

Dr. Jonathan Levy
Attorney at Law
Unit 7810, PO Box 6945,
London, W1A 6US
info@jlevy.co
Tel +44 (0) 20 8144 2479
Fax +1 202 478 1970

February 11, 2021

The Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia
Ms. Lora Vidović
Zagreb, Croatia
info@ombudsman.hr

Re: Petition of Dr. Jonathan Levy on behalf of the Victims of the Independent Republic of Croatia (NDH)

Dear Ms. Vidović:

I am writing to request assistance with the attached Petition which was referred by the Office of the President to the Chief State Prosecutor on May 14, 2020. Since that time, we have received no reply from the Chief State Prosecutor despite our follow up to the Prosecutor. The petition itself has been pending in various formats since August 2017.

We therefore request the assistance of the Ombudswoman in obtaining a response from the Chief State Prosecutor. We believe the intent of the Office of the President was for the Chief State Prosecutor to decide and/or recommend whether the assistance we requested from the Office of the President was to be granted.

The Petition requests only non-monetary assistance from the Republic of Croatia in seeking an accounting of the so called "Ustasha" or NDH Treasury alleged to have been deposited at the Vatican Bank in a 10 truck convoy by former NDH officer, Lt. Colonel Ivan Babic in 1946.

The Treasury consisted of not just gold and silver but also numerous artworks and cultural artifacts looted from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia as well as records and documents of the NDH. As these items originated in Zagreb, the Republic of Croatia would surely have standing to request a forensic accounting from the Holy See especially now that some Vatican archives from that era may be open to designated researchers.

There is also some urgency as certain Vatican officials in the past who have actively blocked these inquiries have either been dismissed, convicted of crimes, or removed from office under a cloud including most recently the former Vatican Bank president Angelo Caloia who was convicted of embezzlement. It was Mr. Caloia who entered numerous denials about the Treasury's existence even while he was embezzling tens of millions of Euros of Vatican funds.

My clients are not hostile to the Republic of Croatia which is not the successor to the NDH and as detailed in the Petition they have rendered meritorious service to the Republic. Nonetheless, this process is long past due since in August 2017, a petition

was first served on the Republic of Croatia's Council for Dealing with Consequences of the Rule of Non-Democratic Regimes through the Republic of Croatia's lawyers in the United States. The Council acknowledged receipt but did not communicate further. The same Petition was sent to the office of the Croatian president in June 2018 and the current petition was filed in April 2020. The following documents are appended in electronic form:

Petition of April 22, 2020, Cover Letter and Appendix
Presidential Office Reply of May 14, 2020
Letter to State Prosecutor August 7, 2020
Petition of August 17, 2017 to the Republic of Croatia's Council for Dealing with Consequences of the Rule of Non-Democratic Regimes
Letter to Presidential Office, June 25, 2018

We hope this can be resolved. As noted in our Petition the treatment of NDH veterans and civil officials is in stark contrast to the treatment accorded by the Republic so far of NDH victims.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jonathan Levy, Attorney (California)