

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 30 August 2016

Dear Prime Minister,

It is with great concern that I learnt about recent events in the village of Loshchynivka in the Izmayil district.

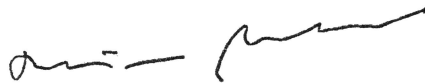
I fully condemn the acts which led to the tragic death of the young girl, and my sincere condolences lay with her family.

I should like to underline that each criminal case must be treated at individual level and that every suspect must be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

In this context, I am very concerned about the remarks made by, and the measures taken by, the local authorities, in particular to remove the entire Roma community from their village.

Collective punishment is against everything we stand for in Europe. It gives the impression that all members of that community are criminals and will increase existing prejudices and will also add to the feeling of insecurity.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

Mr Volodymyr Groysman
Prime Minister of Ukraine