

## **Canadian Bosniaks do not accept Motion M – 416 without the inclusion of the term “genocide”**

Institute for the Research of Genocide Canada  
Published: April 17, 2010

### **Motion M 416 is about the crime of genocide against Bosniaks at Srebrenica.**

Genocide was committed in Srebrenica in July of 1995 by Serbian and Bosnian Serb forces. The judgments of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia attested to this fact.

In the name of more than 50,000 Canadian Bosniaks, most of whom are victims of genocide, The Congress of North American Bosniaks, and the Canadian Branch and Institute for Research Genocide Canada, sent a loud and clear message to you, the Canadian Government and to the Canadian Parliament: that the Canadian Bosniak community will not accept any Parliamentary Motion on Srebrenica without the use of proper terminology – i.e., the term ‘genocide’. A lack of inclusion of the term ‘genocide’ is nothing short of a major insult to human intelligence and to the human dignity of all victims and the survivors of genocide.

On February 26, 2007, The International Court of Justice, in The Hague, The Netherlands, which is the highest judicial body of the United Nations Organization, returned a verdict in which it declared that ‘genocide’ had in fact been committed against Bosniaks, and specifically against the Bosniak inhabitants of Srebrenica. The International Court of Justice and International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Krstic judgment also declared that “genocide” was committed against Bosniaks.

As a member of the international community of nations, Canada has a legal obligation to support the International Court of Justice, accept its rulings and enforce them.

Further, since the exhumation of remains of the victims of the Srebrenica genocide is still in progress, as it is a laborious task, the government of Canada’s version of “7,000 victims” is inaccurate since the count, up until today, surpasses 8,000.

Therefore, Canada should demonstrate that they are in step with respect to the most decisive judicial rulings, or resolutions of its historical allies, the United States of America and the European Union, who have recently voted with respect to genocide committed against Bosniaks, and specifically against Bosniaks of Srebrenica.

As a sovereign parliamentary monarchy, Canada has the right and duty to adhere to international law and in doing so recognize the facts that have been documented, duly processed and properly judged.

The original version of Motion M – 416 has the support of many members of the Conservative Party of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party of Canada, the Blok Quebecois, the Green Party of Canada, the Islamic Congress of Canada, the Jewish Congress of Canada, and many organizations for protection of human rights and freedoms, as well as the Institute for Research on Crimes of Genocide.

The government's revised version of Motion M-416 is unacceptable to those who believe in the truth. The government's revised version removes or misrepresents a number crucial facts and aspects of the Motion:

(1) the number of more than 8,000 murdered has been reduced to 7,000;

(2) the Bosnia & Herzegovina Tribute Week has been removed;

(3) Reference to 'Serbian forces' has been replaced with 'Bosnian Serb' which is contrary to proven facts, from the ICJ ruling against Serbia/Montenegro to corpus delicti at the ICTY – having Serbia's documents that contain a statement given by Slobodan Milosevic (which reads): "We control over 72 percent of territory in B&H" ("to many others" this is not understood – does it mean 'and' many others?);

(4) 'Bosniak civilians' has been replaced with "Bosnian civilians". However, our national name – according the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina- is "Bosniak";

(5) Reference to the worst act of genocide in Europe since the Second World War has been removed.

This is a collective response from the Canadian – Bosniak Community, supported by:

The Congress of North American Bosniaks, Canadian Branch,

The Institute for the Research of Genocide Canada,

The Islamic Congress of Canada,

The Islamic Association of Bosniaks Canada

The most prominent experts in the field of International law

Prominent Canadian Experts, Professors

Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosniaks in Canada

With respect,

Professor Emir Ramic

President of the Congress of North American Bosniaks – Canadian Branch & President of the Institute for the Research of Genocide – Canada

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## **Additional Statements of Support for the original version of Motion M-416.**

### **Support by The Congress of North American Bosniaks**

April 11, 2010

Re: Language of the Motion on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11” Re: Language of the Motion on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11”

To Whom It May Concern:

The Congress of North American Bosniaks (CNAB), representing more than 350,000 Bosniaks, including more than 50,000 Canadian Bosniaks, reiterates its full support for the Hon. Brian Masse’s motion on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11”:

That, in the opinion of the House, the day of July 11 should be recognized as Srebrenica Remembrance Day and the week of July 11 as Bosnia and Herzegovina Tribute week in memorial of the Srebrenica Massacre of July of 1995, in which more than 8,000 Bosniak civilians were executed under the policy of ethnic cleansing, the worst act of genocide in Europe since the Second World War, and 30,000 others were expelled from their homes by Serbian forces.

The current version of the motion being considered by the Canadian Parliament has several serious omissions which compromise the validity and purpose of the motion:

“That, in the opinion of the House, the government shall declare the day of July 11th as Srebrenica Remembrance Day in memorial of the Srebrenica massacre of July 1995, in which more than 7,000 Bosnian civilians were executed and 25,000 others expelled from their homes by Bosnian Serb forces under a policy of ethnic cleansing.”

CNAB respectfully points out several serious omissions in the motion above:

a) There were more than 8,000 lives lost in Srebrenica in July of 1995. These figures were confirmed by local authorities as well as the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and the U.S. House Resolution 199.

b) Bosnia & Herzegovina Tribute week is missing. It is important that we pay respect to all the victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina and celebrate Bosnian statehood.

c) Current motion replaces ‘Serbian forces’ with ‘Bosnian Serb’ which is contrary to proven facts, from the ICJ ruling against Serbia/Montenegro to corpus delicti at the

ICTY – having Serbia’s documents that contain a statement given by Slobodan Milosevic (which reads): “We control over 72 percent of territory in B&H” (“to many others” this is not understood – does it mean ‘and’ many others?). It is imperative that we recognize the active involvement of Serbian troops in the genocide.

d) An error in description of ‘Bosniak civilians’ as “Bosnian civilians”. The victims of the Srebrenica genocide were ethnic Bosniaks , a constitutionally recognized ethnicity, whereas Bosnian signifies only a regional affiliation to Bosnia.

e) Removes the worst act of genocide in Europe since the Second World War. It is a well known fact that the systemic murder of more than 8,000 Bosniaks in a short period of time was the worst atrocity since the Second World War and should be recognized as such.

Furthermore, CNAB strongly urges the Parliament to use the term genocide instead of massacre wherever possible. The use of the term genocide is consistent with the ICTY’s ruling on Srebrenica in several war crimes cases as well as the case of Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Serbia and Montenegro where it has been clearly classified as a genocide as described under the [United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide](#) (CPPCG)

For any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Mr. Haris Alibasic, MPA

President of the Congress of North American Bosniaks

[haris.alibasic@bosniak.org](mailto:haris.alibasic@bosniak.org)

**Support by The Bosnian – American Genocide Institute and Education Centre**

April 10, 2010

Re: Language of the Motion on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11”

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is the Bosnian – American Genocide Institute and Education Centre statement in regard to the Motion(s) on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11”

Hon. Brian Masse’s Motion:

1. That, in the opinion of the House, the day of July 11 should be recognized as Srebrenica Remembrance Day and the week of July 11 as Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tribute week in memorial of the Srebrenica Massacre of July of 1995, in which more than 8,000 Bosniak civilians were executed under the policy of ethnic cleansing, the worst act of genocide in Europe since the Second World War, and 30,000 others were expelled from their homes by Serbian forces.

The Bosnian – American Genocide Institute and Education Centre agrees with this motion in full and endorses it!

For any further information, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

Mr. Sanja Drnovsek

President of the the Bosnian – American Genocide Institute and Education Centre

### **Support by The Canadian Islamic Congress**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

April 1, 2010

Re: Language of the Motion on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11”

Dear Sir/Madam;

This is the Canadian Islamic Congress statement in regard to the Motion(s) on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11”

Hon. Brian Masse’s Motion:

1. That, in the opinion of the House, the day of July 11 should be recognized as Srebrenica Remembrance Day and the week of July 11 as Bosnia and Herzegovina Tribute week in memorial of the Srebrenica Massacre of July of 1995, in which more than 8,000 Bosniak civilians were executed under the policy of ethnic cleansing, the worst act of genocide in Europe since the Second World War, and 30,000 others were expelled from their homes by Serbian forces.

Canadian Islamic Congress agrees with this motion in full and endorses it!

Canada’s Government’s version of the Motion:

2.”That, in the opinion of the House, the government shall declare the day of July 11th as Srebrenica Remembrance Day in memorial of the Srebrenica massacre of July 1995, in which more than 7,000 Bosnian civilians were executed and 25,000 others expelled from their homes by Bosnian Serb forces under a policy of ethnic cleansing.”

Canadian Islamic Congress sees several serious omissions in the Motion by the Government:

- a. The Srebrenica massacre – should read the Srebrenica genocide. CIC holds that the Government version will be acceptable if the term “genocide” is included into the motion since what has happened to people of Srebrenica cannot be called anything else but genocide, therefore, Canadian government should call it what it is — GENOCIDE. This tragedy has been declared an “act of genocide” by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (IVTY) as well.

Following countries already declared the Srebrenica tragedy as an “Act of Genocide”:

\* European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2009 on Srebrenica

C. whereas this tragedy, declared an act of genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), took place in a UN-proclaimed safe haven, and therefore stands as a symbol of the impotence of the international community to intervene in the conflict and protect the civilian population (p. 2 of 2)

\* The Senate of the United States, May 9, 2005

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the thousands of innocent people murdered at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina in July 1995, along with all individuals who were victimized during the conflict and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995, should be solemnly remembered and honored; (p. 3 of 4).

(2) the policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing as implemented by Serb forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995 meet the terms defining the crime of genocide in Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, done at Paris December 9, 1948, entered into force January 12, 1951;

- a. 7,000 Bosnian civilians were executed and 25,000 others expelled — **should read:** 8,000 Bosniak civilians were executed...30,000 others expelled... The evidence well grounded suggests that more than 8,000 Bosniaks were executed in Srebrenica.

For any further information, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Wahida Valiante

National President

Canadian Islamic Congress

**Supported by: The Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law of the Sarajevo University**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

April 10, 2010

Re: Language of the Motion on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11”

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is the The Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law of the Sarajevo University statement in regard to the Motion(s) on “Srebrenica Remembrance Day, July 11”

Hon. Brian Masse's Motion:

That, in the opinion of the House, the day of July 11 should be recognized as Srebrenica Remembrance Day and the week of July 11 as Bosnia and Herzegovina Tribute week in memorial of the Srebrenica Massacre of July of 1995, in which more than 8,000 Bosniak civilians were executed under the policy of ethnic cleansing, the worst act of genocide in Europe since the Second World War, and 30,000 others were expelled from their homes by Serbian forces.

The Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law of the Sarajevo University agrees with this motion in full and endorses it!

For any further information, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

Prof. Dr. Smail Cekic

D i r e c t o r

Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law of the Sarajevo University