



Crime in Topčider – We remember!

Belgrade, October 5, 2015



On October 5, 2015 we went to the eleventh anniversary of the crime on Topčider, where two guardists, Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović, were killed in the military barrack „Karaš“ in 2004. There were around ten of us from ŽUC. We arrived at the scene of the crime at about 8.30 am. There we were greeted by the family members of the victims. Across the street we also saw journalists and cameramen. We carried flowers and a transparent which said „We will never forget crime in Topčider“. We held the transparent, and after the minute of silence we laid candles and flowers in front of the gate of the military object. The journalists then gathered around the victims' parents, as well as their lawyers, who gave them statements. Parents used this opportunity to appeal to the government to clarify the motive of the crime, to discover who the perpetrators were and to bring them to justice. After the parents' statement, the journalists asked for a short interview with Staša Zajović. Then the family members went into the military barrack „Karaš“, while we laid the wreath with the words „We remember – Women in Black“ and went one by one to light a candle and leave a flower. When the families came out of the barrack, we went to Bela Reka where one of the guardists Dragan Jakovljević was buried.

We arrived at the cemetery at around 1 pm, where we visited Dragan's tomb and paid tribute to him. After that they invited us to their place in the village where they welcomed us with dinner. During the dinner we had a conversation with parents and other family members about the case development, investigation, forensics and the importance of reminding the public of the state crime of which the state is still silent. We had a chance to ask questions about the case, as well as their personal opinion about the whole situation. They have emphasized several times that without the effort of the deceased lawyer Vladan Batić we still wouldn't know what has truly happened. In the meantime, we were entertained by Dragan's brother's children, three-year-old Dragan, who got named after his uncle, and five-year-old Vanja.

At the end of the day we thanked them for their hospitality and they thanked us for our solidarity, and we have departed from them hopeful that justice will prevail.

Activists of the Net of ŽUC Serbia from Belgrade, Leskovac, Kruševac, Subotica and Ukraine: Jana (Ukraine), Ljilja, Milka (Leskovac), Slavica (Beograd), Slavica (Kruševac), Staša, Tijana, Tomislav (Subotica/Belgrade), Violeta and Vlada.

Report written by: Jana and Tomislav

