

ENGLISH only

**Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION
8-9 November 2012**

SESSION II

Freedom of Peaceful Assembly: new challenges and opportunities for dialogue

Written contributions

Labris - Lesbian human rights organisation from Belgrade/ Serbia.

Dear Madam/Sir,

As the time allocated for raising the issues on the Human dimension meeting was limited, let me introduce you to the more concrete details regarding freedom of assembly for the LGBT people in Serbia.

I would like to underline two failures of the state authorities.

Firstly, State resolution to ban the Pride parade 2012 was made without clear explanation.

And second, even the flash mob action of the LGBT activists was not allowed as there was no possibility to go outside of the place where the Pride organizers held a press conference on the day when Pride parade was schedule to happen.

Read more:

As you already know, Pride parade was banned third time in a row this year.

In the statement made by the Ministry of Interior it was possible to hear that Pride parade was banned due to the high risk of riots and violence, but in the official resolution that the organizers were given by the police – there was whole article 11 of the law on freedom of assembly, that mention among all, public health and moral.

Also, the resolution of the police made in 2011 and 2012 is completely the same and without explanation. Failure to issue the resolution with the explanation, results in weak possibilities to submit the proper complaint on the right that is impossible to exercise.

Further on, as I mentioned before, this year, LGBT activists did not even manage to organize the flash mob action in the Belgrade center on October 6th when the Pride was scheduled as the police was so close to the exit(where the press conference was held) that no one could go out and protest against the state resolution to ban the Pride parade.

Last year the protest was made and LGBT activists were protesting for about 10 minutes.

This year we went few steps back with the human rights.

Therefore I am confident that that we need more support from the OSCE ODIHR mission, we need the mission to control the weak democratic institutions, to write a statements and protest for such and similar resolutions.

For the end I would like to express special thanks to the OSCE mission in Serbia for all support and help.

Best,

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