

Country/entity	Bosnia and Herzegovina Yugoslavia (former)
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Agreement on Restructuring the Police (Bonn-Petersburg Agreement)
Date	25 Apr 1996
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate 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	Kresimir Zubak, President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Ejup Ganic, Vice President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; For the Commission: Robert Wasserman, Chairman, Deputy Commissioner, UN International Police Task Force; Avdo Hebib, Minister of Internal Affairs, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Jozo Leutar, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Ismet Dahic, Police Advisor, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Milan Krizanovic, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Enes Bezdob, Chief of Police, Sarajevo; Milan Vukoja, Canton Representative
Third parties	As Witnesses: Michael Steiner, Ambassador, Principal Deputy High Representative; S. Iqbal Riza, Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Description	This agreement outlines principles for a restructured police force for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, proceeding canton by canton. Measures include downsizing the police force, commitments to human rights standards, lustration, a new uniform, and involvement of United Nations International Police Task Force (UN IPTF).

Agreement document [BA_960425_Agreement on Restructuring the Police Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.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 No specific mention.

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

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

...The restructuring of the police is a critical confidence building measure which will help to provide a solid foundation for free and fair elections, and instil [sic] in the public confidence in the security of their persons and property.

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

Governance→Constitution→Constitution affirmation/renewal

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

We, the undersigned, met at Bonn-Petersberg on 25 April 1996 to decide among other issues the restructuring of the police in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to agree upon concrete measures to implement that restructuring with respect to Cantonal police in accordance with the Federation Constitution and the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Page 3, Concrete Steps, 5.

We agree that, as prescribed in the Federation Constitution, the Cantonal governments shall ensure that the composition of the police shall reflect that of the population, according to the 1991 census, provided that the composition of the police of each Municipality, shall reflect the composition of the latter.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing Power sharing→Military power sharing→Merger of forces
Page 1, Preamble
A unified policing structure designed to support democratic institutions is essential to the success of the Federation. This Agreement demonstrated our commitment to the development of policing structures within the Federation which will support the democratic system and protect internationally accepted human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons.
Power sharing→Military power sharing→Joint command structures
Page 3,
9. We also agree that we will make available twenty senior police managers from across the Federation, including the senior police executive in each Canton, to attend a two to three week training session sometime in June or July, 1996, at a specific date and place to be determined by the Commissioner UN IPTF.
Power sharing→Military power sharing→Proportionality
Page 3, Concrete Steps, 5.
We agree that, as prescribed in the Federation Constitution, the Cantonal governments shall ensure that the composition of the police shall reflect that of the population, according to the 1991 census, provided that the composition of the police of each Municipality, shall reflect the composition of the latter.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

**Treaty
incorporation**

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

...This Agreement demonstrated our commitment to the development of policing structures within the Federation which will support the democratic system and protect internationally accepted human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons...The following agreements, of which the attached Annex forms integral part, express our basic commitments and concrete steps toward the restructuring of the Federation police consistent with generally accepted international policing standards and guaranteeing respect for internationally accepted human rights.

Page 1, Basic Commitments, 1.

We acknowledge that under the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are committed to creating police organisations, predicated on the advice of the Commissioner [sic] of the United Nations International Police Task Force (UN IPTF), that are structured and operate according to generally accepted international standards for policing and guarantee respect for internationally accepted human rights.

**Civil and political
rights**

No specific mention.

**Socio-economic
rights**

No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy Page 1, Untitled Preamble
We, the undersigned, met at Bonn-Petersberg on 25 April 1996 to decide among other issues the restructuring of the police in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to agree upon concrete measures to implement that restructuring with respect to Cantonal police in accordance with the Federation Constitution and the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Page 1-2, Basic Commitments, 4.

We agree that the current policing strength is in excess of the needs of democratic society and beyond the means of the Federation to support, and that as the Federation moves to a peace-time democracy, the number of police employed in the current policing structure must be adjusted to a level consistent with European standards.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

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 Page 3, Concrete Steps, 6.
We agree to the development and implementation of training standards and curricula under the guidance and supervision of the Commissioner of the UN IPTF. We welcome the resources and assistance to be provided by the UN IPTF and interested bilateral donors in connection with the strengthening of existing police training. We are committed to reviewing proposals prepared by the UN IPTF Plans Department concerning training standards and curricula at the 9 June 1996 meeting of the Commission and making training recommendations to the Commissioner not later than 12 June 1996.

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 Page 1, Untitled Preamble
...The restructuring of the police is a critical confidence building measure which will help to provide a solid foundation for free and fair elections, and instil [sic] in the public confidence in the security of their persons and property.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police

[Summary] The agreement in its entirety provides for restructuring the police in the Federation. Provisions coded here are key elements of the restrure, or not captured by any other categories. Other provisions can be found in the following sections: Human rights and equality

Page 1, Basic Commitments, 1.

We acknowledge that under the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are committed to creating police organisations, predicated on the advice of the Commissioner [sic] of the United Nations International Police Task Force (UN IPTF), that are structured and operate according to generally accepted international standards for policing and guarantee respect for internationally accepted human rights.

Page 1, Basic Commitments, 3.

We agree that the principles articulated in Annex I to this Agreement constitute the generally accepted international policing principles upon which the standards for the restructuring and reorientation of the Federation police structures must be based.

Page 2, Concrete Steps, 1.

We pledge that the restructuring will proceed on a phased basis, Canton by Canton, according to the following schedule which we have agreed to today:

- A. On 6 May 1996 the Commission will begin reviewing draft proposals for restructuring prepared by the UN IPTF Plans Department.
- B. By 12 May 1996, the Commission will finalise its recommendations including the structure and staffing of the newly reorganised police forces, the process by which individuals will be vetted into the new forces, and an implementation schedule.
- C. On 20 May 1996 after having reviewed the recommendations of the Commission, the Commissioner of the UN IPTF will issue his instructions on reorganisation.
- D. On 31 May 1996 the Federation will begin implementing those directives, starting with the screening of police officers in Sarajevo.
- E. On 15 June 1996, implementation will begin in the rest of the Federation, proceeding Canton by Canton, beginning with Canton Six, to be followed by Canton Seven and then the other Cantons pursuant to the schedules to be established by the Commission.
- F. The entire process of reorganisation will be concluded not later than 1 September 1996.

Page 2, Concrete Steps, 2.

We agree that a new uniform, an example of which was presented at the Conference today, will be used by all uniformed police operating in Federation territory. This uniform, created in accordance with the decree of the government of the Federation of 15 March 1996 and procured through a tendering process open to local manufacturers throughout the Federation, is an important symbol of our commitment to the restructuring of policing in the Federation. Once each Canton is restructured, all uniformed police serving in that jurisdiction will wear only the new uniform. After that, any person found wearing another police uniform will be regarded by UN IPTF, IFOR, and the newly re-structured police force as a person illegally impersonating a police officer, and will be subject to arrest.

Page 3, Concrete Steps, 4.

We understand and agree that those persons who are not selected to serve as police in the restructured Federation police force will not be allowed to perform law enforcement duties and will not be permitted to carry arms. Those individuals discovered with arms who are not certified by the UN IPTF to serve as police will be treated by IFOR as armed civilians to be seized and disarmed.

Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes Page 2-3, Concrete Steps, 3. We are committed to developing a strategy for utilising the talents of those who may be demobilised as a result of restructuring. The Commission will review a proposed strategy by the IPTF at the 22 May 1996 Commission meeting and make its recommendations, the Commissioner of the UN IPTF. After reviewing the Commission recommendations, the Commissioner of the UN IPTF will issue instructions which will be executed by the parties in connection with the Canton by Canton restructuring of the police. We agree that that demobilisation of police must occur within 30 days after a Canton is transitioned but in no event later than 15 September 1996.
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	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.

Vetting Page 2,
Concrete Steps:
1. We pledge that the restructuring will proceed on a phased basis, Canton by Canton, according to the following schedule which we have agreed to today:
...
B. By 12 May 1996, the Commission will finalise its recommendations including the structure and staffing of the newly reorganised police forces, the process by which individuals will be vetted into the new forces, and an implementation schedule.
...
D. On 31 May 1996 the Federation will begin implementing those directives, starting with the screening of police officers in Sarajevo.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory Signed Robert Wasserman, Chairman, Deputy Commissioner, UN International Police Task Force;
As Witnesses: S. Iqbal Riza, Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Other international signatory As Witnesses: Michael Steiner, Ambassador, Principal Deputy High Representative;

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

**International
mission/force/
similar**

Page 1, Basic Commitments, 1.

We acknowledge that under the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are committed to creating police organisations, predicated on the advice of the Commissioner [sic] of the United Nations International Police Task Force (UN IPTF), that are structured and operate according to generally accepted international standards for policing and guarantee respect for internationally accepted human rights.

Page 1, Basic Commitments, 2.

In furtherance of our commitments and obligations under the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we have, at the request of the Commissioner of the UN IPTF, created a Commission designed to provide input to him in his formulation of directives concerning the restructuring of Federation policing structures necessary to ensure compliance with our obligations. We have met today in the first substantive session of the full Commission.

Page 2, Concrete Steps, 1.

We pledge that the restructuring will proceed on a phased basis, Canton by Canton, according to the following schedule which we have agreed to today:

A. On 6 May 1996 the Commission will begin reviewing draft proposals for restructuring prepared by the UN IPTF Plans Department.

...C. On 20 May 1996 after having reviewed the recommendations of the Commission, the Commissioner of the UN IPTF will issue his instructions on reorganisation.

Page 2, Concrete Steps, 2.

We agree that a new uniform, an example of which was presented at the Conference today, will be used by all uniformed police operating in Federation territory. This uniform, created in accordance with the decree of the government of the Federation of 15 March 1996 and procured through a tendering process open to local manufacturers throughout the Federation, is an important symbol of our commitment to the restructuring of policing in the Federation. Once each Canton is restructured, all uniformed police serving in that jurisdiction will wear only the new uniform. After that, any person found wearing another police uniform will be regarded by UN IPTF, IFOR, and the newly re-structured police force as a person illegally impersonating a police officer, and will be subject to arrest.

Page 2-3, Concrete Steps, 3.

We are committed to developing a strategy for utilising the talents of those who may be demobilised as a result of restructuring. The Commission will review a proposed strategy by the IPTF at the 22 May 1996 Commission meeting and make its recommendations, the Commissioner of the UN IPTF. After reviewing the Commission recommendations, the Commissioner of the UN IPTF will issue instructions which will be executed by the parties in connection with the Canton by Canton restructuring of the police. We agree that that demobilisation of police must occur within 30 days after a Canton is transitioned but in no event later than 15 September 1996.

Page 3, Concrete Steps, 4.

We understand and agree that those persons who are not selected to serve as police in the restructured Federation police force will not be allowed to perform law enforcement duties and will not be permitted to carry arms. Those individuals discovered with arms who are not certified by the UN IPTF to serve as police will be treated by IFOR as armed civilians to be seized and disarmed.

Page 3, Concrete Steps, 6. Page 14 of 15

We agree to the development and implementation of training standards and curricula under the guidance and supervision of the Commissioner of the UN IPTF. We welcome

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source UN Peacemaker
<http://peacemaker.un.org/>
<http://peacemaker.un.org/bosniaagreementpolicefederation96>
