



INCEST TRAUMA CENTER – BELGRADE
Support Group for Child Sexual Abuse Survivors
and War Survivors of Sexual Violence

Address: Macvanska 8
11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
Tel./fax + 381 11 386 13 32
e-mail: itcentar@eunet.rs
website: www.incesttraumacentar.org.rs

**STATEMENT FOR THE MEDIA ON ACQUITTAL OF TOMISLAV GACIC – BISHOP
PAHOMIJE**

Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade, NGO specialized for child sexual abuse problem, expresses sharpest criticism and worry on scandalous decision of Council of Municipality Court in Nis that Tomislav Gacic – bishop Pahomije is excused from any responsibility for sexually abusing four boys in his custody. Criminal prosecution of Tomislav Gacic – bishop Pahomije has drawn the public attention in years' period with various irregularities and dragging out the lawsuit, with the goal of discouraging and scaring the boys and their families, as well as attacking all of their supporters (e.g. «Vranjske» newspaper), with the ultimate goal that boys and their families give up on their statements – or to achieve lapsing of the criminal offence. In favour to the obstacles described speaks that the Municipality Court of Nis never answered Incest Trauma Center's request for attending the trial, from which we understand that we weren't welcome as the witnesses of the process and survivors' allies.

From the twelve years working experience of the Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade and 7 reports of child sexual abuse per week in average, we claim that the final impermissible outcome of this criminal prosecution gives unequivocal allowance for violence to anyone who is in position of power and authority to a child and who intends to abuse children – or already does so. At the same time, we give our admiration to the boys and their families for all the things they've lived through and all the support in facing this difficult moment. We know that their persistence serves as an invaluable example to all the survivors of sexual abuse.

Dusica Popadic
director

Belgrade, March 7, 2006.