



Democracy Research Institute (DRI)

Democracy Research Institute is a public policy think tank that aims at promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; establishment of the transparent and accountable governance system based on the rule of law and human rights; support to the establishment of free and fair society; support to the protection of human rights in conflict-affected regions; restoration of trust among parties and promotion of integration policy and support to the European integration.

April Activities

Far-Right Extremism

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Sources of funding and alleged Russian ties of the Conservative Movement

The Democracy Research Institute monitors the funding of pro-Russian forces and their donors. After the Alt-Info established the Conservative Movement, an openly pro-Russian political union, suspicions emerged that the organization was allegedly receiving funding from the Russian sources. It was also suggested that the party leaders had long kept the identities of the sponsors secret. Konstantine Morgoshia's statement about going to negotiations in Russia and receiving financial resources from people living in post-Soviet countries increased the public interest in the sources of funding of the party. The suspicions were also deepened by the statement of Squander Detector, according to which, the hosting of the official website of the Conservative Movement was located in Russia.

According to the official data, the donation received by the Conservative Movement until March 26, 2022 amounted to GEL 94,035. Zezva Chankseliani donated GEL 8,000 to the party on March 10, 2022, which makes him the party's biggest donor. Zezva Chankseliani officially owns numerous companies. As a result of their detailed inspection, our attention was drawn to Mshenebeli 2006 Ltd. The company is associated with the name of Gia Gazdeliani, the majoritarian MP candidate of the Georgian Dream in Tsageri. He also held the position of the Chairman of the Lentekhi Municipal Council. Before the 2016 elections, Gazdeliani first transferred the company to Samson Pirtskhalava free of charge and then to Aluda Chankseliani. Today the manager of the company is Aluda's brother, Zezva Chankseliani.

DRI: Organizers of the July 5 violent crackdown remain unpunished

On April 4, Tbilisi City Court announced verdicts in 3 of the 5 cases relating to the July 5 events. The court found all the accused guilty. All of them, except for Ushangi Datunashvili, have been sentenced to imprisonment.

Although judge Nino Elieshvili found 6 people guilty of involvement in organized crime in the episode of Lekso Lashkarava and Miranda Baghaturia, none of the organizers of the pre-organized, hate-motivated group violence committed on July 5 has been arrested as of March 2022. According to the observer of the Democracy Research Institute, a number of pieces of evidence pointed to the organizers' criminal guilt at the stage of examining evidence during the trial.

[DRI publishes monitoring results of rallies of far-right groups](#)

The Democracy Research Institute has been monitoring the activities of far-right radical groups at assemblies and demonstrations since 2020. This [report](#) presents findings of the monitoring of assemblies-demonstrations organized by far-right groups from September 2021 to December 2021. In total, the report analyzes the trends identified during the observation of 12 assemblies and key findings.

There was a tendency of transforming anti-liberal and anti-Western far-right forces into political parties in 2021; Assemblies-demonstrations of far-right extremist groups are characterized by systematicity and discipline; Organizers of anti-liberal and anti-Western far-right groups are not rigid opponents of the current authorities; Coordinated action, familial communication and positive interaction were noticeable between law enforcement officials and organizers during the protests of far-right groups.

[DRI asks State Audit Office to examine Morgoshia's donation](#)

The Democracy Research Institute has applied to the Audit Office to examine an alleged donation made by Konstantin Morgoshia to the Conservative Movement. Since the establishment of the party, Morgoshia has declared himself a sponsor of the party, although official data does not confirm the above.

The Democracy Research Institute calls on the State Audit Office, due to high public interest, to provide us with information if the it has already started proceedings relating to the illegal financial activities of the Conservative Movement.

[Report released by US Department of State addresses problems raised by DRI](#)

The United States Department of State has released its 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Georgia. The section on the occupied territories highlights the problems raised by the Democracy Research Institute (DRI).

The Democracy Research Institute released a statement about 30-year-old Inal Jabiev, who was arrested on charges of assaulting the car of the de facto South Ossetian interior minister. Inal Jabiev died in the Tskhinvali

pre-trial detention center on August 28, 2020, after several days of interrogation. Jabiev allegedly fell victim to torture and inhuman treatment, which led to his death.

The report of the Department of State also focuses on the "family reunification" programme used by the de facto South Ossetian authorities as a tool to exert pressure on locals. The programme was aimed at sending residents of Akhagori to live in an area controlled by the Georgian central authorities.

DRI terms initiative of parliamentary majority as attempt to legalize total control

The Democracy Research Institute is echoing the draft law submitted by members of the ruling political team to the Parliament, according to which the maximum period for conducting covert investigative activities is increasing and may be extended indefinitely, depending on specific articles. According to the current edition, the maximum period for conducting a covert investigation activity is 6 months.

Alleged illegal covert surveillance has been a vicious practice over the years. Instead of effective and rapid investigation of similar cases by the State and use of oversight mechanisms, uncontrolled interference in a person's private space is becoming legitimate.

The Democracy Research Institute calls on the Parliament of Georgia not to allow the adoption of the draft law and thus not to legalize the violation of a person's private life, as well as the disregard for other rights enshrined in the Constitution.

DRI appeals to the Ministry of Internal Affairs relating to the so-called stencils case

According to the media reports, the Ministry of Internal Affairs launched administrative proceedings relating to the stencils that can be seen on various buildings in the territory of the Tbilisi Municipality. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the author of the stencil(s) has been identified.

in view of the high public interest, the Democracy Research Institute requested the following information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs:

What investigative activities were carried out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs to rule out elements of crime?

Were administrative proceedings launched into the so-called stencils case? If so, on what legal grounds and against how many persons?

According to the media reports, Giorgi Gigolashvili, a citizen of the Russian Federation, stated that he had done only one stencil. Did the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia find out who did other stencils?

DRI in Coalition activities

The Democracy Research Institute actively cooperates with other civil society organizations. In April, with the support and involvement of DRI was issued a [statement](#) about comments on a working group set up to evaluate judicial reform.

The Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary commented on the working group set up in the Parliament of Georgia on judicial reform. It is unfortunate that information about the working group format is closed to the public. Local NGOs working on justice issues, international missions and other stakeholders are not invited to participate in the group, therefore, the process is non-inclusive.

The Coalition called on the Parliament of Georgia:

To be consistent in evaluating the waves of judicial reform. Conduct the process in an inclusive, multi-party and maximally public environment. All actors should have the opportunity to participate in identifying significant gaps in the judiciary and finding ways to address them. It is the conclusion developed by such a process on which the Parliament should base the concept of further reform.

Implement a fundamental reform of the judiciary. In this process, the so-called “Clan influences” should be considered. The Parliament should not be focused only on the procedural refinement of legislation.

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