

NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

REVIEW OF THE WEEK

The following tendencies have been observed during the week of October 27- November 2:

- The Facebook status of Irakli Vacharadze – the head of organization “Identoba” contained critical statements about the Patriarch; this became the ground for incitement of violence and hate speech from Deputy State Minister for Diaspora Issues. Due to his later conduct the member NGOs of the civic platform “No to Phobia!” requested his resignation;

- Incitement of violence and the hate speech was traditionally expressed against National Movement, particularly concerning the protest against the annexation, organized on November 15;
- Turkophobic statements were expressed by politician (Jondi Bakhaturia, Burjanadze-United opposition) as well as, from other respondents and community organizations;

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32, 27 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER



RESPONSE

29 OCTOBER

THE PETITION OF CIVIL PLATFORM “NO TO PHOBIA” TO THE STATE MINISTER OF GEORGIA ON DIASPORA ISSUES

We would like to respond to the interview given by the Deputy State Minister of Georgia on Diaspora Issues to [the Kviris Palitra newspaper on October 25](#). The interview contains apparent hate speech towards the head of NGO Identoba, Irakli Vacharadze, and a call for physical reprisals against him.



www.diaspora.gov.ge

It is a serious problem when a political official calls him "a person with a sick mentality", "a one-celled creature", and "mankurt" and makes a call for physical reprisals against him ("There will appear a group of people who will themselves use force due to emotional background!") and for restriction of the NGO's activity.

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The newsletter was made possible by the generous support of the American people rendered through the USA Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of the newsletter are the responsibility of Media Development Foundation (MDF) and Georgian Democracy Initiative do not necessarily reflect the views of the USAID or the USA.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Beginning from p. 1

- While covering religious issues, respondents conveyed the message that recent frequent incidents with Muslim parishioners were instigated by some internal or external forces;
- Anti-Western sentiments were linked with the EU Association agreement, recent Ukrainian affairs and also with the topic of domestic violence, that was perceived as an action against Georgian family values and traditions;
- Gender discrimination was observed among the ecclesiastics as well as the media representatives.

HATE SPEECH/INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

KVIRISPALITRA.GE, 25 October

SANDRO BREGADZE, Deputy State Minister for Diaspora issues: “Unfortunately there are lots of ill minded people, like this single-cell creature [Irakli Vacharadze, “*Identoba*”]. Insult of Orthodox religious feelings make their heart happy... There definitely has to be a legal case against him! If it does not happen, I am sure some group of people, will use force against him! due to aggravated emotions.”

Journalist: If you met him personally, would you use force?

SANDRO BREGADZE: “I do hope I will never have to meet that nullity in my life! I don’t even know what I will do, but I am obliged to be patient. If everything complies to law, that this kind of slaves will also be taken care of. They have never done anything in their life... Their work should be limited, because they are extremists, the do not facilitate the development of the country. “

RUSTAVI 2, KURIERI, 29 October

SANDRO BREGADZE, Deputy State Minister for Diaspora issues: „It does not matter how much they try to fight against our church, those snakes, single-cell bug scan do nothing to the Church.”
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2440183

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, October 28

VAJA OTARASHVILI, Patriots’ Alliance: “You’ve got to stone everyone who comes out there on 15th! [Protest “No to Occupation” organized by National Movement]

This is our misfortune, this is Satanic power [National Movement], which is right beside us, they take their salaries from the same budget as we do, those MPs who have to be in prison are the members of the parliament...”
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2441502
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2441478

PIRVELI, 27 October

ALEKSANDRE SHALAMBERIDZE, Free Georgia: “I would kick them out from their meeting vanue.”

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=26483&lang=geo

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 27 October – 2 November

KHATUNA JORDANIA, singer: “ I call for all the Tbilisians, everyone who thinks like me – stone them, hit those stinky creatures, spit on them and don’t forget kicking...this is what I am going to do from tomorrow...”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,

October 27 – November 2

DIMITRY CHUBINIDZE, Journalist: “Spit on the devil and behead the sect of Bokeria and Targamadze ! If you don’t do it now, if you do not attack this Nazi gang now, be aware that they will turn you down soon and there will be a long civil war in Georgia. There will be bloodshed, fight between the honest Orthodox Georgia and the dirty sectarians, it is going to end miserably!”



SANDRO BREGADZE, Deputy State Minister for Diaspora issues: “Unfortunately there are lots of ill minded people, like this single-cell creature ...

If it does not happen, I am sure some group of people, will use force against him!, due to aggravated emotions.”

TURKOPHOBIA

OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 27 October

JONDI BAKHATURIA, Burjanadze-United Opposition: “You think that Turkey is not a threat?... why it is so shameful to be a Russian agent, and it is not too shameful to be a Turkish agent?.. All the provocations that take place between the Orthodox and Muslim people is instigated and financed by Turkish Special Forces.”
<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv.php?id=19102>

OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 27 October

MERAB RATISHVILI, writer: “The whole TV time is practically occupied by the Turkish soap operas... This is a simple expansion. They are asking if we want to enter NATO? The answer is: enter Turkey and here it is your NATO. They are preparing us for this. The current events in village are planned ahead.”
<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv.php?id=19101>

GEWORLD.GE, 30 October

Joint Appeal to the President, Chairmen of the Parliament and the Prime Minister by the Central Union of the Labor and Military Veterans, Veterans Union of Tbilisi, Presidium of the International Association “Stalin”:

“Adjara is in danger, by the efforts of Saakashvili there is a new wave of “Great Turkish Invasions”. Today one third of Batumi population is aliens...”

They don't have right and we will never allow the enemies of their nation to sell the lands inherited by Virgin Mary. It was granted by God to Georgians. Georgian Nation and God will never forgive us!”
<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6265>

RELIGION

ALIA, 31 October – 3 November

SHOTA APKHAIDZE, political scientist: “700 million was allocated during the past months to finance the radical Islamists all around the Caucasus...”

By that time Saakashvili was hosting the prince of Qatar, who supposedly was financing Humanitarian actions in Pankisi, in fact he financed the Wahhabi community and construction of mosques. Furthermore, several emissaries used to arrive from Turkey and Arabia and request illegal constructions. This is how the Madrassas and Minarets were built. Tons of money was invested and laundered here.”

ALIA, 29 October

LAHSA TSAISHVILI, theologian: “Some representatives of the civil sector and the Public defender ignore the interests and the position of the

majority... This is what happened when Saint Barbare Church was raided and same happens when the Orthodoxy and the Patriarch is insulted... It is also unclear why does the Mufti of Akhaltsikhe incites the population for violence and bloodshed. All these have to be handled adequately by the Government.”

KVIRISPALITRA.GE, 27 October

TITLE: “Mokhe trap”

MANANA REKHVIASHVILI, village Mokhe local: “This building cannot be converted to the Mosque – local Orthodox people will never allow that... They always turn the speakers on and the whole village has to listen to screaming of Mol-las. Do they think that they can ever outnumber us? I do hope that all the Orthodox people of Georgia will stand by our side.”

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JONDI BAKHATURIA, Burjanadze-United Opposition:

“All the provocations that take place between the Orthodox and Muslim people is instigated and financed by Turkish Special Forces.”

RELIGION

Beginning from p. 3

AMALIA REKHVIASHVILI: “If the Muslims think that we are afraid of them, they are wrong! We will start peaceful protests. We call for all the Orthodox people in Georgia to join us and not to abandon us. The situation is aggravating. One of them even told me that after we lost Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, soon we will lose Meskheti, because it will be united to Turkey. We are not going to give up one inch of land.”

SAKINFORMI, 31 October

SHOTA APKHAIDZE, Eurasia Institute: “We cannot call it a coincidence that confrontations between the Muslim and the Christian community have become more frequent since 2012, when the government of Saakashvili changed. This is not a confrontation; it is rather a well-planned and inspired conflict.”

Let us analyze the Nigvziani incident; it took place after few months from the change of the government in November 2012. It was instigated by Saakashvilis organization “Center of Tolerance” and its director Beqa Mindiashvili, who is a frequent critic of an Orthodox church...

The tension is escalated concerning the Minaret of the mosque in village Chela. Taniel Naikidze appeared to be the protector of the Muslims, who is stuffed with Wahhabi money. He threatened the new Georgian government that, he will oppose the Muslims and soon the process will go out of control.”

<http://bit.ly/1xr2DgS>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 27 October - 2 November

DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist: “All the incidents, and all those issues in villages Chela, Mokhe, Nigvziani and Qobuleti, also nailing the head of a pig, or may be of Nugzar Tsiklauri’s [MP from UNM] head, on the door of a mosque. All these were instructed by Saakashvili - the enemy of Georgian people and by his mother’s friends. Most probably they have connections to Turkish Special Forces.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, October 27 - November 2

MURMAN DUMBADZE, member of the parliament: “I will repeat for the Government to hear, there will be no construction of Aziza mosque, this is impossible”

ANTI WESTERN SENTIMENTS

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 27 October – 2 November

TEMUR SHASHIASHVILI, Burjanadze – United Opposition: “European Union is a modern Soviet Union, they protect their national interests in Europe and America and they don’t care about our national interests...”

European Union is a political union of the countries who fight against Russia... It is Embarrassing that you are excited to enter a union where one of the members is Albania.”

REZONANSI, 31 October

VAJA OTARASHVILI, Patriots alliance: “In 90-ies Kemrlin used to rule Georgia, now I guess it is Washington that rules us.”

Georgia has practically become an object of torture for the independent and rich governments...

This is the country that used to swear its fidelity to Saakashvili for 9 years, we shouldn’t forget that, this is not a democracy, this is the modern version of slavery...”

ANTI WESTERN SENTIMENTS

KVIRIS QRONIKA,
27 October – 3 November

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE,
Public Assembly: “They [America] will re-stage the Maidan here, just the way they did it in Ukraine. When those Sonderkommandos used to drag the public officials out of their offices, when they were pouring cold water over them, they used to beat and punish them. Snipers were sitting on the roofs and used to shoot the peaceful population. All the above was organized by the Central Intelligence Agency... Whenever they entered- Afghanistan or Vietnam they were out of there soon, but their major policy is to create unipolar imperium that is governed by an American government...”

They hide behind the mask of democracy, they come and spit in our souls, they want to change our way of thinking, they want that all the Georgians became Americans. They will never get that. Why don't they take care of their own slut first, and then try to inject LGBT here...”

GEWORLD.GE, 29 October
BASIL AKHVLEDIANI,
deacon: “So called developed countries offer us some new rules

of the game, but they do not fit to our traditional values.

This is well-arranged, goal-oriented plan with the aim of demoralization of Georgians and the Orthodoxy. Otherwise nobody would have signed an association agreement... everything is against the family values.

Globalization undermines Georgian traditions and the culture!”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6258>

GEWORLD.GE, 30 October

IZATA MAZIASHVILI, author: “The moral that our government aspires is as follows: if we try to defend our traditional Orthodoxy and walk on the path of Jesus we will be punished. According to their morale we will be punished if we try to preserve Georgian national traditions and if we oppose the homosexuals.

USA is the only country who used nuclear power against peaceful population. USA is considered as an aggressor in all parts of the world, it tries to impose its ideology to others...

In 2007, Saakashvili's government used psychoactive weapon against the protestors, they obtained it from their “friends” –Americans.

They also acquired different methods of torture from them.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6264>

SAKINFORMI, 27 October

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Chief Editor of Sakinformi: “Underage students [In the West] regularly cut and injure each other, they shoot at the students and teachers with their guns, parents are pedophiles and they rape and kill their children...

All this have become a routing in their immoral, liberal Western society, they elect homosexuals and seducers in the government. Despite their most prominent position in the government, they cheat on their wives publicly or leave in same-sex families!..

This is why new Euro-Georgians – Libertarians commit deadly sin of treachery and betrayal between the spouses. ...”

<http://bit.ly/1tSsO8N>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
27 October – 2 November

DAVID ISAKADZE, deacon: “Large amount of money is allocated to destroy the family institution, this way it is easier for the dark powers to rule the world!”

Continued on p. 6

ANTI WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from p. 5

OBIEQTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 2 November

TV VIEWER: “I am finally convinced that Europe and NATO is going to destroy us. We are the country of different traditions; we are the people of different traditions... Georgian man can never endure a wife, that goes out at night and sleeps with other man, like it happens abroad.”

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=19184>

OBIEQTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 2 November

TV VIEWER: “They have even brought up an issue of female discrimination, in order to destroy our family institution. Those are the first steps towards the gay-marriages... But why does this private companies need phone tracking, those companies are not going to even own it – Americans will... we all know that Americans listen to everyone in the world.”

<http://www.obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=19185>

REPORTIORI, 28 October

FORMER MEMBER OF SPECIAL

FORCES: “As you are aware, previous government was just appointed by that time. Everything was financed by Soros money. This was also his order [Detention of priest Basil Mkalavishvili] they had to demonstrate to America, that they punish the priest who harasses the Jehovah followers.”

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=43022>

GEWORLD.GE, 29 October

IURI METCHITOB, photographer: “There is a civil war in that country [Ukraine] and who does

our government support to? Of course they support the evil government of Ukraine who is ruled from the overseas...” Nobody has ever argued that Russia is a good chunk, starting from Brzezinski ending with Kissinger. This is why America fights Russia wherever possible, sometimes on the territory of Ukraine, sometimes in Georgia.”

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6256&lang=ge>

KVIRIS QRONIKA,

27 October – 2 November

LEVAN JAVAKHISHVILI, journalist: “This is an European Union were we try to stuck our heads in, but they still do not let us in. We have sacrificed our country to “Euro-aspiration” what do we have to do in the union that does not care about the intentions of Georgian people; moreover, what’s more, they show disdain towards our interests. We will always be others for Europeans; they will never be interested what misfortunes Davit Kezerashvili and Data Akhalaia have caused to our country.”

KVIRIS QRONIKA,

27 October – 2 November

GIORGI JIQIASHVILI, journalist:

“Thanks to the Republican Bankrupts with 3% and thanks to the NGOs who have enjoyed several grants, the “Liberastism” is in its culmination. In the name of Western values, the Parliament of Usupashvili has damaged Georgia even more than Shah –Abbas or Agha Mohammad Khan would ever dream to...”

By signing the Association, agreement with European Union, Georgia has put itself into the sea of heavy responsibilities... I wonder what other anti-Georgian laws will be adopted by the pro-western parliamentarians who have consolidated comfortably in the parliament.”

HOMOPHOBIA

ALIA, 31 October - 3 November

GELA ZEDELASHVILI, journalist: “Irakli Vacharadze the protector of LGBT rights and the leader of the NGO “Identoba” once managed to fulfill his aim; because of his deeds the Australian Opera terminated employment of the world famous soprano Tamar Iveri....

Sandro Bregadze was his next target, he is neither an opera singer, nor the ballet dancer, he cannot organize concerts for the “Pederasts” It is interesting how can he avoid the attack of “soft” people.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 27 October – 2 November

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: “If someone dares to announce loudly that he is a *Nats*, then it becomes easier for others to admit their sexual perversion.”

GENDER

GEWORLD.GE, 29 October

BASIL AKHVLEDIANI, deacon: “Infidelity of both spouses is definitely a deadly sin, but there is one small detail – infidelity of a man cannot become the reason for divorce...

If a husband divorces a wife and she leads dissolute life, than the husband is responsible for her sins... All those movements about gender are inspired by the evil to cause a misbalance, about which I discussed earlier. Women became equal to man not in the name of God, but functionally. This disrupts the human harmony. “

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6258>

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 27 October - 2 November

GELA ZEDELASHVILI, journalist: “Well, my dear Shota, if we elaborate on this, there are can be pipe-women, or engine-women, there are utensil - women, drum-women...

When there are psychological problems, and people speak about gender equality on every occasion this has encouraged prostitution.

your clothes? Who will wash your filthy socks? Yeah, keep on killing women; keep killing wives, what are you going to do then?”

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 27 October - 2 November

GIORGI JIQIASHVILI, journalist: “Once they adopted an anti-discrimination law, now they want to popularize the idea of domestic violence and mess up the brains of the women. On the other hand, this poor Georgian woman who is supposed to be the symbol of the holy family and the dignity, now wants to free herself from moral standards.”

SAKINFORMI, 27 October

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI: “Is this a struggle for gender equality or it is the struggle against the government, family and Orthodoxy? Saakashvili and Margvelashvili ordered a new PR campaign against Ivanishvili and Gharibashvili!

Continued on p. 8

HOMOPHOBIA

Beginning from p. 7

REZONANSI, 31 October

MARI CHITIA, journalist: “We can see female drivers already and they getting are younger and younger.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 27 October – 2 November

DAVIT ISAKADZE, deacon: “God equally delegates the family work among men and women,

but men are authorized for the final decision ...

Evil Intentions of NGOs are not limited to creating confrontation between men and women, they also try to bring disagreement within the family. They try to confront children to their parents.”

RESPONSE

29 OCTOBER

Beginning from p. 1

We believe that such statements by a public official, the more so by a high-ranking political official, pose a serious threat to the country’s democratic development; they encourage intolerance to differing views and physical reprisals and serve to discredit the activities of NGOs.

Freedom of expression is one of the most important values for a democratic society and a fundamental human right which is guaranteed by the Constitution of Georgia. A democratic state cannot exist without tolerance. Officials and public policy makers are obliged to ensure unwavering protection of this right. It is an obligation of the authorities to protect citizens’ freedom of expression even when the expressed opinion is unacceptable for the majority of society. To this end, officials themselves in the first place must refrain from expressing hate and intolerance in public.

It is all the more impermissible when a government representative himself violates a fundamental right of a person, insults him for holding a differing opinion, and, moreover, makes a call for restricting his activities and inflicting violence on him.

Proceeding from all the aforementioned, it is obvious that the views of Sandro Bregadze are completely inappropriate for a public official. Accordingly, we believe

that he must resign from the office of the Deputy Minister.

Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI)

Media Development Foundation (MDF)

Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI)

Georgia’s Reforms Associates (GRASS)

Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC)

International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)

Identoba

Article 42 of the Constitution

Union "Sapari"

Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association (GYLA)

Transparency International – Georgia (TI)

Translation Development Center

Tariel Nakaidze, Deputy chairman at GEORGIAN MUSLIMS UNION