



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch and has the honour to transmit herewith the response of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to the Joint Urgent Appeal no. *AL MDA 5/2015* dated 7 December 2015, of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch, the assurances of its highest consideration. *v.m.*



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**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH**

Geneva

Respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova remains a challenge to the national authorities due to the impossibility of exercising the constitutional control over the region.

Nevertheless, the Government of the Republic of Moldova undertook a number of actions to protect the rights of Promo-LEX activists against abuses of the alleged Transnistrian security structures.

A number of requests were sent out to international partners involved in the negotiation process on the Transnistrian settlement, in order to have an objective stance on the difficult situation of human rights NGOs from the region, challenges they face when providing counseling to inhabitants from the left bank of the Nistru river, as well as for contracting a foreign support to improve the existing situation.

Also, the Political Representative from Tiraspol for the Transnistrian conflict settlement process was requested to explain the reasons and grounds for Promo-LEX's activists' persecution, to undertake all necessary measures in order to prevent the violation of their rights and legitimate interests and called upon to ensure favorable conditions for the human rights defenders in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova.

For unknown reasons, to date Chisinau hasn't received any answer to its requests from Tiraspol, and within the existing dialog platforms, the Political Representative from Tiraspol demonstrates inability for a constructive dialogue on the urgent problems that the citizens on both banks face, including those related to ensuring the free movement.

The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the Joint Control Commission (JCC) has notified the other components of the Commission, the civil society institutions from the Republic of Moldova, as well as the international organizations (FIDH, OMCT, and Front Line Defenders) in respect to the challenges faced by Promo-LEX activists. It was requested to include the subject matter on the JCC agenda for adopting a common position. The Transnistrian Delegation has been requested to contribute directly to solving this problem and eliminate the existing obstacles.

Despite that, the Transnistrian side ignores the appeals of the Chisinau representatives and continues to demonstrate destructive approaches: the JCC activity obstruction, the artificial tensioning of the situation in the Security Zone, the contempt of prior commitments, deliberate delay in the process of solving the urgent problems faced by the citizens, providing media disinformation addressed to the citizens on both banks.

The circumstances of "Promo-LEX" case were also brought to the attention of law enforcement bodies of the Republic of Moldova, with the request to undertake the necessary legal measures. The acts of unconstitutional authorities of the Transnistrian region do not have legal ground neither on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, nor on a territory of other state. Moreover, according to the Criminal Code, such actions might be qualified as violation of the inviolability of personal life and arbitrariness.

Finally, the Government of the Republic of Moldova strongly condemns the unilateral actions of force structures from Tiraspol and will further continue making efforts to support the civil society representatives in the process of promoting the activities for ensuring the human rights protection in the Transnistrian region, by maintaining these problems on the agenda of all existing dialog platforms for the Transnistrian conflict settlement and insisting on unconditional elimination of the artificial obstacles to free movement of people.