

CROATIAN LEADERS SHOW SUPPORT FOR DOBROSLAV PARAGA AS LEGAL PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN PARTY OF RIGHTS -- HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR. (Extension of Remarks - March 24, 1994)

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HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.
in the House of Representatives

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1994

- Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to share a letter with my colleagues on behalf of Dobroslav Paraga, an opposition leader in the Croatian Parliament who was democratically elected the President of the Croatian Party of Rights. Attempts by the Tadjman government to deprive him of his elected right to function in this capacity have resulted in the following letter of protest.
- Let us not forget how far Croatia has yet to come in granting democratic rights to its own citizens. The United States can be of great assistance in supporting progress in this area in its negotiations with the Croatian Government.
- At this point, I wish to include the text of the letter which follows:

I condemn the unconstitutional and unlawful decision by the Ministry of Administration of the Republic of Croatia which has named persons it authorizes to represent the Croatian Party of Rights. Such a decision is in violation of the law on political parties in Croatia as well as the statutes of the Croatian Party of Rights.

In the interest of democracy and parliamentarism in Croatia I ask that the authorities make correct application of laws governing this case. I think that it is extremely unethical that the Croatian government and its ministers interfere in the work of political parties such as they have done with the Croatian Party of Rights. I also think it is unethical that the courts, whose main function is to protect civil rights, have ignored the appeals of those whose civil rights have been violated.

With this letter I am expressing my concern for the state of democracy in Croatia, as well as my support for the legal and legitimate representatives of the Croatian Party of Rights in their struggle for democracy, and a State based on law and unobstructed political party activity. These are the rights of all citizens regardless of their political affiliation.

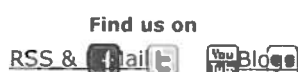
I agree that this letter with my signature may be made public.

The following is a list of the signatories to the above letter:

1. Miko Tripalo, President of Soros Foundation, Vice-President of Croatian Helsinki Committee, Representative of Croatian Parliament.
2. Danijel Ivin, Member of Presidency of Croatian Helsinki Committee
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 - 3. Vjekoslav Vidovic, retired President of Supreme Court of Croatia
 - 4. Dragutin Lesar, President of Association of Independent Unions of Croatia
 - 5. Boris Kunst, President of Zagreb Chapter of Association of Independent Unions of Croatia
 - 6. Dr. Semso Tankovic, President of Party for Democratic Action in Croatia
 - 7. Hans Peter Rullmann, Publisher of `Hrvatska Domovina' newspaper, President of German-Croatian Society
 - 8. Dr. Marko Veselica, President of Croatian Christian Democratic Union
 - 9. Vladimir Jakic, Head Secretary of Croatian Helsinki Committee
 - 10. Izet Aganovic, Professor at Zagreb University, President of Merhamet for Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina
 - 11. Dr. Ivo Banac, Professor at Yale University
 - 12. Dr. Ivo Goldstein, Professor at Zagreb University
 - 13. Ivan Zvonimir Cicak, President of Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
 - 14. Dr. Juraj Plenkovic, Professor at Zagreb University
 - 15. Dr. Slobodan Lang, Croatian Ambassador for Human Rights and Professor at Zagreb University
 - 16. Slavko Goldstein, Editor of `Novi Liber' magazine
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