

Podgorica, 17.03.2009.

**NGO STATEMENT ON THE INITIATIVE FOR ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT  
IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS FOR COMPENSATION OF THE VICTIMS OF  
WAR CRIMES**

We support the initiative for achieving a settlement in court cases for compensation of the families of victims of war crimes against Albanian civilians in Kaludjerski laz, as well as for providing reparation for all other victims of war crimes for which there is an objective liability of the state of Montenegro, considering that it is a legal and moral obligation of Montenegro to the victims.

We remind that the compensation of material and immaterial damage is a kind of reparation that the victims of serious violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, have the right on, as it is underlined in the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations from 2005. (The basic principles and guidelines for the realization of the right to remedies and reparations of victims of serious violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law, Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations no. 60/147, of 16.12.2005.).

In order to ensure dignity for the victims, the UN resolution obliges states to provide special attention and care to victims who are survivors of trauma and violence, and prevent their further traumas during court proceedings for ensuring justice and reparation.

We emphasize that the flow of time leaves irreparable consequences, such as the death of those who have not greeted recognition of their suffering and the appropriate compensation, and therefore urge the authorities to effectively compensate all surviving victims and family members of victims, proportioned with sustained injuries and damage.

One should not lose sight of any possibility that provide international and domestic law that the state, for compensation paid to victims, later reimburse itself from the persons validly sentenced for a crime that caused the damage.

In addition to indemnities, reparations include the verification of facts and full and public announcement of the truth about the crime, search for the missing, public apology, punishment of persons responsible for violations, commemoration and honoring of the victims, as well as including the truth about crime in the teaching materials at all levels of education. We will continue to support the provision of such, comprehensive reparation for all victims.

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