

## **Foreign journalists harassed and expelled by Moldovan authorities in the context of Moldovan riot on April 7**

Romanian public television (TVR) reporter in Chisinau, Doru Dendiu, was bound by the Moldovan authorities to leave the country on April 14.

Under the pretext of alleged violations of Regulation on accreditation of journalists, the Chisinau authorities withdrew the accreditation of the journalist. In a TV interview, Doru Dendiu says that he never violated the laws and that Moldovan police officers suggested him to leave Moldova until Wednesday. At the end of last week, Doru Dendiu was detained for several hours by Moldovan police.

Romanian Society of Television (SRTV) released a statement of protest against the withdrawal of accreditation by the Moldovan authorities to the correspondent TVR in Chisinau. SRTV is of opinion that this measure is a new attempt to intimidate honest journalism.

Peru Terguta, journalist for Moldavian TV 7 and correspondent for Antena 3, a Romanian news channel, cameraman Dan Nitescu, image assistant Victor Alexandru left the country under OSCE escort on April 10. They complained about violent and abusive behavior of Philip N. Remler, head of OSCE mission in Moldova. The press officer invited the team in the OSCE building. The team was already under threats and harassment by local police and secret services. Terguta, a journalist with local TV 7 and correspondent for Antena 3, received threat calls and a warning that he will be arrested. So the team was looking for help, assistance and protection. Once in the building journalists said that Philip Remler shouted at them, saying that they should leave the building immediately, or else they "will call the police". Antena 3 team eventually left the building, and they also left the country. However an OSCE car escorted them to the border.

Ion Terguta (brother of Petru Terguta), who stayed in Chisinau with the aim to report for Antena 3, was arrested on the street, and taken to police in the same car with Dendiu on April 10. He was held for more than 6 hours, with no access to a lawyer. His cell phone was confiscated.

Radio Romania News Agency NewsIn withdrew their correspondents in Chisinau at the end of last week.

On April 9, Realitatea TV crew (journalist Yevgenyia Kironaki, camera Mihai Valentin Buzdugan and driver Gabriel Colac) were detained at 9 p.m., held for 4 hours and forced to get out of the country. On Friday, Realitatea TV team reported from Romania that they have been intimidated by police officers while in custody. Police officers said "we should shot them" and "they will get 2 years in prison, for sure".

On April 10, the editor in chief of Jurnal de Chisinau, Rodica Mahu, was arrested on the street by 4 civilians. Her phone was switched off for several hours. After 2 and a half an hour she was released. She told the media she was arrested by police special missions department, by officers Catlabuga and Pantea, and she was accused of "assessing and collecting information to attack the government building".

14 journalists from Jurnal TV and Jurnal de Chisinau asked for US political asylum. They journalists said they are threatened, and aggressed. In many of the video news on the website of Jurnal TV policemen threatening the tv crews can be seen.

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