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## Interview: Nedzib Sacirbey

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# Kosovars have been sentenced to death

*Nedzib Sacirbey is Bosnia's Ambassador-at-large. He talked to EIR's Umberto Pascali on Sept. 30, upon returning from a visit to Bosnia for the Sept. 12-13 elections there.*

**EIR:** Mr. Ambassador, will NATO intervene to stop Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic in Kosova?

**Sacirbey:** When you are talking about NATO, people will ask you: What is NATO? All these discussions about NATO's intervention, NATO's action, all put NATO in a position where no one believes in NATO any more. Because it is better not to promise, and not to talk, than to talk and do nothing. Look at Bosnia; look at the indicted war criminals: NATO did not do anything. In the meantime, there are more than 300,000 refugees in Kosova, displaced people, so many burned villages, almost 1,000 ethnic Albanians killed, and the number is rapidly growing, but still we are looking for the proof. Well, today, we have the proof of this massacre near Pristina. All these people living in the mountains and woods in Kosova, in absolutely abject conditions, *they have been sentenced to be sick, and then die*. They are already getting sick because of the cold. . . .

**EIR:** Many governments and humanitarian organizations are warning of an impending "humanitarian catastrophe."

**Sacirbey:** Yes, but we have to point the finger at who is responsible. And probably, NATO is in part responsible, because they promised; many things and did nothing. This is a serious problem; this is also the main cause for what happened in Republika Srpska. . . .

**EIR:** In the recent election in the part of Bosnia inhabited by a Serbian majority, President Biljana Plavsic, who is supported by the West, lost to one of the supporters of genocide, the leader of the local Serb Radical Party, Nikola Poplasen.

**Sacirbey:** There is no doubt that the West and NATO contributed to it because their credibility is very low there, because of Kosova and because of Bosnia. Everybody believes that the West does not have any real power to put things together. If they had arrested and sent to the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, as it was said they would do, the voter turnout and orientation would have been different. If you are dealing with war criminals, you have to demonstrate to the average people that you do what you say. If you don't do that, the voters in Republika

Srpska remain under the influence of Belgrade and Milosevic.

**EIR:** Milosevic has been conducting his genocide in Kosova, saying that he is fighting "terrorism."

**Sacirbey:** What is happening in Kosova, the popular uprising against Milosevic, was provoked by the lack of human rights, respect, and dignity. The recruiting of Kosova Liberation Army (UCK) was triggered by Milosevic's atrocities. The problem is: Who brought Milosevic back into the game every time? At the time of the Dayton agreement, mediators had a position like: "When I want to have a deal, I will get it by pleasing the stronger and putting pressure on the weaker." Milosevic was given the position of "guarantor" of the agreement. Again, this approach was tried for Kosova. I do give Richard Holbrooke [Dayton mediator and U.S. ambassador nominated at the UN] credit for visiting Kosova and for meeting Kosovar leaders and militants. . . . I agree that the U.S. cannot accept Kosovars' goals of total independence as their own; but at the same time, the U.S. cannot bless Milosevic. Milosevic never respects any deal.

**EIR:** In fact, the genocide Milosevic unleashed in Kosova is a war against the civilian population.

**Sacirbey:** Yes, absolutely true. Milosevic is just killing people, destroying their means of existence. The UCK is a pretext. Paradoxically, maybe someone will ask: Did someone in the UCK have some kind of understanding with Milosevic? Because what Milosevic is doing is undermining the economic basis for the existence of people there. Bombing villages and towns, burning houses to the ground, destroying harvests, killing cattle—basically eliminating any means of survival.

**EIR:** What will happen now to the refugees?

**Sacirbey:** A NATO intervention is the key. Not in order to favor one side over another, but to create the basis to save lives. Again, I want to stress that we Bosniaks want to be friends with both Albanians and Serbs. So, NATO intervention is the first inescapable step if people really want to stop the humanitarian catastrophe. Will Milosevic succeed in postponing and avoiding intervention? It is possible, now that he is asking for "evidence" that his forces committed the massacres they committed. He also now pretends that his forces are withdrawing; thus, no need for air strikes. . . .

**EIR:** Does he hope to gain time?

**Sacirbey:** He has an expertise in pseudo-diplomatic tricks, pseudo-negotiations. What he has achieved now is a successful genocide. He has forced Kosovars back to a nomadic life. Because if these people are without livelihood, without villages, houses, if their crops are destroyed, this people cannot have the basis for existence there. . . . Milosevic wants these people, who have been hard working, productive, to lose the basis for existence. . . . What I ask for is: Protect human rights and human lives; reestablish economic justice.