

On the occasion of the 18th First Bosniak Congress Anniversary, BiH Presidency Member Bakir Izetbegovi issued the following press statement:

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“At the First Bosniak Congress, held in besieged Sarajevo, 27th and 28th September 1993, some of the most significant pages of the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosniaks were written. The entire state and military leadership, headed by President Alija Izetbegovi, the leading people of the Islamic Community of BiH and the most significant cultural institutions, 377 parliamentarians and 88 representatives from all districts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on this date exactly eighteen years ago rejected the attempt of imposition of a sinister plan to divide Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The offered so-called Geneva peace plan, which prescribed creation of three ethnic republics with a right to succession within a loose state union, was unanimously rejected.

This brave and fateful decision echoed throughout the world as a heroic choice made between the unjust peace offered and the continuation of the just fight for survival of the people and the unified state of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the same session, the Bosniak Congress brought another historical decision. The Declaration on Bosniaks was adopted, in which the national name of Bosniak was re-introduced to Bosnian Muslims. “With this Declaration on the people’s name we are definitely removing new disagreements, hesitation and doubts from the agenda” said one of our greats, Alija Isakovi.

Today in peace we are building Bosnia and Herzegovina as a free, internationally recognised, sovereign, unified and democratic state on the path towards Europe and NATO. The Bosniaks in their homeland are an indispensable political factor, who accomplish their rights through the legitimate and legal representatives to the institutions of authority.

For this reason, we must never forget the important events and people, who permanently and inerasably marked our history and the history of our state. The Bosniak Congress, held in September of the war year of 1993, is one of those fateful events, which grounded the right of the Bosniak people to live as free and equal in the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina”.