

We can say - and it is undeniable - that blame lies first and foremost with those who planned and carried out the massacre, or who assisted them, or who harboured and are harbouring them still.

But we cannot evade our own share of responsibility.

As I wrote in my report in 1999, we made serious errors of judgement, rooted in a philosophy of impartiality and non-violence which, however admirable, was unsuited to the conflict in Bosnia. That is why, as I also wrote, "the tragedy of Srebrenica will haunt our history forever."

Yet our quest for justice remains incomplete. The United Nations International Criminal Tribunal has worked hard, and some important culprits have been found guilty. But those charged with being the main architects of this massacre - Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic - are still at large. Until they are made to answer the charges against them, we cannot say we have defeated impunity.

But even that is not enough. All Bosnians must search for truth and reconciliation.

Our third and most important duty, even while addressing the crimes of the past, is to prevent such systematic slaughter from recurring anywhere in the present and future. The world must equip itself to act collectively against genocide, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The "responsibility to protect" must be given tangible meaning, not just rhetorical support

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/sgsm9993.doc.htm>