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1622 LONGWORTH HOB
(202) 225-0871

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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

KEVIN TYNE
LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR

TASK FORCE ON THE BALKAN CRISIS
HOUSE REPUBLICAN RESEARCH COMMITTEE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OCT 19 1992

October 16, 1992

Dear Republican Colleague:

THE WAR IN BOSNIA CONTINUES...

In the Thursday, October 15, 1992, edition of the Washington Post, an article about another Serbian militia massacre was revealed.

The details of these events were retold by a 14 year-old boy by the name Ziad. The explanations by Serbia, that stories like these are propaganda by ethnic incriminations from the muslim community, fall short as this young boy recounts his mother's death.

Please read this article and join us in sponsoring, H. RES. 598, a resolution concerning the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. Contact Ron Phillips (225-0871) at the Republican Research Committee, if would like to join our Task Force or sponsor this resolution. The United States Congress must take a stand against these atrocities to the people of Bosnia.

Sincerely,

Susan Molinari
Chairman

William H. Zelff
Co-Chairman

Dana Rohrabacher
Co-Chairman

Duncan Hunter

* SEE ATTACHED PAGES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

'We Heard Shooting All Day, And Then They Killed Us'

Bosnian Boy Says Serbs Massacred His Family

By Mary Battiata
Washington Post Foreign Service

KARLOVAC, Croatia, Oct. 14—If an outraged world ever moves to prosecute Bosnian war crimes, the burden of testimony in some cases will rest on very small shoulders, like those of a thin-voiced 14-year-old named Ziad.

Ziad, a member of Bosnia's embattled Slavic Muslim community, says he is the sole survivor of a massacre of 31 Muslim women, children and infants by Serb militiamen. The killings took place in the village of Zecovi, he said, just after dusk on July 25. Among the dead was Ziad's mother.

"There were four Serb [militiamen] guarding us in a cellar," Ziad said by phone from Germany, where he has been granted asylum. "We knew them from [a neighboring village]." Three of the Serbs, he said, were named Ilija, Zelko and Boza, and they had hunted near Ziad's home before the war and drunk brandy in his family's courtyard.

"We stayed in the cellar for two nights," Ziad said. "On the third night, they took us out and shouted at us to line up. Then I knew what they wanted. I was standing behind my mother, and in that moment I decided to hide. I ducked behind a wagon . . . [that] was leaning against the house. They couldn't see me, but I could see them. I was two yards from my family when they started shooting."

"I was looking straight at them; I watched

them fall," he said. "If someone survived, [the Serbs] went from one to the other and shot them in the head with pistols. After the shooting, I heard the soldiers talking. They said no one was alive, that they killed everyone. I waited until it was dark, then I called to my family, but no one answered."

"I don't know why no one else hid," he said, crying for the only time in a half-hour interview. "Every night when I go to bed I think about it."

There have been countless atrocity charges and countercharges in Bosnia's ferocious factional war, most of them impossible to verify independently. But diplomats and human rights workers who have viewed much of the violence at close hand say the story of slaughter in Zecovi and scores like it throughout the republic fit a broad pattern of criminal behavior by some elements of Bosnia's Serb nationalist militia faction.

Much of the violence, they say, has been an integral part of the Serb forces' campaign to expel all non-Serbs from Bosnian territory they control through threats, terror and intimidation—the notorious practice of "ethnic cleansing."

A recent draft report prepared under the auspices of the 51-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe noted that all warring factions in Bosnia had committed human rights abuses but that only on the Serb side did violations of "internationally accepted norms seem to form part of an officially tolerated or even supported pol-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slavic Muslim boy holds brother while eating bread yesterday at Serb-run detention camp.

icy." The report found sufficient grounds for international prosecution of war criminals and recommended creation of a war crimes tribunal.

Last week, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to seek evidence of Balkan war crimes, and human rights investigators have begun arriving here in Karlovac to interview hundreds of Slavic Muslim men and boys who were recently released from Serb captivity in Bosnia.

At least four of the former prisoners—among the more than 1,500 in U.N. custody here—say their families were virtually wiped out by the four Serb militiamen in Zecovi, a village just south of the Serb-con-

See VILLAGE, A28, Col. 5

Bosnian Boy Recounts Slayings

VILLAGE, From A24

trolled city of Prijedor in northwestern Bosnia. One of the four is Ziad's father, who, like his son, asked not to be identified fully for fear of reprisal.

After the shooting stopped, the boy later told his father, Ziad remained in the devastated village for several days, hidden by a Serb neighbor and his son, a schoolmate, then by an uncle in a nearby village. From there, Ziad said he traveled by horse-drawn wagon to the Trnopolje prison camp outside Prijedor, where his father and other Muslim men were being held. He was then smuggled into the camp without much difficulty, the father said, because Serb guards usually did not register children by name.

The reunion with his father was brief and sorrowful, the father said—just 2½ hours in which the boy told him that the family was dead. "When he saw me, he started to cry," the father said, his own bloodshot eyes widening and welling with tears. "He had problems talking; it was hard. Many times we had to rest and then start again."

By phone from Germany, Ziad retold the story, saying that his and five other families were herded into the cellar of his home on the evening of July 23 as Serb gunmen outside moved from house to house, burning and shooting. Some men of the village—about 25 or 30, according to Ziad's father and the three other men here from the village—were shot dead by the Serbs before they could be loaded on buses for prison camps. By the time all the men had been rounded up for detention, Ziad said, the village was littered with bodies.

Most of the women and children who remained in Ziad's part of the village were his relatives, some of them children under two years of age, the boy said. All were ordered into the cellar. "They took us to the cellar because of all the shooting," Ziad said. "They said it would be safer there; there were 32 of us. For two days they would not give us food or water."

"We were crying for our fathers, and our mothers were crying too," Ziad said. "The soldiers said: 'Calm down, your husbands are all alive.' We didn't expect they would shoot



BY DAVE COOK—THE WASHINGTON POST

us," he said. "We didn't think they were going to kill us."

But early on July 25, Ziad told his father, an older woman left the cellar without permission to feed her cows, and she was shot dead. "On the third morning," Ziad recalled, "the soldiers went to 'clean' another street. We heard shooting and explosions all day. They were killing people on the road. And then in the evening, they killed us."

102^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 598

Concerning the crisis in the former Yugoslavia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 3, 1992

Ms. MOLINARI (for herself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ZELIFF, and Mr. ENGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Concerning the crisis in the former Yugoslavia.

Whereas the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia as well as the provinces of Kosova and Sanjak, have all declared their independence from Yugoslavia;

Whereas the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, consisting of the 2 remaining republics of Serbia and Montenegro, has waged a ruthless territorial conquest against the other republics using inhumane genocidal tactics;

Whereas Serbian military power and political influence is the principal source of violence in former Yugoslavia;

Whereas the United Nations, the European Community, the United States, and many other countries have formally

denounced and condemned Serbian aggression and atrocities;

Whereas the Congress is currently working to withdraw preferential (most favored nation) trade status for Serbia and the United Nations has terminated Yugoslavia's membership;

Whereas the governments of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina do not want any more soldiers, and the United Nations peacekeeping forces should not be unwittingly used to make permanent the unjust seizure of land from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina through Serbian "ethnic cleansing";

Whereas the upcoming winter weather may kill as many people as the fighting and the estimates of those killed on all sides in the former Yugoslavia from all republics may soon approach 100,000;

Whereas increased Serbian killing in Sanjak or Kosova is the tripwire to a full blown Balkan conflict;

Whereas Western inaction will erode credibility for the concept of a "world order," and encourage other dictators;

Whereas the perception that "crime pays" or is at least tolerated is counterproductive to the development of regional security and international approaches to ending conflict;

Whereas there is a compelling moral argument for responsible and prudent application of Western military force to end this genocidal aggression; and

Whereas aggression in the former Yugoslavia threatens the formulation of a post-cold war security role for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and poses a potential threat to Greece and Turkey, 2 NATO members:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, It is the sense of the House of Representa-
2 tives that—

3 (1) the United States should be on the side of
4 the victims, on the side of democracy, and on the
5 side of independence and freedom;

6 (2) the most constructive role that United Na-
7 tions forces can play is on the border of Serbia and
8 Bosnia-Herzegovina;

9 (3) funding for radio broadcasting to Serbia
10 and Montenegro should be authorized for Radio
11 Free Europe through the Board for International
12 Broadcasting;

13 (4) until human rights are completely respected,
14 the current Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should
15 not regain its seat at the United Nations and Yugo-
16 slavia's preferential (most favored nation) trade sta-
17 tus with the United States should be withdrawn;

18 (5) a war crimes forum should be convened in
19 conjunction with the United Nations Human Rights
20 Commission and Helsinki Watch, and a central of-
21 fice for collecting information on human rights
22 abuses, initiating cases, and pressing charges with
23 respect to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia should
24 be established and supported;

1 (6) the outrageous actions by Serbia to pur-
2 posely mislead the United States and the United
3 Nations regarding Serbia's heavy military weapons
4 by hiding such weapons from United Nations inspec-
5 tion teams and by viciously using such weapons
6 against a civilian population, contrary to their pre-
7 vious promises and assurances, should be considered
8 a specific war crime and should be stopped imme-
9 diately; and

10 (7) the United States should immediately close
11 our embassy in Belgrade and break all diplomatic
12 ties with Serbia and Montenegro, the current Fed-
13 eral Republic of Yugoslavia.

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