

Government of Montenegro
POLICE DIRECTORATE
Veselin VELJOVIĆ, director

Podgorica, 22 November, 2009

Dear Mr VELJOVIĆ,

As you presumably know, on 24 November 2009, before the Basic court in Podgorica, a second attempt of criminal trial should start on the matter of torture of citizen Aleksandar Pejanović, brought on by the Basic state prosecutor against a group of police officers.

Considering your outspoken attitudes about your professional goals being primarily tied to building a police organisation with a high level of public trust and without abuse of official authority, we appeal on you to do what is in your power in order for the scheduled court session to be held on time, and dismiss as the reason for further continuances the absence of defendants or their attorney.

Bearing in mind that all defendants in this case are still employed at Police directorate, we ask that you find a way to call them to be present for the scheduled court session and thus stop listening to opposite instructions which, according to our sources, come from the top of Podgorica Police department.

Further postponing of this judicial proceeding due to the absence of accused police officers or their attorney does not contribute neither to the dignity and responsibility of the Police directorate, nor to the need for finding the truth and effective fight against torture.

We use this opportunity to publicly remind police officers Ivica M. Paunović, Goran B. Stanković, Milan M. Kljajević, Milanko M. Leković, Bojan D. Radunović and Dobrivoje D. Đuričić that a court session is scheduled for November 24, 2009 at 11 AM. It is in the best interest of theirs, as well as of entire police organisation, citizen Pejanović and of general public as a whole, to responsibility towards the Court as the key institution for protection of human rights.

If you conduct necessary means and measures in order for this trial to follow a planned and scheduled timeline, you will significantly help that the guilty are punished and the innocent are cleared of responsibility, which would undoubtedly contribute the legality of work and the good name of directorate you manage. Ultimately, this would help to rule of law, timely and efficient work of the judiciary, as well as the protection of human rights.

Prevention of torture and its sanctioning are duties of all members of society, both institutions in line with the law and citizens in line with their dedication to the respect of human rights and freedoms, and in this context we are all obliged to contribute from the positions we are occupying.

Aleksandar Saša Zeković, MA, researcher of human rights violations
Daliborka Uljarević, executive director of Centre for Civic Education
Stevo Muk, president of Managing board of Institute Alternative