



# HRSP NEWSLETTER

*U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section*

January 2018

## **Barberton Man will be Deported for Lying about his Actions during the War in the Former Yugoslavia**

A Barberton, Ohio man will be deported after pleading guilty to lying about his actions during the war in the former Yugoslavia. Oliver Dragic, 42, pleaded guilty on December 7, 2017 before U.S. District Court Judge Dan Aaron Polster of the Northern District of Ohio to possessing and fraudulently obtaining immigration documents. Under the terms of his plea agreement, he will be deported.

Dragic failed to disclose his paramilitary police service for the Republika Srpska, a self declared entity created by Serb nationalists within the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, hoping thereby to evade scrutiny of his actions while a member of a unit notorious for having committed human rights violations in the summer and fall of 1995.

Dragic completed police training in Serbia in 1994 and returned to Bosnia, where he voluntarily joined a special police unit that joined in Republika Srpska's army during military operations, according to court documents.

Dragic applied for refugee status in order to come to the U.S. in May 1998, claiming he was a victim of the Bosnian war. He claimed in that application that he had never worked, when in fact he had served in the paramilitary unit, according to court documents.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Matt Cronin and Om Kakani from the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of Ohio prosecuted the case following an investigation by HSI Special Agent Matt Hamulak and Historian Michael MacQueen and in consultation with the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section of the Department of Justice.

People with information about former human rights violators in the United States should contact U.S. law enforcement: Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section at 1-800-813-5863; HSI at 1-866-347-2423 or [HRV.ICE@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:HRV.ICE@ice.dhs.gov) and the FBI's International Human Rights Unit Tips Form at <https://tips/fbi.gov>.

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