


**UNHCR**

 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
 Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Bosnia-Herzegovina (79)

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UNHCR

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Dear Mr. Thousig Jensen

I would like to refer to your fax of 5 September 2002 on the situation of former DNZ-members.

Please note that given developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and improvements in the general security situation, UNHCR is in the process of reviewing its position of 2001. The recent sentence imposed on Mr. Abdic and his pursuance of political activities from detention, are also elements that have impacted on the general situation of his supporters.

Generally, the frequency of problematic security issues involving Abdic supporters in Velika Kladusa has decreased since 1995. While localized incidents of violence and property damage still occur, these are less frequent and most are followed by police action. Despite the reduction in security incidents, Abdic supporters in the Velika Kladusa region continue to have little confidence in the local police. Due to their DNZ affiliation, they fear discrimination by the police and acts of revenge. The number of reports to the police increases in times of political rallies.

Former Abdic supporters also complain about discrimination. Alleged employment discrimination against former Abdic supporters occurs primarily within the educational system. Allegations of discrimination in the judicial system within Canton One have also been made by DNZ-members. This takes the form of delays in the judicial process, thus making it difficult for legal issues to be resolved. Additionally, DNZ affiliates may face threats to their personal security and experience discrimination throughout BiH.

There is however, no real pattern of systematic human rights abuses to the members of this group. High-profile officials of the DNZ have been tried and acquitted by the authorities while other less prominent supporters have reported security problems and discrimination.

In this context, it would be correct to assess individually the need for continued international protection.

Yours faithfully,

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