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MULTI-ETHNIC.
DEMOCRATIC.

acbih.org



Advisory Council for
Bosnia and Herzegovina

2007 - 2017

Celebrating a decade of
Bosnian-American advocacy
in Washington, D.C.

1510 H Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone: (202) 347-6742
info@acbih.org

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WHO WE ARE

The Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACBH) is the leading independent, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting the interests of Bosnian Americans and advocating for a united, multi-ethnic and democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OBJECTIVES

- Safeguarding the Bosnian American voice in Washington, D.C. by providing outreach to U.S. policy and decision makers on issues that are relevant to the Bosnian American community.
- Countering genocide denial and the revision of history.
- Improving and promoting community involvement and participation of Bosnian Americans in the U.S. electoral and political processes.
- Promoting and preserving the Bosnian and Herzegovinian heritage and identity through education.

POLICY ISSUES

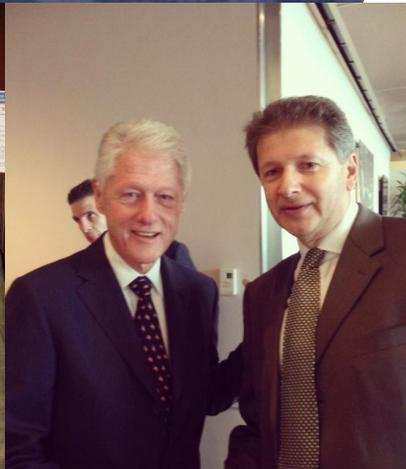
- Supporting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Improving bilateral relations between the United States and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's aspiration to become a full-fledged member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).
- Supporting democracy, freedom, peace and economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Southeast Europe.



LOOKING BACK

*10 Years
of Advocacy*

-
- Advocacy
 - Scholarships
& Fellowships
 - Cultural Promotion
 - Unity and Partnerships
 - Community Education
& Outreach
 - Giving Back
-



ADVOCACY



“As the world failed to intervene, you lived it, you lost family, you lost homes; you struggled to maintain your dignity. This was not a civil war - this was genocide! Plain and simple genocide, Remind your children of the past - everyone should know the past! You made enormous sacrifices, all for one purpose, to live in a peaceful and necessarily multi-ethnic democracy.”

Vice President Joseph R. Biden

10th Anniversary Gala

On February 25, 2017, Bosnian Americans and friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina gathered in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACBH) as well as the 25th anniversary of the U.S. recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) independence. The keynote address was delivered by former Vice President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. who was honored with the ACBH Lifetime Achievement Award for his role in stopping the genocide and ethnic cleansing in BiH.

ADVOCACY



ACBH with Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Congressman Russ Carnahan (D-MO), co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Bosnia.

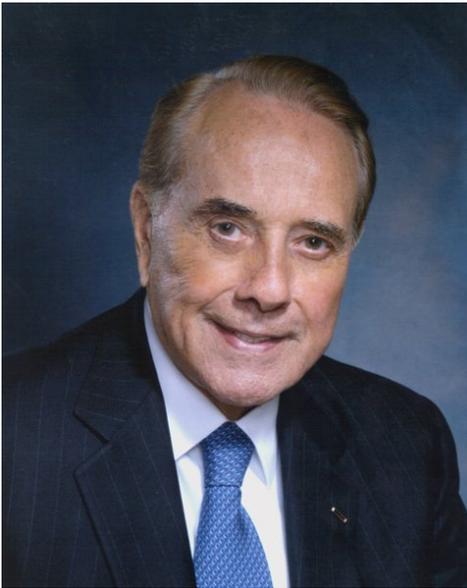
Congressional Caucus on BiH

ACBH established the Congressional Caucus on BiH (Bosnia Caucus), which currently includes 22 members of U.S. Congress. The Bosnia Caucus is led by Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and consists of members from both political parties and both chambers of Congress. The Bosnia Caucus is actively engaged in U.S. policy towards Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and enhancing the relationship between the two countries.

Additionally, Since 2007, ACBH has organized three successful Congressional trips to BiH visiting Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Maglaj, Mostar, and Konjic and providing members of U.S. Congress and their senior staff with first-hand knowledge of the issues that BiH is facing and the need for continued U.S. engagement.



Meeting with President Bakir Izetbegovic in Sarajevo during ACBH's Congressional trip to BiH.



Senator Dole Lifetime Achievement Award

On February 25, 2017, ACBH awarded former Republican Senator from Kansas, Robert Joseph "Bob" Dole with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his unwavering commitment to BiH that helped lead to peace. Senator Dole expressed sincere gratitude and stated that preserving our values at home, while promoting them abroad not only benefits the United States, but also helps strengthen democratic values and principles overseas. Further, Senator Dole stated that the U.S. firmly stands by BiH's sovereignty and territorial integrity and warned that efforts to undermine and weaken BiH's institutions can only lead to instability and that such efforts are not in the interest of the United States.



Srebrenica Genocide Resolution

ACBH initiated language and process for the Senate Resolution 134 and the House Resolution 199, also known as the Srebrenica Genocide Resolution, which confirmed that "the policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing as implemented by Serb forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995 meet the terms defining the crime of genocide." This paved the way for a similar resolution in the EU Parliament. In addition, ACBH helped write the language and pass House Resolution 310 commemorating 20 years since the Srebrenica Genocide and acknowledging that genocide took place on the entire territory of BiH – highlighting cities such as Sarajevo and Prijedor and the crimes that took place there.

ADVOCACY

State Legislation

ACBH facilitated the correction of Texas Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39 which stated that "in April of 1992, the Siege of Sarajevo began, leading to the deaths of more than 2,000 Serbs." With the help from the American Jewish Committee, ACBH was able to change the language to state that "Over 100,000 Bosniak civilians were killed along with other ethnic groups and minorities between 1992-1995 as a result of a Serbian campaign of genocide and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina aimed at destroying the multi-ethnic society there."

UN Secretary-General Selection

ACBH successfully ensured that the former Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic was not selected as the UN Secretary-General. Apart from sending letters to various UN member states, ACBH also met with the U.S. Mission to the UN informing them that during his time as President of the 67th UN General Assembly (UNGA), Mr. Jeremic consistently used the UN as a platform to spread Serbian nationalist agenda by organizing highly inappropriate and controversial events.

Dr. Michel Gabaudan, President of Refugees International along with ACBH Board Member and Srebrenica Genocide survivor, Adisada Dudic Hoque and her sisters Dr. Mirsada Hasanovic, Mujesira Dudic and Zumreta Dudic speaking in U.S. Congress during ACBH's annual Srebrenica Genocide commemoration.



Srebrenica Genocide Commemoration

Each year, ACBH organizes the Srebrenica Genocide commemoration in U.S. Congress where we commemorate the victims and inform members of Congress, staff and participants on the dangers of genocide denial and the importance of continued and more robust U.S. engagement in BiH.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

ACBH Scholarship Program

In order to increase the involvement of Bosnian Americans in the democratic political process of the United States and cultivate a new generation of young Bosnian American leaders, ACBH offers scholarships to Bosnian American students who wish to intern with a member of U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C. Thanks to TCA, ACBH has awarded over 10 scholarships to Bosnian American students. ACBH has also hosted interns from BiH and has helped find suitable internships for Bosnian American students.

CULTURAL PROMOTION

Bosnian Bazaar

ACBH co-organized the very first Bosnian Bazaar in Washington, D.C. with the Bosnian American women's group BHeart where we promoted BiH handi-crafts that benefitted women victims of war.

Bosnian Women's Day

ACBH together with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), co-chair of the Bosnia Caucus organizes "Bosnian Women's Day" event each year in U.S. Congress to highlight the strength, innovation and contributions of Bosnian women.

Immigrant Heritage Month

ACBH proudly co-sponsored "Immigrant Heritage Month" event in U.S. Congress and represented the Bosnian American community at the 2015 and 2016 White House Heritage Day event.



BiH Days on Capitol Hill

Each year, ACBH organizes "BiH Days on Capitol Hill" where we bring together Bosnian American community leaders and conduct high level meetings with Washington, D.C. policymakers.

UNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

Global Diaspora Week

ACBH participated in the 2011, Global Diaspora Week organized by the U.S. Department of State, USAID, and International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdEA). Opening remarks were by Secretary of State John Kerry, who touched on the significance of diaspora communities to the history of the United States and the role it plays on the world stage.

AJC Partnership

ACBH Partnered with the American Jewish Committee ACCESS DC where ACBH presented its work and discussed the importance of bridge building and working together in countering genocide denial and revision of history.

Refugee Crisis

Since the beginning of the war in Syria, ACBH has partnered with numerous organizations in hosting events related to the Syrian war and refugee crisis in hopes to bring about more awareness and an end to the genocide and bloodshed in Syria.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH



BiH Diasporic Conference

Co-hosted the Third Annual BiH Diasporic conference in Washington, D.C. bringing together more than 70 young Bosnian Americans in order to educate them on the importance of advocacy and preserving our Bosnian language, culture and heritage.

Events

Organized over 100 events on BiH in Washington, D.C. and across the U.S. in order to advocate for the needs of the Bosnian American community and in promoting the mission of ACBH.

Get Out the Vote

Encouraged Bosnian American communities to vote in U.S. and BiH by providing them with the necessary information and putting them in touch with proper voter registration organizations and agencies.

GIVING BACK



ACBH with Members of U.S. Congress and former BiH Ambassador to the U.S. in presenting the \$100,000 grant to the Marshall Legacy Institute which works on eradicating landmines in BiH.

Flood Relief

During the devastating floods in 2014, ACBH secured \$100,000 from the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and another \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of State in order to help with the de-mining efforts in mine contaminated areas of BiH. The heavy flooding shifted wartime landmines, killing adults and small children. BiH continues to be the most mine contaminated country in Europe, and with our partnership with the Marshall Legacy Institute, ACBH hopes to contribute to a mine-free BiH where its men, women, and children can live and prosper in peace.



ACBH with the Bosnian American community in Seattle, WA.

JOIN US



Dear Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

On behalf of the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina's (ACBH) Board of Directors, staff and volunteers we want to invite you to join us in fighting for the cause that is Bosnia and Herzegovina! As we look back on this decade of advocacy and the 25th anniversary of the U.S. recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) independence, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to counter threats to peace, stability and progress in BiH.

We are proud of the accomplishments that we have achieved over the past ten years and recognize that we could not have met those goals without our generous donors, partners, volunteers, government allies, Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and staff. Their unwavering support has enabled ACBH to lead the way in ensuring that the Bosnian American diaspora has a voice in Washington, D.C. and that BiH's history, including the genocide, are accurately represented.

In this critical time to secure BiH's democracy, ACBH calls on all friends of BiH to join us in working towards safeguarding BiH's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. What remains true to this day is that BiH's strength lies in its people and its centuries-old multi-ethnic fabric, and we thank you for supporting us in advocating for universal values that support a united and democratic BiH.

To enable us to continue giving the Bosnian American diaspora a voice, a seat at the table, and to ensure that the truth is safeguarded, we invite you to make a tax-deductible financial contribution to ACBH today!

Thank you for standing with us, and we look forward to your continued support and partnership.

With sincere gratitude,



Adnan Hadrovic
Chairman of the Board (of Directors)



Ajla Delkic
President

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