**Press Release: It is neccesary to include the Omarska and Trnopolje camps in the research of TPOS and CDTP**

We have observed with particular interest the presentation of the research results of TPOS (Tranzicijska pravda, odgovornost i sjećanje - Transitional Justice, responsibility and memory) from Sarajevo and CDTP (Centar za demokratiju i tranzicionu pravdu - Center for Democracy and Transitional Justice) from Banja Luka regarding their work on documenting camps and other detention facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1992 - 1995. We believe that the mentioned associations have undertaken this extremely important job objectively, impartially and in good faith. The work on recording and documentation of all detention facilities in which civilians and prisoners of war have been held kept must have been very hard and exhausting, given that in the period 1992 - 1995 this inhumane practice was, unfortunately, widespread throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. We certainly think that this project will be an outstanding contribution to the processes of reconciliation and objective post-conflict evaluation of the war events in Bosnia and Hergovina, if implemented fully and unambigously in relation to the existing facts, evidence and sources.

Bearing in mind all of the above, we find the fact that on their website tranzicijska-pravda.com, the concentration camps of Omarska and Trnopolje are missing completely obscure. Since the methodological framework used in research is only superficially presented on their website, where it is stated that they used relevant court cases and judgments, analyzed transcripts, documentary evidence and witness statements, in addition to 64 different sources in the form of books, publications an other documents, we want to indicate to the public and to the associations TPOS and CDTP some potential sources that can be used to remedy this omission.

In the case of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (hereinafter: ICTY) ***Kvocka et. al.* IT-98/30/1**, the following persons were sentenced for comitting Crimes agains humanity: Miroslav Kvocka to seven years imprisonment, Dragoljub Prcac to five years in prison, Miloica Kos to six years in prison, Mladjo Radic to 20 years in prison, Zoran Zigic to 25 years in prison . The judgement, trial transcripts and other documentation available online is relevant in the context of the existence and operation of Omarska and Trnopolje camps.

ICTY case ***Mejakic et. al.* IT-02-65** was transferred to the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Case **X-KRŽ-06/200**). This Court sentenced the following persons: Mejakic to 21 years imprisonment, Momcilo Gruban to seven years in prison, Dusan Fustar to nine years in prison and Dusan Knezevic to 31 years in prison. The judgement, trial transcripts and other documentation available online is relevant in the context of the existence and operation of Omarska and Trnopolje camps. For the removal and murder of civilians taken from Omarska, whose bodies were later exhumed in Jama Lisac and Hrastova Glavica, see Judgement

In the ICTY case ***Tadic* IT-94-1**, Dusko Tadic was sentenced to a prison term of 20 years for grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions. This case is indicative *inter alia* because of the findings of the Council according to which the Omarska camp was perhaps the most horrible of all camps, in which existed the most horrible conditions (see: IT-94-1-T, Judgment of 07 May 1997, para. 155 to 157). The judgement, trial transcripts and other documentation available online is relevant in the context of the existence and operation of Omarska and Trnopolje camps.

In the case ***Stakic* IT-97-24**, ICTY sentenced Milomir Stakic to 40 years in prison for Crimes against humanity. Milomir Stakic was actively involved in the formation of the Omarska, Keraterm and Trnopolje camps. See Judgment IT-97-24-T of 31 July 2003, para. 208, 210 and 212. for information on the removal and murder of civilians from Omarska and their later exhumation in Jama Lisac and Hrastova Glavica. The judgement, trial transcripts and other documentation available online is relevant in the context of the existence and operation of Omarska and Trnopolje camps.

We also refer to the ICJ Judgement in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina against Serbia and Montenegro of 26 February 2007 (available at: http://www.worldlii.org/int/cases/ICJ/2007/2.html), para. 262-269, 312-314, 348-350, 357, where additional sources are quoted from which can be concluded on the methods and extent of violations and grave breaches of international law regarding the Omarska, Keraterm and Trnopolje camps.

In all these judgments, the mentioned camps have been identified as places where crimes against humanity have been comitted, including the Omarska and Trnopolje camps. At the sight of these facts, the non-inclusion of the above mentioned concentration camps to the map of camps and detention facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the result of research of TPOS and CDTP, takes the form of strangeness that is hard to qualify as an omission. The non-inclusion of Omarska and Trnopolje becomes even less clear if one bears in mind that the in the articles on the Police Station in Prijedor, and the Keraterm camp, published on their website, Omarska camp is mentioned repeatedly as a place to which non-Serb civilians were taken and detained.

In addition, we would like to refer to the Final report of the United Nations Commision of Experts established pursuant to security council resolution 780 (1992), Annex V - The Prijedor report, prepared by Hanne Sophie Greve and Morten Bergsmo. In this report, a special chapter was dedicated to concentration camps of Omarska, Keraterm and Trnopolje. Additional information can be obtained from the 4th issue of the journal Justice in Transition from 2006, titled Ethnic Cleansing in Prijedor, available on the website of the ICTY in the Outreach section (http://icty.org/sid/9974). There is indeed a whole pleiad of scientific papers, books, newspaper articles and other publication in which Omarska and Trnopolje camps have been recognized as concentration camps, but the limited space of this press release does not allow to enumerate them exhaustively. The sources quoted here are basic, but quite sufficient indicators on the basis of which the importance of including the concentration camps of Omarska and Trnopolje in the research of TPOS and CDTP can be recognized. Provided that their goal is complete comprehensiveness of the mapping of detention places in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war events. Should these two organisations need additional literature, we invite them to write to us so we can supplement their existing sources.

Shortcomings likes these, in research work that figures as a fundamental contribution to the process of transitional justice are too big to be ignored. Because of this, we suggest and request to include Omarska and Trnopolje camps to the research of TPOS and CDTP. Otherwise, their research will not be considered as relevant scientific work. Superficial data collection and placement of partial information in public space, especially in the context of this subject of research is unacceptable, for reasons of scienific objectivity, but also *a priori* because of the need to respect the dignity of victims and their families.

**Prijedor Genocide Research (PGR)**

**Institute for Research of Genocide Canada (IGC)**