

# HUMANITY IN ACTION

**Mr. Konstanty Gebert's  
Visit to Sarajevo**

In March 2016, Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Konstanty Gebert, an associate fellow at the European Council for Foreign Relations and an international reporter and columnist at “Gazeta Wyborcza”, Poland’s largest daily publication.

During his visit, Mr. Gebert held lectures at the University of Sarajevo and the Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was a guest in a live news segment on Al Jazeera Balkans and spoke at an event at the Delegation of EU to BiH.

**>> MARCH 16, 2016 >>**

**>> Lecture at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law >>**

Mr. Gebert was a guest lecturer in the Faculty’s Genocide Studies course. He talked about the Shoah and what makes it unique, what makes genocide unique and why is that important. He discussed the topic with the students enrolled in the class, as well as some HIA Senior Fellows.



*Mr. Gebert at the Faculty of Law*



*Soraja Zagić, HIA Senior Fellow at the lecture*



**>> MARCH 17, 2016 >>**

**>> Lecture at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science >>**

In cooperation with the Centre for the Refugee and IDP Studies (CESI), a research institution at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science, we organized a lecture for students from Sarajevo, as well as exchange students from Columbia University NYC.

Mr. Gebert discussed the current migration debate in Europe, focusing on the refugee crisis and its implications for human rights and freedoms and long-term socio-demographic, political and economic restructurings.



*Maida Omerćehajić (HIA BiH) and Dr. Selma Porobić (CESI) introducing Mr. Gebert*



**>> Al Jazeera Balkans >>**

Mr. Gebert was a guest in a live segment of the 4 PM News on the channel, discussing the current refugee crisis in light of the recent EU Summit in Brussels.



[The segment is available in local languages on [this link](#)]



**>> Movie screening at the Delegation of EU in BiH >>**

In cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in BiH, we participated in the organization of the premiere of a documentary movie about the life of Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki commissioned by the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Polish Institute of Diplomacy and produced by Media Kontakt. After the movie, Mr. Gebert spoke about his experiences as Mr. Mazowiecki's assistant during the time he spent in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



*Gen. Jovan Divjak (HIA BiH Board Member)  
with Mr. Gebert at the event*



**>> MARCH 18, 2016 >>**

**>> Lecture at the Jewish Community of BiH >>**

For the final event of his visit, Mr. Gebert spoke about the future of Jews in Europe at a lecture organized in cooperation with HIA BiH Board Member Dr. Eli Tauber and the Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



*Daniel Lazarević (HIA BiH), Mr. Gebert  
and Dr. Tauber at the event*



*Mr. Gebert's lecture was extremely interesting for 4<sup>th</sup> year students of the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law, since they had the opportunity to learn more about the Holocaust which is underrepresented in academic studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lecture was well argued, and his approach was captivating for everyone in the audience. Given the highly interesting topic of the lecture, the students reacted with many questions. My impression is that Mr. Gebert is a person who is dedicated to his research and has vast knowledge about the topics of genocide and the Holocaust, and I would highly recommend him as a guest lecturer at any institution or event. We got the opportunity to host Mr. Gebert thanks to Humanity in Action BiH, who we consider a great friend of our institution, and their continued collaboration with the Faculty of Law. I am extremely pleased that there is an organization in BiH ready to act on bringing the topics of genocide and the Holocaust closer to the public.*

- Dr. Edin Halapić, Assistant Professor at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law

*The Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina had the pleasure of hosting the eminent Jewish author, Mr. Konstanty Gebert. Having in mind that Mr. Gebert possesses remarkable knowledge about the history of Jews in Europe, we used the opportunity to discuss the future of Jews. The lecture started with the question: "Are we already packed?" The lecture held by Mr. Gebert entirely fulfilled the expectations of the members of the audience, who then engaged in a productive discussion. The approach to the lecture was adjusted to the members of the Jewish Community, and the approachable way of explanation (with the translation of our dear Maida from HIA BiH) was accepted very well. It was a great pleasure for me personally that Mr. Gebert accepted my proposal for the topic of the lecture, and an even greater one that he did it in such a unique way.*

- Dr. Eli Tauber, HIA BiH Board Member, Adviser on Culture to the Jewish Community of BiH

*Mr. Gebert's much welcomed lecture was a well-needed in-depth review of crucial issues faced by European societies in the context of current refugee protection and humanitarian disaster, faced by Syrian and other refugees seeking safe shelter in Europe. His lecture was a true wake-up call as he knowledgeably and wisely provided insights into both horizontal political relations that have been evolving over the refugees suffering between leading EU countries and Turkey, but also vertical legal, political and moral dilemmas faced by EU political project and Europe in general with its legacy of persecutions and human rights regime development. Such all-encompassing overview and in-depth understanding of the situation provokes both journeying into past, to understand present but also enables us to imagine the future of Europe, and most importantly functions an important wake up call for all its citizens to be part of ongoing political decision-making processes. We need more paralleled discussions of this kind and above all conversation forums at the universities across Europe, especially SEE countries.*

- Dr. Selma Porobić, Centre for Refugee and IDP Studies, University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science

*The EU Info Centre in cooperation with the Embassy of The Republic of Poland in BiH organized a film screening of the documentary dedicated to the life and work of the former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. After the screening, visitors were able to participate in a moderated discussion with the special guest coming from Poland, Mr. Konstanty Gebert, who was Assistant of Mr. Mazowiecki when he was Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights in the territory of the Former Yugoslavia in 1990s. This meeting with the witness of Mr. Mazowiecki's mission, Mr. Konstanty Gebert, was an opportunity to make the significance and details of the BiH mission of Tadeusz Mazowiecki closer to everyone interested in the contemporary history of BiH.*

- Embassy of the Republic of Poland in BiH