



*The International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals ("Mechanism") was established on 22 December 2010 by the United Nations Security Council to continue the jurisdiction, rights, obligations and essential functions of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda ("ICTR") and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia ("ICTY") which closed in 2015 and 2017, respectively.*

# STATEMENT

PROSECUTOR

*(Exclusively for the use of the media. Not an official document)*

11 July 2025

## **30th Commemoration of the Srebrenica Genocide 11 July 2025 Remarks by Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor, ICTY & IRMCT**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Survivors, Mothers and families,

Dear Munira,

30 years ago, 8,000 men and boys from Srebrenica fled this area to seek refuge. What had been a "safe area" no longer was.

In the days that followed, they were pursued, captured, abused, tortured and executed. It was a deliberate campaign of crimes that continues to shock the conscience of the world.

30 years later, how do we honor their memories?

We honor them by speaking the truth. This was a genocide.

To destroy the people of Srebrenica, those innocent men and boys were murdered, while 30,000 women, girls, children and elderly were forced from their homes.

The Genocide here was not an isolated atrocity. After more than three years of ethnic cleansing, the decision was made to destroy Srebrenica, to destroy what still remained of the Bosnian Muslim community.

The courts, the international community and history call what happened here by its rightful name, the "Srebrenica Genocide".

We also honor the victims by naming the perpetrators like Karadžić and Mladić. These cruel men abused their power and authority.

Their actions brought suffering not only to their victims, but to entire communities including their own.

But they were brought before the ICTY to stand trial. And with immense courage their victims testified to their crimes.



Today they stand convicted and known by history as among the worst war criminals.

To honor the victims:

We must affirm the truth, which means rejecting those who glorify war criminals and deny the genocide.

We must achieve more justice for the victims, which means calling out countries that are failing to provide it.

And we must find the missing.

It is time that returnees can live in their homes in peace, free from fear, abuse and threats. These places must embody reconciliation, not the politics of the past.

Finally, we honor the victims by honoring you: the survivors, the Mothers and the families.

For 30 years, you have fought. For recognition. For justice. For restoration.

And you succeeded.

Thanks to you, the Bosnian Muslims of Srebrenica were not destroyed. Your community lives on through the next generation, and will for generations to come.

And Srebrenica has become a symbol of hope. Because you – despite everything – overcame the past and turned Srebrenica into a lesson for the future.

So, in closing, I would like to say to the survivors, the Mothers and the families: You are the heroes. You are the guardians of the truth.

You are an inspiration to the world.

We are humbled by your example.

And it is for all of us here today – all of us – to stand with you.

To fight alongside you.

To remember with you.

And to ensure that the memories of your husbands, brothers and sons live on, in truth, in justice and in peace.

Thank you.

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