
Protesters in Transnistria ask Russia to withdraw its forces

More than 400 inhabitants from both banks of Nistru River have gathered today around 10:00 AM (local time) in Vadul lui Voda to protest against the foreign peacekeeping forces and condemn the recent incident. Among the protesters were citizens of Pirita, Pohrebea, Cosnita, Cojova, Oxentea, Vadul lui Voda, Chisinau and Orhei.

The protesters expressed their revolt vis-à-vis the way the peacekeepers have acted, asking for fast removal of all peacekeeping stations from Transnistrian zone and condemnation of the perpetrator.

“Dniestr is an inner river of the Republic of Moldova and not a border river,” an inhabitant of Pirita town told Moldova.org.

Some local mayors were present at the protest, as well.

“It is our responsibility to take action, to demand conviction to this citizen, and these peacekeeping forces to be withdrawn. We have tolerated their existence; it’s time to get rid of them. We demand for removal of all stations installed after 1992; we don’t need them anymore,” said Grigore Policinschi, the mayor of Dubasari district.

The protesters came with banners and shouted “We don’t want a border on Nistru”, “Occupants, go home!” Some of them brought

flowers and candles to commemorate Vadim Pisari.

The people demanded the Government to remove all the illegal hand posts from that place until tomorrow; otherwise they will remove them themselves.

“The inhabitants of Pirita, Cosnita, Pohrebea and Dorotcaia are surrounded by several stations of the constitutional structures, of the illegal structures and of the peacekeepers. Their rights are ignored and violated constantly since 1992,” said the Executive Director of Promo-LEX Association, Ion Manole.

Source: Moldova.org

Removal of peacekeeping posts should be a priority at 5+2 format talks

The removal of the military peacekeeping posts should be a priority in the agenda of the Transnistrian conflict settlement talks in the 5+2 format, considers the head of Promo-LEX Association Ion Manole. The human rights expert said the incident at the trilateral peacekeeping post No. 9, where a peacekeeper shot fatally a local, should motivate the constitutional authorities to achieve certain results, Info-Prim Neo reports.

Ion Manole stated it is strange that this case happened following the change of power in Transnistria. "Shevchuk (the new leader – e.n.) said he will take steps to facilitate the crossing of these illegal posts. It is evident that circles in Tiraspol and Moscow do not like such an intention," said the jurist.

According to Ion Manole, it was repeatedly said that these posts have no role, goal or importance. "If the peacekeeping forces play the role of preventing a new conflict or a new military confrontation between the right and the left banks of the Nistru, as it is claimed, why are these posts situated on the territory controlled by the central authorities? It is thus not clear who these posts protect and from whom – Pirita from Chisinau or Chisinau from Pirita," stated the jurist.

The expert also said that the protests staged by the locals

may have a certain effect, but the protests mounted at the post in Pohrebea produced no results. "The people expressed their dissatisfaction, but gave up because the authorities did not support them," said Ion Manole.

Promo-LEX will provide legal assistance to the family of the killed young man. Ion Manole said the circumstances must be examined thoroughly so as to see what can be done. "The person who shot is to blame for the young man's death. We will see what the authorities will do and what the status of these peacekeepers is so that we are able to better protect the rights of the locals. It is a rare case. Nothing like that happened in 20 years. The situation is difficult, but I'm sure there are possibilities at national level to defend the rights of this family," said the jurist.

Ion Manole also said that it is now important to analyze the steps taken by the chief of peacekeeping post No.9. "I was there and saw the tracks of the bullets shot at the car. It is evident that the man was shot in the back, when he did not pose a threat to the person who shot and to the life and health of those serving at the post. The state of the young man does not count. It is the ill will and incompetence of the Russian officer who shot an innocent and unarmed man that count," said the jurist.

A Russian peacekeeper of the trilateral peacekeeping post No. 9 located on the bridge near Vadul lui Voda shot fatally a local who was driving a car in the morning of January 1. Vadim Pisari from Pirita died in the hospital shortly after he was shot.

As a result of the armed conflict of the spring-summer of 1992, Moldova and Russia signed an agreement concerning the principles of peacefully settling the conflict. One of the provisions envisioned the institution of a security zone with joint peacekeeping forces. Moldova pleads for replacing these posts with internationally-mandated civil forces.

Are the Russian soldiers shooting our citizens in the back?

În dimineața zilei de 1 ianuarie, un locuitor al satului Pîrîta, de numai 18 ani, a fost împușcat de pacificatorii ruși doar pentru că a dat jos un indicator și nu a răspuns solicitării soldaților de a se opri.

Din păcate, la numai câteva ore de la producerea incidentului, Vadim Pisari, tânărul aflat la volan a decedat. În afară de șofer, în mașina în care s-a tras se afla și prietenul acestuia, Constantin Bologan, care susține că a “văzut moartea cu ochii”. Constantin Bologan a declarat pentru Moldova.ORG că se îndrepta cu victima la o benzinărie din Vadul lui Vodă. În drum spre benzinărie, mașina acestora a lovit un indicator aflat în preajma postului forțelor pacificatoare. Soldații le-

au solicitat tinerilor să se oprească, iar aceștia au refuzat. La întoarcere în satul Pîrîta cei doi au refuzat încă o dată să se oprească, iar soldații au tras 4 gloanțe înspre mașină, după ce aceasta a trecut de ei. Constantin Bologan susține că în mașină au tras 2 soldați din diferite părți.

După părerea juriștilor, forțele pacificatoare nu aveau voie să intervină pentru că ei nu sunt colaboratori ai organelor de drept. “În cazul dat, maximum ce puteau face pacificatorii era o împușcătură de avertizare pentru a sesiza Postul Vamal Intern aflat în apropiere. Colaboratorii poliției se aflau la maxim 300 de metri, era suficient să-i anunțe pe ei prin legăturile existente”, ne-a declarat Pavel Postică, jurist în cadrul Asociației Promo-LEX.

Sursa: Moldova.org