



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE**

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova on incident in Corjova
852nd Meeting of the Permanent Council, March 3, 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to use this opportunity to inform the Permanent Council about the recent incident that took place yesterday in Corjova locality, Dubasari district. The 2nd of March is a sad day for the people of Moldova. On this day, 19 years ago, the armed conflict broke out on the banks of the Nistru River. Therefore, during the first days of spring we are organizing commemoration events and manifestations. Traditionally, such an event, takes place in the Corjova locality as well.

Describing briefly the incident I would like to mention that when the group of local residents from Corjova village, led by mayor Mr. Valeriu Mițcul was leaving the church after a memorial mass and heading to the cemetery, a group of around 30 representatives of Transnistrian "militia" approached them and brutally confronted the front person who was holding the flag of the Republic of Moldova. This was the only element, which the Transnistrian side tried to invoke in proving its aggressive actions. Let me stress the fact that a year ago a similar commemoration event took place without any interference from the Transnistrian regime. The "militia" arrested the mayor and local councilor Mr. Iurie Cotsofan, as well as applied force against other people who were trying to protect the local officials. Later a so-called Transnistrian "court" sentenced Mr. Mițcul and Cotsofan to 7 days of imprisonment. The efforts undertaken by the Moldovan authorities, OSCE and representatives of Ukraine in order to release them were not successful.

It is relevant to mention that this is not an isolated incident and represents just a ring in a whole chain of provocative actions of the separatist regime aimed at torpedoing the negotiations on the conflict settlement. At the same time, this development is yet another eloquent display of the ineffectiveness of the current peacekeeping mechanism, which again failed to react promptly to this situation as the military observers arrived to the place of the incident with more than a 3 hours delay. The Moldovan authorities have condemned the provocative actions of the Transnistrian side and urge them to release immediately and unconditionally all the persons illegally incarcerated in the region. We also call on the mediators and observers in the conflict settlement process to show a more determined approach, consistent with their role, in order to resolve this situation. We also ask the OSCE Mission to Moldova to continue monitoring the situation around the detained persons and report on developments.

Mr. Chairperson,

We regret the fact that such incidents are taking place against the background of the policy of engagement promoted by the Moldovan authorities. The Government of Moldova remains committed to implement confidence-building measures and maintain political dialogue with Tiraspol. The Deputy-prime minister for Reintegration Mr. Eugen Carpov will meet soon the Transnistrian representative Mr. Iastrebnik to discuss this case and other relevant issues.

Let me also use this opportunity to inform distinguished audience, that yesterday the Moldova Government adopted the decision to create a Governmental Commission on Reintegration. This coordination body includes all ministers and heads of public institutions, which are participating in the elaboration and implementation of the reintegration policies. We expect to restart soon the activity of the Working Groups aimed at strengthening the links between both banks and resolving practical problems.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.