



Dear Reader,

TRIAL International - Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina is launching its first newsletter! In the end of every trimester, you will be able to find out what were our activities in previous months. Our goal is to keep you informed and share achievements with our network. Thank you for your support and enjoy your reading!

----- CASES -----

FIRST VERDICT BY A MONTENEGRIN COURT FOR WARTIME SEXUAL VIOLENCE: Slobodan Peković convicted of murder and rape of civilians in Foča in 1992

The Higher Court in Podgorica today, after a three-year trial, sentenced Slobodan Peković to 20 years in prison for a war crime against civilians committed in 1992 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Peković was convicted of the murder of two civilians, Emina and Mujo Šabanović, in the village of Hum near Foča, as well as of the rape of a female person with a protected identity in an apartment in Foča, whom he took out of the infamous “Partizan” hall.

The verdict is an important step forward for the Montenegrin judiciary, as it is the first verdict for wartime sexual violence and the harshest sentence for war crimes since the verdict for the murder of the Klapuh family members in 1996. This verdict is a significant step forward in the punishment of war crimes in Montenegro and may be an encouragement for other victims to seek justice in court proceedings.

[*Read more in our press release.*](#)

----- ACTIVITIES -----

Expertise and knowledge sharing events

In the beginning of July, as a part of the project "Strengthening Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro cooperation for wartime accountability and sustainable peace", TRIAL International - Office in BiH held two workshops in collaboration with Human Rights Action. The first workshop gathered representatives of the civil sector from BiH and Montenegro who discussed their role in witness support mechanisms in war crimes cases. The second workshop was held with the judges from Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to exchange experiences and knowledge on the prosecution of war crimes cases.

Read more [here](#).

The thirtieth anniversary of genocide in Srebrenica

Legal Advisor of TRIAL International - Office in BiH, Samra Čardaković, participated in the Peace March from July 8 to 10, together with around 6,000 people, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.

Read more [here](#).

Conference "Criminalizing Genocide Denial: Law, Accountability and Prevention"

In October, TRIAL International - Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (OHR) and the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, and with the support of the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ), held the conference "Criminalizing Genocide Denial: Law, Accountability and Prevention" bringing together representatives of the domestic and international judiciary, legal experts, representatives of the academy and the international community.





----- ARTICLES -----



Compensation only through new traumas: Victims of war crimes in Montenegro still without adequate protection

The article focuses on the victims of war sexual crimes support mechanisms and how it is regulated in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Read the article [here](#).

Genocide denial in Bosnia and Herzegovina: One verdict, dozens of dismissed complaints



The article focuses on the first verdict for genocide denial in case of Vojin Pavlović. It further explains whether the first case can be a continuation of other denial cases, why is the right to freedom of speech often used as an excuse for hate narratives, and what are the ways to change social awareness on this issue.

Read the article [here](#).

Genocide denial and glorification: a causal relationship



The article focuses on the prevalence of genocide denial in the public space compared to the online space and where it is more visible.

Read the article [here](#).

----- INTERNSHIP -----



Throughout June and July, we had the opportunity to host intern Vaishnav Rajkumar, a second-year student at Harvard Law School, thanks to the long-standing cooperation of the TRIAL International - Office in BiH with Harvard Law School through the Chayes International Public Service Fellowship. We are glad to have had the opportunity to work with Vaishnav, who has shown a willingness to cooperate and interest in the topics we work on.



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