



**Centar za građansko obrazovanje**  
**Centre for civic education**

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## **NEW TEST FOR MONTENEGRIN JUDICIARY**

**On the occasion of the commencement of the retrial in the case known as the *Deportation of Bosniaks and Muslims* in front of the Higher Court in Podgorica, the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) calls on the judicial authorities not to allow repetition of the mistakes of the previous procedure within this reopened procedure, as well as to demonstrate unequivocal commitment to the rule of law thus contributing to the process of dealing with the past in Montenegro.**

**When dismissing previous judgment, the Court of Appeals described it as conflicting, confusing and illogical. In addition to the many controversies that have followed this procedure, and that civil society organizations have pointed out, this represents an additional serious warning and an indicator that in the earlier process unacceptable mistakes have been made.**

CCE reminds that in May and June 1992, at least 66 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina were illegally arrested in Montenegro, and later on delivered to members of their enemy army of Bosnian Serbs in B&H. Only twelve managed to survive extradition to concentration camps.

Since the opening of this case, on 19 October 2005, when the request for investigation against five former officers of Ministry of the Interior was submitted under the suspicion that these committed a war crime against the civilian population until today, when a new trial started, 7 years passed. **The case was returned to the starting point. That shows that the willingness to adequately deal with the past, which is in the public discourse often mentions remains only at the rhetorical level, without any real track record.**

**The process concerning war crimes committed at the territory of Montenegro and by the Montenegrin citizens are far from justice and necessary establishment of facts. CCE calls upon judicial authorities to undertake all necessary changes and amendments of the charges within this reopened proceeding, taking into the account the facts established the first instance verdict.**

**CGO underlines that the previous actions in regard to the war crimes proceedings in Montenegro indicate unacceptably strong political influence on judicial authorities, which resulted in unexecuted indictments for war crimes, often undetermined guilt of the accused and court rulings that further victimized victims. War crimes have no statute of limitations, nor our determination as society should be limited in having responsible for these acts punished.**

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