



12 July 2000

SRSG Kouchner Condemns Shooting of Priest

Bernard Kouchner, Special Representative of the Secretary General, issued the following statement today, following a drive-by shooting late this morning of a Serbian cleric accompanied by two relatives and a child (who was not injured) near Klokot village in the municipality of Vitina in the Gnjilane region of Kosovo.

"I am not only shocked but deeply depressed that today criminals chose religious men as their targets. This morning, after they had given mass, Father Dragan Kojic and two young men, believed to be seminarians, accompanying him were wounded when someone in a car fired at them using automatic weapons. The victims of this contemptible act are now in Camp Bondsteel. I hope they will recover and return to their mission.

"However, I must remind you all religions condemn killing. It is totally unacceptable that this kind of revenge killing substitute itself for justice. UNMIK Police are doing everything in their power to identify the suspects and bring them to justice."