



**Lawyers Committee
for
Human Rights**

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Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights - YUCOM condemns the rampage of extremist right-wing nationalist groups on the streets of Belgrade and the beatings of journalists in an act of support to Hague indictee Radovan Karadžić, as a serious misuse of freedom of expression and public gatherings. Therefore, we demand from state organs, namely the Interior Ministry and the Government, to apply existing legal regulations and protect human rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, particularly the right to security, freedom of expression and the ban on violent gatherings.

Causing severe injuries to journalists reporting from the riots represents a classic example of hate crime. Besides the direct perpetrators, politicians who abuse the freedom of expression with the aim to cause hatred must be held responsible.

We demand from the state organs to take all legal measures, including procedures for the establishing of criminal responsibility.

We demand from the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia to strip the deputies who took part in the organization of the extremist nationalist groups' protest of their immunity, since the purpose of immunity is not to protect deputies from criminal responsibility for their actions.

We demand from the Interior Ministry to, in accordance with Art. 54 of the Constitution of Serbia which stipulates freedom of peaceful gatherings, ban further violent protests against the arrest of Hague indictee Radovan Karadžić in order to protect the right and safety of the citizens of Serbia.

Biljana Kovacevic-Vuco

Chairperson