

OHR Press Release

It is with great dismay that I learned of the death of Mr. Juro Jelonic yesterday afternoon at a Sarajevo hospital. I understand that Mr. Jelonic died of injuries he sustained on 9 September in a physical altercation that took place in the village of Koksari in the Travnik area. The incident is especially tragic in view of recent positive developments in the canton with respect to returns and the formation of the cantonal police.

I offer my condolences to the Jelonic family and also wish to express my appreciation to the cantonal police for their prompt and professional response. Yesterday morning they arrested two suspects have brought charges against one of them. Their investigations are continuing and will be monitored by UN IPTF and my office.

In general, returns of displaced persons and refugees to their homes is by no means an easy process. It brings to the fore many enduring problems. The Federation authorities have committed themselves to furthering returns and are implementing a special process to facilitate this in Central Bosnia canton. They have also committed themselves to ensure that this occurs in safety and security: the recently-established cantonal police force plays a crucial role in this process. The international community and my office are committed to continue working in partnership with them in this effort."