

19.10.2015

Dear Sirs,

As you know, I along with six other activists and sympathizers of the Our Moldova Political Party (Red Bloc) was detained on September 6 during a protest rally in front of the Prosecutor General's Office, and later arrested.

Prosecutors charged us with organizing, inciting to and participating in mass disturbances, which is punishable by up to 8 years in prison under Article 285 of the Moldovan Criminal Code.

We believe that our case is a political put-up job by oligarch Plahotniuc Vladimir, who holds us under arrest through the government institutions subordinated to him, using as a pretext the so-called "mass disorders", which in fact never took place on September 6. We are firmly convinced that through this political case our civil rights and freedoms are violated, including the right to protest, freedom of speech, assembly and association. At present, our political rights are limited as well. The Our Moldova Party (Red Bloc) is almost paralyzed in its activity after searches and confiscation of computers, not to mention the arrest of the party leadership.

We believe that this case is used to intimidate us and other opposition politicians and activists. Our arrest has been extended again for the next 30 days and we have not received a reasoned judgement of the Chisinau Court of Appeal until now.

Even though our lawyers presented conclusive arguments proving our innocence, and the Statement written by members of the PACE (a European structure, which has the Republic of Moldova under its monitoring) where they call for our immediate release and we are referred to as 'political prisoners', the latter has not been taken into consideration by the Court.

The Chisinau Court of Appeal has also disregarded the position of Members of the European Parliament from the GUE/NGL Group, expressed in the letter of the Chairman of the GUE/NGL Group Gabi Zimmer to the Moldovan Prosecutor General, Corneliu Gurin. Similar letters and statements were sent and adopted by several parliamentary parties in the EU and beyond.

Dear Sirs,

Immediately after the recent change of director of the Department of Penitentiary Institutions under the Moldovan Ministry of Justice and its total subordination to oligarch Plahotniuc (the new head of the Department is nominated by the Moldovan Democratic Party and is the culprit for the concocted evidence in the April 7 case) I had an incident with the representatives of the above-mentioned Department.

On the evening of October 18, 2015, three people, who claimed they were the Department representatives, visited me in the detention cell. Plainclothes persons failed to present their police certificates, and started searches, including body search. Allegedly legal actions of the so-called "representatives of the Department" had an arrogant and aggressive character. All objects in the cell were tossed, clothes scattered, all my personal notes and letters were read and I was brusque treated for several times. After searches no protocol was drawn up.

I believe that such actions are not accidental and are made to order. This is nothing else but intimidation and political reprisals.

Unfortunately it seems clear that after such incidents with the involvement of unknown plainclothes persons, who had free access to my cell, my safety and the safety of other political prisoners, is in danger!

I urge you to intervene to prevent further political reprisals.

Sincerely,  
Petrenco Grigore