

**Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America
(BECCNA – Revival)**

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The Honorable Keith Self

Chair
Subcommittee on Europe
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William R. Keating

Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Europe
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Formal Rebuttal to Testimony of Mr. Max Primorac

“Hearing on the Path Toward Stability in the Western Balkans”***

Dear Chair Self and Ranking Member Keating,

On behalf of the **Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America**, we respectfully submit this letter for inclusion in the official record of the Subcommittee on Europe following the hearing entitled “**Path Toward Stability in the Western Balkans.**” This submission responds directly to the testimony provided by **Mr. Max Primorac**.

Our organization represents a community of approximately **300,000 Bosniaks residing in the United States**, the vast majority of whom are American citizens or lawful permanent residents. Bosniak Americans are deeply integrated into U.S. society—as entrepreneurs, professionals, veterans, first responders, educators, healthcare workers, and public servants—and have

consistently demonstrated loyalty to the United States and strong support for its democratic values, NATO, transatlantic security, and the rule of law.

As a community with lived experience of the consequences of instability in Southeast Europe, we share the Subcommittee's commitment to policies that advance **U.S. national security interests**, counter authoritarian influence, and preserve post-conflict peace arrangements. Our engagement is motivated not by any foreign allegiance, but by our belief that a stable Western Balkans is essential to American strategic, humanitarian, and security objectives.

We respectfully object to Mr. Primorac's testimony because it **mischaracterizes the root causes of instability in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, inaccurately portrays **Bosniaks as principal destabilizing actors**, and shifts responsibility away from **documented secessionist activity and foreign malign influence**, particularly from actors aligned with Russia and other authoritarian powers. Such misinterpretations risk undermining U.S. policy coherence in the region by legitimizing obstructionist behavior and weakening international enforcement mechanisms established to preserve peace.

In particular, Mr. Primorac's framework reframes Bosnia's crisis as an internally generated, identity-based conflict driven by alleged "Bosniak centralization," while minimizing the sustained defiance of the constitutional order by Republika Srpska authorities and the external support that enables such behavior. This approach stands in tension with the stated objectives of the United States and its European allies, which recognize Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty and territorial integrity as non-negotiable pillars of regional stability.

Furthermore, assertions of "gross" or "systematic" discrimination against Bosnian Croats are not supported by institutional or constitutional evidence. Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina enjoy extensive, constitutionally guaranteed political representation and veto powers disproportionate to their share of the population. Political dissatisfaction with electoral outcomes or party competition does not constitute discrimination and should not be used to justify proposals that would further entrench ethnic division.

We are also concerned by the repeated framing of Bosniaks primarily through a **religious lens**, rather than as a nationally recognized constituent people. Such framing risks religionizing constitutional governance and portraying institutions such as the judiciary and the Office of the High Representative as instruments of religious or ethnic domination, rather than mechanisms for enforcing the Dayton Peace Agreement and preserving legal order.

We submit this rebuttal in good faith to assist Members of the Subcommittee on Europe in evaluating testimony presented during the hearing. A **stable, sovereign, democratic, and multiethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina**, anchored in the rule of law and Euro-Atlantic integration, is fully aligned with U.S. strategic interests. Policies that weaken state institutions, reward obstruction, or legitimize the outcomes of ethnic cleansing would undermine decades of American leadership and increase long-term security risks in Europe.

We respectfully urge the Subcommittee to continue grounding U.S. policy toward the Western Balkans in factual analysis, institutional accountability, and a clear-eyed assessment of external malign influence.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on matters critical to European security and U.S. foreign policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Mirsad Mujadzic

President

Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mirsad Mujadzic", with a stylized flourish at the end.