



RDCT BULLETIN

No. 15, MARCH 2008

FOREWORD

Dear friends, we are offering You the 15th edition of the RDCT Bulletin.

We remind you that your suggestions and comments regarding the presented materials, as well as to the bulletin in general, are welcome.

With respect,

RDCT Team

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RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR TRANSNISTRIA

Promo-Lex Association launched Study on “Human Rights in Moldova’s Transnistrian Region”

The human rights and freedoms of the people that live or cross the Transnistrian region are not observed, say authors of the study “Human Rights in Moldova’s Transnistrian Region” presented by Promo-Lex Association.

At a news conference on March 13 hosted by Info-Prim Neo, the president of Promo-Lex Ion Manole, one of the study authors, said that all the events that had happened after the Moldovan-Russian Agreement of 1992 was signed have led to the exacerbation of the human rights situation. The region continues to be administered by the same group of persons that took over the control by military force.

The region’s administration bases on a pyramidal system led by Igor Smirnov and exists owing to propaganda. It aims at creating an image of aggressor to Moldova and a positive image to the leaders of Tiraspol and Russia, which is a senior guarantor-state, said the association’s

jurist Pavel Postica.

The study authors say that a series of organizations meant to defend the human rights work in the region, but in fact they act as repressive bodies subordinated to Igor Smirnov. A number of military institutions in Transnistria are paid to hinder the population's access to democratic values and to maintain a state of fear among the civil population.

Pavel Postica says that the inhabitants of the region are forced to live according to the local laws that are mainly of Soviet-type and do not meet the international standards. The councils of people's deputies created in every locality play a formal role, the jurist says. Under the local legislation, the decisions made by these councils can be implemented only by the district administrations appointed by Smirnov.

According to Promo-Lex, the law enforcement bodies also seriously violate the human rights. Representatives of the Prosecutor's Office have the right to take part in any meeting of the central and local administrations without specifying the aim. The militia can supervise the persons released from prison. A residence visa-based system is still functional in the region. The persons that don't live in the indicated place of residence can be held accountable, and this is a violation of the right to free movement.

The study authors ascertained that the political, economic, social and cultural rights were also violated. Those about 400,000 Moldovan citizens that live in the region cannot take part in the elections announced by the constitutional authorities of Moldova. But the Transnistrian authorities allow opening polling stations for the Russians living in the region instead. There are a lot of customs posts, stable and mobile posts. The pensioners, invalids and the unemployed do not enjoy the rights provided by the Moldovan legislation. The libraries have no books in Latin script. The civil society is pressurized by the regime and subjected to control.

While the residents of the right bank of the Nistru benefit from different development and modernization programs, the population of Transnistria is deprived of access to information about human rights, civil participation etc. The constitutional authorities and international organizations only ascertain the facts, but do not try to work out a method for defending the rights of the citizens, the study authors say.

Alexei Mocreac, inhabitant of Grigoriopol district, said that the region's residents had lived in terror during 17 years – all the enterprises, institutions that worked in the region as well as the ties between the two banks were destroyed. Alexei Mocreac is sure that Igor Smirnov pursues

the goal of annihilating the personality of the people. For the purpose, the young people were drafted into Smirnov's army. Those that refused were persecuted at the workplace. During many years, the factory employees had had to steal because they were paid only 3 dollars a month. Many of them were caught and kept in the preventive detention isolator, in rooms of up to 30 persons for at least 30 days. When set free, they had to pay the equivalent of 100 dollars. As a result, most of the young people living in the region, deprived of workplaces and living conditions, had to go abroad to work, Alexei Mocreac said.

The study "Human Rights in Moldova's Transnistrian Region" was carried out by a group of independent experts. The report was drawn up and published with the support of the Dutch Embassy through the Matra Kap Program.

Source Info-Prim Neo

<http://www.info-prim.md/?a=100>

Training course on "Project proposals developing"

February 16-17, RDCT NGO Department organized a training course on "Project proposals development". Training was organized in Chisinau at the "Labor Institute". This training is a component part of the Training Course on NGO Development for transnistrian region NGOs.

The main goal of this training was to develop practical abilities of the participants on project proposals development and planning. 24 NGOs and initiative groups representatives from transnistrian region participated at this training.

During 2 days of training participant's attention was focused on the project proposal key elements, such as: Project justification; Goal and objectives; Target group; Expected results; Action plan and Budget. As well, training was mainly focused on the practical part of the project developing process. Thus, training participants worked in small groups on completing an application form that will be used within People in Need Small Grants Program in 2008.

At the end of the training participants gained theoretical knowledge and practical abilities on project development stages; project management; project objectives correct wording. As well, participants learned specific aspects of project development stages and rules for a successful project proposal.

At the end of the training 10 project proposals were developed by participants. All projects were

developed in accordance with the People in Need application form requests.

Developed projects focused on such areas as: Informational campaign on social integration of the disabled children; Local Youth Newspaper; Center for free legal assistance; Free time animations for children and youth; Environmental and ecological projects, etc.

At the end of the training participants highly appreciated teaching methodology used by the trainer Edgar Cazac. According to the training evaluation questionnaires participants appreciated the fact that they had the possibility to learn project developing stages using concrete examples; that all project elements were analyzed multilaterally and that all questions raised found a concrete and eloquent answer.

Learned material is actual and necessary both, to training participants and their communities because it inspires optimism and offer them opportunities to be involved in a problem solution process at the local level.

Also, participants confirmed the need of these kind of training courses, mentioning that it would be more appropriate to organize them in transnistrian region.

NGO Department , RDCT

NGO IN DETAILS

Project "Healthy Life"

Center for social adaptation "Step Towards" launched in February 2008 a new project entitled "Healthy Life". Project aims at decreasing consuming of the alcohol and tobacco among youth through informing them of their negative effects on human body and through promoting alternative free time animations.

In this project framework it is planned to conduct training seminars within educational institutions from Tiraspol; round tables with the participation of local authorities, state medical and educational institutions; broadcast thematic movies on Healthy Life.

As well, it is planned to create a youth club "Healthy life". Within this club local youth will be trained on organizing youth actions and thematic events, on organizing free time without alcohol consuming. Also, project beneficiaries will develop their skills in disseminating

information through peer-to-peer method.

During this project implementation there will be created a group consisting of young activists, that will organize youth actions and will be responsible for promoting healthy life style among local youth. Throughout all period of the project implementation there will be organized ecological weekends, trips to forests and visits to youth sport clubs. Beside this, it is planned to organize the "Youth NGOs and Youth Clubs Fair". The Fair will aim at encouraging local youth to join youth clubs.

Project "Healthy Life" will be implemented in partnership with:

Department of Education from Tiraspol;

Center of Hygiene and Epidemiology from Tiraspol;

Ecological Club "Eicumena";

Republican sport and health club.

Project is implemented with the financial support offered by "IREX".

Youth and youth clubs interested in participating and cooperating within this project can contact us at the following e-mail address: oxana.fateeva@gmail.com, solovatstar@gmail.com , or by phone +0373-533-7-39-08 (Tiraspol).

Youth NGOs and Clubs registration for the Fair participation will be opened starting with April 2008.

All suggestions regarding project implementation and project activities can be send at:

oxana.fateeva@gmail.com

Center for social adaptation "Step Towards"

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Blogs: <http://youth-for-peace.blogspot.com/>

<http://anti-trafficking.blogspot.com/>

Oxana Fateieva,
Center for social adaptation "Step Towards"

Citizen Journalism

Journalism represents the activity of gathering, analyzing and verifying information regarding current events, including tendency, results and persons. Those who practice journalism are called journalists.

Citizen journalism called as well participative journalism or Open news is the sum of activities of the person which has an active role in gathering, analyzing and disseminating news and information. Citizen journalism must not be mistaken with Civic journalism which is practiced by professional journalists.

Citizen journalism is practiced by people with no special qualification, which are gathering and disseminating information through new IT sources (blogs, Youtube, news agencies, forums) or, traditionally, in press.

Civic journalism

Civic journalism is practiced by professionals with special qualification. Civic journalism means:

- An attempt to place newspapers and journalists as active participants at the community life;
- Converting a newspaper into a forum for discussions on community problems;
- Reflecting the problems, events and ideas important and actual for common people;
- Considering public opinion through consulting and debating process;
- An attempt to use journalism for increasing social capital.

Citizen Journalism

- Is not an individual effort but an uncontrollable group action. If an article is completed, corrected or edited by 10 other people that participated to the same event, than we can be sure that the article is accurate. The final article doesn't belong only to its author, but also to all those who edited and completed it;
- Citizen journalism brings a little bit of ethic attitude, a bit anarchist;
- Citizen journalism can be a threat only when you do not know how to deal with him. For example: BBC established a special directory in order to administrate the information coming from public – not necessarily reactions, but, many times information, particularly pictures or video recordings. In cases of unexpected events or accidents best photos and recordings are coming from public. Editions can only benefit from listening of their public.
- Citizen journalism articles can be improved by any reader. Meaning, if someone remarks a discrepancy regarding what really happened he can immediately point it out. Nevertheless, even citizen journalism articles have to gain publics credibility, just as any newspaper, and this is only possible through correctness and accuracy.

Youth involvement in citizen journalism

- publishing articles in local/national press (school newspaper, local TV and Radio shows);
- creating Yahoo groups and blogs on internet;
- posting messages on others people blogs and Yahoogroups;
- posting messages on news agencies web pages;
- disseminating audio/video materials which reflect problems of wide interest;
- posting messages on political parties and their youth structures web pages;
- participating at the forums discussions.

The young represents the most flexible social category. The young are the driving power of the social attitude and behavior changes. They are in concordance with the new IT technologies, therefore, able to practice citizen journalism.

Olga Gordila
„Promo-LEX” Association

ACTUAL

Kosovo Independence a Transnistrian Precedent? An American Perspective

By Amanda Howe

On Sunday, February 17, 2008, ethnic Albanians poured into the streets of Pristina, despite the bitter cold and promise of violence, carrying the flag of newly independent Kosovo. Vehement protestations rang in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, while Western powers, including the U.S., recognized Kosovar independence. Sitting in Eastern Europe, not far from one of the Soviet-era “frozen conflict” zones, it was initially difficult for me, an American citizen, to explain to my Moldovan colleagues why the U.S. would seemingly wish to reignite the Balkan powder keg and irritate Russia by establishing precedent for other break-away republics.

Money and Muslim Support Are Practical U.S. Concerns

Observers of international politics must never lose sight of the chief aim of foreign policy: to protect sovereign interests abroad. Since the September 11 attack on the U.S., the Treasury

has bled dollars to finance ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Moreover, an army greatly reduced because of the Clinton and G.W. Bush Administrations' military downsizing policy has left the U.S. with an ever worsening troop shortage. "Given the increasing strain on U.S. forces due to deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere...the United States should accelerate the process of turning over responsibility for the region [Kosovo] to the Europeans, who have a greater stake in the region's stability."¹

Indeed, U.S. aid to the region has decreased by roughly half since 2002 (\$621 million compared with \$361 million in fiscal year 2006). The number of U.S. troops active in Kosovo Force (referred to alternately as KFOR and K4),² the NATO peacekeeping mission, has shrunk from 7,000 in 1999 to 1,500 today. Dwindling aid and troop numbers signal the U.S. is weary of an open-ended commitment in Kosovo.

Considering the U.S., a Christian nation, lost credibility with many Muslims due to its response to September 11, it's worth noting that the majority of Kosovo's population is Muslim. Since the Ottomans defeated Christian princes at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, a steady trend of Islamitization, coupled with Orthodox migration, made Kosovo a predominantly Muslim territory. By recognizing a Muslim country's independence, the U.S. can boost its image in the Islamic world. Europe too, has a sizable Muslim minority living within its borders, who cannot fail to notice Europe's support for Kosovo's independence.

Kosovo Already on Independence Path as a U.N. Protectorate

For nine years the United Nations (UNMIK) has governed Kosovo. In 2007, the U.N. Special Envoy to Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, proposed a phased process of supervised independence for Kosovo. Serbia and its allies immediately denounced the Ahtisaari Plan saying that it contravenes U.N. Resolution 1244, which reaffirms Serbia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.³ The West, however, embraced the plan.

In western minds, denying self-determination to Kosovo would be more destabilizing than its recognition.⁴ The problem, perhaps, lies with the ambiguous language of Resolution 1244. The

¹ CRS Report "Future of the Balkans and U.S. Policy Concerns" by Steven Woehrel January 18, 2006. p.4.

² See <http://www.nato.int/kfor> for more information about KFOR.

³ S/Res/1244 (1999) reaffirms "the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the other States of the region, as set out in the Helsinki Final Act and annex 2."

⁴ British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said "I think it's important that we do the right thing and far from inflaming disputes I think the worst thing would have been for us to have seen a ninety per cent plus Muslim population in Kosovo seeking self determination as part of a UN process that was started in 1999 and...we'd

document aims to establish an international military and civil presence on the ground in Kosovo capable of stopping inter-ethnic violence. The authors stress the need for Kosovo's autonomy "pending a final settlement" of the region's political status.⁵ Clearly, a political, rather than military, solution to the conflict is desirable. To achieve this the document rather purposefully leaves the question of the region's ultimate fate to the political process.

Relations with Russia, China Strained

Russia's position is that an independent Kosovo establishes a legal precedent for Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Chechnya which "make no secret of their plan to repeat the Kosovo scenario. They prepare for holding referendums, introduce their passports and build their armed forces."⁶ Russia also fears retaliation against the estimated 120,000 Serbs living within Kosovo's borders. Immediately following Kosovo's independence declaration, Russia called a closed-door, emergency session of the 15-nation U.N. Security Council to voice these concerns. Although Russia holds veto power in the council, it can only voice its displeasure over the Kosovo decision and refuse recognition. The U.N., as a non-sovereign entity, does not have authority to recognize or deny states' independence; member nations exercise this power.

U.S. observers caution against confusing Moscow's rhetoric with policy. Putin enjoys enormous popularity at home because he is viewed as having restored Russian prestige after a series of humiliating post-Soviet setbacks. A firm stance against the West's interference in former-Communist country politics is in line with the image Putin cultivates as a Russian heavyweight. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is optimistic about U.S.-Russian relations. "Nobody wants a new Cold War, and I don't think the Russians do, either," Gates said.⁷

Nevertheless, western leaders must not fail to address the accusations of establishing precedent. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation has tried to control several separatist movements either on or near its borders, most visibly the Chechen conflict. China too, an important U.S. trading partner and occasional ally on the North Korea issue, wonders what impact, if any, U.S. recognition of Kosovo will have on China's problems with

tried to squash this [Kosovo's] desire for independence." BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, Interview with Carolyn Quinn, February 19, 2008.

⁵ Ibid. Note that Para.10 describes autonomy "within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia."

⁶ See "Kosovo Experiment to Lead to Unpredictable Consequences", August 23, 2006, <http://www.vor.ru/Kosovo/index.html>.

⁷ "U.S., Russia Not Headed for New Cold War, Gates Says" by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service, October 24, 2007, <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=47902>.

Taiwan.

Is There Now Legal Precedent for Transnistrian Independence?

U.N. British Ambassador John Sawers said “the unique circumstances of the violent break-up of the former Yugoslavia and the unprecedented U.N. administration of Kosovo make this a *sui generis* case, which creates no wider precedent....”⁸ Kosovo's claim to autonomy is quite different than that of Moldova's Transnistrian region. The 1974 Yugoslav constitution granted Kosovo (then called the *Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo*) a high level of self-governance giving it a seat in the Federal Yugoslavian Presidency with veto power. Transnistria, however, has never enjoyed separate autonomous status. From 1924 to 1940, Transnistria was part of the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (MASSR), known as the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic (MSSR) after 1940.⁹ As in other Soviet regions, Moscow's officials pursued a harsh policy of denationalization deporting many Romanian speakers to Siberia and encouraging Russophones to immigrate to the Transnistrian region. Despite this policy of Russification, 400,000 Transnistrians (the majority of the population) took Moldovan citizenship by 2007. Thus, the situation in Transnistria is far different from that in Kosovo where the population has historically enjoyed a high degree of autonomy and an overwhelming majority (92%) of the population are ethnic Albanians, not Serbs.

Regarding the term *self-determination*, which is often applied in independence struggles, it should not be confused with the right of *succession*. Indeed, the principle of self-determination often conflicts with the older *territorial integrity* idea in international law. In Kosovo, the Serbs 1990s campaign of ethnic cleansing forced 800,000 Kosovo Albanian civilians to flee.¹⁰ In light of this fact, it is entirely understandable that Kosovars would pursue self-determination with the ultimate goal of independence rather than risk being satisfied with autonomy within a state governed by former persecutors. One could argue that Serbia forfeited international support for its territorial integrity by virtue of its past crimes against humanity.

Transnistria, in contrast, is an artificial conflict kept alive by Russian politics. Post-Moldovan independence, there have been no cases of ethnic cleansing. In fact, the Moldovan government includes many members who require the State to pay, at considerable expense,

⁸ February 18, 2008, “Ban Ki-moon urges restraint by all sides after Kosovo declares independence”, <http://www.unmikonline.org>.

⁹ **Author's Note:** Indeed, the history of the region is more complex and outside the scope of this article. The territory briefly fell under Romanian control and parts of historical Moldavia and Bessarabia were ceded to Ukraine.

¹⁰ See <http://www.un.org/icty/glance/milutinovic.htm>

for Russian-Romanian translation because these members do not speak Romanian. Far from being intolerant of their Russian neighbors, many Romanian-speaking Moldovans are fluent in Russian and have family who work in Russia. There simply are no grounds for ethnic Russians living in the Transnistrian region to seek self-determination and independence. Peaceful coexistence between ethnic Russians and Moldovans within Moldova's borders is the norm, not the exception. The creation of a separate Transnistrian state would further destabilize an already economically and democratically challenged region.

Future U.S. Role in the Balkans

More than likely, U.S. involvement in the Balkans will be limited to NATO's Partnerships for Peace program (PfP), providing bilateral aid in selected areas such as military reform and rule of law initiatives. The U.S. and Europe will continue to orient policies toward tying Serbia to the West. Already, Serbia is a PfP member and its government recently renewed talks with the European Union to complete a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA), a precursor to full E.U. membership. On average, the U.S. was one of Serbia's top ten donors in 2004 to 2005.¹¹ Aid will continue to depend upon Belgrade's level of cooperation with the international community.¹² If Serbia continues to agitate against Kosovo's independence, it risks losing substantial western aid and technical support. Only Belgrade, not the U.S. or its allies, can determine what the risk is worth.

Transnistrian region farmers will not work their land this spring!

As a result of the regional structures actions and Moldova's constitutional authorities inaction, Tiraspol regime managed to achieve one of its strategic objective – to take hold of the transnistrian fields. In some of the localities, armed foreigners forbidden to local farmers the access to their land parcels. The fields are guarded with arms based on the fact that fields already belong to some important persons or firms. Some farmers stated that they are menaced with arms in case if they will try to work their land parcels. Farmers were tricked to sign some documents. According to these documents farmers agreed with the land parcels renting. As a result, farmers were told that they have no more rights on the land parcels because the land was rented for a period of 99 years. Thus, farmers only have some documents confirming their rights on some land parcels. But, under these circumstances, these papers aren't valid.

¹¹ See <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/12/58/1883506.gif>.

¹² See CRS Report "Conditions on U.S. Aid to Serbia" by Steven Woehrel January 7, 2008.

Thus, vast land parcels have been rented to some legal entities or natural persons, but farmers remained without their basic source of income. In order to avoid a conflict in the region, separatist authorities are frequently organizing local meetings with the locals. During these meetings the farmers are being manipulated through empty promises of “prosperity”, “jobs” and a “bright future”.

At this moment, local inhabitants have limited possibilities to practice agriculture. In order to do so they have to rent land parcels from local authorities. Usually, the renting period is no more than a few years, which does not allow to develop a business and to justify the investments. In some cases the soils are of a bad quality (reduced fertility, big distance from the locality).

Farmers submitted numerous complaints in order to solve this problem, but with no result. Similar situation is with the former kolhozs, which exist but, doesn't function. Local authorities declare that at this moment kolhozs do not possess any land parcels and that the rest of property such as buildings, equipment and storehouses are being arrested and sold up. A part of the gained profit is being reimbursed to the creditors (?!).

A different situation, but just as serious, is registered for few years in district Dubasari localities controlled by constitutional authorities. Locals from Cosnita, Dorocaia, Pohrebia, Pirita, Cocieri, and Molovata Noua aren't allowed to work their land parcels located over Ribnita-Tiraspol road. Local farmers declared that they will not work their land parcels this year, because it is risky to invest in litigious land parcels.

Another problem faced by farmers is the lack or insufficient transport, agriculture equipment necessary for agricultural work. Local authorities are not willing to offer to farmers agricultural equipment, all equipment being privatized, destroyed or abandoned. Almost all agricultural equipments are from the soviet period and are totally overused or destroyed. As well, the farmers aren't optimistic about the “investments” in agriculture. Farmers are convinced that this situation is being artificially created by the authorities in order to ruin the agricultural sector (once very successful in the country and in this region). This is being done particularly to chase the farmers away from the region.

Similar situation is that of the local businessmen dealing with the processing and selling of goods. Local businessmen are forbidden to have any kind of affairs with businessmen from the right bank of Nistru River. Thus, local businessmen have to work in a very harsh conditions and have no opportunities to activate and develop.

It is absolutely necessary for Moldovan authorities to get involved in solving problems related

to land parcels in transnistrian region. Land parcels problem is becoming complicated and transnistrian region inhabitants have to benefit from constitutional authorities protection.

Zubco Alexandru
Coordonator Departamentul Juridic CRDT

NOTE

Panteleiciuc Case

Within three days from the illegal arrest of Viorel Panteleiciuc by transnistrian „law enforcement bodies” Moldovan authorities remained inactive in solving this case.

Ion Manole stated that Minister of Internal Affairs and Prosecutors Office had no official reaction, even though they were informed about the incident.

Manole mentioned that on February 5th illegal authorities forbided to brothers Panteleiciuc the commercialization of their goods in Varnita village even though they had all required documents issued by local authorities. Brothers Panteleiciuc originating from Grimancauti village, district Briceni (right bank of Nistru river). After tense discussions with transnistrian militia Viorel Panteleiciuc was forced to get into a car and taken to unknown direction. His brother, Petru managed to escape from the place of incident and requested assistance from Moldovan police forces.

Petru Panteleiciuc, present at the press conference, mentioned that he has no official information of his brother whereabouts. From unofficial sources he learned that his brother was judged by Tiraspol “Court” and sentenced for three days of prison for „resisting custom officers”. Petru Panteleiciuc also stated that transnistrian „custom officers” threatened them with fabrication of a ” drug possession case” if they will disobey.

Manole mentioned that, normally, in this kind of situation of a severe human rights violation, authorities should be alerted.

Pavel Postica, Promo-Lex lawyer, stated that Unite Commission for Control was informed about the incident, but refused to come to the place of incident, declaring that this is a litigation between Moldovan and Transnistrian authorities and that it is only their responsibility to solve this issue.

Under this circumstances, Ion Manole, questioned, as a taxes payer, just how justified are expenses for Unite Commission for Control and 5+2 negotiation format maintenance, once they do not ensure the respect of the basic citizens rights in the region. He stated that Moldova has to put pressure on Russia to respect the rights and freedoms of the citizens from the security zone.

source:INFOTAG

After expiration of 72 hours, “legal” term of arrest, Viorel Panteleiciuc was released from detention. Due to his brother insistence, Petru Panteleiciuc notified all relevant authorities, mass-media, civil society, diplomatic bodies located in Moldova and due to their pressure on authorities it was possible to recuperate the property withdrawn by transnistrian “custom and MGB” (a vehicle worthing 8000 EURO and four tonnes of potatoes worthing 1000 EURO).

But, the case does not ends here. Vorel Panteleiciuc continues to be persecuted. Transnistrian “custom service” sued him in Tiraspol Court for “not paying the custom taxes”. The punishment for this can be a fee up to 50% - 100% of the total goods cost (9000 EURO). Initially, Viorel was sued for smuggling, punishment in this case being a fee up to 200 lei.

In parallel, constitutional authorities initiated an investigation of the incident. So far there are no official results of this investigation. Chief of the Tighina Police Department, V.Prudnicov stated in an interview that he is waiting for indications from “Prosecutors Office and Minister of Internal Affairs”.

Promo-LEX Association is closely monitoring the case and offering legal assistance for Panteleiciuc Brothers.

Promo-LEX Legal Department

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FINANCING

Soros-Moldova Foundation

Open competition for participation to seminars, conferences, trainings.

Nongovernmental organizations may request partial financial support for participation of its members to trainings, internships, participation to seminars, conferences, organized towards

improvement of its members' activities (managers, employees, volunteers). Individual projects are financed. Eligible for financing are apolitical, not-for-profit, legally registered organizations from the Republic of Moldova. Nongovernmental organizations must activate in the following fields: civic, culture, economic development, human rights, mass-media, social, youth. Ineligible for participation are patronage organizations, trade unions, academic, scientific, religious, sport organizations and professional associations.

Application deadline - 5th of each month.

Details and application form: www.soros.md

Czech organization People in Need launches Small Grants Competition within the Program: Strengthening Transnistrian Civil Society. Program is financially supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech republic.

Czech organization People in Need offers small grants to transnistrian region NGOs and initiative groups. grants range between \$500 and \$2500. Program will support projects in such areas as cultural, social, youth, ecology. Priority will be given to initiatives aiming at continuing or developing of the already existing projects. Projects can be submitted in Romanian, Russian and English languages. Projects have to be implemented within the period of May 1st – October 15th. Partnerships projects are welcomed.

Deadline for applications – April 24th.

Projects should be submitted at Ivana.Skalova@peopleinneed.cz

RECOMMENDATIONS

Human Rights Tools

Online resources for human rights professionals

www.humanrightstools.org

This site is primarily aimed at human rights activists - persons monitoring the respect of human rights and advocating for positive change. Persons who are passionate about quality human

rights work, have a thirst to continually deepen their knowledge, and are looking for a collection of top reference material.

Short Courses Directory - www.humanrightstools.org/shortcourses.htm

This directory includes mainly short introductory only courses on human rights, refugee law, and humanitarian law. Also, this heading lists courses on special topics, and training on relevant professional skills like advocacy.

E-Library Directory - <http://www.humanrightstools.org/dir/>

This directory includes a collection of human rights tools and resources of amazing quality.

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