
Interview: Djenana Veledar-Campara

Turajlic's murder was U.N. sabotage

Mrs. Veledar-Campara is the cousin of Hakija Turajlic, the late deputy prime minister for trade of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, assassinated by Chetnik killers on Jan. 8 while under the protection of the U.N. She is the vice president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Information Center and the vice president of the Bosnian Medical Relief Fund in Ottawa, Canada. The fund, which is mobilizing to send medical supplies to Sarajevo, can be reached at (613) 236-7752. She was interviewed by Umberto Pascali on Jan. 12.

EIR: What was the role of the U.N. in the assassination of your cousin?

Veledar-Campara: I think that the U.N. is very responsible and the least they can do—the very least—even when the investigations are over and some people have been punished, is to protect his wife and children and support them, financially support them, because no matter who is punished, the U.N. is directly involved in this murder. Involved either way: either by failing to protect him or by slipping some information to the killers; in any case, they are involved in the murder.

We will have our own investigation. The government of Bosnia is investigating the murder of my cousin. We do not rely anymore on the United Nations, believe me.

EIR: The U.N. announced an investigation—

Veledar-Campara: Yes. [Secretary General Boutros] Boutros-Ghali asked for a full investigation, but I do not believe him. Actually, the U.N. has completely lost any credibility. They have been losing it for quite a while, but now they have really lost it. Now you can really understand why the people of Sarajevo are so mad at the U.N., because they saw this a long time ago. Now, everything has come out. They are not protecting anybody. Ask yourself: Who knew the time and the way that the U.N. convoy would take Hakija to Sarajevo? The U.N. were the only ones who knew.

But let me start from the beginning.

First, the Serbian side did not allow Orhan Kilecoglu, the Turkish Minister of State for Humanitarian Issues, to enter Sarajevo to meet the deputy prime minister as expected. The U.N. actually agreed with this, and the Turkish delegation was blocked at the airport. So this meant that

they had to take Hakija to the airport.

Second, they knew exactly the time and the way back to Sarajevo. So the Serbians stopped him 400 yards from the airport. The U.N. commander [Col. Patrice Sartre] refused any help that was offered by Ukrainians and British officers, saying it was not a matter of weapons, but of negotiations. The Serbians wanted Hakija very badly; they asked the U.N. to give him up. There were these long negotiations, and the Serbians were moving around, and when the Serbian killer was in a position to see the back door of the armored personnel carrier directly, that door was opened. The poor man tried to lock himself in, but the door was opened from the inside, and the Serbian killer shot him, not with one bullet but with eight! Even if it was an automatic weapon, someone could have stopped him in that amount of time. They could have done a lot of things. That's why we think that it was U.N. sabotage.

EIR: Why did they want Hakija Turajlic dead?

Veledar-Campara: Hakija was an exceptional man, and an exceptional leader. He was the vice president of the biggest corporation in Bosnia and in former Yugoslavia, Energoinvest, he was also the president of the commercial division of Energoinvest. He was an electrical engineer, who started in the company when it was very small. So actually he brought up that company to be the biggest in former Yugoslavia and now in Bosnia. He was well respected for his competence and honesty. . . . He opened a lot of markets for Energoinvest, especially in the Middle East, Africa, also in Asia. I myself used to work in the computer sector of the company, generating computer networks. We constructed energy networks, high voltage lines for electric supplies to several Middle Eastern and African countries. There were several deals involving importing oil, because that was the only way we could get oil in Bosnia.

He had a huge network of contacts and friends all over the world. He was not political, he was involved in the economy, but I remember what very senior Bosnian officials used to tell me: "Talk to Hakija, he has a position higher than his official one." He was involved in planning the reconstruction of Bosnia. And many had promised him a lot of investments after the war stopped.

EIR: Obviously someone hated him for this.

Veledar-Campara: Yes, the Serbians did not like Hakija a bit, because of all the progress he represented potentially for Bosnia. This is why they did not want him there. You must understand, this is another aspect of the "ethnic cleansing": to kill all the most intelligent people first, because once they get rid of them, they have much less to fear. It is not just the case of Hakija, but also of many other specialists, doctors, economists. These are the first people to be killed over there. We tried to warn the U.N. about that in the past, but they did not listen.