



GRASS Disinfo Brief

MONITORING PERIOD:

July 2nd - July 8th

GRASS
REFORMANDA





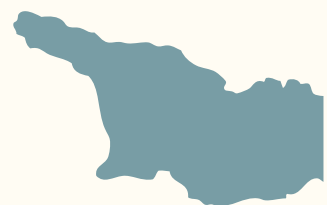
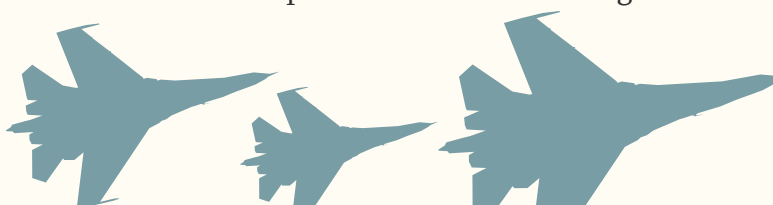
- The ruling party criticizes the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s resolution
- Georgian Dream responds to the US postponing “Noble Partner” military exercise in Georgia
- Pro-Kremlin propaganda actors spread several anti-Western narratives
- Propaganda excuses Russian aggression, blames West for Russia’s occupation of Georgian territories
- Alt Info, group responsible for the July 5th 2021 homophobic attacks, recalls the date as “victory day”

The ruling party criticizes the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s resolution

The 31st Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly took place in Bucharest, Romania, from 29 June to 3 July 2024, under the general theme “The Role of the OSCE in the Current Security Architecture: A Parliamentary Perspective.” The Assembly adopted a comprehensive [resolution](#) which also covers Russian occupation of Georgian sovereign territory; the Russian-style foreign agent law adopted by the Georgian government; the upcoming parliamentary elections in Georgia; polarization in Georgia.

- Paragraph 25 of the resolution calls on “Georgian authorities to cease attendant attacks on civil society, independent media, activists and lawful protesters, which bear all the hallmarks of an extended Russian hybrid operation, and to seek rapprochement with Georgian civil society to **reduce polarization in the country...**”
- Paragraph 158 of the resolution “**highlights with grave concern the Georgian Government’s enactment of a Russian-style foreign agent law...** that effectively undermine democracy, stifle independent civil society and media, codify a repressive governmental apparatus...”
- Paragraph 192 urges the relevant bodies “to develop a robust election observation mission for the Georgian parliamentary elections in October 2024 with special attention **to identifying potential abuses or antidemocratic tendencies** that may occur well in advance of election day and undermine the democratic integrity of the vote.”

As for the paragraph concerning Russia’s occupation of Georgia’s sovereign territory, the text of the resolution initially included a paragraph saying “that reconciliation between Tbilisi-controlled Georgia and occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia remains a priority for regional peace and human security,” which is an unacceptable wording for Georgia as it calls into question its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Also, the wording “Tbilisi-controlled Georgia, Abkhazia, and Ossetia” misrepresents that there are three parties to the conflict, and portrays Russia as a potential mediator among these three parties, rather than a party to the conflict.



Ultimately, the Parliamentary Assembly supported the removal of the paragraph, and was no longer included in the text of the finally approved resolution. The adopted resolution contains Georgia supportive paragraphs – it condemns the Russian occupation and the difficult situation created on the ground as a result, and calls on Russia to withdraw its troops from the occupied regions of Georgia and to respect its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Despite the removal of the controversial wording, the Georgian Dream used it to justify voting against the adoption of the resolution.

- Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze [stated](#) that there are number of unclear paragraphs in the resolution, which is unfortunate. Kobakhidze refused to go into details.
- Georgian Dream MP, Irakli Kadagishvili [assessed](#) the resolution as **“flawed from beginning to end” and not in accordance with the interests of the Georgian state, both in terms of de-occupation and democracy.** He emphasized that different European institutions avoid writing the word “occupation” in official documents. In response to the text of the resolution mentioning “undermining of Georgia’s fragile democracy”, Kadagishvili argued that various political forces in Europe and the US accuse their opponents of “undermining” their countries, that it is a word used for political purposes and does not describe reality.
- Another Georgian Dream MP, Beka Davituliani [argued](#) that when it comes to Ukraine, Georgia is asked to support harsh resolutions. However, in regards to Georgia, some refrain from even using the word “occupation”. Moreover, he underlined that the text of the resolution did not even use the term “so-called” when referring to Russian-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region. The MP stated that along with this, the paragraph concerning the upcoming parliamentary elections suggests that the elections will be rigged, discrediting Georgian democracy.
- Guram Matcharashvili, MP and the member of the Georgian Dream’s radical anti-Western wing, the People’s Power movement, [said](#) that the ruling party was called Russian for “adopting a Georgian law and protecting Georgia’s interest,” while the OSCE’s Parliamentary Assembly adopts resolutions that are in Russia’s interests, which shows double standards towards the Georgian government. **“The Americans say they want a partnership, for which we are always ready, and at the same time they are doing Russia's work by adopting this resolution,”** the MP claimed.

Georgian Dream responds to the US postponing “Noble Partner” military exercise in Georgia

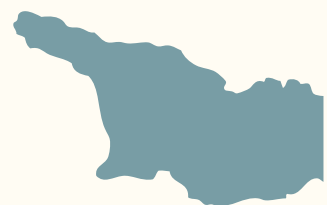
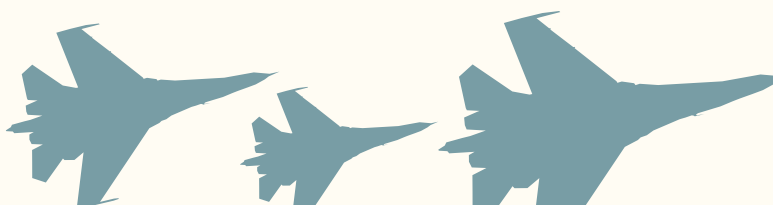
On July 5, the US Department of Defense [announced](#) that as part of reviewing US-Georgia bilateral relationship, it will indefinitely postpone this iteration of exercise NOBLE PARTNER in Georgia, originally scheduled for July 25 – August 6, 2024. According to the statement, the decision was made due to the Georgian government's false accusations against the US and other western entities, to pressure Georgia to open a second front against Russia to alleviate pressure



on Ukraine, and of participating in two coup attempts against the ruling party. “We have not made this decision lightly, and we place great consideration on the extensive value that our Allies and Partners add to exercises such as NOBLE PARTNER,” reads the statement. US Ambassador to Georgia, Robin Dunnigan [stated](#) that decision is “certainly sad, but not incomprehensible.”

- **Georgian Minister of Defense, Irakli Chikovani, did, in fact, [assess](#) the decision as incomprehensible,** while underlining that the Georgian Ministry of Defense and the US Department of Defense have many different cooperation formats where they intensively cooperate, and this cooperation continues.
- General Secretary of the Georgian Dream and the Mayor of Tbilisi, Kakha Kaladze was harsher, [stating](#) that arguments about Georgia changing its pro-Western course are hypocritical, adding that **Georgia will never be another country’s vassal** and that no one will be able to give orders to the Georgian government which will lead to problems for the Georgian state. He went on to argue that no one can give an example of the ruling party ever taking an undemocratic and un-European step.
- Leader of the Parliamentary majority, Mamuka Mdinaradze, [used](#) the People’s Power movement’s arguments about the US issuing the same number of visas to Georgian citizens as citizens of Afghanistan, suggesting that it points to a negative attitude towards Georgia. The ruling party wants to have free trade and direct flights with the US but gets the postponement of military exercises in return. **While claiming that the Georgian Dream does not view the US’s decision as an attempt to intervene in the Georgian elections, according to him, it does trigger legitimate suspicions.** He concluded that the decision is incomprehensible at a time when international reports list Georgia as one of the top countries in terms of democracy and reforms.
- Georgian Dream MP, Nino Tsilosani, [stated](#) that the Georgian people cannot be surprised by the intensity of the statements and the regalia of those making the statements, because **many unfair statements have been made about Georgia from high-ranking officials and institutions.** She assessed the decision as surprising and emphasized that it would also damage the US, as the military exercises serve the interests of both countries. The MP added that the ruling party expects a reset in US-Georgia relations with better conditions. “I would like and hope that the relations between Georgia and the US will change for the better,” Tsilosani said.

Pro-Kremlin propaganda actors spread several anti-Western narratives



Pro-Kremlin propaganda sources also responded to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's resolution and the postponement of the Noble Partner joint military exercises.

- A propagandist on Alt Info's broadcast [followed](#) the ruling party's narrative about the Chairperson of the United National Movement, Tina Bokuchava, allegedly making malign and anti-Georgian statements during the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
- Another propagandist [stated](#) that the OSCE did not recognize the legitimacy of the 2003 elections in Georgia, acting as a trigger for the subsequent Rose Revolution. According to him, the OSCE deliberately assesses elections as rigged when it does not like the results.
- Host of the pro-Russian Sezoni TV broadcast, Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, similar to the ruling party, [purported](#) that the OSCE has changed its rhetoric in regards to Georgia's sovereignty because, according to him, it mentions Georgia, Abkhazia, and Tskhinvali region as separate entities. "This means that there are some changes in the West attitudes towards Georgia," he claimed.
- The General Secretary of the pro-Russian Solidarity for Peace political party, Temur Pipia, [argued](#) that the US Department of Defense's statement confirms that the US and Europe want to isolate Georgia because it is afraid of Georgia restoring relations with Russia.
- Nikoloz Mzhavanadze [celebrated](#) the postponement of the military exercises, assessing it as a sign of "Georgia freeing itself from America's chains." He argued that the US is not a noble partner to Georgia, repeating the traditional pro-Russian narrative that the US only provided water and diapers as humanitarian aid when Georgia was in the middle of a war in 2008.

Propaganda sources continued propagating claims about the West attempting to overthrow the government and open a second front in Georgia through the hands of Georgian opposition parties and NGOs.

- Edisher Gvenetadze, dubbed as an expert by pro-governmental news channels, [stated](#) that if "blood-sucking capitalists" stopped funding NGOs and opposition parties, Georgia would be one of the most successful and prosperous countries in the world.
- Another propaganda source [spread](#) the narrative that the Maidan revolution in Ukraine was conspired by the West, which led to Ukraine's demise and failure as a sovereign state. According to the propaganda source, the West intends to execute the same scenario in Georgia, and Saakashvili's clandestine return in 2021 was planned and executed by Ukrainian and Western counterintelligence agencies to overthrow the current government.



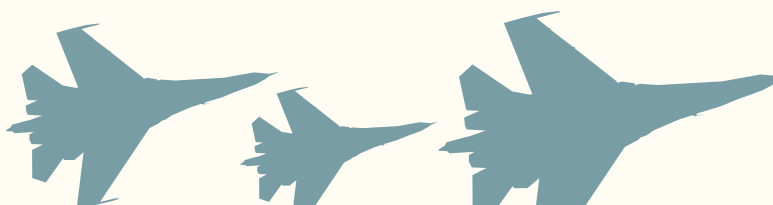
- A guest on Alt Info's broadcast [repeated](#) a narrative often spread by the People's Power movement, which claims that the US assistance was only directed towards NGOs to establish powers loyal to Washington within Georgia. Moreover, the funds were used to influence the education system, which led to the youth having distorted perceptions about ongoing events.
- Chief of General Staff of the Georgian Armed Forces and the Deputy Minister of Defense in the 1990s, Guram Nikoleishvili, who nowadays hosts the pro-Russian Solidarity for Peace broadcasts, [repeated](#) the narrative voiced by the People's Power movement and blamed the West for deliberately inciting the 2008 Russo-Georgian war in order to turn the Georgian people away from Russia.

Pro-Kremlin sources also disseminated the recurring narrative that the West is using Georgia as a vassal, a tool, and that Georgia will never become a member of Euro-Atlantic institutions.

- Former high-ranking military official, Gela Khutsishvili, [claimed](#) that the West will not allow Georgia to hold the parliamentary elections in October since they know that their favorites will lose. In reality, the West aims to cause chaos and uncertainty in Georgia to maintain influence, he claimed.
- One of the hosts of Alt Info's broadcasts [alleged](#) that the US is prohibiting Georgia from having full-fledged relations with its neighboring countries and Washington dictates the nature of these relations.
- Another propaganda source claimed that promises of EU and NATO membership are absurd. According to this source, the pursuit to join Euro-Atlantic institutions has led Georgia into a pit of despair and an abyss of meaningless promises. The opposite is happening. It leads to the collapse of our country, to the demoralization of society, and to another abyss with some meaningless promises, propaganda [claimed](#).

Results of the second round of the French elections were also a topic of manipulation by pro-Russian actors.

- A propagandist on Sezoni TV [attributed](#) the final results of the French elections to US intelligence agencies, alleging that since the National Front got the most votes in the first round, it is illogical for the party to come third in the second round. According to the propagandists, US intelligence agencies have Europe under its grip and decide the election results in these countries.



- A prominent Stalinist and pro-Russian propagandist, Grisha Oniani, [reiterated](#) the same narrative, purporting that in the 1990s, former Russian President Boris Yeltsin actually lost the elections to Gennady Zyuganov. However, the US rigged the vote and installed Yeltsin as President because he was easier to control. According to Grisha Oniani, the US executed a similar plan in France, depriving Marine Le Pen's party of victory.

Propaganda excuses Russian aggression, blames West for Russia's occupation of Georgian territories

- Pro-government propagandist Edisher Gvenetadze [argued](#) that it is absurd that Georgia should not have diplomatic relations with Russia until its territorial integrity is restored. According to him, it is impossible to regain control over Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region without negotiating with Russia. However, the West is spreading this "charlatanism" to dupe Georgian society and maintain conflict between Georgia and Russia.
- Another propagandist [blamed](#) Georgia's loss of territories on the West, alleging that it was a result of deliberate steps taken by the West's agents – Shevardnadze, Gorbachev, and Yeltsin. The propagandist whitewashed Russia's history of aggression towards Georgia and claimed that "the collective West" is deliberately planting Russophobia in Georgia and inciting conflicts between the two countries to maintain Georgia as a geopolitical tool.
- A propagandist [portrayed](#) the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, as a model leader for Georgia, arguing that through good relations with Russia, Aliyev was able to turn Azerbaijan into a successful state.
- On the other hand, host of the Sezoni TV broadcast, Nikoloz Mzhavanadze, [propagated](#) that countries that turned away from Russia – Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Armenia, are suffering and have economic, political, and security problems. He justified Russia's aggression towards its neighbors, including Georgia, by arguing that when a country sides with the US and NATO, Russia's response is understandable.
- A propaganda source [claimed](#) that the entire world is attempting to have friendly relations with Russia because the Russian market is extremely attractive due to the high number of natural resources. In this context, it is unacceptable and irrational for Georgia to have a hostile attitude towards Moscow.



Alt Info, group responsible for the July 5th 2021 homophobic attacks, recalls the date as “victory day”

- One of the hosts of Alt Info, Aleksandre Palavandishvili, [recalled](#) July 5th, 2021 as a day of victory over Georgia’s enemies. He stated that on this day, the Georgian people made a devastating blow to “the local sodomite traitors.” According to him, “the problem of sodomy in Georgia” is a result of the country’s pro-Western course. He continued that in the West, the LGBT movement has dominated society, permeating its ideology in kindergartens, schools, colleges, and in every aspect of society.
- Spiridon Tskipurishvili, who justified violence on July 5 and “obliged [parishioners] to commit violence”, [stated](#) that from 2013 until 2021, the liberal world was able to change the atmosphere in Georgia and spread LGBT propaganda, while dictating which laws Georgia was allowed to pass. However, July 5th changed that by challenging “the liberal LGBT agenda.”
- One of the leaders of the Alt Info group, Irakli Martinenko, [argued](#) that the Georgian government broke under the pressure of Western-funded NGOs, who demanded the arrest of “people protecting the dignity of the country”, resulting in the “shameful arrest of 31 citizens.” He claimed that the West demanded the arrest because it wanted to suppress the Georgian people’s protest against “LGBT propaganda.”
- Another Alt Info propagandist [alleged](#) that the planned LGBT pride event would have finally confirmed the victory of the liberal West and turned Georgia into a vassal state. According to the propagandist, the US intelligence agencies and the former US Ambassador to Georgia, Kelly Degnan, were directly involved in the planning of the pride event.
- Kelly Degnan was a target of another Alt Info member, who [stated](#) that when condemning the July 5th attacks, the former Ambassador revealed the US’s true intentions towards Georgia, convincing more people of America’s plans to spread LGBT propaganda in Georgia.

