

Strasbourg, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018

## **ALDA calls upon Moldovan authorities to act democratically Only independent local authorities and democratic elections will drive the country's development**

Videos filming policemen violently dispersing a peaceful manifestation of Moldovan citizens during the country Independence Day celebration on 27<sup>th</sup> August in Chişinău show a blatant paradox.

Citizens, activists, and opposition claim the current government is deeply corrupted, not willing to find the sum of one billion dollar stolen from the state budget, and eagerly walking the path of decreasing democracy.

ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy, strongly condemns the use of strength against peaceful citizens. We call upon Moldovan authorities to:

- Respect citizens freedom of speech and assembly;
- Avoid simultaneous, conflicting manifestations, which could lead to violent escalations. Authorities should always put at the first place the life and wellbeing of the people they represent;
- Ensure that the Parliamentary elections which will be held in 6 months will be free, fair, and democratic;
- Guarantee the independence of local authorities, genuine drivers of community development.

We call upon the international authorities to take a stand for legality and democracy in the country.

Once more, ALDA and the Local Democracy Agency of Moldova in Cimişlia reaffirm their readiness to support Moldovan authorities, and offer their expertise in Local Democracy gained during 20 years of experience working in about 40 countries.

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