



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

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JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS HAS TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN POLITICAL INTERESTS

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) is expressing a hope that the trial against the accused persons for the war crime in camp "Morinj", which began today, in front of the special panel of judge Milanka Žižić within High Court in Podgorica, will be significantly different from the previous process in this repeated proceeding and that its completion will be providing justice for victims.

Upon the trial for the deportation of Muslims from the territory of Montenegro, as well as prosecuting of war crimes cases in Montenegro in general, there is a reasonable basis to believe that these processes are conducted slowly and deliberately inefficiently. Also, it is clear that there is still no sufficiently strong political will in our country to finally confront facts about war crimes. In this direction, judiciary could have been more efficient, since the verdict beside punishment of the perpetrators have wider social significance and these contribute to the establishment or renewal of relations between states and, especially, amongst the citizens of countries in the region.

CCE believes that the Montenegrin public doesn't know much about the war crimes trials and that fact further slows down their processing. **Due to the nature of cases, which are extremely complex and sensitive and have high importance for all citizens of Montenegro, it would be beneficial that the parts of the process carried out within Montenegrin courts, allow trial monitoring modeled on the International Criminal Tribunal in the Hague. This would enable media to use cameras and other technical resources for work, so they could make an authentic and striking convey of the trial.** It is a bad message if the war crimes trials, which have been already undertaken with a long delay, are further politicized, because it causes immense damage not only to victims but also to all citizens of Montenegro. Dealing with the past is a necessary step toward democratization of Montenegro and building sustainable future in the region based on cooperation.

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