



# Free together – Croatia stands up for freedom!



**"When you think about this time twenty years from now, will you be proud of yourself?" - That's what Andrija Klarić, who reopened his gym during lock-down and faced fines and even jail for it, asks us. Kla.tv interviewed him and Tina Peric from "Free together", an activist group from Croatia that has been fighting against compulsory vaccination. What to do against an incipient dictatorship that threatens all humanity?**

The past few years have confronted society with completely new and serious challenges. Our interview guests today come from Croatia and they tell us the same thing. Lockdowns, rising unemployment and the steadily increasing pressure from vaccination campaigns were also a reality in Croatia. Find out how the population reacted and what the consequences of resistance were in today's exclusive interview with activists Tina Peric and Andrija Klarić.

Tina Peric is a mother of three and she has been campaigning for a free vaccination decision with compulsory vaccinations for children since 2018. She is president of "Free Together", an independent news portal in Croatia (<https://slobodnizajedno.org/>).

Andrija Klarić is a father of three adult children and an entrepreneur. Klarić participated in all protests against the Covid policy and was involved in the organizing team for the largest demonstration in the history of Croatia. During the lockdown he defied restrictions and opened his fitness studio. For doing so he was prepared for fines and imprisonment.

Tina Peric and Andrija Klarić in the fight for freedom. Find out what drives their tireless efforts and what next steps they see for a better future in the following exclusive interview.

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Kla.tv:

Thank you so much for your time, for being here. Maybe you can give us a little introduction for our audience. Who are you and what is the work you do?

Tina Peric:

Thank you for having us here in Budapest. The reason we are right here at this place is uniting the activist forces of Europe and to integrate with children's health defense. I'm a member of Association Croatian parents activists which is fighting for nine years now actively against mandatory vaccination and showing that reporting side effects is not as it is in numbers in the public. So that is my mission as well and I also represent an association „Free together“ which is a pillar of a movement that assembles many other associations and other activists, lawyers, medicine workers as well.

Kla.tv:

What is your vision for this movement „Free together“?

Tina Peric:

Our wish is to unite all the activist forces to fight together. Only together we can win this war. Only together! So that's why we called ourselves „Free together“ because we want to be free together! Not only in Croatia but in whole Europe and in the whole world because there is one humanity and we have to preserve it!

Kla.tv:

And what is the path and the key to manage this togetherness, to manage that community and activists walk the path together? Because together, „free together“ sounds very great to me but I think to do it is hard work. So what is the key for success for being free together?

Tina Peric:

The key is to be persistent. If you do an action and maybe if it seemed like it failed you won't back up. You just stand a little bit and move on and be persistent.

Andrija Klarić:

Because we know it's not a fight for public health. It's a fight for human rights, for constitutional rights and that is something more serious. Because we know behind all this story is a much bigger story.

Kla.tv:

And you two come from Croatia. Maybe you can give us a little summary of the happenings in Croatia regarding the Covid dictatorship and the activists movement.

Andrija Klarić:

Our government didn't push it so hard because they knew that we already have experience with dictatorship. Because Croatia is coming from Ex-Yugoslavia and Yugoslavia was Communism. And we know what it means when somebody is acting like a dictator. And we recognised very soon that our prime minister was doing the same thing and he only listens to Ursula Anatiges because he doesn't have his own policy. That's why they didn't push it so hard because we fight. And also there are a lot of war veterans in Croatia and war veterans know what is real war, how it is to lose live for freedom. And that's why we recognise that this time we have to stand up again for freedom.

Kla.tv:

And what is your personal experience in this fight for freedom?

Andrija Klarić:

I had my private business, exactly a fitness center in Croatia and I was both times in lockdown, that means from March 2020 until May and also from November 2020 'til February 21. Even in this Lockdown, the second one, we knew from the start: That doesn't help. But anyhow they are pushing us, they closed part of the businesses, not all. But it was around 700.000 people who lost their jobs and also lots of small and medium entrepreneurs who lost their jobs. And when I saw that something has to be done, I decided to stand up and open my business. I announced it publicly on my Facebook account. All the media came and asked questions and on the 1. February I opened my gym and put it live - everything on Facebook, everybody saw, all the media came, everybody saw it.

I went to jail for one and a half day, but after that, fifteen days after that, they have never done lockdown again and I get really big publicity on this and support of 85% of people in Croatia. That means we knew that is wrong, and somebody has to stand up. I was the one who was risking really, because in this case it was possible: three years of jail-time and also big fine. But finally I was in jail just for one and a half day and I took a chance to continue this fight, because that was just the start of pushing back. Until this moment they were pushing us, from that moment on we're pushing back and now we have really - I think – good results.

Kla.tv:

And what gives you the confidence to stand up as a single person, a single fitness-center-owner, to do what nobody is doing and everybody is putting their heads down. What gives you confidence to stand up?

Andrija Klarić:

Timing is very important. I chose the right moment and I felt it. And you have to be aware that freedom has a price. If you are not ready to pay a price then you don't deserve freedom.

Tina Peric:

It's the obligation for the truth. It's the obligation for the future, for our children. That's our obligation. So if you know the truth and remain to stay silent, your subconscious will lead you. So that is what pushes me forward.

Andrija Klarić:

You have to know that we had a lot of protests in Croatia, but never dropped a single drop of blood. I saw in Germany, saw in Canada, Austria, Great Britain - you know democracies - we saw on the streets it was very tough. In Croatia: Even we had the biggest protest in the history of Croatia on 20th November 2021, there were more than 100.000 people on the main square, it was not one single incident, not one single drop of blood, and we are proud of it.

Kla.tv:

What is the secret that this movement is on the one hand very confident and very clear in what they want and what they don't want, and on the other hand there is no violence at all?

Tina Peric:

It's what you carry inside. If you carry anger, you represent anger. So if you are calling people to stand up, to go out, you will call the anger from people. But you have to think of every move you make, it's about always keeping the dignity, even towards the people who are torturing you. Maybe it sounds crazy, I know, but always tend in love.

Kla.tv:

And you talked about finding the truth and telling the truth, but in our times there are a many truths. So how can everybody feel and decide what is true for themselves?

Tina Peric:

You just have to simply look around you and follow the money. So today science is backed up with money and it suits who pays the most. But there are many information, for example I will talk about vaccinating kids. Many people still think - and I give them right to choose - they think the vaccines are good, okay. But I know many people whose children were damaged,

and that is the truth I see and those are details that speak for themselves. So that is how I recognized the truth. And don't trust "just like that". I always search and search. Maybe I'm not right when I have an opinion, I always want to talk with few people, even with the opposite opinions. So for me I will decide what is right. I'm not - you know - only listening what is told it has to be done. I always have to question. Always question everything.

Andrija Klarić:

Yes, I think that every man knows exactly what is the right thing inside. But you need courage to do it what is right. It's not easy to do the right thing. Concerning the truth you just look what is censored, what government doesn't want you to know. And then you'll find the truth.

Kla.tv:

What do you want to tell other activist groups from all over the world, from Europe as a message from Croatia?

Tina Peric:

Forget our differences. The important thing is, that we stand together in what we agree with. Of course, there will always be things that we do not agree about. But we have to unite with the things that we do agree with. And, as I said before, really, really hard work: plan the actions, work it like you're running the business. Because on the other side they are doing it like they're running the business.

Andrija Klarić:

I think that especially western democracies – what they call them, democracies – really forget what real freedom is. They have to rethink, what freedom is and follow this idea. Don't follow people, don't follow movements, don't follow institutions – follow the idea. Because the only thing what can get people together: it's the same idea.

Kla.tv:

And what brings freedom to you?

Andrija Klarić:

It's not to do whatever I want. It's not to push me to do something I don't want. Freedom means responsibility. Some people could think, that freedom is, that government will take care of everything and you just need to listen. I don't think so. I think, that each person, individual, knows, what is right and knows, what he wants to do with his life. But they have to take their own responsibility. We have to learn from the history and now it's the chance to prove it, that we've learned.

Kla.tv:

And we were talking about paying the price for freedom and doing the hard work. And what gives you the power and the strength and the hope to do that? Because it's not really easy, it's not the easy-going way, but what gives you the power to break through, go on?

Tina Peric:

I don't know it's just who I am. It's the way of being. I wouldn't know differently because if you think that what the government is representing is not true and it's not good for the people you have to speak up. And again, as he already said, on daily bases in my association we're

talking with the parents of the kids who experienced side effects and that happened right after the vaccination. So it's the truth what I'm saying and talking to those people. You have to be the pillar who gives them the strength to move on, to move forward to protect their kids. So there is also a way of obligation. So that's what pushes me forward.

Kla.tv:

And what would you say to a person who is not just like optimistic as you? What would you say to such a person who is very hopeless?

Tina Peric:

If you act like you have already won. Hang out with the optimistic people, hang out with the people who are actively defending the truth. And eventually you will grow up. Maybe you will be something you never dreamed of. Maybe you will stand in Budapest and do an interview with two crazy guys from Croatia. I think you never dreamed of that. You are young, you are supposed to live your best live right now and here you are, living your best live in Budapest.

Kla.tv:

I am...

Tina Peric:

So just be you and just defend the truth. So your time will come in a way that is suitable for you.

Kla.tv:

What about you?

Andrija Klarić:

Well, I think the best way is ask you a second question: In twenty years from now, when you going to think of these times, are you going to be proud of yourself or will you be sorry? Give yourself an answer and you'll know, what to do today!

from PaZ.

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