



Centar za građansko obrazovanje  
Centre for civic education

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## AN IMPORTANT TEST FOR THE MONTENEGRIN JUDICIARY

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) assess that the verdict in the case of "Deportation", scheduled for 22 November is an important test for the Montenegrin judiciary, in the sense that it will show how much it is really ready to prosecute war crimes in a way that it deliver justice to the victims. We remind that the original indictment was changed in mid-September, in the part that defines the way nine policemen have done offenses they are charged with.**

The latest indictment specifies that they did it "infringing human dignity of civilians taking no active part in hostilities, who are not directly taking part in conflicts and who are entitled to the belief that they should not take part in the conflict, so to which had to be treated humanely and without discrimination."

CCE expects that those who were involved in crimes against Muslims and Bosniaks in May and June 1992 on the territory of Montenegro will be adequately punished, because the repeated trial indictment brought also new evidences. The objective of war crimes trials, although it is often forgotten, should be the establishment of justice for the victims, and appropriately punishing of those responsible for their suffering will certainly lead to such outcomes.

At least 66 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina were illegally arrested in Montenegro, and then delivered to the enemy army for them, Bosnian Serb army in Bosnia. Only twelve managed to survive extradition to concentration camps. Indictment explains **that the crimes of which the defendants were charged are in connection with armed conflict, and since the victims had refugee status Prosecution requested defendants to be found guilty.** For these reasons, as well as due to the presentation of new evidences, sentencing will be really the test for the Montenegrin judiciary.

CCE said that so far the actions of war crimes in Montenegro showed strong political influence on the judiciary authorities resulting with unachieved indictments and additional victimization of victims. However, it is the fact that war crimes do not expire, and in that sense, our determination as a society that all responsible for war crimes should be properly punished, mustn't expire as well.

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