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**Excellency,**

I am writing this informative letter to you as the People's Advocate (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Moldova, addressing the sensitive matter concerning human rights and the sovereignty of the nation of the Republic of Moldova.

Hereby letter, I would like to express my concerns regarding the online meeting that occurred last week between Tatiana Moskalikova, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Russian Federation, and the self-proclaimed "Human Rights Commissioner" from Tiraspol. In this context, I want to express my concerns about this meeting and the involvement of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation in a dialogue with an alleged institution that represents an unconstitutional regime within the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

This meeting not only affects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova but also brings up manipulative information and speeches regarding alleged human rights violations of Russian citizens. It is regrettable that an official representative of the Russian Federation, responsible for the defense of human rights, allows themselves to be drawn into political activities promoted by an unconstitutional regime that continues to violate the fundamental rights and freedoms of people in the Transnistrian region, holding the region's inhabitants hostage regardless of ethnicity, citizenship, or religion. In the Transnistrian region, universal human rights are gravely

violated, including the right to life, the right to be free from torture and other ill-treatment, the right to freedom of movement, the right to education in the mother tongue, the right to property, and the right to freedom of expression. These violations are confirmed by several reports issued by the Ombudsman Office of the Republic of Moldova, the U.S. Department of State, and the Promo-Lex Association, as well as numerous judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that in recent years, all proposals from Chisinau to convene working group meetings on human rights have been canceled or rejected by Tiraspol. Invitations to organize meetings with human rights experts on various topics relevant to the Transnistrian region have gone unanswered or have been rejected.


During this recent meeting, there have been signs of confusion and references to the criminal legislation of the Republic of Moldova regarding the criminalization of separatism and its unclear connection with Russian citizens residing in the Transnistrian region. This is in contrast to similar provisions found in the legislation of the Russian Federation and many other European countries, without discriminatory conditions based on citizenship, ethnicity, or language.

I would also like to remind you that on February 25, 2022, I sent an open letter to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation, Ms. Tatiana Moskalikova. In that letter, I urged the Commissioner for Human Rights and the institution she represents to commit to making every possible effort and using all available means to contribute towards the cessation of the military conflict in Ukraine's territory and to facilitate dialogue between the warring parties. The ultimate goal is to restore the application of international law principles and humanitarian law in the conflict areas.

I want to emphasize that, in my capacity as the People's Advocate, my team and I are committed to ongoing monitoring and ensuring the protection of fundamental human rights across the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, without discrimination based on citizenship, ethnicity, language, or any other criteria. This commitment aligns with the Paris Principles and other international standards that the Republic of Moldova upholds. Nevertheless, it is crucial to underscore that any engagement with representatives from Tiraspol's administrative structures should not be interpreted as endorsing or legitimizing these unconstitutional entities.

Please take into consideration the expressed concerns and act accordingly, in accordance with democratic values and the principles of respect for human rights.

Sincerely,

  
**Ceslav Panico**  
**People's Advocate (Ombudsman)**  
**of the Republic of Moldova**