

The Human Rights in Moldova Report: 2009-2010 Review

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- Young journalists learning new techniques from each other
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At a roundtable on October 18, the Promo-LEX Association released the Human Rights in Moldova Report. The Report is at its 4th edition and it offers a picture of the human rights situation in the Republic of Moldova during 2009-2010; the picture is more complex since it reviews the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region. Its 16 chapters were compiled by a group of experts representing 9 human rights NGOs.

Whereas after the April 2009 events a modestly positive tendency has been registered in the territory controlled by the legitimate Moldovan authorities in what concerns respect for the right to liberty and security of person, then in the Transnistria region the situation has worsened, with abusive

arrests being one major issue. However, the Moldovan legitimate authorities have perpetuated the tradition to ignore the problems faced by the people living in that region and



have shown little interest in identifying mechanisms to guarantee access to justice and observance of their fundamental rights.

Another issue placed high on the roundtable's agenda was the situation in the justice system. According to legal expert Vladislav Gribincea: "The biggest problem is not in the legislation, but

rather in the way this legislation is applied in practice. This nonobservance of the legal framework is due to a number of key factors including inadequate training of the bench, or corruption-related factors".

The expert also noted that in 2010 the judiciary saw perhaps the biggest dip in trust ratings in the reporting period.

Another human rights problem that has grown into a social phenomenon is domestic violence.

Criminalizing domestic violence in 2010 was an important step by the Moldovan authorities in fighting violence against women. An important aspect that needs to be mentioned is the problem concerning the issuance of protection orders,



which in most cases take 3 or 4 weeks to get, and in the meantime the victims continue to be subjected to domestic violence.

Concerning the right to vote and be elected, the roundtable participants highlighted the electoral reform that culminated in November 2010, when roughly 40% of the Election Code was amended. Pavel Postica noted: “It is important to remark that this reform was widely debated by civil society and a special parliamentary commission was created to coordinate the amendments both with civil society and political parties, even though in the end the final decisions were adopted by the governing alliance”.

The right to respect for one's private and family life is a relative novelty for the Moldovan legislation. However, according to the author, it is ignored by both the authorities and the citizens, most probably because of a lack of awareness and of mechanisms to protect this right.

The roundtable's participants appreciated the fact that it was for the first time ever that a human rights report in Moldova included a separate chapter dedicated to the rights of recruits and conscripts, a less numerous yet important group of citizens.

The event was attended by government representatives, civil society members and representatives of international organizations. Attending the event, Ombudsman Tudor Lazar has noted that the Report is a comprehensive study that reflects the situation of the

observance of human rights in the country and also highlights the need for cooperation between civil society and authorities in promoting respect for human rights in Moldova.

The 2009-2010 Human Rights in



Moldova Report is the result of a project in cooperation with Civil Rights Defenders. The opinions expressed in the Report belong to the authors and does not necessarily reflect the position of the Promo-LEX Association and of Civil Rights Defenders.

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World Organisation Against Torture CONCERNED about the situation of Vitalie Eriomenco

The International Secretariat of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) has received new information and requests an **URGENT** intervention in the following situation in the **Republic of Moldova / Region of Transnistria**.

The International Secretariat of OMCT has been informed by a reliable source and Antenna International, a member organisation of OMCT SOS-Torture Network, that Mr. **Vitalie Eriomenco**, a 42-year-old businessman from Vadul-lui-Voda, a suburb of Chisinau municipality, who was allegedly tortured and ill-treated in custody, remains detained in Tiraspol prison n° 3 in poor conditions, without access to adequate medical care. Furthermore, since his arrest in March 2011, he has been denied access to his family, despite six applications submitted to the authorities.

More information on detention conditions of Vitalie Eriomenco see by following the link: <http://promolex.md/index.php?module=news&item=711>

Mr. Vitalie Eriomenco was remanded in custody by the Tiraspol court on 26 September 2011, for 60 more days, until 29 November 2011. It is also reported that Mr. Vitalie Eriomenco's lawyer continues to suffer obstacles when visiting Mr. Vitalie Eriomenco in prison. All meetings are allegedly recorded on camera by the guardians.

OMCT reiterates its deep concerns about the safety and physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Vitalie Eriomenco, and calls on the de facto Transnistrian authorities to guarantee his safety at all times, including by providing immediate adequate medical care.

Actions requested

To write to the local administration of the Region of Transnistria (so-called Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic), the authorities of the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation, and urging them to:

- a) Guarantee, in all circumstances, the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Vitalie Eriomenco and of his family;
- b) Grant Mr. Vitalie Eriomenco unrestricted access to his lawyer and his family, as well as guarantee that he is promptly examined by independent doctors and receives adequate and free medical care, in accordance with, inter alia, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;
- c) Order his immediate release;
- d) Carry out a prompt, effective, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into these events, in particular the allegations of torture and ill-treatment inflicted on Mr. Vitalie Eriomenco, the result of which must be made public, in order to bring those responsible before a competent, independent and impartial tribunal and apply penal, civil and/or administrative sanctions as provided by law;
- e) Ensure that adequate, effective and prompt reparation, including adequate compensation and rehabilitation, is granted to the victim concerned.

Day of open doors or unauthorized entry is NOT prohibited



September, 29, 2011 at Tiraspol town the open day of non-governmental organizations was held. The initiator of the present event is the non-commercial partnership "Social informational centre "A priori". The goal of the event was the informing of the population on the NGO activity.

More frequently we are confronted with the fact that people do not know about the activities of NGOs and think that they are political or committed structures. So we decided to create a platform for information sharing about needs and opportunities of the population, authorities and organizations. Organizations had the opportunity to introduce themselves, to share the results of their work. The event was open. The representatives of the Ministry of Education, the apparatus of the authorized representative for Human Rights in Transnistria, deputies of municipal councils of Tiraspol and Bender towns, townsmen, public organization. Social informational centre "A priori" presented to the participants and guests mini-theatrical staging of "See the rainbow," which was warmly received by spectators.

At the open day the organization, which work with HIV positive people, presented the results of their activity and services; they help in socialization of orphans who completed training and left boarding schools; train and integrate children with special needs into society; fight with trash on city streets and at places of picnic rest; build animal shelters, work with youth, giving the opportunity to express themselves and to feel necessary and useful to society. It sounds bombastically and grandiloquently. But these things,

curiously enough, have no place in our society, which becomes uncivilized.

Unfortunately, the conducted event was taken as political by some structures. Several times they tried to interrupt us and to impede the communication of guests and participants. The representatives of youth political organization, which named "West vanguard", burst into the hall. They cried, brandished flags, interrupted the actors and presented guests.

The local administration representatives, who were in the hall, just looked after what was going on and did nothing until the women tried to stop an unplanned presentation and showed the raging young people the door. However, almost at the end of our work in the hall again burst the young people who were hostile and aggressive. They began to insult the presented people, were rude, used foul language, turned over the furniture. They started the fight after they saw the video and photo cameras. And it's not that what feelings and emotions the audience experienced. It is lamentably that such behavior is encouraged, that those, who should protect law and order, seized by pre-electing paranoia, ignore the outrages, remain silent and inactive. "Those who do not feel the darkness will never find the light." (H. Buckle). But there is light. And by reflecting it makes the rainbow.

Exactly that, which the hero of our performance names the wonder and believes that each can see it. At every moment. If he wants.

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*"Those who do not
feel the darkness will
never find the light"*

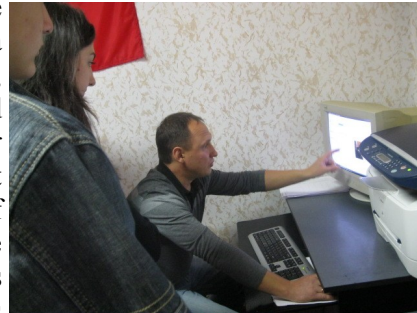
Henry Buckle

Young journalists learning new techniques from each other



The team of young journalists from the village of Malaesti, Grigoriopol, undertook a study visit to the school newspaper “EvrikaPro” run by students at Evrika Lyceum in Ribnita.

The goal of the study visit was to expose the young journalists from Malaesti to the experience of the staff at the school newspaper EvrikaPro. The two teams of students had the opportunity to converse in a personal and friendly manner, learning new techniques and practices of creating materials for their newspapers. This study visit facilitated not just an exchange of information, but also laid the foundation for new common ideas and initiatives. The discussions mainly focused on how to streamline the process of producing their school newspapers, with an emphasis on technical aspects such as the use of software, as well as on new methods of editing and promoting the newspapers. The students found the visit to be of real practical use, as it motivated them to try a new A3 format and use advanced software in publishing the newspaper.



and by the overall conditions enjoyed by the students at “Evrika” Lyceum.

This visit lasted just one day, but

its outcome will remain useful for many years to come.

Activity organized within the project “Strengthening civil society in Transnistria” with the support of National Endowment for Democracy .

School newspaper staff,
Malaesti village

Strengthening youth media in Transnistrian region



On Saturday, October 22, Evrika Lyceum in Ribnita hosted a round-table event dedicated to “Strengthening youth media in the Transnistrian region” and organized by the Initiative Group “EvrikaPro”.

The event was attended by young people from initiative groups working to promote media activities in the Romanian-language schools located in the Transnistrian region, namely in Tiraspol, Tighina, Grigoriopol, Dubasari and Roghi.

The key problems highlighted by the the youths participating in the event were the following:

- a) insufficient equipment and materials for sustaining a school newspaper, despite this being one of the most popular activities among students;
- b) inadequate training and knowledge in journalism,
- c) limited time for journalistic activities due to the busy curricula.

During discussions, the participants were oriented and encouraged to submit proposals to the diverse grant programs destined for the Transnistrian region in order to consolidate their capacities.

At the end of the roundtable, it was decided to create a new communication platform to enhance cooperation between the youth groups by publishing their achievements and challenges.



Symbolically called “**The Voice of the Youth**”, the platform will be set up in an electronic format and will be available to all those concerned.

To consolidate both cooperation and friendly relations between the participants in the roundtable, a field trip was organized for them to Stroiesti village, Ribnita district.

The roundtable was the final activity of the project “Strengthening youth media in the Transnistrian region”. The project was implemented by the Initiative Group “EvrikaPro”, Ribnita, with the support of the “Promo-LEX”

Association, within the framework of the Small Grants Program for Civil Initiatives in the Transnistrian Region. The Small Grants Project is part of the “Strengthening Civil Society in Moldova's Transnistrian Region” Project, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kyiv through the Matra/KAP Program.

Serghei Spinachi,

Leader of the Initiative Group
“EvrikaPro”

Youth on Democracy: Myth or Reality



On October 22, Evrika Lyceum's Initiative Group “Forum Junior” organized a Regional Debate Competition among the debate clubs located in the Transnistrian region. Four teams from Tiraspol, Bender and Ribnita engaged in debates on the topic “Today's Democracy is a Myth”.

Each team advanced its own arguments in a bid to win the competition. Three assertions formulated by the affirmative sides came into prominence. First, it was attempted to demonstrate that in most cases dictatorial regimes were installed through democratic elections. The two other arguments formulated by the Affirmatives were:

- a) The freedom of mass media is illusory, because it tends to serve the sponsors' interests;
- b) Elections are rather a delusion than a real representation of the people's interests.

The Negatives attempted to refute the Affirmative cases by advancing their own arguments:

- a) In democratic countries the populace participates in governing the country by electing and exerting control over the government.
- b) Democracy ensures market freedom and thus economic growth.
- c) By informing the public and shaping public opinion, the press represents the fourth power in a state.

The competition was judged by the members of a neutral debate club that is part of the Moldovan National High-School Debate League. The jury



analyzed the performance of each speaker, concluding that such periodical meetings, which allow for discussions within an ethical framework with clearly established rules, help to educate a pivotal principle of democracy: the principle of reciprocal tolerance and of understanding that the idea of your interlocutor may hold more truth than your own idea. The event was an exercise that didn't aim to

name a winning team, however the participants who based on their personal rankings made it to Top 3 Speakers were awarded.

In the end, all the participants expressed their willingness to take part in the next regional competition when, together with teams from the western side of the Nistru River, they will be able to engage in debates on the topic: "The youth are capable of promoting the principles of a democratic society".

The event was organized by the Initiative Group "EvrikaPro", Ribnita, with the

support of the "Promo-LEX" Association, within the framework of the Small Grants Program for Civil Initiatives in the Transnistrian Region. The Small Grants Project is part of the "Strengthening Civil Society in Moldova's Transnistrian Region" Project, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kyiv through the Matra/KAP Program.

Cojocaru Grigore,
Project Coordinator,
Ribnita

The second edition of Infopost Newsletter for transnistrian NGOs is now online

Когда справедливость исчезает, то не остается ничего, что могло бы продать ценность жизни людей.
Иммануил Кант

Уважаемые коллеги,
Дорогие друзья!

Второй номер нашего журнала мы посвятили информации, которая призвана помочь в оформлении отношений с сотрудниками и добровольцами, организации рабочего дня, оптимизации порядка деятельности.

Прочитав этот выпуск, вы познакомитесь с правилами составления миссии организации, основными понятиями фандрайзинга, узнаете о том, как избежать ошибок при оформлении трудовых отношений, рационально использовать свое время и свести его потери к минимуму.

Также в этом выпуске размещены статьи о некоторых мероприятиях, проведенных приднестровскими НПО в недавнем прошлом.

Надеемся, что наши старания окажутся полезными для вас!

Желаем прекрасного настроения!

С уважением,
редакция журнала.

СОЦИАЛЬНО-ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ ЦЕНТР
«АПРИОРИ»



Как составить миссию организации

которая определяет, что собой представляет организация, и во имя чего она создается, но в таком представлении этих составляющих, чтобы организация смогла оценить успех в выполнении этой миссии.

Формулировка должна быть достаточно широка, чтобы охватить все возможные виды деятельности, которые организация намерена проводить. В то же время миссия только тогда имеет значение, когда в ней указаны конкретные направления работы организации в осуществлении программы, услуг и при проведении иной деятельности.

При выработке формулировки миссии очень важно помнить, что любое решение не является «высеченным на камне», а всегда может быть пересмотрено. Несмотря на то, что уставные цели организации указаны в учредительных документах, эти документы могут пересматриваться, дополняться в соответствии с процедурой, четко установленной законом. Формулировка миссии организации периодически пересматривается и уточняется. Такой процесс пересмотра и уточнения сам по себе имеет огромное значение, поскольку позволяет более четко сформулировать все намерения и пожелания в отношении перспектив работы организации.

Начинать стоит с формулировки своей миссии, отличающую вашу организацию от множества других. При этом миссия выполняет две функции – внешнюю и внутреннюю. **Внешняя** – должна очерчивать общую направленность организации, формировать ее образ в глазах широкой общественности, служить просто в разработке формулировки,

Существенное отличие между коммерческими и некоммерческими организациями заключается в основном предназначении или миссии этих организаций. Основная задача коммерческого предприятия – заработать деньги для его владельца. Элемент собственности нацело исключается из концепции некоммерческих организаций, поэтому миссия некоммерческой организации и коммерческого предприятия диаметрально противоположны. Это не означает, что некоммерческие организации не могут зарабатывать деньги. Некоммерческие организации могут и должны зарабатывать средства, в некоторой степени аналогично тому, как это делают коммерческие структуры, однако заработанные деньги должны идти на общественные цели, для достижения которых была создана организация. Такие средства могут быть отложены для будущих программ или переданы в другую организацию, работающую на благо общества.

Для некоммерческой организации задача определения и формулировки миссии является весьма сложной, и, соответственно, сложнее выработать критерии, на основании которых можно определить эффективность ее работы. Выработка ясной миссии заключается не просто в разработке формулировки,

The second edition of the electronic Newsletter for NGOs "Infopost" was released.

This edition is dedicated to information that can help in building relationships with employees, day labor organization and optimization of the activities. By consulting this issue you will know the principles in designing the mission of the organization, basic fundraising ideas, you'll also learn to avoid mistakes in building work relations, and how to manage your time rationally. You'll also find articles on events organized by NGOs from Transnistrian region.

If you want to share thoughts, experiences and information on previous events or on events to be organized, if you have questions about the legal aspects and financial management of organizations – the redaction of the Newsletter is waiting for your e-mails:

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Press Review, September-October 2011

Smirnov Was Not Elected by the People, reads the headline of a interview to the newspaper Ziarul de Garda with a human rights activist working in Transnistria.

“We often hear Smirnov claim on television that he was elected by the people, says Mihai Dirul, but our village Lunga didn't vote for Smirnov. In 1991, on December 1, elections weren't even conducted [in the village] and the Culture House was closed. We conducted our elections on 8 December 1991 and we voted for Mircea Snegur as President; of the 3,860 registered voters more than 3,600 voted then for Snegur, so our village chose Snegur as President, and then other presidents elected in polls held by the Republic of Moldova. Regretfully, we the inhabitants of Lunga and other villages in this region were denied the right to conduct other elections and we were also barred from going to the polling stations in Cocieri or Ustia; they put the militsiya, the paramilitaries, the border guards to keep an eye on us”.

(<http://www.zdg.md/exclusiv/smirnov-nu-a-fost-ales-de-popor>)

Transnistria: A Profitable Enterprise for the Smirnov Clan, a story by Tudor Iascenco in cooperation with the Investigative Journalist Center www.investigatii.md, published in the economic magazine “ECONOMIST”.

Moscow has shown its concern about how Russian subsidies are spent in the Transnistrian region. An investigation commission of the Russian Federation is verifying data on how the Russian financial aid for Transnistria has been expended and the probe could result in criminal charges, the Russian media reported recently. Among those suspected of embezzling Moscow's aid is Transnistria's leader Igor Smirnov himself, together with his family. The inspection by the Russian envoys started at this point not exactly because Moscow is so acutely concerned by the embezzlement taking place in the region, but rather because it wants to discourage Igor Smirnov from seeking yet another presidential term.

(http://www.eco.md/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2381:transnistria-afacerea-profitabil-a-clanului-smirnov-&catid=98:economie&Itemid=469)

From Settlement to Divorce?, an editorial by Petru Bogatu, Jurnal de Chisinau.

Stupefied by the gesture of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who sent a letter to Anatoly Kaminsky, the media [in Chisinau] failed to notice its content. Yet this can tell many things. It doesn't say a word about the settlement of the Transnistrian dispute. At a more attentive sight, the message sent by Vladimir Putin to the leader of the Transnistrian Renewal party seems more interesting than at first glance. The media is emphasizing the fact that by sending this letter the Kremlin has picked its favorite in the separatist region's presidential elections. But this isn't a novelty. Show me one clear-thinking person who doesn't know that the chairman of the the Transnistrian parliament is Putin's man in Tiraspol.

(<http://ziar.jurnal.md/2011/09/20/petru-bogatu-de-la-un-proces-de-reglementare-la-un-proces-de-divort/>)

Collared by Moldovan Police and Handed to Transnistrian Militsiya, tells the story of a Anenii Noi man as investigated by the newspaper Ziarul de Garda.

On the night of September 9, Vasile Fricatel from Telita village, Anenii Noi, was seized by unidentified persons who, by family accounts, were officers of the district police. The man was then handed over to the Transnistrian militsiya in the town of Grigoriopol. [...] The practice of 'extraditing' persons by the Moldovan law enforcement agencies to the illegal Transnistrian militsiya, despite being unconstitutional and violating the fundamental human rights and liberties, goes on for years. Human rights organizations have identified hundreds of cases of Moldovan citizens being abducted by the Moldovan police to be handed over to the Transnistrian militsiya, without any procedural documents whatsoever. Those persons were relinquished to undergo prosecution and then stand trial in the so-called Transnistrian courts, and subsequently to be even sentenced.

(<http://www.zdg.md/investigatii/luat-cu-forta-de-politisti-si-transmis-militiei-transnistrene>)



The **Promo-LEX Association** is a Non-Governmental Organisation focused on promoting democratic values and on implementing internationally recognised standards in the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region.

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Mission – To advance democracy in the Republic of Moldova through promoting and defending Human Rights and strengthening Civil Society.

RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR TRANSNISTRIA

Resource and Development Center for Transnistria (RDCT), whose purpose is to contribute to the development and strengthening of the nongovernmental sector in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, **supports NGOs and Initiative Groups by providing following services:**

- *Training for NGOs* on diverse topics: Organizational Development, Strategic Planning, NGO Management, Project Management, Financial Management for NGOs, Writing project proposals, Fundraising, Advocacy and Lobbying, other;
- *Individualized assistance* to NGOs and initiative groups;
- *Financial support* within Small Grants program for Transnistrian region NGOs and initiative groups;
- *Advertising information* about activity of the third sector within electronic newsletter.

Promo-LEX continues to offer free legal advice on issues related to military service for youth from the Transnistrian region. For any questions or complaints regarding the violation of recruits rights contact: tel: 373 (22) 45-00-24, email: tiras.army@gmail.com

The opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily express the views of the National Endowment for Democracy.
