

The protest letter of the Institute for Research of Genocide of Canada {IRGC } to the President of the of the University of British Columbia

Dear Professor Stephen J. Toope

The Institute for Research of Genocide of Canada {IRGC} was informed that Srdja Trifkovic, a Serbian-American 'scholar', will be holding a lecture on Thursday February 24th at 5pm at the University of British Columbia. It is organized by the Serbian Students Association.

IRGC is shocked that the University of British Columbia would allow Srdjan Trifkovic, who has repeatedly and openly denied the Srebrenica genocide to speak at this respectable academic institution. A historical revisionist like Trifkovic should not be allowed to lecture in an academic context. His version of events in the Balkans is inaccurate (as proven by his denial of the Srebrenica genocide) and the Serbian Students' Association should not be allowed to pass him off as a reliable source.

Denial of genocide is widely considered to constitute a form of racist hate propaganda that is incompatible with Canadian values. Recently, the Parliament of Canada has recognized the Bosnian Genocide that took place in the enclave of Srebrenica in July 1995.

In 2004, Holocaust survivor, Judge Theodor Meron, presided over the appellate judgement of Radislav Krstic when the International Criminal Tribunal unanimously ruled that:

"By seeking to eliminate a part of the Bosnian Muslims, the Bosnian Serb forces committed genocide. They targeted for extinction the 40,000 Bosnian Muslims living in Srebrenica, a group which was emblematic of the Bosnian Muslims in general. They stripped all the male Muslim prisoners, military and civilian, elderly and young, of their personal belongings and identification, and deliberately and methodically killed them solely on the basis of their identity. The Bosnian Serb forces were aware, when they embarked on this genocidal venture, that the harm they caused would continue to plague the Bosnian Muslims. The Appeals Chamber states unequivocally that the law condemns, in appropriate terms, the deep and lasting injury inflicted, and calls the massacre at Srebrenica by its proper name: genocide. Those responsible will bear this stigma, and it will serve as a warning to those who may in future contemplate the commission of such a heinous act."

The Srebrenica Genocide is not a matter of opinion; it is a judicial fact recognized first by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and subsequently by the International Court of Justice.

IRGC calls on all Canadians, friends of truth and justice to protest against Trifkovic's lecture at the University of British Columbia.

IRGC will send a request to the Canadian Parliament and Government to ban Trifkovic's lecture.

On behalf of more than 50.000 Canadians of Bosnian origin, some of whom are victims of the Bosnian genocide and almost all of whom are victims of the war, the IRGC implores you to prevent this lecture from taking place at your University.

Professor Emir Ramic

President of the Congress of North American Bosniaks, Canadian Branch
Director of the Institute for Research of Genocide Canada

The letter of the Archbishop Lazar Puhalo to the Institute for Research of Genocide of Canada

The letter of the Archbishop Lazar Puhalo to the Institute for Research of Genocide of Canada

As a Canadian of Serbian descent (Herzegovina), I must agree with your concern about the denial of holocausts. Like you, and most others who are aware of it, I am horrified that anyone would deny the Srebrenica massacre. The denial by Croatia of the genocide against the Serbs during WWII should certainly have sensitized our people to the fact that denying a mass murder only amplifies the crime.

One should allow for others to practice freedom of speech, but there are limits. Turkey is still in denial about the genocide of Greeks and Armenians, some (but certainly not all) Bosnian Serbs deny the mass murder at Srebrenica, and this continues to keep the wound open. It does not allow healing for either the Bosniaks or the Serbs. It continues to hinder a full reconciliation and peaceful sharing of the land. I can only say that Trifkovic does not speak for all Serbs. Many of us are deeply ashamed of what happened at Srebrenica, and desire that Serbs accept the responsibility for that so that a healing can take place. There were atrocities on all sides in that war, as there are in every war, however, Srebrenica stands out as a particularly evil moment in history for which there is no possible excuse. Only people deprived of their humanity and their senses could have committed such a deed.

Denial" has never been a solution to any problem, and it has never generated mutual human respect. Being able to take responsibility for our sins and well as our virtues is part of what makes us true human beings.

Your brother in our common humanity.

Archbishop Lazar (Puhalo)

BAC letter to University of British Columbia regarding genocide denier Srdja Trifkovic

Dear Professor Toope,

On behalf of the Bosnian Academic Circle (BAC) I would like to express our dismay at the news that a well known genocide denier Srdja Trifkovic is scheduled to speak at an event organized by the Serbian Students Association at your prestigious academic institution.

BAC hopes that this decision was made by the lack of awareness about Mr. Trifkovic's background and previous works, many of which contain repeated and open denials of the Srebrenica Genocide, an event that was, case after case, reaffirmed, by the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, as an act of genocide according to the United Nations charter.

It would be an insult to all those who truly value human life, to provide an academic platform to someone who is an open apologist of politics of hatred and propagates further genocide denial regarding the events that occurred during the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We owe it to the victims of genocide everywhere, not just in Bosnia, to honor them by performing our duties as human beings to disengage from those so called scholars who wish to poison us with conspiracy theories and hateful propaganda.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to act responsibly and disallow Mr. Trifkovic from holding a lecture at your university, an institution well known internationally for academic excellence and learning.

Bosnian Academic Circle

Amer Sabitović

CNAB letter to University of British Columbia regarding genocide denier Srdja Trifkovic

Institute for the Research of Genocide Canada
Published: February 21, 2011

CNAB letter to University of British Columbia regarding genocide denier Srdja Trifkovic

Dear Professor Toope,

On behalf of the Congress of North American Bosniaks (CNAB), an umbrella organization representing more than 350,000 Bosniaks in the United States and Canada, I would like to express our dismay at the news that a well known genocide denier Srdja Trifkovic is scheduled to speak at an event organized by the Serbian Students Association at your prestigious academic institution. We hope that this decision was made by the lack of awareness about Mr. Trifkovic's background and previous works, many of which contain repeated and open denials of the Srebrenica Genocide, an event that was, case after case, reaffirmed, by the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, as an act of genocide according to the United Nations charter. We need not remind you of the horrific

outcome of Serbian ultra-nationalists' plan to annihilate and ethnically cleanse the Bosniak people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regardless of the topic of the lecture, it would be an insult to all those who truly value human life, to provide an academic platform to someone who is an open apologist of politics of hatred and propagates further genocide denial regarding the events that occurred during the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Such an act would be comparable to allowing a holocaust denier to lecture students, knowing fully that person has abused the power of free speech and more importantly abused his/her academic privilege. In fact, such an act of genocide denial in Germany and other European countries would be punishable by law. We strongly believe that only through sincere understanding and coming to terms with the truth about the genocide can there be true reconciliation between Serbs and Bosniaks.

In the letter addressed to you on February 18, 2011, Mr. Stephen Karganovic, the president of the Srebrenica Historical Project, tried to make an argument on the basis of free speech, while simultaneously in the letter putting in the quotation marks all references to the Srebrenica genocide, and thus further propagating the mythology of genocide and holocaust denial. We support freedom of speech but with it comes great responsibility, particularly in the academic setting. After the Holocaust, the civilized world made a promise to never let such atrocities happen again, yet because of unchecked rhetoric and appeasement, the unthinkable atrocities happened again in the heart of Europe, against the Bosniak people. It is therefore of utmost importance that we increase the awareness of the dangers of genocide denial in order to prevent a genocide from happening again elsewhere in the world.

We owe it to the victims of genocide everywhere, not just in Bosnia, to honor them by performing our duties as human beings to disengage from those so called scholars who wish to poison us with conspiracy theories and hateful propaganda. Therefore, we strongly urge you to act responsibly and disallow Mr. Trifkovic from holding a lecture at your university, an institution well known internationally for academic excellence and learning. At the end of the day, it is your decision whether to allow those who deny genocide to use your university as a platform to promote their interests. We sincerely hope you will make the clearly right and moral decision to not let that happen.

Sincerely,

Haris Alibasic, MPA
President of the CNAB Board of Directors

BAGI letter to University of British Columbia regarding genocide denier Srdja Trifkovic

Dear Professor Stephen J. Toope:

The Bosnian American Genocide Institute and Education Center (BAGI) is an educational organization dedicated to scientific research pertaining to the genocide of Bosniaks and to the

education of others about the holocaust, genocide and other forms of crimes against humanity and international law. The purpose of the mission is reconciliation by teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice, and indifference.

BAGI is a sister organization with the Institute for the Research of Genocide Canada (IRGC), which recently sent you a letter to make you aware that Srdja Trifkovic, a Serbian-American scholar, who will speak on February 24th at 5 p.m. at the University of British Columbia, has been denying, openly and frequently, the Srebrenica genocide.

Stephen Karganovic, President of Srebrenica Historic Project, stated in his letter to you that Professor Ramic's protest is against freedom of speech and the Canadian principles of a free society and that "the lecturer's position would be deemed completely irrelevant. The only pertinent issue is the right of citizens, in this case students, to hear the speaker and to assess his views about the controversial issues of 'Srebrenica Genocide.'"

The former ambassador in Yugoslavia, ambassador James Bissett, in his letter of support of Dr. Srdja Trifkovic, claims that professor Ramic is using "South African Apartheid-style" and that genocide "happened to any one side during the Bosnian war of 1991-95," even denying the right of Bosniaks, including myself, to express our identity as Bosniaks recognized by the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Constitution together with Serbs and Croats ("people of "Bosnian origin" are Serbs, Croats, and Muslims, who have taken to calling themselves "Bosniaks" in the 1990s"). He also made a malicious insinuation: "Let it be noted that the 'Institute for Research of Genocide Canada' uses for itself the acronym 'IRGC.' That acronym is more commonly associated with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. While conceivably accidental, the coincidence is not altogether inapt."

Holocaust and genocide denials are illegal in a number of European countries. I hope that other democratic societies, such as American and Canadian, will follow their example.

My duty, as director of BAGI, is to inform you that the Srebrenica genocide is not a controversial issue that happened to any side during the war 1991-1995, and the statements of those who claim it to be such are not based on official and legal documents.

The U.S. House Resolution 134 (in 2005) and the U.S. Senate Resolution 199 (in 2005), as well as the International Criminal Court Tribunal established for the former Yugoslavia, the European Parliament Resolution from 2009, and similar Resolutions in the States of Illinois, Michigan and Missouri passed the Srebrenica genocide Resolution. All these Resolutions and their court decisions state that the Srebrenica massacre in which 8, 372 Bosniaks, innocent civilians representing three generations of men, were executed by Bosnian Serb forces, is the worst single war crime committed in Europe since World War II. Recently, the Parliament of Canada has recognized the Bosnian Genocide that took place in the enclave of Srebrenica in July 1995

The process of reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the common life of all its constituent peoples must begin from the truth about the genocide of Bosniaks (1992-1995) and conviction of its perpetrators in the Hague International Court of Justice.

Sincerely,

Sanja Drnovsek,
Director of the Bosnian-American Genocide Institute and Education Center

[Respectful Debate to Members of the UBC Community](#)

Date: February 22, 2011

Thank you all for your emails to President Toope and me concerning the invitation from the UBC Serbian Club to Srdja Trifkovic to speak at UBC on February 24th. Please find attached President Toope's letter to the university community of March 2009 'Respectful Debate', which sets out the university's approach to the discussion of difficult issues.

Threats, physical assaults, property damage, trespass, hate speech and other unlawful behavior are unacceptable on UBC property.

Regards,

To: Members of the UBC Community:

As a globally influential university, UBC is not, nor could it be, immune from conflicts half a world away. These conflicts are both a reminder of the rare peace we enjoy in Canada and a challenge to community values of respect for human dignity and the special place of free expression that universities protect.

When these external conflicts threaten to divide our own community, we need to pay special attention to the rules that govern our conduct as members of the university and as citizens or residents of Canada.

This week a segment of UBC's student population has planned events that are being publicized in a manner offensive to another segment. While the locus of attention of these events is the political situation in the Middle East, the means of publicity at UBC and other Canadian universities has created a chilling impact for some members of our own community.

As a university community, we place a paramount value on the free and lawful expression of ideas and viewpoints. As scholars, we believe that discussion of even the most intractable conflicts. At the same time, we are a community that values respect for all others, even those with whom we disagree fundamentally.

For a university community, anything that detracts from the free expression of ideas is just not acceptable. Robust debate can scarcely occur, for example, when some members of the community are made to feel personally attacked, not for their ideas but for their very identity.

When this happens, university disciplinary policies come into play, and there may be recourse to provincial human rights and federal anti-hate legislation.

Forms of speech should not be banned simply on the grounds that they are “offensive”, but if the speech is designed to preclude any speech in response, if it amounts to a threat against a person or an identifiable group, then a line will have been crossed.

As we navigate the shoals of political conflict, I call upon each and every member of our community to display the reason, generosity of spirit and forbearance that must define debate within the University of British Columbia. If these values are threatened, the university will take all necessary action to defend our community.

Stephen J. Toope

President and Vice Chancellor

The University of British Columbia

The letter of the Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law from Sarajevo to the University of British Columbia

Dear Professor Toope,

Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law from Sarajevo is a public scientific institution engaged in analysis of crimes against peace, crime of genocide, and other grave breaches of international law from the historical, legal, sociological, criminology, economic, demographic, psychological, political, cultural, medical, environmental, and other aspects of relevance for the complete research of crimes.

Studying genocide and other forms of crimes against humanity and international law the Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law of the Sarajevo University raises voice against genocide, and sends the message that will significantly affect and influence the world and moral of the powerful, aiming to save the modern mankind and civilization, preserve the utmost human values, human freedoms, human rights, and lives of the small, weak and helpless groups, human societies and peoples. The current and future generations will finally have to learn, from all the so far crimes of genocide and in the interest of future of contemporary world and civilization, the historical lesson on the need to strengthen, develop and unify all the antifascist forces, irrespective of their national, ethnic, racial, religious, ideological, or political affiliation and determination in the strategy of prevention and punishment of crime of genocide. It is only the scientific knowledge obtained through the research that can serve as a permanent basis for the improvement of our abilities to detect, identify, prevent, and punish the crime of genocide, in which the researchers of holocaust, genocide, and other forms of crimes against humanity and international law play

historical role and bear the responsibility. It is the duty of these researchers, as Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel noted, to talk in the name of these victims, to remind the world of their suffering and tears and suppress the fear of oblivion. The researchers must have professional responsibility and sufficient moral courage to research and share with public the scientific truths about genocide.

The Institute for the Research of Genocide Canada is organizational, scientific-research part of the the Institute for Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law of the Sarajevo University, which recently sent you a letter to make you aware that Srdja Trifkovic, a Serbian-American scholar, who will speak on February 24th at 5 p.m. at the University of British Columbia, has been denying, openly and frequently, the Srebrenica genocide.

Having considered this, I am writing to you concerning the upcoming Srdja Trifkovic lecture, hosted by University of British Columbia's Serbian Club. I am shocked and appalled to hear that your world renowned university is hosting an individual who openly denies the Srebrenica Genocide and all atrocities committed by Serbs during the 1992 to 1995 aggression in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Trifkovic is not only a Srebrenica genocide denier; he is also a Serb nationalist. During the 1992 to 1995 aggression he was the unofficial spokesman for Republika Srpska government. He is currently a columnist for several conservative and Serbian nationalist publications in the United States. Majority of his work promotes hate and intolerance between the Serbs, Bosniaks and Croats. Mr. Trifkovic's ideology not only promotes nationalism to Serbian people, it also supports the idea of human rights abuses and genocide for the love of one's nation. It is unacceptable to teach young intellectuals such hate and intolerance in a country that promotes tolerance, multiculturalism and peace.

We owe it to the victims of genocide everywhere, not just in Bosnia, to honor them by performing our duties as human beings to disengage from those so called scholars who wish to poison us with conspiracy theories and hateful propaganda. Therefore, we strongly urge you to act responsibly and disallow Mr. Trifkovic from holding a lecture at your university, an institution well known internationally for academic excellence and learning.

Faithfully Yours,
D I R E C T O R
Prof. dr. Smail Čekić

The letter of the Dr Marko Attila Hoare to the University of the British Columbia

Institute for the Research of Genocide Canada
Published: February 23, 2011

The letter of the Dr Marko Attila Hoare to the University of the British Columbia

Dear Professor Stephen J. Toope,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern at the lecture by Srdja Trifkovic, hosted by the Serbian Students' Association, scheduled to take place at UBC tomorrow (Thursday, 24 February). I am a firm believer in freedom of expression, even for those who hold offensive views. However, I believe that hate-speech directed against an ethnic, racial or religious minority goes beyond anything that can be permitted at a university, and constitutes a threat to the security and wellbeing of students and academic staff who belong to the minority in question.

Mr Trifkovic has equated Islam and Muslims with terrorism ('With Islam, terrorism is not only an instrument, a tool, it is also the core of policy itself. Terrorist violence is not only divinely sanctioned, it is divinely ordained.') He has equated Muslims with rapists ('in Scandinavia you have literally a rape epidemic, perpetrated by Muslim immigrants against Swedish, Norwegian and Danish women.') He has called for 'an absolute moratorium on the immigration of Muslims into both Western Europe and North America, coupled with the denial of citizenship to all practicing Muslims, the denial of security clearances, and the policy of systematic deportation of all jihadists activists'. He has described Muslims as 'the enemy', of which he says 'We know his core beliefs, his role models, his track-record, his mindset, his modus operandi, and his intentions. We also know his weaknesses, which are many, above all his inability to develop a prosperous economy or a functional, harmonious society, his inability to think rationally and therefore to develop science, and his utter lack of creativity in any field of human endeavor.'

This constitutes hate-speech; the incitement of hatred and violence against Muslims as a group. To appreciate the full extent of Trifkovic's extremism and hatred of Muslims, I recommend that you read the whole of the texts in question, which can be found at the following links:

<http://carnageandculture.blogspot.com/2006/04/srdja-trifkovic-islam-as-agent-of.html>

<http://1389blog.com/2010/11/05/srdja-trifkovic-speech-censored-by-providence-college-newspaper/>

<http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/articles-2009/Trifkovic-Barack-Hussein-Obamas-Happy-Muslim-Rainbow-Tour.php>

For your university to provide Mr Trifkovic with a platform from which to spout his hate propaganda against Muslims would infringe the rights of your Muslim students and staff members to freedom of religious belief and freedom from persecution; it would enable him to incite violence and discrimination against them, directly threatening their security and wellbeing. This is particularly so, since Mr Trifkovic apparently intends to speak on topics directly related to Islam and Muslims, including 'Is a new crisis brewing in the Sanjak [a largely Muslim region of Serbia]' and 'The impact of Turkey's growing involvement'.

I therefore recommend that UBC bar Mr Trifkovic from giving his lecture, and ensure that the Serbian Students' Association is made aware of Canada's hate-speech laws, to ensure that a speaker of this kind is not invited in future.

Sincerely,

Dr Marko Attila Hoare
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Kingston University, London

The letter of the Bosniak Islamic Community in Canada to University of British Columbia

Dear Professor Stephen J. Toope,

The Bosniak Islamic Community in Canada is extremely concerned that the notorious Srdja Trifkovic is to be provided with a platform at the University of British Columbia for his toxic views aimed at encouraging ethnic and religious intolerance in Europe and North America.

Srdja Trifkovic is an expatriate Serb who hates Muslims to the extent of being willing to act as the spokesperson for the perpetrators of genocide. He was media relations adviser to the secessionist Bosnian Serb Government at the time it was conducting the mass executions of Bosnian Muslims at Srebrenica in July 1995. He admitted to the International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague that he was closeted with the inner circle of the Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic while atrocities were being organised and carried out by the Bosnian Serb army commanded by General Ratko Mladic.

Srdja Trifkovic has spent those two decades challenging the findings of international courts that the criminal conspiracy with which he was associated committed "a terrible crime – the worst on European soil since the Second World War", as the United Nations Secretary General described it, the genocidal murder of more than 8000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica. Now, not content with denying genocide, Trifkovic has brought his campaign of hatred against Muslims across the Atlantic as he tours the college circuit encouraging distrust, prejudice and ethnic intolerance.

The Bosniak Islamic Community in Canada speaks out not just on behalf the victims of genocide in Bosnia but on behalf of all victims of genocide, wherever and whoever they are.

We hope you will be that voice of reason for those who lie buried in the ground, and stand up for their human rights and deny Srdjan Trifkovic a podium for his message.

We thank you for your attention and trust that you will do the right thing for those who lost their lives in Srebrenica's genocide.

Imam Tajib Pasanbegovic
Head Imam of the Bosniak Islamic Community in Canada

The letter of Suzana Vukic – Columnist, The Hudson/St.Lazare Gazette to the University of British Columbia

Dear President Stephen J. Toope,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming Srdja Trifkovic lecture, hosted by University of British Columbia's Serbian Student's Club.

You've heard all of the arguments by now. There's no need for me to repeat them. But I must underline the following: allowing a known genocide denier to speak at UBC is the equivalent of allowing a Holocaust denier to speak there. You'd never be allowed to get away with the latter. If you choose to allow Trifkovic to speak today, you will be held accountable for it. Please don't allow it to happen.

<http://www.instituteforgenocide.ca/the-face-of-genocide-remembering-srebrenica-fifteen-years-later-by-suzana-vukic/>

<http://www.bosniak.org/recognize-genocide-for-what-it-is/>

<http://www.instituteforgenocide.ca/ne-daj-se-bosna-dont-give-up/#more-1895>

<http://www.instituteforgenocide.ca/peace-and-goodwill/#more-2272>

The first link includes material from my interview with Toronto resident Fadil Kulasic, a survivor of three different Serb-run detention centres, including the infamous Omarska and Manjaca death camps. Fadil and others like him were directly affected by the ethnic cleansing (a euphemism for genocide) that took place during the Bosnian war. People like Trifkovic continue to harm these survivors with their hate speech and genocide denial.

When people like Fadil Kulasic and their children come to you in the future and ask you why you allowed a genocide denier to speak at your academic institution, what will you tell them? How will you be able to look them in the eye?

The recently-created Facebook page "Prevent Srebrenica Genocide Denier Srdja Trifkovic from Lecturing at UBC" was meant as a forum for supporters of this initiative. It quickly turned into a forum for supporters of Trifkovic. And if you look at the words of his supporters, you'll quickly understand that this man is only capable of doing harm with his promotion of lies, hatred, and a basic denial for the right of existence of any ethnicity other than Serbian.

On this page, you can find two different supporters of Trifkovic, Boris Malagurski and Dragan Saponjic, who spew their hatred and genocide denial, filling the page with insults to various people. They both make fun of a young woman from Sarajevo who said that she lost her grandparents and other family members during the war. Saponjic even went as far as stating that this woman was lying, that none of what she said of her wartime suffering was true.

Saponjic told me that I was mistaken in believing that I was of Croatian descent, that whether I chose to believe it or not, I was a Serb. He went on to claim that there was no such thing as a "Croat" or "Bosniak" ethnicity, and that all people from these ethnic groups are Serbs who, at some point or other in history, chose to turn their backs on their true background.

There are laws against hate speech and genocide denial in Canada. Yet people like Malagurski and Saponjic couldn't care less. They're even proud to have the world witness their primitive barbarism on a public forum like Facebook.

This is the mindset of Trifkovic and his followers. To allow this man to speak at UBC will be of no value to you or your institution. It will only create great harm.

If you weren't aware of Trifkovic and his work in the past, you most certainly are now. Please think twice before allowing him to speak today. If you choose to do so, you'll be held accountable for this in the future.

Most Sincerely,

Suzana Vukic
Columnist, The Hudson/St.Lazare Gazette
Board Member, The Institute for Research of Genocide Canada

The letter of the Minister- Consoler Liaison officer to ICTY in the Hague to the University of British Columbia

Dear Professor Stephen J. Toope,

It concerns me greatly that Srdjan Trifkovic who actively promotes the denial of the dreadful genocide that occurred in Srebrenica has been invited to speak at the prestigious University of British Columbia on February 24th, 2011.

I find it hard to understand how a hate monger and genocide denier was invited to speak at your university. The crimes against humanity committed at Srebrenica have been recognized by the International Court of Justice, International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia and Government of Canada. I hope you will keep in mind that the 8000 boys and men who were systematically murdered by Serbian troops no longer have a voice to stand up for justice.

I hope you will be that voice of reason for those who lie buried in the ground, and stand up for their human rights and deny Srdjan Trifkovic a podium for his message.

I thank you for your attention and trust that you will do the right thing for those who lost their lives in Srebrenica's genocide.

Amir Ahmic
Ministre-Conseiller
Liaison officer to ICTY in the Hague

Press Release of the Institute for Research of Genocide Canada

The Institute for Genocide Research has recently come under attack by an organization called the “Lord Byron Foundation for Balkan Studies” because of our protest letter to the University of British Columbia regarding the invitation of Srdja Trifkovic to speak at an on-campus event organized by the Serbian Student Association. The Institute sent the letter of protest because Mr. Trifkovic is a genocide denier who openly propagates hatred towards all Muslims, including Bosnian Muslims who were the victims of the Srebrenica genocide. We believe that such hate speech should not be tolerated or permitted at a university.

It is important to note that the “Lord Byron Foundation for Balkan Studies” is a propaganda front for Serbian ultra-nationalists, utilizing the practice of revisionist history, along with anti-Muslim propaganda and fear mongering, to openly deny war crimes against Bosniaks, including the Srebrenica genocide, and defend the Serb aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina. They even go so far to say that the real victims are Serbs and that they were the “good guys” in the Bosnian war. Not surprisingly, the Chief Executive of the foundation is Mr. Trifkovic himself, an expatriate Serb and islamophobe, who hates Muslims to such an extent that he was more than willing to act as the media relations adviser for the Bosnian Serb government and an unofficial spokesperson for Radovan Karadzic, while he was orchestrating mass murder, ethnic cleansing, and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The president of the foundation is none other than the former Canadian ambassador to Yugoslavia, James Bissett, the long time supporter and defender of Slobodan Milosevic. It was Mr. Bissett who wrote an article on the Foundation’s website attacking the Institute and calling us a “Bosnian Muslim” propaganda front and comparing us to David Duke.

The facts are that The Institute for Genocide Research in Canada exists to establish the truth and raise awareness of the reality of genocide. We are actively working to make sure that the promise of “Never Again” is fulfilled by proactively speaking out and condemning the promoters of all racial, ethnic, or religious hatred responsible for the bloodshed and destruction of the past two decades in places like Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur. The goal is to educate and raise awareness of the implications of genocide and to prevent genocide from happening elsewhere in the world. We speak out not just on behalf the victims of genocide in Bosnia but on behalf of all victims of genocide, wherever and whoever they are. The Institute brings together a wide variety of individuals of different cultures, faiths and nationalities – Canadians, Americans, Bosnians, Serbians and others, including Holocaust survivors. We are proud to have an extremely diverse group of people on the international panel of experts, including the Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Sir Elie Wiesel, Dr. Marko Attila Hoare, Dr. Gregory Weeks. You may view the list here: <http://www.instituteforgenocide.ca/board-of-directors/>.

To meet the objectives of prevention of genocide, one must combat the hate filled rhetoric that often leads to the conditions “ripe” for oppression and event murder of groups that are labeled as undesirable. We saw this happen in Nazi Germany and Europe that led to the murder of more than six million Jews. We saw it happen in the Balkans where the anti-Muslim propaganda enabled Milosevic and Karadzic to execute an agenda of ethnic cleansing and genocide for the benefit of “greater Serbia” resulting more than 100,000 lives lost, Mr. Trifkovic admitted to the International Criminal Tribunal at The Hague that he was closeted with the inner circle of the Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic while atrocities were being organized and carried out by the Bosnian Serb army commanded by General Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. He has spent two decades challenging the findings of international courts that the criminal conspiracy with which he was associated committed “a terrible crime – the worst on European soil since the Second World War”, as the United Nations Secretary General described it, the genocidal murder of more than 8000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica.

It is for these reasons that we protested against the lecture of Mr. Trifkovic for his role during the war, and for open denial of the crimes and genocide in Bosnia. We are extremely concerned that he would be provided with a platform at the University of British Columbia for his hate filled speech and views aimed at encouraging ethnic and religious intolerance. Now, not content with denying genocide in Bosnia, Trifkovic has brought his campaign against Muslims across the Atlantic as he tours the college circuits in the United States and Canada encouraging hate, prejudice and ethnic intolerance. Mr. Trifkovic is in the business of equating all Muslims with terrorism, openly calling all Muslims as “the enemy”, and calling for “an absolute moratorium on the immigration of Muslims into both Western Europe and North America, coupled with the denial of citizenship to all practicing Muslims, the denial of security clearances, and the policy of systematic deportation of all jihadist activists”. From Providence, Rhode Island, to UBC in Vancouver Trifkovic seeks out venues where student groups like Youth for Western Civilization and the Serbian Students Club are prepared to tolerate his extremist views, stereotyping, and hatred of entire communities of Muslims. His extremist views against Muslims coupled with his known history of representing those who committed genocide are cause for an alarm for any serious institution. Mr. Trifkovic’s agenda is inciting hatred and violence against all Muslims as a group.

The Canadian Institute for the Research of Genocide unequivocally condemns Trifkovic’s efforts for hatred and division, and calls for all academic institutions to deny him the right to utilize their venues as platforms for hate speech under the guise of academic thought and free speech.

Board of Directors of the Institute for Genocide Canada

Press release of the Institute for Research of Genocide Canada

Tremendous success Bosniak Community in North America. Srdjan Trifkovic has not been allowed to get into Canada. I thank everyone who worked that truth and justice prevail. This is a great day for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for Bosniaks, for truth and justice.

Institute for Genocide Research Canada (IRGC) is pleased to inform the public that a well known genocide denier and anti-Muslim campaigner, Srdja Trifkovic, has been denied entry to Canada. As a result he was unable to give a planned lecture at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. This is a welcome outcome that can be attributed to a determined and successful campaign by the Canadian and American Bosniak community.

IRGC would like to thank and congratulate the Canadian immigration authorities for a job well done in barring Trifkovic from entering Canada to engage in hate speech activities. This is a monumental step in Canadian democracy to protect its ethnic and religious minorities from dangerous implications of hate speech and genocide denial.

On behalf of the many victims of the crime of aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian genocide, the IRGC would like to thank the Congress of North American Bosniaks, the Institute for International Law and Research of Crimes against Humanity, University of Sarajevo, the Islamic Community of Bosniaks of Canada, the Bosnian American Genocide Institute & Education Center, Bosnian Academic Circle and many other organizations and the community as a whole for their outstanding support and dedicated lobbying for truth and justice. Special thanks to members of the IRGC team of experts and the many academics and intellectuals who made a major contribution to the success of this campaign. Our particular thanks also to the media outlets for their regularly following and reporting on this case.

Denial of genocide is incompatible with the democratic governance and social values in Canada and other democratic countries. This basic principle, so well understood by the Canadian and American Bosniak community, is recognized by the Canadian and American governments and society.

It is our duty as human beings to fight to prevent crimes of aggression and genocide. The truth about these crimes is not self-sustaining, instead we need to remain constantly vigilant to preserve the truth, based on scientific and historical facts universally recognized by the international courts and national governments. IRGC is committed to fighting for genocide awareness through scientific methods and research of all instances of war crimes throughout the world, not just those committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

IRGC continues to work tirelessly to increase awareness in Canada regarding the of the magnitude of the crimes of aggression committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the genocide against Bosniaks that Srdja Trifkovic has constantly sought to trivialise and deny. We are convinced that the contribution of academic research and analysis to wider recognition of the nature and reality of these crimes is essential if peace and reconciliation are eventually to be achieved. It is through activities of this kind that IRGC, with the support of its many friends, of the truth concerning crimes against Bosnia and Herzegovina and its peoples, was able to

prepare the ground for the adoption by the Canadian Parliament in 2010 of the Resolution on Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina which proclaimed 11 July a day of commemoration for the victims of genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this way, the members of the Canadian Parliament, paid tribute on behalf of the Canadian people whom they represent to the victims of the most terrible crime committed in Europe since the Second World War, the Srebrenica genocide.

Sincerely,

Professor Emir Ramic
Institute for Research of Genocide Canada

Denying genocide should not be called freedom of speech

Srebrenica: Budak mass grave, Kamenica 9 where some of Srebrenica genocide victims had been dumped after systematic killings in July 1995.

Srebrenica: Budak mass grave, Kamenica 9 where some of Srebrenica genocide victims had been dumped after systematic killings in July 1995.

By Dr. Srdja Pavlovic
University of Alberta

(Originally appeared in Edmonton Journal, 28 Feb. 2011.)

Does denying genocide count as free speech? Dr. Srdja Trifkovic is an associate of the Rockford Institute and the visiting professor of international relations at the University of Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dr. Trifkovic was recently invited to speak about the state of affairs in the Balkans at the University of British Columbia. The local Serbian community had also invited him to visit Edmonton, following his UBC lecture.

He was scheduled to address his supporters this Saturday (Feb. 26) at the University of Alberta and speak about the causes and consequences of Serbia's decline, and the alleged return of the neo-Ottomans to the political stage in the region, among other things.

All these plans were put on hold because Dr. Trifkovic was denied entry into Canada due to his alleged links with the wartime leaders of the Bosnian Serbs. The organizers of his lecture tour complained bitterly and argued that the decision taken by Immigration Canada had infringed upon the right of the freedom of speech.

I believe the decision of Immigration Canada to deny Dr. Trifkovic entry into this country has merits. I do not think such decisions could be disputed on the basis of the freedom of speech and the necessity to have a dialogue on a given topic.

Both freedom of speech and the need to have a dialogue could not be taken as absolute categories. Denying genocide committed in Srebrenica in 1995 in a manner Dr. Trifkovic does should not be presented and rationalized as practising freedom of speech.

The judgment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague had clearly categorized Srebrenica as the crime of genocide. Such a decision was supported by the overwhelming evidence. One should, of course, have the right to one's own opinion but not the right to one's own facts.

I have always been in favour of a dialogue and a critical evaluation of evidence. The problem, however, is that Dr. Trifkovic and his supporters do not want to have a dialogue. As any nationalist would do, they see their version of the past as true and valid, and demand that others believe it, too.

While calling for a dialogue they shout at their critics, rather than talk to them and then have the audacity to call such shouting the expression of the freedom of speech.

The Canadian Authorities were right to keep Srdja Trifkovic Out

The recent decision by Canadian authorities to deny Srdja Trifkovic – an outspoken denier of the genocide committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and former advisor to the Bosnian Serb regime that orchestrated it – the right of entry into the country is commendable and should be welcomed by all those concerned with preventing genocide, bringing perpetrators to justice, and combating the denial of the crime of genocide. By taking this courageous action the Canadian government has sent a clear message that foreign individuals that publicly deny confirmed instances of genocide and have a history of collaborating with genocidal regimes will not be welcomed into the country.

The acts of denying confirmed instances of genocide and advocating further violence against the victims of genocide as well as other at-risk national, ethnic, racial, and religious groups in society are inseparably linked. The renowned genocide scholar Dr. Gregory H. Stanton has described the denial of genocide as the eighth and final step of any genocidal campaign. He stated that:

“Denial is the eighth stage that always follows a genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators of genocide dig up the mass graves, burn the bodies, try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses. They deny that they committed any crimes, and often blame what happened on the victims.”

As they were committing the genocide at Srebrenica the Serb forces were intentionally dismembering corpses and burying them in dozens of mass graves scattered around Srebrenica with the hope that they would never be found. To this day – fifteen years after the massacre – criminal anthropologists and other experts in finding and identifying human remains are still trying to locate and excavate all the mass graves that were dug. The perpetrators' intention from the very beginning was to deny that the calculated mass murder of over eight thousand Bosnian men and boys ever took place. In his speeches and writings Mr. Trifkovic is continuing the perpetrators' work by trying to make sure that the truth of what happened to the victims remains buried beneath untruths and misinformation and that those responsible never get punished for the heinous crimes they committed.

By denying the genocide that was committed and attempting to protect its perpetrators Mr. Trifkovic is willfully spreading the genocidal ideology that led to the murder of over two hundred thousand innocent civilians. His public statements and published articles present a clear danger to Bosnians living in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as Bosnian-Canadian citizens who found safety in Canada after being forcefully expelled from their homes. Many of these refugees and their children are Canadian citizens and it is the duty of the Canadian government to ensure their safety as well as the safety of all other at-risk ethnic, racial, religious, and cultural groups in Canadian society.

By deciding not to welcome Mr. Trifkovic into their country the Canadian authorities have shown their commitment to combating the denial of genocide and holding those known to have been involved in genocides to account. For this the Canadian authorities should be applauded. The Canadian government's strong stance against Holocaust denial and its decision to not allow a well known and outspoken denier of genocide and former advisor to a genocidal regime to enter their country will no doubt serve as positive examples to other democratic governments that value human rights and take their commitment to upholding the United Nations' Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide seriously. It will hopefully inspire them to follow Canada's lead by taking serious steps to combat denial of the Holocaust and other confirmed instances of genocide and not welcoming foreigners engaged in such nefarious activities into their countries.

Mirza Velagic, Seattle, USA

Trifkovic's actions during the 1992-1995 war, genocide denial and 'hate speech' — makes him morally reprehensible

In february 2011, Serbian students at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) invited Dr. Srdja Trifkovic to their campus where he was suppose to hold a lecture. Srdja Trifkovics is a current friend to the war criminal fugitive Ratko Mladic, an advisor to the war criminal Radovan Karadzic, a spokesperson for the "Government of Republika Srpska" and an advisor to the previous Serbian president and a leader in the war crimes in SrebrenicaVojislav Kostunica.

Instantly after he was denied entry into Canada ahead of his scheduled lecture, an overwhelming number of threats began pouring into the Institute for Research of Genocide-Canada. This was all because the institute protested against an individual who promotes human rights abuses towards non-Serbian nationals, more specifically towards Bosniaks.

It is not relevant to analyze or make excuses to students about human rights abuses. The facts that threats have been made to members of the institute as well as members of their families clearly demonstrate the level of loyalty towards their ideology which has brought serious physical destruction in urban and rural infrastructure of Bosnia and Herzegovina, mass murders and forced migration. What kind of human rights could exist if there are individuals that continue to promote genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is evident that there is a major Neonazi impact from Serbia spilling into regions of Bosnia. These groups are known as "Rationalists" and "Stormfront" (presenting themselves as Arian Racists). The government of Serbia has not taken any action against these groups to put a stop to their propaganda which has seeped into the media and other concrete manifestations that challenge peace and freedom. The main principle of these groups are racism inspired by past German Nazis. As a historian, Srdja Trifkovic should be dedicating his career to inform citizens and more specifically the young population about the military delusions against humanity.

After being held for questioning at the Airport in Vancouver, Trifkovic was sent back to the United States with the following reason:

"Denied on the basis of impeding human rights and international law while he was a high commander in a government that took part in terrorism, systematic obstruction of human rights, genocide, and war crimes"

Thanks to the actions taken by the Institute for Research of Genocide Canada (IRGC), the wider scope of the international community has been able to see the criminal doctrines of mass killings on the citizens of RBiH and the conditions that have been created by Serbia and Croatia regarding the divide of the land; all on the account of Bosnia and Bosniaks as well as all citizens faithful to Bosnia.

The Canadian Parliament adopted a Resolution on the Bosnia and Herzegovina Genocide. July 11th has been declared Srebrenica Remembrance Day.

All individuals and groups who believe in the major Serbia-Cetnik movement, that exists worldwide has installed militant hegemon exposure which the Canadian government has denied by rejecting Srdja Trifkovic entry. With this action, the government of Canada demonstrated that the spread of a destructive ideology will not be tolerated in a democratic country and all those who instigate human rights abuses will be deported from Canada.

All in all, that step would provide a strong incentive for United States authorities to reexamine their tolerance towards adopted ideologies espousing terror, national and religious hatred, as well as racial segregation. This would be especially relevant for firmly established supporters of ideologies that violate basic human rights, fundamental principles of democratic societies, and all other values cherished in our society.

Mr. sci. Marjan Hajnal

Israel

Member of the international team of experts

Institute for Research of Genocide Canada

[Universities often misused as platforms for hate speech](#)

Source: Originally Published on March 10, 2011 in Edmonton Journal, Canadian daily newspaper. For background see: Smear Campaign Against the IRGC

Re: *“Denying genocide should not be called freedom of speech,”* by Srdja Pavlovic, Letters, Feb. 28.

Prof. Srdja Pavlovic of the University of Alberta argued that Canada was within its rights and acted correctly in refusing admission to Srdja Trifkovic, a journalist and political activist. Trifkovic writes political commentary, principally for the magazine *Chronicles*, a polemical publication from an organization of the extreme right, in which he is also an editor. Among scholars Trifkovic is regarded, not as a colleague, but as a curiosity from the side.

After leaving professional journalism he spent much of the 1990s in political roles, principally involved with the parastate established by a group of extremist Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was the representative of that parastate in London and the international spokesman (albeit “unofficial”) for Radovan Karadzic in the 1990s.

After the wars ended, Trifkovic continued to deny crimes it was his job to deny as international spokesman for Karadzic. His arguments are summarized in an article, *The Hague Tribunal: Bad Justice, Worse Politics*. He also published two books, *The Sword of the Prophet* and *Defeating Jihad*, arguing terrorism and violence are intrinsic to the Islamic religion.

As for the claims Trifkovic makes regarding crimes committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, they have been disproven before international judicial bodies such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which has found individuals responsible for genocide in Srebrenica, and the International Court of Justice, which found that genocide was committed.

Although Trifkovic often raises the fact that he testified in defence of one indictee at ICTY, Milomir Stakic, he tends not to mention that Stakic was convicted on five counts — and that the presiding judge, Wolfgang Schomburg, felt it necessary to distance the defendant from the extreme views advanced by his witness, Trifkovic.

Despite extreme views that would discredit most public speakers, Trifkovic has become a bit of a cause célèbre in some parts of the émigré community, partly because he is amusing and well-spoken and partly because he holds a doctorate.

What was meant to happen at the University of British Columbia and at the University of Alberta is this: student and diasporic organizations rented a room from the universities and advertised a public lecture associating the speaker's name with a respected institution. This was meant to give Trifkovic personally and the views being promoted scholarly credibility they do not have.

Freedom of movement is a fundamental democratic value and should be restricted only for compelling reason. The Canadian government was right to exclude a participant in violations of human rights from entry to the country and to prevent this misuse of the authority of the university from taking place.

We support our colleague Pavlovic in defending the autonomy and authority of the university. We do not think denial and advocacy of crime is protected under legal guarantees of free speech.

Eric Gordy, University College London; Florian Bieber, University of Graz; Tomislav Longinovic, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Elvira Veselinovic, University of Cologne; Ulf Brunnbauer, University of Regensburg; Davor Beganovic, University of Konstanz; Bojan Aleksov, University College London; Ted Blodgett, University of Alberta; Tamara Gordy, Bainbridge Graduate Institute; Wendy Bracewell, University College London; Nebojsa Petrovic, University of Belgrade; Armanda Kodra Hysa, Institute for Cultural Anthropology, Tirana; Emilian Kavalski, University of Western Sydney; V.P. Gagnon, Ithaca College; Svetlana Rakocevic, University College London; Andrew Gilbert, University of Toronto; Dejan Djokic, Goldsmiths, University of London; Catherine Baker, University of Southampton; Jasna Dragovic-Soso, Goldsmiths, University of London; Jessica Greenberg, Northwestern University; Nicole Lindstrom, University of York; James Lyon, independent scholar; Christopher Lamont, University of Ulster; Andy Knight, University of Alberta