



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE  
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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## **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS AN INEXTRICABLE PART OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) strongly condemns the reaction of the Police Directorate to the feuilleton on the abuse of authority by the police during the arrest and interrogation of terrorism suspects in the “Eagle’s flight” action.

CCE reminds the Police Directorate of the **Declaration on the rights and responsibilities of individuals, groups and social organisations in the promotion and protection of universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms**, adopted by the UN General Assembly.

As a member of the UN, state of Montenegro must promote the principles from this Declaration and spread the respect for and understanding of the same document. Instead, its very institutions are working against these standards, which gravely compromise credibility of the state of Montenegro.

The Declaration clearly states that “the key responsibility and duty for the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms rests with the State”, and that the State must recognise the “right and responsibility of individuals, groups and associations to promote respect for and familiarity with human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international level”.

**CCE express its concern with the attack by the Police Directory on our permanent associate, Aleksandar Saša Zeković, who is a renown researcher of human rights’ violations, and we urge other NGOs, the media, academic community and intellectuals to react to this dangerous attempt at curbing the right of our colleague Zeković.**

Article 1 of the Declaration is precise: “Everyone has the right, individually or in cooperation with others, to promote and work towards protection and implementation of human rights and universal freedoms on the national and international level”.

The way in which our colleague Zeković, and the daily “Vijesti” were attacked represents a serious breach of human rights guaranteed by the UN instruments.

Considering that the Declaration is most probably unknown to the representatives of the Police Directorate, CCE uses this opportunity to draw their attention to some of its most important segments and offers its expert assistance in training their employees in the matters of human rights. Also, as a co-publisher of the book by Aleksandar Saša Zeković, “Human Rights and Minority Rights in practice”, we



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recommend it warmly as quality material greatly contributing to the development of the culture of human rights in Montenegro, just like the author has been doing for years through his personal as well as organisational efforts.

*Daliborka Uljarević, Executive director*

**Extracts from the 53/144 Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**

(Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, report of the III committee A/53/625/app.2)

**Article 5**

For the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, at the national and international levels:

- (a) To meet or assemble peacefully;
- (b) To form, join and participate in non-governmental organizations, associations or groups;
- (c) To communicate with non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations.

**Article 6**

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others:

- (a) To know, seek, obtain, receive and hold information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including having access to information as to how those rights and freedoms are given effect in domestic legislative, judicial or administrative systems;
- (b) As provided for in human rights and other applicable international instruments, freely to publish, impart or disseminate to others views, information and knowledge on all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (c) To study, discuss, form and hold opinions on the observance, both in law and in practice, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and, through these and other appropriate means, to draw public attention to those matters.

**Article 7**

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to develop and discuss new human rights ideas and principles and to advocate their acceptance.

**Article 12**

1. Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
2. The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or *de jure* adverse discrimination, pressure or any other



arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.

**3. In this connection, everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of violence perpetrated by groups or individuals that affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.**

#### **Article 13**

Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to solicit, receive and utilize resources for the express purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means, in accordance with article 3 of the present Declaration.

#### **Article 16**

**Individuals, non-governmental organizations and relevant institutions have an important role to play in contributing to making the public more aware of questions relating to all human rights and fundamental freedoms through activities such as education, training and research in these areas to strengthen further, *inter alia*, understanding, tolerance, peace and friendly relations among nations and among all racial and religious groups, bearing in mind the various backgrounds of the societies and communities in which they carry out their activities.**

#### **Article 17**

**In the exercise of the rights and freedoms referred to in the present Declaration, everyone, acting individually and in association with others, shall be subject only to such limitations as are in accordance with applicable international obligations and are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.**

#### **Article 18**

1. Everyone has duties towards and within the community, in which alone the free and full development of his or her personality is possible.

**2. Individuals, groups, institutions and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play and a responsibility in safeguarding democracy, promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and contributing to the promotion and advancement of democratic societies, institutions and processes.**

3. Individuals, groups, institutions and non-governmental organizations also have an important role and a responsibility in contributing, as appropriate, to the promotion of the right of everyone to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments can be fully realized.