

Podgorica, 22 March 2012.

Joint press statement of civil society activists

STANKOVIC RETURNS TO THE POLICE

Today we had a meeting with the Director of the Police Directorate **Bozidar Vuksanovic** discussing the further professionalization of the police and cooperation with civil society.

On this occasion we have been directly informed about the key segments of the programme of the police director and his plans to build a police forces as quality institution in service of the citizens.

We stressed the importance of eliminating tolerance for impunity for human rights violations and got an impression that these are our shared values and commitments.

Police Director Bozidar Vuksanovic informed us about his decision to initiate the process of return of Goran Stankovic in the professional work of the police. **He clearly told us that the Montenegrin police officers as Stankovic are welcomed in the police.** We are pleased to announce that this process is already underway and its resolution is expected during the next week.

Until today Stankovic did not have the protection he should have taking into the account the expressed dedication and courage to place himself into the service of protecting citizens as police officer.

Our conversation was preceded by a yesterday's confidential meeting between Vuksanovic and Stankovic where Vuksanovic was familiarized with all the details of Stankovic's case. The meeting between Vuksanovic and Strankovic represents the implementation of the conclusions of the management of the police and the Council for civil control of the police work.

The act of the Director of police is of historical importance. Namely, by that Stankovic, the first insider in the Montenegrin police, will finally get the protection of the institution he belonged to.

B this act Vuksanovic made an important step towards establishing an environment that will encourage other police officers to report

possible irregularities in the work of their colleagues and thus contribute to the professionalization of the police, which directly contributes to the rule of law.

Today's support that Stankovic got from the director of the police is a clear message, not only to the society, but also to all police officers to be professionally consistent in carrying out police tasks.

In addition, by that Vuksanovic's has shown his willingness to be a reliable partner of the democratic public and the willingness to approach to all his professional practices that in the function of the rule of law.

At the end, we are pleased to note that the process of advocacy for the officer Stankovic's case, that we jointly led, along with **Stevo Muk**, director of the " Institut alternative", is successfully closed.

We take the opportunity to thank the media that shown great support for the monitoring and resolving of this case.

Aleksandar Sasa Zekovic, member of the Council for civil control of the police work

Daliborka Uljarevic, executive director of the Centre for the Civic Education

Tea Gorjanc Prelevic, executive director of the Human Rights Action