



Women's Court – Feminist Approach to Justice

We are giving you a short report on Women in Black activities regarding organization of Women's Court – feminist approach to justice, for the stated period. This report is mainly related to activities in Serbia, as well as joint activities of partner organizations. Activities carried out in other countries of the former Yugoslavia are presented if Women in Black, as carriers of program activities, gained information from other members of the Organizing Board of the Women's Court.

If you need additional information, you can find them on websites www.zeneucrnom.org and www.zenskisud.org or write to us on email address zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com.

We thank you in solidarity in advance.

At the end of 2010, the members of the Initiative Board (IB): *Women to Women*, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *the Center for Women and Peace Education Anima*, Kotor (Montenegro), *the Center for Women's Studies* and the *Center for Women War Victims*, Zagreb (Croatia), *Women's Network Kosovo*, Kosovo, and *Women's Studies* and *Women in black*, Belgrade, launched an initiative to organize the Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia. IB now has 10 organizations from all countries of the former Yugoslavia. At a meeting, organized in early February 2013, the Initiative Board has evolved into the Women's Court Organizing Board (OB).

In the period covered by this report, the following activities were conducted:

I Feminist ethics of care – support to potential witnesses

Within support to women who testified in feminist discussion circle on militarist/ethnic/economic/gender violence

1. 1. Regional meetings to provide support to potential witnesses:

- 3/4/5. September, Vrnjacka Banja: Women's testimonies – new paradigm of history - fourth meeting with potential witnesses from Serbia, but also Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

During the meeting there were 32 women from following cities: Beograd, Priboj, Kruševac, Smederevska Palanka, Zvornik, Tuzla, Leskovac, Pljevlja, Bela Reka, Novi Bečej, Zrenjanin, Kotor, Kraljevo, Šabac, Bihać, Bar, Nikšić, Bilbao. Program included following segments:

- Screenings of documentary movies: about women's courts – experiences from other countries, about process of organizing women's courts in ex Yugoslavia, Garden filled with women hopes (on Women's commission for the truth in Colombia).

Workshops:

- On process of Women's court – feminist approach to justice
- I am testifying
- Being present in public and I imagine another world

Performance by Dah theater Presence of absence

Lectures, discussions, conversation with Carlos Beristain:

- On process of Womens commision in Columbia
- On process of Women's court for former Yugoslavia – common reflection, analyzing...
- Fears related to Women's Court: on types of fears which witnesses might feel , on individual and societal consequences of fear, on facing fears, on 'controlling' fears...
- Supporting witnesses – psychological, political, ethical...
- **Agreements on future activities**

26/27 September, Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina – fourth regional meeting for supporting potential witnesses.

During the meeting there were 31 women participants from following cities: Beograd, Priboj, Kruševac, Smederevska Palanka, Zvornik, Tuzla, Leskovac, Pljevlja, Bela Reka, Novi Bečej, Zrenjanin, Kotor, Kraljevo, Šabac, Bihać, Bar, Nikšić, Bilbao.

Program included therapeutic work with potential witnesses.

II Working consultative meetings

In accordance with the Feminist Code of organizing the Women's Court, in which we committed to the divisibility of knowledge, and creating common thinking processes,

these meetings are part of that democratic process. We use them to jointly analyze the results of implemented activities, and define the next steps in the process of creating and understanding justice from a feminist perspective. In accordance with the process of WC organizing and feminist ethics, in addition to joint working consultative meetings, we initiated a variety of different types of work at the country level: the regular operational meetings, conferences, workshops, meetings, legal team meetings, focus group discussion, discussion circles, etc. In the period covered by this report, we have organized following meetings:

1. **Meeting of the Women's Court Organizing Board (WC OB): held on July 23rd to 25th, in Belgrade, in WIB offices.** This working meeting of WC OB was attended by following members of WC OB:

- Daša Duhaček, Center for Women Studies, Belgrade/Serbia
- Jadranka Miličević, Fondation Cure, Sarajevo/Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ljupka Kovačević, Anima, Kotor, Montenegro
- Nela Pamuković, Center for Women War Victims, Zagreb/Croatia
- Savka Todorovska, Council for Equal Rights, Skopje/Macedonia
- Staša Zajović, Women in Black, Belgrade/Serbia
- Meeting was also attended by: Marijana Stojčić and Zorica Trifunović WIB, Belgrade/Serbia

Topics of this meeting were: the so far process of organizing WC; challenges, hardships, obstacles; agreement on common activities for the following period; common design of regional project for WC. Due to the lack of possibilities to hold the final WC event on the previously planned date, it has been agreed to organize this event on May 7th to 10th in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, etc.

2. Regular work meetings: in the office space of Women in Black; in this reporting period couple of meetings were held, every Thursday, with the presence of members of the WIB coordinator team and sometimes members of the Center for Women Studies from Belgrade participate as well. At meetings we: share information, deliberations, and dilemmas, analyze results of previous activities, define and arrange future activities, etc. About 5 – 10 members of coordinate team attend these meetings.

III Video activism

Video activism which includes realization of video material related to the feminist approach to justice; translation and creating subtitles for documentaries on experiences of non-violent movements against impunity of crimes, neoliberal economic globalization, etc.

In this reporting period following documentaries have been done:

We remember the brave resistance of women (4:27 minutes): feminist-antimilitarist action organized in Kruševac – in memory of resistance of women of Rasinski county against forced mobilization during the war in Kosovo and NATO bombings.

Food, not arms (5:56 minutes): feminist-antimilitarist action in Niš in occasion of International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament.

We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica (9:15 minutes): peace action in Valjevo in organization of WIB and peace initiative "Peace activism-cycling activism".

We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica (9:53 minutes): actions organized by the Women in Black in Belgrade, in occasion of anniversary of genocide in Srebrenica.

IV Publishing activity

Goal is to expand the knowledge necessary for the process of organizing Women's Court – feminist approach to justice: leaflets, readers, etc.

In this reporting period we published following issues:

- Women's court: feminist approach to justice – processed materials (January – July 2014) – pp.135
- Transcript of the meeting held to provide support to potential witnesses for Women's Court – Vrnjacka Banja – pp. 34
- *Transcript of the meeting held to provide support to potential witnesses for Women's Court – Brcko -pp.32*

V Artistic-activist engagement – street actions

Developing and strengthening feminist ethics of responsibility, as well as non-violent resistance to all forms of discrimination and exploitation:

1. **Street actions:**

July 8th, Valjevo: "We will never forget genocide in Srebrenica": on the main city square, manifestation of protest in black and in silence was held, in which a group of

eight (8) activists of Women in Black from Belgrade participated together with the crew of cyclists, participants of the mentioned march. Three slogans featured on this protest: We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica, Responsibility, and Women in Black for peace and justice, and also leaflets about Srebrenica genocide were distributed to citizens.

During this peace action, the activists of Women in Black were attacked both verbally and physically, by the group of ultra-right wing organization "Chetniks of Valjevo", football supporters and hooligans. In these events, four activists were injured: Dejan Gašić, Ljiljana Radovanović, Miloš Urošević and Staša Zajović. Participants of the cycling tour returned to Belgrade together with Women in Black activists due to unsecured circumstances, and on July 10th continued their journey from Belgrade to Potočari/Srebrenica.

July 8th, Belgrade: Sending the open letter July 11th – Memory Day of genocide in Srebrenica – declare!:to the president of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić, to the president of the Government of Republic of Serbia, to the president of the National Parliament of Republic of Serbia and all its deputies, in occasion of 19th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. The request was repeated to declare July 11th the Memory Day of genocide in Srebrenica and to sanction denial of genocide by proclaiming it a felony.

July 10th, Belgrade: "July 11th – Memory Day of genocide in Srebrenica – Declare!": Protest outside the Presidency of Serbia as part of the campaign with the same title, in organization of Women in Black, Center for Cultural Decontamination, Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights, Humanitarian Law Center and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia. Activists from the Women in Black Network from Serbia also participated, as well as activists of Association for Social Research and Communication from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Following slogans featured on this occasion: Responsibility, Solidarity, July 11th – Memory Day of Genocide in Srebrenica – Declare, Nationalism kills, We don't want to be shadows, we want to be witnesses.

On this occasion, the above mentioned open letter was read out loud to the highest representatives of Republic of Serbia, demanding that the Parliament of Serbia brings a Resolution, modeled on European Parliament, which would declare July 11th Memory Day of genocide in Srebrenica. Over **150** persons took part in this action.

July 10th, Belgrade: "We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica": protest in black and in silence, and a scene action "We remember – Srebrenica – 8372" was performed

in organization of WIB Network and Association for Social Research and Communication from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This peace action, attended by over **100** activists from entire Serbia, continued building up a live monument to the victims of genocide in Srebrenica. By “moving” Srebrenica to Republic Square in Belgrade, with 8372 names of genocide victims, we warned that eyes cannot be shut before the committed genocide, and that only facing it can contribute to establishing the political culture where crimes are punishable.

2. Visiting places of crimes cometted in our name

July 8th – 11th: “Peace activism – activist cyclism – Srebrenica 2014”: Peace March from Belgrade to Srebrenica. Organizers are a group of activists (Eva Dinić, Vladimir Jevtić and Nina Đurđević Filipović) in cooperation with organization SOS Vlasotince and Women in Black Network from Serbia, with support from Reconstruction Womens’ Fund.

This action was organized for the second time this year: nine cyclists departed from Belgrade. The participants of this cycling campaign wanted to remind the inhabitants of West Serbia and Podrinje of Serbia’s role in war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the mentioned are often served as logistic support for campaigns of various military and paramilitary formations, which took part in war on territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Participants of this peace action departed on July 8th from Belgrade, through Valjevo, where a peace action was organized.

11th July, Potocari/Srebrenica: “Remembering and Responsibility”, solidarity with victims of crimes committed in our name: about 50 activists of the Network of Women in Black from Serbia and related organizations attended the commemoration/dzenaza and the burial of 409 victims of genocide. 175 victims were buried inside the Potocari Memorial Center. So far, 6066 victims have been buried, and another 2000 and more are still in secret mass graves in Podrinje area.

July 18th, Belgrade – memorialization of 16th anniversary of crime against civilians of Serbian nationality on Kosovo: to mark memory of murder of 25 civilians of Serbian nationality in July 1998 on area of Orahovac Municipality, in villages Opteruša and Retimlje, we held a commemoration act on cemetery Orlovača, in organization of Association of Families of the Kidnapped and Missing Persons on Kosovo. On this occasion, activists of Women in Black from Belgrade laid a wreath with expressions of compassion and solidarity with the families of the victims of this crime.

July 23rd, Belgrade, “Stop Israeli aggression on Gaza”: Concerning the actual political situation in Gaza, Women in Black organized on July 25th 2014 a protest in black and in silence, on Republic Square in Belgrade. There were about twenty (20) Women in Black activists on this protest, but the protest was also attended by activists from Zagreb (Center for Women War Victims and Center for Women Studies), from Skopje (Council for Equal Gender Rights), from Kotor (Center for Women and Peace Education). Activists of Autonomous Women’s Center and Reconstruction Women’s Fund from Belgrade also gave their solidary support to the protest of Women in Black.

August 5th and 6th, Trnopolje and Omarska, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Upon the call from the Union of Camp Prisoners of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Union of Camp Prisoners of Prijedor, Women in Black activist Goran Lazin participated in the act of memory, of marking the closing date of the mentioned camp (August 6th 1992). This visit represents paying respects to the victims, act of solidarity with the survivors, support to building a Memorial Center on the area of ex camp Omarska.

3. Artistic-activist engagement – confronting the past

4th September, Vrnjacka Banja: “Presence of absence” (50 min) – theatrical installation based on the performance with the same name, and it is focused on the issue of missing people, in former Yugoslavia and in the entire world.

Dah theater performance “Presence of absence” deals with topics like: How to create space of memory? What is the thing that can note absence? How to avoid repeating atrocities that have already happened, and make something that can enable life to continue on healthier level.

Director and screenwriter: Dijana Milosevic
Staring: Maja Vujovic
Scenography: Nesa Paripovic
Costumes: DAH Theater and Marija Markovic
Assistant director: Mladen Lukesevic
Associate – consultant: Claudia Bernardi

In this performance were used personal stories of Samre Alić, Olgice Božanić, Eme Čekić, Cice Janković, Dragice Majstorović, Slavice Marinković, Beške Avdić, Ismete Dardagan, Fadile Grahić, Hahife Hasanović, Enise Hasanović, Mirsade Lupić, Mevludina Lupića, Šife Musić, Ajke Selimović, Mevle Selimović, Suvade Selimović i Zarfe Suljić.

Performance also used excerpts from texts: “Circle of love as opposed to death: Testimonies of the Mothers of the May square” Matilda Melibovski; “I remember Julia:

Voices of the missing” Eric Stener Carlson; “One uncountable death” Nora Streilevich; “The Art of telling the truth – narration about authoritarian regime” edited by: Ksenija Bilbija, Joe Ellen Fer, Sinthia E. Milton, Lee A. Pain; “At the height of hopelessness” Emile Sioran; “Funes, the one who remembers” H.L. Borges; “Nemesea” Richard Muller; “Wisdom of the Earth” Ana Voigt and Neville Drury; and original texts written by the artists from DAH Theater.

This report was prepared by:
Stasa Zajovic and Milos Urosevic