

NO TO PHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

MAIN OBSERVATIONS OF THE MONITORING

The following tendencies have been observed during the 10-16 March period:

- Hate speech has been observed towards the National Movement members (Elizbar Javelidze, People's Assembly; Soso Robakidze);
- Deputy Speaker of the Parliament (Murman Dumbadze, Georgian Dream) called for physical violence against a concrete individual and made discriminatory statements against him (calling him insane);
- Discriminating statement about disabled persons in the context of a political dispute was made by the head of the National Movement faction in Kutaisi City Council (Giorgi Ukleba);
- Stigmatization of the surrogate mothers and children born as a result of surrogating was made by a representative of clergy (Ilia Tchighladze, priest);

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4, 10-16 MARCH



HATE SPEECH

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10-16 MARCH

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People's Assembly: "While these criminals [Saakashvili and National Movement members] must be in jail, they are in fact on TV and are maddening already enraged people!"

SOSO ROBAKIDZE: "Saakashvili must rot in jails!"

Media outlets (Rustavi 2, Kurieri, 10 March; Public Broadcaster, Moambe,

CALL FOR VIOLENCE

10 March; Imedi, Chronika, 12 March; Alia newspaper, 11 March; news agencies: Interpressnews, Reportiori, Netgazeti, 10 March) reported on discriminatory statements and calls for physical violence by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament Murman Dumbadze towards the head of Khelvachauri organization of the Free Georgia Party Merab Ghoghoberidze.

MURMAN DUMBADZE, Georgian Dream: „During the last 5-6 months we cannot perform our duties because of this sick man.

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MAIN OBSERVATIONS OF THE MONITORING

Beginning from p. 1

- While making comments on amendments to the law on citizenship, the Deputy Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament (Tamaz Avdaliani) made discriminatory statements based on ethnicity; in other cases sources of discrimination was media (newspapers: *Asaval-Dasavali* and *Prime Time*; media union *Obiektivi*);
- The respondents (Elizbar Javelidze, People's Assembly; Arno Khidirbegishvili, Editor-in-Chief of Saqinform; a TV viewer) made unfounded statements on the threats related to joining NATO and possible disintegration of Russia, pointing at the possibility of separatism of the regions populated by ethnic minorities, and at the same time promoting anti-Turkish sentiment);
- Instances of religious discrimination have been noted in relation to award given by US State Department to the Bishop of Evangelical-Baptist Church Rusudan Gotsiridze. A journalist (Geworld.ge) and respondents (Irakli Ubilava, member of the Young Political Scientists Club; Shota Apkhaidze, a person freed from jail with the status of political prisoner) called it an action against the Orthodox religion and Georgian values, and a violation of the promise given by the EU Commissioner Stephan Fule to the Patriarch;
- It is positive that while reporting on the protest rally against Jehovah Witnesses in Khobi (news agencies Pirveli, Interpressnews) the journalists presented the position of the Jehovah Witnesses as well. However, another news of the Pirveli news agency on domestic violence by a Jehovah Witness is lacks factual evidence and promotes the stereotype that a Jehovah Witness is incline to violence;
- Anti-Western sentiment was mostly related to the Council of Europe and EU documents concerning the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; also to the developments in Ukraine and attempt to present the role of the US in this process as the enemy of the Orthodoxy. Such sentiments were mostly promoted by the clergymen (David Isakadze, dean; Elizbar Diakonidze, dean), respondents (Elizbar Javelidze, People's Assembly; Nana Devdariani, former Public Defender) and media (*Asaval-Dasavali*, *Obiektivi*, *Saqinform*, *Geworld.ge*);
- Headline of the article in the *Rezonansi* newspaper "The Hollywood stars who hate homosexuals" promotes hatred of LGBT and does not correspond to the content of article itself;
- In one case the source of gender discrimination was a journalist (*Kviris Chronika* newspaper); in another case a journalist (*Tabula TV*, *Theorema*) reacted on the gender stereotyping by a respondent;
- Expected 17 May rally was presented as a vile plan by "the reactionary circles in the West" and "the fascist regime of Saakashvili" (*Asaval-Dasavali*), while a clergyman (David Isakadze, dean) made a statement on the necessity of a plebiscite on the legal regulation of the issue of LGBT rights;
- Superstitions were related to the vision of saint depicted on an Airzena plane illuminator (*Saqinform*) and the ID cards.

CALL FOR VIOLENCE

Beginning from p. 1



He is insane... I will name the people who have beaten this man during the last three days. Amiran Tsetskhladze is my friend, when he read that on Facebook, he beat him real hard yesterday. Drivers beat him twice a week. This is an insane person... When someone insults your mother, you must respond... I don't prohibit my son, or brother, or friend, or supporter, or any citizen from beating a person who insults a mother, such man must be beaten“.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2282168
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2281843

DISCRIMINATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

PIRVELI, 14 MARCH

GIORGI UKLEBA, Chairman of the National Movement fraction in Kutaisi City Council: „It was a total Downism to appoint a Mayoral candidate going to turn Kutaisi into a warehouse city – Khatia Vedmedeva as manager of the opera house, now we have to listen to this foolishness about Nationals being active about budget transactions and using this to fight against the opera house manager, this is even worse than Downism.“ (based on “Chronika+” newspaper).



http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=7459&lang=geo

STIGMATIZATION OF SURROGATE MOTHERS AND THOSE BORNE BY SURROGATION

PIRVELI, 12 MARCH



ILIA TCHIGLADZE, clergyman: „A surrogate mother rents her body, which is a prostitution without sexual intercourse. A surrogate mother cannot and don't have a right to love a child inside her body, since she is to give him away. That's why a child born through surrogating is born without love, while a child in the woman's body feels every impulse of the mother...Such unnatural intervention

is in the spirit of the builders of the Babylon tower: to equate themselves with God! And this, of course, is sacrilege“.

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=7148&lang=geo

DISCRIMINATION ON ETHNIC GROUNDS AND UNFOUNDED IDENTIFICATION OF ETHNIC ORIGIN

ALIA, 12 MARCH

TAMAZ AVDALIANI, Deputy Chairman of the Parlia-

ment's Legal Affairs Committee: "The essence and goal of this bill [amendment to the law on citizenship] is to insure that the people born in Georgia and their descendants get citizenship without problems, and for the others, who have no relation to Georgia, for instance those who have come from Africa, to have other criteria. Whether it is Armenia or other neighboring country, it does not matter. It will be same for everyone. Citizenship must not be given freely, because citizenship means responsibility and many other things, and given that we are developing, we don't really need extra spongers."



PRIME TIME, 10 MARCH

MIRIAN BOKOLISHVILI, journalist: "Giga Phartenadze was given 16 years in jail for robbery, but according to his family members, he has been accused wrongly and in fact he had a row with an ethnically Turk neighbor."

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

GARIBASVILI WARNS GRIGYAN!

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: "Yes, but what experience can Saakashvili and his uncle share with Grigyan's [Yulia Timoshenko] government, which soon will be deprived of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine by Russia?!"

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT CONVERSATION, 14 MARCH

NINO RATISHVILI, anchor: "Selling Georgian lands without objection just because we need some investor so much – should not the state do something, and this concerns legislation too, for the land not to be sold, but given to be used for some period, so that no foreigner becomes the owner of Georgian land?! We have serious problems in Adjara, because we all agree that the land of Achara has been sold and its owners are not Georgians any more. Most of Adjara is owned by foreign countries and mostly by Turkey. ."

UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS AND SPECULATION ABOUT THREATS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Editor-in-Chief of Saqinform: ..."And then Georgia will continue disintegration: regions densely populated with ethnic minorities will separate, those who don't agree with joining NATO and EU, just like their historical motherlands – Azerbaijan and Armenia, and like it will probably happen in Ukraine,

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UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS AND SPECULATION ABOUT THREATS

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 4 MARCH

TV VIEWER [call-in]: "When we join NATO, Turkey which is our enemy and still wants to take away our territories; and Azerbaijan which is Muslim and disputes with us on territory, and we know what it did when it claimed our territory, and still claims it, and kicked out our monks, and did not let tourists into David Gareji... What guarantees do we have that when we join NATO Turkey and Azerbaijan won't unite against Georgia?"

It is positive that the guest of the talk show reacted on this phone call and spoke about responsibility of the political class for the ethnocentric attitudes.

ALEXANDER RUSETSKY, psychologist: "Pointing out this is an Azerbaijani, that is a Turk, etc... This is using clichés, which in the 1990s Russian special services and not only them provoked us to do. I would like to tell our politicians, who describe political and geopolitical processes with ethnocentric language, that they are making a very big mistake."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2284364

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People's Assembly: "If Russia disintegrates, we will have problems besides Abkhazia and Samachablo! First the hordes of North Caucasians will roll over Georgia to get access to the sea! Then Turkey will do something to us!"

DISCRIMINATION ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS

GEWORLD.GE, 12 MARCH

EKA NASKIDASHVILI, journalist: "News agencies have just spread the information that Michel Obama gave an award of courage to the bishop of the Evangelical-Baptist Church Rusudan Gotsiridze... And this has happened while Stephan Fule was meeting Ilia II, promising him they would not touch our values and the Church, while asking him in return to do everything for the Georgian people to go towards Europe.

When should the small nation with great traditions ring the alarm? When our own government is getting us closer to Europe or America with the motive of destroying the Georgian language, identity

and spirituality, suffocating and ridiculing everything national? Or maybe when they hold gay parades, and accuse clergymen of violating human rights, humiliating minority, hooliganism and evil?."

IRAKLI UVILAVA, member of the Young Political Scientists Club: "...This award was given while Stephan Fule was meeting the Patriarch and assuring him and the Georgian society that integration of Georgia in the Transatlantic space does not threaten Georgian values and way of life, but, as we see, they say one thing, but do another."

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DISCRIMINATION ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS

Beginning from the p. 5

SHOTA APKHAIDZE, person released as a political prisoner: "By this step America has shown us that it will always support its allies, that it prefers Evangelical-Baptist Church over the Orthodox one..."

We must establish that activities of the sects are anti-constitutional, threaten the citizens, undermine Georgia, and must be banned legally... Activities of all suspicious organizations must be investigated, their finances must be controlled. We should remember that they actively participate in politics, they want revenge and support Saakashvili."



<http://geworld.net/View.php?ArtId=5714&Title=miSel+obama+qarTvel+baptisteb+lobirebs&lang=ge>

PIRVELI, 12 MARCH

In the agency's news "A Jehovah Witness man has brutally beaten his wife for christening their child" neither source nor initials of the individuals mentioned are identified, and an abstract picture of a woman being beaten is shown as an illustration. The material, which is not factually persuasive, promotes the stereotype of Jehovah Witnesses being violent.

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=7271&lang=geo

PIRVELI, 14 MARCH

The agency made two reports on the rally of the Orthodox parish members in Khobi against Jehovah Witnesses. In the first news the rally participants' demand for restraints for the Jehovah Witnesses is reported, while translation of the Bible on Megrelian language is assessed as provoking separatism by the rally participants. .

Despite discriminatory attitude by the rally participants, it is positive that in the first report the journalist states that the journalis had contacted the Jehovah Witnesses for comment, while the second report consists of the statement by a spiritual leader of the Jehovah Witnesses Joni Shalamberidze, who says that the aim of spreading literature on Megrelian language is to provide the population with material on the language they understand and it should not be a problem.

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=7472&lang=geo

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=7489&lang=geo

INTERPRESSNEWS, 14 MARCH

Like Pirveli news agency, Interpressnews presents position of both sides while reporting on the religious conflict in Khobi.

<http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/regioni/273819-khobshi-mosakhleobis-natsili-iehovas-motsmeebis-darbazis-msheneblobis-datsyebas-aprotesteb.html?ar=A>

SPECULATIONS ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

"Remember: "The money you bring to the TBC Bank will be spent for printing sacrilegious literature!"

Yes, [Paata] Shamugia [poet] and people like him attack the impregnable bastion of the motherland and mother-Church, they want to break the candles lit by the crucified body of Christ, so that afterwards various zombies and janissaries can prey on Georgia freely with."

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 10 MARCH

IRINA SARISHVILI, Imedi Party: "The 1917 Revolution with Lenin... that was not a Russian phenomenon, I think nobody

disputes this today. When we talk about Masons in general, the machine is activated since that period... against Russia as the largest territorial area of the Orthodox religion."

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2280613;](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2280613)

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: "The Nationals, their liberast supporters and their Western partners freak out when they see hundreds of thousands people paying respects to Saint Gabriel's holy parts.! Why? Because despite hundreds of millions dollars spent by Euro-America in Georgia on the Georgians-hating Nationals, their freak opposition, grants-eating NGOs and brothel-like TVs, the persistent Georgian soul and the ancient Georgian Church triumph unprecedentedly."

UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS ON RELIGIOUS AND SEXUAL IDENTITY

SAQINFORM, 10 MARCH

"The name of a religion expert Maxim Shevchenko who has converted in Islam is well known in Georgia ever since the Abkhazian War, when he made a bloodbath for Georgians... A nationalist, Bandera's supporter, neo-fascist and anti-Semite by political orientation, and homosexual by sexual orientation"...

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18093:2014-03-10-17-38-46&catid=101:ucxoeti&Itemid=385#ixzz2vasF144n

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

DAVID ISAKADZE, dean: "In 2012 Saakashvili government signed its agreement to the EU recommendations "on eradication of discrimination by sexual orientation and gender identity". If we study these recommendations we can see that their goal is to make the member states, including Georgia, to create legal repressive mechanisms

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ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from the p. 7

to impose on the Georgian people the way of life unacceptable for their beliefs, moral, culture and traditions!"

"It is impossible to fulfill the promise made by Stephan Fule, because the European standard of sexual education, which is being imposed on Georgia, aims at formulating in a generation the worldview according to which homosexuality and same-sex marriage are considered normal..."

They task the Ministry of Education to include the issues of sexual orientation and gender identity in the school programs; to teach sexual tolerance, which means, in the case of signs of perversion in a youth, keeping and stimulating this perversion, instead of eradicating it. In fact, EU aims for the children to live not with the family, cultural, traditional values, but with LGBT norms!"



GEWORLD.GE, 12 MARCH

NANA DEVDARIANI, former Public Defender:

"In 2006 European Parliament adopted a resolution named "Homophobia in Europe"... This resolution obliges us to respect what is considered sin by the dogmas of the Orthodox and other religions... You must accept that your children will be taught to respect sins at schools and by TV... If Georgia ever becomes a member of EU, this resolution will be obligatory, just like another 2010 year Resolution 1728 (2010), which includes the following passage: "The Assembly is especially concerned about violation of the rights of free gathering and expression of LGBT persons in certain EU countries, since these rights constitute the basis of democracy."

It is especially interesting that the European Commissioner, whose direct boss - President of EU Herman van Rompuy - dumps the trash the notions of nation and homeland, meets the head of the Orthodox Church."

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5709>

PIRVELI, 12 MARCH

By the resolution of the European Parliament, introduction of a new sex includes two sub-categories: transsexual and intersexual person, who will have the rights of both men and women...

Bulgaria and other countries that have not adopted gay marriage yet, will be persuaded by other states that have good practice of same-sex marriages. In the case if they agree with this directive and accept it, the gay couples who marry in the EU countries, will get a right to adopt children from any EU country, including Bulgaria. (Source: novinite.ru/)

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=7233&lang=geo

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 15 MARCH

TV viewer [call-in]: "The American ideologist is Brzezinski, and he said that they had to defeat Communism and then defeat the Orthodox religion. Now Russian is not Communist-Socialist any more, why are they fighting against it? This means they want to destroy Orthodox religion and people, and if Russia starts to disintegrate – whose fault will it be – Russia's or America's?"

<http://www.obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=16161>

ALIA, 11 MARCH

GELA ZEDELASHVILI, journalist:

"This man [Philip Dimitrov] is the head of EU Representation in Georgia and allows himself to preach to us with wise countenance. No, nobody demands gay marriage, but you will not avoid understanding that homosexuality is not a crime and accepting pederasty."

SAQINFORM, 10 MARCH

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Editor-in-Chief of Saqinform:

"Does not the head of the Georgian Orthodox Church, who constantly preaches about the threat of globalization, who represents embodiment of Georgian traditional values and because of this is the object of attacks from Euro-Americans and Libertarians, know what dangers for Georgia and the Church this step contains?"

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18073:-10&catid=98:politics&Itemid=457#ixzz2vb0QXdxu

NANA DEVDARIANI,

former Public Defender:

"In 2006 European Parliament adopted a resolution named "Homophobia in Europe"... You must accept that your children will be taught to respect sins at schools and by TV".

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: "Georgian Church only supports integration with such an EU that won't force Georgian people to legalize gay parades and Lesbian-Satanist orgies on Rustaveli Avenue!"

GEWORLD.GE, 12 MARCH

ELIZBAR DIAKONIDZE, dean: "Disintegration of Ukraine proceeds by the scenario the West had tried in Georgia... There is the same trace everywhere, same scenario by which the West acts and their first target is the Orthodox religion."

KETI KHOMERIKI, journalist: "Saakashvili's rule ended with a destroyed country and strengthened LGBT, anti-Church coalition and lost territories. It seems, destruction of a country by the pseudo-national forces is an acceptable scenario for the West".

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5711>

SAQINFORM, 10 MARCH

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISH-VILI, Editor-in-Chief of Saqinform: "Let's forget that in Ukraine and Georgia, the coups they call "color revolutions" and which caused civil wars and loss of sovereignty, had American people behind them, and among them there was not a single Ukrainian or Georgian, not a single Orthodox Christian."

OBJEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 16 MARCH

VALERI KVARATSHLIA, anchor: "American democracy which it spreads all around the world is very strange. You can establish democracy by bombs, aircraft carrier, fire, sword, etc.." (footage of deaths of Saddam Hussein and Gaddafi is aired).

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 – 16 MARCH

JEFFREY SILVERMAN, journalist: "America wants Georgia to be in constant chaos, because such is the Georgia it needs. In other case it cannot

promote its policy. They also are trying to destabilize Ukraine."

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: "It is obvious who staged the coup in Ukraine from one photograph: there is a logo of the Maltese Mason order on a tent on Maidan!.. The Maltese order is definitely not just distributing hot pies to the demonstrators!"

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People's Assembly: "Several thousand stupid and bribed people on Maidan are the Ukrainian people?! This not "heroic struggle of the Ukrainian people", but the West's dirty battle against Russia, in which Ukrainians are being used as cannon fodder!"

MAESTRO, NEWS at 9, 16 MARCH

Respondent: "We want the population of Georgia to understand that what is happening in Ukraine is not Russia's fault, but USA's and EU's."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2286089

DISCRIMINATION ON SEXUAL GROUNDS

REZONANSI, 12 MARCH

On 12 March 2014 *Rezonansi* newspaper published an article in the entertainment rubric, headlined "The Hollywood stars who hate the homosexuals". The headline promotes hatred towards the LGBT persons and constitutes violation of Article 7 of the Journalists Ethics Charter on the unacceptability of discrimination.

Notably, the headline of the article does not correspond to its content, since the article includes the thoughts of those stars (Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie) who defend the rights of LGBT. Alain Delon quote present in the article also does not correspond fully to the headline – "I am not against the gay marriage and I don't condemn anybody, but I think that they must not be given the right to adopt children".



ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

JEMAL CHKUASELI: "Those who propagate untraditional sexual orientation in Georgia must apologize. We are going to go extinct, people."

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: "Rati's [Amaglobeli, poet] ratification with the LGBT society, whose defender he had always been, has been successfully finalized!"

DESCRIMINATION ON SEXUAL GROUNDS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 10 –16 MARCH

ZAZA DAVITAIA, journalist: "...Another 17 May is approaching, when reactionary forces of the West and the LGBT society encouraged by the remnants of Sakashvili fascist regime will again push the limits of the Georgian people's patience. What vileness do they prepare this time, and what must the people and government do to frustrate their insidious plan?"

DAVID ISAKADZE, dean: "It would probably be good to have a plebiscite, where people would express their opinions about the same-sex marriage and LGBT propaganda, which would later pass into law, with everything being set into right places..."

Preaching homosexuality equals the country's genocide and the Georgian people must not allow this.

ALAIN DELON, actor: "I don't fight against the same-sex marriage, hell with them. I am just against adoption of children by them."

GENDER DISCRIMINATION

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 10 MARCH

GELA ZEDELASHVILI, journalist: „Almost all women say – I must break stereotypes, I am proud to be a whore!“ ...



REACTION ON GENDER STEREOTYPES

TABULA TV, THEOREMA 13 MARCH

TAMAR CHIBURDANIDZE, Demographic Revival Foundation: "Mr. Vato, will you please let me finish my sentence? After all, I am a lady."...

TAMAR CHERGOLEISHVILI, anchor: "No, I believe we are all equal and can argue on equal terms."

PREJUDICES

GEWORLD.GE, 12 MARCH

SHOTA APKAIKIDZE, person released as a political prisoner: "Another clear example of discrimination against the Orthodox people are the ID cards with a chip."

ZAZA NANOBASHVILI, leader of the Anchiskhati pilgrims' community: "We presented signatures to the Prime Minister, we are also supported by Eka Beselia and Gedevan Popkhadze... If they don't leave another choice to the people, they will be forced to take electronic ID card, and this would be violence. When Jehovah Witnesses don't want to receive blood, nobody forces them. And LGBT also speak about their rights and we don't argue with them, but we Orthodox people are being argued with on everything..."

There are countries interested in ruling over small countries like us. This makes control simpler. It is written in the Gospel, that a person won't be able to live without a "seal", won't be able to buy anything, go anywhere, and what is happening confirms this."

SAQINFORM, 13 MARCH

Passengers of the Monday Airzena flight Tbilisi-Amsterdam-Tbilisi witnessed a miracle. The image on the illuminator was probably that of Saint Nicholas.

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18136:2014-03-13-10-46-45&catid=99:actual1&Itemid=419#axzz2vXp9qZXb