

**STATEMENT
BY THE MINISTRY OF REINTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

On September 6th, 2004, the "Teleradio-Moldova" public broadcasting company operator - Dinu Mija has been arrested by the Transnistrian militia while trying to film the protesting actions of the Bender railway junction's employees against the creation of the so-called unitary enterprise "Zheleznaiia Doroga Prednistrovia".

During his arrest, Dinu Mija was subject of brutal and aggressive behaviour. Transnistrian militia deteriorated his camera, confiscated and destroyed the video tape, Mr. Mija being transported in an unknown direction.

Such kind of repressive actions on behalf of the Transnistrian administration provoke a deep indignation and concern, especially taking into account the fact that the representative of "Teleradio-Moldova" company was accredited to the Joint Control Commission (JCC) and had the right to travel and act without any hindrance in the Security Zone.

We consider that such brutal actions against a media representative constitute another step of the Transnistrian authorities' campaign of misinformation of the Moldovan and international public opinion on the real situation in the eastern region of the Republic of Moldova, as well as in the Security Zone.

This aggressive behaviour clearly demonstrated once again the Transnistrian administration's intention to black out their repressive actions against the railwaymen in Bender and the cases of serious violation of the fundamental human rights and freedoms in the region. It is evident that Tiraspol takes consistent measures to create a new informational "iron curtain" in the centre of Europe.

The grave violation of all agreements, including the 1992 Agreement on the ceasefire and those pertaining to the free movement of persons and goods in the Security Zone eloquently shows to the whole international community the real worth of the Transnistrian administration, as well as its level of "democratisation" and "constructivism".

In this context, we appeal to the mediators - Russia, Ukraine, the OSCE, as well as to the Council of Europe, the European Union and other international organizations and states with the request to undertake all possible measures for the fastest release of the arrested journalist.

We call on the delegations of the JCC to convoke an extraordinary meeting in order to determine the JCC position on this rude infringement, as well as for undertaken all necessary measures for releasing the arrested TV operator and ensuring a full and objective reflection of the JCC activity and the situation in the Security Zone.

We also call on the civil society, the human rights organizations and the Mass-media to consolidate their efforts in the proper treatment of the incident, as well as in the soonest discharge of the TV operator Dinu Mija.

7th September 2004, Chisinau