

After that, Muslims were no longer regarded as allies, but were imprisoned, taken away from the units and so on.

A lot of crazy moves from the Croatian side produced the total hostility and animosity between Croats and Muslims. The fundamentalists on the Muslims' side had a good pretext to develop total antagonism against Croatia. At that moment, the fundamentalists within the Muslim ranks saw their chance to form an Islamic state. They could only grow on the basis of this Croatian policy.

Interview: Marko Veselica

Why Croatia needs Libertas movement

Marko Veselica is president of the Christian Democratic Party of Croatia and professor of economy at the University of Zagreb. He was a longtime political prisoner under communism. On April 19, Professor Veselica explained why he is participating in the citizens movement "Libertas" to Elke Fimmen and Helmut Böttiger.

The basic reason is that the political engagement in political parties in Croatia has become unproductive. The ruling party from the very beginning of the war killed the will of the Croatian people to resist the enemy and to resist the Serbian attack. It did not want to mobilize the population to beat up the aggressor and to win the war. It did not believe in the capability of the Croatian people and the Croatian Army and has at the same time mystified the military potential of the enemy. It accepted the role of international factors, who were siding with Serbs, that is, the United Nations and the European Community, who were working systematically against the Croatian liberty, sovereignty, and the emancipation of Croatia, as well as other people in the ex-Yugoslavia area.

The biggest mistake was that the ruling party did decide not to take the weaponry from the Serbs, because it could have been taken very easily. When the Croatian Army was advancing, they didn't want to follow this line; instead they bowed to international pressures and brought in Unprofor. They have created a division of Croatia against the Croatian interests. From then on, we may detect a kind of cooperation between [Croatian President Franjo] Tudjman and Belgrade's regime rather independent from international factors: They have been acting together in certain points, a subtle

cooperation, conscious and sub-conscious at the same time. It is a subtle cooperation with a genocidal regime in Belgrade against real Croatian interests and against its real productive capacity.

After the detection of this cooperation with Belgrade, the destruction of Croatian national hopes came to the surface. The best productive powers of the Croatian people have been put aside; the people became demoralized, and resignation started to dominate. A totalitarian state is in the process of creation; all rational creative forces are being destroyed; a complete, one could call it, "narcotization" of Croatia is at work. The opposition to the ruling policy, is being kept out of the public in the media, especially the television. The darkest forces are coming into the light of the day, and this all has a destructive effect on the Croatian mentality.

This action for Croatia, Libertas, is rising up against this process, which is a kind of cancer for the Croatian future. We expose ourselves in order to galvanize people again. We want to be present wherever Croatia is most threatened, and want to create a kind of political guerrilla fight, motivate people, and out of that create a new political strategy for Croatia. So, regardless of the fact, that I am a leader of a party with a good political rating, I nevertheless want to subordinate the interests of my party to the interests of Croatia as a whole. Political parties turned out to be totally incapable of dealing with manipulations of the ruling party and the kind of political mafia game. There are people here who have earned maybe DM 10 billion by smuggling weapons, and these people may very well be connected with foreign intelligence services to undermine Croatian fighting ability. We could have developed a balance in quality weapons, having this money, that they have smuggled into their own pockets.

The people in Libertas are not engaged in parties, but are artists, people from public life, and so on. We want to speed up the formation of a national salvation program. It doesn't have anything to do with a political career, because our career is Croatia and its liberty and sovereignty. We want to rise above all the particular tiny interests and calculations. We think that that is a much faster way to gather people into the new stream, to get them out of passivity, out of a sense of helplessness, and make them aware that something really can be done. In this group, we unite knowledge, honesty, memory, intellectual capabilities and so on.

This is a group of, in a way, chosen people, who feel the destiny of a nation, who are not officials, but who want to transform this sense into political reality. I think I personally can give a significant contribution to this idea.

