

FOREWORD

The University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law (hereinafter: the Institute) is a key scientific and research institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina dedicated to the study and documentation of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, aggression, and other international crimes.

The Institute was established at the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by a Decree with Legal Force of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on September 4, 1992 (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, No. 16 of September 18, 1992). This Decree was confirmed by the Law on Confirmation of Decrees with Legal Force, adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on June 1, 1994 (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, No. 13 of June 9, 1994).

The establishment of the Institute in September 1992 took place under the most difficult circumstances of the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In such a historical moment, the need to collect, record, and scientifically process relevant facts did not represent a purely academic task, but rather an imperative of exceptional social and state importance. From its inception, the Institute has played a key role in documenting crimes, collecting credible sources, and establishing a scientific foundation for understanding the scale, patterns, and character of the crimes committed.

The founding and operation of the Institute represent an institutional response of the state and the academic community to the gravest violations of international law committed during the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through continuous scientific research, documentation, and publication of results, the Institute contributes to preserving judicial and historical truth, advancing international law, and combating denial and relativization of crimes, thereby achieving lasting scientific and social value. In this way, the Institute performs a crucial

social function in building, maintaining, and developing peace and post-war recovery of the state and society.

The Decree with Legal Force established the Institute as a public scientific institution whose mission has been defined broadly and interdisciplinarily. Crimes are studied and analyzed from legal, historical, sociological, criminological, demographic, political, cultural, and other perspectives, which from the beginning has defined the Institute's distinctiveness and its pronounced scientific breadth.

The development of the Institute has unfolded through several stages, shaped by changing socio-political and economic circumstances. The most challenging period was from 1992 until the end of 1995, when the Institute operated under wartime conditions and, despite being in immediate danger, systematically collected documents, testimonies, and empirical data on the crimes committed. During that time, a research network was established, and the foundations of archival and documentation collections were laid. These collections were continuously expanded in the following decades and have become a cornerstone for numerous scientific studies, publications, and expert analyses.

In the post-war period, the Institute faced complex structural and financial changes, marked by persistent operational difficulties. Institutional and material challenges have remained present to this day. A significant degree of institutional stabilization was achieved in 2007, when the founding rights were transferred to the Sarajevo Canton, and the Institute became part of the University of Sarajevo's structure. The acquisition of full membership status within the University in 2008 further affirmed the Institute's scientific, social, and institutional importance.

The significance of the Institute is measured primarily by the results of its scientific research, which have been the foundation of its work since its establishment and will continue to serve as the basis for its future activities. Throughout its decades of operation, the Institute has developed a recognizable research and publishing profile. It has systematically collected and analyzed documentation on mass crimes, conducted extensive empirical studies, published scientific monographs, collected volumes, and other relevant works, and established continuous

cooperation with domestic and international academic and professional institutions.

The Institute's role is particularly important in the context of war crimes prosecution and peacebuilding, as the results of its research have been continuously used in expert analyses and forensic assessments in judicial proceedings, and have had a visible and documented impact in international judicial processes. The Institute's documentation, research findings, and expert reports have been utilized in the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), including in key cases related to genocide and other serious international crimes.

At the same time, the Institute has been and remains active in organizing and co-organizing scientific conferences and symposia, as well as in fostering a culture of remembrance and a research-based public discourse on crimes, including commemorations of anniversaries related to the genocide and mass atrocities. In this sense, both now and in the future, the Institute remains firmly committed to conducting relevant scientific research and implementing projects of lasting significance for science and society as a whole.

The Institute faces clearly defined challenges for its future development: ensuring long-term institutional stability; strengthening human and financial capacities necessary for conducting complex scientific and empirical research; the systematic development of the Archive and Library as the core infrastructure of knowledge; and enhancing the international visibility of its scientific results through publishing activities, cooperation, and active participation in relevant academic networks and databases. The Yearbook of the Institute has been established as part of this strategic commitment — as a platform of continuity, high academic standards, and international accessibility, as well as a space for the scientifically grounded, critical, and responsible publication of research results.

The Yearbook of the Institute was launched based on a Decision adopted at the session of the Institute's Council on December 27, 2024. This Decision formally established the publication of *The Yearbook* as

a periodical scientific journal of the Institute, aimed at the continuous dissemination of relevant academic and professional papers within the Institute's fields of research. The same Decision appointed Dr. Muamer Džananović, Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Institute, as Editor-in-Chief of *The Yearbook*, authorizing him to form the Editorial Board and carry out all professional, organizational, and technical preparations for its publication. In accordance with this Decision, the Director of the Institute issued, on April 14, 2025, the Decision on the Appointment of the Editorial Board Members of *The Yearbook* of the Institute.

The Editorial Board is composed of distinguished scholars and researchers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad, thereby ensuring a high level of expertise, interdisciplinarity, and international representation. Members of the Editorial Board include: Dr. Gregory Stanton (George Mason University, United States of America); Dr. Samuel Totten (University of Arkansas, United States of America); Dr. Eric Ndushabandi (University of Rwanda, Rwanda); Dr. Rosa Aloisi (Trinity University, United States of America); Dr. Onur Uraz (Hacettepe University, Republic of Türkiye); Dr. Nike Wentholt (University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, Kingdom of the Netherlands); Dr. Sarah Wagner (The George Washington University, United States of America); Dr. Selman Dursun (University of Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye); Dr. Hariz Halilovich (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology – RMIT, Australia); Dr. James Waller (University of Connecticut, United States of America); Dr. Adnan Jahić (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina); Dr. Ermin Kuka (University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, Bosnia and Herzegovina); Dr. Merisa Karović-Babić (University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, Bosnia and Herzegovina); Dr. Enis Omerović (Faculty of Law, University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina); Dr. Safet Bandžović (University of Sarajevo – Institute of History, Bosnia and Herzegovina); Dr. Zilha Mastalić Košuta (University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International

Law, Bosnia and Herzegovina); and Dr. Hikmet Karčić (University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Such a composition of the Editorial Board ensures a balanced combination of international and domestic academic expertise, as well as an interdisciplinary approach to the study of genocide and other crimes against values protected under international law. *The Yearbook* is thereby positioned as a relevant scientific publication with clearly defined academic standards and international visibility, consistent with the mission and objectives of the Institute.

The primary goal of *The Yearbook* is to establish lasting recognition through continuous and regular publication and to achieve indexing in as many relevant international academic and bibliographic databases as possible.

After the review process, it was determined that twelve papers were accepted for publication in the first issue of *The Yearbook*, followed by their summaries below.

In the paper by **Dr. Safet Bandžović**, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Sarajevo – Institute of History, titled **THE BRUTALITY OF WAR AND THE REACH OF DE-OTTOMANIZATION IN THE BALKANS (1912–1913)**, the author analyzes the Balkan Wars of 1912–1913 as a period marked by mass crimes and the persecution of Muslim populations. Particular emphasis is placed on the chauvinistic and religiously motivated violence carried out by the armies of the Balkan states against the Muslim civilian population of the Ottoman Empire. The paper examines the process of de-Ottomanization of the Balkans and its long-term impact on the ethnic and religious structure of the region. The author challenges dominant narratives of “liberation” and underscores the importance of viewing these historical events from the perspectives of all actors involved.

In the paper by **Prof. Dr. Enis Omerović**, Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Zenica, titled **“ETHNIC CLEANSING” – APRELUDE TO GENOCIDE, ITS INSTRUMENT,**

AND ITS AIM?, the author examines the legal nature and conceptual meaning of the term “ethnic cleansing” in international law, particularly in the context of the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The paper analyzes the use of this term in United Nations documents and international judicial practice to determine whether it constitutes a distinct international crime, a form of genocide, a euphemism for genocide, or a form of persecution as a crime against humanity. The research is based on the analysis of primary international legal sources, including UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, reports of the UN Commission of Experts, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as well as judgments and findings of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The author concludes that the analysis of the genesis, usage, and legal qualification of the term “ethnic cleansing” demonstrates that, particularly in the context of the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it functioned primarily as a political and diplomatic euphemism for acts which, by their structure, intensity, systematic pattern, and genocidal intent of their perpetrators, fully correspond to the characteristics of the crime of genocide.

In the paper by **Dr. Elvedin Mulagić**, titled **DENIAL OF GENOCIDE – THE CASE OF GENOCIDE AGAINST BOSNIAKS AND THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI**, the author examines the denial of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the genocide against the Bosniaks in Bosnia and Herzegovina, both committed nearly simultaneously and within the same international context of the 1990s. The author points out that the denial of both genocides was present even during their execution – on the international level through the actions of the United Nations and major powers, and in the post-genocide period through the activities of individuals, organized groups, and state institutions. Special attention is given to the different focuses of denial: in the case of the genocide against the Bosniaks, efforts to diminish or dispute the evidence of genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, and in the case of the genocide against the Tutsi, the relativization of the circumstances preceding the genocide and the number of victims. The paper identifies

common patterns and techniques of denial, emphasizing that their persistence reflects the survival of genocidal ideology and the serious risk of its re-emergence.

In the paper by **Dr. Almir Grabovica**, Research Fellow at the University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, titled **UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION AND THE GERMAN CRIMINAL CODE: APPLICATION IN GENOCIDE CONVICTIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**, the author analyzes the application of the principle of universal jurisdiction through the practice of German courts in prosecuting genocide crimes committed during the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The paper highlights that German legislation and international conventions enable the effective prosecution of the gravest international crimes regardless of where they were committed or the nationality of the perpetrators. The author concludes that universal jurisdiction represents an essential mechanism in the fight against impunity, contributes to international justice, and holds significant legal and historical value in confronting the past.

In the co-authored paper by **Bekir Hodžić** and **Dr. Sarah Snyder**, research assistant and visiting researcher at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, Rutgers University, titled **RECALLING SREBRENICA: FURTHERING EDUCATION ON THE GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA WITHIN THE UNITED STATES**, the authors examine the position of the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina within educational and curricular frameworks in the United States. They highlight the fragmentation of the American education system and the serious shortcomings in the recognition and representation of the Srebrenica genocide and the broader genocide against Bosniaks in curricula. Special attention is given to the challenges of developing teaching materials, including pedagogical sensitivity, trauma-informed approaches, accessibility of sources, and comparative genocide studies. The paper underscores the need for a more comprehensive and institutionally grounded approach to genocide education as an essential means of commemoration, historical understanding, and the prevention of future atrocities.

In the paper by **Dr. David J. Simon**, Director of the Genocide Studies Program at Yale University, and **Sophie Foster**, researcher in the same program, titled **RETURN AND BELONGING – THREE DECADES OF STRUGGLE IN SREBRENICA**, the authors examine the post-war process of return and reintegration of genocide survivors in Srebrenica. They analyze return as a legal and political mechanism that, while symbolically powerful, often overlooked deeper dimensions of belonging, security, and community restoration after genocide. Special focus is placed on the consequences of “domicide” and the limitations of restorative justice within the post-Dayton structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in the entity of Republika Srpska. The paper concludes that returning to a physical space does not necessarily equate to the restoration of social ties, and that the legacy of genocide continues to shape everyday life and the political reality in Srebrenica.

In the paper by **Tali Nates**, Director of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre, titled **USING MULTIDIRECTIONAL MEMORY TO LEARN ABOUT WAR AND GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 30 YEARS LATER**, the author explores the concept of multidirectional memory as an approach to learning about war and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Drawing on a comparative framework of South Africa, Rwanda, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the paper analyzes an exhibition connecting the experiences of apartheid, the genocide against the Tutsi, and the genocide in Srebrenica. Special emphasis is placed on the role of memorial and educational institutions in fostering critical thinking, dialogue, and understanding of atrocities committed. The paper highlights the importance of acknowledging victims’ suffering, mechanisms of justice, and education as essential elements of confronting the past and building responsible remembrance.

In the paper by **Dr. Zilha Mastalić Košuta**, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, titled **ORIGINAL GROUNDING AND METHODOLOGICAL APPARATUS IN THE PROCESS OF DOCUMENTING CRIMES AGAINST THE SERBIAN POPULATION IN SARAJEVO: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF**

LISTS AND REPORTS the author provides a critical evaluation of available lists and reports on killed and missing civilians of Serb nationality in Sarajevo during the period 1992–1995. The paper analyzes the reliability of published data through systematic source comparison, identifying methodological and evidentiary inconsistencies, and examining the causes of significant discrepancies among records. It particularly emphasizes that many lists were created under politically motivated and methodologically uncontrolled conditions, often lacking clear victim identification, proper source verification, or consistent data collection standards, leading to multiple errors, false identifications, and even the inclusion of living persons among the dead. These factors have contributed to the spread of misinformation in the public domain. The paper concludes that only a transparent, standardized, and scientifically grounded methodological approach can ensure the credible documentation of war crimes.

In the paper by **Dr. Merisa Karović-Babić**, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, and **MA Elvira Toković**, Research Associate at the Institute, titled **THE SIEGE AND KILLING OF SARAJEVO'S INHABITANTS IN 1992**, the authors present research findings on the number, identity, and circumstances of civilians killed during the first year of the siege of Sarajevo. The authors employ a precisely defined methodology and multi-source verification of primary historical data to determine the cause, manner, time, and place of each victim's death. The paper highlights the research challenges arising from the fragmented and incomplete nature of historical sources under conditions of mass crimes, particularly during the early phase of the siege. Based on critical analysis and comparison of sources, statistical data are presented for 5,904 individuals killed in Sarajevo in 1992, categorized according to relevant demographic and contextual criteria.

In the paper by **MA Mersiha Jaskić**, researcher at the Center for Social Research in Sarajevo, and **Dr. Jasmin Medić**, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Sarajevo – Institute of History, titled **SURVIVORS TO SPEAK THE TRUTH: CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN THE**

OMARSKA CAMP, the authors analyze crimes committed against female detainees in the Omarska camp during the period from May to August 1992. The paper is primarily based on testimonies of surviving women given before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which serve as key sources for reconstructing the conditions in the camp and the forms of violence committed. Particular attention is devoted to rape and sexual abuse as systematic forms of torture and instruments of ethnically and gender-based subjugation. The authors emphasize the importance of women's testimonies for understanding wartime violence from a gender perspective and their contribution to justice, academic research, and the culture of remembrance.

In the paper by **Prof. Dr. Pınar Akarçay**, Director of the International Institute for Genocide and Crimes against Humanity at the University of Istanbul, and **Hilal Ur**, graduate of the Master's Program in Genocide Studies at the same Institute, titled **"GENDERCIDE" AND RAPE AS STRATEGIC TOOLS IN GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA**, the authors examine the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina through a gender perspective, focusing on the systematic killing of men and the mass sexual violence against women as integral components of the genocidal strategy. The paper analyzes the genocide in Srebrenica as an example of a planned "gendercide," aimed at destroying the military and demographic potential of the Bosniak community, and rape as a consciously employed instrument of psychological, cultural, and demographic destruction. Drawing on the judgments of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the testimonies of survivors, the authors demonstrate that sexual violence was not an incidental byproduct of war but a deliberate strategic instrument of genocide.

In the **Bibliography** section, **MA Sadžida Džuvčić**, Language Editor at the University of Sarajevo – Institute for Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, presents **THIRTY YEARS OF PUBLISHING ACTIVITY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW (1995–2025): A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLICATIONS**. The

paper provides an overview of the Institute's publications from its first release in 1995 to the most recent works. The bibliographic entries are thematically arranged according to scientific disciplines, providing insight into the fields most represented within the Institute's publishing activity. Thus, the bibliography is not merely a list of publications but a systematic presentation of the continuity, thematic orientation, and scholarly consistency of the Institute's publishing output over the past three decades. The thematic organization of publications enables an understanding of the development of research interests, dominant scientific areas, and methodological approaches that have characterized the Institute's work since its establishment. This overview affirms the role of the Institute as a leading scientific institution in the field of research on genocide and other crimes against values protected under international law and provides a reliable foundation for future research, the evaluation of existing results, and the planning of further publishing and scientific work.

At the end of *The Yearbook*, Instructions for Authors are published, defining the main academic and technical standards for the preparation and submission of papers. Through these instructions, the Institute and the Editorial Board of the *The Yearbook* extend an open invitation to authors from Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad to submit original scientific and professional papers in the fields of genocide studies, crimes against humanity, war crimes, international humanitarian law, international criminal law, and related disciplines. In this context, the strategic commitment of the Institute is to establish the *The Yearbook* as one of the leading academic journals in Southeast Europe dedicated to these topics, grounded in high scholarly standards, international openness, and scientific relevance. In this way, *The Yearbook* aims to ensure continuity, academic credibility, and international recognition as the enduring features of this publication.

Sarajevo, December 2025

Dr. Muamer Džananović