

# NO TO PHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

## REVIEW OF THE WEEK

# 30 13-19 OCTOBER

Following tendencies have been observed during the week of 13-10 October:

- The robbery of the Saint Barbare Orthodox Church, for which legal proceedings were initiated under the Article –Theft, was linked to the intention of *National Movement* to evoke destabilization (Dimitry Lortkipanidze, *Burjanadze-United Opposition*) and to the Jehovah Witnesses (Basil Mkalavishvili, priest). The case was tied to *National Movement*, their foreign partners and combat against Orthodoxy in general (*Geworld.ge*). The State Agency on

Religious Issues evaluated the above-mentioned case as an insult of religious feelings. It was also intertwined with the incident that took place with Muslims in Kobulti;

- Incitement to violence against the National Movement was expressed by media (*Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper), as well as by certain respondents;
- Xenophobic statements were expressed by clerics (David Qvlilidze, deacon) and by other respondents ;

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## THE CASE OF THE ROBBERY IN SAINTS BARBARE ORTHODOX CHURCH



While commenting on the case of robbery of the Saint Barbare Orthodox Church (October 14), respondents kept relating this criminal act to National Movement and to Jehovah witnesses, whereas, media attributed it to the National Movement, their foreign partners and to combat against Orthodoxy in general. The State

Agency on Religious Issues evaluated the case as a insult of religious feelings that was also linked to the case of hanging a pig's head on the Muslim boarding school of Kobuleti.

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## REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Continued from p. 1

- Anti-Western sentiments were yet strong, former ministers of interior affairs (Temur Khachishvili and Kakha Targamadze) accused America and the West in their attempt to induce Georgia in Russia-Ukraine war; On the other hand Abkhazian Minister of Culture and Education accused Europe in corruption.
- Homophobia expressed by the newspaper *Asaval-Dasavali* ;
- Gender stereotypes were observed in the speech of Catholicos Patriarch.

## THE CASE OF THE ROBBERY IN SAINTS BARBARE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Beginning from p. 1

PIRVELI, 15 OCTOBER

**DIMITRY LORTKIPANIDZE, *Burjanadze***

***United Opposition:*** „We should not be searching for the motives of the robbery necessarily in the criminal circles, or among those who wish to seize material wealth. There, might as well, be a well-organized group that aims to create a tension between the religions and to cause destabilization in the country. As a continuation of this topic, I would like to speak about the yesterdays statement of the prime-minister and the earlier statement of the Minister of Interior affairs Alexandre Chikaide about the intentions of the *National Movement* to create a destabilization in the country. ...Obviously, the case against Muslims was extremely insulting and it was a vivid provocation, but raiding the Orthodox church is not less of a crime, if not even more serious.”

[http://pia.ge/show\\_news.php?id=25455&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=25455&lang=geo)

REZONANSI, 15 OCTOBER

**DIMITRY LORTKIPANIDZE, *Burjanadze***

***-United Opposition:*** “We are dealing with a well planned, organized crime, which goes beyond a crime.”

REPORTIORI, 15 OCTOBER

**BASIL MKALAVISHVILI, Priest:** “You must have heard about the raid in Saint Barbare Church, this vandalism was committed

by the sectarians of Jehovah, this really is a horrific fact...Haven't we also been attacked by the Jehovah witnesses - by the gangs of Saakashvili?!”

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=41750>

GGEOWORLD.GE, 17 OCTOBER

“The brutal raid of Saint Barbare Church, that took place on 14 October on the holiday of Svetitskhovloba, was yet another demonstration of the attitude that *National Movement* and Mikheil Saakashvili personally has created with the instructions of his foreign partners. This is a demonstration of hatred and disrespects towards Orthodoxy, towards Georgian national traditions, its culture and towards the society...”

The question is, - will this ever end? – raiding, insulting and deception of Georgian orthodoxy, while all the representatives of other confessions are being protected?!”

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6236>

REZONANSI, 16 OCTOBER

**State Agency on Religious Issues:** “We could have assumed that it is a separate act of vandalism, if not the preceding happenings in Kobuleti that had insulted their religious feelings. Those cases are driven by the intentions to create religious and ethnic dispute that contradicts with the fundamental values and are against the interests of our State.”



**BASIL MKALAVISHVILI,**

**Priest:** “You must have heard about the raid in Saint Barbare Church, this vandalism was committed by the sectarians of Jehovah, this really is a horrific fact...Haven't we also been attacked by the Jehovah followers, by the gangs of Saakashvili?!”

## INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

### ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 13-19 OCTOBER

**JABA KHUBUA, Journalist:** “Georgian people will fall into apathy, will stay in silence and grow torpid, or quite the opposite – they may become uncontrolled and may get into bloody fight with any representative of the *National Movement*, doesn’t matter where they may encounter them in the street, in the transport, in the shop, market, office, stadium, restaurant or elsewhere. It is quite possible that public riot will start in Tbilisi after publishing those videos. The fact that their office is near the International Airport is not helpful, they will barely make it reach there!”

### ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 13-19 OCTOBER

**OLEG IADZE, European Sambo Federation:** “I will become a Kamikaze, there may be about ten people like us, which is more than enough to terminate the group of 30-40 people in *Nats* movement, who creates all the ugly plans.”

### OBIEQTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 16 OCTOBER

**TV viewer:** “They will bring us to that point when we decide to punish them by Lynching [Akhalaia] and we will sacrifice ourselves to the justice...”  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2432740](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2432740)

## XENOPHOBIA

### ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 13-19 OCTOBER

**DAVIT QVLIVIDZE, Deacon:** “When Europeans are forcing us to bring back so-called “Turk -Meskhs” back to Georgia, why don’t they ask Turkey to let ethnic Georgians go back to our old historical lands?.. Why don’t you count how many Madrasas are being built here?! Some people keep complaining about Russians who have white-washed our temples, but they keep forgetting that in 50-ies Turks exploded the *Opiza* Temple and constructed a road over it!”

### ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 13 -19 OCTOBER

**OLEG IADZE, European Sambo Federation:**

“I will not forgive this crook Vardzelashvili that he referred to us as “bastards”, he thought he was on the top of the world. It is not surprising from him, His father is Akofov [Armenian surname] right?! He thinks that by changing his second name and his nationality he can avoid his guilt? He’d better be aware of me, be aware of me Vardzelashvili!”

### KVIRIS QRONIKA, 13-19 OCTOBER

**GELA ZEDELASHVILI, Journalist:** “Why should we have only Turkish or English banners in Tbilisi, is it Istanbul, Beijing or Washington?”

## RELIGIOUS THEMES

### ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 13-19 OCTOBER

**GIORGI GIGAURI, Journalist:** “So, they rejoice the Strasburg court decision [Compensation to be paid in favor oh Jehovah followers] Jehovah witnesses - Giga Bokeria, Levan Ramishvili, Davit Paichadze, Tea Tutberidze, Chiora, Aku, Baku and all the *Nats*’s and those who are inclined to be *Nats* and *Liberast*, everyone who hates Georgian Orthodox church rejoice over this court decision!”

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENT

REZONANSI, 17 OCTOBER

**DIMA JAIANI, Minister of Education and Culture of Abkhazia:** “It may sound unbelievable, but I do agree with Goga Khaindrava that whole Europe, may be not all of it, but still is involved in corruption. As far as I am concerned, it is all about money, Greek court made a political decision.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
13-19 OCTOBER

**TEMUR KHACHISHVILI, Former Minister of Interior Affairs:** “Exactly Americans were the ones, who financed the August war of 2008. Afterwards they were obliged to exclude Sakashvili from the political game and to change the government. Nevertheless, there is only one Georgian in power to day, who has honest endeavor to protect the Church and traditional family and does not accept any shady enterprise, this is the Prime Minister Gharibashvili. He managed to avoid Georgia’s involvement in Russia-Ukraine war...”

Unfortunately we were unable to understand Zviad, when he first observed the imperialistic evil face of the West.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
13-19 OCTOBER

**KAKHA TARGAMADZE, Former Minister of Interior Affairs:** “Western special-service agencies are trying their best to drag Georgian in a long-term war with Russia, in order to repeat the case of Ukraine here and fulfill their job on our account. Current government will not allow this, but here are the *Nats’s* - the agents of the Western dark powers and the representatives of so-called “*War Party*”. They will fulfill each instruction of Western special services agencies, just as the obedient slaves would do.”

**DITO CHUBINIDZE, Journalist:** “Why didn’t you arrest Giga Bokeria after all?”

**KAKHA TARGAMADZE:** “The

whole world was supporting them, I could not even talk to them as equals...I was alone in the war against the sectarians”..

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
13-19 OCTOBER

**KAKHA KUKAVA, Free Georgia:** “First it was *Moqkavshiri*, then *National Movement* and finally the *Dream*, they came into power Upon the consent of America! All these three powers are fruits of the same tree; they just “ripen“ differently! We have to change this system!”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
13-19 OCTOBER

**MAMUKA ARESHIDZE, political scientist:** “I have an impression that Georgia is a testing laboratory for the European Union.”

GEWORLD.GE, 16 OCTOBER

**Title:** “Western invasions against Orthodox civilizations continues”

**GULBAAT RTSKHILADZE, Eurasian Institute:** “The West desires to bring post-Soviet countries under control, rather than become friendly with them. Indifferent attitude of Western politicians towards the Sovereign Ukrainian government was apparent on Maidan...”

Arsen Yatsenyuk was assigned as the prime minister and the acting president is the – head of the parliament Alexander Turchinov. As I have mentioned earlier they are both sectarians and mainly have anti-Orthodox values.

U.S. special forces brought up the whole generation of politicians, they are all certain that if anyone has a different opinion or life-style, and is in the Western (Liberal) fantasy world, he has to be terminated. The only impediment in this business is the Orthodox ideology, that unites people against the Western Neo-liberal, pseudo values.”

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6231>

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## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENT

Continued from p. 4

### GGEOWORLD.GE, 15 OCTOBER

**VASIL CHICHINADZE, *Free Georgia*:** “Everything that is happening in Ukraine and in the Middle East is directed by America. If it were not in the interests of Washington, it would have ended in a month.”

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6219>

### ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 13-19 OCTOBER

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** “As it appears Serbian Government is more optimistic to become EU member state after successfully passing the “Gay-test.”

They want to be part of EU, which agreed to recognize the independence of Kosovo - historical part of Serbia and it allowed the segregation of an Orthodox country!”

## HOMOPHOBIA

### ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 13-19 OCTOBER

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** “Today on October 13, in the writer’s house on Machabeli street, a presentation of a simply gay magazine (named “17”) will take place!...”

The author of it is the PIMP of LGBT sect –Irakli Vacharadze!...

Congratulations ladies and gentlemen! I wish God would never spear you from Irakli Vacharadze and his homemaker services!

The “Sabarasts” if Mamuka Khazaradze openly oppose with the Georgian Church and its traditions worth of thousand years. At the same time, they seem to have quite close relations with LGBT people.”

## GENDER STEREOTYPING

### RUSTAVI 2, POST SCRIPTUM, 19 OCTOBER

**ILIA II, Catholicos Patriarch:** “The Bible says that the husband is the head of a family, and that the family is one body. It is not possible for one body to have two heads.”

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2434443](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2434443)

### RUSTAVI 2, POST SCRIPTUM, 19 OCTOBER

**Respondent:** “Women should never go over men’s head, they deserve everything that happen to them, they should know where they belong...”

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2434471](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2434471)

### PRIME-TIME, 13 OCTOBER

**ANI GUNTER, Anchor:** “ It is nothing to hook up a women, but the hard part is to get rid of her.”