

# High Representative's Statement on the Attack on the Grave of Alija Izetbegovic

"I was shocked and saddened to learn this morning of the attack on the grave of Alija Izetbegovic. President Izetbegovic played an important role in Bosnia and Herzegovina during his life: he was an outstanding figure in difficult times and his memory is cherished by many. This act is gravely disrespectful of the dead. I am relieved that nobody was hurt in this attack. I condemn this and all acts of violence as they run counter to the direction in which this country should be headed. This country has already experienced too much suffering and this act risks setting back moves towards reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tensions often run high during election campaigns and we should not point fingers. I expect the police to do their work and carry out a thorough investigation to establish what has taken place and who was responsible.

I call on political and religious figures to demonstrate leadership to ensure that calm prevails."