

Statement by Christian Schwarz-Schilling, the High Representative for BiH after Meeting with Minister Kebo To Discuss Issue of Decertified Police

Minister Kebo and I have just had a constructive discussion about the case of decertified police. This is an issue that is close to both of our hearts that we both wish to see resolved.

Also, this is an issue where the United Nations has sole responsibility. The UN International Police Task Force carried out the certification process in Bosnia and Herzegovina . And the United Nations alone can reopen such cases.

As a UN member state, Bosnia and Herzegovina can and should continue to raise this issue with the UN Security Council.

Since my Office has no jurisdiction in this matter, protests in front of the OHR will have no impact.

I have lobbied and will continue to lobby for a solution. Over the summer, OHR/EUSR representatives held several meetings with the UN Secretariat in New York to outline how a review process such as the one recommended by the Venice Commission might be launched with logistical support from the OHR/EUSR, the EU Police Mission and the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The OHR/EUSR and Minister Kebo's Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees have also provided the UN Secretariat's Coordination and Drafting Group additional information on the cases to back

their arguments for a review process.

I understand the impatience of the decertified police. And together with Minister Kebo, we will continue to work to try to convince the United Nations to find a just solution.