SUBJECT: Notification of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture in Serbia established

Dear chair and distinguished members of the Committee,

I am honored to inform you that on 28 July 2011 Serbian National Assembly designated the Protector of Citizens (Ombudsman) of Republic of Serbia as the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM). The designation was made through the Law on Amendments of the Law on Ratification of Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.¹

The Law stipulates that Protector of Citizens, in performing the duties of the NPM shall cooperate with the ombudsman of autonomous provinces and associations whose statutory goal is to promote and protect human rights and freedoms. Cooperation with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, as per the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, is a founding principle of the newly established mechanism.

In accordance with the authority entrusted to me by the Law on Protector of Citizens, I have designated Deputy Ombudsman Miloš Janković to assist me in performing the function of the NPM and coordinate its operational activities. I kindly ask the Committee to accept Mr. Janković also as the contact point for this purpose.

With assurances of highest consideration,

PROTECTOR OF CITIZENS

Saša Janković