



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 1 August 2025 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Marko Đurić (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Radomir Ilić  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2025 from the Chargé d'affaires  
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Serbia to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Belgrade, 1 August 2025

I would like to draw the immediate attention of the Security Council to an alarming recent event in Kosovo and Metohija: the unlawful detention of Igor Popović, Assistant Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija and a member of the Serbian Government's negotiation team in the European Union-facilitated dialogue, by the provisional institutions in Pristina.

He was arrested on 18 July 2025, at the Brnjak administrative crossing and subsequently placed in a 30-day pre-trial detention, without any credible legal basis that would justify such a measure. His detention stems solely from public remarks he made during the commemoration of a mass atrocity committed in Orahovac in July 1998, where 47 Serbs and Roma were brutally killed and over a hundred civilians were abducted – crimes widely attributed to the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). His remarks referred to well-documented events, parts of which are currently the subject of proceedings before the Specialist Chambers for Kosovo in The Hague, where several former KLA leaders stand trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity. In addition, it is important to remind the Security Council that the KLA acts were condemned, *inter alia*, under Council resolution [1160 \(1998\)](#), as acts of terrorism.

We believe that this politically driven action against Mr. Popović poses a serious threat to regional peace and stability with regard to the issue of Kosovo and Metohija, which, pursuant to Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#), remains within the Council's mandate. Furthermore, it violates fundamental human rights and undermines the delicate process of normalization, challenging the credibility of international mediation efforts, especially those led by the European Union.

Regrettably, this event is a part of a broader pattern of harassment and politically driven detentions targeting Serbs in the province, with 47 Serb political detainees currently held in Kosovo and Metohija. Such actions are not only illegal, but also dangerously undermine the ongoing dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. They erode trust, escalate tensions and endanger peace and regional stability.

The reaction from Pristina authorities, notably the statement by Xhelal Sveçla that Pristina "will not tolerate insults and desecration of its history", – confirms that Mr. Popović's detention is a politically motivated act of retaliation against freedom of speech. It represents an unacceptable violation of fundamental rights and democratic norms and a clear instance of institutionalized discrimination against the Serb population in Kosovo and Metohija.

We emphasize that, while these methods are often utilized by Albin Kurti for domestic political gain, they should not be regarded as mere political marketing. They reveal a persistent and dangerous agenda based on the systematic oppression and institutionalized persecution of the Serb community in Kosovo and Metohija.

Therefore, we urge Security Council members to:

- Call for the immediate release of Mr. Popović and the cessation of all politically motivated legal proceedings against him.
- Condemn the acts of intimidation, political persecution and arbitrary detention targeting the Serb community in Kosovo and Metohija.

- Renew the commitment to uphold human rights, democratic standards and the rule of law as essential conditions for any lasting peace in the region.

We would, once again, like to use this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the Republic of Serbia to peace, dialogue and regional cooperation. However, we cannot remain silent in the face of continued political repression, ethnic discrimination and blatant violations of international law. Such violations threaten to jeopardize the very foundations of the dialogue, a process also supported by the Security Council and the broader international community.

*(Signed)* Marko Đurić

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