



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

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RESPONSIBILITY IS AN INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) expresses satisfaction over the broad public discussion which has been opened following up with the initiative CCE started in Montenegro on determination of responsibility of journalists during 90's war events.

CCE has submitted an initiative to the Supreme state prosecutor, in line with the legal procedure, requesting dealing with this issue in Montenegro, as it has been done in neighbor countries. **Responsibility is an individual's category that has to be taken by people that have names. Calls to determine the role of journalists which, during certain period of time, replaced their profession with propaganda, advocating for war and dissemination of the hate speech does not, by any case, release other stakeholders of their guilty for these actions.** There is no real democratization and europeization of the society without conducting this and similar processes. **Determination of the responsibility is a sign of a healthy society and a precondition for rule of law and a system of values based on knowledge, professionalism and fair work.**

War crimes never get outdated. The lack of timely dealing with the past has significantly contributed to the war atrocities during the 90's all around Former Yugoslavia. One of the obligations we have towards victims is preventing these things to happen again. It is crucially important, in this area, to bring to life the concept of transitional justice and to make everyone responsible for its own acts. Words, often, had the power of bullets and those who stood behind those words have to take the responsibility for them, as well as those who, carried by those words have violated the principles of humanitarian law. **"Crazy times" can't be the excuse, because times are consisted of people with their own names.**

CCE invites also other stakeholders that took part in the discussion to start the initiative in front of judicial bodies for determination of the responsibility of all of those that are considered to have contributed the atrocities and suffering on the Balkans during the 90's. CCE hopes that the Supreme state prosecutor will take the position on this issue and conduct adequate legal procedures. It would be bad if the State Supreme Prosecutor would ignore this issue. The excuse can't be even if this Office missed the debate, since CCE sent an official request to the Department for Fight against Organized Crime, Corruption, Terrorism and War Crimes, based on the Art 19 of the Law on State Prosecution of Montenegro (Off. Gaz. 69/03 and 40/08), related to the provisions of the Law on Criminal Procedure of Montenegro, Law on International Legal Aid in Criminal acts, Agreement on Cooperation and Prosecution of Executors of criminal acts, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. **There are a lot of obstacles in Montenegro for this process. A lot of war promoters became peacemakers and journalists helping are promoted or still enjoy certain benefits, thus directly supporting negative practices still existing in certain media reflected through the absence of objective information, professional work and repetition of putting the profession into service of certain politics against the interests of citizens.** Therefore, it is very important to finally make clear division between propagators and those truly respecting principles of journalism.

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