



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT

by the Republic of Moldova
on detention of the director of the Latin-script school
in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova
(*OSCE Permanent Council, February 6, 2014*)

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova would like to bring to the attention of the Permanent Council the most recent incident that took place yesterday in the Security Zone, near the village of Parcani. The representatives of the so-called “customs committee” and “militia” of the Transnistrian region, on completely groundless reasons, detained the director of the Lucian Blaga Lyceum from Tiraspol Mr. I.Iovcev and other two employees who were transporting salaries of the teaching staff. A few unarmed representatives of the Moldovan peacekeeping contingent were present at the place of incident. We would like to mention for clarification that according to the basic documents of the peacekeeping operation - members of the peacekeeping contingents enjoy freedom of movement in the Security Zone in order to control the situation, monitor the respect of commitments and realization of other tasks. At some point, Transnistrian “special forces” have showed up and detained the members of the peacekeeping contingent. They deprived the Moldovan peacekeepers of their mobile phones, memory sticks. In the meantime, Mr Iovcev and his colleagues were transported to Tiraspol.

As a result of efforts undertaken by the Moldovan Government and international partners who were asked to help in resolving this incident, the Transnistrian structures have released all persons. However, the salaries of the teaching staff and some personal belongings of the detained persons have not yet been returned.

The Moldova Government issued a statement condemning the detention of the director of lyceum, his colleagues and members of the Moldovan peacekeeping contingent. The Government believes that this unilateral act represents a pre-planned provocation aimed at creating tension and undermining the settlement process of the Transnistrian conflict. The incident is yet another step aimed at applying pressure on the Moldovan institutions in the Transnistrian region, including the Latin-script schools. Moreover, the detention of members of the peacekeeping forces in the Security Zone is an unprecedented action and a direct test to the existing peacekeeping operation. The Government stressed the fact that the responsibility for provocations lies with the Transnistrian security structures.

The Republic of Moldova will address this incident in the existing formats of dialogue with Tiraspol. We tried to do this at the today's session of the Joint Control Commission. However, the meeting had to be postponed because of the failing to agree on the inclusion of this subject on the agenda. At the same time, we would like to underline that this incident demonstrates that Tiraspol while undertaking provocative actions is ready to defy even the peacekeeping mechanism. We also note that the peacekeeping arrangement has failed to deploy military observers to the place of incident. In this respect I would like to reaffirm our longstanding call to start reflection on the ways to adjust the peacekeeping operation to the current realities and needs on the ground and in accordance with the international standards. We also call on the international partners involved in the negotiation process to make use of their potential in order to prevent such incidents in future.

Thank you.