



## NOTE VERBALE

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The Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and in connection with the latter's communication No. UA SVK 1/2017 dated 28 November 2017 would like to bring the following information to the attention of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

On June 23rd, 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved Resolution No. 367 of Apology of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the manner of intervention of the law enforcement forces of the state in Moldava nad Bodvou in 2013. The aim of the Apology is to express the government's regret over the situation in which concrete persons were found prosecuted within the context of the interventions of the law enforcement forces of the state in Moldava nad Bodvou in 2013, in a matter with a strong human rights dimension.

In this case, the Government of the Slovak Republic considers necessary beyond the expression of regret from the state, to address an apology for the manner of intervention of the law enforcement forces of the state in Moldava nad Bodvou in 2013 and other events related to it, that led to criminalization of those who have been harmed; and for the injustice and suffering caused to them and their families by the protracted search of the truth.

The apology is perceived by the Government of the Slovak Republic not only as a gesture of humanity towards the injured victims, but also as a commitment by the state to avoid similar failures in the future as well as a signal that law enforcement authorities have a sincere interest in regaining the trust of the civil society.

The Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration. *M*

Geneva, 16 July 2021

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais Wilson  
5, rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

