

Statement: Steering Board Ambassadors Urge End to Inflammatory Rhetoric; Welcome Collaborative Work of BiH, Croatian and Serbian Prosecutors

The Steering Board Ambassadors join the High Representative in condemning the attack on the grave of Alija Izetbegovic. We expect the Bosnian police authorities to investigate this act of violence and to establish who was responsible so that they will be judged for their crimes.

The Steering Board Ambassadors met today and urged politicians to end the inflammatory rhetoric that has raised tensions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in recent days and weeks.

Politicians have a clear responsibility to ensure a stable and positive political environment and to nurture tolerance. It is not the job of politicians, whether from BiH or neighbouring states, to deliver justice.

This is a matter for the competent judicial institutions of BiH, in cooperation with their partners in neighbouring states. They must ensure that those responsible for crimes committed during Operation Storm and all other war crimes are prosecuted.

In this regard, the Steering Board Ambassadors welcomed the collaborative efforts of the prosecutors of BiH, Croatia and Serbia who met yesterday in Zagreb in relation to the investigation and prosecution of war crimes committed in the area of Gornji and Donji Zirovac, in the vicinity of Dvor na Uni, at the beginning of August 1995, footage of which has been shown on television during the past few days.

The Steering Board Ambassadors encouraged them to complete their work as quickly as possible.