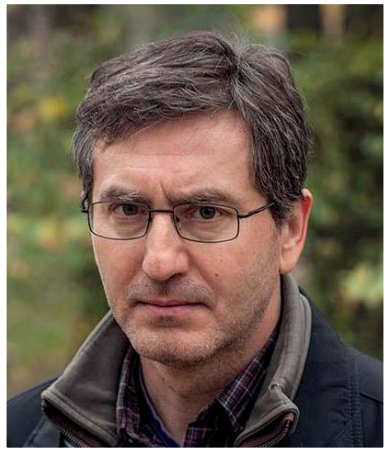


# HASAN NUHANOVIĆ



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Hasan Nuhanović was an interpreter for the United Nations in Srebrenica and saw his family murdered when the town fell to the Bosnian Serb Army. In the years since he has campaigned for justice for the victims of Srebrenica.



*'I am seeking justice. If I had not done this I would not be able to go on with my life.'*

Hasan Nuhanović was born on 2 April 1968 in Zvornik, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to Bosnian Muslim parents Ibro and Nasiha Nuhanović. Hasan enrolled in the University of Sarajevo as a mechanical engineering student. His father Ibro was a businessman, his mother Nasiha looked after the family home and his younger brother Mohammad attended high school.

When Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito died in 1980, ethnic and national tensions began to tear Yugoslavia apart.

In 1992 in Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict broke out between Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims, also called Bosniaks. With Bosnian Serb forces intent on ethnically cleansing the region, Hasan, who was home from university, and his family were forced to flee their home in Vlasenica. They fled to Srebrenica, a town where Hasan's uncle lived. Here they would remain for three years.

Srebrenica, a Bosniak town besieged by the Bosnian Serbs, became a symbol of resistance for the Bosniak cause. The Bosnian Serbs prevented essential supplies from reaching the civilians inside the town. With the town's pre-war population swollen to 60,000 by refugees, Hasan remembers terrible conditions in Srebrenica, with little food, water or electricity available to the desperate people trapped there. Long before 1995, Srebrenica was a humanitarian disaster.

In April 1993 the United Nations Security Council declared Srebrenica a 'safe area', and 150 Canadian soldiers arrived in the town. Hasan went to talk to them and, as he spoke English, he was hired as an interpreter for the Canadians. He continued in this role when they were replaced by 600 Dutch soldiers. UN troops in Srebrenica were only authorized to use lethal force in cases of self-defence. Protecting civilians inside Srebrenica did not meet this criteria.

The Bosnian Serb Army entered Srebrenica on 11 July 1995, and immediately began to separate Bosniak men and boys over the age of 13 from the rest of the population, searching for 'war criminals'. Women and children were put on buses and deported from Srebrenica. 8,372 men and boys were shot over the course of the next few days, with the majority being murdered between 11 - 13 July.

Hasan and his family, along with thousands of other refugees, fled to the UN base at Potocari, near Srebrenica, hoping that the Dutch troops and the UN flag would protect them. Despite clear evidence that preparations for a massacre of Bosniak men were underway, the Dutch failed to stop deportations of Bosniak civilians, and forced Hasan and his family to leave the base.

Hasan, as an employee of the UN, was entitled to stay, but his family were not. Hasan had to translate the Dutch order for his family to leave. Hasan pleaded with the Dutch to allow his family to remain inside the base, but they were not allowed. Hasan wanted to leave with his family but they refused to let him go with them, knowing they would all be murdered. This was the last time Hasan would see his family alive.

In the years following the Srebrenica genocide Hasan, like tens of thousands of other desperate people, had no idea what had happened to his family. In 2006, after 11 years of searching, the body of his father Ibro was identified, followed three years later by his mother Nasiha. In 2010 Hasan helped to confirm suspected remains of his younger brother Mohammad. Hasan immediately recognised the distinctive shoes and jeans he had bought for his brother in the spring of 1995.

In 2008, Hasan brought a civil court case against the Netherlands. The case stated that because Dutch troops had handed over Hasan's father, brother and a third man named Rizo Mustafic to the Bosnian Serbs, they had committed war crimes, had been involved in genocide and had violated fundamental human rights.

In 2013, after over five years of trials, the Supreme Court of the Netherlands agreed with Hasan. The Netherlands had been in control of Dutch soldiers in Srebrenica, and was liable for the deaths of Ibro Nuhanović, Mohammad Nuhanović, and Rizo Mustafić. The Netherlands was required to pay compensation to the families, and the case set a hugely important precedent in international law. For Hasan, the verdict marked the culmination of his efforts since 1995 to force the international community to take responsibility for its part in the Srebrenica genocide.

'What I was thinking about was that the Netherlands' soldiers, officers, did this to my family, and they had to be declared responsible...I won the case, in some way, I won the case. And it was for my family.'

Hasan's struggle for justice has often seen him fighting denial of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider international community, and he strongly supports the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

'I talk to my people...they say 'My god this is not justice. Hasan this is not justice, when are we going to get any justice?' And I say listen, this is as good as it gets. This is the maximum we are going to get...I really think we should support the work of the ICTY, because the Serbs are saying the court does not have legitimacy. If we say that then what's the point?'

Hasan lives in Sarajevo, and continues to campaign for justice for the victims of Srebrenica. Through his activism Hasan hopes to ensure that Bosnia is able to move on and face the future, while acknowledging its tragic past.

Find out more... Genocide in Bosnia: [hmd.org.uk/bosnia](http://hmd.org.uk/bosnia)

# HASAN NUHANOVIĆ



HOLOCAUST  
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DAY TRUST

Roedd Hasan Nuhanović yn gyfieithydd i'r Cenhedloedd Unedig yn Srebrenica pan welodd ei deulu'n cael eu llofruddio ar ôl i'r dref ddisgyn i ddwylo byddin Serbiaidd Bosnia. Mae wedi ymgyrchu dros gyfiawnder i ddiodefwr Srebrenica byth ers hynny.



*'Dw i'n chwilio am gyfiawnder. Pe tawn i heb wneud hyn, fyddwn i ddim wedi gallu parhau i fyw fy mynyd fy hun'*

Cafodd Hasan Nuhanović ei eni ar 2 Ebrill 1968 yn Zvornik, Bosnia Herzegovina, i rieni o Fwslimiaid Bosnia, Ibro a Nasiha Nuhanović. Aeth Hasan i Brifysgol Sarajevo i astudio peirianeg fecanyddol. Roedd ei dad Ibro yn ddyn busnes, ei fam Naisha yn wraig tŷ a'i frawd Mohammad yn mynd i'r ysgol uwchradd.

Pa fu farw Josip Broz Tito, arlywydd Iwgoslafia ym 1980, dechreuodd yr holl densiynau ethnig a chenedlaethol rwygo'r wlad.

Dechreuodd y gwrthdaro yn Bosnia Herzegovina rhwng y Serbiaid, y Croatiaid a Mwslimiaid Bosnia (Bosniaks) ym 1992. Gyda byddin Serbiaid Bosnia ar dân dros lanhau ethnig yn y rhanbarth, cafodd Hasan, a oedd gartref o'r brifysgol ar y pryd, ei orfodi i ffoi o Vlasenica. Aethant i dref Srebrenica, lle'r oedd ewythr Hasan yn byw. Buon nhw yno am dair blynedd.

Daeth Srebrenica, tref Bosniak dan warchae Serbiaid Bosnia, yn symbol o wrthsafiad y Bosniaks. Roedd Serbiaid Bosnia yn rhwystro cyflenwadau allweddol rhag cyrraedd pobl gyffredin y dref ei hun. Gyda phoblogaeth y dref wedi cynyddu i 60,000 gyda'r holl ffoaduriaid, mae Hasan yn cofio'r amodau uffernol yno gyda braidd dim bwyd, dŵr na thrydan ar gael i'r trueiniaid oedd yn gaeth yno. Roedd Srebrenica yn drychineb dyngarol ymhell cyn 1995.

Ym mis Ebrill 1993, cafodd Srebrenica ei datgan yn 'hafan ddiogel' gan y Cenhedloedd Unedig, a daeth 150 o filwyr Canada i'r dref. Aeth Hasan draw i gael gair gyda nhw, a gan ei fod yn siarad Saesneg, cafodd ei hurio fel cyfieithydd ar gyfer y Canadaid. Parhaodd â'r rôl hon pan ddaeth 600 o filwyr yr Iseldiroedd i gymryd eu lle. Dim ond er mwyn amddiffyn eu hunain y câi milwyr y Cenhedloedd Unedig ddefnyddio grym marwol. Doedd gwarchod trigolion Srebrenica ddim yn bodloni'r meini prawf hwn.

Daeth byddin Serbiaid Bosnia i Srebrenica ar 11 Gorffennaf 1995, a mynd ati'n syth i wahanu dynion a bechgyn dros 13 oed oddi wrth weddill y boblogaeth, er mwyn chwilio am 'droseddwr rhyfel'. Cafodd menywod a phlant eu rhoi ar fysiau a'u halltudio o Srebrenica. Saethwyd 8,372 o ddynion a bechgyn dros y diwrnodau dilynol, gyda'r mwyafrif ohonyn nhw'n cael eu llofruddio rhwng 11 ac 13 Gorffennaf.

Heidiodd Hasan a'i deulu, yn ogystal â miloedd o ffoaduriaid eraill, i ganolfan y Cenhedloedd Unedig yn Potočari, ger Srebrenica, yn y gobaith y byddai lluoedd yr Iseldiroedd a baner y Cenhedloedd Unedig yn eu diogelu nhw. Ond er gwaetha'r dystiolaeth glir fod bechgyn a dynion Bosniak yn wynebu cyflafan, methodd milwyr yr Iseldiroedd ag atal y sifiliaid rhag cael eu halltudio, a bu'n rhaid i Hasan a'i deulu adael hefyd.

Fel un o weithwyr y Cenhedloedd Unedig, roedd hawl gan Hasan i aros – ond nid felly ei deulu. Bu'n rhaid i Hasan gyfieithu gorchymyn yr Iseldirwyr yn gorfodi'i deulu i adael. Plediodd Hasan â'r Iseldirwyr i adael i'w deulu aros y tu mewn i'r ganolfan, ond yn ofer. Roedd Hasan eisiau gadael gyda'i deulu, ond fe wrthodon nhw, gan wybod mai cael eu lladd fydden nhw yn y pen draw. Dyna'r tro olaf i Hasan weld ei deulu'n fyw.

Am flynyddoedd wedi hil-laddiad Srebrenica, doedd gan Hasan – fel miloedd o bobl eraill ar ben eu tennyn – ddim syniad beth oedd wedi digwydd i'w deulu. Yn 2006, ar ôl un ar ddeg mlynedd o chwilio, llwyddodd i adnabod corff ei dad Ibro, a chorff ei fam Naisha dair blynedd wedyn. Yn 2010, helpodd Hasan i gadarnhau gweddillion Mohammad ei frawd iau. Llwyddodd i adnabod yr esgidiau a jîns unigryw a brynodd i'w frawd yng ngwanwyn 1995 ar unwaith.

Yn 2008, cyflwynodd Hasan achos llys sifil yn erbyn yr Iseldiroedd. Byrdwn yr achos oedd hyn – gan fod milwyr yr Iseldiroedd wedi trosglwyddo tad a brawd Hasan, yn ogystal â thrydydd dyn o'r enw Rizo Mustafic, i Serbiaid Bosnia, roedden nhw wedi cyflawni troseddau rhyfel, wedi cyfrannu at hil-laddiad ac wedi torri hawliau dynol sylfaenol.

Yn 2013, wedi pum mlynedd o achosion, cytunodd Uchel Lys yr Iseldiroedd â Hasan. Yr Iseldiroedd oedd yn gyfrifol am y milwyr Iseldireg yn Srebrenica, ac felly'n gyfrifol am farwolaethau Ibro Nuhanović, Mohammad Nuhanović a Rizo Mustafić. Gofynnwyd i'r Iseldiroedd dalu iawndal i'r teuluoedd, ac roedd yr achos yn gysail hollbwysig mewn cyfraith ryngwladol. I Hasan, roedd y ddedfryd yn benllanw ymdrechion ers 1995 i orfodi'r gymuned ryngwladol i ysgwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb am ei ran yn hil-laddiad Srebrenica.

'Beth feddyliais i oedd mai milwyr, swyddogion yr Iseldiroedd, wnaeth hyn i'n nheulu i, a'u bod wedi'u datgan yn gyfrifol... roeddwn i wedi ennill yr achos, mewn rhyw ffordd. A hynny dros fy nheulu i.'

Mae brwydr Hasan dros gyfiawnder yn aml yn golygu ei fod yn gorfod ymladd yn erbyn rhai sy'n gwadu hil-laddiad Srebrenica yn Bosnia-Herzegovina ac ymhlith y gymuned ryngwladol ehangach, ac mae'n gefnogwr brwd o waith y Tribiwnlys Troseddau Rhyngwladol i'r hen Iwgoslafia.




'Wrth siarad gyda 'mhobol i...maen nhw'n dweud 'Er mwyn y nefoedd, nid cyfiawnder yw hyn. Nid cyfiawnder yw hyn Hasan, pryd ar y ddaear gawn ni unrhyw gyfiawnder?' A dw i'n ateb, mae'n well na dim. Dyma'r ateb gorau gawn ni...dw i'n wirioneddol gredu y dylem ni gefnogi gwaith y Tribiwnlys Troseddau Rhyngwladol, oherwydd mae'r Serbiaid yn dweud nad oes gan y llys unrhyw gyfreithlondeb. Os ddwedwn ni hynna, beth yw'r pwynt?'

Mae Hasan yn byw yn Sarajevo, ac yn parhau i ymgyrchu dros gyfiawnder i feirwon Srebrenica. Trwy ymgyrchu, mae Hasan yn gobeithio sicrhau bod Bosnia yn gallu symud ymlaen ac wynebu'r dyfodol, tra'n cydnabod ei gorffennol trasig.

*Rhagor o wybodaeth:*

Hil-laddiad yn Bosnia: [hmd.org.uk/bosnia](http://hmd.org.uk/bosnia)

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*Dysgu gwersi o'r gorffennol er mwyn creu dyfodol gwell a mwy dioge*