

Newsletter Promo-LEX

“I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”
Voltaire

In this edition:

- **„Eyes on the Police” Campaign Results**
- **The Right of Assembly, severely violated by the Transnistrian militia in Corjova**
- **New Persecutions of Human Rights Defenders in the Transnistrian region**
- **Russia opposes inspection russian military units in the Transnistrian region of Moldova by a multinational OSCE**
- **Promo-LEX’s Appeal on International Women’s Day - In support of victims of gender-based violence**

Previous numbers:

- **Newsletter 66** click [here](#)
- **Newsletter 65** click [here](#)

„Eyes on the Police” Campaign Results

The results of the monitoring have shown that during the campaign the police respected minimal rules of professional etiquette training, conducted themselves in line with the requirements set by the Code of Ethics and Ethics, and addressed the citizens with respect. Another positive finding refers to the presence of video surveillance equipment installed inside / at the the entrance into police stations.

However, the monitoring report prepared by Promo-Lex reveals a number of shortcomings in police work. It found that about 21% of the staff of police commissariats and 49% of the staff of of police units and stations in the country did not wear visible identification elements. The monitors' findings also show that the premises in which the police work are quite difficult to find as there are no indicators to guide people there. At the same time, and police stations are inaccessible to disabled people (ramps are absent). Another unfortunate finding related to the poor information of citizens about their provided services, contact phones, as well as procedures for submitting and considering complaints, etc. In the same line of ideas, people do not seem to have an effective opportunity to complain about poor quality services provided by the police (no records of complaints or limited access to them).

The work of police patrols is virtually invisible, especially in rural areas (more than half the monitors could not identify a police patrol in the area). Although, for the most part, police involved in patrols are properly equipped and possess special means, most police officers do not carry visible identification elements or medical first aid kits. There were reports that police officers smoked during the exercise of their duties and did not allow audio/video recordings of their work.

As a result of the monitoring, Promo-LEX developed and submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs a number of recommendations to improve police work. The recommendations cover the areas of increasing public access to police services, informing citizens about police services and increasing their visibility, a continuous training and regular assessment of officers in terms of ethics, their provision with needed tools and equipment, etc.

The findings of the monitoring and the presented recommendations have one goal – to improve the quality of police services. The full report on police monitoring is available [here](#).

The Right of Assembly, severely violated by the Transnistrian militia in Corjova



On March 2, 2013, a group of residents of the Corjova village of the raion of Dubasari, a locality managed by Moldovan constitutional authorities, held a solemn gathering to commemorate the victims killed in the 1992 armed conflict on the Nistru river. The peaceful meeting was disrupted by the local militia from the town of Dubasari and representatives of local security structures (KGB). They blocked the roads leading into the village, restricting access to the village of vehicles with Moldovan legal license plates. They also surrounded the meeting place where participants were to lay flowers and make public speeches. They also threatened the organizers with sanctions if those were to fly the Moldovan flag or sing the national anthem.

Although two peacekeepers from the Russian Federation were present at the gathering, they did not intervene, and limited to "monitoring" the situation. The incident was settled by the constitutional police, who were maintaining public order during the meeting. Watch [video](#).

Promo-LEX Position

European standards require authorities (in this case, the de facto administration) to apply the law in a nondiscriminatory manner. Thus, we see that, in the case of the peaceful assembly in the village of Corjova, participants were discriminated compared with those who attended the meeting of Dubăsari.

The actions of the militia resulted in preventing the Corjova meeting participants from exercising their right to assembly and free expression. Both constitutional and international norms prohibit any undue intrusion and abuse of the authorities in the exercise of fundamental freedoms of citizens, especially the freedom of expression and assembly.

Recently, the supreme soviet (local legislature) in Tiraspol rejected a draft law on the organization of public meetings, which would have provided more freedoms and opportunities to organize peaceful rallies and protests than there are now. The bill was rejected on the grounds that "the current law is relatively good".

See [entire article](#)

New Persecutions of Human Rights Defenders in the Transnistrian region

One of the most active defenders of human rights in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, lawyer Stepan Popovschi, has been targeted for intimidation by the security structures of the Transnistrian region. On 7 March 2013, local KGB workers stormed the lawyer's house and started a search that began shortly before a press conference, where Stepan Popovschi was to present abuses of the local Tiraspol administration against farmland owners in the region, was scheduled to start. Stepan Popovschi, his wife and their child were shut in one of the rooms of the apartment and not allowed to get out throughout the raid.

The press conference had been announced a few days earlier. Soon after the the announcement was made public, Stepan Popovschi was warned to drop his stand. The invitation [to the press conference], addressed to representatives of foreign embassies in Moldova, was published and commented as "treason" on a local online portal, and on the region's Social Forum. The reason was Popovschi's use the term „Transnistrian region of Moldova”.

Stepan Popovschi, who is leading a social movement called "Farmers' Union", is the first lawyer from the region to represent cases of human rights violations in Transnistria to the European Court of Human Rights. The lawyer said that he has been repeatedly threatened by the regional administration of Transnistria. Two international organizations have recently asked separatist leaders to stop the intimidation against him.

Before the raid, in an interview for Radio Free Europe, the lawyer explained why his work might displease the authorities in Tiraspol: "The Transnistrian authorities most likely think we are a threat to them. I had the impression that the regime of Igor Smirnov was wrong, but I no longer have this opinion. I was never subjected to persecution and intimidation during that time. I was able to talk to the people about their rights wherever we wanted, even outdoors. Not until recently did I learn what threats and persecutions are."

Promo-LEX Reaction

Promo-LEX lawyer, Pavel Postică, believes that the event is an act of intimidation of the Popovschi family and of all those who dared to take a stand against the abuses of the Tiraspol leader, Evgheni Sevciuk. "The timing of the KGB intervention was not coincidental. A press conference was scheduled for 11.00 on that day, where the abuses of the Transnistrian leader were to be publicized. Obviously, Mr. Sevciuk did not like it. We hope that the situation of Stepan Popovschi and his family will improve."

Promo-LEX director, Ion Manole, says that the Chisinau authorities also bear responsibility for human rights violations in Transnistria, as they address the matter insufficiently in the 5+2 negotiations. The situation of the Transnistrian residents remains difficult.

See [entire article](#)

Russia opposes inspection russian military units in the Transnistrian region of Moldova by a multinational OSCE

A multinational team of inspectors visited Thursday, March 21, military units and objectives located on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, in the Transnistrian Security Zone. However, the Russian and the Transnistrian region delegations to the JCC (Joint Control Commission of the Security Zone) expressed disagreement that the Russian military units and groups deployed in the Transnistrian region of Moldova be inspected multinational group of experts.

According to the Moldovan Ministry of Defence, "inspections are performed in accordance with the provisions of the 2011 Vienna Document, which is one of the main existing tools of the political-military dimension of international cooperation. "Representatives of the Russian Federation in the JCC know the commitments to which their country agreed by adopting the 2011 Vienna Document, and acknowledge the obligations of the Russian side when multinational inspecting group requires to inspect all OSCE member countries' military forces, deployed in a specified area."

The Vienna Document provides the appropriate framework for taking adequate measures in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation by conducting periodic inspections to verify member states' compliance with their OSCE commitments. Military units, formations and objectives of both the Host State and any other OSCE member state deployed in the Host State are inspected. In this case, this refers to Russian military

units and formations deployed in the Transnistrian region of Moldova.

Ion Manole: The Current Peacekeeping Format led to the Strengthening of the Separatist Regime in Tiraspol

Question: The chairman of the Molovan delegation to the Joint Control Commission (JCC), Ion Solonenco, announced that the Russian side of JCC opposes the inspection of its military units in Transnistria by a multinational group of OSCE inspectors. How would you assess this?

Ion Manole: As a "peacemaker" in the process, the Russian delegation should not have any objections to visits various international or even civic monitoring missions of the area to inspect its peacekeeping objects, units and troops. The role of a peacemaker requires objectivity, competence, responsibility, neutrality, fairness and impartiality.

Question: How can the stance of the Russian military be explained?

Ion Manole: This dissonance is further proof that Russia's role is not to maintain peace and stability in Moldova, but rather to maintain control over the Transnistrian region. By such actions the Russian Federation demonstrates that it, in fact, stands against the settlement of the conflict.

See [entire article](#)

Promo-LEX's Appeal on International Women's Day - In support of victims of gender-based violence

March 8, 2013 marked the 102nd anniversary of the International Women's Day. This day represents a victory in the struggle for emancipation, against gender-based discrimination, for better working conditions, and, not least, for women's voting rights across the globe.

Domestic violence is the most serious problem facing Moldovan women. About 90% of victims of this phenomenon are women, and the day of March 8 provides an opportunity to remind the Moldovan society and authorities that concerted and effective efforts are needed to stop violence against women - one of the gravest issues affecting the human rights situation in our country.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Promo-LEX:

1. calls on the central and local authorities to streamline the application and implementation of legislative provisions on preventing and combating domestic violence;

2. recalls the obligation of the Republic of Moldova to provide all victims of domestic violence, including those from the Transnistrian region, services of social, psychological, medical, and legal rehabilitation, and of other types, as needed;

3. declares to the society that domestic violence is not a strictly private matter - is is a social issue that affects us all;

4. reminds that, as part of its the Human Rights Program work, the lawyers from the Association provide qualified legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, which have undergone acts of domestic violence in the past or continue to suffer such acts or their consequences today.

Promo-LEX demands real action and a positive response to this appeal from the Moldovan authorities. At the same time, we encourage international organizations that hold democratic values and human rights as a priority to continue their efforts to stop and prevent acts of domestic violence.

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Promovarea democrației și a drepturilor omului



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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.