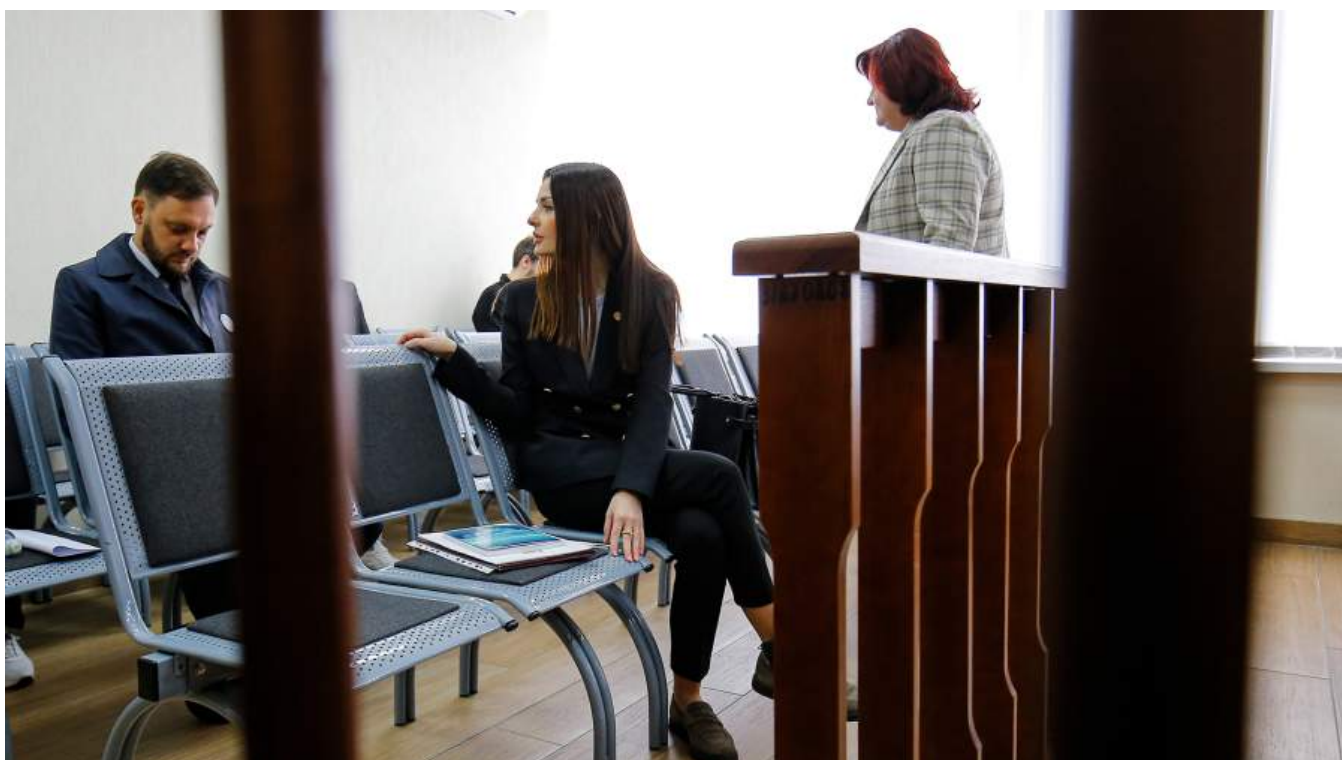


Public opinion: Gutul lawyers filed a complaint with the UN

The preparation of the appeal to the ECHR also continues

[Elizaveta Borisenko](#) October 29, 2025, 00:01



The defense of Bashkan Gagauzia Evghenia Gutul filed a complaint with the UN for violating the rights of her lawyer Sergei Moraru. Earlier, the Moldovan authorities severely restricted his powers after he declared the court's involvement. Gutul lawyers are also preparing an appeal on the Bashkan case itself to the UN Human Rights Committee and the ECHR. Now the meetings of the Appeals Chamber are being held in Moldova: they will last until November 6. However, most likely, the Bashkan case will be drag on, experts tell Izvestia. Chisinau's actions are maximally supported in Brussels. Whether we should generally expect an international reaction in the case around the Gutul and what other

actions it intends to take to protect it - in the material of "Izvestia".

What is Evghenia Gutul accused of?

Meetings of the Appeals Chamber on the case of the head of Gagauzia Evghenia Gutul are being held in Moldova. They will last until November 6. However, Chisinau is trying by all means to hinder the work of her lawyers. Bashkan's defense filed an appeal to the UN for violating the rights of Sergei Moraru, the lawyer of the WJ Avocats bureau, a member of the Gutul defense team Camille Gosson, told "Izvestia".

- At the moment, Evghenia Gutul's international legal group is working on filing complaints with the UN structures. One complaint has already been filed with the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers - in order to claim a violation of the rights of her lawyer Sergiu Morara, who is being persecuted only for representing her interests in Moldova, - the lawyer told Izvestia.

Earlier, the statements of lawyer Sergei Morara caused a sharp reaction from the Moldovan authorities. After he publicly accused the judge of first instance that the sentence of Gutul "was written not in the courtroom, but in the offices of the authorities", the prosecutor's office filed a complaint against him. As a result, the lawyer was suspended from some meetings.

Moraru has previously repeatedly stated systemic violations in the case of the bashkan: ignoring the evidence of the defense, the lack of access of lawyers to the accused. "The Appeals Chamber continues the traditions of the lower court: judges violate all possible rights, leaving lawyers in the dark about the plans of the meeting," he said in October.

Evghenia Gutul was detained on March 25 at the Chisinau airport. She was accused of forgery of documents, violation of the procedure for managing the funds of election funds and illegal financing of the opposition in the

elections. Later, the Bashkan was transferred to house arrest. Gutul and her defense repeatedly rejected all accusations, stressing that the current authorities of Moldova, with which the head of Gagauzia has a long conflict, are behind the trial.

The court sentenced in August 2025: seven years of semi-closed colony. Officially, Gutul was accused of allegedly financing the illegal opposition party "Shor", recognized in Moldova. The term, however, was softer than the requirements of the prosecutor's office, which requested nine years. We emphasize: the final decision was made in just eight minutes without taking into account procedural norms.

[The court believes: Gutul's defense will appeal her arrest to the ECHR](#)

[How will Brussels and Chisinau react to this and whether to expect the release of the head of Gagauzia](#)

Immediately after the announcement of the sentence to Bashkan, her lawyers filed an appeal, the consideration of which began in October. The Gutul case also attracted the attention of international lawyers William Julié and Gonzalo Boye, who, among others, stood up for the defendant.

The meetings of the Appeals Chamber have been repeatedly postponed at the initiative of the court. Lawyers are sure that the authorities are deliberately delaying the process. In addition, Evghenia Gutul is allowed to meet only online, which also complicates their conduct.

Recall that Gutul became the head of autonomy in 2023. Its course of strengthening ties with Russia, as well as high support among the population of Gagauzia went against the policy of Chisinau. There, since Maya Sandu came to power, they began to adhere to a radical course on European integration. The victory of the Gutul in Gagauzia Chisinau did not recognize: Sandu refused to include it in the government, despite the fact that it violated constitutional norms.

The population of Gagauzia, however, also actively undermines the positions of the current authorities: less than 3% of the residents of the autonomy voted for Maya Sandu in the presidential elections in 2024. And 95% opposed Moldova's accession to the EU.

International reaction to the Gutul case

Evghenia Gutul's lawyers are now preparing an appeal to the UN Human Rights Committee. As Camille Gosson explained, this is necessary to "point out violations of Evghenia Gutul's political rights - both her personal and rights as Bashkan of Gagauzia". An appeal to the UN working group on arbitrary detentions is also being prepared.

The complaint will also be sent to the European Court of Human Rights, but after the Appeals Chamber hands down a final verdict.

- Most likely, it will be unfavorable for Evghenia Gutul, given the behavior of judges at the hearings, which we have been observing from the very beginning, as well as events in the process of pre-trial investigation and the decision of the court of first instance, - says Gosson.

In Russia, the court decision was criticized in August. "For the implementation of the law, the Sandu regime throws people into prisons. This is not just a shame, it's an attack, a disaster that attacked Moldova and its people," said Maria Zakharova, the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

But the reaction from international structures all this time was quite scarce. In August 2025, the official representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Tamin Al-Kitan only said that the rights of the Hutsuls to a fair trial and appeal against the sentence must be respected.

Bashkan's defense suggests that the proceedings in the case will be

delong again. However, if the courts resort to such tactics excessively, the defense will apply to the ECHR before a final decision is made.

- In addition, we also appealed to the Appeals Chamber with a request to send a request (of a pre-trial nature) to the ECHR on several issues, but so far we have not received a response from the court, - added the lawyer.

[Stormy action: the sentence of Gutsul will cause new protests in Moldova](#)

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In the coming year, it is unlikely that any updates on the Gutul case are possible, experts tell "Izvestia".

- Now it is important for the ruling party and their Brussels partners to form a stable government and gain a foothold in power. Relaxations in the Hutsul case will be rather a manifestation of weakness, so it is not worth hoping that the authorities in Moldova will take this step yet, - says HSE analyst Nicole Bodisteanu.

However, you should not expect a reaction from Europe either.

- The detention of Gutul is a custom case, which, of course, was agreed by Maya Sandu with Brussels. And in this sense, it has received the support of Europe. Unfortunately, you can hardly count on Brussels' reaction to the Bashkan case," political scientist Oleg Bondarenko to Izvestia.

Obviously, Brussels is now not particularly interested in the release of Evghenia Gutul, as well as all those who do not support the pro-European course of the current authorities of Moldova.