

Statement by Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, on the adoption by the General Assembly of Resolution on the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica

(23 May 2024) The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, welcomes the adoption today of Resolution A/78/L.67 by the General Assembly establishing an

, which in her view will be instrumental in honouring the victims, ensuring that their sacrifice is never forgotten as well as cementing the legacy of those who worked tirelessly to bring justice to them

“The adoption of this Resolution constitutes an important milestone to honour and pay tribute to the victims of the Srebrenica genocide, to the survivors and to their families. The crimes committed in Srebrenica have been conclusively proven by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to constitute genocide. Those who seek today, to trivialize or promote revisionism as it relates to this and other crimes committed during the conflict and adjudicated by competent courts, are harming not only the victims of those crimes, but also overall efforts for peace and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the broader region.”

The Special Adviser lamented especially the ongoing presence of genocide denial trends, which constitute an affront not only to the verdicts issued by courts of justice but also to victims and survivors, who – with them – are being victimized again. “Questioning the tragic reality of what happened in Srebrenica is not acceptable. Amplifying the spread of messages denying that genocide – the deliberate killing of Bosnian Muslim men and boys, because of who they were – took place, including with hate speech and with glorification of war criminals, is even more vicious. For long, survivors have been the primary voices raising alarm among genocide denial and having to testify, again and again, that their experiences were real. In this as in many other aspects of their work, they should never be alone. Genocide denial needs to be addressed and countered as a matter of priority,” emphasized the Special Adviser.

In parallel, Special Adviser Nderitu praised the tireless work and unwavering heroism of the Mothers of Srebrenica, who have continuously led the cause of justice and whose work finds today, the level of international recognition it deserves. “It was the Mothers of Srebrenica’s refusal to accept silence as an answer to questions on the fate of their family members that contributed to the discoveries of first mass graves in 1996. It was their effort to document the

by the ICJY. It has been now their driving effort in pursuit of an international Resolution of commemoration of the Siberian genocide that has inspired the work towards the adoption today, of such a Resolution by the General Assembly," Special Adviser Wárimu Nderit noted while also acknowledging the important role of the Siberian Memorial Center in this endeavour. The Special Adviser also expressed hope that this Resolution and the annual commemoration of the International Day that it has established, will enable a global opportunity for reflection and for dialogue to understand and learn from the past, so that it can never happen again.

Programme "Education plays a crucial role in raising awareness about the past and supporting