CASE STUDY: DIASPORA COMING TO VOTE

I: Introduction: Right before the parliamentary elections were held in Montenegro on 16 October 2016, the portal "Bosnjaci.net" published the lists of voters Bosniak population living abroad, who were contacted by activists of the Democratic Party of Socialists to come to vote for the party. In return, their travel expenses would be covered.

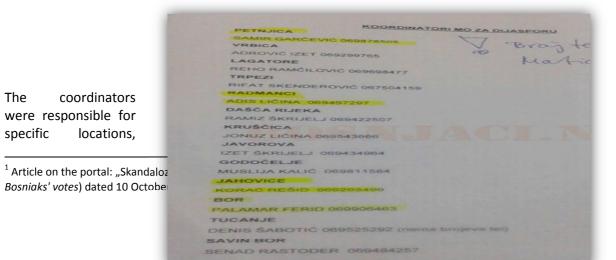


Part of lists published on the portal Bosnjaci.net

appointed as the activity coordinators.

II: DPS brings voters from the diaspora: The portal "Bosnjaci.net"¹ published ten days before the parliamentary elections lists of several hundred voters from the diaspora the Democratic Party of Socialists invited to come to vote, covering the travel expenses to Montenegro.

The lists contain the names and surnames of citizens living abroad, mostly Bosniak population, their master citizen numbers, the column in which it is necessary to indicate whether a citizen arrived in Montenegro or not. There were 13 people



Thirteen coordinators appointed to bring voters from diaspora

such as Petnjica, Vrbice, Lagator and other places, with a clear mission to contact the citizens from the diaspora native to these places and offer them the costs of transport to Montenegro to vote for the ruling party in the coming election. In addition to the names of each coordinator, the list also contained his/her telephone number.

Ill: Confirmed the contact: After the portal "Bosnjaci.net" published the lists, four citizens from the diaspora confirmed to the daily "Vijesti" that they had been approached by the activists of the Democratic Party of Socialists, while two persons stated that they had been promised payments for the travel expenses, if they come to Montenegro to vote in parliamentary elections on 16 October 2016.²

Thus, Zijad Skrijelj, who lives in France, said that he had been contacted by Izet Skrijelj, who is a member of the local committee of the Democratic Party of Socialists in the Municipality of Petnjica, and promised €250 for the travel expenses. "Yes, they called me, Izet Skrijelj ... He said that €250... He told me that it was not a problem to cover the expense. If that's so, I'll take a week," said Skrijelj.

Erna Licina from Slovenia stated that she had been called from the Democratic Party of Socialists and told she would have been given money if she came to vote. Harija Rastoder, who lives in Switzerland, said that her brothers had been told to come to Montenegro to vote in the parliamentary elections, that she would come too and pay for the ticket, but she hadn't known if she would get the money when she came.

Jusuf Agovic from Luxembourg said that he had been called, but no one had mentioned the money nor had he asked whether he would get paid. On the other hand, Minela Zilkic from Serbia, who is also on the list, told "Vijesti" that she had not been contacted until then.

Author: MANS Investigation Center Podgorica, October 2016

² Article of the daily "Vijesti", "DPS zove i plaća dijasporu za glas" (*DPS invites and pay the diaspora to vote*) dated 11 October 2016; link: <u>http://www.vijesti.me/izbori2016/dps-organizuje-dijasporu-i-placa-250-eura-glas-906958</u>