



YUCOM Komitet pravnika za ljudska prava / Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights
17 Svetogorska Street, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
Tel/Fax: +381 11 33 44 235; 33 444 25; 3238 980
e-mail yucomoffice@gmail.com www.yucom.org.rs

Hate Speech in Serbia



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Hate Speech and Acts of Hatred in the Media and Protests by the 1389 Movement Against the Arrest of Hague Indictee Radovan Karadžić

On July 20 2008, state authorities of the Republic of Serbia announced that Hague indictee and former President of the Republic of Srpska **Radovan Karadžić** had been arrested.

A number of print media, which are in Serbia falsely called tabloids (they are, in fact, high circulation propaganda materials run by certain centers of power) such as *Pravda*, *Kurir*, *Glas Javnosti* etc., as early as July 21 2008 brought articles which glorified the crimes Karadžić is accused for, as well as Radovan Karadžić himself. At the same time, most of the media reported about the manner of Karadžić's hiding with exaltation and in a highly affirmative manner. The reasons of the indictment against Radovan Karadžić and the severity of the crimes were purposefully completely neglected and the Karadžić case was transformed from a war crime issue into a patriotic story with sensationalistic features and cheap politics.

The writing in those high-circulation papers, featured by bombastic titles and short sensationalistic contents, created the expected effect. The peaceful arrest of Radovan Karadžić (who had been hiding for more than ten years) according to regulations of positive laws, caused only subsequent tensions in the Serbian society which undoubtedly were orchestrated, but also insufficiently well controlled by the government. The government failed to decisively oppose the illegal behavior of certain groups which questioned the very act of the legal arrest of Radovan Karadžić and his extradition to the Hague Tribunal, without hiding the fact that they approve the crimes Karadžić was indicted for. Certain media, directly or by conveying statements, primarily those by members of the Serbian Radical Party and extremist right-wing organizations, helped not only increase tensions, but called for rebellion against legal decisions of the government, whereas the authorities rather inadequately called this rebellion against the government a "protest".

It was then that the first "protests" began, organized by extremist right-wing organizations, led by the organization which calls itself *Movement 1389*, and the "protest" was called "*For the*



YUCOM

1

defense of Serbia, against The Hague“. These “protests“ were already very violent (several journalists and photographers were beaten, and a *TV B92* cameraman suffered severe injuries), but the violence was manifested in other ways, as well, by sending unconcealed messages of hatred, discrimination and intolerance, justifying crime and calling for violence. The “protests“ were followed by the media mostly neutrally, in accordance with the prevailing policy, as if they were legitimate protests of the Hague Tribunal's opponents, while several print media even gave open support to the violent rallies.



Kurir, July 26 2008



Kurir, 23 August 2008



Večernje Novosti, July 24 2008

While monitoring the occurrences of hate speech, YUCOM immediately pointed out that the tension – which became increasingly noticeable – could escalate into violence, i.e. hate violence as a consequence of hate speech expressed and conveyed by the media. A “great rally in support of Radovan Karadžić“ organized by the *Serbian Radical Party* was, in YUCOM's opinion, a reason for alarm and intervention by the State. The previously announced and approved rally of the *Serbian Radical Party* on July 29 2008 resulted in violence and destruction of property, which was undoubtedly contributed by the “fiery speeches“ of the participants. Following a tested pattern from February 21 2008 (a protest rally after the declaration of independence of Kosovo), certain groups were breaking windows, destroying shops and attacking the police, after which the police intervened.



Throwing rocks at the police: A group of hooligans prevents the announced protest walk

Several weeks later, one of the participants in the rally died of injuries suffered in an altercation with the police, and the final result of the “protest” was 51 injured policemen and 23 injured demonstrators. In early August, along with numerous nongovernmental organizations and political parties, YUCOM harshly condemned the violence, demanding that the police submit a report about the events at the rally and explain possible excessive use of force. YUCOM once again publicly advocated the introducing in penal legislation of *hate speech* and *hate crime*¹ as felonies.

¹ Draft law written by YUCOM in cooperation with members of the *Coalition Against Discrimination* in late February 2008.

In spite of the obvious wave of violence which followed the rally organized by the Serbian Radical Party, the organization which calls itself *Movement 1389* continued with their daily “protests” in support of Hague indictee Radovan Karadžić, under the name “For the defense of Serbia, against The Hague“, with the “blessing“ of the Interior Ministry. Those protests have continued to this day, and the standpoint not only of state authorities, but of a significant number of nongovernmental organizations, and even human rights defenders, is that this marginal group of people should be disregarded by the public and that no one should give them the importance which they do not deserve. While it is a fact that this ever-decreasing group indeed does not have the power which it had after Kosovo's declaration of independence or during the large-scale rally in support of Radovan Karadžić, when the violence broke out, YUCOM maintains that, regardless of their number, this group on a daily basis continues to harass all those whom they see as traitors of “Serbdom” and Serbian national interests, and that in that sense, such form of aggression should be reacted upon regardless of their number. Past experience has shown that this number, if necessary to certain centers of power or the State itself, can be increased at one moment and that there should be no illusions that illegal behavior is allowed, regardless of how many people support it. YUCOM insists that hate speech is dangerous, regardless of how many people use it, as well as that it is always represented by acts of defending war crimes and by proclaiming those advocating punishability as moral outcasts of the society and demonizing them to the point of jeopardizing those persons' basic security. It is particularly dangerous that these hate rallies are being secured by the police, in the name of democracy and expression of opinion, therefore sending the citizens a message that defending crime is allowed, i.e. that it represents a legitimate political standpoint.

The web site of the organization *Movement 1389*, which does not contain a masthead or names of persons responsible for the work of the organization, calls for daily rallying with direct use of hate speech:

“The organizational committee of the support for Radovan Karadžić calls on the Serbian people and all Serbian friends to join the protests against the shameful and traitorous arrest of the first president of the Republic of Srpska and the Serbian Democratic Party and one of the symbols of the survival of the Serbian people on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

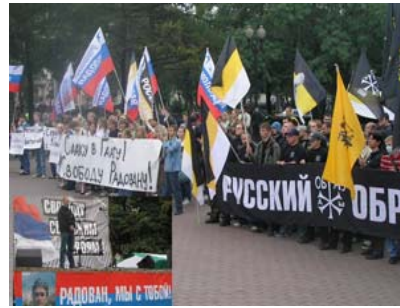
Through its heroic battle, the Serbian people managed to get its own Republic and it is the obligation of us all to preserve this community, defend it and one day to join it to the Motherland. We must be fully aware of the fact that our people is in the middle of an enemy surrounding which have open pretensions to Serbian territories, and which is, unfortunately, to a great extent aided by the persistent activities of various domestic governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the destroying of the national unity and identity. It is their intention to bring the people to a state of apathy and thus to finally break Serbia and transform what is left of it into a marionette banana republic under the wing of the European Union.“

Such media reports during the arrest of Karadžić and his extradition to the ICTY continued in August 2008, as well. The daily print media continued with the glorifying of the crimes Karadžić was accused for.





Kurir, August 6 2008



Pravda, August 12 2008

This manner of “journalism” was especially used by the dailies *Kurir* and *Pravda*, and in the period between August 3 and August 16 2008, the *Večernje Novosti* daily published a highly affirmative feuilleton about Radovan Karadžić entitled “*Radovan Karadžić – From a Myth to The Hague*”.

It is important to notice that unlike early 2008, when the aforementioned wave of violence was justified and supported even by the majority of the then leading Serbian politicians, with the explanation that the anger of the people was justified “in a situation when Serbian territory is being stolen”, after the forming of the new Government in July 2008, this did not repeat in the case of the rally in support of Radovan Karadžić, which was condemned by the majority of representatives of the newly formed ruling coalition in Serbia. However, the ruling coalition did not only quietly ignore the fact that the rallies were not allowed from a legal point of view since they advocate illegal behavior of the State, and have “a violent physiognomy and features”, but, due to obvious ignorance or incapacity, and in the name of democracy and freedom of expression, it also regularly secured the rallies with the help of the police.

The only reaction from the authorities regarding those gatherings of supporters of impunity for war crimes did not happen until late November 2008, when Belgrade Mayor **Dragan Đilas** addressed the public; he expressed his dissatisfaction because the protests were causing a traffic standstill in Belgrade on a daily basis. On that occasion, in late November, the Mayor sent a letter to **Ivica Dačić**, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister in which he stated: “For months, a group of people whose number rarely surpasses 30, is blocking the traffic in central streets of Belgrade on a daily basis. Since there are not enough of them to cover the whole width of the street, they block the traffic by walking and carrying together a single banner. That is the reason why hundreds of thousands of Belgrade citizens spend additional time in their cars and public transportation vehicles. Since the police are not reacting to such behavior, we are now in an absurd situation where a city of 2 million is held hostage by a few dozen people.” However, the Belgrade Mayor *failed to urge the competent state organs to ban and prevent those rallies which oppose the principles of democratic society*, and which have repeatedly caused violence and threats with violence, as was the case with the attack against **Sonja Biserko** and the Helsinki *Committee for Human Rights in Serbia* or the threats against the *Beta* news agency. The unnamed organizers of daily protests in the center of Belgrade (i.e. the unnamed members of the *Movement 1389*) made an announcement regarding the Mayor’s letter, stating that Mayor Đilas was exerting pressure on the Interior Ministry to ban the protests. However, they added that they would continue.

The demonstrators were also dissatisfied about the manner of the media reporting about the “protests”, and they particularly expressed their dissatisfaction by attacking Radio Television Serbia as the public broadcasting company and its Director **Aleksandar Tijanić**. During one of the protest walks (September 23 2008), RTS Director-General Aleksandar Tijanić even received a “protest

delegation”, promising them that this”mistake will be corrected” and that RTS would take it upon itself to “follow” these “protests”.



Photo of A. Tijanić with the organizers of the “protest” published on the 1389 web site, www.protest.blog.co.yu

Besides the issue involving RTS, the group which calls itself *Movement 1389*, on several occasions protested in front of the Presidency of the Republic of Serbia against President **Boris Tadić**, the European Integration office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense and headquarters of a number of political parties. The “targets” of the protests also included foreign embassies and cultural centers, news agencies and other media, as well as human rights defenders. All those institutions and individuals were accused of treason, “anti-Serbdom”, anti-patriotism, fascism. In this report, YUCOM will pay particular attention to the attacks against human rights defenders and journalists by this self-proclaimed patriotic group, due to the fact that those attacks were neither subject of media reports nor did state organs see it as necessary to provide any kind of support or protection to those who are constant targets of attacks since they do not belong to the prevailing political option and those who advocate punishability and justice for victims.

This group’s first act of hatred against human rights defenders was directed against the *Humanitarian Law Fund* and **Nataša Kandić**, who was presented by the organizers as a “*Nazi Gestapo agent*”. In a protest walk to the *Humanitarian Law Fund* offices, on August 15 2008, Nataša Kandić was portrayed as the notorious *Himmler*, the Nazi operational leader of the persecution of Jews before and during World War II. Along with slogans: “Do Serbs have human rights?”, swastikas, pictures of Nataša Kandić in Nazi uniform, which they carried through the city, the organizers of the rally arrived to the offices of the *Humanitarian Law Fund*. This incident was not covered by the media, so it was reconstructed from the *Movement 1389* web site.



Posters and picture of Nataša Kandić in which the Chairwoman of the Humanitarian Law Fund is presented as Himmler, taken from the *Movement 1389* web site



YUCOM

On the last day of September, a group of fifty members of the *Movement 1389* organized a “protest walk” from the Republic Square to the offices of the *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights*, to allegedly hand over a protest letter, a swastika and a map of Serbia to the Committee’s Chairwoman **Sonja Biserko**. Chanting “Kosovo is Serbia, we don’t need the EU”, followed with an outburst of whistles and banging on the Committee’s door, the demonstrators called for Biserko to step outside and accept their “gift”. Prior to this, the “demonstrators” gathered on the Republic Square for the 71st day in the row, in front of a banner in support of Radovan Karadžić. A protest speech was held in which Sonja Biserko was called “*collaborator of the occupier*” and “*hater of her own people*”. That way, this protest which was filled with hate speech, turned into a *hate crime*, too, by a direct personal threat to Sonja Biserko, but also to other members of the Helsinki Committee. The case of Sonja Biserko was already subject of the first issue of the “Hate Speech Newsletter”.



Photo from the protest “For the defense of Serbia, against The Hague” organized by the *Movement 1389*, published on the *Danas* daily’s web site



Poster of the *Movement 1389* calling for daily protests

On September 30 2008, YUCOM and *Women in Black* sent a *letter of solidarity* with Sonja Biserko, which on the same day was backed by more than 30 nongovernmental organizations, regarding the vandal attack against the *Helsinki Committee* by the violent group which calls itself *Movement 1389*. Demanding to be received by President of Serbia Boris Tadić and Interior Minister **Ivica Dačić**, nongovernmental organizations also urged state organs to finally start to observe the Constitution and laws of this country and stop treating legal issues as ideological and political issues. The said NGOs also urged them to finally begin implementing regulations pertaining to the ban of activities of those organizations which promote ideas of hatred, discrimination, racism and all other forms of intolerance and hatred, without political calculations and speculations, as proscribed by ratified international documents.

Those events were reacted upon by a statement of the *Liberal Democratic Party*, which also urged state organs to take measures against the group of hooligans who stormed the premises of the *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia*. LDP pointed out that “...For months, a group of several dozens of Radovan Karadžić supporters have been spreading terror on the streets of Belgrade, and today they turned their unsuccessful spectacle into open manifestation of physical violence “. The reaction to the attack, as emphasized by LDP, ”... should come from the highest state organs, political parties and the media ... “.

On that occasion, Serbian Ombudsman, **Saša Janković**, addressed on October 2 2008 a warning to the public that the organizers of the protest “For the defense of Serbia, against The

Hague” had crossed the line which separates difference in opinions typical in democracies, from threats with violence.



Photograph of Saša Janković taken from the web site of the Ombudsman
www.zastitnik.gov.rs

Nevertheless, daily rallies “For the defense of Serbia, against The Hague” organized by the *Movement 1389*, continued. In time, the number of participants decreased to about 30. Although the police secured this rally, also by stopping traffic in main Belgrade streets, thus harassing the citizens, the impression grew that the police were protecting both the organizers and participants of the rallies, instead of protecting the ones who are immediately jeopardized by the protesters.

Participants in the protests often showed the tendency to conceal hate speech towards female human rights defenders with their standpoint that Serbia should not enter the EU, which causes additional confusion in their attempts to present this as a legitimate political standpoint, since it is the right of every person to have his/her own opinion both about the EU and on whether Serbia should join it. Therefore, it should be emphasized that Euro-skepticism as such does not represent hate speech. However, if a person states that “...the EU functions in the same way as a Satanist or Scientology sect – there is no difference! Creating a draft law in the EU and defining its implementation involves the work of 62,000 people. That shows where, in fact, EU legislature is performed: in committees, behind closed doors, far from the public eye. The laws are not adopted by national representatives, but by so-called “expert and advisory groups“, so-called “**commission committees**“, as, for example the *Helsinki Committee* in Serbia. That way, the EU policy is carried out by a small group of people who need corrupt and blackmailed national elites (as it is already the case in Serbia), and that level of bureaucratic complexity, such number of persons involved and alleged experts are only supposed to make the process of adopting laws and making decisions more complicated, to render it unclear and unavailable to the public. The actual power in Serbia is held by *Sonja Biserko, Nataša Kandić, Biljana Kovačević-Vučo, Sonja Liht*, the rest is corruption, fear of our politicians for their bare survival and just a mask! “The enemy entity governed by the corrupt class of traitors – this is today the EU!“...“EU is leading a war, a cultural and demographic war... with the aim to destroy national states and replace them with an empire ruled by self-appointed bureaucrats. This is supported by local politicians in their desire to increase their own power“, or because of blackmail. “The EU directs national elites to betray the people they had sworn to protect“. EU is a dictatorial and imperial creation which projects its terrorist activity into all peoples, groups and individuals who do not accept this and oppose it by fighting for freedom! EU and NATO are terrorist products and their accusations of our nationalism and fascism should be viewed in that light – they are accusing us for their own crimes. EU is a dungeon of peoples, a bureaucratic monster, an Orwell state, which uses ideas such as “promoting peace“ or “free trade“ as a cover for the mere overtaking of power, destruction of national states and dictatorship!



YUCOM

7

Therefore: No to the EU!...“ (speech by one of the participants of the “protest“ on October 15 2008) – then this represents hate speech based on the most negative stereotypes and prejudice primarily against human rights defenders who advocate joining the EU and acceptance of standards and values the European Union was founded on.

Participants of the “protests“ have repeatedly attempted, despite police protection at the entrance, to break into the premises of the *Beta* news agency, demanding that journalists attend their protests and report about them. However, on October 25 2008, a police cordon which secured the entrance to the agency, let a delegation of the “protest“ pass and they entered the *Beta* offices, taking pictures of the journalists and delivering a protest letter which expressed their dissatisfaction about the manner of the *Beta* agency’s reporting about the “protests ”.

The *Humanitarian Law Fund* was attacked on November 5 2008, when protesters chanted slogans such as “*fascists*”, “*go away from Serbia*” etc, while the offices of the *Fund* and its employees were protected, as told by the members of the “protest” themselves, by a “...strong police cordon”. “This *Fund* is the source of many evils in Serbia. It represents a branch of the open enemy of Serbia and supporter of an independent Kosovo George Soros. His foundation finances all other anti-state and anti-Serbian NGOs, such as Sonja Biserko’s Helsinki Committee for Human Rights or Nataša Kandić’s *Humanitarian Law Fund*“– protest speaker **Igor Marinković** said, continuing to spread hate speech against human rights defenders.

On November 21 2008, participants of the “protest“, escorted by the police, stormed the courtyard of the *Centre for Cultural Decontamination* and “protested“ against the “*anti-state*” activities of **Borka Pavićević** and this organization. Since prior to that they loudly chanted slogans against Borka Pavićević, surprised and in a rather tense atmosphere, she was actually forced to communicate with the participants of the “protest“.

The last in the series of “incidents“ by the group which calls itself *Movement 1389* was the blocking of the building in which the office of the *Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights* is located (members of YUCOM were in the office during the incident). In an attack similar to those which were carried out against the other human rights organizations, on December 1 2008, escorted by the police, the demonstrators chanted slogans of hatred in front of the building and they eventually pinned a letter – “*To the Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights and Biljana Kovačević Vučo*” – to the door, accusing them for anti-Serbian behavior and treason.

Regarding these attacks, in a media announcement issued on December 2 2008, YUCOM stated that, after a half-hour long ranting, the group left a letter which allegedly should represent a reminder about the human rights of Serbs, containing random statements by Biljana Kovačević-Vučo (mostly incorrect and completely illiterately quoted, obviously with the aim to demonstrate the creative writing of the authors of the “quotation”).





YUCOM Chairwoman Bijana Kovačević-Vučo is the main target of the attack contained in the letter by the Movement 1389

In the conclusion of the letter by the Movement 1389 addressed to YUCOM, it is stated that “**Kovačević-Vučo** always supports the dividing of the Serbian state; it is not a surprise that to her Kosovo does not represent the Holy Serbian Land and Serbian roots, but a factor of destabilization in the region. Will Vojvodina, too, become a factor that should be renounced for the sake of stability in the region?” After pinning the letter to the office door, the group of hooligans escorted by the police split up.

After this “visit” YUCOM demanded from state organs to finally take adequate measures against “bullies who have been harassing the citizens of Belgrade and especially representatives of nongovernmental organizations which were already proscribed in the media owned by “non-transparent owners” and in the *Politika* daily.

YUCOM addressed the Interior Minister and the Prime Minister of Serbia with the following question: why is the police supporting these violent and menacing gatherings which have been taking place for months under state protection, as protest against a legitimate act of the state – the arrest of Radovan Karadžić, who is indicted for the most monstrous crimes against humanity.



Announcement by YUCOM regarding the attack by *Movement 1389*

YUCOM will notify the Hague Tribunal’s Chief Prosecutor and relevant international organizations about those events, and will file a lawsuit against the hooligans and government



representatives who protect them so that they are able to threaten those with different opinions – “traitors”. The announcement concludes that it was high time that Serbia becomes a normal country, regardless of the Declaration on Reconciliation². This letter was also supported by the *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, Centre for Cultural Decontamination and Youth Initiative for Human Rights*.

Regarding this case, YUCOM’s attorneys have filed a lawsuit against unknown persons and the police officers who “allegedly” secured the protests. Since the felony of hate crime has not yet been introduced in Serbia as a qualified form of felony with elements of violence, YUCOM filed a lawsuit for the felony of violent behavior.

Although the organizers of the “protests” on their web site point out that they are “non-violent protests”, they often contradict themselves. As a confirmation, on the 134th day of the protests, on December 2 2008, they point out that the demonstrators went to the headquarters of LDP in Simina St. and chanted slogans: “LDP are fascists”, “Narco-mafia, Čeda’s party” and “Arrest Čeda”, and that “...strong police forces prevented the “protest delegation” to enter the building and none of the LDP representatives *dared to step outside* ...”, which best describes the demonstration of power and frightening that the “demonstrators” exert towards others, which cannot be described other than as acts of hatred.

A similar scenario was repeated on December 3 2008, when the “protesters” demonstrated in front of the Dutch Embassy because of “...increasing threats and blackmail by The Netherlands to arrest and extradite Serbian hero *Serbian hero Ratko Mladić*”. The Dutch Embassy declined to receive the “protest delegation”, and the gathered “protesters” chanted slogans: “*Fascists, fascists*”, and “*Go away from Serbia*”, which can only be described as glorification of crime and hate speech.

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These “protests” have no justification in a democratic society, which is also shown by numerous international documents ratified by Serbia, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia from 2006, as well as regulations of internal law. ***However, such occurrences are dangerous primarily due to the fact that by daily defense of the crimes Radovan Karadžić was indicted for, by means of direct use of hate speech in an open propaganda, they not only glorify crime, but also promote discrimination, intolerance and violence.***

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* stipulates that no regulation of the *Declaration* can be interpreted as any form of right of a state, *group* or *individual*, to *perform any activity with the aim of violating rights and liberties proscribed by the Declaration, and hate speech and discrimination are not in any way included in the rights proscribed by the Declaration*.

Besides, these “protests” violate several rights of individuals and groups stipulated by the *Covenant of Civil and Political Rights*, such as *the right to freedom and personal security, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association*.

These “protests” of the group which calls itself *Movement 1389* mostly violates the *right to freedom and security* of persons, nongovernmental organizations, foreign representatives,

² Declaration on Political Reconciliation signed by the *Democratic Party* and the *Socialist Party of Serbia*.



embassies, even political parties. Public “bragging” on the group’s web site that “..No one dared to leave the building...” only confirms that this is primarily due to jeopardized safety of those who are being physically and emotionally harassed by the so-called “protesters” during their “peaceful protests”.

A “protest” cannot be considered a *legitimate expressing of thoughts or beliefs*, because according to the *Covenant*, the freedom of *belief* can be legally limited for the protection of public safety, order, or *fundamental rights and freedoms of others*. As in this case we are dealing with a “protest” against a legal and legitimate act of the state – the arrest and extradition of Hague indictee Radovan Karadžić who is indicted for the gravest crimes against humanity before ICTY – such “belief” cannot be considered justified from the point of view of a “democratic society” and it most certainly represents a violation of *fundamental rights and freedoms of others*.

The *Covenant* also guarantees freedom of *thought* and *expression*. However, freedom of expression also foresees possible limitations which are strictly determined by law; limitations which, regarding the said “protests” pertain to violation of *observing rights* or *reputation of others* and *protection of public order*. Also, every *call for national, racial or religious hatred which represents indictment of discrimination, hostility or violence*, is prohibited by law, and this is precisely what has been occurring on a daily basis by the “participants of the protests”.

Having said that, *freedom of peaceful assembly* also needs to be mentioned. Due to the fact that these “gatherings” often are not “peaceful”, they also must be subject to limitations necessary in a democratic society for the reason of *protection of public order* and *rights and freedoms of others*.

Similar limitations of freedoms and rights, primarily the *right to freedom and security, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association*, as well as the *prohibition of discrimination*, are contained in the *European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*. This Convention also *prohibits the misuse of rights*, stipulating that no part of the Convention can be interpreted so that it gives the right to any state, *group or person* to engage in any activity *or perform any act* directed at the *destruction of any of the said rights and freedoms*.

Finally, those human rights and freedoms are contained in the *Constitution of Serbia*, which in a similar manner regulates certain limitations and deviations, due to reasons proscribed by law and necessary in a democratic society. The Constitution guarantees the prohibiting of discrimination, as well as the right to freedom and security, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, as well as to prohibit causing of racial, national and religious hatred etc.

As this specific case represents a “protest” against *legal* and *legitimate* action by the state – arrest and extradition of Hague indictee Radovan Karadžić, accused before the Tribunal for the gravest crimes against humanity – and since participants of the “protests” often *violate fundamental rights and freedoms of others*, as well as *public order, seeing it as justified* from the standpoint of the set “goal” – protection of the *person and oeuvre* of Radovan Karadžić and his “role” in the wars led during the breakup of former Yugoslavia (primarily in Bosnia and Herzegovina), and the fact that the “protests” are featured by *hate speech* and *acts of hatred* towards certain persons or groups, *they cannot be considered legal or legitimate in a democratic society*, nor do they have any “*social justification*”. Therefore, the State was obligated not to give them legitimacy but to take all measures proscribed by law and international documents.

