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Mr Christian Schmidt
High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dear Mr Schmidt,

I am writing on behalf of people with a background from Bosnia and Herzegovina currently living in Australia. We are deeply concerned with the current political situation and the most recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which allude to the possibility of conflict, upheaval, and political, economic and social instability in the country.

We, Australian Bosnians, are troubled with the fact that the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina is continuously threatened to this day, twenty-six years after the Dayton Peace Agreement.

People of Bosnia and Herzegovina to this day continue to suffer from the aftermath of horrors of the 1990s war and the losses it brought to our nation, including people being displaced, loss of loved ones through the genocide and acts of war, severe traumas, mass emigration and continuous political, social and economic attacks on the country.

We are rightly worried that the current plethora of developments on the political scene in the country, and in particular, the politics played in Republika Srpska, are creating uncertainty and threats to peace and stability. We fear the atrocities will be repeated.

Australian Bosnians are also very much aware that a new war, instigated by the politics of Republika Srpska, aims for the complete extinction of the Bosnian race. We therefore seek your help to protect the sovereignty of our homeland and the people living in it.

I have summarised the facts below, which are a signal for your early intervention to ensure stability in the country and prevent any future conflict:

- Many Australian Bosnians came to Australia as refugees, displaced people and genocide survivors from the war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1990s, seeking protection, security and stability.
- Other Australian Bosnians – including me – born or settled in Australia well before the war in the 1990s, still maintain a strong connection to our ancestral land and identity.

- People from Bosnia and Herzegovina, continue to be affected by the violence perpetuated against our families and communities during the 1992-95 Serbian aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) have found that the war crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the then Army of Republika Srpska (VRS) constitute genocide and crimes against humanity.
- Political and military leaders of the 1990s Serb nationalists, (including both Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic), were convicted as war criminals by the ICTY and sentenced to life in prison for orchestrating genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- In February 2012, the Commonwealth of Australia House of Representatives unanimously adopted the Motion relating to Srebrenica Remembrance recognising that the acts committed in Srebrenica were committed with the specific intent to erase in part, the group of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and that these acts of genocide were committed by members of the military forces of Republika Srpska.
- Endangerment and threat to peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently at its highest since the end of aggression, committed genocide and signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995.
- The most recent events, alluding to potential instability in the country have been evoked by Mr Milorad Dodik and his political supporters from Republika Srpska, who had, at the National Assembly of Republika Srpska entity on 2 December 2021, adopted documents and policies to separate the powers of Republika Srpska from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina thus withdrawing Republika Srpska from the National Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Mr Dodik and his political supporters intend to revive the Army of Republika Srpska (VRS), military forces convicted of the genocide, crimes against humanity and a plethora of other crimes committed during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.
- Anti-Bosnian Muslim comments and actions such as those made recently by Mr Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary are deeply distressing not only for Bosnians but for all people seeking peace and stability.

Mr Schmidt, Bosnia and Herzegovina needs your help to prevent the repeat of the horrors from 1992, Europe's worst atrocity since the Second World War.

We therefore urgently request you use your political power for proactive intervention to:

- Remove all those who undermine peace, act against the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and threaten a new conflict in the country, specifically, Mr Milorad Dodik and his supporters;
- Urgently adopt a parliamentary declaration for the protection of the territorial integrity and sovereignty, independence, and political subjectivity of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Condemn Mr Milorad Dodik's unconstitutional behaviour and his undermining of the Dayton Peace Agreement;
- Condemn the plans for revival of the Army of Republika Srpska (VRS);

- Call for catharsis and condemn the denial of judicially established facts related to the genocide committed in Srebrenica;
- Condemn glorification of the convicted war criminals; and
- Condemn the statements and actions of external parties seeking to disrupt peace and stability.

Australian Bosnians wish to prevent further conflict. Australian Bosnians want a peaceful, stable, independent, prosperous, unified, and sovereign Bosnia and Herzegovina for all its citizens and residents.

Furthermore, Australian Bosnians will continue to play an active role, using their knowledge, skills, and local relationships to help their maternal country and its allies prosper economically, financially as well as in matters of social justice and inclusion.

To achieve that goal, we need your help and assurance that, as the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, you will represent the best interests of all people, to live peacefully in one, sovereign Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We look forward to your prompt action and reply.

Yours faithfully,



Haris Jackman
Australian Bosnian

Australian Bosnian organisations supporting this plea:

Australian Bosnian Academic Forum (MEL)
 Australian Bosnian and Herzegovinian Cultural Association ABHCA (SYD)
 Australian Union of Bosnian and Herzegovinian Associations (SYD)
 Australian Bosnian Women's Association "Zena Zeni" (MEL)
 Australian Islamic Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SYD)
 Australian Bosnian Islamic Centre Deer Park (MEL)
 Bosnian Academic Association (SYD)
 Bosnian Community Council NSW (SYD)
 Bosnian Community Radio Program Vox FM (WOL)
 Bosnian Radio 3zzz (MEL)
 Bosnia and Herzegovina Cultural Centre (PER)
 Bosnian School Victoria (MEL)
 Bosnian Senior and Disability Association Incorporated NEW LIFE (SYD)
 Bosnian Sydney Association Incorporated (SYD)
 Bosnian Youth & Students Coordinators of NSW (SYD)
 Bosnian Blue River Choir (SYD)
 Bosnian Business Club (SYD)
 Bosnian Ethnic School (SYD)
 Bossy, Bosnian Football Club (SYD)
 Cultural Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina NSW (SYD)
 Podrinje 11 July Srebrenica (MEL)