

I WANT THE PROTECTION OF MY RIGHTS AS A CITIZEN OF BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA!

We, the signatories to the petition, invoking our rights as citizens of BiH as guaranteed by the Constitution of BiH and the international conventions on human rights:

1. Demand the protection of the rights of all BiH citizens to security and dignity, and the elimination of arbitrary government actions.

2. Demand the adoption of amendments to the Law on Protection of Classified Information (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 54/05 and 12/09) in order to harmonize it with the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights, which provides the right to freedom and security to all (Article 5), and guarantees fair and just treatment of citizens by the government. Under the Law on Protection of Classified Information of BiH, virtually most or almost all information relating to "public security, defence, foreign affairs or intelligence and security" (Article 1 of Law) may be declared as classified based on an assessment (!) by the government. In practice, this means that neither the person related to the "classified" information nor his/her legal representative have the right to access this information. The current Law is in contradiction with the European Convention because the Law violates the security and freedom of citizens on the basis of unsubstantiated decisions of government authorities.

This Law also drastically denies the principles of the Law on Freedom of Access to Information ("Official Gazette of Federation BiH" No. 32/01 and "Official Gazette of RS", No. 20/01) which stipulates that the disclosure of any information must be considered separately, based solely on the assessment of the content of the requested information, not the type of information or the way it is classified (Article 3 of the Law), and only if the procedure of establishing public interest has been conducted. Thus, classification of documents as envisaged by the Law on Protection of Classified Information is violating the provisions of the Law on Freedom of Access to Information, because access to information is refused solely due to the classification of information.

Pursuant to the above, we demand the adoption of amendments to the Law as follows:
In Article 5 of the mentioned Law, after paragraph 2, a new paragraph 3 should be added, stating the following: "Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, the legal representative of the person against whom a court proceeding or other proceedings have been initiated shall have access to classified information of all levels without a security check. The person referred to in paragraph 3 has access to the requested classified information only for the stated purposes and may not request access to documents that do not pertain to the issue of his/her proceedings."

3. Demand that government institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina do not violate human rights in the name of "national security" and that they do not declare their own citizens a threat to national security without any established evidence and formal charges. Also, we demand that

the government does not create fear in citizens of BiH that we ourselves and our children, our friends, our neighbours could also be declared to pose a "threat to national security."

4. We demand the immediate release of innocent people placed "under surveillance" in detention centres on undefined grounds related to "national security", who have never been prosecuted for crimes nor formally accused of any terrorist activities, and whose citizenships have been stripped without any hearings and on insubstantial grounds. Also, we demand that the episode with the so-called „Algerian Group“, which was a clear example of appalling injustice committed by BiH authorities together with the international community over their own innocent citizens, does not ever happen again. We demand that our government carefully reviews all measures it takes and that these measures be based on clear and solid evidence, with full respect for human rights and above all - human dignity.

We specifically demand that all efforts of deportation of people who would be facing a risk of torture in their countries of origin be immediately suspended, and that the decisions of the European and Bosnian courts be fully respected.

Note: The Petition will be submitted to all relevant institutions and organizations in BiH, and especially to those mentioned in Article 5 of the Law on Protection of Classified Information (Section "Access to Classified Information of All Levels").