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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Capture of Goran Hadžić

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 22, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the arrest of Goran Hadžić by Serbian security services this past Wednesday. We commend President Tadić, the Serbian security services, and all others who worked to finally bring Hadžić to justice. We look forward to his earliest possible transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague so that justice may be served.

The arrests of Hadžić now and Mladić earlier this year close a horrific chapter in the region's history and help demonstrate Serbia's commitment to reconciliation and to entrenching the rule of law – critical elements for advancing the European integration aspirations of Serbian citizens.

We send our deepest sympathies and extend our thoughts and prayers to all those who have suffered from the atrocities charged to Hadžić. We hope that this arrest will not only advance the cause of justice, but will also be an impetus for lasting peace and reconciliation, resulting in a stable and prosperous future for the entire region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.