



# HRSP NEWSLETTER

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

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## **VERMONT MAN WHO LIED ABOUT HIS MILITARY SERVICE DURING THE BOSNIAN WAR SURRENDERS U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND CONSENTS TO REMOVAL FROM UNITED STATES**

A Bosnian-born Burlington, Vermont man surrendered his U.S. citizenship on February 3rd because he lied about his military service during the Bosnian war and the court cancelled his certificate of naturalization.

Edin Sakoč, 55, stipulated to the court's order of denaturalization and loss of citizenship based on a civil complaint alleging that Sakoč illegally and fraudulently obtained U.S. citizenship by giving false or misleading information to a U.S. official. According to court documents, when Sakoč sought refugee status in the United States in 2001, he misrepresented his wartime service in the Croatian Defense Council by denying that he served in a reconnaissance unit.

Members of the public who have information about former human rights violators in the United States are urged to contact U.S. law enforcement through the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section at 1-800-813- 5863, or through the HSI tip line at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE or to complete its online tip form at [www.ice.gov/exec/forms/hsi-tips/tips.asp](http://www.ice.gov/exec/forms/hsi-tips/tips.asp).

HSI Burlington and the FBI's Albany Division investigated the case, with assistance from ICE's Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center. The Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs and its counterpart at the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided valuable assistance. Senior Trial Attorney Jay Bauer of the Criminal Division's Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugenia A.P. Cowles of the District of Vermont are prosecuting the case.

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