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Shifting school

St. Monica's School alumni who are planning to attend upcoming reunions may be in for a surprise if they visit their alma mater when students return to the classroom this week. Although the building located on Rochester's Genesee Street still looks the same, the student body is very different. Page 7.



AP/Wide World Photos
A Croatian refugee Sept. 1 holds out her bowl for food in the town of Capjlina, located 12 miles south of Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina. She and about 2,500 Croatian refugees arrived in the town after walking four days from central Bosnia to escape from advancing Muslim forces.

Bosnia may be U.N. 'coffin,' human rights expert claims

When Omar Sacirbey walks the corridors of the U.N. building these days, he senses grave fear among the other delegates.

"People have referred to Bosnia as the coffin for the United Nations," the Ohio native and human rights adviser to Bosnia-Herzegovina at the United Nations said in a speech Wednesday night, Sept. 1, at Brighton's Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

Sacirbey was addressing a banquet audience whose donations were going to four relief agencies aiding his country's citizens. Bosnia has been torn by war between Serbs, Croats and Bosnians for more than 17 months now.

The banquet was sponsored by the Interfaith Forum, comprising representatives of several religious groups — including the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester. Bishop Matthew H. Clark introduced Sacirbey to the audience.

On the same day Sacirbey was speaking, talks on a proposed peace plan between leaders of Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia collapsed in Geneva, Switzerland.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that the leaders had previously reached a preliminary agreement dividing Bosnia into three ethnic states, with the Serbs controlling 52 percent of Bosnia, the Croats getting 17 percent, and the Muslims having 31 percent.

As the *Catholic Courier* went to press Sept. 7, the *Associated Press* reported no resumption of talks.

Sacirbey, a vocal critic of the proposed plan, noted that the failure of the U.N. to effectively halt Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina has disre-



Omar Sacirbey, human rights adviser to Bosnia-Herzegovina at the U.N., speaks at Brighton's Temple B'rith Sept. 1.

ditied the organization among Bosnians and sounded the death knell for many of his countrymen. Although he welcomed U.N.-administered humanitarian aid to the region, he considered it ultimately useless if the Serbs are not stopped.

"The food would do a lot more good if it were stuck in the barrels of the Serbian guns so they couldn't shoot at the Bosnian civilians," he declared.

According to Sacirbey, the war has taken the lives of more than 220,000 Bosnians — 85 percent of whom are civilians. Children make up 15 percent of the casualties, Sacirbey said, adding, "and believe me, this is no accident."

In addition to those statistics, he noted that 80,000 women have been raped, and that "men will flee from fear of castration and concentration camps."

Even the Croats — former allies of the Bosnians — now operate concentration camps for Bosnians, Sacirbey said.

Noting that his "soul has really become corroded with cynicism," Sacirbey also maintained that Europe and the United States have stood by and watched Serbian forces commit genocide against his people. Bosnians still look to the United States for support, he said.

"Their hope is on (the United States) because they think as Americans they can appreciate what (Bosnians) are fighting for," he said.

What Bosnians are fighting for is a pluralistic

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