

## **OHR Banja Luka Press Release**

The High Representative Carlos Westendorp is appalled at the statement issued Thursday in the name of the Presidency of the SDS concerning the assault of a deputy of the RS National Assembly on Wednesday. The High Representative expects the SDS Presidency, of which Dragan Kalinic is president, to issue an unequivocal correction of the statement.

The High Representative has made clear his view that an attack on a democratically elected representative is an attack on the National Assembly and on the democratic process. He is concerned that the incident has been intentionally distorted by the SDS for political reasons. The behaviour of the SDS is not that of a serious political party operating in a democratic society and committed to democratic principles. In particular, the High Representative is deeply concerned over the use of inflammatory and demagogic language in the SDS statement.

The High Representative has written directly to the SDS Presidency and party president Dragan Kalinic expressing his dismay over the statement and requesting an immediate and unequivocal correction.