

NO TOPHOBIA!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND GEORGIAN DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

OBSERVATION OF THE WEEK

The following tendencies have been noted in the period of 24-30 November:

- Hate speech and calls for violence have been traditionally directed against the National Movement in the context of “restoration of justice”;
- Anti-Turkish sentiments were still relevant, expressed by the Patriots’ Alliance members, media union Obiektivi, internet portal Geworld.ge and other respondents. Besides the issues of land ownership, speculations on this topic concerned representing Turkey as an occupier analogous to Russia;
- Expressions of xenophobia were noted against Ossetians and Abkhazs by a TV anchor (Kavkasia TV), and against Armenians and Russians by a respondent;
- Unfounded claims about threats in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli were connected by a respondent to the EU grant program; also to selling land to foreigners;

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36, 24-30 NOVEMBER



RESPONSE

1 December

Non-Governmental Organizations Call on Rustavi 2 TV Company to Discuss Discrimination against Jehovah’s Witnesses in Self-Regulatory Body

The Media Development Foundation (MDF), the Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI), the Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI), and the Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC) have filed a complaint with the self-regulatory body of Rustavi 2 TV company, requiring that it consider violations of provisions of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters in the program *Nanuka’s Show* aired on 26 November, in which Jehovah’s Witnesses were discriminated.



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WWW.GDI.GE



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OBSERVATION OF THE WEEK

Beginning from p. 1

- Religious discrimination was mostly directed against the Jehovah's Witnesses and connected to the decision by a Rustavi 2 TV show Nichieri participant to change his belief;
- Homophobia was expressed by both journalists and respondents;
- Anti-Western sentiments were expressed by politicians, other respondents, and media representatives.



DAVID TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots' Alliance: "...we must demand prosecution of this regime... Those who support the Turkish invasion in Adjara, they still do it by their actions. Everyone have taken hold of the land, and Adjarians cannot do so even today."

HATE SPEECH

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
24-30 NOVEMBER

God, don't let them live and burn them in the air!"

LALI ANTIA, former prisoner: „The time when they shot at Misha [Saakashvili] in Zugdidi... I wish they killed that pig bug then, Georgia would survive and the country would not be destroyed..."

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
24-30 NOVEMBER

ROBERT STURUA, director: "Judahs, enemies of Georgians, surname-changed untalented breed [participants of the National Movement 15 November rally]! The day of your end has come!"

This narrow-eyed Jehovah's Witness Bokeria was a mortal enemy of Zurab Zhvania! This guy is created for hate and he will certainly be given what he deserves by the Almighty...

CALL FOR VIOLENCE

GEWORLD.GE, 26 NOVEMBER

ALEXANDER CHACHIA, political observer: "The people are almost ready to start lynching them, because the main promise of the Georgian Dream and its leader to restore justice has not been fulfilled."

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6333&lang=ge>

TURKOPHOBIA

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUIO,
26 NOVEMBER

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUIO,
27 NOVEMBER

DAVID TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots' Alliance: „This will be the rally when we must demand prosecution of this regime... Those who support the Turkish invasion in Adjara, they still do it by their actions. It is very difficult situation in Adjara in general. Everyone have taken hold of the land, and Adjarians cannot do so even today."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2461764

GIORGI MAGLAKELIDZE, Patriots' Alliance: „Events in Adjara demand great attention, especially the threats from Turkey, both demographic and economic expansion that is happening there."

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2460649

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TURKOPHOBIA

OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUIO,
27 NOVEMBER

BONDO MDZINARASHVILI, journalist:

„...[The National Movement] has done everything for the Georgian city of Batumi and Georgian region Adjara to become Turkish and to be threatened.“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2460644

OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUIO,
25 NOVEMBER

SOSO ZAALISHVILI, anchor: „On the one hand there is Russia, and on the other Turkey, and there is serious aggression against Georgia from both, and there is nothing unclear for me in the fact that now the Abkhazs have made this agreement with Russia...“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2459131

GEWORLD.GE, 26 NOVEMBER

EKA NASKIDASHVILI, journalist:

„Political observers think the hot region is Adjara, where because of the Turks getting bolder the local people have a great problem, there are even ethnic conflicts noted already, but Samtskhe-Javakheti is not a less problem-

atic territory, and about it they say that it is an “unplayrd card”.

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6327>

GEWORLD.GE, 26 NOVEMBER

LERI OKROMELIDZE, Aspindza resident: „In the past there were Dagestani invasions, now the Turkish one has started!

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6327>

GEWORLD.GE, 26 NOVEMBER

MERAB BLADADZE, an NGO representative:

„When an Turkish border guard comes to your border, sets dogs on you and steals cattle, and when this is an armed group, this is horrible.“

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6327>

OBIKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,
27 NOVEMBER

TV VIEWER: „Clearly, to press Russia about annexation, and applaud and hug Turkey, this would be absurd... Clearly, when they see we are a stupid nation and don't worry about the Turks, they will take what falls into their hands...“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2460655



DAVI AKUBARDIA, anchor: „Antsukhelidze overwhelmed with his mind that rats there, Ossetian rats...“

XENOPHOBIA

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 24 NOVEMBER

DAVI AKUBARDIA, anchor: „...Antsukhelidze case – this is a triumph of phenomenal courage and mind, Antsukhelidze overwhelmed with his mind that rats there, Ossetian rats...“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2457550

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 28 NOVEMBER

DAVID AKUBARDIA, anchor: „I met those Apsuas [Abkhazians] there. Forgive me, but I met boys and girls limited in their scale and view...“

I guess society must create the people who would set correct orientation. Nobody does this and they have this energy of self-destruction.“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2460782

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XENOPHOBIA

KAVKASIA, SPEKTRI, 28 NOVEMBER

IRAKLI MACHAVARIANI, former head of the multilateral control commission:

“...Armenia is playing the double game, and Armenians are sly people and this is a different thing...”

Russia wants everything!.. They are idiots. This is a sick nation... They have maniacal tamptation with enlarging their territory.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2461052

UNFOUNDED CLAIMS ABOUT THREATS

GEWORLD.GE, 26 NOVEMBER

GELA KHUTSISHVILI, retired colonel and former deputy commander of the border forces : „Today Samtskhe-

Javakheti is a dangerous region, because there are separatist sentiments. A council of municipalities has been created in Georgia, where are Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Marneuli and Ninotsminda; and from the Armenian side – “EuroArmenia region”. Maybe the idea is noble, they mean to expand Europe to the east, but it is dangerous to start such movement in this area.

Grants from the European Commission have started to come in and they mean developing common projects for Kvemo Kartli and Armenia’s Alaverdi. Those

who plan this don’t consider that there is mostly Azeri population in Bolnisi, Marneuli and Dmanisi.“

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6327>

GEWORLD.GE, 26 NOVEMBER

ALEXANDER CHACHIA, political observer: “Georgia that has lost territory and does not have a lot of land generally is still selling its lands to foreigners because of its government. And the people below the poverty line escape abroad to get their bread, because they cannot afford to cultivate land.”

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6333>

UNFOUNDED CLAIMS ABOUT ETHNIC IDENTITY

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 24-30 NOVEMBER

GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist: „Yes, Ivanishvili’s Georgia is shamed and humiliated, because Ter-Saakyan’s [Armenian surname] bloody butchers, instead of sitting in Gldani and Matrosovo [prisons], are comfortably in the Parliament and have the status of lawmakers!“

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RELIGIOUS DISKIMINATION

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
24-30 NOVEMBER

GEVORQ PETROSYAN, Nichieri TV show participant: „This is a sect [Jehovah’s Witnesses organization]. It does not matter if I continue to sing, I just wanted to show to the society that I died as a singer and as a person I got into a sect.“

PRIME TIME, 24 NOVEMBER

GEVORQ PETROSYAN, Nichieri TV show participant: „I got an opportunity to say loudly that the sect in which I was [Jehovah’s Witnesses] is malicious.“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
24-30 NOVEMBER

JABA KHUBUA, journalist: "Dear reader, just like Gevorq Petrosyan, because of poverty and desperation, how many honest people slipped into the Jehovah’s sect, in how many people this sect killed the talent, and took from them the opportunities to realize their abilities!..

HOMOPHOBIA

KVIRIS CHRONIKA,
24-30 NOVEMBER

SHALVA NATELASHVILI, Labor Party: „Historians will remember not that he [Bidzina Ivanishvili] built Trinity Cathedral, but that he had anti-discrimination law adopted and held a gay parade, at least he did not hinder it. And he will also be remembered for holding Kazantip.“

PRIME TIME, 24 NOVEMBER

SUIKO PAVLIASHVILI, former Minister of Property Management:

It seems the rumors about Bokeria being a member of the Jehovah’s sect are not that far from reality!"

NETGAZETI, 27 NOVEMBER

NANUKA ZHORZHOLIANI, journalist: "Are not the Jehovah’s Witnesses are aggressive, lest they attack me"... "...Can you give me the word that Jehovah’s Witnesses won’t attack me here ", "...You did well to leave them", "...Jehovah’s Witnesses, are they brainwashed?", "...to recruit [into Orthodox Christianity] is a wrong word, it is to convert", "...I am very afraid lest they hypnotize me".

<http://www.netgazeti.ge/GE/105/News/38813/htm>

GEWORLD.GE, 26 NOVEMBER

DAVID MKHEIDZE, author: „His Holiness is the Patriarch of Orthodox Georgians, not of Jehovah heretics!“

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6335>



JABA KHUBUA, journalist: "...how many honest people slipped into the Jehovah’s sect, in how many people this sect killed the talent, and took from them the opportunities to realize their abilities!"

“Master” [a rapper, Pavliashvili’s son] does not fight against USA or demand anyone’s persecution, he just says what the majority of society has to say, the [LGBT] propaganda must not exist, otherwise everyone can live as they want.

EKA CHIKVAIDZE, journalist: If you think this way, why did not you go to Rustaveli in 17 May last year with a stool?"

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HOMOPHOBIA

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 24-30 NOVEMBER

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: „Our pseudo-human liberasts [combination of liberal and pederast] are trying to convince the citizens of Georgia in the following: that Armenia has a bad human-hating government and so Armenians, who trust their government, are human-hating!

And this just because they don't like pederasts in Armenia and they don't want gay parades!”

GENDER STEREOTYPES

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 24-30 NOVEMBER

NINO GODZIASHVILI, journalist: „What kind of woman is successful? They one who got lucky and has a good husband, or is she a magician? What can a member of the weak sex do, when she has not a man by her side?“



NINO BURJANADZE, Burjanadze-United Opposition: „...but this does not mean we must be ruled by Washington just like we used to be ruled from Moscow during USSR.”

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

OBIEKTIVI, NIGT STUDIO,
26 NOVEMBER

DAVID TARKHAN-MOURAVI, Patriots' Alliance: „How can they [NATO] help us? They won't even open that training centers were we are supposed to train some rebels, and the situation in Abkhazia will change tragically...

America, Europe and Russia will make war between themselves at the Ukrainians' expense, or they will in Georgia, and so far this has always ended tragically in Georgia...

When empires fight each other, do they lose anything? Did America lose any of its states? No. Did Europe lose anything? No. Russia even got something. These empires fight between themselves, countries like Georgia disintegrate and then disappear from the map.“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2461726
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2461768

REPORTIORI, 27 NOVEMBER

IRMA INASHVILI, Patriots' Alliance: „Some would exchange the lands for

NATO. “We should join it, and let it be only Tbilisi and Mtskheta: - that is how they think. I want NATO, I want technologies and military aid, but I want it with my country's lands, not without the territories... And this is not going to happen.”

<http://www.reportiori.ge/?menuid=3&id=46598>

PIRVELI, 26 NOVEMBER

NINO BURJANADZE, Burjanadze-United Opposition: „One thing is when exchange a great lot for the illusionary membership of NATO, another is relations with the West... We must have good neighborly relations with the West, but this does not mean we must be ruled by Washington just like we used to be ruled from Moscow during USSR. If Georgia is independent, it should not be ruled from either Washington, Brussels, Moscow, or any other foreign capital ”.

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=28930&lang=geo

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ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

**PRIME TIME,
24 NOVEMBER**

KAKHKA TARGAMADZE, former Minister of Internal Affairs:

„Misha’s American uncles wanted war between Russia and Georgia, and all this happened because I did not let them do it...

What happened was wanted by American intelligence services. The Americans wanted Russians to recognize Abkhazia and Ossetia... Misha followed instructions from these countries.“

**OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT
STUDIO, 28 NOVEMBER**

PETRE MAMRADZE, former head of the Government Chancellery:

„I have said to American friends, political scientists and diplomats that Obama does not criticize Putin because of Crimea too much, compared to how he criticized him prior to the Sochi Olympics because of LGBT sexual minorities rights.“

http://www.mvvideo.ge/?video_id=2461240

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
24-30 NOVEMBER**

GIVI SIKHARULIDZE, actor: „Bold authorship based on immorality – it

may be written by Chinese, Germans, Nigerians, Americans and others... We Georgians are a small people that can survive only because of morality and honesty...

They want to corrupt small countries, but no country will witness corruption of Georgia! When a man minister married another man in Germany and Chancellor Angela Merkel congratulated him for the world to see, I said what right does Merkel now has to tell anything about morals in her country. A person that has gone against God should not speak about morals! For me, the whole Europe has become a place of immorality! I hate their parades.“

**GEWORLD.GE,
26 NOVEMBER**

ALEXANDER CHACHIA, political observer living in Moscow: „Violent attack against Georgian Orthodox Church started at the beginning of the Revolution of Roses, when the doors of the church in Gldani was broken by a truck by the godless Nationals, and then the believers were brutally beaten. This violent struggle, which is supported and financed by the so called globalists, is still going on. They attack Georgian Patriarch, fight against Orthodox

Christianity, so that they take from the Georgian people the basis it has been standing on until now.“

<http://geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6333>

**ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
24-30 NOVEMBER**

MIKHEIL TSAGARELI, astrologist: „Praise Europe – but why does it matter, has our economy recovered or our lands been returned to us?“

**OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT
STUDIO, 25 NOVEMBER**

TV VIEWER: „I am Russia supporter, and even of Putin, because of America’s policy, this disgusting double policy... These 25 years it has put us through the hell, America and the West, now we must judge ourselves.“

http://www.mvvideo.ge/?video_id=2459138

**OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT
STUDIO, 28 NOVEMBER**

TV VIEWER: „And now the West, some forces in the West need to use us against Russia, and cause some crises, because of which they will sanction Russia and some countries will get billions out of this, don’t you feel this is very harmful and even deadly for us.“

http://www.mvvideo.ge/?video_id=2461245

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ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Beginning from p. 7

KVIRIS CHRONIKA,
24-30 NOVEMBER

MAMISA JAPARASHVILI, Iverians'

Union: „It is time for the whole system to change, enough of the government controlled by Soros and Norlands, and I call on both Soros and Norland – get out of our country, let us Georgians rule our own country!“

KVIRIS CHRONIKA,
24-30 NOVEMBER

NANA DEVDARIANI, Global Researches Center: „Let Norland seek humanism in Unites States... Let him ask why did Bush allow torture of terrorist prisoners, while all international laws prohibit torture !“

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
24-30 NOVEMBER

HAMLET CHIPASHVILI, political observer: „These are the people who have turned Georgia in Western slave, colony over these 20 years, under instructions of the Western politicians and together with them.“

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,
30 NOVEMBER

HAMLET CHIPASHVILI, political observer: „Nobody knows what these embassies are doing... Who will be against this railroad? The USA are of course...“

As to the plans to create this NATO training center here – this is very serious. Not just the Russian factor must be considered here, but also Iranian factor... Iran is more sovereign and independent that all 28 countries of Europe.“

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2461840

ASAVAL-DASAVALI,
24-30 NOVEMBER

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, Saqin-

form: „Always, when the present government says that NATO and EU are the choice of the Georgian people, not Georgian politicians, it loses its rating in the eyes of the Georgian society and gets equalized with Saakashvili's regime. The fact is the people cannot remember when did they decide in favor of NATO and EU...“

KVIRIS CHRONIKA,
24-30 NOVEMBER

GELA ZEDELASHVILI, journalist:

„So we signed this agreement [Association] just to make our hard life even harder...“

Taking garlic in and out happens mutually it will be like two years ago, when Arabs or Iranians took all garlic from Georgia, then brought in Iranian and let us eat that trash...

Yes, don't think sighing association agreement is like eating lobio [bean], soon they will count even our forks and spoons, so that they have real data. If they count asses of chicken and turkey, soon they will count our fingers and toes. This is an obligation people?!“

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ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 24-30 NOVEMBER

GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist: "Yes, in our place a society with dignity would stand up and get rid of Usupashvili, who tells us they need 20 more years to fully corrupt Georgia with the money of the dog-faced Soros "...

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 24-30 NOVEMBER

GIORGI JIKIASHVILI, journalist: „Unfortunately, the West now needs a clown like this [Mikheil Saakashvili] in the Georgian government.“

KVIRIS CHRONIKA, 24-30 NOVEMBER

LEVAN JAVAKHISHVILI, journalist: „This American ambassador Richard Norland pops up like Aunt Vasasi and puts his red nose into everything. Norland diplomatically hinted that it would be best for the keys to be in the courts' hands, saying it is so in America... Now, they illegally eavesdrop in the whole world, and do you believe that if American intelligence services need so, they will not listen to their own citizens?“

RESPONSE

Beginning from p. 1

The authors of the complaint welcome the fact of Rustavi 2 management apologizing for the incident in the program, which indicates about an accountable approach of the company; however, they note that “it is important to consider this case on the basis of Code of Conduct for Broadcasters within the self-regulation format and to become fully aware of the company’s responsibility in order to prevent such incidents in future from being perceived as accidental mistakes alone and something that independent studios bear responsibility for.”

Since the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters, according to Article 1.3 of the document, shall be observed by a broadcaster, not an outside entity producing content for the broadcaster, the non-governmental organizations recommend Rustavi 2 TV company “to incorporate the obligation to observe requirements

of the Code in the contracts entered into with independent studios whom they outsource programs in order to facilitate the efficient implementation of the Code of Conduct and avoid such incidents in future.”

Moreover, the complaint includes other violations of the Code of Conduct:

“Apart from repeated references to Jehovah’s Witnesses in a negative light, the presenter of the program expressed her personal attitude in assessing the change of faith by a guest of the program - which is a matter of individual choice - as a positive development (‘I am afraid of them [Jehovah’s Witnesses]... It is good that you abandoned them’),” the complaint states noting that this is the violation of Article 17.2 of the Code which sets forth requirements for presenters of authored programs.

The authors of the complaint also

believe that the program breached the principle of fair treatment (Article 21): “when a respondent uses media for attacking another person or group, the presenter should not only refrain from further inciting negative sentiments and unconditionally agreeing to respondent’s attitudes, but should challenge him/her, especially when it concerns a vulnerable group and even more so, refers to a minor in this context.”

The non-governmental organizations also ask Rustavi 2’s self-regulatory body for considering the breaches of Articles 31, 32 and 33 of the Code of Conduct for Broadcasters, which regulate issues of diversity, equality and tolerance and aim at preventing media from building stereotypes and encouraging intolerance towards people with different identities.