Srebrenica / Sarajevo / Göttingen / Berlin, 14.12.2020

## December 2020, Srebrenica/Sarajevo/Göttingen/Berlin

## **Appeal to**

## **Mr. Valentin Inzko**

## **High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina**

## Copie: **Peace Implementation Council (PIC)**

## **Steering Board**

## 

## Dear Mr. Inzko,

## We write to urge you to press forward with the adoption of a law against genocide denial and the glorification of war criminals in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## A year ago we emphatically condemned the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Peter Handke on the grounds of his dismissal and downplaying of Serb war crimes and in particular of the genocide at Srebrenica. Along with the Mothers of Srebrenica and the Association of Survivors of the Bosnian Concentration Camps, who refuse to allow the memory of war crimes and genocide simply to fade away, we expressed our indignation at the widespread denial of genocide in Republika Srpska and Serbia. We noted that genocide denial of this kind has found its way into the mainstream of European discourse and poses a significant threat to the future of the postwar generations and young people worldwide.

## Herr Inzko, the hills and meadows around the former so-called United Nations "safe areas" in Bosnia and Herzegovina are covered with gravestones, in their tens of thousands. In Srebrenica alone the remains of 1,000 victims are still missing. Many mass graves have still to be located.

## In a country where 25 years after the end of the war institutions are named after convicted war criminals like Radovan Karadžić, memorial plaques glorify thename of convicted former general Ratko Mladić and confrontational monuments are erected in honour of "the fallen Serb fighters" across the "ethnically cleansed" territory of Republika Srpska, a coming to terms with the past and reconciliation are impossible. The constant threats from Republika Srpska of an intent to become separate from Bosnia cannot continue to be tolerated.

## The international community must act to prevent destabilisation and secession and must firmly oppose and condemn any such attempts. If membership of the European Union and a speedy entry into NATO are to be achieved ,there has to be an end to genocide denial. Although the U.S.A. has (since January 2017) "blacklisted" the Serb nationalist former president of Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik, along with several of his party colleagues, on the grounds of their destructive political influence within Bosnia and Herzegovina , the E.U. states have not followed the U.S.'s example, despite numerous requests.

## We are very pleased to see that, following the signing into law by President Obama of the original U.S. Magnitsky Act in 2012, a comparable measure enacting sanctions for human rights violations, modelled on the U.S. legislation, has been signed by the EU Member States on 10 December, on the 72nd anniversary of the Universal Declaraton of Human Rights. Individuals and organisations accused of committing human rights violations including the crimes of genocide, torture and arbitrary detention will be subject to travel bans, their assets abroad being frozen and the possibiity of access to bank accounts being blocked.

## For Bosnia and Herzegovina the adoption of a law against genocide denial represents a vitally important step in the directino of securing Bosnia's stabilty and safeguarding the future of generations to come. For years the representatives of political parties from Republika Srpska and the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) have managed to block the passage of a law of this kind through the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is no alternative now other than for you to use the "Bonn Powers" at your disposal and finally to impose the legislation. It is time that the E.U. and the international community stopped denying the surviving victims their support.

## We remain convinced that peaceful coexistence between the different communities in Bosnia is still possible to achieve. Before the war Bosnia was a "microcosm of Europe", a multi-faith, multi-culturaL and multi-ethnic nation offering an example to many other countries worldwide.

## Please don't let us down!

## For Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker / Society for Threatened Peoples

## Ulrich Delius, Jasna Causevic,

## Director Genocide Prevention and Responsibility

## to Protect (R2P)

## For Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker / Society for Threatened Peoples, Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Belma Zulčić, Director

## **Signatories**

The Appeal has the support of Prof. Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling, former German Federal Minister for Postal and Telecommunications Services and former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Heinrich Böll Foundation and associations of victims and other organisations and institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Signatories /*Unterzeichnerliste/Lista potpisnika/***

-Heinrich Böll Foundation, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Sarajevo, Bosnien und Herzegowina/Fondacija Heinrich Böll Sarajevo, Bosna i Hercegovina

**Walter Kaufmann**

-Women of Srebrenica - Association Tuzla/ Frauen von Srebrenica – Tuzla / Žene Srebrenice Udruženje Tuzla

**Hajra Ćatić, President/Vorsitzende/predsjednica**

-Mothers of Srebrenica /Mütter von Srebrenica/Srebreničke majke/

**Fadila Efendić, President/ Vorsitzende/predsjednica**

-Association of Former Camp Detainees of Bosnia and Herzegovina/Verband der ehemaligen Lagerhäftlinge Bosnien und Herzegowinas/Savez logoraša BiH/

**Seid Omerović, President/Vorsitzender, predsjednik**

-Association of Forgotten Children of the War /Vergessene Kinder des Krieges/ Udruženje Zaboravljena djeca rata

**Ajna Jusić, President/Vorsitzende**

-Srebrenica–Potočari Memorial and Cemetery for the Victims of the 1995 Genocide/Gedenkstätte und Friedhof für die Opfer des Genozids von Srebrenica in Potočari/ Memorijalni centar Srebrenica-Potočari - Spomen obilježje i mezarje za žrtve genocida iz 1995. godine

- Justice for Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) Foundation /Stiftung „Gerechtigkeit für Bosnien und Herzegowina (BiH)“/ Fondacija „Pravda za BiH“

**Fadila Memišević, Board Chairperson** /**Vorstandsvorsitzende**

-Council of the Congress of Bosnian Academics and Intellectuals/Rat des Kongresses der bosniakischen Intellektuellen/Vijeće kongresa bošnjačkih intelektualaca (VKBI)

**Emir Zlatar, Generalsekretär / General Secretary/generalni sekretar**

-National Council of Croats of Bosnia and Herzegovina/Kroatischer Nationalrat Bosnien und Herzegowinas /Hrvatsko narodno vijeće (HNV BiH)

**Dr.sc. Mario Pejić, Vorsitzender/ President/predsjednik**

**-Prof. Dr. Mirko Pejanovic, Founder Serbian Citizen`s Council /Gründer des Serbischen Bürgerrats/Član Akademije nauka i umjetnosti BiH, osnivač Srpskog Građanskog vijeća**

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“25th anniversary of the Dayton-Agreement (1995)“

https://www.gfbv.de/fileadmin/redaktion/Reporte\_Memoranden/2020/GfbV-Memo\_25-Jahre-nach-Dayton\_Bosnien-und-Herzegowina.pdf

https://www.gfbv.de/fileadmin/redaktion/Reporte\_Memoranden/2020/DokuSrebrenica062020Endfassung.pdf (Srebrenica-Report)

Copie: Peace Implementation Council/PIC

Steering Committee