

Precarious human rights situation in the Transnistrian region requires more attention and mobilization of efforts of all national and international stakeholders who can contribute to its improvement



02.08.2021, Chisinau – As we previously already emphasized, the issue of human rights' observance in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova is on the list of permanent key priorities of the national authorities. The specific objectives in this field are reflected in multiple policy documents under implementation, including the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2018-2022, approved by Parliament Decision no.89 of 24.05.2018. The importance of this issue was also reconfirmed in the Declaration on the "5 + 2" format negotiation process on Transnistrian settlement, approved on 04.12.2020 during the meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Tirana.

Despite the lack of effective and decisive control over the localities in the eastern rayons of the country, the Moldovan authorities take all possible measures to provide assistance to individuals whose rights have been violated in the region, mobilize the involvement of competent national institutions and external stakeholders with powers to influence processes and help bring things back to normal.

The topics aimed at protecting the inalienable rights of citizens are constantly on the discussion agenda of all formats of dialogue on Transnistrian settlement ("5 + 2", political representatives, sectoral working groups, especially for human rights, Joint Control Commission). Chisinau has repeatedly suggested and expects a prompt response from Tiraspol on the launch of a functional mechanism for monitoring and solving individual cases of human rights violations in the region, with the involvement of relevant experts and institutions responsible for promoting human rights, civil society and relevant international organizations (for instance Council of Europe, OSCE, UN).

Unfortunately, the current situation in the region in the field of human rights is alarming. An increase in number of serious violations of universally guaranteed rights has been registered, as well as cases of human lives lost in unclear conditions. These circumstances induce not only deep concerns, but also require strengthening and synchronizing efforts at all levels (political, diplomatic, international, public, associative, media, etc.) to influence the deteriorating course of events, to stop the phenomena of illegality and impunity, to fight against misleading public opinion about the reality on the ground and to implement internationally established standards to which the Republic of Moldova has also adhered.

It is imperative to unconditionally restore the rights and provide credible guarantees of not committing new abuses against the Republic of Moldova citizens who are illegally detained in the region (A. Glijin, Gh. Ciorba, O. Horjan, R. Lomaca, M. Petiș and others), persecuted for free expression and forced to leave the region (L. Calic, I. Vasilachii, P. Dogari, etc.), declared unfairly as undesirable in the region and have no access to their own houses (V. Mițul, Iu. Cotofana, V. Timus and others) and many other persons whose inalienable rights were limited (free movement, property, education, health care, inviolability of the home, right to life and physical/mental integrity, the right to a fair hearing by a court empowered by law, the presumption of innocence, etc.).

The Chief Negotiator from Chisinau informed the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, the OSCE Special Representative for the Transnistrian settlement process, mediators and observers in the "5 + 2" negotiating format, ambassadors and relevant international organizations, about the existing situation and the indispensable need to intensify all joint and multilateral efforts to improve the degree of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the localities of the administrative-territorial units on the left bank of the Nistru and in Bender. All the stakeholders have been requested to engage more actively in the process, to support national authorities and human rights defenders in solving individual cases, to gain access for representatives of the People's Advocate Office and human rights' promoters to persons whose rights have been undermined, to make use of all the available levers to correct the detected irregularities and to ensure compliance with international standards in the area of human rights.

The politicization of human rights is unacceptable. It cannot be subject to conditions without any legal basis and undermine the inalienable rights and freedoms of others. The Bureau for Reintegration continues to call upon all interested external and national partners to support human rights' observance in the eastern rayons of the country in accordance with the requirements of international law and the provisions of the regulatory framework in force.

