

European Network of (ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

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President Iliescu
D-lui Ion Iliescu, Excelenței Sale
Președintele României
Palatul Cotroceni, Bd. Geniului 1
76238 București, Romania

Re: Letter of Concern and Request for Urgent Action

Dear President,

On behalf of the European Network of (ex-)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP), a European umbrella of national organisations of people who have used or have been patients, inmates of psychiatric services, I am expressing my deepest concern on at the situation in the psychiatric hospital in Poiana Mare, where 17 patients have died so far this year.

ENUSP kindly and urgently asks for your help urging the government to take urgent measures to prevent further such deaths in the psychiatric hospital in Poiana Mare including the provision of adequate food, medical support, heating fuel, bedding and appropriate clothes for all the patients.

In order to prevent further tragic events, ENUSP considers that is necessary to establish a comprehensive and independent public inquiry into the situation in Poiana Mare hospital and other psychiatric hospitals, leading to concrete improvement in the care of patients.

In order to satisfy the international legal obligations of Romania, ENUSP urges you to make sure that a post-mortem investigation of the bodies of 17 patients held in the Poiana Mare hospital morgue, to establish the cause of death will be immediately ordered.

People living with psychiatric diagnoses, either in institutions or in the community, have the same human rights as any other citizens. It happens too often, in too many countries however that psychiatrically labelled citizens, especially those in institutions, cannot exercise and enjoy their fundamental freedoms and rights. In democratic societies citizen participation, the meaningful involvement of citizens with a personal experience as being patients in psychiatry and their organisations is one of the most effective way to prevent gross human rights violations in the field of psychiatry. ENUSP encourages you to support the organisations and movement of psychiatric (ex-)patients. ENUSP has always been open for working together with (ex-)users of psychiatric services from Romania. (Information about ENUSP in Romanian language is available in the internet on www.enusp.org/languages/romanian-index.htm)

Concluding my letter I express my genuine hope that you will help ending human rights abuses of psychiatric patients and promoting the involvement of (ex-)users of psychiatric services in every level of policy and decision making in issues relevant to them.

In the name of our chair Gábor Gombos

Sincerely Yours

Peter Lehmann

(Peter Lehmann, Secretary of ENUSP)

Copies to Prime Minister D-lui Adrian Năstase, Prosecutor General Ilie Botoș,
Minister of Health D-lui Brinzan Ovidiu, Foreign Minister D-lui Mircea Geoană