

# PETITION OF REFUGEES AND EXPELLED SERBS FROM REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

*Referring to the* international Human Rights documents (The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights; European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination etc.) as well as to regional documents protecting the rights of refugees and expelled persons, especially the right to property restitution or fair compensation (Agreement on Normalization of Relations between SR Yugoslavia and Republic of Croatia from 1996, Vienna Convention on Succession from 2001 and Sarajevo Declaration from 2005) and

*starting from* the fact that Republic of Croatia received European Union approval, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, to open negotiations under Chapter 23 "Judiciary and Fundamental Human Rights" without the prerequisite of reaching solutions with respect to our property, acquired, tenancy, status and other issues.

*We*, the more than 400.000 refugees and expelled Serbs from the Republic of Croatia, together with Serbs originating from the Republic of Croatia, who have legal or other property interests in Croatia hereby initiate this petition with a view to provide a comprehensive, fair and durable solution to our numerous problems consistent with the principle of equality:

***Request:***

- Restitution of occupied movable and fixed property;
- Recovery of property, destroyed by the war, conflict, and terrorist actions, and its return to original condition;
- Fair compensation for destroyed, damaged and vanished movable and fixed property;
- Restitution of deprived tenancy rights or fair monetary compensation, without any prerequisites and limitations;
- Identical buy-out terms and conditions as were received by persons who received apartments through the so called Housing Care Programme;
- Payout of due but unsettled pension benefits;
- Acknowledgment of full years of service reached through 1991 and validation for the 1991-1995 time period;
- Payout of foreign currency and domestic savings;
- Revision and setting aside of all judgments by default (in absence of convicted persons);
- Termination of ethnically motivated court proceedings for war crimes;
- Cash compensation for persons who did not participate in the privatization process;
- Termination of missing persons exhumation and identification process;

*We are appealing to the* European Union that it not sign the Accession Agreement with the Republic of Croatia until the Republic of Croatia reaches European standards with respect to our property, acquired, tenancy and other rights in line with above mentioned international, regional and bilateral documents, and we also

*Ask that* the Republic of Croatia stop its discrimination and respect our property, acquired, tenancy and other rights in line with above mentioned international, regional and bilateral documents.

Petition organizers:  
Refugee Associations and Home clubs of Serbs  
and other citizens from Republic of Croatia