



Podgorica, 27 October, 2007

PUBLIC SILENCE ON THE KIDNAPPING OF A BOY UNACCEPTABLE

Centre for Civic Education (CCE), Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) and European Movement in Montenegro (EMiM) welcome all activities of the Council for the Civic Control of Work of Police which are directed towards principle based, unbiased evaluation of the police officers' abuse of authority.

However, CCE, CDNGO and EMiM urge the Council to make its work, activities and results more effective, visible and recognisable to the wider public.

In order to foster their still fledging credibility, it is of great importance that the public should be immediately informed on content of all complaints and the procedure of their processing.

This summer's kidnapping of the minor D.K. from Sombor in Herceg Novi is the most flagrant example of the abuse of authority and violation of the Law.

We find it unacceptable that the public should be informed of this event only three months after the complaint was filed revealing inappropriate and unprofessional behaviour of several police officers in the local police unit in Herceg Novi.

We urge Zoran Zivkovic, president of the Council for misdemeanours of Montenegro to assess whether the procedure for the establishment of misdemeanors, which could have taken place independently of the criminal investigation, failed to take advantage of the opportunity to inform the State prosecutor about this case, thus influencing the investigation into the criminal side of the case.

CCE, CDNGO and EM expect the Director of the Police Directorate of the Government of Montenegro to explain why there was no criminal charge instead of or in addition to the accusation for misdemeanour, and whether the head of the local police unit in Herceg Novi was in any manner involved in this case.

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