

NATO Raids Bosnia Home of Mladic Ex-bodyguard

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SARAJEVO, Sept 16 (Reuters) - NATO troops raided the home of a former bodyguard of Bosnian Serb war crimes fugitive Ratko Mladic on Friday, hoping to find information leading to his arrest, the alliance said in a statement.

NATO said Mladjen Kenjic was believed still to be providing support to Mladic, who is indicted for genocide by the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of 8,000 Muslims and the 43-month siege of Sarajevo.

U.S. Major Dwight Mood of NATO said the morning operation in Vojkovici, a village east of Sarajevo, went smoothly and was concluded after midday.

"We did seize material which we hope will lead us to information about the whereabouts of Ratko Mladic," Mood told Reuters by telephone.

Kenjic was not at home during the raid. Bosnian Serb police provided security support during the operation, Mood said.

Mladic and his wartime chief Radovan Karadzic are the Hague tribunal's top fugitives. Chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte said this week she expected to see them in the tribunal's dock by the end of 2005.

NATO has stepped up efforts to arrest the two in recent years, raiding suspected hideouts and pressuring their alleged support network through visa bans and assets freezes. Ten years have passed since they were indicted for their role in the 1992-95 war.

Mladic was last seen in Serbia in 2002. The tribunal says he is still there, protected by hardliners. It suspects Karadzic, who went underground some eight years ago, is moving between eastern Bosnia and his native Montenegro.