



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE  
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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## **PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN MONTENEGRO AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS**

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) expresses concern about the ever more frequent examples of unprofessional conduct of the police and numerous instances of human rights' violations in Montenegro under direct supervision of public institutions.

Complaints from several families from Tuzi whose members were arrested in the police action "*Eagle's Flight*" testify to the grave situation of human rights in Montenegro.

**CCE estimates as unacceptable the fact that in a country which is a member of the Council of Europe and wishes to join the European Union, the executive power, without reason or justification, confiscates traveling documents.** This type of conduct is only belonging to totalitarian regimes which are wont to frustrate development of democracy and freedom of movement. The police confiscated passports of the citizens of Montenegro Marija Dedvukaj, Lindon Devukaj and Danijela Dedvukaj, and is not giving them back although ten months have already passed. Personal documents of elderly Aga Dedvukaj, who passed away in the meantime, are also being held back. At the same time, none of these persons were in any way concerned by the operative actions of the police. During the search of their homes, no official was in charge of keeping an account of the confiscated personal belongings and property, which suggests that some of the police officers participating in the searches might have extracted material advantage from the case or might have tried to do so.

**Some recent events also suggest that the constitutional principle of equality of all citizens before law might have been violated, and that foreign citizens of the highest rank, such as ambassador Meucci, may have also suffered consequences of unprofessional conduct.**

**Other public institutions are not immune to disregard for the principle of human rights.** We remind that not too long ago the main tourist inspector announced that the beaches, which are public goods, are off limits to the citizens if public persons wish to bath or sunbath there. Does this mean that human rights in Montenegro are reserved for the ruling elite, or those public persons and their families?

**CCE insists that the Director of Police immediately, without further delay and with adequate explanations returns passports to all citizens for whose withdrawal there is no legal basis and justification.** It is his duty to initiate an investigation into the activities of certain police officers which might be considered theft. **The public also has the right to know the entire truth about the official steps taken against police officers whose activities in this case are deemed illegal.** CCE expects the director of the police to ensure full loyalty of all police officers to the citizens of Montenegro and the Law, not to the parallel power centres.

**CCE expects the Committee for Defence and Security of the Parliament of Montenegro and the Council for Civic Control of the Police to step forward as the main, undisputable**



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**authorities of the parliamentary and civic control of armed forces and the promotion of the loyalty of the police officers to the Law, not to the party idols.**

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