

**Government of Montenegro**

**To Mr. Milojko Spajić, Prime Minister**

Podgorica, 16 April 2024

**Subject: Initiative for Montenegro to sponsor the UN Resolution on the genocide in Srebrenica**

Dear Mr. Spajić,

Considering that the Draft Resolution of the United Nations on the Genocide in Srebrenica will be presented on 17 April this year in New York in a closed session, we invite you to be consistent concerning the current position of Montenegro and join the countries that co-sponsor this Resolution. Since it is understood that Montenegro will vote for the Resolution on 2 May, we consider that it should go one step further and join the group of currently 18 countries of the world that co-sponsored it and who understand the importance of peacebuilding. From the states of the region, so far Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia and North Macedonia have announced that they will be co-sponsors of the aforementioned resolution.

As the most serious candidate for membership in the European Union, Montenegro must demonstrate the capacity not only to implement the decisions of international courts and respect its international obligations but also to demonstrate in practice that it nurtures the universal values on which the community it wants to join rests. Moreover, by nurturing regional cooperation and good neighborly relations for which it was recognized, Montenegro must significantly contribute to raising the culture of remembrance of the victims of the genocide in Srebrenica to the international level. The majority of Montenegro wants to pay respect to the victims of the Srebrenica genocide in a dignified manner, as it has done so far.

The UN resolution on the genocide in Srebrenica builds on the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, UN Resolution 827 on the establishment of the International Tribunal for War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia, the judgment of the International Court of Justice from February 2007 in which the crime in Srebrenica was declared genocide, as well as the judgments of the Hague Tribunal, by which so far seven people have been convicted of the genocide committed against the Bosniaks in Srebrenica.

In 2009, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Declaration on the acceptance of the resolution of the European Parliament (EP) on Srebrenica in 2009, and in 2021 the Resolution on the genocide of Srebrenica, for which the majority of 55 MPs voted, while 19 were against, seven abstained ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 66/2021 of 21/06/2021). Noting that the denial of the genocide in Srebrenica did not stop even after the adoption of that Resolution and that Remembrance Day was not established even though the Resolution provides for it,

it is clear that not enough has been done to accept the facts and responsibly ensure a common future.

Accordingly, we expect that by formally signing the form on the co-sponsorship of the United Nations Resolution on the Srebrenica genocide, you will show not only that you stand by everything that is written in these documents, but also that you place Montenegro on the right side of history, where it always belonged.

Thank you for considering the initiative, we expect that the Government will act by it and make us proud citizens of Montenegro.

Respectfully,

1. Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, BiEPAG, Jovana Marović
2. Dina Bajramspahić, civil activist
3. Human Rightst Action, Tea Gorjanc Prelević
4. Active Zone, Miloš Marković
5. Association "Štrpci - Against Forgetting", Demir Ličina
6. Center for democratic transition, Milica Kovačević
7. Center for Investigative Journalism of Montenegro, Milka Tadić Mijović
8. Centre for Civic Education, Daliborka Uljarević
9. Centre for Development of Non – Non-Governmental Organisations, Zorana Marković
10. Juventas, Ivana Vujović
11. Media Institute Montenegro, Olivera Nikolić
12. Montenegrin Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights, Velija Murić
13. Prima, Aida Perović
14. Spectra, Jovan Ulićević
15. The Center for Women's and Peace Education ANIMA, Ljupka Kovačević
16. Women's Rights Center, Maja Raičević

Additional signatories:

1. Agora Femina, Maja Bogojević
2. Aleksandar Saša Zeković, independent councilor in the Assembly of the Capital City of Podgorica
3. Association of Lawyers of Montenegro, Branislav Radulović
4. Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (AYDM), Marina Vujačić
5. Bona fidae, Pljevlja, Sabina Talović
6. Breathe, Maja Gardašević
7. Bridge of Culture, Podgorica
8. Center for Affirmation of the Roma–Egyptian Population (CAREP), Nardi Ahmetović
9. Center for Civil Liberties, Marija Popović Kalezić
10. Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM), Nevenka Vuksanović
11. Center for Multimedia Production
12. Centre for Monitoring and Research – (CeMI), Zlatko Vujović
13. Civic Alliance, Milan Radović
14. Civil Initiative "21st May"

15. Dalibor Tomović, lawyer
16. Development Vranj, Tuzi
17. Don Bosko centar
18. Edin Smailović, historian
19. Eduko plus, Almedina Dodić
20. ERA –LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey, Danijel Kalezić
21. Feminist and NGO activist "Polygon for Women's Excellence - Sofia", Rebeka Čilović
22. Gradionica, Goran Janković
23. Heart Rožaje, Dušan Rakočević
24. History Teachers Association of Montenegro, HIPMONT, Miloš Vukanović
25. Husein Paša, Pljevlja, Denijal Geljić
26. Ikre, Rožaje, Velida Hodžić
27. Initiative for Regional Cooperation, Montenegro (IGMAN Initiative), Andro Martinović
28. Institute for Gender Equality 'Dulcinea', Ulcinj, Hatixha Gjoni
29. IPO Crna Gora, Momčilo Ščekić
30. Jasna Tatar Anđelić, professor at the University of Montenegro
31. Komunica NG, Podgorica, Vladimir Nikaljević
32. Local Democracy Agency, Kerim Međedović
33. Miodrag Iličković, retired judge of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro
34. Mladen Zadrina, journalist
35. Monitoring Group Ulcinj – Mogul, Xhemal Perović
36. Montenegrin LGBTIQ association Queer Montenegro, Staša Bistrica
37. Montenegrin PEN Center
38. Montenegrin Philological Society
39. Montenegrin Women's Lobby, Aida Petrović
40. Mrav, Rožaje, Munevera Sutović
41. New Horizon, Ulcinj, Nazif Velić
42. Punta institut, Ulcinj, Admir Gjoni
43. SOS Nikšić, Nataša Međedović
44. SOS Rožaje, Raza Nurković
45. Student organization, Adamas
46. System, Neda Radović
47. The First Women's Ecological Movement in Montenegro - Ecopatriotism
48. Ulcinj Info, Mustafa Canka
49. Varja Đukić, actress
50. Veselin Radulović, lawyer
51. Women's Safe House, Budislavka Mira Saveljić
52. Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), Edina Hasanaga Čobaj
53. Zenepa Lika, civil activist