

**Seminar „War crimes, genocide and memories“  
08.-14. Mai 2006, Dubrovnik, Kroatien**

In the South of Croatia, in the beautiful city of Dubrovnik students, professors and regional experts met in order to discuss the topics War crimes and Genocide. The seminar was organized at the *Inter University Center* (IUC) in Dubrovnik. The course director was Ph.D. Janja Bec-Neumann, who taught lectures in the winter term of the academic 2005/06 year about the same topics at the *Institute of Peace Research and Security Policy* ([www.ifsh.de](http://www.ifsh.de)) in Hamburg, Germany. The seminar was a part of the regional Masters' programme for Human rights in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and it was also open for participants from all over in Europe (<http://www.cps.edu.ba/ENGLISKI/ermaprogram.html>).

The agenda of the seminar enabled the participants to get familiar with the expertise and experience of researchers and field practitioners, but also with the personal stories of survivors of the Srebrenica's genocide. Richard Goldstone, the former Chief Prosecutor of the *International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda* (ICTR) and *International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia* (ICTY) as well as the retired Justice of the *Constitutional Court of the Republic of South Africa*, shared his personal experience, how both Tribunals were established, how they worked and what are his personal expectations for the future of the International Criminal Law for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dr. Patricia Schneider, a scientific researcher at the IFSH in Hamburg, made a presentation about the *International Criminal Court* (ICC) and Europe's and USA's attitudes towards it. The presentation was followed up by group work. On the third day of the seminar Srebrenica's survivors, who engaged themselves strongly for NGO's like "Association Srebrenica Mothers" and "Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves" and "Women of Srebrenica", shared their personal stories. Hatidza Mehmedovic, Munira Subasic and Hajra Catic were supported by Asta Maria Zimbo, a representative of the *International Commission on Missing Persons* as well by two short documentaries "March of death" and "Smoke rings". Aernot Van Lynden, who was for a long time war journalist, presented his impressions on the events on the Balkans, but also on different hot locations throughout the world. Former students of the regional Masters' programme for Human Rights in Sarajevo presented briefly their master thesis about topics related to genocide and its impact on a daily-life basis. Prof. Hans-Joachim Giessmann, a head of the Masters' programme *Master of Peace and Security Studies* in Hamburg, Germany, had a presentation about the topic Europe and Prevention of Genocide. Sonja Biserko, a representative of the *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia* and Tara Ney and Phillis Thompson, both from the *University of Victoria*, Canada, contributed to the illustration of other aspects of genocide like the confrontation with genocidal memories and the healing process of it. On the final day Xabier Aguirre, an expert at the ICC in the Hague introduced the activities of the Court, as well the current cases within the scope of the International Criminal Law. One of the most emotional part of the seminar were the students' presentations at the end of the seminar. Created and presented differently, they all reflected the impressions, feelings and emotions of the students from Sarajevo. Every participant was given an official diploma, proving the his attendance at the

course. The IPRS in Hamburg was represented by Naida Mehmedbegovic (a Ph.D. student at the IFSH), Alexander Tsukev (M.P.S. student 2005/06) and Dalma Fabian (EM.A. student from Venice).

Alongside with the theoretical aspects of War crimes and Genocide, the organizers also prepared and offered off-discussion events. The participants had the opportunity to watch four movies, related to the topics of the seminar: *“Taking sides”*, *“Sometimes in April”*, *“Official story”* and *“Hiroshima Mon Amour”*. By doing so the group of participants was confronted with the seminar’s topics in a different way.

The seminar was closed by an official dinner at the harbor in the old town of Dubrovnik. After the end of the seminar everyone had his own thoughts and topics to think of and to digest the happenings on the Balkans in the 90ies.

Author of this article is Alexander Tsukev, a M.P.S. student 2005/06, member of [www.academicnetwork-soe.net](http://www.academicnetwork-soe.net) and a participant of the seminar “War crimes, Genocide and Memories”.

