

Country/entity	Bosnia and Herzegovina Yugoslavia (former)
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Decisions on Mostar of 12 February 1997
Date	12 Feb 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Former Yugoslavia

The disintegration of former Yugoslavia post cold war saw conflicts which became mediated and produced peace agreements in Slovenia (where the brief independence conflict was mediated by the EC Troika in 1991), Croatia (between Croatian and Serb populations 1991-1995), in Bosnia (between Croatian, Serb and Bosniak populations 1992-1995), in Macedonia (where mediation played a key pre-emptive role in preventing large scale conflict in 2001), in Kosovo (between Kosovar Albanians and Serbian population and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), but also between FRY and NATO, 1998-1999), and a conflict in the Presevo Valley (between Albanians in South Serbia and FRY, 2000-2001). The continued fall-out of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia also saw mediated agreement and ultimate dissolution of the Union between Serbia and Montenegro.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 1991, after nationalist parties won the first multi-party elections in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a violent process of disintegration commenced. With its mixed population, Bosnia-Herzegovina became the centre of the following civil war that began in 1992 between the newly formed army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (mostly Muslim Bosniacs), and the parastatal forces of self-declared Bosnian Croat (Herzeg-Bosnia) and Bosnian Serb (Republika Srpska) entities within Bosnia-Herzegovina, supported by Croatia and Serbia, with various, often short-lived, coalitions. The General Framework Agreement (Dayton Peace Agreement), signed in 1995, split the country into two ethno-federal entities, the Bosniak-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska, and included continued peacekeeping and institutional administration by international actors.

Kosovo

The conflict between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians has a long history and always involved territorial disputes as well as ethno-political, cultural and linguistic factors. The most recent phase of the conflict began in November 1997 when the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA or UCK) began their campaign for the independence of Kosovo from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY – then Serbia and Montenegro). The subsequent war lasted until the NATO intervention, which undertook bombing campaigns of Belgrade and other places in Serbia during spring 1999. The main agreements solving the conflict were internationally driven and, finally, a UNSC resolution imposed a post-conflict arrangement in the wake of what was essentially a NATO military victory. In February 2008, Kosovo's parliament declared independence, but independence is still internationally disputed.

Close

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Stage

Implementation/renegotiation

Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bosnia peace process
Parties	President Izetbegovic, President Zubak, Co-Chairman Silajdzic, Vice-Chairman Tomic, Foreign Minister Prlic, Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HDZ) President Rajic, Democratic Action Party (SDA) Vice-President and Prime Minister Bicakcic, Mostar Mayor Prskalo and Deputy Mayor Orucevic
Third parties	The meeting was chaired by the Principal Deputy High Representative, Mr. Michael Steiner. Also present were the Commander of the Stabilization Force (SFOR), General Crouch, Acting Police Commissioner Wasserman and Head of the Office of the High Representative South, Sir Martin Garrod.
Description	This agreement aims to fully implement existing Federation agreements, and to address recent tensions, violence and displacement in Mostar. It provides for the International Police Task Force (IPTF) to investigate and cooperate with the Stabilization Force (SFOR) to provide security and guarantee freedom of movement for residents.

Agreement document [BA_970912_Decisions on Mostar.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive Page 2, 4.
The participants guaranteed that all citizens who have been evicted from their homes in the course of the recent events would be enabled to return to their apartments without delay. The participants would also give instructions that all persons responsible for illegal evictions should be identified, arrested and prosecuted. All illegal evictions would be stopped. The participants decided that the Cantonal Minister of Interior and his Deputy would be personally responsible for the implementation of this provision and would submit full compliance reports to the Head of the Office of the High Representative South by 18 February. The participants stressed their determination to dismiss those policemen from their duties who in the judgment of IPTF do not cooperate in the implementation of this provision in good faith. They requested IPTF to monitor closely the return of evicted citizens to their homes.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

**Accession/
unification** No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

**Cross-border
provision** No specific mention.

Governance

**Political
institutions (new or
reformed)** No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

**Electoral
commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties
reform** No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

**Traditional/
religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public
administration** No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

**Political power
sharing** No specific mention.

**Territorial power
sharing** No specific mention.

**Economic power
sharing** No specific mention.

**Military power
sharing** No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship Rights related issues→Citizenship→Citizenship other
Page 1, Untitled preamble
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Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	<p>Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 2-3, 10.</p> <p>The participants deplored inflammatory statements in the media which had aggravated the situation and contributed considerably to the escalation of the crisis in Mostar. They committed themselves to showing maximum restraint and to instructing the authorities of Mostar and the Herzegovina Neretva Canton to do likewise. Decisions of the Media Expert Commission of the Provisional Elections Commission on inflammatory statements will be implemented. The participants requested the Canton Minister of Interior and his Deputy to nominate media liaison officers to IPTF in Mostar who should disseminate, on a regular basis and as appropriate, reliable information to the media on the security situation in the city.</p> <p>Page 3, 12.</p> <p>The participants agreed to monitor the situation in Mostar closely and to convene a follow-up meeting as soon as the IPTF report is submitted. The participants requested in particular the media covering the Mostar region to carry the text of this Agreement in full in their news reporting.</p> <p>Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other Page 2, 9.</p> <p>The participants agreed to reconnect the telephone lines between East and West Mostar immediately and to keep those lines open.</p>
Mobility/access	<p>Page 2, 8.</p> <p>The participants reconfirmed their commitment to full freedom of movement in and around Mostar. They decided that all existing obstacles to freedom of movement and illegal checkpoints would be immediately removed and that the police forces would, upon the instruction of, and in cooperation with, IPTF and SFOR, have prosecuted those who hinder freedom of movement.</p>
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police

Page 1, 1.

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Page 1, 2.

The participants committed themselves personally to ensure that IPTF will receive all available evidence and that police forces will cooperate fully and in good faith in the conduct of the investigation. Local police shall comply with all demands by the investigation team and will assist IPTF in all stages of the investigations, including by making all persons immediately available for interviews by the investigators. The operational responsibility for the provision of the evidence to IPTF lies with the Mayor and his Deputy.

Page 1-2, 3.

The participants agreed that they would accept and endorse the report by IPTF in full and that they would draw the necessary conclusions from it, in particular the following:

- (a) Perpetrators will be arrested and brought to trial;
- (b) Office holders, including police, found responsible of instigating or participating in violent acts will be dismissed from their offices.

Page 2, 4.

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Page 2, 5.

The participants appealed to IPTF and SFOR to keep an increased presence in Mostar until the situation had further stabilized and full freedom of movement was re-established. They requested the authorities that the nightly curfew should remain in place and be enforced by the local police forces of Mostar until IPTF has determined that the security situation will allow its suspension.

Page 2, 6.

The participants reconfirmed their commitment to the United Police Force of Mostar (UPFM) and will instruct the police in Mostar to participate fully in its work with immediate effect, including the proper functioning of the joint headquarters.

Page 2, 7.

The participants took note of the fact that the carrying of long-barrelled weapons by the police in Mostar is not authorized by IPTF and that IPTF/SFOR will continue to confiscate these weapons from both police and civilians. The participants instructed the local police to remove these weapons immediately and hand them over to SFOR.

Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions Page 2, 7. The participants took note of the fact that the carrying of long-barrelled weapons by the police in Mostar is not authorized by IPTF and that IPTF/SFOR will continue to confiscate these weapons from both police and civilians. The participants instructed the local police to remove these weapons immediately and hand them over to SFOR.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.

Courts

Transitional justice→Courts→National courts

Page 1, Untitled preamble

The participants committed themselves to undertake all efforts to calm down tensions, to overcome the present crisis and to implement fully existing Federation agreements, including the Mostar provisions of the Agreed Measures of the Federation Forum of 3 February. All of the facts must be established. They agreed that the recent acts of violence should not go unpunished and that the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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Mechanism

Page 3, 11.

The Principal Deputy High Representative drew the attention of the participants to the request of the Presidency of the European Union (EU) and the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Conference of 21 January 1997 to the Office of the High Representative to identify those individuals responsible for human rights violations and for serious contravention to the letter and the spirit of the Peace Agreement with a view to barring their travel to Europe and overseas. He announced that on the basis of the findings of the IPTF report he would make recommendations to the EU Governments and to the Steering Board members accordingly.

Prisoner release

No specific mention.

Vetting

Page 1-2, 3.

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Victims	Page 1, Untitled preamble The participants condemned in strongest terms the violent acts committed in Mostar and all provocative acts preceding the present crisis. They equally condemned the evictions of Mostar citizens and the harassments on the road to and from Mostar which followed the events of Monday. They deeply deplored the bloodshed and the loss of life of Mostar citizens. They expressed their condolences to the bereaved and sympathy to those who were injured.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	The meeting was chaired by the Principal Deputy High Representative, Mr. Michael Steiner. Also present were the Commander of the Stabilization Force (SFOR), General Crouch, Acting Police Commissioner Wasserman and Head of the Office of the High Representative South, Sir Martin Garrod.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

Page 1, 1.

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Page 2-3, 10.

The participants deplored inflammatory statements in the media which had aggravated the situation and contributed considerably to the escalation of the crisis in Mostar. They committed themselves to showing maximum restraint and to instructing the authorities

**Enforcement
mechanism**

No specific mention.

Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

Letter dated 97/03/07 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (Appendix I), pp.3-5
<http://repository.un.org/>
