

From: “24 Hours”’s co-founder Paata Veshapidze

Yesterday I have read your research results, which supervisor are you. I want to express my concern about this non-objective and incompetent conclusions about newspaper “24 Hours” which we read in this research.

You can see that Georgia’s advertising market capitalization is very low. So “24 Hours” use every resources and tenders to bring sum which is necessary for newspapers presence. It includes state organizations and media-support funds. As a result of tender we receive from Public Registry project to publish real estate advertising. If it is for you “legal tender in one sight”, we absolutely confident that this tender is legal. Simply, from the tenders requirement we consider that we satisfy these conditions, we determine minimal price and bring an announcement. It is not our problem that there were only two participants. And what about tenders announcement on Friday and results publishing on Monday—either this one is our problem and we are not responsible for this.

I want to say that Saturday and Sunday, like many other newspapers in Georgia, for us are the usually working days.

And what about your notion that “24 Hours” is a government-leaning newspaper I think that it is a your naive mistake, which you made from influence with other.

I want assure you that today “24 Hours” is a really exception in Georgia media because its independence high quality. For your opponents, many of them are under influence of other political or finance groups, it is unacceptable that “24 Hours” really pursue journalistic ethic and professional standards. Our newspapers critical inspiration is always reasoned and well-founded. I want to mention that it seems really anachronistic in Today’s polarized media. And I think this is a reason why some people consider that we are pro-government newspaper.

Let me, like your research results, say that Transparency International Georgia’s research “objective conclusions” are tendentious and non-objective.

I want give you one advise: look at even in this research mentioned media supported funds politics. You will found that during last 4-5 years their finance resources big amount flew in the same address, they are financing the same media and what is the most important the effect of this financing is near zero, as Georgia media is not developing either professionally or marketingly. Today “24 Hours” are representing several projects, among these are I think very good ones for developing online-media and printing medias distributions, but these funds refused to finance our projects.

What about Public Registry’s and “24 Hours” joined project, this is a really competitive project, as today this is only one advertising newspaper in Georgia and we want to produce our product in this segment, which has really high potential for bringing advertisements. And rank this project different kinds of labels, let me consider that you are lobbying this monopolist newspaper.

Although my letters strict tone, I want to express my deep respect with your organization and say that we are ready to meet you in any kind of format and in private talk examine every issue, which

I have mentioned in this letter. It would be better (and I think it was necessary) to manage such meeting when you were working about this research.

With great respect and hope that we will meet in future

“24 Hours” publisher

Paata Veshapidze