

# The Report of Informal NGO Coalition for UPR of Bosnia and Herzegovina

September 2009

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Informal NGO Coalition for UPR of Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) submitting this report consists of 30 non-governmental organizations that deal with promotion and protection of human rights in B&H. The coalition is established in March 2009 by following NGOs: Human Rights House of Sarajevo, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, CURE Foundation, Serb Civic Council of Sarajevo Canton, Woman and Society Center, Association of Citizens „Renaissance“, Regional Coordinator for Youth Groups in Western Balkans, Center for Informative and Legal Help – CIPP, ICVA, Prava za sve (Rights for All), Association Q, Transparency International in B&H, Association of Roma Women „Better Future“, European Law Students' Association - ELSA, Center for Human Rights Sarajevo, Youth Club „Diamond“, Association of Decertified Policemen in B&H, Bona Fides, Zemlja djece (Land of Children), League for Protection of Private Property and Human Rights, Association for Civic Rights – UGP, Zdravo da ste (Hello Neighbour), Foundation „Truth, Justice, Reconciliation“, NGO of Altruists „Svjetlo“ („The Light“), Red Half-Moon of B&H, Association „Friends of Family“ and Center for Youth Development – PRONI.

## **II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the majority of the UN conventions relating to human rights. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has not yet been ratified. However, the Conventions that the state has committed to apply are not applied directly. For example only one case of direct implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was recorded so far.
2. The lack of state regulation and the rule of law, which makes space for violation of human rights, is illustrated by the fact that even 20% of the decision passed by the Constitutional Court are not respected for nor implemented!
3. The use of hate and inflammatory speech is widely spread. Nevertheless, these occurrences are not being sanctioned, thus freeing the instigators of the violation of human rights from responsibility, while at the same time direct perpetrators of the most severe criminal offences being eventually tried before the courts.
4. Having in mind the role of international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement until today, international community is also contributing to violation of human rights, as illustrated in the case of 598 decertified policemen.

## **III. BACKGROUND AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

### **3.1 Discrimination**

5. The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina contains certain controversies, some of which are related to discrimination. Article 2, of the Constitution guarantees the enjoyment of human rights to all persons without discrimination on any grounds. However, Articles 4 and 5 of the Constitution contain discriminatory provisions. Namely, Article 4 sets out that each of the two chambers of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH shall „select from its members

one Serb, one Bosniak, and one Croat to serve as its Chair and Deputy Chair...“, thereby depriving anyone, who does not belong to any of the three mentioned nationalities, of the opportunity to serve as Chair or Deputy Chair in both Chambers of the Parliaments, which presents a discrimination. In the same manner, Article 5 determines the composition of the Presidency of BiH which shall consist „...of three members: one Bosniak, one Croat, each directly elected from the territory of the Federation, and one Serb directly elected from the territory of the Republic of Srpska“. This Article discriminates not only those persons who do not belong to the Serb, Croat and Bosniak people, but also the Croats and Bosniaks who do not live in the Federation of BiH, and Serbs who live outside the Republic of Srpska.

6. Although the competent institutions, the European Commission for Democracy through Law, also known as the Venice Commission, the UN Human Rights Committee, among others, have concluded that these provisions of the BiH Constitution are in contravention of the international human rights standards, they have still not been amended nor harmonized with the above-mentioned Convention.
7. Some laws have discriminatory provisions too. This is the case with the Law on the Rights of Veterans and Members of their Families of the Federation of BiH. The Constitutional Court of the Federation of BiH proclaimed this law unconstitutional in 2005 due to the discriminatory provisions affecting the members of the Army of the Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia and members of their families. However, the Federation Prime Minister, who is obliged to implement the decision of the Constitutional Court, has consistently refused to do so.
8. The Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Rights of National Minorities, which were harmonized with international norms and contain anti-discriminatory provisions, were adopted in the previous years. However, these laws are not being applied in an adequate manner. The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination has been adopted recently, which is encouraging.
9. Discrimination is one of the most serious generators of violations of human rights in BiH. Individuals are discriminated against on the grounds of their national, political and sexual orientation. Moreover, the victims of discrimination are also members of the so-called “vulnerable” groups. Apart from women, sexual minorities, the subjects of discrimination are also persons with disabilities, national minorities, families of missing persons, victims of war, elderly people, children, returnees. The members of vulnerable groups are being discriminated against in many different ways. Discrimination is demonstrated in some vital fields of life, such as employment, education, health and social care, pension rights. One of the consequences of this situation is, for example, the fact that only 0.8 per cent of working age returnees belonging to an ethnic group that is not dominant in a region, has employment. Furthermore, only 1.5 per cent of working age Roma have jobs, as compared to 50 per cent that had been employed before the war<sup>1</sup>.
10. The discrimination is more frequently reported in the area of employment in the civil service of BiH due to inadequately defined regulations, lack of independency and of professional work of the Panel for selection of candidates, and the inadequate role of the Civil Service Agency of BiH as such in the whole process.

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<sup>1</sup> Report on the status of Human Rights in BiH for 2008-Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in BiH-  
[www.bh-hchr.org](http://www.bh-hchr.org)

11. The discrimination is also reported in case of holders of the occupancy<sup>2</sup> right over the apartments that were seized in 1945 and allocated to the citizens over which they had acquired the occupancy right pursuant to the Law on Housing Issues from 1974. The holders of occupancy rights in the Republic of Srpska and Brcko district gained the right to purchase apartments they live in, while the tenants in the Federation of BiH have not gained that right. There is also widely spread discrimination by place of residence and it refers to the exercise of the rights in the field of social care, health care, education, rights of the child, rights of the elderly and vulnerable persons.

### **3.2. National minorities**

12. The Law on the Rights of National Minorities has become effective in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2003. This Law is based upon the Framework Convention on Protection of National Minorities which has been ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina. BiH has not so far ratified the European Charter on the Regional and Minority Languages.
13. Although the Law on Protection of National Minorities was adopted more than two years ago, it has not been applied due to failure to pass necessary by-laws and due to lack of political will. The Law has listed 17 national minorities living in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but there are no reliable data on their number since the last census was conducted in 1991, and in the meantime, due to war and ethnical cleansing, there were significant demographic changes.
14. The largest is Roma population, however, the assessment of the number of Roma people varies, and it can be only assumed that currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina there are in between 80,000 to 85,000 Roma people, while the activist of Roma associations claim that there are in between 80,000 to 120,000 Roma people.
15. The status of member of national minorities is unfavourable, and they are in the large number of cases the victims of ethnic discrimination. When speaking of members of national minorities, the position of Roma people is of course the most difficult. Their position is particularly difficult in regard to the employment, economic position and housing. Only 1.5 % of working age Roma people are employed as compared to about 50% that had worked before the war. The only Roma who was working in civil service, Redžo Seferović, has been fired. Only six Roma is employed in the area of Zenica–Doboj Canton, in the Federation of BiH. In Visoko, one Roma works, while in Sarajevo and Tuzla Canton there are two policemen of Roma nationality each. In the Chemical Complex in Tuzla, there are two engineers of Roma nationality. There are municipalities in which not a single Roma is working.
16. A significant number of Roma people has not exercised the right to return to their homes in which they had lived before the war. However, the living conditions of Roma people are extremely poor and do not meet the minimum standards. Usually they live in humid houses, without sanitary facilities, running water and electricity. It is estimated that around 10.000 Roma families do not have appropriate accommodation.
17. The vast proportion of national minorities is not entitled to free health care, since that right belongs to employed persons, members of their families and retired people.

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<sup>2</sup> Occupancy right over the apartments is a specific type of ownership that basically is similar to the state ownership over the apartments. The occupants have some rights over the apartments, but definitely not the property right.

18. Regarding education, only 15% of Roma children complete compulsory 8-year primary education, while the girls stop their education in the fifth grade of primary school. Illiteracy is very common with Roma people.
19. The minority languages are not used in any communication with authorities, including the courts. There are no examples of learning minority languages in schools. There are no printed media in Roma language, and only two radio stations occasionally broadcast the programs in this language.
20. The establishment of the Roma Council as a consultative body can be taken as positive example.
21. Based on the data obtained from the Jewish organizations, there are about 1.000 Jews in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is concerned about the fact that anti-Semitic books, including Mein Kampf and Zion Protocols can be bought in the book-shops in BiH, interpreting it as a threat to the Jewish community. The Islamic Youth Magazine „SAFF“ published anti-Semitic text speaking of Jewish victims of Holocaust and killing of six million of Jews in the concentration camps during the Second World War in an abusive language, the author of which is Fatmir Alispahic.
22. The human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina are in a close co-relation with nationalities, and in that sense the rights of the members of national minorities are not being protected.
23. Bosnia and Herzegovina has signed the Declaration on Accession to "Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 - 2015" only on 4 September 2008. By signing this Declaration, BiH has expressed its political will to significantly reduce discrimination against Roma people and to improve their socio-economical status. In such a context, action plans were made to resolve the problems of Roma in the areas of employment, accommodation, health care and education, however they are still not being fully implemented.

### **3.3. Human Rights Defenders**

24. In Bosnia and Herzegovina there is an escalation of assaults on human rights defenders and their situation can be assessed as alarming. This assessment is based on a series of cases of violence and death threats, intimidation and silencing attempts and other attacks against individuals and groups who are trying to protect rights of individuals and contribute to the improvement of human rights in the country. The target of assaults were campaigners for the rights of members of sexual minorities<sup>3</sup> as well as the activists engaged against human trafficking. The victims of assaults are also the non-governmental organizations and their activists who deal with investigation of corruption and crime,<sup>4</sup> as well as journalist who are engaged in research journalism, dealing with unlawfulness of any kind. Assaults against journalists and attempts to silence journalists seriously threatens freedom of expression, bringing into question the achieved level of development of democracy. One should stress that family members of the human rights activists are often targeted, which indicates that there is a intention to create a sense of fear and to prevent any thought or act of criticism.

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<sup>3</sup> Decapitation death threats against one of the organizers of the First Queer Festival in Sarajevo, Svetlana Djurkovic, at the end of September. In addition, eight participants of the Festival were physically assaulted

<sup>4</sup> threats against official representatives of Transparency International of BiH were issued by the Republika Srpska Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, similar threats were issued by other officials of the SNSD, the ruling political party in this entity.

25. In the previous years, attempted murders of some activists have been recorded. It is indicative that none of the cases were resolved and none of perpetrators of violence have been investigated.
26. Attacks against human rights defenders most frequently come from politicians, and lately more frequently from high-ranking religious officials.
27. The authorities do almost nothing to protect the human rights defender. The courts and police fail to respond and sanction assaults against human rights defenders. Moreover, nothing has been done to provide safe environment for activists dealing with protection and promotion of human rights.
28. Severe attacks against trade union activists have been recorded, as well as the cases of dismissal from job of some of them.<sup>5</sup>
29. The Declaration of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Rights and Obligations of the Individuals, Groups and Social Bodies related to promotion and protection of universally recognized human rights and freedoms is not adequately treated by the authorities, which also contributes to inadequate treatment of human rights activists.

### **3.4. Torture, inhumane and degrading treatment**

30. The most frequent incidents of torture, i.e. “use of excessive force”, are linked with penitentiaries. In number of cases, prisoners have complained of bad treatment by prison guards. The first problem is the lack of a single definition of torture in the current entity legislation, which calls for synchronization. The need for adequate training of employees of penitentiaries is evident, as well as their introduction to the regulations banning torture. Very often, persons in custody are not sufficiently informed about their rights and the rights to complain. Independent internal control, or the independent work of doctors and inspections, have not been secured, which is the reason why the cases of torture are rarely fully investigated and disclosed. The lack of regular monitoring of the conditions in penitentiaries by human rights institutions and non-governmental institutions is evident, although it could lead to improvement of the overall situation. Finally, the state of penitentiaries and the status of persons in custody are illustrated by the fact that two verdicts of the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg were related to the violation of the rights of those persons, and Bosnia and Herzegovina was penalized.
31. A special problem is linked with convicted persons in need of mandatory psychiatric treatment. Although the international regulation and local legislation stipulate accommodation of these persons in a specialized medical institution set up only for this purpose, these persons are still residing in inappropriate institutions such as the penitentiary in Zenica, or in the Psychiatric hospital in Sokolac, which do not meet the criteria and existing international standards.
32. The situation in the penitentiaries is also illustrated by the fact that the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg passed several verdicts related to the violation of the prisoners’ rights, including the convicted persons in need of mandatory psychiatric, and Bosnia and Herzegovina was penalized.

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<sup>5</sup> Mirza Huskić, trade union activist in the Federal Television, was fired on the basis of „giving statements to other media outlets“ .

### **3.5. Sexual minorities**

33. Homosexuality was treated as criminal offence until 1998. Homosexuality is decriminalized through modifications of the legislation. The Law on Gender Equality from 2003 prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, gender and sexual orientation. However, there are again efforts underway to abolish this legal provision. The Family Law in the Republic of Srpska and in the Federation of BiH define a marriage as “a legal community of a man and a woman”, in spite of the provisions of the UN Convention on Prohibition of all Forms of Discrimination and in spite of the current Law on Gender Equality. Recently adopted Law on Prohibition of Discrimination refers to the existing family laws when definition of a marriage is in question. There are no laws that would relate to the identity and rights of bisexual and transsexual persons. Finally, there are no laws that would regulate the issue of transgender persons and decisions that would regulate their sex, sexual or gender identity.
34. There is no possibility of concluding the same-sex marriages or adopting children by the same-sex couples.
35. In spite of evident discrimination that the members of the sexual minorities are exposed to, no court decision was passed identifying and sanctioning such discrimination.
36. During the preparations for the First Queer Festival in Sarajevo at the end of September 2008, a hate speech against homosexuals was delivered. Homosexuality was qualified as “a disease”, as “Western trash” and “deviation”. These statements were given by politicians, including parliamentarians, and some religious leaders. This supported violators and hooligans who physically assaulted participants of the Festival, which resulted in eight casualties.
37. In addition, activists who advocate for the rights of persons belonging to sexual minorities and their organizations are exposed to constant pressures, threats, aimed at disabling them to perform their work. Prejudices against lesbian, homosexuals, bisexuals and transsexuals are sustained by schools which do not speak about these occurrences or speak about them in a distorted way.

### **3.6. Sex and Gender Based Violence**

38. Despite the existence of legislation based on international standards, directed against the sex and gender based violence it frequently appears, in particular in domestic violence. The victims of violence are mainly women, adolescent girls and girls. It is more often reported on the cases of incest the victims of which, as well as sexual violence generally and involvement into the chain of prostitution, are underage girls. Although there is no official statistics, non-governmental organizations estimate that only 5% of victims report the violence to the police.
39. Sentences for violence against women and girls are usually extremely lenient. Suspended and financial sentences are mainly passed. Imprisonment sentences are rarely pronounced, while maximum sentences, as a rule, are not pronounced.
40. In spite of the Law on Prevention against Domestic Violence, the victims are being forced to live under the same roof with a violent person. According to one reliable research, a violent person has not been moved away from the apartment in any of the cases. Protection of victims of violence is being mainly addressed by non-governmental organizations which

resettle the victims of violence into safe houses. The authorities allocate minimum funds for this purpose.

### **3.7. Persons with Disabilities<sup>6</sup>**

41. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has not yet been ratified. In this field, a basic problem is that the state, when persons with disabilities are concerned, does not take into account their objective situation and needs, but considers them in a function of a group to which they belong to, and in origin of disabilities. Persons with disabilities are divided into four groups: by place and way of appearance of disabilities: disabled war veterans, civil war victims, disabled workers and civil non-war persons with disabilities. The disabled war veterans are in the most favourable position who, as compared with disabled non-war persons, have even six or more times higher disability allowances. Disabled civil non-war persons are in the worst position among whom, in accordance with the data of the World Bank, almost 43% does not have any material support.
42. There are no sufficient or adequate measures to include persons with disabilities into employment or to train them to carry out jobs they can do. The employers are not sufficiently stimulated to get these persons employed.
43. Although the Law on Education provides for the inclusion of children with disabilities, inclusion does not exist in practice, since material and other requirements for it are not met.
44. Movement of Persons with disabilities and access to institutions, which should be easily approachable to them, such as health care, educational, administrative and other institutions, is considerably limited. Access to public transport means is also made impossible for some categories. Despite the existence of regulations in this field, their implementation in essence depends on the good will of local authorities.
45. We have noted a lack of dialogue between the representatives of governmental bodies and organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as a lack of reliable statistics which could be helpful for changing the current situation.

### **3.8. Right to Adequate Education**

46. The education is divided into three partial nationally coloured curricula. Through them, tendencies of separation and assimilation are expressed, and the consequence is the creation of three separated groups of citizens, who poorly know each other or do not know each other at all, having as a consequence lack of confidence and fear from others.
47. There is particularly dramatic situation in more than 30 divided schools with classical segregation taking place. The children are divided on ethnical grounds, and they are deprived of opportunity to mutually communicate and even meet each other.
48. Although the primary schooling is defined as compulsory and free, the situation does not fit into the definition. Almost 4% of children at the school age are not enrolled either due to a big distance from school, inaccessibility of school to children with special needs, due to extreme poverty, non-possession of documents – birth certificate, first of all, which particularly affects Roma children, or due to nationally coloured curricula and text-books, which rejects the children members of minorities.. There are cases that Roma children, who

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<sup>6</sup> This chapter, depending on the terminology used by specific associations, includes persons with special needs, handicapped persons, persons with disabilities and disabled people.



have problems with language, are placed in special classes for children mentally disabled. Notably, the last several years parents do not enroll female children in school. There is a high percentage of children not completing primary school in spite the fact that this is compulsory. Parents are not being sanctioned when preventing children from attending primary schools.

49. Primary education creates additional costs for the families, which makes special difficulties to the families in need. The issue of free provision of text-books and transportation to school for those who can not cover the costs has not been resolved in a systemic way.

### **3.9. Children's Rights**

50. Children belong to the category of extremely vulnerable persons. The right to life is also endangered which is illustrated by the official data that eight promiles of children do not reach fifth year of life. Every fourth child is a victim of some forms of violence, and children are, most frequently, casualties of mines the number of which nowadays exceeds one million.
51. Every fifth child lives in a poor family which, among other things, cause undernourishment, which negatively affects the health, and has a higher risk of diseases.
52. A number of children, particularly Roma children, are not registered into the birth registry books, can not use health insurance, social aid, and can not enroll to school. Children accommodated in care homes do not enjoy equal protection by the state, and some care homes are outside of the social care system, and the state does not have insight into the situation in these institutions.
53. Assessments show that almost 25% of children do not have free health care notwithstanding the fact that they are entitled to that right under the law.
54. As a consequence of poverty, and of modern slavery, there is an increasing number of children on the street, begging.
55. There is an evident abuse of children for the political purposes, at the rallies of political parties or during street manifestations. Children are being brought into the first rows, and those pictures are being misused for political purposes.

### **3.10. Social Rights**

56. In its Constitution, Bosnia and Herzegovina is not defined as a social state. System of protection differs in the entities, with the laws that are not harmonized with international norms. The existing system of social protection, which is inefficient and discriminatory, does not offer security to most vulnerable citizens, which creates tensions and instability.
57. Although the funds earmarked for social care are not small, they are not distributed in line with objective needs and rules, but in line with political affiliation and in line with efforts of political elite to buy political allies. Thus, around 300,000 people live in a situation of a social poverty, at the same time having no social support. The cause for such a situation lies in a fact that exercise of guaranteed rights depend on economical strength and readiness of some of the cantons to secure budget funds for implementation of the law in practice.
58. Particularly endangered are children, mothers on maternity leave, non-war disabled persons, workers without employers contributions, Roma people, and elderly people.
59. Among the causes of bad situation there is a lack of competences within institutions that implement social policy, as well as the absence of sanctions against those cantons that do not meet minimum obligations prescribed by law.

### **3.11. Freedom of Expression**

60. De-penalization of the libel and the slander, as well as adoption of Law on free access to information, have generated more favourable legal framework for the respect of freedom of expression. However, this freedom remains exposed to constant pressure and threats.
61. One of the fundamental problems lies in the fact that the transformation of public radio and television broadcasting system has not been completed. The prerequisite, those that could realistically protect the public service from political pressures and influences have not been founded. In addition, political pressures upon the Regulatory agency for communications – that should, among other duties, defend ethical and other professional standards as an independent body-have resulted in the dependence of a number of public broadcasters on the centre of the political power.
62. In the vast number of cases, private media demonstrates narrow-minded business or political interest of their owners, certain lobbies, and are, more often dependent of religious leaders' disposal. Standards of professional journalism are often sacrificed for the sake of these narrow interests.
63. An increase of physical violence against journalists has been noticed, and journalists and some editorial staff have been subjected to a constant pressure through verbal threats, attempt to instil fear and having charges threats against them by high ranking politicians that are enabled to reconcile themselves to the role of media in a democratic society. Those pressures cast a serious doubt over the freedom of expression and threaten to extinguish the few media organizations that take a critical discourse on some events in the society.
64. Freedom of expression is further questionable on the grounds of clannishness of certain information sources, irrespective of the Law on free access to information. Paradoxically, certain items of important information are inaccessible even for the member of the Parliament, which influences the character of decisions made and in turn enables manipulation of citizens and the public opinion.
65. Freedom of expression is, in the broad sense, seriously jeopardized when it comes to stating own identity. This right is particularly imperilled in cases of declaring an ethnic identity that does not comply with the division among the three constitutional ethnicities and ethnic minorities. The possibility of once declaring as a 'Bosnian', 'Herzegovinian', or similar is denied. The same goes for the identity as per sex and gender. Despite personal declaring, certain social authorities are imposing their understanding of identity as valid, which directly opposes the right to an own identity.

### **3.12. Freedom of Association**

66. Number of citizens' associations and foundations, as some denominations legal forms of association, exceeds the figure of an 8000 and it can be said not to be small. However, civil society organizations are atomized, fragmented, considerably weakened and based on ethnical principles. The NGOs are encouraged to register at entity or cantonal level, but not at the level of the whole country. The politics of discouragement openly interferes with formation of civil society organizations that want to register at the level of the whole of BiH. The procedures of registration are lengthy and complicated, and only stronger NGOs and those well equipped personnel can pass them. Furthermore, only organizations registered in the Republic of Srpska entity level, for example, can apply for funding from the budget of the entity, which is only one way to non-governmental organizations permission to register at the entity level.

67. Special obstacles that trade unions face in practice are that they can not be registered at the level of the entire country.
68. As authorities attempt to weaken and discredit the NGO sector, are increasingly establishing “Governmental non-governmental organizations” that create misunderstanding and confusion among non-governmental organizations, and among citizens.

### **3.14. Corruption and Human Rights**

69. Bosnia and Herzegovina is placed in 92nd- 95th position on the list of 180 countries as per perception of corruption, according to Transparency International. This fact alone shows that in Bosnia and Herzegovina there is not respect for the law, which indicates that it does not even respect those legal provisions relating to human rights and civil liberties. Character and extent of corruption, and involvement of the holders of political power, have caused the issue of corruption to enter the human-rights agenda. Immunity of high-ranking politicians, the fact that enormous resources invested in business made corruption an important generator of violations of human rights. Only in the area of environment, corruption, supported by multimillion investments, directly denied the right of citizens to express their will and influence the development and investment policy.
70. The issue of corruption is directly related to the right to development. Funds that flow into the pockets of individuals could be in a country like Bosnia, used for development investment, employment and better social policy.
71. Critical attitude towards corruption has seriously brought into question the freedom of expression, and brought into danger defenders of human rights.
72. Based on this report, the non-governmental organizations suggest the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the following:

## **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Ratify, as soon as possible, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
2. Conduct a national census and establish statistical data that are, among other things, elements of assessment of human rights.
3. Provide all necessary legal and material support to BiH Ombudsman as a national institution for human rights. This implies, among other things, a creation of human and financial preconditions to start implementing the Law on prohibition of discrimination. Strengthening institution of Ombudsman, as an independent body, as impartial and competent institution will be of enormous importance to the future of human rights in BiH.
4. Given the immense discrepancy between the assumed international obligations and existing law on the one hand and on the other, its practice, it is necessary to do a thorough analysis of the implementation of ratified international conventions and establish specific programs for their application.
5. Increasingly difficult positions of defenders in the field of human rights and their protection, necessarily imposes the need for sensitization of law enforcement agencies, the media and public opinion in order to create an environment in which it will be possible for citizens and their organizations to operate freely in the field of human rights. It is necessary to establish a legal framework which would guarantee the rights and personal safety for defenders of human rights.