

Dr. Emir Suljagić  
International University of Sarajevo

## **Education**

PhD in Political Science, Institute for Peace Research and Security Studies, University of Hamburg (2009)

M.A. in Democracy and Human Rights, Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, University of Bologna & University of Sarajevo (2005)

B.A. in Political Science, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2000)

## **Professional Experience**

2017 – present: *International University of Sarajevo, Social and Political Science; Assistant Professor*

2015: *Deputy Defense Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Deputy Defense Minister in the Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina with portfolio including oversight of policy and planning, intelligence and security, international cooperation and communication, command and control. Responsibilities included maintaining bilateral and multilateral relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina's defense partners and supervision of over 10.000 employees and annual budget of 140 million Euros.

2012 – 2014: *Coordinator of „1 March Coalition ”*

Founded and developed the largest post-war network of survivors, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and civic organizations with the goal of voter registration in their pre-war places of residence. Brokered an agreement between five political parties across ideological and ethnic boundaries to create a joint list to represent returnees, refugees and IDP interests resulting in „Homeland Coalition“ which won five seats in the Assembly of Republika Srpska, with the first post-war increase in the votes of returnees, refugees and IDPs. The coalition won the first seat in the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina in eight years on behalf of pro-Bosnian parties.

*2012: Coordinator of „Vote for Srebrenica campaign“*

Built and coordinated the campaign structure for voter registration, including door-to-door registration, phone bank and GOTV effort. Advocated for and successfully negotiated the candidacy of joint candidate by four different pro-Bosnian parties, created the message and public relations, and drafted communiqués, the strategy, developed the slogan and messaging and produced material for the mayoral campaign for the joint pro-Bosnian candidate in 2012 local elections in Srebrenica.

*2011-2012: Minister of Education in the Government of Canton Sarajevo*

Was directly responsible for 10.000 employees of the Ministry and an annual budget of 120 million Euros. Pursued the adoption of the Law on Elementary Education, introducing a higher degree of parent participation and insight into the work of schools, created IT strategy for elementary and secondary education, oversaw the adoption of more than a dozen bylaws in the areas of elementary and secondary education and introduced legislative framework for the accreditation of University of Sarajevo. Introduced centralized financial management into the public pre-school system of Canton Sarajevo and pursued a new policy of inclusive education for Roma and children with disabilities.

*2010: Head of Communications, Social Democratic Party (SDP) of BiH*

Co-developed messaging and strategy for the SDP's winning campaign during the 2010 parliamentary and presidential elections, doubling the number of votes since 2006 and leading to the biggest election victory in SDP's century-long history. Assisted in the coordination of Party structures to integrate conventional GOTV efforts, including phone banks with the latest new media strategies. Advocated SDP's key public policies and participated in the working group on education policy. Designed the SDP's online-campaign strategy and coordinated the party structure in terms of message and message delivery.

*2009 – 2011: Director of Communications of the Office of Mayor of Sarajevo*

Designed and implemented the communication strategy for the office of the Mayor, supervised PR staff and served as the key spokesman and media contact. Successfully conducted negotiations between Office of the Mayor and Al Jazeera English on the sale of city-owned frequency and launch of Al Jazeera Balkans operation based in Sarajevo.

*2006: Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Designed and implemented the communication strategy for the office of the Prime Minister, advised on public relations and designed tools for media analysis. Maintained extensive contacts with national, regional and global media, and the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Supervised PR staff and served as the key spokesman and media contact.

*2002 - 2004: Correspondent from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia*

Reported from the International criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia /ICTY/ in The Hague, as the only permanent correspondent from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Familiarized myself with the inner workings of the tribunal and the enormous challenges it faced in bringing perpetrators to justice as well as judicial procedure and the principles of international humanitarian law. Was the first journalist to publish evidence of direct participation of Slobodan Milosevic's regime in the Srebrenica genocide.

*1996 – 2002: Reporter/Editor, Dani news-magazine*

Worked as reporter, investigative reporter and editor in the leading Bosnian weekly news-magazine „Dani“. Covered wide range of issues, from corruption to war-crimes. Received „Karim Zaimovic Best Journalist under 25 Award“ in 1999. As member of the Editorial Board of „Dani“ shaped editorial policies and pursued them with dedication and vigor. „Dani“ was recipient of „Olof Palme Prize“ together with Feral Tribune of Split and B92 Radio of Belgrade.

## **Languages**

English – native proficiency

Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian – native

## **Publications**

Academic Publications

### *Books*

Emir Suljagić, 2010, *Ethnic Cleansing: Politics, Policy, Violence - Serb Ethnic Cleansing Campaign in former Yugoslavia*, Nomos Publishers, Berlin;

### *Refereed book chapters*

Emir Suljagić, 2009, „Justice squandered? The trial of Slobodan Milošević“ in Ellen E. Lutz and Caitlin Reiger (eds) *Prosecuting Heads of State*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge;

### *Refereed articles*

Emir Suljagić, “Premošćavanje jaza između države i društva: Krizni štab kao ključni mehanizam etničkog čišćenja”, *Pregled*, No. 1, Vol. LVII, 2017;

Emir Suljagić, „The Role of Croatia in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Antemurale Christianitatis as a Policy of Choice“, *Insight Turkey*, 2019 Spring, Vol. 21 / No. 2 / 2019

### *Policy Briefs*

Emir Suljagić, Reuf Bajrović and Richard Kraemer, 2018, ‘Bosnia on the Russian Chopping Block: The Potential for Violence and Steps to Prevent it’ Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia.

### Articles (other)

Emir Suljagić, ‘The Line that Stretches from Srebrenica to Homs’, *Transitions Online*, 2 March 2012.;

Emir Suljagić, “Bosnia: Heading Towards Institutional Gridlock?”, The Centre on Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia, *Italian Institute for International Political Studies*; 16 May 2018;

Emir Suljagić, “Targeting ‘Turks’: How Karadzic Laid the Foundations for Genocide”, *Balkan Insight*, April 15, 2019

### *Non-refereed publications*

#### *Books*

*Postcards from the Grave*, Emir Suljagic; Bosnian (DANI, Sarajevo, 2005), Croatian (Dureieux, Zagreb, 2005), English (Saqi Books, London, 2005), Dutch (Arbeiderspers, Amsterdam, 2006), Spanish (Gutenberg Galaxica Barcelona, 2007), Polish (Wydawnictwo Czarne, Warszawa, 2007), German (Czolnay, Vienna, 2009); Italian (Beit Casa Editrice, Trieste, 2010); Norwegian (Capellen Damm, 2010); Persian (Ketabestan, 2018);

*Samouk*, Sarajevo, Buybook, 2014;

*Srebrenica MCMXCV*, Vrijeme, Zenica, 2017;

#### *Non-refereed articles*

*Srebrenica – Remembering the Future*, Vaclav Havel, Madeleine Albright, Marieluise Beck, Chris Keulemans, Slavenka Drakulic und Susan Sontag, Emir Suljagic; Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Sarajevo, 2005;

“Letter to a Serb friend”, Emir Suljagić, *Srebrenica – from denial to recognition*, Ed. Sonja Biserko, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, Beograd, 2005;

#### *Newspaper Op/Eds*

Truth at The Hague, *New York Times*, 1 June 2003

Holding Serbia accountable, *Boston Globe*, 4 March 2007

Bosnia and Herzegovina is Andalusia in the Making, *Al Jazeera*, 1 September 2018

New Srebrenica 'investigation' will deny the reality of genocide, *Middle East Eye*, 17 March 2019

#### *Research reports*

*Bosnia and Herzegovina: Key Obstacles to the Stabilization and Democratization*, „Basic Instinct - The Case For More Nato In The Western Balkans“, Center For Euro-Atlantic Studies of Serbia, September 2017

*BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: THE STATE OF FROZEN PEACE* (Possibility of Renewal of Large-scale Violence in Short and Medium Term), Emir Suljagić, June 2009 (Commissioned by the United Kingdom Department for International Development);

#### *Projects*

*Personal stories of the Victims for the Permanent Exhibition of Memorial Room of Memorial Center Srebrenica-Potočari*, July, 2007 (Commissioned by the Memorial Center Srebrenica-Potočari);

#### *Invited conference presentations*

“Social construction and physical destruction of the “Turks” in 1992-95 Bosnia and Herzegovina”, Keynote Address, *Lessons from the ground: framing and interpreting human rights in the Balkans*, April 10, 2019 - April 11, 2019, Columbia University

*Coup d'état as departure point for the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, International 15 July and Coups D'état Symposium: Global Effects, Media and Democracy, October 26-28, 2017, Kartepe;

*Western Balkans and NATO before and after Warsaw Summit*, Belgrade, June 2016

*Elections in the Balkans – What can Citizens do?*, Point Conference, Sarajevo, May 2016

*Reconciliation and Justice – Contradiction or sine qua non?*, Towards Reconciliation. Experiences, Techniques and Opportunities for Europe Dubrovnik, Croatia, October, 2010

*„Fifteen Years Later: Forward or Backward in the Balkans?“*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, July 2010, Washington DC

#### *Awards and honors*

Recipient of Karim Zamović Best Journalist Award in Bosnia and Herzegovina under 25 years, 1999;

Recipient of Dayton Literary Peace Prize “Ambassador Robert Frowick” by the City of Dayton, Ohio, 2010;

#### *Other*

*Leadership Academy for Development: The Role of Public Policy in Private Sector Development*, July 2017, Sarajevo, Stanford University and University of Sarajevo

#### *Media commentaries*

I have given interviews and provided commentaries on a range of issues from my area of expertise to many national and international media outlets including the *CMN, Al Jazeera, BBC, New York Times, Die Presse, Die Zeit, Suddeutsche Zeitung, El Pais, TRT, Politico, FTV BiH, Federalni Radio, NTV Hayat, HRT, Face TV, TV1, HRT, BIRN*.