

## **Petition of Non-governmental Organizations, Public Figures and Intellectuals about the events in Vojvodina**

The representatives of non-governmental organizations, public figures and intellectuals from Vojvodina at the meeting “Talks about Vojvodina”, held April 18, 2013, at Novi Sad, have harmonized their views on the actual political moment in Vojvodina and agreed to send their statement in the form of petition to domestic and foreign public.

About 100 participants at the talks, the representatives of civil organizations, public figures and intellectuals from all parts of Vojvodina together came to the following conclusions, which are supported by numerous non-governmental organizations and prominent individuals from other parts of Serbia too (in the extension there are all signatories to the petition):

- The representatives of political parties in the Republic government in cooperation with other nationalist parties and extreme organizations including those officially banned continue with their policy of exerting pressure on Vojvodina and its people, which is in disagreement with the democratic principles and procedure in the legitimate struggle for power;
- The content of the draft Declaration on protection of constitutional and legal rights of the AP Vojvodina could not be the reason for organization of the rally “Stop disintegrating Serbia” and the media harangue against the representatives of legitimately selected provincial government for their alleged secessionism. Therefore, we believe that the intention of organizers was something else: the struggle for power and the struggle against the autonomous Vojvodina and its specific characteristics and also to divert attention of the public from the grave economic situation and the current negotiations about Kosovo.
- However, the truth is that rights of AP Vojvodina are being abolished for years and that the provincial government in the previous period lacked an active approach to secure rights and interests of AP Vojvodina. We nevertheless think that the provincial government should not succumb to the political and media pressures and that it should stay unified and adopt this Declaration regardless of its symbolic character;
- Actual events also show that the current Constitution is generating many problems not only in Vojvodina but also Serbia proper and that it is necessary to urgently initiate the procedure for a new Constitution. The supreme legal act should be the issue of the broad public debate and during its adoption it is necessary to respect democratic procedure and not, like in the case of current Constitution, allow and tolerate behind-the-scene political deals. The new Constitution should secure and clearly define the constitutional-legal position of Vojvodina in agreement with wishes and demands of its citizens and its European

spirit. This position should protect specific society of Vojvodina and enable its free development and political subjectivity;

- The rally “Stop disintegrating Serbia” was a total fiasco, which confirms the political maturity of citizens of Vojvodina and Novi Sad. They rejected the arguments of organizers and refused to participate in re-enacting the so-called ‘yogurt revolution’, which was an introduction into bloody criminal wars on the territory of former Yugoslavia; at the same time, the organizers of the rally actually granted legitimacy to the extreme organizations among which are also those officially banned, thus encouraging their anti-constitutional activities;
- The Republic government and political parties with similar organizations should immediately stop generating crisis in Vojvodina. Otherwise, they will be fully responsible for destabilization of political situation and security in the AP Vojvodina and for its consequences. Resolving political disagreement should be urgently returned to the institutions of state;
- We appeal to the representatives of the European Union, European Council, international organizations and the Serbian public to take a constructive attitude toward the current events in Vojvodina in order to prevent possible deep crisis that may result in unpredicted consequences;
- We ask from the relevant state organs to urgently uncover and reveal to the public the names of those who created poster calling for the death of president of the Vojvodina government, Bojan Pajtic and “his minions”;
- We protest against unprofessional reporting of the majority of media from the rally “Stop disintegrating Serbia” and its accompanying events. The majority of media was in function of nationalist propaganda, production of crisis and creating enemies through lies and fabrications. This confirms that the media in Serbia are controlled by the government with its coalition partners in realization of their common interests. The media and journalists should be aware of their own responsibility when reporting and especially they should keep in mind the horrible consequences which unprofessional and warmongering journalism had produced in the nineties. However, the media freedom in Serbia is being violated for many years and all previous governments are responsible for the current situation;
- We protest against the latest attacks on the media freedom in Vojvodina organized by the representatives of the ruling Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), with special accent on situation in the daily ‘Dnevnik’ and the weekly ‘Pancevac.’

*Novi Sad, April 23, 2013*

*The meeting “Talks about Vojvodina” was held on Tuesday, April 18, at 18.00 hrs. in the Media Center Vojvodina in Novi Sad. The meeting gathered about 100*

*representatives of non-governmental sector, public figures and intellectuals. It was organized by the non-governmental coalition “Civil Vojvodina”.*

*Following non-governmental organizations and prominent individuals sent their support to the petition:*

*Centre for Development of Civil Society (CDCS), Zrenjanin  
Independent Journalists’ Association of Vojvodina, Novi Sad*

*Center for Regionalism, Novi Sad*

*Green Network of Vojvodina*

*Charity Association "Panonija", Novi Sad*

*Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, Beograd- Novi Sad*

*Open Licej, Sombor*

*Political Association of Vojvodina*

*Civic Action Pančevo*

*Policy Center, Beograd*

*Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights YUCOM, Belgrade*

*Autonomous Women Center, Belgrade*

*Education Association, Novi Sad*

*Vojvodina Club, Novi Sad*

*Centre for Human Rights, Niš*

*Citizens Association “Napon”, Novi Sad*

*Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Belgrade*

*Women in Black, Belgrade*

*Association for Tolerance, Bačka Palanka*

*Sandzak Committee for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms, Novi Pazar*

*Women’s Studies and Research, Novi Sad*

*Education Center, Leskovac*

*Labris - organization for lesbian human rights, Belgrade*

*Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Belgrade*

*Serbian anti-fascist Alliance*

*Argus - Civil Association of Hungarians in Vojvodina for minority rights*

*ASTRA Team, Belgrade*

*Center for Sustainable Communities, Novi Sad*

*Cultural Center DamaD, Novi Pazar*

*Center of Modern Skills, Belgrade*

*Civic initiatives, Belgrade*

*Citizens Association “Esperanca”, Novi Sad*

*Vladimir Kekić,*

*Senka Jankov, professor*

*Jasmina Lazović, Youth Initiative for Human Rights*

*Mirko Miković,*

*Goran Veselinović,*

*Filip David, book writer*

*Dragan Popović, lawyer*

*Olivera Radovanović, art historian*  
*Branislav Lučić, photo-reporter*  
*Milan Antonijević, lawyer*  
*Dragan Radovanović, painter*  
*Sima Matić,*  
*Aranka Matić,*  
*Klara Oros, journalist*  
*Branka Dragović Savić, journalist*  
*Norbert Šinković, journalist*  
*Vasa Timotijević,*  
*Stevan Farkaš,*  
*Lidija Stevanović,*  
*Danica Vučenić, journalist*  
*Semiha Kačar, activist*  
*Ratko Filipović,*  
*Zlatoje Martinov, chief editor of the "Republic"*  
*Tamara Kaliterna, journalist*  
*Mirjana Vladisavljev, journalist*  
*Dr Veselin Lazić, agricultural expert*  
*Svenka Savić, expert on gender equality*  
*Branislav Sovilj,*  
*Lubor Stupavsky*  
*Đorđe Bugarin,*  
*Jaroslava Labat,*  
*Janko Drča,*  
*Darnika Bolta,*  
*Branislav Pomoriški,*  
*Miroslav Keveždi, philosopher - religiologist*  
*Zoran Bubanj*  
*Živan Berisavljević, diplomat*  
*Dragomir Jankov, lawyer*  
*Goran Stanković, Niš*  
*Branislava Opranović, journalist*  
*Petar Petrović, journalist*  
*Gordana Perunović Fijat, journalist*  
*Jasminka Lukić, engineer of work organization*  
*Roža Luko Stošić, journalist*  
*Stanko Šušnjar, lawyer*  
*Žužana Serenčeš, journalist*  
*Vladislav Radaković, professor*  
*Ljiljana Subotić, professor*  
*Jelena Perković, journalist*  
*Dinko Gruhonjić, journalist*  
*Nedim Sejdinović, writer*  
*Maja Leđena, journalist*  
*Draško Bjelica,*

*Nemanja Stjepanović, journalist*  
*Marijana Beader, officer*  
*Pavel Domonji, political analyst*  
*Ivan Krajcer*  
*Ivana Radakov*  
*Teofil Pančić, journalist*  
*Mirko Đorđević, publicist*  
*Bora Vesnić,*  
*Dunja Popov, journalist*  
*Miroslav Ilić, surgeon i publicist*  
*Verica Grbić,*  
*Smiljana Milinkov, journalist*  
*Melanija Kolosnjai-Nenin, activist*  
*Branislava Kostić, journalist*  
*Filip Gantar*  
*Ljiljana Gantar*  
*Rastislav Durman, journalist*  
*Mirna Laković, student*  
*Miloš Đajić, Chairman of the Board of the Center of Modern Skills*  
*Dusko Radosavljević, president of Vojvodina's Political Science Association*  
*Lazar Tomanoski,*  
*Janko Kubinjec, lawyer*  
*Darinka Nikolić, journalist*  
*Aleksandar Tadić, graphic artist*  
*Aca Udicki, hydro geologist*  
*Marija Vukosav,*  
*Miljenko Dereta, civic activist*  
*Sanja Kljajić, student*  
*Daniela Cerović,*  
*Ivan Milenković, philosopher*  
*Laslo Tot, President of the Independent Union of Workers in the culture of Vojvodina*  
*Goran Tomka,*  
*Maja Sedlarević, director of Center for Education*  
*Tomislav Cvetkov, Zrenjanin*  
*Miloš Tešić, academician*  
*Zorica Pedović,*  
*Gordana Vukašinović, Kraljevci*  
*Nada Maksimović,*  
*Biljana Burić,*  
*Balint Ištvan,*  
*Sima Vukov,*  
*Marina Grnja, civil society activist*  
*Srećko Mihailović, sociologist*  
*Vesna Rakić Vodinelić, lawyer*  
*Aleksandar Sekulović, lawyer*  
*Dušica Polovina,*

*Snežana Francuski,  
Jan Klinko, engineer  
Nikola Šanta,  
Nenad Stevović, political analyst  
Aleksandra Lung, artist  
Romeo Mihajlović, activist  
Csaba Pressburger, journalist  
Lea Blaško, student  
Slavko Žebić, journalist  
Siniša Isakov, journalist  
Marija Tešić, Professor of Medicine, retired  
Danica Stefanović, activist  
Tomislav Žigmanov, philosopher  
Zoran Bošković,  
Tamara Filipović Stevanović, journalist  
Jelena Maksimović,  
Duško Medić, ecologist  
Radmila Tomić,  
Gizela Štanjo-Tot, journalist  
Lara Popić, University of Toronto  
Vladimir Šerkov,  
Marija Stanojčić-Sraka,  
Ranko Kucalović,  
Jasna Žugič, journalist  
Nada Lazić,  
Vladislav Radaković, political analyst  
Šandor Šomodi  
Vesna de Groot-Gerov,  
Borislav Krivošija,  
Vladan Filipčev, journalist  
Dimitrije Boarov, economist  
Gordana Francuski,  
Miroslav Francuski,  
Lazar Lazić,  
Dragica Ćurčić,  
Đurđica Ćazić, activist  
Dušan Lončar,  
Ratimir Svirčević,  
Katica Bengin, activist  
Kristina Koprivica, journalist  
Ivana Kovljen,  
Nada Dabić, activist  
Dragiša Vasiljević,  
Nada Vasiljević,  
Ivana Vasiljević,  
Željko Pakledinac, pravnik*

*Rajic Dragutin,  
Zvonimir Pelajić,  
Slavko Kulačin,  
Katarina Vasiljevic, studentkinja  
Branislav Unkovic, hemijski inženjer*