

## HIGHLIGHTS

❖ The Stabilization and Association Agreement between BiH and the European Union is available for readers at the BiH Parliament web page. The content of SAA is available at the front web page of BiH Parliament, under the link entitled "highlighted", BiH Parliament Office for Public Relations stated.

❖ Thanked to donation of Norway in the amount of about 20.000 KM and UNDP aid with 3.000 KM, National Library in Srebrenica reconstructed its premises for students and reading. They bought furniture and equipment for the reading room which now provides with new services - web page and internet, since six new computers were bought. The library now has more than 35.000 books. Reading room is equipped entirely and it will be open daily.

❖ BiH Defense Ministry announced the second public notice for recruitment of soldiers in professional military service of BiH Army Forces, valid to August, 4, BiH Defense Ministry stated. The announcement read that in total there are 541 vacancies in the military service for admission to professional service of BiH Army forces, where 202 vacancies are envisaged for Bosniaks, 204 for Croats and 135 for Serbs. Having in mind the fact that the candidates' documents were retained on which basis the candidates were called to testing on the public announcement, on March 27, these potential candidates can apply only by application form.

❖ Other interested candidates are obliged to submit the needed documentation, on the addresses stated in the announcement.

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## OPINION

# Where Will the Fingers Point to Next?

**For those who do reach closure, who are able to move on, there is no more finger pointing. They might wake up one morning and look at the world and their lives through different eyes. Then again, closure neither requires loving nor liking thy neighbor, but simply getting along with them in a civil manner**

The text message read, "Radovan Karadzic arrested." That explained the honking that I heard from my flat high above Marsala Tita. I was soon on the street to join the crowd that was forming in front of the Eternal Flame to celebrate this historic moment in recent Bosnian history. What better place to celebrate the arrest of one of the architects of the destruction of Bosnia and its people than the monument that commemorates the victims of an earlier war.

Not long after the crowd formed, the cars began to come to a halt, blocking the thoroughfare to all traffic; and the crowd began to chant, among other things, "Ovo je Bosna!" This spontaneous outpouring of energy that was heard throughout the city was itself a testimony to what the war and its carnage meant to generations of Bosnians.

Yet all were not pleased, as shown by a lone individual who darted through the crowd to attack the flame itself. No doubt this individual is not alone in harboring feelings that run contrary to those of many Bosnians. Just as important is how few people actually did take to the streets, a fact that some might not want to acknowledge. And when it comes to atrocities committed during the war, there are many others who need to be brought to justice, including the most well-known of them, Ratko Mladic. Perhaps Mladic will suffer a similar fate in the days and weeks to come if those who know his whereabouts want to collect a reward or simply want to do the right thing. If the day ever comes when justice is served to Karadzic and Mladic, then what? Where will the fingers point to next? Of course, there are many more persons who in some way contributed directly to the upheaval and carnage, and who have not been apprehended and sent to The Hague or elsewhere. Karadzic and Mladic were the evil strategists, never the trigger-pulling murders who looked into the eyes of their victims before silencing them. Thousands of other persons carried out the orders that flowed down the chain

of command. But at what point will the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina tire of finger pointing? How far into their own neighborhoods will they reach to achieve closure to what torments them?

By Professor  
Rory J. Conces

The rapture exhibited by many that night says a lot about the importance they had given to the apprehension of the Bosnian Serb leader and how cathartic the experience may have been for them. In a collective sense, closure might be brought about by dispensing justice to people like Karadzic.

But those persons whose loved ones and friends who were raped and murdered, or whose lives were destroyed in countless other ways, might not gain any closure, knowing that the culprits remain at large, possibly drinking coffee at the neighborhood café. Maybe these are some of the people who remained at home that morning, continuing to be tormented while others were cheering in the streets. If those who continue to suffer need the killers punished for there to be closure, then most of those people will continue to be tormented for years to come. In fact, there will never be an end to the grief of some, for there will come a time when the people at large will lose interest in searching amongst themselves for those responsible for past brutalities. No doubt this process of "moving on" has begun in the minds of some. The cruelest act will come when neighbor turns away from neighbor; when some are no longer willing to listen to a father's grief over his daughter's murder. For those who do reach closure, who are able to move on, there is no more finger pointing. They might wake up one morning and look at the world and their lives through different eyes. Then again, closure neither requires loving nor liking thy neighbor, but simply getting along with them in a civil manner. It is not reconciliation. That is when some difficult choices will be made about rebuilding relationships. When that time comes I wonder how many will find their way to the Eternal Flame to shout "Ovo je Bosna!"