



EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

FACT SHEET

BRENDON AND FILMKOMBAJN: "THE FALL OF HAGUE FUGITIVES"

The Fall of Hague Fugitives serial composed of three 96-minute episodes created by author Slavisa Lekic, addresses crimes committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and the search and arrests of six most wanted Hague fugitives: Ratko Mladic, Radovan Karadzic, Goran Hadzic, Stojan Zupljanin, Zdravko Tolimir and Vlastimir Djordjevic. The documentary episodes entitled *The Fall of Ratko Mladic*, *The Fall of Radovan Karadzic* and *The Fall of the Hague Fugitives*, provide an exclusive insight into the documents related to the hiding and arrests of the fugitives. The project has been initiated and realized with the logistic support of the Office of the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor and supported through EU grant scheme Strengthening media freedom.

After two episodes dedicated to the uncovering the events that led to arrest of the two most wanted fugitives Ratko Mladić and Radovan Karadžić, the last episode presents a special edition that offers overview of the (non)cooperation of Serbia with the Hague International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY); the chase after two most wanted fugitives is still the backbone of the story with reminiscences of bloody breakdown of Yugoslavia, but it also reveals what happened to other defendants – Zdravko Tolimir, Vlastimir Đorđević, Stojan Župljanin and Goran Hadžić, and Sreten Lukić. The serial shows that political games and various types of mutual sabotages of military and civilian security services, lack of confidence and non-cooperation among political factors were the key reasons of unsuccessful quests for the defendants, but many cases were spiced with scandals and fake voluntary surrenders, falsifying arrest methods and lovers' betrayals as well. Following the press conference and premiere screening of the first episode on January 27, at Media Centre Belgrade, **the serial was premiered at TV Prva during January and February 2015.**

Finally, the baseline of this comprehensive project was the research conducted before the realization of the TV series which showed that citizens of Serbia, regardless of their personal impression about indictments and the Hague defendants themselves, typically know very little about the background of the (non)cooperation with the Hague tribunal, chase and arrests. Since this is only one of many examples showing that citizens for the most part do not know the real truth about events that have been determining their future, the final public forum organized at the very end of the project "**The Truth That Arrives Late**" tried to contribute to the understanding of reasons why such situations happen.

Apart from offering very interesting TV material to Serbian viewers, the project attempted to raise collective awareness of the criminal liability of both the perpetrators of war crimes and their supporters. The post-conflict and post-transition years in Serbia have shown that the most severe consequence of those hard times is not just the economic and political disarray, but also the crisis of basic social values such as justice and responsibility.

The project aims to contribute to bringing these values back in the focus of the society and contribute to the establishment of the rule of law in the country. Full confrontation with the past and proper understanding and acceptance of responsibility calls for a public consensus about punishing the fugitives and their supporters.

It also aims to preserve the public memory of the atrocities committed in the name of Serbia and inform young population on war crimes and the ICTY fugitives and contribute to a critical public opinion about the crimes and evasion of responsibility. This is achieved through media as a key medium for facing the past and promoting the rule of law.

Beneficiaries of the project are general public in Serbia and the region. The docu-drama was filmed during 2014 in Serbia and the region and several location in Europe.

Total eligible costs of the project amounted to €171,201.18, out of which the **EU donation was €109,671.48**; other contributions: Fund for Open Society - €24,000, Netherlands, UK and Norwegian embassies, including BrendON company - €37,529.70. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the freedom of expression and improve investigative reporting by production of quality media content in the area of rule of law focusing on war crimes, facing the past and regional reconciliation.

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