

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 1-7 December, 2014:

- Hate speech was directed against the members of *National Movement* and against those people who are loyal towards Russia;
- Turkophobic statements were made by the representatives of *People's Assembly*, *People's Party* and by former members of the parliament. Those sentiments were actively publicized by the media union *Obiektivi*;
- Child prostitution was unfoundedly attributed to the certain ethnic identity by *Kviris Palitra* Portal;
- Religious discrimination was mostly observed among the respondents;
- Unfounded attribution of sexual identity in negative context were made by the journalists (Newspaper *Asaval Dasavali*, *Kviris Qronika*) as well as by the respondents (Elizbar Javelidze, *People's Assembly*);
- Homophobic sentiments were expressed by respondents (Hamlet Chipashvili, political analyst), also by a journalist (Newspaper *Asaval-Dasavali*);
- Anti-Western sentiments were expressed and misleadingly connected with LGBT rights, territorial integrity, social problems and with some other issues.

37, 1-7 DECEMBER



PETITION

2 DECEMBER

NGOs and religious organizations demand from the parliament to respond on the cases of religious intolerance

On December 2, the non-governmental organizations and religious associations addressed the Georgian parliament with a Petition requesting to study the recent cases of religious violence and intolerance. The signatory organizations address the Parliament with a request to ensure parliamentary control over the government's policy and take adequate and timely reaction on recent cases of violation of freedom of religion (including the cases of religious violence and intolerance revealed in Kobuleti, Terjola, Mokhe) for the purpose of preventing violence triggered by religious hatred and to revise the ineffective policy of Georgia's government in that regard.

Continued on p. 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hate speech	2
Turkophobia	2
Xenophobia	3
Unfounded assertion of ethnic identity	3
Religious discrimination	3
Unfounded statements about sexual identity	4
3Homophobia	4
Anti-Western sentiments	5-6

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HATE SPEECH

ASAVAL DASAVALI, 1-7 DECEMBER

LALI ANTIA, former prisoner: “We should act exactly as [David] Bakradze hailed during the war; we should come out with our hoes, spades, spoons and forks, we should beat them up [representatives of *National Movement*] until they are crippled!.. This Gogorishvili, the walking corps, because of her the fish is extinct in the Holy river of Jordan!”

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 1-7 DECEMBER

OTAR KOBERIDZE, Actor: ”I have said it before, about those who go to Russia and kneel in front of them, who speak to them softly and sing for them...they all have to be hanged. Newspapers severely criticized me for that statement...but yes, one should beat them with a stick, pull their pants down and then beat them on their backs, so that they are unable to sit for a while.”

TURKOPHOBIA

OBIEKTIVI, 1 DECEMBER

VALERI GELBAKHIANI, former member of the parliament: “I was being stopped by people in the streets, pleading for help, saying that Batumi has turned into a Turkish city... This is an extremely dangerous process ...By all means; we have to take security measures about this issue. Whole Batumi population has turned into Turks starting from 2004 to 2010. When 150 000 people enters the country it is called an expansion.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2462247
http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2462274

OBIEKTIVI, Night Studio, 1 DECEMBER

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People’s Assembly: “Adjara is predestined. When 150 000 Turks come out on the streets, it will be uncontrollable. Then you will have to stand against the Turkish army. They will simply enter the country to establish order here... What stops them now is the *Kars Agreement*.”

VALIERIAN GELBAKHIANI, former member of the parliament: “The *Kars Agree-*

ment expired in 2018... we will not need any *Kars Agreement* by that time, since it will already be Turkey here.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2462282

OBIEKTIVI, Night Studio, 1 DECEMBER

MAMUKA GIORGADZE, People’s Party: “Speaking of construction of the new mosque in Batumi, we have to consider one detail which is inspired by Turkey and it is extremely humiliating, I am sure each of us feels terrible about this. The reason of constructing the new Mosque in Batumi is that the Turkish population who has arrived in Batumi would not wish to pray together with local Georgian Muslims, not that they don’t have place to pray, they feel themselves superior to pray with locals and they try to distance themselves.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2462280

ALIA, 3 DECEMBER

TITLE: “Why did Turkey decreased the level of the river Mktvari, why are not they punished for that?”



**VALERI GEL-
BAKHIANI, former mem-
ber of the parliament:** “This is an extremely dangerous process ...By all means; we have to take security measures about this issue. Whole Batumi population has turned into Turks starting from 2004 to 2010. When 150 000 people enters the country it is called an expansion.”

XENOPHOBIA

SAKINFORMI, 5 DECEMBER

LADO SADGHOBELASHVILI, *Free Generation*: “On one hand we have an enemy from the North, that Deprive us of our sovereignty and does not respect our territorial integrity. On the other hand we have an enemy – Ukraine, since the Ukrainians are in confrontation with all those people, who did not accept the violent government in 2012!”

<http://bit.ly/1yzJ9lM>

UNFOUNDED ASSERTION OF ETHNIC IDENTITY

KVIRIS PALITRA.GE, 2 DECEMBER

An interview concerning the problem of child prostitution covers several facts based on sole source. All facts is generalized and linked just to Iranians without any justification. It attributes the problem of child prostitution in Georgia to one ethnic group and a questionable assumption is stated as an established fact.

Title: “The Iranian, who was involved in child prostitution in Georgia, was expelled

from the country by the Iranian Embassy here.”

<http://www.kvirispalitra.ge/public/23492-iraneli-romelic-savaraudod-bavshvtha-prostitucias-etsoda-iranis-sakonsulom-saqarthvelodan-gaadzeva.html>

ASAVAL –DASAVALI,
1-7 DECEMBER

LADO SADGHOBELASHVILI, *Free Generation*: “Down with the library of Saakian!”

SAKINFORMI, 1 DECEMBER

Title: “Avakian has “sent” Saakian out”...
<http://bit.ly/1CoYCJd>

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO, 3 DECEMBER

DAVIT TEVDORADZE, writer: “They [Muslims] are involved in other obscure affairs, what they call their business. The problem is not necessarily the lack of space in the mosques, as they demand.... there are several villages nearby Batumi with 15 mosques there. If they are true Muslims, why don't they go and pray there. nobody would object that?! But we have to fight against this; most importantly the government with law enforcement authorities should not allow any foreign capital.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2463574

ASAVAL –DASAVALI, 1-7 DECEMBER

GEVORQ PETROSIAN, Participant of the show “Talent”: „ I have consolidated my powers to get involved in this project with the aim to save my child, because the sect that I was a member of (Jehovah witnesses) is very harmful.”

PIRVELI, 5 DECEMBER

ARCHIL KACIASHVILI, head of *Young Advocates*: “The request of our constitutional agreement will never be fulfilled, until the school principals have an authority to decide, weather to deliver or not Orthodoxy lessons at the public schools. Violation of Constitutional rights of our citizens' will carry on. The representatives of the religious majority will not have a possibility to receive religious education. The threats that we our society is facing today, that has derived from religious incompetency will aggravate.”

http://pia.ge/show_news.php?id=29617

UNFOUNDED ATTRIBUTION OF SEXUAL IDENTITY

ASAVAL –DASAVALI,
1-7 DECEMBER

DITO CHUBINIDZE, journalist: “I can imagine the reaction of Davit Sakvarelidze the heart-breaker of all the women, if he had read the facebook status of transgender Giorgi Chkhartishvili, same as “Matsatso” addressing to his grandson – Davit Sakvarelidze Junior, who is the corporal of Saakashvili’s Nazi sect. I am sure his grandfather would have gone insane, walking around with the gun in the streets...

It is said, that nature relaxes while making the descendents of great people!”

OBIEKTIVI, 1 DECEMBER

ELIZBAR JAVELIDZE, People’s Assembly: “What is the name of our former prosecutor,

who was the chairmen of LGBT group? are they planning to assign him as the Prime minister? Is not it a shame for Georgia? They are planning to elect [Zurab] Adeishvili. Am I right or not?”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2462300

KVIRIS QRONIKA, 1-7 DECEMBER

GIORGIO JIQIASHVILI, journalist: “This Jajanidze [anchor of *Imedi* TV] with unidentified sexual orientation... just to take his appearance and the manner of speaking is already a debauchery...

If people could act properly, they would not have allowed his appearance in the street, not to mention on television.”

HOMOPHOBIA

ASAVAL –DASAVALI, 1-7 DECEMBER

HAMLET CHIPASHVILI, political scientist: “I fully agree with the president of Russia, who has legally banned the propaganda of gays!

I don’t and will never like the backwards way of life of pederasts and lesbians, but I am a normal person, so I have to face their existence...

Act now you chick men and male females, but without any commercials and propagation!”

ASAVAL –DASAVALI, 1-7 DECEMBER

GIORGI GIGAURI, journalist: “If you take LGPB ideology as normal and if you accept marriage of men with men (or female with female), this means open support of *National Movement!*”

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

ASAVAL –DASAVALI,
1-7 DECEMBER

HAMLET CHIPASHVILI, political scientists: “This is not to be Europeans, this is to be a pederasts!...

Today the face of Europe is not Volter or Theodor Dreiser anymore, today their brand is Konchita!.. For me the real Europeans are those Frenchmen, for whom gay parade is unacceptable!

Arrogant *liberast* Georgians have assumed that the way towards Europe goes through anus, this is the “value” that they try to propagate!..

By the way, this absurd phrase that used to sound like this: “I am Georgian, and therefore I am European”; in today’s reality it has transformed this way: “I am a pederast, and therefore I am European!”.

The formation of “Islam State” is in progress at the near east, the creators openly state that their aim is to save the world from immoral and pederast Europe!”...

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 1-7 DECEMBER

NANA DEVDARIANI, GLOBAL RESEARCH CENTER: “Why can’t Norland take care of Humanism in Unites States... let him be curious about why Bush allowed the torture of terrorist prisoners, while all the international laws prohibit torture!... Georgia is not a reservation camp for their prisoners.”

ASAVAL-DASAVALI, 1-7 DECEMBER

LEVAN MAMALADZE, former Governor: “It has to be noted directly

that it is not in interest of America to announcing Saaakashvili on wanted list. America’s interests are obvious in affairs of Samachablo and the issue of ammunitions.”

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STURIO,
7 DECEMBER

IRAKLI UBILABA, Political Club: “They intend to kill the nation state in the international system... sending the troops of great Georgian reformers to Kiev serves that purpose... they all have one headquarters – they are all directed from Washington” ...

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2465867

OBIEKTIVI, NIGHT STUDIO,
7 DECEMBER

AKAKI JORJADZE, writer, political unity “Mdzleveli”: “This democracy hides in itself the monster that fools and degrades our people and leads them to death...”

As if he loved you and can’t sleep at nights thinking of you, in reality the only intention he has is your demolition...when they enter there for praying, their thoughts are about killing the locals and tearing the hearts out of good Christians.”

http://www.myvideo.ge/?video_id=2465962



HAMLET CHIPASHVILI, political scientists: “This is not how Europeans are, this is how pederasts are!...

By the way, this absurd phrase that used to sound like this: “I am Georgian, and therefore I am European”; in today’s reality it has transformed this way: “I am a pederast, and therefore I am European!”.

Continued on p. 6

ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENTS

Continued from p. 5

ALIA, 4 DECEMBER

ARCHIMANDRITE, ANTHIMOZ: “America-Europe has revitalized the devastated Turkey with the population of 60 million people in 5 years. They either don’t need Georgia, or they need us to be hungry.”

KVIRIS PALITRA, 1-7 DECEMBER

GIORGI JIQIASHVILI, journalist: “ America that has announced itself as a strategic partner, could yield nothing then water and diapers [During the 2008 war] ... Exactly, Georgia does not need any Europe or America with their blocs and alliances.”

GEOWORLD.GE, 5 DECEMBER

ZURAB TSUTSKIRIDZE, author: “ Who will let you in the house called *European Union*?! If you manage to enter it, you will have to leave your morality and values outside. Who will want to enter that “house” where men to men marriage is hailed and were it is normal for sister and brother and mother and her child to have sex with each other (God forbid)!

Only the physically and spiritually defected people would want to enter there.”

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6357&lang=ge>

GEOWORLD.GE, 4 DECEMBER

“East was unable to handle [Eastern Europe countries] the standards accepted by the West, for example: same-sex marriage and the rest of abnormalities”.

<http://www.geworld.ge/View.php?ArtId=6355&lang=ge>

GEOWORLD.GE, 3 DECEMBER

ALEXANDRE CHACHIA, political scientist:

” It has been 20 years, since it is under the influence one power as a puppet. As a result of this we have lost territories, people below poverty and moral degradation of the society...

We are picking the fruits of US influence that lasted for 9 years during the National *Movements*’ rule. – Education system, culture and science is destroyed, dozens of young people shot in the streets, several people have lost their property. We have billions of foreign debt that has to be paid off by next generation... and lost territories due to confrontations with Russia. “

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

GEOWORLD.GE, 5 DECEMBER

PETRE MAMRADZE, former head of the

state chancellor: “God forbid adoption of MAP!.. they can keep on working on this, if they want to lose the remaining territories and turn the country into a banana republic without bananas.”

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

SAKINFORMI, 1 DECEMBER

ARNO KHIDIRBEGISHVILI, chief editor of

Sakinformi “Unfortunately for Georgia this [Success in the process integration in Euro Atlantic structures] means rapid growth of prices, coldness, hunger and frequent electricity cuts.”

<http://bit.ly/1ukPS1t>

PETITION

Continued from p. 1

As it is noted in the petition, the government is not responding adequately to the manifestations of religious extremism and it does not ensure the prevention of violation coming from individuals as well as effective investigation. According to the document, in most cases government makes discriminatory decisions, as current practice demonstrates that the state usually refrains from the use of legal and repressive mechanisms in those cases when the representatives of Orthodox congregation are committing religious violence or persecution, however, in opposition to that, its methods are repressive towards religious minorities, which were revealed during the police operation in the villages of Chela and Mokhe. Petition indicates on violation of the principle of institutional independence of the investigation as investigation of these aforementioned cases are conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, despite of substantiated appeals and complaints by the victims, rather than the Prosecutor's Office.

The signatory organizations critically assess the policy implemented by the State Agency on Religious Affairs and say that its intervention has not led to any tangible results in terms of solving existing problems.

Signatory organizations address the Parliament to review this petition under the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament and ensure its public dis-

cussion and ensure parliamentary control over the activities of executive branch, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor's Office, the State Agency on Religious Affairs and of relevant local municipalities.

Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC);

Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI);

Media Development Foundation (MDF);

Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI);

Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA);

Evangelical-Baptist Church;

Evangelical Faith Church;

Evangelical-Protestant Church;

Yazidi Spiritual Council;

Catholic Church;

Georgian Muslims Union;

Seventh-day Adventist Church;

Samtskhe-Javakheti Mufti;

Mufti of Karli region;

Mufti of Khulo;

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Holy church in Georgia.