



Open Letter Concerning the Srebrenica Memorial Center and Recent Institutional Actions Affecting Its Work

**To the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg,
the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs,
Members of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg,
Luxembourg Members of the European Parliament,
and Luxembourg representatives within European and international institutions**

The Srebrenica Committee Luxembourg addresses you with serious concern regarding the escalating actions by institutions of Republika Srpska affecting the Srebrenica–Potočari Memorial and Cemetery for the Victims of the 1995 Genocide, its employees and associates, and its Director, Dr Emir Suljagić.

We believe these developments require not only particular attention from Luxembourg and its representatives within European and international institutions, but appropriate diplomatic and institutional action.

Luxembourg was among the co-sponsors of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 78/282, which established 11 July as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica. The Resolution condemns without reservation the denial of the Srebrenica genocide and calls for the preservation of the established facts, including through education, in order to prevent denial, distortion and the recurrence of genocide.

The institution at the centre of precisely this work is the Srebrenica Memorial Center.

It preserves the memory of the victims, safeguards documentation and testimony, conducts research and education, and systematically documents genocide denial and historical revisionism.

For this reason, we believe that the ability of the Memorial Center to fulfil its mandate is directly connected to the principles Luxembourg supported through Resolution 78/282.

A concerning sequence of events

On 30 July 2026, the Srebrenica Memorial Center presented its annual Genocide Denial Report, documenting 149 instances of genocide denial and relativisation during the reporting period.

The report drew particular attention to institutionalised forms of denial and to the role of public officials, institutions and media in Republika Srpska and Serbia in sustaining narratives that deny, relativise or distort the judicially established facts concerning the Srebrenica genocide.

Only one day later, on 31 July, 26 current and former employees and associates of the Memorial Center received police summonses in connection with proceedings conducted by the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Bijeljina and the Republika Srpska police.

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The temporal proximity does not by itself prove a causal relationship. It does, however, raise a legitimate and serious question as to whether investigative powers are being used in a manner capable of intimidating an institution whose statutory work includes documenting precisely the policies and practices of genocide denial in which institutions and officials of Republika Srpska prominently feature.

That question becomes even more important given subsequent developments. A document from the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Bijeljina, made public on 1 October 2026, shows that the Zvornik Police Administration was instructed to obtain information concerning the person responsible for the Memorial Center and to seize specified financial and material documentation relating to its operations.

This brings us to an issue that we believe requires urgent legal, institutional and international scrutiny.

A fundamental question of jurisdiction

The Srebrenica Memorial Center is not an institution of Republika Srpska. It is an institution established under the legal order of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The applicable law provides that the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina manages the Memorial Center through its Governing Board, which is responsible to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Memorial Center is a budget user within the system of financing of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Its reports are submitted to the Council of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The law further provides for control over the legality of its operations by the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent bodies, as well as independent auditors, and establishes an obligation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide protection to the Memorial Center and Cemetery.

Against this legal framework, we believe that a fundamental question must be answered: *On what precise legal and jurisdictional basis are an entity-level prosecutor's office and an entity-level police force asserting investigative authority over a state-level institution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and seeking to enter that institution and seize its documentation?*

This question should be examined without delay by the competent state institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and should receive close international scrutiny.

It is particularly sensitive because the police force being instructed to act is the police force of Republika Srpska, while the Memorial Center exists to preserve the memory and evidence of a genocide committed in Srebrenica in July 1995 by Bosnian Serb forces, principally units of the Army of Republika Srpska, as established in judgments of international courts.

This historical and institutional context cannot simply be separated from the impact that such police actions may have on survivors, witnesses, families of victims and returnees.

For a genocide survivor or returnee working at the Memorial Center, the prospect of entity police entering the institution and removing documentation cannot reasonably be treated as an ordinary administrative event. This is precisely why questions of jurisdiction, necessity, proportionality and the protection of the Center's archives require the highest level of scrutiny.

The international community has a particular responsibility

The Memorial Center itself also carries a direct institutional legacy of the international community.

Its predecessor foundation was established by a Decision of the High Representative in 2001, and the legal framework establishing the present Memorial Center was enacted by the High Representative in 2007.

In 2023, the High Representative again intervened to expand the Center's mandate, specifically strengthening its capacity for research, education, genocide remembrance and the prevention of denial and revisionism.

The Memorial Center therefore exists not only because survivors and families demanded a permanent place of memory.

Its institutional framework was deliberately created and subsequently strengthened by the international community as part of the post-war architecture designed to preserve truth, support reconciliation and prevent the erasure or distortion of the crimes committed in Srebrenica.

This history matters today.

If an institution created and strengthened through international action to preserve the truth about genocide faces actions capable of intimidating its employees, disrupting its research or ultimately preventing it from carrying out its mandate, the international community cannot reasonably regard the matter as one in which it has no continuing responsibility.

Luxembourg's support for Resolution 78/282 must have practical meaning

We are addressing Luxembourg precisely because Luxembourg chose to support and co-sponsor Resolution 78/282.

That Resolution is not merely about commemorating the victims on 11 July.

It condemns genocide denial and calls for the preservation of established facts and their transmission through education.

The Srebrenica Memorial Center is the central institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina performing precisely these functions in relation to the Srebrenica genocide.

There is therefore a direct connection between the commitments contained in the Resolution and the present situation.

If the international community is committed to preserving the established facts of the Srebrenica genocide and preventing their denial and distortion, it must also pay attention to the security, independence and continued functioning of the institution entrusted with preserving those facts.

Luxembourg's commitment to Srebrenica should now translate into concrete diplomatic and institutional engagement. An international commitment to remembrance cannot be separated from the protection of the institutions that make remembrance possible.

We therefore respectfully ask Luxembourg to act

In light of Luxembourg's support for Resolution 78/282, its commitment to international law, human rights and the rule of law, and the international community's direct role in establishing and strengthening the Srebrenica Memorial Center, we respectfully ask Luxembourg and its representatives to:

1. Seek clarification on the jurisdictional basis of these actions.

Through appropriate diplomatic channels, seek clarification regarding the precise legal and jurisdictional basis upon which entity-level prosecutorial and police authorities are asserting

investigative powers over a state-level institution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and seeking access to or seizure of its documentation.

2. Raise this matter at the appropriate European and international levels.

Raise the situation of the Srebrenica Memorial Center, as appropriate, with the competent authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European External Action Service and the Office of the High Representative, with a view to ensuring that the jurisdictional and institutional questions raised by these actions receive appropriate scrutiny.

3. Support safeguards protecting the Memorial Center, its personnel and its archives.

Support appropriate safeguards for the Memorial Center's independence and continued functioning, as well as for its archives, documentation, survivor and witness testimony, research materials and other sensitive records, while paying particular attention to the potential impact of these actions on genocide survivors, witnesses, families of victims and returnees.

4. Use appropriate diplomatic and institutional channels if evidence of intimidation or obstruction emerges.

Should credible evidence indicate that investigative powers are being used to intimidate employees, survivors or returnees, obstruct the Center's work, suppress its research into genocide denial, compromise its archives, or otherwise undermine its ability to fulfil its legally established mandate, we ask Luxembourg and its representatives to respond through appropriate diplomatic, European and international channels.

5. Reaffirm publicly, where appropriate, the principles Luxembourg supported through Resolution 78/282.

Reaffirm that the commitments embodied in Resolution 78/282 require not only annual commemoration, but also sustained vigilance when institutions entrusted with preserving established facts, educating future generations and confronting genocide denial and historical revisionism face actions capable of undermining their mission.

We are not asking Luxembourg to place any individual or institution above the law. Nor are we asking Luxembourg to prejudge the outcome or legitimacy of any lawful investigation.

We are asking that a fundamental distinction be respected: **the rule of law cannot itself become an instrument through which an institution of remembrance is intimidated, paralysed or ultimately rendered unable to perform the mission for which it was established.**

The question before the international community is therefore not whether lawful investigations should be prevented.

The question is whether the authorities asserting investigative powers have the necessary jurisdiction; whether those powers are being exercised lawfully, necessarily and proportionately; whether sensitive archives and testimony are adequately protected; and whether the cumulative effect of those actions risks intimidating survivors and returnees or obstructing an institution whose mandate is to preserve the truth about genocide.

The international community helped create the institutional framework through which the victims would be remembered and the evidence preserved.

Its responsibility cannot end with remembrance ceremonies.

The credibility of international remembrance is measured not only by how the victims are commemorated, but also by whether the institutions preserving their memory and safeguarding the established facts are protected when that work comes under pressure.

Given the seriousness of these developments, **we would respectfully welcome information on any diplomatic, European or institutional steps Luxembourg or its representatives may consider taking in response to the concerns raised in this letter.**

The Srebrenica Committee Luxembourg stands ready to provide any additional information, documentation or clarification that may assist Luxembourg's authorities and representatives in examining this matter.

We thank you for your attention and for Luxembourg's continued commitment to the remembrance of the Srebrenica genocide, the protection of its victims and survivors, and the principles of truth, justice and the rule of law.

Respectfully,

SREBRENICA COMMITTEE LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg, 2 October 2026