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# STATEMENT

*(Exclusively for the use of the media. Not an official document)*

PROSECUTOR

The Hague, 22 July 2011

## Statement of Prosecutor Serge Brammertz on the transfer of Goran Hadžić

Office of the Prosecutor  
International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

The Hague, 22 July 2011

Following his arrest on Wednesday in Serbia, Goran Hadžić has now been transferred to the Tribunal's detention facility. He will make his initial appearance on Monday 25 July. Hadžić was indicted in 2004 but he escaped under suspicious circumstances before being arrested. We look forward to receiving additional information about how he was able to evade justice for the last seven years.

For many, Hadžić's arrest may not rank alongside the arrests of Milošević, Karadžić or Mladić. However, Hadžić was a senior political figure during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and the crimes charged against him are extensive and grave. Hadžić was the war-time Croatian Serb political leader of the self-proclaimed Districts of Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srijem and the Krajina. He is alleged to have participated in a joint criminal enterprise spanning three years between 1991 and 1993. Hadžić and his co-perpetrators set out to cleanse the non-Serb population from about one-third of Croatia and annex the territory as part of a new Serb-dominated state. The methods used to carry out this criminal plan included extermination, murder, unlawful imprisonment, torture, beatings, deportation, forcible transfer and the destruction of homes and property. Hadžić will be called upon to answer for the deaths of hundreds and the displacement of thousands.

For the victims of the crimes alleged against Hadžić, we hope that some measure of redress will come from ensuring that Goran Hadžić answers the charges against him.

Of the 161 persons indicted by the Tribunal, today, none remain at large. In the eighteen years since the Tribunal's establishment, the landscape of international criminal justice has been transformed. In 1993, the hurdles to arresting and trying most of the individuals wanted by the Tribunal seemed impossible to overcome. Today, every individual wanted by the Tribunal has been, or will be, brought to account. For the Tribunal - and for international justice - the arrest of Goran Hadžić is a milestone to remember.

With Goran Hadžić now in custody, we will turn our full attention to the completion of our remaining trials and appeals. Our objective is to work as expeditiously as possible, while respecting the rights of the accused. I can inform you that, today, we will file an amended indictment which supplements and clarifies the charges against Hadžić.

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Goran Hadžić's arrest continues a new phase in Serbia's cooperation with the Tribunal. In combination with the arrest of Ratko Mladić less than two months ago, Hadžić's arrest is evidence of Serbia's genuine commitment to cooperating with the Tribunal.

By apprehending Hadžić, the Serbian authorities have fulfilled a key international obligation. We acknowledge the efforts of the President, the National Security Council, the Action Team in charge of arresting the fugitives and the services that carried out the arrest operation.

We trust that Serbia will maintain this new positive momentum in its dealings with the Tribunal and continue to assist our ongoing trials by providing access to government archives and documents and by facilitating the appearance of witnesses.

With all persons wanted by the Tribunal now in custody, we thank the international community for facilitating the arrest of the Tribunal's indictees. We recognize, in particular, the role of the European Union, whose principled policies on European Union enlargement have given Serbia positive incentives to cooperate with the Tribunal. We ask the international community to support the completion of our work and to ensure we have the resources needed to finish the job we have been asked to do.

I also thank the Tribunal's staff members for playing a pivotal role in bringing about the successes we speak of today.

Finally, I would like to thank the Dutch authorities for the assistance they have provided during the transfer of Goran Hadžić and in the work of the Tribunal more generally.

In conclusion, we are mindful that the Tribunal is part of a much broader process for establishing accountability for atrocities committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. The victims of thousands of other crimes are still waiting for justice. The prosecution of war crimes in national proceedings remains a critical challenge for the region and its people. We will give priority to assisting national authorities in the former Yugoslavia with the fight against impunity. The international community must also show leadership in empowering national authorities to continue the process begun by the Tribunal.

But for today, we can feel a measure of satisfaction in knowing that there are no longer fugitives from the Tribunal's judicial process and we can now close that chapter. However, much work at this Tribunal and in the region remains to be done.