

September 17, 2012

To: President, International League of Humanists

Dubious Award Issuance to the Mayor of Prijedor

This email is in response to your recent activities regarding the alleged award to the Mayor of Prijedor, Marko Pavic, for his questionable achievements in the work and development of local government.

Shame on you!

As a Bosnian citizen I was subjected to, witnessed and survived the atrocities committed by the state of Serbia. As a Canadian citizen, seconded to the United Nations Mission to Kosovo in the role of a civilian expert and as ex-patriot, I witnessed the impact and implications of Serbian aggression and invasion of Kosovo during 1999-2002. As a recipient of the Canadian Peacekeeping Medal for exceptional effort and contribution to peace, stability and democracy for all citizens of Kosovo including the members of the orthodox faith, I take the liberty of denouncing the golden plaque issued by your organization to the Mayor of Prijedor.

According to Raphael Lemkin, the author of Axis Rule in Occupied Europe (1943), in instances where the disintegration of the political and social institutions, of culture, language, national feelings, religion, and the economic existence of national groups, and the destruction of the personal security, liberty, health, dignity, and even the lives of the individuals belonging to such groups, is genocide.

In a briefing paper at the US State Department in 1996, Gregory H. Stanton, states that there are 12 ways to deny genocide. In this situation, I can think of at least two ways: to justify denial in favor of current economic interests and to demonstrate that peace and reconciliation are more important than blaming people for genocide.

The issuance of an award to any person who directly or indirectly supports genocidal and gendercidal activities by organizations such as yourselves is dubious at least while at the same time appears to contradict the vision and mission of your organization. How do you reconcile this issuance of an award with your organization's philosophy "Health for Everybody"?

In light of your organizational decision to reward and recognize someone who acts against humanity, kindly elaborate on the following questions:

Q#1: On what specific terms did you base your selection exactly: on protection or violation of human rights?

Q#2: What criteria (if any) were used to select this particular candidate: his hard work to change the Serbian nationalistic mindset or his inability to recognize the implications of the recent genocide and gendercide?

Q#3: What was the composition of the evaluation committee: representation from Bosnian survivors of genocide and gendercide or the silent and complacent Serbian majority or the uninformed members of the international community?

Q#4: Is your organization in the business of enabling genocidal and gendercidal atrocities, considering Serbia's propensity for it, or in the business of preventing atrocities? The alleged award demonstrates to me the former.

Q#5: Whose interests does your organization represent: the survivors of the oppressors'?

In summary, Articles II and III of the Genocide Convention, not only elaborate on what constitutes genocide but also states that complacency in accepting genocide is considered a punishable act. The questionable Dayton Agreement has already demonstrated complacency by allowing the quasi “republika srpska” to exist within the internationally recognized borders of an independent Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Finally, shouldn't it be the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, collectively, who should be awarded for their “humanness”, compassion and forgiveness to the Serbian butchers of the Balkans as led by the state of Serbia and supported by citizens of Serbia?

I look forward to your timely responses.

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“Bosnom Nikad Niko Nije Uspio Da Vlada. Uvijek Mu Se To Samo Cinilo.” Alija Izetbegovic