

Bosnian nationals arrested in Chicago; tribunal provisional releases.

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By IWPR staff in The Hague

US immigration officials arrested four Bosnian nationals living in Chicago this week, saying they concealed their service in the Bosnian Serb army.

Dalibor Butina, Radovan Jankovic, Vlado Kecojevic and Branislav Cancar are accused of fraudulently entering America as refugees between 1997 and 2004. Agents from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement say the four lied about their military past.

They claimed refugee status and were granted permanent US residence.

The men now face a deportation hearing before a federal immigration judge.

Tribunal judges have ordered the provisional release of nine accused in three different cases.

Among those released were senior political and military leaders of the former Croat entity Herceg Bosna: Jadranko Prlić, Bruno Stojić, Slobodan Praljak, Milivoj Petković, Valentin Ćorić and Berislav Pušić.

They face 26 charges of war crimes for the expulsion and murder of Muslims in Bosnia during the Croatian-Muslim conflict in 1993.

Also temporarily released were Enver Hadžihasanović, pending the hearing of his appeal against a five year sentence for murder and cruel treatment of Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb civilians and prisoners of war in March 2006, and Vladimir Lazarević and Nebojša Pavković, among six former Serbian officials charged with responsibility for the forcible expulsion of Kosovo Albanians during the 1998 to 1999 conflict.

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