

# NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

## REVIEW OF THE WEEK

The following tendencies were observed during the week of September 29 – October 5:

- Increased cases of hate speech and incitement to violence were detected against the National Movement and the representatives of NGO - “Free Zone” affiliated with UNM. It was related to the attack against the “Free Zone” office on September 30;
- Turkophobia and Islamophobia was incited by clergy (Giorgi Razmadze, Deacon) as well as by the online media portal *Geoworld.ge*, mainly on the basis of a Muslim boarding school opening in Kobuleti;
- Xenophobic statements were addressed to Turks, Iranians, Azeris and also to Armenians [“Armenian ex-president”] and Dutchwoman in political context ;
- Homophobic statements were made by the president of Wrestling Federation as a background to the news coverage [TV Rustavi 2, *P.S.*] about his confrontation with the wrestlers; On the other hand homophobic

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**# 28, 29 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER**



## HDIM 2014

TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED AT HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING (HDIM)



Among other participants the representatives of the Eastern Partnership Minorities Network took part in the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), held in Warsaw, Poland, September 22 through October 3.

Chairperson of the board of Media Development Foundation Tamar Kintsurashvili made intervention at the panel dedicated to the tolerance and non-discrimination on September 30. In her speech, she emphasized challenges Georgia facing in this respect, particularly, the problem of hate speech in media and political landscape as well as on

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



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## REVIEW OF THE WEEK

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homophobic assumptions were expressed by the clergy, the secretary of the Patriarch, Michael Botkoveli;

- The source of gender stereotyping was the media [Newspaper “Kviris Qronika”];
- Anti-Western sentiments remained to be intense, similar to previous weeks, mainly stressing on some unjustified facts and the myths according to which the West is combating the Orthodoxy.

## HATE SPEECH

**KVIRIS QRONIKA,**  
29 September – 5 October

drag them out of their homes! Nobody and not a single law will stop us then, let everyone know this!”

**SOSO JACHVLIAI, *Georgian Dream*:** “They [National Movement representatives] are the dirtiest, mean and pervert sectarians...”

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
29 September – 5 October

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
29 September – 5 October

**KOBA ARABULI, *Poet*:** “Ivanishvili managed to amnesty the monkeys coming out of Sakashvilis brains (head of a devil), some of those remained to be monkeys, some of them turned into lizards, hyenas and hippopotamuses. All of them who were amnestied attacked him back together!”

**REZO AMASHUKELI, *writer*:** “And what’s more, Government should either stop the operation of those televisions or disallow bloody chatter of Nationals, otherwise we will be forced to

## INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

**Pirveli, 1 October**

**ZAZA GABEDAVA, *Immigrant in Moscow*:** “I have to declare that I have about fifty thousand trained warriors from Laos, from Ukraine and from Belorussia. If instructed by me, the mobile detachment will arrive in Tbilisi, together with the instructors and the students from fighting school “hors-club”.

We will deal physically with the National Movement and their branch office “Free zone”, I will deal with all the killers! We will do what the government is incapable or unwilling to do.”  
[http://pia.ge/show\\_internet\\_dajjest\\_news.php?id=9369&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_internet_dajjest_news.php?id=9369&lang=geo)

**RUSTAVI 2, KURIERI, 2 October**

**MELOR VACHNADZE, *person under the status of political prisoner*:** “If anybody wants to revenge, take your phone, take a photo or meet them nearby their homes. Let’s not insult each other here, we all know who you are and you will be punished for that one day.”  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2421490](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2421490)

**KAVKASIA, *Spectri*, October 1**

**TV VIEWER:** “We don’t want to see those Nationals...but they do want some things, they want to return something, but they should not even dream about it, or we will twist their necks. We, the people will come out in the streets and will...”  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2420872](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2420872)

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## INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

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ALIA, 2 October

**JANA ASANIDZE, Journalist:** “We will revenge and this may even be physical assault. It looks like there are people among you, who will soon go to jail in order to clean space from National “Zonders”?”

**GIA KORKOTASHVILI, TV-Radio Anchor:** “If I meet any of them by accident, they will understand my attitude towards them from the first moment. I can assure you that I will not greet them with smile.”

**JANA ASANIDZE, Journalist:** “the “Nationals” will organize a riot, they will say that “main opposition power” is insulted physically, soon their western counterparts will start barking.”



**GIORGI RAZMADZE, deacon:** “I can say directly, that this [Opening of a Muslim boarding-school] is religious expansion, implemented by the Turkish government. They are catching up with their plans that they have started during the “Nationals”.

## TURKOPHOBIA/ISLAMOPHOBIA

KVIRIS QRONIKA,  
29 September – 5 October

**GIORGI RAZMADZE, deacon:** “I can say directly, that this [Opening of a Muslim boarding-school] is religious expansion, implemented by the Turkish government. They are catching up with their plans that they have started during the “Nationals”.

GEWORLD.GE, 1 October

**MERAB BLADADZE, representative of an NGO:** “It’s just a matter of simple respect not to build a Muslim school among Orthodox citizens...”

Strong influence of pro-Turkish powers is obvious in Adjara! The third power is represented by the pro-Turkish Georgians who have received their education in Turkey. As you all know, Adjarian young people are massively taken to Turkey for receiving Education there. After they return home, they are quite aggressive to Orthodox Georgians...

It is noteworthy and it is a dangerous tendency when the Turkish minister of foreign affairs says that Batumi is the territory of Turkey. In the history books of schoolchildren Batumi is described as a historically Turkish land that is temporarily occupied by Georgia.

Whoever wishes, can go and build a mosque, madras or minaret in Adjara, it is not completely uncontrolled. There is a danger that those children who go to Turkey for education can become the leaders of Wahhabism, if it keeps on this way, we may witness the Wahhabism break out in near future.”  
<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6188>

GEWORLD.GE, 1 October

**DAVID ZOIDZE, Kobuleti citizen:** “We will sacrifice ourselves to oppose the rule of Turks in Adjara...Our fathers and grandfathers were forced by the sword to turn Muslim, they may try to do it again. Actually, they are doing it with money now, instead of a sword. Do you know what does it mean to build the mosque of Aziza? They build mosques on their conquered lands; they are trying to prove to us that Batumi belongs to Turkey. Therefore, the population of Adjara should stand together; whole world should see that Adjara does not esteem to become Tatars. Then whole Georgia will be involved in this process. Adjarian people are tortured; every other family’s property is mortgaged and they are between two fires – survival and the fight against Turks!”

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6188>

GEWORLD.GE, October 1

**TAMAR KIKNADZE, political scientist:** “The influence of Muslim governments is present in Adjara, and Turkey considers Adjara as its integral part. The Kars Agreement is due in 2021, the warranty to this agreement is provided by Russia and Turkey, we should think about it!”

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6191>

## XENOPHOBIA

KAVKASIA, SPECTRI, 2 October

**DAVIT CHICHINADZE, businessperson:** “How do you think expansion happens?! Today the wars are not happening with only bullets and guns. It is time of economic wars and expansions now, with taking control over the markets. Turks have fully occupied the Georgian market, on the other hand Iran is entering the market, there will not be space for Georgians soon.”  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2421460&rc=1](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2421460&rc=1)

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 29 September – 5 October

**KOBA ARABULI, poet:** “We are taking the crops of fatal “Cohabitation...”  
 Some Tatar from Marneuli will appear on Rustavi 2 TV and will say that “Georgian Dream” should be expelled from here, because it is the enemy of Europe and democratization...”

KVIRIS QRKONIKA, 29 September – 5 October

**TAMAR OQRUASHVILI, journalist:** “Please anyone explain to me, why should we buy a house for our Armenian ex-presidents Dutch wife, you can kill me after I have an answer!”

## HOMOPHOBIA

RUSTAVI 2, P.S., 5 October

**LUKA KURTANIDZE, President of Wrestling Federation, Vice-rector of Police Academy:** “Pederasts and gay life, this is what you were teaching, were not you? Was not it you who wanted to organize a (gay) parade?! I am telling you, don’t let this Saakashvili or Saakiani control you.”  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2423711](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2423711)

SAKINFORMI, 3 October

**GEORGIAN NEWS CREATIVE:** “The organization “Identoba” was discredited in 2013, they are occupied with deceptive protection of LGBT rights, and they have named the Patriarchy as “the preacher of

evil” while building a shelter for homeless children.”

**MICHAEL BOTKOVELI, Secretary of Catholicos-Patriarch:** “There are lots of ill and incapacitated people working in that organization [“Identoba”] how can we trust them our children? This is horrible, it can’t get any worse, I think whole society will support the church.”  
<http://bit.ly/1wj65pl>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
 29 September – 5 October

**KOBA ARABULI, Poet:** “It is quite dangerous for you.... Those homosexuals and prostitutes from so called “Free zone”.

## GENDER STEREOTYPES

**KVIRIS QRONIKA, 29 September – 5 October**

**GELA ZEDELASHVILI, Journalist:** “I know the woman should be in the kitchen, but since the recent developments oblige us for gender equality, we will sometimes have to elect them in our legislative body...”

The scientists used to write secretly (During the Soviet Union) that birth rate might decrease because all the bready women will have to work.

Actually they are easily appointed as Members of parliament today, it has become so easy to appoint and to become “gender activist”. They include you in the party list and then you will have to become a parliamentarian even if you are deaf and numb. You can secure the parliamentarians mandate in your pocket, you will have a good salary and instead of sitting in a tractor, you will be wearing black sunglasses and sitting in a black Jeep.”

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

**KVIRIS QRONIKA, 29 September – 5 October**

**GIORGI RAZMADZE, deacon:** “Unfortunately they, current and former government both are in the service of Europe and America, which is a big prostitute (I apologize for expressing myself this way, but there is nothing else I can call it) who does not love god.”

**GEWORLD.GE, 2 October**

**GULBAAT RCXILADZE, head of Eurasian Institute:** “The fidelity towards the Orthodoxy from the nations like Serbia, Russia, Georgia and others demonstrates their independence and “disobedience” in regards to the western instructions...”

The West desires to weaken this colossus – Russia, in order to seize the geopolitical domination over the Eurasian continent. The West encounters ideological resistance from the Orthodox civilization, which at some point unites Muslims in

itself. As opposed from the West Orthodox civilization has a very good relationship to traditional Islam...

“The colorful revolutions” appeared to have some pseudo values, which are strange and distinct from the Orthodox Christianity, and their leaders had quite tense relationships with the Orthodox Church...

We can recall the pressure of Saakashvili over the church... how he tried to instigate internal conflicts, he was supporting other confessions and foreign sectarians. He was trying to eliminate any religious content and even the Christian moral from the education system. And all these were happening under the motto of “Up to standards of the West”.  
<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6202>

**ALIA, 3-6 October**

**REZO AMASHUKELI, poet:** “The Russians are not instructing me to marry my cousin or to marry a boy, why everything

is reversed in our country? While adopting the antidiscrimination law, the Patriarch said that we will see the results of it in some time.”

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 29 September – 5 October**

**GIGLA GOBECHIA, editor, journal “Phenomena”:** “It is not their (political will to disclose the death of Zviad Gamsakhurdia). It is because our government considers the West as the primary ally! We can remember very well the words of George Bush; he said that Gamsakhurdia was swimming against the flow. They still cannot forgive his “swimming against the flow”, that is why his murder is not disclosed yet!

It is not surprising that Americans do not even allow to disclose the murder case of their ally Zurab Jvania!”



**GELA ZEDELASHVILI, Journalist:** “I know the woman should be in the kitchen, but since the recent developments oblige us for gender equality, we will sometimes have to elect them in our legislative body...”

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## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

**GEWORLD.GE, 1 October**

**NIKA GELASHVILI, Journalist:** “How do “American fathers” manage to find (or what they teach them?!) those people who are being prepared by them to lead this or that government, all of them are similar to each other by soul and all of them are insane. They have a mask of a ruler who cares about people, whereas they don’t bother about anything else then their own prosperity?!”

<http://bit.ly/1sFx6TQ>

**SAKINFORMI, 1 October**

So-called Muslim terrorism is also the product of the West. It was designed to fight against USSR in Afghanistan by those times. Today, presumably, their target is Crimea and North Caucasus...The main mission of USA is to present Russia as the first enemy of the Muslim world...

The whole world should know, that Russia is always by the side of oppressed, which means that it is against USA and against the political and military expansion of their allies. They have brought lots of unhappiness to Muslims lately.”

<http://bit.ly/ZCjiiim>

**SAKINFORMI, 29 October**

**ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, chief editor of Sakinformi:** “This is an open call for the government turnover – for the support of the NGO “Free Zone”. This organization is against the Georgian laws and Georgian constitution, and it will be receiving many grants from the US Ministry of Finance...

Georgia will be forced to draw into this conflict, but USA will kill three rabbits with one shot, it will cause a government turnover in all three Caucasian republics! We have witnessed the similar chain of events in the near East and North Africa and during the recent “colorful” revolutions that were “Made in USA”.

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

**GEWORLD.GE, 2 October**

Despite the fact that USA has not officially announce a war in any country since 1942, and considering the fact that president Barack Obama is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, US Armed forces have manage to bomb 7 governments throughout the last 6 years.

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6201>

## HDIM 2014

**Beginning from p. 1**

atmosphere inciting hate crimes and government's failure to respond on hate crimes in compliance with legislation, which poses threat to the peaceful cohabitation of different identities. In her speech she spoke about experience of the civil society platform *No to Phobias!* launched by leading NGOs as a response to emerging problem of hate speech in public discourse.

HDIM is a platform gathering annually 57 OSCE participating States, civil society and international organizations. It is aimed at implementation of the human dimension commitments taken by the member states.