



The Honourable Irwin Cotler
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8

By fax: 954-0811

April 9, 2004

Dear Minister Cotler,

Re: Dejan Demirovic

I am writing to follow up the letter we sent you dated March 15, 2004, and further to the subsequent documentary on Dejan Demirovic, which aired March 29th on CBC's The National.

There were two important revelations in this film that we feel the need to address, as they indicate an even more pressing need for Demirovic's extradition to Serbia and Montenegro.

First, it was confirmed by a Department of Justice official on film that Serbia and Montenegro made a formal extradition request to Canada for Dejan Demirovic in January, 2003. The documentary underscored our concerns about Canada's failure to send a formal reply to this request, and to proceed with the extradition.

Second, we learned that four days after our letter to you, on March 19th, Dejan Demirovic's co-accused Sasa Cvjetan was convicted by a Serbian Court for his role in the murder of 14 Albanians, many of them children, and for wounding another five children in the same attack. We believe this conviction indicates there is strong enough evidence against Mr. Demirovic to support his extradition to stand trial in Belgrade. Further, we believe this domestic trial and conviction, the first for war crimes committed against Kosovar Albanians, demonstrates that Serbian courts are capable of conducting them. We need not reiterate the benefits of local justice for egregious violations of international law, when it is possible, that we outlined in our earlier letter to you.

We do not know the status of Dejan Demirovic's refugee claim, which was to have been heard on March 18th. We repeat our earlier concern that his quiet exclusion and removal through immigration channels would be the least desirable outcome of Canada's treatment of this case.

Canadian Centre for International Justice/Centre canadien pour la justice internationale

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Once again we invite you to consider these concerns, and would welcome a meeting with you or your officials at an early convenient time. We would appreciate any information you could provide us with about this case, and particularly about the extradition option of Mr. Demirovic.

Sincerely,

Joan Simalchik
On behalf of the Board of Directors