

## Refutation of a Biased Romanian News Report

I came across a very biased Romanian news item, on the Antena 3 web site, which pretends to be a presentation, with selective translation, of a New York Times news article on my protest:

[<<"New York Times" laudă autoritățile de la București pentru soluționarea cazului Ursu. >>](#)

Which means: "NYT praises the Bucharest authorities for resolving the Ursu case".

Sadly, this "news" item, starting from the title, does not reflect the meaning of the [New York Times report](#). It also contains a few false assertions (pretending to be translations from English):

Antena 3:

*"New York Times praises the Romanian authorities for the way in which they SOLVED the case of former dissident Gheorghe Ursu's death".*

Corrections:

1. Nowhere does the NYT report mention **"the solving"** of my father's death; it couldn't have done it anyway, for the simple reason that this case was **NOT solved**. The reopening of the investigation **does not mean, obviously, solving the case**.
2. NYT **does not praise at all** the Romanian authorities; **on the contrary, it laments the obstructions these authorities placed** on the investigations into the crimes of the Communist system in recent years, including in my father's case:

*"Bureaucratic delays, withheld documents, unresponsive officials, ... and the slow grinding of investigations and litigation — while victims, perpetrators and witnesses grow old and vanish — have created a growing sense that a full reckoning may never come... Why Romania has been so much more reluctant to uncover its past is explained, in part, by the way the country moved out of communism. ...with many of the former top officials surviving the transition and lingering in the government for years and decades... For more recent cases, like that of Mr. Ursu's father, it is even more difficult."*

3. The idea that NYT had **"praised"** the Romanian authorities is all the more absurd, as the article mentions, from the outset, that **"the government agreed to start a new investigation"** into my father's death only after a **"17-day hunger strike"**, and after **"years of delays and inaction"**.

Antena3:

*"After a discussion with Premier Victor Ponta..., the Chief Military Prosecutor gave Andrei Ursu documents from the dossier."*

Rectification:

1. This information **is nowhere to be found in the NYT article**.
2. **I have never had any discussion with premier Victor Ponta**; not before, not during, nor after the hunger strike.
3. The Chief Military Prosecutor **did not give me documents from the dossier**; I already had them. The originals were identified, upon my request, in court archives, and the courts were the ones which **gave the documents to the Chief Military Prosecutor, Ion Vasilache**, who only showed them to me for verification.

A sad and incomprehensible manipulation, particularly since Antena 3, through journalist Adrian Ursu, had supported the prosecution of my father's torturer, decrying the authorities' lack of response, including during my hunger strike protest.

Thank you

Andrei Ursu