

# NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

## REVIEW OF THE WEEK

# 35, 17-23 NOVEMBER

The following tendencies have been noted in the period of 17-23 November:

- Hate speech was, traditionally, directed against the National Movement;
- Turkophobic sentiments have been noted; religious discrimination was directed against the Jehovah's Witnesses, Armenians, Quakers and Evangelists, who were presented as a sectarians;
- *Rezonansi* newspaper unfoundedly connected the Jehovah's Witnesses' presence on Rustaveli Avenue to the National Movement 15 November rally;
- Homophobic statements were made by an anchor from the media union *Obiektivi*, a journalist from *Kviris Chronika* newspaper, and other;
- Gender discrimination and stereotyping have also been noted;
- Anti-Western sentiments were expressed by politicians, clerics and media outlets.



## MDF WAS NAMED AS SUPPORTER OF TOLERANCE BY RELIGIOUS' COUNCIL OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

On November 17, at a traditional event dedicated to the International Day of Tolerance the Council of National Minorities and the Council of Religions of the Public Defender Office revealed *Supporters of Tolerance* of the year.



The Council of Religion granted *Supporter of Tolerance* award for the contribution to the development of culture of tolerance in Georgia to: Nargiz Jincharadze, the principal of the Kobuleti Public School N5; Tamar Kordzaia, member of the Georgian Parliament, Media Development Foundation (MDF) and Levan Sutidze, the anchor of TV company Tabula program "Talks about Religion".

continued on p. 10

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hate speech	2
Turkophobia	2
Xenophobia	3
Religious discrimination	3
Unfounded connection of religious identity with a political rally	4
Homophobia	4
Gender discrimination/stereotyping	5
Anti-Western sentiments	6

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## HATE SPEECH

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 17-23 NOVEMBER

**ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People's Council:** "Saakashvili and his National Movement are canalization rats, who spread the plague virus! This pestilence must be urgently eliminated!.. I am at the point when I can personally take a broom to cleanse Georgia from this dirt!"

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 17-23 NOVEMBER

**LELIKO JAPARIDZE, singer:** „They are worms that must be crushed, before they eat the country. I call the people, wherever they catch a National, put a foot on him and crush him like a worm, otherwise it is impossible to get rid of them!“

## TURKOPHOBIA

OBIEQTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
18 NOVEMBER

**DAVID  
TARKHAN-  
MOURAVI,  
Patriots Alli-  
ance:** „We keep  
saying that Tur-



key is our friend. Turkey looks at the Kurds being killed by the Caliphate fighters and the Kurds living in Turkey beg to be let there to help their Kurdish brethren and Turkey does not let them. And someone thinks that it will deal with us better?“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2458376](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2458376)

GEWORLD.GE , 20 NOVEMBER

**TAMAZ IMNAISHVILI, Analytical Cen-  
ter of the Georgian Generals Club:** „It is

Erdoghan's idea to create a Muslim NATO. As a result of cooperation between Saakashvili and Erdogan we have 65 thousand Turkish citizens who also are Georgian citizens, and after 2009 a serious religious expansion has been launched. What is happening in Georgia is a crime of the Georgian government.

There is cultural and religious expansion going on in Georgia. There are Turkish series every day on every TV channel and I am sure these Turkish series are created based on the 25th frame principle. There was such a case this year: in a church in Lanchkhuti district a woman was saying her confession and told the priest – let Allah bless you, father.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6321>

## XENOPHOBIA

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
17-23 NOVEMBER

**DOCTOR JABA:** „It is ecological disaster nowadays in Georgia. That is why there are so many deaths from tumors. By the way, the danger is high in street markets too. Armenians learnt guile and let us eat vegetables grown near the nuclear station.“

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 19 NOVEMBER

**ZURAB BIGVAVA, psychologist:** „China was made red [by Stalin] and now China is making the wider world yellow. Bismarck made a prediction: “attention, yellow menace!”

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2454319](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2454319)

## RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

ALIA, 19 NOVEMBER

**THOMA TSETSKHLADZE, priest:** „God bless you Giorgi [Rustavi 2 TV show Nichieri participant Gevorg Petrosyan]. For 10 years he was a member of the organization which today is called Jehovah’s Witnesses... He saw the real face of that Satanist organization, left this organization of the Satan’s servants ruled from Brooklyn, and now is an Orthodox Christian.“

GEWORLD.GE, 19 NOVEMBER

**BASIL MKALAVISHVILI, priest:** „Armenians invited Garegin II to Georgia and demanded at least 653 churches, including several in Tbilisi. The sects’ rights have been equaled to the Orthodox Christianity and they have been financed with millions of laris, and the Church agrees with all decisions of the government.

... Now Evangelists are building something like the Sports Palace near Gldani Lake... This cannot be tolerated! I am going to meet the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Alexander Chikaidze and his Deputy to give them the list of places where these sects hold their gatherings.“

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6312>

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 17-23 NOVEMBER

**NIKOLOZ MZHAVANADZE, The Rights Defenders’ Union:** "If the Constitutional Court accepts the complaint by the Quakers and agrees with it, Georgian Orthodox Church will be destroyed, because it will not survive the 20% tax, and compared to the sects who get dozens of millions as grants from the foreign countries, Georgian Orthodox Church will be in a weaker humiliating position.“

**continued on p. 4**

## RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 17-23 NOVEMBER

**DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist:** „Irakli Gharibashvili... you are being fought by the Jehovah's Witnesses' spy Giga Bokeria and his dark apostle Levan Asratsian-Ramishvili with their Tabulas, Rustavi 2s and militants "...

## UNFOUNDED CONNECTION OF RELIGIOUS IDENTITY WITH A POLITICAL RALLY

REZONANSI, 17 NOVEMBER

In the story on the National Movement's 15 November rally, the presence of a small religious group on a rally was highlighted by a separate headline "street sellers and Jehovah's Witnesses". The journalists unfoundedly connected the Jehovah's Witnesses with the activists:

**SALOME SARISHVILI, authors:** „You could notice a group of several people near Freedom Square subway station. They looked like usual activists, but after talking to them we found they were Jehovah's Witnesses."



### BONDO MDZINARASHVILI, anchor:

Because the air is dirty, does this mean people don't go out to streets? It is same with them, they [LGBT groups] are too few to make the air dirty...

OBIECTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 19 NOVEMBER

**BONDO MDZINARASHVILI, anchor:** „In Orwell's Animal Farm everyone is equal and some are more equal. So it seems we all are equal and these LGBT are more equal. This is a wrong approach... A person [Sabi, transgender] has been killed, why does it matter who he was? Why does his orientation matter?.. They highlight this, because like in Orwell's Animal Farm they think they are more equal“ ...

**TV VIEWER:** This approach is not correct because they make spiritual atmosphere around us dirtier.

**BONDO MDZINARASHVILI, anchor:** ...How many people do you think spoil air

every day? Like people with flatulence. Because the air is dirty, does this mean people don't go out to streets? It is same with them, they [LGBT groups] are too few to make the air dirty...

Look, when the Patriarch held a liturgy in the place when a hundred thousand martyrs died, how many people were on Metekhi Bridge? So how many are they, to overwhelm these people, the Orthodox believers?“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2460580](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2460580)

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 17-23 NOVEMBER

### NIKOLOZ MZHAVANADZE, The Rights Defenders' Union:

„It is enough for some Jehovah's Witness or a pederast to hurt a foot for the Public Defender and Beka Mindiashvili to start screaming...

continued on p. 5

## HOMOPHOBIA

TV issue is also very problematic – Public Broadcaster is full of liberasts – everywhere are Rati Amaglobeli, Lasha Bughadze, Erekle Deisadze and such. For instance, on 6 November at 6 o'clock Mr. Rezo Amashukeli had a huge gathering in Rustaveli Theatre. Which TV channel did broadcast it? If liberasts and pederasts had a gathering there, they would broadcast it live.“

### KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 17-23 NOVEMBER

**GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist:** "Before he [Ucha Nanuashvili] was appointed there was controversy about Republican Party candidate Tamar Gurchiani, which made clear that people would not allow this “liberast”

Tamar woman to be an Ombudsman... Finally they decided that a secret pro-Westerner [Ucha Nanuashvili], an undercover liberast and ideological pederast was required."

### PRIME TIME, 17 NOVEMBER

**TAMAR IVERI, singer:** „It is difficult to believe that Georgian mentality can agree with gay parades. Media tends to present a fly as an elephant.“

## GENDER DISVRIMINATION/STEREOTYPING

### ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 17-23 NOVEMBER

**GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist:** "Bravo" TV show, where they torture people with electric shock, and which represents Misha's "Konchita-Stephan" and dirtiness – is anchored by the "national whore" Tina Makharadze – and this turns out to be a "Georgian project"!"

### ALIA, 21-24 NOVEMBER

**ALIA:** „This “2-meter woman” caused majority of women going on fire and making strong comments. Sex-changed Kesaria, in the past Beso Abramidze, is not being forgiven for being a woman by the Georgian women“...

Comments on web-sites and in the social network:

- You don't look like – Shorena is a woman!!!
- You are 2 meters, but not a woman, Mr. Besik...
- Does he think he is a woman, really?
- A woman... nice one...
- What is this, man saying he is a woman? What creatures are they?..
- Why do they write about this? It is so much attention and it is journalists' fault... Children use Internet too. And then they are surprised because there are bitter people and ask who killed and why killed someone... Enough!!!!"

**continued on p. 6**

## GENDER DISCRIMINATION/STEREOTYPING

Beginning from the p. 5

PRIME TIME, 17 NOVEMBER

**SOPHO PARTSKHALADZE, pharmacist [wife of a parliament member David Saganelidze]:** „I always believed that a man must be senior to a woman so that you can feel yourself strong, trust him. A man must be strong.“

IMEDI, REAKTSIA, 21 NOVEMBER

**DAVID TEVZADZE, former Minister of Defense:** „Please do not make me dispute with women.“

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2456716](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2456716)

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

REZONANSI, ALIA, 19 NOVEMBER

**NINO BURJANADZE, United Opposition:** „People must decide – do we reject a chance to solve the problems of Abkhazia and Samachablo in return for an illusionary membership in NATO?“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,  
17-23 NOVEMBER

**ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People’s Council:** „We love Europe of Dante and da Vinci, Thomas Mann and Voltaire, but that Europe is dead!..

I do not want Europe wanted by Zaza Burchuladze and Erekle Deisadze, who have erection on their own mothers!“

OBIECTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
18 NOVEMBER

**DAVID TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots Alliance:** "What they [Obama administration] did to Ukraine? Because they have taken Kiev under control and made them

lose 2 years. They made them lose Crimea... The worst thing is that France and Germany understand very well that Obama administration is a totally stupid administration, so they don't do anything to hurt themselves. Only we do hurt ourselves."

GEWORLD.GE, 19 NOVEMBER

**BASIL MKALAVISHVILI, priest:** „ The dark anti-Christian forces of the world exiled the truly religious President Gamsakhurdia [Zviad] who was unacceptable for them from his own country, and brought Shevardnadze as out “savior”. Now, Shevardnadze brought in Saakashvili on our heads who had been trained by Americans... He [Saakashvili] monopolized power and led they country under instructions of the people beyond the ocean. Specifically, he registered all sects, causing great danger for the Orthodox religion. Instructions from another stepfather of Saakashvili, George Soros were at work too – remember the words of Soros:

continued on p. 7

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

“I am conducting experiments in Georgia!”, and American ambassador was also part of this dirty business...

This is the force that is being directed against the Church by George Soros and American ambassador...

They see no value in dignity, morals, sanctity of family, children's respect towards parents, mutual understanding between husband and wife. All the corruption is coming from the West."

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6312>

**GEWORLD.GE,**  
19 NOVEMBER

**GULBAAT RTSKI-LADZE, Eurasia Institute:**

„When Europe rejected God and destroyed values, nationalism took the primary role...

We know well who needs decreasing influence of the Church – the ultra-liberal parties who unconditionally support American policy.“

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6314>

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,**  
17-23 NOVEMBER

**TEMUR KHACHISH-VILI, former Minister of Internal Affairs:**

„Unfortunately we still are in the Reagan age of confrontation with the Russian empire and forget that Russia's role in the world processes is not aggressive any more, unlike American policy, which is confirmed by the examples of Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. This is orchestrated chaos, opposed by Russia and China. Now the fire has moved to Ukraine and it is Georgia's turn. Ivanishvili and Gharibashvili are those who hinder lighting of this fire!“

**GEWORLD.GE,**  
19 NOVEMBER

**GIORGI GACHECHILADZE, author:**

„Alexander Chachia has been proved right – Ivanishvili left the post of Prime Minister and the Parliament is what Americans wanted: those elected by the people unanimously supported the anti-discrimination law imposed by the West.

**ALEXANDER CHACHIA, Moscow based political observer:** „Americans are financing our army only because they want to use it for their interests in various hot spots of the world, where they need troops... Governments and societies of that countries, including the NATO members, do not want to take part in American adventures and provoking hate and aggression in the Muslim world. And we, who are surrounded by the Muslim peoples, stubbornly go along with this suicide.“ [from the archive]

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6317>

**PIRVELI, 17 NOVEMBER**

**EURASIAN CHOICE**

**COALITION:** „The coalition members will send a letter to the President of Russia Vladimir Putin, in which they ask him to inform the population of Georgia regarding Eurasian Economic Union, since the media outlets bribed by the West are trying to show Eurasian Economic Union in dark colors and mislead the Georgian society".

[http://pia.ge/show\\_news.php?id=28228&lang=geo](http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=28228&lang=geo)

**continued on p. 8**

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from the p. 7

REPORTIORI,  
20 NOVEMBER

**MERAB SHATIRISHILI, Movement for New Reality:** „If Kvitsiani were a supporter of the Euro-Atlantic course, he would not be punished like this. But he did not put on such a mask and that is why he is getting punished. Emzar Kvitsiani is not pro-European, he is considered pro-Russian and that is why he was punished like a state criminal!"  
<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=45860>

OBIECTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
20 NOVEMBER

**TV VIEWER:** „This [keeping Emzar Kvitsiani under arrest] is a political decision, but this is not Ivanishvili's decision, but Norland's. Norland decides everything in Georgia".  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2455029](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2455029)

GEWORLD.GE,  
19 NOVEMBER

**VASIL CHICHINADZE, diplomat:** „You cannot invite American ambassador even to an opening of a booth. If we cannot make even a step without American ambassador, then let us agree that we are not independent."  
<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6311>

OBIECTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
18 NOVEMBER

**BONDO MDZINARASHVILI, anchor:** „Richard Norland told Interpressnews today... "We congratulate the Prime Minister with having a meeting with the NATO Secretary General," ... Naturally, when Mr. Norland is one of successful newsmakers and he is on TV every day, he allows himself to make such statements."  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2458368](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2458368)

OBIECTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,  
19 NOVEMBER

**TV VIEWER:** „These two keys [the system from the draft law about covert eavesdropping] have been sent from America and one big key is in America's pocket. Which two keys are you talking about?

**BONDO MDZINARASHVILI, anchor:** These are the casket keys, while the room key is in Americans' hands, of course.

**TV VIEWER:** The main key Americans have in Dighomi [US Embassy in Tbilisi]. Why did they need 5 hectares where they built such palaces?

... That key is in Dighomi and these two keys have been thrown at us like they throw a bone to a dog."  
[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2460599](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2460599)

continued on p. 9

## ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

OBIECTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 19 NOVEMBER

**TV VIEWER:** „This Norland’s revelry here is totally disgusting... why does it matter whether Russians kick us with boots or Americans...

**BONDO MDZINARASHVILI, anchor:** “They [NGOs] are in fact foreign states’ mercenaries in Georgia.

**TV VIEWER:** „The Georgians turned into whores.“

**BONDO MDZINARASHVILI, anchor:** „No, let’s not be that rude. They are agents who live here and are Georgian citizens... That is why they are so keen to take the eavesdropping rights from the state law enforcement agencies and to give it to the mobile operators established by a foreign country.”

[http://www.myvideo.ge/?video\\_id=2460600](http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2460600)

SAQINFOR, 17 NOVEMBER

**ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Saqinform:** „Saakashvili is a clown and very mentally ill person, who they will periodically brought from narcotic intoxication and give him ties for food, whenever they need to destabilize situation in the Caucasus again. Like staging another Maidan in Armenia and Azerbaijan, or hindering Russia in North Caucasus with saboteurs and terrorists, with whom he is so closely connected...

Rejection to join the Western economic sanctions against Russia made the West very angry. There were also made angry by Prime Minister Gharibashvili’s decision to stop cohabitation and launch investigation of the criminal cases against the previous government and Saakashvili personally, including the one about the 08.08.08 war, which may have strings going to Washington.“

[http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=21313:2014-11-17-07-09-54](http://saqinform.ge/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21313:2014-11-17-07-09-54)

**MDF WAS NAMED AS SUPPORTER OF TOLERANCE BY RELIGIOUS' COUNCIL OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

**Beginning from the p. 1**

The Council of National Minorities presented awards to: historian Gia Anchabadze; Leri Kha-



belov, member of the Georgian Parliament;

Suleiman Suleimanov, former Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper "Gurjistan", Council of Women of Georgia and Ethnic Minority-Language programme of the Georgian Public Broadcaster.

The Public Defender Ucha Nanuashvili and Acting Director of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Thomas Morris granted awards to the winners of the Journalist competition "Tolerance and Diversity".



The top prize was won by Eka Kukhalashvili for the article "'Sterile' Georgian historiography and textbooks without Muslim public fig-

ures" published in "Kutaisi post"; the second place went to journalist of the newspaper "Southern Gate" Tamar Uchidze for the article "Fight for a holy place"; and the third prize was awarded to Gela Mtvlishvili, Kakheti Information Centre for the article "Forbidden prayer" and Irma Kakhurashvili, "National Geographic" Magazine for the article "Georgian House of Muslims".

The International Day for Tolerance is marked every year as a reminder of the need for respect, dialogue and



cooperation between cultures and civilizations. The International Day for Tolerance was first marked in 1996 on the initiative of the UN General Assembly. On November 16, 1995, the UNESCO had adopted the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance.

