

II-1448 der Beilagen zu den Stenographischen Protokollen
des Nationalrates XVIII. Gesetzgebungsperiode

Nr. 7050/13

Anfrage

1994-07-15

der Abgeordneten Dr. Frischenschlager und Partner
 an den Außenminister
 betreffend österreichischer Aktivitäten zur Behebung der Wasserkrise in Zadar und
 Umgebung in Kroatien

Dem beiliegenden Hilferuf des kroatischen Parlaments ist zu entnehmen, daß ca. 45.000 Menschen im Raum Zadar und Biograd n/m unter akutem Wassermangel leiden. Dieser Wassermangel wird dadurch verursacht, daß einerseits die Wasserquellen im Gebiet der aufständischen Serben liegen und von diesen die Versorgung der beiden genannten Städte völkerrechtswidrig unterbunden wird, andererseits liegen einige Quellen im Gebiet Kakma, das unter der Kontrolle der UNPROFOR steht. Diese sind aber bisher aus nicht nachvollziehbaren Gründen nicht in der Lage, die Versorgung der Menschen in dem genannten Gebiet zu garantieren. Bei Temperaturen bis zu 38 Grad stellt die Versorgung mit Wasser eine Überlebensfrage dar. Die Nichtversorgung mit Wasser durch die aufständischen Serben ist als Mittel der Kriegsführung zu sehen und dient letztlich der Vertreibung der Menschen aus diesem Raum. Aus völkerrechtlichen aber auch aus bilateralen Gründen kommt Österreich eine besondere Rolle in diesem Raum zu.

Die unterzeichneten Abgeordneten stellen daher folgende

Anfrage

an den Außenminister:

- 1) Ist Ihnen die Situation bezüglich der Wasserversorgung in Zadar und Biograd n/m bekannt?
- 2) Wenn ja, haben Sie auf internationaler Ebene auf die Situation aufmerksam gemacht und mit welchem Resultat?
- 3) Wenn nein, werden Sie diesbezüglich aktiv werden?
- 4) Werden Sie auch gegenüber der UNPROFOR aktiv werden, die Situation um Kakma baldigst zu bereinigen?
- 5) Welche völkerrechtlichen Schritte werden Sie einleiten, um die ethnischen Vertreibungen und die Fortführung des Krieges mit anderen Mitteln zu unterbinden?
- 6) Letztlich stellt die Versagung der Versorgung mit Wasser auch eine Verletzung des Art 2 lit. c der Konvention zur Verhinderung und Verurteilung von Genozid dar. Was gedenken Sie in ihrer Funktion als Außenminister zu tun, um diesen Völkermord zu verhindern?



SABOR REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE / PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
PREDSJEDNIK / PRESIDENT

Zagreb, 5 July 1994

Parliament of the Republic of Austria
President
Dr. Karl Renner Ring 3
A- 1017 Wien

Dear Sir,

At a parliamentary session held on 21st June 1994, the Sabor of the Republic of Croatia had a debate on a dramatic situation concerning the provision of water for the Croatian towns of Biograd n/m, Zadar and the surroundings. During these summer months, when we have air temperatures rising up to 38°C, the civilian population, old men, women, children, the sick, the weak and the infirm from the area concerned are faced with sickening, tragic and unbearable life conditions.

UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR)'s behaviour is blocked in this case, and its interventions are irresolute. Not a single effective action has been taken to stop the self-will and tyranny of the Serbian terrorists in the territory concerned.

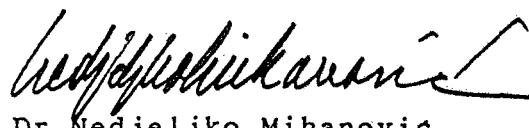
When the Croatian army, during the defense of Croatia three years ago, took water away from the Yugoslav Army for its

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own defense purposes, international institutions exerted pressure on it. Consequently, the Croatian Defense Headquarters acted in compliance with Yugoslav army demands concerning the provision of water. Currently, however, about 45,000 civilians are in jeopardy, and not a single humanistic voice has risen, coming from the competent European and international institutions, to condemn and prevent this crime of genocide.

This is why the Sabor of the Republic of Croatia has addressed itself to the parliaments of all European States, as well as the parliaments of UN Security Council member States, and the UN Secretary General, urging them to take the awaited firm measures to prevent this senseless violence.

In the belief that everything will be done to stop the existence of the civilian population being jeopardized in such an absurd manner, we would like to convey our sincere thanks and send our greetings.



Dr. Nedjeljko Mihanovic

Speaker of the Croatian Sabor

Incited by a dramatic situation concerning the provision of water for the towns of Biograd n/m, Zadar and the surroundings, and starting from the principles laid out in the UN Charter, the General Declaration on Human Rights, the International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights, the European Council Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and other international documents, as well as the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia - Sabor, at a session held on 21st June 1994, passed a

RESOLUTION

ON CONDEMNING GENOCIDE IN THE FORM OF MASS TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY THE SERBIAN OCCUPIER AUTHORITIES BY CUTTING OFF WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE TOWNS OF BIOGRAD N/M, ZADAR AND THE SURROUNDINGS

I

In the aggression against the Republic of Croatia, the Serbian occupation army, along with Serbian terrorists from the occupied territories of Croatia have committed, and are still committing all forms of genocide against the Croatian people and members of non-Serbian national minorities.

As a special form of mass violence, the Serbian aggressors and terrorists have resorted to cutting off and preventing the provision of water from hundreds of thousands of citizens of the Republic of Croatia, particularly in the towns of Biograd n/m, Zadar and the surroundings.

II

The main source for supplying the town of Zadar with water is on the Zrmanja river; for as long as three years it has been occupied by Serbian terrorists, who have been preventing its use.

The source for supplying Biograd n/m and its surroundings with water is within reach from Kakma, in a territory which, administratively, belongs to Biograd n/m,

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that is, one outside a UN Protection Area (UNPA zone). Until the implementation of the first phase of the Zagreb Treaty on Ceasefire was effected, the source had been under the occupation of Serbian terrorists; now, however, it is in the zone of demarcation, under the exclusive control of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

III

Due to pressures exerted by Serbian terrorists, as well as their blackmail, the UNPROFOR has not shown determination in enabling Biograd n/m and the surroundings to be supplied with water from the source near Kakma.

The lack of UNPROFOR resolution and its deference to Serbian terrorists have irritated increasingly the thirty thousand inhabitants of, and the ten thousand refugees and displaced persons in Biograd n/m and the surroundings, who have been subjected to the insupportable shortage of water for as long as three years. Thence the possibility of the local population bursting into open disapproval regarding the inefficiency of UNPROFOR.

IV

The inhabitants of, and refugees and displaced persons in Biograd n/m and the surroundings have been obtaining water twice a week, during one hour of the day, for three years, the recently growing tendency being hardly any water at all.

By such inhumane acts of denying the population of Biograd n/m, Zadar and the surroundings water, Serbian terrorists want to: cause a mass disaster, hygiene- and health-wise, particularly in the institution for the retarded at Sv. Filip i Jakov, preclude the economic life, and coerce the people into leaving the areas concerned, which is a premeditated act of carrying out the ethnic cleansing of this part of Croatia.

V

By denying dozens of thousands of citizens of the Republic of Croatia

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water, Serbian terrorists and aggressors have indubitably been involved in the crime of genocide under the Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which defines this crime in Art. 2 para.(c) as an intentional imposition of adverse life conditions on a group for the purpose of destroying it fully or partially.

This is why the Sabor of the Republic of Croatia has hereby addressed itself to the parliaments of all countries in Europe, as well as the parliaments of UN Security Council member States, the UN Secretary General, and the International Tribunal for War Crimes in the territory of ex-Yugoslavia, demanding of them to condemn and preclude the crime of genocide being committed by Serbian terrorists and aggressors against the inhabitants of, and the refugees and displaced persons accommodated in Biograd n/m, Zadar and the surroundings, by intentionally denying the latter water as the basic necessity of life.

VI

The Sabor of the Republic of Croatia urges the Government of the Republic of Croatia to take firm steps to stop the inhabitants of Biograd n/m, Zadar and the surroundings from being further terrorized by the Serbs, and seeks to see all the relevant UN Security Council and Zagreb Treaty resolutions consistently implemented.

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Zagreb, 21 June 1994

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SABOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Dr Nedjeljko Mihanović
PRESIDENT
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE SABOR