



*Permanent Representation of the Republic of Moldova
to the Council of Europe*

No. FRA-CoE/352.8.11/333


Strasbourg, July 30, 2015

Dear Mr. Gruden,

Please find enclosed the response of the Moldovan Government on the case of the journalist S. Ilchenco, arrested by the so-called „security structures” from the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, submitted as an alert to the *Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists*.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely Yours,


Inga Botnari
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Enclosure: 1 page.

Mr. Matjaž Gruden
Director
Directorate of Policy Planning

Council of Europe

Strasbourg

Annex

Serghei Ilchenco (25.10.1959) is a journalist with residence in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. On 18 March 2015 he was arrested by so-called “security structures” on the grounds of “promoting extremism”. Mr Ilchenco was illegally deprived of freedom during 4 months.

On 23 March 2015 his son, Nicolae Ilchenco (19.12.1993), in Odessa (Ukraine) held a press conference where he presented real situation about detention of his father arrest. He also declared the intention to request Promo-LEX NGO assistance (details on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pn4EPqRCs0&app=desktop&hd=1>). On the second day after being informed on the possible real risk to be as well arrested, he left his permanent residence in Tiraspol and moved to Chisinau.

Following coordination between the relevant authorities (Bureau for Reintegration and Ministry of Internal Affairs) on 25 March 2015 Nicolae Ilchenco was accommodated at the Bureau for Migration and Asylum premises / placement centre.

Immediately after Serghei Ilchenco arrest the Deputy Prime Minister for reintegration Victor Osipov has brought this issue to the attention of the political representative of the Transnistrian region for the conflict settlement, the OSCE Mission in Chisinau and other international partners, condemning this action and requesting his immediate and unconditional release with the respect of all the rights of his family members.

Following a number of requests, on 18 July 2015 Serghei Ilchenco was released from detention. At the same time, due to a number of reasonable grounds regarding continuous threats to his life and well-being, on 21 July, Mr S.Ilchenko left the Transnistrian region and has arrived to Chisinau where he was provided with temporary accommodation and necessary counseling.

At 22 July 2015 Serghei Ilchenco and Nicolae Ilchenco met with acting Deputy Prime Minister for reintegration Victor Osipov and discussed the current family issues and Government assistance for their rehabilitation and accommodation. In this sense, the Bureau for Reintegration has addressed to a number of authorities for the following measures:

- Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and Republican Fund for Social support of population – for financial support allocation and other available assistance;
- Ministry of Education – for Nicolae Ilchenco to find registration facility within one of Chisinau university with state budget support, with courses in Russian language and by offering courses for State language studies;
- Ministry of Health – for conducting a thorough medical examination of Serghei Ilchenco in order to assess the current state of health after detention in unsatisfactory condition, as well as to provide necessary medical assistance free of charge.