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Date: Monday, September 7, 2026, 5:00 PM
To: "postbus@eerstekamer.nl" <postbus@eerstekamer.nl>
Subject: Concern regarding the glorification of Ratko Mladić by public officials in Montenegro

U ontvangt niet vaak e-mail van 5.1.2.e@protonmail.com. [Ontdek waarom dit belangrijk is](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Montenegro who strongly supports my country's accession to the European Union.

I respectfully wish to draw your attention to a disturbing series of public reactions in Montenegro following the death of Ratko Mladić, who was finally convicted by international criminal justice of genocide in Srebrenica, crimes against humanity and other grave crimes committed during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These developments are particularly concerning because they do not involve merely anonymous individuals or marginal groups, but a number of persons holding, or until recently holding, significant political and public positions in Montenegro – a country currently at an advanced stage of negotiations for membership of the European Union.

Following Ratko Mladić's death in The Hague on 27 August 2026, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, **Andrija Mandić**, publicly announced that he had sent condolences to Mladić's son, both personally and on behalf of his political party, the New Serbian Democracy. In his public message, he referred to the deceased as "General Ratko Mladić", without acknowledging the final international judgments against him or the victims of the crimes for which he was convicted.

Mr Mandić holds one of the highest constitutional offices in Montenegro.

However, this was not an isolated incident.

Miljan Marković, President of the Municipal Assembly of Tivat and head of the local branch of the New Serbian Democracy, published on his official Facebook profile a photograph of Ratko Mladić in the uniform of the Army of Republika Srpska, saluting beneath the flag of that entity.

Danijel Rmuš, Vice-President of the youth organisation of Democratic Montenegro and an employee of the Public Relations Bureau of Montenegro's Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development, published a photograph of Mladić accompanied by the words: "Eternal glory and the Kingdom of Heaven to you, General."

Democratic Montenegro subsequently publicly distanced itself from this statement, stressing that it represented Mr Rmuš's personal position and not the position of the party.

Another example concerns Vuk Kadić, until recently Director of Montenegro's Health Insurance Fund, who published a photograph and message publicly glorifying Ratko Mladić as a hero. That post was subsequently "liked" by Nebojša Vuksanović, an adviser to the President of Montenegro for internal policy and economic development.

These are not the only cases.

The Centre for Civic Education (CGO), a prominent Montenegrin civil society organisation, publicly warned following Mladić's death that his admirers in Montenegro "are not on the margins". Among public and political figures whom CGO identified as having expressed respect for, glorified or publicly bid farewell to Mladić were the President of Parliament Andrija Mandić; MP and party leader Milan Knežević; State Secretary in the Ministry of Transport Marko Milačić; President of the Municipality of Pljevlja Dario Vraneš; Democratic Montenegro youth official Danijel Rmuš; former minister and university professor Vesna Bratić; and several other political and public officials.

Taken together, these incidents appear to raise a broader question than the conduct of any single individual. They suggest a concerning degree of tolerance, within parts of Montenegro's political and institutional environment, towards the public honouring or glorification of a person finally convicted of genocide and other grave international crimes.

In the interest of accuracy and fairness, it is equally important to emphasise that such attitudes do not represent all Montenegrin institutions or society.

The Office of the President of Montenegro issued a clear statement recalling that Ratko Mladić had been finally convicted of genocide in Srebrenica and other grave war crimes, stressing that this is a judicially established fact rather than a matter of political opinion, and rejecting the glorification and relativisation of war crimes.

Democratic Montenegro also publicly distanced itself from the statement made by its youth official.

These reactions are welcome.

Nevertheless, the frequency of such incidents involving persons occupying public functions raises legitimate concerns about Montenegro's commitment to dealing with the legacy of the wars of the 1990s, respect for international criminal justice, the dignity of victims and genuine regional reconciliation.

For the Netherlands, this issue has particular significance. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and its successor, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, have operated in The Hague, where Ratko Mladić remained in custody until his death.

I strongly support Montenegro's European future. This letter should therefore not be understood as an appeal against Montenegro's accession to the European Union.

On the contrary, precisely because Montenegro has made significant progress towards EU membership, I believe accession must be accompanied by an unequivocal commitment to European values, respect for final judgments of international courts, rejection of genocide denial and the glorification of convicted war criminals, and genuine reconciliation in the Western Balkans.

I therefore respectfully ask the Government of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the relevant members of the Dutch Parliament to take note of these developments and consider them in their future dialogue with Montenegro and in the assessment of Montenegro's progress towards European Union membership.

Montenegro deserves a European future. Its citizens also deserve institutions and public officials whose conduct reflects the values upon which that future is based.

Thank you for your attention.

A concerned citizen of Montenegro

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