



RFSL-president, Mr Sören Juvas, was attacked and beaten by unknown men in Chisinau, Moldova, on the night between Sunday and Monday. Sören Juvas was in Chisinau to celebrate Moldova Pride.

On Sunday evening Sören Juvas had been to a pub and as he was leaving he was approached by uniformed police who asked him if he was in Chisinau for Moldova Pride and if he was gay. When he confirmed this he was taken to a police station. When he was released he was attacked and beaten outside the police station. **The men who attacked him were most likely police in civilian clothing** or men who had been informed by the police that Sören Juvas was going to be outside the police station at that time.

Sören Juvas has large scratches in his face and bruises on his body but is otherwise okay physically. He returned home safely to Sweden on Monday evening and is now resting and taking the rest of the week off.



RFSL sent out a press release to the Swedish media on Tuesday morning informing them about what had happened and it has received much attention in the press, radio, tv and on the internet. Only this morning Ulrika Westerlund, vice president of RFSL, and **Nyamko Sabuni, Swedish minister of equality and integration**, were guests on a major Swedish morning television show and talked about what had happened to Sören Juvas in Moldova, the situation for LGBT people in central and

eastern Europe and the upcoming Baltic Pride in Riga where Ulrika Westerlund and Nyamko Sabuni among others will be going this weekend.

RFSL has spoken about what happened in Moldova with the Swedish ambassador in Bucharest, Bulgaria, who is also responsible for Moldova, the Swedish foreign ministry is informed and we will also talk to the Moldovan ambassador in Sweden. Many politicians and public figures in Sweden are upset about what has happened and this has raised the issue of LGBT rights in central and Eastern Europe in the public debate in Sweden, and has increased the pressure on the Swedish government to address the issue when we assume the presidency of the EU this summer.



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