

## **Serbia extradited Karadzic to The Hague**

Radovan Karadžić, one of the most-wanted persons accused of war crimes and arrested after thirteen years as a fugitive, was extradited to The Hague. The Serbian Radical Party organized a protest on the occasion of his extradition with 15,000 people taking part. Velimir Ilic, leader of New Serbia party who ran in the last elections together with Kostunica's DSS party said during the official part of the protest, that the government and the current president Boris Tadic are traitors and behave dictatorial. After the protest, about 1,000 young and furious demonstrators attacked the police.

Radovan Karadžić was extradited to The Hague after all and the trial officially has started on July 30, 2008. The Tribunal charged Karadzic of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina between April 1992 and July 1995. During the trial opening, Karadzic stated that he had a deal with U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrook that was supposed to grant him immunity in exchange for his public life retirement. Holbrook denied these accusations.

After the detention of Radovan Karadzic and Stojan Zupljanin, there are only two big names left - Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic. Their detention and extradition is very vital for Serbia. According to few EU member states Serbia cannot move forward and become a candidate country for the EU membership without making this step. Ratko Mladic, former military chief of Bosnian Serbs during the war, is supposedly negotiating the conditions of extradition with Serbian military secret service already.

## **Serbia still did not ratify SAA**

The government vice-president Božidar Djelic is hoping that the Serbian parliament will ratify the Stabilization and Association Agreement that is necessary for the accession to the EU. The Serbian parliament has still not ratified the agreement because of opposition parties' obstructions, even though it was the first item on the agenda. The new Serbian parliament held sessions four times until today and due to broad discussions it did not close the first item on the fifteen items agenda. Serbian MPs will meet again at the beginning of September.

## **Kosovo**

Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vuk Jeremic presented a resolution for UN that requests the examination of unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo. Its goal is to suspend the process of Kosovo independence recognition among other states and prevent Kosovo membership in international organizations. This initiative needs the support of 96 out of 191 member states in UN Assembly in order to be accepted.

Sources: B92, Icty, Balkan Insights, Tanjug