

Newsletter Promo-LEX

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak, Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen .

Winston Churchill

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One must fight continuously to protect their rights

Political analysts say that 2012 was a good year for Transnistrian settlement negotiations, and the main achievement of the year was that Tiraspol and Chisinau resumed dialogue and the strategy of small steps. But how was 2012 for the people on the left bank, especially since human rights advocates in the region argue that people continue to be illegally detained by the Tiraspol regime? Let’s hear the answers to these questions, in a few minutes, from Ion Manole, director of Promo-Lex Association, known for providing legal advice to detainees and their relatives in the region.

Ion Manole: If we refer to the Transnistrian region, especially human rights, we cannot report many progresses, except maybe for the fact that they accepted a wider international mission in this respect. I refer to Thomas Hammarberg, who was appointed special envoy and UN Special Rapporteur for the Transnistrian region, with the task to monitor human rights in the region. Over the last year, he made three visits to the region, where spoke to victims, met with people who are in detention, involving the civil society in this work. We are now waiting for his final report, which is due in January or February, to see what are the expert’s conclusions. Yes, there is a revigoration at the political level, we see that, after five years, political talks in the 5+2 format were finally resumed, and we hope that the resumption of talks at the political level will push things in a direction to better to ensure the human rights of all citizens and people living in this area.

See [full interview](#).

Press conference on the topic "Evgheni Sevciuc -becoming president takes revenge. Alexander Coliban – the next prisoner in Tiraspol for the next 2.6 years."



On January 14th, 2013 took place the Press conference on the topic "Evgheni Sevciuc becoming president takes revenge. Alexander Coliban – the next prisoner in Tiraspol for the next 2.6 years." In which participated the relatives of the young man and the representative of Promo-LEX Association, Pavel Postica.

Alexandr Coliban, aged 22, from Chisinau, was convicted by the unconstitutional bodies from transnistrian region to 2.6 years of prison. Alexander was convicted for distributing electoral leaflets against Evgheni Sevciuc for the "presidential elections" campaign from 11 September 2011 in the transnistrian region. .

On October 23rd 2011, a group of people hired by Alexandru to post and distribute electoral leaflets in the region were detained in the town of Grigoriopol. Alexandru immediately went to Grigoriopol to clarify the situation, and was detained by the Transnistrian “law enforcement” on charges of slander (actions punishable under Article 126 of the “criminal code”) and on impeding the free exercise of the electoral right or the activities of electoral authorities following the distribution of defamatory materials against candidate Evgheni Sevciuc (actions punishable under Art. 137 of the “criminal code”).

Alexandr was detained for three days, and pressured to confess his supposed guilt and testify against the organizer. Convinced of the lack of criminal content in his actions, Alexandr admitted that indeed he recruited and hired people for campaigning and provided them with electoral materials. Moreover, he indicated who exactly hired him for this work and how much he was paid for it.

"Starting with October 31st, 2011, the regional Transnistrian “public” television broadcast a series of six thematic programs about the defamation campaign against candidates, including images. Also the TV programs presented all materials, “defamatory” election posters against candidate Evgheni Sevciuc. We conclude that it is about revenge considering that after becoming “president”, Sevciuc addressed a letter to the court expressly requesting a tougher punishment for Alexandru – a prison sentence for a maximum term of 3 years and 6 months", mentioned Promo-LEX Association lawyer, Pavel Postica.

See [entire article](#)

A new case of abusive deprivation of liberty on the left bank



Alexandru Coliban, aged 22, was sentenced to 2 years and 6 months in jail in Transnistria. Alexandru is accused of distributing defamatory campaign posters against Evgheni Sevciuk in last year's presidential campaign. The young man is originally from Kamenka, but lived for long time in Chisinau. Diana Raileanu talked with Pavel Postica, a lawyer with Promo-LEX, an organization specialized in defending the rights of detainees in the Transnistrian region:

Pavel Postica: „Alexandru Coliban was presented with two counts of charges by the so-called Transnistrian law enforcement. The first is the so-called crime of libel in that he, with the help of other persons, created and distributed campaign materials and posters of defamatory content against supposed president Evgheni Sevciuk. This was the first charge. The second refers to the exactly same actions, alleging by doing so, he prevented people on the left bank of the Nistru River from freely exercising their electoral rights.”

Radio Free Europe: Are you suggesting that behind these accusations lies the Transnistrian regime's intolerance towards people who may have different opinions than them, and that the regime would want to provoke Chisinau?

Pavel Postica: „In my opinion, we can speak of both. Indeed there is hatred towards anything that comes from the right bank of Nistru. The organizer of the campaign operation was a citizen of Ukraine who was hired by interested actors in the Russian Federation and was convicted in February 2012 to 3 years in jail. However, soon after that - a month later at most - at the insistence of those interested actors in the Russian Federation (there were allegations on some forums that I would not dismiss as groundless that say it was Sergey Naryshkin), the Ukrainian was released. In contrast, six months later, a citizen of Moldova was found and deprived of freedom. Indeed it is a political decision of supposed president Sevciuk. In the case there is a specific request of his representative demanding expressly that Alexandru Coliban be sentenced to 3.6 years in prison, while the organizer of the entire campaign received a 3-year sentence.”

See [full interview](#)

Promo-LEX Association launched a study of the rights of recruits in the eastern region of Moldova

Promo-LEX Association has launched a new edition of the study “The rights of recruits in the eastern region of Moldova”. This study is an objective analysis of the situation in Transnistria recruits, both citizens of the Republic of Moldova and of other states, required or forced to do military service in illegal paramilitary units from the left bank.

“For 20 years, young people living in Moldova present oaths of allegiance to an unconstitutional regime, self-proclaimed on Moldovan land”, said Alexandru Zubco, author of the study. “Those who refuse to serve this illegal regime are hunted and persecuted by the region’s administration, and Moldovan legal authorities are often indifferent to these phenomena, ignoring their positive obligations,” concludes Alexandru Zubco.

The author believes that the responsibility for this situation lies largely on the national government and the legal authorities that failed, in 20 years, to develop mechanisms or effective tools to protect and guarantee the human rights of their citizens of this region. Moldova did not create minimum conditions to register young Transnistrian men in their military records and enrollment them in constitutional structures.

Occasionally, the public learns about cases of abduction of persons right at Transnistrian checkpoints, and these men are then forced to accept enrollment or face prosecution for alleged criminal offences. Despite the efforts of the Chisinau delegation to the Joint Control Commission, victims remain in captivity, which demonstrates that the peacekeeping format designed to assure the safety and rights of persons in the Security Zone is inefficient and needs to be changed.

The study is developed within the cross-border cooperation project “Transnational network for the protection of the rights of recruits and conscripts: empowering young people in situations of discrimination by the state”, implemented by the London School of Economics and Political Science, and funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

Electronic version of the study in romanian:

http://www.promolex.md/upload/publications/ro/doc_1358424239.pdf

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Action required to comply with the ECtHR judgment of 19 October 2012

Three months after the European Court of Human Rights pronounced the judgment which recognized the violation of the right to education in the Transnistrian region of Moldova (Catan and Others v. Moldova and Russia case), the Russian authorities have not pay the compensation they were obligated to and failed to take any step to enforce required general and individual provisions.

To enforce the ECtHR judgment with respect to paying the established compensations, representatives of the plaintiffs filed claims to the Russian government agent to the ECtHR, as well as the Russian Finance Ministry and State Treasury. Insofar, none of addressees gave any response to the claim.

Also, in our opinion, the authorities concerned (Moldova and Russia) ignored their obligations under the European Convention and ECtHR judgment of 19 October 2012, and made no visible efforts to solve the problems related to:

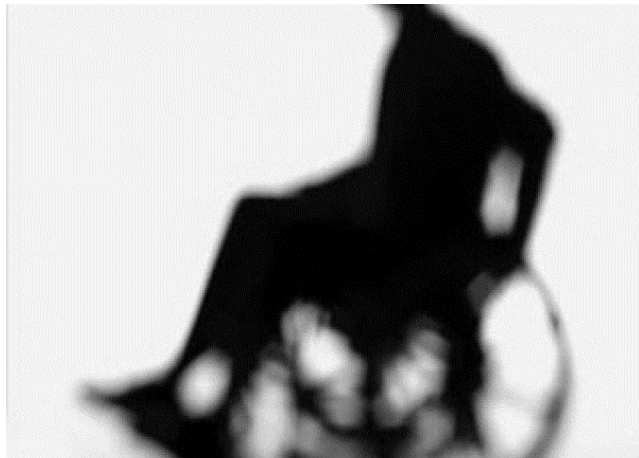
1. Excluding illegal and abusive provisions in the local regulations that restrict the use of the Latin alphabet for the functioning of Romanian (Moldovan) language in the Eastern region of Moldova (Article 6 of the regional "Law on languages", Art. 12th of the region's "Constitution", Art. 200/3 "Code of administrative violations" of the region, Decree of 18 August 1994 on the prohibition of the use of Latin script in schools);
2. Canceling provisions of the so-called local authorities of the cities of Ribnita, Bender and Grigoriopol on evacuating the Latin script Lyceums from the buildings they previously held;
3. Restitution of buildings used before the forced evacuation by the "Evrica" Lyceum in Ribnita on Gagarin St, by "Alexandru cel Bun" Lyceum on Kosmodemianskaia St. in Bender, and returning the building used by the "Stefan cel Mare" Lyceum from Grigoriopol until 2002;
4. Canceling the requirement to register educational institutions operating based on the national curriculum with the local administration in Tiraspol;
5. Canceling any prohibition regarding the provision of books, manuals or other goods and materials used in the educational process in Latin script schools.
6. Prohibition of discrimination and intimidation campaigns that were admitted and sometimes organized by local separatist administrations, especially acts of vandalism and hooliganism against those who wish to study in these schools.

Contrary to populist statements of representatives of the separatist regime in the recent years, the situation of Romanian-language schools remains difficult. According to school principals, all conditions are in place to disrupt teaching. Retention of school buses of the "Stefan cel Mare" Lyceum from Grigoriopol, that takes students to a school in Dorotcaia or persecution of a student of the "Lucian Blaga" Lyceum in Tiraspol shows that the Tiraspol regime is intended to continue to violate the right to education in the region.

We therefore demand the Moldovan legal authorities, the government of Ukraine, which is a mediator in the Transnistrian conflict and currently holds that chair of the OSCE, the observer parties: United States, European Union and OSCE, and especially Russia, to take consistent and effective efforts to ensure non-discriminatory conditions for all students and parents in the Transnistrian region, as envisaged by the respective ECtHR judgment of 19 October 2012.

Promo-LEX will notify the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of the fact that the Russian Federation ignores obligations assumed by ratifying the European Convention for Human Rights.

Transnistrian Foundation “World of Equal Opportunities” will calculate the number of wheelchair users



The organization wants to show how many people cannot enjoy their rights.

Tiraspol, January 14 (Novyi Region, Dina Leonidova) - Transnistrian charity “World of equal opportunities” will conduct a study this year to determine the number of disabled persons traveling in wheelchairs, fund director Dmitry Kuzuk told the Novyi Region correspondent.

According to him, there are no exact data on how many people with disabilities in the country suffered from musculoskeletal system diseases.

“We want the study to show how many disabled people cannot leave their homes due to the mere absence of ramps in public spaces,” Kuzuk said.

He noted that, in the new year, the fund will continue to work with the Bender municipality.

“Cities in the Transnistrian region should become accessible to the disabled, should be “wheelchair-friendly”. Dozens of shops and pharmacies are unavailable to them, not to mention public transport. But they are citizens of our country and have the right to freedom of movement and a many other rights they cannot use,” noted the director of the fund.

The Foundation also plans to hold meetings with representatives of the media to discuss issues related to the life of people with disabilities.

In its project “Towards an independent and active life”, the Foundation organizes various activities for wheelchair users and their families. For example, on old-style New Year’s Eve, they prepared in musical celebration featuring an unusual Santa Claus – one in a wheelchair.

“The disabled person who played a wizard at the celebration not only sang, but danced too,” said the deputy director of the fund, Natalia Bordan, stressing that disabled person can and should be an active member of society.

The “Towards an independent and active life” project is supported by the “Support for confidence-building measures” program, which is funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Promo-LEX Association facilitated the participation of young people from Transnistria at the Youth Summit in Pristina (Kosovo)

A Youth Summit was held in Pristina, capita of Kosovo, on December 14-16, 2012. The summit was organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, and was attended by 150 young leaders from the Western Balkan countries and representatives of organizations from conflict and post-conflict regions. The basic idea of the summit was to create a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience in fighting nationalism among young people, not only in the countries of former Yugoslavia, but also around the world.

The Summit was an opportunity for young people to speak and be heard on issues whose solution is important for a better future of the world. The discussion panels analyzed actions taken in countries such as Israel, Palestine, Iraq, Tunisia, Libya, Venezuela, Egypt, Liberia, and more.

Other topics of discussion included the relations between societies and the states in terms of the legacy of past wars, human rights, and the new wave of nationalism among young people. The consequences of the conflicts in former Yugoslavia as well as problems of young Albanians in Serbia and Serbs in Kosovo were at the center of the discussion. Participants also discussed frozen conflicts, life in divided cities, and youth cooperation both in the region and in other parts of the world.

The summit was divided into three thematic groups: Kosovo-Serbia, Regional Cooperation, and Global Perspective. The objective of the summit was to create a platform for cooperation of youth activists

from the Western Balkan countries and their connection with young people around the world who are faced with similar issues every day.

“The agenda of events over the three days was very intense. My worldview and awareness of world events have become more ample. I had the opportunity to learn about activities and events that took place in other countries. The summit was also a great opportunity to talk about Transnistria,” said summit participant Olga Uşurelu.

“The speech of Miroslav Zivanovic (Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo) on the importance of empowering youth and the need for young people to speak up about what they think is important was very interesting,” Olga Uşurelu added.

Raba Gjoshi, director of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Kosovo, presented a conclusion of the summit at the closing session: “Young people from all over the world learned about the situation in the Western Balkans, and about issues key in countries of North Africa, Middle East, South America and other parts of the world. Activists shared their knowledge and experiences from their daily fights in the struggle for freedom and human rights. Most importantly, we established new partnerships and found new friends.”

The first Youth Summit was held in Belgrade, Serbia, in 2009, based on the idea of organizing summits in other cities in the region until all the Balkan countries become members of the European Union.

Promo - LEX

Promovarea democrației și a drepturilor omului



**National Endowment
for Democracy**

Supporting freedom around the world

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The Promo-LEX Association is a Non-Governmental Organisation focused on promoting democratic values, whose purpose is to advance democracy in the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region through promoting and defending human rights, monitoring democratic processes and strengthening the civil society.

Promo-LEX Association provides free legal aid assistance on issues of human rights violations for the inhabitants from the Transnistrian region of Moldova. For consultations please contact: Tel: 022 310945

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.