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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: NPA SUCCESSFULLY ARGUES FOR EXTRADITION OF A WANTED KILLER IN SERBIA

The NPA has successfully argued for the extradition of a Serbian man who is wanted in his home country to serve 35 years direct imprisonment for three murders he committed in 2006.

Last week, the Cape Town Magistrate's Court decided that Dobrosav Gavric is extraditable, despite his protestations that his prosecution, conviction and sentence were politically motivated and that he feared for his life should he be returned to Serbia. The court left those allegations to the hands of the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services to give them proper consideration. Gavric is remanded into custody to await the decision of the Minister with regard to his surrender to the Republic of Serbia.

During the extradition hearing, Advocate Maresa Engelbrecht told the court that Gavric entered South Africa in 2007 under a false identity. His real identity only came to light when, while he was driving a vehicle owned by Cyril Beeka, he was injured in a drive-by shooting. He was arrested on 27 December 2011 and later appeared at the Cape Town Magistrate's Court, where he was remanded in custody pending an extradition enquiry. On 29 December 2011, a request was received from the Republic of Serbia for his extradition.

He is being sought so that he can serve a sentence of 35 years imposed for three counts of murder committed in Serbia. The District Court of Belgrade in Serbia convicted him on 9 October 2006. He appealed to the Supreme Court of Serbia on 12 and 13 November 2007.

Shortly after his court appearance in Cape Town, Gavric applied for asylum in South Africa but the application was refused. The matter ended up in the Constitutional Court that found that he was excluded from refugee status.

Due to the delays in the matter, the government of the Republic of Serbia sent a new request to South African authorities for Gavric's surrender.

The NPA welcomes the successful outcome of the extradition process.

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