

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 30 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the case of the former police officers of Bosnia and Herzegovina who were decertified by the decision of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) during the process of the police reconstruction carried out in accordance with the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement and the relevant decisions of the Security Council. The International Police Task Force performed its duty under the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH).

It has been emphasized many times that Bosnia and Herzegovina highly appreciates the contribution of UNMIBH to the peace process. There is no doubt that the IPTF-led police reform had been one of the paramount achievements in the efforts made by the international community to bring durable peace and stability to our country.

The process of certification of police officers from the old police structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had been carried out by IPTF, left some 598 police officers without certificates. The decision of IPTF has prevented their future employment in any law enforcement agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina, thus, affecting their lives significantly. Some 150 of those officers have challenged the decision before the national courts. However, the Office of the High Representative, followed by the Security Council, immediately reacted, claiming that the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina had no authority to tackle the issue or to reinstate any of those police officers decertified by IPTF (Presidential statement of the Security Council dated 25 June 2004-S/PRST/2004/22).

However, the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been under continuous, heavy pressure by the aforementioned police officers, and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has decided to ask for the international legal expertise on that particular issue, including the opinion of the Venice Commission.

In fact, after completing the process of certification of police officers, the United Nations authorities have not thus far designated or authorized any particular body or organ to deal with their possible appeals. This fact has also been recognized by legal experts, including in the advisory opinion of the Venice Commission.

In that context, on behalf of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I kindly request the Security Council to consider the possibility of offering those 150 decertified police officers appropriate instruments to exercise their right to appeal and their cases to be re-examined.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Milos M. **Prica**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina
