# Government of Montenegro

**To Mr. Milojko Spajić, Prime Minister**

Podgorica, 16 April 2024

# Subject: Initiative for Montenegro to sponsor the UN Resolution on the genocide in Srebrenica

Dear Mr. Spajić,

Considering that the Draft Resolution of the United Nations on the Genocide in Srebrenica will be presented on 17 April this year in New York in a closed session, we invite you to be consistent concerning the current position of Montenegro and join the countries that co- sponsor this Resolution. Since it is understood that Montenegro will vote for the Resolution on 2 May, we consider that it should go one step further and join the group of currently 18 countries of the world that co-sponsored it and who understand the importance of peacebuilding. From the states of the region, so far Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia and North Macedonia have announced that they will be co-sponsors of the aforementioned resolution.

As the most serious candidate for membership in the European Union, Montenegro must demonstrate the capacity not only to implement the decisions of international courts and respect its international obligations but also to demonstrate in practice that it nurtures the universal values on which the community it wants to join rests. Moreover, by nurturing regional cooperation and good neighborly relations for which it was recognized, Montenegro must significantly contribute to raising the culture of remembrance of the victims of the genocide in Srebrenica to the international level. The majority of Montenegro wants to pay respect to the victims of the Srebrenica genocide in a dignified manner, as it has done so far.

The UN resolution on the genocide in Srebrenica builds on the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, UN Resolution 827 on the establishment of the International Tribunal for War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia, the judgment of the International Court of Justice from February 2007 in which the crime in Srebrenica was declared genocide, as well as the judgments of the Hague Tribunal, by which so far seven people have been convicted of the genocide committed against the Bosniaks in Srebrenica.

In 2009, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted the Declaration on the acceptance of the resolution of the European Parliament (EP) on Srebrenica in 2009, and in 2021 the Resolution on the genocide of Srebrenica, for which the majority of 55 MPs voted, while 19 were against, seven abstained (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 66/2021 of 21/06/2021). Noting that the denial of the genocide in Srebrenica did not stop even after the adoption of that Resolution and that Remembrance Day was not established even though the Resolution provides for it,

it is clear that not enough has been done to accept the facts and responsibly ensure a common future.

Accordingly, we expect that by formally signing the form on the co-sponsorship of the United Nations Resolution on the Srebrenica genocide, you will show not only that you stand by everything that is written in these documents, but also that you place Montenegro on the right side of history, where it always belonged.

Thank you for considering the initiative, we expect that the Government will act by it and make us proud citizens of Montenegro.

Respectfully,

1. Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, BiEPAG, Jovana Marović
2. Dina Bajramspahić, civil activist
3. Human Righst Action, Tea Gorjanc Prelević
4. Active Zone, Miloš Marković
5. Association "Štrpci - Against Forgetting", Demir Ličina
6. Center for democratic transition, Milica Kovačević
7. Center for Investigative Journalism of Montenegro, Milka Tadić Mijović
8. Centre for Civic Education, Daliborka Uljarević
9. Centre for Development of Non – Non-Governmental Organisations, Zorana Marković
10. Juventas, Ivana Vujović
11. Media Institute Montenegro, Olivera Nikolić
12. Montenegrin Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights, Velija Murić
13. Prima, Aida Perović
14. Spectra, Jovan Ulićević
15. The Center for Women's and Peace Education ANIMA, Ljupka Kovačević
16. Women's Rights Center, Maja Raičević

Additional signatories:

1. Agora Femina, Maja Bogojević
2. Aleksandar Saša Zeković, independent councilor in the Assembly of the Capital City of Podgorica
3. Association of Lawyers of Montenegro, Branislav Radulović
4. Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (AYDM), Marina Vujačić
5. Association of LBTQ women "Stana", Ana Dedivanović
6. Bona fidae, Pljevlja, Sabina Talović
7. Breathe, Maja Gardašević
8. Bridge of Culture, Podgorica
9. Center for Affirmation of the Roma–Egyptian Population (CAREP), Nardi Ahmetović
10. Center for Civil Liberties, Marija Popović Kalezić
11. Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM), Nevenka Vuksanović
12. Center for Multimedia Production
13. Centre for Monitoring and Research – (CeMI), Zlatko Vujović
14. Civic Alliance, Milan Radović
15. Civil Initiative "21st May"
16. Dalibor Tomović, lawyer
17. Development Vranj, Tuzi
18. Don Bosko centar
19. Edin Smailović, historian
20. Eduko plus, Almedina Dodić
21. ERA –LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey, Danijel Kalezić
22. Feminist and NGO activist "Polygon for Women's Excellence - Sofia", Rebeka Čilović
23. Gradionica, Goran Janković
24. Heart Rožaje, Dušan Rakočević
25. History Teachers Association of Montenegro, HIPMONT, Miloš Vukanović
26. Husein Paša, Pljevlja, Denijal Geljić
27. Ikre, Rožaje, Velida Hodžić
28. Initiative for Regional Cooperation, Montenegro (IGMAN Initiative), Andro Martinović
29. Institute for Gender Equality 'Dulcinea', Ulcinj, Hatixha Gjoni
30. IPO Crna Gora, Momčilo Šćekić
31. Jasna Tatar Anđelić, professor at the University of Montenegro
32. Komunica NG, Podgorica, Vladimir Nikaljević
33. Local Democracy Agency, Kerim Međedović
34. Miodrag Iličković, retired judge of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro
35. Mladen Zadrima, journalist
36. Monitoring Group Ulcinj – Mogul, Xhemal Peroviq
37. Montenegrin LGBTIQ association Queer Montenegro, Staša Bistrica
38. Montenegrin PEN Center
39. Montenegrin Philological Society
40. Montenegrin Helsinki Committee, Miodrag Vlahović
41. Montenegrin Women’s Lobby, Aida Petrović
42. Mrav, Rožaje, Munevera Sutović
43. New Horizon, Ulcinj, Nazif Velić
44. Punta institut, Ulcinj, Admir Gjoni
45. SOS Nikšić, Nataša Međedović
46. SOS Rožaje, Raza Nurković
47. Student organization, Adamas
48. System, Neda Radović
49. The First Women's Ecological Movement in Montenegro - Ecopatriotism
50. Ulcinj Info, Mustafa Canka
51. Varja Đukić, actress
52. Veselin Radulović, lawyer
53. Women's Safe House, Budislavka Mira Saveljić
54. Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), Edina Hasanaga Čobaj
55. Zenepa Lika, civil activist