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From the Public Affairs Office of the Yugoslav Army General Staff

Ms. Kandic makes serious, arbitrary and unfounded accusations

Dear Mr. Spasojevic,

The weekend edition of "Danas" from August 12-13 carries Bojan Toncic's interview with Ms. Natasa Kandic, director of the Humanitarian Law Center. In this interview, Ms. Kandic – following her usual, albeit ineffective pattern – uses the Yugoslav Army to attack and criticize the state. Using as a pretext, the trial of journalist Miroslav Filipovic, Ms. Kandic, hiding under the veil of a humanitarian law defender, or perhaps even the leader of all humanitarian law defenders, supported precisely those who committed the crimes and who are still committing them. Having done this, she violated not only the law and humanism, but also the truth.

Using the case of Miroslav Filipovic as a pretext, Ms. Kandic accuses the Army and the state, devalues the Yugoslav justice system, and covers up the crimes of Shiptar terrorists and NATO criminals. If, as Ms. Kandic claims, Mr. Filipovic "disclosed the truth because of his moral convictions," why was this "truth" never proven in court? Instead, Ms. Kandic "clarifies" Filipovic's alleged moral convictions by making false allegations about the events in Kosovo and Metohija, or more precisely about war crimes allegedly committed by the Yugoslav Army. Of course, she provides no evidence for all this, just like those who came up (and continue to come up) with reasons for the brutal aggression against our country.

Citing the Hague tribunal as the only institution responsible for establishing the facts about war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, and naming the Yugoslav Army as the only perpetrator of such crimes, Ms. Kandic makes serious, arbitrary and unfounded allegations, accusing only and exclusively the defenders, while pardoning the terrorists and criminals. With such allegations, Ms. Kandic has clearly sided with those who violated and continue to violate a number of international legal norms and conventions, opposing not only the true humanists and peacemakers, but also the glaringly obvious truth about the consequences of terrorist acts and of the NATO aggressors.

As a defender of the law and humanism, Ms. Kandic failed to present some of the irrefutable evidence and data, especially those concerning civilian casualties and destruction of commercial facilities and cultural sites in the country.

First of all, every aggression is a crime, regardless of its form, but especially armed aggression. NATO killed thousands of people, mostly civilians. It violated the UN Charter, a number of international conventions and international law, it even breached the provisions of its own founding treaty, as well as the constitutions of most of its member-states.

During the 78 days of aggression, NATO (among other things) dropped approximately 37,000 cluster bombs, mostly on Kosovo, and used depleted uranium ammunition, otherwise prohibited by international conventions. It destroyed several thousand housing units, over 200 commercial

facilities, dozens of schools, hospitals, public and cultural institutions. It bombed oil refineries (19 times), oil storage facilities (96 times), gas stations (14 times) and other energy facilities, which, apart from considerable material damage, had major environmental consequences. NATO bombed water and electric power plants, communications and transportation facilities, trains and passenger buses.

Ms. Kadic concealed a number of facts and data concerning the crimes committed by Shiptar terrorists, who, in the period between January 1, 1998 and May 2, 1999 carried out 2,733 terrorist acts, of which 1,078 were against civilians and civilian targets, killing 335 people in Kosovo and Metohija. From June 10, 1999 until May 7, 2000, they carried out almost 5,000 terrorist attacks (4,792 to be precise).

Shiptar terrorists killed 1,010 Serbs and other non-Albanians, wounded 924, and kidnapped 936 persons. In the same period, among other things, 50,000 homes of Serbs, Montenegrins and Roma were destroyed and burned, and 85 churches and monasteries desecrated and damaged.

Ms. Kadic failed to mention that the Yugoslav Army successfully challenged the strongest military power in the world through skilled command strategies, high morale and rational tactical procedures, as well as professional disguise. It was her constitutional, professional and patriotic duty to mention this. She had no other choice.

Ms. Kadic could have mentioned all this, perhaps *at least* all this. Accusing the defenders, and forgetting, or failing to mention the real criminals and terrorists, constitutes yet another crime – a crime against humanity and the homeland, against justice and humanism. And against many other causes. Those who failed to prevent this crime inevitably bear part of the responsibility.

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