



**Mr Thobjørn Jagland**  
Secretary General  
Council of Europe

Brussels, 02 April 2012  
Our Ref: B1171

Dear Secretary General,

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BRIEFING:  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMBATING TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT IN MOLDOVA**

On 3 April, in Chisinau, Amnesty International will launch the briefing *Unfinished Business: Combating Torture and Ill-treatment in Moldova*. Please find attached an advance copy of the briefing, which is under embargo until 3 April.

The briefing updates previous reports we have produced on torture and other ill-treatment in Moldova, and examines actions by the Moldovan authorities to address human rights violations committed by police in April 2009 following the election demonstrations. It analyses underlying systemic problems exposed by those traumatic events which facilitate torture and other ill-treatment in Moldova.

As a state which is party to both the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Moldova has committed itself to eradicating torture and other ill-treatment. However, continuing impunity for violations perpetrated during the April 2009 events demonstrates that recent changes to legislation and practice have not gone far enough.

We propose several recommendations to help Moldova overcome the problem of impunity for human rights violations by the police and to fulfill its international human rights obligations. We particularly call for improved safeguards for detainees including obligatory medical examination on arrival at all places of detention, and a reduction in police detention from 72 to 48 hours. As a measure to combat impunity, we urge the authorities to consider establishing a fully-resourced independent agency to investigate all allegations of human rights abuse by the police.

In view of the support to reform that you have expressed at the occasion of Nicolae Timofti's election as new Moldovan President, we hope you will find an opportunity to discuss with the Moldovan authorities the urgent need to combat impunity for torture and other ill-treatment effectively. We stand ready to provide any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Nicolas J. Beger  
Director