FACT SHEET: ROMANIA

- **Official Name:** Romania
- **Capital:** Bucharest
- **Population:** 21,790,479 (2013 est.)
- **Government:** Republic
- **Head of State:** President Traian Basescu
- **Head of Government:** Prime Minister Victor-Viorel Ponta
- **Monetary Unit:** Leu
- **GDP Per Capita:** $13,000 (2012 est.)
- **External Debt:** $132.1 billion
- **Literacy Rate:** 97.7 percent (Males 98.3 percent, Females 97.1 percent)
- **Ethnicity/Race:** Romanian 89.5 percent, Hungarian 6.6 percent, Roma 2.5 percent
- **Languages:** Romanian (Official) 91 percent, Hungarian 6.7 percent, Romany 1.1 percent, other 1.2 percent
- **Climate:** Temperate; cold, cloudy winters with frequent snow and fog; sunny summers with frequent showers and thunderstorms
- **Geography:** Shares borders with Bulgaria to the north, Hungary and Serbia to the east, and Ukraine and Moldavia to the south; the Black Sea to the west; Transylvania Alps

**Historical and Political Background:**
Romania gained its independence on May 9, 1877, from the Ottoman Empire. Romania was a part of the principalities of Moldavia. It was a communist state under the Soviet Union. After the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, it transitioned into democracy.

**Economy:**
The Romanian government has pushed a “Draft law” that allows the mining of gold and silver by foreign countries. Mining is detrimental to the environment and has caused much dismay and anger among Romanians.

**Culture Cuisine:**
Romania’s food culture is rich and diverse as its history. As an Eastern European country, it has a rich tradition in cuisines. It has great influence from Ottoman cuisine and its neighboring countries.

**Current Issues and Events:**
In recent news, prosecutors have charged the Deputy Prime Minister Liviu Dragnea with 74 other local officials. They are accused of falsifying voter data in an effort to impeach President Basescu during the national referendum.

In 2012, protests erupted in Romania concerning the failure of the health care reform. One of Romania’s top health officials, Raed Arafat, had resigned, because he was against inadequate health reformation. Arafat’s resignation led to protest against the government, demanding President Basescu to resign. The wake of the event has drawn thousands of people to protest in more than 40 cities in Romania, making it the most significant revolution since 1989.

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