

**ZIUA, the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2004**

**Gregorian Bivolaru accuses the authorities of having abused him**

The spiritual leader of MISA has denounced in a BBC interview the abuses of the authorities and he accused the “highly” brutal treatment he underwent as well as the followers of the Movement for Spiritual Integration in the Absolute. There has been a similar attitude of Madalina Dumitru’s, the minor initially pictured as Bivolaru’s victim. She accused the prosecutors of intimidating and aggressing her and finally forcing her to sign the accusations against the spiritual leader of MISA. The problem is quite serious. It is unclear why the authorities had the minor pass a gynecologic examination. What could they have got out of this? They could have put her under a psychiatric examination, but not by force, anyway. Also, it’s unacceptable for the authorities to have left Madalina go away. According to the law she should have been entrusted to her family or to the tutor authorities. Her mother waited to get her daughter back but she could never find her.

As concerns the house searched of March, Gregorian Bivolaru stated: “Let me give you an example. The very moment this search started, those who came to my house did not invite me there, they broke the door, performed the search in my absence and meanwhile I was called to the Police, apparently in order to have my ID card checked. Then, my flat was terribly devastated. (...) We would be glad if these abuses stopped for good and the yoga practitioners in Romania were left alone.”

When asked if he is going to sue the Prosecutor’s Office, the Police and the civil servants of the Nadlac border point, Bivolaru gave a surprising answer: “No, I am not going to do that, as I have a kind attitude, I understand them, maybe they have been over-zealous (...) I do want to defend myself, this is why I required the assistance of my lawyers, but beside this I don’t want to get even on these people, as in such circumstances maybe it was their ignorance and their exceeding zeal that made them act in this way.”

On the other hand, the minor, who was presented in the beginning as the victim of Gregorian Bivolaru, accuses the prosecutors of abuses. Here we are giving the full statement that Madalina Dumitru has made in a video recording available on the MISA web page:

“They started to intimidate me. At one time, one of them told me that unless I say everything they want me to, they would not let me go home and they even started to threaten me. They said that unless I say what they wanted me to say they would pull my hair and they even did so at one time. While this one was asking questions, I didn’t want to answer some of them, the one behind me pulled my hair back and said he wouldn’t let go until I say. And he kept pulling my hair. And I started to cry. Finally, the prosecutor who was hearing me insisted and forced me, he said he would beat me unless I sign those statements, mine, the one I had written myself, and his, the one he had written by his hand, and I did that under pressure. It was out of fear that I put my signature on both statements.”

**Ioan Talpes: “The MISA scandal, an explosive media show”**

The State Minister Ioan Talpes said yesterday that mass media have turned the MISA case in an explosive show and he mentioned that he couldn’t realize whose interest that might serve. “It seems to me that all this scandal and show has been presented in an explosive area by the mass media. I think it’s a big stake to bring such cases to the public debate” Talpes declared. As he mentioned he had no information about MISA, the State Minister said that in this case the problem is “some tax avoidance, some fiscal fraud”. “The Prosecutor’s Office must have enough information to prove the grounds on which he had been detained (i.e. Gregorian Bivolaru) – I’ve been told that he has been released now – or the grounds on which this file was built” Talpes mentioned.