

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the United Nations Office in Geneva
and the International Organizations in
Switzerland



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève
et des Organisations Internationales en Suisse

No. 1127

The Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office in Geneva and the International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch and, with reference to its Joint Communication AL ROU 1/2026, has the honour to submit the reply conveyed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Ms Oana-Silvia Țoiu, to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

The letter mentioned above has been sent also by e-mail in the attention of the two Special Rapporteurs and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on 17 August 2026.

The Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office in Geneva and International Organizations in Switzerland 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.

MM



Geneva, 18th August 2026

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Special Procedures Branch
- in town -

Rue de Vermont 37-39; 1202 - Genève

Phone/Téléphone : +41-22-752 1090

Fax/Télécopieur: +41-22-752 2976

E-mail/Courriel: geneva-onu@mae.ro

Website: <http://mpgeneva.mae.ro>



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Minister

Dear Ms Lawlor,

Dear Ms Khan,

I would like to express appreciation for the work carried out under your mandates as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Romania regards these mandates as being of enduring importance, reflecting rights that require protection at all times and in all circumstances.

With reference to your communication of 25 February 2026 concerning Ms Alina Chiriac, the Romanian Government takes the concerns raised seriously and reaffirms its commitment to the international human rights instruments. The allegations described, the administrative sanction imposed following a social media post, and remarks addressed to her by public officials during public consultations on the Făgetul Natura 2000 site, are of a nature that warranted careful examination.

Accordingly, we wish to inform you that the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Turda Court was notified on 24 March 2026 in relation to these matters and the investigation is ongoing. With regard to the earlier stages of the case, the competent structures of the Romanian Police carried out verifications within the applicable legal framework and timeframes, including at the level of the Cluj County Police Inspectorate. In respect of Ms Chiriac's complaint concerning the conduct of a police officer, the review did not substantiate the allegations, and Ms Chiriac was informed of the conclusions in accordance with national law. These findings concern the specific questions examined at that stage and do not prejudice the matters currently under investigation.

By way of clarification of the applicable framework, supervision of criminal investigations lies with the prosecutor rather than with the police, and the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for a complaint to the supervising prosecutor where a person considers that their legitimate interests have been affected, a remedy Ms Chiriac has exercised. The review of administrative sanctions and of the related official reports falls to the courts.

Ms Chiriac has been able to file complaints with both the police and the courts, and we are not aware of obstacles to her access to justice. We note the concerns she has expressed regarding the pace and outcome of these proceedings, which is one reason the current investigation is of particular importance.

More broadly, Romania considers that it has a solid legal framework for the protection of fundamental rights, freedom of expression and civic space, while acknowledging that any remaining gaps identified by regional and international bodies should be addressed. Romania is currently transposing Directive (EU) 2024/1069 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings (the SLAPP Directive), has designated a focal point under the related Recommendation, and organises training for magistrates and lawyers in this field.

The Government has also expanded its engagement with civil society, including through consultative groups and a platform for comments on draft legislation, strategies and policies. Finally, any person whose rights have been violated is entitled to seek redress before a national court or authority, including where the violation is attributable to a public official.

Sincerely,

Oana Silvia-Toiu