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Translation of the Russian language statement of the international observer mission ENEMO on the early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova.

ENEMO, the international observation mission during the snap Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova, officially announced the mission refuses to internationally monitor the elections in the Republic of Moldova. The Mission states that the conditions that were set by the authorities of the country, make it impossible to perform a full monitoring effort. In addition to discouragement from the authorities, the observers from ENEMO were threatened by unknown persons of a criminal appearance. In this situation the Mission could not guarantee the safety of its observers including the ones accredited and were forced to bring their work to an end.

As a result of its efforts ENEMO notes:

- **The higher bodies of Moldova authorities (the Ministry of Interior, the Central Election Commission, the immigration police) exceeded their authority, violated national legislation, and international norms and standards for democratic elections.**
- **The authorities of the Republic of Moldova purposefully created conditions to discredit the electoral process and undermine public confidence in the election results.**
- **In addition to discourage international observers, cases of unjustified refusal in accreditation of observers from other organizations by the Moldovan CEC were also noted.**
- **The pre-observation effort of ENEMO showed that the Republic of Moldova has serious problems in conducting elections according to the national and international laws.**
- **Despite the actions of the authorities to create a negative image of international observers, the public opinion in Moldova supported the implementation of the international monitoring efforts of the electoral process. Moldovan society seeks fairness and transparency of the electoral process.**

On July 22, the Central Election Commission of Moldova took the decision to invite the international election observation mission ENEMO (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations). 140 activists from non-governmental organizations of 12 countries agreed to participate in the observation mission. In tight timeframes the Mission to Moldova was able to fully comply with all deadlines according to the national law on submitting accreditation documents.

However, the Central Election Commission formally, without justification and explanation refused to accredit most of the ENEMO observers. Only 53 out of 140 observers received the official status as international observers. The Head of the Mission Sergei Tkachenko was denied accreditation.

The Central Election Commission provided its decision on accreditation of ENEMO international observers only on July 28, 2009. The decision lists the CEC previous decisions and states the fact of accreditation.

There is no official justification on refusal of accreditation in the decision. ENEMO believes that the refusal of accreditation of its observers is factitious, discriminates against the Mission overall and against ENEMO member-states in particular.

As most of the observers had already arrived to Moldova when at the Central Election Commission provided its decision, the leadership of the Mission filed an appeal to the CEC requesting accreditation of all observers. In the evening of July 27, the CEC upheld its decision on the matter. 87 observers of the ENEMO Mission remained unaccredited.

Essentially, throughout the period of stay in Moldova (from July 26 – 28, 2009) of the short-term observers, the authorities made unprecedented attempts to discredit the international observers. The leadership of the Central Election Commission and other authorities tried to create in Moldovan society a false image of the ENEMO Mission and attribute various characteristics to our observers which do not correspond to the reality (persons with criminal records, participation in organizing riots). The destructive position of the Moldovan authorities is completely groundless, since the observers of the Mission are leaders of the leading civic organizations in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union countries and always carry out their work at a high professional level and in accordance with national and international standards.

The next unfriendly step taken by the Moldovan authorities against the representatives of ENEMO was denying entry to the territory of Moldova to 11 observers from Georgia. On July 27, at the Chisinau airport the border police detained the representatives of the Georgian delegation. After being held on the airport premises for nearly 24 hours, the observers were sent back to Georgia. In this regard, Georgian authorities did not release a note of protest.

When ENEMO observers were denied accreditation the second time the representatives of the Mission began having problems with immigration police. In the evening of June 27 about 30 representatives of immigration police arrived at the hotel complex where most of the representatives of the Mission were located. After an inspection of the documents the Head of the Mission Sergei Tkachenko and the long-term observer Edil Baysalov were detained and taken to an unknown location.

As it turned out later, Sergei Tkachenko was held at the main office of the immigration police, where he was strongly encouraged to sign a commitment statement to leave the territory of Moldova within 24 hours. The ENEMO Head of Mission refused to do so as he saw no reasons for this. Around 2 a.m. Sergey Tkachenko was released.

The fate of Edil Baysalov remained unknown to his family and the leadership of the Mission for more than 12 hours. Only the next day it became known that Baysalov was deported from Moldova without being given the possibility to collect personal belongings.

At 6 a.m. on July 28, the immigration police of Moldova forced their entrance into the hotels in the cities of Balti and Soroca and detained ENEMO observers. Later, in private conversations of the law enforcement representatives the order to “get out of the bed” was announced at midnight. However, the order enforcers persuaded their leadership to wait till morning and to watch the room entrances.

For several hours, observers were under psychological pressure to sign a commitment to depart the country within 24 hours. At the same time, the immigration police had the lists of observers provided by the Central Electoral Commission. The main grounds for detention of observers was the lack of accreditation from the Central Election Commission, and not the violation of the passport regime. However, ENEMO observers refused to sign the statement to leave the country.

In Soroca town 5 observers from Ukraine were taken to court on entering the country illegally according to the official opinion of Moldova. The Ukrainian observers did enter the country though the territory of Transnistria. But as the consul of Ukraine to Moldova announced, such a way of entering Moldova does not contradict international agreements. During several hours the Ukrainian observers were kept in poor conditions and were under psychological and moral pressure. After several hours the court took the decision to apply a fine and deport the Ukrainian citizens. The observers were deported without being given the right to appeal, and in violation of the procedures on deportation.

Having met with these systematic obstacles on behalf of the authorities, ENEMO mission nevertheless expresses its gratitude to the people of Moldova for a hospitable reception and genuine good will towards international observers. We believe that Moldova is on the way to positive changes on the way to fully providing for the rights and freedoms of citizens.

Note

ENEMO Mission (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations) planned to carry out the observation of the early Parliamentary elections in Republic of Moldova on July 29, 2009.

On July 22, 2009 the leadership of ENEMO received an invitation from the Central Election Commission to monitor the electoral and the voting processes on early Parliamentary elections. In the invitation letter the Central Election Commission expressed hope for a fruitful collaboration and relations among our organizations. It was planned that 6 long-term observers and about 100 short-term observers from 12 countries of CIS, Central and Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Russia, Belorussia, Montenegro, Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia).

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