

# CRISIS WATCH – IDIS Moldova

*This is a collection of news from Moldova's political crisis done by independent media and NGOs*

## Issue 1

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### April 11

- 1) 2009-04-11/12:52/Unimedia

Tomorrow at 11:00 the opposition parties will organize peaceful manifestation against the abusing of the ruling party.

- 2) 2009-04-11/11:17/Hotnews.md, after [www.rsf.org](http://www.rsf.org)

Authorities urged to stop violence against journalists. Reporters Without Borders is very disturbed that the Moldovan authorities have been arresting journalists and even using violence against them amid angry protests and rioting about the results of last weekend's parliamentary elections. Both Moldovan and Romanian journalists have been affected. "We appeal to the authorities to act with care and restraint," Reporters Without Borders said. "They have a duty to ensure that the detained journalists are released without delay and that media are able to work freely and safely. Moreover, the stigmatization of Romania and Romanian journalists is a dangerous strategy. Both the Moldovan authorities and foreign governments must refrain from stirring up violence, especially ethnic violence." For more details, [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=30808](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=30808)

- 3) 2009-04-11/10:46/DECA-Press

Ion Terguta, a reporter of DECA-press Agency from Chisinau was detained at noon on Friday by three policemen in civil and was taken to the Department of Organized Crime of MIA.

- 4) 2009-04-11/09:09/Info Prim-Neo

The Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections - Coalition 2009 intends to verify the electoral lists used in the April 5 legislative elections. On April 10, the organization filed an application to the Central Election Commission (CEC), asking that it is also allowed to copy the documents from the polling places of the Chisinau Electoral District.

- 5) 2009-04-11/09:00/www.garda.com.md

Almost 20.00, but the editorial Friday more alarming signals from the citizens. Many say they no longer feel confident of their own security and defense require journalists. For more details, <http://garda.com.md/eng/investigative/the-last-threats>

### April 10

- 6) 2009-04-10/19:25/Unimedia

Jurnal de Chisinau newspaper and Jurnal TV asked the US embassy in Chisinau to offer political asylum for all the editing team, because of the fact that the reporters are being terrorized these days by the force organs.

- 7) 2009-04-10/19:21/Unimedia

After the press has written that the communist government has co-participated at vandalism acts from presidency and parliament, publishing an image with youth supported by policemen, today, April 10, the presidential security explained to the journalists: "The policeman that appears in the photo on the roof of the presidency was there because he was asked to get up by the people".

- 8) 2009-04-10/18:21/Unimedia

"They've hit me as they could. I was hit all over the body". That's how a young man commented for UNIMEDIA how he was aggressed and arrested by police during the night of April 7. The young man tells how he was beaten by the order forces, saying that they've took documents, money and the mobile phone.

- 9) 2009-04-10/18:11/Unimedia

Lina Grâu, news correspondent of NewsIN Romania in Chişinău is leaving Moldova, because of not being arrested by police. "I've received a few signs and I decided it's better for me and integrity of my children to leave now in Romania", declared Lina.

- 10) 2009-04-10/17:35/Info Prim-Neo

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The opposition parties claim the authorities restrict their access to the voters lists, they were to verify during four days, starting April 9. The three parties – PL, PLDM and AMN – ask the Central Election Commission (CEC) to prolong the term by a week.

**11)** 2009-04-10/17:26/Info Prim-Neo

The Ministry of Construction and Territorial Development will announce a tender contest to select the company that will repair the buildings of the Parliament and Presidential Office devastated.

**12)** 2009-04-10/16:36/Unimedia

President Vladimir Voronin asked the Constitutional Court of Moldova to command renumbering the votes for the legislative elections, saying that this is going to be an argument that the elections were correct. The opposition sustained that elections were faked not at the votes numbering, but because of the dead people vote and the votes of people that have permanent residence in other countries, but voted also in Moldova.

**13)** 2009-04-10/15:35/Unimedia

People working at UNIMEDIA are being intimidated now through SMS messages saying that police and secret services are on their way of making arrests at UNIMEDIA's office.

**14)** 2009-04-10/15:30/Unimedia

A young man, 23 years, who was arrested on April 7, was cruel beaten by police, after he participated at the manifestation as a translator for a group of Swedish journalists.

**15)** 2009-04-10/14:17/Unimedia

The Editor-in-chief at Jurnal de Chisinau newspaper was released. She was arrested because "circulating near the government for extracting info which could be used to hit the government", says Jurnal.md.

**16)** 2009-04-10/13:17/Unimedia

The main leaders of non-gubernamental organizations from Moldova made statement 30 minutes ago at a press-conference, in which they declare that the protest on 7th April was pacifist and only an active group of instigators incited the crowd to vandalism. In this case, the transfer of the responsibility of the violence to opposite parties is not rightful. NGO leaders ask President Voronin to stop violence to participants at the protest and opposition.

**17)** 2009-04-10/11:18/Unimedia

Journalists teams from Romania (Realitatea TV, Antena 3), which broadcasted live the events from PMAN, were arrested and expelled from Moldova.

**18)** 2009-04-10/11:12/Unimedia

Although 2 days before on internet was transmitted that today will be organized a big protest, yesterday there was a message transmitted among internet that between protesters will be instigators. They will start the fights and the police will have the argument to use weapons.

**19)** 2009-04-10/00:47/Unimedia

It seems like a lot of websites are already blocked in Moldova by Moldtelecom internet provider, such as: unimedia.md, unimedia.info, jurnaltv.md, hotnews.md, protv.md (news sites), facebook.com, odnoklassniki.ru, twitter.com (social networks).

## **April 9**

**20)** 2009-04-09/19:30/Infotag

The European Union urged Moldova Thursday to resume normal ties with Romania, after Communist leaders in Chisinau accused Bucharest of fomenting riots that left dozens hurt and saw almost 200 arrested.

**21)** 2009-04-09/19:30/Infotag

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The Anti-Communist Popular Coalition-2009 has passed a statement demanding from the Ministry of the Interior to "stop unlawful arrests of the youth in the center of Chisinau". The document authors are maintaining that plain-clothed gentlemen are raiding the city center there and fro, catching young people without any grounds. In their words, "the police are arresting young men and girls even at public transport stations, and many people have disappeared without a trace". Writer Valeriu Matei of the Coalition stated that at about 9 p.m. on Wednesday, four guys were arrested at a trolleybus station in the Banulescu-Bodoni Street.

**22)** 2009-04-09/19:30/Infotag

Today, the head of state convened a special meeting of relevant state structure heads to discuss the repair problem, and ordered "to finance the repair at the expense of the State Budget means intended previously for the educational institutions, whose students or other representatives took part in the April 7 disorders".

**23)** 2009-04-09/19:30/Infotag

Members of the People's Action movement have said their leader, Sergiu Mocanu, who was detained on 8 April by people in plain clothes, was not connected with the 6 April protest rallies in central Chisinau. A member of the movement, Daniela Bodrug, told a news conference today that Mocanu attended the rally alongside other opposition leaders. "Mocanu did not participate in the election campaign and did not contribute to the organization of these rallies. We request that Mocanu be released as his arrest is unfair," Bodrug said.

**24)** 2009-04-09/19:30/Unimedia

The social democrats from the German Bundestag criticized today the Moldovan regime and President Vladimir Voronin, saying that he is responsible for the situation from Moldova.

**25)** 2009-04-09/14:42/Infotag

The Moldovan authorities shall not make even a step back before the protesters in Chisinau, Mark Tkachuk, head of the Communist Party's electoral headquarters, stated in an interview published on the [www.StireaZilei.md](http://www.StireaZilei.md) website.

**26)** 2009-04-09/14:42/Infotag

The Moldovan Prosecutor General's Office has initiated a criminal suit falling under a Criminal Code article on an attempted overthrow of state power, carrying out a coup d'etat, and state power usurping, Prosecutor General Valeriu Ghurbulea stated to journalists. "Now that the criminal case has been started, investigation organs have embarked on work. They will establish instigators of the riots and the degree of each person's responsibility. Depending on this, concrete persons may be brought to legal responsibility in accordance with the Criminal Code article concerned, which envisages an imprisonment of up to 25 years", said Valeriu Ghurbulea.

**27)** 2009-04-09/12:35/Unimedia

Today, in Odessa (Ukraine), Gabriel Stati, one of the most important business-man from Moldova was arrested. Authorities, suspect him for organizing protest.

**28)** 2009-04-09/10:16/Unimedia

Central Election Committee has allowed the opposition parties to verify the voters lists. The opposition has 4 days starting today, Thursday.

## **April 8**

**29)** 2009-04-08/22:16/Unimedia

Election Committee has published final elections results. Communist Party has obtained 49,48% of votes. This will assure them 59 or 60 deputies. The president is elected with 61 deputy votes. Opposite party has the opportunity to block electing the new president. If this happens three times, the Parliament will be dissolved and organized new elections.

**30)** 2009-04-08/21:44/Unimedia

At this time, President Vladimir Voronin holds a speech for 15 minutes at the national television at the main news bulletin of the country. He accuses Romania for trying to organize a "coup d'Etat." Also today, Vladimir Voronin had a

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meeting with universities rectors why he criticizes them for letting students to participate at the protest (at the end rectors applauded).

**31)** 2009-04-08/19:50/Unimedia

After authorities have declared Filip Teodorescu, Romanian ambassador, as persona non-grata in Moldova, Mihnea Constantinescu was proposed as new ambassador.

**32)** 2009-04-08/19:08/Infotag

On Wednesday, several hundred protesters have again gathered before the Government Building in the central square to demand freedom for their detained comrades and discuss the text of an address to the Ministry of the Interior.

**33)** 2009-04-08/19:08/Infotag

The Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (LDPM) has demanded to set up a special commission to investigate into the acts of vandalism that took place in the Parliament Building and presidential office on Tuesday. LDPM leader MP Vlad Filat told a news conference today his party has nothing to do with the street disorders, and offered a supposition that the vandalism acts were directed by the Communist Party and the Christian Democratic Popular Party.

**34)** 2009-04-08/19:08/Unimedia

Today, the Government adopted a decision to request visas from Romanian citizens trying to enter Moldova. Visa regime will be applied from Thursday, 9 of April.

**35)** 2009-04-08/18:53/Unimedia

The usual train route between Chisinau and Bucharest was interrupted today for indefinite period, because of "technical" issues.

**36)** 2009-04-08/18:37/Omega

The representatives of Fascist type legionary organization "Noua Dreapta" ("New Right") from Bucharest were noticed among the organizers of mass disorders, states a pro-governmental agency. For more details, <http://www.omg.md/Content.aspx?id=2469&lang=2>

**37)** 2009-04-08/18:28/Unimedia

Emma Nicholson, deputy of European Parliament, said in an interview to BBC related to faking elections: "The problem was that it was an OSCE report, and in the OSCE are, of course, the Russians, and their view was quite different, quite substantially different, for example from my own". She was an observatory at the elections. Emma Nicholson also quoted: "When we stopped the count [...], at about 1 am, it looks like communist a going to have 35%, and the opposition parties [...] - 40-45%".

**38)** 2009-04-08/16:15/Unimedia

Today the spirits calm down. Right now in PMAN are about 2000 young people. There is no political leader, so the participants try to organize themselves. Community works are cleaning up Presidency and Parliament building. A lot of people are just walking around and taking photos of burned Parliament.

**39)** 2009-04-08/13:19/Unimedia

About 200 young people were arrested yesterday night by police.

**40)** 2009-04-08/12:59/Infotag

The Ferrero-Waldner, European Union's Commissioner for External Relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy has urged everyone involved to stop violence in Chisinau streets that began on April 7. On that day, several

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thousand young people took the Parliament Building and the Office of the President by storm and heavily damaged them.

**41)** 2009-04-08/12:59/Infotag

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has called upon all concerned to put an end to violence in Chisinau center.

**42)** 2009-04-08/12:59/Infotag

The U.S. Embassy to Moldova has expressed regret over the violence in Chisinau that has led to injuries, damage to property and a possible loss of life.

**43)** 2009-04-08/12:59/Infotag

About 100 were injured during the mass disturbances in Chisinau on Tuesday, Public relations Officer, Lieutenant-colonel Alla Meleka said. In her words, 96 policemen were traumatized, 43 of them, including two in a very grave condition, were hospitalized. Meleka said that the police detained about 200 participants in the mass disturbances, including eight minors. "They are accused of marauding, plunder, holdups. The Law envisages both administrative and criminal punishment for above actions", underlined.

**44)** 2009-04-08/12:25/Unimedia

About 4000 young people are now in the central square of Chisinau, protesting against the fake elections.

**45)** 2009-04-08/12:24/Info Prim-Neo

A number of human rights organizations Wednesday issued a joint statement condemning the acts of violence and vandalism committed near and inside the buildings of the Presidential Office and Parliament of Moldova on April

**46)** 2009-04-08/12:18/OMEGA

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Romania in Chişinău, Filip Teodorescu, is declared a non-grata person in the Republic of Moldova.

## April 7

**47)** 2009-04-07/22:45/Unimedia

The firemen took the situation under control.

**48)** 2009-04-07/22:05/Unimedia

Vladimir Voronin asked for the help of the Occident for establishing order in Moldova.

**49)** 2009-04-07/21:41/Unimedia

Vlad Filat, president of Liberal Democrat Party: "The Communists want to put the accent from fake elections to violent actions, because the police, which was in a small number at the protest, could not assure the public order." Dorin Chirtoacă, vice-president of the Liberal Party says that there were provocateurs among the young people that have thrown first with stones and made that a peaceful action become violence.

**50)** 2009-04-07/20:08/Unimedia

EU's High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana declare EU is concerned about the latest events in Chisinau and requests stopping the violence. Ghenadii Ziuganov, one of political leaders from Russia, declared that secret services from occidental countries were involved in organizing the protest.

**51)** 2009-04-07/19:50/Unimedia

The President Vladimir Voronin accuses opposition parties of preparing a coup d'Etat.

**52)** 2009-04-07/19:29/Unimedia

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OSCE Mission to Moldova condemns post-election violence and appeals to all sides for restraint

**53)** 2009-04-07/19:06/Unimedia

While 30 000 young people took over the Parliament and Presidency, the national television was broadcasting a concert.

**54)** 2009-04-07/18:16/Infotag

The Moldovan Prosecutor General's Office has qualified as "unlawful and impermissible" the actions by the organizers of and participants in the so-called "Mourning Day" staged in the center of Chisinau on Monday night.

**55)** 2009-04-07/18:16/Infotag

The Liberal Party leadership convened a news conference today to present concrete evidence of falsification of the April 5 election results. LP Chairman Mihai Ghimpu stated, in particular, that shortly before Election Day, the Communists had implanted extra 200 thousand names or so into voter lists.

**56)** 2009-04-07/18:16/Unimedia

Communist Party has an agreement with opposition.

1. The opposition leaders will try to go to Parliament and convince the participants to stop the vandalism of the building.
2. The Communist Party should assure a transparent checking of the elections.

**57)** 2009-04-07/17:04/Info Prim/Neo

The police keep launching tear gas in front of the Moldovan parliament at about 16.20. In their turn, the protesters throw Molotov cocktails at the Parliament's building. Black smoke runs from the Parliament's building, as fire is clearly seen through windows.

**58)** 2009-04-07/17:46/Unimedia

The participants keep vandalizing the Parliament. They are taking out PCs and paper. In the National Assembly, there are thousands of people, whom protest peacefully.

**59)** 2009-04-07/15:20/Infotag

At 13.30 local time, the protesters slammed the huge door of the Office of the President, drew it down to the floor, then carried it outside the building, and under a roaring delight of the thousands, burned up the beautiful massive item. As the fire was gaining momentum, the youth began bringing out furniture and documents from the palace, throwing them into the flames, and crying "Moldova has awakened!", "We want to Europe!", "We want unification with Romania!", and the like.

**60)** 2009-04-07/14:44/Infotag

On Tuesday, the angry Moldovan youth started throwing eggs, stones and bottles at the splendid Office of the President in the heart of Chisinau. At about noon, your Infotag correspondent saw several young men reach as far as practically the Office doors, despite a fierce resistance being offered by numerous law enforcement units encircling the building. So far, the well-equipped police are withholding the youth's onslaught, not let them inside. The correspondent has just reported that windows of the Office's ground floor have all been broken.

**61)** 2009-04-07/07:52/Info Prim-Neo

Roughly 10,000 young persons protested in the Great National Assembly Square in Chisinau on April 6 evening, disputing the results of the legislative elections.