

Government of the Republic of Montenegro
Mr. Zeljko Sturanovic, *Prime Minister*

Podgorica, 29 May 2007

Respected Mr. Sturanovic,

the attitude that Your Government so far maintained in respect of the victims of the 1992 deportation war crime has been disturbing, offered as ignorance of the two letters of the victims' families of 13 December 2006 and 14 February 2007 and binding instruction to the state prosecutor to entirely oppose their claims in court.

Such self-content and indifereent attitude towards the victims, otherwise forbidden by international law, has culminated with a shocking announcement of the Minister of Justice of 24 May 2007 and the following clarifications, justifying the crime and exerting an open pressure to the court.

The Minister of Justice founded his justification of the crime on several statements that are not truthful and to which we hereby respond:

- 1) there are no „search-warrants from the competent authorities from the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina“, whereby the arrest and deportation of refugees had been requested;
- 2) the refugees were not delivered to the „competent authorities on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina“, but to the military and police of the non-recognized Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under command of Radovan Karadzic;
- 3) no federal laws of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, established on 27 April 1992 could have been applied with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, that at the time of the execution of this crime had been constituted as independent state and an internationally recognized member of the United Nations;

- 4) no „federal laws“ allowed for illegal and arbitrary deprivation of liberty, taking hostages, illegal deportation to concentration camps and other forms of illegal detention, as well as to deprivation of the right to a fair and impartial trial. To the contrary, the Criminal Code had also at the time prohibited such acts as a War crime against civilian population, as well as it does now;
- 5) Montenegrin Government was fully aware in May 1992 that there was a state of war on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially that a war was waged against the non-Serbian population in the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the victims had been deported. As Montenegrin Minister of Interior Nikola Pejakovic announced in the Reply to a parliamentary query on the issue in 1993:

«For the reasons based on tactical assessment that *the scope of war operations on the territory of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina jeopardized the safety of our police officers designated with escorting those persons*, it was agreed, as above stated, that the officers of SUP Srebrenica [Serbian Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina] should come to Herzeg-Novi to finalize the take-over.“¹

- 6) We also remind You that the Government of the Republic of Montenegro in the letter directed to Mrs. Danijela Stupar-Titoric of 18 August 1992 had thoroughly explained and confessed the perpetration of the War crime against civilian population in the following way:

„Your husband, Titoric Alemko from Novo Sarajevo was arrested on 26 May 1992 in Herceg-Novi together with another 34 persons, upon request of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and handed over to the authorized officers of the SUP Srebrenica Petar Mitrovic and Predrag Perendic. *On the same day he was delivered to the military police of the territorial defense headquarters in Bratunac, where he was supposed to enter a group of Muslim men intended for exchange for the apprehended Serbian territorial fighters.* We do not have any further information on your husband's further destiny, as well as on other persons delivered to the military authorities in Bratunac.“²

We kindly ask that Your Government would after fifteen years of the execution of the crime face the facts and undertake a responsible attitude towards the victims, thereby preventing their further victimization.

¹ Answer to a Parliamentary Query of 8 April 1993, scanned copy is posted at:
<http://www.prelevic.com/Documents/Odgovor%20na%20poslanicko%20pitanje.doc>

² Original letter is scanned and posted at: <http://www.prelevic.com/Documents/Pismo-D-Stupar-Titoric.doc>

We repeat, for the third time, the readiness of our clients to answer Your invitation for negotiations on the reparations in accordance with the Resolution No. 60/147 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 14 December 2005, that was delivered to you previously together with the above mentioned evidence.

Empowered representatives of the victims

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