

WORLD MPS CONDEMN UN FOR FAILING
TO PROTECT BOSNIAN FORM GENOCIDE

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



World MPs condemn UN for failing to protect Bosnians from genocide

ISLAMABAD, May 6: Strongly condemning the United Nations for its failure to protect Bosnian people from genocide, the Conference of International Parliamentarians has called upon the UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali to resign for failing to give leadership to the world body.

The conference of "International Parliamentarians against genocide in Bosnia", held last week in Brussels, Belgium, in a resolution expressed the view that the Secretary General of UN has lost the confidence of the world to save the Bosnians from Serbian aggression.

Naib Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Senator Prof Khurshid Ahmed who attended the conference said in an interview on his arrival here today that the conference took stong exception to the dismal failure of the United Nations in fulfilling its obligation to protect Bosnia-Herzegovina, a sovereign member-state from greater Serbian aggression.

Prof. Khurshid said more than 150 parliamentarians from 53 countries participated in the two-day conference.

The Jamaat leader said, the conference noted with concern that the so-called great powers, especially, USA, Britain, France and Russia have totally failed to fulfil their responsibility, both under the UN as well as NATO.

"The conference called for the elimination of the veto power vested in the so-called five

permanent members because such veto power being responsible for blocking it from taking effective actions to protect the independence and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina", maintained Prof Khurshid.

He said it was a very important international conference because for the first time members of the parliament and religious leaders representing four major communities of the world — Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism — met at the invitation of the President of the European Parliament Congress at the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels. The purpose, he said, was to express viewpoint of the world parliamentarians on the current phase of Bosnian crisis and to suggest an effective response at the popular level to resolve this crisis. From the European Parliament Dr. Egon Alfred Klepsch, President of the European Parliament chaired the first session and was chairman of the conference. The other co-chairmen were Frank McCloskey, member USA Congress, Senator Kamil Al-Sharif of Jordan, Roberto Formigony, Deputy Minister and member Italian parliament, and Dr. Affiuddin Omar Minister of State and member of the Parliament of Malaysia, Bosnia's Foreign Minister and Vice-President of Croatia also participated in the conference.

He said the conference also

came to the conclusion that the root cause of the crisis is Serbian nationalism and the ambition of Serbs to establish by force a state of Greater Serbia. This, the conference emphasised, represents a new imperialistic movement and if allowed unchecked, greater Serbian nationalism may lead to a new world war in Europe, Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania are going to be the next flash points.

Prof. Khurshid maintained that the conference also came to the conclusion that western powers are by and large following a policy of appeasement towards Serbian aggression and this is a replay of what happened before the Second World War in the form of Nazi Aggression. World could be saved from a new world war only by effectively containing the Serb Aggression and forcing it to vacate land and power acquired by aggression.

The conference emphasised the principle that no country should be allowed to gain from aggression.

The Jamaat Senator went on to say that the conference also emphasised that UN embargo on arms to Bosnia lacks legitimacy, both legal as well as moral. Experts of international law, who participated in the conference emphasised that the so-called sanctions were imposed on the former state of Yugoslavia even before Bosnia-Herzegovina came into existence and was recognised by the UN in May, 1992.

The sanctions were extended to

Bosnia only through a memorandum of Lord Karington, which was never ratified or endorsed by the UN Security Council.

In fact UN and NATO have failed to effectively impose any economic or arms embargo on the Serbs and have also failed to provide protection to the unarmed Bosnians who have been denied the opportunity of self-defence because of the arms embargo.

He said the conference declared that Bosnia-Herzegovina has the legal and constitutional right to defend and recover its rightful territory from the aggressor and in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter has the right to directly call for aid, including military aid, from member nations individually as well as collectively, and it is the moral duty of all peace-loving nations to provide this aid to Bosnia.

Prof. Khurshid said the conference also called upon all members of the parliament and political groups to mobilise world opinion and to demand from their own governments to extend massive support to Bosnia for defence and rehabilitation.

The conference issued two documents a declaration and communique, and has also established a permanent group to follow up mobilisation of international support, particularly of world parliaments, against genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina.—PPI