



GRASS Disinfo Brief

MONITORING PERIOD:

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GRASS
REFORMANDA





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- **Pro-Kremlin groups say "good-neighborly" relations with Russia are the only path forward for Georgia**

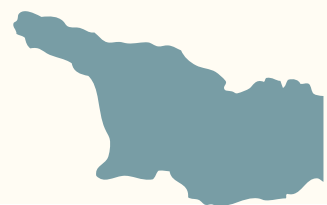
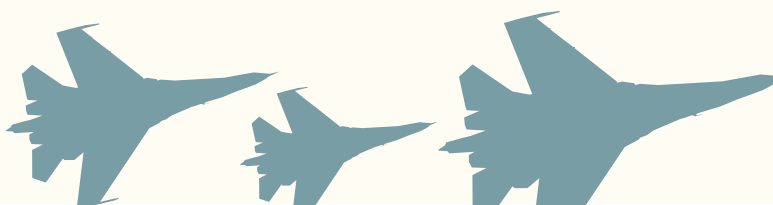
Georgian Dream says the EU supports bullying campaign executed by the EU funded NGOs and media

After the ruling party adopted the Russian-style foreign agents law despite mass protests and international condemnation, voting for it in three hearings and overriding the President's veto, citizens have expressed disappointment and disapproval towards the MPs who voted for the law.

- A citizen shouted at the cars of ruling party MPs after they were leaving the Parliament building. Viktor Japaridze, member of the Georgian Dream's radical anti-Western wing, the People's Power movement, got out of his vehicle, ran to a nearby market, grabbed an orange, and [threw](#) it at the citizen in angst. The next day, he [arrived](#) at the market to pay for the orange, only to be met with even more disappointed citizens, who told him that by voting for the law, he sold Georgia's future.
- The debunking editor of FactCheck Georgia, Mariam Tsitsikashvili, accidentally came upon Viktor Japaridze at the airport. Without using obscene and offensive words, Mariam [expressed](#) her disappointment to him. In retribution – she was barred from boarding her flight and taken to court for petty hooliganism.
- Georgian citizens [expressed](#) their disapproval towards another Georgian Dream MP, Eliso Bolkvadze, at an airport in Paris.
- Chairperson of the Parliament's Gender Equality Council, Nino Tsilosani was giving an interview when she was [called](#) a "slave" by a citizen passing by in the street. Tsilosani later accused the citizen of stalking her.
- Another Georgian Dream MP, Irakli Zarkua, was also publicly [criticized](#) for supporting the law.
- A citizen [called](#) Prime Minister Kobakhidze and the Chairperson of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Tornike Rihvadze, traitors during the opening ceremony of the Valley of Heroes infrastructure project in Batumi.
- An activist [called](#) Georgian Dream MP Beka Odisharia "Russia's slave" for supporting the Russian-style law.

The ruling party claims that the citizens expressing disapproval is an inauthentic campaign executed by members of EU-funded NGOs and media.

- Prime Minister Kobakhidze [claimed](#) that the "bullying campaign" is directly coordinated and supported by specific media outlets and NGOs **because "specific powers do not want peace in our**



country.” However, according to Kobakhidze, despite the concerning campaign, the ruling party will continue to do everything to maintain peace.’

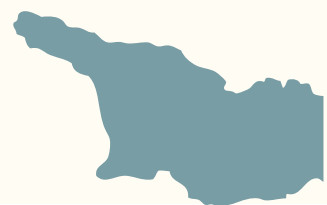
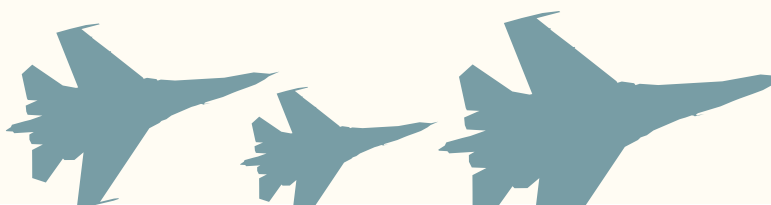
- The Chairperson of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili [argued](#) that members of three EU-funded NGOs – Levan Datunashvili from Jamnews, Zuka Berdzenishvili from Shame movement, and Mariam Tsitsikashvili from GRASS – insulted and attacked MPs. He also stated that staged scenes of “concerned citizens” are organized as a part of a politically motivated terror campaign, which is executed in the name of Europe. “**By turning a blind eye to political extremism organized by its funded organizations, the donors are normalizing terror**”, claimed Papuashvili.
- Hours after Papuashvili’s published the abovementioned post, Shame Movement member, **Zuka Berdzenishvili**, was [attacked](#) and severely beaten by three people near his home in broad daylight. Notably, no arrests have been made ten days after the attack. Georgian Dream MP, Archil Talakvadze, while condemning the attack, [stated](#) that the hate campaign executed by radical powers are also unacceptable and should be condemned as well.
- Papuashvili [continued](#) the narrative throughout the week, arguing that Georgian Dream MPs **are victims of attacks, threats, harassment, doxing, hate speech, and invasion of privacy**, which is a coordinated campaign executed by EU-funded organizations. He called on EU institutions to review these incidents. None of the EU representatives have condemned these violent actions, Papuashvili claims, which can be interpreted as encouragement of radical groups and deepening of polarization.
- Viktor Japaridze [alleged](#) that Mariam Tsitsikashvili is a radical deliberately trained and prepared “to stage a scandal.”
- Commenting on the activist that called him “Russia’s slave”, Georgian Dream MP, Beka Odisharia, [argued](#) that the incident was preplanned because “what was a man living in the outskirt neighbourhood of Gldani [northern part of Tbilisi] doing in Krtsanisi [southern part of Tbilisi] at 11:30 pm?”. According to Odisharia, the activist was in a market but had no products, which is another indicator that the incident was organized.
- Georgian Dream MP Irakli Kadagishvili [stated](#) that society does not want violence; only those political groups and NGOs **who wanted to start a Maidan revolution** but failed.
- Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament, Gia Volski [underlined](#) that hate speech is used by radical groups according to “specific guidelines”. Provoking physical assault, insulting and cursing at people are very bad and should be condemned on both sides. According to him, **psychological attacks are no less damaging than physical ones**, especially when they are planned and follow specific guidelines.



Zuka Berdzenishvili moments after he was attacked by three unknown assailants

Other anti-Western statements from the Georgian Dream

- Prime Minister Kobakhidze [stated](#) that **sanctions against the Government of Georgia are not only unserious but insulting** to the Georgian people. Kobakhidze noted that Georgia wants to deepen relations with the U.S. and the EU, and called on them to pursue pragmatic, correct, and fair steps towards Georgia.
- The Head of the State Security Service (SSS) of Georgia, Grigol Liluashvili, [stated](#) “internal and external powers” were attempting to overthrow the government. When asked if he could provide more details, **Liluashvili said that the SSS held a briefing about how a training conducted by Canvas taught trainees tactics and methods of how to overthrow the government.** According to him, the public soon saw these methods practiced weeks after the training.
- The Head of the SSS also [explained](#) that the “**Global War Party**” **is not a geographic subject** and does not involve Georgia’s partners, but certain politicians and interests groups who aim to sew confrontation and open a second front in Georgia. “The role and participation of all those actors who are interested in disrupting a peaceful country will surely be investigated”, stated Grigol Liluashvili.



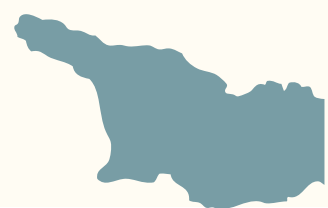
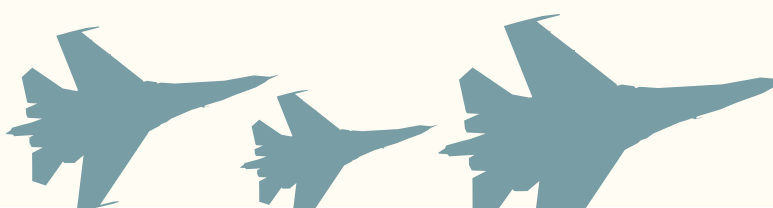
- The Chairperson of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili [reprimanded](#) the opposition for portraying China as Georgia's enemy. **He argued that China has only done good for Georgia** and is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. However, the opposition receives funds and commands from abroad to conduct an anti-Chinese campaign. "We know that Tina Khidasheli [Chairperson of the think-tank "Civic Idea and former Defense Minister] is funded from Taiwan to execute an anti-Chinese campaign", said Papuashvili.
- Papuashvili also [argued](#) that the opposition is the enemy of Georgia and is operating based on foreign countries' interests. The opposition does not want to come to power so that it can give over control of Georgia to foreign powers. "In reality, they are conducting the pre-election campaign in support of foreign powers", claimed the Chairperson of the Parliament.
- [According](#) to the General Secretary of the Georgian Dream and Mayor of Tbilisi, Kakha Kaladze, **Georgia is ahead of Ukraine and Moldova in terms of development**. Therefore, the EU should open accession talks with Georgia. Kaladze expressed hope that Georgia will not be threatened or blackmailed as it was before it was granted candidate status.

Pro-Russian groups spread distorted narratives about Georgia's relations with the EU and the U.S.

- Pridon Injia, member of the "European Socialists" political party and MP, appeared on pro-Russian Sezoni TV and [argued](#) that the **U.S. has never done anything beneficial for Georgia**. According to him, **the U.S. destroyed the Georgian education system, medical and research institutions, industrial factories**, etc. The only thing that Americans financed was NGOs to build an agent network and establish influence. As he claimed, the Americans supported the 2003 Rose Revolution and brought Saakashvili to power through NGOs.
- Pridon Injia also [stated](#) that the 2008 Russian invasion of Georgia and subsequent recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states were a result of an **American plan to sew division and confrontation between Georgia and Russia**.
- Pro-Russian propagandist and Sezoni TV host [said](#) that the U.S. has a very unfriendly attitude towards Georgia and the Georgian government should review whether or not to continue relations with Washington. He also adamantly claimed that the agent network operating in Georgia should be completely destroyed in order for the country to develop.
- Despite Moscow continuing to have military bases on Georgian territory in 2003, and showing no signs of withdrawal even after signing an agreement in Istanbul stipulating that it would do so until July 1st, 2001, pro-Russian propagandist, Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, [argued](#) that Georgia was on the path of restoring territorial integrity in 2003, but this contradicted Western interests, which is why it started a revolution which led to Georgia's deteriorating relations with Russia



- One of the hosts of Alt Info's broadcasts, Aleksandre Palavandishvili, [asserted](#) that due to Georgia's aim to join the EU, Brussels will use it as an instrument, and if Georgia does not oblige, the EU will punish it.
- Another host of Alt Info's broadcast, Giorgi Dzvelaia, [reiterated](#) the conspiracy that the **West will try to overthrow the government either through or after the parliamentary elections, which will be followed by a war.** He also claimed that the U.S. is interfering in Armenia's internal affairs because Washington wants to cause conflict and chaos in the South Caucasus to create problems in Russia's neighborhood.
- The head of Russian MFA's Gorchakov's fund's Georgian office, Dimitri Lortkipanidze, [argued](#) that Kobakhidze attending Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's funeral was met with criticism from the West as they do not want Georgia to have good relations with its neighbors.
- Tristan Tsitelashvili, a former Georgian high-ranking officer who was previously imprisoned for spying in favour of Russia during the 2008, [purported](#) that the collective West, which is directly threatening the Georgian Prime Minister with execution, is openly talking about its plans to "start a second Maidan and take control in Georgia through chaos." He also argued that the U.S. and the collective West are not concerned with the faith of the Georgian people and only care about establishing military bases in the region to create problems for Russia.
- A propagandist on Alt Info [asserted](#) that Georgian society made a mistake when it decided to replace "existentially important economic and cultural ties with the Soviet space" with the West. Unfortunately, according to him, the West used this to establish complete control over Georgia. According to the propagandist, the West controls Georgia's economy, financial sector, education system, etc. **In 2003, Georgia gave up its sovereignty after the government was appointed by the West.**
- Another host of Alt Info's broadcasts, Matsatso Gakhokidze, [argued](#) that the 30-year-long Western aid and friendship is rudimentary and has done little for Georgia. Overlooking the facts that during the 2008 Russian invasion the U.S. sent humanitarian aid with military ships, leaders of Eastern European countries arrived in Russian-sieged Tbilisi, and French President was negotiating an agreement to stop Russia from advancing, the propagandist argued that **Western assistance to Georgia during the 2008 war was minimal** and only amounted to humanitarian aid. According to her, **the only thing that benefits from Western aid is the establishment of a liberal agenda.**
- Developments in Armenia were a popular topic on Alt Info's broadcast, with propagandists [accusing](#) Washington of inciting confrontation between Armenia and Russia. According to them,



in order for the U.S. to maintain influence in the South Caucasus, it needs to make sure that there is confrontation between Russia and South Caucasus countries.

- A propaganda source from the pro-Russian website “GeWorld” [purported](#) that Georgia will benefit from U.S. sanctions because it will free itself from American influence, which was hindering Georgia. The West prohibited Georgia from restoring relations with countries such as China and Russia. “Georgia showed courage. The Americans did not realize that Georgian citizens will not **exchange their homeland for visas. America is finished in Georgia,**” concludes the article.
- Another propaganda article on “GeWorld” [asserted](#) that as the elections approach, more Western politicians will attempt to interfere in Georgia’s internal affairs, execute an information war, and exacerbate public negative attitudes towards the current government. According to the article, Georgia should sanction those individuals who want to open a second front in Georgia, otherwise the West will execute this plan and embroil Georgia in a terrible conflict, as it incited the 2008 war after the Rose Revolution.

Pro-Kremlin groups spread conspiracies, claim the West is on the verge of collapse

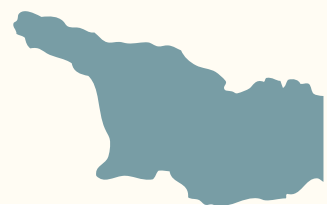
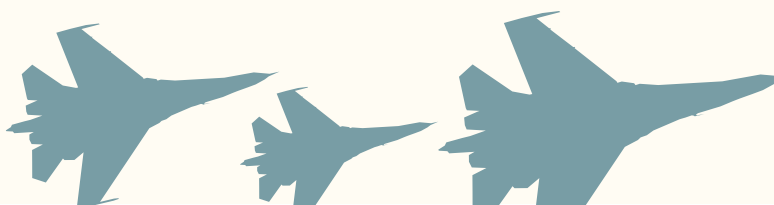
- Assessing the results of the European Parliament elections, Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [stated](#) that the power balance is shifting because Europeans are tired of the policies carried out by Macron, Scholz, and Biden, which, according to the propagandist, mostly involve **LGBT propaganda and attacks on conservative values.**
- A guest on Sezoni TV agreed with Mzhavanadze, [stating](#) that **the weakening of “the liberal rule” is due to the smart policies of Russian President Vladimir Putin**, who woke up conservative powers within Europe by prolonging the war in Ukraine. The propagandist asserted that **the EU is on the verge of dissolution** because France, Germany, and Austria, the main powers within the EU, are considering leaving the union.
- Pro-Russian propagandist, Hamlet Tchipashvili, appeared on Sezoni TV and propagated the Belgian people are demanding the arrest of the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, for the alleged corruption scandal involving vaccines. According to the propagandist, many people died due to the Pfizer vaccine, which was pushed on the population by the EU and Ursula von der Leyen specifically.
- Hamlet Tchipashvili [argued](#) that Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova have no realistic prospect of joining the EU or NATO. According to him, the EU opening **accession talks with Ukraine is superficial and a trap** to maintain European influence in Eastern Europe.
- Another propagandist [argued](#) that **U.S. President Joe Biden rigged the 2020 elections by stuffing ballots** and is now forced to start a civil war because he is losing within the U.S., in Ukraine, Israel, and now in Georgia.



- A propaganda source [assessed](#) the ongoing developments in Armenia, stating that Armenian President Nikol Pashinyan is a representative of the Soros foundation, which is basically “an agent network for global powers.” Turning a blind eye to the fact that Russia did nothing to aid Armenia during the second Karabakh war, which contributed Yerevan’s decision to pursue deeper relations with the West, the propagandist argued that **Pashinyan was instructed by global powers to give up Armenia’s strategic partnership with Russia**, which is leading to the destruction of the Armenian state.
- A host on Alt Info’s broadcast [stated](#) that Europeaness does not bring anything beneficial for Georgia. Europeans have revealed their true faces and proved that they were only pretending to be Georgia’s friends. In reality, they are enemies who want to use Georgia for their own interests.
- A member of Alt Info [claimed](#) that the West is in a very difficult situation and on the verge of collapse. According to him, the West is losing influence throughout the world, while its economy continues to be decimated and migrants flood its borders.

Pro-Kremlin groups say “good-neighborly” relations with Russia are the only path forward for Georgia

- The pro-Russian political party “Solidarity for Peace” appealed to Putin for the complete cancellation of the existing visa regime for Georgia with Russia. The Russian government propaganda agency RIA Novosti [published the information under the title “Abolish it completely - Georgia has returned to Putin”](#). The leader of the pro-Russian party and Moscow-based businessman, Mamuka Pipia, who allegedly finances pro-Russian groups operating in Georgia, also asked Putin to announce amnesty for those Georgian citizens who violated the rules of staying in Russia.
- Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [argued](#) that if Georgia does not establish good relations with Russia, it will not only result in the final loss of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region, but will lead Georgia to an economic collapse and deepening of social hardship.
- Mzhavanadze also [claimed](#) that Georgia will never be able to maintain peace without Russia, as **Moscow is the sole guarantee of peace in the South Caucasus**. According to him, Georgia’s security is completely dependent on Russia.
- The Editor of pro-Russian “Saqinform” and “Sputnik Georgia”, Arno Khidirbegishvili published an article which [argues](#) that if the Georgian Dream wants to establish a traditional national state, it has to cut ties with the West and start new partnerships with members of BRICS. According to him, BRICS can fully compensate for the current partnership between Georgia and the West. Therefore, Georgia should apply for its membership.



- A propagandist on Alt Info [stated](#) that due to its strategic location, Georgia should pursue a pragmatic foreign policy, which, first of all, involves having good relations with Russia and holding dialogue, which will result in positive developments in the future.
- Another propaganda source [claimed](#) that history shows how Georgia needs diplomatic relations with Russia because it can never solve its issues with Moscow with forceful methods, especially when Georgia uses force to pursue the interests of its partners, who are in reality Georgia's enemies and did not hesitate to impose sanctions to punish its disobedience.