



SERBIAN JOURNALISTS IN CROATIA

Along the pathways of war crimes

In cooperation with the War Crimes Chamber of the Belgrade District Court and the National Council for Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, and supported by the Rule of Law Department of the OSCE Mission to Serbia & Montenegro, the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor's Office took a group of media members for a study tour, lasting from 15 to 18 May, of the Croatian judicial institutions involved in war crimes proceedings.

Journalists and reporters from 17 agencies (Politika, Danas, Glas Javnosti, Frankfurtske Vesti, TV5 Niš, Studio B, B92, Beta, Fonet, Tanjug, RTS, ANEM, VIN, Blic, Vreme, NIN, Justice in Transition), along with representatives of the War Crimes Prosecutor's Office, War Crimes Chamber, National Council for Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal and OSCE Mission, visited the State Prosecutor's Office and Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, as well as District Courts in Zagreb, Vukovar and Split; the visits also included meetings with district prosecutors in Zagreb, Vukovar, Osijek and Split.



In the course of their visits to the Ovčara farm and Velepromet warehouse in Vukovar, the journalists met with members of the »Vukovar Mothers« association, as well as with families of the missing Vukovar Serbs. In Split, the Serbian delegation was met by NGO »Altruist Centre« representatives, while in Zagreb meetings were held with people from NGOs »Document« and the Osijek »Peace Centre«.



At the Law School of Zagreb University, a lecture for the Serbian journalists was delivered by Prof. Ivo Josipović, international law expert.

The tour also included two round tables on war crimes trials, held at the Journalists'

House and Split Hotel in Zagreb, and attended by journalists from Serbia and Croatia.



The aim of the tour was to inform the Serbian public of war crimes proceedings in the region. Following the BH tour in October last year, which included visits to the national judicial institutions and scenes of crimes, as well as talks to some victims' associations representatives, a similar program had been envisaged for the Croatian tour.