

Serbian Unity Congress

КОНГРЕС СРПСКОГ УЈЕДНЊЕЊА



May 17, 2008

Government of Sweden
Ministry of Justice
Pardons Division
Stockholm, Sweden

Dear Madams/Sirs,

I am writing to you in the name of the Serbian Unity Congress, a Serb Diaspora organization headquartered in the United States, regarding the early release of Dr. Biljana Plavsic from imprisonment.

Dr. Plavsic is 78 years old and in frail health. We are very concerned about her suffering and believe that her survival is at risk while imprisoned in her frailty.

A women's group within our organization, the American Serbian Women's Caucus, very actively assisted the ICTY in the early years and were instrumental in making their success in the Celebici case possible as well as providing witnesses and other evidence in other cases. I personally worked with Mr. Graham Blewitt, then Deputy Prosecutor, over a period of four years. (Please see enclosed statement by Mr. Blewitt of our work).

Our information is that all convicted individuals have been released by the Tribunal within two-thirds of their sentences. Dr. Plavsic surrendered voluntarily unlike most of those convicted. Her health is frail. She is aged. She has asked for forgiveness of the victims of the charges against her. We appeal to your compassion and understanding and believe that an even-handed and fair treatment of her case should result in her release.

Your consideration and humane treatment of this special case are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mirjana Samardzija
President