

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 59/01/93  
Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 49/93 Legal Concern/Death Penalty

24 May 1993

MOLDOVA:       Ilie ILASCU  
                  Alexandru LESCO  
                  Tudor PETROV-POPOV  
                  Andrei IVANTOC  
                  Petre GODIAC  
                  Viaceslav GARBUZ

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Amnesty International is concerned that the six men named above, some of whom may be prisoners of conscience, are not receiving a fair trial in accordance with internationally-recognized standards. The proceedings, which have been adjourned twice, are due to open again on 24 May and the men face a possible death sentence if convicted.

Ilie Ilascu, Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popov, Andrei Ivantoc, Petre Godiac and Viaceslav Garbuz (who is regarded by the others as an informer), are members of the Christian-Democratic Popular Front which supports the unification of the former Soviet republic of Moldova with Romania. They are standing trial in Tiraspol, the capital of the self-proclaimed Dnestr Moldovan Republic (DMR), an area in the north-east of Moldova controlled by Russian speakers who have sought to secede from the country rather than face unification with Romania.

The six, in custody since June 1992, are accused of terrorist acts, including the murder of two DMR officials. All except Viaceslav Garbuz refuse to recognize the legitimacy of the DMR or the court and deny the charge, saying the real reason for their arrest is their political opposition to the DMR authorities. Four say their confessions were obtained under duress, including persistent beatings, and have withdrawn them. Ilie Ilascu, who did not sign a confession, reports that he was subjected to mock executions while in pre-trial detention in an effort to force him to confess.

The atmosphere in the courtroom is said to be very hostile to the defendants. Those attending are reported to have booed and spat at the six men, and called for the death penalty. Two relatives have tried to attend, but said they had to leave after being threatened by DMR supporters. Lawyers for four of the men withdrew after the last hearing, on 5 May, when the court refused a request to hospitalize Andrei Ivantoc, who is said to suffer from a serious liver disease.

Amnesty International takes no position on territorial disputes. It is calling on the authorities in the DMR to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the six men receive a fair trial in line with internationally-recognized standards.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters either in English, Russian or in your own language:**

- expressing concern that Ilie Ilascu, Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popov, Andrei Ivantoc, Petre Godiac and Viaceslav Garbuz may not receive a fair trial;
- urging that all appropriate measures are taken to ensure that the trial conforms to internationally-recognized standards;

- urging a comprehensive and impartial investigation into allegations that the confessions of Alexandru Lesco, Tudor Petrov-Popov, Andrei Ivantoc and Petre Godiac were extracted under duress.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Boris Luchik  
Procurator  
ul. 25 October, 101  
278000 Tiraspol  
Moldova

**Telegrams: Moldova, 278000 Tiraspol, ul. 25 Oktyabrya, Prokuroru Luchiku B.**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator**

2. Major-General Yury Ovsyannikov  
Interior Minister  
ul. 25 October, 101  
278000 Tiraspol  
Moldova

**Telegrams: Moldova, 278000 Tiraspol, ul. 25 Oktyabrya, MID, Ministru Ovsyannikovu Yu.**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Dumitru Postovan  
Procurator General  
Procuratura Republicii Moldova  
str. Mitropolit Banulescu-Bodoni, 26  
277612 or. Chisinau  
Moldova

Igor Nikolayevich Smirnov  
President  
Dom sovetov  
ul. 25 October, 101  
278000 Tiraspol  
Moldova

Dmitry Kondratovich  
Editor-in-Chief  
Trudovoy Tiraspol  
Tiraspol  
Moldova

and to diplomatic representatives, if any, of Moldova accredited to your country (usually to be found at the Russian Embassy, formerly the Embassy of the USSR)

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 June 1993.