

# **Decision removing Mr. Rasim Sahinovic from his position of Minister of Interior of Una Sana Canton**

To: Rasim Sahinovic  
Minister of Interior, Una Sana Canton

Sarajevo, November 29, 1999

Dear Mr. Rasim Sahinovic,

For reasons outlined in the attached Decision, we herewith notify you of the following: under the powers vested in the High Representative, you are removed from public office with immediate effect. In addition, in accordance with the Provisional Election Commission Rules and Regulations, this Decision bars you from being a candidate in the upcoming municipal elections.

It is with great regret that we are forced to acknowledge that during your term in office not only have you failed to show any commitment to the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, but you have also seriously and persistently obstructed its implementation.

Wolfgang Petritsch  
High Representative

Robert L. Barry  
Chairman of the PEC  
OSCE Head of Mission

In the exercise of the powers vested in the High Representative by Article 5 of the Annex 10 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to which the High Representative *'is the final authority in the theater regarding interpretation of [the] Agreement on the civilian implementation of the peace agreement'*;

Endorsing the interpretation of these powers given in paragraph XI, 2 of the Conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference held in Bonn on 10 December 1997, in particular, sub-paragraph c thereof, by means of which the High Representative is entitled to take actions against persons holding public office who are found by the High Representative to be in violation of legal commitments made under the Peace Agreement or the terms of its implementation;

Noting the reiteration of the acknowledgement of such powers by the Peace Implementation Council in Chapter X of the Annex to the Madrid Declaration of 16 December 1998;

Considering the mandate entrusted with the Provisional Election Commission under Article III of the Annex 3 to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and article 7.10 of the Rules and Regulations adopted thereafter which provides that *no person who has been removed by the High Representative shall be permitted to be a candidate in the elections*.

We hereby issue the following

## **Decision**

To remove Mr. Rasim Sahinovic from his position of Minister of Interior Una Sana Canton and to ban him from being a candidate for the next municipal elections or to hold any executive office at any level unless authorised to do so.

This decision has immediate effect.

## Reasons for removal

Mr. Rasim Sahinovic has abused his power by persistently and seriously obstructing implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. By pursuing an extra-legal agenda, he has consistently refused to take ownership of the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In particular,

- Mr. Rasim Sahinovic has repeatedly failed in his duty as the leading Cantonal official concerning internal affairs, especially concerning the issue of professionalization of the police force. Mr. Rasim Sahinovic has repeatedly failed to take action concerning unfit individuals in the police force. Mr. Rasim Sahinovic has also failed to co-operate with UNMIBH concerning the execution of the Mission's mandate under the General Framework Agreement for Peace.
- In repeated cases there has been serious disproportion between Criminal court verdicts and ensuing disciplinary measures, the latter being under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior.
- Despite reminders from UNMIBH as late as October 1999, Mr. Rasim Sahinovic has repeatedly failed to co-operate and perform mandatory tasks for any law enforcement agency in BiH.

All of the above establishes a disturbing and unacceptable pattern of deliberate attempts to obstruct the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. For these reasons, we hereby remove Mr. Rasim Sahinovic from the position of Minister of Interior in Una Sana Canton. The decision will be effective immediately and will not require any further procedural steps.

The position left vacant by Mr. Rasim Sahinovic's removal will be filled in accordance with legal regulations. In order to protect the institution to which a replacement is to be made, no further actions are to be taken by the relevant authorities until OHR and OSCE communicate that there are no objections and that the proposed name can proceed.

Sarajevo, 29 November 1999

Wolfgang Petritsch  
High Representative

Robert L. Barry  
Chairman of the PEC  
OSCE Head of Mission

**Office of the High Representative**