

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SHADOW REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION 2021 – 2024

SIDE EVENT DEFENDING THE DEFENDERS

Geneva 19.11.2025.



Centar za
životnu sredinu



CENTAR ZA ŽIVOTNU SREDINU



UDRUŽENJE
AARHUS
CENTAR U BiH

TRANSITION
Transition Promotion Program



What is new?

AUTHORITY BODIES

- Laws that indirectly affect the work of activists:
- RS Criminal Code – criminalization of slander in addition to slander as a misdemeanor
- Law on the Special Register and Publicity of the Work of Non-Profit Organizations of the RS - additional restrictions and obligations that are already regulated by other laws
- The Law on Geological Surveys of the RS - the opinion of the local community was excluded

CSO

- A team of attorneys engaged through the House of Human Rights and the Center for the Environment
- Law on citizens' initiative and protection of activists - referred to the parliamentary procedure
- Draft anti-SLAPP law in the Republic of Srpska - in the drafting phase
- Draft Law on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders of Bosnia and Herzegovina - in the drafting phase

PERSECUTION OF ACTIVISTS

SLAPP

Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation

A method of public intimidation

They are submitted by international companies

The case of Hajrija Čobo

- The suitor, Adriatic Metals, is involved in the mining of mineral resources
- The reason for filing the lawsuit: the statement that it publicly warned against harmful activities and pointing out the favoritism of the authorities when determining the price for the concession on Australian market
- The lawsuit was withdrawn, but Hajrija did not give her consent, the procedure continued
- CSO support from BiH and the region
- the lawsuit was dismissed

The case of Sunčica and Sara

- The suitor Green invest / BUK d.o.o., construction of MHE on the Kasindol river
- The reason for filing the lawsuit: the statement that the investor directly caused flooding in the wider area of Sarajevo in November 2021
- Support of 140 organizations and informal groups from all over the world
- The procedure is ongoing - but in the meantime the environmental permits have been canceled by the permit issuers

PERSECUTION OF ACTIVISTS

The case of Amela Šabić Ahmečković

- The suitor, Lykos Balkan Metals / SNK Metals, is conducting research on the critical mineral resources of Jezero municipality
- The reason for filing the lawsuit: the statement that she is directly responsible for the decline in the value of the shares of "Lykos Balkans Metals" and "SNK Metals" on the Australian stock market through her public appearance.
- lawsuit withdrawn

MISDEMEANOR PROCEEDINGS

The case of Jovan Lekanić

- The suitor: police for blocking the passage of Drvo-Export d.o.o. truck (local firm) to the coal mine
- the procedure ended with an acquittal

PERSECUTION OF ACTIVISTS

OTHER TYPES OF PRESSURE ON ACTIVISTS

The case of Zoran Poljašević

- Termination of a fixed-term contract in the company Elektroprivreda Republika Srpska for speaking at a public hearing on the adoption of the Law on Geological Surveys when he stated that he was against the mining of critical mineral resources at Ozren mountain
- The procedure is on second instance because court confirm first instance decision

Pressure from embassies on activists regarding the mining of critical mineral resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Norway, Great Britain, the United States of America, which openly take the side of investors under indirect threats from certain CSOs

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING, PATIENCE, AND ATTENTION

Ratko Pilipović
Legal advisor

Center for Environment

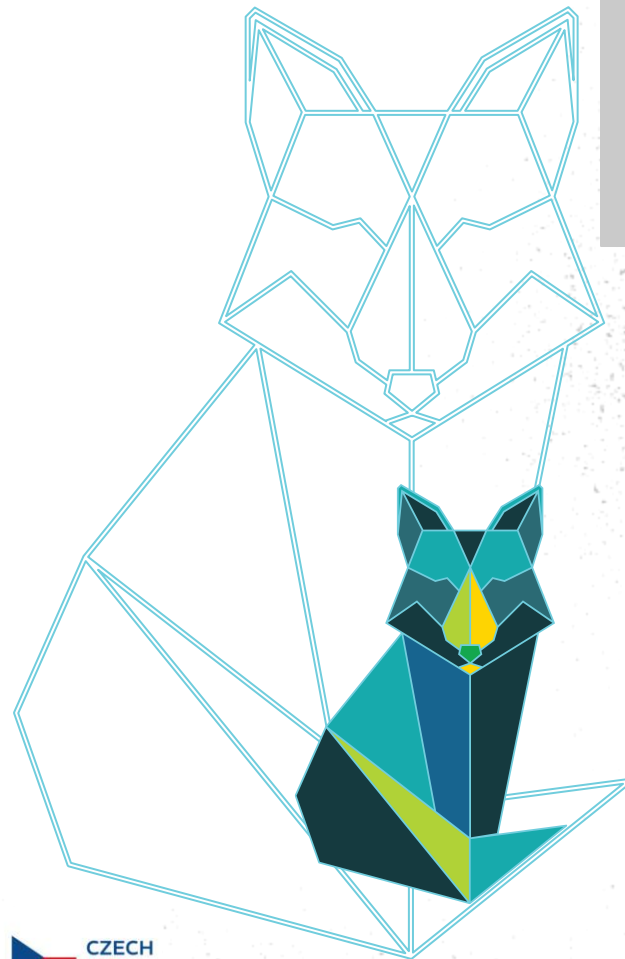
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