

CRISIS WATCH – IDIS Moldova

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

Issue 5

April 15

1) 009-04-15/13:09/Info Prim-Neo

Police said an explosive was found Wednesday inside the building of the Supreme Court of Justice in Chisinau. Victor Radenco, the head of the Rascani division of the Emergencies Department, has told Info-Prim Neo that a package containing an unknown explosive substance was found behind the wall coating on the first floor of the building. The explosive was taken for expertise to the Ministry of Interiors. The charge was reportedly found by a plumber at around 11:30AM. The building has been fenced as investigations are underway.

2) 009-04-15/13:00/ICouncil of Europe

"During the last few days, we have received very mixed news from Moldova. On one hand, I am encouraged by the proposal to check electoral lists and recount the votes. This should help to calm the post-election controversy. On the other hand, I am very concerned about alleged breaches of human rights with alleged detention of large numbers of people, including children, and restrictions on the freedom of media. Against this background, I have asked Jean-Louis Laurens, the Director General for Democracy and Political Affairs of the Council of Europe, to travel to Chisinau immediately and report on the situation in the country."

3) 009-04-15/10:00/Interlic

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszi, urged the Moldovan authorities today to secure free access for international media and allow unhindered reporting in the country. He also called on journalists to observe the professional rules of detachment when covering events such as the demonstrations that followed last week's parliamentary elections.

4) 009-04-15/09:22/Info Prim-Neo

The Chisinau city hall announces the death of a second man who died, most probably, on the night of April 7-8, Info-Prim Neo reports. Ion Tabuleac from Bolohan village, Orhei district, could be the second victim of the April 7 turmoil in Chisinau's downtown. The 22-year-old man was found dead in the yard of the Emergency Hospital and had broken ribs, internal bleeding, a broken leg and injured soft tissues. He was buried on Saturday, April 11.

April 14

5) 009-04-14/19:57/Infotag

The three main opposition forces that have won seats in the next Parliament of Moldova - the Liberal Party, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Moldova Noastra Alliance - have announced they will not have a finger in recounting the ballots cast at the April 5 parliamentary elections in this republic.

6) 009-04-14/19:57/Infotag

Romanian President Traian Basescu appeared in the Parliament of Romania today to present his administration's assessment of the recent events in the Republic of Moldova. Addressing the forum, he demanded formation of a fact-finding commission under European organizations' aegis to investigate into the said events. In particular, Basescu demanded the Moldovan authorities must present concrete evidence proving that Romania had a relation to the riot in Chisinau, and if there are citizens of Romania among the persons detained by the Moldovan police, Romania is demanding a possibility to provide consular assistance to them. Having condemned acts of vandalism and the pogroms that took place in the Parliament of Moldova and the Office of the President in Chisinau, the Romanian President stressed that the Moldovan authorities had practically given the vandals access to the buildings so that to subsequently unfold an unprecedented campaign of persecution of the young people, to intimidate and bruise up protesters. He named as criminal ones the Moldovan leaders' threats to use weapons in case protesting repeats. Therefore, Basescu presumes, such leaders must stand international court in case human victims occur. Traian Basescu also called as "unprecedented", "unfriendly", "discriminating", and "anti-Romanian" the recent steps by the Republic of Moldova authorities, such as declaring two Romanian diplomats personae non grata [including Romanian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Moldova Filip Teodorescu], introduction of a visa regime with Romania in defiance of European Union rules, expulsion and persecution of Romanian journalists.

7) 009-04-14/19:15/garda.com.md

Today, the NDI Chief (National Democratic Institute), Alex Grigorievs, was escorted to the MAI (Ministry of Internal Affairs) Migration Office headquarter by the interior collaborators where he was accused of illegal stay in Moldova. Tomorrow at the Center Judge's Office this foreign official expulsion will be decided. According to the NDI chief lawyer, Costel Tănase, Grigorievs was escorted today at MAI for being accused of illegal stay in Republic Moldova.

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Alex Grigorievs is present in Moldova since 2004. In September 2008 his stay permit was going to expire, but in August he submitted the documents for prolonging his stay permit in Moldova. "Since then, from August 2008, he was told that his documents were going to be ready soon and that he will receive them soon. In all this time, he asked over and over again when he can take his document, but he wasn't told that he will never receive them. He discussed even with Stratan, but today he is accused of illegal stay in Moldova" says the lawyer Tănase. Today Grigorievs went from MAI to the Center Judge's Office where he was informed that tomorrow, at 4:15 pm a process will take place for deciding if he will be expelled or not and if he will pay a fine and the amount.

8) 009-04-14/17:18/Info Prim-Neo

The Chisinau Appellate Court gave the case to the Communists Party (PCRM), Tuesday, as they had asked to forbid the opposition parties to copy the voters lists, Info-Prim Neo reports. The PCRM sued the Central Election Commission (CEC), which had allowed the opposition representatives to verify the lists, including to scan and to copy them. PCRM representative Serghei Sarbu has told the court the CEC thus had exceeded its power and violated the legislation. He said the PCRM is not against verifying the lists, but against copying them. According to him, scanning the lists offers the opposition access to personal data and is an infringement into the private life. Sarbu says the PCRM has received multiple calls from citizens, who are indignant at copying the lists. On the other hand, CEC representative Ruslan Nastas, and the representatives of the PL, PLDM, AMN and PDM, argued that, under the law, the data from the ID cards, including the signature, which are on the voters lists, are not personal data. The opposition representatives claim that scanning and copying the lists is the only way to verify the information on the lists. In addition, they say that the complaints sent by citizens to the PCRM and included into the dossier are dated July 2007 or have no date and do not make clear reference to the April 5 elections, 2009.

9) 009-04-14/15:37/Infotag

Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin is trying to lower an iron curtain before Romania, but I don't think we should do the same", Romanian President Traian Basescu stated to the press in Bucharest. Romania's Realitatea television channel quoted him as saying, "I was watching what was happening in the Republic of Moldova [last week]. But to respond to President Voronin would mean accepting his game". Traian Basescu was preparing to address the Romanian Parliament on Tuesday with a review of situation in Moldova. Answering journalists' questions before such essential event, the President also stated he was not going to repeat Voronin's rhetoric, or lower an iron curtain, or announce a cold war.

10) 009-04-14/15:37/Infotag

Political forces in Moldova should demonstrate restraint and respect for the returns of the April 5 parliamentary elections, which numerous international observers have recognized as ones held in compliance with democratic norms. Such opinion was shared by Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Grigory Karasin and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Ambassador Philip Remler, who met in Moscow on Monday. The Russian foreign ministry wrote in a press release after the conversation that the Russian side had expressed a deep concern over the irresponsible actions by political forces that are not interested in preserving the statehood of the Republic of Moldova.

11) 009-04-14/15:37/Infotag

Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin knew yet 2 weeks before the parliamentary elections that the so-called 'coup d'etat' was being prepared, presumes Chairman of the Moldovan Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (MHC) Stefan Uritu. He stated at a news conference that the April 7 pogroms in the Parliament Building and presidential office had been organized by the Moldovan Communist authorities themselves "to raise the ruling Communist Party's image in voters' eyes, to blacken and annihilate the opposition, to legitimize the rigged election results, and in case of a repeated election - to ensure a convincing victory". Uritu presumes that the Communists' overconfidence in victory, their unwillingness to collaborate with the opposition in forming a government, and Voronin's statements about the April 7 actions of protest "are indicating his desire to impose a dictatorship in the country".

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

Anatol Mătăsar, who is famous in Moldova for his previous demonstrations against police's abuses, declared today to his lawyer that he was beaten, physically and psychologically abused for offering his email addresses. "They beaten me and threatened me with physical account, asking first of all to sign an act through which to recognize that I've been paid by the opposition leaders to protest, a fact which is not true. In the time, they've beaten me with the legs over my thighs to give them the passwords from my email addresses. I didn't have any other alternative than giving them these passwords" said Mătăsar, adding that he is currently detained with an AIDS infected person which is not receiving medication at the moment. He was also threatened that he will be detained with very dangerous criminals, which could kill him, in case he will not cooperate with the police.