



# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: MANJAČA CAMP CLOSED DOWN

Geneva (ICRC) - Four hundred and eighteen detainees still held by Serb forces in Manjača camp, in north-western Bosnia, were released today under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Eight other detainees being treated at Banja Luka hospital were also freed. They were all taken to the transit centre in Karlovac, Croatia, and handed over to representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ICRC delegates had interviewed all the detainees before their release to check whether they did in fact wish to be transferred out of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Manjača camp has now been closed down. It was totally unsuitable for holding detainees, and the ICRC trusts that it will not be used for this purpose again. Its occupants were released further to the undertaking given by the Bosnian Serb leader, Mr. Radovan Karadžić, to ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga in Geneva on 9 December.

In another development, during a visit to a camp in Batković, in north-eastern Bosnia, delegates found some of the 529 detainees who had been transferred from Manjača on 13 December without the ICRC's knowledge. A visit to this camp is currently under way. The ICRC hopes that the detainees concerned will be released shortly.

The ICRC notes with regret that neither the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina nor the Bosnian Croat side have honoured their undertaking to release the detainees they are holding. The releases were to have taken place on 14 December. The ICRC is now making formal representations to Mr. Alija Izetbegović, President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to Mr. Mata Boban, leader of the Bosnian Croats, in order to secure the release of all detainees on 23 December.

The ICRC once again calls on all the parties involved in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina to free without delay all the detainees they are still holding, in accordance with the agreement signed under ICRC auspices in Geneva on 1 October 1992.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the League of the Red Cross Societies and the recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross.  
An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.