

AI INDEX: EUR 63/11/97

Embargoed for 12 June 1997

MEDIA ADVISORY

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: From Promise to Reality Agenda for the international community and the new High Representative

Amnesty International has published today a document containing a series of recommendations to the international community and the new High Representative of the international community in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Carlos Westendorp.

Eighteen months after the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed, Amnesty International is concerned at:

- the lack of progress in its implementation;
- the fact that the domestic authorities appear to be simply stalling on their commitments until the international community loses patience and eventually departs;
- and, correspondingly, the fact that the international community seems to be committed to human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina only to the extent that it can exit without losing face.

While protecting the human rights of its citizens should be as much a priority for the authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina as it is for the international community, the Parties to the Peace Agreement have shown little willingness to implement those aspects of the agreement that would grant former adversaries the basic human rights revoked during the war.

The document, *Bosnia-Herzegovina: From Promise to Reality*, includes the following key recommendations:

- The New High Representative and the international community should place human rights protection at the centre of a long-term strategy to ensure the implementation of the Peace Agreement's key provisions.
- Impunity for war crimes must be ended.
- The international community should ensure that its response to human rights violations is effective and sustainable, relying not merely on diplomatic approaches to persuade authorities to comply, but by empowering and providing adequate resources for the national institutions created by the Peace Agreement.
- The High Representative should take a strong and visible lead in managing the complicated network of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and relevant capitals and organizational headquarters should give the necessary support to do so.
- The international community must be firm in its commitment and devote the necessary resources to ensuring the Peace Agreement is more than a paper promise.

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