

# Dear Ms. Lauren Kleinman

dec 08, 2013



Bosnian American Institute and Education Center ( BAGI), SAD, is writing to in regards to the upcoming showing of “Ravna Gora” at E Street Cinema, Washington D.C., on December 11, 2013. **We are very alarmed that the respectable E Street Cinema will be showing this particular series because it deems to revise historical facts and is being used to glorify the terrorist Chetnik movement.**

BAGI is dedicated to scientific research pertaining to the genocide of Bosniaks during the Aggression on Bosnia & Herzegovina (1992-1995) and to educate others about the holocaust, genocide and other forms of crimes against humanity and international law. The purpose of the mission is reconciliation by teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice and indifference.

The process of reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the common life of all its constituent peoples must begin from the truth about the acts of aggression by Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro against Bosnia and Herzegovina, the genocidal policies which were created in Serbia and enforced in Bosnia, the truth about the genocide of Bosniaks (1992-1995)

and conviction of its perpetrators in the Hague International Court of Justice.

The Chetnik Ravna Gora Movement is a well known ideological movement, with the aim of spreading racist propaganda, ethnic hatred, and inciting terrorist activities against non-Serbs in former Yugoslavian states. Recent efforts to rehabilitate the Chetnik movement are especially evident through building of monuments to Draza Mihajlovic, a war criminal and general from the Second World War. The movement celebrates specific dates and acts of atrocities committed against the non-Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Chetniks – a Serb nationalist movement-infamous for using terror tactics against the non-Serb populations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Balkans, was responsible for aggression, genocide, ethnic cleansing of the non-Serb population and the ideology of creating a “Greater Serbia.”

This same ideology was adopted by Slobodan Milosevic, a war criminal and the former President of Serbia. The Balkan region saw a revival of the Chetnik movement during the 1990's Yugoslav wars where in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Currently, the region is still grappling with widespread genocide denial and this screening is an insult to the hundreds of thousands of innocent victims that lost their lives at the hands of such extremists and an insult to the survivors that to this day have not received proper justice.

Throughout the Second World War, the Chetnik movement collaborated with the Axis, and the Chetniks ended up fighting the Partisans instead of the occupation forces, and started cooperating with the Axis in their struggle to destroy the resistance, receiving assistance from German forces.

On December 20, 1941, the Chetnik supreme commander at the time, Draza Mihajlovic issued instructions to his commanders. Some significant parts of those instructions include the following language:

- The creation of Greater Yugoslavia, and within it Greater Serbia, ethnically clean within the borders of Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Srem, Banat, and Backa;
- The cleansing of all national minorities and anti-state elements from state territory;
- The creation of direct common borders between Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Serbia and Slovenia by cleansing the Bosniak population from Sandžak, and the Bosniak and Croat populations from Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- The punishment of all Croats and Bosniaks;
- The settlement of the areas cleansed of national minorities and anti-state elements by Serbs and Montenegrins (to be considered are poor, nationally patriotic, and honest families).

Out of 150,000 Bosniaks who lost their lives in World War II, some 100,000 were murdered by Chetniks.

.Moreover, and to our and the civilized world's utter dismay, the above goals proclaimed by the Chetniks before and during World War II, were quite successfully completed by Serbian forces which ethnically cleansed parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina during their aggression from 1992-1995. During the 1990's wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, Serb paramilitaries often self-identified as Chetniks. Vojislav Šešelj's Serbian Radical Party formed the White Eagles which was identified as Chetniks and committed numerous atrocities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an internationally recognized state and member of the United Nations, had suffered heavy losses during the aggression 1991-1995: over 100,000 killed ,mainly Bosniaks, and a lot more wounded. Over 200,000 men, women and children were kept in several hundreds of concentration camps and prisons. Over 20,000 civilians did not survive these camps, over 20,000 women and girls systematically raped and over 2 million innocent civilians displaced. Emigration to third countries was the condition for a large number of survivors to stay alive at all.

BAGI is warning that in the heart of Europe, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the genocide and atrocities have been committed against Bosniaks, a Serbian neo-Nazi and fascist movement is gathering strength. We must not let this happen. As much as Bosniaks stood side by the side of the allies fighting Nazis during WWII and fighting the terrorist threat in Europe during recent years, so the western world and democracies, especially the United States of America must fight the rise of neo-fascist movements such as the Ravna Gora Chetnik. The United States of America and Europa owe it to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially to future generations, to prevent the falsifying of history and to ensure our civilized society is built on strong foundations.

**As the voice of the victims, survivors and witnesses of aggression on Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are asking you to cancel the showing of the series “Ravna Gora” at the E Street Cinema.**

**Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Sanja Seferovic Drnovsek, J. D. and Ed. M.

Director, BAGI

