

INTERNATIONAL RESIDUAL MECHANISM FOR CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS

Case No: MICT-17-112-ES.2 (ICTY IT-04-74)

Date: 14 September 2026

PRESIDENT OF THE MECHANISM

In the Case of

THE PROSECUTOR

v.

JADRANKO PRLIĆ

PUBLIC with public ANNEXES

JADRANKO PRLIĆ'S APPLICATION FOR EARLY RELEASE

The Office of the Prosecutor

Mr. Mathias Marcussen

Counsel for Jadranko Prlić

Mr. Steven W. Becker

JADRANKO PRLIĆ'S APPLICATION FOR EARLY RELEASE

I. BACKGROUND

1. Jadranko Prlić voluntarily surrendered to the ICTY in The Hague on 5 April 2004, where his initial appearance took place on 6 April 2004. On 29 May 2013, the Trial Chamber found Mr. Prlić guilty pursuant to Article 7(1) of the Statute and sentenced him to 25 years of imprisonment. On 29 November 2017, the Appeals Chamber issued the final judgement, reversed his convictions for certain crimes, and affirmed the sentence.
2. On 4 April 2019, Mr. Prlić was transferred to the United Kingdom, where he currently serves his sentence.
- 3.. On 7 March 2024, Mr. Prlić submitted an application for early release after serving two-thirds of his sentence. On 7 March 2025, Madam President denied the application.¹ Therein, Madam President pointed out that “Prlić has shown good behaviour in prison and taken positive steps in his rehabilitative process”; however, she noted that “I am of the view that Prlić has not yet reached a level of rehabilitation sufficient to merit early release. I encourage him to continue engaging with the rehabilitative process and in ways that provide concrete evidence of his commitment to it.”²
4. Moreover, the Prosecution likewise conceded that “Prlić has made important progress towards rehabilitation”³
5. Jadranko Prlić, through his counsel, respectfully submits this Application pursuant to Articles 25 and 26 of the MICT Statute, Rules 150 and 151 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence (the Rules), and relevant provisions of the applicable Practice Direction. This Application is submitted seeking Mr. Prlić's early release after serving well over two-thirds of his sentence, and the grounds are set forth below.

¹ See *Decision on the Early Release of Jadranko Prlić*, of 7 March 2025, para. 89.

² See *Decision on the Early Release of Jadranko Prlić*, of 7 March 2025, para. 64.

³ See *Decision on the Early Release of Jadranko Prlić*, of 7 March 2025, para. 69.

II. APPLICABLE LAW

6. It is well established MICT jurisprudence that a convicted person having served two-thirds of his/her sentence shall become eligible to be considered for early release, which may only be granted by the President as a matter of discretion, after considering the totality of non-exhaustive circumstances/factors in each case (such as gravity of the crimes, demonstration of rehabilitation, acceptance of responsibility and signs of critical reflection, expressions of remorse, cooperation with the Prosecutor, treatment of similarly situated prisoners, prospects of reintegration into society, actions taken to foster reconciliation and evidence of positive attitude towards persons of other backgrounds, behavior in prison ...).

It is also established jurisprudence that the MICT legal framework and practice allow for factors taken into account at the sentencing stage to be considered when determining whether early release is appropriate.⁴

III. CIRCUMSTANCES OF MR. PRLIĆ'S CASE

Eligibility

7. Mr. Prlić became eligible to be considered for early release in April 2024 when he served two-thirds of his sentence.

Gravity of crimes

8. Jadranko Prlić genuinely accepts that the crimes for which he was convicted are grave and very serious. A huge majority of the crimes in the judgement related to innocent civilians. The gravity of the crimes is reflected throughout the judgements and in the sentence imposed.

Acceptance of responsibility, signs of critical reflection, expressions of remorse

9. At the specific request of Mr. Prlić, it is submitted here that he accepts the final judgement in his case. He accepts that the grave crimes were committed during the BiH Croat-Muslim armed conflict 1992-94, as found in the judgements. He accepts his personal responsibility for the crimes he was convicted for. He deeply regrets his

⁴ See *Decision on the Application for Early Release of Sreten Lukić*, of 7 October 2021, para. 75. See also *Decision on Dragoljub Kunarac Application for Early Release*, of 31 December 2020, para. 73.

personal role in the commission of those crimes through his acts or omissions. He expresses his sincere remorse and deep condolences to the victims of Muslim/Bosniak ethnicity and their relatives for the lives lost and physical and mental sufferings endured. Mr. Prlić's public Statement (annexed to this Application), confirms and further elaborates these statements.

10. Accepting full responsibility is not a rapid process, but a consequence of a long process of reflection and deepening insight into remorse already felt. Mr. Prlić's thoughts and position have changed over time - in war, after the war, facing the indictment, during the trial process, and after the judgement.
11. Moreover, Mr. Prlić's rehabilitative process is closely connected to acceptance of his responsibility for all crimes contained in the judgement, including the actions of the JCE that enabled commission of these crimes. Not partial, but full responsibility, without relativization, rationalization, or justification. Also related to his responsibility are numerous political decisions, in exercising high positions of the HVO President and subsequently HR HB Prime Minister during that period, which had an impact on creating an atmosphere in which crimes were committed.
- 12.. Mr. Prlić's focus has been on processing committed crimes, by accepting his role in them, mainly to the range of crimes related to ethnic cleansing and random imprisonment, including conditions in detention centers.
13. Acceptance of crimes is accompanied by critical reflection. Mr. Prlić was thinking and analyzing about these subjects earlier, but this time his self-examination of committed crimes has been more focused not just on his own responsibility, remorse, and regret, but a greater emphasis has been shown to victims of ethnic cleansing or detention, some of them who were known to him.
14. Meeting many victims during his time in BiH Government (1994-2003) in Sarajevo and acknowledging their struggles has helped Mr. Prlić in contemplating the destiny of his neighbors or his colleagues from the work place, professors, and students due to the crimes involved in his conviction. Mr. Prlić has tried to properly and as precisely as possible identify the victim-perpetrator relationship.
15. Such an approach has helped Mr. Prlić to understand deeper and more complete lasting pains of his victims. In that process, Mr. Prlić used some printed manuals that he obtained from the library or other prisoners, including "Victim Empathy Module" or workbooks such as "My Strength" and "Changing Offender Behavior," especially the

set of questions on “understanding other people’s views,” which, although not directly applicable to the scale of his case, offered a general framework for a more structural introspection (as explained in his Statement).

Actions taken to foster reconciliation and evidence of positive attitude towards persons of other backgrounds

16. As a member of the BiH State delegation, Mr. Prlić participated in peace negotiations at Dayton in November 1995 and initialed the Dayton Peace Agreement, as the only official from BiH besides Mr. Alija Izetbegović.
17. In the post-conflict period (1994–2003), Mr. Prlić held high positions in the BiH Government - Minister of Defense (1994–1996), Minister of Foreign Affairs (1996–2001), Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (2001–2003), - living and working in Sarajevo. He was elected a member of the BiH Parliament twice, in 1996 and 1998. He was the founder and first President of the non-governmental multiethnic association Forum 2000 – European Movement. During this ten-year period (up until his voluntary surrender to the ICTY), he closely cooperated with the representatives of the international community and initiated and participated in many decisions contributing to restoration of peace in BiH and reconciliation amongst its three constituent peoples.
18. All High Representatives of the international community at the relevant time (1995–2003), appointed with the approval of the UN SC and acting as the final civilian authority in BiH, Mr. Carl Bildt, Mr. Jacques Paul Klein (also led UN Mission at the time), Mr. Wolfgang Petritsch, and Mr. Carlos Westendorp, in their respective Rule 92bis statements (admitted into evidence), acknowledged and highly appraised Mr. Prlić’s post-conflict contribution to the restoration of peace and reconciliation amongst the peoples of BiH.⁵

For example, Jacques Paul Klein (1997 – 2003) stated: “*Inter alia, Dr. Jadranko Prlić was a key figure in advocating support for the rolls that OHR and UNMiBH were playing in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was a forceful advocate in moving for reconciliation among the three constituent peoples, worked closely with us on the missing persons issues, and served with Senator Dole on the International Commission*

⁵ See documents: 1D03098, 1D03041, 1D03042, 1D03043.

for Missing Persons dealing with the issue of Srebrenica and related issues and insisting on the importance for all parties concerned to come to closure./.../ I found him to consistently be a strong advocate for ethnic reconciliation, European integration and cooperation with the international community. His goal was to move forward and he demonstrated great personal courage in doing so when many of these ideas were still very much opposed by large segments of the BiH political leadership. I found Dr. Prlić to be one of the most committed political figures in BiH in attempting to right the past /.../”

19. These statements by Mr. Klein are illustrative of those made by all other High Representatives, which, without exception, contain similar or even-more favorable testimonies regarding Mr. Prlić’s post-war contribution to peace and reconciliation in BiH.⁶ Their statements are highly credible, as they come from individuals who, given their official functions, roles, and authorities, were in the best position to assess Mr. Prlić’s contribution to peace and reconciliation in BiH.
20. It is established MICT jurisprudence that actions taken to foster reconciliation and evidence that a convicted person has a positive attitude towards persons of other backgrounds bearing in mind the discriminatory motive of some of the crimes, may be positive indicators of his rehabilitation.⁷ Mr. Prlić’s post-conflict acts, words and conduct, as described in the High Representatives’ statements, clearly indicate that he does not harbor any sort of ethnic or religious enmity towards Muslims/Bosniaks, or any other ethnic or religious group in BiH or anywhere else.
21. It is true that the events and actions testified to by the High Representatives occurred over 25 years ago. Yet, it must be kept in mind that during this period (prior to his departure to The Hague in 2004), Mr. Prlić was objectively in a position to contribute to peace and reconciliation in BiH. The circumstances were highly complex, wounds were still fresh, and political tensions remained high. In this environment, Mr. Prlić’s actions, decisions, and the policies he advocated and implemented have made significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation in BiH, as confirmed by the High Representatives.

⁶ For the sake of brevity and in view of the applicable word count, these statements are not quoted *in extenso* here.

⁷ See *Decision on the Application for Early Release of Sreten Lukić*, of 7 October 2021, para. 52.

22. It is also true that the Trial Chamber addressed this issue and viewed Mr. Prlić's contribution to peace and reconciliation favorably, treating it as a mitigating circumstance for sentencing purposes.
23. Respectfully, given the scope, quality, consistency, and duration of Mr. Prlić's contribution to peace and reconciliation in BiH, and in line with established MICT jurisprudence—which allows factors considered during the sentencing phase to be revisited for early release purposes—this unique circumstance of Mr. Prlić's case warrants careful consideration and positive assessment. Furthermore, Mr. Prlić's public statement (attached hereto), in which he marks that period as the beginning of his gradual awareness of his responsibility for the crimes committed, constitutes a new fact or circumstance that justifies this approach.

Behavior in prison

24. While serving his sentence (at the UNDU and in the UK), Mr. Prlić always maintained good relations with fellow detainees, regardless of their nationality/ethnicity or religion. In HMP Isle of Wight, Mr. Prlić has shown respect for the management and the staff and complied with all the rules. He carries out all four elements of the sentence plan and accepts all available rehabilitation and probation programs.
25. Parallel to numerous attempts to initiate contact with the custody officer and the psychological department, Mr. Prlić, has, on his own initiative and in cooperation with his key-officer, continued to undertake activities related to his rehabilitation process, some of those envisaged by Madam President's decision in March 2025. Those activities, however, did not begin with the decision but have continued throughout Mr. Prlić's period of incarceration. Madam President's decision prompted him to engage in even deeper self-examination and intensified his rehabilitative activities (in cooperation with prison authorities). Some of these activities were initiated by Mr. Prlić, and he plays a leading role in them.
26. Evidence of the continuation of Mr. Prlić's rehabilitative process is demonstrated by the following activities Mr. Prlić has engaged in since the time his first application was filed and decided:
 - Of particular significance, Mr. Prlić was proposed by prisoners and approved by prison authorities as the Equality Representative, who helps to ensure diversity and

inclusion with respect to all nine of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010). As such, he organizes different activities and participates in forums organized weekly related to the aforementioned protected characteristics throughout the year, especially BAME (Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic), foreign nationals, GTR (Gypsy, Traveller, and Roma), LGBT, young adults, and those over 50 years of age;

- Mr. Prlić has also become a member of the Prison Council, the main body in the prison for articulating the interests of prisoners, in close contact with the Governor and his team. For instance, Mr. Prlić was reporting on behalf of all prisoners about fundamental changes in the Incentive Framework Policy, which is a key tool for incentivizing positive and responsible behavior, personal progression, and purposeful activity;

- After being the library orderly, Mr. Prlić has a responsible job as Gym orderly, which requires high-security clearance; in this capacity he organizes appropriate activities for senior inmates (“Oldies”);

- On 12 August 2026, prisoners and Senior Leadership Team, with the Governor, accepted Mr. Prlić’s initiative “Prisoners for prisoners” with the wide range of activities aiming to provide support for the most-deprived prisoners in the community, with no contacts with family or former friends. He is the leading person in this program;

- Mr. Prlić raised and led an initiative of issuing an art magazine in prison, with the support and assistance of prison authorities;

- Mr. Prlić continued his life-long education process attending different long-distance learning courses, supported by PET (Prison Education Trust). In 2026, he successfully completed the course for a Certificate for Foundation of Journalism;

- Mr. Prlić was proposed by the prisoners and approved by prison authorities to become the Faith Representative on his wing (for approximately 80 prisoners). The inmates are from different religious affiliations, and he is taking care that all prisoners have the ability to profess their religious faith on an equal basis;

- In addition, it is important to emphasize that, although Mr. Prlić is retired – and is thus not obligated to work, he is, as noted above, employed full time as a Gym orderly, in which he has contact with all the prisoners.

27. These are only some of Mr. Prlić’s ongoing activities relating to his active participation in various rehabilitation programs, in close cooperation with prison authorities. Mr. Prlić has an enhanced status as a prisoner due to his exemplary behavior with respect

to his work, education, and purposeful activities, as well as his relationship to staff and his fellow prisoners.

28. In light of the above and, especially in light of his public statement attached to this Application (in which Mr. Prlić explains his inner motives), it is evident that his behavior in prison is not merely passive compliance with prison rules for opportunistic reasons (to make his own prison life easier or for some other opportunistic purposes), or the very minimum that could be expected, but much more than that. In the totality of the particular circumstances of his case, the scope, intensity and quality of his participation in various rehabilitation activities is a testament to his genuine change, a sincere desire to do good, and a relevant indicator of his rehabilitation. Thus, it deserves to be taken into account and given due weight in the overall assessment of this Application.

Other circumstances

29. Mr. Prlić voluntarily surrendered to the ICTY on 5 April 2004, only 5 days after receiving the Indictment, showing his respect for the system of international justice. He respected all orders of the Trial Chamber pending and during trial.
30. Prior to the ICTY Indictment, Mr. Prlić had no criminal record.
31. Mr. Prlić maintains close family ties with his wife and his two daughters and their families. He maintains regular contact with them. He has six grandchildren. His family provides valuable emotional support to Mr. Prlić. With family support, Mr. Prlić will not have any difficulty to reintegrate into the Croatian society, if granted early release.
32. There is not the slightest risk of Mr. Prlić reoffending. He does not pose any danger or threat to any person or to public order or safety, neither in Croatia nor in BiH.
33. If this application is granted, Mr. Prlić would live a private life with his wife in Zagreb (Croatia) where his daughters and their families also reside. He has since acquired the conditions for a pension and will be able to provide support for his livelihood together with his wife.

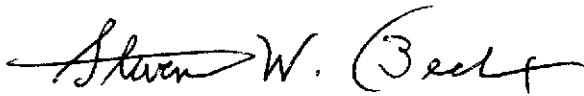
34. If granted early release, Mr. Prlić hereby reiterates and incorporates personal commitments he offered in his first Application.⁸ Mr. Prlić will accept and respect any other conditions Madam President may find appropriate in the circumstances.

IV. RELIEF SOUGHT

35. For all above-stated reasons, Jadranko Prlić respectfully asks Madam President to grant his application for early release, subject to conditions she may find appropriate in the circumstances.

Word count: 2952

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven W. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Becker" clearly legible.

Steven W. Becker

Counsel for Jadranko Prlić

⁸ Para. 35. of the first Application.

ANNEX A

Public

eMates

Reply sheet

From: Jadranko Prlic A9156EH

To: Matea Prlic (Account ID: 1091521)

Message ID: 34478552



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1.
HMP Isle of Wight
20. kolovoz 2026.

Postovana gospodjo Predsjednice MICT-a, ccazna sutkinjo Graciela Gatti Santana,

Proces mog samoispitivanja o zločinima zbog kojih sam osuđen i o mojoj ulozi u njima nije prestao podnošenjem mog prvog zahtjeva za prijevremeno puštanje na slobodu. On se nastavio jednakim intenzitetom. Taj proces je dodatno potaknuo Vas dobronamjerni savjet/poticaaj u Vasojoj Odluci od 8. ozujka 2025., na kojem Vam zahvaljujem, "... da i dalje saradjuje(m) sa zatvorskim vlastima u kontinuiranom procesu samoispitivanja i rehabilitacije, tako da se njegova (moja) sadasnja predanost znacajnoj promjeni moze jasnije utvrditi."

U tom cilju poduzeo sam, u brojnim kontaktima sa zatvorskim vlastima i clanovima psiholoskog odjela, sve sto sam mogao da to i osiguram. Ako sam u tom nastojanju, mozda, bio i preuporan ili prenaporan, ja im se ovom prilikom ispricavam. Od zatvorske uprave i psiholoskog odjela dobio sam pismo (o kojem ste obavijesteni) da mi nisu u mogucnosti osigurati posebne/odgovarajuce rehabilitacijske i psiholoske programe zbog jedinstvenih okolnosti mog slucaja. Ja sam razumio jedinstvenost mog slucaja i objektivnu nemogucnost zatvorske uprave da mi osigura odgovarajuce rehabilitacijske i psiholoske programe i u dobroj vjeri sam to i prihvatio, svjestan da teret rehabilitacije u konacnici ovisi samo o meni. U zatvorskoj knjiznici ili od drugih zatvorenika uspio sam pribaviti odredjenu strucnu literaturu koja bi mi mogla pomoci u procesu samoispitivanja i rehabilitacije (primjerice Modul Empatija prema zrtvi, te radni prirucnici "My Strength" and "Changing Offender Behavior", posebice u njemu sadržanog seta pitanja vezanih za razumijevanje gledista drugih ljudi). Ti su mi prirucnici, iako nisu predvidjeni za specificne okolnosti mog slucaja, kao opci okvir ipak pomogli da moje samoispitivanje bude dublje i strukturiranije, posebice u pogledu empatije prema zrtvama zlocina. Kroz njih sam bolno osvijestio da moje odluke nisu bile samo politicki ili vojni akti, vec da su izravno unistile konkretne ljudske sudbine, obitelji i generacije, te da trauma zrtava ne prestaje zavrsetkom rata, vec traje i danas.

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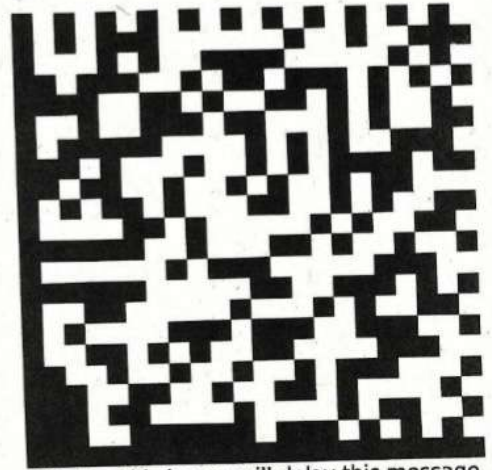
eMates

Reply sheet

From: Jadranko Prlic A9156EH

To: Matea Prlic (Account ID: 1091521)

Message ID: 34478524



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2.
U tom procesu samoispitivanja (razmisljanja o svakom pocinjenom zlocinu i preispitivanju svoje uloge i odgovornosti u tim zlocinima), ja sam u tisini svoje celije i sam sa svojim mislima, dozio duboku promjenu, u umu i srcu. Ta se promjena nije dogodila preko noci, niti jucer i ona je ireverzibilna. Presao sam racionalno i emotivno dug i bolan put od negiranja i potiskivanja svoje odgovornosti za pocinjene zlocine (poslije rata i tijekom sudjenja) do potpunog prihvatanja svoje odgovornosti i svoje osude (posebice nakon mog premjestanja u UK, u travnju 2019.) I Vasa odluka, gospodjo Predsjednice, od 8. ozujka 2025. je znacajno doprinijela, na pozitivan i poticajan nacin, tom trajnom procesu.

Danas, nakon godina razmisljanja o tome, znam da je proces postupnog osvjestavanja moje osobne odgovornosti za zlocine pocinjene protiv bosnjackog/muslimanskog stanovnistva na podrucju tadašnje HZB/HRHB 1992-94., zapoceo nakon Washingtonskog (1994.) i Daytonskog sporazuma (1995.). U tom sam razdoblju (1994-2003.), ziveci i radeci u Sarajevu, obnasaoci visoke drzavne funkcije u Vladi BiH. Prisjecam se susreta u Sarajevu u tom razdoblju sa svojim profesorima, studentima i kolegama bosnjacke/muslimanske nacionalnosti i povremenih trenutaka kada sam sam osjetio duboki sram, zaljenje i kajanje zbog njihovih pretrpljenih patnji. U tim sam trenucima bio svjestan i svoje osobne odgovornosti zbog zla kojeg su prozivjeli zbog mojih odluka i propusta, ali su mehanizmi potiskivanja tada bili jos suvise jaki. U to vrijeme nisam mogao prihvatiti i svoju osobnu odgovornost za pocinjene zlocine, na nacin i u opsegu u kojem to mogu uciniti danas nakon sudjenja i godina samoispitivanja i razmisljanja o tome.

Unatoc svemu, to je bilo razdoblje mog postupnog samosvjestavanja, iako jos nisam mogao prihvatiti i svoju osobnu odgovornost i krivnju za pocinjene zlocine (premda te zlocine nisam negirao i izrazavao sam svoje zaljenje u brojnim prilikama.)

Danas sam uvjeren da su moji tadašnji izrazi zaljenja (koji su bili iskreni) zbog pocinjenih zlocina, moja nastojanja kao clana Vlade BiH 1994-2003. da pridonesem miru i pomirbi u Bosni i Hercegovini, pa cak i moje svjedočenje pred OTP istražiteljima 2001. godine, na neki nacin bili i izraz mog potisnutog kajanja i griznje savjesti i moje podsvjesne unutarnje potrebe da cinim sve sto je u mojoj moci da ublazim ili pokusam ispraviti zlocudne posljedice svojih prošlih djela i propusta.

eMates

Reply sheet

From: Jadranko Prlic A9156EH

To: Matea Prlic (Account ID: 1091521)

Message ID: 34478544



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3. Taj proces kritickog i iskrenog preispitivanja traje u kontinuitetu vec godinama i trajat ce do posljednjeg dana mog zivota. U tom procesu, ja sam sebi najstroziji sudac.

Promjena o kojoj govorim je takve naravi da se zahtijeva da se zivi i djeluje u skladu s njom. Mnogo sam razmisljao o tome na koji nacin u mojim sadašnjim zivotnim okolnostima ja tu promjenu mogu zivjeti, odnosno djelima potvrdjivati.

U zatvorskim okolnostima ja to mogu uciniti samo tako da, koliko god to objektivno mogu, pozitivno djelujem na druge zatvorenike, da ih savjetom i osobnim primjerom poticem na samoispitivanje, postivanje zatvorskog osoblja, zatvorskih pravila i discipline, postivanje ljudskog dostojanstva drugih, koristenje raspolozivih rehabilitacijskih programa, miroljubivo i racionalno rjesavanje mogucih sukoba, bavljenje razlicitim aktivnostima da bi im zivot u zatvoru bio svrhovitiji i ispunjeniji. Rjecju, da svatko bude najbolji covjek koji u tim okolnostima moze biti. Ja to i cinim. Nastojim pozitivno utjecati na ljude u svom okruzenju i ciniti dobro, bez obzira na njihovu razlicitu etnicku pripadnost, vjeru, dob, socijalno podrijetlo, seksualnu orijentaciju ili bilo koju drugu skupnu znacajku.

Moje ponasanje u zatvoru nije tek pasivno postivanje zatvorskih pravila iz oportunistickih/sebicnih razloga (da bih sebi olaksao zatvorski zivot), nego mnogo vise od toga. Ono je izraz moje potrebe da cinim dobro, kad god i gdje god to mogu.

Ali mnogo sam razmisljao i o necemu sto mi je najvaznije: kako ja, u svojim sadašnjim zivotnim okolnostima, mogu potvrditi i izraziti tu svoju promjenu cineci nesto dobro za Bosnu i Hercegovinu? Kako ja mogu pridonijeti miru, pomirbi i obnovi povjerenja medju narodima i gradjanima BiH?

Bosna i Hercegovina je moja domovina kojoj zelim sve najbolje. Ja bih zelio da BiH postane sto prije punopravna clanica EU, da sve njene razlicitosti i specificnosti (etnicke, vjerske, obicajne) budu njenim narodima i gradjanima razlog za ponos, a ne razlog za nesuglasice i sukobe, da sve politicke i druge nesuglasice rjesava pregovorima i dogovorima (nikad vise silom i oruzjem) te da pojedinci i narodi dobrim djelima obnavljaju i ucvrscuju medjusobno povjerenje. O buducnosti BiH mogu odlucivati samo narodi i gradjani BiH. Nitko drugi.

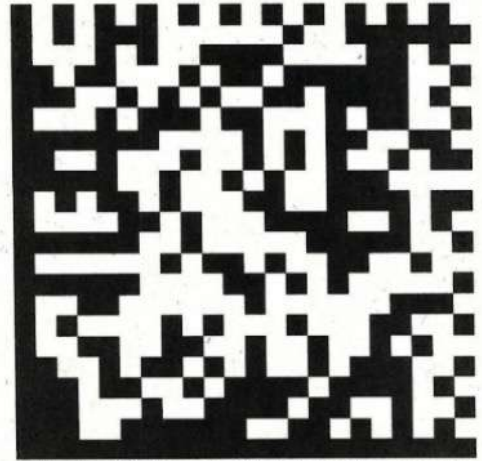
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Reply sheet

From: Jadranko Prlic A9156EH

To: Matea Prlic (Account ID: 1091521)

Message ID: 34321381



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4.
A povjerenje medju narodima i gradjanima BiH (kao temelj i jamstvo održivog mira i skladnog zivota u BiH) moze se obnoviti i razvijati samo na temelju istine (o proslosti i pocinjenim zlocinima) i pravde (procesuiranju i kaznjavanju pocinitelja tih zlocina). Zlocine ne cine narodi, nego pojedinci. Zlocini se moraju iskreno priznati, a ne negirati ili opravdavati. Presude ICTY i MICT moraju se postovati, osudjeni ratni zlocinci ne smiju se proglasavati herojima, jer to izravno i duboko vrijeđa zrtve. To se jednako odnosi na sve. Samo tako se moze izrazavati istinski pijetet i sucut prema zrtvama i njihovoj patnji i postovati njihovo ljudsko dostojanstvo. Nema te nacionalne zastave dovoljno velike da prekrije ili prikrije sramotu ubijanja nevinih ljudi. Nema tog nacionalnog interesa ili politickog cilja dovoljno vaznog da opravda zlocinacka sredstva i patnje nevinih. Nakon svakog rata ostaje samo tuga i kajanje. Ja sam to prozivio i jos uvijek prozivljavam. I to kajanje i tu tugu.

Ja postujem institucije MKSJ/MICT, njene suce/sutkinje i tuzitelje/tuziteljice, kao i sve druge instrumente medjunarodne pravde, za koje, s obzirom na recentne dogadjaje u svijetu i strasne ratove koji se u razlicitim dijelovima svijeta vode, smatram da su potrebniiji nego ikad.

Danas, dvije i pol godine nakon moje prve molbe za prijevremeno pustanje i moje prve izjave, imam potrebu jos jednom izraziti, Vama gospodjo Predsjednice i svim drugim kojih bi se to moglo ticati (a posebice gradjanima BiH), svoj stav o mojoj krivnji i mojoj presudi. Ja prihvacam sva cinjenicna i pravna utvrdjenja u mojim presudama. Ja prihvacam utvrdjenja o etnickom ciscenju, o brojnim zlocinima pocinjenim na razlicitim lokalitetima BiH (u Mostaru, Stupnom Dolu, Sovicima/Doljanima, Prozoru, Gornjem Vakufu, Varesu, Stocu, Ljubuskom, Capljini i drugdje) od strane pripadnika HVO prema bosnjackom/muslimanskom stanovnistvu u razdoblju 1992-94.

To ukljucuje ubojstva, nezakonita zatvaranja u zatocenicke centre (Heliodrom, Dretelj, Gabela i drugim mjestima), mucenja i nehumano postupanje u njima; progone, oduzimanje i unistavanje imovine, pljacke, razaranje kulturnih i vjerskih institucija i sve druge utvrdjene zlocine. Kao sto prihvacam i pravne kvalifikacije tih zlocina kao ratnih zlocina, zlocina protiv covjecnosti i teskih povreda humanitarnog prava.

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eMates

Reply sheet

From: Jadranko Prlic A9156EH

To: Matea Prlic (Account ID: 1091521)

Message ID: 34321355



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5. Ja prihvacam svoju osobnu odgovornosti (temeljem udruzenog zlocinackog poduhvata kao oblika kaznene odgovornosti) za te zlocine zbog mojih rijeci, djela, odluka i propusta (u obnasanju visokih duznosti predsjednika HVO, a potom i predsjednika Vlade HR HB u tom razdoblju) koji su te zlocine omogucili, potakli ih ili im pridonijeli. Bez ikakvog negiranja, umanjivanja, relativiziranja, racionaliziranja ili opravdavanja. Ni zlocina ni vlastite krivnje. Bez ikakvih oscilacija.

Kao predsjednik HVO a potom i premijer HR HB u tom razdoblju imao sam moralnu i zakonsku duznost sprijeciti te zlocine i kazniti pocinitelje. To sto sam svojim rijecima, djelima, odlukama i propustima te zlocine omogucio, potaknuo ili pridonio njihovom nekaznjavanju, moja je najveca osobna, pravna, politicka i moralna krivnja. Osjecam neizmjereno kajanje i zaljenje zbog svoje odgovornosti za pocinjene zlocine i moje uloge u njima, te svim zrtvama i njihovoj rodbini izrazavam najiskreniju sucut zbog izgubljenih zivota i pretrpljenih mentalnih i fizickih patnji.

O tome razmislim svakodnevno i uvjeren sam da je suocavanje s vlastitom odgovornoscu za pocinjene zlocine, prihvacanje krivnje, iskreno pokajanje i izrazavanje zaljenja i sucuti zrtvama i njihovoj rodbini jedini izlaz iz zacaranog kruga mrznje, osvete i patnje. Moje je nepokolebljivo uvjerenje, nakon godina razmisljanja o tome, da je to jedini nacin za obnovu istinskog povjerenja medju narodima i ljudima u BiH i jedini put koji nas vodi i u konacnici moze dovesti do milosrdja i uzajamnog oprosta.

Ja ovom svojom izjavom hocu tome cilju aktivno pridonijeti. Nadam se da ce ona biti shvacena i prihvacena na nacin na koji je i dana, u dobroj vjeri i s najboljim namjerama. U mojim sadasnjim zivotnim okolnostima u kojima mi je svaki kontakt s vanjskim svijetom strogo ogranicen (na clanove obitelji, mog odvjetnika i nekolicinu prijatelja), to je i jedini kontekst u kojem to mogu uciniti. To smatram svojom moralnom obvezom prema zrtvama, prema BiH, njenim narodima i gradjanima. Najzad, i prema sebi. To je njena primarna svrha, iako je ona podnijeta u kontekstu moje molbe za prijevremeno pustanje.

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eMates

Reply sheet

MICT-17-112-ES.2

113

From: Jadranko Prlic A9156EH**To:** Matea Prlic (Account ID: 1091521)**Message ID:** 34259832

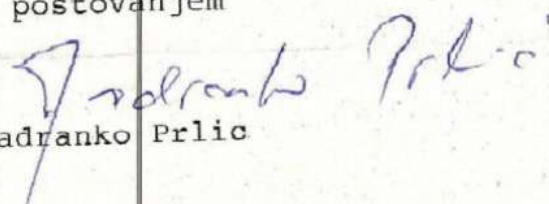
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6.

Ako budem pusten na slobodu, ja cu zivjeti i postupati u skladu s ovom izjavom. Ostat cu trajno dosljedan stavu da se zlocini ne smiju negirati, ni zlocinci glorificirati, te cu svojim djelovanjem, u okviru svojih mogucnosti, aktivno, na miroljubiv i dostojanstven nacin, pridonositi izgradnji trajnog mira i obnovi i ocuvanju medjusobnog povjerenja izmedju naroda i gradjana u Bosni i Hercegovini.

S postovanjem


Jadranko Prlic

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ANNEX B

Public

Madam President of the MICT, Honorable Judge Graciela Gatti Santana,

The process of my self-reflection on the crimes for which I was convicted and my role in them did not cease with the submission of my first request for early release. It has continued with equal intensity. This process was further encouraged by your most-helpful advice/incentive in your Decision of March 7, 2025, for which I thank you, “to continue engaging with prison authorities in a sustained process of self-reflection and rehabilitation, so that his (my) contemporary commitment to substantive change can be more clearly established.” To this end, through numerous contacts with the prison authorities and members of the psychological department, I have done everything in my power to ensure this. If, in this effort, I was perhaps too persistent or tedious, I take this opportunity to apologize to them. I received a letter from the prison administration and the psychological department (of which you have been informed) stating that they are unable to provide me with specific/appropriate rehabilitation and psychological programs due to the unique circumstances of my case. I understood the uniqueness of my case and the objective inability of the prison administration to provide me with appropriate rehabilitation and psychological programs, and I accepted this in good faith, aware that the burden of rehabilitation ultimately lies on me alone. In the prison library or from other inmates, I managed to obtain certain professional literature that could assist me in the process of self-reflection and rehabilitation (for example: the “Victim Empathy/Awareness Modul/Curriculum” and the workbooks “My Strength workbook” and “Changing Offender Behaviour” (COB), particularly the set of questions contained therein on “understanding other people's perspectives”). Although these manuals were not designed for the specific circumstances of my case, they nevertheless helped me, as a general framework, to make my self-reflection deeper and more structured, especially regarding empathy toward the victims of the crimes. Through them, I painfully realized that my decisions were not merely political or military acts, but that they directly destroyed specific human destinies, families, and generations, and that the trauma of the victims does not end with the conclusion of the war but persists to this day.

In this process of self-reflection (reflecting on each committed crime and re-examining my role and responsibility in those crimes), in the silence of my prison cell and alone with my thoughts, I have experienced a profound change in mind and heart. This change did not happen overnight, nor yesterday, and it is irreversible. Rationally and emotionally, I have traveled a long and painful path from denying and repressing my responsibility for the committed crimes (after the war and during the trial) to fully accepting my responsibility and my sentence (especially after my transfer to the UK in April 2019). And your decision, Madam President, of 7 March 2025, significantly contributed, in a positive and encouraging way, to this ongoing process.

Today, after years of reflecting on it, I know that the process of gradually becoming aware of my personal responsibility for the crimes committed against the Bosniak/Muslim population in the territory of the then-HZ HB from 1992 to 1994 began after the Washington (1994) and Dayton Agreements (1995). During that period (1994–2003), while living and working in Sarajevo, I held high-ranking state positions in the Government of BiH. I recall meetings in Sarajevo during that period with my professors, students, and former colleagues of Bosniak/Muslim ethnicity, and occasional moments when I felt profound shame, regret, and remorse for the suffering they endured. In those moments, I was aware of my personal responsibility for the evil they experienced due to my decisions and omissions, but the mechanisms of suppression were still too strong at the time. Back then, I could not accept my

personal responsibility for the committed crimes (although I did not deny those crimes and expressed my regret for them on numerous occasions). I could not do this in the manner and to the extent that I can and do today, after the trial and years of critical self-reflection. However, that was the period of the beginning of my gradual awakening, although I was not yet able to accept my personal responsibility and guilt for the crimes committed (albeit I did not deny these crimes and expressed my regret for them on numerous occasions).

Today, I am convinced that my expressions of regret back then (which were sincere) for the crimes committed, my efforts as a member of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1994 to 2003 to contribute to peace and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and even my testimony before OTP investigators in 2001, were in some way an expression of my suppressed remorse and pangs of conscience, and my subconscious inner need to do everything in my power to alleviate or attempt to correct the malignant consequences of my past actions and omissions.

This process of critical and honest self-reflection has been ongoing continuously for years and will last until the final day of my life. In this process, I am my own harshest judge.

The change I am speaking of is of such a nature that it demands one to live and act in accordance with it. I have thought long and hard about how, under my current life circumstances, I can live this change, meaning how I can confirm it through actions.

In prison conditions, I can only do this by—to the absolute extent of my objective capability—having a positive influence on other inmates, encouraging them through advice and personal example toward self-reflection, respect for prison staff, prison rules and discipline, respect for the human dignity of others, utilizing available rehabilitation programs, resolving potential conflicts peacefully and rationally, and engaging in various activities to make their life in prison more purposeful and fulfilling. In a word, for everyone to be the best person they can be under these circumstances. And that is what I do. I strive to positively influence the people in my environment and to do good, regardless of their differing ethnicity, religion, age, social background, sexual orientation, or any other group characteristic. My behavior in prison is not merely passive compliance with prison rules for opportunistic reasons (to make prison life easier for myself), but much more than that. It is an expression of my inner need and my decision to do good, whenever and wherever I can.

But I have also thought a great deal about what matters most to me: How can I, within my current life circumstances, confirm and express this change of mine by doing something good for Bosnia and Herzegovina? How can I contribute to peace, reconciliation, and the restoration of trust among the peoples and citizens of BiH?

BiH is my homeland, to which I wish all the best. I would like BiH to become a full member of the EU as soon as possible, for all its diversity and specificities (ethnic, religious, customary) to be a source of pride for its peoples and citizens rather than a cause for disagreement and conflict, for all political and other disagreements to be resolved through negotiations and agreements (never again by force and weapons), and for individuals and nations to restore and strengthen mutual trust through good deeds. The future of BiH can only be decided by the peoples and citizens of BiH. By no one else.

Furthermore, trust among the peoples and citizens of BiH (as the foundation and guarantee of sustainable peace and harmonious coexistence in BiH) can only be restored and developed on

the basis of truth (about the past and the crimes committed) and justice (the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators of those crimes). Crimes are not committed by peoples, but by individuals. Crimes must be honestly acknowledged, not denied or justified. The judgements of the ICTY and MICT must be respected. Convicted war criminals must not be declared heroes, as this directly and deeply insults the victims. This applies equally to everyone. Only in this way can true piety and sympathy be expressed toward the victims and their suffering, and their human dignity be respected. There is no national flag large enough to cover or conceal the shame of killing innocent people. There is no national interest or political goal important enough to justify criminal means and the suffering of the innocent. After every war, only sorrow and remorse remain. I have lived through this and am still living through it. Both that remorse and that sorrow.

I respect the institution of the ICTY/MICT, its judges, and prosecutors, as well as all other instruments of international justice, which I believe—given recent events in the world and the horrible wars being waged in various parts of the globe—are more necessary than ever.

Today, two and a half years after my first request for early release and my first statement, I feel the need to express once again, to you Madam President, and to all others whom it may concern (and especially to the citizens of BiH), my stance on my guilt and my conviction. I accept all factual and legal findings in my judgments. I accept the findings regarding ethnic cleansing, and the numerous crimes committed in various locations across BiH (in Mostar, Stupni Do, Sovići/Doljani, Prozor, Gornji Vakuf, Vareš, Stolac, Ljubuški, Čapljina, and elsewhere) by members of the HVO against the Bosniak/Muslim population during the 1992–94 period. This includes killings, unlawful detention in detention centers (Heliodrom, Dretelj, Gabela, and other places), torture, and inhumane treatment within them, persecutions, the appropriation and destruction of property, plunder, the destruction of cultural and religious institutions, and all other established crimes. Just as I accept the legal qualifications of these crimes as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and grave breaches of humanitarian law, I accept my personal responsibility (based on the Joint Criminal Enterprise (JCE) as a form of criminal liability) for these crimes due to my words, actions, decisions, and omissions (in exercising my high positions as the President of the HVO and subsequently the Prime Minister of the HR HB during that period) that made these crimes possible, encouraged them, or contributed to them. Without any denial, minimization, relativization, rationalization, or justification—neither of the crimes nor of my guilt. Without any oscillation. As the President of the HVO and later Prime Minister of the HR HB during that period, I had a moral and legal duty to prevent these crimes and punish the perpetrators. The fact that through my words, actions, decisions, and omissions I made these crimes possible, encouraged them, or contributed to the impunity of the perpetrators, is my greatest personal, legal, political, and moral guilt. I feel immense remorse and regret for my responsibility for the committed crimes and my role in them, and I express my most sincere condolences to all victims and their relatives for the lost lives and the mental and physical suffering endured.

I think about this daily, and I am convinced that confronting one's own responsibility for committed crimes, accepting guilt, sincere repentance, and expressing regret and condolences to the victims and their relatives is the only way out of the vicious cycle of hatred, revenge, and suffering. It is my unwavering conviction, after years of reflecting on it, that this is the only way to restore true trust among the peoples and citizens of BiH, and the only path that leads us and can ultimately bring us to mercy and mutual forgiveness.

With this statement of mine, I want to actively contribute to that goal. I hope it will be understood and accepted in the way it is given—in good faith and with the best intentions. Under my current life circumstances, where my every contact with the outside world is strictly limited (to family members, my lawyer, and a few friends), this is also the only context in which I can do so. I consider this my moral obligation to the victims, to BiH, and to its peoples and citizens. Finally, also to myself. This is its primary purpose, although it is submitted within the context of my request for early release.

Should I be released. I will live and act in accordance with this statement. I will remain permanently consistent in my stance that crimes must not be denied, nor war criminals glorified, and through my actions, I will try, to the best of my abilities, to actively contribute, in a peaceful and dignified manner, to building a lasting peace and restoring and preserving mutual trust among the peoples and citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sincerely,
Jadranko Prlić



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I - FILING INFORMATION / INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES

To/ À : IRMCT Registry/ Greffe du MIFRTP		☐ Arusha/ Arusha	☒ The Hague/ La Haye
From/ De :	☐ President/ Président	☐ Chambers/ Chambre	☐ Prosecution/ Bureau du Procureur
	☒ Defence/ Défense	☐ Registrar/ Greffier	☐ Other/ Autre
Case Name/ Affaire : Prosecutor v. Jadranko Prlić		Case Number/ Affaire n° : MICT 17-112-ES,2	
Date Created/ Daté du :	14 Sept. 2026	Date transmitted/ Transmis le :	14 Sept. 2026
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Classification Level/ Catégories de classification :	☒ Public/ Document public	☐ Ex Parte Defence excluded/ Défense exclue	
	☐ Confidential/ Confidentiel	☐ Ex Parte Prosecution excluded/ Bureau du Procureur exclu	
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