

International Decision-Making in the Age of Genocide: Srebrenica 1993-1995

Conference in The Hague, June 29 – July 1, 2015

Annex C - Chronology

1992

March 3: Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina declares independence following referendum boycotted by most Serbs.

April 6-7: European Community and United States recognize Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent state.

April 18: Serbs take control of Srebrenica after shelling the town and expelling majority Muslim population.

May 9: Bosniak (Muslim) forces regain control of Srebrenica from Serbs.

1993

January 7: Bosniak forces under Naser Orić attack Serb-controlled village of Kravica. Serbian media claim that at least 40 Serb civilians are killed in attack. ([Document Link](#))

January 20: William Clinton becomes 42nd President of the United States after accusing President Bush of a lack of consistency, decisiveness, and “moral leadership” on Bosnia.

February 19: President Clinton authorizes US planes to airdrop food and supplies over Srebrenica enclave. ([Document Link](#))

March 9: Serb forces advance on Srebrenica, shell the town. Population of Srebrenica region has swollen to 60,000 people, mainly Muslim refugees from eastern Bosnia, from 37,000 before the war (73 per cent Muslim, 25 per cent Serb).

March 10-13: General Philippe Morillon, detained by local inhabitants after breaking siege of Srebrenica, declares refugees to be “under the protection of the UN.” UN flag is raised over Srebrenica. UNHCR organizes evacuation of nearly 3,000 women, children, and old men. ([Document Link](#))

March 26: Vice President Gore urges Bosnian President Izetbegović to sign the Vance-Owen peace plan; says US will consider lifting arms embargo if Serbs refuse to sign. ([Document Link](#))

April 2: Bosniak authorities in Srebrenica announce that no more evacuations will be permitted. ([Document Link](#))

April 12: Serbs forces shell Srebrenica, hitting elementary school, killing at least 56 people. ([Document Link](#))

April 14: US Ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright, proposes use of US air power to create "United Nations Protected Enclaves" in eastern Bosnia, similar to the Kurdish security zone in northern Iraq. ([Document Link](#))

April 16: Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, UN Security Council passes Resolution 819, declaring Srebrenica "a safe area....free from any armed attack." ([Document Link](#))

April 17: General Mladić and Bosniak General Halilović agree on a "total ceasefire" in the Srebrenica area, and the "demilitarization" of the enclave following arrival of Canadian peacekeepers. ([Document Link](#))

April 25: UNSC delegation led by Venezuelan ambassador Diego Arria visits Srebrenica. ([Document Link](#))

May 2: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in London to promote "lift and strike" plan, lifting the arms embargo against the Bosnian government and threatening air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs.

May 3: Bosnian parliament votes to accept the Vance-Owen Peace Plan following talks in Athens.

May 6: UNSC adopts Resolution 824, declaring that Sarajevo, Tuzla, Žepa, Goražde and Bihać should be treated as safe areas in addition to Srebrenica. ([Document Link](#)) Meeting in Pale, Bosnian Serb parliament rejects Vance-Owen Peace Plan.

May 22: France, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom, and the US adopt a "Joint Action Programme" supporting "safe areas" in Bosnia. ([Document Link](#))

May 28: UN Secretariat circulates working paper stating that 15,000 extra troops will be required to defend proposed "safe areas" against "possible aggression." ([Document Link](#)) UK and France criticize the paper as "slanted." ([Document Link](#))

June 3: UNPROFOR Commander Wahlgren criticizes "safe areas" resolution, which envisages co-deployment of UN and Bosnian government forces, stating that "one simply cannot make peace and war at the same time." ([Document Link](#))

June 4: UN Security Council adopts Resolution 836, extending mandate of UNPROFOR "to deter attacks against the safe areas." Resolution calls for withdrawal of military units "other than those of Bosnian government." ([Document Link](#))

June 14: UN Secretary-General tells UNSC that 34,000 extra troops required for "deterrence through strength," but also outlines "light option" with about 7,600 troops. ([Document Link](#))

1994

February 5: First Markale marketplace shelling in Sarajevo, killing 68 people.

February 9: North Atlantic Council establishes 20-kilometer heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo. ([Document Link](#))

February 28: US Air Force planes shoot down four Serb jets over Banja Luka for violating the No-Fly Zone.

March 31: Bosnian Serb army launches major offensive against Goražde.

April 10-11: US warplanes attack Serb targets near Goražde, including a tank and a command post. Mladić threatens to shoot down NATO aircraft. ([Document Link](#))

April 14: Serbs detain 150 UN personnel in Sarajevo-Goražde area.

April 16: Serbs agree to release UN hostages in return for a halt to combat air patrols over Goražde.

April 22: UNSC passes Resolution 913 condemning attacks against Goražde. North Atlantic Council establishes heavy weapons "exclusion zone" 20 kilometers around Goražde, to be extended to other "safe areas" in the event of "concentration or movement of heavy weapons." ([Document Link](#))

November 26: Serbs shell Bihać, fire missiles at NATO planes, take more than 400 UN personnel hostage.

1995

January 18: Dutchbat-3 takes over from Dutchbat-2 in Srebrenica. ([Document link](#))

March 8: "Directive No. 7" signed by Radovan Karadžić calls for combat operations to "create an unbearable situation of total insecurity with no hope of further survival or life" for the inhabitants of Srebrenica and Žepa.

April 24: Richard Goldstone, chief prosecutor for the ICTY, names Karadžić and Mladić as war crimes suspects.

May 17: Jacques Chirac becomes President of France.

May 24: General Janvier urges UN to consider withdrawing from Safe Areas, stating that the peacekeepers have become "simply scapegoats." ([Document Link](#))

May 25-26: NATO carries out air strikes against Serb ammunition dump, in response to violations of Sarajevo weapons exclusion zone. Bosnian Serbs respond by shelling safe areas and taking nearly 400 UNPROFOR personnel as hostages to deter further air strikes. ([Document Link #1](#), [Document Link #2](#))

May 28: United States agrees to unpublicized “bombing pause” against Bosnian Serbs to facilitate release of hostages. ([Document Link](#))

May 29: UN Secretary-General approves more restrictive guidelines for use of air power, stating that “execution of the mandate is secondary to the security of UN personnel.” ([Document Link](#))

June 3: Serbs capture Dutch peacekeeping post Observation Post Echo, south of Srebrenica. ([Document link](#)). France, UK, and the Netherlands agree to establish Rapid Reaction Force at conference in Paris.

June 4: Generals Mladić and Janvier hold secret meeting in Zvornik on hostage crisis. ([Document Link](#))

June 9: Akashi announces that UN will abide by “strictly peacekeeping principles.” UN hostages released. Privately, warns that UNPROFOR should not cross “the Mogadishu line.” ([Document Link](#)) Carl Bildt replaces David Owen as Europe peace negotiator.

June 16: UNSC passes Resolution 998, establishing a Rapid Reaction Force. ([Document Link](#))

July 2: Commander of Drina Corps orders attacks on Žepa and Srebrenica enclaves, “to reduce them to their urban areas” pursuant to “Directive 7” of March 8. ([Document Link](#))

July 6: Serbs launch attacks against Srebrenica enclave from south, east, and north, shell UN positions. ([Document Link](#)) UN military observers assess full-scale-attack as “very unlikely.” ([Document Link](#)) Karremans makes first request for Close Air Support.

July 8: Bosnian government forces kill Dutchbat gunner, Private Van Rensen, after Dutchbat withdraws from UN observation post. ([Document Link](#)) Second Karremans request for Close Air Support. Carl Bildt negotiates with Pale over opening of corridor to Sarajevo. Bosnian Serbs capture several dozen Dutch peacekeepers.

July 9: Karadžić authorizes Bosnian Serb army to capture Srebrenica. ([Document Link](#)) UNPROFOR orders Dutchbat “to establish a blocking position” south of the town. If blocking position is attacked, “NATO Close Air Support will be employed.”

July 10: UN Military Observers fear possible “massacre” if Serb offensive continues; warn that UN “is losing credibility.” ([Document Link](#)) Dutchbat threatens Bosnian Serbs with air strikes if

they fail to withdraw. ([Document Link #1](#), [Document Link #2](#)) At crisis meeting in Zagreb, UNPF commander Janvier postpones decision on air strikes until following morning.

July 11: General Mladić enters Srebrenica at 1615 local time following two ineffective NATO air strikes at 1440. ([Document Link #1](#), [Document Link #2](#)) About 25,000 refugees flee to HQ at Potocari. ([Document Link](#)) UNPROFOR orders Colonel Karremans to “take all reasonable measures to protect refugees and civilians in your care.” ([Document Link](#)) Column of 15,000 Bosniac soldiers and fighting age men (around 4,000 carry light arms) attempt to cross Serb lines to Tuzla.

July 12: After meeting with Mladić, Karremans informs UNPROFOR that Dutchbat is in “sitting duck position” and unable to defend refugees. ([Document Link](#)) Serbs allow women and children to leave after separating them from men.

July 13: In conversation with President Clinton, President Chirac calls for “joint military intervention” to recapture Srebrenica and protect Žepa and Goražde. Clinton agrees that Serbs have made “a mockery of the UN” but blames Bosniaks for failing to fight. ([Document Link](#))

July 13-16: Bosnian Serb Army executes over 7,000 captured Bosniac soldiers and refugees at several different locations.

July 14: Carl Bildt meets Mladić and Milošević in Belgrade, urges Mladić “to free the boys, young men who were taken to Bratunac.” ([Document Link](#)) Serbs begin full scale attack on Žepa, which falls on July 25.

July 17: London Independent reports “summary executions” of dozens of Bosniaks, based on July 13 Belgrade TV footage. ([Document Link #1](#), [Document Link #2](#))

July 18: UN New York (Annan/Tharoor) asks Akashi for report on alleged “atrocities committed by the Bosnian Serbs.” ([Document Link](#)) On July 19, Akashi reports “4,000-8,000” “missing Srebrenica residents. ([Document Link](#))

July 21: NATO foreign and defense ministers meet in London, promise to use “substantial and decisive air power” to prevent fall of Goražde. Russian foreign minister refuses to sign.

July 25: Cable from Ambassador Galbraith reporting machine-gunning of “several thousand refugees” in Srebrenica area triggers CIA search for possible grave sites near Konjević Polje and visit to Bosnia by Assistant Secretary for Human Rights John Shattuck. Žepa falls to RSA. ([Document Link #1](#), [Document Link #2](#))

July 26: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali turns “UN key” for approving NATO air attacks in Bosnia to military chain of command, headed by General Janvier. ([Document link](#))

August 4: Croatia launches "Operation Storm," sweeping through Serbian positions in Krajina and into Bosnia.

August 10: Madeleine Albright shows UN Security Council overhead photographs of suspected massacre site at Konjević Polje. ([Document Link #1](#), [Document Link #2](#)) *Christian Science Monitor* reporter David Rohde visits site on August 16, finds evidence of killings. ([Document Link #1](#), [Document Link #2](#))

August 29: NATO launches air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions following second Markale marketplace shelling in Sarajevo, killing more than 40 people.

September 15: Bosnian Serbs agree to withdraw heavy weapons from around Sarajevo.

November 1: Bosnia peace talks begin at US Air Force base in Dayton, Ohio.

November 21: Dayton peace agreement divides Bosnia 51-49 per cent between Muslim-Croat Federation and Republika Srpska.