Washington, DC: The Center for Balkan Development and The Advocacy Project (AP) will today launch a petition calling for the immediate arrest of Radovan Karadzic, former civilian head of the Bosnian Serb Republic, and Ratko Mladic, the former head of the Bosnian Serb Army, for having launched and directed the Srebrenica massacre in July 1995. Over 7,000 men and boys were killed in the 1995 massacre, the worst to have occurred on European soil since World War II.

Mladic and Karadzic have twice been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague. The first indictment, for atrocities committed throughout Bosnia during the war, was issued on July 28, 1995. The second, in connection with Srebrenica specifically, was handed down on November 28, 1995. After ten years, both men remain at large.

The petition calls for the arrest of the two by no later than December 14, 2005 - the tenth anniversary of the Dayton Agreement, which brought an end to the Bosnian war. The petition also calls on the United States and European governments to share intelligence and coordinate efforts in locating and arresting the two men.

The full text, with signatures, will be presented to President Bush and other world leaders on July 11 of this year, ten years to the day after the massacre began just outside Srebrenica.

• Over the next two months, the Center for Balkan Development and AP will be asking other human rights groups and civil society organizations to co-sponsor the petition, which has been posted in a shortened version on the Internet and in longer form on the websites of the two organizations. Individuals are asked to sign.
• The Center is also seeking support for a Congressional resolution (H. Resolution 199) calling for the arrest of Karadzic and Mladic. For the text of the resolution go to the Center’s website, and click on the link for H. Res. 199.
• E-mail your representative
• Read the text of the indictments against Mladic and Karadzic on the ICTY website