

Inzko: Citizens' engagement does not stop on Election Day



High Representative Valentin Inzko welcomed the fact that BiH citizens took an active role in the democratic process, and exercised their right to vote on Sunday's local elections.

"Less than 55 percent turnout is somewhat disappointing. But it is important that citizens continue to take an active role in shaping their future by deciding on who should represent them for the next four years in their local communities," said High Representative Inzko.

Commenting on the problems with the elections in Stolac municipality, including incidents of violence, the High Representative condemned these developments in the strongest possible terms. "I expect all relevant institutions to conduct a full investigation and bring those involved to justice. What happened in Stolac is a disgrace that affects all, not just those directly involved. It is something that cannot be tolerated in a democratic society striving to embrace European values."

The High Representative also commented on the fact that the citizens of Mostar were once again deprived of the basic right to elect their local representatives. "The leading political parties in Mostar bear the responsibility for this cynical and shameful disregard for the citizens of Mostar. It is their responsibility to find a solution for Mostar. They have to find it because this issue will not go away."

Addressing the citizens and elected officials, High Representative Inzko said that “once the complete results are known and confirmed by the Central Election Commission, those who have been elected should serve the people and their interests above all. They must keep in mind who elected them and who can remove them in case they fail to perform. At the same time, civic engagement does not stop with the casting of ballots. Communicate with your elected leaders. Let them know about issues that matter to you and your community and about what you expect from them. This is your right.”