

HUMAN RIGHTS EMBASSY

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Human Rights Embassy

“Front Line Defenders Security Grant” Project

NARRATIVE REPORT

(March – May 2012)

Project title: "Front Line Defenders Security Grant"

Financing authority: Front Line Defenders, Dublin, Ireland

Beneficiary: Human Rights Embassy (Ambasada Drepturilor Omului)

Contact details of the applicant:

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Narrative report

With support from the Front Line Defenders Security Grants Program, Human Rights Embassy has successfully implemented the project and managed to procure two safes for our office.

First of all we decided to apply to the Front Line Defenders Security Grants' program to support one of our projects. In January 2012 Human Rights Embassy has started to undertake research on adoptive families in the Republic of Moldova. During the project “Psycho-social necessities of families adopting children in the Republic of Moldova” we obtained from government authorities information about foster families. According to the respective legislation we are obliged to store all information related to the research three years, while dissemination of original data on concrete adoption cases is punished

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under Criminal Law by Article 204, "Divulgence of the secret of adoption". But our organization's office did not have any security system installed through which precious documents could be protected. In the middle of June Human Rights Embassy successfully implemented the abovementioned project and with support from the Front Line Defenders managed to guarantee for the safekeeping of confidential information, be it for the present study or for our other activities in general.

Under the project Front Line Defenders Security Grant approved funding for:

- 1) a burglary-proof iron cabinet of the RESOURCE series ("ARA" safe), and 2) an iron door, model LIBERTY, which provides also fire protection.

But the owner of the office that we rent was against the dismantling of the existing doors and the installation of a new iron door, according to our project. In addition, because the door had to be bought for a grant, it must always remain on the balance of our organization. Accordingly, in the future, after a while, in the event of a change of office or office expansion, we would have to uninstall the newly installed anti-theft door, and transport and install it in a new office. The present landlord was against such changes. His main argument was that he was pleased with his door and that does not want to be without doors after our departure, as the current door could not be removed without damage.

In this regard, Human Rights Embassy asked Front Line Defenders to consider the possibility of diverting the cost of the door for the purchase of another burglar- and fire-proof safe, which will be used for the preservation of documents of special importance. Given the fact that our lawyers and attorneys deal with strategic litigation in very serious and high-profile cases, including in the Transnistrian region, there was already a need for such a high-quality safe.

Front Line Defenders kindly offered this opportunity to our team. The safe, for the purchase of which we asked for Front Line Defenders permission, can be seen following the link: <http://www.araseif.md/index.php/ru/component/jshopping/category/view/29?start=24>. The cost of the safe ЛУКА BNS 2T-2E is 19 251 MDL. The company offered bigger discount so the cost of the safe and its installation did not exceed the cost of procuring and installing the door, which was firstly approved by Front Line Defenders Security Grants Program.

We believe that the project will help to implement and guarantee for the safekeeping of confidential information for our human rights activities in the framework of «Lawyers – Human Rights Ambassadors» Program as well. This program includes among other human rights projects two projects which will lead strategic litigation as part of advocacy process.

«Putting Rights into Practice. Just satisfaction for victims of human rights violations» Project aims to advocate for just satisfaction/adequate compensation for victims of human rights violations through strategic litigation in three categories of cases, as well as through the improvement of national legislation in terms of compensation and of independent forensic examinations. The project will work on an adequate compensation in cases of torture, domestic violence and medical errors/malpractice. It will also develop recommendations for changes and additions to existing legislation in Moldova on compensation, as well as create exceptions to the state monopoly in forensic expertise (victims of

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torture, domestic violence, medical errors), and partially the recognition of the status as evidence of other medical documents in court.

«Strategic litigation in the UN Human Rights Committee» Project consists of working with lawyers which are selected to the Electronic Human Rights Education for Lawyers course. The project intends to prepare and submit a complaint to the UN Committee on Human Rights. The goal of the project is to raise awareness and to facilitate the use of international mechanisms to protect human rights in Moldova apart from the ECHR. Attorneys and plaintiffs from Moldova use only one international human rights mechanism - the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). It is known that the ECHR is overloaded with cases and complaints; leading sometimes to waiting times of 7 years or more. However, at the international level, there are other mechanisms for the protection of human rights that are available to the Republic of Moldova, but not yet used. However, until now, the UN Committee on Human Rights has not made any decision on complaints of Moldova, which is likely due to the fact that the Committee received no complaints against Moldova. This is primarily due to a lack of knowledge that this path is available and how to use it. Also, the CHR jurisprudence is practically unknown in the RM. A distance learning course for lawyers would help to fill this gap for the participating lawyers, as the course will address the topic of UN human rights standards, jurisprudence and procedures of the Committee. Therefore, by a distance course, we are encouraging participating lawyers in the pursuit of strategic cases affair and instruct them in the preparation and filing of complaints with the Committee. These activities will be guided and commented on by national and international experts in the field of human rights. Thus, the lawyers will have opportunities to apply in practice their knowledge acquired during the course. Also, in the future this will help to relieve the ECHR and will to faster obtain justice for victims of human rights violations in the RM.

We thank the Front Line Defenders Security Grants Program for the generous support and are convinced that the implemented project and procurement of two safes for our office will serve as a valuable tool for guarantee for the safekeeping of confidential information for all our human rights activities. We expect having burglary-proof iron cabinet and safe for documents will increase confidence both in partner organizations as well as in prospective victims of human rights violations, knowing we can guarantee to protect the confidentiality of our clients.

Financial Report to the Project is in Annex № 1.

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Annex № 1. Financial Report to the “Front Line Defenders Security Grant” Project

	Model	Source	No of units	Price MDL	Exchange rate	Costs (€)	Estimated budget MDL
Procurement of the safe	Safe “RESOURCE” RSE/1930/K	http://www.arasafe.com/rus/resour	1	15074,60	14,90	1011,72	15074,60
Installation of the safe	Safe “RESOURCE” RSE/1930/K	http://www.arasafe.com/rus/services	1	807,50	14,90	54,20	807,40
Procurement of the safe	Safe ЛУКА BNS 2T-2E	www.araseif.md/index.php/ru/component/jshopping/category/view/29?start=24	1	17499,90	14,90	1174,50	16815
Installation of the safe	Safe ЛУКА BNS 2T-2E	www.araseif.md/index.php/ru/component/jshopping/category/view/29?start=24	1	0	0		1710
Total				33382	14,90	2240,42	MDL - 34407 EUR - 2251
Balance				MDL = 34407 – 33382 = 1025 EUR = 2251 - 2240,42 = 10,58			