

Podgorica, 25 December 2008

### **Public Announcement**

on Occasion of the Decision of the Government of Montenegro to Settle Reparation  
Cases with Victims of 1992 Deportation of Refugees War Crime

The today's Decision of the Government of Montenegro has created conditions for the conclusion of court settlement agreements in 42 civil suits filed for damages due to illegal arrest of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the territory of Montenegro and their deportation to the enemy military forces of Bosnian Serbs in May 1992.

Four years after the first claims have been filed the Government of Montenegro accepted responsibility and decided to provide damages to survived victims of this war crime (9) and families of those who had been killed (33). Regretting that this decision was not reached earlier, as five plaintiffs had passed away in the meantime, we nevertheless consider this to be a historical event of an international importance for facing the past and respecting the rights of war crimes' victims to reparations.

The value of the settlement lies in moral satisfaction for the plaintiffs. Considering that not a single final judgment was reached to date, doubting the duration of continuing trials, and noting the court practice in the region, the plaintiffs accepted modest individual amounts of damages: for the children 30.000 euros, for the parents and spouses 25.000 euros, for brothers and sisters 10.000 euros, as well as for the family members of the survived prisoners of concentration camps, and for survived victims app. 7.000 euros per month of detention in the concentration camps.

On behalf of our clients we thank all institutions, especially Montenegrin media and non-governmental organisations, who have saved the victims of this crime from oblivion.

Lawyers of the Prelevic Law Firm