

# Some Reflections on the Srebrenica Massacre

*by Edward Herman*

**This is the text of Prof. Edward Herman's videotaped message to the Serbian public for the occasion of the Round Table conference organized by Srebrenica Historical Project [\[1\]](#) at the Russian Cultural Centre in Belgrade on 5 April 2012 and devoted to the study "Srebrenica Massacre: Context, evidence, politics", which he edited. The Serbian translation of Prof. Herman's remarks was read by film producer Boris Malagurski, author of the noted documentary "The Weight of Chains".**

There are a number of oddities, even miracles, connected with the Srebrenica massacre that I would like to point out here. One is that a massacre was forecast in advance by Bosnian Muslim leaders, President Alija Izetbegovic and Foreign Minister Mohamed Sacirbey, who warned Western leaders of an imminent genocide several days before the Bosnian Serb entry into Srebrenica. There is also the oddity of the withdrawal of the Bosnian Muslim 28th Division from Srebrenica and failure to offer any resistance to the small Serb occupying forces. The flight of these soldiers, and many panicked civilians, through mine fields and encountering Bosnian Serb military forces en route, ensured many Bosnian Muslim deaths, and Bosnian Muslim General Enver Hadzihanovic stated that 2,628 soldiers of the 28th Division were killed in this exit flight. Yet another oddity of the claims about a Srebrenica massacre is that neither the media nor Tribunal mention or give serious weight to these combat deaths in giving totals for Srebrenica killings. From the very beginning the alleged 8,000 deaths there were claimed to be the result of executions. The combat deaths were disappeared.

The Tribunal disappeared them by stating that it "cannot rule out the possibility that a percentage of the bodies in the gravesites examined could have been of men killed in combat." It could equally have said that it couldn't rule out that some of those men had been executed, and on this important question it could have required a fuller examination of the bodies allowing it to compute probable numbers in various categories. The ICTY also enlarged the executed numbers by assuming alleged unopened graves would yield similar numbers, arriving near the desired total.

Another oddity and miracle is the preservation of that 8,000 total. It was produced long before any serious evidence of many deaths was produced, but the number has been sustained up to today, with its supporters still struggling to provide supportive evidence. In most cases initial death totals from disasters are inflated, and gradually fall, as with 9/11, where the total went down from 6,900 to 2,700. But for Srebrenica, stability prevails. The autopsy reports produced by the ICTY between 1996 and 2002 yielded evidence for only 1,923 dead persons, many clearly combat victims. More recently, the International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP) has claimed over 6,500 bodies whose DNA shows a link to members of the Srebrenica population. But this evidence has not been made available to the defense in legal cases, and DNA evidence cannot distinguish combat and execution deaths or establish time or place of death.

Of course there was also witness evidence. Most important was Drazen Erdemovic, who testified in all the major trials and was provided a safe haven by the Tribunal (and its NATO sponsors). He was a Croatian-born mercenary, whose small group of executioners was on vacation leave from the Bosnian Serb army and were paid off in gold when they did their work of killing an alleged 1,200 Bosnian Muslim prisoners. Erdemovic's story was implausible, full of contradictions, was not supported by searches of the killing fields, and his claimed actions were contrary to the interests of the Bosnian Serb command. But he was prepared to implicate them, so NATO and the ICTY loved him. He had 6 co-killers, but the ICTY has never called for even one of them to testify on this matter, and only Milosevic cross-examined him at all critically. That his testimony was fraudulent and the ICTY colluding in false witness is compellingly demonstrated in Germinal Civikov's "Srebrenica: The Star Witness".[\[2\]](#) (It is also demonstrated in my own edited volume on "The

Srebrenica Massacre: Evidence, Context, Politics”)[3]

The Western media have completely suppressed evidence from this book. They are part of a propaganda system that has made the “Srebrenica massacre” a protected area whose alleged truth serves Western interests as well as those of the non-Serb nations of the now dismantled Yugoslavia. The “massacre” has been a political triumph, for the Bosnian Muslims, the Croatians (then about to embark in one month on the ethnic cleansing of Krajina), and the United States, that could now justify directly attacking Serbia, building a gigantic military base in Kosovo, and embarking on other “saving missions” and “humanitarian intervention” over the entire globe.

[1] [www.srebrenica-project.com](http://www.srebrenica-project.com)

[2] You may download this book at:

[http://www.srebrenica-project.com/DOWNLOAD/books/Star\\_witness.pdf](http://www.srebrenica-project.com/DOWNLOAD/books/Star_witness.pdf)

[3] You may download this book at:

<http://www.electricpolitics.com/media/docs/herman.srebrenica.pdf>

View video of Prof. Edward Herman's remarks to the Serbian public  
at the April 5, 2012, Srebrenica conference in Belgrade:

[http://www.srebrenica-project.com/DOWNLOAD/video/Ed\\_Herman\\_About\\_Srebrenica\\_05\\_04\\_2012.mpg](http://www.srebrenica-project.com/DOWNLOAD/video/Ed_Herman_About_Srebrenica_05_04_2012.mpg)

[212.53 MB]

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