



X-RAY ON CORRUPTION

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Marcus* was surprised when his application for a residency at Banja Luka’s clinical centre was turned down. A medical graduate with two years of practical experience, he had at least expected an interview for the radiology position. After requesting the return of his documents, Marcus’ surprise turned to confusion. Along with his own application, he was accidentally sent those of the two successful candidates, neither of whom met the requirements set out in the job advertisement. One of them lacked both medical qualifications and professional experience.

Marcus wrote to Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH) to express his concerns. TI BiH promptly sent a letter to the clinic, asking them to explain in detail how and why the successful candidates had been selected. After hearing nothing, TI BiH advised Marcus to go public with the case. He was interviewed on national television and in the press.

Soon after Marcus’ TV appearance, the clinic responded to TI BiH’s letter, and offered Marcus the chance to appeal the decision, which he did. As a result the clinic partially reversed their decision- they kept one of the successful applicants, but re-advertised the other post. Marcus re-applied, and this time he secured a residency.

The case illustrates the need to tackle nepotism and secret dealings in employment processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Both have the potential to take lives as well as jobs.

*Names have been changed.

This case is one of thousands processed by Transparency International’s Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres. The centres, now in more than 50 countries, provide free assistance to victims and witnesses of corruption, helping them to pursue their complaints.