

Two panels at 47<sup>th</sup> Annual ISNA (Islamic Society of North America Convention). July 2-5, 2010

Friday,

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Session 2H

Room 30

**Aggression Against Bosnia Herzegovina & Genocide Against Bosniaks: Manipulation or Misinterpretation?**

The American Muslim community is aware of the atrocities and aggression against Muslims in Bosnia Herzegovina (1992-1995) and the genocide against Bosnians. However, what has happened since towards justice and to the Bosnians themselves? At both the political and societal levels in Europe and in the U.S., the facts have been obscured and the picture of what happened has been manipulated to portray the scenario as a civil war and not as the genocide that occurred. Among the American Bosnian community's victories is the recently passed State of Illinois' Resolution commemorating July 11, 2020 as the Remembrance of the Genocide of Srebrenica, where 8000 Muslim men and boys were executed in four days in 1994.

Speakers: Ida SeferRoche, Selena Seferovic, Sukrija Dzizovic

Moderator: Sahar Taman

Sunday

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Session 12K

Room 33

**Bosnian Community Session: Muslims and Islam of Southeast Europe**

Who are the Muslims of South East Europe; the Bosnians, the Montenegrins, the Kosovans and others? What is their history in Europe? What are their unique traditions and local Islamic religious culture? After the aggressions against the Muslims in the Balkans where are now in the United States and Europe? What are their concerns as a community regarding Islam and in dealing with the aftermath of the aggression? What are their accomplishments in the United States before the aggression as immigrants and after the aggression as a refugee community and what lessons can we learn from it as a large Muslim community.

Speakers: Senad Agic, Muaz Redzic, Amela Redzic

Moderator: Sahar Taman

Bios on hand

**Amela Redzic**

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Born in Bosnia in 1980, Amela Redzic is a graduate of the Gazi-Husrev Beg's Madrasa, a 473 year old school for higher education and the oldest educational institution in the Balkans. She

completed two years of Islamic Studies from the Faculty of Islamic studies in Sarajevo, Bosnia. She holds a BA in Religion and an MA in Administrative Dynamics from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. She is an experienced educator and has worked for several Islamic schools in the U.S. teaching Islamic Studies. She also worked as a school counselor for the Arizona Cultural Academy in Phoenix and currently serves as the coordinator for Youth programs in the Bosnian Cultural Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan

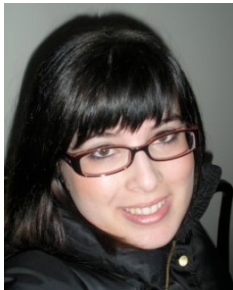
### **Muaz Redzic**

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Born in Bosnia in 1976, Imam Muaz Redzic currently serves as the imam of the Bosnian Cultural Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is a graduate of the Gazi-Husrev Beg Madrasa, a 473 year old school for higher education and the oldest educational institution in the Balkans. He holds a BA in Islamic Studies from Kuwait University, an MA in Religion from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a PhD in Islamic Studies from Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana. He has served as an imam in several Islamic centers in the USA from 2000 until present. He participated as a guest speaker in many panel discussions and forums throughout the U.S. at universities, churches and other institutions. He is a member of Islamic Association of Bosniaks in North America, where he serves as Director of the Religious-Educational Office. He is also a member of the North American Imams Federation.

### **Ida SeferRoche**

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Ida SeferRoche was born in Bosnia and moved to Canada with her family when she was eight years old. At the age of fourteen she moved to Chicago and received her bachelor's degree in Physics from North Central College in 2007 and is currently attending Loyola University in pursuit of a graduate degree in Social Work and Gender and Women's Studies. She is involved in the Bosnian American Genocide Institute and Education Center (BAGI), where she aims to raise awareness about genocide and other atrocities against humanity. She is currently in the process of developing a youth theater program in conjunction with BAGI to involve generation Ex-Y (Ex-Yugoslavian) in discussions about identity, community and reconciliation.

## Selena Seferovic

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Selena Seferovic is an educator, activist, and community organizer. She is the founder and director of the Bosnian American Library in Chicago which is celebrating its 10 anniversary and a board member of the Bosnian American Genocide Institute. Selena has written and translated several books and articles including the first text book for Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian refugees in the U.S. and, with her students, translated and published the book, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* into Bosnian which is now a part of the regular reading program for 8 graders in public schools in Bosnia Herzegovina. She teaches at Aspira Haugan School in Chicago and taught at Chicago Public Schools (CPS), focusing in special education, as well as being the CPS Bosnian bilingual facilitator, translator and presenter for South Slavic Languages and Cultures. She was formerly Assistant Professor in Balkan-Slavic Studies in Languages and Cultures at universities in Belgrade, Sarajevo, Skopje, and guest professor in China, Algeria, Geneva, Barcelona, and Prague. He is active with the Niagara Foundation, the Chicago International Visitors Center, the Chicago American Bosnian community and the Illinois Holocaust Museum. She holds an MA in Slavic Studies and is a PhD candidate at the University of Sarajevo.

## Senad Agic

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Imam Senad Agic is the current Imam of the Islamic Cultural Center of Greater Chicago in Northbrook, Illinois. Born in Bosnia Herzegovina, he received his Islamic education at the oldest educational institution in the Balkans, the Gazi-Husrev Beg Madrasa, in Sarajevo. At the University of Sarajevo he studied Islamic civilization and Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages and literatures. In 2004 he received the degree of Doctor of Ministry and in 2006 his PhD from the Graduate Theological Foundation in Islamic Studies where he is currently Professor of Islamic Studies. Imam Agic was the 2004 recipient of the Jalaluddin Rumi Prize in Islamic Studies and was named the Imam Malik Fellow of the Foundation for the most outstanding doctoral dissertation presented in the academic year 2006 in Islamic Studies.

Imam Agic worked at the Islamic Authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the first Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian dictionary of Arabic. His publications include; Immigration and Assimilation, The Bosnian Muslim Experience in Chicago and A Centennial of Bosniaks in North America, as well as other publications in English and Bosnian. He is married and is the father of two children.

### **Muaz Redzic**

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### **Amela Redzic**

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### **Sahar Taman**

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Sahar Taman is a consultant in cultural communications and transformative conflict. She works with American and international constituencies as well as the U.S. foreign policy community to nurture relationships between the U.S. and Muslim majority countries. She was the Project Director for the Religion

and Society Dialogue Program for the National Peace Foundation and the Islamic Society of North America. She developed the program to foster a dialogue between Muslim religious communities from the Arabic-speaking Middle East and American religious communities of all faiths as citizen diplomacy experiential workshops focused on the study of the many “places of religion” in American and Arab societies. She is the editor and managing editor of Reflections and Experiences of Religion and Society, 2010, a compendium of essays from 36 authors who are citizen diplomats. Sahar also has experience as an award winning grant writer. She has previously worked in the Executive Office of the President of the United States. She is a board member of the Bosnian American Genocide Institute and on the Charitable Giving Committee of the Islamic Society of Northern Wisconsin. Ms Taman received her Masters in Public Policy from the University of Chicago’s Harris School of Public Policy.