

REPORT ON THE STATE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA IN THE YEAR 2007

**IZVJEŠĆE O STANJU LJUDSKIH
PRAVA U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI
ZA 2007. GODINU**

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PREFACE

The public has generally lost sight of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is true that the international community, in particular also the European Union, continues to render its indispensable services. But the attention of the political world is in fact focused on the pressing problems in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo, and this for various reasons. Therefore, it is certainly no accident that there is hardly any prospect of reasonable, tangible and durable plans for the development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Instead, a cynicism driven by frustration threatens to spread among the people, which is often disguised as realism. The question remains as to how the international community, in particular the European Union, intends to fulfil its responsibility. Primary responsibility must remain in the hands of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, of course. However, this good basic attitude must not prevent the international decision-makers from keeping out of the difficult conflicts related to Bosnia and Herzegovina. This way of handling the situation – which is characterized by a sometimes understandable political reluctance – does not only undermine the required solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but is also a short-sighted and imprudent approach.

The greatest threat to Bosnia and Herzegovina today is emanating from indifference and the temptation to search for simple answers. This report on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has been presented by the local Commission for Justice and Peace on behalf of the Bishops' Conference, shows that the problem of poverty with all its typical consequences is aggravating every year. The resulting problems and dangers faced by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the regional neighbours and all Europe can only be addressed in a joint effort. A reliable, determined and considerate dialogue and a great readiness to learn are indispensable prerequisites for this path. If this year's report can make a contribution to this, it will have fulfilled its purpose.

+ Dr. Stephan Ackermann

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