

# GRASS Disinfo Brief: Putin's War of Choice

13 June – 19 June

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# Ukraine War Disinfo Narratives in Georgia

## 13-19 June

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### EU Commission Decision Spurs Propaganda Wave

June 17 was a day of historic importance for Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, previously known as the Associated Trio, as the EU Commission was due to announce its opinions on the bid of the three states to join the EU and everyone waited in anticipation.

The EU Commission decided to recommend granting candidate status for Ukraine and Moldova whilst it only recommended a European perspective for Georgia and provided a to-do list comprised of requirements to reach candidate status.

This development was a primary issue for propaganda and disinformation in the previous week.

Regarding Ukraine:

- [According](#) to Alt-Info, Europe is granting Ukraine candidate status in order to force it to make territorial concessions because Russia is winning the war. The pro-Russian outlet also claimed that despite being granted EU candidate status, there is a question as to what part of Ukraine will be able to join the Union because it will definitely lose territory and its borders will be redrawn. Alt-Info asserted that Ukraine would not be able to retake its lost territories and signalled that a catastrophe is looming on the horizon for Ukraine due to its massive losses. Moreover, as per Alt-Info's information, there is a blame game going on between Ukraine's political and military leadership – in addition to each other, they are also shifting blame to the West.

- Alt-Info even managed to connect the dots between granting EU candidate status to Ukraine and the West's "desire" to prolong the war. [According](#) to the pro-Russian platform, Europe has given candidate status to Ukraine to encourage Ukraine to fight and die for several more months. Alt-Info concluded that by granting candidate status to Ukraine, the EU had made an immoral decision because, consequently, it is prolonging the war by discouraging Ukraine from negotiating.

Regarding Georgia, fearmongering about the risk of the war expanding into Georgia has remained a key tool in the propaganda arsenal. As reported in the previous issue of the [GRASS Disinfo Brief](#), the Georgian Dream (GD) government found a new scapegoat – the EU – in order to justify their political failures. At that time, the GD was in a war of rhetoric with the European Parliament for its critical resolution toward Georgia. However, this time, GD leaders went a step ahead and reached a new milestone in employing the same narrative to downplay their governmental responsibility. Prime Minister Gharibashvili [stated](#) before the Commission's decision (and after the European Parliament's resolution) that "if granting candidate status is decided by being at war, then we do not want war." [According](#) to the MP and Regional Secretary and member of the political council of the Georgian Dream, Dimitri Samkharadze, the EU Commission would have granted candidate status to Georgia if Georgia had started the war. However, he proclaimed that there would be no war and no revolution orchestrated by the United National Movement (the largest opposition political party). [Prime Minister Gharibashvili](#), the [Mayor of Tbilisi and the General Secretary of the GD, Kakha Kaladze](#), and [GD Chairman and Leader of the Parliamentary Majority, Irakli Kobakhidze](#), entertained the idea that Georgia was punished and not granted the EU candidate status due to not [starting a war](#), imposing [sanctions](#) and opening a second front against Russia.

Against the backdrop of the government virally circulating such messages, almost all major disinformation and propaganda sources did not miss the opportunity to utilise the fertile

grounds and followed suit. Soon, the narrative became the most prevalent in the Georgian propaganda eco-system:

- Seven propaganda cases with almost 4,700 interactions and 19,000 views suggested that the West/Ukraine/Georgian opposition parties seek to open a second front against Russia in Georgia.
- Fourteen propaganda cases (from June 17 to June 19) were identified with almost 8,500 interactions and nearly 50,000 views, claiming that Georgia did not get EU candidate status due to not opening a second front against Russia.

Some sources developed a conspiracy theory based on the narrative that Georgia was not granted candidate status because it had not joined the war. According to the conspiracy, by this refusal, the EU seeks to destabilise Georgia, create tensions and, as a result, provoke a war in Georgia, eventually opening a second front against Russia. There was also a message that the West punished Georgia for not imposing sanctions on Russia.

Some [propagandists](#) thanked Prime Minister Gharibashvili for not opening a second front against Russia and [stated](#) that despite the EU punishing Georgia by rejecting to grant candidate status, the most critical fact is that Russian bombs are not falling on Georgia.

## **European Path is Closed, but There Are Alternatives - Claims Pro-Russian Disinformation**

After disinformation and propaganda sources linked any possibility of joining the EU with opening a second front against Russia, something Georgia has repeatedly refused to do and, consequently, for which it received punishment (as per propaganda outlets), propaganda

sources say that the EU has finally [rejected](#) Georgia. They offered some "guidelines" (sometimes mutually exclusive) for Georgia's future foreign policy course:

- For instance, Isari.ge [claimed](#) that Georgian's aspiration to join the EU is nonsense because the Euro-Atlantic space is waging a proxy war with Russia at the hands of the Ukrainians.
- Some Facebook accounts were even satisfied with the decision of the European Commission. As they [claimed](#) after the decision, Georgia is no longer obliged to support Ukraine and tolerate insults stemming from the Ukrainian government. The same narrative was amplified by the anti-Western online media – MarshalPress, which [stated](#) that the refusal from the European Commission had opened the window of opportunity for Georgia to strengthen its sovereignty. MarshalPress also indicated that it was time for a change and suggested that Georgia should renew its trade partnership with Russia and bring more profits to Georgia's economy. MarshalPress stated that some of the EU's greedy member states were already engaged in this practice but the directives of low-ranking Brussels officials hindered Georgia and now the Georgian government got a chance to put the country's interests ahead of Europe's.
- Some argued that Georgia did not get EU candidate status due to Ukraine advocating against it. Particularly, it was [stated](#) in the Protest Facebook group that Arahamia (a high-ranking Ukrainian MP and lead negotiator with Russia) confessed that Ukraine was negotiating with the US and Europe to sanction Bidzina Ivanishvili (former PM and founder of the ruling Georgian Dream party, currently allegedly an oligarch ruling from the shadows). According to disinformation, Ukraine even demanded that Georgia not be granted candidate status in order to cause chaos in the country and open up a way for the opposition to organise a coup d'état and overthrow the government. Soso Manjavidze, a pro-Russian "expert," [claimed](#) that the Ukrainian government is

insulting the Georgian government. These messages are intended to suggest that Georgia should cut any support to the Ukrainian government.

- One of the leaders of the Alliance of Patriots (AoP), Malkhaz Topuria, [argued](#) on the air of its affiliated TV Obieqtivi that Georgia's EU and NATO aspirations are enshrined in a single article of the constitution and that equating the EU and NATO is a mistake. It should be mentioned that despite some anti-Western statements, the pro-Russian AoP publicly supports EU integration but persistently promotes the anti-NATO narrative. Topuria urged removing an article about NATO aspiration from the constitution by recalling the periods of Georgian history when the country was not pursuing NATO membership.
- A guest of Alt-info [claimed](#) that the Georgian Primer Minister should publicly say no to NATO and that Georgia should start actual and meaningful negotiations with Russia (probably on some sort of alignment). He envisaged a scenario when Georgia would be forced to start negotiations with Russia due to Russia's inevitable victory over Ukraine, suggesting that Georgia start talks as soon as possible. Alt-Info has also [voiced](#) an anti-Ukrainian and anti-US tone.

## Fighting Against Nazism Never Ends

Russian propaganda keeps fighting windmills by inventing the enemy in order to unite Russia's population and Russia-sympathisers worldwide, particularly in its neighbourhood, toward a common cause. Namely, pro-Russian sources are using Nazism, an unforgotten foe since WW2, to construct an icon of the enemy:

- Pro-Russian outlets [Georgia and the World](#), [News Front](#) and [Dalma News](#) circulated an interview with the Director of Russia's proxy Eurasian Institute, Gulbaat Rtskhiladze. Rtskhiladze noted that Russia retains superiority in the ongoing war. The interviewer and the respondent focused on imprisoned Azov Battalion members, currently PoWs, and claimed that they confessed their allegiance to Nazi ideology and even admitted that they were killing prisoners. According to Rtskhiladze, other elements of the Ukrainian armed forces have also committed war crimes. Rtskhiladze also parroted the message that Ukraine has been targeting civilians in the cities of Donbas with artillery bombardments and is continuing this practice in order to inflict as much damage to the region as possible before eventually losing the battle of Donbas and thus losing the opportunity to further shell the area.
- In his show on TV Obieqtivi, *Who Wants Peace*, retired General Guram Nikolaishvili, running for Parliament in the pro-Russian Alliance of Patriots in 2020, [discussed](#) the ongoing war with retired Lieutenant-General Giorgi Sharvashidze. Using former high-ranking officials or so-called experts is an established practice on TV Obieqtivi in order to whitewash their disinformation narratives and make them seem more valid in the public eye. Lieutenant-General Sharvashidze underlined that Russia has the upper hand and is successfully carrying out the task of the de-Nazification of Ukraine as if Ukraine were ruled by Nazis and needed to be liberated from their grip. Sharvashidze articulated Russia's position of justifying its unprovoked war that Russia was fighting against Nazism and fascism in Ukraine and stressed that de-Nazification and demilitarisation are essential prerequisites to be met in order to end the war.

## Military Situation on the Ground through Kremlin Lenses

The Ukrainian and the Russian armed forces are locked in a deadly fight in Donbas for every inch of land. Despite no significant advances of the Russia's military since last week, Russian propaganda has doubled down on its triumphant tone. Indeed, Kremlin proxies now seem confident in their inevitable victory and are trying to ensure that the public is also convinced of this axiom. The sub-narrative that Ukraine is losing the war accumulated over 6,000 interactions. Alt-Info has been notoriously active in this endeavour. Other Russian proxies have even [organised](#) a small-scale rally against Ukraine, denouncing Ukrainian leadership and promoting the “Z” symbol.

- [According](#) to the pro-Russian channel Alt-Info, the decision of Ukraine to fight a full-scale war against the Russian invasion was unwise and unpragmatic because if Ukraine had not resisted Russia, it would not have lost more territory, industrial potential, etc. Instead, Alt-Info argued that Ukraine chose to fight for Zelensky's government's personal well-being and for the abstract perspective of joining NATO. Moreover, Alt-Info argued that Ukraine has almost exhausted its military and mobilisation potential and hence is losing the war and will lose even more territory, not only Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson, but Kharkiv as well.
- Alt-Info's [description](#) of the battlefield is as follows: Russia has a considerable advantage in terms of artillery and hence, Russian forces are enjoying a significant superiority over Ukraine. Consequently, they are destroying Ukrainian positions, killing Ukrainian soldiers and taking over new territories.
- The pro-Russian analytical website - Isari.ge [furthered](#) the message that Ukraine would not be able to retake lost territory and decided to say what "Georgian people do not

know" - namely, that provisional administrations, the Russian rouble and Russian TV programs are already operating in the Russian-occupied territories and that the locals have lined up to obtain Russian citizenship. This message aimed to kill the hope in the public that Ukraine would take back its lost territories and persuade society that the annexation process is underway with the consent of the local population. To strengthen the storyline, Isari.ge added that some Ukrainians are selling the goods delivered in the framework of humanitarian aid on the black market, including the humanitarian assistance supplied from Georgia. To vilify the West, Isari.ge also made a scandalous claim that President Zelensky personally and his team are receiving 200 million USD from the West to continue waging the war with the aim of exhausting Russia militarily and economically and eventually defeating it.

- Pro-Russian outlets [Georgia and the World](#), [News Front](#) and [Dalma News](#) based on Gulbaat Rtskhiladze reasoned that we are witnessing a turning point in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. According to them, the Russian armed forces are achieving a decisive advantage in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, taking a significant area which amounts to Russia's strategic victory. Rtskhiladze added that Russia will, at minimum, retain the already occupied territory where the local population is loyal to Moscow. But, according to him, Russia may be provoked to push deeper into the regions where locals are unwilling to integrate into Russia if Ukraine does not enter into negotiations and admit to the new realities and border configuration. Rtskhiladze envisaged the possibility of Ukraine declining to negotiate which would result in Russia's further advances and Ukraine's guerrilla warfare aimed at creating a perpetual hotbed of tensions in order to weaken Russia.
- Some Georgian Facebook users [shared](#) a post saying that Russia is destroying targets in the depth of Ukrainian positions with Kinzhal rockets, unmatched by the West.

Accordingly, the “warmongers” in Georgia are advocating for the policy that will lead to bloodshed in Georgia as Georgia and even the West is not able to deter Russia's sophisticated weaponry.

- Director of the Primakov Georgian-Russian Public Centre, Dimitri Lortkipanidze, [argued](#) that the West has tried to ignite chaos in Belarus but failed and it is now clear 100 days into the war that Russia has a decisive advantage over Ukraine. According to him, although the West planned to exhaust the Russian military, collapse its economy and create a negative social situation in order to incite rebellions inside Russia and topple the government, its plans fell short, avoiding another geopolitical catastrophe in Eurasia and plunging the region into chaos.
- An infamous influencer and a well-known disinformant, Lali Moroshkina, [stated](#) in an [interview](#) with the anti-Western newspaper, *Asaval-Dasavli*, that Ukraine had lost the war; however, she frankly noted that this fact was still not widely claimed in Georgia.
- Pro-Russian [Georgia and the World](#) and [Split Space News](#) (quoting "expert" Soso Manjavidze) cherry-picked articles from Western media and distorted the speeches of officials in order to disseminate the narrative that the West is pushing Ukraine to concede territory to Russia.

## Propaganda Narratives Regarding Ukrainian Refugees

Beyond the range of Russian artillery and aviation, pro-Kremlin propaganda is targeting Ukrainian refugees:

- *Gulbaat Rtskhiladze made up a theory that there is some "tacit agreement" between Russia and the West (which might also be the reason for imposing an imaginary oil embargo) according to which Russia should not destroy the entire infrastructure in order not to increase the wave of Ukrainian refugees to Europe. Rtskhiladze also concluded that as part of this covert agreement, Russia would not shell Kyiv as it would induce a more significant inflow of Ukrainian refugees into Europe and, in exchange, Europe would take the responsibility for supplying limited military assistance.*
- The pro-Russian outlet Georgia and the World [asserted](#) that Ukrainian refugees in Georgia are not disturbed about the state of war in Ukraine whilst Georgian people are more concerned with the fate of Ukraine. To validate his claim, the article's author proclaimed that Ukrainian youth were attending a football match in Georgia, yelling and drinking beer as if nothing was happening in Mariupol or Severodonetsk.
- Mikhail Jghenti, an "expert," continued the same narrative, [stating](#) on Alt-Info's live broadcast that Ukrainians living in Tbilisi are not concerned about the ongoing war as they have even taken down Ukrainian flags.

## Propaganda Narratives Regarding Economic Sanctions

The Kremlin's propaganda continues to downplay the consequences of the economic sanctions imposed on Russia and portray the side-effects of the sanctions as deadly for Western economies. In addition to the recurring messages, new sub-narratives have also taken root in the propaganda media.

- Alt-Info [stated](#) that although Europe had imposed sanctions on Russia, it is Europe that is in the process of dissolution whilst Russia and the US are making economic profits.

- Alt-Info [claimed](#) that the illusions that Georgia can rely on the West are shattering, further arguing that not even Ukraine depends on the West. According to Alt-Info, every Western state endeavours to gain benefits by trading with the Russians covertly, indicating that Georgia should do the same.
- [According](#) to pro-Russian TV Obieqtivi, Russia is coping well with the sanctions and the West has miscalculated the sanctions policy; as a result, the West suffers from a boomerang effect whilst Russia, on the contrary, profits from the new economic situation. As per TV Obieqtivi, the US dollar is also devaluating because it is not pegged to gold like the Russian rouble.
- The pro-Russian [Georgia and the World](#) disseminated the same narrative that the sanctions struck Western companies and populations much harder than the Russian people and Russia's economy.
- The anti-Western *Saerto Gazeti* (*Common Newspaper*) [published](#) an article stating that the West punished Georgia for not joining the bilateral sanctions and for not opening the second front against Russia but rather "maintaining stability." *Saerto Gazeti* has falsely claimed that this "punishment" was reflected in the European Parliament's "sanctioning" Bidzina Ivanishvili and the Swiss bank Credit Suisse, freezing USD 400 million of his financial assets. *Saerto Gazeti* thus concluded that the West backs Credit Suisse in a campaign against Ivanishvili.
- Dimitri Lortkipanidze also [argued](#) that Georgia was punished because it maintained stability, did not impose bilateral sanctions on Russia and did not open a second front against Russia.
- One of the leaders of the Alt-Info group and the Conservative Movement (a political party established by Alt-Info), Zurab Makharadze, [commented](#) that the sanctions

proved unable to destroy the Russian economy whilst significantly harming Ukraine's economy.

- Alt-Info also [stated](#) that Russia has already won the economic war against the West and Europe, and the US cannot pressure Putin to stop the war. Furthermore, Alt-info shifted the responsibility for the food crisis to the West, saying that the restrictions imposed on Russia have pushed the world's most vulnerable countries to the brink of starvation.
- Sputnik-Georgia came up with another [sub-narrative](#) regarding the food crisis. Sputnik claimed that there is no wheat deficit in the markets but, instead, supply chain disruptions and logistical issues, caused by pandemic restrictions and anti-Russian sanctions, hinder the deliveries and that European politicians are trying to exaggerate the problem.
- Another pro-Russian outlet, Isari.ge, which has been distorting facts about the war in Russia's favour, [insisted](#) that sanctions imposed by the West are unlikely to damage the Russian economy but, on the contrary, they have already resulted in Russia's economic growth. In particular, aiming to palliate the unprecedented level of Western sanctions levied against Russia, Isari.ge further indicated that following the EU's partial embargo on oil, prices have jumped, increasing the inflow of the USD into the Russian economy. Even worse, Hamlet Tschipashvili, the author of the article stating this information and a prominent pro-Russian figure, further claimed that Russia was coping well with the sanctions and blamed the West for its near-sightedness, pointing at the cases of Cuba, Iran and the Soviet Union as the examples of successfully surviving sanctions. In another article, Isari.ge argued that it is impossible to isolate Russia from the rest of the world due to its vast territory, natural resources, scientific potential, etc.

- Kremlin-sponsored News-Front [praised](#) Moscow's budgetary parameters and macroeconomic stability in the first five months, concluding that the Russian government is able to facilitate the stability of the economic and the financial sectors.
- Mikhail Jghenti [argued](#) on Alt-Info's broadcast that Europe would not be able to bear the consequences of sanctions from September-October, mainly regarding the gas and wheat embargo. According to him, the leaders of Italy, France, Germany and Romania visited Kyiv to ask Ukraine to negotiate and concede territories in order for Europe to ease the embargo and ultimately survive the winter.
- Alt-Info's Makharadze [stated](#) that the EU Commission is not working on another sanctions package because imposing further sanctions has become increasingly complicated. According to him, Europe did everything it could to stop Russia but, nevertheless, Russia is just experiencing discomfort and not severe damage. This message served to portray the West as a weak power that had exhausted all of its resources whilst mighty Russia managed to come out of the situation relatively unscathed.
- News-Front [quoted](#) a Georgian physicist, Levan Tchotorlishvili, claiming that if the EU sanctions Ivanishvili, it would be the first instance when a person receives sanctions for loyalty to his country. He also indicated that the West is pushing Georgia toward radical actions, referring to war, to purchase oil and gas cheaply. Paradoxically, the West is interested in maintaining peace as the wars drive up energy prices.
- Arno Khidirbegishvili, Editor-in-Chief of the pro-Russian outlet Saqinform, [applauded](#) Bidzina Ivanishvili for having managed to overcome the pressure, even a threat of personal sanctions, and resist demands to fully join the anti-Russian sanctions and open a second front against Russia.

## Disinformation Narratives in Georgia's Occupied Regions

- Russian propaganda outlets in Abkhazia [promoted](#) the sacral meaning of the letter “Z” symbolising and glorifying Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- They also stressed the importance of the unified headquarters' work for assisting Donbas in Abkhazia.
- Others [hailed](#) the job of Abkhaz militants in [defending](#) Donbas from Ukrainian fascists.
- The [news](#) about the [destruction](#) of the Ukrainian military's techniques and targets during the "special military [operation](#)" was also shared. Additionally, Sputnik Abkhazia [reported](#) that T-62 main battle tanks accelerated the pace of the "special operation."
- A roundtable was [held](#) in the press centre of Sputnik Abkhazia in order to discuss the security of Abkhazia within the context of Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine. They focused on how to combat information operations vis-à-vis Ukraine and how to create alternative online platforms to replace Western ones such as Wikipedia, Instagram, YouTube, etc.
- To portray Russia as a saviour and to justify its invasion, some sources [claimed](#) that Russia was forced to conduct a "[special](#) military operation" in Ukraine because the Nazi threat created a security issue even for Abkhazia.
- Interestingly, Sputnik Abkhazia touched upon other propaganda messages as well and [proclaimed](#) that Europe is on the verge of several crises, most notably migration crises, but also economic, social, unemployment, healthcare, educational, ecological and energy ones.

## Propaganda Narratives Regarding Military Aid to Ukraine

Messages that Western military aid is only useful in prolonging the war remain a continuing trend:

- *Alt-Info argued that the war on the territory of Ukraine is a global one and there was a global war in 2008, too, when Georgia's ex-President Saakashvili managed to bring war to Georgia's territory. According to the guest speaker, Zelensky's action does not fit into any international relations theory as he does not act in the interests of his country and people; instead, he wants to prolong and escalate the war (beyond Ukraine) and this is why Ukraine is asking for Western weapons.*
- *Isari.ge also linked military assistance to Ukraine to the risk of the expansion of the war beyond Ukraine. A pro-Russian outlet wrote that the West is waging a war against Russia with the hands of Ukrainians; therefore, the defeat of Ukraine will be a defeat of NATO, the EU and the US. According to Isari.ge, to avoid such a scenario, the West sends both arms and American, European and Middle Eastern irregular troops. Isari.ge threatened that NATO and Russia are on the verge of a direct military conflict thus implying that the West should refrain from providing military aid in order to mitigate the risk of a direct confrontation with Russia.*
- One speaker [stated](#) on Alt-Info broadcast that the West does not provide the military assistance necessary to end the war as it wants to achieve its goal of weakening Russia with the hands of Ukraine by prolonging the war.
- The chairman of the pro-Russian Alliance of Patriots (AoP) spoke live on its affiliated TV Obieqtivi. He [claimed](#) that the United States and the West are prolonging the war in order to weaken Moscow by providing military assistance to Ukraine but Russia is not running out of arms or manpower. According to Tarkhan-Mouravi, the ongoing

situation would have been solved with negotiations if the West had stopped military supplies to Ukraine.

- Alt-Info [pointed](#) out that Ukraine does not have a maintenance base for NATO equipment; therefore, it concluded that most military vehicles provided by the West are single-use; that is, Ukraine cannot repair them. As per Alt-Info, the US and Germany do not supply Ukraine with advanced Abrams and Leopard tanks for two reasons: 1. Ukrainians will not be able to repair Western tanks and 2. The reputation of American and Ukrainian military equipment will diminish as photos of burned Abrams and Leopards are shown all over the internet. Alt-Info also discussed the role of javelins and underscored their effectiveness during the first stage of the war when the Ukrainians ambushed large Russian convoys; however, they asserted that javelins are practically useless in the current artillery battles. Alt-Info concluded by sowing nihilism, saying that the West is doing everything it can but this is still not enough, once again arguing that despite the West throwing everything it has on Russia, Russia manages to navigate through the quagmire with just minor scratches.
- Sputnik-Georgia [depicted](#) US military assistance as useless, indicating that the funds dedicated to supplying arms to Ukraine are frankly thrown away in vain. Particularly, Sputnik wrote that even though the US had spent 700 million dollars on the new military aid package, neither Kyiv nor Washington were satisfied. According to Sputnik, the US admitted that the aid package was not effective enough, the US did not bother to translate 286 pages of instructions for the Ukrainians, spare parts were insufficient and Ukrainian soldiers had only two days of training.
- Sputnik-Georgia also [parroted](#) the disinformation of the Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations, Vasily Nebenzya, and claimed that the grain exports from Ukraine started with railway and automobiles in exchange for supplying arms.

## Attention, Moscow is Speaking - Russian Disinformation on Facebook and Instagram

Kremlin actors on Facebook and Instagram continue pushing Russian propaganda narratives, with the disinformation pieces debunked by FactCheck Georgia over the past week, focusing on demonizing the US, downplaying the importance of Ukraine for the Europeans, as well as vilifying, though sometimes, mocking Ukraine. One false story, widely spread by such actors, claimed that [“the US congressman Paul Massaro had called for the destruction of Russia.”](#) Another post on Facebook insisted that Europeans not only don’t care about what is happening in Ukraine, they even think [“Ukraine is located in Africa.”](#) Utilizing its well-tested propaganda technique of deploying “unbiased Western journalists and experts” for spreading disinformation, pro-Russian sources have circulated an interview of Scott Ritter – “an American military expert.” As [falsely claimed](#) by Ritter, Ukraine under President Zelensky banned all political parties “except far-right and Nazi.” But the Kremlin propaganda doesn’t forget to ridicule Kyiv, with one disinformation piece [fabricating](#) President Zelensky’s quote, as if Zelensky said that the “World wants to learn from Ukrainians how to fight and how to *run [from the battlefield].*”



This publication is produced by Georgia’s Reforms Associates (GRASS) with the support of the Open Information Partnership (OIP). The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and may not reflect the opinions or views of the OIP.