Chief Prosecutors of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH and the ICTY's Office of the Prosecutor held a meeting

In the European Commission's 2013 Progress Report for BiH, efforts and activities of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH aimed at establishing the rule of law were assessed positively
Regional cooperation,
an important element in efficient prosecution of war crimes cases
Dear readers,

The Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina has set several priorities, for the period to follow, which will intensify its efforts to establish the rule of law in our country, as well as improve the effective and efficient processing of cases under the jurisdiction of the Prosecutor’s Office. The Prosecutor’s Office will, in accordance with its powers and responsibilities, along with other judicial, police and security institutions in our country, work to improve the security of all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The European integration process is ahead of us and it involves a very important segment of strengthening the rule of law and the fight against all illegal acts in order to ensure a positive living, working and investing environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We shall continue with our efforts and soon the citizens of our country will have the opportunity to see for themselves that we are determined to detect and prosecute corruption among senior officials, organized criminal groups engaged in international smuggling of hard drugs, as well as other matters that are important for the rule of law and security of all citizens of our country.

We, certainly, need to think about the future, because our work leads to creation of an environment for a quieter and safer life of better quality for future generations to come, aiming to create a society in which the most severe forms of crime will be reduced to the least possible degree.

On our country’s path to Brussels and the European Union, we will demonstrate that the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and police agencies have the power, knowledge, will and trained personnel to fight against all forms of crime.

In the upcoming period, the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH will be strengthened with the arrival of new prosecutors, who will be deployed in the Special Department for War Crimes, where the need for expedited case processing is most alarming.

We shall also try to strengthen the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH with young professionals, who could certainly contribute to a more efficient work of our institution.

We will continue the fight against organized crime and corruption in the period to come together with police agencies, and there will certainly be no untouchables in the process.

Respectfully,

Goran Salihović
Chief Prosecutor
The European Commission published a 2013 progress report, the significant part of which is dedicated to strengthening of the rule of law and judicial reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Prosecutor’s Office is pleased with the Commission’s assessment, that the signing of the Protocols on cooperation in prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, which were signed in the first half of this year, has contributed to significant progress in regional cooperation on prosecution of war crimes.

"Relations with Serbia have improved. The key development was the signing of a Protocol on cooperation in prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. A Treaty with the Republic of Croatia on extradition and an Agreement on cooperation in the field of defence has been ratified.

Overall, there has been very good progress in the field of judicial cooperation with the other countries of the region. Bosnia and Herzegovina has continued to participate actively in regional cooperation and to maintain good neighbourly relations."

It was also found that the activities of the Prosecutor’s Office have significantly contributed to expediting the process of exhumations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Since the State Prosecutor’s Office took over responsibility from local prosecutors for conducting
exhumations of mass graves, efficiency in the excavation process has improved significantly, and there has been a decrease in the backlog of cases. In all, 283 exhumations took place over the reporting period, resulting in a recovery of 179 cases. Approximately 3,270 sets of unidentified remains are being stored in identification facilities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and need to be inspected by the Prosecutor’s Office.” - is another statement in the Report.

The report speaks positively about the upcoming strengthening of the capacities of the Prosecutor’s Office i.e. the 13 new Prosecutors.

It also gives a positive assessment in terms of strengthening the fight against organized crime. "Bosnia and Herzegovina has made limited progress in the fight against organised crime and terrorism. Cooperation among law enforcement agencies continues, but a more systematic exchange of information intelligence remains to be consolidated, and coordination mechanisms need to be set up. A number of successful large-scale joint police operations have taken place, some of them in coordination with the authorities from neighbouring countries. However, at domestic level, cooperation between police and prosecutors’ offices requires structural improvements to guarantee more effective judicial follow-up” - states the report.

The report speaks of joint police operations, which have been ordered by the Prosecutor’s Office and carried out throughout the whole country, in a positive context. These operations were ordered by prosecutors in the fight against organized crime and have involved hundreds of officers from police agencies from all levels. "Bosnia and Herzegovina has formed a working group to prepare a new strategy to fight organised crime and an Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA). A number of successful large-scale joint police operations took place. The number of suspected cases of organised crime reported to prosecutors’ offices increased by over 200%.” - lists the Report.

The Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to inform the citizens of our country, that it shall continue, with even greater intensity, its fight against organized crime and corruption and prosecution of war crimes with the aim of strengthening the rule of law in our country and creating a safer living environment for all of our citizen in the country’s path towards European integration. ■

Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH participated in a conference related to media and the judiciary

At the beginning of October, Prosecutor Gordana Bosiljčić from Department III of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH participated in the 8th Conference of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) held in Yerevan - Armenia. The theme of the conference was "The relations between the prosecutor and the media," and it was attended by prosecutors from Germany, Italy, Norway, Belgium, Russia, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Malta, Turkey, Ukraine, Spain, Latvia, Portugal, Liechtenstein, Romania, Bulgaria, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Armenia, Moldova, Albania, Poland, Czech Republic, Nicosia, Holland, Hungary and representatives of Eurojust.

The next CCPE conference is planned for the end of 2014 in Paris and the theme will be "Prosecutors and investigation." Prosecutor Bosiljčić of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH was appointed a member of the Working Group tasked with the preparation of a draft theme document "Prosecutors and investigation" for the next meeting along with prosecutors from Italy, Germany, Turkey, Russia, Finland and Denmark. ■
Crucial and very important progress in regional cooperation of the Prosecutor’s Offices of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia in prosecution of war crimes has been made in the first few months of this year.

Namely, protocols on cooperation in the prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were concluded between the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia - signed in Brussels on January 31, 2013 and between the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and the State Attorney’s Office of the Republic of Croatia - signed on July 3, 2013 in Sarajevo.

The officials of the European Union, as well as diplomats and officials of international organizations, have attended the events and have voiced their support to the regional cooperation in the fight against impunity for war crimes, as part of the path towards European integration of the countries in the region.

Following the signing of the Protocol a number of working sessions were held between the delegations of prosecutor’s offices concerning cooperation in specific cases.

The common goal is to ensure that the perpetrators of war crimes can no longer hide in the countries of the region and evade criminal prosecution, as well as to ensure that all perpetrators of war crimes are indicted and prosecuted.

This cooperation within the framework of the protocol, received the support of the victims of war crimes, and the strengthening of cooperation was also positively evaluated in the media.

The signing of the protocol was also supported by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, officials of the European Union and the U.S. Department of Justice.
ICTY OTP Chief Prosecutor, Mr. Serge Brammertz, and his associates visited the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and met with the Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, Mr. Goran Salihović, and officials of the Special Department for War Crimes of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH.

At this meeting, the Chief Prosecutor Salihović informed his ICTY colleagues of the current activities of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH pertaining to the strengthening of regional cooperation of judicial institutions, strengthening of cooperation with victims’ associations and activities being undertaken for the purpose of expediting prosecution war crimes cases.

Moreover, strengthening of the capacities of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and increase in the number of Prosecutors, as well as relocation to a separate building with adequate space to accommodate all the employees of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, were also topics of this meeting, as well as conclusions that need to be realized within the structured dialogue on justice reform.

Prosecutor Brammertz supported the capacity strengthening efforts of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and regional cooperation of the Prosecutor’s Offices of BiH, Serbia and Croatia in the prosecution of war crimes cases which already yields results and which is also supported by the war crimes victims’ associations.

Prosecutor Salihović informed the participants of the activities of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH aimed at expediting exhumations and identification of missing persons, as well as of the need to allocate more funds for this purpose in the year to come.

The cooperation between the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and ICTY Office of the Prosecutor regarding the work on Category II cases, where investigations had been initiated by the ICTY OTP before the cases were transferred to the BiH judicial authorities, was also discussed at this meeting.

It was concluded that successful cooperation of the two Prosecutor’s Offices would continue in future, with the common goal to detect and criminally prosecute perpetrators of war crimes.
During the meeting the parties presented the activities undertaken so far within the scope of cooperation and assistance in specific cases and agreed on further cooperation in the joint fight against impunity for war crimes and the path towards European integration.

The delegations of prosecutor’s offices headed by Chief Prosecutor Goran Salihović and War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukčević, discussed the results achieved within the scope of the Protocol on Cooperation in the Prosecution of Perpetrators of War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide at the meeting.

Representatives of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH informed their counterparts from Serbia about the activities initiated on search, discovery and exhumation of war crimes victims - Serbian citizens who were abducted from a train in Štrpci in 1993 and whose remains are assumed to be in Višegrad.

Following the receipt of information from the Serbian Office of the Prosecutor on the possible location of the remains of victims of crimes committed in Štrpci, these locations were inspected and certain remains were discovered near by that location. Detailed analysis will determine the origin of the remains found. The Prosecutor’s Office of BiH has pledged full support and cooperation in activities required for locating the remains of the victims, their exhumation and identification.

The prosecutors also discussed the prosecution of "Dobrovoljačka street" and "Tuzla Column" cases which were transferred to the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and further transfer of the remaining part of the case relating to the Tuzla Column to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The colleagues from Serbia were also informed that they will soon be handed over evidence in two cases of War Crimes committed in Srebrenica, in which indictments were issued but the accused are located on the territory of Serbia.

"Joint cooperation in war crimes cases must be further developed"
and continued to allow Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia to resolve cases whose non-prosecution burdens the rule of law and the process of reconciliation in the region” - stated Prosecutor Salihović.

Representatives of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of Serbia informed their counterparts from BiH about the activities carried out in terms of verification of the places of residence and citizenship for a number of suspects who are located on the territory of Serbia.

The Prosecutors from Belgrade have also expressed their gratitude to associations of victims of war crimes from Srebrenica and the Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa Enclaves Movement on the consent and support given to the prosecution of those accused for the crimes in Srebrenica who are located in Serbia.

"This consent and support to our efforts given by the Srebrenica victims is a major breakthrough and an expression of confidence in the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of Serbia and it is one of the key steps in the process of establishing the rule of law and reconciliation in the region” - stated Vladimir Vukčević.

During the meeting the representatives of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH informed the colleagues that the process of exhumation at the site of a landfill in Buča Potok continues and that the prosecutor’s office is determined to fully investigate the information about the existence of human remains at this particular site. The colleagues from Belgrade voiced their confidence that the process of search for the remains shall be continued until the information is fully verified.

Further cooperation and assistance in the prosecution of war crimes cases in which the perpetrators, victims or evidence are located in the territory of the two countries was agreed.

Cooperation within the framework of the Protocol is essential for the establishment of the rule of law in the region, the fight against impunity for war crimes, and is supported by the EU institutions within the European integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.
A meeting of the delegations of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and the State Attorney’s Office of the Republic of Croatia at the highest level held in Sarajevo

In the framework of the signed Protocol on Cooperation in the prosecution of war crimes cases, a two-day meeting was held in Sarajevo yesterday and today, namely on 22nd and 23rd of July, between the delegations of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and the State Attorney’s Office of the Republic of Croatia, headed by Chief Prosecutors Goran Salihović and Mladen Bajić.

At the meeting, cooperation in concrete war crimes cases and mutual assistance between these Prosecutor’s Offices were discussed, so that perpetrators of war crimes residing in the territory of BiH or Republic of Croatia could be brought to justice.

The meeting in Sarajevo represents a concretization of the activities, and concrete cases that could be subject to exchange of evidence for the purpose of efficient prosecution of war crimes perpetrators were discussed at this meeting.

The Special Department for War Crimes of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH is working on a large number of cases, and in some of them Indictments have been issued against persons who, according to the data available, are residing in the territory of the Republic of Croatia and have the citizenship of the Republic of Croatia, which hinders their prosecution in BiH.

The Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and officials of the Special Department for War Crimes asked their Croatian colleagues for verification of the data and collected information on the whereabouts of the suspected and indicted persons, and concretization of the activities pertaining to the exchange of evidence and further prosecution of these persons is expected in the period to come.

This meeting and any future meetings that will be held in accordance with the signed Protocol on Cooperation demonstrate strong commitment of the respective Prosecutor’s Offices in BiH and the Republic of Croatia to detecting and prosecuting all war crimes perpetrators, regardless of their whereabouts, and contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law.
Chief Prosecutors Goran Salihović and Vladimir Vukčević met in Belgrade to discuss the continuation of effective cooperation between the two prosecutor’s offices in the prosecution of war crimes and prevention of impunity for war crimes.

In a friendly and collegial atmosphere, representatives of the two prosecutor’s offices discussed the priority steps in continuance of the cooperation for specific cases in the future.

Cooperation in the prosecution of war crimes committed in Srebrenica in terms of perpetrators who are residing on the territory of the Republic of Serbia were defined as priority as well as the assistance of BiH judiciary to the colleagues from Serbia in prosecuting perpetrators of war crimes in Štrpci, especially in the area of tracing the remains of victims who were citizens of Serbia.

Representatives of the BiH Prosecutor’s Office informed the colleagues that the process of exhumations at the site of Buča Potok continues.

Delegation of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH presented the representatives of the Office of War Crimes Prosecutor of Serbia with the consent of victims to prosecute two persons for war crimes committed in Srebrenica, who were located on the territory of BiH.

They also discussed the activities that need to be undertaken in the future joint efforts to prosecute war crimes.

Representatives of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH promised assistance to colleagues in Serbia with regards to specific documents and supporting material related to war crimes, which are located on the territory of BiH.

They also discussed the actions required to ensure that persons convicted of war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who are currently located in Serbia, be sent to serve prison sentences as soon as possible.

Prosecutors have agreed, at the meeting, to continue an open mutual cooperation on war crimes cases, in order to establish the rule of law and secure environment for the life of all citizens in the process of reconciliation in the region and the path towards European integration.

It was agreed that the joint meetings shall be held continuously every two months, to discuss specific activities related to joint cooperation in the mutual interest of both institutions.
Aiming to improve efficiency in the processing of war crimes cases the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina expects to have 12 new prosecutors appointed by the end of the year as well as five new prosecutors within the IPA project thus strengthening the capacities to handle war crimes cases.

The increase of prosecutorial capacities is a precondition for expediting the work on cases, which includes prosecutors and additional support staff, and it is nec-
necessary to provide adequate funding for this purpose, hence this process of judicial strengthening requires engagement of all government institutions.

The Prosecutor’s Office of BiH is expected to move into a separate building that adequately accommodate all employees of the Prosecutor’s Office, given that the current facility is not sufficient to adequately accommodate and provide professional working conditions for all employees of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH.
Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Predrag Tomić**, Prosecutor of the Special Department for War Crimes, with his associates

**Ibro Bulić**, Head of the Section III of the Special Department for War Crimes

**Behaja Krnjić**, Prosecutor of the Special Department for War Crimes, with his associate

**Slavica Terzić**, Prosecutor of the Special Department for War Crimes

**Amir Bajrić**, Legal Officer of the Special Department for War Crimes
Miroslav D. Marković, Prosecutor of the Department III, with his associates

Enisa Adrović, Prosecutor of the Special Department for Organized Crime, Economic Crime and Corruption, with her associate

Zorica Đurđević, Prosecutor of the Special Department for War Crimes

Jasmina Gafić, Prosecutor of the Special Department for Organized Crime, Economic Crime and Corruption, with her associate

Chief Prosecutor and representatives of the European Commission taking a tour of the facilities and premises for a separate building of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH

November 2013
The Investigations and Witness Support Department of the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina performs duties and actions in uncovering and investigating criminal offences under the jurisdiction of the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within the scope of investigations in the given cases, the Department plans and coordinates actions and work with the Prosecutor in charge, or the Legal Officer of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH authorized by the Prosecutor and authorized officers of the police and other law enforcement agencies as defined by the CPC BiH.

Investigators of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH have the status of authorized official persons and they undertake operational-tactical and investigative measures and actions in criminal investigations under the supervision of the Prosecutors in the Special Department for War Crimes and the Special Department for Organized Crime, Economic Crime and Corruption and if necessary, in Department III.

Investigators of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH prepare and propose a concept and methods of investigation to the Assigned Prosecutor for specific criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH. The most common activities undertaken by the PO BiH investigators during a criminal investigation are related to locating and interviewing witnesses, coordinating the activities of police agencies with the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, locating and arresting suspects, detecting and analyzing physical evidence, monitoring of the exhumation process during the recovery of persons missing from the last armed conflict, as well as identifying victims of war crimes, and undertaking other activities as requested by the prosecutor.

An investigators’ job is very complex and specific, requiring the maximum of professionalism and confidentiality in their efforts and tasks which must be performed in compliance with all relevant regulations.

During a year an investigator interviews a huge number of witnesses which understands a lot of work and requires frequent mobility and long working hours in the field.
Within the Investigations and Witness Support Department there are a Senior Witness Support Officer and a Clerk - Witness Support Specialist, who are responsible for the provision of psychological, social and logistic assistance and support to witnesses during the course of the investigation up to the confirmation of the indictment. The primary objective of the witness support service is to provide appropriate psychological support and assistance to witnesses at the investigation stage and to provide professional services thus ensuring that there are no negative consequences, additional pain or trauma caused to the potential witness while giving a statement or during the testimony. Special attention, in terms of assistance of witness support service, is given to victims of war crimes, minors and victims of sexual violence, and the presence of witness support employees is particularly recommended during the examination of the witnesses from the aforementioned categories.

Forwarding of an Indictment and extensive evidentiary material pertaining to the case of Darko Elez et al. to the Court of BiH (‘Luká’ action)
The Website of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH www.tuzilastvobih.gov.ba is active as of mid 2006. Every year, this site records tens of thousands of visitors, which speaks volumes about the interest of the media and citizens in the information that can be seen on the official website of our institution. The PO BiH Website contains a lot of information and data about the internal organization of the institution, legislation and regulations as well as news and information about the cases that the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH is working on. The Website also contains a video and photo gallery with visual content and materials relating to the news and activities of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH. Pursuant to the Decision of the Council of Ministers published on March 17, 2009 and the Instruction on design and maintenance of official internet presentations of institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Article 4 of which prescribes the commitment to form a web editing team that will take care of the regular updating and maintenance of the official website. The Prosecutor’s Office of BiH formed its Web editing team in mid 2010. The team has its own rules of procedure and currently has 10 members. It consists of employees who, during the course of their regular duties, have contact with the preparation and realization of news and information, proof-reading and translation of content as well as IT aspects of posting content on the website.

Web editing meetings are held periodically, usually once a month and more frequently if required.
"When I started working in the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH in 2010 it was a great challenge for me, but also an honor to work in a judicial institution at the state level, along with experienced long-time prosecutors" stated Mirsada Karahmetović.

The work of the Legal Officer is closely linked with the work of the Prosecutor. It is the job of a Legal Officer to assist the Prosecutor in his/her work on cases by performing the duties and responsibilities delegated by the Assigned Prosecutor within a particular case.

Legal Officers are involved in the drafting of many of the submissions which are sent to the partner police agencies working with the prosecutor’s office, as well as submissions to be sent to the court, defense counsels, penitentiaries and any other natural or legal persons, with whom Prosecutors communicate due to the nature of their work.

Legal Officers are actively involved in the investigations and indictments, as well as the indictment representation in court, where they should be the "right-hand man/woman" to their Prosecutors.

Part of the work of Legal Officers refers to taking statements from witnesses and suspects and coordination and cooperation with law enforcement officers acting on the orders of the prosecutor.

Given that Legal Officers are, along with Investigators, actively involved in the investigation and documentation of the most serious criminal offenses, which include organized crime, this job demands extreme confidentiality and professionalism.

Working in the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, as a Legal Officer, is definitely a great honor which requires a great commitment since all tasks must be executed professionally and in compliance with the rules of profession.

Daily work of a Legal Officer is very dynamic. It is often necessary to undertake a number of activities, which are related to different cases, during the course of one day therefore Legal Officers work closely with all other employees of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH.

"I sincerely believe that working as a legal officer, is a very important link /step on the way of career development of every young lawyer and would like to encourage my young colleagues to apply for the position of a Legal Officer because this work is really interesting and dynamic but also requires responsibility" added Mirsada Karahmetović.

There is a total of 36 Legal Officers working in the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Efforts of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH in the process of tracing and indentifying the missing persons

As of the beginning of 2011, the Prosecutor's Office Of BiH holds jurisdic-tion in the process of exhumation, tracing and identification of those that disappeared during the war in BiH. This process is quite complex, given that BiH is searching for more than 9,000 missing persons, and that the process of searching for the missing requires intensive activities of all institutions involved in this process.

Since joining the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, the Chief Prosecutor - Goran Salihović has taken actions necessary to expedite the discovery of mass grave sites and identification of the remains of war crimes victims, because this is something he has defined as a priority in the work of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH.

During his official visit to the U.S. in May this year, as well as in a number of contacts with international and local officials, Chief Prosecutor asked for assistance in locating the mass grave sites via satellite imagery. It would be helpful to this process to provide existing images or if necessary make new images of locations where it is assumed that mass graves could be located, in order to accelerate the search for remains which has been in progress from the end of war in BiH.

This assistance is greatly needed because the current method of search for mass graves could take decades and that is not in the interest of justice. The Prosecutor's Office of BiH has repeatedly appealed to all citizens who have any knowledge of the mass grave sites and locations of the mortal remains of the victims to provide the information to the Prosecutor's Office of BiH.

Representatives of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH have, during the past 3 years, taken part in exhumations at hundreds of sites in all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In many cases the sites were located at inaccessible and remote locations and often in mined areas, field work was carried out in almost all weather and climate conditions.

Representatives of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH have coordinated the activities in the process of exhumations where they worked together with representatives of the Institute for Missing Persons of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Commission for Missing Persons and forensic experts – pathologists. All locations were secured by representatives of local police forces.

Representatives of the Prosecutor's Office have invested a lot of efforts to locate and identify as many of the missing persons as possible, realizing that the recovery of the remains is of critical importance to families of the victims, who have been searching for their family members for two decades.

These activities will continue in the future, with a clear commitment to locating, exhuming and identifying as many of the missing persons as possible.

Given that this issue is of great importance for the work on war crimes cases, and that the process of locating and recovering the remains requires substantial resources, the Prosecutor's Office of BiH will seek to get more resources allocated for this purpose in the budget for next year.
On July 10, 2013 the Chief Prosecutor held a Collegium of Prosecutors, Legal Officers and Investigators employed in the Prosecutor’s Office. Results of the Prosecutors were analyzed and discussed at the Collegium as well as future actions aiming to improve performance and efficiency.

"The Prosecutor’s Office of BiH is a judicial institution, of which the citizens of our country expect good results, therefore we have to invest joint efforts to achieve better results and to effectively eliminate all the difficulties in work. That is why we are here, to discuss and jointly move towards achieving better results" - stated the Chief Prosecutor Salihović at the Collegium.
The Chief Prosecutor Goran Salihović received the Ambassador of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Patrick Moon, on his farewell visit.

In a discussion with the Chief Prosecutor, H.E. Patrick Moon, the Ambassador, expressed his support to the strengthening of the capacities for the prosecution of war crimes cases, and the plans and activities of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH related to strengthening of the capacities and increase in the number of Prosecutors, as well to the relocation to the new building with adequate space for the work of the employees of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, as these are also recommendations of the Structured Dialogue on the Reform of Justice between the EU and BiH. H.E. Moon also said that they will continue supporting independent judiciary, namely courts and prosecutor’s offices, as this is one of the goals of the Government of the United States of America.

Mr. Salihović said that the increase in the number of Prosecutors and strengthening of capacities would assist efficient prosecution of cases of war crimes, organized crime and corruption, and he thanked the Ambassador of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the continuous support of the US Government to the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina and strengthening the establishment of the rule of law in our country and he also expressed his hope that the cooperation would continue in future.

The Chief Prosecutor Salihović wished the Ambassador Moon successful continuation of his diplomatic career.

Chief Prosecutor met with the British Ambassador to BiH

Mr. Goran Salihović, Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, met with H.E. Nigel Casey, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At this meeting, the issue of strengthening the establishment of the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina was discussed.

The Chief Prosecutor informed the Ambassador about the activities of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and its future plans, as well as the planned increase of capacities within the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH in accordance with the Recommendations of the Structured Dialogue on Judicial Reform in BiH. Ambassador Casey expressed his support to the work of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH in the process of establishing the rule of law and in combating organized crime and corruption.

Good cooperation between the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and the British Embassy to BiH will continue in future.
Meeting of the Chief Prosecutor and the President of the Court of BiH with the high level delegation of judicial institutions of the Republic of Turkey

At the meeting with the Chief Prosecutor the high level representatives of the judicial institutions from the Republic of Turkey voiced their support to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH in the strengthening of capacities to prosecute war crimes and organized crime as well as their support to the establishment of the rule of law in BiH.

Chief Prosecutor attended the meeting of top judicial officials from the countries in the region

BiH delegation consisting of the Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH - Goran Salihović, HJPC President - Milorad Novković and Deputy Minister of Justice of BiH - Nikola Sladoje attended a meeting of officials from the prosecutorial and judicial institutions in the region.

The meeting was organized by the U.S. Embassy in Croatia and the Croatian Ministry of Justice and attended by the highest officials from the prosecutor’s offices and judicial institutions from Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, BiH, Montenegro and the Kosovo area.

Topics of discussion were strengthening of judicial institutions and the rule of law in the region, cooperation between judicial institutions, the Croatian accession to the European Union, as well as mutual cooperation among the countries of the region in combating transnational organized crime.

Chief Prosecutor Salihović emphasized that good cooperation between judicial institutions is the key for an effective fight against all forms of serious crime, especially organized crime, corruption, war crimes and crimes related to illegal migration and smuggling of goods.

The meeting in Zagreb included discussions concerning the exchange of experience and best practices in the process of establishing the rule of law, law enforcement in accordance with European standards, as well as the challenges the judicial institutions and law enforcement agencies face in their work.
Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Chief Prosecutor participated in an international conference of anti-corruption authorities, which was held in Jinan, People’s Republic of China**

Cooperation between judicial and police institutions in the fight against corruption, support to government institutions, and strengthening of regional and international cooperation are the key elements for an effective fight against corruption - emphasized the Chief Prosecutor Salihović in his presentation.

Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH - Goran Salihović participated in the meeting of the International Association of Anti Corruption Authorities, which was held on June 22-24 in Jinan, Shandong Province, PR China.

The conference was attended by approximately 300 officials from prosecutorial and police institutions of more than 100 countries worldwide.

The Chief Prosecutor gave a presentation on the fight against corruption and organized crime within the session titled - cooperation and exchange of information between judicial and police agencies as a prerequisite for an effective fight against corruption. In his speech, Prosecutor Salihović informed the conference participants about the efforts undertaken by the Prosecutor’s Office in terms of strengthening capacities to fight corruption and organized crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Chief Prosecutor also spoke about the activities and joint police operations which are being carried out, upon the order of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, by police agencies at all levels in BiH with the aim of detecting and prosecuting perpetrators of the criminal offenses of organized crime and corruption.

During the conference in Jinan, Chief Prosecutor Salihović met with the Procurator General of the Supreme People’s Procuratorate of China - Mr. Cao Jianming, who is also the chairman of the International Association of the Anti Corruption Authorities (IAACA).

Experiences of BiH and the People’s Republic of China in the fight against organized crime and corruption were discussed at the meeting. Chief Prosecutor Salihović thanked the hosts for the well organized international conference.

**Meeting with the Chief Prosecutor of the People’s Republic of China**
The main topics of the meeting pertained to the prosecutorial work and mission in establishing the rule of law in BiH and Serbia, as well as strengthening cooperation between partner institutions and future mutual cooperation.

Mr. Goran Salihović, Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, and Prosecutors and officials of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH met with the delegation of the State Prosecutorial Council of the Republic of Serbia which is in an official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to HJPC of BiH.

At this meeting, colleagues from BiH and Serbia discussed prosecutorial organization and authorities, as well as activities of Prosecutors and Prosecutor’s Offices in the process of establishing the rule of law and activities related to the regional cooperation of Prosecutors.

Chief Prosecutor Goran Salihović emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between partner institutions in the countries in the region, since the fight against organized crime and corruption has long ago shown that crime knows no boundaries; hence, efficient cooperation of judicial institutions is a necessity.

In the course of this meeting, it was stressed that BiH and Serbia invested significant efforts into establishing the rule of law on their path to European integrations, as well as that efficient judiciary and fight against crime were key elements for progress in this process.
Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH Goran Salihović met with the officials from the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo who are engaged in issues related to strengthening of the rule of law and cooperation with the judicial and law enforcement agencies.

During the meeting they expressed support to the Prosecutor's Office of BiH in the process of strengthening the capacities of the Prosecutor’s Office for the purpose of a more effective fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism and efficient prosecution of war crimes.

Chief Prosecutor thanked the representatives of the U.S. Embassy for the continued assistance in strengthening the capacities of judicial institutions and law enforcement agencies in BiH and expressed his belief that the successful cooperation will continue in the future.

The Chief Prosecutor pointed out that the issue of war crimes processing is something that Bosnia and Herzegovina and its judiciary has to solve itself, that the problem will not be solved by the ICTY or the international community. He also emphasized that he expects the support of the Council of Ministers in the process of strengthening the capacities for prosecution of war crimes related to the hiring of 12 new prosecutors as well as the support of the BiH institutions in the relocation of the Prosecutor’s Office to a separate building with adequate space to accommodate all employees of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, which is one of the conclusions of the structural dialogue on judicial reform and an obligation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This year the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH celebrates 10 years of its existence, and it will continue with the activities in the fight against organized crime and corruption in order to protect and ensure security for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as to create an environment of the rule of law in our country, in line with the upcoming European Integration.
UN Special Representative on sexual violence in conflict visited the Prosecutor's Office of BiH

Prosecutor of the Special Department for War Crimes within the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH and other officials of the POBiH held a meeting with representatives of the UN today. The UN delegation was led by Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangur - Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for issues of sexual violence in armed conflicts.

Prosecution of war crimes related to rape and sexual abuse was discussed at the meeting.

Prosecutor and other representatives of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH informed the UN representatives about the work of the Prosecutor’s Office, as well as about the war crimes cases prosecuted to date, including cases of war crimes of rape and sexual abuse.

Representatives of the BiH Prosecutor’s Office informed Ms. Bangur and her colleagues about the work of the Investigation and Witness Support Department of the Prosecutor’s Office, which was established to provide support to victims and witnesses.

The meeting participants also discussed the modalities for improving and expediting the processing of these cases as well as possibilities to support the victims of these crimes, during and after the trial.
Counter Terrorism Task Force constitutive meeting was held in Sarajevo. Pursuant to the decision of the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina the Task Force consists of representatives of judicial institutions, police and security agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Goran Salihović, Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH was appointed Chairman.

Future joint activities that will be aimed at detecting and preventing terrorist activities, as well as criminal prosecution and sanctioning of the perpetrators of these crimes were discussed in accordance with the plan for improvement of security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the upcoming process of European integration.

The highest officials of the judiciary, police, security and intelligence agencies, along with officials from the institutions responsible for tax and financial related affairs, made arrangements for joint actions aiming to prevent any activities that are related to terrorism including funding or supporting of terrorist activities and all other activities that could be linked to terrorism.

Meeting participants discussed the analysis of the situation in relation to the dangers of terrorism in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the plan of organization, work and activities of the Task Force up to the end of 2013, its pace of activities and other relevant issues.

The Task Force is a natural continuation of activities that the state of BiH has taken to strengthen its capacity to fight terrorism back from 2001, following the September 11 attack, and subsequent establishment of operative and task forces to fight terrorism that were formed after 2004.

The representative of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH informed the members of the Task Force with the recently pronounced final verdict for the committed criminal offense of terrorism in the case v. Zijad Dervišević et al., which determined that the criminal offense of terrorism was committed for poli-
tactical reasons in Zenica on April 11, 2011 when an explosive device was planted under the vehicle of a political official. The perpetrators of this crime, in the course of which fortunately there were no casualties, were sentenced to several years of imprisonment.

To ensure support to the activities of the judicial institutions and law enforcement agencies in BiH in the fight against terrorism, the meeting was attended by officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as well as officials of the European Union delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The joint conclusion of the meeting participants was that all competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina should actively participate in the fight against terrorism through joint activities, cooperation and exchange of information, especially if the terrorist activities are to be detected and prevented in time, or in the event that they do occur, to effectively detect and sanction the perpetrators.

Today’s Counter Terrorism Task Force meeting included the high ranked invitees and attendees from the following institutions:

- Prosecutor’s Office of BiH
- Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Intelligence and Security Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- State Investigation and Protection Agency
- Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- BiH Service for Foreigners’ Affairs
- Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Office of the Public Prosecutor of FBiH
- Prosecutor’s Office of Brčko District of BiH
- Office of the Public Prosecutor of Republika Srpska
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska
- Ministry of Interior of FBiH
- Police Department of FBiH
- Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska
- Police of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Tax Administration of Republika Srpska
- Tax Administration of FBiH
- FBI officials in BiH
- ICITAP Project in BiH
Working meeting of the Chief Prosecutor

Chief Prosecutor and Directors of BiH Police Agencies met in Banja Luka.

Central topics of the meeting were strengthening of cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism, an agreement regarding the dynamics of the chief prosecutor/heads of police agencies meetings in the future, and the analysis of joint police operations carried out in recent years.

In the framework of strengthening cooperation in the fight against terrorism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the meeting participants discussed the necessary future activities that will contribute to strengthening the capacity of BiH to fight against terrorism through the efforts of the Task Force and the Operational group to combat terrorism.

It was concluded that good cooperation between police agencies can facilitate efficient detection of terrorist threats, prompt reaction, prevention and sanctioning of criminal offenders linked with terrorism.

The meeting participants also discussed the sanctioning of police officers who were detected in commission of criminal offences. Specifically, it was concluded that such phenomena must effectively be sanctioned through disciplinary and criminal proceedings in order to eliminate such individuals from police structures.

One of the topics of the meeting was related to the analysis of joint police operations that have been carried out in recent years per order of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH. Representatives of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH have informed the participants about these cases, some of which are at the trial stage while others are in the investigation phase where indictments are to be expected.

They also discussed the cooperation of police agencies and security of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was concluded that it is necessary to strengthen the capacities of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies in order to successfully protect the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The future dynamics and composition of participants of the Chief Prosecutor/ Directors of Police Agencies meetings were agreed at the Banja Luka meeting. It was concluded that the parties should meet at least four times a year and that the meetings of the Chief Prosecutor and the Directors of Police Agencies should be attended by a representative of the Intelligence and Security Agency and representatives of cantonal police structures i.e. Police Commissioners to ensure better and more efficient cooperation.

Meetings of the Chief Prosecutor and directors of police agencies are held periodically in order to agree on joint actions in the fight against all forms of crime and to analyze security challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the meetings is to strengthen the cooperation, exchange information and
reach an agreement on activities that will enhance the fight against crime and ensure safety of all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Banja Luka meeting was attended by the following representatives:
- Chief Prosecutor of the BiH Prosecutor’s Office, Goran Salihović
- Director of the State Investigation and Protection Agency - SIPA, Goran Zubac
- Director of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies in BiH, Himzo Selimović
- Director of the BiH Border Police Vinko Dumančić
- BiH Intelligence and Security Agency representative Trifko Buha
- Chief of Police of the Brčko District, Goran Lujić
- Director of the RS Police, Gojko Vasić
- Director of the Federation BiH Police Department, Dragan Lukač
- Representative of ICITAP in BiH, Jim Tillman

Representatives of other police and security agencies in BiH shall attend the meetings of the Police Directors and Chief Prosecutor, when necessary, and if some of the issues discussed are related to matters falling within the domain of these institutions.

RS MoI hosted the meeting in Banja Luka and the RS Minister of Interior - Radoslav Jovičić addressed the participants at the begging of the meeting.

The next meeting will be organized by the State Investigation and Protection Agency - SIPA.

Sixth Symposium of Prosecutors in Neum

The delegation of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH participated at the Sixth Symposium of Prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina which was held in the period from 09 October to 11 October in Neum. The Symposium was attended not only by representatives of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, but also by representatives of Prosecutor’s Offices from all levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, as well as judges and representatives of international organizations and academic communities. Organization of the Symposium represents a joint effort of the Association of Prosecutors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Centers for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska and the Judicial Commission of the Brčko District of BiH, supported by the OSCE Mission to BiH, Embassy of the United States of America in BiH and Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in BiH.

November 2013
The Prosecutor’s Office of BiH also employs legal Interns and volunteers - young lawyers who get the chance to gain experience of working in the judicial institutions thus improving their capacities to work independently and helping them to step up and perform duties of legal officers, prosecutors or hold other judicial functions in the future.

Legal Interns and volunteers perform tasks and activities as requested by the Prosecutors with whom they work, hence they are involved in the preparation and drafting of various documents, delivery of submissions, maintaining contacts with other participants in the process, preparation of summonses for witnesses, drafting of the records etc...

The volunteers perform their tasks under the supervision of the prosecutor, which enables the young colleagues to understand the nature of work performed by the prosecutors thus giving them the necessary practice to be able to work independently in the future.

“When I came to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, I got the chance to work with experienced prosecutors and colleagues with years of experience in the judiciary. It is a great honor for me, but also an obligation, to perform my tasks professionally and efficiently.

Working on cases together with the prosecutor and other colleagues with whom I work as an intern-volunteer, I shall have the opportunity to gain experience that will be useful in my future professional work, as well as in preparing for the bar exam in order to continue my career in the judiciary.”

The Prosecutor’s Office of BiH pays attention to and trusts that the young generations will, in the future, be important links in the judicial system of our country and the establishment of the rule of law.

The fact that the public vacancy announcements for interns and volunteers in the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH attract a large number of applicants, indicates that young lawyers view being a part of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH’s team as a great challenge, and that working together with prosecutors, associates, investigators and other staff they can give their contribution in the prosecution of complex cases which are handled by the Prosecutor’s Office.
Tužilaštvo-Tužiteljstvo Bosne i Hercegovine

novembar/studeni 2013.

Dnevni avaz

Tužilaštvo BIH podijelo je optužnicu protiv 32 ubojaca u Nestor Lozica. Proveda na popisu je Ivan
Bez, koji je u Bosanju osuđen na godinu smrti, te sami vratili izvješća u
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Dnevni list

Svezido Kora, a Zivko

Svezido Kora, a Zivko
Tužilaštvo i VSTV o izvještaju EK

Pravosudne institucije zadovoljne ocjenama

Tužilaštvo BiH sa zadovoljstvom prihvata ocjene Evropske komisije (EK) u Izvještaju o napretku za 2013. godinu, u kojem se značajan dio odnosi na jačanje vladavine prava i reformu pravosuđa u Bosni i Hercegovini, saopćeno je jučer iz ove institucije.

Iz Tužilaštva naglašavaju da je u ovom izvještaju navedeno da je, ukupno gledajući, postignut dobar napredak na području pravosudne saradnje s drugim zemljama u regiji te je ocijenjeno da su aktivnosti Tužilaštva BiH znatno doprinijele ubranju procesa ekshumacija u BiH. Napredak je napravljen i u borbni protiv organiziranog kriminala.

Višoko sudsko i tužilačko vijeće (VSTV) BiH sa zadovoljstvom prihvata ocjenu Evropske komisije. Iz ove ustanove jučer je poručeno da su posebno zadovoljni jer je u Izvještaju konstatirano da postoje pozitivan trend u reformi pravosuđa u našoj zemlji u okviru strukturnog dijaloga i procesiranju predmeta ratnih zločina.

B. T.

Sigurnije okruženje za bh. građane

Evropska komisija objavila je izvještaj o napretku za 2013. godinu, u kojem se značajan dio odnosi na jačanje vladavine prava i reformu pravosuđa u BiH. Tužiteljstvo BiH sa zadovoljstvom prihvata ocjene EK-a u kojima se navodi da je potpisivanjem protokola o saradnji u procesiranju počinitelja ratnih zločina, zločina protiv čovjekovosti i genocida, koji su potpisani u prvoj polovini ove godine, ostvaren značajan napredak u regionalnoj saradnji u procesiranju predmeta ratnih zločina, saopćeno je iz Tužiteljstva BiH.

Također, ocijenjeno je da su aktivnosti Tužiteljstva BiH značajno doprinijele ubranju procesa ekshumacija u BiH, “Otakso je Tužiteljstvo BiH od lokalnih tužiteljstava preuzeto odgovornost za provođenje ekshumacija masovnih grobnica, značajno se poboljšala efikasnost procesa iskopavanja, a došlo je i do smanjenja broja neriješenih predmeta”, stoji u izvještaju.

Pozitivno se ocjenjuje i jačanje borbe protiv organiziranog kriminala. “BiH je postigla ograničen napredak u borbi protiv organiziranog kriminala i terorizma. Saradnja među agencijama za provedbu zakona se nastavlja, ali je potrebno konsolidirati sistematičnu razmjenu obavještajnih podataka te uspostaviti mehanizme koordinacije. Na onaj način, saradnja između policije i tužiteljstava zahtijeva strukturna poboljšanja kako bi se garantirao efikasni završetak takvih aktivnosti u pravosuđu”, navodi se u izvještaju.

Tužiteljstvo BiH poručuje bh. građanima da se još većim intenzitetom nastavlja aktivnost u borbi protiv organiziranog kriminala i korupcije, te procesiranju predmeta ratnih zločina, sa ciljem jačanja vladavine prava i stvaranja sigurnijeg okruženja, na predstojecem putu europskih integracija.