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Bosnia-Herzegovina: There are still at least 66 indictees at large – Arrest Now!

"While recent arrests of those under 'sealed' or secret, indictments represent a welcome shift from the previous policy of avoidance, 66 publicly indicted war crimes suspects remain at large, and they too must be apprehended." Amnesty International said today as it launched *Arrest Now!* a joint action with other non-governmental organizations.

On 10 July, although denying that there has been any shift in the policy, NATO-led troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina for the first time acted when they attempted to detain secretly indicted Bosnian Serbs Simo Drlja_a and Milan Kova_evi_ near Prijedor in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

NATO has said that the attempts to apprehend the two men were carried out on "direct orders" from NATO commander General George Joulwan and Secretary General Javier Solana. Simo Drlja_a was shot dead by the NATO troops in self-defence after he opened fire upon them. Croatian Serb Slavko Dokmanovi_, was also secretly indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and arrested on 27 June in Croatia by the UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia.

"By only arresting when they 'encounter' the indicted, states contributing to SFOR are in clear breach of their obligations under international law."

All states participating in SFOR are legally obliged under Security Council Resolutions to give effect to the international arrest warrants issued by the Tribunal. Moreover, as parties to the Geneva Conventions, each SFOR state is obliged to search for persons alleged to have committed or ordered war crimes and bring such persons, regardless of their nationality, before its own courts, the courts of another state, or an international criminal court.

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