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SRSG Statement on release of Dr. Brovina

"I am absolutely delighted and relieved at the news that Dr. Flora Brovina was released today from prison in Pozarevac in Serbia. I am overjoyed for her family.

She should be crossing into Kosovo at this very moment: Let me be among the first to say, Welcome Home, Dear Flora. You have been sorely missed. You have been in our hearts.

Dr. Brovina was in prison far too long. She should never have been there.

Flora Brovina was charged with terrorism and sentenced to 12 years in prison last December. How absurd. How cruel!

Instead, she should receive a medal for courage--for her work with the children of Kosovo, for her devotion to improving the health and destiny of all the people of Kosovo, for her commitment to peaceful alternatives to conflict, and for her determination that all Kosovo Albanian prisoners in Serbia be freed.

She is a true heroine.

Her dignity, her courage and her generosity of spirit have made her a symbol to people around the world.

President Kostunica, who today ordered her release, should be congratulated in taking this crucial step toward healing the wounds that exist between the Serb and Albanian communities.

I urge him now to take further action, and release all Kosovo Albanian political prisoners who remain in Serbia. That would be justice. That would be a major stride toward a meaningful dialogue and a lasting peace."

