



# HRSP NEWSLETTER

*U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section*

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## **Ohio man who lied about participation in ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia sentenced to prison**

An Ohio man was sentenced to two years in prison for lying on his immigration documents by failing to disclose his role in the ethnically motivated murder of a Croatian couple during the war in Croatia. Slobodan Mutic, 53, is expected to be deported upon completion of his sentence to Croatia, where he will stand trial for human-rights violations.

Mutic, a former soldier of the now-defunct rogue state, the Republic of Serb Krajina, pleaded guilty last year to one count of knowingly and willingly possessing a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Form I-94, knowing it to be forged, counterfeited, altered, falsely made or to be have been procured by means of a false claim or statement.

"Our nation welcomes refugees, not human rights criminals," said Steven M. Dettelbach, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. "This defendant lied his way into this nation and does not deserve the privileges and freedoms this great nation offers. It is now up the legal system to ensure that he will be held to account for any of his actions in a proper court once he is returned to his home country."

Mutic possessed a Form I-94 in 2012 that he fraudulently procured. Mutic falsely claimed "no" when filling out immigration forms that asked if he had ever "been arrested, cited, charged, indicted, fined or imprisoned for breaking any law or ordinance..." and again when asked if he had "ever engaged in any genocide, otherwise ordered, incited, assisted or otherwise participated in the killing of any person because of race, religion, nationality ethnic origin or political opinion," according to court documents.

Those answers were false. Mutic was arrested, detained for a month in Croatia, and questioned by local law enforcement about the murder of Stjepan and Paula Cindric. The answers also contradicted statements he made during a January 8, 1992 interview that were memorialized in an affidavit that Mutic signed, according to court documents. In that affidavit, Mutic admitted to his participation in the murder of the Cindric family along with accomplice Dragan Perencevic. Mutic and Perencevic targeted the Cindrics because of their ethnicity. Mutic is also wanted for other crimes in Croatia, including the murder of Aleksandra Zivkovic, according to court documents.

This case is being prosecuted by U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio following an investigation by Homeland Security and Homeland Security's Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center. People with information about former human rights violators in the United States are urged to contact U.S. law enforcement: HRSP, 1-800-813-5863; HSI tip line, 1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-800-347-2423) or complete its online tip form <http://www.ice.gov/exec/forms/hsi-tips/tips.asp>; and FBI's Genocide War Crimes unit, tip form at <https://tips.fbi.gov/>.

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