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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Arrest of Ratko Mladic

As delivered by Charge d' Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 2, 2011

The United States also welcomes the arrest of Ratko Mladic by Serbian security services a week ago today. We commend President Tadic, the Government of Serbia, its security services, and all those who have labored for years to bring Mladic to justice. This is a huge step for Serbia on its continued path towards Euro-Atlantic integration and towards its coming of age as a nation. We also welcome the transfer of Mladic to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, where he will finally face justice.

We reiterate the words of Secretary Clinton: "Mladic's arrest serves as a statement to those around the world who would break the law and target innocent civilians: international justice works. If you commit a crime, you will not escape judgment, you will not go free.

"Today, as we thank Serbia for bringing a criminal to justice, we also send our deepest sympathies and extend our thoughts and prayers to all those who have suffered from the notorious acts charged to Mladic, particularly the genocide at Srebrenica in 1995. You have waited far too long for this day. This arrest cannot restore what you have forever lost, but we hope it will provide some comfort that this criminal is now behind bars. We hope that Serbia's action in arresting Mladic will help Serbia move on, provide the opportunity to gain admission into the European Union and enable Serbia to build a brighter future as part of a whole, free, and peaceful Europe."

Thank you, Chair.