

# NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

## OBSERVATIONS OF THE WEEK

The following tendencies have been noted for the period of 20-26 October:

- Rustavi 2 and *Pirveli* news agency violated the standards while reporting on the main topic of the week – confrontation between Muslim and Orthodox Christian believers because of a religious building in village Mokhe of Adigeni district;
- Hate speech and calls for violence were again directed against the National Movement, also the Speaker of Parliament and other individuals (by Rezo Amashukeli, poet), and by an ISIS militant – against the head of Adjara government Archil Khabadze, because of the incident when a pig’s head had been attached to a Muslim school in Kobuleti;

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# 31, 20-26



## RESPONSE

3 November

### Complaint regarding the story on Rustavi 2 TV program ‘P.S.’



Media Development Foundation, along with Georgian Muslims Union, Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center, and Tolerance and Diversity Institute filed a complaint to Rustavi 2 self-regulation agency on 3 November.

The complaint has been caused by the Rustavi 2 TV program ‘P.S.’ 26 October reporting on the controversial issue of religious building in village Mokhe of Adigeni district.

As it is pointed out in the complaint, the program anchor David Kikalishvili, while presenting the story on the religious building in village Mokhe,

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## OBSERVATIONS OF THE WEEK

### Continued from p. 1

- Anti-Turkish sentiments were connected to the suggested opening of the NATO training center in Georgia and the issue of the construction of a mosque in Batumi;
- Religious discrimination was connected to the planned protest against public celebration of Hanukah and the Strasbourg court decision in support of the Jehovah's Witnesses;
- Anti-Western sentiments were mostly expressed by the *Asaval-Dasavali* newspaper, media union *Obiektivi*, and internet portals *Saqinform* and *geworld.ge*;
- Homophobia was expressed by *Asaval-Dasavali* journalists and poet Rezo Amashukeli;
- Gender stereotypes were connected to the instances of domestic violence.

## RESPONSE

### Continued from p. 1

violated the principle of impartiality when he expressed his own personal attitude to the viewers before the story itself was aired ("I think, in this particular conflict in Mokhe it is the Muslim community that is wrong, because there are more mosques around the controversial building than there are churches"). So did the question asked by a journalist to one of the Muslim respondents - „And is it really necessary for you to pray particularly in this place?“

„The freedom of religion, just like the freedom of choice where to pray, is a fundamental human right, which is beyond discretion of a journalist“, - is stated in the complaint.

The program anchor violated the Requirements to authored programmes of the Code of Conduct of Broadcasters (Article 17.2) according to which, “presenters of authored programmes should not use their position to report opinions in a way that may violate the impartiality of the programme”. In this case also has been violated Article 33.1 of the Broadcasters Code of Conduct, since the program anchor unfoundedly connected the issue of the rights of the Muslim Georgian citizens to troubles.

The organizations call on the TV company's self-regulation agency to discuss the violation of Articles 16.2, 16.4, 17.2, 31.1, 31.2, 33.1 of the Broadcasters Code of Conduct.

## THE TOPIC OF WEEK – EVENTS IN MOKHE

The main topic of the week – the conflict related to the religious building of Adjara Muslims in village Mokhe of Adigeni district – was widely reported on by the media. The Public Broadcaster in its main news program reported on the conflict representing broad spectrum of opinions (from the state agencies, Public Defender's Office, Muslim religious leaders).

Rustavi 2 TV program Post Scriptum reported on the conflict with violations, resulting in the complaint from the NGOs to the TV channel's self-regulating agency (see page 1-2). In the *Pirveli* agency news "Muslims confront the media and police in Mokhe" contained additional information about confrontation by the local Muslims with the media, which was not reported by any other media outlet. It was not specified in the news, representatives of which media outlets had been insulted by the local Muslims. The headline of the news is also too general.



Disputed religious building in Adigeni, village Mokhe. Photo by TV Channel 9

## HATE SPEECH

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
20-26 OCTOBER

**JONDI BAGHATURIA, Georgian Group:**

„The National Movement is a tumor, with metastases in both government and opposition! And if this tumor is not cut out in time, it will destroy not just the Georgian Dream, but the whole country!“

**REPORTIORI, 22 OCTOBER**

**KHATUNA ZHORDANIA, singer:** „As to the 10-lary unwashed, dirty Nationals' puppets, stop calling them to the TV programs,

otherwise I am moving to the drastic measures. I call on the whole Tbilisi, those who think like me – whenever you see these smelly ones – beat them, spit on them, and don't forget the kicks... I will begin doing this from tomorrow.“

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=42399>

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
20-26 OCTOBER

**DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist:** „Rid Georgia of the party flag, coat of arms and anthem of the head of the Georgian sodomites and zonder rapists – disgusting Sakashvili [addresses Prime Minister Ghari-nashvili]!“

## CALLS FOR VIOLENCE

**ALIA, 23 OCTOBER**

**REZO AMASHUKELI, poet:** "As to the shows, until the people decide to attack and beat up everyone there, they won't stop!..

All Georgia is calling me and telling me to lead them and I will drag them [the Nationals] from their homes...

Do you think Gigi Tevzadze will be forgiven? Or Tutberidze? Or David Zurabishvili? Or this Speaker of Parliament who looks like a pioneer who ran away from a camp? They won't get mercy from me, because I am already reckless and I have overcome the boundary of fear already, and I will do the job to the end...

Before they open their mouth, these bastards will get a pack of bullets into their stomach!"

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## CALLS FOR VIOLENCE

Continued from p. 3

SAQINFORM, 20 OCTOBER

**ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Editor-in-Chief of Saqinform:** „Imprisonment alone is not enough for these butchers – very soon the people’s patience will end and the Mishists [Saakashvili supporters] will be lynched! This is a matter of days, not months.“

[http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=20944:2014-10-20-07-08-07&catid=115:redakciisagan&Itemid=530#ixzz3HWcTdi27](http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20944:2014-10-20-07-08-07&catid=115:redakciisagan&Itemid=530#ixzz3HWcTdi27)

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 20-26 OCTOBER

**LEVAN JAVAKHISHVILI, journalist:** „I see that they will actually let people to have too much, end their patience, and wherever they see any National, they will kill them there, or break his bones and turn him into a cripple.“

SAQINFORM, 24 OCTOBER

**TAMAZ TCHAGHALIDZE, an ISIS militant:** „Like they made me leave my family and my mother cry, so mothers of many people will weep if they don’t shut up, and if they don’t let the children in Kobuleti into the school in a week I will take Khabadze’s head off sooner or later!“

[http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=21018:q-----q----&catid=98:politics&Itemid=457#ixzz3HXBA5HvR](http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21018:q-----q----&catid=98:politics&Itemid=457#ixzz3HXBA5HvR)

## TURKOPHOBIA

OBIKTIVI, NIHGT STUDIO,  
20 OCTOBER

**DAVID TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots’ Alliance:** „We are going to open a training center here together with NATO, in which the trainers will be Turks by the way, Turks... Turkey has the problem that its Kurds are demanding independence, that is why it neglects the fact that thousands of people there are having their throats slit, for example. We should understand this and we should think about how this is going to affect us, and how Turkey will behave towards us?! We should not think it will behave better!“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2434256](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2434256)

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2434268](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2434268)

OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
22 OCTOBER

**DAVID TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots’ Alliance:** "The Turks were the key trainers and suppliers, and I did not like that, because I don’t think that Turkey is a friendly state for us..."

In the military centers founded in Georgia, built by the Turks, the Turks themselves will train various people, and many of them will later go and somehow take part in the military operations against the Caliphate."

**BONDI MDZINARASHVILI, journalist:** "This actually means that Turkey is avoiding threat on its own territory and this threats comes over to the Georgian territory, the Caliphate will get interested in punishing Georgia, because it will have provided its territory for their enemies’ training."

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2435729](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2435729)

OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
24 OCTOBER

**TV viewer:** „I am talking about the mosque issue, these people are obviously encouraged by the Turks. This is felt in Batumi very much, and our President helped this too, giving a lot of suspicious citizenships...“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2437185](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2437185)

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## TURKOPHOBIA

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GEWORLD.GE, 23 OCTOBER

**MERAB BLADADZE, an NGO representative:** "I am against foreign financing of the construction of the madrassa and mosques. Wahhabism supporters have now appeared in Adjara, so if the state does not control the frivolity of the Turks, if it does not stop this chaos, we'll get the bad result, which we now have in Pankisi. 10 or 15 years ago there were only a couple of Wahhabis in Pankisi, and there are several hundreds of them now..."  
<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6249>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 20-26 OCTOBER

**IRINA GOGOSASHVILI, journalist:** „I am asking Georgia – what was more Georgian, the fact that in the period of Aslan Abashidze not a piece of land was sold to the Turks, there was not a single Turkish restaurant in Adjara and there were 2 or 3 mosques, or is it more Georgian that today they have made Adjara look like cosmodrome of Islam?!..

If this goes on, soon Adjara may even not be part of Georgia!“

## RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

ALIA, 23 OCTOBER

**GURAM PALAVAN-DISHVILI, Burjanadze-United Opposition:** "When they celebrate Hanukah in the street, they turn us Orthodox Christians into participants of this process. Imposing this holiday on us is a cause of conflict. Anyone may do whatever they want in their homes, but when you bring this to the street and you want to make an Orthodox Christian celebrate rejecting the Christ this is unacceptable. Maybe all this is coming from foreign rabbis and is not a wish of the Georgian rabbis..."

Like we defended our values on 17 May, we'll do the same thing. We are against the idol that insults us. If

they protect it so that we cannot overthrow it, we'll throw something from afar. Of course no weapons will be used. I repeat, if they don't take our request into consideration, this will be followed by a conflict."

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
20-26 OCTOBER

**BASIL MKALAVISH-VILI, priest:** „The Strasbourg court was expecting adoption of the fateful anti-discrimination law in Georgia, as a result of which the Jehovah's Witnesses and other sects got a firm basis for realization of their insidious ideas... There are facts when Jehovah's Witnesses were entering an abandoned church and desecrating it – taking out icons and crosses,

and throwing them into garbage bins. And now, when the Strasbourg court publicly defended their rights, just imagine how they will attack against the Orthodox Christianity!“

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT  
STUDIO, 24 OCTOBER

**TV viewer:** "This issue [opening the cultural center in a mosque in village Mokhe] won't arise and besides there should be a referendum. In any district or town the residents should have a referendum like it is in Switzerland.“  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2437173](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2437173)  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2437177](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2437177)



**GURAM PALAVAN-DISHVILI, Burjanadze-United Opposition:**

"When they celebrate Hanukah in the street, they turn us Orthodox Christians into participants of this process... Like we defended our values on 17 May, we'll do the same thing. We are against the idol that insults us. "

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 20-26 OCTOBER

**NANA DEVDARIANI, Global Studies Center [former Public Defender]:** „This [meaning the instances of probable rapes of men in the bunkers in the forests of Samegrelo] was not done even by Hitler’s Nazis! You know who did this?! Americans in the Abu Ghraib prison, where the soldiers were raping Muslim prisoners and taking their pictures! Yes, Saakashvili and his associates were taught to rape prisoners by American instructors!”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 20-26 OCTOBER

**YINA CHUBADZE, a church candles seller:** „They [NGOs] are given money from abroad not to protect Orthodox Christianity but to strengthen and support numerous sects.“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 20-26 OCTOBER

**GOGA KHAINDRAVA, cinema director:** „Carl Bildt’s example shows that today Europe is living by political corruption and bribes work even in the hell. Unfortunately for us, the leader of the world democracy [USA] stinks! Yes, a part of the world political establishment is suffocating in stench!“

GEWORLD.GE, 21 OCTOBER

**HAMLET CHIPASHVILI, political observer:** "American embassy has been opened in order to study what Georgia is and what kind of “animals” we were."  
<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6238&>

GEWORLD.GE, 22 OCTOBER

**ARMAN ABOVYAN, analyst:** "To bring people, compatriots, and make them kill each other, this requires preparation of the “moral and ethical” situation. Of course, at the same time there was discrediting of Orthodox Church’s authority by the sectarians....

And today in the Kiev’s streets there are people, who it is difficult to call even fascists. They are ready to cruelly destroy anyone who opposes them and European integration."

SAQINFORM, 23 OCTOBER

**Saqinform:** "According to the statement by the Armenian experts, the West is suggesting that other countries commit suicide in order to solve its own problems, driving the so called color revolution countries to the loss of statehood and territorial integrity".

**TARIEL GAGNIDZE, NGO “Historical Heritage”:** "The West does not care about the fate of the Armenian people... The West also does not care about the interests of Georgian people, but it wants Georgian territory for the NATO bases. Saakashvili scared Americans with his psychic imbalance and they put a more reasonable person instead of him, but because of the existing situation, Americans now need a crazy ruler in Georgia."

**SERGI SHAKARYANTS, political observer:** "Democracy means rule by the people, not rule of America and EU over our peoples."  
<http://bit.ly/1sDuG62>

GEWORLD.GE, 23 OCTOBER

**GIVI SOMKHISHVILI, writer:** "Catholic Europe has a shameful stain before humanity with the horrible sins of the Inquisition.... The sins of sadism and lies... Don’t forget that the horrible plague of humanity – fascism – was born in Western Europe..."

America, which got arrogant because now there is nobody to hinder it, attacks whoever it does not like just like a fat rooster in a hen house. Now it wants to take over the former republics of the Soviet Union and growls at Russia."  
<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6253>

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## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

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GEWORLD.GE, 23 OCTOBER

**GULBAAT RTSKHILADZE, Eurasia Institute:** "There is no alternative to revival of Orthodox Christianity and the unity of the Orthodox peoples. The Western expansion still goes on, but because of Russia' firmness it is closing to its end, so all of us should understand: events Ukraine are neither separatism, nor occupation of one state's territory by another, this is all part of the global civilization conflict!"

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6251>

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 22 OCTOBER

**TV viewer:** "Is fascism an alien thing for them [Americans]?! Or did you forget Abu Ghraib prison? Or did you forget what Americans did in Iraq? When they dropped bombed containing nitrogen and phosphorus, which burn flesh to the bones and which were prohibited by a UN convention. They killed numerous innocent people. Against the Orthodox Church, they broke the churches in Georgia."

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2435832](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2435832)

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 20-26 OCTOBER

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** "I told, you ideal of Saakashvili and LGBT Vacharadze is the Europe which hosts Conchita with great honor in its supreme legislative institution!"

SAQINFORM, 20 OCTOBER

**ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Editor-in-Chief of Saqinform:** „I am very sorry that [Irakli Alasania]... got involved in this adventure, which, I am sure, came from the beggar, cheap swindler and international criminal – the murderer Saakyan and his American bosses – provocateurs like McCain.“

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

## HOMOPHOBIA

ALIA, 23 OCTOBER

**REZO AMSHUKELI, poet:** "A man does not like a man and a woman – like a woman, all Georgia has been turn into pederasts and whores."

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
20-26 OCTOBER

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** "Of course, this Vacharadze and people like him are not quite sure, whether they are women or men, but this does not mean that the President of Georgia must officially host these creatures?!..

If Margvelashvili really respected his Holiness, he would not host Vacharadze at the Presidential Palace!..

That is why Margvelashvili is the President of the liberasts and LGBT sect only!..

So, the European Parliament hosted their own Conchita with honor, and Margvelashvili hosted the local one!"

KVIRIS CHRONIKA,  
20-26 OCTOBER

**GIORGI JIQIASHVILI, journalist:** „...We remember well what statements were made to support the hens on 17 May..."

Now the only question is how much time the liberasts [liberal+ pederast] are going to need to totally take the national values from the people's consciousness.“



**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:**

*"Of course, this Vacharadze and people like him are not quite sure, whether they are women or men, but this does not mean that the President of Georgia must officially host these creatures?!"*

## GENDER

### REPORTIORI, 20 OCTOBER

**JONDI BAGHATURIA, Georgian Group:** „When a husband confronts his wife, this is not the government’s fault. Domestic violence is shameful, but this is happening not only in Georgia...

I call on the certain part of the electronic media – do not try to present the Georgian people as a low-level people, as the country where husbands are killing wives."

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=42195>

### REPORTIORI, 21 OCTOBER

**ILIA II, the Patriarch:** "The Sacred Scripture says that husband is the leader in the family. Family is a single body and there can be no two heads on a single body. This is impossible... The human happiness is first of all based on mutual love and respect. For example, when a husband comes from work, you should offer him rest, you should offer to wash his feet, offer him food, you should show warmth to your husband. I would like us to think about our duties again "

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=42367>

### ALIA, 23 OCTOBER

**REZO AMASHUKELI, poet:** "... How can they dare this against the Patriarch, these feminists, these whores, and I am not saying this word figuratively, let them watch their shows and see that their shows stink, they stink because that corrupted the whole country by their misbehavior and now they come out and say that it is all government’s fault."

### PIRVELI, 21 OCTOBER

**ANRI JOHADZE, singer:** "Women! Choose your life partner correctly, so that your mistake is yours to regret..."

It is the mental problem of women that in the end they choose their own killer."

[http://pia.ge/show\\_internet\\_dajest\\_news.php?id=10369&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_internet_dajest_news.php?id=10369&lang=geo)

### PIRVELI, 21 OCTOBER

**ROBERT STURUA, director:** "Why are you surprised? Woman and man!.... Unfortunately the evil done by people as a result of great passions cannot be destroyed like this... It is funny, politicians kill each other because of crown, royal throne, president’s seat... Real love is stronger, nothing can be compare to it."

[http://pia.ge/show\\_internet\\_dajest\\_news.php?id=10403&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_internet_dajest_news.php?id=10403&lang=geo)

### KVIRIS PALITRA, 20-26 OCTOBER

**MERAB METREVELI, journalist:** "It will be probably impossible to totally eliminate such facts [domestic violence], but it will definitely be less if women think more about their choices. Men who kill their wives are disgusting, but women, before you wed to someone, get to know him well, you should not go with any madman!"