

STUDY VISIT TO AHMIĆI AND TRUSINA

"Young People Remember the Forgotten"

REPORT



The Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Croatia and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Bosnia and Herzegovina in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a study visit to Ahmići and Trusina entitled "Young People Remember the Forgotten".

This study visit for young people from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was organized between April 14th and 16th 2023 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of war crimes committed in Ahmići and Trusina.

Introductory Workshop



The introductory workshop on April 14th in Sarajevo brought together 7 activists from Croatia and 8 from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The workshop included factual information about war crimes committed in Ahmići and Trusina as established by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The activists had the opportunity to watch video material developed by the SENSE Transitional Justice Center as part of their multimedia narrative about the war crimes committed in Ahmići.

4.8 / 5.0

the average grade
for the workshop
according to the
activists' evaluation

Study Visit to Trusina

On April 15th, the group of activists visited Trusina, where members of the Army RBiH in 1993 killed fifteen civilians and seven members of the Croatian Defense Council. They wounded four civilians, two of whom were children.



The group met with **Dragica Tomić**, the president of the Konjic Association of Killed, Deceased, and Missing Croatian Defenders of the Homeland War, who pointed out the following:

"It is necessary to mark the dates of suffering, regardless of which side they occurred on. Let it be a warning for all future generations to be smarter than these generations so that such crimes never happen again, anywhere."

At the end of the visit, the group laid flowers and spent a minute in silence for the victims of war crimes in Trusina.



Study Visit to Ahmići

On the same day, the group of activists visited Ahmići, where in 1993, the members of the Croatian Defense Council (HVO) and the special unit of the HVO Military Police, the so-called Jokers, killed 116 Bosniak civilians, among them eleven children and 32 women.

The group met with **Imam Mahir ef. Husić**, who welcomed the group and led a guided tour of the memory room in Ahmići. On that occasion, he pointed out the following:



"Ahmići's door is always open to all well-intentioned guests. We are seeking the truth, we are building coexistence."



At the end of the visit, the group laid flowers and spent a minute in silence for the victims of war crimes in Ahmići.

Debrief

Upon the return to Sarajevo, the group gathered to debrief the experience. They stated the following:

Every truth must be heard no matter how painful it is.

As children of parents who survived the war, we carry trauma as much as they do. If the world remains to us, the traumas remain too, but is it our responsibility to heal other people's traumas?

If there is no communication, if there is no recognition of the truth, can there be peace?

Truth-seeking is a step towards progress.

We are aware of what has happened, we listen and learn about it, but are we going to learn? Coexistence existed, but will it ever exist again after everything that has happened?

Seeing us all together gives me hope for a better tomorrow.

Looking Ahead

Activists' evaluation indicated strong interest for the continuation of such activities with even more time dedicated to learning, visiting sites of atrocities, and debriefing.

100%

of the activists show interest in participating in similar activities in the future

average grade for the entire study visit:

4.9/5.0

"I hope that in the future there will be even more opportunities for young people such as this one."

-YIHR activist



