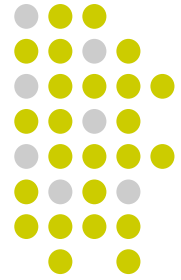




Newsletter #2



Main Findings of the Monitoring

Period: April 22 – 29, 2013

The following trends were identified in the period covered in this monitoring report:

- Several media outlets (*Asaval - Dasavali, Kviris Qronika, Kviris Palitra*) are either itself are the sources of ethnic, religious, racial, sexual discrimination, and hate speech, or share the discriminatory, racist, and homophobic expressions of their respondents. In some cases both problems may be identified.
- On some occasions, the lack of information among the journalists (Program *Position* on Rustavi 2, talk-show of the Maestro TV *Politmeter*, *Qronika* by Imedi TV) results in an unverified reproduction of the discriminatory content and incorrect information provided by the respondents.
- The ethnic and sexual discrimination, as most of the cases, took place in the context of political developments and was related either to the April 19 rally organized by the United National Movement, or to the midterm parliamentary elections. The most topical issues in discourse of elections were the ratification of

the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the same sex marriage, along with the issues of Meskhetians' repatriation to Georgia, linked to the statements made by the Prime Minister at the Council of Europe, on April 23.

- The racial and ethnic discrimination has been mostly coupled with the issues related to property rights.

Monitoring of six newspapers - (*Asaval - Dasavali, Rezonansi, Qronika, Alia, Kviris Palitra*), six TV Channels (Public Broadcasting, Imedi TV and Rustavi 2, Kavkasia, Maestro and Channel 9) prime-time news programs and talk shows, as well as Media Union *Obiektivi's* late night talk show - is implemented within the frames of the project.

The project "*Strengthening the Integration of Ethnic Minorities in Georgia*" is supported by the UN Association of Georgia (UNAG), Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

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.

22. 04 -28.04.2013



MONITORING

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Ethnic and Racial discrimination, Armenophobia

Obiektivi, April 24

Georgian actor Dima Jaiani and the host of the program *Gamis Studia (Night Studio)* Bondo Mdzinashvili jointly develop the thesis that only ethnic Georgians have the right of reproduction in Georgia, while the representatives of other ethnicities, in spite of their citizenship, belong to foreign countries – and this clearly is a Nazi doctrine.

Dima Jaiani: “We are obviously in trouble... may God give them children, but just to compare, families of other ethnicities sometimes have twenty children, while Georgians may have only two... They should not reproduce at the expense of Georgia and Georgians. God help them, but only in their own countries. There are countries where they belong. May God give them children, but...”

Bondo Mdzinarishvili: “Why in Georgia? I agree with you Mr. Dimitri, may God give them kids, but not in Georgia.”

While speaking about Nadzaladevi district (Tbilisi where midterm elections is held), actor Dima Jaiani underlines its pure Georgian ethnic composition:

“By the way, it is an entirely Georgian district, a pure one (about Nadzaladevi district)”.

Akia Barbakadze uses the term “zangebi” (Negros) instead of African-Americans and other racist expressions as well:

“Of course we have a problem when there is only one Georgian in the national team, while the rest of them are Negros.”

<http://Obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11718>

Kviris Qronika, April 22-28

Manana Kobakidze: “I can understand the indignation of people”

In the interview with *Kviris Qronika*, Vice Speaker of the Parliament Manana Kobakhidze promotes xenophobia towards the foreign citizens and calls them “aliens”:

Manana Kobakidze: “It was their homeland and look what they (UNM) have done with it. We all know that whatever the enemy failed to take away they gave it to the aliens. Today, peasants in Shida Kartli and Gori are left without pastures.”

Journalist Gela Zedelashvili further elaborates on the topic related to the land property while portraying the representatives of the different ethnicities as a threat to a nation:

“Manana, you said that our lands are in the hands of aliens. Not only in Kartli but also in Kakheti and the in rest of Georgia we have a similar situation, we are being washed away by Chinese and Indians.”

In response, Vice Speaker confuses the terms and uses the term homophobia instead of xenophobia:

Manana Kobakidze: “Gela, first of all I would like society to understand correctly and not to perceive anything as a homophobic statement. I am not against Chinese or Indians, but the land sales should be strictly regulated.”

Term homophobia refers to the groundless fear, alienation and discrimination of homosexuals and homosexuality, while the term xenophobia means a deep antipathy, fear and hatred toward the representatives of different ethnic groups and culture.

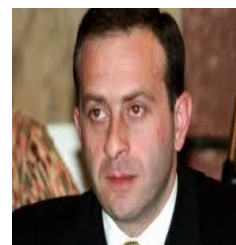
Newsletter №2



Dima Jaiani:

“...Families of other ethnicities sometimes have twenty children, while Georgians may have only two... They should not reproduce at the expense of Georgia and Georgians.”

Ethnic and Racial discrimination, Armenophobia



Giorgi Gugava:

"The time comes of Indian, Sikh or Arab to be the ruler of Georgia."

Public Broadcaster

Dialogue with David Paichadze, April 24

The issue of land sales to foreigners has been presented by the respondents as a threat in the GPB program *Dialogue with David Paichadze* with the participation of the midterm election candidates of Nadzaladevi district. The candidate of the Labor Party Giorgi Gugava used xenophobic and racist expressions while discussing the issue of resettling Chinese people to the Tbilisi Sea and the possibility of including Georgian into the list of dying out nations.

Giorgi Gugava: *"The Chinese town is being built in the surroundings of the Tbilisi Sea. By the way, they sold the schools as hotels, they turned operating schools into hotels for Chinese, and very soon we'll have a small China-town..."*

The time comes of Indian, Sikh or Arab to be the ruler of Georgia."

The host adequately responds to the respondent's abovementioned remark, clarifying that the construction ongoing at Tbilisi Sea does not imply the resettlement of Chinese to Georgia and calls on the respondent to focus on the problems of the voters living in Nadzaladevi district.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2019977

Unacceptability of property sales to foreigners received the election campaign-related coverage in the TV Companies Imedi and Maestro.

[Imedi TV, Oronika, April 25](#)

Giorgi Gugava: *"We will fight till the very end, in order to give back this school to children and to stop the Chinese, Indian, and Arabic expansion in Georgia. Let's protect our country from the incursion of foreigners."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2021663

[Maestro, News at 9, April 25](#)

Giorgi Gugava: *"Right here starts the Chinese expansion in Nadzaladevi and Tbilisi. We'll fight till the very end, if you support us, in order to return the school to children."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2021191

[Kviris Oronika, April 22-28](#)

The Georgian poet Jansug Charkviani is still notable for his Armenophobic expressions.

He portrays the former government as Armenians with the changed last names:

Jansug Charkviani:

"There were 60% of Armenians in the previous Parliament and in the entire government. They have changed their surnames. So, do I have to do anything with that?"

Journalist shares the spirit of the respondent's statements and segregates Georgians and Armenians:

"They want a lot of things that we don't want, that's why we are the way we are."

Jansug Charkviani expresses his negative attitude not only towards the rally organized by the former ruling party, but also with regard to Armenians stating that:

Jansug Charkviani:

"I did not want Georgians to attend that protest rally, but Armenians are welcome. Armenians would not have even noticed it, if the Nationals had not kicked up a row."

Continued on p. 4

Anti-Turkish Sentiments

Anti-Turkish sentiments and public statements were of special interest in the context of the midterm parliamentary election. Argument, that the government fails to react adequately to the Turkish expansion, while being more critical towards Russia, has been mainly developed by the candidate from the Alliance of Patriots Soso Manjavidze, by the members of his movement, and Media Union *Obiektivi* closely affiliated to the abovementioned movement. Journalists mainly failed to respond adequately to the respondents' statements exaggerating threats and concerning the construction of the Mosque as well.

The threat of restoration of the Ottoman Empire

Soso Manjavidze made a number of statements on Turkish expansion in *Politmeter* on Maestro TV, *Dialogue* by the Public Broadcasting, and *Gia Eteri* (Open Air) on Imedi TV.

Politmeter, April 25

Soso Manjavidze: *"Erdogan stated that Turkey's goal is to emerge as a Super state. The same is Davutoglu's doctrine... In Adjara we vividly see how they are going to do that."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020595

Continued on p. 7

Ethnic and Racial discrimination, Armenophobia

Continued from p. 2, 3

There is a hate speech in the quote of unidentified respondent in a report of newspaper *Kviris Qronika* about the opposition demonstration, held on April 19:

"When Turks, Chinese and monkeys wearing turbans are humiliating us, when we are scratching Americans' asses and they keep ruling us, does that mean that Georgians have died out in Georgia?"

Public Broadcasting

Moambe, April 22

Moambe news story concerning the arrest of several persons accused in allocating the space for prostitution, directly associates tourism, foreigners and prostitution. Namely, one of the citizens living in Gonio, whose quote is used by the journalist in the abovementioned report, directly links prostitution to Uzbeks, Central Asians, and Turks.

Shermadin Shanidze: *"There is not a single house without Uzbeks and Central Asians; I am not even talking about Georgians. There are brothels there. Turks are not leaving because they are spending time with these women, all the time. They totally ruined the reputation of the village."*

The response of the hotel staff members, where several persons were arrested, is way more adequate than the journalist's interest concerning the country of origin from which the hotel guests are - journalist should not mention the person's ethnicity, unless it is connected with the motive of the alleged crime.

Hotel staff member: *"When the guest arrives, I cannot ask whether his companion is Georgian or Central Asian."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2025351

Newsletter №2



Kviris Qronika :

"When Turks, Chinese and monkeys wearing turbans are humiliating us, when we are scratching Americans' asses and they keep ruling us, does that mean that Georgians have died out in Georgia?"

Religion, Discrimination

Kviris Qronika, April 22-28

In an interview with *Kviris Qronika*, Vice Speaker of the Parliament from the Georgian Dream refers to the members of the National Movement as demolishers of churches ("They were destroying churches, what right do they have to talk about faith today?"). She links the arrest of the radical Orthodox group members for the physical assault of the guests and associates of the TV Company *Kavkasia* to their Orthodox Christian faith.

Manana Kobakhidze: *"Concerning the faith, who sued or sentenced our Orthodox Christian boys? We freed them as illegal prisoners and politically persecuted... Sergo Rattiani used to make very aggressive statements at their court hearings (MDF: the guest of the TV show, who was questioned in court as a witness), he was acting on purpose in order to send these people to prison."*

It should be noted, that Manana Kobakhidze stated before that those arrested for a physical assault and interfering with journalists' professional duties were imprisoned

for the "defense of the Orthodox Christianity." Please, see the interview with *Sakinformi* titled: "According to the US State Department Reports, Conservative Orthodox Christianity Hinders Georgia's development."

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6028%3A2011-07-06-11-55-41&catid=116%3Ainterview2&Itemid=538

Obiektivi

Gamis Studia, April 22

Statements made by the Leader of the Alliance of Patriots, David Tarkhan-Mouravi concerning the members of the political opposition contain religious discrimination:

David Tarkhan-Mouravi : *"The term national implies loyalty to faith. When you bring Witnesses of Jehovah distributing huge bagfuls of flour, people become the followers of Jehova, and you support this, is this loyalty to faith? They are total infidels."*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11690>

Obiektivi, *Gamis Studia*

April 26

The guest of the show Mirian Karaulashvili talks about the unacceptability of building a Mosque in Batumi and discriminates the rights of Muslims living in Adjara.

Mirian Karaulashvili:

"We will not allow preaching Hussein in Batumi. This means that everything Christian ends here, the influence of the Orthodox Christianity is exhausted and Batumi becomes the absolute outpost of the Muslim religion, the aggressive branch of this religion."

The phone call of the viewer puts ongoing developments into the context of proselytism.

"Turkey has a problem because they keep building things, buy houses, open schools, but they are afraid that Adjarians will return to Christianity, which is irreversible."

The host of the program Ani Kiknadze shares the viewer's position and links ongoing developments to Turkey's political, rather than religious goals.

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11748>



Manana Kobakhidze:

"Concerning the faith, who sued or sentenced our Orthodox Christian boys? We freed them as illegal prisoners and politically persecuted"...

Deported Meskhetians

There are two main problems identified in the coverage of deported Meskhetians' matter: often journalists are not well informed on the issue, including the lack of information on the process of repatriation. Consequently, media reproduces incorrect facts circulated by the respondents. There are also cases of the talk show hosts sharing the discriminatory position of the respondents.

Rustavi 2

Position, April 23

The candidate of the midterm parliamentary election not only disseminates the incorrect information on the process of repatriation and the ethnic origins of those deported, but presents the obligation of repatriation of people forcefully deported by the Soviet regime as a process directed against the national interests of Georgia.

Giorgi Gugava: *"Those from the Georgian Dream, especially Republicans raised the issue in accordance with the National Movement's orders and the course initiated by them... We have to block the obligation undertaken by Ivanishvili concerning the resettlement of 80 000 Turks to Georgia, sales of Georgian lands to foreigners should be also blocked."*

In response, the talk show host Nino Shubladze expressed the gratitude only and clarified neither the facts nor the legal obligation of the Georgian state deriving from the obligation vis-à-vis its own citizens.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2018957

Maestro

Politmeter, April 25

The candidate of the Labor Party Giorgi Gugava also discussed the repatriation of Meskhetians, in the program *Politmeter* on Maestro TV:

Giorgi Gugava: *"The Prime Minister said that he is going to support the resettlement of 80 000 Turks to Georgia... Now, when we have 300 000 IDPs, when more than 70 000 bank debtors diddled by the mortgagers facing the threat of eviction, it turns out that our main problem is to fulfill the obligation of resettlement of 80 000 Meskhetian Turks to Georgia."*

Similarly to the host of *Position*, the host of *Politmeter* Nino Zhizhilasvili failed to correct the facts and just remarked that Prime Minister's original statement might have been "slightly different."

Later, the candidate of the Georgian Dream Tamar Kordzaia amended certain expressions stating that referring to Meskhetians as Turks is objectionable. She also clarified the timeframe defined by the law according to which those willing to be repatriated to Georgia, should have applied by the end of 2010, and there are only 5800 applicants seeking the status of repatriates. At the same time, she underlined that the number of such people cannot and will not grow in future.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020629

On April 22, the issue of deported Meskhetians has been put into the context of Turks' resettlement to Georgia by a viewer calling to the studio of *Obiektivi*. Not surprisingly, the viewer's statement was not followed with the adequate reaction of the host Ilia Chachibaia, since very often the hosts of *Obiektivi* themselves are the sources of discrimination.

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11704>

Anti-Turkish Sentiments

Continued from p. 4

Gia Eteri, April 26

The host of the program Vakho Sanaia asks a question on what is presumed by the term Turkish expansion. In response, Soso Manjavidze states:

"I am making a reference to Davutoglu's statements. I mean that, whatever is going on in Adjara, everything is for sale. There is an open subsidizing for the Turkish businessmen who already bought strategic heights in Adjara, i.e. lands and key economic positions."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2022498

Dialogue with David Paichadze, April 24

Soso Manjavidze: *"The Georgian media pays less attention to what is going on in Adjara and South Georgia while Turkey publishes official maps not only of ancient Georgia but maps based on the idea of the restoration of the former Ottoman Empire."*

It should be underlined that David Paichadze is the only TV host to adequately react to Manjavidze's statements, asking a respondent to what extent this is the part of the official policy of Turkey. In response, the respondent puts forward the argument on Foreign Minister Davutoglu's official statement. On his side, journalist continues the interview in an ironic mode asking whether the restoration of the Ottoman Empire implies the restoration of the Sultan's rule.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020638

It should be noted that the information on Foreign Minister's statement, Turkish conquest of Batumi, and restoration of the Ottoman Empire has been initially aired by the Media Union *Obiektivi*. However, the exact place where the statement was made, as well as the date, has never been identified by the primary source. As with regards to the map mentioned by Manjavidze, the leader of the same party David Tark-

han-Mouravi in *Gamis Studia* program stated that it was published in the Turkish newspaper, but he failed to identify the exact title of the newspaper. Obviously, even being published, the map cannot be considered as an official position of Turkey, as well as the position of *Obiektivi* - as a position of the Georgian government.

David Tarkhan-Mouravi: *"...Turkey is a friend, a strategic friend. Simply the Foreign Minister of Turkey says that they are launching the restoration of the Turkish Empire, the Ottoman Empire. And he says that the borders of that Empire will lay from Damascus to Bengehazi, Sarajevo, and Batumi. He says they are doing it peacefully... Following that the newspaper comes out, I don't remember the name of that newspaper publishing the map of a new Ottoman Empire which includes the entire Adjara into Turkey."*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11690>

Journalist of *Obiektivi* Ilia Chacibaia also disseminates the information on the Turkish take-over of Batumi, in *Gamis Studia* on April 22: *"The Foreign Minister of Turkey stated that they are going to seize Batumi, though, peacefully."*

The guest in the studio Gulbaat Rtskhiladze, Director of the Eurasia Institute continues the topic. In response of the TV viewer's question, "what would you say concerning the growing expansion of Turkey. Batumi is turned into a huge brothel, and they are taking away Adjara. What do you have to say with regard to the construction of a Chinese town and sold out lands?" the interviewee states:

Gulbaat Rtskhiladze: *"The term peaceful penetration comes from the colonial times. This is what happens now in Adjara-economic take-over instead of the intervention with arms and ammunition,*

Continued on p. 8



Soso Manjavidze:

"Turkey publishes official maps not only of ancient Georgia but maps based on the idea of the restoration of the former Ottoman Empire."

Anti-Turkish Sentiments

Continued from p. 4,7

sort of investments in support of infrastructural projects by the neighboring state. This is penetration...

Since Russian military bases left Batumi and Akhalkalaki, Turks are unrestrained. They felt like at home in Adjara and Akhaltsikhe region, and they will advance further. "

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11704>

On April, in *Gamis Studia* on *Obiektivi*, the host Irma Inashvili and the leader of the Alliance of Patriots made entirely groundless comparisons of Turkish expansion and the occupation of Georgia by Russia.

Irma Inashvili: *"When we raised this question, you know what we have been told in response? That Russia took away our lands but, God bless you, didn't Turkey do the same?"*

David Tarkhan-Mouravi: *"But 95 years later, Turkey is no longer an occupant. They cut off 30% of our territory, at least half million Georgian speaking people live there who preserved their language, and nevertheless, they are not occupants, they are friends..."*

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11690>

Construction of a Mosque

Soso Manjavidze reflects on the issue of building a Mosque in Batumi, in the context of Turkish expansion, during the *Nadzaladevi* district pre-election debates in *Dialogue with David Paichadze* (April 24), *Gia Eteri* with Vakho Sanaia (April 26), and *Politmeter* by Nino Zhizhilashvili .

On all three channels the respondent develops the thesis that in order to stop the construction of a Mosque, they conducted a public opinion survey according to which building the mosque is unacceptable for local citizens, including those of Muslims faith.

With regards to the hosts' reactions to such hyperbolized threats: David Paichadze remarked that "issues like that (MDF: construction of religious buildings) are being decided in a different manner", implying that there are certain legal frameworks for the protection of the rights of minorities, and the decisions in this regard should not be made basing on the opinion of the majority only.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020638

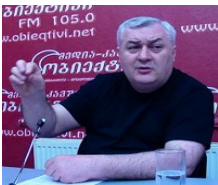
The host of the *Politmeter* left without reaction Soso Manjavidze's statement that the main findings of the survey "will become an effective instrument in the hands of the government to counter the Turkish pressure on the Mosque issue." The respondent attempts to ascertain the thesis that the necessity of building up a mosque emerged as result of a Turkish pressure, rather than for the full realization of the religious rights of Georgian Muslim citizens.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020595

Vakho Sanaia, instead of appealing to the rights of Georgian Muslim citizens, based his response to the opponents' thesis that the respondent was trying to refocus the attention away from Georgia's chief rival - Russia.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2022498

Newsletter №2



David Tarkhan-Mouravi:

"But 95 years later, Turkey is no longer an occupant. They cut off 30% of our territory..."

Charter for Regional Languages

Maestro TV

The Charter for Regional Languages was a topic for discussion in *Politmeter* on April 25, within the frames of *Nadzaladevi* pre-election debate. There were certain groundless parallels and exaggeration of threats as well on the side of the respondents:

Kakha Kukava, Free Georgia: *“There are problems deriving from the status of the state language, problems that we have now in Abkhazia and Samachablo. The Georgian language has been replaced there, and the separatism developed after that... This is a step towards the disintegration of Georgia.”*

Mirza Davitaia, National Movement: *“We have a suspicious coincidence of several steps taken earlier in this regard. There were talks about the release of the Russian spies, Chakhaliani, and the Law on Occupation – all these coincided in time.”*

Soso Manjavidze, The Alliance of Patriots: *“This contains an existential threat for Georgia.”*

Tamar Kordzaia, Georgian Dream: *“I agree with you, absolutely, the issue of a territorial integrity is a threat in this context.”*

Soso Manjavidze, the Alliance of Patriots: *“The law initiated by the Republicans implies the separation of each municipal entity into 5 self-governing units, plus joining the Charter for Regional languages. This was the plan of Georgia’s partition. Imagine for example, we have Sagarejo Municipality in some ways ethnically balanced. If we divide it to five parts we get ethnically entirely non-Georgian regions as self-governing bodies at the level of municipalities.”*

In response to Soso Manjavidze’s last statement, the host makes the only remark, “you are talking about something that has not happened yet”, failing to ask why election into the municipalities of ethnically non-Georgian citizens representing the

local populations may pose a threat. Commenting on opponent’s statements, Tamar Kordzaia says that the latter is talking about some “abstract threats.”

Obiektivi, April 25

Obiektivi also focuses on the Charter for Regional Languages. The host Bondo Mdzinarishvili discriminates and considers the protection of the linguistic uniqueness as acceptable only within the borders of minorities’ historical homelands.

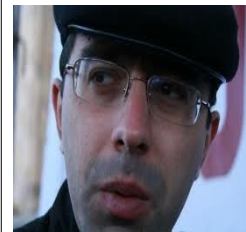
Bondo Mdzinarishvili: *“There are no regional languages in Georgia. There are only two state languages and this is it - Georgian on the territory of Georgia and Abkhazian on the territory of Abkhazia. Those, with their languages have their own homelands... We are not responsible for saving Armenian, Azeri, Russian and Greek...”*

There are some Africans nowadays here, should they be asking us to save the language they speak, the whole Africa speaks that language, and they should stay there and speak their language. Why should I be saving their mother tongue over there? Let them leave for where their mothers are and save their native languages there.”

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11733>

David Tarkhan - Mouravi refers to ethnically Armenian Georgian citizens as the guests in *Gamis Studia*, *Obiektivi*, on April 22:

David Tarkhan - Mouravi: *“We accepted Armenians... We accepted them to become like they are, to integrate into the Georgian reality rather than granting the status of the regional language to their tongue.”*



Kakha Kukava:

“There are problems deriving from the status of the state language, problems that we have now in Abkhazia and Samachablo. The Georgian language has been replaced there, and the separatism developed after that”...

Sexual Minorities

Discrimination of sexual minorities took place within the context of political confrontation, and it was one of the most topical issues in the discourse of the midterm parliamentary election.

Midterm election and the same sex marriage

Political opponents of the Georgian Dream candidate Tamar Kordzaia “accuse” her in supporting the legalization of the same sex marriage. Naturally, several aspects of the abovementioned issue, including the political one, might exist as well as the disagreement within the society. However, framing the issue as an allegation creates the negative context. Media showed no effort aimed at duly presenting the position of an “accused person”. The host of the Imedi TV program *Gia Eteri* (Open Air) Vakho Sanaia was the only one to ask Tamar Kordzaia about her position on the issue. However, even the host framed the question in the context of the opponents’ accusations. In response, the respondent explained her negative attitude towards the same sex marriage with her religious faith and upbringing in a “Georgian family”:

Tamar Kordzaia: *“I was raised in a Georgian family, and I am a Christian Orthodox – this is my response to your question.”*

Respondents’ reply is based on the stereotype that the same sex marriage is unacceptable neither for a Georgian family, nor for a Christian Orthodox faith, which in fact may be either acceptable or unacceptable for other people, despite their religious or ethnic identity. At the same time, Tamar Kordzaia’s statement – “there are more important and serious subjects I would like to discuss with the voters” – hints that the candidate does not consider as a part of her electorate people for whom the abovementioned issue might be important. Journalist does not elaborate on the topic and fails to ask other candidates’

opinions towards the discussed issue. The fact that Vakho Sanaia discusses the sensitive issue with the one respondent only and does not address others is the violation of the professional standard of media.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2022467

Dissimilarly to the host of *Gia Eteri*, journalist of *Asavali - Dasavali* newspaper Tamar Chachanidze (22.04 – 28.04) assumes that Tamar Kordzaia’s positive attitude towards the same sex marriage is an objective fact and attempts to find out “whether single person Tamar Kordzaia will be able to legalize the same sex marriage?”

In response, Tamar Kordzaia dissociated herself from the issue, noting that she has never worked on minority issues while predominantly focusing on the freedom of expression and IDP rights as a human rights defender. Her statement, “I had my position expressed on minorities earlier, but my statements were directed against the violence only” – underlines that respondent considers the rights of minorities in the context of a protection from the violence only.

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/966/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Despite the fact that Tamar Kordzaia expressed her negative position on the same sex marriage on Imedi TV, April 27, a day later in *Qronika* at 8, while covering the results of the midterm elections, journalist of the same TV Imedi aired the quote by Shalva Natelashvili on the same topic, without even noting the actual position of the Georgian Dream candidate Tamar Kordzaia:

Shalva Natelashvili: *“I congratulate Nakhalovka, in the supreme legislature you will be represented by Ivanishvili’s candidate - the defender of homosexuals.”*

Newsletter №2



Asavali - Dasavali:
“The true national movement has nothing to do with somebody coquettishly standing next to Saakov at the disgraceful show of April 19, with Giorgi (Anjela)”
M a z m a n i a n i
known as a pederast
-chicken brigadier of
the pre-son!”

The incorrect information on Tamar Kordzaia was also aired in other programs:

Imedi TV

Qronika, April 25

Nugzar Vazagashvili on Soso Manjavidze: *"Pure Georgian, a person who would not support the same sex marriage in the Parliament, would not allow the development of regional languages here."*

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2021656

Obiektivi, April 27

Giorgi Gugava: *"Paving the way to the Parliament for someone deadly committed to sexual minorities and their defender - turns out, this was the dream of Nakhalovkans and of the entire country."*

<http://Obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11763>

GPB, Dialogue

April 24

The only program in which the journalist refuted the incorrect information concerning the Tamar Kordzaia's attitude towards the same sex marriage was the Public Broadcasting's *Dialogue with David Paichadze*, on

midterm elections participated in the program, while the candidate of the Georgian Dream was absent from the studio. David Paichadze stating that the topic was cooked-up and fictional, interrupted the Labors' candidate Giorgi Gugava.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2020663

Rustavi 2

Position, April 23

Contrary to David Paichadze, the host of Rustavi 2 program *Position* claimed that opponent Tamar Kordzaia was not in the studio instead of refuting his statements as incorrect, when interrupting Giorgi Gugava who was talking about the same sex marriage in the studio. This, of course, cannot be considered as a preventive measure against the dissemination of the incorrect information.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2018957

National Movement and the sexual minorities

Three publications of *Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper echo the April 19 protest rally organized by the United National Movement and participating leader of the Patriots' Movement Giorgi Mazmaniani. He is referred to by journalist and by the respondents with humiliating terms "chicken",

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"pederast", and the feminine name "Anjela" Mazmainiani. At the same time, respondents say Mikeil Saakashvili's last name with the Armenian suffix, as "Saakov".

Asaval-Dasavali, 22.04 – 28.04

Title of the article: *"Misha Saakov, 'Anjela' Mazmaniani and a New National Movement"!*

Author Giorgi Gauri: *"The true national movement has nothing to do with somebody coquettishly standing next to Saakov at the disgraceful show of April 19, with Giorgi (Anjela) Mazmaniani known as a pederast-chicken brigadier of the press!"*

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/966/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Asaval-Dasavali, 22.04 – 28.04

Journalist Tea Asatiani inclines the reference to Giorgi Mazmaniani when a former Minister of Internal Affairs Kakha Targamadze calls the members of the National Movement "cock-a-doodle-does":

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Shalva Natelashvili:

"I congratulate Nakhalovka, in the supreme legislature you will be represented by Ivanishvili's candidate - the defender of homosexuals."

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“One of the cock-a-doodle-does was standing next to Saakashvili.”

In response, on his side Kakha Targamadze clarifies that he recognized one of the “cock-a-doodle-does” on the pages of their newspaper.

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/966/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Sandro Bregadze also refers to Giorgi Mazmaniani as “chicken” and “Anjela”.

<http://www.asavali.ge/archive/2013/966/files/1-41pm5.pdf>

Kviris Palitra, 22.04-28.04

Deacon Grigol Gogichaidze says that homosexuality is dirt introduced by the National Movement, a Satanic sect in his words:

Grigol Gogichaidze: *“They introduced homosexuality in every sphere. Nationals did all the dirty things to the Church that Communists failed to do and way more nastily.”*

At the same time, when journalist Eka Asatiani tries to clarify with him, who has attempted his rape, as noted under the question mark in the title of the publication, and as the deacon says, the respondent replies in a quite general way:

Grigol Gogichaidze: *“I want you to know one thing - whatever was happening in prisons was a struggle not only against the prisoners, but against the clergy as well.”*

Though the title of the publication is given with the question mark, the article is misleading as even the respondent himself fails to

to identify the concrete fact of threat of rape.

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/politic/16729-sandro-girgvlianis-dedis-modzghvars-gaupatiurebith-emuqrebodnen.html>

Homosexuality is also presented as something imposed by the national Movement in the *Gamis Studia* (Night Studio) program, on April 26”:

Phone call of the viewer: *“I hate them [National Movement] so much because they wanted to invalidate the main purpose of a man in Georgia – being a head of the family, tradition. We are not exactly Asian nation, but we are not Europeans either.”*

<http://Obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11748>

In *Obiektivi* program *Gamis Studia*, the leader of the League of Patriots David Tarkhan-Mouravi considers the same sex marriage as a primary ideology of the National Movement.

David Tarkhan-Mouravi: *“When a man marries a man...a woman has a woman as a husband, and if you don’t like this leading ideology, they label you as a homophobic... these national Nazis, is this Ilia’s way... as their main slogan is “the way of Ilia,” does it mean man marrying a man, and a woman having a woman as a husband...”*

<http://Obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=11689>

Writer Tamaz Tsivtsivadze in an interview with *Kviris Qronika* newspaper talks about cohabitation as a problem of national degradation in the context of homosexuality (title: F...ck them all, liars!” April 22-28):

Tamaz Tsivtsivadze: *“Cohabitation of a man with a man, i.e. current cohabitation is a “basis” of a national degradation, rather than that of reproduction.”*

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Grigol Gogichaidze:

“They (UNM) introduced homosexuality in every sphere. Nationals did all the dirty things to the Church that Communists failed to do and way more nastily.”

Property Disputes

Imedi TV, *Qronika*, April 26

Conflict of the population of the Artsevi village in the region of Gori with the Indian investors has been covered in a considerably balanced manner - all sides were represented including the foreign investor and the local population as well. The position of the Ministry of the Economics has been represented in a story and, at the same time, it's been underlined that the representatives of the Ministry declined to provide the on-camera comment. Journalist also presented Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili's assessment concerning the disagreements over the land property stating that the issue, in most of the cases, is being exaggerated and the presence of foreign farmers in Georgia is completely normal. The part of the PM's statement noting that even one wrong action in this regard might instigate a chain reaction and send a wrong signal to the business elite is also included in the TV report.

At the same time, while the foreign investor is deprived of the right to use the property, even though noting that the Indian farmers bought this piece of land from the private person, which excludes the possibility of this land being a part of the "reserved slots" for pasture, journalist frames the story within the context of legitimacy of reserved lands' sales – exactly as local residents do - rather than presenting it as a legal conflict between two concrete owners.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2021782

Rustavi 2

Post Scriptum, April 28

In spite of containing the positions of different sides, the stories of the weekly program *Post Scriptum* are blended with the xenophobic, discriminatory expressions of the local residents towards the foreigners, and contain groundless comparisons as well:

Giorgi Mdzinarishvili, resident of the village of Ditsi:

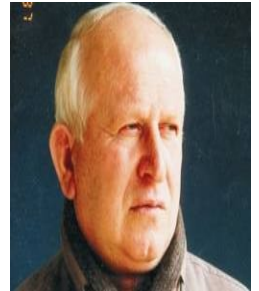
"Tatars, those infidels were here. They captured our lands. Don't people live here? Where is our government?"

Resident of Ditsi village (no title): *"Georgian man selling the land to the Indian is crazy of course, how can he be normal?"*

Resident of Ditsi village (no title): *"When one leaves the other comes, I don't need Indian masters."*

There are groundless parallels made by the local residents in the same story. However, journalist only remarks that

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Tamaz Tsivtsivadze: *"Cohabitation of a man with a man, i.e. current cohabitation is a "basis" of a national degradation, rather than that of reproduction."*

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the village of Ditsi is located in a close proximity to the occupied territories:

Shota Vazarashvili, resident of Ditsi:

"These Indians will get the Russian passports, since they have good relations. Then Russians will grant them the Russian citizenship and tanks will come to Georgia and stay here and there is no one seen to counter them."

Resident of Ditsi village (no title):

"Georgians died in Tskhinvali for these lands. Every gauge of this land is precious for us. Indians are coming. Oh man, what do they want here?!"

[http://
www.myvideo.ge/?
video_id=2022953](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2022953)

Another story by *Post Scriptum* also echoes the widely spread rumors that there is a plan to resettle 126 000 Chinese to Tbilisi, Vazisubani. The story explains the commercial aspect of the project aimed at building a new district and Olympic village for the 2015 Youth Olympic Games. At the same time,



report reflects the phobias and in certain cases the hatred of the locals towards the Chinese.

Local resident: *"Nobody wants these Chinese here. If one speaks out the others follow, even with sticks or whatever."*

Local resident: *"We should kick them away, all of them! How can be compared the work done by a Georgian for his homeland to that of some Chinese, of course Georgians will do better."*

The representative of the Labor Party Giorgi Gugava, similarly to Manana Kobakhidze confuses xenophobia with homophobia and speaks about the roots of the ethnic conflict:

"Ethnic rivalry is rooted in social-economic grounds, rather than in homophobic or any other one – that's when the district is being deprived of the school, construction works are ongoing and one cannot find the job, remains unemployed and poor, one observes that the number of foreigners is growing day-by-day."

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?
video_id=2023607](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2023607)

