



UDRUŽENJE GRAĐANA ZA POVRAT STARE
DEVIZNE ŠTEDNJE U BiH i DIJASPORI

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THE STEERING COMMITTEE

No: 1459/09

Banja Luka, 19th January 2009.

addressed to:

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

To the president of the Council, Mr. Nikola Spiric

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

To the president of the government, Mr. Mirko Cvjetkovic

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

To the president of the government, Mr. Borut Pahor

Respected gentlemen,

I address you on behalf of the association of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Diaspora. The association of citizens for return of foreign currency savings in BiH and Diaspora was originally established to represent the interests of its members who invested their money, circa 1 milliard and a half, before war occurrences, in one of the banks which operated on the territory of BiH. The one and only mission of the association is to return the money to its owners as soon as possible, undependable on the fact in which of the four banks they invested their money, or where the owners currently live.

The association is the biggest one in BiH; according to the number of its members, it can hardly be compared to any other on this territory. It is a truly multiethnic association numbering over 10 000 members of the three constitutional peoples and ethnic minorities alike. It operates through its main office situated in Banja Luka, and many other branch offices in BiH and Diaspora (so, we can be found in Germany, Serbia, Austria, France, Switzerland, Sweden), and is registered at the Ministry of Justice of BiH from 2004.

We are highly conscious of the fact that the old currency saving is the property put under the protection of the Constitution of BiH, and of the European Commission for protection of human rights and basic liberties as well, and we are ready to pursue the justice by legally condemning of all those who deprived the innocent of their financial property, and also of those who have been building their private empires on the stolen money for more than eighteen years.

The agreement on the issue of succession was signed on the 29th of Jun, 2001. by: Zlatko Lagumdžija in the name of BiH, Tinuno Picula as a representative of the Republic of Croatia, Ilinko Mitrov in the name of Republic of Macedonia, Dmitrij Rupel as the representative of Republic of Slovenia, Goran Svilanovic in the name of Republic of Yugoslavia, and high representative in BiH Wolfgang Petrich.

We are very sorry for not being able to use diplomatic vocabulary as it is appropriate in the communication with presidents of the governments of the countries members of the United Peoples, the European Parliament, and one also being a member of the EU. We are sorry, for there is no appropriate vocabulary for robbery and crime, for injustice and sufferings of the owners of the old foreign currency savings.

We apologize for the inappropriate words, for the situation we are gripped in is nothing like liberty, justice or democracy, which are supposed to be cornerstones of the societies and countries under your rule.

Even though the agreement on the questions of succession was signed by the highly positioned functionaries of the countries descendants of the ex Yugoslavia, and even though they agreed to implement the agreement in good faith and spirit of the EU charter and in concordance with International Law (clause 9. of the agreement), it all eventually proved to be a mass deceit, and as far as the clause 9. of the agreement is concerned, it came up to be an empty space on the paper. The truth is that the countries treated the agreement in quite a different light; war frontiers from the 90s were replaced by the chapters of the agreement, and huge energy and the most competent professionals were unfortunately hired to explore the effective obstructions, and the implementation was explicitly used in a way to seriously harm one of the respective countries. It is also the truth that the questions related to succession are not the only "battlefield" of the diplomatic repartee among the countries originally members of ex Yugoslavia, but the obstruction in the application of the annex G of the agreement, which refers to private property, had enormous negative consequences on the owners and the society altogether.

The problem of old foreign currency saving originally occurred by illegal intrusion on the currency reserves of ex Yugoslavia by its descendant countries. The case of Bosnia and Herzegovina testifies that it was certain someone who robbed the Central Bank of its currency reserves. It is a common opinion here that the money was used for purchasing of weapon, munitions, and war equipment during the warfare. It is the same story with other countries descendants of ex Yugoslavia as well; everything was taken illegally and in the highest secrecy. If we talk of the physical weight of the old foreign currency saving taken from the bank, then we have to mention the No of 10 tons. It sounds almost incredible if we imagine that everyone who enters, or goes out of the safe, is video recorded. How can it be then that someone took out that much money without being caught? It seems to be a mystery.

The money saved at the Ljubljanska Bank was placed at the "Narodna Banka" in Slovenia, and the money saved in Belgrade was placed in that of Serbia. Savings that were deposited in the Republic of Croatia we will not even mention, for they deserve the greatest praise for giving all due respect to their nationals by returning the money, even though it was deposited in Croatian banks on the territory of BiH.

When creating the agreement on questions of succession, your predecessors explained to the public that the old foreign currency savings would be returned by the means attained by the privatization of the state capital in economy, the state capital in

residential fund and business offices; they further mentioned the means that were to be deposited on escrow accounts after deposit withdrawal out of international banks and financial organizations, concessions etc.

The association of citizens for return of foreign currency saving in BiH and Diaspora has information that about 400 million of KM, strictly assigned to retrieve the loss of the old foreign currency savings owners, was placed on escrow account in Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This money disappeared from the account, was spent, and besides addressing the governor of the Central Bank of BiH and the Ministry of Finance various times, we failed to find out the truth about the money. Therefore, we turned to the State investigation and protection agency which was supposed to explore the case.

Nowadays, we have a situation that the recession and global financial crisis knocks on everyone's door. Potential sources for retrieving the loss to the owners of the foreign currency savings are mainly spent in vain and robbed by privatizations done in the worst criminal way. The previous chaos on the Balkans was definitely the most fatal for the foreign currency owners. None of the banks including Ljubljanska Bank, Invest Bank, nor the banks from BiH – Privredna and Jugobanka, did anything to return the money to its owners. It is probably the biggest robbery ever. Nothing is even done to make the loss easier to the owners, nor can any remorse or feeling of guilt be found in hearts of those who did it. European Community, as a form of functioning of the civilized society, activated war navy in order to impede the pirate robberies at Aden bay; the robbery of old foreign currency owners at the Balkan didn't, and never will, stir a wave on Balkan seas, even though the value at stake is way more significant than that of the weights and ships which travel over risky sea areas during the period of one year.

Perhaps it is no wonder that Republic of Slovenia and Republic of Serbia treated robbed old foreign currency owners so badly taking into account the fact that the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina treated its own citizens in such a terrible way, which came to be inspiration for the banks and authorities in Slovenia and Serbia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina issued the law which regulates the question of old foreign currency savings. That is not law; that is felony. That law did nothing for the old foreign currency owners; quite the contrary – it only made a legal frame for further acquisition of wealth and continuation of robberies. In that name the 'verification' as a mere mockery in the form of foreign currency conversion and giving up on accusations was invented. The old foreign currency owners were denied the access to their own accounts because of the malversations of enormous extent. Old foreign currency savings were robbed over and over again, so that the changes on the accounts were made without the account owners' knowledge and in favor of those in power, all that heading toward privatization. For the purpose of robbery, special agencies, so called APIF, were formed and are nothing but revelation of criminal of all kinds. Only 7% of old foreign currency saving was verified, but the position is identical of those who verified and those who did not. Neither of them got their money back. The only difference is that that people who verified their savings were robbed for the third time all through old foreign currency saving obligation trade at the exchange. APIF, along with corrupted judges, took over judicial functions and thus threatened 4000 accusations applicants to verify their savings or else they would be considered to give up on accusation requests.

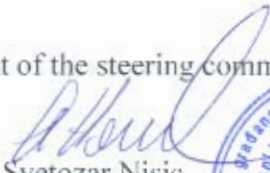
We have to point out unspeakable disgrace which was made or is still made by courts in the countries whose governments you preside. Generations and generations of researches will probably make surveys on the most sophisticated ways in which the clause 6 of the convention of the human rights protection was betrayed. The disgrace brought upon law by such actions is to remain for ever written in the records of inhuman and discriminate behavior.

For everything mentioned, we expect you, the government of BiH, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Republic of Serbia, to terminate the succession and to make a final decision regarding old currency saving. Depending upon your decision, we are likely to direct our actions. It is a common opinion among the members of our society that it is a morally justified for the owners to start retrieving their money from the banks they originally deposited their money at. If you have honest intentions and are willing to cooperate, the association is ready to accept your involvement in finding out of the right and mutually acceptable solution.

Even in despair and depression, we, the owners of the old currency savings, are dignified and righteous and we want it to be known that we will not tolerate the injustice forever. During the protests held on 28.12.2007., we alluded the ones who govern that they need to solve our problems and to give us back our property and human right. Our protests were btutally shattered, and dozens of old, sick and disempowered people were beaten from the side of the elite police unit. We supply you with the pictures from those protests. Please, do bear in mind that they are the learned lesson for us.

Truthfully yours,

The president of the steering committee


Svetozar Nisic



Delivered to:

1. Tary Davis, the Secretary General of the European Council
2. Tomas Hamerberger, the commissar of Human Rights at the European Council
3. Jan-Paul Costa, the President of the European Court of human rights
4. Parliamentary assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Government of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
6. OHR
7. Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Media