



CONSEQUENCES OF INCOMPLETE PROCES OF DEALING WITH THE PAST ARE RETURNING LIKE A BOOMERANG

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) expresses its deep concern over the graffiti "Knife, Wire, Srebrenica", which is as the media reported about located in the centre of Podgorica.

Graffiti is one of the mirrors of social reality. The fact that today, 20 years after the wars from which Montenegro systematically dissociated itself denying participation in them, this graffiti appeared in the Capital, represents a proof that we have not adequately faced with the past. Obviously, it was not enough that Montenegro has, by the Assembly Declaration from 2009, condemned the crime in Srebrenica and established 11 July as a day of remembrance of the victims of the 1990s wars in Yugoslavia.

Graffiti carrying this message is a typical example of hate speech. As such it must be strongly condemned, not only by the representatives of certain political parties and NGOs, but by the society as a whole. Acceptance of tolerance as a principle of life and the respect of victims regardless of their nationality and other personal characteristics is the basis of progress in democratization and europeanization.

CCE assesses that there should be a commitment in distinctly qualifying this and other similar acts, regardless of whether these are organized or individual misconducts. Additionally, it is a special responsibility to the competent authorities to be effective in identifying the perpetrators and their further processing. Only in this way will the others, that are (in)directly involved in the dissemination of hate speech or may try it in the future, be discouraged. By remaining silent, and consciously misinterpreting facts, Montenegro as well as other countries of the former Yugoslavia, led their society into a situation that even after more than 20 years, stability and peace is not ensured in the long run.

This goal can be reached only by fair proceedings of war crimes, the individualization of guilt and establishing facts concerning all the victims. For years, civil society in Montenegro and the region is insisting on it and until now they have built so far the broadest platform and regional coalition that seeks the foundation of an official body – RECOM (Regional Commission tasked with establishing the facts about all victims of war crimes and other serious human rights violations committed on the territory of the Former Yugoslavia in the period from 1991-2001 -RECOM). This body will provide a different, unique space to talk about the crimes, to learn, to remember it in order not to repeat it. It is the duty of us all to leave in legacy to new generations the facts and truth as a guarantee of prosperity, in order to build a long-term culture of tolerance and peace.

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