

Minister
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

March 23, 2021

Professor Dr. Emir Ramic
Chairman
Institute for Research of Genocide Canada
ramicemir123@gmail.com

Dear Doctor Ramic:

Thank you for your emails of June 2 and 23, 2020, addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, regarding the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide and concerning genocide denial in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I regret the delay in replying to you.

Canada has historically supported Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Bosnian people, and continues to do so. As a member of the Peace Implementation Council and as a friend, Canada remains committed to supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina in its development as a stable, economically viable and multi-ethnic democracy, anchored in the Euro-Atlantic family.

July 11 is a day of remembrance and respect, during which we honour the victims of the Srebrenica genocide and pay tribute to the survivors who continue to live with the painful memories of those tragic days. On this occasion, my predecessor issued a statement in 2020 to mark the 25th anniversary. You may read his statement on the Global Affairs Canada webpage.

Two international tribunals have confirmed the Srebrenica genocide, yet there are individuals that continue to promote revisionist stories about the conflict and deny this established fact. The Government of Canada remains determined to bring to justice the perpetrators of the atrocities committed in the former Yugoslavia and will continue to work with allies to ensure this objective is met and to put an end to impunity, out of respect for the victims and the pain and suffering of the survivors. Canada also firmly denounces attempts to deny or willfully misinterpret facts related to the Srebrenica genocide. In May 2019, Canada supported the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr. Valentin Inzko, in his report to the United Nations Secretary-General, which emphasized that Republika Srpska's commissions to reopen the interpretation of the events that occurred in Srebrenica and Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995 will have very little historic value and will not contribute to justice and reconciliation.

Canada 

Genocide has no place in our world. No one should fear discrimination, persecution or violence because of who they are. Canada will always continue to strive for a world in which all human beings are equal in dignity and rights. Canada strongly condemns the acts committed in Srebrenica and attempts to deny them.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Garneau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.