

## **Press release – Moldovan Prime Minister’s Office – 5 February 2014**

### **Moldovan government’s statement**

The Government of Moldova condemns the detention by the Transnistrian law-enforcement bodies of the headmaster of the Tiraspol-based Lucian Blaga lyceum, Ion Iovcev, and other two employees of the school. Also, six members of the Moldovan contingent of peacekeepers present on the spot were held too. The incident took place nearby the Parcani settlement, situated in the Security Zone.

The government describes this unilateral action as a deliberate provocation, meant to worsen the situation and undermine the Transnistrian conflict settlement process. This incident fits into a string of pressures exerted on the Moldovan institutions over the last time, including the Latin-script schools from the Transnistrian region. At the same time, the detention of the peacekeepers in the Security Zone represents an unprecedented action and a direct defiance to the peacekeeping operation.

The state’s authorities have undertaken the needed efforts to settle the concerned problem. The international partners involved in the settlement process were notified as well. As a result of the taken actions, all the detained persons have been released. The concerned incident will be tackled first and foremost within the mechanisms of dialogue with Tiraspol representatives, including the Joint Control Commission. The government of Moldova drew the attention of the Transnistrian law-enforcement bodies to the responsibility for the consequences of provocative actions they undertake.