

COMMUNIQUE OF 18 NOVEMBER 1993 OF MR. H. SILAJDZIC, DR. R. KARADIZIC, MR. M. BOBAN, AND  
MRS. S. OGATA

Joint Declaration

Recognizing that a humanitarian catastrophe in Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot be averted this winter without peace, and conscious of the disaster already upon the civilian population with the onset of winter, the undersigned have today given, in the Humanitarian Issues Working Group of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a joint and solemn commitment to:

1. Ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance by suspending hostilities and allowing free and unconditional access by the most effective land routes, as well as the repairs essential for the use of these routes;
2. Ensure complete and secure freedom of movement for all personnel of the UN and international humanitarian organizations;
3. Allow UNHCR and ICRC to determine, without any conditionality or linkages, the content of humanitarian assistance, including priority winterization needs and all materials, supplies, gas and other fuel necessary for the survival of the civilian population, excluding, of course, materials of war, and to monitor that this assistance is not misused for military purposes;
4. Ensure that all humanitarian assistance reaches its intended civilian beneficiaries and is not diverted to the military or others;
5. Release, in accordance with the principles of and arrangements made by the ICRC, all civilians unlawfully detained;
6. Ensure that the military and civilian administrations at all levels honour the above commitments and all others previously entered into with regard to the respect for freedom of movement and other human rights, the Geneva Conventions and other applicable international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.