

CROATIAN HAPPY WITH U.S. JUSTICE SYSTEM - HRVAT ZADOVOLJAN U.S. PRAVNIM SISTEMOM

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To: Drina Boban, Tony Grizelj, Rafael Boban, Mick Zanic, Zlatko Boban and 11 more...
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Croatian happy with U.S. justise system San Mateo Times, Tuesday 18 May 1982

Croatian happy with U.S. justice system

By ALAN QUALE
Times Staff Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — Mile Boban, 42, said he'll never forget that morning last summer when he answered a loud bang on the front door and was confronted by FBI agents.

"You're under arrest!" they shouted.

Boban and nine other Croatsians were taken into custody last June 25 in various parts of the United States and charged with plotting murders, bombings and extortion against fellow Croatsians living in this country.

"Thanks to the United States judicial system, I was found innocent on May 15, 1982, of all charges," said Boban, who is North American president of the Croatian National Resistance. That group's goal is to gain Croatia's independence from Yugoslavia.

Prosecutors in the three-month trial in U.S. District Court in New York City charged that the Croatian National Resistance was a "corrupt organization" and that its members committed murder, arson and extortion against Croatsians in this country who refused to support the group.

During an interview at The Times Monday, Boban maintained that those allegations are false.

"Our main goal is to free Croatia from domination by any foreign government. Under the United Nations Charter we have that right."

Boban added that his group also works to preserve Croatian culture and language, and pass on to the younger generation Croatian history.

Of the 10 Croatsians who were charged, Boban and three others were found innocent. Six others were convicted of racketeering and racketeering conspiracy.

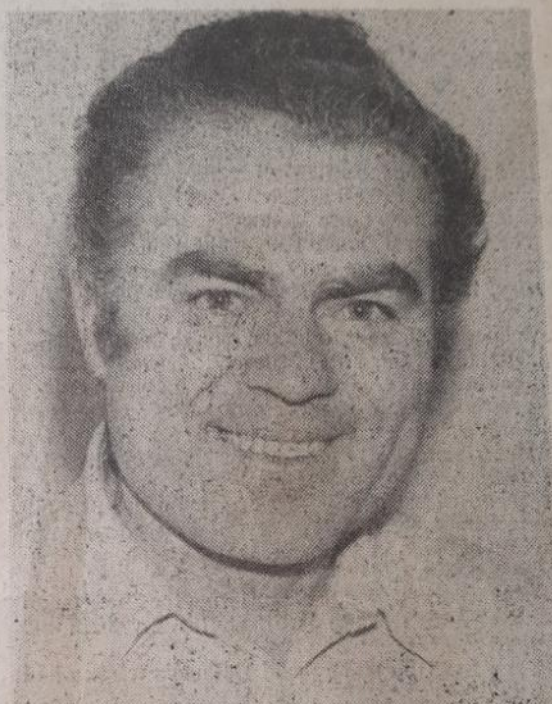
Boban said he believes the other six Croatsians also are innocent, and made some accusations of his own:

"I am saying that behind all those charges (against the Croatian organization) are the UDBA — the Yugoslavian secret police — and whoever their accomplices might be."

Boban alleges that UDBA agents have infiltrated many Croatian groups in this country and other parts of the world to create confusion and fear among those who support Croatian independence.

"They want Croatsians to get angry against each other, and they think by so doing Yugoslavia will be saved (from partition)."

An estimated 1.5 million people of Croatian descent live in the United States, according to Boban. Now that he has been found innocent of the charges, he said, he will begin a campaign to create peace in the Croatian communities.



(Times PHOTO)

MILE BOBAN

"My main goal now will be to unify Croatsians and tell them we've got to stick together."

The Hillsborough resident said that while Croatian National Resistance, a non-profit organization, has only about 300 active members, it has many more supporters within the Croatian community.

"My main goal now will be to unify Croatsians and tell them we've got to stick together, help each other and be good loyal citizens of this country where we are living."

Boban said he had worked for years to expand his own building contracting business, which "was excellent" prior to his arrest last summer. After that, he said, "I lost all of my clients."

"Now, my business is zero, and I'll have to start again from scratch."

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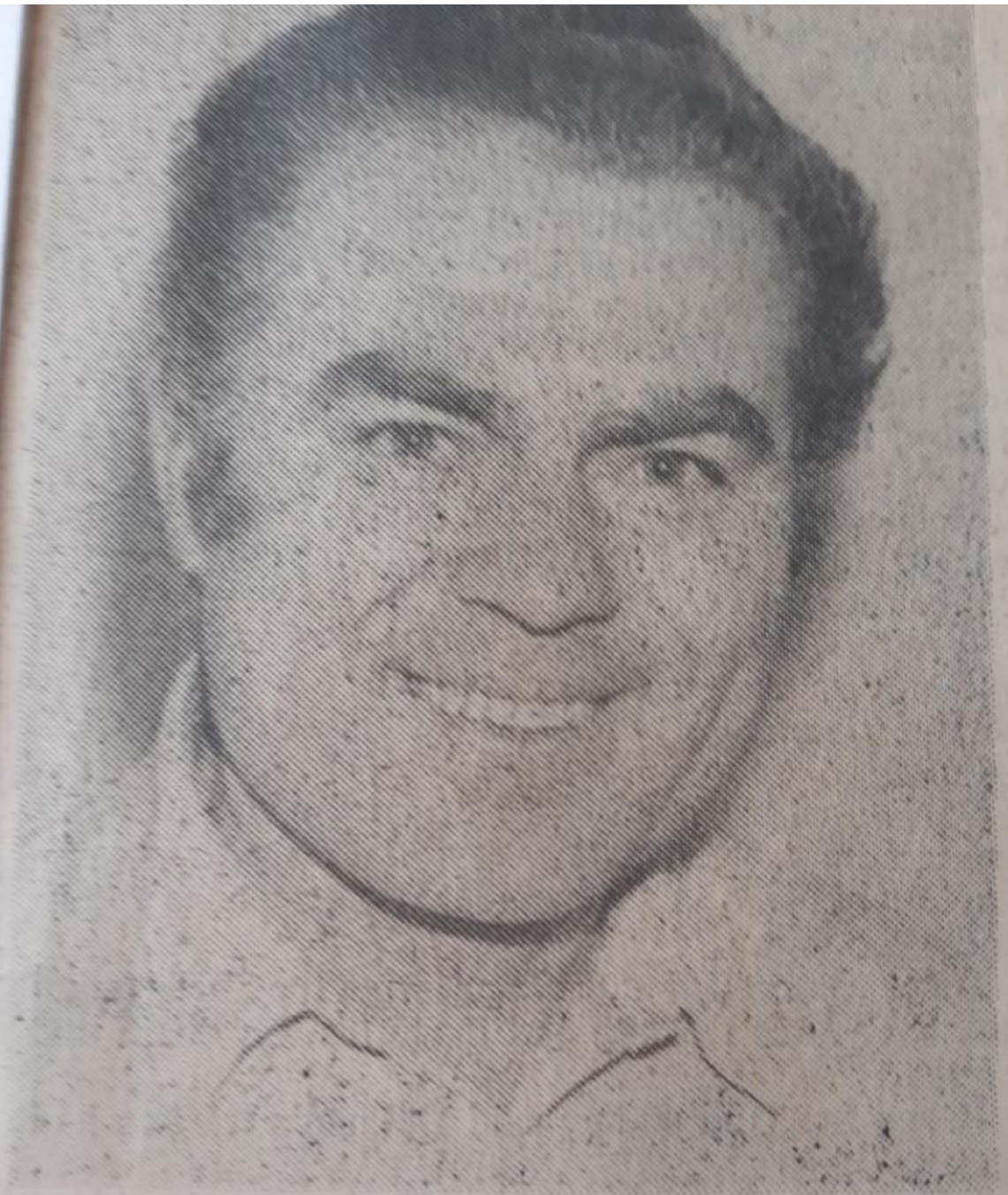
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Prijevod na hrvatski jezik

Hrvat zadovoljan američkim pravosudnim sustavom
San Mateo Times,
Utorak, 18. svibnja 1982
Autor Alan Quale
Pisac uredništva novine Times

HILLSBOROUGH - Mile Boban (42) rekao je da nikad neće nikada zaboraviti to jutro prošlog ljeta kad je na ulaznim vratima čuo glasno lupanje i suočio se sa agentima FBI-ja.

"Uhićeni si!" vikali su oni.

Boban i devet drugih Hrvata uhićeni su prošlog 25. lipnja u raznim dijelovima Sjedinjenih Država i optuženi za zavjeru, bombe i iznude nad drugim Hrvatima koji žive u ovoj zemlji.

"Zahvaljujući pravosudnom sustavu Sjedinjenih Država, 15. svibnja 1982. godine proglašen sam nevinim za sve optužbe", rekao je Boban, koji je sjevernoamerički predsjednik Proletarijat Hrvatskog Narodnog Otpora. Cilj te organizacije je dobiti hrvatsku nezavisnost od Jugoslavije.

Tužitelji su na tromjesečnom suđenju pred Okružnim Sudom SAD-a u gradu New York-u optužili Hrvatski Narodni Otpor, nazvan OTPOR, da je "korumpirana organizacija" i da su njegovi članovi počinili ubojstva, podmetanja bombi i iznude protiv Hrvata u ovoj zemlji koji nisu htjeli podržati tu skupinu.

Tijekom intervjua u ponedjeljak za novinu The San Mateo Times, Boban je tvrdio da su te optužbe neistinite.

"Naš je glavni cilj osloboditi Hrvatsku od dominacije bilo koje strane vlade. Prema Povelji Ujedinjenih naroda mi imamo na to pravo."

Boban je dodao da njegova organizacija također radi na "očuvanju hrvatske kulture i jezika i prenošenju hrvatske povijesti na mlađu generaciju".

Od deset Hrvata koji su optuženi, Boban i još trojica proglašeni su nevinima. Šest drugih osoba osuđeno je za zavjeru i ucjenjivanje.

Boban je rekao kako vjeruje da su i ostali šest Hrvata nevinini, te je iznio svoje optužbe:

"Kažem da iza svih tih optužbi (protiv hrvatske organizacije) stoji UDBA - jugoslavenska tajna policija - i tko god bili njihovi sudionici.

"Boban tvrdi da su agenti UDBE upali u mnoge hrvatske grupe u ovoj zemlji i drugim dijelovima svijeta kako bi stvorili zbnunjenost i strah među onima koji podržavaju hrvatsku nezavisnost.

"Oni žele da se Hrvati srde i ljute jedni na druge i misle da će se tako Jugoslavija spasiti (od raspadanja).

"Prema procjenama Bobana, 1,5 milijuna ljudi hrvatskog podrijetla živi u Sjedinjenim Državama. Sad kad je on proglašen nevinim protiv svih optužbi, rekao je, da će on započeti kampanju za stvaranje mira u hrvatskim zajednicama.

"Moj glavni cilj sada će biti ujediniti Hrvate i reći im da se "moramo držati zajedno.

"Stanovnik Hillsborough-a rekao je da, kako je Hrvatski Narodni Otpor neprofitna organizacija, ima samo oko 300 aktivnih članova, ima više pristaša unutar hrvatskih zajednica i društava društva.

"Moj glavni cilj sada će biti ujediniti Hrvate i reći im da se moramo držati zajedno, pomagati jedni drugima i biti dobri i lojalni građani ove zemlje gdje živimo.

"Boban je rekao da je godinama radio na proširenju vlastitog poslovnog građevinskog poduzeća, koji je bio "izvrstan" prije uhićenja prošlog ljeta. Nakon toga rekao je: "Izgubio sam sve svoje klijente.

"Sada, moj poslovni posao je na nuli, i morat ću poći ispočetka."