



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

Podgorica, 23 September, 2009

THE RESPONSIBLE MUST BE PUNISHED

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) addressed today the presidents of the parliamentary clubs and leadership of the Parliament of Montenegro with a request to initiate appropriate measures and actions, within their term of office, in order to determine the responsibility of executive authorities on the situation in the Cetinje Gymnasium.

“The fact that in this education institution teaching is not conducted for 23 days causes great concern. Furthermore, this for Montenegrin environment, unprecedented persistence, autonomy and courage of pupils who clearly advocate depoliticization of management in education shows that they have learned their lessons in civic education and that they are applying the knowledge effectively contributing to reform of this system and shaping it to be entirely in service of pupils, and not anyone's party or personal interest,” says the letter that on behalf of CCE was sent by Daliborka Uljarević, executive director. The letter also notes that it is needless to speak about the damage that has already been done, having pupils suffering the most, since for 17 working days they were not in the classroom. “However, they are not the alone in the loss. Citizens' confidence in the education system is shaken, as the authority in charge - Ministry of Education and Science - did not show the maturity, expertise and commitment to solve a serious problem, but with its stubbornness, insensibility and lack of concern for pupils and their interests lead actually to the escalation of problems”, explains the letter.

Therefore, CCE requested from the MPs, as representatives of the Montenegrin citizens and members of bodies that provides legitimacy to the Government and the Ministry, to initiate the procedure of dismissal of the Minister of Education and Science Dr Sreten Škuletić, who by the function bears the responsibility for this difficult situation.

CCE believes that in this way they will contribute to the process of regaining of confidence into education system in Montenegro, already burdened with numerous challenges, as well as that they will support the effectiveness of the reforms launched, and most importantly, act preventively that similar situations do not occur in the future.

In addition, CCE supports the latest efforts of the Director of the Bureau for Education Dragan Bogojević who has distanced himself from the harmful policy of the Ministry of Education and Science and practically announced the final fulfillment of the pupils's requests with his statement from yesterday explaining that two school board members, newly appointed by the Bureau, will vote for a representative supported by pupils and their teachers.

CCE expresses hope that this will end the completely unnecessary agony about the election of director of Cetinje gimnasium and congratulates pupils from Cetinje who have shown that civil disobedience and the struggle for civil rights have not completely died in Montenegro. They may have announced by this that certain new era in which our citizens will stand for their rights, dignity of institutions and against those individuals or structures to whom public interest and public wealth are unknown categories.

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