



To Media

April 7th, 2013, Zagreb

PRESS RELEASE on the occasion of the protest rally "NO to Cyrillic"

Platform 112, an informal coalition of sixty-nine civil society organizations engaged for many years in the protection of human rights, democratization, peace-building, fight against corruption and the protection of public resources, particularly the environment, **hereby condemns discriminatory messages that were sent from the protest rally "No to Cyrillic" set against Cyrillic held today in Zagreb and invites the Government to take more decisive steps to protect human and minority rights in Croatia.**

The foundation of every legal and democratic state is systematic and impartial conduction of all legal norms, in particular those relating to the protection and promotion of human rights. Platform 112 welcomed in its "2012 annual report on the work of the Croatian Government" the announcement of introduction of bilingual signs in Vukovar - Sirmium County as a laudable effort towards achieving full protection of minority rights in Croatia.

Platform 112 has been warning so far about the pressures of certain social groups, political parties and the media who don't hesitate to use lies and calls for violence to promote their views. Unfortunately today we have witnessed hate speech and statements of intolerance on Ban Jelacic Square and therefore we demand a clear condemnation of all messages which are contrary to the constitutional values and the laws of the Republic of Croatia.

We believe that respect for minority human rights is a question of democratic civilizational achievement of this country and such important issues can not be discussed on the street. Croatia, being on the doorstep of the European Union, should contribute in the future to good European practices in addressing minority rights, and respect for bilingualism is one of those contributions. Also we urge the Croatian government and other social actors to promote culture of peace, tolerance for cultural and other differences, and respect for minority and human rights, especially in areas where war trauma is still always present.



Platform 112 is composed of the following organizations:

B.a.B.e., Centre for Education, Counseling and Research (CESI), Centre for LGBT Equality, Centre for Peace Studies (CMS), Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights-Osijek, Documenta – Centre for Dealing with the Past, GONG, Human Rights House, Right to the City, Serb Democratic Forum, Transparency International Croatia, Association for Social Affirmation of People with Mental Disabilities - Sjai, Association for Independent Media Culture, Association for Promoting Inclusion, Association for Promotion of Equal Possibilities, Association of Parents of Children with Special Needs "PUŽ", Association for Self-Advocacy, Association of Croatian Investigative Journalists and the Green Action.

Platform 112 is supported by following organizations:

Amnesty International Croatia, DEŠA – Dubrovnik, Humanitarian and peace organization, Ecological Society of Brod, Inclusive Support Centre IDEM, Centre for Civil Initiatives Poreč, Center for Peace, Legal Advice and Psychosocial Assistance Vukovar, Center for support and development of civil society DOLPHIN, Community Foundation Slagalica, Environmental Association Pan, Eco-eco Komin, Šolta Eco-Tourist Association, Eco-Zadar, Forum for Freedom in Education, Croatian Debate Society, Croatian Association for the Deafblind Persons Dodir, Croatian Guide Dog and Mobility Association, Croatian Association of the Blind, Iskorak –Sexual and gender minorities rights center, Coalition of associations Info zone, Coalition of Associations in Health Care, Coordination of Associations for Children, Krka Knin, KURZIV -Platform for Matters of Culture, Media and Society, Lesbian group Kontra, Life Quality Improvement Organization FLIGHT, MIRamiDA Centar Regional Peace building Exchange, Croatian Youth Network, Multimedia Institute, Peace group Oaza Beli Manastir, Civil Rights Project Sisak, Radio Mreža, Parents in Action, Delta Association, Fade in – Incredibly good institution, Alliance of tenants' associations of Croatia (SUSH), Social policy and inclusion (SPI), SOS Children's Village Croatia, The Association for help and education of mobbing victims, Association for protection of rights of irreligious people Protogora, Association for assistance to citizens with mental retardation of Međimurje County, Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development Sunce, Association for promotion of human rights and media freedoms CENZURA PLUS, The Association for Civil Society Development SMART, Association for Human Rights protection and Humanitarian Activities "Dalmatian solidarity committee", Volunteers' Centre Zagreb, Green Istria, Green Osijek, Women's Room, Organization for Workers' Initiative and Democratization.