



# MUSLIM JEWISH CONFERENCE

## PRESS RELEASE

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## **Bosniak President Addresses Muslim-Jewish Conference**

**SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZOGOVINA.** Bosniak President Bakir Izetbegović addressed over one hundred students and young professionals at the fourth annual Muslim Jewish Conference today in Sarajevo.

President Izetbegović noted Sarajevo's reputation as the 'Jerusalem of Europe' due to the city's Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Catholic heritage.

Responding to audience questions, he encouraged participants to focus on the commonalities uniting their communities, rather than what divides them. Speaking about Bosnia's history of religious coexistence and cooperation, President Izetbegović stated, "We are going to do everything possible to return to a multi-ethnic life, something that we see as natural."

President Izetbegović encouraged interfaith cooperation around the world and advocated for Muslim majority countries in the Middle East and Southeast Asia to host future meetings of the MJC. "The values of interfaith cooperation are universal," expressed President Izetbegovic, "and other countries should be eager to receive the Muslim Jewish Conference."

Yesterday, the MJC held its opening ceremony at the Gazi-Husrev Begova Library in Sarajevo, where representatives from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Ambassador Jacob Finci, head of the Bosnian Jewish community; Grand Mufti of Bosnia Husein Kavazovic; Rabbi David Rosen, Director of International Interreligious Affairs at the American Jewish Committee; and former Bosnian Grand Mufti Mustafa Cerić addressed the conference attendees and invited guests.

**For more information, press only:**

Daniel Pincus  
[press@mjconference.org](mailto:press@mjconference.org)

**For more information on MJC:**

[www.mjconference.org](http://www.mjconference.org)