



Prevention of Far-Right Extremism in Georgia

Annotation on far-right political entities in Georgia

(September)
2021

Brief overview of far-right political actors in Georgia

National Movement - Georgian March

The public movement Georgian March was founded in April 2017. The movement is characterized by sharply anti-Western, xenophobic, homophobic and anti-liberal discourse. It operates as an extremely right-wing group with a national-conservative¹ ideology. Its strategy is based on the creation of an ethnically homogeneous model of a state and its rhetoric is dominated by orthodox and nationalist motives. The movement attracted public attention by organizing various xenophobic and homophobic rallies. On July 2, 2020, Sandro Bregadze, the leader of the Georgian March, founded a political party at the Ilia Chavchavadze Museum in Saguramo, where he was elected Chairman of the National Movement - Georgian March. Irakli Shikhiashvili, former Head of the State Veterans Office and former Chairman of the Tbilisi City Assembly (2013-2014), was elected Political Secretary of the party. Giorgi Gigauri, a journalist of the Asaval-Dasavali newspaper, which is known for its homophobic and xenophobic discourse, was appointed Deputy Chairman of the party.

The Georgian March participated in the 2020 parliamentary elections. The proportional list of 20 members was led by Sandro Bregadze, who was followed by Irakli Shikhiashvili, a former member of the Georgian Dream. The election number of the party was 55 and it received 0.25% of the vote, which was not enough to cross the 1% barrier. In the run-up to the election, the party received GEL 95,267 donation. Supporters and leaders of the party declared the elections illegitimate and organized protests. The party is not running in the 2021 local self-government elections.

Party ideology: National-conservatism

Political election number: 55

Symbol of the party: The flag of David the Builder

Slogan: Fight for the Georgian identity and for Georgia

Leader: Sandro Bregadze

Date of establishment: July 2, 2020

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/qartulimarshi2021>



Georgian Idea

According to the official data of the Public Registry, on February 21, 2014, Levan Chachua registered the public movement Georgian Idea as a non-commercial legal entity. Based on the same application filed by

¹ A political ideology that puts national and ethnical identity first; opposes free migration and sees immigrants as a major cause of ethnic conflict and social instability.

Levan Chachua, on March 31, 2014, the Public Registry liquidated the public movement Georgian Idea. On December 16 of the same year, Georgian Idea was registered as a political party. Levan Chachua informed the public about the establishment of the political entity at a press conference held at the RIA Novosti Tbilisi press center.

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The Georgian Idea party participated in the 2016 parliamentary elections. Its election number was 18 and it received 2,019 votes (0.17%). Sandro Bregadze, the leader of the Georgian March, was number two in a list submitted by the Georgian Idea to the Central Election Commission. The party received GEL 14,459 donation in the run-up to the elections. The Georgian Idea participated in the October 2020 parliamentary elections as well. Its election number was 44. The party list was led by Levan Chachua, who was followed by Guram Palavandishvili, Chairman of the Children's Rights Society, who is known for his homophobic discourse. The party received 8,263 votes (0.43%). The Georgian Idea is not participating in the 2021 self-government elections.

Party ideology: Ethnocentrism²

Political election number: 44

Slogan: With faith and love, for a dignified future

Party leader: Levan Chachua

Date of establishment: December 16, 2014

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/qartuliidea>



Alliance of Patriots of Georgia

The political party Alliance of Patriots of Georgia was founded on December 19, 2012. The Alliance of Patriots was formed in the Georgian political arena on the basis of the Resistance Movement. Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi is the Chairman of the party, while Irma Inashvili is the Secretary General. The formation of a truly right-wing force in Georgia was named as a reason for the establishment of the party at the founding

² An ideology based on the exaggeration of one's own nation and cultural values, while having sharply negative and biased reasoning towards other ethnic groups, perceiving one's own national values as exemplary; having preconceived notions about what is right, acceptable, moral and healthy.

Congress. The Alliance of Patriots is characterized by sharply anti-Turkish and pro-Russian rhetoric. The party has quite rich experience of political activism and participation in elections.

In the 2014 local self-government elections, the party received 4.72% of the vote and won 44 seats in the Georgian self-government bodies. The Alliance of Patriots participated in the 2016 parliamentary elections as well and won 6 parliamentary seats with 5.01% of the vote received. In the 2017 self-government elections, the party received 98,585 votes (6.56%). As for the 2018 presidential elections, the party did not nominate a candidate, while in the second round, they expressed political support to Salome Zourabichvili, the candidate of the Georgian Dream. In the 2020 parliamentary elections, the party's rating amounted to 3.14% with 60,480 votes received. The Alliance of Patriots is participating in the 2021 local self-government elections. As for the finances of the party, from the day of its establishment, the party has received a total of GEL 4 089 314 donation. Unlike the 2020 elections, when the party received a colossal amount of GEL 1,864,635 donation, the donations received in 2021 are much smaller, amounting to only GEL 35,850.

Party ideology: Far-right, national-conservatism³

Political election number: 8

Slogan: Faithful, brave and dignified

Party leaders: Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, Irma Inashvili

Date of establishment: December 19, 2012

Political course: Pro-Russian, anti-Western

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/allianceofficial>



Ertoba, Raoba, Imedi -Unity, Essence, Hope

At the press conference held on May 6, 2021, Levan Vasadze, a businessman known for his pro-Russian and far-right sentiments, announced the establishment of a political movement called Ertoba, Raoba, Imedi (Unity, Essence, Hope). According to Levan Vasadze, his political activity is based on three layers of the electorate:

- 60% of population, who no longer go to the polls and are nihilistic towards the political elite
- People who vote for the Georgian Dream because they do not want the return of the National Movement and Mikheil Saakashvili

³ An umbrella term that combines radical, ultranationalist and extremist ideologies that use racism, xenophobia, homophobia and misogyny as tools for action.

- People who are frustrated with the Georgian Dream and Bidzina Ivanishvili personally and in order to punish them, they vote for the "collective National Movement"

Levan Vasadze made anti-Western statements at the press conference held on May 6 and announced the main vectors of his party's future foreign policy:

- The West imposes unacceptable values on Georgia and deprives the country of its sovereignty
- The West does not value morality or family - "The Western culture has never seen such a disgraceful collapse as it is seeing today"
- The West is a role model for Georgia only in the field of technology; Georgia should not even take advice in other directions.



Regarding the sources of funding, Vasadze says that he has financed himself and will attract additional assistance from businessmen, with a full guarantee of future freedom. The official website eri.ge has a donation column with bank account details for supporters. The political movement is characterized with religious and ethno-nationalist narratives, naming the ideological and political recovery of the country as the main personal challenge. In addition, Levan Vasadze supports the presidential government and aims to bring back a democratically elected presidential institution with strong powers. The movement does not yet have the political experience of participating in elections, nor is it participating in the 2021 local self-government elections.

Party ideology: Far-right, national-conservatism⁴

Slogan: Unity, Essence, Hope

Party leader: Levan Vasadze

Date of establishment: May 6, 2021

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ertobaraobaimedi>

⁴ An umbrella term that combines radical, ultranationalist and extremist ideologies that use racism, xenophobia, homophobia and misogyny as tools for action.