

Professor Emir Ramic
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Dear Professor Ramic:

Thank you for your email of March 14, 2013, concerning the United Nations General Assembly thematic debate on the “Role of International Criminal Justice in Reconciliation,” which took place on April 10, 2013. The Office of Prime Minister Stephen Harper has also forwarded to me a copy of your letter on this same matter. I regret the delay in replying to you.

Canada believes that events such as the April 2013 thematic debate need to demonstrate a balanced treatment of sensitive topics. In particular, the voices of victims need to be heard. In Canada’s view, the event in last April gave insufficient attention to the voices of victims of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. Canada gave careful consideration to these concerns, and did not attend the thematic debate in April 2013.

Canada remains committed to working with our partners and allies to support the important aims of international peace and security, the rule of law, human rights, economic and social development and humanitarian assistance.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

John Baird, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs