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U.S. Congresswoman  
**Rosa DeLauro**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**327 Cannon**

**Washington, DC 20515**

**202/225-3661**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 21, 1993

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**DeLAURO CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL TO  
TRY WAR CRIMES  
Says U.S. Must Learn Lessons of History**

A international war crimes tribunal must be established immediately for the war in the former Yugoslavia, said Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-3rd CT). DeLauro made her remarks at a hearing of the Helsinki Commission regarding the situation in Bosnia and the establishment of a tribunal.

"How we deal with the war crimes that have been committed will set precedents for decades to come," said DeLauro at the hearing. "I am anxious to see a tribunal convened. This week we commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, and we will open in Washington a museum dedicated to that memory. It would be a betrayal of those who died during that terrible chapter in history not to prosecute those responsible for 'ethnic cleansing' and for any other war crimes associated with this current war."

DeLauro strongly supports the convening of an international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. She has previously called for strong action in Bosnia, including the lifting of the U.N. arms embargo, and possible U.S. air strikes on Serbian supply lines and heavy artillery. She will urge President Clinton to consider airstrikes along with our allies and will push for the lifting of the arms embargo for Bosnian Muslims.

On October 6, 1992, the U.N. Security Council established a five-member Commission of Experts to investigate violations of international humanitarian law. It submitted a report in January and sponsored a preliminary investigation of a mass grave site in Croatia, by the Boston-based group Physicians for Human Rights.

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Interim conclusions of the Commission include the following points:

- o The means used to execute "ethnic cleansing" constitutes crimes against humanity;
- o The applicable law is that of international armed conflict (instead of internal) and this law applies to all conflicts in the former Yugoslavia.

In addition, the U.N. Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution on February 23rd, asserting unequivocally that the mass rape of women and children is a war crime.

In January, DeLauro signed on to a House resolution condemning the widespread rape of women and girls in Bosnia-Herzegovina as crimes against humanity. She also cosponsored legislation to provide medical, psychological and psychiatric care for victims of war crimes.

In February, she attended a hearing of the Helsinki Commission about rape in the former Yugoslavia and last month she invited a representative of the Connecticut-based group Save the Children to address members of the Helsinki Commission and the Congressional Women's Caucus about the situation.

"The world cannot sit and watch as if we do not remember the lessons learned from World War II -- lessons that spring from the idea that the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing," continued DeLauro.

The following people were scheduled to testify at the hearing:

- o Ambassador Morris Abram, who served as a member of the prosecution staff at the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal and was the most recent U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. in Geneva;
- o Geraldine Ferraro, recently appointed by President Clinton to serve as a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Commission;
- o Professor Thomas Buergerthal, a survivor of Auschwitz and an expert in the field of international and comparative human rights laws. During the past year, he served on the three-member U.N. Truth Commission for El Salvador.



Congressman  
**Frank McCloskey**

Eighth District, Indiana

News Release

April 21, 1992

STATEMENT ON BOSNIA  
CONGRESSMAN FRANK McCLOSKEY  
CSCE COMMISSION HEARING

What Serb forces in Bosnia are doing is genocide, as defined by the UN Genocide convention. Western policies based on diplomacy, sanctions, UN "peacekeeping," and humanitarian relief have failed to suppress and punish this genocide. They offer no prospects of doing so in the future.

This has been clear for months. Now, finally, Western governments and publics are facing up to it.

Secretary Christopher says that we are at a turning point. President Clinton notes the similarity between the World War Two Holocaust and fascist Serb "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia.

But the United States still equivocates on whether a genocide is underway -- and still does not have a strategy to confront genocidal Serb aggression.

We are indeed at a moment of truth. As Senator Biden put it on April 19, "the Holocaust Memorial Museum that opens on the Mall on April 26 will symbolize either our hypocrisy or our resolve."

The Administration's decisions over the next few days will determine whether the United States acquiesces in the genocide in Bosnia, or moves to confront it with force.

To acquiesce would be an historic travesty in and of itself. It would also serve no purpose except to invite more genocidal Serb aggression, a wider Balkan war, and further erosion of the core values principles, and collective security institutions that are crucial to the future of Europe and America.

To confront genocidal Serb aggression requires resolve. It requires a victory strategy commensurate with our moral values and security interests. Above all, as a crucial first step, it requires an honest, unequivocal definition of the problem for the American people.

The Bush Administration could never bring itself to acknowledge that genocide was underway in Bosnia. Instead, its spokesmen said that Serb aggression in Bosnia "bordered on genocide." The Clinton Administration has continued this pattern of equivocation: it has said that "acts tantamount to genocide have taken place in Bosnia."

On April 1, I asked Secretary of State Christopher whether he would make a clear, unequivocal determination as to whether the campaign of Serb forces in Bosnia constituted genocide under the UN convention. He promised to do so. I have not seen it yet.

President Clinton can and must lift Western policy from the equivocation and defeatism of the past two years. I urge him to recognize and underscore the genocidal nature of the Milosevic regime and its aggression; to exert real U.S. leadership to secure a lifting of the UN arms embargo from Bosnia; and to use NATO air power to enforce the will and conscience of the international community.