

# NO TO PHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

## OBSERVATIONS OF THE WEEK

# 40, 22-29 DECEMBER

The following tendencies have been noted in the period of 22-29 December:

- Religious discrimination against the Muslims by the anchor of Kavkasia TV.
- Turkophobia by a respondent and a (Geworld.ge);
- A homophobic TV show by media union Obiektivi, presenting a discriminatory film about homosexuality, named "Sodom", followed by the discussion in the studio with anti-Western context;
- In the Interpressnews news children with disabilities were called "disabled", though after an address by MDF the editors took it into consideration and the news agency used the term "children with disabilities" instead;
- Anti-Western sentiments were connected, along with the traditional conspiracy theories, with the issues like: LGBT rights, ratification of the regional languages charter and equalized it with the loss of territories, also invitation to the former president of Georgia to the ratification of the Association Agreement in Strasbourg.



## RESPONSE

### NGOs File a Complaint about Religious Discrimination and Violation of Children's Right by Imedi TV

Three non-governmental organizations filed a complaint with the Imedi TV self-regulatory body regarding a report "Children Sent to Madrasa" in the program "From a Different Perspective" aired on 25 December.



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[WWW.MDFGEORGIA.GE](http://WWW.MDFGEORGIA.GE)

[WWW.GDI.GE](http://WWW.GDI.GE)



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## RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 26 DECEMBER

**DAVID AKUBARDIA, anchor:** "Shah Abbas was a madman for Georgia. He killed 6000 clergymen in David Gareji, and when? On the Christmas eve... A well-known story is that they cut the heads of 30 000 Lazs... They brought an army of 50 thousand to the gorge saying they would kill those who don't embrace Islam. And they killed them. I am sorry, while we are giving them all those mosques, did any Turkish official apologize to Georgia about those 30 thousand Lazs?... Or did any of our Iranian brothers and historical neighbors apologize for cutting the throats of 6000 clergymen?... For some reason they demand tolerance from these cowards Christians. Is this message coming from there?..

Why was it needed to transport [the minaret] from Turkey?... That minaret in that village had been financed. It should not be financed, projected from a foreign country, there should be some barrier... The European experience is there, sooner or later we shall also have a problem with this Islamic fundamentalism, we truly shall...

Here are the Chinese, they are few, but there used to be about 30 thousand of them, then later they will demand construction of the Buddhist temples."

**ZAZA VSHAKMADZE, the head of the Religion Agency:** "Nobody in Georgia can prove that freedom of religion is violated on the individual level... Expression must not cause limits of other people's rights"...

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=caucasia&seekTime=26-12-2014+19%3A36>

## TURKOPHOBIA

GEWORLD.GE, 24 DECEMBER

**ALEXSANDER CHACHIA, political observer residing in Moscow:** "So many Turks have never lived in Adjara, even when it was in the Ottoman Empire..."

The Turkish national elite (political, intellectual, military) always considered Adjara to be their historical territory ...

If the Turks decide to construct a mosque, they will construct it, and if protest rallies grow into ethnic and religious confrontation Turkey will not be too ceremonious...

While in the past we had Russia behind us and we could not to pay great attention to the

Islamic factor, today it has become a very important factor in our reality. We have forgotten this for 200 years, but Turkey and Iran remember very well that for centuries Georgia was their vassal territory."

**GIORGI GACHECHILADZE, author:** „The Turkish activity in Adjara, the growth of Islamic factor in the local population, commonality of interests of Turkey and Russia, almost slavish obedience of the Georgian government to the West – these are the factors... that will bring nothing good for Georgia.“

<http://bit.ly/13Okvpm>



### DAVID AKUBARDIA,

**anchor:** I am sorry, while we are giving them all those mosques, did any Turkish official apologize to Georgia about those 30 thousand Lazs?... Or did any of our Iranian brothers and historical neighbors apologize for cutting the throats of 6000 clergymen?...

## HOMOPHOBIA

**KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI,**  
25 DECEMBER

**VAKHTANG RCHEULISHVILI, former Deputy Speaker of Parliament:** "How could I think that I would live in Georgia where the first defender of the same-sex families, this leader of Identoba comes out... and curses His Holiness, accuses him of treason."

**OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,**  
28 DECEMBER

**VALERY KVARATSKHELIA, anchor:** "Should the propaganda of this [homosexuality] be prohibited by law, or should not be?"

**TAMAR KIKNADZE, political observer:** I think it should be prohibited...

**VALERY KVARATSKHELIA:** I cannot be understanding towards the propagandists of this phenomenon [homosexuality], to those who are trying to impose this on the society...

**GIVI MERABISHVILI, doctor of psychology:** There is a Russian saying "bad examples are contagious", and it is so indeed...

We are not working with the homosexuals specifically, but we fight against the mental disorder itself, which is expressed in many forms. Thus, when a person is cured from the neurosis or mental disorder, this [homosexuality] gets cured by itself.

**NUGZAR RUKHADZE, publicist and journalist:** If this spreads in Georgia, it will be worse for us. Why? Because if a man want to lie with a man and a woman – with a woman, and male and female defy each other in Georgia, then we shall go backwards, and if making the Georgian people more numerous means nothing, then what is the point of everything?"

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2479221](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2479221)  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2479191](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2479191)  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2479241](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2479241)

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
22-28 DECEMBER

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** "I, as a regular Georgian, like hundreds of thousands of my compatriots, can boldly say for all kinds of chicken-brain liberasts and their foreign masters to hear: yes, I am proud that mankind was saved by a Georgian Ioseb Jugashvili, generalissimos Stalin born on the blessed Georgian soil, the best representative of the Georgian genius!"

**GEWORLD.GE, 24 DECEMBER**

**ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, Peoples' Assembly:** „As soon as Prime Minister Garibashvili said that the Georgian people will not allow same-sex marriages, in a week they adopted the anti-discrimination law. Can we speak about any change after that?“  
<http://bit.ly/1vCDniy>

**KVIRIS CHRONIKA,**  
22-29 DECEMBER

**TSITSINO SHURGHAI, plastic surgeon:** "This is a homosexual made evil by his life. Like all homosexuals, he asked me for a surgery to make him beautiful like a woman."

**GEWORLD.GE, 25 DECEMBER**

**ARMAZ SANEBLIDZE, author:** „This form of immorality [porno and sex websites] is lobbied by the lesbian, homosexual and transgender societies, who actively demand implementation of the early sexualization of children, and achieve this too... Police arrested a 41 years old man for cannibalism. In front of a video camera he killed and ate a 42 years old man... with that latter one's agreement. They explained this crime by the proclivities of both men towards homosexuality and cannibalism.“  
<http://bit.ly/1A4e64S>



**VALERY KVARATSKHELIA, anchor:** I cannot be understanding towards the propagandists of this phenomenon [homosexuality], to those who are trying to impose this on the society."

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

**OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
28 DECEMBER**

**VALERY KVARATSKHELIA, anchor:** "I will read for you a small interesting passage, this is an American professor, psychiatrist: „...The point of the West's policy is for the shameful flag of homosexuality to fly all over the world, but why?.. This is a form of control, this is additional opportunity to influence the society.  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2479316](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2479316)

**TAMAR KIKNADZE, political observer:** Because of globalization our nationality is threatened today. You see what an attack is on against religion, right? Now our gender is also questioned, and it is a problem to identify whether a person is a woman and a man... Take Conchita, who won Eurovision and was greeted in the European Parliament. Also, if we look at the political establishment, Belgian Prime Minister is homosexual. Also, the German Foreign Minister. So this is really a priority for the political circles...

We see that Christianity has serious problems today. For instance, Europe in my opinion is not Christian anymore, because nothing is written in its Constitution about this. Besides, there is the attack against our religion... against our Patriarch...

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2479191](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2479191)  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2479195](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2479195)

**TV viewer:** No homosexual, transgender, or whatever they are, can have descendants. And the world shadow government has decided to decrease the population of the Earth to 240 million people. To kill them, we are more than 7 billions, right, would be very expensive. So, if we do not reproduce ourselves, we will die out ourselves, for whoever they want to remain...

That is why Mr. Obama decided, and Madam Clinton, they said that all countries that are against such untraditional sexual proclivities, shall be not America's friends, but its enemies."

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2479217](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2479217)

**OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
23 DECEMBER**

**TV viewer:** Putin took our lands as a conqueror, of course, but EU is taking our traditions, culture and morality... What does hurt our hearts more – lands, or our tradition and culture that is called Georgia?"  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2476555](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2476555)

**TV viewer:** "America did not go to Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya without a reason, seemingly, but it causes some reason and then goes there for that reason. Today the only fort of Orthodox Christianity is Russia... For us, and Greece, and Bulgaria, and this small Armenia to keep Orthodox Christianity at all."  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2476552](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2476552)

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
22-28 DECEMBER**

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** "They fight against Georgia today too, there is a total global attack against the ancient Georgian apostolic Orthodox Church, and its goal is to destroy this last citadel of the Georgian spirituality and values!"

**KVIRIS CHRONIKA,  
22-29 DECEMBER**

**GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist:** "Today everyone knows that for America, Georgia is not an ally, but an unimportant colony, which they used to annoy Russian and to criticize Kremlin, or to send death squads to some Middle Eastern country and presumably fight against terrorists..."

SO, it is simple – whether the Georgian people reject being America's proxies and the "friendship" that brings nothing, which today is taking us towards the abyss with cosmic speed...."

Continued on p.5

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from p. 4

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
22-28 DECEMBER

**ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Saqinform:**  
"It is bad that after this ratification Georgia will have to ratify the European charter of regional languages... By that ratification Megrelian, Armenian and Azeri languages will get the status of regional languages, from where there is small step to proclaiming Samegrelo, Samtskhe-Kavakheti and Kvemo Kartli autonomies!"

**SAQINFORM, 23 DECEMBER**

As Saqinform editor-in-chief Arno Khidirbegishvili warned on 13 December 2013, by signing Association Agreement with EU, we Euro-Georgians will not only finally lose Abkhazia and South Ossetia, but we may also lose Samtskhe-Javakheti, Samegrelo, Adjara and Kvemo Kartli...

[From the ratification of the European charter for regional languages] there is one step to proclaiming autonomies of Samegrelo, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli".  
<http://bit.ly/1DMxTad>

**SAQINFORM, 22 DECEMBER**

**ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Saqinform editor-in-chief:** "As a Georgian politician, professor Alexander Chachia has justly noted, "Europe never considered Georgia as its part..."

...and does Georgia still exist as an independent nation state with its traditions and moral norms?! Is not the West destroying it since the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?...  
<http://bit.ly/1ALEuDn>

**PIRVELI, 22 DECEMBER**

**NINO BURJANADZE, Burjanadze-United Opposition:** „This fact [invitation of Mikhail Saakashvili to the ceremony of the ratification of the Association Agreement] clearly demonstrates that Georgia as a sovereign state seemingly does not exist for Europe any more, and it confirms that we are only a territory which is interesting for our Western partners."  
[http://pia.ge/show\\_news.php?id=30901&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=30901&lang=geo)

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
22-28 DECEMBER

**GIGLA BARAMIDZE, Burjanadze-United Opposition:** "They insulted us by inviting the wanted cannibal Saakashvili to Strasbourg!"

**GEWORLD.GE, 24 DECEMBER**

**ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People's Assembly:** „All filth that happens in our country comes from the West..."

We do not want Europe that greets murderer Saakashvili with the applause."  
<http://bit.ly/1vCDnny>

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
22-28 DECEMBER

**REZO AMASHUKELI, poet:** "I openly say and demand, write it down word by word – let all of them and all that European Parliament, which insulted the Georgian people so much and spit into the soul of all Georgia, put stakes inside themselves!..."

Yes, I cry this out and write it down like this – from 18 December 2014 I hate Europe! I protest against America! I hate the West!"

Continued on p.6

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

beginning from p. 5

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 22-28 DECEMBER**

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** "Yes, if Saakashvili, who created and encourage the man-raping system, is a guest of honor for EU, for the Georgian people EU too is associated with the creator of the man-raping system Saakashvili!"

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 22-28 DECEMBER**

**DITO CHUBINISHVILI, journalist:** "...When Saakashvili, who had been kicked out of the country by the Georgian people, was invited to the European Parliament as a guest of honor, by this they actually told us – “whatever you do, Misha is Conchita we have brought up, whom we shall always put over you and never leave him alone“!"

**KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 22-29 DECEMBER**

**GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist:** "Where is Georgia going, towards the Europe which defends the mortal enemy of every Georgian and destroyer of the country Saakashvili with its teeth?!"

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 22-28 DECEMBER**

**DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist:** "...When they insulted the whole nation and put Saakashvili there during the signing of the Association Agreement? Was it worth to sign such an agreement?"

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 22-28 DECEMBER**

**KAKHA KUKAVA, Free Georgia:** "For the West

their own interests are the priority, not the attitude of the population of Georgia! Whoever thinks that the West is based on the democratic values is simply uneducated!"

**SAQINFORM, 23 DECEMBER**

"Huge role in the creation of many terrorist organizations was played not just by “some members”, but by the probable leader of the alliance – United States of America..."

There is no certain information about cooperation between the American government and Al-Qaeda militants in Syria, but considering how American administration diplomatically covered the terrible actions of the Salafi militants, we can guess that such information exists, and pretty serious one."

[p://bit.ly/1DMxTad](http://bit.ly/1DMxTad)

**GEWORLD.GE, 24 DECEMBER**

**ZURAB TSUTSKIRIDZE, author:** „As soon as our elected Parliament proclaimed the moratorium on selling our ancestral lands to the foreigners, the NGO guys sprang out as if they had rabies and screamed – hey, Georgian Parliament is betraying European values. And our government, which is terrified of these Euro-somebodies, annulled the moratorium.

<http://bit.ly/1HVhfpj>

## GENDER DISCRIMINATION

**ALIA, 25 DECEMBER**

**GAZETA.UA**

**Headline: Do not let your wife clean the floor, or you will be arrested!**

"The men who think that your second halves are obliged to clean the floors all the time, wash the tableware, and cook dinner, beware, because the law may not be on your side and you may get a prison time for exploiting a human being.

And why do you need a wife that will not herself understand that home needs to be cleaned, but be good and help her a little, what harm will that do?!"

## RESPONSE

### beginning from p. 1

The following organizations - Relations of Georgian Muslims, Media Development Foundation (MDF) and Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI) believe that five Articles (14.9, 18.2, 33.1 - 2, 44.1, 47.11) of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters were breached.

As it is pointed out in the complaint, in the report the journalist explains the decision of parents to send their children to the Muslim school by social disadvantage, not by religious belief, thus "drawing unjustified parallels between ethnic or religious origin and negative events" (Article 33.1), making "inaccurate and misleading statements regarding minorities and their social problems" (Article 33.2) and creating stereotypes.

In addition to the discrimination on the religious grounds, the authors of the complaint also underline the violation of the rights of children, manifested in using underage children for illustrating the social problem. "In the beginning of the report the journalist shows 13-year-old Goderdzi and Jemali as the example to illustrate the problem. The faces of neither these two nor other children of boarding school, considered by the journalist as been sent to Madrasa because of social disadvantage, are not covered", - the complaint notes.

The report violated Article 47 (11) of Code of Conduct for Broadcaster: " Broadcasters should not broadcast such programmes or include material in programmes that may harm minors' so-

cialization", as well as Article 44 (1) which states that " While respecting a child's right to freedom of information and expression, broadcasters shall ensure physical, psychological and emotional welfare of minors involved in programmes irrespective of any consent given by a parent, guardian or carer while respecting their rights to freedom of expression and freedom to receive information".

The authors of the complaint also believe that the principles of accuracy and impartiality have been violated in the report as the comment of the Director of Social Welfare Program of UNICEF about the problems of "children with the profound and severe disabilities" was cited in an entirely different context by the journalist, unjustifiably linking it to the topic of particular religious boarding school.

"The journalist's evaluations exclusively relate to Muslim boarding schools, while similar institutions are operating under the aegis of other religious denominations too", - complaint notes referring to Article 18.2 which states that "The programme or report will be considered biased if it lacks comprehensive information on important facts, is based on minor facts, misleads the audience intentionally or unintentionally, or conveys biased views of a person in a hidden form".

The three non-governmental organizations filed the complaint with the self-regulatory body of Imedi TV on December 31.