

OSCE SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING. APRIL 2016

ENGLISH only

ROMANIA: STATE-SPONSORED HATE SPEECH AGAINST MOLDOVANS AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

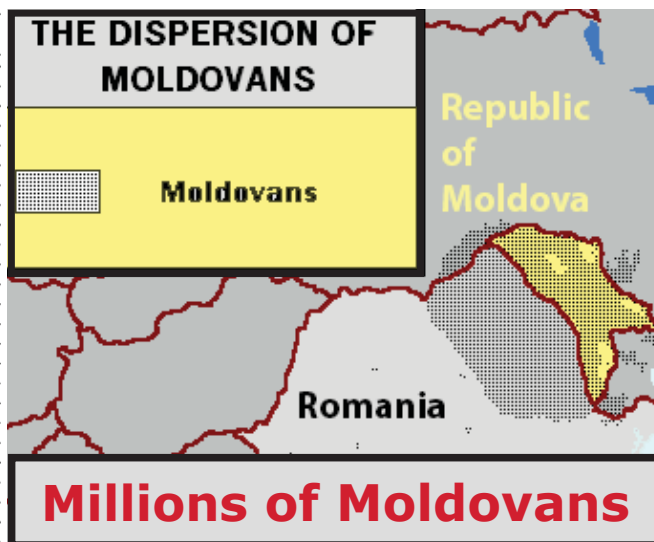
In March 2016 Iulian Chifu, former national security adviser to Romanian President Traian Basescu, published a 'road map' for the transition of the Republic of Moldova to Romanian jurisdiction and a forced relocation of Transnistria's population. This document is just one of numerous examples of the Romanian officials' hate speech against ethnic Moldovans and the Republic of Moldova. Major ideas of the official Romanian ideology include denying ethnic Moldovans and the Republic of Moldova the very right of independent existence, deliberate violation of the rights of the Moldovan ethnic minority in Romania and removing any references to an independent Moldovan ethnos from all official statements.

There are an estimated 5 to 10 million ethnic Moldovans residing in Romania¹. However, they were denied a possibility to indicate their ethnic origin as 'Moldovans' in the questionnaires which they filled out during the population census. At the same time any resident of Romania was free to choose among a hundred other ethnic origins, including rare ethnic groups such as Jordanians, Cypriots and Japanese.

NOMENCLATORUL ETNILOR SI LIMBILOR MATERNE – NELM

Cod nivel 1	Cod nivel 2	ETNIE	LIMBA MATERNA
1000		Român	Română
	1001	Român	Română
	1002	Aromân	Aromână
	1003	Cic	
	1004	Istroromân	
	1005	Macedoromân	Macedoromână
	1006	Meglenoromân	
	1007	Vlah	
1100		Maghiar	Maghiară
	1101	Maghiar	Maghiară
	1102	Ungur	Ungară
	1103	Secui	Secuiască
1200		Rom	Romani
	1201	Rom	
	1202	Băieș	
	1203	Boldean	
	1204	Caștal	
	1205	Căldărar	
	1206	Cărămidar	
	1207	Cocalar	
	1208	Gabor	
	1209	Geambaș	
	1210	Lăieș	
	1211	Lăutar	
	1212	Pietos	
	1213	Rudar	
	1214	Spoitor	
	1215	Țigan	
	1216	Țigan de mătase	
	1217	Ursar	
	1218	Vătraș	
	1219	Zavragiu	
1300		German	Germană
	1301	German	Germană
	1302	Landler	
3100		Macedonean	Macedoneană
	3101	Macedonean	Macedoneană
	3102	Macedo-slav	
3200		Alte etnii	Alte limbi materne
	3201	Ceaugău	
	3202	Carașovean	Carașoveană
	3203	Găgăuz	Găgăuză
	3204	Chinez	Chineză

**Romanian
official view:
No Moldovans**



¹ According to the Wikipedia article on Moldovans, there are 4.7 million Moldovans in Romania, while in his interview to the Moldpres agency, V.Voronin — President of Moldova — estimated the number of Moldovans residing in Romania at 10 million.

A policy aimed at infringing the rights of the Moldovan ethnic minority in Romania is manifested in repressions against civil society organizations. The only attempt to establish an organization 'Moldovan Community in Romania' was suppressed by the Romanian authorities who deprived it of the right to be registered on the grounds that the organization 'opposed the integrity of Romania.'¹ That action reinforced the opinion shared by many experts, who believe that the official Romanian ideology rejects the very existence of the Republic of Moldova as an independent state and a member of the United Nations. According to media reports, the President of the 'Association of Moldovans in Romania' Claudiu Alexa faced persistent pressure and threats from the Romanian special services right up until his mysterious death.

Long-term President of Romania Traian Basescu repeatedly insulted Moldovans saying that 'there is no such thing as Moldovans and the Moldovan language', 'the Moldovan people is a historical fraud' and he does not 'recognize its existence'. He also refused to sign a border treaty with the Republic of Moldova saying that 'Romania doesn't see any point in signing border treaties with Moldova'. In 2011 Traian Basescu claimed that he would have supported the participation of Romania in World War II on the side of the Nazi Germany: 'Had I lived in that historical moment, I would have given the same order because we had an ally'.

Lately, Romanian officials and pro-Romanian Moldovan politicians have increasingly discussed the initiative 'Unirea – 2018' for the unification of Romania and Moldova in 2018. Moldovan people are deeply concerned about the deliberate and direct linkage between this initiative and the tragic and murderous events of 1918 — the Anschluss of Moldova by Romania.

Historical background

Under the Treaty of Bucharest between the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire, since 1812 Moldova (Bessarabia) was part of the Russian Empire. On 7 December 1917, taking advantage of the civil war in Russia, the Romanian troops attacked Moldova (Bessarabia) and then, on 13 January, they took over the Sfatul Tarii — a governmental body that had been established earlier in Moldova. The deputies who refused to recognize Romania's annexation of Moldova (Vasile Rudiev, Feodor Kotaros, Dmitry Prahitsky, Ivan Pantisir, Petr Chumachenko and Nikolay Kovsan) were shot by the Romanian troops. The only woman deputy Nadezhda Greenfield, of Jewish origin — was shot trying to escape. On 27 March 1918 following the killing of those opposed to the annexation of Moldova, the building housing the Sfatul Tarii was surrounded by the Romanian troops with machine guns, who organized the voting for unification

¹ 'Closure of the Association of Moldovans', *Cronica Romana*, 27.02.2006

of Moldova and Romania. Despite the appeals of the deputies to hold a referendum, the Romanian military controlling the meeting insisted on immediate voting, which resulted in the decision to recognize the annexation of Moldova and grant it the status of autonomy. The German, Bulgarian and Gagaus minorities announced that the voting was illegal. On 25-26 November 1918, the Romanian troops forced the deputies to hold another meeting, which took the decision, despite the lack of quorum, on unconditional annexation of Moldova without the status of autonomy. After that meeting, they dissolved the Sfatul Tarii.

It was only in 1940 that Romania gave Moldova (Bessarabia) back to the Soviet Union. On 23 November 1940 Romania joined the Tripartite Pact (Germany, Italy and Japan) and Romanian dictator Ion Antonescu arrested and sent more than 40 thousand Jews to German death camps.

The Gagauz ethnic minority in Moldova are seriously concerned about direct attacks and calls for limiting their rights on the part of Romania-sponsored anti-Moldovan forces within the Republic of Moldova.

In June 2014 while speaking on the television channel 'Moldova', the leader of pro-Romanian Liberal Party Mihai Ghimpu, made an insulting remark about the Gagauz ethnic minority in Moldova. He said: 'We were too generous to them. They got what they didn't deserve. They soiled our land. Quiet them down!' After that he virtually called to deprive the Gagauz minority of their autonomy, saying that 'they don't have a right to autonomy'.

The rhetoric of pro-Romanian Moldovan politicians against ethnic minorities resulted in a referendum held in 2014 in Gagauzia, where over 96 percent of its population voted for their right to self-determination as an independent state in case of unification of Moldova and Romania.

For the people of the Gagauz autonomy, today's appeals of the pro-Romanian politicians are nothing but the continuation of the tragic events of the 1990s, when these politicians were trying to suppress their will by force.



Hitler's ally Romanian dictator Ion Antonescu admired by President of Romania

Historical Background

The Autonomous Republic of Gagauzia with Moldovan, Gagauz and Russian as three official languages, was proclaimed on 9 August 1990 by the decision of the First Congress of People's Deputies of the South of the Moldovan SSR. The Republic of Moldova did not declare independence until 27 August 1991. The banners 'Gagauzia is lichen on Moldova's body' and 'The only good Gagauz is a dead Gagauz' were hung by the pro-Romanian groups on the Moldovan Parliament building. In October a motorcade of volunteers and unidentified gunmen set off to suppress the Gagauz movement for national independence. The violence was halted by the Soviet Army units. In 1994 the Republic of Gagauzia and the Republic of Moldova signed a document which granted Gagauzia autonomy.

Today's calls of pro-Romanian politicians for restricting the rights of people in Transnistria are a matter of serious concern. For example, the organization 'Sfatul Țării 2' has openly called for violating Moldova's sovereignty and transferring Transnistria to Ukraine. One of the founders of this organisation, Nicolae Dabija, said: 'Romania must initiate negotiations with Ukraine on exchange of territories. We should give up Transnistria in exchange for the south and north of Bessarabia.' The calls by Romanian politicians, such as Julian Chifu, for forced removal of Transnistrian residents are no less worrying. Let us not forget that it was the calls of pro-Romanian politicians for violating the rights of Russian speakers and Transnistrian residents that in the early 1990s led to the death of over a thousand people and the declaration of independence by the Transnistrian Moldovan Republic.

Historical Backgorund

In May 1990 pro-Romanian forces held rallies against the Russian speaking population of Moldova under the slogans 'Russians – across the Dniester, Jews – into the Dniester', 'Scram to your Siberia', 'Go away before we murder you all', and organized repeated assaults on Transnistrian deputies and Russian speaking citizens of Moldova. As a case in point, Dmitriy Matyushin was killed by pro-Romanian fighters in the very center of Chisinau. In August 1991 a number of deputies of the Supreme Soviet of Transnistria were arrested by the Moldovan police. Throughout 1992 the Moldovan armed forces and police squads were shelling cities and villages of Transnistria while criminals freed from Moldovan prisons were slaughtering civilians and carrying out sabotage attacks. More than 130 civilians were killed and 698 were wounded during the shelling of the Transnistrian city of Bendery. On 21 July 1991 Russia and the Republic of Moldova signed the Agreement 'On the Principles of Peaceful Settlement of Armed Conflict in the Transnistrian Region of Moldova'.

The aggression of pro-Romanian politicians against Moldovans and ethnic minorities can lead to a total destabilization of the situation in the Republic of Moldova.

THE NEW MOLDOVAN GOVERNMENT CREATED BY THE CORRUPT OLIGARCH VLADIMIR PLAHOTNIUC IS MADE UP OF HIS CONFIDANTS AND THE PEOPLE HE CONTROLS

*'Corruption remains endemic and the state
is still in the hands of oligarchs'*

**Thorbjorn Jagland,
Secretary-General
of the Council of Europe**

Aggression on the part of the pro-Romania politicians that targets Moldovans and ethnic minorities living in the Republic of Moldova is intensifying amid corruption scandals. The new Moldovan government created by Moldova's leading oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc consists entirely of his confidants and the people he controls. The new Prime Minister Pavel Filip and the Minister of Economy Octavian Calmic, are Vice-Presidents of the Democratic Party of Moldova created by Vladimir Plahotniuc. The Minister of Youth and Sports Victor Zubcu was the Secretary-General of the youth organization within the same party. The Minister of Information and Communications Vasile Botnari has held the leading positions within the companies Nobil Air and Victoriabank which Vladimir Plahotniuc used to control. The Minister of Internal Affairs Alexandru Jizdan is also openly called 'by the Moldovan media' a creature of Vladimir Plahotniuc's. The Minister of Justice Vladimir Chebotari, was once proposed by the Democratic Party and later appointed Deputy Minister of Transport. The majority of the members of the Government have been involved in a corruption scandal. In August 2015 the article 'The New Minister of Justice: Plahotniuc's Protégé and Owner of Profitable Business and Luxurious Property' was published in the Moldovan press.

According to Moldovan media the new government keeps on blocking their investigation of corruption cases. Mr. Ilan Shor, the prime co-ordinator of the \$1bn bank robbery, still enjoys freedom while there is plenty of evidence against him. On 25 March 2016 the National

Bank of Moldova published the following press release in connection with the Kroll investigation:

'This first phase of investigation has corroborated the initial findings reported in the Scoping phase of work, and uncovered clear evidence of the central involvement in the fraud of Mr. Ilan Shor and companies and individuals connected to him (together 'The Shor Group'). Specifically, evidence collated and analysed by Kroll has confirmed that the Shor Group was connected to the acquisition of shares of the Three Moldovan Banks between 2012 and 2014, directly controlled important decision making within the Three Moldovan Banks including decisions on providing 'loans' to connected companies that were never intended to be repaid, established the web of companies through which the fraud proceeds were misappropriated and laundered, and appear to have received a significant proportion of the stolen funds.'

Moldovan media have already repeatedly mentioned that under the direct pressure from the oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc the voting rights of citizens have been constantly violated. In April 2016 the Vice-President of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Moldova Stefan Uratu spoke about mass falsifications both at the parliamentary election of 2014 and the general election of 2015. Speaking on TV7 he said, 'I can officially declare that the local elections were falsified by 5 to 20%.'

On 4 March the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova unilaterally changed Article 78 of the Constitution which determines the procedure of presidential elections, specifying that any citizen of the Republic of Moldova over 40 years of age (previously eligible age was set at 35) can become President. According to many lawyers this decision is illegal since any changes in the Constitution should be based on the decision of the Moldovan Parliament.

The experts are also united in their opinion that the only aim of this decision was the oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc's intention to exclude the most popular politician of the country Renato Usatii, famous for his anticorruption campaign, from the elections.

With such fraud and corruption on the part of the oligarchs the aggression of pro-Romanian politicians against Moldovans and ethnic minorities can lead to a total destabilization of the situation in the Republic of Moldova.