



HlcIndexOut: 019-2862-1
Belgrade, July 3, 2011

Scurrilous rumors will not halt the RECOM initiative

The Humanitarian Law Center and I have initiated the RECOM process, which has won the support of hundreds of thousands of people from former Yugoslav countries. The Coalition for RECOM, brings together 1,600 non-governmental organizations, associations of victims, war veterans, journalists, representatives of religious communities, victims' family members, and renowned individuals from the entire region who back RECOM's goals to establish the facts about war crimes and victims in the former Yugoslavia

We believe that we will realize our goal of establishing RECOM. We will continue to work with dedication so that countries in the region are able to establish RECOM. Despite the best efforts of some individuals, including Branko Todorović from the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska, and Edin Ramulić from the *Izvor* (Spring) Association Prijedor, who for three years now, with the support of sensationalist journalists, have opposed the initiative for RECOM at every turn, RECOM will be established. Recent reports saying that the RECOM initiative has failed and that the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) and Nataša Kandić have defrauded donors of millions of euros, are merely the latest in a long line of attacks on RECOM, the HLC and myself and are entirely without foundation.

After collecting 500,000 signatures in support of the Initiative for RECOM, we have entered the third and penultimate phase of the RECOM process: the institutionalization of the RECOM initiative, which began with the submission of the Initiative, petition and the Draft RECOM Statute to governments in the region of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We have delivered these materials to the President of Croatia, the BiH Presidency, and the Slovenian authorities. Montenegro has already initiated a procedure to institutionalize the RECOM Initiative, and we will deliver the request for establishing RECOM to the Presidents of Serbia, Kosovo, and Macedonia by mid July 2011. We expect that all of the necessary official procedures necessary for the establishment of RECOM should be implemented by the end of the year of 2012 and that RECOM can be established in the first half of 2013. Until then, the HLC and I shall remain at the centre of activities aimed at establishing RECOM.

It is a well known fact that I am a human rights activist who likes to see results. It is the same with the Initiative for RECOM. I prepare activities and I am directly engaged, along with a team of associates, in activities aimed at implementation of the idea of establishing RECOM. This includes writing reports, documents, promotion of the initiative on the street and in the media, political advocacy, etc. Due to my current and future workload, I do not have the time to sit on the Coordination Council, which monitors the implementation of decisions adopted by the Assembly of the Coalition for RECOM. This is the only reason that I handed over my place in the Coordination Council to another person and kept a purely technical position with the Secretariat of the Coalition for RECOM.

I do not propose to respond further to the unfounded and malicious statements made about alleged financial impropriety and the defrauding of donors, other than to say that full financial information and audit reports are available to public on the following web page - www.zarekom.org. To the best of our knowledge, no state institution or non-governmental organization that operates in the region, other than the Humanitarian Law Center has published its financial reports on the Internet. This fact speaks for itself.

Nataša Kandić,
HLC Executive Director, member of the Coalition for RECOM

