

Princess Brianna H. CARADJA
ROMANIA

To : President BARACK OBAMA
Re : Foreign Policy/ Diplomacy

Mister President,

In the name of the Romanian citizens, I was asked by the association Alianta Romania Km 0, NGOs, and fellow citizens, to write a few lines and voice to you the people's concern regarding the activity of his Excellency Mark GITENSTEIN, US Ambassador to Romania.

As for myself, I am the granddaughter of Princess Catherine CARADJA (1893-1993), member of the Lafayette Order and recipient of the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation award, also known as "the angel of Ploiesti" by ex- American POWs (whom she called her "boys") in Romania during WW II. She was the one who confronted and put pressure on Nazi Germans to ensure the POWs would be kept in Romania, and were treated under her close watch (she brought them everything she could in order to ease their plight).

With this I introduce myself, but it also serves to show that we are not some kind of anti-American movement, to prevent anybody from discrediting us with such an argument.

I can assure you that we are proud to be a NATO member country, and an EU member. During the month of January 2012, spontaneous protests began in Bucharest as well as in other cities in Romania. The reason was triggered by the draft of a new Healthcare Law, but what kept people protesting up until these very days, is the profound corruption of most Romanian politicians.

What we want is a new political class, new people, a clean start, and we ask for the NGO's and the Romanian civil society's voice to be heard, and for their call to dialogue to be answered and treated with utmost respect.

The Romanian people were extremely surprised and offended when Mr. Gitenstein, after meeting with President Basescu, made the following public statement:

"The simple fact that people can exercise their God given right to have a different opinion without the fear of being shot from the roof tops is a sign of progress. If you have any doubt regarding this issue, just ask the citizens of Syria of their view on it."

Leaving aside the fact that we have much higher expectations from our democratic regime, the ambassador's observation came in the context of acts of extremely brutal repression by the military riot police, and outraged the Romanian people.

Moreover, it deeply offended the families who lost one or several members during the 1989 Revolution against Ceausescu's communist regime.

We expected him, if he felt such an urge to voice a concern, to express it for our trampled human rights!

Aside from this statement, Mr. Gitenstein gave other reasons for us to doubt his good intentions and the legitimacy of his presence in our country.

Mr. Gitenstein also made a series of statements that can be referred to as interference by :

- publicly supporting a political figure;
- naming his "choice" for the future Chief Prosecutor of the National Anti-Corruption Department (D.N.A.);
- lobbying for Chevron Corp. in the extremely controversial matter of shale gas, thus ignoring and offending the thousands that are petitioning and protesting against it, for very well documented environmental reasons.

It has also been brought to my attention that Mr. Gitenstein's record also gives us reasons for doubt. In 2009 he was considered one of the most likely to lead the Office of Legal Policy in the Department of Justice, but was rejected after public reports of his extensive work as a registered lobbyist for the US Chamber of Commerce.

He then interfered in Romania's Justice system by recommending the minister of Justice to keep Chief Prosecutor of the National Anti-Corruption Department, Daniel Morar, in office for a third mandate, a breach of law and democracy in itself.

We now turn to you and ask you to urge Mr. Gitenstein to revise his attitude or call him back. The tension between his Excellency and the Romanian people has deeply compromised his position in our country and it certainly does not do justice to USA's image in Romania.

Best regards, and wishing you well in the upcoming campaign,

Princess Brianna CARADJA



Asociatia Romania fara ei (Association Romania without them)

George EPURESCU, PhD
President



Adrian CIOBANU
Secretary General

