

More Prosecutions Likely to Stem From New Srebrenica Report

The New York Times

October 6, 2005

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The war crimes tribunal in Bosnia-Herzegovina said yesterday that it expected to increase the number of its prosecutions in connection with the 1995 Srebrenica massacre after the announcement on Tuesday that a list of names of more than 17,000 Bosnian Serb soldiers, police officers and officials involved in the killings had been completed by a government commission.

In November of last year, the Bosnian Serb authorities acknowledged responsibility for the Srebrenica massacre and apologized officially after years of playing down the extent of the violence that occurred in July 1995 and the expulsions of millions of people.

The turning over of the list to war crimes officials completes a two-year investigation by the Bosnian Serb government of the Srebrenica massacre. The panel said the list included 19,473 civilians and armed forces members, of whom 17,074 were named. The massacre left an estimated 8,000 people, mostly Muslim men and boys, dead in Europe's worst massacre since World War II.

A senior Bosnian Serb official familiar with the commission's work investigating the atrocity said he expected 90 people named on the list to be prosecuted by [Bosnia's](#) recently established war crimes court.

The official requested anonymity because he said he did not want to pre-empt any announcements by the court.

A spokesman for the Bosnian tribunal, which began to prosecute war crimes cases last month, said he believed that the list would let prosecutors pursue suspects still in the Bosnian Serb government. Ten Bosnian Serbs accused of taking part in the massacre are currently on trial in the court in Sarajevo.

"I can't give you numbers," said the spokesman, Refik Hodzic. "We are looking into it and will prioritize those who are occupying positions of power, either in the police or other institutions of the country."

Only three years ago it was considered highly unlikely that the government in the Serb-controlled half of Bosnia, which by its own admission still employs about 900 people who were involved in the killings at Srebrenica, would implicate its forces and give their names to prosecutors.

The new report is widely thought to have been written under pressure from the [United States](#) and the European Union.

"Unfortunately the report is a product of international pressure, rather than the genuine work of the Bosnian Serb Republic's leadership to face what was happening in Srebrenica," said Zeljko Kopanja, editor in chief of Nezavisne Novine, an independent Bosnian Serb newspaper.

However, he said, he thought the commission report and any subsequent prosecution would help to establish greater awareness about what had happened.

"It will help determine the truth," he said.

The list shows in detail for the first time the extent to which Bosnian Serb forces and organizations were involved in the killings.

It states that 17,342 soldiers participated in the capture of Srebrenica from the United Nations peacekeepers who were protecting the enclave, and in the subsequent killings.

The report also lists 55 Defense Ministry administrators, 209 civil protection workers and 34 drivers.

Mr. Hodzic said those names suggested the extent of the preparation involved in the massacre.

"I think that if you take into account the dimension of genocide that occurred, you will find that many, many people took part in different aspects of it," he said.

Ivana Sekularac contributed reporting for this article.