

## Chişinău City Hall

### To Whom it May Concern:

Serious human rights violations are taking place in the Republic of Moldova. Following the protests of April 7, 2009, when the houses of Parliament and the Presidential Palace were attacked, the police unleashed a wave of terror and intimidation on the citizens, especially towards the youth, including minors. Both protestors and passive bystanders have been arrested, together with people who did not participate in the protests, including journalists.

The police are acting in force, kidnapping people from the streets, schools, universities and student dormitories, even from church grounds (for example, Alexandru Gritcu) after the services for the Catholic Easter. Procedures for interning prisoners are not being respected. Those arrested, whether boys or girls, are cruelly beaten, and forced to submit to degrading and inhuman treatment. Cases of torture have been recorded, and one death has been attested to. Some of the arrests have not been officially announced. There are parents who have still not been able to find their children, and who cannot obtain information about where they can be found.

Those who have been released testify that incarcerated citizens are being held in miserable conditions (15-20 people per 10 meters squared), beaten brutally and forced to sign false declarations. The judicial trials are being held in the police headquarters and defendants are not given the right to a legal defense. Access to the places of detention is denied, including for lawyers or human rights organizations. Access was even refused to the mayor of Chişinău, even though he insisted a number of times.

Data provided by the police confirms that roughly 200 citizens were arrested. The Chişinău press, however, has estimated that over 800 citizens have been arrested, based on the number of appeals by relatives of those who have disappeared. Over 50 individuals were admitted to hospital in the municipality of Chişinău after being beaten by police. We believe based on the available information that in order to hide the maltreatment of youth, they are removed from the municipality of Chişinău and taken to nearby police stations (such as Vulcăneşti and Taraclia), or to unknown destinations.

For these reasons, we ask for your help to:

- Stop the inhuman and degrading treatment and the torture in places of detention;
- Stop the terrorism, the kidnapping of people, threats, and intimidation;
- Ensure the access of lawyers, NGOs, and members of the press to places of detention;
- Guarantee the rights of detained persons, especially the right of defense;
- Provide full information about those imprisoned and the charges that have been brought against them;

- Punish those guilty of committing the abuses mentioned above.

### **Evidence and Photographs:**

We have the names, contact details and filmed statements of the persons mentioned, the names of others who have been maltreated, even arrested, and the names of persons of whom we know nothing.

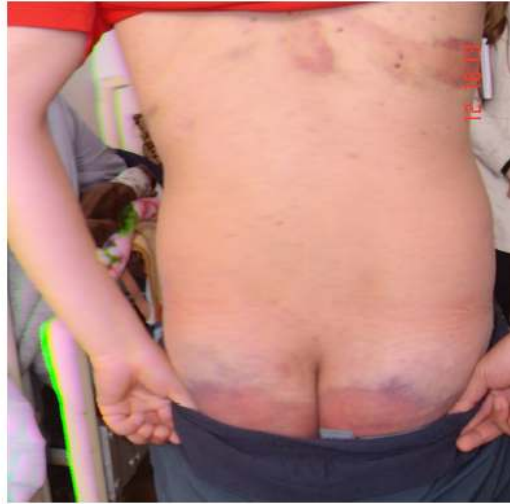
**Sergiu Cretu – Fractured humerus:** 23 years old, student, peaceful participant in the protest, beaten at the police station.

Was not willing to be photographed.

**Young man who asked to remain anonymous – Fractured humerus, concussion, cuts :** 23 years old, student, peaceful participant in the protest, beaten in the park by policemen with and without uniforms.



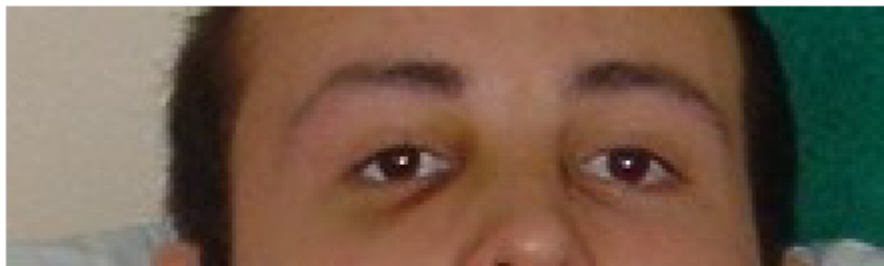
**Young man who asked to remain anonymous – Torture (Concussion, cuts and bruises ):** 19 years old, did not participate in the protests, insulted, humiliated and beaten in the police station.



**Popa Andrei – Concussion, facial cuts:** 18 years old, did not participate in the protests, beaten at the police station, did not receive food or water for 24 hours, detained together with 22 other people in 12 meters squared.



**Roscot Denis – Concussion, broken nose, facial cuts:** 20 years old, peaceful participant in the protests, beaten at the police station, forced to sign a false statement, shackled to a bed in the hospital for a night.



**Damien Hancu – Tortured (Concussion, broken fingers, cuts and bruises ): law student** in Lyon, France, 23 years old, peaceful protester, did not participate in violent actions, detained on April 7, in the center of Chişinău, following discussions with Swedish journalists. Tortured by the police. Forced to sign a statement saying that he had been paid by the opposition parties to participate in the protest. An audio testimony in English

by Damien Hancu exists, together with a legal medical certificate and a statement addressed to the prosecutor's office.



**Valeriu Boboc – Dead, ribs broken following a blow, head wound following a blow from an object:** 23 years old, worker, married, father of a 1.5 year old child, peaceful participant of the last stages of the protests of April 7. He arrived in the square after 5pm, when the vandalism of the Parliament and Presidential house had finished. Killed following a police attack on the protestors at midnight, April 7 to April 8. According to the police, he was found dead in the National Square (*Piața Marii Adunari Naționale*). The cause of death, according to the death certificate (attached): intoxicated with an unknown substance.



Yours Sincerely,

Dorin Chirtoaca

Mayor of the municipality of Chişinău