

# Newsletter „Women, peace, security“ June 2013



Dear readers, by publishing this newsletter, we wish to contribute to better information about UN documents on security, demilitarisation, and to the greater influence of women on post-conflict problems solving, first of all in Serbia, and then in the Western Balkans. We hope that this newsletter will be read by those who are interested in the re-examination of the traditional concept of national security, the reform of the security sector, the gender dimension of security, security integrations and feminist antimilitarist concept of security. We expect your contributions on these questions. It is accessible online on the website: [www.zeneucrnom.org](http://www.zeneucrnom.org)

The editorial board

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# Women in Black and Resolution 1325



## Women`s Court proceedings

Since 21<sup>st</sup> until 23<sup>d</sup> of June, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, meeting of the Organizing committee was held-a feminist approach to justice. The meeting was attended by members of the Organizing committee of the Women`s Court, from all the parts of ex Yugoslavia: Jovana Mihajlovic (Women`s lobby, Ljubljana), Rada Boric (Center for Women studies, Zagreb), Nela Pamukovic (Center for women war victims, Zagreb), Mara Radovanovic (Lara, Bijeljina), Munira Subasic and Kada Hotic (), Ljupka Kovacevic (Ania, Kotor), Savka Todorovska (Savet za rodnu ravnopravnost, Skopje), Igballe Rogova, Violca Krasniqi and Nora Ahmetaj from Kosova Women`s Network, Dasha Duhacek (Women Studies, Belgrade), Stasa Zajovic (Women in Black, Belgrade) and experts: Marijana Senjak (Zagreb), Gorana Mlinarevic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Svetlana Slapsak (sociologist). It was decided during the meeting that Movement of mothers from Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves should be included within the Organizing committee instead of Women to Women from Sarajevo. Reports on work of organizing Organizing committee since the meeting in February, were presented, and challenges of the potential witnesses for Women`s Court, as well.

## Activities of Women in Black on the demilitarization of security



### Zvornik

After the commemoration in Prijedor on 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2013, we departed by van to Zvornik. During our trip, we have talked that we will sleep at Suvada`s house in Djulici, she lives alone as most of women there, because their husbands were executed.

In clammily eve, we have arrived at Suvada`s place, the van stopped in front of her house. I expected to see an older woman, but out of the courtyard, waved a young, beautiful woman, and so I was surprised. I recognized her, while we were greeting each other, because I have seen her at Women in Black in Belgrade and during Network meetings. Since I was introduced with many women, I did not know names of all of them. The meeting with Suvada I have experienced as I am meeting sister of mine I have `nt seen for a long time.

Suvada, a young and pretty woman, with a big and opened heart for all the people with good intentions, a warm soul and a beloved face. In one word-an angel. Inside the house, as well as around it, everything is tidy and clean. She has two daughters, grandchildren and a son who is a student, who have never met his father, because villains took him and executed him, while the boy was too small and did not register in his memory, father of his. Beside Suvada`s house are the

houses of her husbands sisters. They are also on their own. They have executed Suvada`s husband, four of his brothers, two of their sons and a father in law. Eight men out of immediate family of theirs were executed.

It is great honor of mine for I have become more familiar with generous Suvada. We had dinner and we slept at her place. In the dawn, 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 2013 was followed by drizzly and gloomy rain. We are getting ready to



join with Suvada the marsh `Path of death,` all the way to secondary tomb `Black peak.` We have started, people were joining us. The rain kept drizzling, exchanged with the sunshine at the same time, as it is the life and death of those innocent people who were tortured and executed only because they were of other religion and their names were different then villains names.

We have arrived in technical school where the innocent people were taken out of the trucks and huddled up together into the hall. Seven hundreds of them. They say that walls have started cracking down due to compression of their bodies, which were pushed by force. We have laid the wreath aside of the hall, entering inside, which, by the way they did not want to open for the burial ceremony (because it is under Republic Srpska patronage) and we faced an incredible scene, the place where people were tortured was covered by the posters of nude women. Our interpretation of those was-revealed interest of Serbs-the aim of the Serb`s army of that time: not to leave in life any of them, any male name.

We have continued our way toward secondary tomb `Black peak` and in my head emotions were changing: sorrow, shame and pride. Sorrow-because of the unfortunate destiny of those innocent and executed people. Shame-because I am a member of the same people to whom those villains belong, too. And the pride, because I do feel the need to share with those people of broken hearts my compassion, and to express my honor for the misfortunate and innocent people, who have lost their lives during deathly 1992.

We reached the secondary tomb. It was 40 meters long and 4 meters deep. Inside of it were 500 of people hidden. After sixteen years, in 2008, their remains were found, and among them was our friend Suvada`s husband. It was said during commemoration, among other things, that High Commissioner for Bosnia and Herzegovina-Paddy Ashdown (2002-2006) said on that occasion that he knew nothing of hiding dead bodies, while he was visiting villages around Zvornik.

After commemoration, we departed to Gornja Kalesija to express our honor for the burial of eleven founded bodies. While we were walking toward van, we spoke with women who were going with lots of people, too. One woman was telling us that they were brought from Klisa to Bijeli Potok and then they divided men and young women without children, and loaded them into the trucks. Seeing this, one woman pushed her five years old child to another, young woman, in order to protect her. Other

women started doing the same, those who had two or more children of their own. However, somebody from paramilitary formations noticed it and they have started asking kids if those women are their mothers. This little boy is now five years old and lives in Djulici. Young women without children, were taken to the camps and sexually abused, humiliated and executed.



On 15<sup>th</sup> of June, this year, a new mass grave will be opened, and women who have not found yet their beloved ones, hope they will in this one.

Those women with broken souls and tired bodies, by searching their beloved ones since their disappearance, got only one aim-to find them and bury them.

Dzana, Goran, Ljilja, Marija, Milka, Natasa, Stasa, and Vlada discussed and the report was prepared by Milka Rosic.

### **It looked as they were sleeping**

In Special Court of Belgrade, since 3<sup>d</sup> until 7<sup>th</sup> of June, evidence gathering procedure for Kosovo crimes, continued. Prosecution for war crimes of Serbia charged thirteen members of `Jackals` but as well as reserve police forces and Territorial defense for being responsible for the execution of more than 100 civilians of Albanian nationality, in 1999. The precise accusation since December last year, charges defendants executions in Lybenic, Pavlan and Zahac villages (municipality Peje) in April and May, 1999. Witnesses testified through video conferencing connection from the EULEX Court in Pristine.

Ali Nikchi as witness said: `That very day-14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1999, I was in Zahac village. They have gathered us, shooting, looting and burning houses. They have killed my son, but not that very same day. We are damaged in a material sense, but as well in physical and psychological. I would not like to blame no one who is innocent. They told us to move toward Peje. Then, they separated us and said to go to Montenegro. When they brought us back, we have seen in one of the ditches, 18 corps, in the direction of Cuska village. One man saw corps of his two sons. He cried and they looked just as they were sleeping. My brother and his wife were killed and burnt in their house. My son was killed on 10<sup>th</sup> of June together with three other persons in Pavlan village. `

Nezir Kastrati, witness, said that on 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1999, he was in Zahac village `when they have appeared from various directions. They took us on the road. Asked for our personal documents, money, jewelry and they took all of it. They executed some people at that time in one of the suburbs. I was hidden in the bush. I do not want to talk of what I have not seen. They took a girl out

of the line, Esmā Demaku, and she was not find ever after. Many houses were burned that day. My daughter was executed on 10<sup>th</sup> of June in Pavlan village. My wife was killed then, as well.´

Shaban Kastrati told:´ On 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1999, in Zahac, my village, both from the east and west side have entered Serbian forces, they were shooting and burning houses. They expelled us from our house. Those were ´ Jackals´ brought by ´ Dead.´ There were various uniforms. They have executed 45 people in Cuska that very day. In Pavlan they have killed approximately 12, and in Zahac 19. They burnt all of the houses. I have seen people´s corps in one ditch.´

Ismet Avdijaj was in Zahac village when they have directed people in the line toward Peje. ´ They told us we are going to Albania. Then, they told us to go back to our homes. In one of the ditches in Zahac, we have seen corps. Some of the people were screaming and some of them fainted, I have heard that they abducted one girl-Esmā Demaku and even today, her destiny is unknown. They demanded money of us that very same day, and I have given everything I had. They were shooting and burning houses.´

Tanja Nikchi entered her house, together with her husband, on 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1999. The house was burnt, and all over the walls were holes of the bullets.´ There were remains of dead people, as well. My husband and his cousin collected the remains of the burnt bodies and hidden them in one barrel, until the end of the war, when we buried them. We have to give them money, gold and everything. The same day we were expelled from our house one of the soldiers wanted to slaughter the calf.´

Fazlije Hyseni testified:´ On 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1999, they forced us into the line in Zahac village. On the way out of the village, they abducted my son, ordered him to get out of the line, put him in the bus and killed him. They have ordered to the rest to go to Albania. Then, they have told us to return back. They have selected 17 young people, we have heard the scream, and rifles. Later on, we have found all of them dead in the ditch. God forbid any mother to experience something like that. I took the body of my son, but one Serb fired at that moment and it was the last time, I have seen my son. I have not find yet his bones. For fourteen years already I am crying. Six people of our family were executed that very same day. My wish as his mother is to find out where are his remains. Five people were found, but not my son. They burnt down our houses the same day, and took from us money, gold and personal documents. I have no words to describe how they have treated us.´

Abdul Hyseni describes:´ I was in my house in Zahac village on 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1999. In the morning we have heard the offensive from Cuska direction. Vidosav Stevanovic was drinking coffee in my house, saying we should not worry because he will guarantee for us. Then, they expelled us from our houses. Slavisa Kastratovic searched for the money, gold and our personal documents holding the automatic weapon, otherwise he will kill us all, he threatened, children were crying and women were screaming. They took out of the line 18 young men, in Pavlan village, and on the road to Cuska they abducted Esmā Demaku. We do not know anything about her, not even today. When they told us to go back to our homes, we saw corps of the executed in the ditch. My only son was killed there, too. Then somebody shot in our direction and we escaped. Tomorrow in that very same ditch were no more corps of our killed children. That very same day, they have executed in Cuska, Pavlan and Zahac approximately 70 people.´

Selvete Selmanaj said that on 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1999 lots of things have happened in her own courtyard

in Pavlan village: `They have expelled us from our houses in the morning, they took my husband. Then the courtyard was filled with uniformed persons. They started harassing us, they shot in the air, trying to frighten us, demanded money and gold. They put my husband and other men in one house. They told us to go to Albania with children. Then we heard shots. They burned six houses at the same time. They were burning and we have no place to go. We were all robbed on the field. Had no where to turn to. There is no compensation for the murder of my husband. His life can not be returned back by any mean.`

Salji Nikchi was in his house on 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 1999, in Zahac village, with his father and Hali Gashi. `Serbian forces entered. I ran away. My family stayed in the house. When I came back the house was burning and I saw people have been executed and burnt. We buried them. That very same day my mother, father, my sister, and a cousin were all killed. The soldiers came to the village in order to execute us, the way did.`

*Milos Urosevic*

## **Testing the conscience**

International LGBT Pride Day was marked on 27<sup>th</sup> of June at 12 o`clock on the Republic square in Belgrade under the slogan `Hatred free zone.` It was organized by Women in Black and Gay Straight Alliance, IDAHO Belgrade, Gay Lesbian info Centre, Association `Rainbow,` Safe Pulse of Youth, Lesbian organization of Novi Sad, supported by the activists of other NGO`s.

The event which gathered approximately 150 participators, attended among others Tamara Luksic Orlandic, Biljana Srbljanovic writer, first transgender person who spoke in her own name in the documentary `When I was a kid I was a little girl` -Gordana Mitrovic and representatives of the international organizations.

They walked a long the Republic square to Knez Mihailova and Zmaj Jova`s street until the stairs on Obilic`s wreath, where on 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2009 a French citizen Brice Taton was beaten up and twelve days after died of injuries. In the atmosphere of hatred and tensions, just before the announced Pride Parade, Taton was beaten up by ultra rightists hooligans. The group of people by standing in the silence and on the spot he was killed, sent the message that they are against hatred and intolerance toward all the minority groups in Serbia.

The participants were holding a huge placard with the inscription: `Hatred free zone` and rainbow colors flags. Many citizens were greeting.

`In the fight against hatred and violence must be involved a wide front of citizens` -considers Stasa Zajovic-Women in Black activist. `There can not be a hierarchy of the kinds of oppression minority groups are suffering from. We stick to the antifa rule



that solidarity is not only our obligation and belief but also pragmatic policy. That mutual supporting and solidarity means that we are investing in different political culture in which when they come for us-and they have been coming many times, there will be those who will protect us and speak in our names-` said Stasa Zajovic.



Women in Black are among those NGO`s who gave their support because Serbian Minister of Education should be dismissed. `Educational system which has stepped into bribery and corruption, nepotism and arrogance, has a negative impact on all of us. Besides, the analysis of the educational programs show a high level of homophobic content, and a homosexuality is still presented equal with illness, pedophilia and zoophilia` -it is said in the joint statement.

### **The army creates the immense number of poor people**

In accordance with the action against militarism organized by International network of actions against small arms (IANSA) and action Food not bombs, Women in Black will organize protest on the Republic square of Belgrade, on 12<sup>th</sup> of June at 3.30 PM, it was announced on 11<sup>th</sup> of June.

`Devastating results of actual militarism in Serbia, comes from the monstrous logics of capitalists and militarists in power-there is enough money for six fighter jets MIG29 M2, and there is no money for salaries, health and education. Serbian government purchase six fighter jets which will cost 124 million of euro. Cynicism of the political elite in this purchase is obvious because they are planning at the same time saving within budget-170 million euro, by holding the employees and pensioners, which is one third of the population, on `frozen income.` Through the military expenditures Serbian airspace will be protected, but we do not know from whom, what we do know is that it will secure for the population a container kind of nutrition` -it is said in the statement.

`We are reminding that austerity measures the IMF, whose only result is the impoverishment of the half of our planet, are affecting primarily health and education. And that is how those two key sectors of the society will be providing worse kind of services, and at the same time by the dismissal of the employees of the public sector, already large number of the unemployed will be increased even more. To be more precise-the consequence of the militarization in Serbia today is creation of army of hungry, sick and uneducated people. That is how authorities in Serbia, in accordance with their militarized conscience, found new enemy and a key culprit for the bad situation in Serbia-employed in the public sector. They are threatening with dismissal and deprivation of the `privileges` of public sector employees, and their reducing on the same slavery status of those who are employed in the private one, without any protection of their labor rights.





Women in Black consider necessary to change the traditional, military security concept-which wastes relentlessly society resources on minority and army and in direct or indirect ways, for the human security concept which improves living conditions of Serbian citizens, but of the region and globally as well` -it is concluded in the statement of Women in Black.

## Wisdom candies

` Antimilitary actions are various and numerous, and necessary for our region. The fact that they are not promoted, does not mean that they do not have their own chronology, and their significance is even greater when it is up to post-conflict societies` -wrote about these actions Women in Black activist.

` In the present moment, which is actually a second wave of militarization and the most important, during which the nation conducts regrouping and restructuring, to re-traditionalize gender relations and redirect the youth for the needs of military tendencies, they are precious. A militarism as an armed patriarchy, which renews itself through wars and predictable gender roles, seemingly unnoticed and unquestioned, in the peace times compensates the losses from the recent past. Attempts to gain new strength and to retrieve a dominant rate.

It is not a coincidence that one of the TV serial became so popular over night. It is just one of the methods of militarization, whose aims are, as of the serial `Military academy` : filling the lost lines, directing the interest of young people, but in the first place the restoration of army reputation which is under the question due to past wars.

The army is always presented as a secure source of income for its military personnel and in the difficult economic situation, the society is in, in this actual moment, easily finds cadets, and more often female cadets as well. They find their secure earning for living, possibility of being promoted, the achievements of their adventurist spirit urge, even the dreams of the `gender equality.` This trend is on the rise thanks to a deformed and absolutely militarized implementation of the 1325 UN Resolution. Serbia as always a militarist country, boasts with large number of wars in its history. A rooted militarism which many people openly admire, in one of its visible manifestations, has a soldier in full battle gear, which leaves only the possibility of the eye contact without any protection. My admiration was always turned toward other side, antimilitarism and `fight` through total conscience objection, conscience objection on military expenditures, conscience objection on militarism in schools and culture institutions, antimilitary-feminist initiatives we have organized countless times (Food not bombs, All for peace/health and knowledge and nothing for armament, Global action against gun violence...) and even in the hardest moments.

Upon the magnificent achievements of antimilitarism most of the people are not informed, and not even interested too much in this topic, either. To my opinion, the above mentioned visible manifestation of militarization, has always provoked revolt and disgust. It is a demonstration of power and un-freedom in accordance with the principle: `*hiding behind someone else`s feathers`*` -while the message for those who know how to read it, is the opposite one. It is a weakness of the one who is hidden under, and by which he wants to drape with authority-something he does not have (and in this case-a false one).

In my case, the symbol of genuine courage was always in other values: to mirror ourselves in the eye of evil, with empty hands and straight spine, and for which-except and seemingly a handful of elves and filigrania-and to whom I immensely admire, are ready as well, Samurais of future galaxies, who have laid down katana of their grandfathers, searching for new grains of wisdom.

I had the privilege of meeting them and this meeting has enriched us and selected us for the coming future. I do consider correct the attitude of mine that on the rocks of the alternative history, will flaunt only the flags of those who were wise enough to recognize numerous traps of militarism. Who rinsed their faces with persistence, of the blood with which they wanted to mark them triumphantly and forever and make them equal to themselves. With velvet hearts and bright eyes across the `monsters` in the metal armors and cameras on their heads, whose only human purpose is spelled beans as fast as possible, in the kitchens of housewives in the hurry.

Of their other purposes, I would rather avoid talking this time.

If it seems naïve and unconvincing, then you should look around. All over are the traces of the more `efficient` methods. The whole villages and cities are cleaned of their locals. Some have not noticed yet that they are gone, and those who were `helping` them (humane relocations, deportations, executions, mass tombs...) would categorize and divide them even dead, a bit more.

What do I think about it? Are the new grains of wisdom necessary to respond?

I do miss all of them tenaciously.

*Sasa Kovacevic*

(Written regarding two antimilitary actions merged in one-Food not bombs and Global action against gun violence, organized by Women in Black and IANSA, on 12<sup>th</sup> of June, in Belgrade. On this occasion, candies and short military messages were distributed to the citizens).



## Politicians against law makers

The representatives of the NGO sector who are dealing with human rights, on 17<sup>th</sup> of June have spoken with representatives of the establishment and Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for human rights. The meeting in the House of human rights was conceptualized so that human rights in Serbia are shortly presented to her. Zorica Trifunovic attended the meeting in the name of Women in Black . UN High Commissioner for human rights gave tone to this meeting, by being an activists in South African Republic and by clearly expressing her attitudes on human rights, as well as deep comprehension for work and strives of NGO`s, as well as crucial importance which this work has.



The evaluation was that Serbia has a very good legislation for human rights, but that its implementation is on a very low level which shows the lack of political will to implement the laws. It is interesting that women human rights, or review of its actual state, were not included in the official agenda. Also, there were no laws connected to the transitional justice, in other words with consequences of the war. In the part which was left for discussion, regarding the basic trends of women human rights, including transitional justice, spoke Women in Black representative. The problems and situation within transitional justice, representative of Humanitarian Law Fund analyzed. Regarding realization of human rights in front of domestic courts, spoke a representative of Youth initiative for human rights.

UN High Commissioner for human rights informed announced that this debate will be an important part of the report on Serbia, as well as an element of summary report for the countries and regarding the position of human rights and which will be presented in December of 2013 in UN.

## Fraud instead of justice

Women in Black are among 112 other NGO`s as well as individuals all over the territory of ex Yugoslavia, who have sent on 25<sup>th</sup> of June a letter to UN General Secretary-Ban Ki Moon, due to `weakening the credibility of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.` The last in the line of those events is the the letter of Frederic Harhoff, a judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, published on 13<sup>th</sup> of June in a Danish magazine BT. He presented his findings and doubts connected to illegal influence of judge Theodor Meron, during three judicial processes and decision-making processes in front of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia: Gotovina and others case, Perisic case and Stanisic and Simatovic case. `His statements in the publicity of former Yugoslavia, and especially in war-affected communities, are accepted as a testimony of fraud instead of justice in front of the most significant UN court` -it is said, among other things, in this letter. It is concluded: `Starting from the belief that the inheritance of International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia influences to a large degree the process of facing the past, and therefore a sustainable peace in the whole region, signatories of this letter indicate that the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia is at the moment, in the shadow of the qualified doubts regarding the independence and impartiality of the

process of the judicial decision-making in latest verdicts. The possibility that some of the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia were led by motives and interests which are abhorrent to the principles of justice and international humanitarian law, seriously damages its reputation and United Nations as well, as its founder.`

## **Illegal abortion-legal death of women**

Women in Black have strongly condemned the statement of the Serbian Orthodox Church, on 6<sup>th</sup> of June, who have supported the alleged initiative of the phantom doctors believers, with which they have demanded the forbiddance of the abortion.

` This kind of statement as well as most of their public appearances of the Serbian Orthodox Church is the unconstitutional encroachment into the foundations of the secular state and human rights, the continuing spread of hatred and production of enemies. After the certain loss of Kosovo, Serbian Orthodox Church found a new battle field within women, encroaching in our elementary human right to decide for our bodies and reproductive rights. And no matter how much it is a retrograde institution in its structure and ideology, we are witnesses of the fact that they do know very well what are computers and media, even more what is Audi A6, and in the accordance to it, we are absolutely sure that they do know that the illegal abortion is an legal death of a woman. In fact, the ban of the abortion, increases the number of the false doctors who will practice it unsafely and illegally, increasing the mortality of women, especially young ones, who are facing the unwanted pregnancies` -it is said in the statement.

` The church which have blessed and hid war criminals, and therefore stood behind Srebrenica as well, now is logical that it is ready to stand behind the project of mass killing of women. Also, church charges with astronomical figures its mediation between the sky and the earth, whose rolling stock and interiors exude with flagrant extravagance looted form its own population, in this way helps private gynecological clinics. Ecclesiastical and economic elite of Serbia, with silence of the state, go hand in hand and rob impoverished men and women. Women in Black will defend with all nonviolent means defend the right to abortion, achieved by ancestries in 1952` -it is concluded in the letter of Women in Black.

## **Split Pride with smile**

Ten girls out of civil society of Serbia, Kosovo, Azerbaijan and Armenia, visited and participated within a study visit, Split Pride on 8ht of June. The visit was organized by Kvinna Till Kvinna from Sweden. Split Pride was organized by Kontra and Iskorak from Zagreb and Rispet from Split.

Gathering started in Djardin with music and dance. The picture was somehow spoiled by a



great number of policemen as `ninja turtles.` Rainbow colors were everywhere. People were playing badminton, laughing, spreading the flag, photographed, giving statements. Me and Fjolla Vuksinaj from Kosovo journalists have asked where we are from and why we are here. So, my answer was that Women in Black support LGBT organizations and Split Pride. Fjolla added that Kosovo as well supports Split Pride. The host was astonished by the fact that two girls from Serbia and Kosovo have come together. We have said that we are friends in the first place. Because of the previous Parades and violence which occurred before them, I was scared. Only later I have managed to explain to myself this feeling. In fact, LGBT person feels that way every day. The fear is a part of their everyday life in the Balkans. We have started from the King Tomislav street, then over Marmontova street and continued toward Riva, where was planned addressing of the representatives of the LGBT organizations from Split, Montenegro and Serbia to the media, and as well a Mayor of Split-Iva Baldasara, Deputy Mayor Goran Kovacevic, Croatian Ministry of Foreign affairs-Vesna Pusic, and Minister of State-Arsen Bauk.

Lepa Mladjenovic from Serbia emphasized that the support to the Pride was provided by girls from Kosovo, too, which was followed by the applause. The streets through which we have reached Riva were all enclosed by metal fence guarded by policemen, but we were not isolated as it is case on Belgrade Pride. People applauded to us, and one granny applauded with a smile on her face, supported by her husband. It was wonderful to see that people from the other side of the fence do support us. There were no insults nor abusive language, only laughs, applauding and greetings.

It was obvious that the state stood behind Pride Parade with a clear message: `Human rights are the law!` Croatia has shown that it is a firm state ready to cope with everyone who threatens with violence, to stand behind those who are different and confirmed therefore once more that it is worthy of entering EU. Respect for Split which has passed the exam on democracy and pride. The hope remains that Belgrade is ready to learn from Split or to rewrites from it, at least.

The Pride was closed with the song `True colors` while the participants were playing with the papers of rainbow colors in their hands. The message was clear: `So don`t be afraid to let them show/Your true colors/True colors are beautiful/Like a rainbow.`

The visit continued by lecturing and discussion of the participants regarding activism, human rights, LGBT rights, feminist curiosity, feminist theory, networking. The first feminist summer school of 2014, will be organized by the girls from Serbia and Kosovo.

*Gordana Subotic*



## The judge crosses the border every day

On 12<sup>th</sup> of June in the premises of Women in Black a projection of movie 'Calling the spirits' was organized, as a part of the educational program of Women's Court-feminist approach to justice. They say that this movie has changed the international law. In the movie, which was awarded by two Emmy rewards, Jadranka Cigelj and Nusreta Sivac are testifying. Two women who have survived concentration camp Omarska in Prijedor, where they have been abused by their neighbors and locals.



Without them, the Association of women from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was providing shelter for the abused women, in Zagreb and International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia-would treat rape in the war of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a phenomena which follows the war and not as a war crime.

For the crimes in Prijedor 26 of war criminals were accused. The state of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have reliable data regarding the scale of the crimes of rape and sexual violence since 1992 until 1995, though it was obliged, in accordance to domestic and international law, to collect them.

'There is only a rough assessment that during war were abused between 20-50.000 of women and men. Less then 40% of the perpetrators were sentenced. The other obligation-reparation, is regulated only in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in accordance with data of State Ministry on human rights, cover approximately 600 of women and men. In the other entity the deadline for applications expired in 2007'-says Leila Mamut from the Swiss Association against the impunity-TRIAL, in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The third obligation of the state would be prevention of violence. There are no researches, no campaigns on peace and war, it is unknown whether violence is spreading and how it manifests within the community. Those who survived the violence, as well as their families, still depend on rare organizations as Medica from Zenica, which provide psychological help to them, and do not wait on the mechanisms of the system.

Jadranka lives in Zagreb and Nusreta in Prijedor. She dedicated her life to a fight for the truth. She says she will testify as long as she will be capable of doing it. For the ex judge there is no job in Prijedor so she has to travel every day to Sanski Most, which is in other entity.

This movie is a document of the crime, but also a document on how documentaries can change not only the local environment but as well the international law.

## The crowning achievement of the Yugoslav philosophy

In the Institute for philosophy and societal theory in Belgrade, on 12<sup>th</sup> of June, a proceeding under the title PRAXIS-Societal critique and humanistic socialism, which were published by the end of 2012 by a German Foundation-Rosa Luxembourg, and its Belgrade branch, were presented.

It consisted of the most of the exposes since October of 2011, in Korcula. It is dedicated to evaluation of the Philosophical and sociological Summer School of Korcula (1963-1974) and a magazine Praxis (1964-1974). Both the school and the magazine were the crowning achievement of the Yugoslav philosophy and with their ban in 1974, (followed by repression over the most prominent representatives, especially in Belgrade), essentially marked the conservative turn of the Yugoslav policy, which resulted with the impossibility of the democratic transformation of the country (as it was obvious in the beginning of the eighties of the last century, and especially through violent disintegration of Yugoslavia in the last decade of the last century).

The proceeding was presented by editors: Krunoslav Stojakovic and Dragomir Olujic, and two authors presented in its content: Bozidar Jaksic and Lino Veljak. During the debate participated Nebojsa Popov (the author of one of the contributing articles to this collection) and Zdravko Kucinar. The general conclusion of the participants of the debate is that it represents the avoidable reference for all the researches of the great period of Yugoslav philosophy and societal theory. At the same time was specified the increasing interest of the young researchers for the Praxist`s philosophy, but as well the indifference of the leading scientific institutions (especially in Serbia), for the inheritance of Praxis and school of Korcula.

Promoting the proceeding, a fifty anniversary since the beginning of the work of the Korcula`s Summer School, was marked, too.

*Lino Veljak*



## Patriots are burning embassies

In the continuance of the evidence procedure in front of the High Court in Belgrade, on 14<sup>th</sup> of June this year, four of the witnesses were heard in front of the court, accused for burning the USA embassy after the meeting `Kosovo is Serbia` on 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 2008.

A witness Nemanja Susic, who serves the sentence three years sentence for group robbery, said: `On that day, I participated the meeting `Kosovo is Serbia,` not knowing who organized it. We came from Novi Sad. We were on the meeting and then we went for a prayer. We founded in front of the embassy which was burning. I saw somebody holding the burning torch on the top of the embassy. Then I escaped due to tear gas. At that moment I did not know that a burning building is the embassy.`

Prica Marko said: `With buses we came to Belgrade for the meeting against the independence of Kosovo. There were many of buses. Some of the politicians made a speech, and then we directed toward Saint Sava`s Temple. I saw a man standing on the top of the embassy holding the torch. Everybody was going toward this same direction and we started running away, when the police threw tear gas.`

Sajcic Nikola said: `That day was a protest for Kosovo. We came to the embassy of USA, to which were people coming from various directions. I was on the pavement across the road for one hour or hour and a half, approximately. Someone was tossing the stones in the direction of the embassy, and me with my younger brother were singing with other people. When the police started approaching, we went away.`

When the Court`s Council Presiding judge asked of Afrim Bajrami to declare his nationality, he responded he is of Roma nationality and continued: `That day I was on the demonstrations in Belgrade. I saw a chaos. There was a huge crowd. I do not remember if I was in front of the Turkish embassy. I saw people running when the police threw tear gas. I did not poses ID and since I was afraid of the police, I decide to go home.`

After the testimonies, USA embassy representatives have informed upon their property claims, and joined the prosecution of the accused, unlike to the representatives of the Turkish embassy. The next trial is on 15<sup>th</sup> of October.

On the very same day they have attacked Croatian and German embassies as well. Within the burnt USA embassy, Zoran Vujovic from Novi Sad suffocated by smoke.

#### Impresum

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