

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Governor of the State of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry,

I am writing this letter to urge you to act swiftly and amend the very alarming Texas Senate Concurrent Resolution 39 which you signed on June 17, 2011. The Resolution states that "in April of 1992, the siege of Sarajevo began, leading to the death of more than 2,000 Serbs."

While memorializing the victims of genocide is extremely important, I would like to bring to your attention that the above quoted sentence is historically inaccurate and an insult to the victims of the Bosnian genocide. As an American of Bosnian descent, I would like to inform you that the city of Sarajevo was besieged by the Serb forces of Republika Srpska and the Yugoslav People's Army which was comprised of Serbs. The siege lasted from April 5, 1992 until February 29, 1996 and is considered the longest siege in modern day history. According to the United Nations Commission of Experts published in 1994, during the Siege of Sarajevo, the Serb forces committed genocide and ethnic cleansing on more than 10,000 innocent lives, 1,500 of those being innocent children. An additional 56,000 persons have been wounded, including nearly 15,000 children.

In 2003, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) convicted Stanislav Galic, the first commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, of crimes against humanity for his part in the siege. He was handed a life sentence. Four years later, Dragomir Milosevic, the Serb general who replaced Galic as commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, was found guilty of leading the shelling and sniper attacks on the city and was given a 29 year sentence. Lastly, Radovan Karadzic, the former Supreme Commander of the Bosnian Serb armed forces and President of the National Security Council of the Republika Srpska has also been charged with ordering the siege on the city of Sarajevo with a clear intention to destroy the non Serb population.

The delay in implementing these changes will jeopardize true historical findings to surface and will promote a grave injustice therefore it is of the utmost importance that Texas Senate Concurrent Resolution 39 is amended. It is imperative that we increase the awareness of the dangers of genocide denial in order to prevent genocide from happening again elsewhere in the world. Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,