Bureau for Reintegration disapproves extension of the quarantine in the localities from the Transnistrian region until 15 May, with restrictions to the free movement of citizens



The Bureau for Reintegration disapproves and expresses bewilderment on the new "decision" of the Tiraspol representatives to extend the quarantine regime until 15 May, 2021, while maintaining the same free movement restrictions for several categories of citizens. This regime was lasting for more than a year, being established and extended from 17 March, 2020, to the present.

During this period, not at all easy, the Bureau showed solidarity with the large number of citizens from both banks of Nistru who are unable to access the vital services, jobs, native localities, residences. Respectively, they are limited in the inalienable right to free movement throughout the country, arbitrarily restricted by Tiraspol under the alleged pretext of managing the epidemiological crisis and avoiding the risks of infection.

This state of affairs arouses deep indignation given that such restrictions were not imposed on the right bank of Nistru. Despite the worsening pandemic situation in the eastern districts of the country, the representatives from the region move without any impediments on the territory of the country and also across the state border. The Moldovan authorities provide multidimensional assistance to the population from the eastern districts of the country (transfer of patients in serious condition to hospitals on the right bank and of quotas from humanitarian aid for the Republic of Moldova, including medical and protection equipment, doses of anti-Covid-19 vaccine, etc.).

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration and the Bureau have taken countless steps through the communication channel of the

political representatives and have launched calls for involvement through all the dialogue platforms with the 5+2 mediators, observers, and Moldova's international partners. Unfortunately, the appropriate reactions from Tiraspol are missing, the human rights situation is very precarious, the confrontation rhetoric and unfounded accusation towards the Moldovan authorities do not stop. Meanwhile, protecting the health of the population requires immediate and joint interventions according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization and the decisions of the Extraordinary National Commission for Public Health.

Thus, the Bureau for Reintegration reiterates its position on the need to unconditionally unblock the free movement of residents from both banks of Nistru, exclude the discriminatory approaches, guarantee protection of the fundamental human rights and freedoms, respect the rules and norms on health and epidemiological security, strengthen confidence between people on both sides and eliminate the unjustified obstacles.

