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## 'An Issue Which Burns'

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**'AN ISSUE WHICH BURNS'** — It's about time the U.N. Security Council condemned the slaughter of civilians in Kosovo, according to Bruce Hitchner, director of the Center for International Programs at the University of Dayton. "I am outraged it's taken six months for the international community to realize that Slobodan Milosevic can't be trusted," he said.

This week's discovery of the bodies of 15 women, children and elderly members of a Kosovo village shot as they tried to evade Serbian forces hit home with Hitchner, who posted a *New York Times* photo of the massacre on his office door. "Shooting down innocents, particularly children, is more than I can take," he said.

The threat of bombing may be enough to force the Yugoslav president to think seriously of withdrawing from Kosovo, Hitchner said. "A direct military threat is the only way to make Milosevic understand. He only responds to raw power."

Hitchner, who has organized two major symposia on Bosnia and has traveled to the region, predicts Milosevic will withdraw and allow humanitarian relief to reach the 250,000 refugees scattered among the mountains and countryside, perhaps as early as next week. "The refugee issue lies at the heart of this problem. Those people have no homes to go back to, and it threatens to be a tremendous humanitarian disaster with winter coming. That's the glaring reality that the United Nations cannot ignore."

For media interviews, call **Bruce Hitchner** at (937) 229-3514.