



*Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Becu,
OSSE i drugim međunarodnim organizacijama, B E C
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations
Office at Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A*

**Statement by
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Srebrenica 2008**

**to the Permanent Council Meeting
Vienna, 10 July 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

The Spanish - American Philosopher and Humanist George Santayana once said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it".

It is in that spirit of remembrance that I would like to deliver this statement - not because of the past, but because of our future.

Tomorrow will be 13 sad and tearful years since Srebrenica genocide happened. Thirteen long years of painful memory. And as US Ambassador, Julie Finley, rightfully reminded us last year, I dare not call it Anniversary. Also today is somewhat less than a year and a half since the International Court of Justice rendered verdict to qualify the July 1995 massacre in Srebrenica as genocide.

Tomorrow on 11 July, 307 persons or their remains will be laid to rest to their long awaited peace in Potocari Memorial, not far from the crime scene where everything started back in 1995. More than 4.000 others are still missing somewhere, their remains scattered through hundreds different primary or secondary mass graves in secret locations. These sites of murder hide horrors incomprehensible to all normal people: such as where remains of one person were later found in at least three different locations, very often hundreds of miles distant from each others.

Mr. Chairman today is also 13 years that indicted war criminals Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, masterminds of Srebrenica genocide, are free and at large. There is no real peace without justice and there can be no justice in our region as long as Karadzic and Mladic are free.

And all those politicians who preach that ICTY cooperation is not so important now and we can deal with it on later stage must be reminded that they are not just making a big mistake but also destroying our common future free of war criminals on European soil, and destroying the European future for our region of Western Balkan. These politicians should either do something in capturing these notorious war criminals or simply keep their mouths shut.

The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is the duty of the living to do so for them. And ICTY is doing it for the dead ones from Former Yugoslavia.

Following sentence is written in the Holly Book Qur'an and it says: *The servants of the All-Merciful are those who walk lightly on the earth and, who, when the ignorant speak to them, say: "Peace"*.

On the end I can say only *Peace* for the victims of Srebrenica genocide and their beloved ones. Peace and justice for their souls brings hope to us.

Thank you Mr. Chairman!