

31 August 2026

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Urgent Concern Regarding Proposed State and Military Honours for Ratko Mladić

We are writing on behalf of **Bosnia & Herzegovina UK Network** to express our profound concern following the announcement by Serbia's Justice Minister that Ratko Mladić is to be accorded state and military honours at his burial.

Our organisation was established during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s by people directly affected by war, persecution and displacement. For 30 years, we have supported Bosnian refugees and survivors in the United Kingdom, including survivors and families affected by the Srebrenica genocide.

Ratko Mladić died while serving a life sentence following his final conviction for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. For survivors and victims' families, the prospect of him receiving official state or military honours is deeply distressing. It risks glorifying a convicted war criminal, encouraging genocide denial and historical revisionism, and undermining reconciliation and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider Western Balkans.

We are immensely grateful for the United Kingdom's exceptional and longstanding commitment to Srebrenica remembrance and to supporting survivors. The UK has developed one of the most extensive programmes of Srebrenica commemoration anywhere in the world, with remembrance taking place at both national and local levels.

We particularly recognise the important role of the United Kingdom in supporting the **2024 United Nations General Assembly resolution establishing 11 July as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica**. Significantly, the resolution also condemns genocide denial and the glorification of individuals convicted by international courts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The United Kingdom has consistently called upon political leaders in the region to condemn the glorification of perpetrators of war crimes, reject genocide denial and respect the judgments of international courts. This principled position has been deeply valued by survivors and the Bosnian community in the United Kingdom.

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Against this background, **we respectfully urge His Majesty's Government to use its diplomatic influence and to raise this matter urgently with the Serbian authorities, with a view to discouraging any official state or military honours being accorded to Ratko Mladić.**

Our concern is not with his right to a burial or with private funeral arrangements. It is specifically with state or military involvement that could transform his funeral into an act of official honour or glorification.

For the survivors and families we support, this is not simply a matter of history. The glorification of those convicted of genocide and war crimes causes continuing pain to victims and risks undermining the difficult work of reconciliation undertaken over the past three decades.

The United Kingdom has stood alongside Srebrenica survivors for many years. At this deeply sensitive moment, we respectfully ask His Majesty's Government once again to use its voice and influence in defence of **truth, justice, remembrance and the dignity of the victims.**

Thank you for your consideration and for the United Kingdom's longstanding support for Bosnia and Herzegovina and its people.

Yours sincerely,



Zaim Pašić
Chairman
Bosnia & Herzegovina UK Network



Dr Anes Cerić
Chief Executive
Bosnia & Herzegovina UK Network
Honorary Consul of BiH for the Midlands

Cc:

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP – Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Lord Wood of Anfield – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

His Excellency Edward Ferguson – His Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia