



Division of Public Information

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UNESCO calls for urgent action to protect Serbian heritage in Kosovo

BELGRADE, May 4 (AFP) - UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura called Tuesday on the international community to take "urgent" measures to protect Serbian cultural heritage in **Kosovo** after Albanian extremists destroyed 29 Serb churches and monasteries during unrest in March.

"I will act immediately to mobilize urgent action to save the monuments" endangered in **Kosovo**, Matsuura told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to **Serbia**.

During a three-day wave of violence in mid-March blamed by the United Nations on ethnic Albanian extremists, 29 Serbian Orthodox churches and monasteries in the UN-administered Serbian province of **Kosovo** were torched.

Among destroyed medieval structures were an 11th-century Bogorodica Ljeviska cathedral, the 14th-century Saint Archangel monastery in the southwestern town of Prizren and the 14th-century Devic monastery in central **Kosovo**.

"The Bogorodica Ljeviska church needs very urgent action and restoration," Matsuura said.

A team of UNESCO experts who visited **Kosovo** following the destruction are expected to report on actions needed to protect them by the end of May.

Since 1999, when Belgrade-controlled forces withdrew from the province after 11 weeks of NATO bombing, more than 150 Serbian churches and monasteries have been destroyed in **Kosovo** by ethnic Albanians, according to the Serbian Orthodox Church.

UNESCO's experts recommended that the 14th-century Visoki Decani monastery in western **Kosovo**, one of the province's most important religious sites, which was unscathed by the March unrest, be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The decision is expected to be made at a UNESCO meeting in China in June, Matsuura said, adding: "That would be good news for **Kosovo** and the entire Serb people."

He called for "more firm protective measures" to be taken. "If not, all efforts by UNESCO will be worthless," Matsuura said.

Kosovo has been a UN protectorate since the NATO bombing ended the 1998-99 war in the province and forced Serbian troops to relinquish control and call off a brutal crackdown on the Albanian population.

But most Serbs consider **Kosovo** as the cradle of **Serbia's** national identity, and many of the Orthodox churches, mostly founded by medieval Serbian kings, are in the province.

Charlie Daniels to perform for soldiers in Germany, Kosovo

BC-TN--People-Charlie Daniels,0257

Charlie Daniels to perform for soldiers in Germany, **Kosovo**

rlsjgtv

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) _ The Charlie Daniels Band is performing

this week for American soldiers and airmen in Europe.

Daniels and his band are traveling with the Tennessee National Guard to Germany and **Kosovo**, according to Daniels' publicist Webster & Associates.

A concert is planned at Camp Bondsteel, **Kosovo**, on Wednesday and at Weisbaden Army Airfield, Germany, on Thursday.

The Armed Forces Network will broadcast the Weisbaden concert live to American forces throughout Europe, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Daniels' hits include ``Uneasy Rider," ``The Devil Went Down To Georgia" and ``South's Gonna Do It Again."

Holkeri offers Kosovo updates | 19:37 May 04 | FoNet

PRISTINA -- Tuesday - At a meeting with the press, UNMIK Chief Harri Holkeri announced that KFOR plans to decrease the number of soldiers in Kosovo.

Holkeri also reported that KFOR has arrested 260 people who participated in the riots in March of which 50 are currently on trial.

Talks are also underway for the eventual banning of the sale of Serbian property to Albanians.

Serb police officers in Strpce demand solving of case of murder of two Serbs

20:25 KOSOVSKA MITROVICA , May 4 (Tanjug) - The 53 Serb police officers of the Kosovo Police Serbice (KPS) in Strpce decided Tuesday to patrol Serb communities by themselves, without their ethnic Albanian colleagues, until the murder of Dobrivoje Stolic and his son Borko in that municipality in southeastern Kosovo-Metohija during the tide of violence last March is solved.

At a meeting with representatives of the Serb coalition Povratak (return) in the Kosovo parliament and of Strpce local authorities, the Serb police officers decided that they would work alone in the KPS solely in Serb communities, and together with ethnic Albanian KPS officers in mixed Serb-Albanian communities.

Reporters code inconceivable in Kosovo, says Zeka

11:46 WASHINGTON/PRISTINA , May 4 (Tanjug) - Federation of Kosovo Reporters President Milaim Zeka claims the professional code of reporters is being violated in Kosovo and Metohija, and that this was especially evident during the unrests that broke out in the province on March 17, when almost 30 people were killed, mostly Serbs.

Speaking for Voice of America, Zeka said the reporters' code of professional conduct was absolutely being violated in the province and that its presence there was quite inconceivable. There is no country in the world where photojournalists can enter an operating room full of wounded and injured patients, and make a film which they will later broadcast, as it was done in Kosovo, he said.

Meron says Serbia-Montenegro not cooperating with ICTY

THE HAGUE, May 4, 2004 (BETA) - President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Theodor Meron, on May 4 reported Serbia-Montenegro's non-cooperation with the court to the U.N. Security Council, sources from The Hague have said.

Citing a report prepared by ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte for the U.N. Security Council, Meron in his letter to the president of the Security Council said that "the Prosecutor complains of a consistent failure on the part of Serbia and Montenegro to comply with its obligations under Article 29 of the Statute and Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence."

Del Ponte's report "describes Serbia and Montenegro's present cooperation as nearly non-existent and states that the level of cooperation has declined following the December 2003 elections," Meron's letter said.

"In particular, the Prosecutor identifies failures on the part of Serbia and Montenegro to execute arrest warrants issued by the Tribunal and to respond to requests made by the Registrar pursuant to Rule 59 of the Tribunal's Rules to explain those failures."

"The Prosecutor also identifies failures on the part of Serbia and Montenegro to cooperate with the Prosecutor in her attempts to secure witnesses' testimonies and documentary evidence, and to grant waivers to enable witnesses to either provide statements to the Office of the Prosecutor or to testify before the Tribunal."

"I view the Report of the Prosecutor as indicating extremely serious failures on the part of Serbia and Montenegro and the Prosecutor has satisfied me that Serbia and Montenegro is failing to comply with its obligations according to the Statute and Rules of Procedure (of the ICTY)," Meron stressed in his letter.

Carla del Ponte and Theodor Meron will in June submit a regular report to the U.N. Security Council on the work of the Prosecution and the ICTY and the progress in the implementation of the strategy for the completion of the ICTY's work.

Bosnia: Serb Police Target Karadzic Informer

Milan Lukic passed information on the ex-Bosnian Serb leader to The Hague, and his brother appears to have paid the price.

By Nerma Jelacic in Sarajevo, Tanja Matic in Visegrad and Hugh Griffiths in the Hague (BCR No 495, 04-May-04)

A Bosnian Serb commander who had fed information on top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic to the Hague tribunal was the target of a botched assassination attempt by police in Republika Srpska, RS, which left his brother dead, intelligence sources say.

Milan Lukic - who has been indicted by the Hague court - was not in the house near Visegrad when it was raided by Bosnian Serb police on April 18. His brother Novica, never accused of involvement in war crimes, was there at the time - and was summarily shot dead in front of his wife.

The botched raid made international headlines as the first time the authorities in RS had gone after an individual wanted by The Hague.

The attempt was welcomed by Lord Paddy Ashdown, the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite the killing. On April 20, he described the police raid as "the most serious attempt yet by the RS authorities to detain those indicted by the ICTY [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia], and so ensure the RS meets its international and domestic legal obligations".

But IWPR investigations reveal a very different picture. The raid appears to have been a rogue operation to silence a man who was promising to deliver vital information about the network that protects and funds Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, the tribunal's most wanted suspect.

LUKIC PLANNED MEETING WITH HAGUE AGENT

IWPR has learned that Lukic had already provided the Hague with information on Karadzic.

Milan Lukic, 36, has been charged with some of the bloodiest war crimes in the Bosnian war, but is still seen as a hero by Bosnian Serb nationalists.

A source who holds a senior post in the RS police told IWPR that on the day of the shooting, Lukic was planning to meet an undercover agent from the Hague tribunal to hand over documents detailing an extensive drug conspiracy involving RS police, which benefits Karadzic's underground network.

The tribunal would not confirm that Milan Lukic had arranged a meeting that day, but they told IWPR team that he was in regular contact with them.

A tribunal official was stunned that IWPR's contact in the RS police had given the correct code name for the undercover agent dealing with Lukic. That lends great credibility to the source's account and raises troubling questions about the tribunal's internal security system.

When IWPR asked Jean-Daniel Ruch, Special Political Adviser to the Prosecutor, about whether the tribunal officials and RS police were in contact about the raid before it happened, he responded, "We neither sanctioned, nor were informed in advance of this operation. We learnt about it the next day. We are constantly pressing all relevant authorities to arrest fugitives. There was no particular encouragement from us to the RS MUP [interior ministry] to launch this operation."

NOTORIOUS IN HIS OWN RIGHT

In the eyes of many survivors of the Bosnian war, Milan Lukic is implicated in more killings than any other indictee, with the exceptions of Karadzic and his top military commander Ratko Mladic.

Lukic was indicted in 1998 for crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war.

According to the Hague indictment, from mid-April 1992 to at least October 1994, Lukic and the men of his paramilitary unit, the White Eagles, committed dozens, if not hundreds, of crimes in the Visegrad municipality, including murder, torture, beatings, looting and destruction of property.

In September 2003, a court in Serbia sentenced him in absentia to 20 years in jail on separate charges, relating to the 1993 abduction and murder of 16 Bosnian Muslims in 1993, seized from a bus on the Serbian-Bosnian border.

Lukic has not been detained on either set of charges. Instead, he is known to have moved back and forth between Serbia and Bosnia, controlling his portfolio of businesses. According to a source in The Hague, Lukic owned or controlled "half the cafes in Visegrad". Exploiting Bosnia's porous eastern borders, he spent some of his time in the Serbian town of Obrenovac.

INSIDER KNOWLEDGE

Lukic was ideally placed to shed light on Karadzic's current activities and possibly his whereabouts, because he is said to have been part of the web of businessmen, politicians and security force members protecting the former Bosnian Serb president. Sources from both the RS and Bosnian state intelligence communities told IWPR that up until January this year, Lukic was part of Karadzic's business network, in charge of a lucrative drug manufacturing operation - drugs were smuggled through Serbia into Bosnia, and vice-versa.

"Money obtained from narcotics smuggling was vital in supporting Karadzic's life as a fugitive and provided Lukic with steady income," said a source in the Bosnian government's intelligence service who asked not to be identified.

In an interview with Hague officials, IWPR obtained confirmation that Milan Lukic has been talking to the tribunal for a couple of years.

"Last year he allegedly wanted to surrender. An operation was put in place to allow that to happen," said a tribunal official. "But he never showed."

Lukic's contacts with the Hague court intensified as his relationship with Karadzic soured.

In January things reached breaking point. According to the Bosnian intelligence source in Sarajevo, Lukic fell out with members of the Preventiva, as Karadzic's armed protectors are called. The quarrel culminated in a shoot-out between Lukic and Karadzic's bodyguards. The fight was reportedly over a drugs shipment and the size of the cut in profits that Lukic would receive.

The same intelligence source recalled that Lukic "used to meet Karadzic's bodyguards on the Serbia-Bosnia border, but this is not the case anymore".

At least two independent sources say Lukic was wounded in the shootout.

The confrontation with Preventiva left him feeling insecure in Visegrad, his home turf. To complicate matters further for Lukic, he can no longer feel safe in Belgrade, either. In March, his cousin, patron and fellow-indictee general Sreten Lukic was removed from his post of deputy interior minister by the newly-elected Serbian government.

In his increasingly exposed position, Milan Lukic began to be interested in collaborating with the Hague tribunal.

IWPR can reveal that in March this year, he told the tribunal that Karadzic was hiding in the village of Zaovine, near Visegrad. "We got the address. The owner of that house had links to the Lukic family," said the Hague official. "Zaovine has been used as a crossing point for war criminals for years." (See IWPR's report Karadzic Raid: Not Even Close.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

IWPR's source in the RS police says that the April 18 raid against the Lukic household was launched in the mistaken belief that Milan Lukic intended to meet a Hague agent there.

The source says that Lukic was due to meet a representative of the tribunal on that date, to give him a documents indicating RS police involvement in illegal imports of acetic anhydride, a precursor chemical essential to producing heroin.

"The RS police intercepted a telephone conversation between Lukic and the local Hague agent, in which they arranged to meet at 'Milan's place'," said the Bosnian Serb police source.

RS police took the message to mean the home of Lukic's parents in the Visegrad suburb of Garcha, though in fact the meeting was intended to take place elsewhere, in the small Montenegrin town of Pluzine.

The raid, therefore, appears to have been designed to intercept Lukic and prevent him from meeting a Hague representative.

The official order for the raid on the house in Garcha came from a district court in the Serb segment of Sarajevo. It stated that the action was to stop "narcotics smuggling, organised crime, illegal border crossings and apprehension of war crimes indictees".

The officers involved in the raid were part of the Bosnian Serb entity's special police, and were not local men – they came from Banja Luka, Srpsko Sarajevo and Bijeljina. Neither the Visegrad police nor the international authorities were informed of the raid.

The official police statement after the raid said that the RS police had intended to "apprehend war criminals" and that during the action Novica Lukic was killed after he "offered resistance". A police spokesman confirmed that Milan Lukic was one of the people they wanted to capture.

But an IWPR reporter at the Lukic home heard eyewitness accounts from the family suggesting that the police attacked the house on a shoot-to-kill basis, and were not trying to apprehend or deliver indicted war criminals alive.

The ground floor of the two-storey Lukic home is used by the brothers of Milan and Novica, who were away that day. Novica and his family lived on the first floor, with a separate front door.

Novica's wife, Ruzica, told IWPR they were awoken at 7am by the sound of the door being broken down.

She insisted it was not possible that officers could have believed that anyone inside was in a position to resist, as the police statement suggested.

"Novica got up from the bed, still in his pyjamas, made two steps from the bed to the bedroom door, opened the door and was immediately shot from the front door," she said.

The bedroom door where Novica was killed is only one-and-a-half metres from the front door. Ruzica said that her husband was first shot in the legs, but that after he fell, the police wanted to make sure they did not capture him alive. "They shot several more bullets into his chest. He made no sound. There was no quarrel. There were no words," she said.

A medical report confirmed that Novica was shot first in the legs. The IWPR reporter also noticed that the only bullet holes were on the floor of the hallway. This suggests that there was no crossfire and that Novica was, as his widow claimed, shot dead while lying down.

"Several policemen wearing masks over their faces ordered me to lie on the floor face down. Then they wrapped Novica in a blanket and dragged him down the stairs," said Ruzica. An ambulance took Novica's body to hospital.

The fatal attack contrasts sharply with the very different approach taken in a related raid on the same day.

Drazan Perendija, head of the local association of veterans of the Bosnian war, told IWPR that the home of Milan Lukic's cousin Sredoje, indicted on the same war crimes charges, was also searched on April 18.

"The house was searched, policemen had no masks over the faces and nobody was hurt," he said.

Called to the Bosnian Serb assembly on April 22 to give an account of the botched raid, RS police chief Radomir Njegus told deputies that there had been some "serious failures". He noted that Novica Lukic bore a resemblance to Milan.

On April 20, the day after Novica's funeral, the mood in Visegrad was angry and confused. The town on the river Drina was flooded with fresh posters supporting Vojislav Seselj, the leader of the Radical Party in Serbia.

THE DRUGS TRAIL

Sources at the Hague insist they do not have any documents on a narcotics trade involving Karadzic and Lukic.

"We do not have the resources to monitor drug trafficking in Bosnia.

There are only two persons in the tracking department; our time is full with trying to find the remaining indicted war criminals," said one of the sources.

But other international law enforcement agencies in Bosnia are tracking the drugs business.

On the orders of Jonathan Ratel, one of the international prosecutors in Bosnia, RS police raided a factory in Visegrad on January 6, discovering 22.8 tons of acetic anhydride. The raid followed a tip-off from the Dutch authorities that large quantities of the chemical, used to make heroin, had been shipped to Bosnia from the Netherlands.

CODE OF SILENCE LIKELY TO PERSIST

RS authorities have suspended the two special police officers believed to have shot Novica and jailed them pending an investigation.

When IWPR asked the RS interior ministry about the police raid which left Novica dead as well as the drugs case, spokesman Zoran Glusac was tight-lipped. "The ministry of the interior of RS has said

everything it has to say," he said. "At the moment we have an investigation [into the April 18 raid] and until it is finished we will not say anything new."

No matter what the investigation finally determines, the killing will have a chilling affect on the few individuals in RS who might have been prepared to cooperate with the Hague court.

Tribunal officials asked us the question that is on the minds a lot of people in Bosnia, "What do you think Milan Lukic will do now?"

Certainly, the latest action will keep him away from Visegrad for some time, according to the RS police source, "The message has now been delivered: if the local police are to arrest him he will be first shot and then handed over to the Hague."

That is certainly worrying the Hague investigators to whom IWPR spoke. Their main concern is their agent on the ground, whose code name was known to the RS police officer. But they have not given up hope that their one-time informant may still give himself up – if only to stay alive.

Nerma Jelacic is IWPR country director in Bosnia. Tanja Matic is Kosovo project coordinator. Hugh Griffiths is an investigations coordinator with IWPR.

Pentagon Weighs Postwar Planning Office

New York Times (AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Bush administration is considering setting up an office to plan for postwar operations after any future conflicts, a top Defense Department official said Tuesday.

Defense Undersecretary Douglas Feith noted that the United States has been involved recently in stability or peace operations in the **Balkans**, Afghanistan, Haiti and Iraq.

``And yet every time we did it, we had to organize a new effort," he said.

``Having that capability and that expertise in an office that functions, in effect, as a standing task force, is probably a smart thing to do and could make those kinds of operations go better in the future."

Feith did not say how much consideration was being given to such an office, offering it only as an example of the Pentagon's assessments of the Iraq war. He was responding to a question about postwar planning during an appearance at the American Enterprise Institute.

Defense Department officials have been criticized for not adequately preparing for the security and civil administration of Iraq after the toppling of Saddam Hussein's government. In recent months, violence has escalated, reconstruction projects have been slowed and uncertainty remains about restoring control of the country to Iraqis.

Of the postwar planning, Feith said: ``Some of it was very good. Some of it was a lot less good. I think that it's something that is best left to historians to sort out, rather than ask people in the middle of everything to step back and evaluate their own work." Feith has been one of the most polemic figures in the debate over the Iraq war. He oversaw the Office of Special Plans, which some Democrats say was a renegade intelligence agency, feeding policymakers uncorroborated intelligence. Pentagon officials say the office was a small operation that provided fresh analysis on existing intelligence.

In his speech Tuesday, Feith defended President Bush's decision to go to war, despite the failure to find the stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons that Bush claimed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had.

``The danger was too great that Saddam might give the fruits of his WMD programs to terrorists for use against the United States. This danger did not hinge on whether Saddam was actually stockpiling, at the time, chemical or biological weapons," he said. In other comments, Feith said:

--The fighting in the Sunni Muslim city of Fallujah does not represent a widespread insurgency. Coalition and Iraqi officials are working with Sunni, tribal and other leaders ``to prevent the other major Sunni cities from erupting in sympathy with Fallujah." He also said the ``power grab" by anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has not succeeded.

--Officials made a mistake in naming a former officer in Saddam's Republican Guard to lead a military brigade in Fallujah. But Feith noted that Maj. Gen. Jassim Mohammed Saleh was removed from the command as a result of public reaction in Iraq -- a process Feith said isn't unusual.

--The United States will ``deal promptly and properly with the terrible abuses" of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers. ``No country in the world upholds the Geneva Conventions on the laws of armed conflict more steadfastly than does the United States."