



# GRASS Disinfo Brief

**MONITORING PERIOD:**

**March 12 – March 18**

GRASS  
REFORMANDA

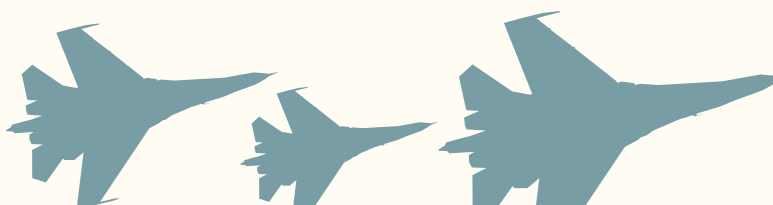




- The ruling party points to the West rather than Russia when talking about foreign interference
- Georgian Dream's attacks on CSOs remain prevalent
- People's Power keeps the "Global War Party" conspiracy alive
- Laws imposed by the West unjustly imprison Georgian men to break up traditional families, Alt-Info claims
- Georgian pro-Russian groups in line with de facto Abkhazian MFA about NATO General Secretary's visit to Georgia
- Propagandists justify Russia's invasion of Ukraine, blame the war on the West
- Pro-Kremlin propaganda excuses Russian occupation of Georgia, advocates for close relations with Moscow
- Pro-Russian propaganda in Georgia puts the US in the center of the "second front" conspiracy

#### The ruling party points to the West rather than Russia when talking about foreign interference

- The Chairperson of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, [alleged](#) that Salome Zourabichvili maintains her position as President due to the support from the United National Movement. Zourabichvili, the United National Movement, and **foreign actors are preparing grounds to pardon Saakashvili and further radicalize Georgian politics.** According to Papuashvili, the European Parliament's latest resolution, which called on the Government of Georgia to release Saakashvili from prison, and the statements made by "some foreign actors" are a testament to that.
- Papuashvili also [suggested](#) that Nika Gvaramia, the founder of the "Mtavari Arkhi", and Nika Melia, former Chairperson of the United National Movement, were pardoned by the President due to foreign pressure and interference. According to the Chairperson of the Parliament, foreign embassies were pressuring Georgian judges into releasing Gvaramia and Melia, portraying it as essential to political depolarization, which was a farce. As Papuashvili argued, the two opposition figures evaded justice because of the interference of "**foreign political groups**", and both of them operated with the interests of these political groups to **establish a radical agenda in Georgia.**
- "Georgia should be governed by the Georgian people, not foreigners", Papuashvili [stated](#) on another occasion, where he claimed that CSOs, which are 100% funded from abroad, are advocating for their funder's involvement in Georgia's governance and appointment of judges. CSOs are the representatives of their donors, and it is in their interest to include donors in governance somehow. Papuashvili once again stated that **Melia and Gvaramia were pardoned due to foreign interference** and vowed that the ruling party will not involve foreign actors in the decision-making process regarding the justice system again.



- During an interview on Palitraneews, Mamuka Mdinardze, Leader of the Parliamentary majority and the Executive Secretary of the ruling party, [stated](#) that although Georgia was aligned with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, while also meeting other criteria to receive EU membership candidate status, the EU only granted Georgia a European Perspective in 2022. As Mdinardze continued, **there is a force, a Global War Party, that made this decision** despite the fact that Georgia was more eligible than Ukraine and Moldova.
- Georgian Dream MP Irakli Zarkua [stated](#) that foreigners should not be in charge of **vetting and appointing Georgian judges** as no other European country has this practice, and it is **direct foreign interference**. He argued that some EU countries should let foreign forces appoint judges for them before they direct Georgia to do the same. "This is Georgia; this is not a place where you can conduct experiments; this is not a country that some losers can direct," Zarkua said.

### Georgian Dream's attacks on CSOs remain prevalent

- When asked about why the US reduced its foreign aid to Georgia by \$8 million, Prime Minister Kobakhidze [stated](#) that since most of the aid goes towards CSOs, the US could have been disappointed with the work they did in 2022 and 2023, which could be the reason. However, the Prime Minister did not provide specific details regarding the purported disappointment. On March 13th, Transparency International – Georgia, Georgian Democracy Initiative, Courtwatch, Democracy Defenders, and Civil Society Foundation released a joint [statement](#), according to which "by refusing to check the integrity of the members of the clan in the Georgian justice system, the government is hindering the European integration process." In response, Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairperson of the Parliament, [accused](#) the CSOs of attacking the Georgian justice system by using the term "clan." He further stated that organizations such as the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), European Endowment for Democracy, and USAID, which provide funding to these civil society organizations (CSOs), should clarify why their **funds are being utilized** in a manner that allegedly **undermines Georgian democratic institutions**.
- In another joint [statement](#), 12 different CSOs called on the government to stop the discrediting campaign against Georgian judges with different opinions regarding the vetting system. [Responding](#) to this statement, Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairperson of the Parliament, once again criticized the CSOs, alleging that they seem to believe that opinions challenging Georgia's sovereignty should be tolerated. "This is the **malign influence of foreign funding**", he said. Papuashvili further claimed that the CSOs aim to promote the idea that it is acceptable to compromise Georgia's sovereignty, something for which the country has shed blood over the past three decades.
- Mayor of Tbilisi and Secretary General of the Georgian Dream, Kakha Kaladze, [stated](#) that CSOs have transformed into political parties that operate against the government. Referring to the 2020 Parliamentary elections, he again alleged that the



International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) deliberately manipulated the results of their parallel vote tabulation with the aim of inciting a revolution. Kaladze further claimed that CSOs are engaged in attacks against various institutions, including the Georgian Orthodox Church, the country's religious faith, and other elements that are deeply valued by the Georgian people. "I think their patrons task them. Their patrons have interests in maintaining tensions in Georgia," Kaladze concluded.

### People's Power keeps the "Global War Party" conspiracy alive

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the People's Power movement, which recently established itself as a political party, released a [statement](#), according to which the movement analyzed statements made from these individuals, as well as high-ranking Georgian officials at the time, regarding the 2008 August war: John McCain, former United States Senator; Richard Miles, Ambassador to Georgia from 2002 to 2005; Heidi Tagliavini, leader of the EUs investigation into the causes of the 2008 Russo-Georgian war; Nikola Sarkozy, former President of France; Radosław Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland.

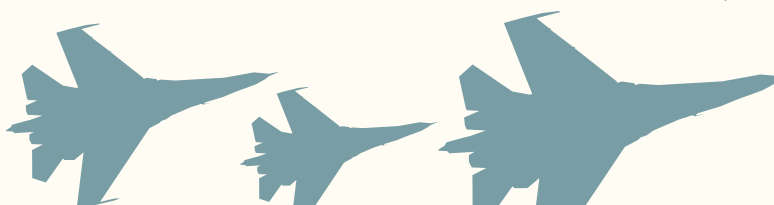
Based on its analysis, People's Power concludes that the events of August 2008 were caused by the Georgian government's deliberate actions. Moreover, since foreign agents were well-established in Georgia at the time and processes within the country were dictated by foreign patrons, it is clear that the **United National Movement** did not act according to its own accords but **followed orders of the Global War Party**.

According to the statement, this explains the fact that the Global War Party still does not give up on the main executor of the 2008 war, the politically bankrupt Mikheil Saakashvili, and with the help of Georgian or foreign agents, tries to bring up the issue of his release from time to time.

As the statement goes, the movement had plans to initiate an investigation regarding the start of the 2008 August war after the elections. However, if the **Global War Party continues its efforts to pardon Saakashvili** through the hands of President Zourabichvili, the People's Party movement will be forced to act immediately and request an investigation immediately.

According to the People's Party movement, there is nothing much to investigate. The worst crime and betrayal of the motherland was recognized by the United National Movement itself when it signed the European Council resolution, which stated that in August 2008, "full-scale hostilities" were started by the Georgian side with "careless bombing of Tskhinvali", which was followed by "Russia's retaliatory attack." Additionally, PP says Salome Zourabichvili has repeatedly confirmed the start of the war by the United National Movement regime.

"We cannot leave this issue without an adequate reaction, and in case of a Presidential pardon, everyone will soon learn everything about how the agents – the United National Movement, on the instructions of the Global War Party, sacrificed Georgia, started the war and the lost



control over Georgian territories in 2008, on the instructions of the Global War Party” concludes the statement.

### **Laws imposed by the West unjustly imprison Georgian men to break up traditional families, Alt-Info claims**

- A guest on Alt Info [asserted](#) that the West does not intend to foster democracy in Georgia; it rather wants to sacrifice it to weaken Russia. Western interests are contrary to Georgia’s interests, and therefore, being pro-Western should be equated to treason. As he continued, Western directives aim to cause **genocide of the Georgian people** – men are imprisoned for domestic violence due to laws imposed on Georgia by the West, which ultimately aim to **break up traditional families** and exacerbate the depopulation process.
- A prominent propagandist and an anchor on Alt Info's broadcasts, Aleksandre Palavandishvili, [reiterated](#) the narrative that the West is demanding from Georgia to attack traditional families by arresting men. According to him, men are persecuted for **domestic violence on trumped-up charges**, and 80% of domestic violence cases result in arrests despite a lack of evidence.
- Same concerns were voiced on Sezoni TV’s broadcasts throughout the week, where Tristan Tselashvili, a former Georgian high-ranking officer who was previously imprisoned for spying in favour of Russia during the 2008 war, [argued](#) that the West, through Georgian CSOs it funds, deliberately portrays the situation as if 80% of men are criminal in Georgia and need to be jailed. According to him, this is done to ensure the Georgian **population does not grow**.
- Similarly to ruling party members, an article on pro-Russian GeWorld [argued](#) that the implementation of the vetting system within the Georgian justice system will effectively undermine Georgia’s sovereignty as it will allow foreign forces to appoint judges and prosecutors.
- The host of Sezoni TV and pro-Russian propagandist, Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, [alleged](#) that Ramil Usubov, Secretary of the Security Council of Azerbaijan, visited Tbilisi and met with the Prime Minister of Georgia to warn him about the threats coming from Western donor organizations. According to the narrative, Western agents are creating problems for the Azerbaijani government and want to cooperate with the Georgian government to expel them from the region.
- A propagandist on Alt Info [stated](#) that the prominent “liberal agenda” which has catastrophic effects on Georgia, has made reintegration of Abkhazia much more difficult as there is a civilizational divide between ethnic Georgians and Abkhazians that did not exist thirty years ago. The founder of government-supported NGO “Former Political Prisoners for Human Rights,” Nana Kakabadze, [propagated](#) on Sezoni TV that Ukraine and the US were pressuring Georgia to open a second front and start a war with Russia.

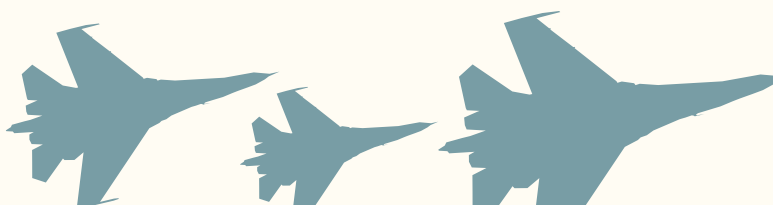


## Georgian pro-Russian groups in line with de facto Abkhazian MFA about NATO General Secretary's visit to Georgia

- De facto Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Irakli Tuzhba, [responded](#) to a statement made by the Secretary General of NATO, in which he spoke about the importance of strengthening the military potential of Georgia with the support of NATO and respecting the principle of territorial integrity of Georgia. Tuzhba suggested that NATO is gearing up Georgia's military potential to **encourage Tbilisi to restore territorial integrity** by force. "In front of our eyes, active militarization of the country is taking place, where revanchist sentiments are quite intense," he said. According to him, Abkhazia's de facto Ministry of Foreign Affairs experiences aggressive isolation from the collective West - NATO, the US, and the EU. "They are subjects of aggressive isolation of our country. Stoltenberg's statements only confirm this fact," Tuzhba added.
- A guest on Alt-Info [claimed](#) Jens Stoltenberg could be visiting Georgia to encourage the government to **join the war** because Ukraine, the US, and NATO want to open a second front in Georgia. As the propagandist stated, embracing **NATO has led to the devastation of Ukraine and Georgia**. He continued that prior to Ukraine, Russia attacked Georgia and occupied Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region because of its aspirations to join NATO, and by maintaining close relations with NATO, Georgia risks having the same faith as Ukraine.
- Another guest on Alt-Info, Giorgi Kartchauli, [said](#) that amid the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the NATO secretary **General's visit to Georgia poses a threat** to the entire South Caucasus. Attempts to **instigate conflict** in Georgia were thwarted. However, the **West is adamant about opening a second front** in the South Caucasus to weaken Russia and diminish its influence in the region. "There are direct attempts to use us against Russia in a war!" he concluded.

## Propagandists justify Russia's invasion of Ukraine, blame the war on the West

- Sezoni TV host Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [claimed](#) that the current Russian president is the best option for Georgia to negotiate with. According to him, **Putin is rational** and keeps the army officers who want to destroy Ukraine, Georgia, and Armenia at bay. Moreover, he stated that Alexei **Navalny**, who was regarded as Putin's alternative, **wanted to bomb Tbilisi and annex Abkhazia**.
- Tristan Tselashvili [continued](#) the narrative that **Russia cares about Ukrainians**. He insisted that when **Ukrainian people are taken hostage, Russian soldiers help them with everything, keep them in good conditions**, and, if desired by the hostages themselves, are exchanged in a prisoner swap. Tselashvili also [stated](#) that Russia is a war machine that has never lost a war. When it was needed, Russia built up factories that were out of order



for decades and is currently producing technologies and artillery shells that deter NATO from intervening in Ukraine.

- A guest on Sezoni TV [argued](#) that the war in Ukraine is not a Russian invasion but a **provocation from Ukraine encouraged by the West**. The propagandist suggested that Ukraine is short of ammunition and is lacking military support. Additionally, according to her, the fact that the former Minister of Justice of Georgia, Zurab Adeishvili, was part of a Ukrainian delegation's visit to Berlin and Brussels is proof that **Ukraine is not a friend of Georgia**.
- A propagandist on Alt Info [claimed](#) that NATO does not want to make Ukraine a member. Instead, it wants to **use it as a buffer** and a **weapon against Russia**, just like it used **Georgia in 2008**. The same guest [argued](#) that Zelenskyy does not want the war in Ukraine to end because it is the only thing that keeps him in power.
- A pro-Russian [propagandist](#) on Sezoni TV asserted that the fall of Ukraine would mean the fall of Europe, **a union of sodomy**, and NATO. If Ukraine loses the war, these political actors will trigger their vassal countries, including Georgia, to incite conflicts in order to continue weakening Russia.
- Another propagandist on the same broadcast [claimed](#) that despite the efforts of the world, most notably, the EU, NATO, and the US, to fight against it, **Russia is still undefeated** after two years and is more successful in the war than Ukraine.
- One of the guests on Alt Info [stated](#) that the government of Russia knows better than to start talks with Ukraine as **Zelenskyy constantly violates ceasefire agreements**. Moreover, according to him, Russia is prolonging the war because Putin wants to restore strategic relations with the West despite knowing that the West intends to destroy Russia.
- Another guest on the same program [spread disinformation](#) that when Zelenskyy came to power, he banned opposition parties, arrested their representatives or forced them to flee, and hijacked TV stations he deemed pro-Russian.

### Pro-Kremlin propaganda excuses Russian occupation of Georgia, advocates for close relations with Moscow

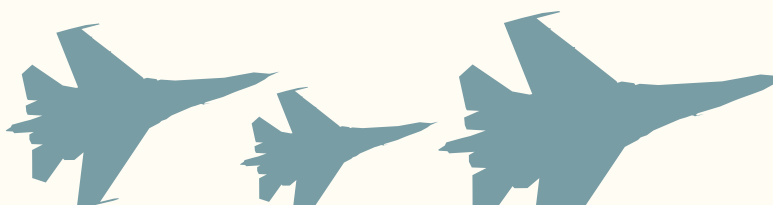
- Sezoni TV host and pro-Russian propagandist Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [argued](#) that Georgia's economic relations with the West will never develop because, due to the looming threat of a Russian invasion, **Western businesses will always shy away from investing in Georgia**. In contrast, Russian businesses do not face the same challenge. As such, Georgia should focus on deepening **economic relations with Russia**. Mzhavanadze also asserted that Russian tourists, the Russian market, and everything Russian is the savior of Georgia.
- Nikoloz Mzhavanadze also [stated](#) that despite international sanctions, Russia is still developing while the West is experiencing an economic crisis. This narrative was also voiced on Alt Info's broadcast, which propagates that Russia is stronger than ever since it transformed into a military economy. **"Soon Russia will be the number one country, far stronger than the US, which is decaying from within because of its liberal ideology"**, the propagandist said.



- Alongside Mzhavanadze, Tristan Tsitelashvili [advocated](#) for close relations with Russia. According to him, given Moscow's positive messages directed at Georgia, it is high time to start negotiations.
- Alt Info propagandist Aleksandre Palavandishvili once again [insisted](#) that the key to the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity lies in Moscow.
- Rather than blaming Russia for the occupation of Georgian territories, a propagandist on Alt Info [attributed](#) it to Georgia's European integration aspirations, which, according to him, should be revised for the sake of restoring territorial integrity.
- Similarly, to the People's Power movement, an article on the pro-Russian website Isari shifted the **blame of Russian occupation on former President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili**. The article fully [repeats](#) the Kremlin's version of the 2008 August war, according to which **Saakashvili was encouraged by the US** to attack Russian peacekeepers in the Tskhinvali region and prompt an adequate military reaction from Russia. The same article propagates that contrary to the West, **Russia protects traditions and traditional families**, embraces patriotism, and is rich in history, culture, art, and science. "Russia is the future, **Euro-Atlantic space is fleeting**, and anyone who does not see that is blind", concludes the article.
- A social media account published a [post](#) claiming that historically, Georgia has only been strong when it was closely aligned with Russia. The post repeats a narrative spread by Kremlin ideologue Aleksandr Dugin, according to which Russia was the force that united Georgian kingdoms and acted as a catalyst for its success.

#### Pro-Russian propaganda in Georgia puts the US in the center of the "second front" conspiracy

- Tristan Tsitelashvili [questioned](#) the popularity of the United National Movement in Georgia and said that the **US embassy artificially increases the percentage of its supporters in opinion polls** to guarantee their seats in the parliament. Tsitelashvili [argued](#) that the US does not want Georgia to be economically strong because it only intends to use **Georgia as a polygon against Russia**.
- Sezoni TV host Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [continued](#) the propagandist narrative of **USAID** and brought Serbian trainers to Georgia to teach local youth how to **overthrow the government**. According to him, CSOs funded by the US are assigned the same task. Moreover, Mzhavanadze believes that USAID provides funding to conduct „attacks on Georgian judges and prosecutors“.
- One of the guests on Alt Info [stated](#) that just because Georgia has not opened a second front against Russia yet does not mean that the US's pressure on Georgia has eased off. He insisted that the **2008 war was provoked by the US** at the hands of Saakashvili.





- A guest on Alt Info [argued](#) that Georgian legislation was created by the US's orders. According to him, the purpose of this is to **break down Georgian mentality, traditions, and national values**.
- An anchor on Alt Info [expressed](#) his discontent about the fact that the same USAID that “can’t tell sexes apart and is **staging a revolution in Georgia**”, operates in 685 Georgian schools and permeates the minds of Georgina schoolchildren.