

### **Submission of Petition for the establishment of free legal aid services, in the city administration.**

On December 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 activists and volunteers of LINGUA together with representatives of trade unions: Milan Trikos, regional commissioner of the United branch union-UGS Independence and Veselin Maslovaric, secretary of Unions of Serbia - Kraljevo, representatives of associations of citizens Zamisli Srbiju, Creative Workshop... as well as representatives of citizens, the petition's signatories, in the presence of the media, as agreed in the letter dated 14 December, went to the office of the President of the City Assembly, Milomir Sljivic. The technical secretary of the President of the Assembly and of Head of the city administration informed them that the President of City Hall, Milomir Sljivić, was absent, - that he was in the field, repairing the consequences of the earthquake-.

After this unlawful act of the President of the Assembly, which ignored the request of 12,000 citizens of Kraljevo, Petition's signatories, representatives of Lingva, pursuant to the Statute of Kraljevo, tried to deliver the petition to the Deputy President of the Assembly, Sreten Jovanovic, who, although he was informed at which time the petition will be delivered, according to his secretary, "was away on business". Finally, activists and volunteers of "LINGVA" along with trade union representatives, representatives of associations of citizens, as well as representatives of citizens, had to deliver the petition on the counter of writing office of the city administration.

Director of the "LINGUA" then gave a statement to a two regional television stations in which he condemned the unlawful conduct of the President of the Assembly, and Deputy President, because this is a request, pursuant to the Statute of the town of Kraljevo, of 12, 000 citizens, with voting right in the City of Kraljevo, for the establishment of Free Legal Aid Services in the city government, with the collected signatures, the personal identification number of citizens, address.

Director of the "LINGUA " emphasized that the President of the City Assembly, and Deputy President , pursuant to the Statute of Kraljevo obliged to accept the petition for the establishment of Free Legal Aid Services, and that his unlawful act of refusal to receive petitions showed arrogance, totalitarianism and unwillingness to resolve the accumulated socio-economic problems facing not only the 12,000 petition's signatories, but, unfortunately, over 90% of residents of the town of Kraljevo, which are impoverished in the so-called privatization process, or the robbery of citizens, as well as further impoverishment, as a consequence of the devastating earthquake on 3 November 2010.

**On February 25th 2011 from the office of Mayor of Kraljevo, Lingua Director received a letter with notification that the Petition will not be considered, as well as the Legal Service of the city government operates regularly, what is not true.**

**Service of paid legal aid in the city government does not work for last year. Lawyer who is employed in that service was on vacation from June 21 - July 30th 2010, and from August 1st 2010, is in prison, in jail, sentenced for taking part in the theft of oil for City Distant Heating.**

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Submitter of the Initiative:  
Regional Center of Civic Action LINGUA  
Kraljevo, Olge Jovicic st, 24.  
Director: Radovan Milicevic

The City of Kraljevo,  
Trg srpskih ratnika 1  
Kraljevo 36000

For the President of the City Assembly, Milomir Sljivic  
Deputy President of the City Assembly, Sreten Jovanovic  
For the Mayor, Ljubisa Simovic

Pursuant to Article 56 and 67 Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the provisions of Article 65 and 66 Law on Local Self-Government, and the provisions of Article 95 and 96 Statute of the City of Kraljevo, we, the undersigned citizens submit, and demand response to

## P E T I T I O N

For the decision of the Assembly on the establishment of Free Legal Aid Services in the city government.

Improving socio-economic rights of citizens is difficult, or impossible, because the vast majority of citizens has been impoverished in the nineties, and in the process of transition of the system is not informed of their rights. Legal aid service in the local government of Kraljevo does not provide free legal aid (although there is a recommendation, and a real need, by the Ministry of Justice to establish such service in local government, which is not realized), therefore that individuals with no income remain without legal protection, or miss out when attempting to achieve their socio-economic rights.

Inability to improve the socio-economic status affects all the members of vulnerable groups (local socially vulnerable population, the unemployed, rural poor, youth, users of the Centre for Social Work and the Red Cross, refugees and displaced persons, Roma, single parents, pensioners .., that are in difficult financial position and therefore are not able to achieve some of their socio-economic rights. Socially endangered is more than 20,000 unemployed, about 7,000 users of the Centre for Social Welfare, about 20,000 retirees, 1,500 refugees from Bosnia and Croatia, 19,000 displaced from Kosovo (over 14,000 adult citizens), the rural population (especially the old, settled in Kopaonik villages, up to 70 km far from the city administration), youth (who make up about 40% of the total number of the unemployed, that is, about 8,000 young people), the Roma population (about 2,000 citizens)...

The consequences of not solving the problem are numerous unfulfilled social and economic rights, such as the right to work and employment and fair compensation, right to social justice and social protection, including special care for mothers and children, pension insurance, social assistance, the right of access to funds work: land, capital, credit ...; right to a decent standard of living and quality of life including nutrition and adequate housing, right to basic health care and the prerequisites to lead a healthy life, right to the MOP, accommodation in institutions for social welfare, right to personal documents ... Due to the lack of efficient institutional protection, and their own lack of knowledge to initiate the appropriate procedure, socially vulnerable citizens of Kraljevo remain without the protection of their rights.

From that reason, we, the undersigned citizens, request from the Assembly of the City of Kraljevo, as well as leaders of city government, to make a decision at the next session of the Assembly of the establishment of Free Legal Aid Services in the city government.