



BH/R/JK/08-0022

H.E. Nikola Spiric, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH
H.E. Barisa Colak, Minister of Justice of BiH
H.E. Prof. Safet Halilovic, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH
H.E. Tarik Sadovic, Minister of Security of BiH
H.E. Milorad Dodik, Prime Minister of RS
H.E. Dzerard Selman, Minister of Justice of RS
H.E. Dr. Ranko Skrbic, Minister of Health and Social Welfare of RS
H.E. Stanislav Cadj, Minister of Internal Affairs of RS
H.E. Nedzad Brankovic, Prime Minister of FBiH
H.E. Feliks Vidovic, Minister of Justice of FBiH
H.E. Perica Jelecevic, Minister of Labour and Social Policy of FBiH
H.E. Muhidin Alic, Minister of Internal Affairs of FBiH
H.E. Mirsad Djapo, Governor of Brcko District BiH
H.E. Nada Majinovic, President of the Judicial Commission of Brcko District BiH
H.E. Dr. Slavko Nikic, Head of Department of Health and Social Welfare of Brcko District BiH

Sarajevo, 13 February 2008

Subject: Urgent call for action to expedite implementation of the Strategy against Juvenile Offending for Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve the juvenile justice system

Your Excellency,

Compelled by recent events and increasing numbers of offences involving minor suspects, we, the undersigned parties, are extremely concerned and are obliged to appeal to the responsible BiH authorities and institutions to take adequate and effective action towards resolving this problem. At the same time, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to the victims of the crimes, as well as to their families and friends.

We encourage the BiH Government to take immediate steps towards the implementation of the *Strategy against Juvenile Offending for Bosnia and Herzegovina* (hereinafter the Strategy), adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers in July 2006. We believe that this would enable functional, effective and efficient prevention, as well as protection and re-integration mechanisms in this area.

We are ready to assist the relevant governmental institutions in fulfilling their obligations as per the BiH Council of Ministers' decision of 2006, specifically to:

- Appoint the Coordination Body for the implementation of the Strategy. This should be guided by the principles of professionalism and commitment to the reform process as well as the standards on human and child rights in relation to juvenile justice. The Body should be provided with a clear mandate and financial resources so that it can meet and start its work immediately.
- Develop the 2006-2010 Action Plan into operational plans with immediate implementation.
- Initiate and expeditiously finalise adoption of the *BiH Juvenile Criminal Act*.



European Commission
Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina



Save the Children
UK



In addition, we encourage the BiH Council of Ministers to establish clear links between the ongoing *Strategy in the Justice sector* and the implementation of the Strategy. In this respect, we support the involvement of the BiH Ministry of Justice and BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees as responsible bodies for co-ordinating the Strategy at the state level.

Therefore, the Council of Europe, Embassy of France in BiH, the European Commission Delegation to BiH, Open Society Fund, OSCE, Save the Children UK and UNICEF encourage the BiH Council of Ministers to take immediate steps in order to ensure the effective coordination of the Strategy implementation, and call upon the Republika Srpska and the Federation of BiH, as well as Brcko District Governments, to extend their full support to this reform process.

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