



To  
**Igor Luksic**, Prime Minister  
**Dusko Markovic**, Min of Justice  
**Veselin Veljovic**, Police  
Directorate, Gov of Montenegro

Stockholm 28th November 2011

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the hate speech and threats that followed the publishing of a video clip about the rights of LGBT people in Montenegro. A majority of the acts were committed by known perpetrators and have been reported to the police and other relevant bodies.

Our partner, LGBT Forum Progress, together with the Centre for Civic Education produced the video. More than 110.000 people saw it in the first 48 hours. Media experts and human rights activists in the region have expressed their support for the video, and the Montenegrin national broadcaster (RTCG) accepted to be the general media sponsor and to broadcast it in the next two months. Civil Rights Defenders and LGBT Forum Progress publicly welcomed this as an important step forward in the promotion of human rights in Montenegro.

Two male actors participated in the video as a sign of personal support to the LGBT community. However, shortly after the video was published they received threats on the street as well as through media, SMS and Facebook.

LGBT Forum Progress submitted two criminal complaints on 24 November 2011. The first one was related to threats given by Mico Djuricic in "Dnevne novine" when he stated that for "something like that you can only get beating". The second criminal complaint was submitted against a person who was threatening the actor Todor Vujosevic through Facebook. There have been no reactions from the State Prosecutor's Office so far and LGBT Forum Progress will continue submitting complaints with the support of Civil Rights Defenders. Moreover, we will closely monitor not only police conduct, but also reactions of the Montenegrin judiciary in all reported cases.

These and similar threats do not only jeopardize the safety of the persons attacked, but also the basic preconditions for a free and democratic society. Taking into account all of the above, and having in mind that LGBT Forum Progress is the only organisation in Montenegro working to promote the rights of the LGBT community, these threats have to be addressed.

We defend people's civil and political rights and empower human rights defenders - in Sweden and globally. Become a human rights defenders, you too! Read more about how you can support our work on: [www.civilrightsdefenders.org](http://www.civilrightsdefenders.org)

Decisive and effective efforts in protecting human rights defenders, activists and those who are promoting human rights is not a moral but a legal obligation. I would like to remind you that the case related to the attack on Mr. Zdravko Cimbalevic, President of LGBT Forum Progress is still not completed before Montenegrin courts.

I urge you to take immediate action to ensure that the attack and threats are properly investigated, prosecuted and sanctioned. Also, I call for your clear and unambiguous condemnation. Only a firm and clear stand from the state authorities may prevent such criminal acts from occurring again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Hårdh', written in a cursive style.

**Robert Hårdh**  
*Executive Director*