

# **OHR's Statement at the International Agency's Joint Press Conference**

High Representative pays final respects to Srebrenica Victims

The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, will visit the burial company in Visoko where the identified remains of 282 victims of the Srebrenica massacre await transfer to Potocari, where they are to be buried on Friday – the 8<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of this terrible event.

The High Representative will visit the Visoko burial facility with the Head of the FBiH Commission for Missing Persons, Amor Masovic.

The High Representative is personally very closely involved with the families of the Srebrenica victims – as you know the High Representative is also the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Foundation of Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial and Cemetery. In Visoko today the High Representative will pay his final respects to those who are to be buried on Friday. When the High Representative met representatives of the families associations last week he explained that he would not be able to attend the burial on Friday.

The High Representative today said “this most horrific event binds us all to remember and learn some painful lessons. What is more we must ensure that the victims get a decent burial and that the families are able to mourn in peace. Thanks to the efforts of the Foundation of Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial and Cemetery, and the difficult work of the Missing Persons

Commission and the ICMP, each day we get closer to the truth of what happened to each individual life. During my work I have seen that being able to give their loved ones a dignified burial is of paramount importance to their families.”