

20 YEARS AFTER IN COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTIMS OF SREBRENICA GENOCIDE



Two decades ago, Srebrenica, a small local community in Bosnia and Herzegovina saw the biggest massacre and ethnic cleansing that occurred in Europe after the Second World War. Horrendous crimes, atrocities and mass violations of international humanitarian law were committed during the breakup of former Yugoslavia with the victims and their relatives who are still haunted by this act of genocide, as well as by the slow pace of reconciliation and truth-seeking.

Today, while commemorating the victims of Srebrenica and of all the atrocities committed during the wars in former Yugoslavia we strongly believe that history must not repeat and that the Balkan leaders will sincerely turn to dialogue and peace building. Not only because of the EU integration perspective, but more than ever because of the vision of a better present and future for all the citizens of the Balkan countries. Safeguarding durable peace without ethnic hatred, religious and other divisions is an urgent must for the governments who without any

further delays or excuses need to invest in education and democratic institution building so as to enable inclusive and tolerant societies capable of drawing lessons from the past.

ALDA welcomes :

- the decision of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, taken unanimously, to proclaim the 11th of July as Day of Mourning in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- the European Parliament Resolution on the Srebrenica Commemoration adopted in the European Parliament on 9th of July.

ALDA, commemorating the anniversary urges :

- for education and cultural programmes as means for promoting human rights, inter-ethnic and inter-religious tolerance among young generation in particular.

alda@aldaintranet.org - www.alda-europe.eu

HEADQUARTERS IN STRASBOURG
c/o Council of Europe, office 1027
Avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg, (FR)
Tel +33 (0) 390214593
Fax +33 (0) 388412751
aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN BRUSSELS
Rue de la Science, 14b
1000 Brussels (BE)
Tel: +32 2 880 37 28
aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN VICENZA
Viale Milano 66
36100 Vicenza, (IT)
Tel +39 0444540 146
Fax +39 0444 231043
aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org

OFFICE IN SKOPJE
Bld. Partizanski Odredi 15A 2/2
1000 Skopje, (MK)
Tel +389 (0) 2 6091 060

OFFICE IN SUBOTICA
c/o LDA Subotica
Trg cara Jovana Nenada 15
24000 Subotica, (SRB)
Tel/Fax +381 24 554587

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Since 1999 ALDA coordinates and supports a network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs), which have been established in the Western Balkans by the Congress of the Council of Europe since 1992, as a support programme to strengthen local democracy, foster respect for human rights and inclusive sustainable development. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the three LDAs in Mostar, Zavidovići and Prijedor, have been committed to promoting the inter-ethnic and inter-

religious tolerance, whilst particularly fostering participation of young people in regional co-operation programmes. .

Support the European perspective and further accession process of BiH and all Western Balkan countries because the European integration process is the best way to promote peace and reconciliation as a precondition for further economic development.

Useful links:

For getting involved and know more about Srebrenica genocide, please consult [Remembering Srebrenica website](#).

Brussels, 11th of July 2015

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