



PRESS RELEASE

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Wednesday, 4 June 2003 at 9:00 a.m.**, the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina will hold a public hearing in Sarajevo in the Cantonal Court, located at Ulica Šenoina 1, on the admissibility and merits of case nos. CH/98/420, CH/98/451, CH/98/464, CH/00/5893, CH/01/8440, CH/02/9315, and CH/02/9852 *Azra KUGIĆ and Others v. Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska*.

Factual background

The cases *CH/98/420 et al.*, *Azra Kugić & Others v. Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska*, currently pending before the Chamber, concern complaints by persons who, before the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, deposited foreign currency in savings accounts at branch offices of various banks (e.g., Ljubljanska Banka d.d., Privredna Banka Sarajevo d.d.) located in what is now the Republika Srpska. The applicants, who are unable to obtain money from these accounts, complain that the current legal framework in the Republika Srpska concerning such "old foreign currency savings" violates their right to property, as protected by the Human Rights Agreement (Annex 6 to the Dayton Peace Agreement).

Alleged human rights violations

The applications raise issues with regard to the applicants' rights to protection of property (Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights).

Hearing procedure

The parties will make oral presentations at the public hearing, after which the President of the Chamber will direct further procedures. In addition to the parties, the Chamber has invited an expert witness, Prof. Dr. Dragoljub Stojanov of the Economic Faculty of the University of Sarajevo, and representatives of the Republika Srpska Directorate for Privatisation and the Association of Republika Srpska Citizens With Old Foreign Currency Savings to participate in the hearing.

It will be possible to follow the hearing in both the national languages and English.