

# TIMELINE OF A GENOCIDE: SREBRENICA

# SREBRENICA 1992–1995



Source : Galerija 11/07/95

During most of the 1992-95 armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), **the town of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia was an enclave under Bosnian Muslim control** by the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH Army).

Tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims, fleeing Serb attacks, sought refuge in Srebrenica. For three years, Serb forces besieged and shelled the enclave, controlling access roads and blocking humanitarian aid. Srebrenica became overcrowded with refugees.

On March 11, 1993, Philippe Morillon, Commander of the UN Forces, went to the small hill community. Serbs halt their attacks. Morillon vehicle is blocked by Bosniak women afraid that his departure will trigger new attacks. He declares:

**“YOU ARE NOW UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS...I WILL NEVER ABANDON YOU.”**

**As a response**, UN Security Council adopts Resolution 819, declaring Srebrenica a 'safe area'. Shortly after, an agreement was signed for a total cease-fire, the demilitarisation of the enclave, and the deployment of UNPROFOR.





# SREBRENICA 1992-1995



**Directive 7** : In March 1995, Radovan Karadžić, President and Supreme Commander of the armed forces of the self-proclaimed entity Republika Srpska, instructed Bosnian Serb forces to eliminate the Muslim population from the Srebrenica and Žepa enclaves.

The directive known as directive 7 ordered to "

complete the physical separation of the Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves as soon as possible, preventing even communication between individuals between the two enclaves.

By planned and well-thought-out combat operations, create an unbearable situation of total insecurity, with no hope of further survival or life for the inhabitants of Srebrenica or Zepa."

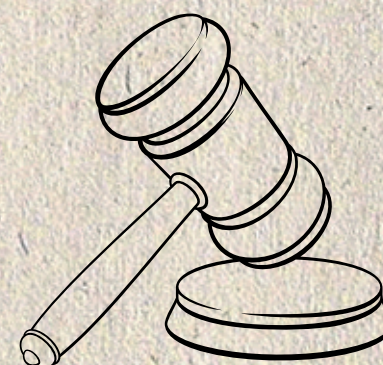
In July 1995, the Directive 7 was transformed into a concrete plan, which started with an operation codenamed Krivaja 95 and **ended with up to 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys killed or still missing, and up to 30,000 Bosnian Muslim women, children and elderly persons forcibly transferred from the enclave between the 11 of July and the 16th of July 1995.**



# THE FALL OF SREBRENICA

**06 July:** At approximately 3am, an operation codenamed Krivaja 95 starts. Over the following days, **UNPROFOR observation posts** around Srebrenica are targeted and fall into the hands of the Bosnian Serb forces.

**09-10 July:** Acting on the order of Radovan Karadžić, Bosnian Serb forces begin the takeover of Srebrenica. As villages in the Srebrenica enclave fall and the siege gets tighter, **Bosnian Muslims stream into Srebrenica town seeking refuge.**



**11 July: Bosnian Serb forces enter Srebrenica and take over the town.**



“

“Here we are, on the eleventh of July of the year 1995, in Serbian Srebrenica. On the eve of yet another great Serb holiday we present this town as a gift to the Serb nation. The moment has finally arrived that, after the revolt against the Dahijas, we will have vengeance against the turks in this place.”

Ratko Mladić



# THE FALL OF SREBRENICA

## July 11 and 12:

Three meetings take place between leaders of the Bosnian Serb forces and DutchBat commanders to discuss the escalating humanitarian crisis. **Bosnian Serb forces eventually impose conditions for the evacuation of the Muslim population from the enclave.**



## July 12:

Before the third meeting at Hotel Fontana, Vujadin Popović, lieutenant colonel of the VRS and head of security and intelligence of the Bratunac Brigade, **informs his colleague Momir Nikolić that thousands of Bosnian Muslim women and children from Srebrenica will be transported out of Potočari....**

23 ►

CANVA STORIES



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**... and that able-bodied men will be separated from the group, detained temporarily in Bratunac, and then executed.**

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**July 12:** Thousands of Bosnian Muslims flee Srebrenica seeking refuge at the nearby UN base in Potočari. **By morning, up to 30,000 Bosnian Muslims, mostly women, children, and elderly, are in the area surrounding the UN base.** They will be forcibly transferred from Potočari to Kladanj, in territory controlled by the ABiH.



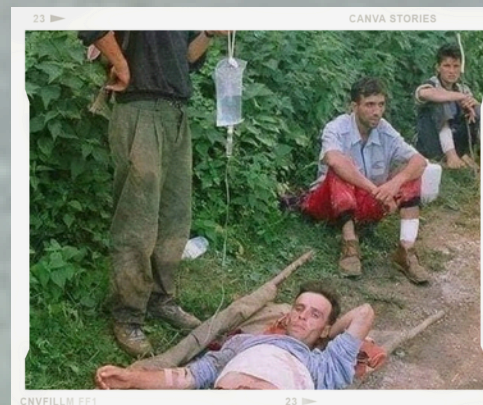
Bosnian Muslim men and boys captured in Srebrenica and its surroundings are detained before being transported to execution sites in the municipalities of Bratunac and Zvornik.





# THE DEATH COLUMN

Fearing the potential consequences of staying at the UN base, between 10,000 and 15,000 people, mostly Bosnian Muslim men and boys aged 16 to 65, formed a column about 10 kilometers long and headed towards Tuzla — in territory controlled by the ABiH.



Thousands of them were captured by Bosnian Serb forces and held in several locations — including in the villages of Konjević Polje, Sandići, and Nova Kasaba.

6,000 of them were killed by Bosnian Serb forces.



Bosnian Serb forces carry out extensive searches of the surrounding areas to capture Bosnian Muslim men and boys fleeing from Srebrenica.

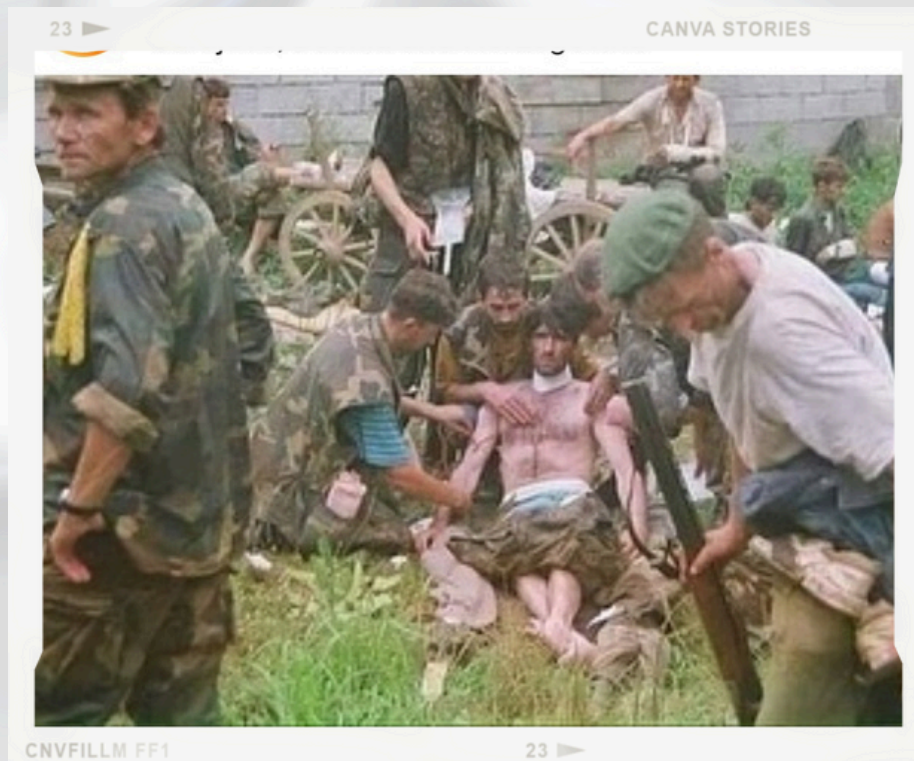
Some are killed with wrists bound by ligatures, some are killed while blindfolded, and some are killed with their final moments being filmed.





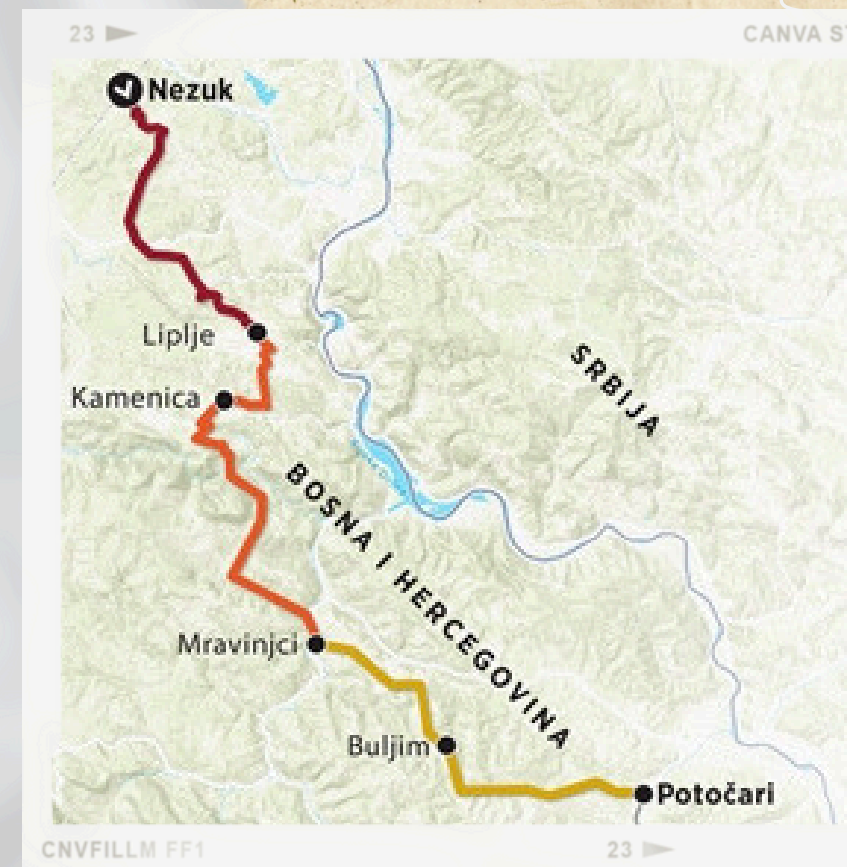
# THE DEATH COLUMN

The first survivors of this death column arrived on July 16 in free territory at Nezuk. It took some of them 3 months to get there. They marched at night and avoided ambushes.



In an effort to conceal evidence of mass executions, Bosnian Serb forces, with the assistance of civilian authorities, exhumed bodies from their original graves and re-buried them in remote secondary graves.

These secondary sites contain male bodies, many showing signs of gunshot wounds, with some still bound.





# GENOCIDE IN SREBRENICA

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) tried 20 individuals for crimes committed in Srebrenica in July 1995 and found that **the mass killings of Bosnian Muslim men and boys from Srebrenica constituted the crime of genocide.**

*Genocid*

The Genocide is commemorated every year on the 11th of July in Potočari on the territory of RS entity in BiH.





# Source and more on the chronology of the genocide :

Some photos used for illustrative purposes are not original but are taken from the movie "Quo Vadis, Aida". For further information, please visit IRMCT's Srebrenica timeline and the ICTY's indictment of Tolimir.



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