

# Football and the Right to Education

Today, October 19, 2021, marks the 9th anniversary of the ruling of the ECtHR in the case of Catan and others v. Moldova and Russia, in which the Court found the violation of the right to education in the Transnistrian region by the Russian authorities. Subsequently, in 2018 and 2019, the Court issued two other judgments confirming the existence of the persecution campaign carried out by the *de facto* administration in the Transnistrian region regarding pupils, parents of pupils and teachers in Romanian language schools.

Also today, the Moldovan Football Champion Club "#SheriffTiraspol" will play in the third match in the groups of the European Champions League with #InterMilano.

Namely, the Sheriff Holding, which also owns the football club of the same name, exercises effective control over the local administration on the left bank of the Dniester river, being supported by the authorities of the Russian Federation.

After 9 years from the pronouncement of the judgment in the case of Catan and others, the Russian Federation refuses to execute the obligation to pay compensations in the amount of 1070000 Euro and to return the buildings previously owned by the schools with teaching in Romanian. At the same time, the *de facto* administration continues to use educational institutions as a tool of pressure in political dialogue, and the harassment and intimidation of Romanian-language schools in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova continues.

According to the findings of the European High Court and based on the materials of the respective cases – persons responsible for the violation of the right to education worked in the

Sheriff holding company and were promoted to local government positions.

For more details, we invite you to watch the Promo-LEX video spot: