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PUBLIC HAS THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHICH PUBLIC FIGURES PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) believe that the debate which is being waged in the media for the last few weeks, regarding participation of two public figures in the 90's war operations, provoked a series of important questions and a strong urge to unveil the whole truth and responsibilities.

Citizens have the right to know which current officials, bearers of high functions in the executive, as well as in the legislature and the judiciary, took part as members of military or para-military formations in the war following the dissolution of former SFRY.

CDNGO and CCE therefore urge the relevant military bodies, veteran associations and others to allow non-governmental organisations and the media access to the information on persons who participated in this war.

In this way, it would be possible to ascertain beyond doubt the identity of participants in the war and to find out whether the political or professional engagement of certain public figures might perhaps be in conflict with their past activities.

CCE and CDNGO emphasises the need, on the other hand, to protect from abuse such information regarding ordinary Montenegrin citizens who are not occupying any public functions.

By establishing facts on the participation of certain public officials and figures, the danger from manipulation with unreliable information would be minimised. On the other hand, it would also become impossible to deny something which is difficult to ascertain without the necessary proofs. At the same time, this would be the best way to show that the state of Montenegro is truly committed to facing the recent past, which is a precondition to meaningful regional cooperation and European integrations.