

SPEECH

H.E. Borislav Paravac .
Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

On the Occasion of the Inauguration of Yad Vashem's New Holocaust History Museum
15-16 March, 2005

Excellencies
Dear Friends,

Being here today, in this sacred place I bow my head before the shadows of millions of Jewish victims. Victims of Holocaust, millions of dead each and every time, again, warn us living, not to have those horrible times ever and nowhere repeated.

Coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the experience of the loss in my own family and my close friends in the Doboï camp in the World War I. in the death camp in Jasenovac-Gradina in the World War II, where hundreds of thousands mostly Serbs, Jews and Roma were mercilessly murdered, I pay sincere tribute and understanding for the suffering of Jewish people.

Yad Vashem symbolizes a memorial and monument to the millions of martyrs from the Holocaust.

The new Yad Vashem museum represents the wish of Jewish people to preserve the dignified memory of more than six million Jews killed in the Second World War. Nonetheless this is not solely a museum or the place of memory but also a personification of resurrection and revival of life. This is the triumph of a human individuality over the evil of inhumanity and destruction.

The peoples who unfortunately suffered from genocide must learn the important lesson from the way the Jewish people remember Holocaust. First and foremost they have to preserve the memory of their victims the dearest ones, for those who refused to recognize the past will not be able to see the future (the example is the latest event in the Balkans, the truth about Jasenovac has never been treated properly and genocide and Holocaust in the factory of death is still being denied), and also to tell the truth to the future generations thus preventing the evil to be repeated ever again.

Yad Vashem and your treatment of the Holocaust victims is a lesson for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina how to overcome the burdens from the recent war. Only the truth for all the victims and totally opposing the manipulations with the unfortunate ones will lead us to the reconciliation and forgiveness before the God and ourselves.

I myself as a human being, a believer and statesman also attended the Commemorating of the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz, here and now in Yad Vashem paying tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and condemn all the ideas and projects and above all the perpetrators of those horrendous crimes.

Thank you!