

experiences, that they are alike and that they themselves did not have that; they only have to acquire it because it is a different context in which they grow up.

Statement: Marina Škrabalo, Centre for Peace Studies, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

Youths fear that states [Croatia and other successor states to the former Yugoslavia] will not alter their national truths about the past, despite the facts.

Do you think that it will ever be mentioned in official Croatian documents that Croatia was an aggressor in Bosnia and Herzegovina? I mean, I can have an opinion about it and I can say for one thing or another that I personally believe it was like this, but honestly, I really doubt that it will be like this one day.

Statement: Dan Špicer, Social Democratic Party Youth Forum, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

Learning about the past is important represents the foundation for dealing with the past (...) The Ministry of Education has recently launched a film called The Truth about the Homeland War and sent it to elementary schools. I must admit that I do not agree with many things presented in this film which glorify Croat and diminish Serb victims (...) An Information-Documentation Memorial Centre, I think it is called, has been recently opened in Vukovar. I heard that in this centre there is a simulator where anyone can go, pick up plastic pistols and shoot at Serbs. I think this will never bring us to the process of dealing with the past and that these are highly biased ways of teaching about the past.

Statement: Emina Bužinkić, Croatian Youth Network, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

The regional connection of youths creates an environment in which they can deal with the past, whilst building trust and promote communication.

I think it is important that youths [from the region] are brought together to a place where they can meet, to see that they are basically the same, that they are equal, with similar problems, interests, and then on such grounds can discuss the past. There could be several regional camps [for young people] where the focus would be on the issue of dealing with the past

or some sort of peace education.

Statement: Anamarija Sočo, Volunteer Centre Zagreb and Zagreb City Youth Council, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

We had two groups for civic education, including Serbs and Croats. We were simply scared of how they were going to accept each other. But they acted on their own initiative: They wanted to be in the same group, much to our surprise; we realized that although such projects cannot make them be together, they themselves will realize that they are not so different and that they can work together. We had one project called Seal without Borders, where young people from Bač and Vukovar socialized.

Statement: Helena Bučko, Danube Youth Peace Group, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

There is a need for a regional conference dedicated to projects and activities of young people on dealing with the past that would create an opportunity for joint strategies.

Regional conferences should be organized where we could have a space for youth and small organizations to present what they have achieved so far, what movies, materials or books they have made. In Belgrade, I saw some tutorials about tolerance, from all different angles of methods, manners and means of dealing with the past in order to come together in a certain way. In the future, we might have an opportunity to combine our efforts on the basis of these achievements.

Statement: Srđan Antić, Nansen Dialogue Centre, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

7. Regional consultation with journalists: Instruments for establishing facts about war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
September 29th 2007

The consultation was organized by the Humanitarian Law Center (Serbia), Research and Documentation Center (BiH), and Documenta (Croatia) in cooperation with the BH Journalists (BiH), the Independent Journalists' Association of

Vojvodina, Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia, International Center for Education of Journalists (Croatia), and the International Centre for Transitional Justice. The consultation was opened by Nataša Kandić (Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia), Vesna Teršelič (Documenta, Croatia), and Mirsad Tokača (Research and Documentation Center, BiH), and was attended by 31 journalists. The discussion was moderated by Nerma Jelačić (BIRN BiH) and Rade Radovanović (TV Avala, Serbia). Beta and VranjePress agencies reported on the event.

Regional approaches are very important when reporting about war crimes.

It is very important that we support each other and nurture a regional approach in reporting about important topics such as war crimes simply because those who participated in the war in this region, those who were in the military and war crimes victims from one area may have family or friends in another. That, along with professional solidarity in the region.

Statement: Borka Rudić, BH Journalists, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

We can do a lot as journalists by not recognizing the boundaries between us, by helping each other, giving each other information in an effort to adequately write about how the crimes were committed in different communities. If bodies are found in Belgrade and there are some generals there who ordered that [in Serbia], but the [families of the] victims are in Kosovo, then we might be able to make some small journalist teams on a regional level to investigate and publish everything.

Statement: Nadira Avdić Vllasi, Kosovo Radio-television-RTK, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

In order to promote transitional justice in the media it is necessary to have the support of editors-in-chief.

We cannot talk about journalists only. As much as they would like to help discover the truth, they don't really have much initiative and they can't do a whole lot without the support of their bosses. If it is a privately owned media outlet, it is easy even to get fires.

Statement: Nadira Avdić Vllasi, Kosovo Radio-television Kosovo-RTK, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

Journalists can conduct research, but they can't make their findings public. This is the crucial issue, who to get it in the air or in newspapers. I think we should send letters to public services, make them promise that they will air it and then approach smaller, local TV stations because they have their local audiences.

Statement: Borka Rudić, BH Journalists, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

Associations of journalists must deal with members who spread the war propaganda.

When it comes to punishing those who spread the war propaganda, it is unrealistic to expect that it will happen. It has not happened in the last 15 years and it is more likely to expect that General Veljko Kadijević will be tried for war crimes in Vukovar than to see any of them indicted.

Statement: Hrvoje Zovko, Croatian Radio-television-HRT, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

It is too late to try journalists. Or, the question is whether we can try journalists when main war instigators and war criminals were not tried? I am in favour of the journalist community settling accounts on ethical principles within its own ranks, especially with those who were war reporters (...) I don't know of any association of journalists who excluded a single member for acting dishonourably before or during the war.

Statement: Borka Rudić, BH Journalists, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

War crimes trials have a serious impact even if the punishment is not commensurate with the crime in question.

We, journalists, are very prone to observe all trials as a game. The difference is huge because if it's a game, only the final score matters. In a trial, it is not only the punishment that matters. In the Ovčara case, for example, something was achieved after all – it was established beyond a reasonable doubt that a heinous crime was committed and that no one will be able to deny it, regardless of the sentence for Mrkšić or Šljivančain or the fact that Radić was acquitted of all charges.

Statement: Dejan Anastasijević, Vreme Weekly Magazine, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

Participants did not agree on whether the public in general is interested in the topic of war crimes.

I think that in Serbia we have no problem writing and reporting about war crimes but the thing is no one is reading or listening to it any longer and I believe that we have to find a way to make the public more sensitive.

Statement: Bojan Tončić, freelance journalist, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

I think it is crucial not to share the opinion of our colleagues who believe that the war crimes topic is simply overrated and that the public is no longer interested. I believe that the media should not comply with what the public wants but try to quench the thirst for new topics. We have to be the overbearing force, regardless of the pressure we are exposed to.

Statement: Petar Komnenić, Monitor Weekly Magazine, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

We cannot allow the marketplace to ruin a war time story or a war fact. No one can convince me that it is possible.

Statement: Mirsad Tokača, Research and Documentation Center, BiH, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

It is important to create awareness about facts: the public often remains in the dark about the facts about war crimes and ICTY war crime trials.

We have a problem because we don't have facts. Simply, the public is not getting enough facts such as the contents of court decisions or why they are the way they are. Croatian television is a public service and it cannot stop reporting about war crimes simply because they feel they are not popular. You are paid to do it and you have to do it. It is as simple as that.

Statement: Eugen Jakovčić, TV Jadran, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

The public receives information about war crimes only if they are contained in the news or if they are the subject of documentaries. Making a 'heart-warming story' would be much more efficient than a news item. And, naturally, we should only use established facts in any reporting on war crime.

Statement: Mira Lolić-Močević, Republika Srpska Radiotelevision, BiH, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

War crimes should not be a battle field for

our opposing opinions. Journalists must unequivocally condemn war crimes because of their responsibility to respect civic and human rights.

Since journalists are creating history, I think they should have their opinion on the matter at hand and be able to bear responsibility for it. If it is wrong, warmongering, or similar, they have to be held responsible for it. We can't be allowed to be war instigators, to use hate speech, to call for murder or bloodshed. These are not standards of the industry; they are simply standards for the respect for civic and human rights.

Statement: Senka Vlatković, B92, Serbia, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

I always say that when it comes to crime, no one is allowed to be neutral because another human being is a victim of that crime. One has to be biased and take the victim's side. That is our moral obligation, not only professional. I cannot imagine writing an article in which I dedicate an equal amount of space to a rape victim and the rapist and leave it up to the reader to make a conclusion (...) The presumption of innocence is not applicable in a public debate, it is only applicable to participants in trial proceedings and journalists monitoring the trial. And that is where it ends.

Statement: Dejan Anastasijević, Vreme Weekly Magazine, Serbia, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

I think it is important to show another side of the story and have both participants in a conflict give their statements because no one can monopolize the truth. Simply, we never know when we may make a mistake.

Statement: Igor Mekina, Dnevnik, Slovenia, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

It is necessary to create a shared online database which will make journalists' work easier.

It's maybe not a bad idea to design a website so that in the end we will create a common database which will make journalists' work easier. So that the work of [civil society] organizations or of all of us that are dealing with this issue, will be visible in twenty, seventeen, fifteen or so years

Statement: Dinko Gruhonjić, Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, Serbia, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

One of the things you can think about is gathering

data owned by non-governmental organizations or your individual archives. And even if prosecutors don't do anything with that material, in The Hague, Belgrade, or Sarajevo, by gathering and presenting that material in an unofficial report or on an Internet site can be a way to initiate responsibility for those less tangible crimes and issues prosecutors cannot always link with war crimes.

Statement: Caitlin Reiger, International Center for Transitional Justice, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

Journalists employed in the regional public service media could work together and produce a TV show on transitional justice, which could be aired in all former Yugoslav states.

It would be a good idea to form a team of journalists that would make one TV show every month and would be broadcast at a set time (...) with topics such as war crimes, or stories that never get to be told, and all war crimes related stories, and everything that deserves to be covered by that TV show.

Statement: Gordana Petrović, Serbian Radio-television-RTS, Regional consultation with journalists, Sarajevo, BiH, September 29th 2007.

8. National consultation with young people on mechanisms of dealing with the past

Osijek, Croatia,
October 6th 2007

The consultation was organized by the Osijek Center for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights (Croatia). It is necessary to create a strategy which will educate young people about the importance of dealing with the past, both for their own and future generations, and also to show them how important it is in preventing possible armed conflict in the future. Regional cooperation in the process of dealing with the past is indispensable because the armed conflict has spread across the newly formed states. In order to secure a comprehensive process of dealing with the past and finding an adequate truth-establishing and truth-telling mechanism, it is essential to include the entire post-Yugoslav region.

9. Regional consultations with young people on instruments and initiatives to establish and disclose the facts about war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia

Belgrade, Serbia,
October 21st 2007

The consultation was organized by the Humanitarian Law Center (Serbia), Research and Documentation Center (BiH), and Documenta (Croatia) in cooperation with the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (Serbia) and the Croatian Youth Network. A total of 37 representatives of non-governmental human rights organizations, four members of the youth organizations of various political parties from the region as well as 16 observers, two of whom were from international organizations participated in the discussion. Nataša Kandić (Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia) and Vesna Teršelić (Documenta, Croatia) opened the gathering and Emina Bužinkić (Croatian Youth Network) and Andrej Nosov (Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia) were the moderators. H-Alter posted a short news piece announcing the gathering.

It is necessary to form a regional body tasked with establishing the truth about the past and staff it with expert members from all countries formed on the territory of the former SFRJ.

When we speak about truth-seeking and truth-telling, I think it would be (beneficial) to have a regional body with members from all former SFRJ countries. Why? Because it is important that the body is regional and made up of experts from the entire region so that the results are accepted by the public, especially the young people, without any prejudice.

Statement: Antonela Balić, Young People and Informal Education Forum, Croatia, Regional consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, October 21st 2007.

The role of young people is crucial in creating a positive social context for the promotion of a regional body tasked with establishing the facts about war crimes.

The role of the young people in the creation of a positive context in the region is crucial for the dealing with the past process. Their role and their