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*South-East Europe on the edge of civilization - Depending who you ask*

***Freaks in and around US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina***

My dear mother! There are a lot of symbolic reflections within Bosnia and Herzegovina that might also be observed around the region of South East-Europe, but looks like there is only one very specific case to Americans, and locals, within the US Embassy in Sarajevo, that is Bosnia and Herzegovina.

# Immediately comes to my mind as a much bigger issue the [Enhanced Interrogation Techniques](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/enhanced-interrogation-techniques/) which gave more light to anything else that has been done in Bosnia and Herzegovina by US officials (I have to underline that people of U.S., and especially respected voices of those who did enormous pressure on US government to stop the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina back in the nineties), but... namely, please allow me to make a small introduction to the title of this essay. [Richard Holbrooke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Holbrooke), so called ‘Al mighty...’ of the [Dayton peace agreement](http://www.ohr.int/dpa/default.asp?content_id=380) that stopped the war of 1992-1995 in BiH has made huge mistakes in Dayton? Which one? He let the same people who conducted the war, to negotiate the peace.

# Sociologically, politically and even in humanitarian way of thinking, it should not happen like that. Why? The answer you can see almost twenty years since then in current Bosnia and Herzegovina about which I was writing in Eurasia Review within last year and that is published in recent book [‘Bosnia and Herzegovina and the XXI century’](http://www.diogenpro.com/promo.html). Mistakes of U.S. government officials are not based on the non-willingness to conduct the proper way of establishing the so called ‘Democracy’ which I called a long time ago ‘*Demo(n)cracy*’ (Question mark: am I fundamentalist if I say that real democracy - or just the announcement of this - exists only in Island, Sweden, Norway and/or Finland). Democracy, according to my humble opinion, is the state of acting (and mind, of course) in which my freedom does not threaten the freedom of others, and it stops immediately if I base my freedom on cancelling and hindering somebody else’s freedom. Just check out the World of XXI century and the answer will be given.

# So, to make a long story short, US government officials’ mistakes are always based on ignorance and emptiness of local people’s thoughts, conclusions, culture and knowledge. Question mark: When was the last time when you met a US Embassy official walking around the old part of Sarajevo, titled ‘Baščaršija’ (rough translation is ‘Just the city’ or ‘Just the place of living and working’) while talking to the locals, except those individuals whom they hire? Never, or just only when some US Government official arrives in Bosnia and Herzegovina who likes to taste ćevapcic, baklava and other traditional foods and of course to be seen by the local media on the streets of a ruined city. The locals who work for them? As the person who worked for almost 7 (seven) years for the International community in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1993-2000) I can simply say, but strongly have to underline: 65 percent of the local employees for the International organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been instructed to be there and serve indirectly local powers regardless if they were Bosniaks (Muslim), Croats and Serbs from Bosnia and Herzegovina. What does it mean? Ignorance of the so called [CIA, NASA, MI, NI and so many other acronyms of the great intelligence organisations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Intelligence_Community) from United States of America did not do their job. Or did they? We will never know. Why? It is simply irresistible to answer: ignorance.

# Then we come *in medias res* of the essay which is about to show total disaster of American policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (with the help of locals). So, I wanted to share a presentation and valuable ideas about electronic government that very well can be implemented by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the help of USAID and US Embassy in Sarajevo, together with my colleague and friend, Peter Tase, a US citizen and a [scholar and journalist,](http://www.eurasiareview.com/author/peter-tase/) on December 11th , *Anno domini* 2014 and to present (remember the word: *presentation*, please) this potential project of *Establishing the E-Government Initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

# But, there is always, but...everything started on October 29th when on behalf of Peter - who was coming to Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 2014, to promote his book ‘The Image of Paraguay in the United States 2012-2014’ and my book as I mentioned above - and myself send an E-mail to US officials at US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The answer came not from US officials but from the local *Project management specialist* from USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina (whom I do not want to mention her name) who was very nice in her correspondence with Peter and later on with me, in regards to arranging the meeting for the above mentioned *presentation* on which I was working since I had returned back from Kazakhstan, a very advanced government in doing everything on-line (in the [beginning of October 2014- World E-Government forum](http://www.eurasiareview.com/08102014-path-global-e-government-forum-innovation-challenging-practice/)) with one simple idea in mind: Through the E-government establishment in Bosnia and Herzegovina we would not just connect a ruined country but also ruined people(s) of Bosnia and Herzegovina and improve their living conditions in a well-organized society in which they will get any document they need within a matter of hours and not weeks, months...

# But, as we previously agreed we were scheduled to meet on Thursday, 11.12.2014 at the US Embassy, we thought that we will be able to present the presentation of 30 (thirty) slides containing our joint proposal, on which we were working for over two months. Nevertheless, problems started in front of the gate at the US Embassy of Sarajevo: One police officer stated that we can park on the sidewalk adjacent to the walls of the embassy, right next to the main entrance of the embassy, even though there was a sign that prohibited the parking of vehicles there, another police, who appeared very aggressive and almost ate me alive, came up, just after I parked the vehicle, and said that we cannot park here and continued *quote...in regards to my opinion, you can park on Skenderija* (note: 2 kilometers away) *if you want to, but here you cannot park.*..*end of quote.*

# I had to move the vehicle 400 meters away on a paid parking lot while my colleagues (Peter Tase and Goran Vrhunc) were waiting on a cold winter day wearing only regular suits (without jackets). Then, crescendo happened when we entered the control gates with metal detectors at the embassy; which was even more protected than a guarded customs area at a major airport anywhere in the world. Having in mind that I am a Muslim (Bosniak) I expected that I am going to be thoroughly searched as a possible ‘terrorist’ because you are guilty until is proved differently, I expected that and certainly kept in mind that the US policy in the world is making more enemies than friends recently, but...I did not expect that they will treat my colleague (Goran was still waiting outside to be invited and go through a meticulous search) Peter Tase as a possible terrorist and thoroughly searching his body for an extended time nor had I thought that USAID’s representative who had exchanged many emails with me, would not come and welcome us at the security check point.

# The problem was with the word, as I mentioned previously...*presentation...*namely, when I was position to be thoroughly searched, problem appeared. I did accept to leave my lap top in the security check point but when asked to leave my USB with the security officer it was pointless to attend a meeting without showing a power point *presentation.* While I was explaining that to the local female police officer and suddenly arrived *our* *escort,* as I was told, to take us to the main building. She again repeated the same adage that we did not agreed to bring the USB in our meeting at the embassy. I repeated again that I am an Assistant professor at a University, and always I have used the word...*presentation...*in my emails. But, she stated...quote...*you have not written that you will bring the USB...*end of quote. My response was that a *Project management specialist* should know what I was talking about when stating *that I would give a presentation*, as we did days ago at other institutions in Sarajevo.

# However she suggested that “*we can have a chat”* How is it possible that USB with the size of 1cm x 2cm can threaten a world power?

# That blew my mind out. Peter entered the security check point again requested his ID and certainly exited armored room of the check point, while Goran was standing outside confused, probably asking himself, what is going on inside. We simply said, that we will not go and have a chat (we were prepared to make concrete suggestions and give a serious *presentation)* and that we will inform the public about their rude behavior and we went out. They were waiting outside of the entrance to the main gate in a subzero temperature with a freezing wind which made Peter have a terrible pain in his ears that would continue for days, while I went to pick up our car.

# Finally, last but not least, what is the outcome of mentioned?

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# Right at the beginning we thought that might be good to the US Foreign Policy since it is the main coordinator of the Dayton peace agreement...to promote e-government initiative in the most politically complicated country on Earth.

# But, at the end, we decided to explore other venues in order to move forward with such a dynamic project of e-government in Bosnia and Herzegovina, because US Embassy staff is overshadowed by local unprofessional ‘advisers’ who distort the true realities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. US Embassy staff is simply:

# Controlled by local feudalistic and ignorant people who have been threatened by our proposal;

# Or

# Are certainly uninformed in regards to the means of a real communication process that is used in order to convey ideas and exchange experiences among intellectuals while using US Embassy as the launching point of this exciting initiative.

# 

# Or

# All above, including ‘1’and ‘2’

# Where is the answer? That is the question of a million US dollars. That is the amount of money that Bosnia Herzegovina loses every month if it does not implement the e-government project very soon. E-government is here to come, regardless with or without us.

# *Presentation* is the problem. Especially when it comes from someone who knows what is doing. An aspiration and *Presentation* destined for the benefit of my nation and common good unlike many others whose goal is to make personal profits and do not bring anything new to the table. Unfortunately, freaks in and around US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina did not see its content. Or perhaps they do not want to see it.