

Discrimination of **TAXI** services in Zenica

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In the middle of March 2012, a letter from the citizen, whose rights were violated, was submitted to the address of Transparency International (TI BiH), in which the founded complaints were stated about the work of the Taxi Driver Association "Zenica Taxi". In this letter it has been described how the Association, under the authority of the Municipality of Zenica, carried out different scoring of the candidates in obtaining priority for assignment of the taxi stand, by allowing direct favoritism to the one candidate over the others. The Municipality Zenica has authorized the Taxi Drivers Association "Zenica Taxi" to make legal parking arrangements of taxis at taxi stands, the criteria for precedence and ranking of candidates based on the precedence criteria for assignment of taxi stands.

With this contentious Rules of Procedure "Zenica Taxi" has favored children of taxi drivers compared to, for example, war veterans and regular candidates, considering the fact that the assignments of the taxi stands have been based on candidate scoring. According to the Rules of Procedure the children of taxi drivers who have actively been working as taxi drivers, or the children of retired taxi drivers received 8 points, while regular candidates (for every year of waiting) received only 1 point. So, an ordinary citizen who has not been at the top of the precedence list should wait 8 to 10 years in order to eventually achieve the possibility of getting the taxi stand. The contentious Rules of Procedure has indirectly discriminated female population, because the taxi stand candidates could have gained some additional points for participation in the Armed Forces of Federation of BiH.

Seeking for the official position of the municipal Department of Economic Affairs and Entrepreneurship Transparency International BiH has initially addressed the Municipality of Zenica, explaining that the Rules of Procedure contain some discriminatory provisions and that it does not comply with the Decision on organization and conduction of taxi services in the Zenica-Doboj Canton. In response, the Municipality of Zenica quoted cantonal provisions on transfer of jurisdiction (on this issue) to the Association "Zenica Taxi," revealing no interest or concern for parties whose rights could have possibly been violated.

Due to existence of indirect discrimination in this case, TI BiH has addressed to the Institution of Ombudsman for Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina. After opening the procedure, TI BiH has presented substantial evidence and opinions on evident discrimination. In the Recommendation to the Municipality of Zenica the Ombudsman of BiH has clearly established the fact that "because of the Regulation on the scoring terms, the children of taxi drivers and those who are not, are brought into different positions, even though they are in similar situations because they are applying for the same position and are equally fulfilling conditions for the performance of taxi services".

The procedure has been ended in our favor, by issuing negative recommendation for the Taxi Drivers Association "Zenica Taxi" with the aim of changing the contentious provisions.



NAĐITE NAS PUTEM:

