



The Twentieth Anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica

**Open Letter to the President of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić,
the Government of the Republic of Serbia
and
the National Parliament of the Republic of Serbia**

11 July – “Let us Declare it as the Day of Remembrance of the Srebrenica Genocide”

Respected presidents of the Republic
Respected Prime Minister and members of the Government
Respected presidents and representatives of the National Parliament

Twenty years have passed since the army of the Republika Srpska, led by The Hague indictee Ratko Mladić and with the comprehensive assistance of the Slobodan Milošević regime, perpetrated the first genocide committed on European soil since the Second World War. A total of 8,372 people were killed.

Six years have passed since the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on 11 July – Day of Remembrance of the Genocide in Srebrenica. It called upon states in the Western Balkans to recognize 11 July as a remembrance day and to respectfully commemorate this event.

Six years Women in Black and other civil society organizations continue to request from the competent institutions of the state of Serbia to declare July 11th – The Day of Commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide. So far, the request was not accepted.

Five years have passed since the National Parliament of the Republic of Serbia adopted a Declaration to Prosecute the Perpetrators of the Srebrenica Genocide, but this has not ended the silence that continues to surround the crime and there is still a failure in Serbia to respectfully honour the victims.

We need to end the silence and to declare 11 July as the Day of Remembrance of the Genocide in Srebrenica!

The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia have confirmed that genocide was committed in Srebrenica. Continued denial concerning the numbers of people killed and persistent silence constitute a violation of the decisions of international justice institutions. It is inhumane and immoral not to respect and honour the victims. You need to show that you respect the decisions of international justice institutions, and this in turn will lead to improved relations, peace and trust within the region.

This year, within the framework of the long-term campaign “Let us Declare 11 July as the Day of Remembrance of the Srebrenica Genocide“, we are organizing a public reading of a letter addressed to the President of the Republic in front of the Presidency of Serbia, on 11 June 2015 from 12noon until 1pm. We invite you to come and to join us.

Centre for Cultural Decontamination
Humanitarian Law Fund
Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
Youth Initiative for Human Rights
Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights
Anti-Fascist Alliance of Serbia
Women in Black