

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON JAKOB A. FINCI

President of the Association Bosnia and Herzegovina 2005

Mr. Jakob Finci was born immediately after liberation of his parents from Italian detention camp on October 1st 1943, in old Jewish Sephardic family, which arrived in Sarajevo in the mid of XVI century after expulsion from Spain.

After Gymnasium, he graduated from Faculty of Law in Sarajevo, and from 1966 was practicing lawyer, specialized in international commercial law.

All this time he was also active in Jewish Community and on beginning of 1991 has been one of founder of reborn Jewish cultural, educational and humanitarian society LA BENEVOLENCIJA, and was elected as the first Vice president.

During recent war in Bosnia, in August 1993 Mr. Finci assume his current position as President of La Benevolencija, and Vice President of co-ordination body of Bosnian NGOs, and in August 1995 he became first elected President of Jewish Community of Bosnia Herzegovina.

“La Benevolencija” was, during the war, the only Bosnian humanitarian organization working as implementing partner for UNHCR, and was one of most successful NGO, helping all citizens of Sarajevo and Bosnia Herzegovina on non-sectarian basis.

At the same time Mr. Finci was Board member of Open Society Found BH (SOROS FOUNDATION), and Vice president of FONDEKO-Foundation for improvement of the quality of life and sustainable development in Sarajevo.

From September 1996 till April 2000 Mr. Finci was Executive director of Soros Foundation - Open Society Fund for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

From 1994 he is member, and from February 2001 to April 2002. he was a President of Association of free intellectuals Circle 99.

In 1997 Mr. Finci was one of founding fathers of Inter religious Council of Bosnia Herzegovina, and for two years the first President of IRC, assuming a same function again in 2003.

In February 2000, he was elected Chairman of the Association of Citizens “Truth and Reconciliation” established with main goal to establish Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Bosnia Herzegovina, and in February 2001 High Representative appointed him to Chair the Constitutional Commission of Federal Parliament.

In May 2002 Jakob Finci was appointed by High Representative to be first director of the State Agency for Civil Service, appointment which was latter confirmed by Council of Ministers.

On professional level, Mr. Finci was working as corporate lawyer for one of the biggest at that time Yugoslav exporting company-Energoinvest, in Bosnia Herzegovina, Ethiopia and Kenya.

On academic side, Mr. Finci was working as a tutor at UN University on ECMIR project between 1988 – 1990, and from 2001 is lecturing at interdisciplinary postgraduate studies at Sarajevo University.

At the same time he is frequently lecturing of different matters, as international commercial law, privatization, conflict resolution, interethnic coexistence, as well as different field of organization of humanitarian work, fund raising, Judaism, etc.

For his work, Mr. Finci was decorated several times, including Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and French decoration Chevalier Legion Of Honor.

Mr. Finci is married with two sons.

Sarajevo, August, 2004.