

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council  
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**Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mr President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina have taken positive steps towards increasing the resources available for the prosecution of war crimes.<sup>1</sup> The authorities must now ensure that the large backlog of cases before the courts and at the investigative stage is reduced. In addition they must launch new investigations and prosecutions, providing access to justice for the many victims whose cases have never been heard.

Amnesty International is concerned that survivors of sexual violence committed during the conflict face obstacles in accessing their right to reparation, particularly in Republika Srpska where access has been effectively denied since the end of 2007.<sup>2</sup> Many are stigmatized and ostracised. Even when the courts had established that a war crime had been committed involving sexual violence, compensation has not been awarded to the victims. In many cases the only remedy available is a disability allowance. However, to access this, victims face considerable administrative hurdles.

We call on the government to ensure that victims of war crimes of sexual violence have effective access to reparation, including appropriate healthcare services for physical and psychological conditions and reintegration into society. The government must guarantee comprehensive rehabilitation to all victims, regardless of where they live in

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Bosnia and Herzegovina, A/HRC/28/17, 4 December 2014, recommendations 107.58 (Uruguay), 107.59 (Finland), 107.60 (Iceland), 107.61 (Ireland), 107.62 (Norway), 107.63 (Lithuania), 1107.64 (UK), 107.97 (France), 107.98 (Argentina), 107.99 (Switzerland), and 107.100 (Chile).

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/28/17, recommendations 107.58 (Uruguay), 107.59 (Finland), 107.60 (Iceland), 107.61 (Ireland), 107.62 (Norway), 107.63 (Lithuania), 107.64 (UK), and 107.99 (Switzerland).

the country, and ensure they do not face discrimination on the grounds of their gender or national identity.

Finally, Amnesty International calls on the government to ensure witness protection so that witnesses are able to testify in court.<sup>3</sup> These measures must be tailored to individual needs and be available before, during and after the court procedure, with sufficient safeguards such as identity protection and psychological support.

Thank you, Mr President

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/28/17, recommendations 107.58 (Uruguay), 107.68 (Malaysia), and 107.94 (Belgium).