

Union of Association of Croatian Defenders Treated from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder,
Republic of Croatia
Croatia, Slavenskog 9, 10 000 Zagreb,

TO : World Veterans Federation

Dear Colleague,

According to Your letter regarding the problems that our Association and our members are confronted with in our actions, as well with the way of handling those problems, we would like to point out as follows:

The Union of Associations of Croatian Defenders Treated from PTSD, Republic of Croatia has been dealing in the last two years with problems of their members, mostly concerning the solving of their basic life problems. Under which we mean of their social and material problems, as well as the realization and enforcement of their rights, which are guaranteed to the Croatian Defenders Treated from PTSD by the relevant laws of the Republic of Croatia

Although the rights of the Croatian Defenders Treated from PTSD and their families were improved by the last amendments to the rights of the Croatian defenders from homeland war, on the other hand the process of enforcement of their rights was prolonged, which is a result of an unprepared and slow state administration in charge of implementing the new Law. Considering the fact that the law enforcement also involves additional distribution of financial means from the national budget, we believe that this is also the cause of the indolence in solving the problems of our membership.

One of the missed regulations is the attempt of limitation of rights due to illness of war veterans by setting deadlines until the applications have to be filed and in which the illness has to appear. The pensions bill makes it possible that a Croatian defender can retire due to his condition caused by PTSD, which we think is a good draw of our government in solving our problems, but with further sub legal acts the pension of war veterans is defined in minimum amount. We assume that this is an attempt of our government bodies to reduce the load on the state budget by retiring the sicken war veterans.

The health care for our members is mostly performed in specialized institutions regarding our illness. The basic deficiency is that the medical treatment isn't free of charge for all sicken defenders. At the moment, this is a privilege for war veterans with a certain disability rate, while the others have to participate in their medical treating expenses. As to that we have to point out that out veterans have to pay for some of the medicaments that are prescribed to them as part of their treatment.

Besides the insufficient funds that our organisation gets from the government for execution of our program, we have to point out, that since the establishment of our organisation we don't have our own work space " office area which represents for us a very serious problem. Although we applied for help in search for our working space to several government bodies and local administrations, we didn't receive any understanding for our problem.

Therefore, we are compelled to share the space with other associations which is limiting us in our efforts and withholding us from undertaking a larger number of actions to help our members.

Finally we would like to emphasize that in spite of the above mentioned problems, in the last two years our country has done a great deal to help our community as well as our defenders treated from PTSD, and we hope that we will get the understanding of our government and solve our problems that we are confronted with at the moment.

Yours sincerely,

General Secretary
Tihomir Trešćec