Dear readers,

It is our sincere pleasure to introduce you the fourth Electronic Newsletter of the Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo. We are exceptionally proud on the past 2017: the beginning of the year was marked with the drafting of the Application for revision of the Judgment in the case concerning the Genocide Convention (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia) at the International Court of Justice. During this year we have published important editions: "First Corps of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina", "Crimes against the Bosniaks of Jajce, Jezera and Šipova 1992-1995", "Genocide in Sanski Most", "Olovo 1992-1995 - the Suffering and Destruction of the Heroic Olovo", "Enforced Disappearance of Persons in the Sarajevo Area 1992-1995", "Studies of Evil" – translation from Norwegian.

In this year we have also redesigned our website, in Bosnian and English language, www.institut-genocid.unsa.ba.

The end of the year was important from the international point of research of the crimes against humanity. On 22 November the Chamber sentenced Ratko Mladić, Commander of the Main Staff of the Army of Republika Srpska to the life imprisonment and found him guilty on 10 out of 11 counts of indictment: for participation in overarching joint criminal enterprise that includes committing crimes in 13 Municipalities, genocide in Srebrenica, siege of Sarajevo, taking UN personnel hostage. A week later, on 29 November, the Appeals Chamber pronounced its final judgement and affirmed the Trial Chamber decision in Jadranko Prlić and et al. case. It is concluded that the group of six was a part of joint criminal enterprise aimed to create a Croatian entity in Bosnia and Herzegovina that would facilitate the reunification of the Croatian people. Old Bridge in Mostar is found to be a military target.

On the day of former Republic of Yugoslavia and almost 25 years after its establishment the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has ended its mission of processing the responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law. Serbs are convicted of committing genocide in Srebrenica, Croats for Greater Croatia scopes and Bosniaks are left with the eternal striving for their one and only homeland: Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Respectfully,
Staff Directory
At the beginning of October 2017 the Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo published the book of stories from the war childhood of Jasmin Hodžić, “Telegrams for Angela Palmers”. Author told his memories as a child detainee in a form of short documentary stories.

Concentration camps for civilians (women, children and elderly people) and the ones for military-abled men along with persecution, plunder of property, torture, starvation, destruction of villages and killing with exterminating intent are the focal points of this family story. Similar stories were nevertheless inevitable to thousands of other survived witnesses and families. The book is bilingual, published in Bosnian and English language. Its fragments will be read in magazine Stav starting from the December 2017.

15 December 2017

On Thursday, 7 December 2017, Professor Frans Swartele visited the Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo. On this occasion he talked with the Institute expert associates MSc Merisa Karović Babić, MSc Zilha Mastalić-Košuta and MSc Muamer Džananović about different topics of the crimes against humanity and international law research emphasizing the crimes against children.

Professor Swartele is a professor from Belgium whose long-standing research and work in the field of children’s rights resulted in establishing the Centre for protecting children’s right Kinderrechtenhuis. Professor Swartele gives lectures and organizes the exhibitions of children in war on the example of Ana Frank. Middle point of his interests is education on effects of war on children. This is the reason why he wanted to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Institute and his researchers.

The associates of the Institute presented their work and arranged the future cooperation.

11 December 2017

Agreement on drafting the monograph “Goražde 1992-1995” was signed today between Dr. Elvir Kazazović, Sarajevo Canton Minister for Education, Science and Youth, MSc Emir Oković, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton Prime Minister and Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo.

As Minister Kazazović underlined, drafting of this publication will document important historical substance on warfare in Eastern Bosnia and will contribute to the indisputable truth of that period. Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law and Sarajevo Canton, as its founder, will form the scientific team for carrying the project out.

MSc Muamer Džananović, senior expert associate at the Institute, is the coordinator of the project and the team. He reminded that everything that occurred in Goražde deserves a multidisciplinary scientific analysis and documenting in a form of monograph. “Goražde of the wartime is a story of barbaric siege, crimes and heroic defense. In the same time it is the story about the human dignity, persistence, endurance, bravery, cognition and originality in the imposed inhuman conditions that lasted for three years on the continuum. This all will be presented in the monograph” – said Džananović.

Director Muratović added that Intitute continues its activities on mapping the crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period 1992-1995, prerogatively in the Podrinje area. “We are in the final phases of projects like this for areas of Višegrad and Zvornik. We are also preparing the research project for Foča” – he revealed.

**PROFESSOR ARNE JOHAN VETLESEN AND DR RASIM MURATOVIĆ COMMON COLUMN IN NORWEGIAN NEWSPAPER “KLASSEKAMPEN”**

08 December 2017

On 7 December 2017 common column in connection with the trial Judgment in the Ratko Mladić case written by Professor Arne Johan Vetlesen and Dr. Rasim Muratović was published in the Norwegian newspaper “Klassekampen”.

The full text can be found on: http://www.institut-genocid.unsa.ba/userfiles/file/Novine.pdf.
PROMOTION OF THE SECOND EDITION OF THE BOOK “MY SMILE IS MY REVENGE”

10 November 2017

The promotion of the second edition of the book My Smile is My Revenge authored by Dževa Avdić was held in the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Wednesday, 8 of November 2017. The book was published by the Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo.

On this occasion, the author also promoted the translation of the edition in English, as well as the CD book, adapted for the blind and weak-eyed people.

The introduction was given by Prof. Dr. Fahira Fejzić-Čengić. The promoters of the book were Mr. Murat Tahirollović, the president of the Association of victims and witnesses of genocide, prof. Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo, Mr. Sakib Pleh and Mr. Fikret Grabovica, the president of the Association of the Killed Children of the Surrounded Sarajevo 1992-1995.

The book My Smile is My Revenge is the autobiography of the author, the witness who survived the genocide in Srebrenica.

DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE AT THE STUDY VISIT TO OSLO

30 October 2017

Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo went to the study visit to Oslo, Norway from 16 to 29 October 2017.

In that period, Dr. Rasim Muratović stayed at NORLA (Norwegian Literature Centre Abroad) at the expense of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PROMOTION OF THE INSTITUTE IN MEDRESA IN TRAVNIK

5 October 2017

On 4 October 2017, the Day of Elči Ibrahim-paša Medresa in Travnik a presentation of Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo and the Institute for Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks was organized for the students and professors. On this occasion, the scientific study named „Crimes against Bosniaks in Jajce, Jezero and Šipovo 1992-1995“ was promoted. The promoters were Dr. Đzevada Šuško, the director of the Institute for Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks and Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the
Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo.

Moderator of the promotion was imam Mr. Zehrudin Hadžić, the head of the Islamic Community in Jajce. Over 500 students together with the professors and director of Medresa, Mr. Dževdet Šošić attended the event.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INSTITUTE VISITED MEMORIAL CENTRE OF GORNJA KALESIJA

02.10.2017.

On 1 October 2017 Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo visited the Memorial Centre of Gornja Kalesija. This memorial is dedicated to the victims of genocide in Zvornik in the period 1992-1995.

During the visit, a tour of the entire Memorial Complex was organized. Dr. Muratović was delighted with the multifunctionality of the Centre, which could serve as a model of memorial for other municipalities with a substantial number of victims.

A meeting with Mr. Ahmet Grahić, President of the Association of Families of Missing and Trapped Municipality of Zvornik, Mr. Haki-ja Smajlović, Secretary of the Association and Mr. Mustafa Muharemović, President of the Islamic Community in Zvornik was also arranged. The meeting discussed the complexity of the investigation of crimes against humanity and international law, especially genocide as the most severe form of crime, in Podrinje region, due the massive scale of committed crimes, the large number of victims and a small number of witnesses of crime.

Importance of research of crimes in Podrinje region was emphasized. The organizer of the visit Mr Grahić reminded of the large number of missing bodies of victims as well as the lack of trials for the organizers and perpetrators of the crimes.

On behalf of the Institute, the meeting was also attended by MSc Muamer Džananović, senior expert associate and MSc Elvedin Mulagić, external associate at the Institute.
18 September 2017

On Friday, 14 September 2017, the book “Crimes against Bosniaks in Jajce, Jezero and Šipovo of 1992-1995” was promoted at the Cultural Centre Jajce.

The authors of the first part of the book “Crimes against Bosniaks in Jajce, Jezero and Šipovo of 1992-1995” are MSc Zilha Mastalić Košuta, MSc Alma Hajrić Čaušević and MSc Almir Grabovica. Dr. Elvir Duranović and MSc Hikmet Karčić are the authors of the second part: “Memorialization of crimes against Bosniaks of Jajce, Jezero and Šipovo”.

The book was promoted by Prof. Dr. Rasim Muratović, director of the Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo, Mr. Amor Masović, the member of the Board of Commissioners of the ICMP Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Zehrudin Hadžić, the head of the Islamic Community of Jajce and Dr. Elvir Duranović from the Institute for Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks.

Several hundred citizens of Jajce, Jezero and Šipovo as well as numerous guests from political, military, cultural and religious life attended the promotion.

The monograph is a result of a long-standing scientific research of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo, in cooperation with the the Islamic Community in Jajce and the Institute for Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks.

The editor of the book on the behalf of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law was MSc Merisa Karović Babić.

05 September 2017

On Wednesday, 30 August 2017, the monograph “The First Corps of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina” was promoted in the Multimedia Hall of the Memorial Fund (Sarajevo Canton Fund for the construction and preservation of the martyrs and military cemeteries, memorial centres and memorials of victims of genocide). It was edited by a group of authors and published by the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo.

The promotors of the monograph were Prof. Dr. Mirko Pejanović and Prof. Dr. Ivo Komšić, both members of the War Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Prof. Dr. Ismet Ali, War Commander of the Army of the Republic of
Bosnia and Herzegovina, **MSc Muharem Fišo**, Sarajevo Canton Minister for Issues of the Veterans. Moderator of the promotion was **Msc Vahid Karavelić**, General of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Large number of guests of military, political, religious and cultural life, as well as many members of the First Corps of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the promotion.

On Friday, 28 July 2017, students from Denver University, Colorado, USA visited the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo together with their **Professor Ann Petrila**. Every year Prof. Petrila organizes this study visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**THE PROMOTION OF THE BOOK “GENOCIDE IN SANSKI MOST” IN SANSKI MOST**

24 July 2017

Promotion of the book “Genocide in Sanski Most”, written by **Dr. Mujo Begić**, was held in Sanski Most, in the courtyard of the Hamzi-bey mosque on 21 July 2017. Large number of citizens was present.

The organizers of the promotion were the Islamic Community in Sanski Most, the Association of Detainees in Sanski Most and the Association of Bosniak Non-Governmental Organizations. The book has 856 pages and deals with the research
of crimes committed in the area of Sanski Most during the aggression and occupation of this municipality. Critics of the book are Prof. Dr. Smail Čekić and Prof. Dr. Rasim Muratović. It was emphasized that this is the first book that treats war crimes in the Sanski Most in a comprehensive manner to all scientific research parameters since the end of the aggression on the RBiH. It has been concluded that this is a relevant scientific study.

The fact that the book is published by the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo confirms this conclusion. The author faithfully and reasonably explains the escalation of committed crime of genocide in Sanski Most on over 850 pages. In various illustrative examples of murders, detentions, harassments, the author brings evidence: police and other reports, medical and autopsy findings, expert findings, testimonies that will be of a great use to the future researchers. Dr. Rasim Muratović pointed out that the book represents a serious scientific study created as a result of the continuous and persistent work of the author to research the mass crimes and genocide against civilian population in the Bosnian Krajina region during the period of aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“This manuscript comes at a time when there is a denial of genocide in the political and scientific circles of Bosnia and Herzegovina in spite of final judgments and numerous facts that confirm the genocide has been committed in the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a way for genocide to enter its final phase, the denial phase”, said Dr. Muratović.

COMMEMORATION FOR 71 VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE IN SREBRENICA

12 July 2017

Commemoration of 71 victims of July 1995 genocide identified in and around Srebrenica was held in the Memorial Centre Potočari - Srebrenica.

The final number of victims buried in Potočari, equals 6,575. It is still being searched for more than 1,000 victims of genocide.

The youngest of those 71 victims is a 15-year-old Damir (Kemal) Suljić, whose mortal remains were found in the Bratunac mass grave. The oldest victim is Alija (Huso) Salihović, born in 1923. His remains were found in the mass graves of Zeleni Jadar and Pusmulići.

In July 1995 Bosniaks from the area of the UN safe zone Srebrenica were killed in various places - in the territory of 14 (fourteen) municipalities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Srebrenica, Bratunac, Zvornik, Vlasenica, Šekovići, Kalesija, Živinice, Kladanj, Olovo, Bijeljina, Han-Pijesak, Rogatica, Višegrad and Trnovo. Over 25,000 participants of the genocide against Bosniaks in July 1995 were identified.

This year, MSc Muamer Džananović, represented the Institute in Srebrenica. He is also a member of the Organizing Committee that arranges the 22nd anniversary of the genocide in and
around Srebrenica in July 1995 and a member of the Subcommittee for Scientific, Cultural and Publishing Activities of the Organizing Committee.

WRITERS FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN VISITED THE INSTITUTE

12 July 2017

On Friday, 7 July 2017, a group of writers, poets and cultural workers from the Islamic Republic of Iran visited the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo.

The group arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the Srebrenica Peace March. During their stay in Sarajevo, they visited Kovači cemetery, Alija Izetbegović Museum, Sarajevo War Tunnel in Butmir, Tariq Samarach’s permanent photo exhibition on the genocide in Srebrenica and our Institute.

Members of the group were Mr. Mahdi Qazeli, President of the Association of Writers of I.R. Iran, Mr. Hamid Mohammadi, Secretary of the Association, Mr. Majid Qayseri, writer, Mr. Morteza Kazi, writer, Mr. Rademan Mahrfabani, children’s literature writer, Mr. Hamed Askeri, poet, Mrs. Afruz Mahdian, writer, Mr. Mohsen Rezvani, poet, Mr. Hasan Habibullah Zade, a writer, Mr. Mohammad Reza Shahidifard, director, and Mrs. Mariam Baraderan, a writer.

During their stay at the Institute, guests from I.R. Iran spoke with Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director and other employees of the Institute. Dr. Rasim Muratović informed the guests from this friendly country about the activities and previous editions of the Institute. Guests from Iran were particularly interested in the causes of genocide against Bosniaks and the ways documenting and publishing the facts on the genocide.

PROF. DR. DAVID PETTIGREW VISITED THE INSTITUTE

06 July 2017

On Thursday, 6 July 2017, Prof. Dr. David Pettigrew visited the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo.

On that occasion he spoke with Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the Institute and discussed all the current issues related to the research of
crimes against humanity committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of the 20th century. Prof. dr. David Pettigrew is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Southern Connecticut, USA. He devoted many of his research to the genocide and other crimes committed on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

PROF. DR. ARNE JOHAN VETLESEN REFLECT ON HIS VISIT TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

05 July 2017

In May 2017, Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo hosted a visit of one of the most famous Norwegian philosophers, Prof. Dr. Arne Johann Vetlesen.

During his visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 14 to 21 May 2017, Prof. Vetlesen promoted his book ‘Studies on Evil’ in Sarajevo, Tuzla and Bihać.

Upon returning to Norway, Prof. Vetlesen wrote the text on his the impressions of Bosnia and published it in the Norwegian newspaper “Morgenbladet” on June 23, 2017.

PROF. DR. KEITH DOUBT VISITS INSTITUTE

03 July 2017

On Thursday, 29 June 2017, Prof. Dr. Keith Doubt visited the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo. On the meeting with Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the Institute, the contemporary issues in the field of research of crimes against humanity and international law was discussed.
Keith Doubt is a sociology professor at the American Wittenberg University. The focus of his research was Bosnia and Herzegovina and he authored an extremely important book named ‘Sociology after Bosnia’.

**THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE HELD A LECTURE ON THE TOPIC “GENOCIDE IN THE UN SAFE ZONE SREBRENICA IN JULY 1995”**

*05 June 2017*

Union of Associations of Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Kingdom of Norway invited Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo to a visit to Norway from 1 to 3 June 2017. Dr. Rasim Muratović gave a lecture “Genocide in the UN Safe Zone Srebrenica in July 1995” as a part of the manifestation “Marking the Genocide in Srebrenica”.

Director Muratović visited the Holocaust Centre in Oslo on 2 June 2017, accompanied with Professor Arne Johanne Vetlesen from Oslo University, where he spoke with the staff and Director of the Centre, Professor Guri Hjeltnes. On the same day Dr. Muratović had an informal visit to NORLA (Norwegian Literature Centre Abroad).

**OPENING OF THE PHOTO EXIBITION “WHEN THE TIME IS UP” IN THE EUROPEAN HOUSE IN ZAGREB**

*05 June 2017*

Council of the Bosniak National Minority of the City of Zagreb in cooperation with the European House of Zagreb, the Association “Croatian House” - Ljubija and the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo hosted the opening of the photo exhibition “When the Time is Up” on 31 May 2017. The mark upon the “White Ribbon Day” is held traditionally in the city of Zagreb, in memoriam of the innocent victims of the municipality of Prijedor in 1992. The authors of the exhibition are Dr. Mujo Begić and...
the academic product designer Edis Vojić. The exhibition was opened in the crowded hall of the European House, in the heart of Zagreb.

The photo exhibition “When the Time is Up” is part of a scientific research project for documenting crimes against humanity and international law committed in the Bosanska Krajina region. Photographs show personal items and watches of victims found in mass graves. The goal of the exhibition is sensitizing the public about the suffering of the victims and dealing with the past.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by the Deputy of Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Andrej Plenković, the Deputy President of the Croatian Parliament, Gordan Jandroković, the Zagreb City Mayor Milan Bandić, the representatives of the Islamic Community in Croatia and the President of the Minorities Council in Croatia.

The exhibition was opened by Branko Lustig, who survived the Nazi camps Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. As the best producer, he was twice awarded with the Oscar for the film Schindler’s List and Gladiator. He symbolically tied the white tape over the place on his hand where the serial number from Auschwitz camp is imprinted.


26 May 2017

On Thursday, 25 May 2017, the promotion of the book “Olovo 1992-1995 - the Suffering and Destruction of the Heroic Olovo” was held in the sports centre in Olovo. The promoters were Prof. Dr. Ejup Ganić, Prof. Dr. Mirko Pejanović, Prof. Dr. Smail Čekić and Dr. Rasim Muratović, author of the edition and director of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo. The happening was moderated by Dr. Ermin Kuka.

Fadil Karčić, commander of First Olovo Mountain Brigade, Fahrudin Čolaković, Zenica-Doboj Canton Minister for Issues of the Veterans and Demal Memagić, Mayor of Olovo Municipality also attended the promotion.

Numerous guests from political, military, cultural and religious life attended the promotion, as well as several hundred citizens of Olovo, pupils, members of the First Olovo Mountain Brigade, families of martyrs and war disabled persons.
Prof. Dr. Arne Johann Vetlesen, the leading Norwegian philosopher and professor at the University of Oslo visited the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo from 15 to 19 May 2017. During this period, the Institute organized three promotions of Vetlesen’s latest book ‘Studies of Evil/Studier and ondskap’, in cooperation with the Faculty of Philosophy in Tuzla and the Una-Sana Canton Museum in Bihać. The book was translated to Bosnian by Rr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the Institute.

The first promotion was held on Monday, 15 May 2017 at the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo. The promoters were Dr. Ermin Kuka, research associate and MSc Mua-mer Džananović, senior expert associate at the Institute.

The second promotion was held on Tuesday, 16 May 2017 at Rectorate of the University of Tuzla. The book was promoted by Prof. Dr. En-ver Halilović, Prof. Dr. Keith Doubt, Prof. Dr. Adib Dožić and Prof. Dr. Najil Kurtić.

The last promotion was held on Wednesday, 17 May 2017 at the Museum of first AVNOJ meeting in Bihać. The promoters were Prof. Dr. Amela Čolić, Dr. Mujo Begić and Dr. Rasim Muratović.

Arne Johan Vetlesen (1960) authored twenty books and hundreds of scientific papers and essays relating to a theme of the evil. Due to Prof. Vetlesen’s persistent work on the study of evil, but also human dignity, he was awarded with Fangenes testament (The Logor’s Testament, 2004), given each year by the Norwegian Institute for Peace to the researchers who specially contribute the fight against evil.

At the proposal of the Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law, Professor Vetlesen was also awarded with the Peace and Progress Prize at Sarajevo University.

Vetlesen’s scientific essays are an attempt of science to understand the burst of barbarism and imprisonment of criminal intents that end in the genocide. All his works have the basic goal of understanding the causes, goals and extent of genocide but also the prevention of genocide as the crime and evil of the highest rank.
16 March 2017

Prof. Dr. Rasim Muratović (1956) is PhD in Sociology, author of ten books and two radio-novels and translator of eleven books from the Norwegian to Bosnian language.

He is the Director of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the Sarajevo University since 2014. He talked for magazine Stav about the preparations for drafting the Application for Revision of the International Court of Justice Judgment from 2007, who were the members of the Expert team. He also reminded of the relevance of the existing Judgment and clarified why the Expert team opted for silence during the drafting of the Application.

STAV: What was the role of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law in drafting of the Application for Revision of the Judgment of 26 February 2007 in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina versus Serbia on the Convention of genocide and when was the Institute first involved?

MURATOVIĆ: The Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the Sarajevo University, as a state institution and an institute of the University had a key role in this process, along with the agent Softić. This was the biggest, the most extensive and the most important project for the Institute ever. The Institute worked on this project for 10 years, but intensively from 28 November 2015, when I sent a letter to the President Izetbegović. After this letter, we intensified the activities related to the preparation of the Application for Revision of the 2007 Judgment under the leadership of the agent Softić and in cooperation with the Office of the President Izetbegović. We contacted Prof. Dr. Sakib Softić, who in early 2016 sent the letters to more than 200 institutions, especially
Those which, by virtue of their business, were obliged to collect facts and evidence. This was a survey on what facts those institutions have collected. He believed the Revision could be based on them. Sometime later, through the competent state authorities, we contacted the ICTY in The Hague and asked them to release the confidential documents and then deliver to us all the unredacted versions of records, particularly the records from the 39th and 40th session of the Supreme Defense Council (SDC) of the FR Yugoslavia. In the same way, we contacted certain ministries in Serbia and Croatia asking them, in accordance with the Agreements on Cooperation, to deliver us the documents we considered important in our activities.

After that, agent Prof. Dr. Softić, gathered the team: Prof. Dr. Smail Čekić, Prof. Dr. Kasim Trnka, Prof. Dr. Senadin Lavić, Prof. Dr. Zijad Hasić, Prof. Dr. Dževad Mahmutović, Attorney-in-law Vasvija Vidović, Attorney-in-law Asim Crnalić, General Mustafa Polutak, Mr. Amor Mašović, Mr. Enis Omerović, M.A. and the team associates: MSc Sabina Subašić-Galić, Mr. Hasan Nuhanović M.A. and Halisa Čengić. It was decided that the Expert team will operate in the Institute, and I, as a director of the Institute, was honoured to coordinate the work of the team.

Based on the adopted action plan, the team had a task to adapt all the relevant pieces of scientifically proven evidence, collected by the Institute for years, to the legal theory and practice. The Institute adapted scientific findings to the requirements of the profession, the requirements of international law. This team continued its work until the moment of filing the Application for Revision.

**STAV:** Application for Revision of the Judgment of 26 February 2007 was submitted on 23 February this year, and the ICJ Registrar informed the Presidency, already on 9 March that the Court would not even consider the Application. Were you surprised by such a quick reaction?

**MURATOVIC:** Given everything that happened meanwhile, no. I will present some details here. As soon as we began our work, the intensive and coordinated activities of the representatives of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina started. They visited high-ranking political and religious officials and tried to convince them not to proceed with the Revision. That was the first attempt to prevent us from filing the Application for Revision. The second was the PIC Decision, based on which all the member states but Turkey (which represents 66% of Muslim countries) were against proceeding with the Revision. When did you hear or see that the USA, China, Russia, Germany, France shared the same political position? Well, in this case of Bosnia, they did. The Court Registrar, before that, in May 2016, tried to repeal the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Decision from 4 October 2002 based on which Prof. Dr. Sakib Softić was appointed Agent of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Bosnia genocide case. That was the third attempt to prevent us from filing the Application for Revision.

All of this was a sign that our task is not simple. But, we never surrender in advance. None of us ever thought of raising the white flag and surrendering without fight. We knew not only Serbia opposes us, but something that we colloquially name “international community”, which was, along with Serbia, deeply involved in the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of the 20th century. We knew what followed. The Court received the Application, read it, and once they saw what was in it, dismissed it “on procedural grounds”. The reason for rejection is not, as it is attempted in the public, that Prof. Dr. Sakib Softić is not a legitimate agent. It is the fact that Ivanić and Čović sent their letters expressing disagreements with the filing of Application. So, their letters and not the Softić’s alleged illegitimate status are the reasons for dismissal of the Application for Revision. The reasons go, of course much deeper.

**STAV:** How did you take such an outcome in this event?

**MURATOVIC:** These are the reasons I mentioned. A special study can be written about this. However, in this situation, I will quote a Norwegian Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen, who in his famous work *Bak fiende bildet*, translated in
the Bosnian language as Paranoia of globalization, stated: “If the demands of Muslims and others for justice, recognition and respect are taken with nothing else but high arrogance, the world will certainly, very soon, be on fire. This is the world in which the capacity for listening to the others is more important than ever”. The International Court of Justice did not want to listen to the Muslims from Bosnia. It rather returned the request for justice with a false explanation that it is dismissed due to the procedural grounds, thus creating environment for mutual accusations and arguments, which at one point it nearly turned into schismogenesis. But, it is not going to be that easy. I will quote Professor Eriksen once again: “Bosnia is 100% European country, with the predominant Muslim population, and in years and events ahead, Bosnia will play one of the key roles”. The time will come when the “international community” will have to accept us the equal partner

**STAV**: After the notification that the Application for Revision of the Judgment will not be considered, sent to the BiH Presidency, the International Court of Justice President announced that the BiH Agent in the case against Serbia, Sakib Softić, knew even in May last year that he does not have the legitimacy in this process of Revision. Did you, as the director of the Institute, involved in the preparation of Application for Revision, have the information that Softić, as they claim in the Court in The Hague, did not have the legitimacy to file the Application?

**MURATOVIĆ**: Of course that everyone on the team knew that and we discussed that matter most seriously in almost all of our meetings. The priority for us was drafting the Application knowing the relevance and merits of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Decision dated 4 October 2002, based on which Prof. Dr. Softić was a legitimate agent. It became obvious that the Presidency Decision has never been repealed nor someone else was appointed as an Agent by any other Decision. You do not need to be a lawyer to know that no Registrar of any court can repeal the decision issued by the highest organ of a state, which is a party to the dispute. Thus, as Professor Scheffer said: “there is no reason why Mr. Softić could not be a legitimate Agent, including the situation in which Bosnia and Herzegovina seeks Revision”. The power of this argument could be the reason why the ICJ President failed to explicitly emphasize the matter of appointment, but he rather focused on the communications by the Presidency members. In the ICJ Statute, rules and practice, Scheffer argues “there are no provisions which treat the Revision of the Judgment as a new case, which also requires new institutional decision for that case, and the Court should have allowed the parties to the proceedings to discuss that matter before the Court”.

**STAV**: Does it mean that the act of rejection by the International Court of Justice to consider the Bosnia and Herzegovina Application for Revision is the legal end to the matter of role of Serbia in the genocide, committed in our country, and what does it mean in relation to the 2007 Judgment?

**MURATOVIĆ**: Of course this is not an end, not even legally speaking. But, let me remind you of some of the most important facts from the 2007 Judgment: International Court of Justice has for the first time in its history established the responsibility of one state for the violation of Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Thus, this Judgment has its historic value. The Court, while considering the matter of responsibility of the FR Yugoslavia for the genocide committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina found that the FR Yugoslavia Army participated in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Court found that there is ample evidence confirming the direct or indirect involvement of the official FR Yugoslavia Army in the military operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition to the direct involvement of the FR Yugoslavia Army in the military operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Court also found that the FR Yugoslavia provided significant military and financial support to Republika Srpska, without which it would not be able to carry out
the most important military and paramilitary activities. (The entire Judgment could be found on the web page of the Institute)

What Bosnia failed to prove, in the opinion of the Court, is that these crimes confirm the material elements (actus reus) of the genocide committed with a specific intention (dolus specialis), and that the underlying acts of genocide “in and around Srebrenica” were attributed to the FRY, and that the FRY is responsible for them.

These are important facts, which as such, remain until the Doomsday, which should be remembered, and from which all our future activities should start.

**STAV:** The elements required for Revision of the Judgment by which Serbia was, ten years ago, found guilty of failure to prevent genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained in the shadow of the dispute related to the legitimacy of Sakib Softić. Whose support did you have in the quest for new facts, as one of the crucial elements for Revision?

**MURATOVIĆ:** We were not only looking for new facts, but rather the Application for Revision was drafted in a way to offer the ICJ an opportunity to review the evidence so as to rule whether the genocide was committed in the period 1992-1995 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and whether Serbia was responsible for that genocide. Let me quote once again Professor Scheffer: “History will not be benevolent when reviewing the International Court of Justice Judgment related to the dismissal of the Application”.

I still cannot speak about details surrounding the gathering of evidence. We had our people in Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, and The Netherlands. The text of the application was written on three continents, in America, Europe, and Asia. It was written in seven cities: New York, London, Amsterdam, Ljubljana, Sarajevo (in several locations), Istanbul, and Amman (Jordan).

**STAV:** Who made that decision, and why was the public, throughout the period of preparations surrounding the Application for Revision, deprived of the information that there is a team working on the Application and that the team works intensively? Why this secrecy?

**MURATOVIĆ:** All my life I have been doing responsible state jobs. This is the most responsible job I have ever had in my life. We did not hide from the public and we did not try to conceal what we were doing. That was not a closed circle or the team of some extra patriots with the monopoly. Every well-intentioned individual, who wanted and could help, was welcome, and the invitation coming from Professor Softić in May 2016 was open for everyone. The way we worked and the attitude towards the public was not the matter of some extra patriotic reasons, but it was the matter of safety. Well, you work on the Application for Revision of the Judgment related to the gravest crime of genocide, and then you should inform the public daily on what you do. By this, you also inform the contrary party about what you did so far, which arguments you have for the next hearing, etc.? Hundreds of journalists called me and I just opted for not making any statement. In that context, I can tell you an interesting event. A journalist from a big TV house invited me to be her guest in a TV show. I asked: “What shall we talk about?” And she replied: “We shall go quickly through the Application”. I asked her then: “Do you know what you have just asked me?” She was silent after that question, and I was quiet. So, from that moment until present day, I insisted on my “shameful silence”.

**STAV:** In the preparations of the Application, you involved different institutions, experts, politicians, individuals directly or indirectly involved in the work, and yet information related to the setting up of the team and the work on the Application were not disclosed to the public, despite enormous pressures exerted by individuals and media who kept advising on the deadline for filing the Application. How do you comment this?

**MURATOVIĆ:** It was a simple agreement of the team. We would begin and end every meeting with the reminder that we have to keep silent.
The aim was to achieve best results and protect everything we did from the Respondent. It was a very serious job. And that was a huge responsibility.

Finally, the team was set up: David Scheffer (USA), Phon van den Biesen (The Netherlands), Alain Pellè (France), Paulo Polchetti (Italy). They finalized the wording of the Application, invested their respective scientific and human dignity and excellent diplomatic careers, and were also ready to enter the process before the International Court of Justice. I do not know what other state would be able to set up such a representative team?! Well, this is the reason why no action was taken with regard to our Application along with the explanation that it is dismissed on the procedural grounds.

**STAV:** How can we interpret the fact that the reactions in Republika Srpska to the Revision of the Judgment were much stronger than in the Respondent state Serbia?

**MURATOVIĆ:** The Bosnian Serbs want to be bigger Serbs than the Serbs from Šumadija.

**STAV:** Public is not much informed that the cases of genocide committed against Bosniacs during the aggression were also adjudicated in Germany, in addition to Bosnia and Herzegovina and The Hague, and those cases pertained to crimes committed in different parts of our country. Was that fact sufficiently used, and what does it mean that the cases of genocide, committed outside of Srebrenica, were also adjudicated?

**MURATOVIĆ:** That was exactly where our focus in the work was. At the beginning, we had a dilemma if we should focus only on Srebrenica or the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina. After difficult but rather constructive discussions, the prevailing option was the genocide committed against Bosniacs in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992-1995, which is also the subject matter of the Judgments you referred to in your question.

**STAV:** Work on the Application is only one in the series of activities performed in the Institute. In addition to the organization of various scientific meetings, research projects, publication of papers and books, what are all the activities that the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law is engaged with?

**MURATOVIĆ:** Institute is a scientific institution. We deal with the scientific research of crimes against humanity and international law, including genocide, committed not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina but the entire world. Yet, we always compare those crimes against the crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of the 20th century. I have to tell you that we are often not able to find a theoretical model for the evil inflicted on Bosniacs for more than hundred years now.

**STAV:** Were the results of the Institute used in war crime cases, before our or international courts? Was the Institute on its own initiative filing reports or initiated lawsuits?

**MURATOVIĆ:** We cooperate in our daily work with the national courts and prosecutors' offices. We regularly supply them with findings and evidence on the committed crimes. I do have a feeling that they are overburdened and that they cannot complete everything they have to do. Or, it could be something else. I do not know.

**STAV:** More than 130 publications, research books, conference proceedings, translations, only dozen in the last year, are some of the results of the Institute. However, it seems as if the public does not know much about it. Why is it so?

**MURATOVIĆ:** Still waters run deep. Institute has never been in a better position, with staff, substantively or enjoyed better reputation here and in the world. The Council of the Institute has recently adopted a decision that we should soon organize a thematic session of the Council to discuss the improvements of our contents and method of work. Better days are coming to the Institute.

To that end, I would like to send a message to your readers. Heads up! We cannot be a nation without pride and defiance. Criminals like
those, as they appear to be a challenge for them. We should learn a lesson from this in terms of strengthening of our self-confidence. Our strength and our self-confidence are the best protection from potential future genocides. We need to work diligently, be disciplined, hard-working and useful for society. Founder of sociology, Abu Zaid 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Muhamed ibn Haldun al-Hadrami (1332-1406) said in his fundamental book, Muqaddimah: “Enemy will never attack a family and a tribe that stick together”. At the end, I would like to express my gratitude to all the employees of the Institute, all the members of the team, those who were in City Hall on 17 February 2017 at the counselling. That was not a “fraternity in City Hall”, that was the most dignified meeting of the representatives of genocide victims, prominent figures from political, religious, scientific, and cultural life, under the leadership of a member of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency, Bakir Izetbegović, and Reis-ul-ulema Husein Kavazović. I was honoured to attend and moderate it.

All of us unanimously supported the position of the Agent, Professor Dr. Softić and the team, that the requirements have been fulfilled to file the Application of Revision of the 2007 Judgment. They will all remain my best friends for rest of my life. I am asking others not to take it against me for highlighting the role of Professor Dr. Sakib Softić. He is brave, bold, persistent, strong. The Agent of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been doing, since 2002, everything that none of the “famous figures” wanted or dared to do. We all in Bosnia and Herzegovina owe to him a big gratitude and respect.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT “GENOCIDE AGAINST BOSNIAKS”

13 January 2017

The project “Genocide against Bosniacs 1992-1995 carried out for the purpose of dividing the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the creation of a Greater Serbia” was promoted on 12 January at the National Theatre in Sarajevo. The project aims to present the roots, causes, objectives, scope and consequences of the aggression on the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992-1995, and to remind the victims of terrible crimes, their commissioners and executors of the genocidal plan.

Web portal genocid.ba/genocide.ba should be an interface of collected and systematized archives, data and information that will enable the scientific, professional and general public knowledge of the scale and categories of the crimes, as well as the categorization of victims, killing and wounding, rape and sexual abuse, camps and other places of detention, enforced disappearances and mass graves, and the extent of destroyed and devastated cultural, educational, scientific and religious buildings. The web portal will also have a Calendar of events 1992-1995, audio and visual testimony of the victims, photo galleries, etc. Interactive map will present the sites of crimes, related crimes and categorization of the victims. This all shall give the precise extent of the committed genocide and other crimes against humanity and international law.

At the presentation, Mr. Bakir Izetbegović, member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Bosniak people, Mr. Husein ef. Kavazović, Reis-ul-ulema of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr. Rasim Muratović, the director of the Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo, and Mr. Amor Masović, the member of the Board of Commissioners of the ICMP Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina talked about the importance of this project.
The goal of this project is answering to the historical revisionism through presentation of relevant facts. Reflecting on the causes of aggression, exploring the circumstances that led to the brutal and massive crimes committed in the recent past, a systematic analysis of the scale of the crimes, adhering to the criteria of scientific responsibility, precision and perseverance in the objective presentation of the facts, systematic and responsible scientific research of the crime in this popular and receptive way will ensure the availability of relevant information.
## PUBLICATIONS:

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(www.institut-genocid.unsa.ba) **For 2017**

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