

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **U.N. War Crimes Prosecutor Explores Genocide, Justice, and Hope in Carlisle**

Dermot Groome spent almost five years pursuing justice against the man known as “The Butcher of Bosnia,” Serbian General, Ratko Mladic. In the end Groome and his team proved that Mladic was responsible for thousands of civilian deaths. On October 26 Groome will host an afternoon and evening of experiences designed to help participants understand what happened, how Mladic was brought to justice, and what it was like for the hundreds of Bosnian refugee families who came to the Cumberland Valley to rebuild their lives after the genocide. Groome is currently on the faculty of Penn State Dickinson Law School and a hero to the over 1500 Bosnians who now make their home in the Cumberland Valley. Zinaid Granic was born the year before the genocide peaked with the massacre of 8,372 people in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica. He now is the Imam of the Bosnian Islamic Cultural Center in Carlisle and the youngest Bosnian Imam in North America. Granic’s community is excited by this opportunity to tell their story. “I remember watching Mr. Groome on TV [in Bosnia] during the trial; I never thought that I would get to meet him. And now I discovered that he lives right here.”

The event has been organized with extensive support from Dickinson College, the Penn State Dickinson Law School, both Bosnian mosques in Carlisle, and Second Presbyterian Church. Dr. Jeff Gibelius, Senior Pastor of Second Church was an early champion of the event and a co-organizer. “Christians are taught to love our neighbors. Part of that loving is listening to their painful stories of suffering and loss. This event is a chance for us to hear from our Bosnian Muslim neighbors and ‘stand with’ them.” Over 600 students, citizens, religious leaders, and civic leaders from different faiths and ethnic backgrounds are expected to attend.

“Genocide, Justice, and Hope,” is free to the public. At 4pm Prof. Groome will introduce an exclusive screening of the PBS/BBC Frontline documentary, *The Trial of Ratko Mladic*. At 6pm several Bosnian Muslims will share their “Survivor Stories.” This segment will conclude with a personal message from the Grand Mufti of the Bosniak Muslim Community in North America. Following “Survivor Stories,” all participants are invited to a reception featuring traditional Bosnian delicacies provided by the local refugee community. All events will take place at the Anita Tuviv Schlechter Auditorium on the Campus of Dickinson College (360 West Louthier St, Carlisle). Registration and other information is available at [www.growwithsecond.org/Hope](http://www.growwithsecond.org/Hope). Each portion of the event stands alone; the public is invited to come for all or a portion of the event. Space is limited.