

## **Biographical data: Mr. ZAHARIA Victor**

**Candidate of the Republic of Moldova to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture 2023-2026**

*Name and first name:* ZAHARIA Victor

*Date and place of birth:* 21/08/1978, Republic of Moldova

*Working languages:* English, Russian, French (basic knowledge), Romanian (native)

*Current position/function:*

**European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)**, member (2013-2017, 2022-present); National Legal Aid Council, Chairperson (2008-2016, 2020-present); Moldova State University, Law Department, university associate professor (2000-present).

*Previous positions/functions*

**UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)**, member (2013-2020), **vice-chair** (2017-2020); Institute for Penal Reform (2009-2018 Director, deputy Director 2001-2009).

*Main professional activities:*

**Monitoring visits to places of detention** (SPT, 2013-2020; CPT, 2013-2017; IRP, 2003-2018; OSCE 2011-2012; CoE 2018-2022); Coordination of **Penitentiary Reform Program** (IRP, 2001-2018); **Training NPM members, police and prison employees, medical doctors and forensic experts**, prosecutors, lawyers, judges **in torture prevention** (UNDP, 2005-2012, 2015-2022; CoE 2018-2022; NIJ 2021); **Drafting legislation / NPM regulatory frameworks**, Criminal Codes, Criminal Procedure Codes **on torture prevention in various countries** (with UNDP, CoE, SPT 2009-2022); **Performing evaluation and research**, expert in Criminal Justice and Human Rights with UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, OSCE, CoE, PRI, NHRIs, Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Internal Affairs, Prison Services, 2005-2022).

*Educational background:*

Moldova State University: **Doctor of Law** (2006), LLM (2001), university degree (2000); Specialized trainings: “**UN treaty monitoring bodies**”, Geneva, ISHR (2008); “**International Human Rights Training Program**”, Montreal, EQUITAS, (2008); “Client oriented defense in criminal proceedings”, UK, OSI (2007); “Education in prison”, Bergen, CoE (2005); “**International School on Protection of Human Rights**”, Warsaw, PHC (2001).

*Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:*

Preparation of **alternative reports to UN TBs** (UN CAT, 2003); Development, evaluation of human rights and **torture prevention programs** (Baseline Study on Preventing and combating Torture, Prisoners’ rights, Rights of children in custody, National Mechanisms of HR protection, Functioning of the local commission of monitoring places of detention, 2006-2022); **Monitoring** the activity of **NHRIs** (2008-2022); Monitoring implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy; Participation as **international expert, trainer, consultant** in more than 500 conferences, workshops in criminal justice and human rights (2001-2022).

*List of most recent publications in the field:*

**Baseline Study into Criminal Subculture in prisons** in the Republic of Moldova, CoE, 2018; **Psychological judicial evaluation of torture victims** in the Republic of Moldova, UNDP, 2015; **Methodology of documenting and reporting current country situation on torture and ill treatment**, 2014; **Personal security in prisons**, 2012; **Research on retainment in the Republic of Moldova**, 2011; **Baseline Study on Preventing and combating Torture in Moldova**, UNDP 2010; **Monitoring report of Respect of the rights of the persons under pretrial arrest**, 2010; **Guide for Local Committees of monitoring Places of Detention**, UNDP 2010; **Compliance Committee. Guide for detainees and prison administration**, 2007.