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United States Mission to the OSCE

On Continuous Flagrant Violation of Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova by the Secessionist Regime

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires, a.i Courtney Austrian
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 29, 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Canada and my own delegation, the United States.

The United States and Canada remain deeply concerned by the continued repression of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Moldova’s Transnistria region. Transnistrian *de facto* authorities repeatedly used their *2020-2026 Strategy for Combating Extremism* to prosecute peaceful opposition members and dissidents. Let’s review the recent convictions of Ghenadie Ciorba and Mihail Ermurachi.

On July 3, 2020, Ghenadie Ciorba was arrested after he participated in a peaceful protest against movement restrictions imposed by Transnistrian *de facto* authorities. After serving ten days under administrative arrest for “organizing an illegal protest,” he was remanded to prison on “extremism” charges and languished for almost a year before his closed trial was held. Last week, he was convicted on charges of “extremism” and “insulting” *de facto* Transnistrian “leader” Vadim Krasnoselsky and sentenced to three years and three months’ imprisonment. Also last week, 70-year-old Mihail Ermurachi was likewise convicted of “insulting” Krasnoselsky in a private discussion he had in 2019. He was fined 9,200 rubles.

We call on the Transnistrian *de facto* authorities to respect human rights, overturn the convictions of Mr. Ciorba and Mr. Ermurachi for exercising their fundamental freedoms, and immediately release detainees unjustly held, including Oleg Horjan, Serghei Mirovici, and Adrian Glijin.

The United States and Canada support a *results-oriented* 5+2 Settlement Process for the Transnistrian conflict based on Moldova’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally-recognized borders with a special status for Transnistria. The United States and Canada stand in solidarity with the Moldovan people and in defense of the human rights of those subjected to abuses.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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