

Local Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on the Initiative for RECOM

Knin, Croatia
September 2, 2010

Article 5

Timeframe of Operation

I am a little confused because of such a short mandate of the Commission – only two years. I think it cannot be done in two years. I thought it was going to be a continuous process and now I am pretty sure that this problem cannot be solved in only two years. (Dušan Cvjetković, Serbian Democratic Forum, Knin, Croatia, Local Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on the Initiative for RECOM, Knin, Croatia, September 2, 2010).

When speaking about the duration, I also thought that two years is too short for such an undertaking, but I also think that the mandate of the Commission should not be too long, three years at the most. (Boris Milošević, Serbian National Council, Zagreb, Croatia, Local Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on the Initiative for RECOM, Knin, Croatia, September 2, 2010).

Article 6

Public Hearing of Victims and Other Persons

(...) if victims or other individuals are allowed to refuse to testify many may opt to do that but it can be a real problem if that individual is the only survivor of a mass crime. Then we may not be able to disclose very important facts. I think that it is imperative to create a high quality support system for victims who testify but that they should also be required to testify. (Slaven Rašković, Documenta, Zagreb, Local Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on the Initiative for RECOM, Knin, Croatia, September 2, 2010).

(...) if witnesses are required to testify, then it is necessary to determine sanctions for those who refuse to give their statements. And I also think that if a person comes to testify only because that person is afraid of possible sanctions if he/she refuses to testify, that would be a forced statement. So, I may be charged and accused for not appearing, I may be declared a traitor, and I may also be stigmatized. (Boris Milošević, Serbian National Council, Zagreb, Croatia, Local Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on the Initiative for RECOM, Knin, Croatia, September 2, 2010).

Unfortunately, today we have to pay for every piece of information we receive. If a person is ready to give a statement, why can't we award that person for testifying if it will help someone find their child after 15 or 20 years? I think that we should set up a fund for that purpose to help us obtain as reliable information as possible. (Zdenka Šimpraga, Hoću Kući, Knin, Croatia, Local Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on the Initiative for RECOM, Knin, Croatia, September 2, 2010).