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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

40th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2020

Complaints on stand-by

**Presumed deliberate killing of birds
&
Alleged deliberate killing of birds of prey
in Serbia**

- REPORT BY THE COMPLAINANT -

*Document prepared by
EPAR-OIPA-Serbia & BPSSS/Birdlife in Serbia*

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Council of Europe
Secretariat of the Bern Convention
Secretary of the Bern Convention

March 26, 2020.

**Updated report
on complaint sent on 7th March 2016 / No. 2014/3 and 2016/3**

We support all that our colleagues from the Association for the Protection and Study of Birds (BirdLife in Serbia) have already submitted to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention related to files 2014/3 and 2013/3. According to the text content, please save them in archives as you consider appropriate.

1. New facts

As it may be seen from the list of purposefully poisoned or in other ways, the number of birds is great. The situation in the field has not changed when compared to the period from the year 2016, when we submitted our complaint. There was no improvement. Occurrences of animal poisoning continue with Furadan, Kreozan and other poisonous substances, birds are killed with firearms, caught in the wild and encaged and all these evil activities continue throughout Serbia. Through the food chain, all species are affected, including the strictly protected species. Autopsies and toxicological analysis of corpses are still performed in reasonable time. The police has not found not one poisoner up to now and nobody has been sentenced according to law for mass poisoning and environmental pollution by poisons back for the last ten years. In rare cases, when the culprits were processed and sentenced according to law, this resulted in amazingly low fines.

Examples of fines for keeping encaged strictly protected and protected species:

1.

http://www.rtv.rs/sr_lat/vojvodina/backa/za-drzanje-divljih-ptica-u-zarobljenistvu-kazna-od-150.000-dinara_1077647.html



For keeping wild birds in
confinement....

For keeping wild birds encaged, fine 150.000 RSD which is about 1.250 EURO for keeping confined illegally 27 individuals of strictly protected species of song birds.

2.

<https://www.espreso.rs/vesti/drustvo/489639/mora-da-plati-30-000-jer-je-drzao-zabranjene-ptice-policija-je-kod-njega-pronasla-ovo>

Must pay 30.000 RSD for keeping forbidden birds: The police found in his possession THIS! (about 250 EURO for possessing 3 individuals of wild geese (*Anser anser*)).



From our filed complaint, four ie. six years elapsed, which is more than enough for the problem to be seriously understood and that every governing body reacts according to its authority and rules in order that the perpetrator is processed and sentenced in accordance the law. This however, is not the case.

In the report submitted by our Ministry for Environmental Protection, one may see that only now they plan to "establish some National Working Groups for fighting animal poisoning in accordance to national legislation", meaning that it is clearly stated that a frame of national legislation already does exist and has also previously existed, as we stated, but was not applied and respected.

This practice continues. If all Government bodies know what should be done in case of poisoning or killing of strictly protected species (inspection, police, the prosecutor and court), then it is not clear for what purpose is the future "Working Group" to be established, when legislation does not recognize it and does not have any authority since it is not foreseen by law as a body to be involved in these cases. The term "Working Group", unknown by all valid legislations, while in all currently valid laws, it is defined who is authorized and whose duty it is to act and comply with them. Laws always command to all, laws should not depend on someone's good will or as a result of activities of a so called "Working Group". We have witnessed in the past period the establishment of innumerable "Working Groups" for various fields, followed by lack of any result regarding appropriate laws. For these reasons, we are very suspicious of any term "Working Group".

If however, this will help to spur activities for the better and benefit of wild animals- we support this, hoping that the entire legislature will be finally applied and respected. With Your help, we hope to succeed in this. We wish to mention that we have received none of the documents mentioned in the text as a reply by the Ministry of Environmenatl Protection, Belgrade.

2. Having in mind that in the files No **2014/3 and 2016/3**, Mrs. Snežana Prokić wrote on various matters which are not a concern of the subject and Bern Convention, we wish to add another new subject concerning the protection of birds and respect for the Bern Convention. We would like to focus on the problem on the insufficient measures of protection afforded to the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) in Serbia. We kindly ask the Secretariat of the Bern Convention, with the support of its authority, to help in the protection and preservation of the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) population in Serbia.

Elaborating this subject, we will closely collaborate with the Foundation for the Protection of Birds of Prey, Belgrade.

Please kindly have in mind that in our country a state of emergency has been declared because of the virus "Covid 19", thus, due to this, the population and all Government bodies are in a very difficult situation. For this reason, our addition to the complaint is very brief, aimed at the sustainability of

disrespect of valid legislations in this field. With the subject and explanation of insufficient protection of the Griffon Vulture, we will elaborate in our next supplement.

Many thanks for your efforts and great help in protecting the Natural Heritage in the Republic of Serbia and enabling the provisions of the Bern Convention being slowly applied and with them, concomitantly, domestic legislative regulations.

Sincerely,

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Save the nature!

Document prepared by

EPAR-OIPA-Serbia / Alliance for Nature Protection, the rights of animals and people

Annex 1.¹ Reported wild bird poisoning and raptor shooting cases in Serbia February 2018 – February 2020

No.	Date m/d/y	Site (locality, municipality)	Bird species	Number of individuals	Data source
1	2/5/2018	Pirot	<i>Columba livia</i>	10 (P)	BPSSS
2	2/7/2018	Ljutovo, Subotica	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
3	2/14/2018	Nova Gajdobra, Bačka Palanka	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
4	2/14/2018	Sonta, Apatin	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
5	2/28/2018	Svilojevo, Apatin	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1 (P)	INCV
6	3/8/2018	Dublje, Bogatić	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	3 (P)	BPSSS
7	3/9/2018	Farkaždin, Kovačica	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1 (P)	INCV
8	3/13/2018	Morović, Šid	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1 (P)	INCV
9	3/13/2018	Velebit, Kanjiža	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS

¹ Compiled by Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia / BirdLife in Serbia

10	3/14/2018	Vršac	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	6 (P)	INCV
No.	Date m/d/y	Site (locality, municipality)	Bird species	Number of individuals	Data source
11	3/15/2018	Sremska Rača, Sremska Mitrovica	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
12	3/23/2018	Kumane, Novi Bečej	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2 (P)	BPSSS
13	3/28/2018	Svilojevi, Apatin	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
14	3/28/2018	Svilojevi, Apatin	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	3 (P)	BPSSS
15	3/28/2018	Svilojevi, Apatin	<i>Pica pica</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
16	3/29/2018	Jarak, Sremska Mitrovica	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	3 (P)	BPSSS
17	3/31/2018	Kisač, Novi Sad	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	4 (P)	BPSSS
18	3/31/2018	Kisač, Novi Sad	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
19	4/2/2018	Čenta, Zrenjanin	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
20	4/2/2018	Kula	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	9 (P)	BPSSS

21	4/2/2018	Kula	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	4 (P)	BPSSS
No.	Date m/d/y	Site (locality, municipality)	Bird species	Number of individuals	Data source
22	4/2/2018	Kula	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
23	4/9/2018	Novi Beograd	<i>Columba livia</i>	10 (P)	BPSSS
24	4/11/2018	Požarevac	<i>Asio otus</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
25	4/15/2018	Srbobran	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	2 (P)	BPSSS
26	5/8/2018	Karađorđevo, Bačka Topola	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (P)	https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1995113453889691&set=p.1995113453889691&type=3&theater
27	5/9/2018	Sombor	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (P)	INCV
28	6/6/2018	Bečmen, Surčin	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1 (S)	http://www.ekolss.com/lovni_okruci_beogradski_becmen.htm
29	7/4/2018	Prokuplje	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2 (P)	https://www.kurir.rs/vesti/srbija/3079771/prokupcaini-u-soku-ne-pamte-da-se-ovako-nestolikada-dogodilo-sedeo-sam-ispod-oraha-a-onda-sam-video-kakoptice-padaju-s-

					neba-foto
30	7/4/2018	Prokuplje	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	2 (P)	https://www.kurir.rs/vesti/srbija/3079771/prokupcani-u-soku-ne-pamte-da-se-ovako-nestolikada-dogodilo-sedeo-sam-ispod-oraha-a-onda-sam-video-kakoptice-padaju-s-neba-foto
31	7/4/2018	Prokuplje	<i>Pica pica</i>	1 (P)	https://www.kurir.rs/vesti/srbija/3079771/prokupcani-u-soku-ne-pamte-da-se-ovako-nestolikada-dogodilo-sedeo-sam-ispod-oraha-a-onda-sam-video-kakoptice-padaju-s-neba-foto
32	7/4/2018	Prokuplje	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	2 (P)	https://www.kurir.rs/vesti/srbija/3079771/prokupcani-u-soku-ne-pamte-da-se-ovako-nestolikada-dogodilo-sedeo-sam-ispod-oraha-a-onda-sam-video-kakoptice-padaju-s-neba-foto
No.	Date m/d/y	Site (locality, municipality)	Bird species	Number of individuals	Data source
33	10/16/2018	Vršac	<i>Columba livia</i>	55 (P)	BPSSS
34	10/16/2018	Vršac	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	10 (P)	BPSSS

35	10/26/2018	Vršac	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	22 (P)	BPSSS
36	11/3/2018	Kulinovci, Čačak	<i>Pica pica</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
37	11/3/2018	Kulinovci, Čačak	<i>Passer montanus</i>	2 (P)	BPSSS
38	11/3/2018	Kulinovci, Čačak	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
39	11/30/2018	Kulinovci, Čačak	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
40	12/29/2018	Novi Sad	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
41	12/29/2018	Novi Sad	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
42	12/29/2018	Novi Sad	<i>Columba livia</i>	10 (P)	BPSSS
43	1/5/2019	Leskovac	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (P)	https://jugmedia.rs/podmecu-otrov-mackama-psima-misevima-golubovima-a-unistavaju-zasticene-vrste/
No.	Date m/d/y	Site (locality, municipality)	Bird species	Number of individuals	Data source
44	4/2/2019	Kumane, Novi Bečej	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	5 (P)	BPSSS

45	4/2/2019	Kumane, Novi Bečej	<i>Columba livia</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
46	5/21/2019	Orahovo, Bačka Topola	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2 (P)	BPSSS
47	5/21/2019	Orahovo, Bačka Topola	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	4 (P)	BPSSS
48	5/21/2019	Orahovo, Bačka Topola	<i>Pica pica</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
49	5/21/2019	Orahovo, Bačka Topola	<i>Columba livia</i>	3 (P)	BPSSS
50	6/30/2019	Novi Karlovci, Indija	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
51	7/17/2019	Srvbobran	<i>Pica pica</i>	2 (P)	BPSSS
52	10/23/2019	Bačka Topola	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2 (P)	BPSSS
53	10/23/2019	Bačka Topola	<i>Pica pica</i>	1 (P)	BPSSS
54	1/9/2020	Leskova, Tutin	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (S)	BPSSS
No.	Date m/d/y	Site (locality, municipality)	Bird species	Number of individuals	Data source
55	1/9/2020	Velesnica, Kladovo	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (S)	BPSSS

56	1/24/2020	Belo blato, Zrenjanin	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (S)	BPSSS
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Explanation:

(S) – shooting, (P) – poisoning.

BPSSS – Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia

INCV – Institute of Nature Conservation of Vojvodine Province