



Letter of Support to Nataša Kandić's and Humanitarian Law Center Candidacy for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2018

On the occasion of the nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize Nataša Kadić and the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) by the President of the Helsinki Committee in the United States Congress Roger Wicker and the US Congressman Eliot Engel, the members signatories of this letter, wish to express their full support for candidacy despite the campaign that is being re-launched and which have been continuously exposed, precisely because of their dedicated work on documenting crimes and working with victims of war conflicts in Yugoslavia, to the HLC and Natasa Kadic itself.

We, the undersigned organizations, wish to point out the significance of this nomination for the process of reconciliation in the region, since by awarding the prize all post-war societies in the Western Balkans will symbolically cross the state of truce in a period of positive peace. As a confirmation of this process, we expect all countries in the region to sign an agreement on the establishment of RECOM at the Western Balkans leaders' summit in July 2018, which would also mark the great success of civil society in dealing with difficult war heritage, which main goal is achieving justice for victims and exercising the right to the truth about the war conflict.

Nomination for the Nobel Prize Nataša Kandić and HLC represents an additional strengthening of the idea that dedicated and persistent individuals and organizations can contribute to peace equally, or even more than the state and international organizations. One of such certificates for the work of this organization and its founder was in 2010 when UNESCO Committee on Economic NGOs (ECOSOC) provided consultative status within the ECOSOC. A special consultative status was given to the HLC for its activities and contribution to the process of establishing transitional justice in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Nataša Kandić, founder of HLC, is the winner of over 20 international, regional and national awards for human rights. In 2000, she received the Martin Ennals Award, a prestigious award for human rights activists. Nataša Kandić is on the list of 36 European heroes in 2003, chosen by the American magazine Time. In 2004, People in need Foundation awarded Nataša Kandić and the HLC with Homo Homini Award, presented by Vaclav Havel. A year later, she was proclaimed as honorary citizen of Sarajevo and selected in "Slobodna Bosna" magazine as the person of the year in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In September 2006, Time magazine named Nataša Kandić as one of the heroes in the past 60 years. In March 2007, Nataša became a member of the International Advisory Council of the International Journal of Transitional Justice (Oxford University Journals), and in August 2008, she was invited to join the Advisory Council of the Weiser Center for Democracy Development at the University of Michigan. The Kosovo Peace Institute gave Nataša the Peace Prize in November 2012 "for exceptional work and contribution to reconciliation among the peoples of the region". Civil Rights Defenders - Defendants of Civil Rights, proclaimed Nataša Kandić as World's civil rights defender for 2013, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Serbia awarded her the "Days of Sarajevo in Beard" festival, and the same year she received the "Hrant Dink" award from the Turkish foundation "Hrant Dink".



YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
INICIJATIVA MLADIH ZA LJUDSKA PRAVA
NISMA E TË RINJVE PËR TË DREJTAT E NJERIUT

Since its establishment, the **Humanitarian Law Center (HLC)** detected and documented crimes committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, pointing on the responsibility of planners and perpetrators, and helping victims to ensure their rights regardless of their nationality or origin.

One of the most important projects of the HLC was the **Kosovo Memory Book** - a list of all killed, missing and injured citizens - Serbs, Albanians and citizens of another 25 nationalities - during armed conflicts in Kosovo between 1998 and 2000. One of the crimes fundamentally documented by the HLC was **abduction in Strpci** when a group of 19 passengers - mainly citizens of the FR of Yugoslavia - were kidnapped and then liquidated by a paramilitary formation under the command of Milan Lukić, who was later convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. In the past ten years, besides investigating war crimes, the HLC with other organizations and associations of victims from the region has promoted the **Initiative of RECOM**, for establishing an interstate commission that, as a non-judicial body, would collect data and testimonies regarding all war crimes and other serious human rights violations committed during the war in the former Yugoslavia.