



BOSNIAK AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. State Department
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland
Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

January 22, 2007

Dear Madam Secretary and Sirs:

On behalf of the Bosniak-American Community, I would like to applaud the U.S. Justice Department for the recent arrest of over twenty Bosnian Serb immigrants throughout the United States who potentially had a role in not just the aggression, but also the genocide, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to press reports, the arrested individuals were in effect caught lying on affidavits they completed during the U.S. immigration process by concealing their actions within Bosnian Serb military forces. These individuals may very well have directly participated in the slaughter of 8,000 Bosniaks in Srebrenica in early July 1995.

We Americans of Bosnian and Bosniak heritage from throughout the United States firmly believe that healing and reconciliation in our country cannot happen without the arrest and just punishment of the perpetrators of genocide – regardless of their membership in a particular ethnic group. We envision Bosnia and Herzegovina as a vibrant, prosperous and multicultural democracy that is a member of the Euro-Atlantic community. However, that society must be rooted in the rule of law, so that all of its citizens will be protected by a system of justice and accountability. The U.S. justice system is fair and effective, and by arresting these suspected war criminals, the Justice Department has not only brought Bosnia's citizens a step closer to a sense of justice, but has also set an excellent example of the importance of accountability.

Once again, we thank you and hope that the Justice Department will continue its very positive role in bringing justice and peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina. That said, we encourage the United States to actively do more to bring all indicted war criminals to justice, particularly war criminals Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. On our part, the Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina will do everything to encourage legal systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be an effective partner to the U.S. Justice Department.

Best regards,

Mirsad Hadzikadic
President