



Sydney, 21 July 2016

Ms Michelle Guthrie
Managing Director
ABC Ultimo Centre
700 Harris St
Ultimo NSW 2007

Dear Ms Guthrie

We are writing to express our profound disappointment in the ill-informed comments made by the host of the Q&A program, Mr. Tony Jones on Monday evening of 18 July 2016 stating that "In the 1970s there were multiple bombings by Croatian Catholic extremists" and attempting to link it to the present day acts of terrorism.

In the wake of public tragedies around the world which have significantly and negatively affected many of us, it is more than sad to see that Mr. Tony Jones resorts to a defamatory and inflammatory type of journalism.

His comment creates a misimpression and misrepresentation that Croatian Catholics were involved in terrorist activities in Australia and it is totally defamatory. This statement sounds as if it was coming from the ex-Yugoslav government authorities. To our knowledge, and according to our records, there is no evidence that Croatian Catholics in Australia attacked or terrorised anyone. But there is ample evidence about Yugoslav secret agents' involvement in Croatian community affairs in Australia to discredit the Croatian national cause for freedom, independence and sovereignty. We all know how well they succeeded in their dirty work. Should there be a need for it, we are prepared to support the above statements with documents in possession of our institution as well as archival materials from Australian archives.

The wounds of crimes and violence performed by Yugoslav secret agents and their Australian collaborators have not healed to this day. The families of those unjustly convicted and sentenced have never put their lives together and moved forward. And what is worst, no one has taken or bore responsibility for these actions!

We appreciate Mr. Tony Jones' right and responsibility to discuss on his Q & A Program issues of concern to our Australian society, but we ask of him that as journalist he keeps in mind the very important role of professional, ethical, fair and balanced approach to broadcasting so vital to our communities right across this great nation of ours so it becomes even better, stronger and more caring place to live.

We kindly ask of Mr. Tony Jones, and ABC, to retract from defamatory comments he made about Croatian Catholics in Australia and that he makes an apology to the Croatian Catholic community on his Q & A Program next Monday.

Yours faithfully



John Gavljak, President
Croatian Studies Foundation
of Australia



Luka Budak, Director
Croatian Studies Centre
Macquarie University

cc: Chief Operating Officer: David Pendleton
Director of Television: Richard Finlayson