

CRISIS WATCH – IDIS Moldova

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

Issue 7

April 17

1) 009-04-16/11:15/www.garda.com.md

The electoral body asked the deputies who had received already the mandates to give up double citizenship.

2) 009-04-16/10:45/www.garda.com.md

The United States is concerned about the situation in Moldova following the violence on April 7. Although order has been restored and subsequent demonstrations have been peaceful, we have received reports from civil society and international observers of mistreatment of those detained by Moldovan authorities. We are also troubled by reports that students and journalists have been intimidated by government officials. President Voronin's announcement of an amnesty for many of those detained is an encouraging step toward reconciliation.

3) 009-04-16/10:30/Interlic

A senior official in Moldova's Communist party has admitted that opposition protesters have been subject to police brutality over the past week but said the officers in question should not be punished. Marian Lupu, speaker of Moldova's parliament, said the amnesty from prosecution announced on Wednesday by Vladimir Voronin, Moldova's president, must apply to protesters who contested the Communists' election victory two weeks ago as well as to the police who beat them in holding cells. "The president said there would be an amnesty for everybody involved," he told the Financial Times. "Logically, if you forgive one side then you have to forgive the other side as well."

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4) 009-04-16/23:15/www.moldova.org, after Unimedia

Several reports from local media in Chisinau, as well as individual reports from civil society activists in Moldova, state that a third dead body of a 26 year young man was brought by the police to his parents in the town of Soroca (a city in Northern Moldova), in a hermetically sealed metal coffin, as the body was already decomposing. According to Unimedia, a Moldovan independent electronic media outlet, the mayor of Soroca, Victor Sau, stated that police refused to provide any explanations on the reasons behind the decease of the young Eugen Tapu, and that according to the papers he died on 7 April, the day when police begin the mass arrests of young protesters.

5) 009-04-16/19:33/Infotag

At its working meeting held on Thursday afternoon, the Moldovan Government approved massive changes in the republic's diplomatic corps at foreign countries. Namely, the Cabinet has blessed the revocation of 6 ambassadors and appointment of three diplomats to new positions.

6) 009-04-16/19:33/Infotag

The European Parliament's committee for international affairs will shortly convene for an extraordinary meeting to consider the situation in the Republic of Moldova, the European Parliament decided on Wednesday during a preliminary discussion of the issue. Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Cristian Diaconescu called the European Union to a coordinated condemnation of the restrictive measures undertaken by the Republic of Moldova leadership with respect to citizens of Romania. He stressed the Republic of Moldova has introduced visa regime for Romania, a European Union member country, in defiance of EU norms.

7) 009-04-16/19:33/Infotag

The Liberal Democratic Party presumes President Vladimir Voronin ought to bring public apologies to young protesters for the tortures they are being subjected to at police stations. LDPM leader Vlad Filat told a news conference today the President had declared an amnesty for protesters "solely for dusting European officials' eyes: in anticipation of the announced visits by high European officials, Voronin is seeking to vacate police stations so that no visitor can see the lawlessness committed there".

8) 009-04-16/19:33/Infotag

Nearly 90% of all those, who were detained for the April 6-7 events, are already going home, lawyer Lilia Prodan stated today at a conference "Democracy in Jeopardy: To Which Extent Are Human Rights Observed in Moldova?" The forum was organized by the human right organizations of Promo-Lex, CReDO, Amnesty International Moldova, and Institute for Human Rights. She said an overwhelming majority of the detained offenders were initially charged of mass-scale disorders and public property robbery. By now, custody has been substituted with administrative punishments in 90% of the cases. "As for the robberies, the Moldovan Parliament, as a robbery victim, has officially lodged an application with the law enforcement, and by now the entire stolen property has been returned to owners", the lawyer said. In her words, many of the detained youth swore they had stolen nothing from the Parliament Building. "Today, I attended 4 litigations as a defender, and at 3 of them the young people complained the police had bruised and tortured them in custody", said Lilia Prodan.

9) 009-04-16/19:33/Infotag

On President Vladimir Voronin's initiative, the Moldovan Prosecutor General's Office today ruled to stop persecuting a majority of April 7 protesters, and to release the detained ones. The Office has also challenged the judgements of various courts on applying sanctions against some protesting participants.

10) 009-04-16/17:08/Unimedia

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Two OSCE observers declared for a Bruxelles-based journalist, anonymously, that the recounting of votes took place in a chaotic ambiance. To be mentioned that 7% of OSCE observers gave a negative notice to Moldovan elections.

11) 009-04-16/16:32/Info Prim-Neo

The prosecutor's office has a sacred mission to perform: it should bring to justice all the felonious policemen, because torture is a felony," said the executive of Amnesty International in Moldova, Evgheni Golosceapov, on Thursday. The NGO leader has made this statement at a reunion in Chisinau held by NGOs defending human rights, who have also invited representatives of the law-enforcement bodies and ombudsmen. The attendees of the joint sitting stood up in compassion for the people who had died or had been subjected to inhumane treatment they had been subjected to in police departments. The gesture has not been supported by Petru Corduneanu, the head of the Public Order Division of the Interior Ministry, who has been the only to stay sit. "When one speaks about so many people upon which torture was applied, for instance, we can't help objectively appreciate those about 200 police who had to suffer because of the illegal actions. The Interior Ministry doesn't defend at all," said the police officer. The organizing NGOs have decided to set up an Alliance Against Torture (ACT) in Moldova. This is a non-institutionalized organization pursuing to prevent torture. Independent barristers and lawyers from the above-mentioned NGOs state they are ready to further provide assistance to the people ill-treated by the police. Amnesty International Moldova announces a phone number to get such complaints: 835808.

12) 009-04-16/16:07/Infotag

Recounting of the ballots cast by voters at the April 5 parliamentary voting has been practically completed, Central Election Commission Secretary Iurie Ciocan stated to your Infotag correspondent this morning. In his words, the work was carried out at a high organizational level and was fulfilled in one day, the only exception being the ballots cast by Moldovan citizens at polling stations that were opened in foreign countries. These data will be available later on Thursday. All statements concerning an allegedly restricted access to electoral lists are unfounded and are being made to mislead the populace", the Moldovan Central Election Commission maintains. Thursday, the Commission wrote in a press release that all wishing electoral contenders have been provided with access to voter registers, and interested parties have already made Xerox copies from 90% lists.

13) 009-04-16/16:07/Infotag

The number of people being persecuted by Moldovan police on suspicion of involvement in the April 6-7 mass riots has by now exceeded a thousand, Chisinau Mayor and Deputy Chairman of the Liberal Party Dorin Chirtoaca stated at a news conference today. He accused the Communists-directed Ministry of the Interior of providing distorted, incomplete and biased information about the arrests and detentions made during the last few days. "On the basis of appeals coming from missing persons' relatives and of the evidences presented by people released from custody, the Chisinau Primaria has prepared a database about 328 people that were subjected to arrests and various punishments, though the Ministry of the Interior maintains the number is only 172", said Dorin Chirtoaca.

14) 009-04-16/14:32/Hot News

The civil society activist Vladislav Gribincea maintains that the amnesty procedure proposed by Voronin is declarative and can't be put into practice. This is because such a decision should be approved by the Parliament.

15) 009-04-16/14:24/Moldova Azi

Appelation Court decided to cancel the decision of expelling Alex Grigorievs, director of USAID-funded National Democratic Institute.

16) 009-04-16/09:47/Info Prim-Neo

The Government of Romania has simplified the procedure for granting Romanian nationality to the former Romanian citizens that gained Romanian nationality by birth or that lost it for reasons that cannot be imputed to them or their Romanian nationality was cancelled without their consent. At its Wednesday's meeting, the Romanian Government adopted an emergency ordinance, amending the Romanian nationality law, Info-Prim Neo reports, quoting the press service of the Government of Romania.