

# Foreign Press Office - Mostar

## MEDIA REPORTS

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### **OHR: High Representative removes Central Bosnia Canton education minister**

FENA

July 8, 2005

Today High Representative Paddy Ashdown signed the Decision on removing the Central Bosnia Canton Education Minister Nikola Lovrinovic. The Decision bars Mr. Lovrinovic from holding any official, elective or appointive public office and from running in elections unless or until such time as the High Representative may expressly authorize him to do so, OHR said.

Minister Lovrinovic has failed to take action to implement Laws on Primary and Secondary Education and as a result has undermined the rule of law. The failure to implement these Laws, one year after they have been introduced, clearly shows Mr. Lovrinovic's disregard for the benefit of students and teachers. Assets obtained through cutting costs by eliminating double administration could be used for improving working conditions for both students and teachers. Continuing defiance of the laws and his transparent attempts to obstruct its application for another school year could not be tolerated.

By continuously obstructing to implement the Laws Mr. Lovrinovic has failed the duties of his office. He openly subordinated the interests of the cantonal government to his own political objectives. He has acted as if it was up to him to decide whether to follow the law or not. As a result, Mr. Lovrinovic has inflicted considerable damage on the dignity and independence of his office.

The High Representative's Decision is effective immediately. According to the Decision any entitlement to receive remuneration or any form of post-removal compensation, excepting vested pension, or to any privileges or status arising out of his post as a minister ceases forthwith, OHR said.

### **War crimes court sends two Serbs to Bosnia for trial**

Agence France Presse

July 8, 2005

The UN war crimes court Friday authorised the transfer to Bosnia for trial of two Serbs accused of serious offences against civilians in Bosnia during the 1992-1995 war.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) said Savo Todovic and Mitar Rasevic should stand trial in the special court established by Bosnia-Herzegovina in March to hear war crimes cases.

The two men, who were in charge of a detention camp, opposed the decision. They are accused of persecuting Bosnian Muslim civilians in Foca in eastern Bosnia.

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"Being satisfied on the information presently available that the accused should receive a fair trial and that the death penalty will not be imposed or carried out, the referral bench (...) orders the case of Savo Todovic and Mitar Rasevic to be transferred to the authorities of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina," the court said..

But the court decided not to send back a third man, Dragomir Milosevic, accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes for having led a campaign of terror against civilians during the siege of Sarajevo.

"The referral bench ... concludes that the gravity of the crimes charged and the level of responsibility of the accused requires that the present case be tried at the tribunal," it said.

### **BiH Croat Catholic dignitaries honour Srebrenica dead**

HINA

July 8, 2005

The Iustitia et Pax commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina has issued a declaration on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the massacre in Srebrenica, condemning the crime and pointing out the necessity for the amendments to the Dayton peace accords which stopped the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996.

The declaration reads that these days all should remember with grief the massacre which the Bosnian Serb army and various paramilitary units committed in the eastern Bosnian Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in the summer of 1995.

"We particularly emphasize the fact that many of those who committed that crime have to date succeeded in evading to face their guilt. We also recall a shameful fact that many international leaders had hesitated for too long to stop the conflict," the Catholic bishops of Bosnia and Herzegovina said in their declaration, calling on governments in leading countries in the world to take necessary steps to bring war crimes suspects to justice.

The Iustitia et Pax commission also warns that the current state of affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina shows that the recent years in the country have proved that "the boundaries defined by the Dayton agreement formed very dangerous territories".

The unjust boundary lines have legalized unacceptable and immoral ethnic cleansing and thwarted efforts aimed at achieving a lasting peace, the declaration reads.

The state and society of Bosnia and Herzegovina needs political arrangements that will guarantee justice, and the time is now ripe to consider and rectify the injustices imposed by the Dayton peace accords, the Catholic commission said, call