Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**PROCLAMATION OF RAISU-L-ULAMA WITH RESPECT TO THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF GENOCIDE OF THE MUSLIMS IN PLAV AND GUSINJE**

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Raisu-l-ulema, Dr. Mustafa Ceric, Grand Mufty of Bosnia and Hercegovina, has issued the following proclamation with respect to the crimes committed upon Bosniak and Albanian Muslims in Plav and Gusinje:

A hundred years ago, during the First Balkan War in the year 1912-1913, genocide was committed, by the Montenegrin Royal Military, upon the Muslims of the Plav-Gusinje region. According to the available data some 1,000 Muslim Bosniaks and Albanians of different age groups were brutally murdered, some 12,500 were proselytized and forced to accept Christianity, while thousands more were expelled.

With respect to the duty of struggle against repression and killing of the innocent, with respect to the obligation of honouring the victims, and with respect to the urgency of safekeeping the remembrance of the victims so that those shameless acts would never be repeated, and with respect to the 100th anniversary of the systemic plan of eradication of the Bosniak and Albanian Muslims in Montenegro, I issue this Proclamation:

In the name of The Lord, The Merciful, The Compassionate! May there be glory and exaltation upon all God’s messengers, and may there be peace for all the innocent victims of genocide - the shahids!

1. I express compassion with the families and descendants of the victimized Bosniak and Albanian Muslims in the region of Plav-Gusinje;

2. I condemn genocide, killings, proselytizing and expulsion of Bosniak and Albanian Muslims in the region of Plav-Gusinje, involving then state authorities of Montenegro;

3. I call upon imams and khatibs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Croatia, in Slovenia, in Sanjak-Serbia, Montenegro and the Bosniak Diaspora, to study Al Fatiha, at the Jumma prayer on Friday, Oct. 12, 2012, and remind the faithful about this horrendous and still unpunished crime and say a prayer for the souls of the Plav-Gusinje shahids;

4. I support the efforts that all historical facts about the suffering of the Bosniak and Albanian Muslims of Plav-Gusinje be presented and researched and that all aspects thereof, and actors therein, be investigated and that all ignoring of the crimes, and insulting of the victims’ families, cease. Truth heals human society. Acceptance of the truth and facing it, and also facing the dishonourable consequences, is the way to establish trust and cooperation among the various members of society;

5. I support the organizers and participants in the commemorative gathering in New York, scheduled to take place on October 13, 2012, in organization of Bosniaks and Albanians of Plav-Gusinje and descendents of the victims of genocide, so that they can pay respect to the victims;

6. I encourage the descendents of the victims in the homeland as well as the Diaspora to keep the memory of their ancestors’ suffering, their names and their belonging to Islam so that they do not forget their origins;

7. We can not change history but as responsible people we can influence a better future. Therefore, remembering the victims of genocide and praying to the Exalted God, the Almighty God, to bestow upon them Paradise and peace upon their families, I call upon all Muslim Bosniaks to unite in the struggle against a recurring genocide against our people which means that each and every Bosniak Muslim has to take care of another Bosniak Muslim. Bosniak Muslims must not leave indebtedness to their descendents for which they would have to pay by way of genocide upon them;

8. My message to our neighbours is that we stand for truth, justice, peace and reconciliation, and that there are no alternatives to coexistence and tolerance;

9. I call upon the free and the brave to not fear the truth and to not evade justice as all of us work for the peace, reconciliation, happiness and satisfaction of all of us;

10. I pray to the Lord Almighty to give peace to the families of the victims, to secure an appropriate punishment for the perpetrators, and to give to all the people of good will strength and will to seek truth, justice, peace and reconciliation. Amen!