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Zagreb, 29 April 2019

International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

To: Mr. Olufemi Elias, Registrar, MICT

Re: Representations made by Florence Hartmann concerning Gen. Praljak's suicide

Dear Mr. Elias,

I am writing because of the blatantly false and incriminating publicly disseminated allegations made by Ms. Florence Hartmann, former spokeswoman for the Office of the Prosecutor during Madam Carla Del Ponte's leadership. It appears that Ms. Hartmann has learned nothing from her conviction for her unlawful and unethical behaviour, and once again is, among other things, endeavouring to put the ICTY/MICT in disrepute. Since she was a former employee of the ICTY, and since the MICT is the residual body for all matters related to the ICTY, I bring this matter to your attention and request that appropriate action be taken.

Ms. Hartmann is accusing me, as General Slobodan Praljak's Lead Counsel (*Prlić et al*., IT-04-74) during his appeal, to have facilitated and to have effectively participated in General Praljak's death.

The UN as well as the Dutch authorities conducted investigations. General Praljak took his own life without any assistance. He did so because he firmly (and, in my opinion, not unjustifiably) believed that the trial and appeal were unfair, resulting in an unwarranted conviction – branding him as a war criminal.

Notwithstanding the well-known results of these investigations, on April 19, 2019, pp. 38-41 in the magazine *Express*, (*see* here) in an interview titled *Gotovina elegantly invited me to coffee. I told him yes, but under one condition. He never called back*, Ms. Hartmann was quoted concerning Gen. Praljak's death, alleging the known fact of where he procured the poison:

> **It's known that it came in with the group that was present at the trial, because he couldn't have had it in the prison, which casts suspicion on his defense team, or eventually someone from the Embassy; at any rate, someone who had access to Praljak before he entered the courtroom (p. 42)**

Ms. Hartmann's interview appeared on several news portals, and much to my chagrin and revulsion, Ms. Hartmann's accusations have been widely circulated in the press and on social

media throughout Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (*see* here, here, here, here, here, here, here, and here).

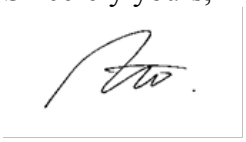
Her deceitful and slanderous allegations are calling into question my integrity, my professionalism, and my character. And despite what I may say or do, unless these accusations are put to rest by the MICT, the stench emanating from Ms. Hartmann's allegations against me will not recede.

Ms. Hartmann is entitled to her opinions, misguided and vacuous as they may be. She is not entitled, however, to insinuate that ICTY Counsel appointed to represent Gen. Praljak (with or without coordination and facilitation by the Croatian Embassy) effectively acted criminally by assisting Gen. Praljak in his suicide.

While it is the Croatian Government's responsibility to act in addressing Ms. Hartmann's accusations against Croatian Embassy staff in The Hague, it is, in my opinion, the MICT's responsibility to investigate and address Ms. Hartmann's allegations against Gen. Praljak's defence team and others. Her remarks, beyond cavil, bring the ICTY/MICT into disrepute.

I look forward to your response and I am at your disposal should you need any additional information on this or any other related matter.

Sincerely yours,



Nika Pinter

CC:

President Judge Carmel Agius lambert.icty@un.org
Prosecutor Serge Brammertz mict-otpthehague@un.org