

# ***Genocide of Bosnian Muslims and Role of Muslim Ummah***

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## **Abstract**

*Bosnia and Herzegovina is an important Muslims State of Eastern Europe. It was a province of the federation of Yugoslavia. In 1990 the federation of Yugoslavia broke down, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared its independence in 1992. The local Bosnian Christian Serbs and State of Serbia did not accept the announcement of the independence of Bosnia. The local Serbs and the State of Serbia did not want to divide Serbia and consequently attacked on Bosnian territory. The War of Bosnia started in 1992 after the declaration of independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The present study regarding the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims and the role of Muslim Ummah is an effort to trace and focus on the role of Muslim Ummah during the Bosnian war. With the consultation of different sources including books, journals, newspapers and official records, the analytical and descriptive research reveals the role played by the Muslim Ummah during the Bosnian war from 1992 to 1995.*

***Keywords:*** *genocide ,Balkan, region, Bosnia, European ,community ,OIC*

## **Introduction:**

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a small state of Balkan region. It is a triangular state, surrounded by the Serbia and Montenegro from its Eastern and Southern side. While from North and Western side, it is surrounded by the Croatia. Until, 1992 it was one of the six states of former Yugoslavia. The downfall of Yugoslavia started after the death of Marshal Tito, who ruled the country for almost 36 years. The state of Serbia was largely responsible of the downfall of former Yugoslavia.

The war of Bosnia started after the breakup of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the late 1980s. In March 1989, the crisis in Yugoslavia increased after amendments in the Serbian Constitution that allowed the state of Serbia to impose dominance over two autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina. On 20 January 1990, the negotiation among the members of six states ended without any result. The members of Yugoslavian states could not agree on the issue of

making Yugoslavia a loose confederation. As a result, the Slovenian and Croatian delegates boycotted the Congress. That was the beginning of the declination of Yugoslavia.

On 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1991, both Croatia and Slovenia announced their independence. The new Yugoslavia was formed as a result of union between Serbia and Montenegro. The Serbia had more dominance in the new Yugoslavia as compare to the Montenegro. The Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) attacked on both Croatia and Slovenia. The war continued for some time but soon the European Community interfered and ceasefire agreement was signed. After that, the state of Bosnian and Herzegovina also announced its independence on March 2, 1992. The government of Yugoslavia did not accept the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and it started to use the local Bosnian Serbs against the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The local Bosnian Serbs also announced their independence from Bosnian and Herzegovina. So, the clashes started between the Bosnian forces and local Bosnian Serbs. The Serbian government was fully supporting the local Bosnian Serbs against the Muslim Bosnian forces. At last, on April 6, 1992 the Yugoslavian army also attacked on the Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Yugoslavian army occupied almost 70 percent area of the Bosnia and Herzegovina soon after the start of war. After the occupation, the Serbian army started the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims in all areas of the Bosnia. A large number of the Bosnian Muslims had to migrate from their homes to relatively safe areas. A great number of them wounded as well as killed by the Yugoslavian army and local Bosnian Serbs. The Bosnian Muslims were made captives in the concentration camps. The Bosnian Muslim women were raped in those camps. The Croatian also attacked on the Bosnian Muslims. And they started to repeat the cruelties of the Serbs. They did not show any mercy for the Bosnian Muslims. The genocide of the Bosnian Muslims continued until 1995, When the Dayton accord was signed between the Serbs and Bosnian Muslims.

The International community did not play any significant role to stop the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims. Few of the Muslim countries supported the Bosnian Muslims. Due to that disappointed role of the International Community, the local Bosnian Serbs and the Yugoslavian army committed large scale war crimes and genocide of Muslims in Bosnia.

### **Muslim Ummah And The Bosnian Crises:**

The government of USA and all other Western countries opposed the establishment of a Muslims majority Country Bosnia in the Europe. They supported their Christian brotherly country Serbia. Although they knew that Yugoslavian army and local Bosnian Serbs were committing the brutal war crimes. But still the whole Christian world directly or indirectly continued their military, diplomatic, political and logistic support for the Yugoslavian aggression against innocent Bosnian Muslims. Unfortunately the role of the Muslim world during the war of Bosnia was very inactive and shocking. When the Serbs were carrying out the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims, innocent children, women and

old age Bosnians were being killed. The Muslim women of the Bosnia were writing letters to the Muslims of the world and calling them for their help. At that time, all Muslim countries had not shown any reaction instead they were busy in their luxurious lives. The Muslims were watching the killings, rapes, destruction, tortures, exploitations and extermination of the Bosnian Muslims silently.<sup>1</sup>

The Bosnian Muslims were unarmed and less equipped as compare to the Serb forces. They were fighting against the Serbs with limited resources. But unfortunately the majority of the Muslim countries did not help their Bosnian Muslims in that curtail time. The Bosnian Muslims were fighting with great courage even the Bosnian Muslim women started to fight against the cruel Serbs in the Tuzla.<sup>2</sup>

The role of Muslim Countries was very passive and disappointing during the Bosnian War. It seemed that whole Muslim world was paralyzed and did not have any ability to defend one Muslim country. The role of Muslim world during the war of Bosnia was limited. They were giving only few statements in favour of Bosnia and nothing else.<sup>3</sup>

The people of the different Muslim countries were protesting against the war crimes and atrocities of the Serbs against the Bosnian Muslims. However, the role of the governments and Muslims rulers was very disappointing. The Muslims rulers were giving only hollow statements but they were not taking any practical step for their Bosnian Muslim bothers. The role of some Muslim countries during the Bosnian war is as under.

#### **The Role Of Pakistan During The War Of Bosnia:**

Pakistan is an important country of the Muslims country of the Muslim world. It always helped the different Muslims counties at the time of need. During the war of Bosnia Pakistan tried its best to help the Bosnian Muslims when they need help. Pakistan provided diplomatic, political, economic and where possible military aid to the Muslims of Bosnia.

Pakistan successfully raised the Bosnian issue at different international forums. Pakistan was one of those countries which recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent country immediately after its declaration of independence. After the start of Bosnian crises Pakistan called the session of Organization of Islamic Cooperation on urgent basis. Pakistan played very important role to pass a resolution in Security Council on February 1993.<sup>4</sup>

Pakistan continued its support for the Bosnian Muslim brothers throughout the era of Bosnian war. The Bosnian ambassador to Pakistan Mrs. Sajida Sladzjic also appreciated the role of Pakistan. She said that she loved the people of Pakistan. She further said, the Bosnian would have been happier if there were more countries like Pakistan in the Muslim world.<sup>5</sup>

The foreign policy of Pakistan about Bosnian issue remained unchanged until 1995. The Pakistan was member of Organization of Islamic Countries contact group along with seven other Muslim countries. Therefore, it fully

supported the Bosnian Muslims on diplomatic front. Pakistan successfully fought the case of Bosnia various international forums. During the world conference on human rights in 1992, all Western countries were committed to veto and suppose any resolution against Serbia, but Pakistan along with other members of the Organization of Islamic Countries contact group fought the case of Bosnian Muslims and ensured to adopt a resolution on Bosnia.<sup>6</sup>

On May 20, 1992, Pakistan called the Serbian ambassador in the foreign office and expressed its deep concerns and grievances over the killings and destruction of the Muslims of Bosnia by the Serbs. Pakistan also asked the Serbian ambassador to stop the interference in internal affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On June 3, 1992, the government of Pakistan called back its ambassador from Belgrade as protest due to the Serbian atrocities against Muslims in Bosnia.

The national assembly of Pakistan passed a resolution on May 22, 1992, in which the Serbian aggression in Bosnia was condemned strongly. The national assembly through its resolution asked the International community to play its role to stop the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims. That resolution also demanded the International community to take a strict action against Serbia.<sup>7</sup>

Pakistan sent C-130 a transport aircraft loaded with essential items of food and medicines etc. for the help of starved and injured Bosnian Muslims. Pakistan also tried to mobilize the Muslim world as well as the International community to play their role to resolve the issue of Bosnia. On June 18, 1992, the foreign minister of Pakistan while addressing the foreign ministers conference said that all Muslim countries must express their solidarity with the innocent Bosnian Muslims. He also condemned the Serbian terrorism in Bosnia in strong words. He demanded United Nation Organization to play an effective role to resolve the Bosnian issue.<sup>8</sup>

On August 9, 1992 the President of Pakistan Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan visited Bosnia and Herzegovina. During his visit, he criticized the Serbian brutalities against the Bosnian Muslims. On his meeting with Bosnian foreign minister he reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue its diplomatic support for Bosnia. In addition, it would continue to raise the Bosnian issue at all International forums. Pakistan also announced ten million dollars' aid and ten million loan to the Bosnian government. On September 27, 1992, the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic visited Pakistan where he exchanged views about the Bosnian war with the leadership of Pakistan.

At the dinner, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in his address appealed to the International Community to help Bosnia on priority basis. Similarly, on June 20, 1993 Pakistan asked the Security Council to restore the Sovereignty, unity and geographical position of Bosnia. It also demanded to stop the Serbian aggression and lift the arm embargo on Bosnia.<sup>9</sup>

Beside the government and ruling political parties of Pakistan had also

expressed their solidarity with their Bosnian Muslim brothers. Qazi Hussian Ahmad the leader of Jamat e Islami visited the Bosnia and gave aid to the Bosnian government. Similarly, the opposition leader of Pakistan at that time Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif also visited Bosnia on December 29, 1993.

He gave two cores aid to the Bosnian government. In July 1995, the foreign minister of Pakistan Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali in his interview criticized the role of International community. He also criticized the negative role of North Atlantic Treaty Organization, United Nation Protecting Force and United Nations Organization. He stressed the need of practical actions against the Serbs instead of false promises and hollow statements against the Serbian aggression.<sup>10</sup>

Beside the diplomatic, political, and economic support, the government of Pakistan also provided military aid to Bosnian Muslims. According to the report of Washington Post in 1996, Pakistan along with few other Muslims Countries was involved in the smuggling of weapons to the Bosnian Muslims. As there was no direct access to Bosnia during the war, even then Pakistan managed to provide the weapons by smuggling for the Bosnian Muslims.<sup>11</sup>

The same kind of news was published in the newspaper during the Bosnian war that Pakistan was providing the weapons to the Bosnian fighters against the Serbs. During the Bosnian war Pakistan was one of the four Muslim countries, which were continuously providing the weapons to the Bosnian Muslims along with Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.<sup>12</sup>

Similarly, the troops of Pakistan Army under United Nation Protecting Force actively contributed in peace keeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On September 2, 1995, about 170 soldiers of Pakistan army returned to Pakistan after completing their tenure in Bosnia. Therefore, more than 3000 Pakistani soldiers served under the United Nation peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>13</sup>

Pakistan also fully supported and helped the Bosnia on Social and Humanitarian fronts. It welcomed 376 Bosnian children who came in Pakistan as refugees. About 200 of those children were sent to the other countries by the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees, 100 were returned to Bosnia after the end of war and the remaining 76 had lived in Haji Camp. The government of Pakistan gave them admissions in English medium Schools and provided them all facilities of life.

The government of Pakistan also offered scholarships to the Bosnian students in Islamic International University Islamabad. In 1993, the Bosnian construction company got contract of Rs.2 billons to construct the Lahore Okara Motorway.<sup>14</sup>

The people, the different religious and political parties in Pakistan also showed their solidarity with the innocent Muslims of Bosnia. The different political and religious organizations arranged various relies and meetings in favour of the Bosnian Muslims.

The people of Pakistan were participating in all those meetings very actively throughout the era of Bosnian war. The people of Pakistan along with the Muslims of some other Islamic countries arranged a huge gathering in front of the building of United Nations Organization. The 40,000 Muslims attended that gathering in which they protested against the silence and the dual policy of USA, United Nations Organization and other Western countries. They were protesting and chanting slogans against Serbia. They also demanded the supply of arms to the Bosnian Muslims.<sup>15</sup>

Some religious and the political organizations requested the people of Pakistan to provide economic aid for their Bosnian Muslims brothers. The people of Pakistan contributed whole heartedly. Therefore, at the end of 1993, Jamat e Islami a religious political party of Pakistan sent Rs.27, 500,000 for the help of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>16</sup>

Similarly, some other political and the religious organizations collected large amount and sent for the Muslims of Bosnia. Therefore, the role of Pakistan as compare to some other Muslims countries was remarkable.

#### **The Role Of Iran During The War Of Bosnia:**

In the beginning of the Bosnian war Iran played very active role to stop the killing the Bosnian Muslims. When the Serbs kidnapped the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, the Iranian government gave an ultimatum of only 24 hours to the Serbian government and demanded to release the Bosnian President.

So within 24 hours the Bosnian Serbs and the Yugoslavian army released the Alija Izetbegovic. On August 7, 1992, Iran demanded the United Nations Organization to launch army action against the Yugoslavia and the local Bosnian Serbs. He also threatened that a combine army of the Muslims countries would take action against Serbia. Similarly, On August 28, 1992 the government of Iran demanded United Nations Organization to lift the arm embargo on Bosnia so that they could defend themselves against the Serbian aggression. On October 12, 1992, the Iranian government requested the entire Muslim world to declare Jihad against the Serbs and fight collectively against the Serbs in Bosnia. On October 13, 1992, Iran announced to provide one lac tons oil to the Bosnian government. The Iranian government took a strong and clear-cut stance during the Bosnian war. In November 1992, the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic visited Iran and discussed the latest situation of the Bosnian war.<sup>17</sup>

In 1992, US officials came to know that Iran opened a smuggling rout to Bosnia with the assistance of Turkey. During the visit of the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to Tehran on October 30-31, the Bosnian sources said, an agreement was worked out to open an arm supply route between and Bosnia through Croatia. It was reported by many newspapers that the some Iranian fighters also joined the Bosnian Muslim army to fight against the Yugoslavian army and the local Bosnian Serbs in Bosnia.<sup>18</sup>

The role of Iran was remarkable throughout the era of the Bosnian war. It supported the Bosnian Muslims and criticized the Serbian aggression in Bosnia. However, unfortunately the Iranian government tried to spread Shia sect in Bosnia and offered the Bosnian Muslims and government to accept the Shia sect. When the Bosnian government refused to adopt the Shia sect, the Iranian government decreased its support for the Bosnia.<sup>19</sup>

#### **The Role Of Saudi Arabia:**

Saudi Arabia is an important country of Muslim world. It always supported Muslim Countries in the time of need. The government of Saudi Arabia decided to look after thousands of Bosnian Orphan children. A welfare institution of Saudi Arabia had decided to bear all expenses of one lack Bosnian Muslim refugees. The Saudi Arabian government donated 80 lacks dollars to the Bosnian government.

The ruler of Saudi Arabia Shah Fahd during his address on the occasion of Hajj asked the Muslims of Islamic world to help and cooperate with the Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Saudi Arabia was the first Muslim country which sent an aero plane loaded with food items and medicines for the Muslims of Bosnia. On August 4, 1992, Shah Fahd strongly condemned the Serbian aggression against the innocent Bosnian Muslims. The Saudi Arab government suggested sending a united force of all Muslims countries in Bosnia for the help of Bosnian Muslims. It also announced to afford all expenses of that united force of the Muslim countries.<sup>20</sup>

December 3, 1992 the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia Mr. Saud ul Faisal in his address during the foreign minister summit of Organization of Islamic Countries gave an ultimatum to the International community. He said that if United Nations Organization did not compel Serbia for ceasefire and arms embargo on Bosnia was not lifted, then the Muslim world would start the unilateral supply of weapons to the Bosnian Muslims.<sup>21</sup>

So, the Saudi Arabia was also one of those few Muslims countries which were involved in the smuggling of arms and weapons to the Bosnian Muslims. The Saudi Arabian government tried its best to mobilize the Muslim world to favour the Bosnian Muslims during the war against the Yugoslavian and local Serbs. It also provided large amount of economic aid to the Bosnian Muslims.

#### **The Role Of Turkey During The War Of Bosnia:**

The Turkish Ottoman ruled Bosnia along with different other states of Balkan region for more than 450 years. During their rule over Yugoslavia, the Turkish was very kind to the Bosnian Muslims. The Ottoman rulers had paid their special attention towards the development of the Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the late nineteen century the Russia and Serbia played important role to weaken the Ottoman dynasty. Because of the of Serbian and Russian conspiracies, different states of the Balkan region got independence from the Ottomans empire.

The Serbians did not forget their past defeats by Ottomans. They wanted the revenge of their past defeats from the Bosnian Muslims. The Serbs started the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims. But unfortunately during the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims, the role of Turkish government was very disappointed. Although the religious minded people of Turkey showed their full sympathies with the Bosnian Muslims and the Turkish government also provided some support to the Bosnian Muslims. But the Turkish government did not involve itself in the war practically because it did not want to annoy the West.<sup>22</sup>

The Turkish President Mr. Turgut Ozal had a meeting with the US President Bill Clinton and discussed the Bosnian issue. But he could not convince US President for US military action against the Yugoslavia in Bosnia. Anyhow, the leadership of both countries agreed for air strikes against the heavy guns positions of the Serbs around the cities of the Bosnia.<sup>23</sup>

The majority of the Turkish people showed strong protest against the Serbian cruelty in Bosnia. The opposition party leader of Turkey Mr. Nujm ud din Arbakan during his interview with the Turkish TV said that if I were in the government of Turkey, I would do the same in Bosnia, which they did in Cyprus against the Greece. In 1974, the Turkish vice Prime Minister used its army against the Greece aggression in Cyprus to help the Muslims.<sup>24</sup>

In February 1994, the Turkish Prime Minister along with Pakistani Prime Minister visited Bosnia. During her visit to Bosnia, she demanded the European community and the whole world to resolve the issue of Bosnia. On August 4, 1994, the Turkey along with eight other Organization of Islamic Countries contact members warned the Security Council that if it failed to lift the arm embargo on Bosnia then the entire Muslim countries would provide arms and weapons to Bosnia unilaterally.<sup>25</sup>

The Turkish government along with Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia were involved in the smuggling of weapons to the Bosnian Muslims during the war against the Serbs. In short the role of Turkey in the Bosnian war was not according to its past traditions. Therefore, the Bosnian Muslims as well as the Muslims of other parts of the world were very much disappointed due to the policies of the Turkish government during the Bosnian war.

### **The Role Of Malaysia During The War Of Bosnia:**

When the Yugoslavian army attacked on Bosnia and started the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims, the Malaysian government reacted very strongly. The Malaysia was the member of Organization of Islamic Countries contact group. Therefore, it played very important role to highlight the cruelty of Serbs against the innocent Bosnian Muslims. The government of Malaysia supported the Bosnian Muslims in all International forums. It took a firm stance to stop the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims by Serbs. On August 11, 1992, the Malaysian government announced that it would cease all kinds of diplomatic relations with the Yugoslavian government.<sup>26</sup>



The Malaysian government kept on condemning the Serbian brutalities against the Muslims of Bosnia. On October 12, 1993, the Chief of army staff of Malaysia army Tansi Abdul Rehman Abdul Raheem demanded United Nations to increase the strength of Malaysian troops under United Nations Protecting Force in Bosnia. While on 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1993, the government of Malaysia showed very strong reaction on the genocide of Bosnian Muslims.

It announced the boycott of all European products due the shameful role of all European countries during the era of Bosnian war. In April 1994, the Prime Minister of Malaysia demanded the United Nation's general secretary Mr. Batrus Ghaali to resign from his post Because of his failure to stop the genocide of the Muslims of Bosnian. He further demanded that a courageous and brave man should be the general secretary of United Nations Organization, who could take brave decisions.

On August 4, 1994, the Malaysian government along with eight other members of Organization of Islamic Countries contact group gave warning to the International community and asked to lift the arm embargo on Bosnia otherwise the Islamic countries would start to provide weapons to the Bosnian government unilaterally.<sup>27</sup>

In July 1995, the Malaysian government said that it would violate the arms embargo on Bosnia imposed by the International community and it would send weapons to the Bosnian Muslims. The Prime Minister of Malaysia Mr. Mahathir bin Mohammad said that the United Nation and NATO were allowing the slaughtering of the Muslims of Bosnia by the Yugoslavian army and the local Bosnian Serbs. After few days Syed Hamid Alber the defense Minister of Malaysia said that his country wanted double its troops under United Nation Protection Force United Nations Protecting Force and wanted to equip the UN troops with long range arms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>28</sup>

Tehrik e Islami of Malaysia provided residence to hundreds of Bosnian Muslim refugees in Malaysia. It also provided them every facility of life. Fifty Bosnian students were given scholarships by the Malaysian government. Another Islamic group of Malaysia provided residence to fifty old persons of Bosnian Muslims and provided them all requirements of daily life. The Malaysian government also provided jobs to some professional Bosnian Muslims in different factories.

### **The Role Of Other Muslim Countries During The Genocide Of Bosnian Muslims:**

All other Muslim countries could not show any remarkable activity to help the Bosnian Muslims during the war. The most disappointed role was of the Egyptian government. The President of Egypt adopted a dual policy during the Bosnian war. In 1992, President Husni Mubarak stopped some organizations from collecting the donations for the Muslims of Bosnia.

On 16<sup>th</sup> of July, 1993 after the Juma prayer the Egyptian people arranged

a rally to express their solidarity with the Bosnian Muslims. The participants of the rally were chanting the slogans against the policies of their government. The Egyptian police started firing on the protesters. The large numbers of them were wounded while one hundred were arrested by the police.<sup>29</sup>

The main reason of such role of the Egyptian government was its good relation with the west and USA. The role of Indonesia during the war of Bosnia was also very disappointed like Egypt. On May 15, 1992, the foreign minister of Indonesia Ali Alatas said that Organization of Islamic Countries should take a united stand on the issue of Bosnia. He also criticized the Yugoslavian government because of its atrocities in Bosnia against the Muslims.<sup>30</sup>

After that the government of Indonesia was silent throughout the era of the Bosnian war. Therefore, the Indonesian Muslims started to criticize the role of their government during the Bosnian war. So, on July 15, 1993 the army of Indonesia also criticized the policies of their government about the war of Bosnia and the genocide of Bosnian Muslims. The army viewed that the Indonesian government played very negative and silent role during the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia. Therefore, the government of Indonesia promised to give fifty lacks dollars aid to the Bosnian Muslims.<sup>31</sup>

The role of all other Muslims countries was not good. All Muslim countries remained silent during the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia. Some countries gave only empty statements while only few did something practically for the Muslims of Bosnia. However, the overall role the entire Muslims world was very shameful. They could do much better than they did to stop the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims by the cruel Serbs.

#### **The Role Of Organization Of Islamic Cooperation During The War Of Bosnia:**

The Organization of Islamic countries Organization of Islamic Countries was established in Murakish in 1969 to protect the interests and right of the Muslims of the world. But after its existence its role remained very limited. It could not play any decisive role to resolve the issues of Palestine, Kashmir, Iraq and Afghanistan. It always depended upon the hollow statements. It never took any substantial action in favour of the innocent Muslims.<sup>32</sup>

In case of Bosnia the role of Organization of Islamic Countries was also very much upsetting. 149 After the start of war, the Organization of Islamic Countries could not hold its session of the heads of the Muslims countries for a long time of war. Only two low level sessions of Organization of Islamic Countries one form 17 and 18 September in Istanbul while the second on 2 to 3 December 1992 in Saudi Arabia was held during the initial years of the Bosnian war. During the session of Saudi Arabia, the Organization of Islamic Countries gave an ultimatum to the International community till January 15, 1993 to lift the arm embargo on Bosnia otherwise the Muslim countries would themselves provide weapons to the Bosnian Muslims.

After the end of ultimatum, another conference of Organization of Islamic

Cooperation was held in Senegal where the demand of embargo lifting was repeated but no Practical action was taken.<sup>33</sup>

On September 14, 1995, the Defense Ministers from 14 countries decided to establish a special task force to give military aid to the Bosnian Muslims. It also decided that it would provide economic and military aid to the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Malaysian foreign minister in that meeting said that Organization of Islamic Countries would not only the role of whole Islamic world and the organization of Islamic countries during the Bosnian war was very limited.<sup>33</sup>

The role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was very passive as it had not played role to stop the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims.

**Conclusion:**

The Bosnian war started in 1992 and it continued till 1995. The Serbian Army and local Bosnian Serbs had committed the genocide of Bosnian Muslims without any hurdle and opposition. It is estimated that during the Bosnian war 1.5 million Muslims had migrated due to the Serbian atrocities, 270,000 Muslims were martyred, 50,000 Bosnian women were raped and large number of Muslim's Mosques, cities and hospitals were destructed.

But most of the Muslim countries gave only statements in favour of the Bosnian Muslims in which they criticized the Serbian aggression but practically no action was taken by the Muslim world to stop the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims. When the Bosnian children were being killed, women were being raped, men were being tortured and killed the whole Muslim community was watching their genocide. The Muslim rulers played very shameful role during the Bosnian war. If the Muslim world had taken a joint action against the Yugoslavia then Serbs would never commit the crime of genocide of the Bosnian Muslims as freely as they did from 1992 to 1995.

**Recommendations:**

- The unity of Muslim Ummah is the need of time in order to stop such kinds of events in future. The Muslims world should not leave its issues unresolved for the mediation of West, USA and United Nations Organization.
- The Muslim Countries should have an effective media policy in order to highlight their issues like Bosnia etc.
- A common plate form should be devised by the Muslim Ummah so as to evolve a joint strategy for dealing with crises concerning Muslims.
- There is a dire need for the Muslim Countries to show unity amongst their own ranks and files to with stand Western pressure.
- There should be a mechanism of common defense evolved by Muslim Countries. As this is only way of their survival in critical situation like Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The Muslim Countries should resolve their internal issues and also

eradicate the curse of Sectarianism.



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