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Doc.no. 556-B/18

SIXTH SARAJEVO UN WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

Sarajevo, February 1st –7th 2018

**Public Discussion of**

***Challenges to Social Pluralism in Bosnia***

**February 3rd (Saturday) 2018**

**To start at 19:00**

**The Great Hall, Sarajevo Old Town Municipal Buildings**

As part of its programme to mark the Sixth Sarajevo UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, International Forum Bosnia, in cooperation with Sarajevo Old Town Municipality, will be hosting a public discussion of challenges to social pluralism in Bosnia*.* The discussion will be held on Saturday, February 3rd , 2018, to begin at 19:00, in the Great Hall of the Sarajevo Old Town municipal buildings (ul. Zelenih beretki no. 4).

The speakers at the discussion will be: Samir Beglerović, Anto Domazet, Orhan Jašić, David Kamhi, Brother Ivo Marković, Krsto Mijanović and Žarko Papić. Asim Zubčević will chair.

As with every other society in the world, plurality in Bosnia involves too many elements to list easily – from the generational to the religious, economic, political, and ideological, to name but a few. When social plurality is oriented towards a better future and is served properly by the political, cultural, and economic orders, these elements come together to help illuminate our responsibility towards the individual, our communities, and the world. They can, however, also be cruelly misused against both the individual and the world. Over the longer term and despite its richness, social plurality in Bosnia has tended to manifest as agony, not least because of a lack of any clear vision for a future in which plurality itself has a role to play. Instead of protecting and fostering it, as a good of the highest order, it has been subject to ideological misconstruction that promotes a culture of conflict and exclusion.

This public discussion will explore the various forms of political, cultural, and economic plurality in Bosnian society, with regard to present, past and future. The context for this exploration is the general world situation.

Samir Beglerović is professor at Sarajevo University's Faculty of Islamic Sciences. His areas of interest are tesavvuf, the esoteric aspects of new religiosity, the cultural history of the Bosnian muslims, and comparative religion. His books include: *Akaidska učenja Ebu Hanife,* together with Adnan Silajdžić (Sarajevo, 2017)*; Tesavvuf Bosne u vidicima Fejzulaha Hadžibjarića* (Sarajevo, 2014);and *Abd al-Kadir al-Gajlani i derviški red kaderija* (Sarajevo, 2009).

Anto Domazet is a professor at Sarajevo University's Faculty of Economics. He has been a senior manager in the oil industry, with a long stint as Deputy Chairman of Energoinvest, after which he became the Director of the Economics Institute in Sarajevo. His main areas of interest are globalisation and global marketing, transition, and competitiveness. He has published an impressive number of books and articles in these areas.

Orhan Jašić is a lecturer at the Sarajevo University Faculty of Islamic Sciences. His main areas of interest are theology and philosophy, with a focus on bio-ethics and religious studies.

David Kamhi is a professor at the Sarajevo University Music Academy. In addition to his core academic interests – the violin, viola and teaching the violin – he has throughout his life actively pursued a wide range of issues related to the history, musical culture and other artistic forms of the Bosnian Jews. He is particularly interested in how the various cultural forms permeate Bosnian life as a whole, especially with regard to music.

Krsto Mijanović is a university professor, Deputy President of International Forum Bosnia, and active researcher into the relationship between technological development and environmental protection. He also deals with questions of religious plurality in Bosnia and improving approaches to academic research and University curricula.

Brother Ivo Marković is a Franciscan priest and writer. He is well-known to the public in Bosnia for his advocacy of interfaith dialogue and harmonious relations between the various factors of Bosnian pluralism. He is the founder and leader of the world-renowned *Pontanima* choir, a leading symbol of Bosnia's plural nature.

Žarko Papić is a politician, diplomat, and researcher into a wide range of social, political, and economic issues facing society at home and abroad. His writings cover many aspects of the Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav political, cultural, and economic crises. His analyses and essays on Bosnian society and its travails are a must-read for any informed approach to political, cultural, or economic conditions in the country.

Asim Zubčević is Associate Professor at the Sarajevo University Faculty of Islamic Sciences. His areas of interest include cultural history, particularly the history of literacy and the book in Sarajevo under the Ottomans.

The discussion is open to all members and friends of International Forum Bosnia, the media, and the public.

Nermina Jusić

IFB Coordinator