**CALL TO ACTION:**

**Institute for Research of Genocide, Canada invites all friends of the truth about the aggression against the Republic Bosnia and Herzegovina and genocide against its citizens to send a letter to the UN General Secretary.**

Please support the protest to the General Secretary of the United Nations over the scandalous incident when a wartime hymn of the most extreme of Serbian paramilitary and military units was performed in the UN General Assembly.

The song “Mars na Drinu” was performed as part of the celebration organized by the GA president Vuk Jeremic of Serbia, notorious for his nationalistic rhetoric against Kosovo Albanians and other non-Serbs.

The meaning of the song was best identified in the US State Department’s Seventh Report on War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia:

“Day and night, soldiers came to the house taking two to three women at a time. They were four to five guards at all times, all local Foca Serbs. The woman knew the rapes would begin when ‘Mars na Drinu’ was played over the loudspeaker of the main mosque. (‘Mars na Drinu,’ or ‘March on the Drina’, is reportedly a former Chetnik fighting song that was banned during the Tito years.)

While ‘Mars na Drinu’ was playing, the women were ordered to strip and soldiers entered the homes taking the ones they wanted. The age of women taken ranged from 12 to 60. Frequently the soldiers would seek out mother and daughter combinations. Many of the women were severely beaten during the rapes.”

**Please copy and e-mail this letter of protest to UN SG Ban ki Moon to the following e-mail addresses in his Executive Office and share with your friends: malcorra@un.org, haysom@un.org, kaneko@un.org**

**Subject line: Show Respect for Genocide Victims and Remove “March on Drina” From UN’s Website**

“H.E. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations

Your Excellency,

I would like to express my strongest protest at your implicit endorsement of a scandalous incident at the concert held at the United Nations that was organized by Vuk Jeremic, President of the UN General Assembly. The rendition of a war-mongering hymn of Serb extremist forces “Mars na Drinu” was a scandalous insult to the victims of genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

This particular war-mongering song was used to inspire ethnic and nationalist hatred against non-Serbs and was used as a tool to inspire the murder and rape of thousands of non-Serb civilians, culminating in genocide in Srebrenica, Zepa and elsewhere in Boosnia. A chilling example of this comes from the US State Department Seventh Report on War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia:

“Day and night, soldiers came to the house taking two to three women at a time. They were four to five guards at all times, all local Foca Serbs. The woman knew the rapes would begin when ‘Mars na Drinu’ was played over the loudspeaker of the main mosque. (‘Mars na Drinu,’ or ‘March on the Drina’, is reportedly a former Chetnik fighting song that was banned during the Tito years.)

While ‘Mars na Drinu’ was playing, the women were ordered to strip and soldiers entered the homes taking the ones they wanted. The age of women taken ranged from 12 to 60. Frequently the soldiers would seek out mother and daughter combinations. Many of the women were severely beaten during the rapes.”

It is deplorable that the same song echoed last night at the United Nations with the wholehearted support of the UN, especially due to the shameful role of the United Nations in the genocide committed by Serb forces in Srebrenica.

It is unbearable for victims to see the United Nations Hall be used for a performance of a warmongering song under which the war crimes and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been committed.

Mr. Secretary, we urge you and the United Nations to issue a public apology to all the victims of war crimes in BiH committed in the name of Serbian nationalism and remove the video containing the song from the official UN page. The extremism of Vuk Jeremic is, unfortunately, known to all of us, but it is simply unacceptable for you and the United Nations to participate and support it.”