

Statement by Ambassador Gary Matthews Deputy High Representative and Supervisor of Brcko

Recently, there have been threats, including open threats, made against various officials and their families by extremist elements. This is intolerable. This is criminal.

On Friday, November 3, 2000 we received the text of a statement issued in Brcko by the Main Board of the so-called Ravnogorski Chetniks' Movement.

The content of the statement and those who issued it in the so-called Movement are to be condemned. They are to be sanctioned. The statement contains explicit threats against persons whom the so-called Movement terms "traitors," and asserts that "the responsible bodies of the Movement will...bring special decisions and orders about sanctioning [them] and their families." Among others, the so-called Movement directs these threats against persons in the governing and legislative bodies of the RS, the Brcko District government and Assembly, police, media, educators, and the international community.

In addition to the threats against individuals, the so-called Movement disgustingly also threatens their families.

These are the words and actions of extremists, of criminals, of cowards. The people who issued this statement represent the worst elements of society.

It is especially outrageous that the so-called Chetniks' Movement refers to itself as "demo-Christian." It is clearly not democratic. It is clearly anti-democratic. Indeed, this is how fascists behave, not democrats. As for being Christian, that is about love and respect for others. The so-called Movement is clearly about hate and violence.

Those in the so-called Chetniks' Movement responsible for these threats will be held accountable. They are the very people here, an extremist minority, who want to bring back the violent past, and threaten all of those who are working to go forward to a brighter future for the citizens of Brcko and their children.

Brcko and all of its fine peoples will go forward. Those whom I am condemning today will be left behind.