
Documentation

Dr. Ljubijankic: Our fight is for universal values

Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic gave this speech on April 28, 1994, at a meeting in Brussels of the International Parliamentarians against Genocide in Bosnia. Dr. Ljubijankic was killed on May 28 of this year, when his helicopter was shot down over Serbian-occupied Croatia. The Kordun Corps of Serbian militiamen has claimed responsibility for the murder.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will be brief. I will not describe the situation in Bosnia; it is well known. Very often the bloody curtain of current events covers the essence of the conflict.

First of all, is it a civil war or not? We used to live together for centuries. Bosnia has never existed as an exclusive national territory. What has happened, is that those peaceful people started to fight each other. There is an answer: the dream of a Greater Serbia. The Serbian national program is more than 100 years old. It was created by academicians; it has a methodology. The methodology that is implemented in Bosnia is the methodology of creating quisling power states within sovereign states. We saw such a methodology in the Second World War, when Hitler created such states. What is the aim of such states, those creations? Nothing more than a first tactical step in annexation of territories. If the French Resistance was a civil war, then we can say that the Bosnian war is a civil war. Fortunately, it is not true; it is a clear aggression.

The leader of the so-called Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, saw Bosnia for the first time when he came to study at a Bosnian university. Now the international community calls him the leader of the Bosnian Serbs. He is Montenegrin; he is not Bosnian. He has never been Bosnian. If he knew Bosnia, he would never do such things.

So what is the issue of creating a quisling power state within a sovereign state? It is a fascistic act, like the concentration camps were. The motto "All Serbs in one country," is nothing more than "Ein Reich, ein Führer, ein Volk." We have fascism on the scene in Bosnia, and the international community is obliged to recognize it. What concerns us, is the approach of Europe.

Europe is based on two principles: respect for human rights and inviolability of borders. These two principles have been violated in Bosnia in the most horrible ways in the last two years. There is no justification for neutrality in Bosnia. Let us recall that [Neville] Chamberlain said, on the eve of the Second World War, that there was "a quarrel among faraway nations of which we know nothing." Today we know

that that neutrality was paid for by millions of human lives.

Let me emphasize that whenever Europe violates its own principles, catastrophe follows. The international community has acted shamefully, with a hesitating and reluctant approach in Bosnia. Sarajevo is the largest concentration camp in the world. I have to say, "Europe, wake up," recognize fascism in the very heart of Europe. We are not only defending our country; we are defending two main principles on which Europe is based: inviolability of borders and human rights.

Let me conclude and say that peace will have to come, and we are for peace, but not for peace by any means. Negotiations under the present conditions of military imbalance are nothing more than diktat. Auschwitz was not liberated by negotiations, but by force. Force recognizes force, and for us it is an honor to fight for those principles, for universal values, and we will continue. We will need help. Bosnia is a universal problem. I am sure of the final victory; it takes time, it takes blood, but we will win finally. Stay by our side, and you will have cause to be proud of us.

Interview: Prof. Francis Boyle

Arms embargo backers are accomplices to genocide

Professor Boyle teaches public international law at the University of Illinois, and is noted for his defense of the presently much-contested sovereignty of Third World and "small" nations. He acted as legal adviser to the Bosnian government during the so-called "Peace Conference on Former Yugoslavia," held under U.N.-European Community aegis in Geneva in 1993. The interview was conducted by Katharine Kantner on May 30.

EIR: Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic was murdered on Sunday night, May 28. His aircraft was shot down over Croatian territory by Serbian militiamen who had invaded Croatia. What should be the response of the western powers?

Boyle: This is a reprehensible act. Mr. Ljubijankic was not a normal citizen, but an internationally protected person, under international law. There is a special treaty, the New York Convention, protecting heads of states, foreign ministers, ambassadors, and so forth, from harm to their physical person. It is another treaty set at naught.

I knew the minister personally. He was a good man and a good minister. It will be very hard to replace him.

EIR: In terms of the Serbian actions over the weekend of May 27-28, could you explain the position in international law?

Boyle: I read the statement by [Bosnian Serb leader] Mr. Radovan Karadzic, according to which the Unprofor [U.N. Protection Forces] hostages are “prisoners of war.” By his own admission, therefore, they are covered by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. It is prohibited to hold such prisoners as hostages, or put them in danger. To do so is a serious war crime. But the Serbians have committed countless war crimes over the last three years of war, and no one has attempted to stop them.

The European states are not insisting that these men be treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention. Given the atrocities which have been perpetrated against the Bosnians themselves, perhaps one could say this is minor—except for the lives of the people involved!

EIR: Formally, is the West now in a state of war with Serbia?

Boyle: You do not need to formally declare war, for there to be a state of war. I would say, “Yes, there is a state of war.” In international law, there are two states of war: legal, where there is a declaration of war, but where warfighting may not have broken out; and factual, where hostilities are engaged. Clearly, this [the latter] is now the case. But the European states do not wish to recognize the fact that there is now a material war, i.e., *de facto*, a state of war.

Mr. [Willy] Claes, the secretary general of NATO, said on the weekend that NATO does not want to take sides. But NATO targeted a Serbian ammunition dump last week, and a few other targets. So what that statement means, is simply that NATO is backing away. The Genocide Convention exists, and can be invoked to protect the Bosnian nation. But no one cares to do so.

EIR: Are Unprofor soldiers considered to be soldiers of their respective states, or of some vague U.N. entity?

Boyle: The answer is, both. The acts of war perpetrated upon these men, are an affront to both. In law, the Unprofor troops never cease to be part of the national military forces of the country who seconded them to Bosnia. It is for the states who sent them, to defend them.

EIR: If you were legal adviser to the U.S. government, what would you advise it to do now?

Boyle: When I was legal adviser to the government of Bosnia, during the Geneva talks in 1993, I tried to get air strikes. I advised President Alija Izetbegovic, that under Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, concerning the right to self-defense of nations, he should demand this from the government of the United States. Before we sent that letter, [U.S. Secretary of State] Warren Christopher had said he thought there should be air strikes. We sent the letter. We did not receive a reply. I still think air strikes are appropriate.

EIR: Radovan Karadzic and General Martić, chiefs of the Serbs occupying Bosnian and Croatian territory, respective-

ly, have just stated that they plan to form a new state, the Republic of West Serbia. Does this have any force in international law?

Boyle: None. It is a complete fiction.

EIR: They also say that the airspace over these territories is Serbian airspace; that airspace in Croatia and Bosnia is presently patrolled by NATO planes, without the permission of their so-called government.

Boyle: This means that they are threatening to shoot down *at will* aircraft in that airspace. Whether they will do so, we do not know.

NATO aircraft have flown over the Serbian-occupied territories for three years now. They have taken pictures of the Serbian war crimes and sent them back to headquarters. They know what is going on. These respective governments have “tacitly” accepted the existence of such atrocities, and now, perhaps, they will “tacitly” accept that the airspace is “Serbian”; whereas, it is the airspace of two members of the United Nations, Croatia and Bosnia.

EIR: The British have announced that they will unilaterally send 5,000 elite troops into Bosnia. They have said they will not be under U.N. command. How can they do this?

Boyle: Any troops sent to Bosnia, must enter with the permission of the government of Bosnia.

But, when [Bosnian Vice President] Dr. Ejup Ganic informed the U.N., that Bosnia would not accept the presence of Russian “U.N.” soldiers on its territory, they were sent nonetheless. The same appears to be happening here. In any case, all the British troops, whether they be nominally under U.N. command or not, take their orders from London.

It is a clear violation of Bosnia’s sovereignty. But look what happened at the Geneva talks, the so-called [Lord David] Owen-[Thorvald] Stoltenberg talks. The Bosnians were treated like children, not like the representatives of a foreign power. They act as though the sovereignty of Bosnia were a fiction. The United Nations will go the same way as the League of Nations; and the same applies to NATO. What good are they?

EIR: The government of Bosnia announced in November 1993 that they intended to take the British government to the World Court at The Hague, under the Genocide Convention.

Boyle: Yes. But this is in abeyance at the moment.

Just last week, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said at a press conference in Zagreb, following the cluster bomb attacks on Tuzla, that those nations that have insisted upon the arms embargo, are deliberately committing genocide; those states are accomplices to genocide. I am ready to go ahead with that suit in the World Court, against each and every permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, as soon as President Izetbegovic decides that the moment is ripe to do so.