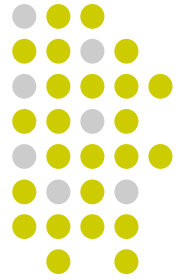




Newsletter №6



Main Findings of the Monitoring

Over the period from between 13 and 19 May, the key topic covered in the media was the preparations for a rally scheduled for 17 May to mark the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia and a violent breakup of this rally on that day. The Media Development Foundation (MDF) dedicated a special edition to media coverage of developments from 16 through 18 May (see Newsletter #3) and therefore, this newsletter does not detail that period. This newsletter reflects only those tendencies which were identified over that period. These trends were:

Continued on p. 2

Discrimination on Ethnic Ground

Obiektivi, 13 May

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

Guests of the talk show, Gamis Studia, the leader of Patriots' Alliance Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi and a founder of Obiektivi, Irma Inashvili, made xenophobic statements and fanned anti-Chinese sentiments.

Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, Patriots' Alliance: "Neither Chinese or Indians swarm that country nor territories are fragmented there; nor do they grant regional status to the Georgian language or build mosques or go to Afghanistan..

It would be good if we take after our brotherly nation, Armenians."

Irma Inashvili, Founder of Obiektivi: "Here everyone goes into that Chinese shop and all Georgians buy their products. In Armenia, Yerevan, no one goes there as far as I know... They [Chinese] were actually unable to get a foothold there [in Armenia]."

Continued on p. 3

13. 05 -19.05.2013



MONITORING

Inside this issue

Discrimination on Ethnic Ground	1-3
Property Dispute	4
Discrimination on Religious Ground	5
Sexual Minorities	7
Gender Discrimination	12



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



OPEN SOCIETY GEORGIA FOUNDATION
ფონდი ღია საზოგადოება საქართველო

Main Findings of the Monitoring

- Terminological inaccuracy where the rally of defenders of LGBT rights was referred to as a rally of sexual minorities and a gay pride;
- Unjustified generalization on the part of journalists and spread of inaccurate information (Imedi TV news program) as if the Orthodox Christian clergy, congregation and non-governmental organizations unite on the International Day Against Homophobia every year and the violence against defenders of LGBT rights is a usual occasion on that day;
- Release of false information by journalists about the police using tear gas (Channel 9) as well as about the conduct of gay pride in Batumi last year (Imedi TV news program);
- Failure of journalists to react to respondents' pejoratively referring to homosexuals as sick people (Rustavi 2 talk show and news program, Imedi talk show and news program, Obiektivi); in some cases, similar opinions were expressed by journalists (Obiektivi);
- Instances when coverage allowed identification of those people who were targeted by a frenzied participants in a counter rally (Rustavi 2 news program);
- On several occasions, the total lack of reaction to respondents' hate speech on the part of presenters.

Newsletter №6

With regard to other topics, the main tendencies were the following:

- Discriminatory statement on ethnic ground were again used in relation to politics of the former government (calls to reject Chinese products; unacceptability of granting a regional status to Armenian and Azerbaijani languages; portraying Chinese as a criminal group and thus establishing this stereotype; manipulating with President Saakashvili's surname so that it sounds like an Armenian surname, Saakov, thereby hinting as if he is not ethnically Georgian; segregation of the population of Adjara into Christians and Muslims);
- Disputes over land ownership was again reported in an unbalanced way, based on emotional assessments and political speculations of only one side, without double-checking the facts and thorough study of the issue, thus whipping up negative sentiments towards foreign investors (Rezonansi newspaper);

Continued on p. 12

Discrimination on Ethnic Ground

Continued from p. 1

Either of the two respondents tries to promote an idea that guided by pseudo-patriotic sentiments one can reject products based on the country of their origin. As Tarkhan-Mouravi asserts, that led to the close-down of Chinese shops in Armenia.

In the same talk show, the leader of Patriots' Alliance asserts that regardless of the fact that their movement is not presented in the parliament, they will not allow the ratification of the charter on minority languages just like they did in case of the construction of a mosque and he referred to a survey conducted by this political association to study attitudes of the population in Adjara towards the construction of the mosque.

Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, Patriots' Alliance: *"We do not say that the Armenian language must not be granted a status... No matter whether we are in the parliament or not, we will not allow that... We will not allow Armenian language or Azerbaijani language or any other language been granted this status."*
<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11903>

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Speaking about the law on migration, one of the leaders of the movement "Nationals", Sandro Bregadze, unjustifiably associates Chinese with a criminal syndicate and prostitution, thereby establishing the stereotype about them. At the same time, the respondent dramatizes facts and draws unjustified parallels.

Sandro Bregadze, Nationals: *"Several days ago I saw myself a bus*

crowded with criminal syndicate of Chinese operates in Tbilisi, which is engaged in prostitution. Yes, Chinese massage salons which have mushroomed recently are in fact nests of prostitution...

None of occupiers has done anything like that to Georgia. This is a targeted genocide and if we fail to timely prevent that and to adopt an immigration law of European type, future generations will announce us as traitors."

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

In an article of Zaza Davitaia, "Saakov, do not bite off anyone's nipple!", the surname of the President of Georgia is again transformed so that to hint as if he is not Georgian by origin and is Armenian in a negative sense.

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

A representative of the People's Council, Elizbar Javelidze, makes anti-Turkish statements in the contexts of political contesting.

Elizbar Javelidze, People's Council: *"In contrast to Saakashvili, Aslan Abashidze did not sell a patch of Georgian land! In contrast to Saakashvili, Aslan Abashidze did not allow even a Turk to settle in Adjara! It is a shame that Aslan Abashidze who converted numerous [Muslim] Adjarians into Christians, is today a fugitive from his homeland whilst Saakashvili who sold the entire Adjara for money and tried to make this ancient Georgian land a Turkish one, lives in the residence in Avlabari today!"*



Irma Inashvili, Founder of Obiektivi: *"Here everyone goes into that Chinese shop and all Georgians buys their products. In Armenia, Yerevan, no one goes there as far as I know... They [Chinese] were actually unable to get a foothold there [in Armenia]."*

Property Dispute

Rezonansi, 14 May

An article by a journalist, Maka Kharazishvili, "Crisis of Pastures in Georgia", published in the Rezonansi newspaper, reported on the dissatisfaction of residents of various regions about the privatization of pastures. The article is unbalanced with six out of seven respondents expressing similar views. It does not provide positions of even a single investor as well as of the Ministry of Economy which is in charge of disposal of lands.



In the lead to the article, the journalist yet again engages in generalizing - *"In Georgia, grass for feeding cows has become rarity. The cattle is roaming around in search of feed"* – so that does not provide even a single fact supporting such an assessment whilst generalization is based on an opinion of one respondent alone. It is worth noting that this lead repeats, word by word, a quote which is attributed not to a concrete person but to residents of Khobi collectively.

Newsletter №6

The article also touches upon the issue of illegal privatization of land but the newspaper did not undertake adequate measures to explore legal grounds of such an assessment, which would be possible if it requested documentation from the Ministry of Economy. The publication also quotes the leader of parliamentary majority, Davit Saganelidze (Georgian Dream), as saying that pastures belong to the category of common use land and their privatization was unacceptable. The newspaper did not explain the regulations concerning the legal status of pastures either; nor did it double check at the Ministry of Economy whether disputable lands belong in the category of "common use." True, the article quotes Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili as saying that if agreements are legally correct, the government can do nothing, but the journalist does not make an attempt to find out whether or not the law was violated and how substantiated are the claims of the population.

In the article, which is based on emotional assessments of separate citizens and political speculations, the dissatisfaction of local population is linked with the purchase of lands by Pakistanis, Turks, Indians and Chinese (Kakha Kukava, Free Georgia, expert Tamaz Kunchulia).

http://resonancedaily.com/index.php?id_rub=7&id_artc=15543

Discrimination on Religious ground

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Giorgi Gigauri in his article, "Saakashvili's farewell curse," touches upon, inter alia, the amendments made to the Civil Code during the former government, which granted religious organizations the right to be registered as legal entities in public law. The journalist portrays the amendment as a step against the Georgian Church and discriminatively calls the operational religious organizations as sects of torturers.

Giorgi Gigauri, journalist: *"It was Saakashvili who caused his humble parliament to adopt the law which trampled upon the constitutional concordat signed with thousand-year-old Georgian Church and equalized the rights of our church with sects of torturers!"*

Anti-American sentiments

Kviris Kronika, 13-19 May

An article by a journalist, Khatuna Elbakidze, *"How did US special services recruited 10,000 citizens of Georgia,"* which is based on information a confidential source, engages in conspiracy theories how US special services *"made talented Georgian young people work against Georgia in return for a possibility to study in foreign universities."* As the author of the article asserts, *"Americans used to select talented young people with liberal ideas. One of necessary conditions, of course, was that these young people were atheists and did not honor traditions of the country."*

The entire article is speculative and promotes the idea that the special services of US intelligence demanded from Georgian youth, having left Georgia to obtain education abroad, that they protect sectarians and reject Georgian traditions whilst the US "spy network" in Georgia was controlled by several representatives of the United National Movement and non-governmental organizations.

Khatuna Elbakidze, journalist: *"What did CIA inheritors demanded from liberal Georgian young people in return for care throughout their lives? First of all, to preach those liberal ideas, of course. Well, they did not go from door to door, like Jehovah's witnesses do, with colored magazines in their hands, but you must remember that those people had access to press and TV at that time and they spread their "innovative" ideas extensively. They managed to promote and introduce much vice at that time. Their key goal was to infiltrate into the Patriarchate, to discredit the Georgian Church, to belittle high respect towards the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia."*

Continued on p. 6



Giorgi Gigauri, journalist: *"It was Saakashvili who caused his humble parliament to adopt the law which trampled upon the constitutional concordat signed with thousand-year-old Georgian Church and equalized the rights of our church with sects of torturers!"*

Discrimination on Religious ground

Anti-American sentiments

Continued from p. 5

“In parallel, they were tasked to protect aggressive sectarians and with their help or, vice versa, hiding behind them, to infringe on sacred traditions of Georgia, incite religious conflict between Christian and Muslim Georgians in Adjara, to buy poor people for 30 silver pieces in return for rejecting their true faith and adopting the “belief” of Jehovah’s Witnesses or any other sect of sinners.”

The entire article, by itself, is absurd and written in violation of any journalistic standard. Moreover, the journalist discriminates religious minorities herself when referring to Jehovah’s Witnesses as to a “sect of sinners.” The article portrays America as a provoker of civil conflict and even inspirer of already occurred conflicts. The author does not specify which conflict was triggered by the US:

Khatuna Elbakidze, journalist: *“The US government, if it deems necessary for its country, will not shun from provoking even a civil conflict in Georgia. Have they not already done so?”*

The complete text of Khatuna Elbakidze’s article published in Kviris Kronika is available at the webpage of internet portal Georgia and the World:

<http://www.geworld.ge/ViewGE.php?G=3588&Title=rogor-gadaibires-amerikis-specsamsaxurebma-saqarTvelos-aTi-aTasobiT-moqalaze&lang=ge> [in Georgian]

Newsletter №6



Khatuna Elbakidze, journalist:

“They were tasked to protect aggressive sectarians and... to infringe on sacred traditions of Georgia, incite religious conflict between Christian and Muslim Georgians in Adjara, to buy poor people for 30 silver pieces in return for rejecting their true faith and adopting the “belief” of Jehovah’s Witnesses or any other sect of sinners.”

Kviris Kronika, 13-19 May

An interview with professor Aslan Abashidze, published in Kviris Kronika in the form of advertisement, is not an article written by a journalist of the newspaper but the respondent, referring to the construction of a mosque in Batumi, makes significant assessments about the essence of a secular state, the right of believers to decide themselves where and when to build a cult building, and artificial aggravation of the situation on the part of politicians which may endanger the state.

The respondent’s position about the essence of a secular state and the equality of rights of believers contains positive messages though it is an advertisement material and does not reflect the editorial policy of the newspaper which is normally largely discriminatory towards various minorities.

Sexual minorities

A topic of sexual minorities was mainly covered in the context of surreptitious videos discovered by the Interior Ministry and the rally of 17 May against homophobia and transphobia.

Alia, 14 May

An interview of a journalist Tamar Okruashvili with an expert, Soso Tsiskarishvili, covers the issue of destruction of the archive of surreptitious recordings discovered in the Interior Ministry. Irony both from the journalist and the respondent regarding separate footage featuring sexual life of individual citizens, including hints about scenes of homosexual intercourse, go beyond any boundaries of ethics. Making reference to the LGBT rights defender non-governmental organization, Identoba, the respondent suggests that the screening of those scenes could be even pleasing for the organization. It must be noted that not only secret watching and filming of private life of a person is degrading and humiliating for people, which was publicly condemned by Identity as well as other non-governmental organizations, but that attitude too which, in this particular case, is shown by the journalist and the respondent.

Tamar Okruashvili, journalist: “But, let’s say, what a scene they will see?”

Soso Tsiskarishvili, expert: “Yes, indeed! As if that is not

Pleasing for someone! (laughing). The truth is that the organization ‘Identuroba’ would watch that footage with pleasure. They may even request the broadcast of those scenes by TV (laughing); if that is so than it is better to burn the entire archive.”

17 May rally

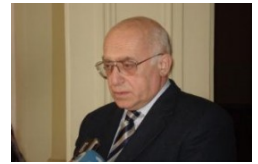
Articles published in print media concerning the rally against homophobia and transphobia were mainly negative. It is worth noting that seven articles in Asaval-Dasavali newspaper, covering general political topics, were discriminatory and incited hatred towards sexual minorities. The only positive assessment was a statement by Prime Minister regarding the equality of rights of every person, published in 24 Saati newspaper.

24 Saati, 15 May

Bidzina Ivanishvili: “According to Prime Minister, sexual minorities enjoy equal rights with other citizens and the society will gradually get used to that. He talked about a counter-rally which was planned in parallel: “I know that a segment of society cannot accept that. Therefore, the law enforcement bodies operate in the state and we will do everything for the protection of any minority. The police will stand in between them and protect the rights of every person.”

<http://24saati.ge/index.php/category/news/2013-05-15/37967.html>

Continued on p. 8



Soso Tsiskarishvili, expert:

“Yes, indeed! As if that is not pleasing for someone! (laughing). The truth is that the organization ‘Identuroba’ would watch that footage [surreptitious recordings, including homosexual intercourse, discovered in the Interior Ministry] with pleasure. They may even request the broadcast of those scenes by TV (laughing); if that is so than it is better to burn the entire archive.”

Sexual minorities

Alia, 14 May

In an interview with Father Elizbar Dekanozidze, journalist Tamar Okruashvili refers to 17 May rally as a gay pride whilst when the respondent says that he does not exclude the use of force, the journalist, instead of speaking about legitimate reaction to violence, tries to specify in what form they can resist participants of the rally.

Tamar Okruashvili, journalist: *“Can you slap those people in their faces?”*

The religious servant himself not only makes homophobic statements and uses discriminatory language against minorities (“their place is in hell”) but also encourages violence.

Father Elizbar Dekanosidze:

“One should not come close to homosexuals but should not give way to them either! That means that we must apply any method to avoid any incident but they must not be allowed to do their job. I will quote words of John Chrysostom in which he says that when your lord is offended and cursed, you must beat those who do that. It means that you must bring them to their senses with even by a slap in the face and point them towards the correct path.”

Alia, 17-20 May

Even though the article by journalist Shorena Gogoladze, about preparations for the rallies, provides the position of an organizer of the rally

against homophobia, executive director of Identoba NGO Irakli Vacharadze, on the one hand, and on the other, an organizer of counter rally, Father Elizbar Diakonidze, the publication is discriminatory towards minorities. Irakli Vacharadze speaks about legal grounds and says that if police deems it necessary, the rally will change the venue for security reasons. This statement by the respondent is followed by a question in which the journalist tries to shift the emphasis from a legal context and to view the issue from the angle of moral esteem of the religious leader.

Shorena Gogoladze: *“Only police? Is the Patriarch’s call not important for you?”*

The title of the interview, “What sexual minorities say about the call of Patriarch,” exposes the journalist’s theocratic attitude. At the same time journalists specifies that respondent from organization “Identoba” represents sexual minorities. Sexual orientation of a person is a matter of self-identification and only an individual is entitle to reveal his/her sexual orientation, which is not observed by journalist in this case.

Asaval-Asavali, 13-19 May

Journalist Jaba Khubua seeks opinion of poet Rezo Amashukeli about the rally planned for 17 May to which the journalist refers as a rally of sexual minorities and not as a rally of defenders of LGBT right. In response, the respondent uses hate speech and discriminatory terminology and makes homophobic statements.

Newsletter №6



Father Elizbar Dekanosidze:

“One should not come close to homosexuals but should not give way to them either!.. I will quote words of John Chrysostom in which he says that when your lord is offended and cursed, you must beat those who do that. It means that you must bring them to their senses with even by a slap in the face and point them towards the correct path.”

Sexual minorities

Rezo Amashukeli: *“Has anyone ever attacked them or impeded them in anything? Hell with them, let them do whatever they want but at the same time let them memorize that sexual pervers and the marriage of same sex will never be legalized in Georgia. I declare outright – I loath homosexuals because they are dirty and spread disease but nevertheless I still call on society to stay calm on 17 May and refrain from beating up those pervers because that is exactly what they want in order to kick up a fuss thereafter and receive millions in grants.”*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>

Alia, 14 May

An interview of journalist Gela Zedelashvili with Kakha Mikaia, a representative of a movement, Protect Georgia, is dedicated to president Saakashvili's visit to Poti. However, during the interview the journalist also touches upon the 17 May rally and pejoratively refers to participants in the rally as pervers (*“Kakha, though it is from other field but... on 17 May, sexual pervers will conduct a rally”*). The respondent shuns the discussion of this topic.

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

In the article, *“Roughed up representatives of UNM”*, journalist Zaza Davitaia draws unjustified parallels between the incident in the restaurant La Truffe, in which representatives of the United National Movement were beaten up, and 17 May rally.

Zaza Davitaia: *“Georgia is a paradoxical country in which a rally of representatives of non-traditional sexual orientation may be joined by EU ambassadors who protect them as shields whereas a fair protest of former political prisoners against the regime, which killed own citizens and committed numerous crimes, can be qualified as hooliganism and crime...”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Journalist Zaza Davitaia also associates 17 May rally with the diplomatic corps in the interview with Father Davit Isakadze who names the rally of defenders of LGBT rights as the gay pride whilst evaluates the opposition of society to sexual minorities as a war in which the diplomatic corps is engaged and threatens them with staging rallies outside embassies and declaring them as personas non grata for inciting conflict.

Zaza Davitaia: *“I heard that on 17 May, LGBT representatives will use high level representatives of diplomatic corpse accredited in Georgia as a shield. What is the motive behind the support of those circles to followers of non-traditional sexual orientation?”*

Continued on p. 10



Rezo Amashukeli: *“I declare outright – I loath homosexuals because they are dirty and spread disease”...*

Sexual minorities

Father Davit Isakadze:

"Why do people equipped with European or American grants preach that perversion in Georgia? By the way, they are quite aggressive. Their manifest reads that they must break into every family! That means that they perceive heterosexuals as their potential enemies! In fact, this is a fight, war in which diplomatic circles are also engaged."

"A position and a demand have already emerged in the Georgian society that those diplomats who preach perversion in Georgia and encourage conflicts be declared personas non grata and popular protests be staged in front of their embassies."

which is a clearly discriminatory attitude.

Sandro Bregadze: *"A person of any orientation has the right to exist in society but no one has the right to propagate perversion..."*

"Why should lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals hold a rally in front of Kashueti Church here?! If such a rally must be held, let them go and hold it in the suburbs, assemble in such a place which is far from sacred place."

In the same interview, the respondent unjustifiably links the 17 May rally with the United National Movement and Vano Merabisvhili and makes statements about a possible bloodshed:

Sandro Bregadze: *"This will not be a peaceful rally at all; this is a pre-planned provocation. I know for sure that very many young Georgians intend to take to Rustaveli Avenue in order to prevent the so-called LGBT rally on 17 May. This will cause quarrels which may exacerbate and result in casualties too."*

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Even though journalist Jaba Khubua, in an interview with one of the leaders of the movement Nationals, Sandro Bregadze, initially puts a correct question that if we have ambition of being a democracy the rights of sexual minorities to assemble must not be restricted, but later he agrees with the opinion of the respondent that the right of LGBT activists to assemble near cult buildings and educational institutions must be restricted. They promote an opinion that the freedom of expression of LGBT representatives and defenders of their rights is nothing else but the "propaganda of perversion" and that these people have the only right to exist in society,

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

Assessments by former Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze of 17 May rally, published in the newspaper, are discriminative.

Newsletter №6



Father Davit Isakadze:

..."That means that they perceive heterosexuals as their potential enemies! In fact, this is a fight, war in which diplomatic circles are also engaged."

Sexual minorities

Eduard Shevardnadze: *“Are they gays or whoever, we know that the attitude towards them has changed in the world but this is Georgia and I as an ordinary Georgian do not want to see a gay pride on Rustaveli Avenues! That is a disaster, one cannot tell a man from a woman. Gay prides cannot be hold in Georgia!”*

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

In an interview of journalist Giorgi Gigauri with an actor, Gia Burjanadze, the respondent equalizes the freedom of expression of LGBT representatives and defenders of their rights with the propaganda of perversion and, at the same time, demands that propaganda of homosexuality be prohibited by the law.

Gia Burjanadze, actor: *“I as a citizen may tolerate the existence of homosexuals in my native country, let them be quiet, but an aggressive propaganda of untraditional sexual orientation is unacceptable for me! Even more: propaganda of homosexuality in Georgia must be prohibited by the law.”*

The respondent says sexual minorities for Georgia is a catastrophe for the nation.

Gia Burjanadze: *“These LGBT movements are not a problem for China, Brazil, Amer-*

ca or Russia, but for such a small nation as ours the propaganda of this is catastrophic...

For Georgia, which faces a demographic catastrophe, the spread of homosexuality means demise!”

Asaval-Dasavali, 13-19 May

One of the leaders of the People's Council, Elizbar Javelidze, pejoratively refers to representatives of sexual minorities, calling them sexual perverts and sees the opposition to 17 May rally as the defense of Orthodox Christianity and the homeland. The newspaper used a quote of the respondent for the title for the publication *“I call on Georgians to assemble outside the parliament building on 17 May and defend our homeland from wanton actions of sexual perverts!”*, which indicates that the newspaper shares the position of the respondent.

Elizbar Javelidze, People's Council:

“They stage rally not against homophobia but against Georgians and Orthodox Christian traditions!..As soon as we bow our head to those gays and lesbians and put up with that as if civilization, they will immediately behave in a wanton manner and start putting forwards their demands! Homosexuality is a sodomite sin! As simple as that! Let no one ask me to love them! I love a Georgian man and a Georgian woman those who have morals, dignity and belief in God.”

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/asdas/2013/969/969.pdf>



Gia Burjanadze, actor: *“... an aggressive propaganda of untraditional sexual orientation is unacceptable for me! Even more: propaganda of homosexuality in Georgia must be prohibited by the law.”*



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Gender discrimination

Alia, 14 May

When talking about an incident in the restaurant *La Truffe* in which representatives of the United National Movement were beaten up, a human rights defender Gela Nikolaisvhili made a discriminatory statement on the ground of gender.

Gela Nikolaisvhili: *“Should anyone believe that Vashadze, Sakvarelidze and Gorozia became so humble that allowed women to beat them up?”*

Main Findings of the Monitoring

Continued from p. 1-2

- Journalists’ discriminating on religious grounds (Kviris Kronika, Asaval-Dasavali newspapers) by referring to religious organizations as “a sect of torturers” and “a sect of sinners.” Anti-American sentiments fanned by speculations and absurd opinions of journalists, portraying Americans as guardians of sectarians and instigators of civil conflicts (Kviris Kronika);
- The only positive assessment on the essence of a secular state and the equality of rights of believers in the Kviris Kronika newspaper was published in the form of paid advertisement alone;
- Discrimination on the ground of dominant sexual orientation was observed in the reported period not only in relations to the 17 May rally but also surreptitious videos discovered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Since these videos featured personal sexual lives of separate individuals, including homosexual intercourse, both media (Alia newspaper) and respondents (Soso Tsiskarishvili) engaged in unethical and humiliating speculations;
- Asaval-Dasavali newspaper can be singled out for its negative coverage of the 17 May rally (13-19 May). Seven articles in this newspaper, which were about general political topics, were discriminatory towards sexual minorities and incited hatred. An attempt of a journalist to cover the issue from a standpoint of a respected religious leader, instead of legal standpoint, was also observed (Alia newspaper);
- The only positive assessment of 17 May rally was a statement by Prime Minister regarding the equality of rights of every person (24 Saati newspaper).

