

NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

OBSERVATIONS OF THE WEEK

The following tendencies have been observed during the week of November 3-9:

- Hate speech was addressed to the head of the organization “Identoba” due to his critical statement about the Catholicos Patriarch of Georgia;
- Critical approach of the NGO representatives towards the Patriarch was identified as a campaign against the Orthodoxy supported by some external powers;
- Representative of an NGO claimed the existence of threats from Turkey that were unjustified;
- Xenophobia was expressed against Chinese, Uzbeks and the gypsies;
- Gender stereotyping was observed by ecclesiastics;
- Unjustified identification of sexual identity of an individual was expressed because of his critical approach towards the newspaper “*Asavali-Dasavali*”;
- Anti-Western sentiments were expressed over the traditional topics and also to the resignation of Irakli Alasania. Anti-Western sentiments were also expressed concerning the 20-year anniversary of Open Society Foundation and the visit of George Soros, the later was perceived as an intention to organize a revolution similar to Meidan in Ukraine.

33 3-9 NOVEMBER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hate Speech	2
Incitement to violence	2
Unfounded references to threats	2
Xenophobia	2-3
Homophobia	3
Unfounded identification of sexual identity	3
Individual Attack over the head of the organization <i>Identoba</i>	3-4
Anti Western Sentiments	4-5

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HATE SPEECH

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

NIKOLOZ MJAVANADZE, Human Rights Defenders Union: “These ill people [Irakli Vacharadze, *Identoba*, *Young Lawyers Association* and other organizations] curse the Patriarch. Who do you think is going to be responsible, if people gather around them and start breaking their heads?”

INSITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

LALI ANTIA, representative of NGO: “They should be buried [Representatives of *National Movement* and former *Union of Civilians*]. Imprisonment and detention is not enough, it will feel like normal happy life for them. They should be choked by smoke, and then buried in a large whole!...During 2008 August War Bakradze announced to the population of Samegrelo, that they should go and fight with their hoes, forks, sticks and spades! - Exactly, now we should come out with our hoes, forks, sticks and spades and smash their faces!”

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 3-9 November

GOGA MERABISVHVILI: “Tell him [Bakur Svanidze] that I will cut his ears off, I will put his head on a tray and will grant it to her mother. He’d better stop now before he ends himself up in a coffin.”

UNFOUNDED REFERENCES TO THREATS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

NIKOLOZ MJAVANADZE, Human Rights Defenders Union: “Young Lawyers Association and their sister organizations have formed “fifth column”, they are trying to provoke Turkey’s invasion in Georgia! Do not forget that apart from Russia, Turkey also has occupied our historical lands. I will hereby remind you the statement of Turkish foreign affairs minister David-Oghlu: “Turkey will try to restore its historical borders!” There are five mosques in village Mokhe, but the local Orthodox people have no right to open a church in a local abandoned building.”

XENOPHOBIA

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

IRODI ASANASHVILI, sportsman: “I am afraid I feel like a guest in my own country. Chinese people are building their city across the Tbilisi Sea. Soon they and our kids will both have same kind of IDs with Georgian nationality stamp...We have witnessed the disappearance of big and powerful states, what is our little country compared to them? The roof is falling over the homes of Georgians and Chinese people are building castles for themselves.”

XENOPHOBIA

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 3-9 November

MERAB DZNELADZE, Ph.D. Historical Scientists: “And today, the place that should be so precious for Georgians [A place where historically used to be a mint] we see Uzbek carpets folded over the ancient Georgian monument, they are inviting us to the Uzbek restaurant,

this is unacceptable!”

REZONANSI, 3 November

LIA ZUMBADZE, citizen of Gldani district: “It is always noisy here. Either those gypsies fight between each other, or they fight with our clients. They have no respect or consciousness as such”.

GENDER STEREOTYPES

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 3-9 November

ELIZBAR DIAKONIDZE, deacon: “Those men who relax in their homes and lie like cattle; they should get up and restore their function of a jobholder.”

UNFOUNDED IDENTIFICATION OF SEXUAL IDENTITY

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: “The sole proof of Oto [Kakhidze, former deputy minister of Justice] - tender men of Adeishvili [former minister of Justice] - confirming that *Asaval-Dasavali* is a loudspeaker of Federal Security Service of Russia is the sentence “they openly engage in Russian propaganda”... Probably it could have happen only in the blue dreams, in the bedroom situated next to Adeishvili’s office.”

HOMOPHOBIA

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

LALI ANTIA, former prisoner: “If Zura [Jvania] was gay and if this poor guy’s life has so pervert life – why did this crook –Khatuna Gogorishvili had a crash on him?”

INDIVIDUAL ATTACK AGAINST THE HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION IDENTOBA

The critical statements in the social networks about the Patriarch made by the head of organization *Identoba* was followed by individual attacks from Deputy Sate Minister in Diaspora Issues, also from the ecclesiastics. Criticizing the Patriarch was identifies as the campaign financed from abroad.



ELIZBAR DIAKONIDZE, deacon:

“Those men who relax in their homes and lie like cattle; they should get up and restore their function of a jobholder.”

Continued on p.4

INDIVIDUAL ATTACK AGAINST THE HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION IDENTOBA

ALIA, 7 November

ANTIMOZ BICHINASHVILI, archimandrite: “This is an ugly propaganda against the Church, we all know who is the author of this... someone should end this and someone should be punished, otherwise this will grow into something else. Insulting homosexuals is considered as a criminal act, but why not insulting a Patriarch is blameworthy?”

They are propagating ideology of anti-Christ here, and it is of course driven by the monetary interests.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: “Exactly, this is [critical statement by the head of the organization *Identoba*] the generously financed campaign of foreign evil powers, their goal is to discredit and weaken the Georgian Church!”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

Title: “Konchitas”, hands off from the Patriarch!

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: “The leader of “Konchitas” and protector of transsexuals, lesbians, gays and bisexuals publicly violated the rights of 80% of the Georgian population. He has insulted their religious feelings... Tomorrow other Vatcharadztes and “Konchitas” will appear one after another; they will walk over and spit in our religious feelings! Therefore, proper reaction to all their actions should be made straight away!”

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 3-9 November

GELA ZEDELASHVILI, journalist:

“Everything has gone wrong. If someone dares to say something to this annoying Vacharadze, all the NGOs start shouting aloud that it was a hate speech. However, when they have scolded the Patriarch, nobody says a word, except couple of them. Those who reacted were practically crucified.”

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

TEMUR SHASHIASHVILI, Burjanadze-United Opposition: “The world does not need nation states any more... exactly those landmarks have been exploded where the civilization and Orthodoxy started. Therefore, the threat to our country is not necessarily the slave Saakashvili and the protest instigated by him, but the real threat is special services that Saakashvili serves for...”

If the special services have spent tons of money over somebody – this is Giorgi Margvelashvili. How on earth could this happen that the president of Georgia is a person who was an activist of *Liberty Institute, Soros and NDI!*”

REZONANSI, 5 November

GIA BURJANADZE, Burjanadze –United Opposition: “I think this is the part of a big

game played by Americans [concerning the investigation started in the Ministry of Defense] pro-American powers are involved in this and they wish for some misfortune to happen in Georgia.”

OBIEQTIVI, Night Studio, 4 November

TV Viewer: “We don’t need those Western values... Ask me if I want those homosexuals and?”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=19212>

OBIEQTIVI, Night Studio, 4 November

TV Viewer: “We should strive for saving the Christians, but not for introducing American life-style here. If we don’t stop being hostile towards the Russians and Abkhazians, if we are going to obey America in everything, it is better to clean the Russian boots then.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=19212>

Continued on p.5

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

OBIEQTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 4 November

TV Viewer: “We are an independent county, we have not been independent when we were part of the Russian empire, neither we are independent now, since all the decisions are made by Unites States of America...they are even involved in adopting the laws, let me remind you of the LGBT law that was adopted...”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=19212>

TV Viewer: “He was leading the country to the destruction [Irakli Alasania] what for he was letting those boys die? for Americans and Europeans?”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=19211>

OBIEQTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 4 November

TV Viewer: “Alasania is appointed directly from America, he is practicing the interests of America, we should stand by the side of Irakli Gharibashvili by all means, he is the one who does not lead the country to its destruction.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=19211>

GGEOWORLD. GE, 5 November

GIORGI GACHECHILADZE, author: “By dismissing Irakli Alasania from the position of Defense Minister, he [Irakli Gharibashvili] made a clear sign to USA and to other European powers driven by USA that he is not going to be a puppet and will never obey their orders unconditionally. Moreover, those who use to call bloody Saakashvili the star of democracy, they will not limit themselves with their suggestions about democracy anymore, and they will do everything to support *National Movement* and to dismiss *Georgian Dream*. They have vast experience in this kind of matters; an example of Georgian, Ukrainian and Arabian revolutions is more than enough to prove it.”

<http://gworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6273>

GGEOWORLD. GE, 5 November

DIMITRY MONIAVA, Author: “We should depict it in our constitution.” there is nobody superior to the law but Uncle Sam”. Maybe we should assign US-Ambassador as the chief prosecutor? (He already became a major lawyer).”

<http://gworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6272>

OBIEQTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 4 November

TV Viewer: “Due to this Americanization and Westernization we will end up 100% in the hands of Turkey, we have no other way.”

<http://obieqtivi.net/tv1.php?id=19211>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 3-9 November

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, SAKINFORMI:

“Do you really think that USA will protect Georgian ethnicity any better than Russians protected the Abkhazians?!.. Georgia’s number one strategic partner limited its aid with just diapers. If Russia was the number one strategic partner, it would have supported Georgia with an army but not with the diapers.”

SAKINFORMI, 7 November

“So, in 2014, after 11 years this impatient philanthropist [Soros] decided to organize yet another revolution in Georgia, similar to “Maidan”, he wants to earn money for his funeral on this [about Soros visit to Georgia]”

<http://bit.ly/1v2ir6r>

SAKINFORMI, 3 November

“As you all see my dear compatriots, Catholicos Patriarch of Georgia is yet again captive of the “Nationals” those National – archbishops, those Libertarians and the agents of USA Special Services. Georgian society knows pretty well who they really are; they are among the closest circles of the Patriarch!”

<http://bit.ly/1viA5D8>