# The case of journalists’ obstruction on the Gura Bicului bridge examined by the Joint Control Commission



The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova disapproves any action that restricts the right of the journalists to exercise their profession. In this regard, at the weekly meeting of the Joint Control Commission on February 11, the Moldovan Delegation expressed its regret over the incident that took place 2 days earlier at the checkpoint No.11 of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces, with the involvement of a television station’s journalists. The worrying incident was also discussed at the eve meeting of the Joint Military Command. In this context, the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova urged the parties in the peacekeeping process to better cooperate and communicate, as not to harm the rights and freedoms of citizens and not to create new outbreaks of tension in the Security Zone.

At the same meeting, the debates on approving the agenda again did not succeed and the regular meeting, where a number of other issues with a direct impact on the Security Zone regime were to be examined, was not opened. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova condemned the destructive position of the Transnistrian side, which has been blocking the meetings of the Joint Control Commission for several months.

The **statement (Ru)** signed by the members of the Moldovan Delegation reveals the continuous deterioration of the situation in the Security Zone, starting in 2020, when the Tiraspol representatives committed a high number of violations of the provisions stipulated in the peacekeeping operation documents.

We would like to remind that the regular meetings of the Joint Control Commission have not been held since October 2020 due to the rejection of the proposed topics for the agenda. The Transnistrian side flatly refuses not only to identify solutions, but even to discuss the issues related to the abductions that took place in the Security Zone and

the situation created after the abusive installment in May 2019 of so-called “border guards”. They also refuse to discuss the initiation of drafting a Regulation of the Joint Military Command or the reasons for not signing its reports.

The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova considers that these actions of Tiraspol deliberately are meant to block the peacekeeping process and to discredit it towards the inhabitants on both banks of the Nistru river.

**Delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the Joint Control Commission**

