

# Promo-LEX Observation Mission for the general local and new parliamentary elections of October 20, 2019

*October 20, 2019*

*Time: 9:30 pm*

*The Promo-LEX Observation Mission for the general local and new parliamentary elections of October 20, 2019 informs of a total of 361 incidents reported by the Promo-LEX observers by 9:30 pm, the central team of the Promo-LEX Mission processed 361, of which 81 incidents are included in this press release:*

## **Last details on elections**

**The Promo-LEX Observation Mission** for the general local and new parliamentary elections of October 20, 2019 finds:

### **Intimidation of Promo-LEX observers – 6 cases**

- **PS 15/01 Dubasari / Cocieri.** The ST0 was summoned by a police crew with regard to the cases of organized voter transportation to the PS. During the interrogation process, the police requested information that did not refer to the case, and when the ST0 refused to answer, they tried by different methods to influence the observer and intimidated him. In general, the actions of the police can be classified as intimidation. The ST0 was detained for a longer time and could not fulfill his duties.
- **PS 18/13 Floresti, Casunca.** Inadequate behavior of the PEB president towards the observer, after he detected an incident involving unjustified presence of persons in the PS. The president's words: "A filthy nation that

spoils everything.”

- **PS 2/44, Balti.** The Promo-LEX observer reported an incident that happened in the PS 44, afterwards, the PEB president approached the observer and raising her voice, requested that next time, the observer told her everything before reporting to the Promo-LEX central team.
- **PS 18/13 Floresti, Casunca.** The PEB president verbally obstructed the Promo-LEX ST0 on the grounds that he reported incidents. The observer worries that he will not be able to obtain information from the PEB president later on.
- **PS 18/67 Floresti, Varvareuca.** The PEB president verbally obstructed the Promo-LEX ST0 on the grounds that he reported incidents. The observer worries that he will not be able to obtain information from the PEB president later on.
- **PS 1/17, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** The observers were not allowed to freely observe the process of vote counting, telling them to stay near the door. The PEB members declared that “observers have too many rights”.

**Presence of advertising materials, posters, electoral displays within the precinct (100 meters from the polling station)- – 1 case.**

- **PS 13/10 Donduseni, Criscauți.** An A4 poster was seen by the ST0 within 100 m of the PS.

**Electoral/ negative campaigning to influence the choice of voters – 3 cases**

- **PS 01/185 Chisinau, Ciocana Dist.** A voter was campaigning in the PS precinct, aggressively directing another voter to vote for a certain competitor. Being reprimanded by the observers, the aggressive voter left the PS.
- **PS 16/18. Edinet, Blesesti.** All PEB members and

observers have been questioned by the police as there are rumors about one of them doing electoral campaigning.

- **PS 11/46 Cimișlia, Valea Perjei.** Representatives of two competitors are standing at the gate of the PS and do not allow into the polling station persons who are not from the locality. (Several foreign people were registered in the settlement).

#### **Organized transportation of voters (coaches, minibuses or other units of transportation that normally would not be around the PS)- 2 cases**

- **PS 21/06 Ialoveni, Ialoveni.** A person engaged into organized transportation of voters. It has made at least 5 trips (according to the ST0). The first two times, the person entered the PS and waited for the people inside. After being prevented by the PEB president, he just waited around the PS, arguing that he was helping his neighbors to reach the PS. He used his personal Range Rover, golden color, registration number AAP 986.
- **S V 1/283, Chisinau, Bacioi.** At round 7:35 pm, a white minibus (Mercedes) arrived at the PS, registration number KWK 091, it transported several voters.

#### **Unjustified presence of unauthorized persons in the PS or within 100 m of it – 5 cases.**

- **PS 1/264 Chisinau, Durlesti.** Starting at 11:00 am and until now (8:40 pm), there were two unauthorized persons (girls of about 20 years of age) within 100 m of the polling station. They were talking to the voters and once they got into the PS and started talking to PEB members. They were stopped and dismissed by the PEB vice-president. They presented themselves as representatives of Durlești town hall.
- **PS 15/01 Dubasari, Cocieri.** A candidates' husband stood within 100 m from the PS, talking with people. He was

there for more than 30 min.

- **PS 1/281, Chisinau, Bacioi.** A voter came to the PS three times, accompanying different people, arguing that they are his relatives (at: 11:00 am, 2:00 pm and 7:35 pm). The last accompanying person was not on the voters' list and he was forbidden to vote.
- **PS 35/03 Ungheni, Ungheni.** Two unauthorized persons came close to the PS and started filming the process inside the PS. After being observed, the police officer intervened, a police crew was called.
- **PS 18/13 Floresti, Casunca.** A voter spent more than 20 min. in the PS being around the PEB members.

### **Acts of violence or intimidation of voters, or other persons – 7 cases**

- **PS 1/219 Chisinau, Riscani Dist.** A voter forgot his accompanying sheet and the operator forbade him to vote. Subsequently, after a few minutes, he returned with accompanying sheet, but he was given the ballots without applying the stamp 'voted' on the sheet. After this, he approached the operator, threw the sheet into his face and began to intimidate him.
- **PS 1/132, Chisinau, Center Dist.** A voter came to the PS, took the ballots and said he would not vote until the press comes. The president threatened him to call the police. The voter calmed down and then left.
- **PS 1/296 Chisinau, Gratiesti.** A voter photographed the ballots. Observers asked for the picture to be deleted. The person started to intimidate and threaten them. Later, the PEB president made a repeated reprimand and called the police. The man left the PS and leaving the ballots in the booth. The PEB president applied the stamp "canceled" on them.
- **PS 2/2 Balti.** A TV reporter from Balti was obstructed by an observer from a political party. She was accused of being corrupt and of reporting to electoral competitors.

- **PS 1/13, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** A competitor's observer displayed aggressive behavior throughout the day, spoke out loudly, got involved and commented on PEB decisions. After receiving a warning from the PEB president, the person did not calm down, continuing to speak loudly, disturbing the people in the PS.
- **PS 2/55, Balti.** An unauthorized person came to the PS and started yelling at PEB members, asking to see the voters' lists. The person said that for 4 consecutive years, someone votes for his son, who never comes to the ballot. Due to that person, the voting process was temporarily suspended as intervention of the police was requested. The incident was settled and the voting process resumed. Subsequently, the voter's son approached and voted quietly.
- **PS 1/141, Chisinau, Center Dist.** A voter entered the PS, visibly irritated and with aggressive behavior. She was registered by the operators, after which she signed the list given by PEB members. For unclear reasons, she refused to take the ballots and left, swearing at the PEB members. The president canceled the ballot papers and made a report.

**Unjustified group voting (there are two or more people in the voting booths) – 5 cases**

- **PS 2/7, Balti.** Two voters unjustifiably voted in the same voting booth.
- **PS 1/71, Chisinau, Buiucani Dist.** Two voters unjustifiably voted in the same voting booth.
- **PS 25/12 Orhei, Orhei.** Two people were in the same voting booth, they consulted each other on voting options. The president intervened immediately and the issue was settled.
- **PS 12/1 Criuleni.** A woman came with her daughter, who is 18 years old and they voted together in the same voting booth. The PEB members did not notice the case.

- **PS 1/154 Chisinau, Center Dist.** Two people were in different voting booths, at a certain point, one voter asked for the other's help to find the candidate they wanted to vote for. The voter from the other voting booth approached her and applied the stamp next to the candidate she wanted.

**Deficiencies in the functioning of SIAS Elections system (suspension of operation; situations when SIAS Elections system indicates that the voter voted, and he claims not to) – 6 cases.**

- **PS 1/154 Chisinau, Center Dist.** The SIAS Election operator noted that in the system, the birthday of about every 2nd voter is wrong (with a difference of a day or two).
- **PS 1/149 Chisinau, Center.** A voter approached the operator of SIAS Elections, the system indicated that he voted, but he claims that he did not. PEB members checked the voters' lists and found that the voter did not vote. They gave him the ballots for voting.
- **PS 01/184 Chisinau, Ciocana Dist.** An error occurred in SIAS Elections system, it showed that a voter voted in the parliamentary elections of February 24, 2019, in the SMC no. 50 (Iasi). The voter demonstrated that he did not vote (showed the ID accompanying sheet) and was included in the supplementary lists.
- **PS 2/54, Balti.** The domicile address indicated in the identity card of a voter did not correspond to the address from SIAS Elections. The voter was included in the main lists, however he was not allowed to vote.
- **PS 01/148 Chisinau, Center Dist.** A voter was not found in SIAS Elections and was included in the supplementary lists.
- **PS 1/67, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** SIAS Elections system showed that a person voted, but he did not have the stamp applied. Having written a statement of

responsibility that he did not vote twice, he was allowed to vote.

**Deficiencies in the voters' lists (discrepancies between addresses; deceased voters on the list; signatures affixed instead of others) – 14 cases.**

- **PS 1/137 Chisinau, Center Dist.** A voter noticed that on the list, there are 6 persons with a residence visa at his place. The voter communicated that last year, there were also 3 unknown persons registered at his address.
- **PS 26/37 Rezina, Solonceni.** Two deceased persons were identified on the voters' lists.
- **PS 01/185 Chisinau, Ciocana Dist.** A voter was not included in the voters' lists, although his residence visa corresponds to the respective PS. The voter was included in the supplementary lists.
- **PS 2/54, Balti.** In the case of a voter, it was found that the home address mentioned in the identity card did not correspond to the address in SIAS Elections. The person was not allowed to vote.
- **PS 1/103, Chisinau, Buiucani Dist.** Two voters, according to the address in their identity cards, had to vote in another PS. However, when they came to the appropriate PS, they were not allowed to vote given that they were not on the main lists, nor on the supplementary lists. The voters were redirected to the PS 1/103, the PEB members not being able to explain the cause. At the respective PS, the voters were identified in both SIAS Elections and the main voters' lists, thus having the possibility to vote.
- **PS 2/42, Balti.** A voter was not found in the main voters' lists, but was found in SIAS Elections. He voted on the supplementary lists.
- **PS 2/50, Balti.** Three voters living in the same apartment were assigned to different PSs. Finally, the problem was solved, by voting on supplementary lists.

- **PS 1/13, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** A voter was not identified in the SIAS Elections, nor in the main voters' lists. But according to the residence visa, he was to vote in the respective PS. After some consultations, the voter was included in the supplementary lists.
- **PS 1/44, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** A deceased person was identified in the main voters' lists. The PEB president said that a death certificate is required for the person to be excluded from the list.
- **PS 1/283, Chisinau, Bacioi.** A voter was found in the SIAS Elections database, but not in the main voters' lists, later being included in the supplementary lists.
- **PS 2/27, Balti.** A voter tried to vote in the respective PS, but according to the residence visa and the voters' lists, he was assigned to another PS.
- **PS 9/15 Calarasi, Harjauca.** Within this PS, 28 voters voted on supplementary list, which proves that they recently registered in this village.
- **PS 1/292 Chisinau, Ciorescu.** PEB members, after returning with the mobile ballot box, mentioned that there was a mistake in the voters' list, a voter mistakenly signed for another person.
- **PS 1/137 Chisinau, Center Dist.** A voter noticed that on the list, there are 6 persons with a residence visa at his place. The voter communicated that last year, there were also 3 unknown persons registered at his address.

**Photographing of the ballot papers, other violations of the secret of voting (display of the ballot with the vote cast, misplacement of the voting booths that makes it possible to see the voter's option, etc.) – 7 cases**

- **PS 4/25 Anenii Noi, Hirbovat.** At around 8:21 pm, a voter photographed the ballot in the voting booth. Although PEB members insisted, she refused to show the last picture, put the ballot in the ballot box and left.

- **PS 36/06 ATUG, Comrat.** A voter tried to photograph the ballot, but was prevented about the risks, the ballot was canceled, and she signed for this incident. She did not vote repeatedly.
- **PS 01/119 Chisinau, Center Dist.** The ballot boxes were not correctly located for 2 hours. During this time, a performance was showed, because the PS is located in the building of a theater.
- **PS 2/49, Balti.** A voter tried to photograph the ballot. The PEB president immediately intervened and settled the incident.
- **PS 2/59, Balti.** A candidate for the position of local councilor, while voting in the polling booth, took a picture on the ballot. When the PEB president asked him to show the phone, the voter refused and left the PS.
- **PS 1/43, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** A voter took pictures of the ballot. This was noticed by the PEB members, who and asked to delete the picture.
- **PS 01/150 Chisinau, Center Dist.** A voter photographed the ballot. PEB president did not notice it.

#### **Non-compliant use of ballot papers – 4 cases**

- **PS 23/04 Nisporeni, Nisporeni.** Three ballots were found in the voting booth, two of them were stamped and one clean. All the 3 ballots were canceled.
- **PS 1/262 Chisinau, Durlesti.** A voter attempted to remove the ballots from the PS. He was stopped by the PEB members, the voter rumples and threw them into the ballot box without applying the stamp voted on them.
- **PS 2/42, Balti.** A voter left a ballot in the voting booth. It was canceled.
- **PS 1/302, Chisinau, Stauceni.** There are 3 cases, where voters left the ballots for the mayor's office in the voting booth, later they were found by other voters and the PEB president canceled them.
- **PS 27/31 Riscani, Nihoreni.** A voter tore the 3 ballots

in front of PEB members, the LTO Ghenadie Usurelu and other people were present.

**The ballot boxes have not been sealed in compliance with the legal procedures / broken / damaged or absence of seals on the ballot boxes – 2 cases.**

- **PS 1/77, Chisinau, Buiucani Dist.** The ballot boxes were secured with only 2 seals.
- **PS 1/72, Chisinau, Buiucani Dist.** The ballot box was secured with only 2 seals.

**Cancellation of ballots before the actual closing of the polling station – 6 cases.**

- **PS 1/239 Chisinau, Riscani Dist.** The PEB president took the ballots and began to apply the “canceled” stamps. He argued that they have few voters and they would not come until the closing of the PS.
- **PS 2/2, Balti.** At 8:36 pm, the PEB president brought all the unused ballot papers, and the PEB members applied the stamp “canceled” on them and sealed them. Subsequently, they proceeded to the counting of unused canceled ballots.
- **PS 1/17, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** The PEB members began to cancel the unused ballot papers.
- **PS 2/52, Balti.** At 8:52 pm, the PEB members began to cancel the ballots, reasoning that no one would come, because during the day, not even half of the total number of voters appeared. The PEB president, being present, did not intervene.
- **PS 2/3, Balti.** PEB members, at 8.15 pm, left their places and went to the president’s office, where they applied the “canceled” stamp on unused ballot papers. They did not manage to cancel all the remaining ballots, as this fact was found by observers.
- **PS 2/15, Balti.** The remaining ballots were canceled and the counting began at 8:50 pm, in the presence of the

PEB president.

### **Use of defective camcorders – 8 cases.**

- **PS 2/49, Balti.** The camcorder does not work. A statement was drawn up by the PEB president.
- **PS 1/30, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** The unsealing process was filmed, but the camcorder was disconnected during the vote counting procedure. After some remarks, PEB president switched on the camera.
- **PS 27/50 Riscani, Vasileuti.** The camcorder did not work in the morning and during the vote counting procedure in the evening. The PEB president contacted the DEC and they said they would send a new video camera, but it never came.
- **PS 01/167 Chisinau, Ciocana Dist.** The camcorder is not connected and is placed away from the desk where the ballots were counted.
- **PS 25/64 Orhei, Putintei.** The camcorder is not connected during the vote counting procedure.
- **PS 16/33 Edinet, Goleni.** The camera filmed all day until 5:00 pm and then turned off. The president did not take any action to resolve the issue.
- **PS 1/249 Chisinau, Riscani Dist.** The camcorder worked for about 15 minutes and then disconnected; it no longer records anything (21:42). The PEB members tried to reconnect it, but in vain.
- **PS 1/91, Chisinau, Buiucani** The camcorder did not work for 10-15 minutes.

### **Others – 7 cases**

- **PS 1/154 Chisinau, Center Dist.** The SIAS Election operator mistakenly introduced 4 persons from the lists of people who had to vote with the mobile ballot box, even if they did not vote. Later, people who really were on the list of people for voting at their domicile were introduced into the system's database.

- **PS 01/196 Chisinau, Ciocana Dist.** A drunken man appeared in the PS and came into conflict with PEB members, because he was not allowed to check the list. The voter assumed that there are still persons registered at his residence.
- **PS 01/196 Chisinau, Ciocana Dist.** Two voters wanted to vote based on the sales and purchase agreement. The PEB president forbade them to vote. The latter began to insult the PEB and CEC members. To eliminate the conflict, the president ordered a taxi for the voters to take them to the PS where they are assigned.
- **PS 01/255 Chisinau, Codru.** The PEB members came out with the sealed mobile box at 5:40 pm and returned at 7:05 pm. After this, the box was repeatedly sealed and again taken out from the PS at 8:05 pm and returned at 8:25 pm. The PEB members argued that there was still one person on the list of those who asked to vote at their place of domicile.
- **PS 1/22, Chisinau, Botanica Dist.** The PEB members display strange behavior, they use a specific language, some unclear signs. One of them is permanently near the voting booth so he can see how voters vote.
- **PS 2/27, Balti.** A voter came to the PS with some sheets of paper, left them on the desk, voted. Later, he returned and took his sheets and went back to the voting booth, applied several VOTE stamps on them and then gave the sheets to the PS members. The PEB president did not see the incident and did not intervene.
- **PS 11/30 Cimislia, Ivanovca Noua.** At 8:35 pm, it was found that the number of ballots in the PS did not correspond. In the computer and on the lists the number of ballots coincided, while the real number of ballots did not coincide (1 set missing). *The press release is made as part of the Observation Mission for the general local and new parliamentary elections of October 20, 2019 by the Promo-LEX Association with the financial support of the United States Agency for International*

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