

To the High Representative of the European Union
on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Federica Mogherini

To the President of the European Council **Donald Tusk**

To the President of the European Commission **Jean-Claude Juncker**

To the President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz**

To the PACE President **Pedro Agramunt**

To the US Secretary of State **John Kerry**

Chisinau, November 25, 2016

Ladies and gentlemen,

We urge you to direct your attention and take urgent measures in connection with the politically motivated criminal prosecution by the authorities of the Republic Moldova of the founder of the #NuMaTem (*I'mNotAfraid*) civil movement and lawyer Ana Ursachi, who has suffered because of her professional activity and a civic stand.

Making use of his influence on the Moldovan law enforcement and judicial authorities and the huge media resource¹, the Moldovan oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc, who is one of leaders of the Democratic Party of Moldova, seeks to settle accounts with Ana Ursachi, the founder of the #NuMaTem civil movement and the known lawyer. For about 7 years Ursachi has been defending interests of many Plahotniuc's political and business opponents. Now Ana Ursachi, and even her aged parents and her son, fell victim to political prosecution because of illegal actions of the Moldovan law enforcement agencies for the benefit of Plahotniuc.

As the lawyer Ana Ursachi participated in defending of many opponents of oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc in the cases, some of which were seen as politically tinged, such as: the cases of Grigore Petrenco, Viorel Topa, Razvan Paveliu, Sergiu Cibotari, Ion Butmalai, Anatolie, Gheorghe and Sergiu Stepuleac, Renato Usatii, Viacheslav Platon (Kobalev). Many of them blamed Plahotniuc of takeover of the state public institutions, corruption and asset-grabbing of their businesses, and of opening doubtful criminal cases against them.

Since September 2016, Ana Ursachi, speaking out in defense of Platon (Kobalev) ,² has published a considerable part of proofs of Vlad Plahotniuc's involvement in corruption and criminal financial operations. These facts have got wide coverage in the Moldovan media, and made also known during Ana Ursachi's meetings with the European politicians and diplomats, including in the European Parliament and PACE. It has served as the main catalyst for prosecution of both the lawyer and members of her family.

At the same time as the defense of Platon (Kobalev) starts, in early September 2016, the pro-government Moldovan blogger Eugen Luchianiu launched a campaign aimed to discredit Ana Ursachi.

After Eugen Luchianiu published an article about Ana Ursachi, the media owned by Vladimir Plahotniuc started a powerful information campaign against her, accusing her of being involved in murder and other crimes committed in the late 90's.

¹ PublikaTV, Prime, Canal 2, Canal 3 TV channels and Muz FM radio station

<http://anticoruptie.md/ro/stiri/oficial-vlad-plahotniuc-proprietar-a-patru-televiziuni-si-trei-posturi-de-radio>

² <http://en.odfoundation.eu/a/7978,ukraine-assists-post-soviet-states-with-the-persecution-of-political-opponents-and-refugees>

We draw your attention that the above accusations against Ana Ursachi are exclusively politically motivated. So, in 1997, Ana Ursachi, as the spouse of one of the defendants, was checked for involvement in the case of Liubov Manoli's murder. In the same way the relatives of other defendants were checked for involvement in the case. **However, later the case against Ana Ursachi was dismissed owing to lack of evidence of her participation in the crime.**

In October 2016, the prosecutor's office on fight against organized crime resumed investigation of the murder allegedly "in connection with identification of new circumstances". The prosecutor's office declared that the purpose of new investigation was "to establish the degree of Ana Ursachi involvement in the case".

On November 21, 2016, night, prosecutor Dumitru Stefirta together with several police officers carried out an illegal search in the apartment of Ana Ursachi's father. At that time in the apartment there were Ana's 72-year-old father and her 19-year-old son. The search was carried out with gross violations of the Moldovan legislation. The law enforcement officers had no court warrant of search; they had only an order signed by the prosecutor Dumitru Stefirta who carried out the search. Besides, under Art.125-127 of the Moldovan Code of Criminal Procedure, the search shall not be carried out at nights (after 10pm). The police seized winchester disk from Ana Ursachi's computer, and a notebook and a tablet belonging to her relatives.

The day before the search Ana Ursachi announced her press conference about Plahotniuc's corrupt influence on law enforcement and judicial authorities in Moldova. We regard this night search as an attempted pressure upon members of the Ursachi family to stop her public and lawyer activity.

At the moment the Moldovan prosecutor's office seeks to sue out Ana Ursachi's arrest. Because of this the lawyer is unable to come back to Moldova and continue defending her clients as there is a real danger that she will be detained.


It is obvious that the charges of involvement in a 19-year old crime are nothing else but an attempt to discredit Ana Ursachi and to pull her out of the cases where she defends Vladimir Plahotniuc's opponents. The huge media resource owned by the Moldovan oligarch, and his influence on the law enforcement and judicial authorities in Moldova are used for this purpose.

Ana Ursachi's case is a continuation of the entire series of political prosecutions from the oligarch Plahotniuc's regime, including the prosecution of those people who put their signature to this letter, and shall not be admitted in Moldova as the country that signed the Association Agreement with the European Union.

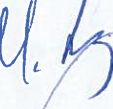
On the eve of the third meeting of the **EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee (PAC)** to be held in Strasbourg on December 14-15, 2016, we urge the European and international community to urgently intervene in the situation, to put pressure upon the Moldovan authorities for ceasing all political prosecutions in our country, including the prosecution of lawyer Ana Ursachi.

Date

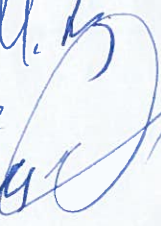
Signature /Last Name, First Name/

Alexander Petkov  - ex-MP, editor in chief OMEGA News Agency

Petruccio Grigore - ex-MP (Rep. Moldova)
"Cete noastre - Moldova" Party chairperson

Parlamentul R.M. Deputata M. Ciobanu M. 

Parlamentul R.M. deputat Cr. Cobzac

Delia Tudor, deputat Parlamentul R.M. 

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Making use of his influence on the Moldovan law enforcement and judicial authorities and the huge media resource¹, the Moldovan oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc, who is *de facto* leader of the Democratic Party of Moldova, seeks to settle accounts with Ana Ursachi, the founder of the #NuMaTem civil movement and the known lawyer. For about 7 years Ursachi has been defending interests of many Plahotniuc's political and business opponents. Now Ana Ursachi, and even her aged parents and her son, fell victim to political prosecution because of illegal actions of the Moldovan law enforcement agencies for the benefit of Plahotniuc.

As the lawyer Ana Ursachi participated in defending of many opponents of oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc in the cases, some of which were seen as politically tinged, such as: the cases of Grigore Petrencu, Viorel Topa, Razvan Paveliu, Sergiu Cibotari, Ion Butmalai, Anatolie, Gheorghe and Sergiu Stepuleac, Renato Usatii, Viacheslav Platon (Kobalev). Many of them blamed Plahotniuc of takeover the state public institutions, corruption and asset-grabbing of their businesses, and of opening doubtful criminal cases against them.

Since September 2016, Ana Ursachi, speaking out in defense of her clients,² has published a considerable part of proofs of Vlad Plahotniuc's involvement in corruption and criminal financial operations. These facts have got wide coverage in the Moldovan media, and made also known during Ana Ursachi's meetings with the European politicians and diplomats, including in the European Parliament and the Council of Europe. It has served as the main catalyst for prosecution of both the lawyer and members of her family.

Since above mentioned proofs of Plahotniuc and state institutions controlled by him involvement in criminal activities were made public, the media owned by Vladimir Plahotniuc started a powerful information campaign against Ana Ursachi, accusing her of being involved in murder and other crimes committed in the late 90's.

We draw your attention that the above accusations against Ana Ursachi are exclusively politically motivated. So, in 1997, Ana Ursachi, as the spouse of one of the defendants, was checked for involvement in the case of Liubov Manoli's murder. In the same way the relatives of other defendants were checked for involvement in

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Date

Signature /Last Name, First Name/

05.12.16.

 Tulbure Alexei

ex-MP, editor in chief OMEGA News Agency

 M. Ciobanu
Parlamentul R.M., deputata
Parlamentul R.M., deputat
Tudor Deciu, deputat parlamentul R.M.