



Liga Apărării Drepturilor Omului din Moldova
League for Defence of Human Rights of Moldova

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CIVIC COALITION FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

THE LEAGUE FOR DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF MOLDOVA - LADOM

REPORT III

ON THE MONITORING OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OF 29 JULY 2009

Monitoring period: 16-27 July 2009



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I. INTRODUCTION

The given Report covers the electoral situation in Moldova during 16-27 July 2009. This is the third Report regarding the monitoring of early parliamentary elections drawn up by LADOM within the framework of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – Coalition 2009 and represents the natural continuation of the project „Observing parliamentary elections of 2009”. LADOM relies on previous missions of election monitoring, which were implemented both in the Republic of Moldova and in other countries from this region.

Data provided in the Report have been collected by means of direct observation ensured by a national network of 4 regional coordinators, 62 long-term observers and 1579¹ short-term observers placed in the localities of all districts of the republic. All observers are appropriately accredited by the Central Electoral Commission. The monitoring process has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Moldova, of the Code of Conduct of the LADOM observer and in compliance with the international standards in the field of election observation.

Conclusions and recommendations provided in the given Report have been formulated with good faith and presented in the spirit of professional cooperation with all stakeholders interested in the creation of a transparent and fair electoral process in the Republic of Moldova.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the monitoring efforts undertaken by LADOM, the present report reveals the fact that the current electoral campaign continues to be marked by problems related to the ensuring of electoral legislation and the incorrect and unfair behaviour of public authorities’ representatives and electoral contestants in promoting their electoral message.

The tendencies of massive use of administrative resources and the intimidation of electoral contestants and of the voters compromise the reputation of the public authorities and may jeopardise the integrity of the electoral system.

The intimidation of observers by the public authorities is an issue of concern for all political actors and the civil society and also a reason for the re-evaluation of the way the collaboration between the public authorities and the civil society develops so as to pursue the scope of the public benefit.

The practice of electoral gifts used by the electoral contestants as an instrument of persuading the voters to cast their ballots in the favour of a certain political party is a method far from the legal requirements. And the electoral advertising posted everywhere in unauthorised places shall not be treated by the contestants as an act of compensation for the lack of access to information.

III. FINDINGS²

The findings are formulated and generalised on basis of concrete cases registered by the LADOM observers and attached to the given Report.

The use of administrative resources

¹ 10.07.2009, D E C I S I O N on the accreditation of national observers from the behalf of the League for Defense of Human Rights of Moldova (LADOM) with regard to the monitoring of the parliamentary elections of 29 July 2009

² LADOM gives one pertinent example to any of its findings. Other similar cases are presented in the annexe.

The tendency of using the administrative resources by the central and local public authorities for electoral reasons still persists, although being vehemently disapproved by the public opinion. The direct² and indirect³ use of public resources to the benefit of the electoral contestants became a threat to the fairness of the elections.

LADOM recommends to CEC to make an in- depth analysis of all cases of use of administrative resources and to draft a report in this regard to be submitted to the Constitutional Court for the validation of elections.

Intimidation of electoral contestants

Unidentified persons, representatives of the public authorities and police use to intimidate the electoral contestants during the electoral campaign. Through their aggressive behaviour, unknown persons thwart the meetings with the voters, provoke mass disorder during meetings⁴ or threat with revenge the political contestants⁵. According to the political contestants, the police bodies are very tolerant when such behaviour is it not targeted against PCRM representatives. As well, the police do not conduct any operative measures for the identification of the persons who damage or vandalise the electoral advertising and billboards of the electoral contestants, but immediately apply sanctions to those having damaged the PCRM advertising or posting electoral posters in unauthorised places.

The biased behaviour of the law enforcement bodies during the electoral campaign undermines the citizens' trust in the fairness of the electoral process.

Intimidation of voters

The representatives and supporters of the electoral contestants continue to intimidate the voters in order to determine them to vote for a certain electoral candidate. The voters are threat with the non-processing of their land plots⁶, or to remain without water etc.

The electoral contestant shall review their working methods with the voters and improve their capacity of persuading the supporters in a civilised and honest manner. In this respect, we recommend to all electoral contestants to conduct training in electoral deontology and in the use of modern technologies of electoral propaganda among the people.

Intimidation of observers

During the monitoring period there were incidents when LADOM observers have been intimidated because of exercising the civic attribution of observing the correctness of the electoral process. The police⁷ and the local authorities⁸ exercised an aggressive behaviour against observers and

² Cantemir district. Minister of Social protection, family and child Galina Balmoş arrived in Antoneşti village on 09.07.09, at about 16.00. making electoral propaganda for PCRM, she offered a laptop to the cultural house of the village as a gift from the women's League to help them in organising discos for the youths.

³ State Enterprise „Poșta Moldovei” edited a poster containing indirect an electoral message favouring PCRM. The specific period of printing the poster and its content speak out about the purposely promoted electoral message. Neither the printing house nor the number of copies are indicated in the poster.

⁴ On 16 July 2009, during the meeting of Marian Lupu with the voters from Bălți municipality a group of persons organised protests and mass disorder in order to prevent the meeting with the voters.

⁵ On 11 July, after the visit of the head of state to Dubăsarii Vechi, Radu Vasilița (AMN activist) was warned by an unknown person (driving a car) not to get involved in politics, otherwise he will have problems.

⁶ The agricultural leader from Rezina Ilie Mereacre threatened the land owners that he will not carry out any agricultural activities on their land if they do not vote PCRM in elections.

⁷ LADOM observer Mantaluta delegated to the polling station no. 1/103 was intimidated by the police. Two police officers, Sergiu Crivenco and Vitalie Cimiș, dressed in civilian, and one police officer wearing a uniform who did not identified himself, retained LADOM observer Lilian Măntăluță. The police officers forced him into the police car with the matriculation no. T673AM Woltsvagen to bring him to the police station. After several minutes of driving

warned them not to continue with the observation.

Although the intimidation of the observers by state representatives represents an abuse and is legally sanctioned, the institution of observation shall be consolidated in our country in line with the consolidation of all democratic institutions in the Republic of Moldova.

Electoral gifts

The representatives of the electoral contestants use to give voters generous gifts such as donating amounts of money⁹, organising trips to monasteries¹⁰ or organising lunches for old persons etc.

The electoral propaganda by means of illegal methods reveals the incorrectness of the electoral contestants' behaviour.

Electoral billboards

The tendency of posting electoral billboards in unauthorised places still prevails and the electoral contestants seem not to be able to control this process, invoking the reason that due to the fact that the media fails to promote the electoral contestants in an equal and unbiased manner, their supporters want to make themselves heard by means of electoral billboards and posters.

The illegal behaviour cannot be justified by the violation of the law committed by the others.

IY. ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS

Within election administration, CEC carries out a series of activities in accordance with the calendar plan of activities, organises training courses for the electoral staff (members of the electoral bureaus), drafts and prepares the electoral documentation, prints ballot papers and distributes them to all Precinct Electoral Councils.

Work of the electoral bureaus

The performance of the electoral bureaus during the monitored period registered serious drawbacks. Many electoral bureaus started their activity with delay and did not follow a specific working programme. The voters' lists have been also posted for public scrutiny with delay, the vote certificates were not always available for the public, the voters being put in the situation to go several times to the polling stations in order to check the voters' lists or to get the vote certificate. Some members of the electoral bureaus have been influenced by the political contestants or local public administration and did not act independently, fact that casts doubts on the correctness of

along the city, several intimidations and warning not to go interviewing the people, the police let him free without drafting any administrative document on the retention.

⁸ On 20 July 2009, LADOM observers Dobrova Natalia and Allamuradova Tatiana have been aggressed and insulted by the mayor of Tomai village which accused them of activity in the interest of the Republic of Moldova.

⁹ On 8 July 2009, in the village Iujnoe, district Cahul, the leader of the PCRM youth organisation Mr. Gorilă and Mr. Grigorencu, promised during the meeting with the voters financial support for the reparation of the village kindergarten and a minivan as a gift to the village mayoralty if they vote PCRM in elections. About 60 persons attended the meeting. The commission for the administration of the support received from the communists includes: the mayor, the chief accountant of the village, the director of the kindergarten and two villagers. The reparation of the kindergarten started immediately after the meeting.

¹⁰ Between 6 July and 9 July 2009 PCRM organised for the citizens of some villages from Taraclia district free pilgrimage to the Hîncu monastery, and on 18 July 2009 pilgrimages to the Căpriana Monastery have been organised for the citizens from Basarabasca.

their exertion of powers on the election day.

We recommend to electoral bodies to form the electoral bureaus in due time, in order to ensure the timely realisation of all electoral duties delegated to them.

The observers should be vigilant on election day in order to ensure the integrity of the voting process.

It is recommended to CEC to propose the revision of the way of nominating candidates for the members of the electoral bureaus, as to ensure their independence from the electoral contestants.

Electoral contestants

During this period of time, 2 electoral contestants out of 10 have withdrawn from the electoral race. Upon the request of the National Liberal Party and the Socio- Political Movement „European Action”, CEC accepted their withdrawal from the race. On election day the voting ballot included 8 electoral contestants.

Y. VOTERS' LISTS

The procedure of posting the lists for public scrutiny, the verification and rectification of the lists is over. LADOM observers have reported that the process of posting the voters' lists for public scrutiny was very difficult and was marked by many violations of the law. Although the deadline for presenting the lists for the public was 14 July 2009, in most of the polling stations they were posted during the period 15-23 July 2009. Only about 10-15% of the electoral bureaus managed to post the lists in a proper manner.

It should be also mentioned that part of the electoral bureaus posted the lists only after national observers insisted several times on the need for ensuring the Electoral Code provisions related to the public scrutiny of the voters' lists (art. 40). Meantime, the observers ascertained that a series of polling stations refused to make the lists public, and the lists were kept by members of the precinct electoral bureaus and could be consulted only upon the request of the voters.

The issue of making the lists public by posting them within the polling station was to a great extent generated by a CEC circular dated from 17 July 2009 which prohibited making copies from the lists or taking them out of the polling stations. As well, CEC sent a clear message that the door-to-door verification of the lists can be conducted only by representatives of the local public authorities or electoral bureaus.

However, the evaluation of the voters' lists prove that just about 15% of the verified lists have been compiled with due respect of the legal norms. The rest of the lists included various irregularities and errors such as deceased persons were included, persons residing in the area of the polling stations and taking part in April 5 elections were not included, lists with incomplete information (wrong names, no identity data, etc), the address was incomplete or not included at all, one and the same block has different addresses¹¹, the numeration of the voters in the lists was wrong, minor persons included in the lists.

These inaccuracies are due to the superficiality of the activity of the local public administration on the voters' lists, which motivated their failure by the lack of human and financial resources, as well as some imperfect legal dispositions¹² from the local administrations.

One of the issues of great concern is the lack of a clear-cut mechanism for the compilation, verification and rectification of the voters' lists, as well as for the way of controlling the

¹¹ APCJM report on the verification of the voters' lists, July 2009. www.apcjm.md. www.ladom.org.md

¹² For example the disposition no. 69 from 25 June 2009 of the governor of Găgăuz Yeri prohibits registering the persons living abroad in the voters' lists.

inadmissibility of using them for multiple voting and manipulation of voters' lists.

It is recommended to CEC to develop and approve a methodology as regards the valorification of the control mechanisms of the voters' lists in order to ensure the fairness of the electoral process.

VI. CONTESTATIONS

Until 25 July 2009, there were 48 contestations submitted to CEC. Out of them, 30 complains have been investigated and judged by the electoral body and the other 4 are under investigations. In 14 cases, CEC provided the applicants with a written answer. The leader in submitting complaints is PCRM, managing to submit 20 complaints. PLDM lodged 6 contestations, AMN - 5, PL - 5, PDM - 4, PRM, PPCD and PSD one contestation each.

The electoral contestants contest most of all the content of the electoral materials, as well as the way of covering the electoral campaign by the media institutions. In most of cases, the electoral candidates claim the violation of the Regulation for the Coverage of Parliamentary Elections in the Media. The contents of the publicity spots or of the electoral billboards are more frequently contested.

Meantime, until 25 July 2009, the electoral contestants submitted to CEC 12 requests on the right of reply and 3 intimations. 6 requests on the right of reply have been rejected as groundless and one because the subject matter was outside the mandate of the institution.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

Taking into account the findings of the LADOM observers collected during the monitoring period and presented in the present and previous reports, LADOM considers that:

1. the numerous violations of the electoral legislation by the electoral contestants, public authorities and electoral bureaus mark the negative tendencies in the run of electoral process;
2. the massive use of administrative resources despite the repeated recommendations of the civil society, totally compromise the right of electoral contestants to take part in the electoral campaign on an equal footing;
3. the lack of a civilised behaviour in debating ideas and programmes, the promoting of aggressiveness and intolerance, the hostile behaviour of the electoral contestants lead to the scission of the society and put in peril the democratic values;
4. promoting the image of electoral contestants through electoral publicity placed in unauthorised places and damaging the electoral billboards of the electoral contestants reveal the inadequate behaviour of the electoral contestants and their supporters;
5. the delayed posting of the voters' lists for public scrutiny and the limitation of voters' access to the lists, as well as the errors and irregularities in the lists diminish the citizens' trust in the fairness of the compilation of the voters' lists, compromise the way of administration of certain electoral operations and outlines the weak point of the electoral bureaus within the system of electoral bodies.

While reporting the aforementioned findings to the principle and requirements of a free and fair electoral process enunciated by LADOM¹²¹³, as well as analysing the way LADOM recommendations after April 5 parliamentary elections had been taken into account by the public

¹³ LADOM appeal to the electoral contestants. www.ladom.org.md

authorities and electoral contestants, we may assess that the current electoral campaign is partially vitiated by an incorrect behaviour displayed by both the public authorities and electoral contestants.

YIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

LADOM recommends to CEC to make an in- depth analysis of all cases of the use of administrative resources and to draft a report in this regard to be submitted to the Constitutional Court for the validation of elections.

The electoral contestant shall review their working methods with the voters and to improve their capacity of persuading the supporters in a civilised and honest manner. In this respect, we recommend to all electoral contestants to conduct training in electoral deontology and in the use of modern technologies of electoral propaganda among the people.

Although the intimidation of observers by state representatives represents an abuse and is legally sanctioned, the institution of observation shall be consolidated in our country in line with the consolidation of all democratic institutions in the Republic of Moldova.

Abstention from electoral propaganda through illegal methods, which reveals the incorrectness of the electoral contestant' behaviour.

It is recommended to form the electoral bureaus in due time, in order to ensure the timely realisation of all electoral duties delegated to them.

The observers should be vigilant on election day in order to ensure the integrity of the voting process.

It is recommended to CEC to propose the revision of the way of nominating candidates for the members of the electoral bureaus, as to ensure their independence from the electoral contestants.

It is recommended to CEC to develop and approve a methodology as regards the valorification of control mechanisms of the voters' lists in order to ensure the fairness of the electoral process.

IX. LIST OF INCITENTS

Period: 15 July– 26 July 2009

Use of administrative resources

1. In the morning of 22 July, LADOM observers have been informed by several persons, including Buga Simion from Căușeni, that inside the newspapers distributed by the State Enterprise "Poșta Moldovei" informative leaflets were placed. The leaflets had the following content: on the top of the page the word „choose” was written with different colours and in the middle of the page “No. 1” and “Vote for a professional team” written in red. The leaflet was accompanied by a Christian – orthodox calendar. In the observers' opinion, the contents of the leaflet had an obvious electoral

message favouring PCRM (no. 1 in the ballot paper for the early parliamentary elections). The leaflets have been distributed all over the country, including to people who are not subscribed to any of the newspapers. The poster of the „Poșta Moldovei” does not indicate the printing house and the number of copies.

2. Mun. Cahul. Micinschi Avram, PCRM member was driving his office car during the electoral period (registration plate RM G 103).

3. According to the information received from the mayor of Hîrtop village, Cimișlia, the postmen distribute in the mailboxes of the villagers posters with PCRM propaganda. According to the same source, the foresters and the police officers are involved in electoral propaganda, using their office cars.

4. Soldănești. All the offices of Banca de Economii employees are full with PCRM electoral materials.

5. As a rule, the voters are brought by the administration of the organisations, firms, enterprises in an „organised” manner to the meetings with the governing party. For example, during the meeting with Zinaida Grecianii in Ocnița on 19.07.09 besides the party members, there were many people obliged to attend.

6. Ocnița. The case was notified by the chairman of AMN territorial organisation Avcinicov Alexandru, chairman of PLDM Popov Igor, chairman of PL Calaraș Arcadii: within the local branch no. 34 of Banca de Economii Ocnița the administration uses administrative tools to make propaganda for PCRM, organising meetings with all the employees of the bank and spreading out false information about the other electoral contestants. Thus, on 07.07 09, at 09.00, during the working programme of the bank, the employees were shown the film "Attack on Moldova" elaborated by the communists.

7. Basarabeasca district. On 19 July 2009, the chairperson of the district Cernăuțeanu Ilie went to the village Sadaclia by the office car (registration plates BSMA 001) to make electoral propaganda and distribute PCRM electoral materials. The information was confirmed by the mayor of the village Sadaclia, Baci Vasile. PCRM representatives offered to the local church sand, cement and other construction materials. The priest serving in the church refused to receive the gifts.

8. Căușeni district. The electoral contestants on the list of PCRM use their office cars on electoral purposes. For example, the employees of ÎM "Refurbishment and Sanitation", social assistants from Zaim village, the controllers of the electric meters all use their office cars on electoral purposes.

9. Town Cimișlia. The rent for the space in the Lyceum "Mihai Eminescu" used for the meeting on 17 July 2009 of S. Urechean with the voters was not paid.

10. Drochia district. The electoral contestants on PCRM list, Zinaida Greceanii, Ghenadie Morcov and Igor Grozavu have been accompanied during their meetings with the voters by representatives of the district public administration and the chairperson of the district.

11. Dondușeni. Veaceslav Gugurin, Government representative in Dondușeni, went on 17 July by

the car belonging to the Donduşeni District Council to Scăieni village and took part in the meeting with voters organised by PCRM. All social assistants participating in the meeting were informed about the obligation to pay visits to each house in the sectors they are in charge with to make electoral propaganda for PCRM.

12. Due to the fact that it is quite difficult to gather the people for electoral meetings, the contestants make use of their acquaintance with the mayor of the locality to organise meetings with the villagers on internal matters as a pretext for the meetings.

Voters' lists

1. Cantemir district. On 20 July 2009 the voters' lists were not made public yet in the villages Cania, Antoneşti, Sadîc, Taraclia etc.
2. In many polling stations from Cahul the lists were not posted for the public until the intervention of LADOM observer.
3. In Cantemir the voters' lists are posted just on the third floor of the mayoralty, which makes difficult their checking to the old or disabled people etc.
4. In Vulcăneşti the voters' lists were posted for public scrutiny on 16 July 2009.
5. Cahul district. In many villages the employees of the mayoralty responsible with the compilation and verification of voters' lists have contacted the families and relatives of the people leaving abroad and excluded them from the lists.
6. Vulcăneşti. The citizens having the right to vote and being abroad have been excluded from the voters' lists.

Electoral billboards

1. In most of the villages from Hînceşti district the electoral contestants do not respect the rules of placing electoral materials only in specially arranged places.
2. Cantemir district. In the village of Porumbesti the electoral posters of PPCD are pasted up on the electric posts.
3. Ocnita. PCRM submitted a complaint to Precinct Electoral Council relating to the placement of electoral materials of PDM in unauthorised places in Paustova village. PDM and AMN placed electoral publicity on the special electoral billboard but exceeding the space destined for them.
4. Edineţ, 19 July 2009. The electoral billboards of PDM, PPCD, PCRM are posted in unauthorised places all across the district: on commercial booths, on electric posts, inside auto stations, on gates, and the posters with PDM are pasted up even on the doors of the mayoralty.
5. Soroca. On 15.07.09 electoral posters of AMN and PL were pasted up in the bus station of the village Cosăuţi, on 17.07.09 posters of PLDM were pasted up in Grigorăuca, Sobari, Tătărauca Veche, on 19.07.09 PDM posters were pasted up on the electric posts in Bădiceni village (the

electric post is 25 meters far from the specially arranged electoral billboard and the mayoralty).

Intimidation of electoral contestants

1. „Moldova Noastră” Alliance (AMN) is accusing the Communist Party of illegal retention of one of its members. Sergiu Baltaga, the leader of the young wing of AMN, mentioned in a press conference on Friday that Mr. Victor Tipa, leader of the youth organization of the party in Leova has been arrested.

2. Drochia. The headquarters of PLDM was damaged. Initially it was an act of vandalism: the metal stairs and the flags were destroyed.

3. There were attempts of preventing the good run of the voters’ meeting of D. Chirtoacă to Dubăsarii Vechi. Thus, the supporters of PCRM, being drunk, insisted with provocative questions and accusations of various illegal acts against Mr. Chirtoacă.

4. Thursday, 16 July, during the meeting of V. Filat with the voters from Drochia, a series of young communist supporters seeped into the room and during the 40 minutes meeting made noise, whistled, included the music of the mobile phones, preventing V. Filat to talk to the villagers. The organisers asked the interference of the law enforcement bodies, but a single officer appeared who was not willing to interfere since “he didn’t notice any disrupting of the public order”. After the incident, the participants in the meeting forced out the perpetrators of the wrong doing out of the room and the meeting continued in a proper manner. The incident was reported by the PLDM leader in the district.

5. Donduşeni. The mayor of Donduşeni village Ion Zloi, who is also an agricultural leader in the locality and supporter of PCRM threatened a group of PLDM supporters with the non- processing of their lands and giving their land plots on rent.

6. On 16 July 2009, a meeting with the PDM leader Marian Lupu was planned to take place within the premises of the National Theatre „Vasile Alecsandri” from Bălţi,. The meeting was scheduled for 18:00. In spite all the obstacles put by PCRM in organizing the meeting, it took place. The members of PCRM blocked the entrance in the theatre and banned the access of the people inside. At the same time, the Vasile Alecsandri square was full with people: on the one hand PDM supporters, simple passers-by, citizens who just wanted to see Mr. Lupu and hear his programme and enjoy their right to access to information and on the other –PCRM members, employees of Balti municipality (which is also communist), members of CER (Serdiuc Irina, Derevenco Natalia, Serjantu Daniel), youth and children promoters of the communist ideas, and about 20 strong persons able at any moment to calm down the spirits. The young communists were wearing red shirts and had different offensive placards in the address of to Mr. Lupu: „Balti is not forgiving traitors”; „Lupu, the leader of the croppers” etc. One young person was permanently shouting upon someone’s command: „Lupu – the traitor”, „Lupu developed another plan to cheat the citizens from Balti”, etc. Few persons on the square managed to enter the theatre to take part in the meeting with Marian Lupu. Due to the diversions, the meeting started one hour later.

Representatives of several media institutions took part in the meeting with Lupu (DECA Press, Moldova 1, Russkoe Radio, local press etc.). The next day, on 17 July 2009, some of them presented erroneous information about the meeting. For example, „Russkoe Radio” reported in their news

that during the meeting with Lupu the room was empty, because in this way the people wanted to show their disapproval of Mr. Lupu policy, in particular of the fact that Mr. Lupu has betrayed the Communists Party ". They also added that while all the people gathered on the square, Mr. Lupu was afraid of appearing in front of them and was locked inside the theatre.

7. Rezina. According to the information provided by Mrs. Feodora Butucel, member of precinct electoral bureau on behalf of PL, the mayor of Pripiceni – Răzeți village, Mr. Ciugui and the secretary of the mayoralty have assisted in the meeting of the precinct electoral bureau no. 31 when the chairperson, deputy chairperson and the secretary of the PEB were elected, influencing with their presence the decisions of the members.

8. Bălți municipality. During the session of the District Electoral Council on 17.07.09, the members discussed about the involvement of the public servants in actions of intimidation of PL representatives to the electoral bureaus of the polling stations. Mrs. Guza, PL representative informed that Mrs. Gratii (the head of education department in Bălți) obliged the schools' directors to control and prevent the activity of the teachers and their involvement in the work of the District Electoral Council. Thus, 14 teachers proposed by PI as party representatives to polling stations withdrawn their candidathship. Mrs. Serdiuc and Derevenco were accused of the same thing.

9. Rezina. On 18 July during a meeting with the villagers from Țâpova, Mrs. Serafima Borgan, ex MP on the PCRM list laid out public accusations against Veronica Covbasa of making electoral propaganda for PL. In reply; Mrs Veronica Cobasa stated that in fact she is member of AMN and not PI.

Intimidation of citizens

1. Ștefan Vodă district. In the village Olănești, the leader of the Agricultural Association "Nistru" Iurie Tulei, also PCRM representative stated during the meeting with the members of the association that the association will be destroyed unless they vote for PCRM. Also, Tulei mentioned to the members: "If the democrats come, they will sell us to the Romanians, they will sell everything so that you shall vote for the communists ".

The councillor S. Arabadji from Ciorescu village, Chișinău, also threatened the villagers that unless voting the communists the village of Goian will be disconnected from water.

2. The students from the Military College from Ungheni have access only to the publications "Comunistul" and "Moldova Suverană". Last week they were gathered in the meeting room and were asked to watch the film „Attack on Moldova”.

3. Drochia. To a great extent, the members of the precinct electoral bureaus do not have special training in organizing the electoral process. Moreover, they have been included in the composition of the bureau without being even informed. As a consequence, the precinct electoral bureau no. 14 held 4 sessions devoted to the modification of the bureau's composition. According to Dina Nedorea, she was included in the composition of the bureau without her consent.

4. Ștefan Vodă. The administrator of "La Aneta" market from Ștefan Vodă obliged the vendors to wear t-shirts and caps with PPCD inscriptions during their working programme.

Electoral gifts

1. Cantemir. On 18 July 2009, at 12:00 the people older than 63 were invited for a lunch in the restaurant Izvoraş.
2. Drochia. Zinaida Greceanii took part in the opening of the radiological cabinet where a digital radiological apparatus offered by the Moldovan Government was installed. In Rîşcani, Zinaida Greceanii took part in the opening of a Healthcare Centre.
3. During a meeting in Dubasarii Vechi, the acting president V. Voronin promised to the villagers to settle all their problems (supplying with water for the irrigation purpose, reparation of the schools and roads) only if PCRM gets 80% of the votes.
4. PCRM in the person of the Minister of Defence, Vitalie Vrabie, distributes financial assistance to children in the recreation children camps "Pro Armonie " from Ungheni (1800 lei) and "Codreanca" from Corneşti (10000 lei and a trip to Chişinău).
5. AMN representatives filed a complaint to the District Electoral Council (CER) related to the electoral publicity of PCRM placed in all buses circulating on the itinerary Chişinău-Ialoveni. At its session on 10.07.09 CER has investigated the complaint and took no decisions on it. CER disposes a document stating that the electoral publicity is allowed only at the bottom side of the buses and only with the approval of the police. It was found out that there were at the moment 43 approvals issued by the head of the traffic police from Ialoveni Iarovoi Ruslan.
6. Căuşeni. On 19 July 2009, Munteanu Iurie, deputy minister of economy, Munteanu Nicolae and Grigoriev Ştefan, PCRM candidates held a meeting with the voters from the villages Tănătari and Tănătarii Noi. PCRM candidates have promised to contribute to the reparation of the fence of the local kindergarten and called the voters to vote for PCRM – the only party able to ensure the pensioners with pensions and the teachers and educators with salaries. The PCRM representative responsible for the organisation of elections in the district, Antoşiev Ion also the head of the veterinary service of the district, went to the meeting by the office car. During the meeting, the forester Munteanu Nicolae recognised that he attends the meetings driving his office car, because he does not have his own.
7. Carapirea Pavel, judge in the district court Basarabeasca and PCRM representative provided on 18 July free transportation for 50 persons to the Căpriană Monastery.
8. Several goods and pieces of furniture were offered to the kindergarten of the village Tănătarii Noi, Căuşeni which does not function long ago. The head of education department of the district A. Toderaşcu explained that the purpose of the action was to open a pre-school group within the local gymnasium. PCRM representatives, Munteanu Iurie and Grigoriev Ştefan, present in the meeting remarked that in spite of the offered gifts, the villagers received them in an aggressive way. During the same meeting Munteanu Iurie and Grigoriev Ştefan named Mr. Urecheanu, AMN leader and Mr. Ciontolo, chairperson of Căuşeni district, "robbers and bandits".

Voters' lists

1. Șoldănești. Due to the detected errors, CEC rejected the voters' lists from Șoldănești which were presented by the local administration. In this context, we can mention that in three days, LADOM short-term observer detected over one hundred irregularities in the lists.

2. Șoldănești: 5 deceased persons, more than 20 persons who do not live in the locality long ago are still included in the lists. Two cases when persons are not included in the lists, although living for a long time in the area.

3. Rezina. On 20 July the short-term observers from Rezina district found out that the voters' lists were not posted for public scrutiny in any of the polling stations. The representatives of the electoral bureaus motivated that there are too many lists for a small space allotted to them. The observers informed the head of the District Electoral Council Zinaida Scurtu on the situation and the next week all the lists were posted.

4. Edineț. In the villages of the district the situation on 18 July is as follows: in 37 polling stations the lists are posted within the mayoralties (in the office of the secretary, on the corridor). The lists are not posted on special places, because of the lack of space. The lists in the most of cases are sewn. The access of the people for verification purpose is ensured. In the town of Edineț, the villages Alexăndreni and Gordineștii Noi the lists are not posted at all, because all the lists are kept in the mayoralty.

5. Soroca. The voters' lists were inserted on the mayoralty webpage. The tenants from the house no. 76 from the Calea Balțiului str. have verified on their own initiative the correctness of the lists. It was found out that about 40% of the information in the lists does not correspond to reality. Many persons who never lived on that address were registered in the lists, persons deceased 4-5 years ago were still included, many persons living for a long time on that street could not be found in the lists.

As regards the correctness of the lists, the verification process goes on. According to the observers, the number of errors in the cities is much bigger than in the villages. For example, the family Pleșca from Drochia (4 persons) were all registered in the lists of another polling stations than that they usually vote at. Moreover, the daughter lives for a long time in Chisinau, but she is still included in the lists. The children of the neighbours, Rusu Tatiana and Rusu Nicolae are also included in the lists of another polling station (polling station no. 6)

6. In the lists of the polling station no. 7 the Rusu family was included once again (including the children).

7. The family Furtună from Drochia were also included in two lists (according to the old and new address), the same polling stations no. 6 and 7. Similar errors were found at almost every address.

Involving children in the electoral campaign

1. During the meeting on 19.07.2009 of the PCRM candidates Munteanu Iurie, deputy minister of economy and Grigoriev Ștefan with the voters in Tănătari village, the candidates were accompanied by several children wearing red t-shirts who were distributing PCRM electoral materials. Among them: Ilișov Andrei, Malcocean Leonid, Bogoroș Alexandru, pupils of the XIth grade from the general school of Cîrnățeni village.

2. Representatives of some religious confessions implement an educational project in the recreation children camp "Ghiocel" from the village Cîrnăţeni, Căuşeni district. The aim of the project is the study of the English language and gaining computer skills. The beneficiaries of the project are 100 children, including 40 minor children. The main priest of the camp is Mr. Vasile Filat, the cousin of PLDM leader. The daily programme of the children includes 2-3 hours of English and computer and several hours of religion. In his sermons, Vasile Filat denigrated several electoral contestants, in particular Mr. Chirtoacă. The parent found out about the involvement of the children in politics and took their children away from the camp.

Differentiated treatment for electoral contestants

1 On 17.07.09. The PCRM candidate Eugenia Ostapciuc held a meeting with voters in the office of the mayor of Tătărauca Veche village. Before the meeting, they have laid down flowers at the Lenin monument in the yard of the mayoralty. The other contestants did not have the same possibility of organising meetings in the mayor's office and they took place in the markets, shops, etc.

4. In Comrat town there are many electoral materials pasted up on the electric posts (the post in the crossroad of Lenin and Gherasimova street there are posters of Mr. Lupu and others). The PCRM posters are pasted up on shops (ex. Orange shop on Lenin str.), on electric posts all over the town. In Svetlii locality there are electoral posters of the Democratic Party on all electric posts, in the village Besalma electoral materials of PCRM were stuck on the doors of the cars which provide funeral services.

5. According to the information of the observer from Ştefan Vodă, the local TV and the district newspaper "Prier" are exclusively used for PCRM and PPCD propaganda as the directors of these two media institutions are members of the Communists Party.

6. On 18 July 2009, at 10.00, the CONTACT Centre and the Youth National Council organized in the cultural house of Ştefan Vodă public debates with the participation of the electoral contestants. Only representatives of PLDM, PD and PL accepted the invitation for debates. The representatives of the local administration have ignored the event and are usually involved only in activities organised by PCRM and PPCD.

7. Cimişlia district. Some members of the precinct electoral bureaus have been excluded from the composition of the bureaus on political reasons. For example, the teacher Arama Ana was excluded from the composition of the bureau of the polling station no. 7 from Cimişlia, because according to PCRM representative, Petru Bancov, "during classes she speaks what she shouldn't".

8. Cimişlia district. PL and PLDM representatives in the bureaus of the polling stations are for the first time involved in this kind of activity and have not been appropriately trained. Some members of the bureaus nominated by PL were hardly accepted by the mayors of Sagaidac and Ecaterinovca villages.

9. Basarabeasca town. On 18 July 2009 the AMN leader S. Urecheanu had a meeting with voters in the cultural house. On 16.00 S. Urecheanu was welcomed by a group of persons carrying placards in his address "this is not a place for Urechean ", "Urechean - Basarabeasca does not want you".

10. Rezina district. On 19 July the meeting of PLDM with the voters from Meșeni village was tergiversated due to administrative reasons. Although Olaru Nicolae, PLDM representative in Rezina, submitted to the mayoralty a request for the rent of the office, the room was closed. After a short time, the door was opened, but there were no tables or chairs in the room. All the chairs were stored in another room. At the same time, the mayor of the village, Maria Zaharia, was advising the people in the church not to go for the meeting. When coming to the mayoralty and being asked to provide the organisers with chairs, she riposted: "How many chair did you bring to this mayoralty?". The son of the administrator of the cultural house brought the keys of the room where the chairs have been stored but he was prevented to open it by the brother of the mayor Ilie Mereacre.

Unloyal treatment towards the observers

1. Șoldănești. PLDM representatives intimidated the driver of LADOM observer in order to find out about his political affiliations and tried to convince him that his party is the best candidate in elections.

2. Village Tomai, on 20 July the observers Dobрева Natalia and Allamuradova Tatiana were verifying the voters' lists of the polling station no. 63 which is placed within the mayoralty. At about 14:00 the mayor of the village entered the polling station and accused the observers of working for the communists and for Moldova. He offended the observers and took the voters' lists off their hands and went in his office. Besides this, he was interfering in the activity of the electoral bureau of the polling station continuing offending the observers. The chairperson of the electoral bureau was very open for cooperation from the very beginning, but the simple fact that she could not interfere in the created situation, shows that she works under the pressure of the mayor who makes use of his working status, and cannot deal with the situation independently.

3. Chișinău. The observer delegated to the polling station no. 1/103 was intimidated by the police. Two police officers, Sergiu Crivenco and Vitalie Cimiș, dressed in civilian, and one police officer wearing a uniform who did not identified himself, retained LADOM observer Lilian Măntăluță. The police officers forced him into the police car with the matriculation no. T673AM Woltsvagen to bring him to the police station. After several minutes of driving along the city, several intimidations and warning not to go interviewing the people, the police let him free without drafting any administrative document on the retention.

4. Cahul. Members of the District Electoral Council Cahul nominated by PCRM are the subordinates of the electoral contestants at their working place. For example, Adîrova Ana and Cășuneanu Daniela, employees of the Cahul Territorial Agency of the Medical Insurance Company are the subordinates of Mr. Batîr, active member of PCRM and deputy chairperson of the District Council; Boitan V. and Caltea T., employees of Cahul -Gaz, are under the subordination of Mr. Bratu, active member of PCRM, ex mayor and chairperson of the District Council.