

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

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Anniversary of world's disgrace

Vecernji list

By Jozo Pavkovic

July 12, 2005

Op-ed

Yesterday the world showed disgust because of the horrendous Srebrenica massacre. The judgment was more fierce than when it happened. As if only now, ten years later, the world has truly realized the extent of the worst catastrophe since World War Two. No one doubts anymore that this was a planned genocide. And those responsible are well known to all. Guilt is personalized through Karadzic, Mladic and their co-conspirators. It is collectivized through an entire people – “Bosnian Serbs.” But, are they the only ones at fault?

Srebrenica was an enclave under UN international protection. The inhabitants of that small town became victims of the belief that they will save them. Karadzic's army believed the opposite. Their judgment resulted in a terrible crime. The world looked on with folded arms. As if they did not believe this was happening in the heart of Europe.

War zones in BiH were full of similar enclaves. For example, Bihac. Which awaited a fate similar to Srebrenica, were it not for the coordinated action with the Croatian Army. Unfortunately, instead of showing gratitude towards Croatia, the international community today accuses it of doing what they should have done themselves. Thus, it was inappropriate to hear American War Crimes Ambassador Richard Prosper reminding us yesterday that Karadzic and Mladic must be arrested and that Croatia must find Gotovina.

Such comparisons, in Srebrenica for that matter, equalize the guilt of the aggressor and the victim. And fogs the true picture. In which there is a large blob over the international community. Among the greatest is Srebrenica. That is why yesterday was the anniversary of their disgrace.

Washington: Srebrenica in U.S. Holocaust Museum

FENA

July 12, 2005

WASHINGTON - Amnesty International organised a wake with candles in the Dupont Square in downtown Washington in memory of the Srebrenica victims.

An exhibition of photographs on Srebrenica by Tarik Samarah opened in the US Holocaust Museum on Monday.

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A panel debate “Forgotten Srebrenica – Ten Year On” was organised in the US Holocaust Museum as part of the summer series “Memories” with the support of the Helena Rubinstein Foundation.

Former US Ambassador to Austria Swanee Hunt also talked at the debate. She hosted numerous negotiations in the effort to stop the war in the region of former Yugoslavia and has recently published a book “This is Not Our War”, in which she speaks of efforts to return peace through the testimonies by 26 Srebrenica women. (Excerpt)

Holbrooke says Karadzic protected by main Bosnian Serb party and by Church

Associated Press Worldstream
By Aida Cerkez-Robinson

July 12, 2005 Tuesday

Bosnia's most wanted war crimes suspect is being sheltered by the main Bosnian Serb political party, SDS, and by the Serb Orthodox Church, the architect of Bosnia's peace agreement said Tuesday.

"Elements of the SDS are in on this. I think the SDS is a criminal organization sheltering him," Richard Holbrooke told The Associated Press, adding that if he had to guess where Karadzic is hiding, "I'd guess he is in a monastery, having shaved his hair and having his beard grow."

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and army commander Ratko Mladic have been wanted since 1995 by the U.N. war crimes court in The Hague, Netherlands, for crimes including genocide. Both remain at large mainly thanks to a wide supporting network made of Serb nationalists. Karadzic founded the Serb Democratic Party, SDS, shortly before the war in Bosnia broke out.

Richard Holbrooke brokered the 1995 Bosnian peace agreement which ended the 3 1/2-year-long war and returned to Bosnia to attend the 10th anniversary of Europe's worst massacre of civilians since World War II. On July 11, 1995, Bosnian Serb troops massacred nearly 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the east Bosnian town of Srebrenica.

Karadzic and Mladic allegedly organized the Srebrenica slaughter. Serbs have been unwilling to arrest any of the two men and NATO troops deployed here since the end of the war have tried to catch them but with no success.

Troops lately have been targeting Karadzic's supporters. Last week, NATO soldiers detained Karadzic's son Aleksandar because he is believed to have information about his father's whereabouts.

"He is detained, he is detained lawfully and he will stay in custody for as long as it takes for us to conclude this investigation," NATO's spokesman in Bosnia, Derek Chapell, said Tuesday.

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Commanders of NATO troops as well as the European Union forces in Bosnia have repeatedly claimed that they were close to arresting Karadzic, who is presumed to be moving between Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro.

The commander of European Union's peacekeepers in Bosnia, British Maj. Gen. David Leakey, said Sunday that "the net is closing in" on the two suspected masterminds of the Srebrenica onslaught.

But Holbrooke dismissed this claim.

"Nets are for fishing expeditions. You don't capture war criminals whether it is Osama bin Laden, Radovan Karadzic or Saddam Hussein by going fishing," he said.

For Karadzic "there is a 5 million dollar reward out and it's going to be either patriotism or financial interest," that will prompt some Bosnian Serb close to him to lead authorities to Karadzic.

The U.S. government is offering the reward for information leading to the arrest of either Karadzic or Mladic. Holbrooke believes that financed by criminals and protected by the Serb Orthodox Church, it seems unlikely Karadzic will be arrested without the help of an insider.

"You don't capture him unless you have an inside source," Holbrook said. "The core underlying problem is the criminal gangs that protect the nationalists. In the name of nationalism these people maintain their own personal wealth at the expense of the people of Bosnia."

U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia, Douglas McElhaney, has recently tried to speak to representatives of the Serb Orthodox Church and convince them it was in the interest of the Serbs to hand over the suspects.

"I have approached them directly myself," he said. A few days ago McElhaney met with the representative of the Church in the southern town of Trebinje.

"I said you have to do this, you have to do this for your own people," he said.

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Organize country into eight provinces

Slobodna Dalmacija
By Emil Karamatic

July 12, 2005

The HSP [Party of Rights] BiH “Dapic-Juriscic” Coordination Council held a meeting yesterday with Council president Zarko Pavlovic presiding. Among other things, they considered the political situation in BiH, with particular attention given to the position of Croats ahead of constitutional reform, and the problem of high corruption in BiH.

HSP BiH believes that the Dayton Peace Agreement long ago began to obstruct the development of a better and more just BiH, not allowing the development of businesses, market economy, political democracy, human rights and freedoms, and other human values.

“Today, upon the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, it is high time to loudly and clearly state that Republika Srpska was founded on genocide and as such is a slap in the face to civilized Europe,” said party president Mladen Juriscic.

HSP BiH supports immediate constitutional reform and proposes to organize BiH into eight provinces, according to the Swiss model as a federation of provinces, where provinces would constitute federal units. Such a model would assure decentralization and prevent unitarianism, centralization, and all other forms of divisions and secessions. They add that this would significantly speed up economic development and gradually return mutual trust among all three constituent peoples. (Excerpt)