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Interview: Steven Corkovic and Djenana Veledar Campara

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# Bosnians and Croatians must unite against Serbian aggression

*In January, the Bosnia-Herzegovina Information Office in Ottawa, Canada decided to react to the attempt to provoke a confrontation between Catholics and Muslims in Bosnia and between Bosnia and Croatia. The center created an executive committee that included four Catholics and four Muslims (see box p. 24). Below is an interview with Steven Corkovic and Djenana Veledar Campara, two leading members of the Ottawa Executive Committee, conducted by Umberto Pascali on Feb. 10.*

**EIR:** Your initiative coincided with the escalation of the propaganda on the so-called danger of Muslim fundamentalism in Bosnia. Recently, *EIR* published extensive quotes from a document prepared by Yossef Bodansky, the chief adviser of the Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional

Warfare of the House Republican Research Committee. The document, officially written as background information for Republican congressmen, justifies the genocide against Bosnia as "Iran's European Springboard." It is a clear attempt to provoke a conflict between Catholics and Muslims, and Croatians and Bosnians, and an explosion.

**Corkovic:** Yes, as a Croatian I can answer that I was aware, we were well aware of this machination. There is nothing further from the truth. I am a Catholic, a Croatian, and I cannot remember any Croatian ever saying anything about "fundamentalism" in Bosnia. I do not think many of us even knew the word before.

Yes, we got together and we discussed this attempt to provoke a split and a conflict. We decided to fight it. We issued a statement, where we outlined our opposition. We

● that hundreds of years of our history provide a testimony of a peaceful and respectful coexistence of our peoples, a veritable example for the world community, opposite to the picture portrayed by the western politicians and media.

● that throughout our beloved country Bosnia-Herzegovina one could witness numerous mosques and Catholic churches standing side by side for centuries until the Serbian aggressor destroyed them both;

● that "hatred" together with "warring factions," "ethnic cleansing" and other labels have been intentionally promoted by the world political bodies to deceive the public and cover up the world political bodies' unimaginable unwillingness to put a stop to a genocidal aggression in the midst of "cultured" Europe; moreover the world political bodies have spread these deliberate "hate"-lies and cover-ups because their own Charters and Final Acts are overflowing with statements of resolute actions when confronted with genocidal atrocities;

● that "hatred" statements are promoted by the leaders of the highest "democratic" world body, the U.N. Security Council, whose five permanent members have all perpetrated massive slaughters of Muslims in their

recent histories.

One of the purposes of these lies and labels is to withhold legitimacy from the Bosnian government as anything more than a caretaker for refugees, to allow and help Serbs to continue and "prove" with overwhelming military supremacy and heavy artillery, with genocide over children, women and elderly, that the Bosnian government is not capable to keep the law and order among the "ethnic clashes," and finally to mask the heroism of Muslims and Croats, defenders of Sarajevo and many other cities and villages of Bosnia, defending their homes against a ruthless aggressor, taught by its leaders and their advisers-psychiatrists the "art" of Goebbels's *Schrecklichkeit* to achieve its goals.

In view of all this the BH Exec demands from the Canadian and World politicians and media:

To put an immediate stop to referring to legitimate Bosnian government armies as "warring factions," thus equating them with terrorist factions that, with the help of the Serbian-Yugoslavian Army, took arms against the sovran state of Bosnia-Herzegovina. . . . This equates the legitimate defenders of a sovran state with the genocidal perpetrators of *Schrecklichkeit*. . . .



*Elke Fimmen of the German Schiller Institute addresses a rally in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, protesting the massacre in Sarajevo in May 1992. There were 5-6,000 people at the demonstration.*

would like our initiative to have positive consequences here in Canada and the United States, and also in Bosnia and Croatia. If they were able to split us, then the Greater Serbians would not even need to fight us directly anymore. They could let us fight each other.

**Veledar Campara:** I agree completely. I knew from the beginning that this is just their excuse. The Greater Serbians have always pushed the idea that we Bosnians are radical fundamentalists. It is just an excuse so that they can pursue their plans.

Actually, it is not just trying to get rid of Muslims, but, as we can understand from other statements coming from other people besides the Serbians, there has been and there is a precise will to push these countries into war. They are not interested in peace in this part of Europe. If the U.N. and all the countries that are getting involved really wanted to stop the war, they could do it in a matter of days. They are using the excuse of fundamentalism just as a pretext to continue the war. We take this attempt very seriously and we know exactly what they did and what they are trying to do.

**EIR:** Mrs. Campara, you are the cousin of Bosnian Deputy

Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic, who was killed by Chetniks while under U.N. protection. To stop the U.N. armored vehicle transporting Mr. Turajlic, the Chetniks used the sickening pretext that the vehicle was transporting fundamentalist terrorists. Then the U.N. conducted an investigation, and at the end, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali declared that Mr. Turajlic was de facto responsible for his own assassination because he had insulted one of the Chetniks who lost his nerve.

**Veledar Campara:** I do not know what to tell you. The U.N. leadership is blaming my cousin. They also say that he had received a Turkish delegation, and that the Serbians did not like that. It is worse than nonsense.

The Bosnia government is independent and sovereign and it receives any delegation from any government that wants to meet us. The U.N. does not say that the delegation was supposed to meet Turajlic in the Presidential Palace in Sarajevo, but because of the Serbian opposition—the U.N. had informed the Serbians—the meeting had to take place at the airport, and that made possible the Chetnik ambush of my cousin while he was coming back to Sarajevo. How can the U.N. decide who can visit our government? I ask: “Why the Turks, no; and President [François] Mitterrand, yes?” What’s the difference between Turkey and France? This is the line: I blame you, so you cannot blame me. Because they are responsible for that murder, and the U.N. must be held responsible to his wife and children.

The Bosnian government has rejected the results of the U.N. investigation and it is pursuing its own investigation, but I cannot say anything right now, probably very soon. . . .

**EIR:** An observer in Zagreb was telling me a few days ago that the Vance-Owen plan—and of course the update of that plan with Secretary of State Warren Christopher—can only be understood as a plot to stimulate more war, and to provoke bitterness in the Bosnians, and conflict between Bosnians and Croatsians.

**Corkovic:** I can’t understand how the whole world is buying this kind of a plan. We have a clear position. We had in Bosnia a democratic referendum where the Bosnian people declared they wanted a sovereign state, and therefore the Bosnia government has a clear mandate to establish a sovereign state, but they have never been given a chance. And now all of a sudden, there comes somebody like the U.N., to whom nobody clearly has given any mandate, especially not a mandate to divide a sovereign state . . . and they are brazenly and openly pushing against their own principles. It is unbelievable!

**Veledar Campara:** I would like to ask a few questions to the supporters of the Vance-Owen, and now Christopher, plan. One you have divided Bosnia into 10 separated provinces, or whatever you want to call them, does anybody think that a Muslim could circulate from one province to another,

crossing into a Serbian province? No! They would be killed, jailed, tortured—

**Corkovic:** This is an impractical plan and it does not have any purpose other than to create a state of total chaos and unrest, to create a region where you could have a war anytime you want.

**Veledar Campara:** The war will continue either way.

**EIR:** We have now this Christopher plan—

**Veledar Campara:** There is no difference. This reminds me of 1938-39, when Britain sacrificed Czechoslovakia thinking that Hitler would be satisfied. Now they think that Serbia will be satisfied if they can grab all these pieces and create Greater Serbia. But they won't because the leaders they have are real Nazis, and these Nazis will create other Nazis in other countries. This is even possible in Croatia and Bosnia, because there people are angry and nobody is talking about this. This is action and reaction. People are losing the idea of justice, they see the West ready to sacrifice a small country to Belgrade. They see the Greater Serbians threatening the whole world, and the whole world says, "Okay." This is what none of us can understand.

**Corkovic:** Even simple people can see that these criminals are not punished, justice is not done. Quite the opposite: It is rewarded. We have here in Ottawa a group of concentration camp survivors from Bosnia. They feel psychologically that they will never have peace until the criminals are brought to justice. They could never continue with their normal lives until that is done. And I am sure that the world community is aware of that, but it seems they do not care, they do not care about human beings.

**EIR:** This process of reaction you are talking about, the toleration of aggression, is working also in another way. The Greater Serbians are hoping that the more this process will go on, the more likely that the Russians—they call them "our Orthodox brothers"—at a certain point will intervene on their behalf. And there you have the recipe for World War III.

**Corkovic:** Exactly! That's why it is important to clearly identify who is at fault. As I always say, the U.N. and the other international bodies contemplate, in their charts and final acts, "resolute actions" against this kind of thing, against genocide and those who commit it. All the governments now say they are impotent to do anything, but their charts clearly state the opposite.

**EIR:** Vance said in an interview with the *New York Times* that nobody should approach the situation in former Yugoslavia from a moral standpoint. Your approach is the opposite: A moral standpoint is the only way. I think your example could reestablish a moment of sanity before more people, also in Croatia and Bosnia, are swallowed by the moral insanity fueled by the toleration of evil.

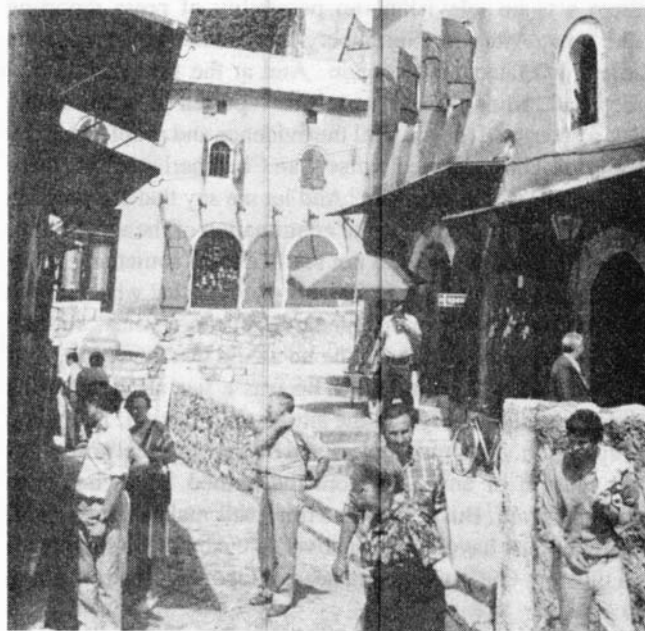
**Corkovic:** Yes. One could look at the case of . . . Boban

[the Croatian leader in Bosnia calling for a Croatian area independent from the Bosnian government—ed.]. Even if patriotism is understandable, Boban is making a bad situation worse by not stating clearly that what is he fighting for is Bosnia. Because [ethnic] Croats also voted for a sovereign Bosnia—and that position would help a lot. The position he is taking now is just creating more chaos and uncertainty in an area that certainly does not need it.

Yes, we in Ottawa want to be an example of collaboration. We must look to a two-year-old experience fighting together against the aggressor, and that's what both sides stated. Once they have fought together it is impossible to push Catholics and Muslims one against the other.

**EIR:** How do you see the role played by the Schiller Institute?

**Corkovic:** I came across the Schiller Institute when the war in Croatia started. I got involved quite a lot trying to inform the media, I thought that they did not understand because they did not have the facts. And I tried hard, but was getting nowhere. I couldn't understand why. Then I came across the Schiller Institute and I noticed their position was firm and clear from the start, they never changed, they have been consistent all the way. They stood for truth when truth was not fashionable. They were expressing what I and many others stood for. I was really surprised when Amelia Robinson, a great fighter for American civil rights, spoke on behalf of Croatia. I just couldn't believe it. So what the Schiller Institute did was a great help. Through their publications I also understood many of the machinations. . . .



*Mostar, one of Bosnia's most picturesque cities, where Muslims and Catholics lived side by side for generations, in a view from 1985. Now it has been subjected to Serbian "ethnic cleansing."*

**EIR:** Let me read for you a quote from an interview with Lyndon LaRouche yesterday. "We should say clearly what is the truth, that Vance and Owen, and Lord Carrington before, are worse criminals than Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier at Munich in 1938. We should treat them with contempt. The U.S. government and the Europeans should simply say that whatever Boutros-Ghali and his crew think they are doing in setting up a U.N. world empire, we are not going to tolerate it."

**Veledar Campara:** I agreed completely. Actually, we must say that Warren Christopher took the opposite position. I have been saying for quite some time that when many countries realize what the U.N. is all about, they are going to pull out.

I want just to remind you about the expulsion of the Palestinians lately and how the U.N. dealt with it. But more in general, what have they done with the Palestinians? They have created terrorists out of them. Their lands were taken. The U.N. was supposed to protect them and go after these people who occupied their lands. But they did not do anything. This reminds me closely of the case of Bosnia. They want to create terrorists out of us. We are already like the Palestinians—we have no place to go back to, no home, no homeland. Actually, they came out with the story that the Palestinians are all terrorists because they fight for their land. You see? And that's what they are doing to us. So why does the U.N. exist? What did they do with Iraq, with Kuwait? Tell me that the situation couldn't be solved in a peaceful way. But they didn't even try. Yes, these people are worse than Chamberlain. I agree completely with Lyndon LaRouche.

**Corkovic:** I also cannot but agree completely with Mr. LaRouche, especially considering that before World War II there was no television, no possibility of press reporting like now. After the Nuremberg trial, these western powers solemnly stated: never again. And at the first opportunity they had, when the genocide was reported in detail on the TV screens and they had all the evidence and proof, what did they do? They behaved worse than Chamberlain. Yes, these people are worse than him. And let me say that the position of Warren Christopher is the continuation of the same thing.

**Veledar Campara:** I did not really expect something. During the presidential campaign, we thought that what Clinton was promising was propaganda to get more votes, but still we had some hope that maybe he would do something. And now we must say that either he was a liar all along or he did not really understand the situation in Bosnia, he had no preparation. You must understand how people feel now, after the illusion of any help from the United States has been crushed again. But at the same time, this makes things clear, and we must have an alternative. We cannot be stuck with an illusion. Our government needs a lot of help, we are going to give it.

**Corkovic:** Although we feel bad about the position taken by Christopher, we are not surprised. We will try our best, to do what we think is right.

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## Interview: Dr. Ibrahim Rugova

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# Serbian war machine is threat to Europe

*The following is part of an exclusive interview given to Raynald Rouleau of Nouvelle Solidarité, by the President of Kosova, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova. The interview was conducted in French on Feb. 16 at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. It has been translated and made available to EIR.*

**Q:** In view of the inaction of the western countries like France, the United States, Canada, Germany, etc., in the face of this genocide by the Serbs, what would be the world impact if dictator Slobodan Milosevic decided to do to Kosova what his regime did to Bosnia?

**Rugova:** If they decide to attack Kosova, to open an armed front in Kosova, the impact would be much greater, because we are a little country with a great density of population, without any protection. We do not have any local police or defense forces, no self-defense. On the other hand, the Serbs already have a large number of troops stationed in Kosova. If something like that happens, it would be much more of a catastrophe than Bosnia or Croatia. Meanwhile, we have this continuing daily repression: weapons searches, arrests of [ethnic] Albanians, repression, imprisonment, etc.

**Q:** Why do you think that the western countries haven't done anything significant to stop this genocide in the Balkans? Are we reliving the era of Neville Chamberlain?

**Rugova:** There are many factors. Among other things, ex-Yugoslavia is a country that wasn't known. It was seen as one of the eastern European countries, but more moderate. Europe has learned slowly what was happening, what the problems were there in this ex-country. . . . The European Community, the United States, the international community must stop this war machine. Because if it continues, it will also destabilize Europe.

**Q:** This leads to my last question. Do you think that the present situation could lead to World War III?

**Rugova:** If this Serbian war machine continues, this National Communist [machine], it will also destabilize Russia. Because the opposition forces, hidden beneath the surface in Russia, will feed themselves with this Serbian nationalism and one day, do crazy things to the [former] Soviet Union.