

NO TO PHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

MAIN OBSERVATIONS OF THE MONITORING

The following tendencies were identified within the period from 24 to 30 March:

- Main topic of the week – an initiative of the Prime Minister to define the term “family” in the Constitution of Georgia was covered from the human rights perspective by *Netgazeti* in the most qualified manner;
- Attempts to incite hatred were observed in a joint address of *Sakinpormi*, *Asaval-Dasavali*, Eurasia Institute and *Obiektivi*;
- Hate speech was observed in comments of an MP (Gogi Topadze from Georgian Dream coalition) about a foreign investor, Fady Asly, who was called someone “who arrived from somewhere” and “infidel”; a religious servant (Dean Basil Akhvlediani) used hate speech towards LGBT groups in relation to a rally to mark the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia; a viewer used hate speech in relations to Turkish, Iranian, North Caucasus people, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which was shared by the presenter of the program too (*Obiektivi*);
- In regards with a literary work “Fox-Trot” by Zurab Karumidze, Asaval-Dasavali published a number of publications, including a joint address to the president and the prime minister demanding that Karumidze not be appointed as an ambassador of Georgia;

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6, 24-30 MARCH



MAIN TOPIC OF THE WEEK – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The main topic of the week - an initiative of Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili to include a wording in the Constitution of Georgia that “a family is the union between a woman and a man” was covered by media extensively.

In the prime-time news program of the Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB) on 28 March the topic was covered in the context of European Commission’s report about Georgia and adoption of anti-discrimination law, while in a comment of a representative of the Christian-Democratic Movement, this initiative was evaluated as a prevention from threat.



GIORGI AKHVLEDIANI, Christian-Democratic Movement: “The country must once and for all put an end to any threat which may change its way of life in future.”

<http://1tv.ge/news-view/66298>

INTERPRESSNEWS, 28 March

ZAKARIA KUTSNASHVILI, Georgian Dream: “Certain people try to encourage anti-European sentiments among the Georgian society by bringing the issue of same-sex marriage to the fore. This process is supported by unprofessional media outlets.”

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MAIN OBSERVATIONS OF THE MONITORING

Beginning from p. 1

- An interview with the MP Soso Jachvliani contained derogatory comments whilst articles as well as comments of respondents contained both hate speech and incitement towards violence .
- Anti-Turkish and Islamophobic attitudes were portrayed as threats associated with the Euro-Atlantic Integration (Aleksandre Abdaladze, Armenologist);
- Information about mass issuance of Russian passports to residents of Samtskhe-Javakheti region was portrayed by media (Alia newspaper) as a threat based on one source alone without double-checking the information or supporting it by facts;
- Anti-Western attitudes were voiced in relation to migration to Europe (Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia II; Georgian Dream MP Nukri Kanatria), European integration and human rights issues (Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, Patriots' Alliance; Arno Khidirbegishvili, *Sakinpormi* editor-in-chief; Giorgi Kopaleishvili), events in Ukraine (Avigdor Eskin, political scientist) as well as in a biased interpretation of Yugoslavia events (Geydar Jemal, the head of Islamists' Union in Russia, *Obiektivi, Sakinpormi*);
- Speculations about plans to “thwart” religious sermons were based on unverified information (Irma Inashvili, *Obiektivi*) and linked to foreign investors (*Alia, InterPressNews*);
- Discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation was observed in comments of politicians (Nukri Kantaria from Georgian Dream; Giorgi Akhvlediani of Christian-Democratic Movement) and other respondents;
- Sexist expressions were used by media (*Asaval-Dasavali, Chronika*) as well as respondents (Tengiz Kitovani, the former defense minister).

MAIN TOPIC OF THE WEEK-CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Beginning from p. 1

NETGAZETI, 28 and 29 March

Internet portal *Netgazeti* covered this topic from the human right perspective and extensively discussed a discriminatory nature of this constitutional initiative in a professional way:

TAMTA MIKELADZE, Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center: “The current constitutional order, in fact, allows same sex partnership and marriage. Incorporation of this

definition into the constitution today means a direct prohibition of family, inheritance and other rights to same-sex couples.”

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/29772/>

EKA AGHDGOMELASHVILI, Women's Initiative Support Group: “This is a political decision which may be regarded as homophobic.”

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/opinion/29781/>

INCITEMENT OF HATRED

SAKINPORMI, 26 MARCH

Sakinpormi, Asaval-Dasavali, Eurasia Institute, Obiektivi – “A series of assassinations are being prepared in Georgia, a list has already been compiled!”

“A list of journalists, leaders of civil society organizations, politicians, has been already compiled, i.e. of those influential people who are respected by society because of their principled, correct position, who are able to lead people and who will be primarily annihilated. To settle scores with those having different views before Saakashvili’s return, which he once again announced in an interview to his loathsome TV company



Rustavi 2, these people will be killed – some will be shot at their houses, others in streets, and the rest will be killed in car accidents, wounded by knives or stoned to death by a crowd. As a result, mass bloody clashes will erupt in the country, Georgia will not be admitted to NATO and the EU, and will lose new territories – Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Adjara and Samegrelo.”

http://newsinfo22.blogspot.com/2014/03/blog-post_1273.html

ASAVAL DASAVALI, 24-30 March

NODAR URUSHADZE, a doctor: “Inmates were used as laboratory guinea-pigs. Known as DOTs Program, the tuberculosis mafia existing under Sandra’s patronage artificially infected [inmates] with grave TB forms - MDR and XDR; used cut out uterus as well hypophysis from brain to produce unique medications... The fascist regime of Saakashvili, which did not give a damn to innocent people imprisoned on the basis of zero tolerance policy and fed cats of penitentiary facilities with their internal organs, must necessarily cooperate with the transplantation mafia.”

HATE SPEECH

KAVKASIA, TALK SHOW SPEKTRI 27 MARCH

GOGI TOPADZE, Georgian Dream MP:

“That someone Mr. Fady Asly who have arrived from somewhere... He turned us into a country of bananas. He imported bananas, also chicken quarters and became rich here and he dares to lecture us today that the new government oppresses businessmen. Had you been impaled when you deserved it, you would not have talked so much now... Why this infidel did not speak up back then.”



http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2294841

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2294839

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 30 MARCH

VIEWER [phoning in]: “Are they [viewers] not afraid that Turkey and Iran - our bitter enemies - will swallow up Georgia? Had it not been for Russia, we would have been Muslims now and would not have had either traditions or Orthodox Christianity... Are they neither afraid that the North Caucasus is our bitter enemy?!... Azerbaijan is our enemy too as well as Armenia.”

VALERI KVARATSKHELIA, presenter: “Your position is clear... and I would say that it contains quite a large amount of truth.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2296170

HATE SPEECH



GEWORLD.GE, 26 MARCH

BASIL AKHVLEDIANI, Dean: “If anyone dares to hold a rally on 17 May, the Church may no longer be able to perform the role of a peacekeeper and stop those throngs of people... When Georgia needed, the Church blessed warriors to kill adversaries on a battlefield to save the Georgian people and the Church. In this case, however, we are talking about a deadly sin. It is difficult to wipe out with blood a Sodomite, perverted propagandist reasoning and mode of life... John Chrysostom said: if you see a friend having taken to a square go and teach him, but if he fails to understand, beat him and

your right hand will be blessed... Homosexuality is one of elements of Satanism.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5758>

SPECULATIONS ON A WORK OF LITERATURE

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 24-30 MARCH

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: “Armenologist has told me that this Zurab Karumidze, with a high probability, is an Armenian with changed surname! According to him “Kar” means a “stone” in Armenian and Armenians have surnames such as Karimyan which derives from Muslim name Karim!... He also added that it is quite possible that with some transformation Karim-

yan became Karumidze! Just like Ter Saakiantz became Saakashvili!.. “It does not matter much whether this nonentity is indeed an Armenian with transformed surname or a villain who made it into the list of Georgians ... Many people commended me for having exposed this dirty inner nature of Karumidze!”

ETER CHELIDZE, journalist: “As regards a Svan kick offered by all Svans, I prom-

ise that you [addressing Karumidze] will not experience any shortage of it throughout your unacknowledged life.”

AKAKI GASVIANI a deputy of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia: “I am perhaps a peaceful Svan, but since I have read the delirium of that Karumidze which was published in Asaval-Dasavali, I feel an urge to beat him!”

SPECULATIONS ON THE ISSUANCE OF RUSSIAN PASSPORTS

The *Alia* newspaper published two materials on the topic of Samtskhe-Javakheti and the issuance of Russian passport and discussed it in the context of threat. On one occasion (27 March), a source of information was a former MP Koko Gamsakhurdia who declared that “At the Russian embassy, or to be more precise, the consulate of Russia In Tbilisi, there is a queue of ethnic Armenian residents of Samtskhe-Javakheti. They are issued passports of the Russian Federation. Since 1993, the Georgian state has never faced such a serious threat as it does today.” It is worth noting that in covering this topic none of media outlets has

double checked the information; nor have they provided any statistical data which would show the real situation with the issuance of passports in previous years. Such absence of data causes an artificial dramatization of the situation and associates this process with ethnic Armenians. On another occasion (25 March), this topic was explained by Arnold Stepanian, the head of Multinational Georgia; namely, he said that the passports have been issued in previous years too and not only to residents of Samtskhe-Javakheti, and the main reason of Georgian citizens taking Russian passports is an economic factor.

INCITING ANTI-TURKISH SENTIMENTS

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 24-30 MARCH

GELA ZEDELASHVILI, journalist: “In this case, Pamuk’s concern is that Georgians who arrived in Turkey deprive Turks of their jobs and there is a need for the military administration to destroy them in Kars outright. I think you will agree that the Noble Prize Winner openly calls on the military to destroy them in Kars and not allow them to proceed deeper in his country. By same logic, we may also demand that Turks who arrived in Adjara be expelled and destroyed, but we Georgians are a little dimwits, are we not?!”

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW GAMIS STUDIA, 26 MARCH

DAVIT TARKAHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots’ Alliance: “For example, it has been 95 or 96 years now that Turkey has had 30 percent of our territory occupied and I am surprised why no one goes to Turkish organizations which are in abundance in Georgia... Our territory has been seized by Russia as well as by Turkey.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293431

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293441

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 24-30 MARCH

INCOGNITO RESPONDENT: “Turk workers are mainly employed in the construction while Georgians work for a pittance... They take care of their people whilst oppress ours.”

GEWORLD.GE, 28 MARCH

LEVAN CHAGAVA: “In short, Georgians worked like slaves for Turks in Dapna!”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5763>

INCITING TURKOPHOBIA/ISLAMOPHOBIA IN THE CONTEXT OF EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

GEWORLD.GE , 26 MARCH

A respondent links Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic integration with the deployment of Turkish army in Georgia, including in Samtskhe-Javakheti, and the escalation of conflicts.

ALEKSANDRE ABDALADZE, Armenologist:

“Turkish troops will trigger serious processes against the Georgian national awareness. First, this means religious intervention and resistance because there is a real threat today that Islamic

circles will strengthen Islam in Georgia. Let alone historic animosity which remains an unhealed wound for our country. Therefore, the Euro-Atlantic integration, along with other issues, threatens us to be turned into a military base of Turkey. I, as well as any reasonable Georgian, am against any integration.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5757>



GELA ZEDELASHVILI, journalist: *“I think you will agree that the Noble Prize Winner openly calls on the military to destroy them in Kars and not allow them to proceed deeper in his country. By same logic, we may also demand that Turks who arrived in Adjara be expelled and destroyed, but we Georgians are a little dimwits, are we not?!”*

ANTI-WESTERN ATTITUDES

A statement of Catholicos-Patriarch of Georgia Ilia II made during a sermon that settling abroad is tantamount to degradation was covered by Kviris Palitra (17-23 March) and Rezonansi (26 March) newspapers.

ILIA II, CATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH:

“Going abroad is good to study there, obtain knowledge, but moving there to live means the degradation of the nation and is therefore very dangerous. No matter how much hardship a person experiences, he/she must not go abroad... We must not be lured by those salaries and wages which are issued there.”

REZONANSI, 26 MARCH

DAVIT KHOMASURIDZE, citizen: “Our country does not need such traitorous, so-called turned-into-Europeans people. It is exactly due to them that we have become a minority.”

NETGAZETI, 28 MARCH

NUKRI KANTARIA, Georgian Dream MP:

“There is already a shortage of British in London and they are gradually decreasing and now they try as much as they can [to reverse the process], because it became overcrowded with immigrants, mainly Afro-Americans, Arabs, Turks and other people. Locals are becoming a minority and they start to panic. This is not the case only with Britain... Radicalism is apparent. That [Anders] Breivick is ill, but why he became ill? There are certain bacilli and you see that. When we arrived in London, it happened there too – someone killed people in a street and then he was liquidated too. Things are in disorder in this regard.”

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 26 MARCH

DAVIT TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots’

Alliance: “We must demand that a prohibition be written [in the Association Agreement] that no regional status be granted to Armenian language, Azerbaijani language... We must write down that no Meskhetian Turks be accepted save Georgians. Those who are ethnic Georgians are welcome,

those who are not – no... No same-sex marriage... I repeatedly said that we do not need same-sex marriage and I was told that I am a homophobe, though [Stefan] Fule also said we do not want that – is he not a homophobe then?”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293418

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293441

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 30 MARCH

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Sakinpormi

editor-in-chief: “The EU says: ‘I do not need you to grow vineyards, cut them down. I need you to plant, for example, soy instead, or nothing at all, or I will give compensation of 1500 euros, as they did in Greece. I do not need because it creates competition’”.

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2296196

GEWORLD.GE, 26 MARCH

GIORGI KOPALEISHVILI, author: “The country [USA] that spends 200 billion a year on the occupation of other countries, where banditry flourishes in schools, where children carry fire-arms, knives and drugs. The country where many states legalized same-sex marriage.

“Why should I befriend with the Europe whose countries – Germany, England, France and others – have gays as their leaders and even more so, are proud of that... I, as a Georgian and Orthodox Christian, do not want my homeland to befriend with such countries.”

<http://www.geworld.ge/ViewGE.php?G=9693>

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 30 MARCH

A LISTENER [call-in]: “What the world commits against the mankind today would not have been committed by Hitler... Let me say that he would not have distributed several billion dollar worth drugs to the mankind and would not have held gay prides; as for other perversions, you are better aware of them than I.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2296201

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ANTI-WESTERN ATTITUDES

Beginning from p.7

GEWORLD.GE, 26 MARCH

BASIL AKHVLEDIANI, Dean: “As I am aware, just recently a project of digital Georgia was signed in the USA and if this agreement implies the establishment of Digital Angel in Georgia than I do not want such association; if this means same-sex marriage, I do not want such an association that violates my traditional identity!”

<http://www.geworld.ge/ViewGE.php?G=9693>

OBIKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 25 MARCH

AVIGDOR ESKIN, political scientist: “America protects Islamist terrorists... What America has done in Ukraine now, they will feel shame for that, but they do not want to show that... The Western world now experiences grave crisis regarding the birth rate; they are establishing the homosexual culture; by establishing this they are not only acknowledging the same-sex marriage, that will end up in acknowledging a marriage with animals; they will have a family consisting of two men and a goat and a priest will marry them. Two men and a goat!”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2294221

OBIKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 30 MARCH

VALERI KVARATSKHELIA,

presenter: “Tomorrow it is 15th anniversary of NATO’s attack on Yugoslavia, a developed European country, and it not only destroyed but completely annihilated this country.

GEIDAR JEMAL, chairman of Islamists’ Union in Russia:

“The assault on Yugoslavia was the enactment of NATO mechanisms and also a proof of US dominance over Europe... Those were barbarian methods of war which distinguished America as early as in the WWII, when they marched across peaceful Europe – like in Dresden where more people died than in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=16273>

HAMLET CHIPASHVILI,

politologist: “The United States spent in Ukraine five billion US

dollars of official State Department monies to prepare them...

All this is done in training camps of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland. Those camps were, by the way, frequented by representatives of our United National Movement and undertook training there; did they not?

Moreover, those young people who show themselves off in Ukraine today are fascists.”

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=16274>

SAKINPORMI, 24 MARCH

“The aim of this film [about events in Yugoslavia] is to remind society and partially acquaint them with those facts that are related to the fight of the North Atlantic Alliance against not only the Yugoslavian state, but also against Christian civilization... “They destroyed numerous Serb cathedrals and monasteries in Kosovo, therefore the action will be conducted

under the slogan Serbia’s Sanctuaries are Our Sanctuaries too!”

http://saqinform.ge/index.php?op=ion=com_content&view=article&id=18254:2014-03-24-08-51-25&catid=100:sazogadoeba&Itemid=396#ixzz2wshlpF67

KAVKASIA, TALK SHOW SPEKTRI, 24 MARCH

RAMAZ SAKVARELIDZE,

psychologist: “Why on earth Georgians need Russia which has tanks stationed nearby, however, nor do they want witless America because we then have to pay the price for its mistakes.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2291655

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 24-30 MARCH

GIORGI KERVALISHVILI,

representative of national liberation movement:

“The Georgian nation has escaped the Soviet empire owing to efforts of Zviad Gamsakhurdia not for the aim to become a slave of other, Masonic empire!”

SPECULATIONS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN UKRAINE

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 25 MARCH

AVIGDOR ESKIN, political scientist: “When people say that, for example, Hitler is people’s hero, I no longer need to find out whether they are anti-Semites or not. They are Nazis... By the way, by the end of his career, Shukhevich was officially in SS [Schutzstaffel]. In other words, if their heroes are fighters – Bandera and Shukhevych who conducted raids of Jews as they entered Lviv when the city was not yet occupied by Germans; if they are the persons who burned residents of Khatin alive and massacred Poles in Avalin; if they are those persons who staged Babi Yar tragedy.”

SPECULATIONS ON RELIGIOUS TOPIC

ALIA, 27 MARCH

IRMA INASHVILI, founder of Obiektivi: “Do you know that during those 10 years there has always been confrontation with the Church, but this will now take on a very aggressive character. Concrete priests will be selected and will be discredited; they will label these priests and thus try to sour the relationship with the congregation. According to one of my sources, they even intend to thwart sermons regardless of the fact that

there is the Easter fast now; they even discuss this option.”

TAMAR OKRUASHVILI, journalist: “These people are not afraid that the congregation will smash them for such actions?”

IRMA INASHVILI: “They think to implant their activists in the congregation, who will create tension inside it.”

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 25 MARCH

A VIEWER [phoning-in]: “The United National Movement, the party that came to power through destroying churches and left the power through conducting gay prides, must come to an end, just like the communist party came to the end.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2296231

ALIA, 28-31 MARCH

A Jewish investor tore off a photo of Patriarch from the wall

(Newpost) “A physical and verbal altercation took place between vendors in a market and a Jewish investor... The Jewish investor spotted a photo of Catholicos Patriarch of Georgia Ilia II and tried to tear it off, thereby causing irritation among market vendors and the meeting degraded into a fight... At the end of the day, when the foreigner understood that he could do nothing, he apologized and even kissed the photo.”

INTERPRESSNEWS, 27 MARCH

The information released by vendors in the Gori market about a Jewish investor’s attempt to take off a photo of Catholicos Patriarch hanging in the administrative building of the market was covered by InterPressNews as well.

“The photo of Patriarch remains hanging in the administrative building,” the information said.

<http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/regioni/275647-goris-bazris-movatcreebis-informaciith-arabi-investoris-akhlobelma-patriarqis-surathis-chamokhsna-scada.html?ar=A>

GEWORLD.GE, 26 MARCH

GIORGI GACHECHILADZE, journalist: “It was this very circle of friends [of President Giorgi Margvelashvili] that did everything to wipe out even a trace of Orthodox Christian culture from Georgian conscience.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=5751>

DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUND OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

NETGAZETI 28 MARCH

NUKRI KANTARIA, Georgian Dream MP: “If something is legalized in Europe, it is their business, but it is excluded that this will be done by four future generations... Except propaganda, let anyone do whatever they like. Prides and something like that are not needed.”

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/29743/>

MAESTRO, TALK SHOW SUBIEKTURI AZRI, 28 MARCH

GIORGI AKHVLEDIANI, Christian-Democratic Movement: “I will never go to a wedding of Giorgi and Levani!”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2295612

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 24-30 MARCH AND AGENCY PIRVELI 24 MARCH

SALOME GOGIASHVILI,

TV presenter: “I did not deem it necessary at 9 o'clock in the morning, to speak on TV about that homosexual couple (Elton John and his partner) and their baby born to them by a surrogate mother and to propagate this fact with a smile on my face. I am a mother of a boy and do not want at all my son seeing such reports before going to school...”

I have not committed a crime, but, nevertheless, I was fired from TV because I did not apologize to queers... I would better be unemployed than propagate queers who are waiting in ambush to hear anything said against them and to rush to file a complaint.”

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=8618&lang=geo

KAVKASIA 29 MARCH

MAKA NIKOLAISHVILI,

participant in an action: “The gathering of these people with un-reined hormones here is indeed a shameful fact. We, baptized Christians in Orthodox Christian country of Georgia, will not give them the right for same-sex marriage and will fight to the last drop of blood to prevent these people from conducting propaganda to our children.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2296419

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 24-30 MARCH

GELA ZEDELASHVILI,

journalist: “Why is that such a young person [Giorgi Sabanadze, the former director of NGO Citizen] sympathizes with LGBTs and similar elements?”



NUKRI KANTARIA, Georgian Dream MP:

“Except propaganda, let anyone do whatever they like. Prides and something like that are not needed.”

17 MAY

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 24-30 MARCH

LEVAN CHACHUA, a person released as a political prisoner (was arrested in 2010 for a violent incident at Kavkasia TV company): “Not only Francois Hollande, but even if NATO secretary generals arrive in Georgia, gay pride will not be held in Georgia! Georgian people will not allow that and let them not behave in a way that on this 17 May much more people take to the street than last year!

“The only thing which we, Georgians, have it is the land blessed by Virgin Mary and we will not allow anyone to defile it!”

Continued on p.10

17 MAY

Beginning from p. 9

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 26 MARCH

DAVIT TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patrits' Alliance: "Very good if they do not intend [speaking about a statement by Identoba NGO that the organization is not going to mark the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia] ... Democracy does not mean a minority imposing its opinion on the majority; no, democracy means the governance of majority which protects all rights of minority... Imposing the mode of life of a minority on the majority is an absolutely different thing."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2293444

OBIEKTIVI, TALK SHOW NIGHT STUDIO, 24 MARCH

IRINA SARISHVILI, political party Hope:

"...but if it is in the interest of the United National Movement (UNM) and their landing force, the Republican Party, to provoke any topic – be it the topic of Russia or the topic of queers... Therefore, I still think we should not refuse to stage that rally [17 May counter rally] and if they smash us, if this is what they plan – to smash us and thus have the UNM come to power or Georgian Dream and UNM otherwise redistribute seats between them, then let them smash us on that topic."

<http://obiektivi.net/tv1.php?id=16291>

SEXISM

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 24-30 MARCH

KETEVAN KHAMITSASHVILI, journalist: "Apart from crime topics, something which is often recalled in relation to Maka Chachua is those stills from the film Keep Smiling directed by Rusudan Chkonia, in which she is featured in a rather embarrassing scene together with Tornike Bziava, a year before Giorgi Margvelashvili engaged in presidential race and she tried a cloak of the First Lady. Moreover, the society negatively assessed President of Georgia's girlfriend featured in the same movie wearing a swimsuit and walking half-naked with a smile on her face in front of the competition jury."

TENGIZ KITOVANI the former defense minister:

"Just like a woman becomes a whore and then nothing can stop her, Jaba was exactly of that type."

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 24-30 MARCH

TAMAR OKRUASHVILI, journalist: "What we learned from the declaration is that he has an American wife with the name of a man and look of a woman."

NETGAZETI, 27 MARCH

A participant in a rally: "Where did they find you, such whores... One must drown those five chickens..."

MELOR VACHNADZE, a person released as a political prisoner: "Let us elect girls... Go and find occupation, give birth to children, why do you care about Misha, you are such a grown up girl, are you not ashamed?! Look at her hairstyle... Hey, girlie, do you not have anyone who cares about you at home? Who let you out from home?"

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/29698/.htm>

PIRVELI, 24 MARCH

ASAVAL-DASAVALI: "Margvelashvili is indeed not indifferent towards the weaker sex."

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=8572&lang=geo

DISCUSSION AT ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY

On March 26 the discussion "Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination in Georgia's Politics and Media" was held at the Ilia State University.



Representatives of Media Development Foundation, MDF and Georgian Democracy Initiative, GDI Tamar Kintsurashvili and Giorgi Mshvenieradze informed students on planned activities within the framework of the *No to Phobia* campaign. Tamar Khorbaladze has presented the media monitoring findings and revealed trends conducted by the MDF in 2013 .

The meeting was followed by discussion. Students expressed their opinion how to conduct effective campaign *No to Phobia*.



The event was organized within the program Advancing National Integration in Georgia, implemented by the United Nations Association of Georgia, UNAG and supported by the United State Agency for International Development (USAID).

DISCUSSION AT DIVERSITY SCHOOL

On March 29 students of *Diversity School* met Davit Zurabishvili, Advisor of the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia. Discussion was held on integration policy and the importance of educational component in this process.

Media Development Foundation is implementing the Diversity Sunday School project for non-Georgian speaking students with the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia.



