

GREATER SERBIA MOTIVE BEHIND GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



Greater Serbia' motive behind genocide in Bosnia: Senator

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ISLAMABAD — The problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina is not an ethnic one rather it is clearly an attempt of Serbs to create a mythological and greater Serbia through the use of brutal force, and the genocide of the Muslims of Bosnia is being carried out with this motive, said Senator Khurshid Ahmad.

Speaking at Institute of Policy Studies here on Monday, Senator Khurshid said it was a certified fact that Muslims in Bosnia were from the same race called Slaves to which Serbians or Croats belong. Infact one sect of Christians known as Unitarians, who believed in one god and did not accept the concept of trinity, were the first ones to be impressed with Islam back in 12th century, in this part of the world.

The states like Kosovo, Bosnia, and Sanjak where the Muslims

inhabit in large numbers including other states of former Yugoslavia were part of the Ottoman empire. After the withering of the Ottoman empire the Muslims of these states suffered the atrocities committed by Austro-Hungarian empire, in late 19th century and at the hands of Serbs during the world wars, he added.

Even after the peaceful times after second world war the Muslims were the worst affected at the hands of the communist regime. Every attempt was made to secularise them and a cultural onslaught like changing their language and their living style was carried.

Prof. Khurshid said the present situation was not new and it had only been noticed after the disintegration of Yugoslavia, which had one of the largest armies in Europe dominated by the Serbs who constituted 80 per cent of it.

Now Serbs were using this tremendous force to enlarge their boundaries. "And they have already captured 70 per cent of the Bosnian land. And the massive genocide of the Muslims in the name of ethnic cleansing is being carried out thus insuring the European countries that Serbia will not allow any independent Muslim state in the continent," he added.

Prof. Khurshid criticised the attitude of proponents of new world order who had claimed that any state which would violate international law would be checked with the use of force, but they are content with so-called embargo which is more harmful for the Bosnians as they are in a landlocked situation, whereas Serbians have all land air and sea routes open for them. Thus the Bosnians continue to be slaughtered."

He expressed hope that the movement of Islamic revivalism which was very strong in Bosnia, would now keep them fighting for their survival. He urged Muslim states of the world, particularly Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Egypt to take firm stand and raise the issue at the world forum and in case there was no solution they should threaten Serbia with joint military action. This would make them stop their aggression and western countries would also sense the gravity of the situation and use their effort to stop Serbia, Prof. Khurshid argued.

He also stressed the need to mobilise the public pressure in the Muslim countries so that they could put pressure on their governments and make them come out of their docility.