

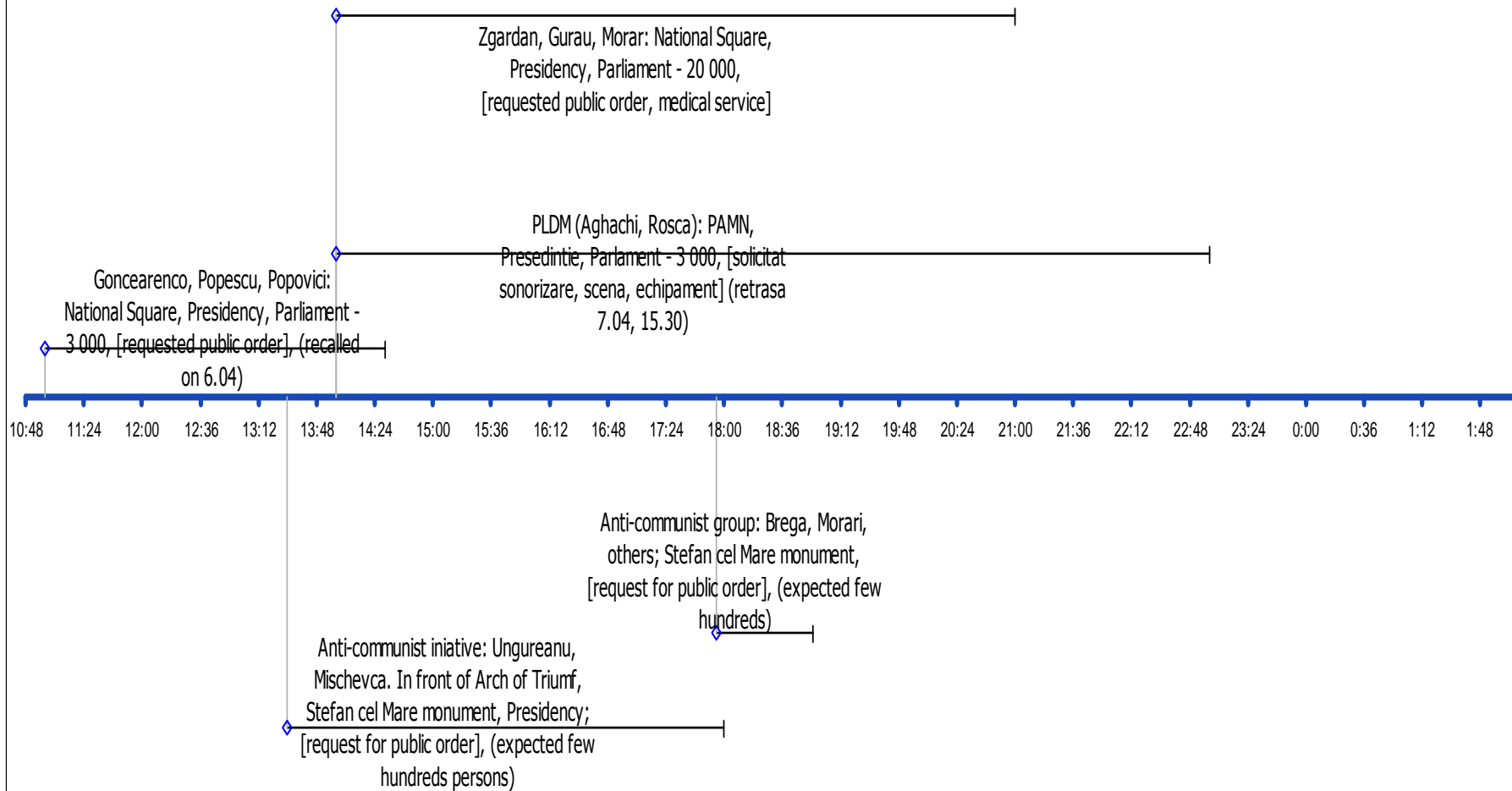
Resource Center for Human Rights (CReDO)

Account of demonstrations on 6-7 April 2009 in Moldova

Contents

- Demonstrations on 6 April 2009;
- Demonstrations on 7 April 2009 (PAMN-National Square, in front of Presidency and Parliament);
- Deconstruction of key events;
- Preliminary conclusions;
- Recommendations;
- Methodology;
- A comprehensive report is in progress.

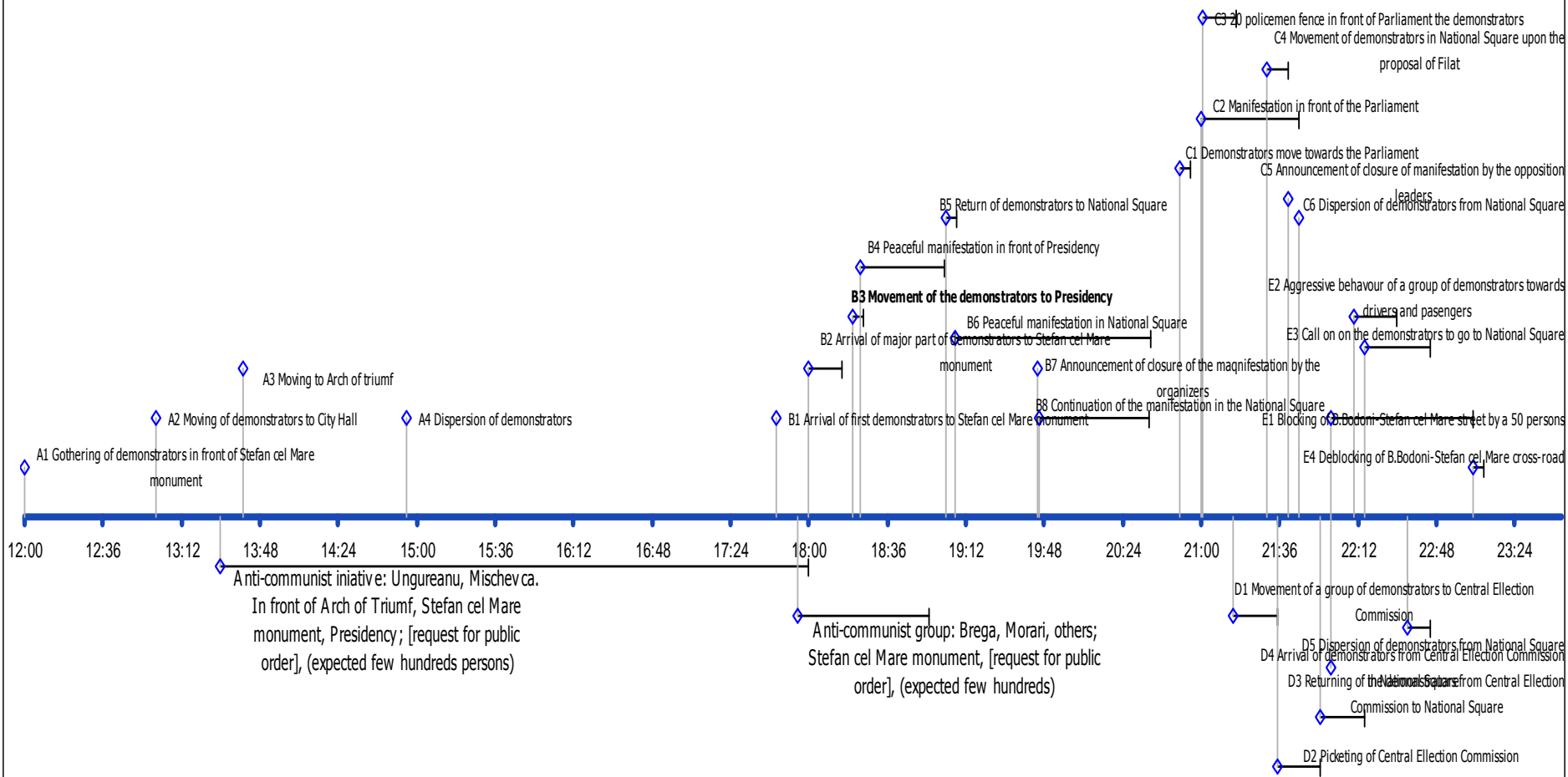
Notifications of assemblies: Chisinau City Hall 7.04 [upper part], 6.04 [lower part]



6 April 2009

- Demonstrations took place:
 - Chisinau City Hall,
 - Arch of Victory (part of National Square),
 - In front of Presidency,
 - In National Square (NS),
 - In front of Parliament,
 - In front of Central Electoral Commission (CEC).

Events 6 april 2009, notificatons [lower part], manifestations [upper part]



Findings -1: 6 April 2009

- Chisinau City Hall received 2 notifications,
- 1st notification placed by Anti-communist initiative: Ungureanu, Mischevca. For hours: 13.30-18.30, In places of: Arch of Triumpf, monument Stefan cel Mare, Presidency, Parliament, declared few hundreds of participants,
- 2nd notification placed by Anti-communist group: Brega, Morari, others, at monument Stefan cel Mare, asking public order, 17.30-18.30, few hundred persons,
- No sound equipment used

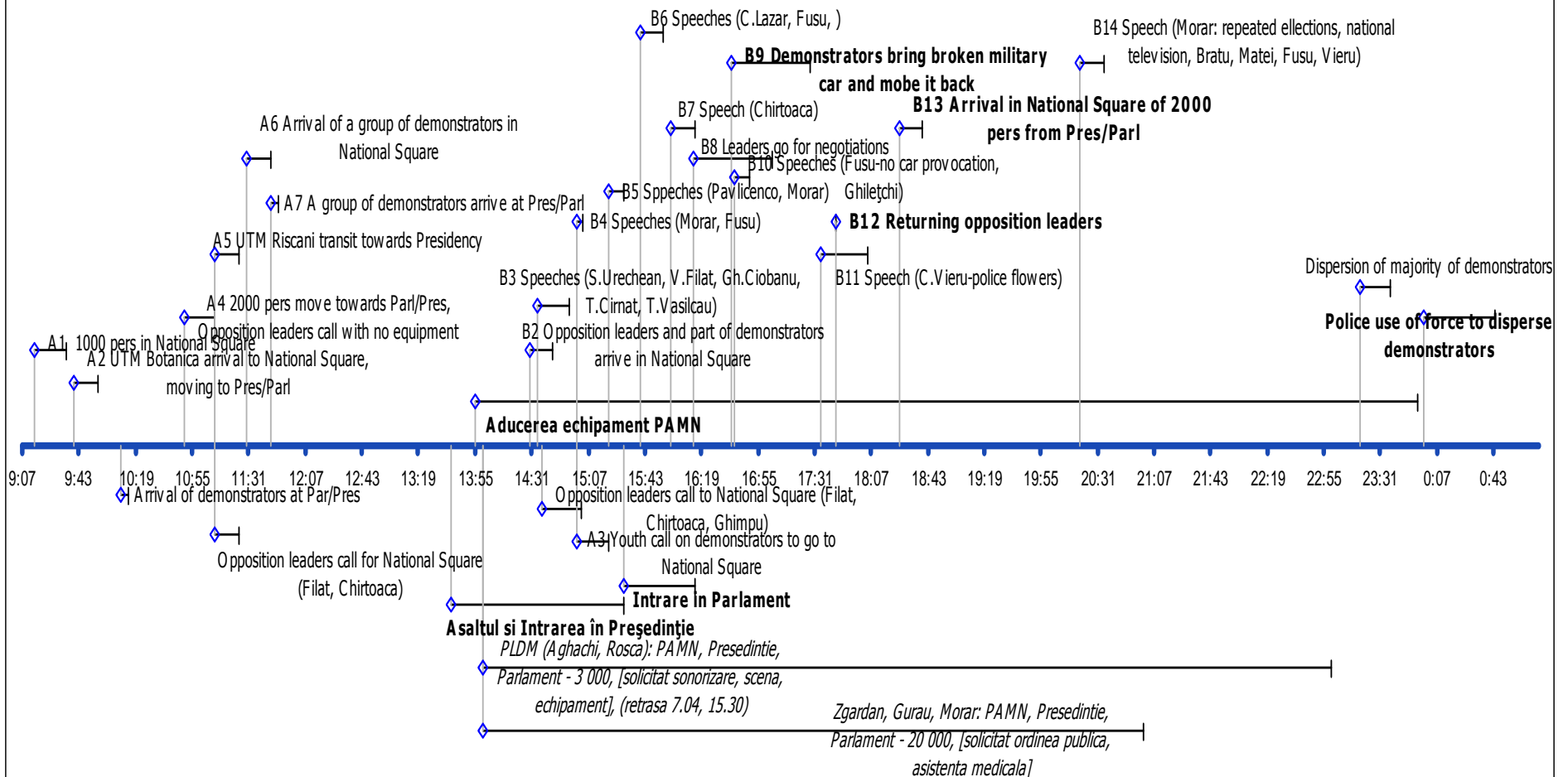
Findings-2: 6 April 2009

- ~12.00-15.00, 1st peaceful assembly by group of citizens (150 pers)
- ~18.00-21.00, 2nd peaceful assembly by political parties and citizens (4-5 000 pers)
- ~21.20-23.00, 3rd peaceful assembly by group of citizens (1 00 pers, and 1 000 pers to CEC),
- ~ 22.00 a group of aggressive persons of 50 blocked cross-road B.Bodoni-Stefan cel Mare,
- Police has not separated the aggressive persons from the rest of demonstrators.

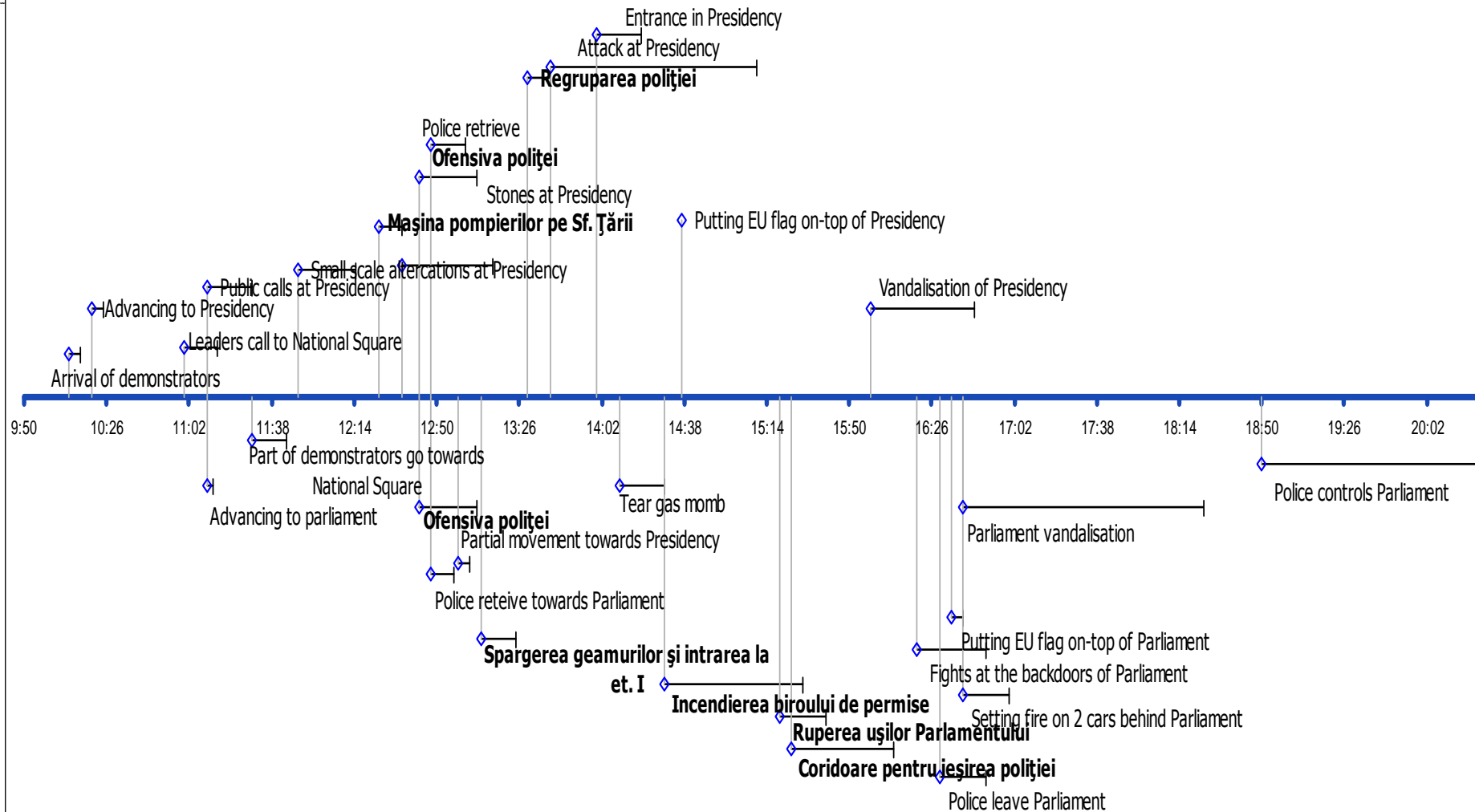
7 April 2009

- Demonstrations took place:
 - National Square (10.00-late in the night/morning 8 April) by political parties and various groups, (5-6 000 pers),
 - In the space between Parliament and Presidency (10.00-late in the night/morning 8 April), allegedly sporadic, (7-10 000 pers),
 - Movements of people between the two places due to the calls from the political parties and various groups, (~2 000 pers).

Events in National Square [upper part], Pres/Parl [lower part] (7 april 2009)



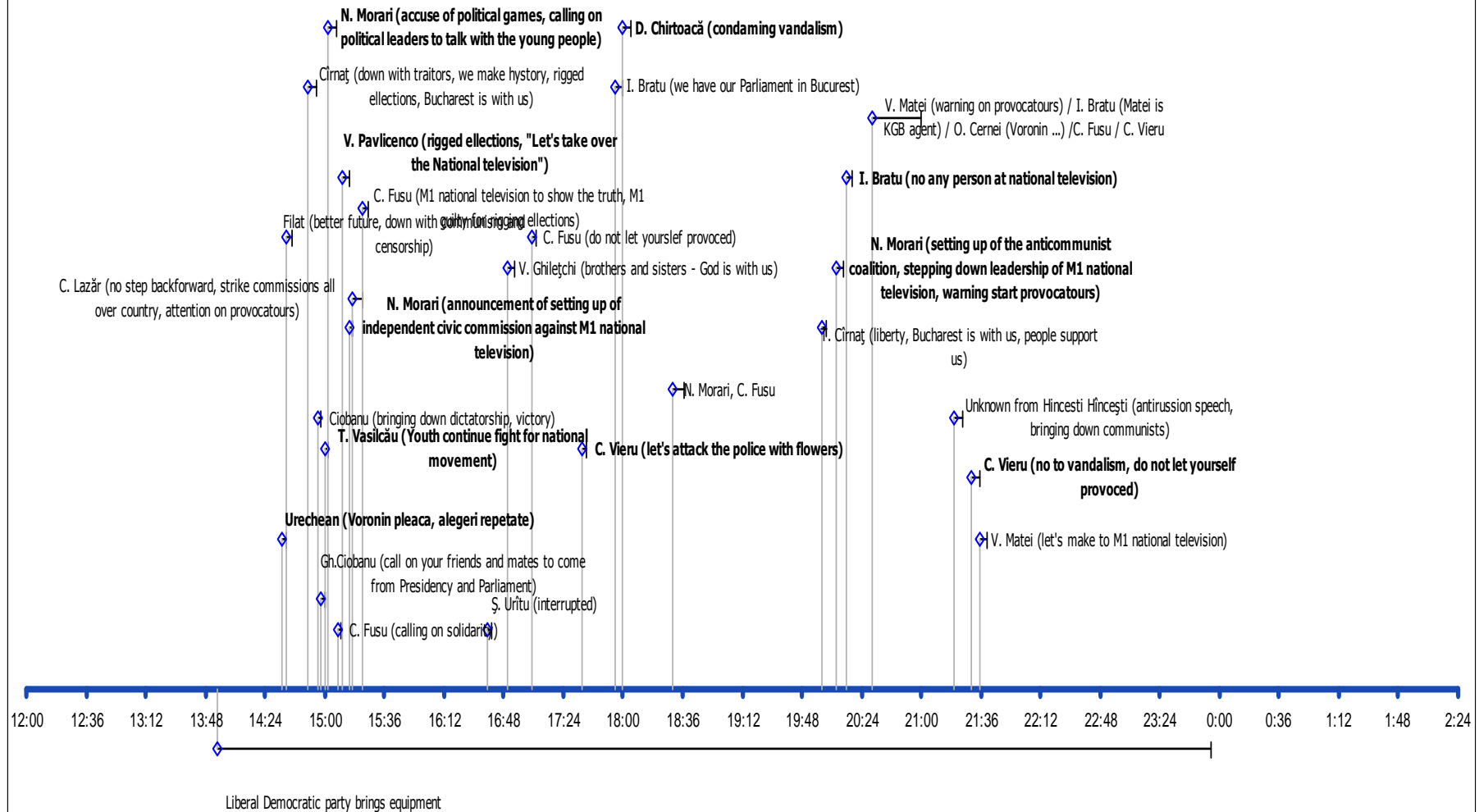
Events at Presidency [upper part] and Parliament [lower part], 7 april



Findings-1 [National Square]: 7 April

- ~9.30-10.50 gather approx 3 500 pers in National Square (no sound equipment),
- ~11.00-14.50 left approx 1 500 pers in National Square after departure of 2 000 to Presidency and Parliament,
- ~ 13.30 sound equipment brought, start speeches not managed and chaotic,
- ~15.00-18.00 gather approx. 5 000 pers, including 1 000 that came from Presidency and Parliament,
- ~ 18.30-19.30 gather approx. 7 000 pers,
- ~ after 20.00 decrease, to 22.00 left only 1 000 pers,
- ~ 1.30 (8 april) police dispersion by force

Public speeches in National Square, (7 april 2009)



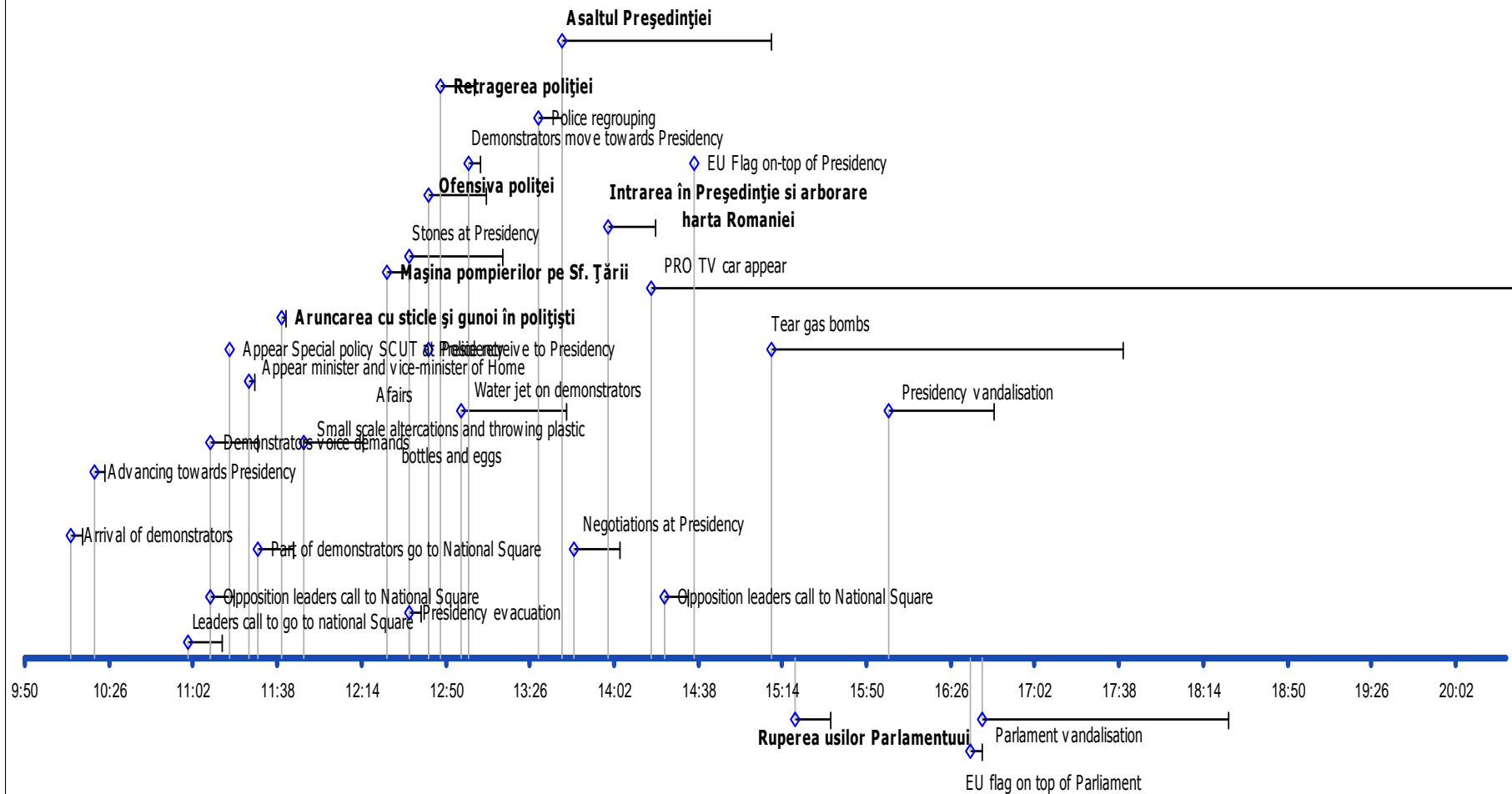
Findings-2 [Pres/Parl]: 7 april

- ~9.30-12.00 peaceful manifestation between Presidency and Parliament, not assumed by anybody
- ~12.00-12.30 mostly peaceful with some isolated violence, gradual escalation of violence on behalf of some aggressive elements,
- ~12.30-12.50 police offensive and retrieve with no use of force, aggressive elements on behalf of some violent demonstrators,
- ~> 13.00 manifestation transforms into violent by action of a segment of demonstrators, vandalism of building, police use no force.

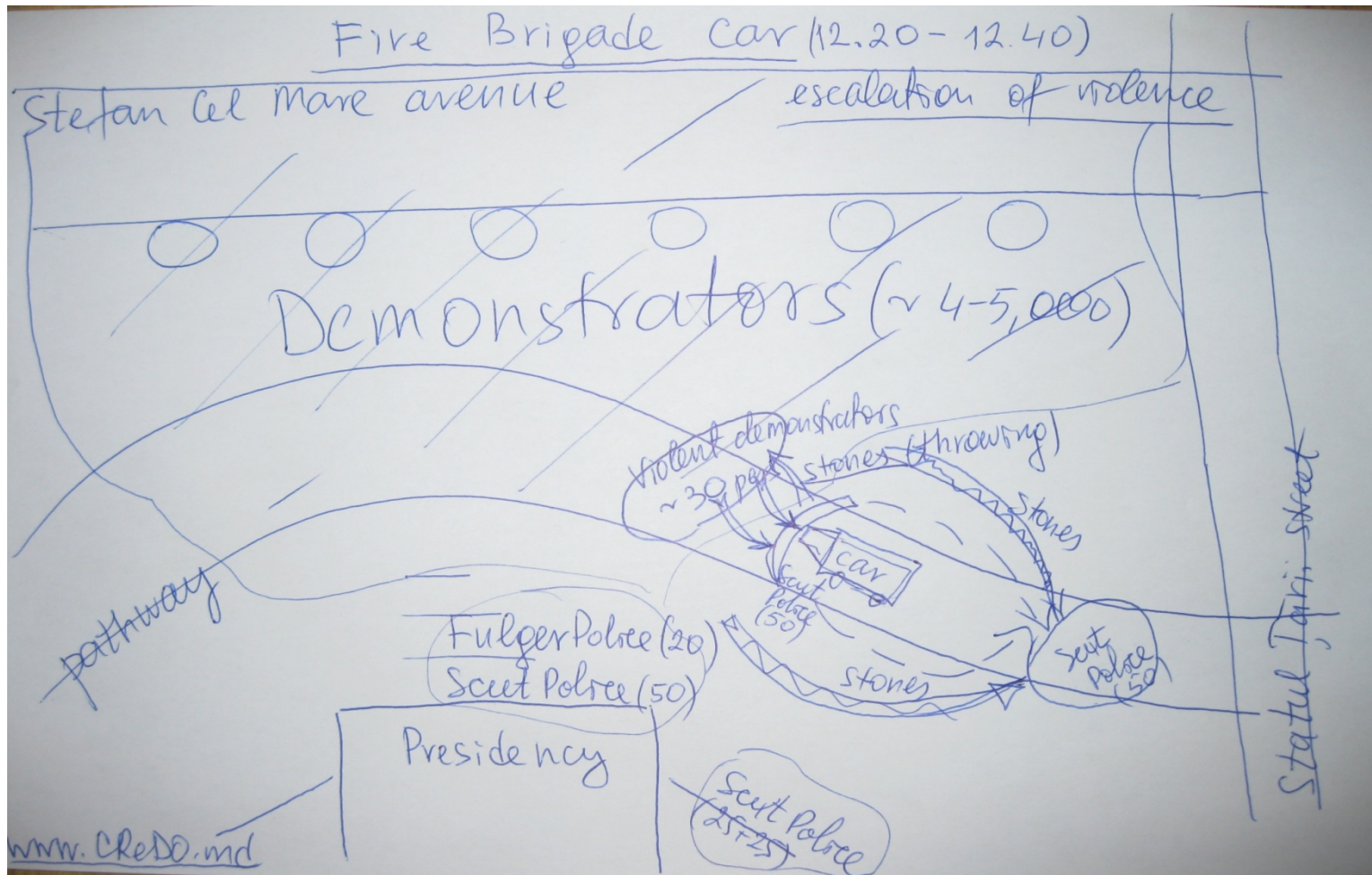
Findings-3 [Pres/Parl]: 7 April

- Key events to the violence escalation (detailed mapping follows):
 - 1. Absence of leadership of the demonstration and failure of communication between the manifestators and the police,
 - **2. Fire brigade car in front of President building,**
 - **3. Police offensive and retrieve, including into President and Parliament buildings,**
 - 4. Police leave President and Parliament buildings,

Events at Presidency, 7 april



Fire brigade car (12.20-12.40)



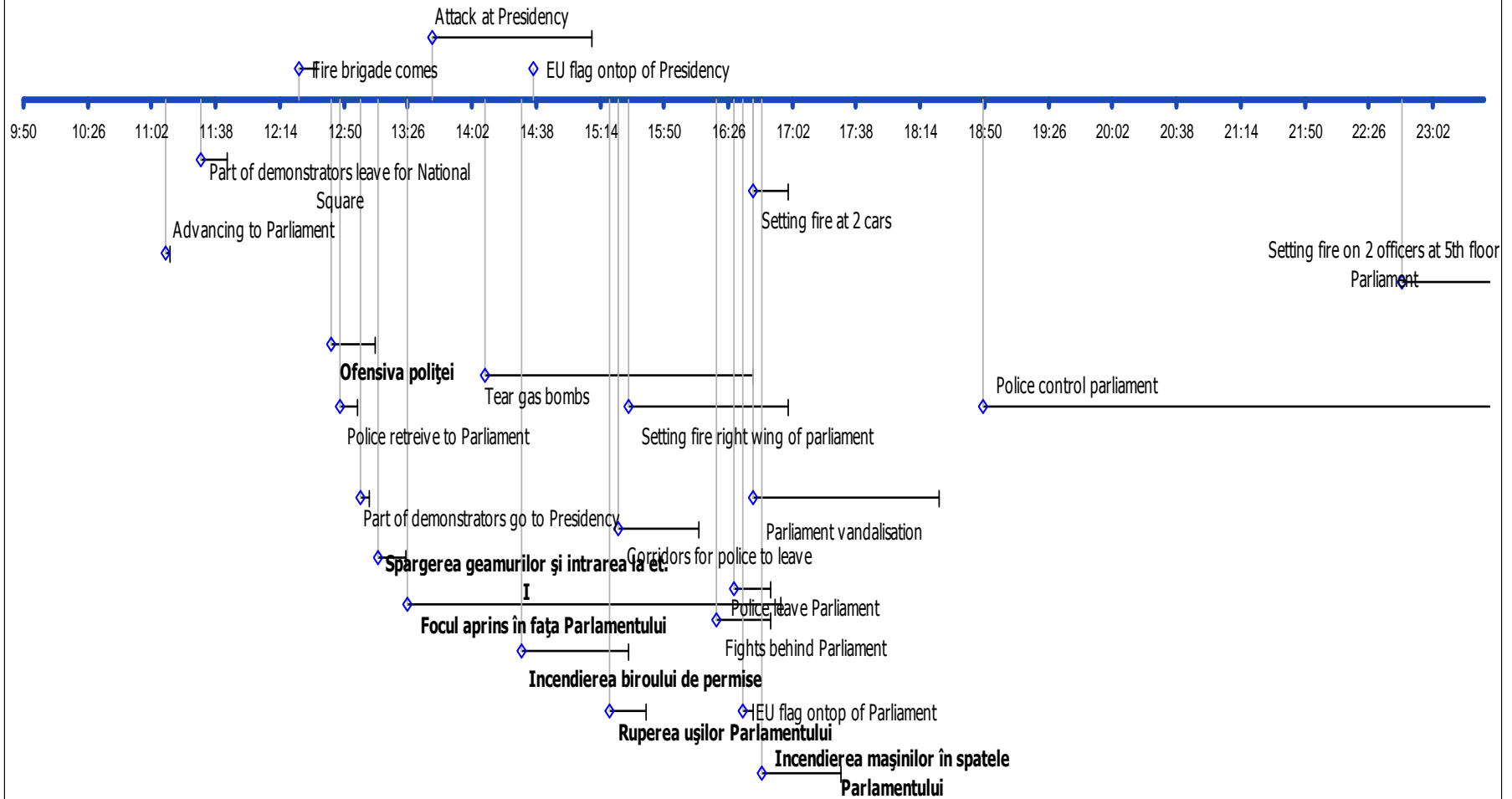
Key event analysis: Fire brigade

- Prior to the event, the violence has been sporadic and highly isolated,
- Peaceful manner prevailed largely over the violent elements,
- Fire brigade care escalated the violent elements, allowed domination over the peaceful elements of the demonstration, violent elements and behavior started to gain ground,
- Fire brigade car and police actions have allowed built-up of the violent elements confidence and emanation of aggressiveness, spreading the aggressive behavior from a mere small segment (20-30 pers) to larger (200 pers),
- Police force (more than 400) has always outnumbered the violent elements,
- **The event is close to the non-return to peacefulness point of the demonstration.**

Findings: 7 April, Presidency building

- ~9.30-11.40 Peaceful demonstration, advancing to President building,
- ~11.30 Ministry of Interior leadership appearance, some opposition political leaders call to go to National Square,
- ~12.00-12.50 first violent elements on behalf of some demonstrators,
- ~12.25 fire brigades car, violence excels,
- ~12.30-12.50 police offensive and withdrawal, violence on behalf of some demonstrators grows,
- ~12.50 violence, assault Presidency, police leave Presidency
- ~14.00 opposition political leaders – calls to National Square
- ~ 14.00 vandalism Presidency

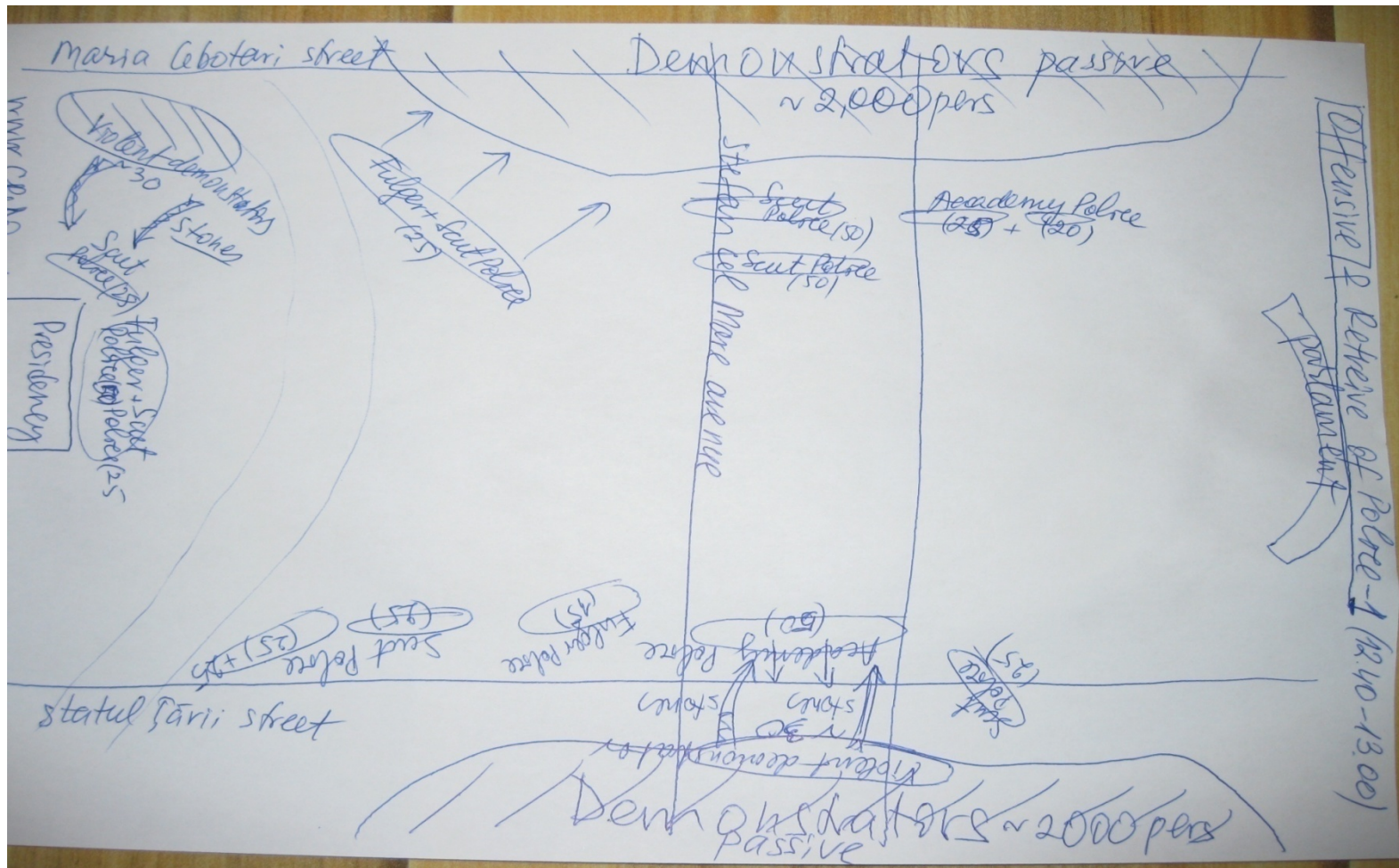
Events at Parliament, 7 april



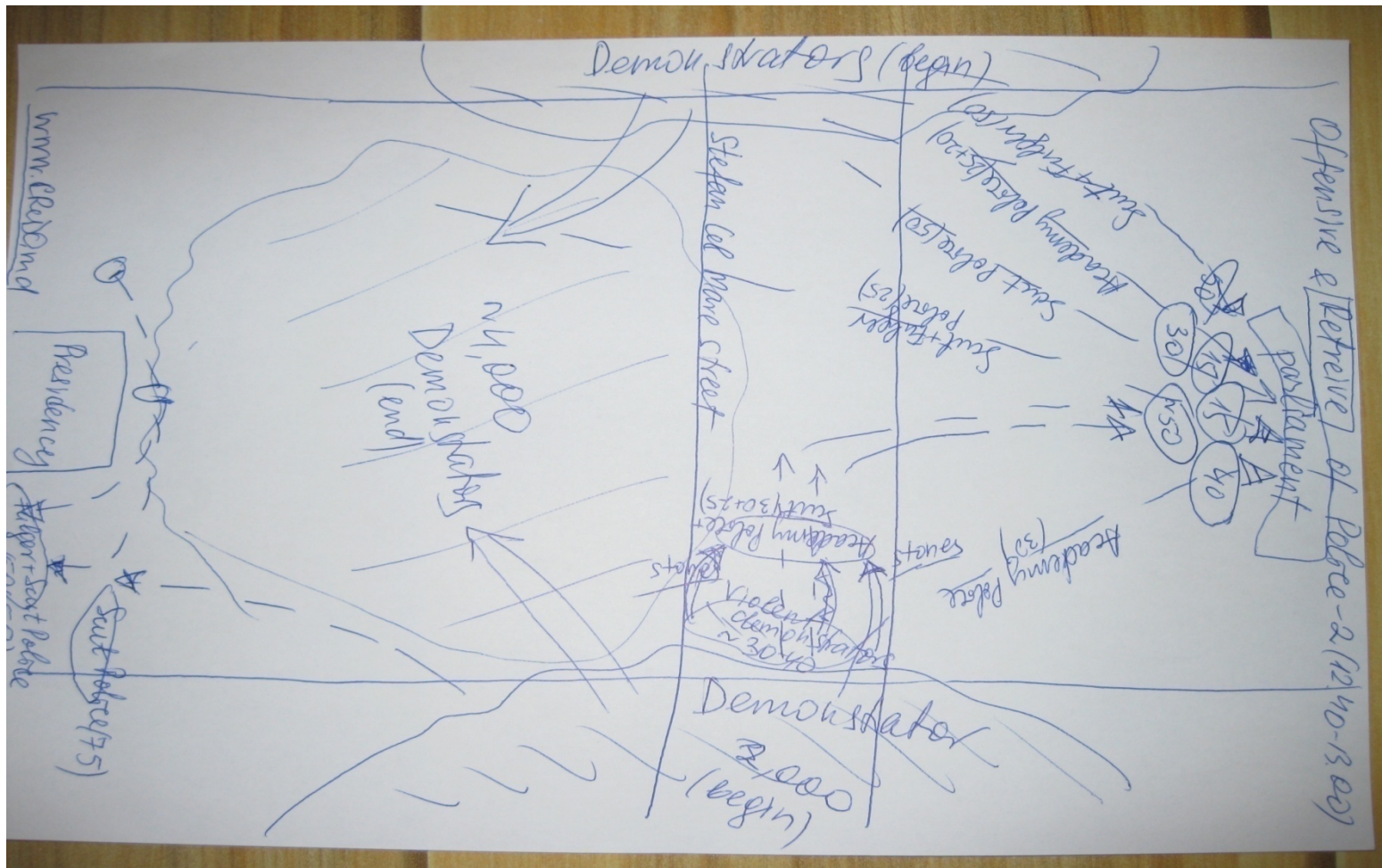
Findings: 7 April, Parliament

- ~9.30-12.20 Peaceful demonstration in front of Parliament,
- ~12.00-12.50 Part of demonstrators left for National Square and Presidency
- ~12.30-12.50 Offensive and withdrawal of police with no use of force, violent elements on behalf of a segment of manifestators,
- ~12.50 sporadic violence, fire in front of Parliament building, breaking 1st floor windows and entering through,
- ~14.20 setting fire on permit office
- ~> 15.00 breaking into Parliament doors, vandalism of Parliament, fights at the back of Presidency

Police offensive (12.40)



Police Retrieve (12.40-13.00)



Key event analysis: Police offensive & retrieve

- Police has gained the control over the Parliament-Presidency place upon offensive,
- Police has intentionally ceded control over Parliament-presidency place upon retrieve,
- The action instigated escalation of violence involving around 200 violent demonstrators throwing stones,
- Police retrieve created for demonstrators and violent elements tactical advantage of space and encouraged the violence and control, by the aggressive demonstrators over the demonstration,
- Police maneuvers left Presidency and Parliament buildings unprotected,
- Police force (more than 300) has always exceeded the number of violent demonstrators (maximum 200-250),
- **The event is clearly a non-return to peacefulness point.**

Preliminary Conclusions -1

- Peaceful assembly in the National Square on both 6 and 7 April 2009,
- On 7 April 2009, between Presidency and parliament, demonstration was peaceful up until 12.00, police acted largely adequately until this time,
- On 7 April 2009, between Presidency and parliament, first violent elements take place around 12.00 on behalf of a segment of manifestators in front of presidency, police acts peacefully, yet failing to address starting violence and prevent further escalation,

Preliminary Conclusions -2

- On 7 April, between Presidency and Parliament, starting 12.30 and especially with arrival of fire brigade car, violence excels, police unjustly fails to use limited force, stones into the Presidency,
- On 7 April, between Presidency and Parliament, starting with police offensive and retrieve violence spreads and excels substantially, Police actions are inadequate and wrong,
- On 7 April, Police left President and Parliament buildings letting vandalism.

Preliminary Conclusions -3

- Police acted inadequately to ensure assembly rights and keep the emerging violent segments under the control;
- Police has acted in a manner to encourage the violence;
- Police and security agents outnumbered the violent segments of the demonstrators at all stages of the manifestations;

Recommendations

- Undertaking a comprehensive fact-finding on the assembly events 6-7 April 2009 with the participation of civil society and the international expertise;
- Assessing critically the role police and third party actions regarding insurance peaceful assembly;
- Holding the police accountable for the events on assembly;
- Involvement of the OSCE Police Strategic Matters Unit and EU countries interior ministries;

Methodology

- Events deconstructed based:
 - on monitoring simultaneously by 7 observers,
 - video registration by 7 small size cameras of more than 70 hours,
 - discussions with relevant actors,
 - round-table discussions with monitors on the facts, and discussion with key stake-holders, including gov reps:
http://www.publictv.md/ro/Masa_Rotunda_Democratiea_in_pericol_Drepturile_Omului_in_Moldova-16.04.2009
 - publication of selected video registration at www.PublicTV.md