

Bosnia dialogue impeded
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Catholic News Service photo A Bosnian Muslim man cries near the coffin of a relative before a burial in Potocari, Bosnia-Herzegovina, July 11. The bodies of 520 recently identified victims of the Srebrenica massacre were buried on the 17th anniversary of the massacre. During the Bosnian War, Serb forces slaughtered 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Europe's worst massacre since World War II.

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Catholic leaders in Bosnia-Herzegovina say real ethnic and religious dialogue is not occurring and not all religions have equal rights.

“Real dialogue” is being impeded by “legalized war crimes and injustices,” as well as by failure to implement the peace accord that ended the country’s 1992-95 war, said the monsignor-secretary-general of the Bosnian bishops’ conference.

“In no other European country has the plight of Catholics been as dramatic as here — at least half have left, and those who remain have problems finding a roof over their heads, food, jobs and conditions for life,” said Bosnian Bishop Franjo Komarica of Banja Luka.

Bosnia’s Grand Mufti Mustafa Cerić had rejected complaints by Catholic and Orthodox leaders that growing Muslim domination had left Christians with no future in Sarajevo.

Catholics made up 18 percent of the 4.3 million citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina, with Muslims and Orthodox Serbs constituting 44 percent and 35 percent, respectively, before the war, which ended with the formation of separate Serb and Croat-Muslim territories in a united country.

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