

## **PUBLIC APPEAL**

IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMEMORATION OF THE UN INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE – JUNE 26

***in the attention of the Moldovan authorities,  
International Institutions and  
Embassies in Republic of Moldova***

*We, the undersigned,  
Moldovan Civil Society representatives,*

### ***Given that,***

- ✓ Torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and other forms of violence are serious violations of human rights, which destroy the sense of human dignity and worth;
- ✓ The consequences of torture and violence are serious both for individuals - women, men and children and for the whole society;
- ✓ Restoring a person's life, traumatized by violence, torture or inhuman treatment, requires time and medical, psychological, legal and social comprehensive assistance, which has to be provided by interdisciplinary teams;
- ✓ Victims of torture and other forms of violence are discriminated in Republic of Moldova, without having access to comprehensive services, as it is required by international instruments; especially the art.14 of UN Convention against Torture;
- ✓ Rehabilitation is not in the agendas of state institutions and is not usually included in the donors' funding priorities;
- ✓ Impunity persists in cases of torture, inhuman treatment and other forms of violence, including domestic violence.

### ***Affirming that,***

- ✓ Moldova has made international commitments by signing Conventions and other international instruments to respect human rights;
- ✓ The State is responsible for prohibiting, preventing, as well as combating torture and ill-treatment in places of detention;
- ✓ Investigation and documentation of torture and ill-treatment should be carried out in accordance with the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), for a proper understanding of the practices and effects of torture and ill-treatment on victims;
- ✓ Identification and assistance of victims in detention allows recognition and cessation of any practice of torture and ill-treatment in institutions under state control;
- ✓ Victims of torture have the right to rehabilitation, restitution and reparation, according to art. 14 of the UN Convention against Torture;
- ✓ Victims of domestic violence have the right to life, physical and mental integrity, protection, assistance and appropriate services, rehabilitation and compensation.

***We,***

- ***express our solidarity with victims of torture and other forms of violence and their families in Moldova, including Transnistrian region,***
- ***want to remind obligations of the Republic of Moldova and ask the representatives of state institution to ensure the following:***

- 1) Respect for fundamental human rights in public or private institutions in all circumstances and conditions when being under state custody;
- 2) Eradication of the phenomenon of practice of torture and other forms of violence, inhuman, cruel or degrading, as well as to eradicate these phenomena;
- 3) Ensuring effective oversight of detention facilities and the existence of effective complaints mechanisms;
- 4) Ensuring and guaranteeing independent functioning of national mechanisms to prevent torture and monitoring places of detention by civil society;
- 5) Ensuring the independent and effective functioning of non-commercial institutions in providing treatment and rehabilitation services to all victims of torture and ill-treatment;
- 6) Provide victims with the access to justice and effective and timely defense pathways and appropriate means of compensation and reparation;
- 7) To facilitate victims' access to comprehensive rehabilitation services and other types of holistic assistance, depending on their needs and problems;
- 8) The establishment of a national mechanism for implementing the UN Convention against Torture, including art. 14 and General Comments No. 3, of the Committee against Torture for implementation by States Parties of art. 14, adopted on 13 December 2012;
- 9) To fulfill all commitments under art. 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights which states that "*no one shall be subjected to torture, punishment or inhuman or degrading treatment*" as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including Istanbul Protocol that *do not tolerate any form of impunity towards torturers and their bringing to criminal responsibility*, which prescribes to *remove any inhuman and degrading conditions in the prisons and investigate promptly and effectively allegations of torture or ill-treatment*, which is very present in Moldova.
- 10) To contribute, along with other State Parties to the UN Convention against Torture, the UN Voluntary Fund (UNVFVT) for victims of torture, which this year celebrates 35 years of hard work and much needed for the survivors and their families.

*Only through direct support provided to victims of torture, inhuman treatment and other forms of violence, we can prove unequivocal determination and a clear commitment to combat these phenomena and also the impunity!*

**Signed by:**

- 1. Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims Memoria (RCTV Memoria)**
- 2. Amnesty International Moldova**
- 3. Promo-LEX**
- 4. Center of Journalistic Investigations in Moldova**
- 5. Human Rights Embassy**
- 6. Women's Association for the Environment Protection and Sustainable Development**
- 7. Women's Law Center**
- 8. Institute for European Policies and Reforms**

- 9. Legal Resources Centre from Moldova (CRJM)**
- 10. Eastern European Foundation**
- 11. Institute for Public Policy**
- 12. Transparency International Moldova**
- 13. Resource Center DIALOG PRO**
- 14. Resource Center for Human Rights**

26 June 2016, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

*"Supporting Victims of Torture is a long-term commitment - for all of us.  
Rehabilitation is not charity. It is a legal obligation of states. "  
/ CARSTEN STAUR, Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN, Geneva /*