

*to be crystal clear on these issues, to determine what kind of crimes are going to be our priority and where we should focus.*

**Statement:** Dragan Sekulović, Center for Communication Pravda - Association of the refugees and forcefully displaced persons from Croatia, Serbia, National consultation with associations of victims, Belgrade, Serbia, July 15th 2008.

**It is necessary to promote the commission in public as soon as possible. It is also necessary to demand the support of the international community for its establishment.**

*It is necessary to promote the commission right away. We have to pave the road for it, we have to prepare the public for such a concept and let the public say we need it. We have to jump one stone at a time.*

**Statement:** Dragan Pjevač, Association of the families of the killed and missing persons in Krajina in Croatia, National consultation with associations of victims, Belgrade, Serbia, July 15th 2008.

*The commission should be formed as soon as possible and it must be supported by the European Union and the European Parliament and the Security Council of the United Nations. If it does not have that kind of support, the commission will have no influence at all and it will not be able to work.*

**Statement:** Milorad Trifunović, Family's association of kidnapped and missing person on Kosovo and Metohija, Serbia, office in Northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Kosovo, National consultation with associations of victims, Belgrade, Serbia, July 15th 2008.

**It is necessary to make a documentary about all victims in the region.**

*I suggest that a documentary about all victims in the region is made, where representatives of victims' family members will speak and where their stories will be corroborated by video recordings from the area they are talking about. That documentary should be aired on all TV stations so that the public knows what our goal is.*

**Statement:** Olga Božanić, Family's association of kidnapped and missing person on Kosovo and Metohija, Serbia, National consultation with associations of victims, Belgrade, July 15th 2008.

## 15. National consultation with civil society on the Initiative for RECOM

Zagreb, Croatia,  
July 16th 2008

Documenta (Croatia) organized the consultation. A total of 29 representatives of civil society in

Croatia attended the gathering. Vesna Teršelič (Documenta, Croatia) and Eugen Jakovčić (TV Jadran, Croatia) informed the participants of the present course of the consultation on of truth-seeking, initiative for establishing the regional commission, and the establishment of the Coalition for Support for Establishing the Regional Commission. It was announced that the coalition would be officially presented at the Fourth Regional Forum on Transitional Justice in Prishtinë/Priština in October 2008.

All participants supported the regional approach stating that it represents the only possible way to establish all facts about war crimes and the fate of the missing.

They underlined the significance of collecting information about all victims of war and the necessity to prosecute war crimes. They also expressed their concern about slow investigations and always present ethnic bias in prosecution of war crimes.

It was concluded that the initiative should encompass as wide a circle of civil society organizations as possible and that support for the initiative should be sought at local levels as well. With this regard, presentations, promotions and campaigns for the initiative should be organized and organizations at the local level should be linked and involved.

Participants also asked if the initiative should be placed in a wider context and if the European Union, OSCE, and International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia should be involved in the process as well.

## 16. National consultation with young people on the Initiative for RECOM

Ivanjica, Serbia,  
September 21st 2008

Young people support the regional initiative for establishing the facts about war crimes and they believe RECOM should be established as an official commission.

The regional commission must be free from bias and strictly objective in its work and the process

of establishment of the commission must be very well conceived.

Young people believe that it is necessary to conduct a campaign to create a positive climate in the societies on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and that the campaign must include various target groups with an approach adjusted for each particular group. The campaign must be a gradual process and it must include victims, their families, and it should stress the need to discover the truth.

The campaign should include public personalities from different areas.

Education has a very important role in creating a positive climate, and so does regional cooperation and youth exchange programmes. It is necessary to set up a generation link between victims and young people so that they can develop empathy for victims. It is also important to organize visits to memorials and locations where war crimes were committed.

Young people believe that together with the victims, it is their responsibility to bring a change to their societies in everyday life.

It is necessary to include religious communities, too, together with the victims – church officials must monitor public hearings of victims and they have to be fully included in the entire process.

Members of the commission should not be those who were members of governments or had any ties with governments at the time of armed conflicts on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Young people encourage victims and their families to testify publicly and they believe that the entire process of a hearing, including its preparation and the manner in which is conducted must be executed meticulously so that the dignity of victims is preserved and their wishes respected.

Young people believe that in addition to victims and their family members, public personalities and intellectuals should be members of the commission.

RECOM must have a clearly defined authorization to investigate. State institutions, including security services must cooperate with RECOM.

## 17. National consultation with associations of victims in Kosovo on the Initiative for RECOM

Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo,  
October 4th 2008

The consultation was organized by the Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo. The consultation was attended by 22 participants, mostly members of associations of families of victims and missing persons, as well as six observers representing various international organizations. Nataša Kandić (Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia), Vesna Teršelić (Documenta, Croatia), and Bekim Blakaj (Humanitarian Law Center, Kosovo) opened the debate which was moderated by Veldete Idrizi (Community Building Mitrovica, Kosovo).

### **There is a need to develop a regional approach for the entire region about what happened in our recent past.**

*We need to have a body which will very methodically use the documentation obtained by the ICTY, which will be able to organize additional investigations in numerous cases not processed by the ICTY or domestic courts, which will create a war crime map, show an exact picture of what happened thereby helping offices of war crimes prosecutors, but what is more important, it will be able to create a complete picture of war crimes and help create a climate of compassion and solidarity with victims in each society, along with a public platform where the victims can speak about their suffering.*

**Statement:** Nataša Kandić, Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia, National consultation with associations of victims, Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo, October 4th 2008.

*I think that it is extremely important both because of the responsibility we have with respect to victims and to every member of our society, it is very important to establish the facts and the facts are so complex that they can only be considered in a regional context. We in Croatia simply cannot know the truth about the Serbs who fled after the Storm military operation in August 1995 if they no longer live in Croatia and we know that many of them live either in Bosnia and Herzegovina or in Serbia.*

**Statement:** Vesna Teršelić, Documenta, Croatia, National consultation with associations of victims, Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo, October 4th 2008.

### **Initiative for the creation of RECOM is in the**