

REPORT ON THE STATE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOSNIA &
HERZEGOVINA IN THE YEAR 2006

**IZVJEŠĆE O STANJU LJUDSKIH PRAVA
U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI
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INTRODUCTION

Regardless of where in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the BiH, or BH) they are situated, the citizens of this state continuously have difficulties in realizing their constitutionally guaranteed human rights. Despite it being under the specific protectorate of the international community for eleven years already, the polarized society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not only failed to emerge from the crisis caused by the war, but this crisis has even further intensified resulting in the divisions among its three constituent groups to become even deeper.

Through the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina¹, as a concession to peace, the “law of the strongest” was legalized and the state of the “ethnically cleansed” areas that were established by the war, aggression and open genocide. Although some benefits relating to the end of hostilities arose from the Dayton Agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina remained completely paralyzed especially in its economic and democratic development by the new complex and dysfunctional state organization.

The unsustainable state organization is an obstacle to the democratic, economic, and social progress of the state. For the given reasons, Bosnia and Herzegovina remain last in line of European states waiting for the desirable association with the European institutions. The unjust constitutional and legal organization and non-functioning of the rule of law, has meant that even in 2006 the largest number of citizens of this country are being exposed to utter poverty and social uncertainty. It is obvious that the international community’s project in Bosnia and Herzegovina reached a dead end and that from the very beginning it has not led to the affirmation of the high human rights standards proclaimed first of all in Annex IV and in the other Annexes to the Dayton Agreement such as Annexes VI and VII. Although the international community has been actively present at all times in our country since the end of war, it has not yet achieved the necessary minimum standard for a civilized civil democratic state.

Through the unjust solutions from Dayton which divided the state into two ethnical entities, i.e. the way that it was planned by the war lords, it prevented the creation of preconditions for the sustainable return of refugees and displaced citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This same reason prevented a solution to the very complex and important issue of the relations among the three constituent groups of this country. Due to all these reasons the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina are still suffering from general poverty and the deprivation of rights. The Dayton Agreement and the acts of the international community after the conclusion of the Agreement have failed to remove the causes or consequences of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The national politicians largely contribute to this as they care only for their own benefit and interests of their parties instead of the benefit of the citizens.

¹ General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter the „Dayton Agreement“) was initiated in Dayton (USA) on 21 November 1995, and officially signed in Paris on 14th December 1995.