

## Press kit

# Barcelona and Sarajevo remember the **Srebrenica genocide** on its 20th anniversary

More than 8,000 people were killed on July 11th 1995 by the troops of General Ratko Mladic' in the **Srebrenica** region, nowadays Bosnia and Herzegovina. These events took place 20 years ago; they constitute the first legally established case of **genocide** in the European continent, and the largest massive killing in Europe after the Second World War. The current list of missing people includes **8,373 names**, most of them of kids and men.

The enclave of Srebrenica had been declared Safe Area in 1993 by the United Nations Organisation, and it had an important population of Muslim refugees coming from other regions of former Yugoslavia. A detachment of 400 Blue Berets from the Netherlands were there to protect them, but none acted accordingly when needed. Concurrent with the massacre, female refugees in this town were also the victims of many acts of violence, such as torture and rape.

Beyond the atrocities committed there, Srebrenica is a symbol of the most obscure aspects of the wars that took place in the Balkan area from 1991 to 1999, after the disintegration of Yugoslavia: war crimes, systematic crimes against Humanity, abandonment of the civilian population, emergence of political organisation and practice of fascist inspiration, cynicism of international powers, and ineffectiveness of Europe.

Nowadays, twenty years later, the name of Srebrenica inspires also other positive, nobler values such as solidarity, mobilisation in favour of victim reparation, the spirit of reconstruction, the will to keep the memory of what should never have happened and should never happen again. On July 2010, exactly fifteen years after the massacre, a huge stream of thousands of activists for Human Rights from all around the world accompanied the victims of the genocide in a march culminating in the burial of the mortal remains of 800 people who had been in different mass graves that have been opened during the recent years. Nowadays the opening of mass graves still continues.

The **European Observatory on Memories** of the Fundació Solidaritat (Universitat de Barcelona) is organising a series of activities in **Barcelona** and **Sarajevo** aimed at gaining insight on the causes and consequences of the Srebrenica genocide. We count on the support of the European Commission and the City Council of **Barcelona**, and with the collaboration of Fundació Districte 11, IGMAN Acció Solidària, Institut Català Internacional per la Pau, Fundació Pau i Solidaritat, the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Foundation of Local Democracy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>**

## **Roundtable**

In this debate we will focus on the causes and consequences of the Srebrenica genocide and the Balkan Wars, from the wider perspective given by the passage of time. Among the main issues we will address, there is the role of the international community in the Balkan's conflict, the current situation in the region – in which there are some persisting tensions such as ethnic disputes in Kosovo and Macedonia, and the situation of the women in the region before, during and after the conflict.

### **Agenda:**

Date: July 9th 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Aula Capella - UB Historic Building

[Pl. Universitat, Barcelona](#)

**Moderator:** Dr. [Carne Panchón](#), Vice Rector for Administration & Organisation. Professor at the Pedagogics University of the Universitat de Barcelona [@CPanchon](#)

[Manel Vila](#) international cooperation expert recognised for his close ties the city of Sarajevo during the Bosnian war. Founder of [Districte 11](#), a foundation devoted to reminding of and promoting the experience of solidarity, cooperation and difficulty-overcoming among citizens during periods of conflict and post-conflict. [@districte11](#)

[Nicolás Valle](#), international journalist at TV3, author of *Secrets of War* (Ara Llibres, 2012) and *Ubuntu* (Proa, 2008). [@NicolasValle](#)

[David Bondia](#) professor of the Departament of International Public Law and International Relations of University of Barcelona, director of the Human Rights Institut of Catalonia - [Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya](#), and member of the board of University of Barcelona Solidarity Foundation [@IDHC](#)

[Eulàlia Pascual Lagunas](#), lawyer specializedn in Human Rights and gender issues, member of the board of the **Institut Català Internacional per la Pau (ICIP)** [@ICIPeace](#)

**Dijana Delic**, ciutadana de Bòsnia i Hercegovina resident a Sant Celoni, va arribar a Catalunya ara fa 20 anys, fugint de la guerra.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1456039728050286/>

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**July 11<sup>th</sup>**

## **Public ceremony for the recognition of the Srebrenica genocide**

Simultaneous commemoration in Barcelona and Sarajevo with the support of Fundació Districte 11, and the History Museum and the Foundation of Local Democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Barcelona: The voices of Srebrenica**

Location: Square of **Born Centre Cultural**

Time: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Collective reading out of the 8,873 names of the victims of the massacre who have been identified. This event is organised by Fundació Districte 11 in cooperation with several local organisations and the support of the City Council of Barcelona; the artist and peace activist **César López** is in charge of closing the event with his concert-manifesto "**L'Escopetarra**".

**César López** was born in Bogotá, Colombia; he is a multi-instrument musician, and the inventor of the [Escopetarra](#), a guitar made from an AK-47 rifle. He is also the founder of **Battalion of Immediate Artistic Reaction**, a group of musicians and activists who seek alternatives to the existing violence in Colombia. He was named Non-Violence Messenger for the United Nations, and Awareness Emissary for Amnesty International.

Further information: <http://11juliol.districte11.org/>

### **Sarajevo: Guernica-Srebrenica. Life goes on**

Location: Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Time: 20 p.m.

Performance + projection of the 8,873 names of the victims of the massacre who have been identified on the façade of the **Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Performance includes live graffiti, music and video art, and it symbolises the twinning of the two populations who resisted death and barbarism.

The artists are members of [Kolektiv Kreativa](#) (YAGE), a self-organised group of multimedia artists and activists founded in Sarajevo in 2009. It is a unique collective, and its actions have a strong impact on the country's artistic scene, as well as on independent art venues around the world. This performance features the multimedia artist [Sasa](#)

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[Pesevski](#), the musician [Muhamed Barucija](#) and the graphic artist [Rikardo Druskic](#).

## Exhibition

### **Srebrenica, memory of a genocide**

Photojournalist **Alfons Rodríguez** took these photographs during the international march of Srebrenica in July 2000 within the framework of a proposal by **Fundació Solidaritat (University of Barcelona)** and the **Fundació Pau i Solidaritat (Comissions Obreres trade union)**, with the support of the **International Catalan Institute for Peace**. During that trip 15 years after the massacre Rodríguez became a witness of the collective burial of the 774 bodies that had been identified until then. The images follow the path of the march: in Belgrade, where the existing debate at the core of the Serbian society about what happened in the 90s within the borders of the former Yugoslavia still persists today; on the way from Tuzla to Srebrenica, people marching and people watching by the road; in Srebrenica, the protagonists, those who experienced what happened, who lost their beloved ones, who witnessed the burials and remember the places.



10 July - 30 September 2015

[Historical MMuseum of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)  
**Sarajevo**

14 - 26 July 2015

[El Born Centre Cultural](#) **Barcelona**

### **The photographer**

[Alfons Rodríguez](#) work in cooperation with several organisations such as United Nations, Médecins Sans Frontières, Action Contre la Faim, Mon-3, OXFAM and Fundació Solidaritat UB, he has covered through photography the conflicts in Iraq, North Korea and Democratic Republic of the Congo, focusing on subjects such as Leprosy, AIDS and Ebola. Among his far-reaching projects there is *The Third Rider, Hunger and Malnutrition in Earth* on starvation around the world, and *Genoscidere*, an approach to the traces of genocides in the 20th century. His work *Srebrenica, memory of a genocide* is included in the latter. His work was honoured with awards in several occasions, and in 2011 he deserved the **Godó Award of Photojournalism** for one of the photographs of this exhibition.

Images: <https://copy.com/iJTVPh1BcrYPvbXi>

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## July 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> "Solidaris" programme Live from Sarajevo and Potocari

During July 10th and 11th, a team of the Catalunya Ràdio programme [Solidaris](#) will do a live broadcasting of the official commemoration events in memory of the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Agenda:

Date: July 11th

Time: 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Link to the programme: <http://www.ccma.cat/catradio/solidaris/>

## Pedagogical action

### **Giveaway of the book *Srebrenica*, by photograph Tarik Samarah**

In cooperation with IGMAN - Acció Solidària and the teachers' association Associació de Mestres Rosa Sensat, the European Observatory on Memories and Fundació Solidaritat of the Universitat de Barcelona will give away to schools in Barcelona 120 *Srebrenica* books with photographs by [Tarik Samarah](#), and pedagogical materials on the Balkan Wars. This action will take place at the beginning of next school year.

**Tarik Samarah** was born in Zagreb; he is of Bosnian and Sudanese descent. He spent years working on the project **Srebrenica, genocide at the heart of Europe**, a series of photographs which have been exhibited at the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC and at the United Nations in New York. The results of this work have become a book, translated into several languages. In Catalonia it was published by IGMAN - Acció Solidària in year 2008.

### **European Observatory on Memories**

EUROM's - [European Observatory on Memories](#) main aims are analysing and promoting public policies that help people to reflect on the most traumatic aspects of recent history such as the Srebrenica massacre, one of the most appalling events of the 20th century in Europe. EUROM is promoted by [Fundació Solidaritat de la Universitat de Barcelona](#) and the European Commission.

### **Contact**

Fernanda Zanuzzi

[observatori.memories@ub.edu](mailto:observatori.memories@ub.edu)

@euobmemories

+34 685821203

## Related resources

### The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

<http://www.icty.org/>

### Remembering Srebrenica

<http://www.srebrenica.org.uk/category/news/>

### Freedom House dossier on Bosnia and Herzegovina

<https://freedomhouse.org/regions/europe#.VYu2FKae1Sm>

### Genocide Watch

<http://www.genocidewatch.org/bosniaherzegovina.html>

### The concept of Genocide

Paul Boghossian, NYU

[http://www.academia.edu/241863/The\\_Concept\\_of\\_Genocide](http://www.academia.edu/241863/The_Concept_of_Genocide)

### [BBC Timeline](#)

**6-8 July 1995:** Bosnian Serb forces start shelling Srebrenica enclave

**9 July:** Bosnian Serbs step up shelling; thousands of Bosnian Muslim refugees flee to Srebrenica

**10 July:** Dutch peacekeepers request UN air support after Bosnian Serbs shell Dutch positions. Large crowds of refugees gather around Dutch positions

**11 July:** More than 20,000 refugees flee to main Dutch base at Potocari. Serbs threaten to kill Dutch hostages and shell refugees after Dutch F-16 fighters bomb Serb positions. Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic enters Srebrenica and delivers ultimatum that Muslims must hand over weapons

**12 July:** An estimated 23,000 women and children are deported to Muslim territory; men aged 12-77 taken "for interrogation" and held in trucks and warehouses

**13 July:** First killings of unarmed Muslims take place near village of Kravica. Peacekeepers hand over some 5,000 Muslims sheltering at Dutch base in exchange for the release of 14 Dutch peacekeepers held by Bosnian Serbs

**14 July:** Reports of massacres start to emerge

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