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International  
Criminal Tribunal  
for the former  
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal  
International pour  
l'ex-Yougoslavie

**Press Release . Communiqué de presse**  
(Exclusively for the use of the media. Not an official document)

**DEFENCE**

**DÉFENSE**

The Hague, 2 October 2002  
PIS/ 697e

*The Tribunal's Public Information Services have been requested by the Defence Counsel of Biljana Plavšić to issue the following statements, upon completion of the hearing to change her plea:*

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF BILJANA PLAVŠIĆ**

By accepting responsibility and expressing her remorse fully and unconditionally, Mrs. Plavšić hopes to offer some consolation to the innocent victims -- Muslim, Croat and Serb -- of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mrs. Plavšić invites others, especially leaders, on any side of the conflict, to examine themselves and their own conduct.

The acknowledgement of guilt by Mrs. Plavšić is individual and personal. Legal responsibility can only be borne by persons individually, based upon individual acts and conduct. Mrs. Plavšić's acknowledgment of guilt reflects this principle and affirms that the legal responsibility of an individual, even if he or she is a leader, cannot be attributed to a group of people. Her acceptance of this responsibility will, she hopes, enable her people to move past the carnage of the past decade, to reconcile with their neighbours, and, ultimately, to restore their dignity as a respected people.

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**STATEMENT BY ROBERT PAVICH, LEAD COUNSEL FOR BILJANA PLAVŠIĆ**

As Lead Counsel for Mrs. Plavšić, I would like to note two important facts about the plea agreement:

First – there is no agreement, nor have there been any discussions, between Mrs. Plavšić and the Office of the Prosecutor regarding sentencing. Mrs. Plavšić understands, as the Agreement itself specifically provides, that she is subjecting herself to a possible sentence of life imprisonment.

Second – Mrs. Plavšić has not agreed to testify in any case pending before this Tribunal.

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