

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Public Statement

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### **Serbia and Montenegro: EU sends signal that impunity must finally end**

Amnesty International notes the decision of the European Union (EU) of 3 May 2006 to suspend talks on a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with Serbia and Montenegro (SCG).

The decision was reportedly taken in conjunction with the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (Tribunal), following SCG's failure to seek out and arrest former General Ratko Mladic by the end of April 2006, the date that SCG reportedly agreed with the Tribunal.

Amnesty International has for years called on the SCG authorities, and those in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), to seek out and arrest all suspects indicted by the Tribunal that are believed to be on the territory of SCG or in the Republika Srpska (RS) in BiH.

The organization has also consistently called on the authorities of SCG to address impunity for war crimes in BiH and in Kosovo in fair proceedings in domestic courts. We note that SCG has recently taken some measures to tackle impunity, including prosecutions for violations of international humanitarian law in Ovcara, Croatia; the killing of six non-Serb civilians in BiH (in a case related to Srebrenica); and for the killing of some 46 civilians in Kosovo in 1999.

Serbia and Montenegro now needs to show a real commitment to tackling impunity. In addition to seeking out Ratko Mladic and the other suspects indicted by the Tribunal, the SCG authorities also need to initiate investigations into allegations that higher-ranking political figures and military officials, many of whom still hold power in Serbia, may also be implicated in war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The organization is also calling on the authorities, who recently established a National Council for Cooperation with the ICTY (Tribunal), to provide the Tribunal with unrestricted access to military and other archives requested by the Chief Prosecutor, in line with their international obligations. Amnesty International takes no position on the question of whether there should be a SAA between SCG and the EU.

#### **Background**

Ratko Mladic was indicted in 1995 for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war allegedly committed during the war in BiH between 1992 and 1995, including in connection with the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica, the siege of Sarajevo, and crimes committed in other places under the control of Bosnian Serb forces.

Some five other indicted suspects remain at large, including former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadžić, Zdravko Tolimir, Stojan Zupljanin, Goran Hadžić, and Vlastimir Đorđević. The Tribunal has

repeatedly alleged that at least some of these are in, or travel between, the RS and SCG territory.