



## War for Peace - 21 years later

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Action for Human Rights (HRA) from Podgorica and Documenta from Zagreb recall that on this day - 6 December 1991 one of the strongest attacks on Dubrovnik was carried out by the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) from the territory of Montenegro, when during the shelling 19 people were killed and about 60 injured. Civilian objects in the vicinity of the main street were hit the hardest, and burned the Inter-University Centre (IUC) with a library of 20,000 titles.

Among the victims of that day is twenty-two years old Pavo Urban, who lost his life photographing the main Dubrovnik street, Stradun. He defended his city the best he knew, with photography. The manner of his sufferings could be seen through last 12 photos that are kept in the National Gallery in Dubrovnik, as well as the judgments of the ICTY to the retired JNA General Pavle Strugar and former JNA Admiral Miodrag Jokic. They were convicted of attacks on civilians and the attacks on civilian objects because of the shelling of the city core. Strugar, among others, was convicted, because he did nothing to stop the attack on 6 December 1991 although he could and should have done something, nor later provided that the offenders are adequately punished.

In order to remind on twentieth anniversary of the attack on Dubrovnik, CCE, HRA and Documenta organized last year conference *War for Peace-20 years later*, with the aim of opening the discussion focused on different aspects of the war, post-war reconstruction and the building of trust, and the fate of the needs of victims and the prosecution of war crimes court in context of justice and reconciliation. Then, for the first time, photographs of young Pavo Urban were presented in Montenegro.

For the attack on 6 December in front of Hague tribunal former JNA General Pavle Strugar and commander Miodrag Jokic were convicted for seven and a half and seven years of prison. Both were released earlier for the health reasons. Anyhow, a lot of crimes committed during the attack on Dubrovnik from first October 1991 until the end of June 1992 were never prosecuted, so consequently, after 21 years, justice for the victims is not satisfied. We still have victims and crimes, and we don't have the judicial proceedings with adequate epilogue. Attack on Dubrovnik remains a black mark of Montenegrin history, which will not disappear if we do not do everything in our power to endure on the identification and punishment of those responsible for the suffering of innocents.

CCE, HRA and Documenta point out that we must not forget a single victim of the attack on Dubrovnik and other crimes committed in the nineties. States are required to implement the process of dealing with the past to end the way that victims and their families suffering is recognized, because bringing justice to them is the only way for countries of former Yugoslavia to build quality and good neighborly relations that will guarantee peace and stability throughout the region. We again urge the Special Prosecutor for war crimes to investigate and prosecute those responsible Montenegrin citizens for war crimes committed during the JNA attack on Dubrovnik and its surroundings.

(The last photo Pavo Urban, "Stone dust", recorded shortly before his death, can be seen at: <http://pavourban.pondi.hr/index.html>)

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