



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

Podgorica, 22 April 2007

THE STATE MUST PROTECT ALEKSANDAR SAŠA ZEKOVIĆ

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) urges the president of the Republic Filip Vujanovic, President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapic and especially the Prime Minister Željko Šturanović as well as the presidents of all relevant parliamentary committees, directors of government bodies, judiciary and prosecution to direct their efforts towards urgently solving the case of Aleksandar Saša Zeković, whose rights and freedoms are severely endangered.

Institutions of the system serve to ensure rule of law and complete security of all citizens, to whom the Article 15 of the Montenegrin Constitution guarantees freedom and equality, “regardless of any particularities and/or personal attributes”, while the Article 16 clearly states that “any abuse of freedoms and rights shall be deemed to be unconstitutional and shall be punishable according to the law”.

As all citizens of Montenegro, Aleksandar Saša Zeković has a guaranteed constitutional right to “inviolability of physical and psychological integrity, his privacy and personal rights” (Article 20). The state is obliged to prevent any attempt at violation of these rights, through blackmailing, maltreatment, and other forms of pressure, as well as any concrete act of violation of the above noted rights.

CCE demands that urgent steps be taken to ascertain the circumstances under which Zekovic became a subject of surveillance, under whose orders and to what purpose is information being collected regarding his private life, as well as to reveal the identity of the person who declares himself as “protector of the state” and stands behind threatening calls to Zekovic, and the other one who promised him “sports shoes like the ones for Stambolic”, as it is clear that the same organised group stands behind these acts.

It is important to emphasise that Aleksandar Saša Zeković is a public figure whose engagement as a researcher of human rights’ violations is renown even beyond Montenegrin borders. Through his work, he has continuously contributed to the development of culture of human rights. In that capacity, amongst his more recent cases which he dealt with the best known to the public are: police operation “Eagle’s flight”, and investigation into abuse of authority on the part of the police, the case of policemen Muratbasic who is suffering grave consequences for uncovering the role of the police in



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the elections, as well as the issue of deportation of citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the early nineties.

It is obvious that Zekovic's work and his public appearances endangered certain power structures that have no scruples, and can wield substantial means and support for their actions. The Republic of Montenegro has absolute responsibility to protect Zekovic as a citizen and as a public figure, instead of standing by while the "protectors of the state" freely take it upon themselves to identify the "enemies" of that state or interests of any particular people and subsequently dish out their own justice outside of any legal framework and without control.

Urgent disclosure of facts related to the case of Aleksandar Sasa Zekovic and his full protection in all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and our current legislation, as well as international standards, is a serious test that will show if there is a control of security forced and rule of law in Montenegro, or power centres out of institutions are prevalent.

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