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**UN Human Rights Council
Fourteenth Session, 31 May – 18 June 2010**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the government's commitment to address the situation of women who were victims of war crimes of sexual violence during the 1992-1995 war, as expressed by Minister Safet Halilović in February 2010 during the UPR examination of on Bosnia and Herzegovina. We appreciate the efforts by the government to draft a state law and a national programme for reparation for all civilian victims of war crimes, including the survivors of war crimes of sexual violence. We call on the government to ensure that both are adopted with no further delay and in consultation with the survivors. Survivors should be guaranteed access to justice and reparation, as defined by international law, including restitution, satisfaction, compensation, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition.

As suggested during the review, the law and the reparation programme should also provide victims of war crimes of sexual violence with improved access to affordable health services, including psycho-social support centres.¹ We further call on the government to ensure that the law and the reparation programme address the needs of survivors of war crimes of sexual violence for housing and employment.

Amnesty International welcomes the commencement in the last six months of several new trials related to war crimes of sexual violence before the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while other cases have reached the trial chamber stage or final judgment. We emphasize the importance of government support for the recommendation to establish a comprehensive witness protection scheme for cases involving war crimes, with sufficient safeguards, including an identity protection system and psychological support.²

¹ A/HRC/14/16, paragraph 90, recommendation 73 (Austria)

² Ibid, paragraph 90, recommendation 20 (Spain)

Finally, as recommended during the review, we urge the government to amend the Criminal Code in order to include the definition of sexual violence, in accordance with international standards.³

Thank you Mr. President.

³ Ibid, paragraph 90, recommendation 72 (Austria)