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On the occasion of the rejection of the criminal complaint filed in connection with the work of the Wagner Group in Serbia, Ambassador of the Russian Federation Kharchenko, Director of the Security Information Agency Aleksandra Vulin and others, we submit the following:

## PRESS RELEASE

### INVESTIGATION ON RECRUITMENT AND WAGNER IN SERBIA URGENTLY PREVENTED! THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO ANSWER - BY WHOSE ORDER?

**NEVER** in the history of the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade, nor of any other prosecutor's office in Serbia, has it ever happened that a criminal complaint was rejected **in just 4 working days (effective 2 days)** after it was submitted, and that without conducting any investigation.

Upon receipt of the criminal report, the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade **had the duty (!!!) to verify the allegations of the criminal complaint** and, in this sense, to address the Security Information Agency and the Ministry of Internal Affairs with an order and request to collect information and verify the allegations of the criminal report, **to conduct an investigation and only after receiving such informations to further decide on actions in the case**. And considering the importance of the issue, the prosecution had the duty to investigate in great detail and carefully what is being reported.

In a situation where the **Internet is flooded with videos** about the training of Serbian citizens for the war in Ukraine - the prosecution and security services had to act on their own and open an investigation. They are not! That's why we filed criminal complaints. The prosecution **dismissed them in record time** (in just 4 working, 2 effective days) **without conducting any investigation, nor about video recordings, nor about anything else**.

**With that, the prosecution clearly showed that the investigation into recruitment and Wagner was prevented! On whose order?**

The criminal complaint against the head of the BIA Alksandar Vulin was filed precisely because of his prevention of the BIA from investigating the work of Wagner in Serbia, and now the investigation of his prevention has been prevented.

**It is clear and indubitable:** that citizens of Serbia visit the Wagner Center in Saint Petersburg and brag about it on social networks.

**It is clear and indubitable:** that the citizens of Serbia are being trained in armed formations for the war in Ukraine and that they are there, and they brag about it on social networks and the Russian media report on it. Therefore, it is clear that Serbian citizens were recruited.

**It is clear and indisputable:** that the embassy held an advertisement about enlisting in the army of the Russian Federation.

**Therefore, it is clear and unquestionable that an investigation had to be conducted! Instead, it is now clear that it was prevented and forbidden. Who prevented it and how the prosecutor was influenced not to conduct an investigation?**

According to the legislation of Serbia, the very act of helping, even with advice, a person on how to enlist in a foreign armed formation for the purpose of participating in the war, is punishable as a criminal offense. Filing a criminal complaint is a formal legal notice to the prosecution that there is a basis for suspecting that a certain criminal offense has been committed, on the basis of which the prosecution, by engaging state security authorities (police and BIA), checks for clues and looks for evidence, because citizens cannot do this because they do not have the resources for that.

HOW DOES THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE KNOW and how can they know that no one is organizing the departure of Serbian citizens for the war in Ukraine when they did not send an order to the Security Information Agency and the Criminal Police Directorate to submit data from operational work, obtain information and take other actions to uncover the facts.

**Considering that this was not done, it is completely clear that the prosecution did not obtain any evidence and data that Wagner does not operate in Serbia and that recruitment is not carried out - but still rejected the report without investigation.**

At the same time, we point out: that in the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office, officials keep Putin's pictures and photos on the walls and on their desks. In such circumstances, when criminal charges are dismissed in just 4 working days (2 effective) - it is absolutely clear that the hybrid influence of the Russian Federation in Serbia is enormous, and that it has long since gone beyond politics and even entered the judiciary, i.e. other state systems.

**This very refusal to conduct an investigation proves that the criminal complaint is well-founded and accurate, and that the investigation had to be conducted!**

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It is clear that this is a legal scandal, which is related to Russian influence in Serbia, and in the coming days, we will take adequate actions regarding this scandal.

In Belgrade, date 25. January 2023.

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