



HRSP NEWSLETTER

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

March 2016

FORMER MEMBER OF CROATIAN DEFENSE COUNCIL IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA SENTENCED FOR FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING GREEN CARD AND CONSENTS TO REMOVAL FROM UNITED STATES

A Forrest Lake, Minnesota, man was sentenced on February 11 for failing to disclose, during his immigration to the United States, multiple crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina before and during the Bosnian Conflict in the 1990s. Zdenko Jakiša, 47, stipulated to an order of judicial removal from the United States, in which he agreed that he is not lawfully admissible in the United States and agreed to surrender on February 16 to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for removal. Jakiša was sentenced to time served by U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson of the District of Minnesota.

According to the plea agreement, Jakiša is a Bosnian citizen and between July 1990 and October 1997, he was convicted of various crimes and charged with others in Bosnia, including a conviction for shooting and killing his neighbor through her bedroom window in September 1993. While some of these charges remained pending in Bosnia, Jakiša fled to the United States where, he now admits, he lied about his criminal history on his legal permanent resident applications and was granted lawful permanent resident status in the United States.

The ICE Homeland Security Investigations St. Paul, Minnesota, Office investigated the case with support from the FBI's Minneapolis Field Office. ICE's Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center provided the lead in this investigation. The Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs and their counterparts at the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided valuable assistance.

Trial Attorney Ann Marie Ursini of the Criminal Division's Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan P. Petterson of the District of Minnesota prosecuted the case.

Members of the public who have information about former human rights violators in the United States are urged to contact U.S. law enforcement through the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section at 1-800-813-5863, or through the HSI tip line at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE or to complete its online tip form at www.ice.gov/exec/forms/hsi-tips/tips.asp.

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