



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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4 May 2010

### MDA103364.E

Moldova: Russian student organizations, particularly the League of Russian Students; their goals, activities and treatment by the authorities (January 2005 - April 2010)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

A 4 June 2009 article by the Moldovan news agency Infotag states that the League of Russian Youth in Moldova has 1,324 members between the ages of 16 and 30 years old. Another Infotag News Agency article states that the leader of the Ravnopravye, [a pro-Russian party (ProTV 4 Nov. 2008)], told a news conference that the chairperson of the Russian Students League and three other young people were arrested in Chisinau on 4 November 2006 (Infotag 7 Nov. 2006). The Ravnopravye leader stated that the police stopped the car in which the four people were travelling, forcibly removed the passengers and took them to the Buiucani police commissariat; they were released on 6 November 2006 (ibid.).

An 18 August 2008 Infotag News Agency article states that the League of Russian Youth, led by the aforementioned Chairperson, held a rally at the United States (US) embassy in Chisinau to protest that country's policy in the conflict between Georgia and the Georgian region of South Ossetia.

Further information on the League of Russian Students and information on other Russian student organizations in Moldova could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

### References

Infotag News Agency [Chisinau, in Russian]. 4 June 2009. "Pro-Russian Youth Asks Moldova to Recognize Election in South Ossetia." (BBC Monitoring Ukraine and Baltics 4 June 2009/Factiva)

\_\_\_\_\_. 18 August 2008. "Russian Youth Activists in Moldova Protest US Support for Georgia." (BBC Monitoring Ukraine and Baltics 18 Aug. 2008/ Factiva)

\_\_\_\_\_. 7 November 2006. "Pro-Russian Movement in Moldova Complains of Pressure From Authorities." (BBC Monitoring Ukraine and Baltics 7 Nov. 2006/Factiva)

ProTV [Chisinau, in Moldovan]. 4 November 2008. "Ethnic Russians in Moldova Demand Second State Language." (BBC Monitoring Ukraine and Baltics 4 Nov. 2008/Factiva)

#### Additional Sources Consulted

**Oral sources:** The Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut, the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg, the League for Defence of Human Rights of Moldova in Chisinau and Minority Rights Group International in London did not respond to requests for information within the time constraints of this Response.

**Internet sources, including:** Amnesty International (AI), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, the Centre for SouthEast European Studies, European Center for Minority Issues, European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi.net), Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme (FIDH), Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in the Republic of Moldova, International Crisis Group, League for the Defence of Human Rights in Moldova, Minority Rights Group International.

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