

## **U.N. DEMANDS THAT SERBS OPEN CAMPS**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 5, 1992, WEDNESDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1992 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1A

**Length:** 625 words

### **Body**

---

UNITED NATIONS - The Security Council **demand**ed Tuesday that warring factions in Bosnia **open** their detention **camps** to the Red Cross for inspection. The United Nations acted following reports that **Serbs** were torturing and killing Croats and Slavic Muslims in concentration **camps**. The council statement, which came at the urging of the United States, is not binding under international law. Warring factions in Yugoslavia have ignored **U.N.** cease-fire resolutions, which are supposed to be legally binding. Maj. Gen. Lewis MacKenzie, back from leading **U.N.** peacekeepers at Sarajevo's airport, said all factions had complained to him of atrocities in prison **camps**. He said that the parties began reporting the complaints about five months ago and that the pace of the allegations increased about two months ago. Bosnian Muslims and Croats claim that **Serbs** run 45 concentration **camps** holding at least 70,000 people. **Serbs** claim that about 40,000 of their people are jailed in Muslim and Croat **camps**. A report by the **U.N.** High Commissioner for Refugees last week cited accounts of guards at a Serb **camp** in Omarska saying they would "not waste bullets on their detainees, who have no food, water or shelter and who are beaten twice a day." The United States had lent credence to the latest accounts of Serbian concentration **camps**, saying Monday that its own information corresponded with press reports of torture and killings. But on Tuesday, U.S. officials backed off that assertion, stressing that they lacked actual confirmation of such atrocities because neither American envoys nor international relief agencies had gotten into the **camps**.

"We are aware, of course, of the charges that the Bosnian **Serbs** have been operating what amount to death **camps**," said Thomas Niles, assistant secretary of state for European Affairs. He spoke before a House Foreign Affairs panel. But, he said, "we cannot confirm reports which were in the press this morning and yesterday that they are being used for the systematic torture and murder of the people detained." He did not deny that **Serbs** had committed "atrocities." Niles said that the Bosnian government had claimed that Serbians were operating 94 **camps** in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 11 in Serbia-Montenegro. Niles said: "It is an . . . almost poignant tragedy that the Serbian people, who suffered so terribly at the hands of the Nazi occupiers of Yugoslavia . . . are engaging in practices which are in some respects reminiscent of some of the things that happened during the (Nazi) occupation," he said. The recent reports of atrocities in the **camps** have thrown a spotlight on the President George Bush's reluctance to become involved in the Yugoslavian conflict beyond monitoring sanctions against Serbia and ensuring delivery of humanitarian relief. The U.S. move at the United Nations roughly coincided with calls for stronger American action from Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton and Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. As reminders of America's inaction during the Nazi holocaust reverberated around Washington, the Bush policy drew criticism on Capitol Hill and the State Department received phone calls from the press and public around the country, officials said. Clinton, in a written statement issued from his campaign headquarters in Little Rock, Ark., urged **U.N.** action similar to that sought by the administration as a first step but went further to include the possibility of using force. Beyond gaining access to the **camps**, Clinton **demand**ed that all non-combatants be released to the Red Cross, that any detention centers be closed immediately and that military prisoners of war be held under conditions defined by international law.

### **Classification**

---

## U.N. DEMANDS THAT SERBS OPEN CAMPS

**Language:** English

**Subject:** INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (90%); WAR & CONFLICT (90%); UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS (89%); UNITED NATIONS (89%); NEGATIVE PERSONAL NEWS (87%); TORTURE (86%); POLITICAL DETAINEES (70%); PRISONS (70%); INTERNATIONAL LAW (70%); RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS (70%); IMMIGRANT DETENTION CENTERS (70%); RELIGION (69%); REFUGEES (67%); INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (65%); CEASEFIRES (65%)

**Company:** UNITED NATIONS (94%); UNITED NATIONS (94%); UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (84%); UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (84%); UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (55%)

**Organization:** UNITED NATIONS (94%); UNITED NATIONS (94%); UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (84%); UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (84%); UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (55%)

**Geographic:** SARAJEVO, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (79%); UNITED STATES (94%); BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (93%); CROATIA (92%); SERBIA (79%)

**Load-Date:** October 12, 1993

---

End of Document