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HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BIH)





STATEMENT ON THE RIGHTS OF WARTIME VICTIMS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- There has been a little progress in implementation of human rights of wartime victims since the last UPR in 2014;



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Without further delay, BiH must ensure that the new revised Strategy for prosecution of war crimes is duly adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers, in order to continue the process of prosecuting war crimes.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- BiH must ensure that the positive practice of awarding compensations within criminal proceedings is continued, especially putting additional efforts on the form of financial investigations and freezing of assets in order to increase the chances of payment by perpetrators.
- BiH must ensure setting up the state fund or provide a budget line from which would be possible to draw funds to be allocated to victims in cases where collection from the perpetrators is not possible.
- BiH must secure continuous education of judicial staff regarding stigmatization and stereotyping of wartime sexual violence victims.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Suitable and harmonized application of criminal laws regarding the determination of the length of sentence in the cases of war crime of rape needs to be insured.
- Negative trends which allow perpetrators to receive amnesty and reduced sentences need to be stopped.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Republika Srpska Government must take additional measures to ensure that wartime sexual violence victims have access to the rights guaranteed in the Law on Protection of Torture Victims without undue restrictions which would result in their claims being denied.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- BiH must secure that amendments to the Laws on Civil Proceedings are finalized and directed towards regular procedures for adoption at all levels of government.
- It is necessary for BiH to abandon the practice of statute of limitation application.
- BiH has to adopt measures which would exempt victims from paying court fees to the entities as soon as possible, in cases where their claims for damages were denied.



RECOMMENDATION

- In order for the BiH authorities to better protect and respect the rights of wartime victims, taking into consideration our recommendations would be beneficial.

Thank you for your attention!

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