



Humanitarian Law Center

HLC Report on Activities and Results 2019

I Documentation and Research

1.1. Archive, Information System and Database

During 2019, a total of 473 documents were archived in the Humanitarian Law Center's (HLC) archives. The HLC's Information system (IS) was enriched with 4,313 documents, 897 of which are the testimonies of witnesses and victims (additional research and victim's status verification in 2019, forcible mobilisation of refugees statements from 1997, police repression in Sandžak statements), 659 media articles, 442 various certificates (of death, identification, status, etc.), 350 personal photographs of victims, 209 various reports, 186 requests for information sent to various institutions in 2019, and 175 replies to our requests, 186 decisions of courts and other institutional bodies, 122 transcripts from trials in Serbia and Kosovo and 73 judgements, 88 victim's personal documents and 61 photographs of different memorials (graves, monuments, etc.), 37 criminal complaints, 35 books, 24 victims' lists, and various other documentation (1,130 items).

In 2019, the HLC team updated the 104,230 victim records in the database, of which 100,885 are part of the "Bosnian Book of the Dead", and the rest - 3,345 updated victim records - from the analysis of 2,235 collected documents.

1.2. Information System

After the 2018 Information System (IS) systematisation rules, the HLC team in 2019 set up a strategy of steps in order to improve the HLC's Archive and Information System. One of the central goals of the HLC is thus to systematically enter all documents it has produced and collected into the IS. In order to reach this goal, the HLC team has started to implement several steps.

Sorting and classification of 3 million files in the archive according to thematic and formal criteria. The HLC team has started to broadly categorise files, in order to classify documentation according to its significance for ongoing and future projects. Once the initial

classification is carried out, the HLC will develop a structure for entering documentation into the IS.

- a) Digitalisation/scanning of the remaining hard-copy documentation and conversion of the file format of ICTY trial video recordings.

The HLC Archive disposes of approximately 63,000 documents, which are only available in hard-copy format and need to be digitalised. At the same time, the HLC is converting and transferring the ICTY video recordings of trial days into a format which will allow those video recordings to be entered into the IS. This will be an important step in making the ICTY video archive public and accessible.

- b) Performance of OCR or meta-tagging of documentation.

The HLC will develop a strategy to perform an OCR (Optical Character Recognition) in order to convert images from typed or printed text into machine-encoded text and thus make more files in the IS searchable by text queries. A lot of documentation has been entered into the IS without being OCR-ed, which implies that OCR needs to be performed on the documentation already in the IS, as well as on the documentation that needs to be categorised and entered into the IS.

1.3. Copying the archive of the ICTY

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Secretariat of the Hague Tribunal, the HLC began copying the public archive of this court in February 2005. The goal of this project is to transfer the Hague public archive to the HLC, for its further use in criminal proceedings and social dialogue on the past, and to create conditions for researchers, journalists, victims, victims' family members, and interested individuals to have access to these valuable documents used in the ICTY trials.

From 2005 until the end of December 2019, a total of 9,742 days of trials kept in DVD format and 115,746 documents from the court database were copied.

During 2019, the HLC transferred and converted to MP4 format 41 ICTY cases with a total of 3,341 trial days, which were also merged.

1.4. Human losses during armed conflicts in the former Yugoslavia

In 2019, research concerning the circumstances of the deaths of war victims and a follow-up on the status of victims recorded on the basis of one or two sources which are not mutually independent, was completed in the municipalities of Uroševac, Lipjan and Istok in April, while such research will be continued in January 2020 in the municipality of Djakovica. It is estimated that the research in the municipality of Djakovica could be completed by the end of April 2020, and the editing of narratives on all (1300) victims by September 2020.

In the past year, the researchers have taken 141 statements from witnesses on 130 actual victims in Uroševac municipality; 37 statements on 41 actual victims and 6 statements on 3 reported victims in the municipality of Istok, on the basis of which it was concluded that 3 reported victims were not victims of war; 52 statements on 40 actual victims in Lipjan municipality, and 480 statements on 511 actual victims and 60 statements on 26 reported victims in Djakovica municipality, on the basis of which it was concluded that 25 reported were not actual victims of war.

On the basis of an analysis of the statements collected and other documentation collected earlier, analysts have written draft narratives on 100 actual victims, and definitively edited narratives on 350 actual victims in the Djakovica municipality and 130 actual victims in the Uroševac municipality.

Documenting actual Serbian victims and verification of the status of victims for whom there was insufficient evidence to conclude whether they were actual victims was better organised and with better results in 2019, than in previous years. The circumstances of the death of 483 victims were definitely confirmed, personal, family and professional records verified, and final edited narratives about each individual victim edited. 23 reported victims were found not to be victims of war.

Documenting Albanian victims focused on investigating the circumstances of the deaths and following up on the status of reported victims in the municipalities of Prizren and Priština, while in December research was started in the municipality of Peć. The research in Prizren

municipality is being conducted on the basis of instructions for additional verification of the circumstances of the deaths of 652 actual victims and 142 reported victims. In the past year, researchers have taken 326 statements on 310 actual victims and 96 statements on 34 reported victims. In the municipality of Priština, research is being conducted on the basis of instructions for verifying the circumstances of death and personal and professional data on 780 actual victims and 81 reported victims. The researchers took 193 statements on 192 actual victims and 97 statements on 81 reported victims. In the municipality of Peć, the research is at an early stage, and will continue on the basis of instructions for obtaining and verifying data on the circumstances of the deaths of 765 actual victims and the status of 99 reported victims. In the past year, about 1,800 documents, mostly reports of additional research, but also court documents, photographs and certificates, have been entered into and linked to the victims' database. The records of SUP Prizren, and 431 articles from the newspaper "Glas javnosti", [Voice of the Public] were imported.

Considering that 3 Kosovo researchers and 3 researchers / analysts in Serbia have been engaged in the research, and that the Project Coordinator manages the research and analysis, the publication of the second volume of the Kosovo Memory Book can be realistically envisaged for early 2021, before the end of the Support of RECOM project on 1 March 2021.

1.5. War crimes dossiers

In 2019, the HLC presented two dossiers - "Crimes against Croats in Vojvodina" and "Forced Mobilisation of Refugees".

At the end of January 2019, the HLC presented the Dossier "[Crimes against Croats in Vojvodina](#)". In the period from 1991 to 1995, a campaign of intimidation and pressure on Croatian civilians was conducted on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in the Republic of Serbia, with the aim of forcing them to leave their homes, and also Serbia. The campaign, whose level of intensity changed, having peaking in the second half of 1991, from spring to autumn 1992 and in the summer of 1995, resulted in the expulsion of tens of thousands of Croats from Vojvodina. Violence against Croats in Vojvodina included attacks on private property and religious objects, threats, physical attacks and killings.

The main proponents and inspirers of the campaign of intimidation and pressure on the Croat population in Vojvodina were Vojislav Šešelj and his Serbian Radical Party (SRS). The expulsion of Croatian families was carried out under pressure from various groups close (ideologically) to the SRS, including locals and a militant section of Serb refugees from Croatia, as well as members of volunteer units from Serbia who participated in the wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The intimidation campaign was conducted with the knowledge and tacit approval of the political structures of the Republic of Serbia. The evidence presented in this Dossier shows that members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP) of the Republic of Serbia also participated in certain acts of violence against Croats. In addition, the State Security Service (RDB) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia played an important role in the forced departure of Vojvodina Croats.

In the period between the two censuses, 1991 and 2002, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of Croats and other non-Serbs in the territory of Vojvodina. A decrease in the number of Croats occurred in 39 out of 45 municipalities in Vojvodina, whilst in the entire province the number of Croats decreased by 18,262, i.e. by 24.41%.

This Dossier presents evidence of events in the municipalities of Vojvodina (Ruma, Šid, Stara Pazova, Indjija, Petrovaradin and Apatin), in which the pressure on Croats to move out was the strongest and in which the ethnic picture was most altered. The Dossier is composed on the basis of the statements of witnesses and victims' families given to the Humanitarian Law Center, documents of the RDB of Serbia, court verdicts in Serbia, documents presented as evidence before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and media reports.

In November 2019, the Dossier "[Forced Mobilisation of Refugees](#)" was presented to the public. Following the outbreak of war in Croatia and BiH, and especially in connection with the Croatian military-police operations "Flash" and "Storm", some 500,000 Serbs, citizens of Croatia and BiH, fled to Serbia. Tens of thousands of Serbs from Croatia fled to Serbia during 1991 and 1992. They mostly exchanged their houses and property with Croats from Vojvodina who, under pressure from the Serbian Radical Party and paramilitary groups, left Serbia. At least 200,000 people fled Croatia from May to the end of August 1995, during and after the

“Flash” and “Storm” operations of the Croatian Army and the MUP. Most of the refugees were housed in reception centres across Serbia, old hotels, unused public facilities, or with relatives and friends, and only a few were able to rent an apartment.

Following an agreement between the authorities of the Republika Srpska Krajina (RSK), Republika Srpska (RS) and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), in January 1994 the military and police authorities of the Republic of Serbia began enforcing the compulsory mobilisation of refugees. From May to the end of September 1995, members of the MUP massively arrested refugees from Croatia and BiH and then handed them over to RS and RSK military, police and paramilitary units. According to information in possession of the HLC, in the summer of 1995, the Serbian MUP forcibly mobilised approximately 10,000 refugees and returned them to the territory controlled by the Republika Srpska Army (VRS) or Serbian Krajina Army (SVK). At least 54 forcibly mobilised refugees lost their lives or disappeared after returning to the area where armed conflicts took place.

By returning refugees to the area affected by the armed conflict, Serbia violated the Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Law on Refugees of the Republic of Serbia, whose provisions prohibit the return of refugees to the territory where their lives are endangered; the obligation of the receiving state to provide them with basic living conditions worthy of man was also violated.

Ever since April 1996, on behalf of about 720 forcibly mobilised refugees, some of whom were wounded or captured during time spent on the battlefield, as well as on behalf of family members of forcibly mobilised refugees who died on the battlefield after being sent to the VRS or SVK, the HLC filed lawsuits for damages with the courts in Serbia. The lawsuits were filed for violation of liberty and rights of person, as well as for the deaths of close family members. In all of these cases, the courts held Serbia accountable, as MUP members violated both the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Refugee Law in force in Serbia at the time, thereby causing damage to the forcibly mobilised.

During 2019, the HLC filed four criminal charges with the OWCP for crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. One criminal charge was filed for the murder of an Albanian civilian in May 1999 not far from Djakovica, two criminal charges were filed for the disappearance of three Croats who lived in Vojvodina in 1991 (the brothers Ivica and Mate Abjanović disappeared in

Morović, while Stevan Djurkov disappeared in Sonta). The fourth criminal charge was filed against [Dušan Lončar](#) for ordering an attack on the Croatian village of Bogdanovci in November 1991, when nine civilians were killed. Back in 2017, the HLC also filed a criminal charge against Lončar because he ordered an attack on the civilian population of Lovas.

Besides this, the HLC has presented the public with evidence of crimes committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia through the multimedia website [Zone of \(non\)responsibility](#), which in 2019 was visited by 3,225 users.¹

¹ During 2018, 2,925 users visited the site.

II Justice and Institutional Reform

2.1. Monitoring of war crimes trials and representation of victims

In 2019, HLC lawyers represented victims and their families in nine cases before the Belgrade High Court (War Crimes Chamber): *Ćuška, Qushk, Trnje, Bratunac, Srebrenica, Lovas, Brčko II, Bogdanovci, Zvornik - Standard, and Štrpci*.

The HLC legal team monitored the war crimes trials before the Belgrade High Court War Crimes Chamber in the cases of *Bosanski Petrovac - Gaj, Sanski Most - Lušci Palanka, Doboj - Kožuhe, Hrasnica, Zvornik - Suha, and Ključ - Velagići*.

The daily reports from these trials, indictments, judgements, and transcripts were collected from both completed and ongoing proceedings, and are published on the HLC website.

The HLC provided assistance for members of the families of the victims to come to Belgrade to follow the trials in the cases of *Lovas, Trnje, Srebrenica, Štrpci and Zvornik - Standard*. The HLC also organised meetings with victims and family members of victims upon their arrival in Belgrade, as well as in their places of residence. They were briefed on the course of the proceedings and provided with documentation - such as the judgements and transcripts of the trial - in which they showed interest. At the same time, it was explained to them what their rights were in the process, their possibilities and the ways of exercising them.

The HLC provided one victim of sexual assault with professional psychological support to empower the victim and prepare her to testify.

In 2019, 19 press releases on the issues of war crimes prosecution were published.

In May 2019, the HLC presented the Report on War Crimes Trials in Serbia in 2017-2018, which included analyses of 20 cases. The report pays close attention to the work of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor (OWCP) and of the courts in the public parts of court proceedings, and

above all analyses indictments and judgments in each individual case. The work of other bodies involved in the prosecution of war crimes - the War Crimes Investigation Service within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia (MUP), Protection Units, etc. - cannot be analysed at the level of individual cases, since there are no publicly available data.

2.2. Monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prosecution of War Crimes

I On February 20, 2016, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the [National Strategy for the Prosecution of War Crimes](#) (National Strategy) for the period 2016-2020. In addition to the Working Body for monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy, which is responsible for reporting on its implementation, the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) is monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, with the aim of providing *Shadow Reports* and offering findings and conclusions on its implementation.

The reports prepared by the HLC contain a brief overview of the situation in the reporting period, identify key problems in the implementation of the activities, and propose recommendations for more effective implementation of the National Strategy.

II During the reporting period, work continued on the preparation of the Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy, through desk research, monitoring the implementation of documents related to the National Strategy (Action Plan for Chapter 23, National Strategy) and sending requests for access to information of public importance.

The period from January to July 2019 was dedicated to preparing the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Prosecution of War Crimes. [The Fourth Report](#) was presented at a press conference in the Media Center (Belgrade), on 24 July 2019.

III In August, work began on the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Prosecution of War Crimes. [The Fifth Report](#) was presented at a press conference in the Media Center (Belgrade), on 23 December, 2019. At this conference, Safeta Biševac, journalist of the daily *Danas* and editor of the "Confrontation" supplement in that newspaper, also spoke. In her presentation, she referred to informing citizens about war crimes trials.

IV The process of gathering the necessary data presented many challenges, as in the previous two years. The Working Body, in charge of monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy, had adopted by 31 December 2019 a total of **seven reports** on its implementation, which together cover the period from the adoption of the Strategy until 30 June 2019.² Given the dynamics of the adoption of these reports, as well as the period to which the adopted reports relate, the information contained in them did not greatly assist in the preparation of the reports prepared by the HLC.

Sending requests for access to information of public importance continued to be the main method of data collection. During the reporting period, a total of 26 requests were sent to institutions responsible for implementing the National Strategy. The authorities responsible for the Strategy often gave incomplete answers, and some questions even received the answer, "no existing document".

The problems encountered with the incomplete information were overcome by seeking additional sources of information, including the European Commission's Progress Report on Serbia, as well as reports by the Prosecutor-General and the President of the International Residual Mechanism for International Criminal Courts at the UN Security Council.

V National Strategy Implementation Reports published by the HLC are particularly important, given that the official reports of the Working Body uncritically evaluate the success of the implementation of the Strategy, and often the responses contained in the reports themselves do not correspond with the activities set. Also, the reports of the Working Body are late, which means only the HLC reports present a timely cross-section of the situation in this field.

It is particularly important to emphasise that the HLC reports are the only *Shadow Reports* in relation to the National Strategy. This means that the HLC is the only NGO reporting on its

² *The First Report of the Working Body* was adopted on 03.05.2018 (covering the period: 20.02.2016 - 30.11.2017). *The Second Report* was adopted on 06.06.2018 (covering the period: 01.12.2017 - 31.03.2018). *The Third Report* was adopted on 13.08.2018 (covering period: 01.04.2018 - 30.06.2018). *The Fourth Report* was adopted on 21.11. 2018 (covering the period: 01.07.2018 - 30.09.2019). *The Fifth Report* was adopted on 28.03. 2019 (covering the period: 01.10.2018 - 31.12.2018). *The Sixth Report* was adopted 19.06.2019 (covering the period: 01.01.2019 - 30.03.2019). *The Seventh Report* was adopted on 20.12.2019 (covering the period: 01.04.2019 - 30.06.2019).

implementation. At the same time, it means that the HLC continues to be the most competent civil society actor in monitoring the pace of implementation of strategic documents, which, as part of Serbia's EU accession process, should make war crimes processing more efficient.

VI On December 06, 2019, at the press conference at the Media Center (Belgrade), the [Policy Paper: Improving the Status and Rights of Victims and Witnesses in War Crimes Proceedings in Serbia](#) was presented .

In preparing this policy proposal, a focus group met at the Belgrade Media Center on September 30, to present a working version of this policy paper. After the focus group meeting, the participants at the meeting sent their comments on the working version of the policy paper, some of which were accepted and included in the final version. Organising this focus group was aimed at bringing together relevant actors from the field of support and assistance to victims and witnesses of crime in order to make the process of working on this policy paper more participatory, and to make the research of the topic more comprehensive and the text itself of better quality.

During the proposal for the policy paper, Biljana Slavković, psychotherapist, and Suvada Selimović, witness in the *Zvornik II* Case, also [spoke at the conference](#) .

VII On December 23, 2019, at the press conference at the Media Center (Belgrade), following the presentation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Prosecution of War Crimes, the [Policy Paper: Prosecution of Crimes of Sexual Violence during Armed Conflicts before the Courts of the Republic of Serbia](#) was also presented The topics covered in this policy paper were [addressed](#) by our guest Lamija Tiro, who is an associate at the organisation TRIAL International in BiH.

2.3. Policy change

The administrative procedure for recognising the status of a civilian victim of war is one of the three mechanisms for exercising the right to reparations in the Republic of Serbia, which is prescribed by the Law on the Rights of Civilian Invalids of War (Law), adopted as early as in 1996. The manner in which the above-mentioned law prescribes the rights as well as the conditions for acquiring the status of a civilian invalid of war, or of a family member of a civilian

victim of war or civilian invalid of war, puts this administrative mechanism of reparations in the domain of social welfare. Its application in practice has shown that the mechanism set up in this way does not meet the real needs of the victims, as it contains numerous discriminatory provisions which prevent many victims from exercising their rights. Thus, according to this law, victims who suffer from diseases of a psychic or psychosomatic nature as a result of the injuries suffered, or victims of sexual violence in war, or victims whose degree of disability is less than 50% according to current regulations, or victims of injuries from forces that the Republic of Serbia does not consider hostile, or family members of forcibly missing persons, or victims whose injury or death occurred outside the territory of Serbia, or victims whose injury or death occurred outside the period of formally declared war in Serbia, are deprived of any protection. For many years, the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) has indicated that such a legal framework is contrary to both the provisions of the Constitution and the obligation to guarantee human rights and freedoms that Serbia has assumed by acceding to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The fact that even after 23 years since the law was adopted, and fifteen years after the ratification of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Serbia has not improved the administrative mechanism of reparations nor aligned it with the ratified international instruments, shows that there is still no wish nor political will in Serbia to deal with the legacy of the mass atrocities of the past. In 2018, a working group was formed within the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans' and Social Affairs (Ministry) to draft a Law on Veteran and Disability Benefits (Draft Law), which would cover veterans, invalids of war (war invalids and peacetime war invalids), civilian invalids of war and civilian victims of war. The competent ministry conducted a non-transparent consultation process that preceded the drafting of the law, which resulted in the fact that the proposed text of the Draft Law, instead of improving the status of civilian victims of war, retains the discriminatory provisions of the existing legal solution, leaving civilian invalids of war and civilian victims of war at a disadvantage in relation to military victims of war. On 21 December 2018, the HLC provided detailed comments to the Ministry on the Draft Law, stating, inter alia, that Serbia must pass a special law regulating only the rights of civilian invalids of war and civilian victims of war. During April 2019, Minister Zoran Djordjević made a guest appearance on the TV "Happy" show "Telemaster", pointing out that the President of the Republic of Serbia, "Aleksandar Vučić, has given clear guidelines to the Government of Serbia, which implies that by the end

of 2019 a new Law on the Rights of Veterans, Invalids of War and Civilian Invalids of War and their families is to be drafted.” To this end, a Public Debate on the Draft Law was conducted between 13 May and 3 June 2019. The panels on the Draft Law were held in accordance with the Public Debate Agenda at Vranje, Leskovac, Kragujevac, Užice, Sjenica, Kraljevo, Sombor, Zrenjanin, Novi Sad, Zaječar, Belgrade and Niš, but also in Ruma, because of great interest. On 31 May, 2019, HLC representatives participated in a public debate in Belgrade, during which they stated that it was necessary to improve legal solutions regulating the status of civilian invalids of war and civilian victims of war, to update them and to harmonise them with the above-mentioned ratified international acts, as well as with the Model Law on the rights of civilian victims of human rights violations committed during and in connection with armed conflicts in the period 1991-2001 (Model Law), drafted by the HLC during 2015. Most of the participants in the public debate expressed their opinion that it was necessary to withdraw the Draft Law from the procedure and to create a new working group that would draft a new text of the Draft Law, i.e. to amend it. By the time the work on this Report was completed, the text of the Draft Law had not entered the National Assembly procedure as a bill.

2.4. Criminal charges

During 2019, the HLC filed four criminal charges with the OWCP for crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia.

One criminal charge was filed for the murder of an Albanian civilian in May 1999, not far from Djakovica; two criminal charges were filed for the disappearance of three Croats who lived in Vojvodina in 1991 (the brothers Ivica and Mate Abjanović, who disappeared in Morović, and Stevan Djurkov, who disappeared in Sonta). These criminal charges arose as a result of the research related to the Dossier "Crimes against Croats in Vojvodina".

The fourth criminal charge was filed against [Dušan Lončar](#) because he ordered an attack on the Croatian village of Bogdanovci in November 1991, when nine civilians were killed. Back in 2017, the HLC filed a criminal charge against Lončar because he ordered an attack on the civilian population of Lovas.

2.5. Reparations - Compensation Procedures

The HLC currently represents 112 victims in reparation procedures against the Republic of Serbia. Civil proceedings include torture against Kosovo Albanians, war crimes against civilians in Kosovo, killings and expulsions of Sandžak Bosniaks, police torture against minority groups, and camps in western Serbia and in Vojvodina.

In 2019, a total of 18 civil proceedings were before the courts. Of these, 16 procedures are in the first instance, in which the HLC represents 64 victims. Second instance procedures are in 2 cases, in which the HLC represents 18 injured parties. 15 hearings were held, while 7 hearings were adjourned.

In 2019, six civil procedures for reparations were initiated, namely: *Sotin 2 (Ivka Šter)*, *Ovčara 5 (Snežana Imbrišić, Igor Imbrišić & Ivona Imbrišić Ardalić)*, *Ovčara 6 (Brigita Varenica, Goran Varenica & Marijana Varenica)*, *Suva Reka (Betim Berisha)*, *Camps in Vojvodina (Dubravko Gvozdanović)* and *Expulsion of Croats from Vojvodina (Baričević Franjo, Jadranka, Ivan and Marijana)*, for which the authority of representation was given to the HLC by 13 injured parties.

In the reporting period, 13 judgments were rendered. In four of the first-instance judgments, the plaintiffs' claims for damages were upheld.³ In one case, the trial court dismissed the plaintiffs' claim.⁴ In two cases, the judgment of the Court of Appeal upheld the first-instance judgments upholding the plaintiffs' claims⁵, while one judgment of the Court of Appeals upheld the first-instance judgment dismissing the plaintiffs' claim⁶. The decision of the Administrative Court in Kragujevac upheld the plaintiffs' claim and quashed the decision of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans' and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, and the case was returned to the competent authority for reconsideration.⁷ In civil procedures, HLC lawyers submitted 10 filings.

³ *Bogujevci; Morina Isa, Krasniqi et al. (Meja), and Zariqi et al.*

⁴ *Dudaš et al.*

⁵ *Duriqi et al. and Morina Isa.*

⁶ *Dudaš et al.*

⁷ *Rasim Pecikoza*

During the reporting period, a total of 13 meetings were held with victims and family members of victims.

2.6. Enforced execution of judgements

In November 2019, the enforcement of the judgment of the First Basic Court in Belgrade⁸ was initiated, awarding compensations to 24 plaintiffs, nine of whom initiated enforcement proceedings. The total amount awarded was RSD 12,300,000.00 for non-pecuniary damage due to the death of a close person.

2.7. Constitutional complaints

In 2019, a total of 28 constitutional complaints were filed.

Out of the 28 constitutional complaints filed, 15 were filed for violation of the right to a trial within a reasonable time; seven against the Administrative Court's decisions to reject the Ministry of Defence's request to provide the HLC with information on the basis of requests for access to information of public importance; one constitutional complaint was filed for violation of the right to an effective investigation (*Abjanović*), one constitutional complaint was filed against judgment in civil proceedings dismissing a claim for compensation for time spent in a detention camp, and one constitutional complaint was filed against a misdemeanour court verdict (*YIHR - Beška*).

2.8. Proceedings before the Administrative Court

During the reporting period, more than 30 hearings were held before the Administrative Court in the proceedings of the Public Prosecutor's Office (RJT) against the decision of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance, which instructed the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to submit various requested data related to the period 1998 - 1999 years and the war in Kosovo.

⁸Reparation was awarded to members of the Bogujevci and Duriqi families killed in March 1999 by members of the Serb forces.

As the MoD refuses to provide the requested information to the HLC despite the decisions of the Commissioner, the RJT has initiated several lawsuits against the Commissioner, in which the HLC appears as a third party interested in the final outcome of the proceedings.

III Education about the Past

3.1. School of Transitional Justice

From 5 to 10 November 2019, the HLC's Sixth Transitional Justice School (School) was held. The school was attended by 18 students of law, political science, history, Scandinavian languages and sociology, as well as activists from non-governmental organizations from Serbia.

The participants gained knowledge about the concept and mechanisms of transitional justice, its application in Serbia in the context of the armed conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, and discussed case studies of crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo. In addition to the opportunity to learn the facts established by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the participants had the opportunity to learn about the results and challenges of war crimes prosecutions before the courts in Serbia, Croatia, BiH and Kosovo. In addition to learning about facts established before the ICTY and national courts, the participants had the opportunity to learn about topics related to institutional reform, lustration, reparations, as well as topics related to memorialisation.

According to the participants, they could not have had the opportunity to acquire the knowledge gained at this School during their formal education. The very approach, which, instead of the uncritical acceptance of information, fostered reflection, mutual discussion and the formation of one's own opinion on the key topics in dealing with the past, such as responsibility, guilt, ways of establishing justice, ascertaining the truth and remembering victims, was new to the participants. They supported the approach that lectures related to trials before the national courts of the countries of the region should be found in the curriculum of the School. They suggested that lessons from other post-conflict societies, such as Rwanda, South Africa and Latin American countries, could be included in the lecture topics. Participants considered it important that young people who have not had the opportunity to learn about transitional justice, as well as the youth of political parties, high school students and journalists, should be involved in such educational programmes. They also believe that learning about events from the past on the basis of judicially established facts should be

included in official programmes at the faculties of social sciences, both in basic and master studies, as this would avoid distorted interpretations of events, or the silencing of them.

3.2. Library

The HLC Library, containing over 6,000 titles in international humanitarian law, and dealing with the past, transitional justice, history, sociology, political sciences, and other relevant disciplines, was enriched with 90 new titles.

IV RECOM Initiative

Signing the Declaration on the Establishment of RECOM was not on the agenda of the 2018 Western Balkans Summit in London, United Kingdom, within the Berlin Process Initiative for the European Integration of Western Balkan States, because the Coalition for RECOM could not fulfil the condition of the summit organiser - to submit the signed decisions of the governments of Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Northern Macedonia on their readiness to sign the RECOM Declaration at the Summit. Therefore, in January 2019, the Coalition invited the Presidents of all post-Yugoslav countries to appoint their delegates, legal experts who would jointly review and prepare the final text of the Statute, upon which the Prime Ministers would sign the Declaration of the Establishment of RECOM at the Poznan Summit in July 2019. Legal experts were appointed by the Presidents of Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Northern Macedonia. In April 2019, the meeting was organised, and attended by experts from the above-mentioned countries, and also by Pierre Mirel, former EC Director for the Western Balkans on behalf of the EU Enlargement Department, and Thomas Osorio, an expert on transitional justice in BiH, before the Coalition for RECOM public advocates prof. Žarko Puhovski, Adriatik Kelmendi and Nataša Kandić. The participants concluded that a second meeting should be held by the end of May, and that the Coalition should ensure the participation of experts from BiH and Croatia.

In the same month, April 2019, a meeting of the Western Balkans foreign ministers took place in Warsaw, at which the Director-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations at the European Commission, Christian Danielsson, informed participants that the Directorate had asked Pierre Mirel, former EC Director for the Western Balkans, to assist and explore "a possible governments' approach to dealing with the past with the involvement of civil society and victims' associations through the RECOM Initiative." In this regard, Pierre Mirel organised meetings with representatives of state institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in May, but failed to organize meetings in Croatia. He received responses from the Bosniak and Croat Members of the BiH Presidency, who had supported the Initiative for RECOM for 10 years, saying that there were other priorities in BiH - security and stability; whilst the Serb member, through a high official from his party, informed Mirel and the public that the Republika Srpska

institutions consider RECOM "an unacceptable institution for fostering a reconciliation process", because "the ICTY judgments cannot be the basis for fact finding and the complete truth".

Bearing in mind the conclusions of the participants of the first meeting of legal experts and the results of Pierre Mirel's mission, in June 2019 the RECOM Coalition informed the Presidents of Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Northern Macedonia, the public and the members of the Coalition that political support from post-Yugoslav leaders no longer existed with regard to the organisation of a joint list of victims, and that the Assembly of the Coalition for RECOM would by the end of the year decide on the restructuring of the RECOM Initiative.

At its ninth session, on December 15, 2019, in Zagreb, the Assembly of the Coalition for RECOM passed a decree terminating the Statute of RECOM as a symbol of the political will of the leaders of post-Yugoslav countries to jointly establish a Regional Commission Tasked with Establishing the Facts about All Victims of War Crimes of the 1990s in the Territory of the former Yugoslavia (RECOM). This Statute had been formulated by the joint work of the envoys of the Presidents of Croatia, Serbia, two Members of the Presidency of BiH, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia and experts of the Coalition for RECOM back in 2014.

Bearing in mind that in the existing political constellations in Croatia and BiH there is no support for the establishment of RECOM, and that Slovenia maintains the position that there are no war casualties in that country and that there are no grounds to participate in the list of war victims, the Assembly decided that the Coalition for RECOM should take over the task of drawing up a "name by name" list of victims of the 1990s wars in the former Yugoslavia.

The Assembly of the Coalition for RECOM assessed that by refusing to form a joint interstate commission (RECOM), the leaders and governments of the post-Yugoslav countries have made another historic political mistake. The RECOM Coalition's response to this is that the name-by-name list of victims should not be abandoned. The Coalition takes over the responsibility of completing this task. The Assembly of the Coalition for RECOM has committed itself:

1. to intensifying the documentation of war crimes and casualties by increasing the teams of researchers and analysts, involving academic institutions in the research, upgrading the existing databases and directing the public attention towards the victims' perspective;

2. to strengthening the network of those committed to reconciliation and transitional justice in the period 2020-2023, by engaging in the activities of at least 100 local community organisations, and
3. to providing professional support to youth organisations in counteracting the misinterpretation of judicial and historiographically established facts and the production of "national truths".

IV Advocacy

5.1. HLC's comments on the text of the revised Action Plan for Chapter 23

On 08 February 2019, the HLC presented detailed [comments on the first draft of the revised Action Plan for Chapter 23](#) (draft Action Plan), in the section related to the field of justice, to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia.

The HLC noted in its comments that the Ministry of Justice, in the part related to war crimes, did not carry out a thorough analysis of the activities that the state authorities responsible for processing war crimes were obliged to carry out on the basis of the existing Action Plan, and that the draft Action Plan does not reflect the real situation in the area of war crimes. Through a thorough analysis of the existing and revised draft Action Plan, the HLC found that certain activities were deleted from the revised draft Action Plan by the Ministry of Justice, which considered that they had been fully implemented by the competent state authorities, although such a conclusion could not be drawn from the analysis of the situation in the field of war crimes.

Some of the comments provided by the HLC related to activities that, according to the draft Action Plan, were intended to be deleted; some of the comments were in the form of proposals to review the existing activities; and some other comments focused on proposing the introduction of new activities into the Action Plan.

The table on the status of the comments [by civil society organisations](#), published by the Ministry of Justice, which manages the process of revising the Action Plan for Chapter 23, states that a total of 15 HLC comments were accepted, while a total of 7 comments were not accepted.

This shows that 68% of the comments submitted by the HLC were adopted.

5.2. Domestic advocacy

During 2019, three initiatives on amendments to the Constitution were submitted.

The first initiative was filed on 13 June 2019, to review the constitutionality and legality of the Rulebook on the Anonymisation of Personal Data in the Indictments of the OWCP, which leads to an excessive anonymisation of personal data that make the information in the indictments no longer accessible to the general public. The Rulebook is in conflict with previous jurisprudence, as well as with the practice of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance.

The second initiative was filed on 2 September 2019, against the amendments to the Legal Code, which imposed a sentence of life of imprisonment without the possibility of parole for certain offences. The HLC considers this legal solution to be contrary to Article 3 of the Convention and a gross violation of the human rights of convicted persons.

The third initiative was filed on 11 December 2019 against the amendments to the Law on Enforcement and Security, which oblige executive creditors to address the competent Ministry of Finance before filing a motion for enforcement against the Republic of Serbia, autonomous provinces or local self-government units, with a notice that they will initiate the enforcement proceedings.

According to the HLC, this legal provision is discriminatory, violates the right to equal protection of citizens' rights, and without a reasonable and justified reason places the state authorities as executive debtors above other executive debtors.

IV Memory

Memorialisation is one of the cornerstones of successfully dealing with the past and creating a sustainable peace. The importance of memory is reflected in the fact that the interpretation of the past not only shapes the perception of the present, but also influences the vision of the future.

In October 2019, the HLC launched a memorialisation programme, as the third pillar of the HLC work, along with documentation and justice. The programme covers a variety of activities aimed at questioning and confronting dominant narratives and emerging truths about the wars of the 1990s that represent the backbone of the official memory policy in Serbia and the region. Through this programme, the HLC conducts research and expert analysis of official memory policies and hegemonic narratives on the armed conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. By using a variety of media and interactive formats, the HLC seeks to make judicially established facts accessible and receptive to a wider audience. The memorialisation programme is also one of the platforms on which HLC networks and fosters collaboration with researchers and activists at the regional level, offering support and space for memory activism through collaborative projects.

Within the memorialisation programme, cooperation has been established with individuals engaged in scientific research into memory studies in the region. In December 2019, the HLC with its memorialisation programme participated in organising a panel on the practices and policies of Remembrance on the 12th Transitional Justice Forum in the post-Yugoslav countries of the Coalition for RECOM, and presented an analysis of the state commemorations of “Operation Storm”.

During the fall of 2019, the HLC strengthened its activities related to the anniversaries of war crimes and other mass human rights violations, to remind the public of the crimes committed and their victims. These activities include digital memory activism, which involves digital practices of memory and commemoration, primarily on social networks. For this purpose, the HLC creates infographics that present facts about war crimes and their (non-)prosecution, as well as visualisations of quotes from witnesses, victims and their families. In October and November, the HLC participated in the commemoration of the events of the 1990s along with

other civil society organizations, including Women in Black and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights. This domain also includes the comments on the official policy of remembrance and the events of the 1990s that HLC employees write for the daily newspaper *Danas* and other media.

The developmental stage of the memorialisation programme involves the conceptualisation of projects and programme extensions, as well as fund-raising for planned activities.

VII Informing the Public and Outreach

During the reporting period, the HLC published 25 [news stories](#) and 24 [press releases](#), reacting to events, announcing activities and reporting on its work, and [cited](#) 123 media articles on current issues and affairs concerning transitional justice. The HLC website was visited by 31,605 users.

The HLC provided over 70 statements for the media and four authored pieces. A total of 104 [supplements](#) on Serbia's dealings with the issues of the past have been published in the daily newspapers *Danas*.⁶

Six [publications](#) were published, and four conferences for their presentation organised, with a total of around 100 representatives of the civil sector, media, institutions and international organisations directly participating and an unknown number of citizens following the debate via the HLC's live tweeting.

VIII Visits to the HLC

In 2019, the HLC was visited by three groups, of about 60 students, who wanted to find out information about the HLC's work and the activities it has conducted. Thus, in February 2019, 20 students from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights visited the HLC. In March, two groups of students - one from Priština Law School, and the other from the University of South-Eastern Norway, discussed current issues in the field of transitional justice in Serbia with the HLC team.

VII Transfer of Knowledge

As a member of the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation (GIJTR), the HLC has continued to participate in facilitation on a number of workshops, training, conferences, and in other activities. Currently, the HLC is engaged in three GIJTR projects: “South Sudan Human Rights Documentation Initiative”, “Iraq Human Rights Documentation Initiative”, and “CSO Documentation for Accountability”.

In 2019, a HLC representative along with other GIJTR partners facilitated six workshops: March 2019 – “Reporting and Advocacy Workshop”, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; April 2019 - “Accountability Workshop”, Erbil, Iraq; July 2019 - ToT (Training of Trainers) Workshop, Erbil, Iraq; May 2019 – “African TJ Academy “, Kigali, Rwanda; August 2019 – “Digital Mapping”, Kigali, Rwanda; November 2019 - Advisory Board Meeting on a CSO and Accountability, The Hague.

In workshops, the HLC representative has shared organisational knowledge and experience on the issues related to documenting breaches of international humanitarian law, planning investigation missions and conducting interviews, processing statements in the database, the experiences and challenges of researchers, using oral history as a mechanism for transitional justice, listing examples of the ways in which collected documents can be used in court and elsewhere, and evaluating the truthfulness and completeness of statements. And it has also provided technical support to partner organizations and advised on digital security issues.

Outside the workshops, an HLC representative engaged in various other activities. One was to assist in the process of creating a new database for Iraqi CSOs, with the transfer of data from the previous database. In the scope of the “CSO Documentation for Accountability” project, the HLC compiled a case study on an ICTY OTP cooperation with the CSOs in the region.

In April 2019, an HLC representative took part in a GIJTR all-Partners meeting, in Sanur, Indonesia. At this meeting, new projects were proposed and discussed. The HLC proposed a project to build a GIJTR website. The project proposal was adopted, and later in 2019, the

HLC took part in a preparation for the realisation of this project. Besides this, the HLC will act as a consultant in three small projects in 2020: “Reintegration and TJ”, „Understanding and Addressing Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Transitional Justice”, and „Non-judicial search unit mechanisms“.

Besides GIJTR, an HLC representative took part in two events organised by a Berlin-based think-tank, „Das Progressive Zentrum“, in relation to the consultation and initiative to create the „European Hub for Civic Engagement“.

Annex - Report on the activities of the Humanitarian Law Center in the period January - July 2020

I. Archives and Library of the Humanitarian Law Center

During the reporting period, a total of **185 documents** were submitted to the HLC archives, of which:

- **180 printed documents** and **5 DVD** video recordings.

During the reporting period, **2,773 documents were digitised from the fund: Forcible Mobilisation (FHP-PM)**.

During the reporting period, **1,202 videos of the trial days** before the ICTY / IRMCT were digitised (converted and merged) in MP4 format.

To the HLC library, 26 new titles have been added.

II. Outreach

During the reporting period, the HLC **published six press releases, eight news articles, 26 press statements, and 63 texts** in the supplement Suočavanje (Confrontation), which is published in the daily *Danas*.

In the reporting period, the **HLC website was visited by 21,714 people**, and in July and August **2,589 people visited the site with the digital narrative "Deportation of Refugees from Srebrenica"**.

The total reach of posts on the Facebook page reached 286,133 users, with 364,436 views (impressions). The monthly average is about 40,000 users (reach) and 52,000 views

(impressions) with significant variations. The number of followers increased by 9.5% and amounted to 4,325, and the number of users who liked the page (new likes) increased by 9.2% and amounted to 4,275.

The total reach of posts on Twitter was 1,280,000 (impressions), with a monthly average of about 183,000 users, and the number of followers increased by 15.6%, which now amounts to 3,320. These results are achieved exclusively organically, without paid ads and content promotion.

The posts related to the memorisation of anniversaries of significant events, which were presented from the point of view of the victims and marked with the hashtag *#pamtimo*, had the greatest reach.

III. Institutional Reforms and Vetting

i. Dossiers - The search for war crimes perpetrators

In the reporting period, **the Dossier “Camps for Croats in Serbia” was prepared**. Due to the epidemiological situation, the Dossier could not be presented to the public in the classic format at a press conference. For this reason, **the Dossier will be presented in the form of a video and digital narrative** in September 2020.

During the reporting period, one criminal complaint was filed with the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor against an unidentified perpetrator for the April 1992 murder of a civilian in Zvornik.

In the reporting period, the HLC **published the first digital narrative based on the Dossier “Deportation of Srebrenica Refugees”**, which was itself presented to the public in July 2017. The digital narrative was presented to the public as one of the HLC's activities dedicated to marking the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.

ii. War crimes trials

During the reporting period, the HLC's lawyer represented victims and their families before Serbian courts **in six cases** ongoing before the Higher Court in Belgrade. Also, a family member of the victims was represented before the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor during the investigation conducted by the OWCP in the Bijeljina-SDG case.

In the other **nine cases** in which it does not represent victims, the HLC has monitored the trials.

After each trial, the daily trial reports were prepared, while indictments, verdicts and transcripts were collected from both completed and ongoing proceedings; all were published on the HLC's website.

The HLC organised trips to Belgrade in order for the family members of the victims to follow the trials in the Bogdanovci, Srebrenica, Štrpci and Zvornik-Standard Cases. The HLC also organised meetings not only with victims and family members of the victims when they arrived in Belgrade, but also by going to the places where they live (Brčko, Bogdanovci and Prijepolje). They were informed about the course of the proceedings and provided with documentation relating to the trials in which they showed interest, including verdicts and transcripts from the trials.

One victim of sexual violence was provided with professional psychological support by the HLC, in order to empower her and prepare her to testify. Also, **at the suggestion of the HLC's lawyer, the court granted the victim the status of a particularly sensitive witness**, and she will testify during the main trial under a special regime (with questions only through the president of the trial chamber) and in the presence of a forensic psychologist.

During the reporting period, the HLC published 5 statements regarding the topic of war crimes.

In the second half of March 2020, the HLC published an **online “Report on War Crimes Trials in Serbia during 2019”**, which included analyses of 23 cases. Due to the proclamation of the

emergency situation caused by the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic, the report was published on the HLC website, and sent to mailing lists and posted social networks.

iii. Implementation of the National Strategy for the Prosecution of War Crimes

II The period from January to July 2020 was dedicated to the **preparation of the Sixth Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy**, which included desk research, monitoring the implementation of documents related to the National Strategy (Chapter 23 Action Plan; National Strategy), media reports and sending requests for access to information of public importance. However, the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the proclamation of a state of emergency in the Republic of Serbia, influenced the preparation of the report. Bearing in mind that this situation affected almost all activities envisaged by the National Strategy, the HLC had to postpone the publication of the Sixth Report until autumn 2020. The original plan was for the report to be presented during the summer.

III In April, work began on the preparation of a **policy paper on the topic “Wars of the 1990s in History Teaching”**. This policy paper was prepared (fully completed) by Jelena Đureinović and the HLC's external associate, Rodoljub Jovanović, by the end of July 2020. The public presentation is planned for September, and will be organised within the project related to the recording of the podcast, which is coordinated by our colleague Jelena Đureinović.

IV In May, the HLC's external associate, Goran Georgijev, began preparing a **policy paper on the development of a public relations strategy for institutions responsible for the prosecution of war crimes in the Republic of Serbia (outreach)**. The finalisation of this policy paper is expected by the first half of September, after which an episode of the podcast will also be recorded to cover the said topic.

V During the reporting period, **it was agreed a public opinion poll** be carried out with the representatives of the daily *Danas* and the representatives of the public opinion research agency “Demostat”, on the topic **“Serbian Citizens’ Awareness of the Wars in the ’90s, War**

Crimes and Trials of War Crimes Indictes”. In this context, the HLC prepared the first version of the public opinion poll. It was planned for the results of the research to be known by the end of November 2020, after which they will be presented to the general public.

The initial plan was for the research to be conducted during June and July 2020, but due to the extremely unfavourable epidemiological situation in that period, it was postponed to autumn, bearing in mind that the plan is to conduct field research with a sample of 1,200 respondents.

VI In June, preparations began for the development of a new **Model Strategy for War Crimes Prosecution, for the period 2021-2025**. The coordinator for the development of the Strategy Model will be the HLC Executive Director, Ivana Žanić, with the support of the Project Coordinator, Višnja Šijačić. At the same time, the two of them will work on the **final evaluation of the implementation of the National Strategy (from its adoption until the end of 2020)**, which will also be presented as the seventh and final HLC report on the Implementation of this National Strategy.

The final evaluation and the new Model Strategy will be published and presented to the public by the end of 2020.

I The HLC provided detailed comments on the second draft of the revised Action Plan for Chapter 23 (draft Action Plan), in the area of justice (sub-area: 1.4. War Crimes), to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, on March 11, 2020. **The HLC provided a total of 17 comments on the second draft of the revised Action Plan for Chapter 23.** Some of the HLC comments were in the form of proposals to revise the existing activities, some related to additions to the activities, while some comments were aimed at proposing the introduction of new activities in the Action Plan.

II From the Report on Public Consultations with NCEU RG 23, published on June 5, 2020 by the Ministry of Justice, which led the process of revision of the Action Plan, it can be concluded that a total of **8 HLC comments were adopted essentially, while a total of 7 comments were not adopted.**

iv. Compensation proceedings (reparations)

During the reporting period, **three new civil proceedings for reparations were initiated** on behalf of eight injured parties. All three civil proceedings were initiated based on the final criminal judgment rendered before a domestic court in the Ovčara Case. The HLC's lawyer **represents the victims in a total of 27 lawsuits** for reparations before the courts in Serbia. Also, **powers of attorney were obtained for representation in another three proceedings for reparations, one for a proceeding before the Administrative Court and one for filing before the European Court of Human Rights.**

After ten years, **members of the Bogujevci family received compensation in Serbia to the total sum of EUR 63,000. The HLC's costs amounted to slightly more than EUR 11,000.**

IV. Memory Programme

The Memory Cultures in Dialogue project, which is supported by the NIWANO Peace Foundation from Japan, started in May 2020. In cooperation with the IT engineer, a web developer was hired and a website was made and launched in June. Between June and August 2020, we recorded 4 episodes of a Memory Cultures in Dialogue podcast. One of the episodes was in English, and accompanied by a blog post in both English and BCS summarising the conversation in the podcast episode and the main points of the book that was being discussed. The recording of the episode about Operation Storm was made as an online Zoom discussion that was live on Facebook and Youtube and received a lot of views.

The exhibition project about the Srebrenica genocide started in March 2020. It is supported by the Women's Reconstruction Fund. There were several Skype meetings with artist Jelena

Jaćimović, who is currently finalising the illustrations based on court records. The exhibition will be open in September 2020.

The Memory Programme Coordinator co-authored a policy paper on the 1990s wars in formal education in Serbia for the purposes of the Putting the Victims First project. The paper will be published in September 2020.

During the reporting period, two digital interactive narratives were finalised. The Diković Narrative has been made for the capital campaign purposes and as a model for the narratives based on other dossiers that will follow. The Memory Programme Coordinator was responsible for the writing, selection of visuals, video editing and design. The narrative about the deportation of refugees from Srebrenica was written in cooperation with the Executive Director, and the Memory Programme Coordinator was responsible for content organisation, preparation for the web developer and design of visuals.

The Memory Programme Coordinator was involved in the preparation of materials for the capital campaign during the entire reporting period.

Fundraising for the memory programme: Four applications were submitted from January to July 2020: Women's Reconstruction Fund (successful), Open Society Foundation, Western Balkans Fund (unsuccessful), State Department (pending)

V. Transfer of knowledge

During the period covered by this update, the HLC has been engaged on 6 different GIJTR projects/activities:

Iraq Human Rights Documentation Initiative (Cost Extension)

- In the period covered by this update, the HLC took part in the “Memorialisation Workshop”, which was held in February 2020 in Erbil, Iraq. The HLC led two sessions,

presenting memorialisation initiatives (official and informal) in the territory of ex-Yugoslavia after the war had ended. Besides that, the HLC was closely involved in the process of creating a new HRDI Iraq database, with the many and various activities related to that issue (structure, design, functionality, data migration, data export, user levels, digital security, research methodology, etc.). The HLC also took part in regular (email, skype) communication with the partners on a project with an IT company engaged in database software production (Huridocs and Benetech).

South Sudan Human Rights Documentation Initiative - Phase IV (CSV, HLC, ICSC, PILPG).

- The fourth phase of this project, which began in October 2018, aims to build sustainability and local ownership of the HRDI, increase the reach of the HRDI's documentation, and support the use of the collected documentation as TJ processes are established. In the period covered by this update, the HLC took part in the Analysis, Report-Writing and Advocacy Workshop, held at the end of the January in Kigali, Rwanda. The HLC led two sessions related to a research project and database issues, and also held a permanent break-down session in which documenters were trained to work on a database at a more profound level. Besides that, the HLC took part in other project-related activities, such as planning the activities for the next phases of the project and resolving technical problems, and established a communication with the partners on a regular basis.

Peace Processes and Transitional Justice (CSV, ICSC, PILPG with AJAR, DPLF and HLC):

- The goal of this rapid response project is to improve the ability of peace processes to establish robust, implementable TJ frameworks that are responsive to the needs of a conflict-affected society, particularly victims' perspectives. In the period covered by this update, the HLC had finished and sent to partners the first draft of the Balkans Case Study, which deals with the post-war implementation of the peace agreements

provisions in relation to Transitional Justice processes (both official and informal), in the republics of ex-Yugoslavia.

Reintegration and Transitional Justice (AJAR, CSV, ICSC with DC-Cam and HLC):

- This rapid response project aims to promote greater recognition of the unique societal reintegration needs of female survivors of SGBV during conflict, women and girls conscripted or abducted by armed groups, and children born of war (CBOW). In the period covered by this update, HLC finished and sent to partners the first draft of the Reintegration Case Study, which deals with the post-war Transitional Justice mechanisms (both official and informal) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, regarding the status of victims of sexual violence and the status of children born out of war rape.

Best Practices of Non-Judicial Search Mechanisms in Latin America and Asia (AJAR, DPLF, ICSC with FAFG and HLC):

- This rapid response project seeks to enhance the impact of current and future state mechanisms to search for the forcibly disappeared through the study, systematisation and publication of lessons learned and best practices, with a particular focus on innovative search mechanisms in Latin America and Asia. In the period covered by this update, the HLC, acting as a consultant, took part in the several e-meetings on this project, which has as a goal the production of a case study of the mechanisms being applied in the search for the missing in South America and Asia. Part of the case study will also be a HLC contribution, in the form of a text dealing with similar experiences related to the Balkan region.

Violence Prevention and Community Consultations in Guinea – Phases II & III (ICSC and CSV with HLC):

- Launched in January 2020, the third phase of the Consortium's work in Guinea aims to increase the sustainable capacity and skills of Guinean CSOs to support TJ processes in the country, and assist survivors through the provision of psychosocial support to victims of violence. The HLC engaged in some preparatory activities related to the local network's future database, website and archival tool.