi Gigauri, used derogatory words – “immoral primitive,” “hopeless cretin,” “villain,” “degenerate” - when referring to the historian Lasha Bakradze thus inciting hatred towards him.

Giorgi Gigauri: “Yes, Lasha Bakradze and degenerates like him hate Georgian farmers...”

“Yes Lasha Bakradze is one of those moaners who continues the business which started in Khrushchev’s era and with its small snout tries to dig a grave for great Stalin!”

Asaval-Dasavali newspaper; 29 April – 5 May

The title of the interview with Dima Jaiani itself - “UNM members, beware, we will crash you!!!” contains hate speech towards the politically unacceptable group whilst the interview discriminates concrete representatives of UNM, including on the grounds of sex, ethnic origin, physical appearance and incites hatred both against concrete representatives of the party and the party collectively (interviewer was the journalist Giorgi Gigauri):

Dima Jaiani: “How long can this fake physiognomy of that Giorgi Kandelaki be watched?!”

“Tell me folks, how long should we watch that Akuki [mocking name - Akaki] Minashvili of unidentified origin and sex?!”

“They not only deserve to be sent to prison but also deserve to be raped there with brooms! But the problem is that many of them will even enjoy that very much!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/967/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Maestro, talk-show Kviris Argumenti, 1 May

Even though a guest of Kviris Argumenti, the Chairman of United Trade Unions Irakli Petriashvili, does not identify a public official who, according to his information, sexually abuses his subordinate women, but he incites hatred towards that official when he deems lynching (burning a person) as appropriate punishment in such a case.

Irakli Petriashvili: “I know how in one of Tbilisi entities the manager sexually abuses females... In this regard, well, hard to say but, the society must burn that person, at least, in the prison...”

The journalist does not react to such statements of the respondent and only inquires whether relevant bodies are aware of the behavior of that of official.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2026201

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Giorgi Gigauri: “Yes, Lasha Bakradze and degenerates like him hate Georgian farmers...Yes Lasha Bakradze is one of those moaners who continues the business which started in Khrushchev’s era and with its small snout tries to dig a grave for great Stalin!”

Ethnic discrimination

Anti-China

Anti-Chinese attitudes reported by both media representatives and respondents are mainly manifested in the context of social and economic conditions and property-related issues. In this regard, an especially actively exploited topic is the construction carried out by a Chinese company in the territory of Tbilisi sea, dubbed by a segment of media, politicians and separate public figures as the Chinatown and Chinese settlement.

Kavkasia TV channel, talk-show Spektri, 3 May

Talking with an independent candidate about the interim election conducted in Tbilisi's Nadzaladevi district, the presenter of the talk show Davit Akubardia speaks about a Chinese threat:

Davit Akubardia: *"If we do not assist one another, a foreign force will indeed seize Georgia; I often go to the Tbilisi sea and seeing an intensive construction works breaks my heart – what on earth we need Chinese here, the entire city is full of unemployed."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2028612

Obiektivi, 2 May

The topic of Chinatown is used by the presenter of the talk show Gamis Studia, Nino Ratishvili too:

Nino Raitshvili: *"The issue of Adjara, the issue of lands, very many problems are accumulated. It may be too late then. If the Chinatown is built what do you think?"*

<http://www.obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11794>

Kviris Chronika newspaper; 3-12 May

Gia Kruashvili from "Free Georgia" presents Chinese as a threat to lose Georgia, while journalist Gela Zedelashvili openly

expresses his support to what the respondent discusses.

Gia Kruashvili: *"Look, Chinese have enclosed the entire Varketili district, the entire Tbilisi sea, who will be left in Georgia? I intend to go now to the Tbilisi sea and enclose a plot of land for a house. I know, I will be visited immediately by people with bludgeons whereas a word is not said to any of those Chinese."*

Gela Zedelashvili: *"I will come with you."*

Asaval-Dasavali; 29 April – 12 May

Asmat Tkabladze, Actress:

"Dear Prime Minister, task someone to find out what is happening in the middle of Tbilisi, why should naked Chinese run around here."

Asaval-Dasavali; 29 April – 12 May

A writer and ethnographer, Koba Arabuli, draws unjustified parallels between the invasions of Shah Abbas and the current arrival of Chinese, Indians and Arabs in Georgia.

Koba Arabuli: *"Centuries ago, Shah Abbas displaced us, now Sakakashvili allowed Chinese, Indians and Arabs in."*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/967/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Kviris Kronika, 3-12 May

Speaking about the need to revise legislation, the leader of Sakhalkho Kreba (People's Assembly), Temur Shashiashvili, discriminates on ethnic ground:

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Dima Jaiani:

"They not only deserve to be sent to prison but also deserve to be raped there with brooms! But the problem is that many of them will even enjoy that very much!"

Ethnic discrimination

Continued from p. 15

Temur Shashiashvili: "Go to the Public Register, 80% of people standing in a queue there are Arabs, Indians, Chinese."

A ruinous system of awarding citizenship must be abolished. One cannot receive German citizenship if he/she does not know German. In Khargauli there are Chinese with Georgian surnames - Chkheide and Tsereteli. Soon we will probably have Chinese Bagrationis"

Journalist Gela Zedelashvili shares the respondent's attitudes:

Gela Zedelashvili: "Mr. Temur, what did our ancestors fight for if one fine day we will blow off everything?"

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April – 5 May

Ethnic discrimination dominated in the context of property rights again.

Dima Jaiani: "That Saakashvili wanted to turn the country into Singapore not only in words but by deeds has been revealed

already – thousands of hectares of Georgian land was sold to Indians and Chinese! This is the democracy or the hostility of the country?!"

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/967/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Miscellaneous

Alia, 2.05 – 7.05

Interview of journalist Gela Zedelashvili with the then Agriculture Minister, Davit Kirvalidze, titled "Why does the government not change laws?", is dedicated to issues of land privatization. A discriminative spirit of the interview, manifested in the editorial position of the journalist, is reinforced by photos featuring two men of Asian appearance, including one wearing turban.

The journalist explains the respondent's statement that lands were basically sold by private persons with the mistrust towards the former government ("Because private persons did not have support of the previous government and lost hope").

In contrast to other materials published in Alia in which a respondent and a journalist share common positions, in this particular case discriminative attitudes are mainly manifested by the journalist Gela Zedelashvili.

Gela Zedelashvili:

"We must speak about Indians and Chinese. Bidzina Ivanishvili himself tries to avoid this topic. However, these foreigners have inundated Georgia."

"Stop that, pal. On the very day they arrive in Georgia they can buy land, is that fair?"

Kavkasia TV channel, talk-show Spektri, 30 April

The presenter of Spektri, Davit Akubardia, views the establishment of social justice to balance different ethnic groups as a correct step, thereby discriminating ethnic groups.

Davit Akubardia:

"The key of this left-wing ideology is social justice. If this does not become dominant either Turks will swallow us up or Pakistanis and the country will merely demise."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2058759

Asaval-Dasavali; 29 April – 5 May

Based on unverified information, Elizbar Javelidze hyperbolizes the threat of losing Adjara and it becoming dominated by Turks.

Elizbar Javelidze:

"As I know almost 27,000 Turks already

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Davit Akubardia:

"The key of this left-wing ideology is social justice. If this does not become dominant either Turks will swallow us up or Pakistanis and the country will merely demise."

Kviris Palitra, 29 April – 5 May**Religious discrimination**

In an interview, “You are a good man but are you Christian?!”, Giorgi Okruashvili asserts that he was dismissed from the Azerbaijani limited liability company, Kavkaskabel, because of being an Orthodox Christian. Such an action is punishable under the Georgian legislation; however, the author of the publication, journalist Mari Zandukeli, has not undertaken relevant measures to verify the fact. Even though the article contains a brief comment, enclosed to the interview in the form of P.S., of a founder of the company, Elchin Humatov, who accuses Giorgi Okruashvili of lying and promises the journalist to talk to her extensively on this topic next week, it does not ensure a fair balance of opinions in this concrete case.

First, the journalist should have waited for a promised extensive comment from Elchin Humatov, allowing the

It should be noted that there is no clear line drawn between religious and ethnic discriminations, as well as between ethnic, religious and sexual discrimination, in media and public domain, which is mainly manifested in the political discourse.

journalist to double check the fact, and to publish the material only after that. The journalist should have also learned from other company employees whether they encountered any problems in their jobs on religious, ethnic or other grounds.

In addition, the article offers assessments of the expert Mamuka Areshidze in which the expert engages in generalization and draws unjustified parallels not only on religious but also on ethnic ground, thereby portraying investors as oppressors of Georgians.

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Ethnic discrimination

Continued from p. 5-6

Armenians have also settled in Adjara. All this means that Adjara is no longer ours... Turkish TV channel refers to Batumi as to a Turkish city. When walking in the street you cannot hear Georgian speech....”

Asaval-Dasavali; 29 April – 5 May

Asaval-Dasavali continues to manipulate with the topic of Georgian president’s origin. This time around this topic is used by the actor Dima Jaiani. The respondent segregates rights on the ground of ethnic origin.

Dima Jaiani: “Vakhtang Kolbaia is a man, a Georgian man and how dare non-Georgian Saakashvili accuses him of treason of Georgia!”

Even though the entire interview from its content to its title “UNM members, beware, we will crash you!!!” is built on hate and discrimination, the above quoted statement of the respondent is followed by a remark of the journalist Giorgi Gigauri that Dima Jaiani will be accused of xenophobia because of these words. It should be noted that the journalist Giorgi Gigauri is himself distinguished for his xenophobic comments however such a reaction to the respondent’s statement from his part may only be considered as exception. In response to the journalist’s remark, Dima Jaiani still continues to apply the same rhetoric.

Dima Jaiani: “Let Armenian president be president in Armenia! Georgia must have a Georgian president! Can you imagine Armenia having a Georgian president?! Is Georgia short of Georgians in order not to have the Armenian president?!”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/967/files/1-41pm5.pdf>



Dima Jaiani:

“Let Armenian president be president in Armenia! Georgia must have a Georgian president! Can you imagine Armenia having a Georgian president?! Is Georgia short of Georgians in order not to have the Armenian president?!”

Religious discrimination

Continued from p. 7

Mamuka Areshidze: *"It is also noteworthy that the former government allowed the domination of financial and business groups of several neighboring countries over Georgia. Very favorable conditions were created for several foreign firms. In such environment they act with impunity... The result of unfavorable conditions for Georgians in Georgia is that the entire Europe is full of Georgians. They have to tolerate myriad humiliations there, however, that can be tolerated abroad, not in own homeland! I can understand when a Georgian is required to change his/her religion in an Islamic country but when he/she is required the same in his/her homeland, that is something unacceptable and very irritating.*

As far as I know, our citizens working for Chinese company constructing the Olympic village are also put in unfavorable conditions... I will not tolerate the oppression of Georgians no matter where the investor is from."

Since Giorgi Okruashvili intends to lodge a complaint and consequently the court must establish factual circumstances, it would be desirable for the journalist to find a relevant expert for comments. Lawyers' assessments of how such cases are regulated; information from the Public Defender's Office or a court on how widespread is the discrimination on religious ground from employers, would add more clarity to the issue.

Imedi, 6 May

Imedi TV news program, Chronika, reported about the consecration of monastery in Kvemo Bolnisi village and the issue of proselytism in a settlement populated by ethnic Azerbaijanis. Statements by Father Ephrem

about ethnically complicated situation and the blood spilt for the religion, are discriminative towards those citizens of Georgia who have different ethnic origin and religious beliefs.

Father Ephrem: *"Over the centuries this church was inactive. You are aware of a very complicated situation in terms of ethnicity here – Georgians and Christians are a minority here. This is a current reality. Our ancestors fought during centuries here to save the belief and the homeland and in fact, this land is saturated with blood. Therefore, it is important for a Georgian church to operate in this very area where Georgians no longer live actively. We have established the monastery of monks here to take a constant care of the church."*

The report provides a comment of a religious servant alone and the journalist generalizes on this ground:

Nutsa Trapaidze: *"In the village where almost no Georgian lives, from now on the religious services will be held in Georgian every weekend."*
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2030552

Asavali-Dasavali, 29 April – 5 May

The newspaper expresses its editorial policy through quoting Deacon Grigol Gogichadze, whose statements were published in another newspaper, Kviris Palitra, a week before, and who refers to the United National Movement as a Satanist sect:

Deacon Grigol Gogichadze: *"I called the United National Movement a Satanist sect. This dirty force has almost led to the rift inside the Church."*
<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/967/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

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Mamuka Areshidze: *"The result of unfavorable conditions for Georgians in Georgia is that the entire Europe is full of Georgians. They have to tolerate myriad humiliations there, however, that can be tolerated abroad, not in own homeland! "*

Religious discrimination

Construction of a mosque

The issue of construction of the mosque in Batumi was again covered with reference to the results of the public opinion poll conducted by the Patriots Alliance. In addition to the Media Union Obiektivi, which is closely affiliated with the Patriots Alliance, this topic was also covered in the Rezonansi newspaper in which professional standards were violated.

Rezonansi, 3 May

Even though the information published in Rezonansi, titled “95% of Batumi residents are against the construction of mosque,” belonged to the news agency MediaNews, by publishing it the newspaper shares the responsibility for the content of publication.

The publication violates those minimal standards which must be taken into account when reporting results of an opinion poll. Namely, the report must indicate the name of organization that commissioned the poll, the financier of the poll, the number of respondents, margin of error, geographic area in which and the period when the poll was conducted, precise wording of questions, the survey methodology. From these minimum requirements, the publication contained only the number of respondents, the geographic area and the implementer of the poll and lacked such necessary components as the name of organization that commissioned the poll, the financier of the poll

and precise wording of questions.

A legal question as to how justified is to take decisions on issues concerning minority rights based on the opinion of the majority is a matter of separate discussion and it would be expedient to cover the mentioned survey from this angle.

Obiektivi, 2 May

In discussing the construction of the mosque, the talk show Ghamis Studia focused on the necessity to take into account the opinion of the majority. Apart from a phone-in discussion of this attitude by a representative of the Patriots' Alliance, Ada Marshania, the analogous position was expressed by the presenter of the program, Nino Ratishvili.

Nino Ratishvili: *“If this is not taken into account by the new government, will that be serious?”*

At the end of the program, the presenter congratulates the population on the results of the poll:

Nino Ratishvili: *“I want to congratulate once again; this poll has been completed in Batumi and I do hope that this will not become yet another watershed between people and the new government.”*
<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=11794>



Nino Ratishvili:

“I want to congratulate once again; this poll has been completed in Batumi and I do hope that this will not become yet another watershed between people and the new government.”

Prejudices

Kviris Palitra, 29 April – 5 May

An article of a journalist Zviad Sekhniashvili, “Listen grandpa, look at God what it does with enemy,” dedicated to a religious servant, Father Giorgi Basiladze, spreads prejudices.

The journalist describes how several persons, on their way to Zugdidi, dropped at Father Giorgi's place who asked the guests to stay. Having refused to stay and bidding farewell to the religious servant, they failed to start a car. According to the journalist, the car started only after Father Giorgi made the sign of the cross upon the car.

The second episode concerns the wine which, according to the journalist, Father Giorgi gave them together with bread, warning not to try it until they have reached home. According to Zviad Sekhniashvili, they decided to try the wine on their way to Kutaisi but they were not able to do so because the wine tasted like vinegar. *“Having reached home, we tried the wine again and Glory to our God, it was a pure wine, the taste of vinegar disappeared altogether!”* the journalist continued.

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Prejudices

Rustavi 2, P.S. 5 May

A report in the P.S. program was a sort of attempt to dispel those prejudices which a segment of believers entertain in relation to electronic ID cards. The presenter of the program, Davit Kikalishvili, noted the video clip produced by the Justice Ministry in which it pledges that three subsequent figures 6, or 666, will not occur on ID cards. The presenter asks what is behind this campaign, *"the Bible, the protest against global control or anti-western and anti-Jewish propaganda which is a hidden call towards isolation?!"*

Arguments of religious persons and believers are considered in detail in the report and counter-arguments of the Justice Ministry are also provided:

Father Iobi (Episcopo of Ruis-Urbnisi): *"I is an English word meaning me in Georgian whilst D is a shortened form of demon. This means I am the demon."*

Levan Samadashvili, chairman of agency for the development of state services: *"ID means an identification document in English."*

Father Iobi (Episcopo of Ruis-Urbnisi): *"What is surprising is that Jesus Christ was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, this card also costs 30 GEL."*

Father Zosime: *"The number of a person having created a code of beast of global controlling system and the number of the beast is the same - 666."*

Despite the explanatory nature of the report, at the end of the report the author of the report, Giorgi Gvishiani, makes an assumption that if the number of the beast is a bar-code, then we voluntarily accept the number of the beast daily when buying something.

Giorgi Gvishiani, journalist: *"If the number of the beast mentioned in the Apocalypse is a bar-code which is engraved on food products, then it turns out that we voluntarily agree to accept the number of the beast. Consequently, if we want to save our souls we must say no to any trade - be it in cash or by plastic card."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2054996

True, the author of the report applies a journalistic method to show the audience the absurdity of such attitude towards the issue, but it would have been better if the journalist had noted that only verbally in order to exclude any possibility of someone taking a hypothetical assumption for a real fact.

Deported Meskhetians

Meastro, Politmetri, 29 April

The talk show Politmetri dedicated a program to the topic of deported Meskhetians.

It is noteworthy, that the topic of deported Meskhetians is discussed by respondents in the context of ethnic origin, whether they are Georgians or non-Georgians, rather than in the context of the right to restoration of justice. This attitude is revealed by supporters of repatriation (Goga Khaindrava) as well as opponents (Manana Nachkebia, "Muslim Meskhetians who are indeed of Georgian ethnicity").

Goga Khaindrava: *"95% of those who were exiled from Georgia at that time, are pure Georgians, Meskhetians."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2036388

Goga Khaindrava: *"They are pure Georgians... The only thing they have [different from Georgians] is the religion, they are followers of Islam and that because of their unfortunate fate and not because they so wished."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2036401

Goga Khaindrava's last phrase about the belief of deported Meskhetians is discriminatory because he says that the religious affiliation of people is not the expression of their will but the imposed factor.

Even though a respondent, Jondi Baghaturia, notes correctly that neither the ethnic origin nor religious belief of those people means anything for him, he justifies the decision of the Soviet regime on forceful exile of Meskhetians when talking about anti-Georgian sentiments of deported Meskhetians and moreover, offers that allegation as an established fact.

Jondi Baghaturia: *"The main reason of their resettlement from here was their anti-Georgian sentiments, pro-Turkish sentiments, let's say so... I do not know whether*

Deported Meskhetians

they are Georgians genetically, at least 80% of them are Turks because the Turkish occupational regime, in due time, resettled ethnic Turks from the middle of Turkey to Meskheta in order to upset a demographic balance."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029394

Manana Nachkebia from the New Rights political party segregates Meskhetians into ethnic Georgians and those who served the Soviet KGB.

Manana Nachkebia: *"Despite our attitude towards the restoration of historic justice, you know perfectly well that they can be divided into two segments – Muslim Meskhetians who are indeed of Georgian origin genetically and for whom this is a historic homeland, and people who were very well used by the Soviet KGB against Georgia."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2036367

The presenter Nino Zhizhilashvili correctly argues with the opponent of repatriation, Jondi Baghaturia, about the injustice conducted against Meskhetians though, at the same time, identifying human rights defenders by their ethnic origin (Georgian) is unjustifiable.

Nino Zhizhilashvili: *"That is why, human rights defenders in this country, ethnically Georgian human rights defenders say that the stopping of this process will be unfair towards concrete persons."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029434

When Jondi Baghaturia speaks about legal responsibility and legacy of the Soviet Union, which is a legitimate topic, the presenter again shifts the topic into an ethnic context and with an apparent hint to Stalin, says that *"ethnic Georgians also contributed to this process."* Jondi Baghaturia, in this case, absolutely correctly points to the presenter that it is not correct to divide people by the DNA analysis and ethnicity.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029434

However, for his part, Jondi Baghaturia draws unjustified parallels between the repatriation of Meskhetians and the conditions of refugees in the country, especially considering that the state does not have a legal obligation of restitution towards deported people.

Jondi Baghaturia: *"We have up to 300,000 refugees in Georgia... These people are homeless. Now, is it not better to take care of our people living here?"*

Based on arguments of opponents, namely, the issue of refugees, the presenter puts a question to the deputy justice minister, which is legitimate but the question about the refugees smacks of emotional speculation, especially considering that the state does not have a legal obligation of restitution towards people with a repatriate status:

Nino Zhizhilashvili: *"The opponent has posed the question like that... How can the country having hundreds of thousands of refugees take care of the resettlement of people from another country? What can you say about that? Refugees may be watching you now and they might be disappointed that they lack the care of that scale at this stage which they would like to receive."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029379



Goga Khaindrava: *"They are pure Georgians... The only thing they have [different from Georgians] is the religion, they are followers of Islam and that because of their unfortunate fate and not because they so wished."*

Sexual Minorities

Kviris Kronika, 3-12 May

An interview of journalist Gela Zedelashvili with a representative of Free Georgia, Gia Kruashvili, is saturated with homophobic statements:

Gia Kruashvili, Free Georgia: *"I do not see in Georgia a Georgian walking proudly, only pederasts walk proudly here. They promote those pederasts so that I am nearly to change sex, f..ck them! I do not want them die or be killed by the firing squads. Let them be for themselves, why are they talking to me about them on TV daily?"*

Alia, 30 April

An interview of the journalist Tamar Okruashvili with the chairman of the party of national ideology, Zurab Gagnidze, also contains homophobic and discriminative statements ("he is exposed of being blue") and based on rumors, describes an incident which the journalist leaves without comment and expresses the editorial position in the title of the interview – "Several teachers exposed of being blue were beaten by students." The term "blue" is an offensive term for gays in Georgia.

Zurab Gagnidze: *"Three days ago several university teachers who were exposed of being blues were beaten by students. That does not happen only once! Representatives of the Liberty Institute stepped in to protect those beaten teachers saying one should not behave like Kurtanidze did. I will not disclose names of those blues, it is not comely. This is a well known fact in the university. Tevzadze took precautions and after that incident removed all the swords, axes and knives from the history cabinet into his cabinet and keeps them there."*

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April – 5 May

An article of journalist Zaza Davitaia, "Anjelika and the King," is discriminative on the grounds of ethnicity and sexual orientation. It refers to the president of Georgia as Saakov whilst to the leader of

the organization Patriots, Giorgi Mazmaniani, as Anjelika. The entire article which is dedicated to the United National Movement and its leader, is homophobic and contains offensive and degrading evaluations.

Zaza Davitaia: *"Saakov-Mazmanian's National Movement with its non-traditional orientation takes the country towards the abyss!"*

"People with non-traditional sexual orientation conduct demonstrations, under the veil of democracy and human rights, in Georgia, in the country of real men."

"Such rumors circulate about Anjelika that a decent person would find it shameful to repeat... Upon entering the prison he settled not in an ordinary ward but in a 'henhouse' because he is a representative of non-traditional orientation... 'Hen' is also a person and has rights too, but he was called that name in due time because he turned his back to the society, traditions and revealed his non-traditional sexual orientation."

"Giorgi Mazmaniani with non-traditional orientation sides with the United National Movement. However, until now it was known that the national movement? defended traditions and conservative values."

Sexual Minorities

With his support, Anjelika totally discredited Saakashvili and removed a mask from his regime which took this country in the non-traditional direction...In the country where Anjelika is in the ranks of the party, it is also possible if he becomes a governor."

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-5 May

A topic of Giorgi Mazmaniani's sexual orientation is also discussed discriminatively in a comment of a prisoner Giorgi Buzaladze:

Giorgi Buzaladze, prisoner: *'What a shame – a homosexual Anjelika criticizes Erisioni!'*

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-5 May

A writer, Koba Arabuli, like journalists of Asaval-Dasavali, discusses the instilment of homosexual relations as the plan of self-liquidation of the nation falling within the politics of the

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-5 May

An example of homophobic material is the interview of journalist Tea Asatiani with the chairman of Iakob Gogebashvili society, Gogi Gogolashvili, which concerns the school education and in particular, the teaching of Iakob Gogebashvili's ABC book, "Mother Tongue", at schools. In the introduction to the interview, the journalist, absolutely unfairly, tries to connect the topic with the sexual orientation, the policy of President Saakashvili's government towards sexual minorities and uses offensive language, such as "pederast," "untraditional orientation," etcetera. It is noteworthy that save the introduction, the topic of sexual minorities is not mentioned either in questions of the journalists or answers of the respondent.

Tea Asatiani: *"It is an old and popular anecdote... If you have an aquarium at home... you love nature, picnic and like to drink, this means that you also like women and you are not a pederast. Consequently, if you do not have an aquarium at home it logically means that you are a pederast... I cannot say exactly why was aquarium replaced by the ABC, but if we consider that the main criterion in education today is skills and also recall that with the help of Saakashvili's government, people with non-traditional sexual orientation conducted "gay parties" right in front of schools, some logical conclusion may be drawn."*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/967/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Sexism

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-5 May

The article of the journalist Zaza Davitaia contains sexist and defamatory expressions:

Zaza Davitaia: *"Women lay in bed with Misha to arrange their lives... Rumors also have that some women even ensured thus the mandates of deputies."*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/967/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

United National Movement:

Koba Arabuli: *"It is unacceptable for me to cohabitate with the enemies of the country. I will not stand next to those who, along with other disasters, planned the liquidation of the nation by means of propagating homosexual relations between men."*

Asaval-Dasavali, 29 April-5 May

The newspaper quotes Deacon Grigol Gogichadze's discriminatory statement made in Kviris Palitra a week before.

Grigol Gogichadze, deacon: *"Homosexuality has been introduced in every sphere lately. The United National Movement did all those nasty things to the Church that the communists did to it, and in an even more dirty manner."*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/967/>



Tea Asatiani, journalist: *"...if you do not have an aquarium at home it logically means that you are a pederast... I cannot say exactly why was aquarium replaced by the ABC, but if we consider that the main criterion in education today is skills and also recall that with the help of Saakashvili's government, people with non-traditional sexual orientation conducted "gay parties" right in front of schools, some logical conclusion may be drawn."*



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Topic of the Week

Continued from p. 1

footage were blurred. Yesterday, however, surreptitiously filmed material of group sex was released in the Internet without any censorship."

Reporting about this trend was a matter of public interest, but the author of the report should have beeped abuses of a citizen who called participants in the protest rally "pederasts," just like Kavkasia and partially, Channel 9 did.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029298

Meastro TV and 1st Channel, 4 May

News programs of Maestro and 1st Channel reported the fact in a neutral manner, referring to the video as the material featuring private life and minimizing comments containing verbal abuses.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029331

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2029329

Criminalization of Abortion

One of main topics of the week was an initiative of the Patriarch Ilia II to ban abortion.

Although reports on this topic highlighted views of representatives of various institutions and the civil sector, but since the initiative was put forward by the leader of the religious majority, the reports lacked the diversity of opinions on this issue, in particular, approaches of religious minorities in Georgia.

Civil Sector

Non-governmental organizations Georgia's Democratic Initiative (GDI). Transparency International Georgia, Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC), Georgia's Young Lawyers Association (GYLY), Article 42 of the Constitution, Media Development Foundation, ALPE Foundation as well as the Public defender's Office, issued statements evaluating the release of video footage via social networks, featuring private life of a person and demanded a timely and adequate investigation of the incident.

<http://gdi.ge/?p=246>

<http://mdfgeorgia.ge/index.php?menuid=15&lang=1&id=117>

<http://www.ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=1001&lang=0&id=1701>

<http://www.ombudsman.ge/index.php?page=1001&lang=0&id=1701>

Imedi news program, 5 May

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2030544

Maestro, 5 May

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2030679

Public Broadcaster, 6 მაგობო

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2030644

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2030642

Rustavi 2, 6 May

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2058516

Channel 9, 6 May

<http://www.tv9.ge/?l=G&m=2&sm=17&sm=17&id=1791>

Kavkasia 6 May

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2058521

