

Russia v. Georgia - Media Regulation

Background Information:

Russia and Georgia have long held complex diplomatic relations. The Russo-Georgian War in 2008 established a culture of animosity and pushed Georgia to seek Western diplomatic relations. Before the 2024 elections, Georgia courted the idea of EU membership but this changed in the 2024 cycle which saw the resurgence of a pro-Russian eurosceptic party. Protests ensued and Georgia's political stability was brought into question. Georgian President Salome Zurbishvili, a member of the country's western-oriented bloc, decried the election results due to Russian meddling.

The President of Georgia has joined the EU and USA in asserting that the results of the election were manipulated by Russian Intelligence, which disseminated large amounts of disinformation and propaganda. Russia has alleged that the accusations are nothing more than a plot to allow Zurbishvili an excuse to eliminate the opposition and retain his party's influence.

Situation:

Georgia has alleged that Russian media's intervention in the Georgian election was responsible for the rise of pro-Kremlin sentiment. They are petitioning the ICJ to fault Russia for unlawful media manipulation within the country in a purposeful bid to destabilize the Georgian Government.

Questions:

Does Russian Media's role in the election violate international law? What legal obligation do state media corporations have to ensure truthfulness? Is the current unrest within Georgia due to Russian interference? In the ICJ's opinion, were Georgian elections free and fair? Does Georgia have an obligation to allow pro-Russian members of parliament to take office?