

July 3, 2020

Matthew Palmer

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

U.S. Department of State

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Mr. Palmer:

We write to bring to your urgent attention the racist, hateful, and manipulative statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro issued earlier today (see attached) concerning our peaceful and dignified protest in front of the Honorary Consulate of Montenegro in West Palm Beach, FL, over the increasing degree of religious and political persecution being exhibited by that country's government towards its own people.

As we celebrate our American Independence Day this weekend, we affirm that Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Assembly, the right to own property and practice your faith without governmental interference are quintessential American, Western and civilizational rights which we, the protest organizers, share with our American government and most developed nations.

The statement of Montenegro's Foreign Ministry attacking us today sounds eerily similar to the hateful, anti-religious and anti-church statements of the Montenegrin and Yugoslav communists in 1945, or to the current campaigns of President Erdogan of Turkey to intimidate, silence, and even physically threaten his critics abroad. It is very regrettable to witness how every day President Djukanovic and his government speak and act in ways that are completely contrary to the norms of Western societies.

We hope that you will issue an urgent demarche to the Government of Montenegro to remind them that freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion are guaranteed to American citizens by our Constitution, and that their statement criticizing the free exercise of our rights is a provocative intervention into internal American affairs by a government which claims to be our Ally.

Very truly yours,

West Palm Beach Protest Organizers:

*Tasmina Lemajic* *Lequena Loocevic*  
*Branislava Nikolic* *[Signature]*

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## Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova najoštrije osuđuje ugrožavanje Počasnog konzulata u Vest Palm Biču

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Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova Crne Gore najoštrije osuđuje jučerašnje proteste, ugrožavanje bezbjednosti i imovine, kao i zahtjeve za uklanjanje državnih simbola ispred zgrade Počasnog konzulata u Vest Palm Biču. Političke poruke, prijetnje i ideje, koje su se čule tokom protesta, iako daleko od Crne Gore i njenih ovdašnjih ideologa i inspiratora - SPC i njenih ispostava u našoj državi, samo su još jedna tužna, ali i opasna demonstracija fanatizma, nacionalizma, klerikalizma i političkog primitivizma najniže vrste, koji je tokom devedesetih doveo do rata i najtežih zločina.

Sve navedeno je u suprotnosti sa svim suštinskim vrijednostima liberalnih demokratija na kojima su utemeljene i SAD i Evropska unija i Crna Gora. Po mnogo čemu, po protagonistima, simbolima, ikonografiji, porukama i zahtjevima, karakter demonstracija u Vest Palm Biču neodoljivo podsjeća na one koje su se posljednjih mjeseci, pod različitim izgovorima, ali sa uvijek istim ciljem - destabilizacijom Crne Gore i njene zapadne i evroatlantske orijentacije - odvijali na ulicama cmogorskih gradova. Ni Crna Gora, ni njeni evroatlantski partneri, ne mogu i neće pred ovakvim skupovima zatvarati oči.

Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova Crne Gore zahvaljuje vlastima, organima bezbjednosti i svim nadležnim institucijama SAD, koji su brzo i odlučnom intervencijom spriječili nasilje i osigurali nepovredivost konzulatomog predstavništva Crne Gore u Vest Palm Biču.

Ministarstvo vanjskih poslova

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