

# Stop the abolition/impunity!

## One decade after the murder of guardsmen in Topčider

(October 5th 2004 – October 5th 2014)



*Memorialization program*

### We will never forget the crime in Topčider!

*On occasion of the tenth anniversary of the murder of the two soldiers, Women in Black organize:*

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:00-13:00 – Media Center, Terazije 5/II, small hall:** “Case Topčider – Anatomy of the state crime”, promotion of the book by author Bojan Tončić, published by Women in Black and Reconstruction Women’s Fund; on this promotion, speakers will be Jelena Milić, Bojan Tončić, Janko Jakovljević, WIB activists.

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Reveal murderers!** Letter to public by Women in Black, on occasion of tenth anniversary of the two guardsmen; all organizations and individuals are welcome to join the letter!

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-10:00:** Commemorative meeting in black and in silence in front of the military facility “Karaš” in Topčider; families of the murdered soldiers, activists of the Women in Black Network and others.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 -13:00, Republic Square: We will never forget the crime in Topčider;** protest in black and in silence.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 13:00-14:30** – Departure for commemoration in Bela Reka near Šabac, in organization of Women in Black.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 14:30-15:30:** Commemoration in Bela Reka, on Dragan Jakovljević’s tomb, together with Jakovljević family.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 15:30-17:30 “We remember – memory of Dragan Jakovljević”:** at Jakovljević family home in Bela Reka:

- We remember (28 minutes), promotion of the documentary film directed by Marija Arandjelović, produced by WIB Group for video activism;
- Opening of the archive on crime in Topčider, put together by the family together with WIB activists – creating together the future Peace Endowment “Dragan Jakovljević” in Bela Reka;
- Remembering = responsibility = activism – discussion with participation of Jakovljević family, activists of Women in Black Network and friends from the region; departure for Belgrade.

With these acts, Women in Black again express their deepest empathy with the families of the murdered soldiers, solidarity with their brave fight for truth and justice – without acknowledgement of the responsibility of the state for the committed crime, the families cannot overcome the pain and the trauma, and society cannot move away from the burden of crimes from the past. We also wish to build social space of remembering, respect of dignity of the victims and common upbuilding of the just peace.

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Reveal the murderers!** Women in Black letter to public on occasion of tenth anniversary of the two guardsmen, all organizations and individuals are welcome to join and sign the letter!

Ten full years have passed since the murder of soldiers **Dražen Milovanović** and **Dragan Jakovljević**, yet their murderer is still at large. Moreover, in spite of the decision by the Constitutional Court – the highest court jurisdiction in Serbia, which orders acceleration of the investigative process to the High Prosecutor’s Office and the High Court in Belgrade, this procedure is still in pretrial phase. It has been proven that the two members of Guards Brigade were murdered on watch, on October



5<sup>th</sup> 2004, in the circle of military barracks in Topčider, close to a military facility "Karaš", by the entrance to a shelter which was supposed to be the safest place in the state. Part of the public which is influenced by security services (where Milošević's staff is still very influential) still treats this indisputable fact without any respect for citizens, and especially for family members of the murdered soldiers. Even ten years after this crime, the state hasn't confronted the truth and hasn't publicly acknowledged the mere possibility that before they died, the soldiers saw the most wanted Hague fugitive at the time, Ratko Mladić, ex commander of the Army of Republika Srpska.

Obstruction of the investigation is accompanied by untruths, remaining the only option presented to citizens of Serbia, while families of the murdered soldiers are being shamelessly and cruelly hurt. The key proof by the independent commission that the soldiers were murdered by the third party has been confirmed in referent laboratories, yet that fact doesn't reach Serbian public and neither does the indisputable information that, at the time of the crime, the unit which protected Ratko Mladić was placed in the military barracks in Topčider. Eyes are kept closed in front of the fact that officer, who was the established prime suspect for design and realization of genocide over Bosnians in Srebrenica, resided for years in Serbia, his "safe house", while Serbian citizens were at the same time his hosts and his hostages.

Therefore, we demand from the national leadership (above all from Ministries of Police, of Defense and of Justice) and we will keep demanding that obstruction of Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović murder investigation ends immediately, and that the real truth be stated about their murder and about hiding Ratko Mladić in Serbian Army facilities. This is the only way for Serbia to distance from the war past and from the crimes committed in its name.

We demand that institutions in charge punish all those who ordered and committed the crime in Topčider, and that justice be provided for the families of the victims.

We demand that the politics of impunity of crimes ends, including both crimes of war and crimes in peace!

On this occasion, we advise the international community of the West that without reform of the security system, which includes insisting on this case, there is no democracy for Serbia.

On occasion of tenth anniversary of the murder of the two soldiers, and as gesture of solidarity with their families, Women in Black organize on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00, a commemorative meeting in black and in silence in front of the facility "Karaš" in Topčider. On that day we organize a protest on Republic Square in Belgrade from 12:00 to 13:00 with the slogan "We will never forget the crime in Topčider", as well as commemoration on Dragan Jakovljević's tomb, in Bela Reka.

Belgrade, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014

Women in Black and Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:00-13:00 – Media Center, Terazije 5/II, small hall:** "Case Topčider – Anatomy of the state crime", promotion of the book by author Bojan Tončić, published by Women in Black and Reconstruction Women's Fund; on this promotion, speakers will be Jelena Milić, Bojan Tončić, Janko Jakovljević, WIB activists.

On occasion of the tenth anniversary of the murder of two guardsmen, Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović, in military facility Karaš within military barracks in Topčider on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2004, Women in Black organized promotion of the book "Case Topčider – Anatomy of the state crime" by author Bojan Tončić, published by Women in Black and Reconstruction Women's Fund.

This book has 60 pages, it contains 13 texts and interviews with following persons: Florens Artman, Predrag Savić (lawyer), Dragoljub Todorović (lawyer), Janko Jakovljević and Petar Milovanović (fathers of the murdered guardsmen), Olgica Batić (lawyer), Boris Tadić, Prvoslav Davinić (ex Minister of Defence), Vuk Tufegdžić (military investigating judge), Vladimir Vukčević.

The promotion was held in Belgrade Media Center on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and author Bojan Tončić spoke at the promotion, as well as the Center for the Euro-Atlantic studies Director Jelena Milić.

Documentary film "We Remember" by author Marija Arandžević premiered on that occasion, produced by Group for video-activism of the Women in Black.



Promotion was attended by approximately 50 persons, including media and various organizations of civil society representatives. Among other things, speakers at the promotion said following:

Bojan Tončić – journalist and author: What we tried to do, among other things, is stimulate the state authorities and institutions to undertake any work at all, and we tried to find out what they have done so far, and we came to shocking information. One of the information sounds cynical, that is actually the fact that the murder of the guardsmen is in the pretrial procedure. When we got to the Prosecutor's Office, we were sent to the Higher Court which then sent us to the Higher Prosecutor's Office.

What we found out while working on this book is the fact that institutions actually gave up completely on Topčider case and on the murder of guardsmen. My assessment, based on the interview printed in the book, is that this is the matter of the continuation of war, and it would only be logical that the continuation of the war led by Serbian state also goes on in Belgrade. In a certain tragic way, this was actualized in form of hiding Ratko Mladić. That state business actually stands behind this entire story.

This is one of the thesis, and the other is that the very manner in which the investigation was conducted also testifies to that same thesis, and we learned a great deal about it from our interlocutors. It was sufficient to just turn the microphone on, to set them off to tell such miseries, which insult common sense of the critical public that rebelled about Topčider case.

One of the thesis by ex minister of Defence Prvoslav Davinić is: "Imagine if it came to revealing the third party, it would have led to collapse of the system".

From interview with Vuk Tufegdžić, we learn that the investigation is not at all led in a way any layman would lead it, that the paraffin glove doesn't need to be taken from everybody, and if some vehicle is found he goes "so what, those are the vehicles also stationed around our buildings", and so on, there is a series of unclear and untrue statements. This is recognizable handwriting and rhythm of military intelligence services, who have done everything to discredit the victims, their families and experts.

The Supreme Court is the thing we should wary about, among other things. Productively. Like we do with such attempts and protests organized by Women in Black, in which other nongovernmental organizations take part as well. Disrespect of The Supreme Court's decisions is what we need to fear. Namely, the Supreme Court obliges the Higher Prosecutor's Office and the Higher Court to undertake all measures to end the pretrial procedure in the shortest possible period, but there is no instrument to make that happen. This is where I would stop telling about our attempts. I invite everybody to read the book. Not everybody needs to agree with the comments and with what we here, and I personally, stand for, but it will remain undisputable from the many events and occasions that this is the matter of a cover up. After hiding Ratko Mladić, the cover up has been the state number one business. I may say a few words on what journalists can do about this case; those instruments are not so restricted after all. We can take an interest, we can ask, we can try in our own way. We cannot force anyone to do anything, and that is not our intention. There are precious interlocutors to be reached and interviewed, and some decline to talk, like Boris Tadić declined with a sentence: "I don't have time", even though he had promised to talk about Topčider case.

Jelena Mitić – Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies: Prior to anything, I wish to thank the publishers Women in Black and author Bojan Tončić for the fact that book "Case Topčider – Anatomy of the state crime" came into the light of day. When I got a call from Staša Zajović to talk here in reference to this book, before I even read it I thought to myself that it is good to have another thing done which will not allow this matter to fall into oblivion.

I have been engaging in Topčider case since the very beginning as a blogger, researcher and analyst, as someone who advocates the reform of the system of security. I believe these two things to be inseparable. I wrote an equal number of texts about it as wrote about Russia and Putin. I suspected many events and circumstances, but one thing I am sure of – there is an organized fatigue plan for families, legal representatives, journalists, organizations of civil society, who consider the topic to be very important. And the aim is that everybody gives up, families above all. Unfortunately, I witnessed such banal deal offerings to families, who were asked to give up the charges and get compensation for electricity bills in return, etc. Similarly to the RTS case, we don't have answers to key questions, all actors are more and more tired and older every day.

How is the plan of systematic cover up being conducted? There is no dilemma nor dispute, and this is not a speculation, it is done by the very summit of the state, which still remains the state security. The methodology of the cover up shows that as

well, it shows how dependent the judicial system is, how controlled the media are, how the civil sector in Serbia is most often only project oriented.

The other very good thing about this book is that it revokes the chronology of the events, which often gets forgotten. It has been proven beyond doubt that there exist no longer two versions, and that this is the case of murder. I like that this book shows state officials raveling in this case like a fly in a spider web.

The third good thing about this book is that those who were included in this process by force of circumstance were also interviewed. Those who don't speak in it, actually talk with their silence. The book itself is different in methodology from what Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies did giving comparative legal analyses of other cases too. And it somehow gives additional focus to the hiding of Ratko Mladić, as cause or reason for the murder of those soldiers. There are so many clues which make that angle impossible to neglect, and I consider it relevant. I think it is very good that Florens Artman was invited to say something about it.

The West international community has meddled for a reason in many cases and trends in Serbia, but somehow it kept pushing this case under the rug. Why? Was there someone in Topčider at the time, who had the legitimacy but not the legality to be there, which then led to confusion and tragedy? By our Law, persons who are not Serbian citizens are not allowed into that facility. After ten years of failing to gain any answer, this is a legitimate assumption. But this should not be a reason for the cover up, and this question needs to be open as well. If a reprinted edition of this book is ever considered, it would need to include more persons concerned with issue of Serbia, and those who were at the time more actively concerned with Serbia, in order to drive out in the open what they know about it.

In my opinion, there is one more oversight in the book: there is no overview of how today's dominions have related to this case, in times when they were opposition and now when they are in power, because they have been in power for quite a while now. To see what they have done in all these years.

Another sensitive issue – how come the lawyer of the families, the loudest in criticizing judicial system and military, Vladan Batić, was at the same time on the list of parliament representatives of the Democratic Party, which controlled those departments for years, and there was no progress in investigation during that time? This may come as something unpleasant, but I am known to be a person who speaks her mind. This issue has been mentioned only in one part of the conversation with Olgica Batić, where she estimates it to be malicious involvement of civil society. This is a legitimate question.

The key omission in this book is that it doesn't mention murders of the three soldiers in military barracks in Leskovac, from the same period in 2004 and 2005, which CEAS was concerned with. We didn't want to take out of the context the RTS case either, because we consider those three cases to be the remains of Milošević's politics in post-October Serbia. The manner in which evidence related to the murder of those three soldiers was covered up is the same as the manner evidence was manipulated in Topčider case. There were many mechanisms which pointed that this is the matter of state cover up for state crimes. The case of the soldiers from Leskovac overlaps with the story of hiding Ratko Mladić. Here, pictures of the dead body of one of the soldiers were publicly shown in order to shock the public, with consent of the murdered soldier's family and in their presence. Body of the deceased Radoman Žarković has visible injuries which are impossible to self-inflict. So, the handwriting in Topčider and in Leskovac is the same. Let me summarize: it is highly important that this book has come out. I find it would be good if it gets to the second edition and if it includes some more angles, which would pressure the international community of the West, and which would also offer the text in English.

I believe it would be useful if media and organizations of civil society would be persistent in advocating the reform of the system of security. It is impossible in a country in transition to advocate the reign of human rights, without insisting on the reform of the system of security. Those things are inseparable from each other. The right to fair and efficient trial is the basic human right of the members of armed formations.

And at the very end, I honestly hope that this book will catch at least some attention of the members of armed formations, because this book is about them. This could happen to them too, but we never heard any reaction from them. There was also an accident with demining and nothing ever as reaction. There are also anonymous ways of saying something. Somebody

shared a bed with those lads, a barrack, or dining room. It would be very precious if they reached out, if not for the sake of the families, then for their own sake. I thank again the publisher and the author.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-10:00:** Commemorative meeting in black and in silence in front of the military facility “Karaš” in Topčider; families of the murdered soldiers, activists of the Women in Black Network and others.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 -13:00, Republic Square:** **We will never forget the crime in Topčider;** protest in black and in silence.

In occasion of tenth anniversary of the murder of two guardsmen in military facility Karaš in Topčider, Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović, on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2004, Women in Black organized two commemoration protests in silence and in black, on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2014.

One protest was held in front of the military barrack in Topčider, and the other one on Republic Square.

On protest in Topčider, two slogans were held:

*We will never forget the crime in Topčider*

*Women in Black for Peace and Justice*

On that occasion, we were together with the families of the victims, with whom we lit candles and laid flowers with inscription “*We will never forget the crime in Topčider*”.

On that occasion, representatives of Serbian Army who were in charge did not allow Women in Black to enter the facility courtyard and lay flowers on the spot of the murder of the guardsmen.



That is one indicator of political climate in Serbia, as political echelon in power still proceeds covering up all the facts related to hiding the Hague fugitive Ratko Mladić.

On this occasion, on the place of the crime, we met the mother of soldier Kostić from Požega, who was killed in the military barrack in Leskovac, also in 2004.

The protest planned for Republic Square was held in Knez Mihailova Street, since roller-blading manifestation was held in Republic Square, in spite the fact that the meeting was regularly announced to police by Women in Black.

On that protest, activists of Women in Black held following slogans:

*We will never forget the crime in Topčider*

*We remember*

*Women in Black for peace and justice*

*We remember Dragan Jakovljević*

*We remember Dražen Milovanović*

*Reveal murderers of soldiers*

*We request the truth, we demand justice*

*Why does the state keep quiet?*



During the protest we held a performance: we wrote on asphalt, in salt “*We request the truth, we demand justice for Dragan and Dražen*”.

On this protest as well, we were in company of the family members of the murdered soldiers.

Both protests were well covered by the media, and they were held with police security without any incidents.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 13:00-14:30** – Departure for commemoration in Bela Reka near Šabac, in organization of Women in Black.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 14:30-15:30:** Commemoration in Bela Reka, on Dragan Jakovljević's tomb, together with Jakovljević family.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 15:30-17:30 "We remember – memory of Dragan Jakovljević":** at Jakovljević family home in Bela Reka:

- We remember (28 minutes), promotion of the documentary film directed by Marija Arandjelović, produced by WIB Group for video activism;
- Opening of the archive on crime in Topčider, put together by the family together with WIB activists – creating together the future Peace Endowment "Dragan Jakovljević" in Bela Reka;
- Remembering = responsibility = activism – discussion with participation of Jakovljević family, activists of Women in Black Network and friends from the region; departure for Belgrade.

After this protest, the group of Women in Black activists went to commemoration for Dragan Jakovljević in Bela Reka. Activists attended the commemoration on the cemetery, and also the screening of documentary film "We remember", directed by Marija Arandjelović and produced by the Group for video-activism of Women in Black.

Also, on this occasion the Peace Endowment "Dragan Jakovljević" was open, as well as the archive on crime in Topčider, which was created by activists of Women in Black and Jakovljević family.

Activists of the Women in Black Network from Serbia took part in protests and visitation, and they were from following towns: Kruševac, Zrenjanin and novi Bečej, along with activists from Belgrade.

In that occasion, mother of the murdered Dragan, Rosa Jakovljević, said: *"Thank you very much for your support and for having taken the time to share our grief with us. We will fight for the truth and for justice as much as we can, but it is very heavy on us. All this is so very heavy and I have nothing from it all, because he is gone. This is sadness that can never be suffered out. Some say it is past, yet we will grieve as long as we live for such a boy who lost his life before God. We, parents, ask ourselves why. Thank you."*

During the Women in Black visit, village Bela Reka was surrounded by members of police, there were eight police vehicles with rotating lights, and there were policemen from neighboring towns, not just from Šabac, but also from Krupanj, Loznica, Ub. That caused astonishment of the family above all, and also of the locals, and even though weather was clear and pleasant that Sunday, nobody was out in the streets. Dragan's mother was shocked, and she was saying: *"There were not this many of them (uniforms) when my Dragan was murdered. We are no criminals, are we now. Just see how much they hate you."*

Huge police security awaited us on many points, taking turns, which represents the strategy of fatiguing families of the victims and also human rights defenders, in order to bring them to give up the fight for justice and peace.

In a later conversation, Women in Black activists shared their impressions of this over the top police protection.

*"I participated in journey to Bela Reka. From Belgrade to there, there were about 15 patrol-cars, plus 5 policemen in every vehicle that was escorting us. Outside the house of the parents, who were commemorating their murdered child, police follows us in. I felt strong humiliation, because I believe they have nothing to do there. They were just making pressure. The state does that on purpose. As the state cannot smear us, it sets up the police to let others know they should fear us, because we don't fear the state".* (Marija Kovačev, Novi Bečej)

*"About this protest now, for Dražen and Dragan – the policeman talks to one passer by, and the policeman tells him "these are the ones who hate Serbs". As if Dražen and Dragan were not Serbs, but Martians."* (Marija Vidić, Beograd)

*"Parents were very upset in Bela Reka by police vehicles in front of their house. That was so horrific and it created such fury with which I cannot just settle down."* (Nadežda Kostić, Kruševac)

*"Jakovljević family is exposed to embarrassment and smearing because of us. That preventive attempt to turn people away from any contact with us doesn't actually turn them away. This is not just a little ray of hope, but this is great light in that tunnel. I am embarrassed with the inconvenience we bring them in."* (Staša Zajović, Belgrade)



## **Media – we bring a part of media reports:**

Daily AKTER and weekly AKTER

### **WOMEN IN BLACK: SERBIA IS THE SAFE HOUSE FOR THE MURDERES OF THE SOLDIERS**

Beta – Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2014, 14:36 pm

#### **Staša Zajović stated that Serbia is a safe house for those who were hiding Ratko Mladić and who killed the two soldiers.**

“This is the proof of dishonor of the army and of entire state, who remained deaf for the cries and demands by the families of the murdered soldiers and by all others who fight for the truth about what happened in the facility in Topčider in 2004”, Staša Zajović stated for the press on Republic Square.

She assesses that not solving this case does not only represent private pain of the murdered soldiers’ families, but of the entire social community.

“Jakovljević and Milovanović families cannot recover till those who are guilty of their sons deaths are not revealed and punished. The state so far only took care of covering up the criminal clues to the murderers, which is insulting to the families and to us who for years have been searching for the truth”, she said.

#### **Decade after the murder of guardsmen: Murderer has not yet been revealed**

*Tamara Spasić: October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014, 13:25; photo: Vesna Lalić*

Ten full years after the murder of soldiers Dražen Milovanović and Dragan Jakovljević in facility in Topčider, their murderer is still at large, and the procedure is still in the pretrial phase.

#### **Commemoration in honor of the guardsmen**

Two members of Guards Brigade were killed on guard on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2004 inside the circle of Topčider military barracks, in immediate vicinity of military facility Karaš, by the entrance into the shelter which was supposed to be the safest place in the state. Clue finding by the independent commission, that the soldiers were killed by the third party, was confirmed in referent laboratories, as well as the fact that at the time of the crime, the unit which protected Ratko Mladić, then most wanted Hague fugitive charged with genocide in Srebrenica, was stationed in military barracks in Topčider.

Peace, antimilitarist and antifascist organization Women in Black on that occasion requested publicly from the state leadership, above all from Ministries of Police, of Defence and of Justice, to immediately abort the obstruction of the investigation on murder of Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović, and to announce the real truth about their murder and about hiding Ratko Mladić in Serbian Army facilities.

“This is the only way for Serbia to distance from the war past and from the crimes committed in its name. We demand that the politics of impunity of crimes ends, including both crimes of war and crimes in peace! We demand that institutions in charge punish all those who ordered and committed the crime in Topčider, and that justice be provided for the families of the victims”, stated Women in Black.

On occasion of tenth anniversary of the murder of the two soldiers, and as gesture of solidarity with their families, Women in Black organize on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00, a commemorative meeting in black and in silence in front of the facility “Karaš” in Topčider, and on Republic Square in Belgrade from 12:00 to 13:00 a protest with the slogan “We will never forget the crime in Topčider”, as well as commemoration on Dragan Jakovljević’s tomb, in Bela Reka.



**SOCIETY/DRUŠTVO** – Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> 2014, 13:32

## **“Serbia – refuge for the murderers of guardsmen”**

Source: Beta

**Belgrade – Activist of Women in Black Staša Zajović stated that Serbia is a safe house for those who were hiding Ratko Mladić and who killed the two soldiers in Topčider.**

“This is the proof of dishonor of the army and of entire state, who remained deaf for the cries and demands by the families of the murdered soldiers and by all others who fight for the truth about what happened in the facility in Topčider in 2004”, Zajović stated.

She assesses that not solving this case does not only represent private pain of the murdered soldiers’ families, but of the entire social community.

“Jakovljević and Milovanović families cannot recover till those who are guilty of their sons deaths are not revealed and punished. The state so far only took care of covering up the criminal clues to the murderers, which is insulting to the families and to us who for years have been searching for the truth”, Zajović said.

**Military commission concluded that they killed each other, while the independent state commission in its report stated that Milovanović and Jakovljević were murdered by the third party.**

**On tenth anniversary of their death, it has been revealed that in vicinity of the place where they were murdered, a tunnel which leads to military facility “Karaš” has been found.**

October 5<sup>th</sup> 2014, 14:09 – 14:45 – BETA – photo: Fonet, TV Fonet

## **“SERBIA IS THE SAFE HOUSE FOR THE MURDERES OF THE SOLDIERS”**

With putting coronets of flowers in front of the entrance to the military facility “Karaš”, today (on October 5<sup>th</sup>), the tenth anniversary of death of guardsmen Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović was memorialized. Activist of Women in Black Staša Zajović stated in that occasion that Serbia is a safe house for those who were hiding Ratko Mladić and for the murderers of the two soldiers.

On today’s day ten years ago, guardsmen Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović were killed: the truth has not yet been established.

Women in Black held slogans: **Reveal murderers of soldiers, Why does the state keep quiet?**,

**We will never forget the crime in Topčider, We remember...**



## **Hague prosecutor: Guardsmen were murdered because they saw Mladić**

“Mladić denied that he was present in “Karaš” facility, but he did mention the names of some high military officers, who were present in that facility at the time of the murder of the guardsmen. It is still early to reveal those names, but we will request that they be interrogated”, said Batić.

Along with the family members, the memorialization of the tenth anniversary of death of guardsmen in Topčider was attended by members of Women in Black.



"This is the proof of dishonor of the army and of entire state, who remained deaf for the cries and demands by the families of the murdered soldiers and by all others who fight for the truth about what happened in the facility in Topčider in 2004", said Staša Zajović and she assessed that not solving this case does not only represent private pain of the murdered soldiers' families, but of the entire social community.

"Jakovljević and Milovanović families cannot recover till those who are guilty of their sons deaths are not revealed and punished. The state so far only took care of covering up the criminal clues to the murderers, which is insulting to the families and to us who for years have been searching for the truth", she said.

Members of Guards Brigade of Army of Serbia and Montenegro Dražen Milovanović and Dragan Jakovljević were killed on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2004, while on guard in vicinity of the underground facility "Karaš" in Topčider. Military commission concluded that they killed each other, while the independent state commission in its report stated that Milovanović and Jakovljević were murdered by the third party.

## **INFO:SOCIETY / INFO:DRUŠTVO**

10-5-2014 – Author: TANJUG

### **WOMEN IN BLACK: TRUTH AND JUSTICE FOR THE MURDERED GUARDSMEN**

**Activists of Women in Black movement marked today in Knez Mihailova Street one decade since the guardsmen on regular military service, Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović, were murdered in Topčider.**

Activists wrote the message in the street: "We request the truth, we demand justice for Dragan and Dražen", and Staša Zajović stated that memorialization of tenth anniversary is expression of compassion and solidarity with the families and with their fight for the truth.

"The state so far only took care of covering up the criminal clues to the murderers of the guardsmen and of hiding those who were hiding Ratko Mladić. That is insulting not only to the families, but to all of us who are fighting for punishment for crimes", said Zajović.

She announced that in Bela Reka an archive will be open with collected documentation related to the case, to make it possible for future generations to learn, adding that "without recognizing the crimes, there can be no talk of Euro-integrations and democratization of Serbia".

10-5-2014 – 14:30 – 16:30 – Belgrade

### **WOMEN IN BLACK: TRUTH FOR THE MURDERED GUARDSMEN**

*Activists of Women in Black movement marked today in Knez Mihailova Street one decade since the guardsmen on regular military service, Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović, were murdered in Topčider. Activists wrote the message in the street: "We request the truth, we demand justice for Dragan and Dražen", and Staša Zajović stated that memorialization of tenth anniversary is expression of compassion and solidarity with the families and with their fight for the truth.*

"The state so far only took care of covering up the criminal clues to the murderers of the guardsmen and of hiding those who were hiding Ratko Mladić. That is insulting not only to the families, but to all of us who are fighting for punishment for crimes", said Zajović.

She announced that in Bela Reka an archive will be open with collected documentation related to the case, to make it possible for future generations to learn, adding that "without recognizing the crimes, there can be no talk of Euro-integrations and democratization of Serbia".



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## **Tenth anniversary of the murder of guardsmen in Topčider memorialized**

### **Zajović: “Serbia is a safe house for the murderers of the guardsmen”**

Along with the members of the families, the commemoration on tenth anniversary of the murder of guardsmen was attended by activists of Women in Black, who held the slogan “We will never forget the crime in Topčider”.

Activist of Women in Black Staša Zajović stated that “Serbia is a safe house for those who were hiding Ratko Mladić and the murderers of the two soldiers”.

“This is the proof of dishonor of the army and of entire state, who remained deaf for the cries and demands by the families of the murdered soldiers and by all others who fight for the truth about what happened in the facility in Topčider in 2004”, said Zajović.



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