

CRISIS WATCH – IDIS Moldova

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

Issue 4

April 14

1) 009-04-14/11:40/DECA Press

A UN Committee investigated the treatment applied to the arrested persons during the riots. The Committee reported that the majority of them didn't have any penal antecedents and the Moldova authorities appealed to "extreme violence". According to the report, the youth were beaten with the bats, fist and legs "28 people beaten in a room of 8 meters". Women were also beaten with bestiality. Many of the arrested persons were forced to sign papers without being allowed reading them.

2) 009-04-14/10:54/Unimedia, after "Jurnal de Chisinau" newspaper

Liberal Party activist from Orhei town are being arrested for supposed trafficking of drugs.

3) 009-04-14/10:54/Unimedia, after "Le Figaro" newspaper

An anonymous international observatory at Moldovan April 5 elections claims that the elections were rigged.

4) 009-04-14/10:00/www.garda.com.md

Edwin Berry, Human Rights Adviser to the UN in Moldova has managed to visit the prison nr.13 on Saturday and talk to at least 40 of the young people arrested during the protests. «I have never seen anything like this», said Berry. UN adviser claims he has seen at least 40 youngsters who are detained in various cells. «They all have traces of beatings and injuries,» Berry said, adding that practically all the prisoners are aged between 18 and 24. The prisoners complained they were beaten in the different police sections or at the headquarters of the Commissioner General of Police. They claimed that between 25 and 28 people were held in small cells of 8 square meters. They were given very little water, and virtually no food. Also, most of them complained about the fact that they were not allowed to see a lawyer. «I have seen doctors in the Penitentiary, but the prisoners say they do not receive all appropriate medical assistance», said the UN representative. He told the press that he had taken photographs of the signs of torture which these young people bear on their bodies. He also requested to set up a meeting with the Moldovan Ministry of Interior Affairs. Also, the data that he collected during his visit will be used to document the cases and to inform the international community about what is happening.

5) 009-04-14/09:00/"Jurnal de Chisinau" newspaper

"Jurnal de Chisinau" local newspaper published an investigation revealing the prototypes of the persons who incited the crowd to violent riots on April 7. The journalists maintain that during the riots one of the policeman called one of those persons by name, Dragos. One of the instigators had a police radio station, according to "Jurnal de Chisinau". The publication writes that the instigators communicated using their hands, shaping "T". To be mentioned that the persons who put the flag on the roof of the buildings, Dragos and other boy, were arrested by police, but weren't brutalized, like the others.

April 13

6) 009-04-13/18:47/Infotag

The Social Democratic Party of Moldova has proposed opposition parties to expand the democratic coalition and to include into it all electoral contenders that took part in the April 5 parliamentary elections. SDPM Chairman MP Dumitru Braghis told a news conference in Infotag today that liberal-orientation parties, instead of promoting a policy of unification and consolidation of anti-Communist political formations, are more and more estranging from one another, and each regards itself as the only really oppositional force waging a real struggle against the MCP regime.

7) 009-04-13/18:47/Infotag

The Chisinau Appeals Chamber has today postponed passing judgment on the claim lodged last week by the Communist Party, which had challenged, albeit only partly, the Central Election Commission's decision to let the opposition check voter registers. Judge Ion Secieru, who presided the Chamber session today, explained the adjournment decision as follows: by law, all interested parties must be present in the courtroom. However, one of the challengers who have received the possibility of checking the voter registers and make Xerox copies of them, namely the Liberal Party, did not send its representative to the court.

8) 009-04-13/18:08/Info Prim-Neo

Former political detainee Andrei Ivantoc, citizen of honor of the municipality of Chisinau, was among those that were beaten by the police, the head of the Health Division Mihai Moldovanu said.

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9) 009-04-13/16:00/www.politicom.moldova.org

Human Rights NGOs and experts have filed a letter through which they express their concern of the widespread violations of human rights, particularly of arrested persons, after elections. Each of the organisations, as well as individual lawyers working with them have documented concrete cases of such violations

10) 009-04-13/16:00/www.politicom.moldova.org

President Vladimir Voronin urged within a telephone conversation with EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana a EU mission be delegated to Chisinau so that the European officials gather documentary evidences on the real current situation to avoid speculations which appeared in some mass media in the context of the events which had occurred in Chisinau on 7 April.

11) 009-04-13/13:31/Info Prim-Neo

Nineteen children that participated in the April 7 events were arrested by the police. The relatives, colleagues and friends of another 10 children informed the lawyer for children's rights that the given children went missing and had been presumably arrested by the police. Three children are held at Penitentiary No. 13 and one at the Chisinau General Police Commissariat. The other children were put under house arrest, ombudswoman Tamara Plamadeala has told Info-Prim Neo. "I asked for a quick answer, but the answer came today and this is also good," Tamara Plamadeala said. The Interior Ministry's answer to the application of the lawyer for children's rights submitted on Friday morning came three days later. Representatives of the ombudswoman went to the places where the children are held to see their condition and if their rights were violated. Besides the answer from the Ministry, Tamara Plamadeala possesses no other information about the arrested minors. "We don't know what's going on inside. We will go today to see what has happened to the children," the lawyer said.

12) 009-04-13/12:43/Infotag

The last week's riots in Chisinau confirmed a Romanian future for Moldova. The disturbances had an obviously anti-state character, were accompanied with ruining Moldova's state symbols and their replacement with the Romanian tricolor and the European Union flag, Transnistrian deputy minister of foreign affairs Sergei Simonenko stated in an interview with the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper of Russia. Simonenko said, "The Romanian factor is a reality, and one cannot hide from it. Moldova is pushing itself into the Romania area. We see that a whole generation of people have grown there [in Moldova], who regard themselves as Romanians. In 10 years' time, the situation in Moldova will be different, and the state power will be in the hands of this very youth".

13) 009-04-13/12:39/Info Prim-Neo

"Have the elections been rigged or have they not? I don't know." Here is the answer of the head of the OSCE-ODIHR election observing mission to Moldova, Nikolai Vulchanov at Info Prim-Neo reporter's question. For more details, <http://www.info-prim.md/?x=&y=22647>

14) 009-04-13/12:30/www.garda.com.md

The parents keep looking for their disappeared children at the riots at the police sectors. They say MIA official list of arrested persons is incomplete. The publication writes that the parents can't find lawyers. To be mentioned that Amnesty International Moldova published a list of available and free of charge lawyers, which are overwhelmed with cases of abuse.

15) 009-04-13/12:30/www.garda.com.md

The parents of Radu Calancea, arrested at the demonstrations, declared for local reps they are worried about their sons' health, considering he suffers from asthma. Calancea family maintains that the policemen refused to transmit the medicines. "Our son can die anytime", the mother reported. According to other persons released by police, Radu was severely beaten and was trialed in the police sector. He was transferred to the penitentiary without his family being informed. Only the ombudsmen have access to him.

16) 009-04-13/12:29/Info Prim-Neo, Deca Press and Unimedia

The valid votes cast in favor of every election runner, the invalid ballots and the ballots unused in the April 5 elections will be recounted on April 15. Such a decision was taken by the Central Election Commission (CEC) on Monday, April 13. The Democratic Party declared they won't participate, because this would be interpreted as if "they confer credibility and legitimacy to this process". The president of the Democratic Party Dumitru Diacov stated also he had known that the businessman Gabriel Stati would be arrested, being accused of financing the riots. Diacov mentioned

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that the president of the Christian Democratic Party Iurie Rosca is the guilty one, because he accused publicly Stati, "illegally assuming the role of a prosecutor".