

Vefamun'23

**United Nations
Security Council**



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i. Letter from Secretary General

Most distinguished participants of VefaMUN'23,

After such a prolonged break, as the Secretary-General, I am more than pleased to extend a warm welcome to you at the 4th Vefa Lisesi Model United Nations Conference. After diligent preparation, it is my utmost pleasure to announce that we are ready to host you for one of the premier Model UN conferences. Both our VefaMUN'23 Academic and Organization team has worked tirelessly to cultivate an energetic and engaging atmosphere that will provide the perfect backdrop for tackling some of the world's most pressing issues. I know that your participation in this conference will be just the beginning of a long and meaningful commitment to justice and progress, and we find it to be a privilege to be a part of this journey.

Respectfully,

Ali Kağan Aydıngör, Secretary-General



ii. Letter from Under-Secretary-General

Honorable delegates,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the VEFAMUN'22 edition, I, Veli Eren Şen, will be serving as your Under-Secretary-General for the committee of the United Nations Security Council. I am currently a student at Bahcesehir University, studying the third semester, and second year of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design, and more than happy to host every single of you in this committee and environment. From the first conference that I attended, in 2018, it is my honor to be present and serve as your Under Secretary General today, in 2023. I would like to send my sincere regards to the academic and organization team of this traditional and wonderful conference, and I am more than sure that every single person taking a part in VEFAMUN, will perform their best to give the best Model UN experience you'll ever have.

Our agenda item, the Bosnian Genocide is a perfect choice to discuss upon today's terms, considering the cultural, geographic, and mental similarities we have with them. You are expected to make your research detailed and accordingly, determine the past and current problems in the region, and plan and conceive the possible solution ideas that you will have during the conference. Every single of you is specifically chosen by me, to make your experience as great as possible in this committee, and I highly believe that you will be working hard, trying to come up with the best solution ideas and analyze the topic sufficiently. Security Council is not an easy committee, to be present and a part of it, you need to work hard and be aware of your surrounding during the whole conference. It is the most powerful body of the UN, while other bodies can only suggest what to do in order to solve the situation, Security Council directly acts and moves upon the topic, with direct interactions. As expected, I highly believe, you will manage to deal with the committee, agenda, and the problem itself. I did my best while preparing this guide for you, as an Architecture Faculty student, so I hope it will be beneficial and helpful for your preparation for the conference. It is my duty to make you feel at home and cared for during the whole conference, and provide the best academic experience you'll ever have.

So, if there are any question marks in your mind that the study guide does not answer, please do not hesitate to contact me via my e-mail, velieren.sen@bahcesehir.edu.tr.

Best Regards,
Veli Eren Şen

iii. Introduction the Committee: *United Nations Security Council*

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened. According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, ***only the Security Council*** has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

Maintaining Peace and Security

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach an agreement by peaceful means. The Council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;
 - undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;
 - dispatch a mission;
 - appoint special envoys; or
 - request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.
 - When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:
 - issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;
 - dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:
 - economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;
 - severance of diplomatic relations;
 - blockade;
 - or even collective military action.
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A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

Organization

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. It also traveled to many cities, holding sessions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1972, in Panama City, Panama, and in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1990.

A representative of each of its members must be present at all times at UN Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time as the need arises.

Members

United Nations Security Council has 15 members, 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members. Permanent members, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the People's Republic of China, have direct responsibility in the Council, with veto rights. Non-permanent members are elected on a 5 regional basis to serve 2-year terms. A permanent member has the right to 'veto' any *substantive* Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General.

Being present today, the non-permanent members, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Iran, Italy, Hungary, Serbia, and Türkiye.

iv. Agenda Item: Bosnian Genocide

The two words of Bosnian Genocide basically define the genocide directed at the Bosnian people, by Serbian, in today's Bosnia and Herzegovina borders, which took place between 1992-1995, during the Bosnian War. The definition also serves as a legal concept of mentioning the Srebrenitsa and Jepa massacres.

History



Like other cities on the Mediterranean coast, Bosnia took its place on the stage of history within the Roman Empire. After the collapse of the Roman Empire, the administration of Bosnia changed hands several times until it gained its independence in the 1200s. The Kingdom of Bosnia, which preserved its independence for more than 260 years, had to defend its lands against the Hungarians and Serbs during this time.

Bosnians, who came under the Ottoman rule in 1463, also embraced Islam. The Ottoman administration, which allowed the Bosnians who did not accept Islam to fulfill their religious obligations, also affected the traditions and culture of the Bosnians with the buildings and mosques they built in Bosnian territory. During the period under the Ottoman administration, which would continue until 1878, many Bosniaks were appointed to important positions in the Ottoman administration. As a result of the pressure of the allies, who decided to break up the weakening Ottoman Empire, to Istanbul, which was in financial difficulties, the Ottoman administration in Bosnia ended at the table without a fight and passed under the control of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The period between 1918-1941 was spent with internal turmoil and war in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. World War II between 1941-1945. During World War II, the Nazis invaded Yugoslavia and connected Slovenia to Germany, Croatia to Italy and Macedonia to Bulgaria, and they killed thousands of people in concentration camps by engaging in an ethnic cleansing movement especially against Jews and Gypsies.

35 years of the cold war period between 1945-1990 passed under the leadership of Tito. During this period, the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina were returned before 1918 and Bosnians regained their cultural identity. With the support of the West, the traces of the war in Yugoslavia were quickly erased. Western countries supported Yugoslavia not only economically, but also militarily and politically. In the 1970s, when faced with the risk of Soviet intervention, the United States announced that it could use nuclear power to defend Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia was also affected by the disintegration of the Soviet Union with the end of the Cold War and the end of the communist regime.

1878 Austro-Hungarian Invasion of Bosnia and Herzegovina

After the bloody civil wars between 1986-1992, Yugoslavia broke up. A systematic massacre was carried out by ultra-nationalist Slobodan Milosevic and the militants he supported, with dreams of establishing a Greater Serbia. Over 100,000 Bosniaks lost their lives during this period. Western countries to the

ethnic cleansing movement carried out by the Serbs bombing the cities they besieged, especially Sarajevo, killing innocent civilians with sniper fire, and killing selected people, especially intellectuals, in concentration camps; It remained a spectator to the genocide by not showing the necessary reaction for a long time. Bosnia and Herzegovina, which declared its independence in February 1992, was recognized by the USA and other western countries on April 7, 1992, and its application for membership to the United Nations was accepted on May 22, 1992.

The Bosnian War began in the spring of 1992. The aim of the attacks targeting the northern part of Bosnia was to remove the Bosnians and Croats from these regions and establish the Serbian state. These attacks of the Serbs turned into a complete disaster for other ethnic groups in the region. Many were killed and tortured in besieged cities and refugee camps.

In the first months of the war, many non-military eastern Bosniak cities fell easily as a result of Serbian attacks. However, with the help of the hills surrounding the city, Srebrenica successfully defended itself against the attacks.

In 1993, the United Nations declared six settlements "safe zones"; Srebrenica was one of them. The aim was to create a negotiable basis for peace by making borders safe.

Bosnians

In May 1995, the Serbs intensified the siege of Sarajevo and NATO launched an airstrike against the Serbs. In retaliation, the Serbs bombarded six safe zones, taking 300 United Nations soldiers hostage. Upon the approach of the Serbs to the city, the Bosnians in Srebrenica asked the Dutch soldiers to defend themselves. Despite this, when they received a refusal, the Bosnians were left unarmed and alone, even though they conveyed their demands for the surrender of the weapons taken from their hands while entering the city because it was a safe zone, and for the city to be defended by the Bosnians themselves. In July 1995, Serbian forces under the command of General Mladic made an agreement with the Dutch United Nations forces in Srebrenica and targeted the city. About 25,000 Bosniaks left the city upon the threat of the Serbs and reached another safe zone, Potocari. When the Serbs arrived in Srebenitsa, the Dutch United Nations force commander assisted the Serbs in the massacre rather than hindering them. The commander of the Dutch troops even had a toast to the Serbian general Mladic. Dutch troops did not intervene, even even assisted the massacre in order for the genocide to be carried out properly. After the women and children were separated, the men who were of military age were put on buses and shot near the camp. It is claimed that 10-15 thousand Bosniaks were killed in this biggest genocide after World War II. Red Cross officials reported that

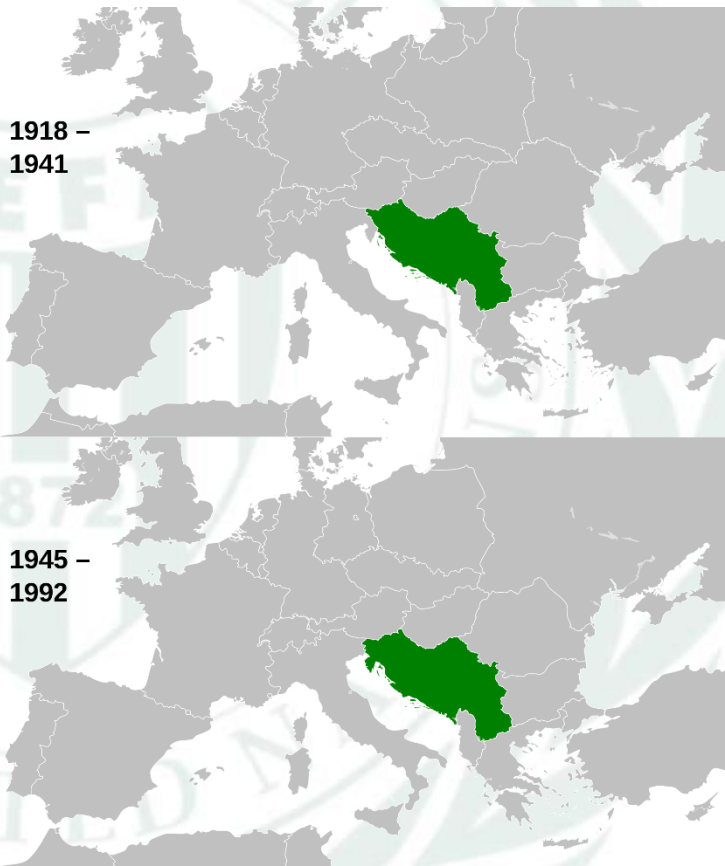
7,500-8,000 people went missing during these events. The most interesting aspect of the event is that the Dutch troops, who should be ashamed of this incident, were awarded a "medal" by the Dutch government when they returned to their hometowns. After the Srebrenica Massacre, the pressure against the Serbs increased in the western public, which had been indifferent to the events until that day, and the war ended at the end of 1995.

Yugoslavia and the Region

Yugoslavia, which is a country that is established and governed by communist Josip Tito, consisted of 3 different major religions, Islam, Orthodox, and Catholic) and lots of different ethnicities, Serbians, Croats, Bosnians, Albanians, Slovenians, and Macedons. At the beginning of its history, the country was a part of the Soviet Block but then gained its independence over time. However, with the death of Josip Tito in 1980, maintaining the country became such an issue, and in 1990, with the disintegration of the block and country itself, keeping those different ethnicities and religions together became an impossible problem to be solved, and could not be solved as well. After those problems occurred in the region,

Slovenia and Croatia announced their independence on the 25th of June, 1991, with the help of Germany and Italy. In September 1991, Macedonia announced its independence, under the name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and in 2020, the country named itself the North Macedonian Republic.

At the beginning of 1992, specifically at February and March, the Bosnian Government did a referendum to put out their independence, this referendum



successfully passed, with a great amount of boycott that has been given by Serbian who were living in Bosnian borders back in the day. On the 5th of April, 1992, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared its independence, and their independence is immediately recognized by the United States and European Countries, on the very next day, the 6th of April, 1992.

Serbian believed that this independence will tear up their territories in the name of Great Homeland, and with the idea of Great Serbia, Bosnian Serbians declared their own independence, and this independence was declared with the military aids that are delivered by Serbia. After this situations occurring in the region, Muslim Bosnians and Catholic Croatians were asked to leave the territory immediately, after the territory being claimed by he Bosnian Serbians.

Beginning of the Genocide

At the beginning of April 1992, in Bratunac village, which is located right at the exit of Srebrenitsa, 350 Muslim Bosnians are tortured, killed and raped by the Serbian Paramiliters and special Police forces. The matters and informations that occurred in the region become knowledgeable about after months passing, when the videos of tortures being leaked.

When the tortures and negative actions started to take place in the press, it did not help the hopes of Bosnian to be rescued or be seen, in fact, on the support of the United Nations and NATO, an embargo campaign is started, targeting the Serbians. However, the Bosnian Serbs were almost unaffected by this embargo, both with the aid of the old ally, Russia and because they were more advantageous than the Bosnian Muslims, who were geographically more inland. It was mostly Muslims who were affected.

The world and specifically, people started to react highly to the situation, and this caused others, some helpers, to realize the seriousness of the situation and started to gather help all around the world. A lot of countries started help campaigns as well, for the Bosnian people, however, the misfortune of the Bosnians did not stop there, the aid that is gathered, food, money, logistics and etc, did not even reach them and used other political purposes, causing Bosnians to not get help at all.

Srebrenica Genocide

The Islamic Resistance Groups, led by Nasır Oriç, started to fight against to the Serbians and gained some success in the process. After these things occurred, United Nations concluded to make things stop in the region, and started Dayton meetings. Following that, to get an advantage and have some profits in the meetings, Serbians started to attack two strategically important provinces of the region, Gorajde, and Srebrenica. ONE of the most harmful and grimful massacres

of the history took its place over there, even though The Dutch Peace Operations. After being declared as a safe area by the United Nations, in the summer months of 1995, Srebrenica had been exposed to the biggest genocide after the World War II.

NATO Intervention

The murder of thousands of Bosnian men in Srebrenica, which was declared a safe zone by the UN on 11 July 1995, increased the reactions against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). After the mortar attack on the marketplace in Markale, in the center of Sarajevo, on 28 August, 43 people lost their lives, and NATO broke its long silence. On 30 August 1995, "Operation Deliberate Force" was launched against Serb targets in Bosnia. The operation ended on September 21, 1995. A large number of Serbian targets were hit in the intervention, in which approximately 400 warplanes and 5,000 soldiers from 15 countries participated. After NATO's intervention, the balance in the war was upset and the Serbs were persuaded to sit at the peace table.

Responsible for the Genocide

In the case before the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, Serbian Party leader Radovan Karadžić, Serbian Army commander Ratko Mladić, Vujadin Popovic (Bosnian Serb commander), Ljubisa Beara (Chief of General Staff), Drago Nikolic (security chief), Ljubomir Borovcanin (special police chief), Radivoje Miletic (Deputy Chief of Staff), Milan Gvero (deputy commander, Vinko Pandurevic (brigade commander)) were sued in absentia for alleged responsibility for the massacre of more than 8,000 civilians in Srebrenica during the Bosnian War. The driving force behind the massacre committed by the Serbian army during the civil war in Bosnia is the Democratic Party of Serbia and its leader Radovan Karadžić. With the declaration of independence, the party withdrew from the government and carried out its activities like an illegal organization and carried out massacres in Muslim regions. Serb militants, who were in charge of protecting party leader Radovan Karadžić and his friends in the Bosnia Hotel in the Serbian-controlled Ilica region, wore the Serbian flag and a black coat of arms the size of a coin used by the Chetniks. The economic and military power required to carry out all these massacres was basically in the Federal Army of Yugoslavia. However, the authority to manage this power was in Serbia. Therefore, it was impossible for the Serbian militias that carried out the massacres not to be connected with Serbia. This cooperation between Serbian militants and the Serbian Federal Army has not been proven. One of the most important points that should not be forgotten is that many Serbian army and government officials opposed these activities of SDS, and they left their jobs

despite those difficult conditions. In the interviews conducted by some Turkish journalists at that time with those in the region, it was reported that only 10 percent of the 1.3 million Serb population living in Bosnia, that is, 130,000 people, thought that they wanted to unite with Serbia.

End of the War

The Dayton Agreement, which ended the Bosnian War, was signed in Paris on 14 December 1995. This agreement, which stopped the four-year war that killed 300,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians from their homes, was concluded after weeks of negotiations at an airbase in Dayton, Ohio, USA, chaired by Richard Holbrooke, the then US Special Representative for the Balkans. In the words of the first president of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, this agreement is "the best you can be, if not fair", and is the only one of its kind. While a part of the agreement revealed the constitutional structure of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an extremely complex and multi-layered bureaucratic structure was envisaged under a new state called Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a result of the agreement, two entities named Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska were established, while a central government model with weak authority over ethnic-based entities and joint institutions reflecting ethnicities were established. The responsibility for the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which aims at the re-living of the three ethnic communities that have fought each other and the functioning of Bosnia and Herzegovina with all its institutions, has been given to the High Representative.

v. Conclusion

The decision of the Hague Court of Justice

For war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia, Bosniaks applied for the first time to the International Court of Justice of The Hague, considered the highest court of the UN, in 1993, long before the Srebrenica Massacre. The only attitude of the court towards the application was to explain the call made to the parties to prevent the genocide. The second application of Bosniaks was made in 2003. The Hague judges, who evaluated the application, announced the expected decision on February 26, 2007, after a one-year process. Briefly, the decisions of the court are as follows:

- Serbia, with its persons and institutions responsible under current international law, did not commit genocide,

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- Serbia did not plan to commit genocide, did not provoke the act of genocide,
 - Serbia did not participate in the genocide by violating its obligations under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,
 - Regarding the genocide that occurred in Srebrenica in July 1995, Serbia violated its obligation to prevent genocide according to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,
 - Serbia has violated its obligations under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, since Ratko Mladić was not handed over to the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, where he will be tried on charges of genocide and participation in genocide, and did not cooperate fully with the tribunal,
 - Serbia should take urgent measures to fulfill its obligations regarding the extradition of persons accused of genocide and other crimes to the international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and full cooperation with the tribunal,
 - Financial compensation was not found appropriate in the case.

With these decisions, it was decided that Serbia did not have any obligation regarding the genocide and the way to the compensation expected by the Bosnians was closed.

Although the International Court of Justice of The Hague did not find Serbia guilty, the War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia recognized that the crimes committed in Bosnia were genocide. The trials of those deemed to be responsible in this court continue. This court in The Hague found two Bosnian Serb officers guilty of genocide, while General Radislav Krstic was sentenced to 35 years in prison. Colonel Vidoje Blagojevic did not appeal the 18-year prison sentence imposed on him. Former Serbian Leader Milosevic died while on trial. Two other Bosnian Serb officials, Radovan Karadžić and General Ratko Mladic, could not be arrested for years despite calls to Serbia not to protect all these people. However, Karadzic was caught in an operation on the night of 21 July 2008 and has been in detention in The Hague since 30 July 2008. General Ratko

Mladić was captured by Serbian intelligence on 26 May 2011 in Serbia and sent to The Hague War Crimes Tribunal on 31 May 2011.

Consequences of the Genocide



The massacres were carried out for political purposes when the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina declared its independence and the Serbs within the state started a separatist movement and turned this movement into a Serbia-supported civil war. As a result of these massacres, the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina was divided

between Serbs and Bosnian Muslims. Despite the fact that the massacres were committed until they committed genocide, the crimes were individualized and it was ruled that the Republic of Serbia, which is claimed to be the main planner of the massacre, was not responsible, thus it was impossible for thousands of Bosnian Muslim families who were killed to receive compensation.

The European powers could not intervene in the conflict zones that are very close to them, and the necessary coordination and operational planning could not be made by both NATO and the European Union countries. This situation has strengthened the claims that the European Union countries are still militarily dependent on the USA. Some countries, especially under the leadership of France, have begun to produce opinions that Europe's establishment of its own army will enable a more effective and realistic intervention to such problems.

vi. *Points to Be Addressed*

As the conflict in the Balkans proved to all other European nations over the years, the establishment of an alternate sovereign military force to enable more liberty and authority in decision-making for such scenarios became one of the main talking points for EU nations and allies in the early 2000s.

And yet, a few questions still stand out. Would such a drastic step for European nations and possibly organizations like the EU change dynamics in the global balance of power?

Would relatively weaker nations like Serbia be more resistant and passive towards ethnic and political issues? Would further unrest and civil conflicts cease to exist...?

Steps taken by NATO and UN Peacekeeping forces were enough to turn the tide of the conflict in 1995. But as long as human civilization has its foot stepping on earth, future tensions and conflicts will keep occurring, either in or outside Europe, eventually disturbing the efforts to achieve long-term peace. It's a matter of major importance for nations to collaborate and push the effort to provide a peaceful status quo.

Proper compensation stands out as another issue for the victims of the war. Serbian government's restraining behavior from responsibility and lack of individual blame made it even more difficult for Bosnian families to receive the fair treatment they believed they should've received a long time ago. As the years pass, wounds from the war remain fresh in many families' hearts. Widespread peace in the Bosnian community is still a goal to be achieved. Questions on the rulings of the international court and the stance of the Serbian government create a big void to be filled with lots of questions and answers that may come with them.

Recognition of the genocide and diplomatic treatment against the Serbian government never eased the tensions in the area. And with many questions still waiting to be answered, a deep discussion is essential for clearance on long-lasting issues.

vii. Further Reading and Research

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