

## Controversy Regarding Issues of Atrocities

This is another interview, regarding the alleged Bosnian atrocities. The interview took place in 2003, and the participants are Bernard Kouchner, a longtime human rights campaigner (now France's foreign minister), and Alija Izetbegović, a former President of Bosnia. Note that Izetbegović died shortly after this interview was conducted.

Kouchner: You claimed the existence in Bosnia of "extermination camps." You repeated this to journalists. This [claim] elicited an outpouring of concern all over the world. François Mitterrand sent me to Omarska [to investigate the claims]... Conditions there were terrible, but *there was no systematic extermination*. Did you know this?

Izetbegović: Yes, I thought that the claims [about extermination camps] would help trigger a bombing campaign by the western powers [against the Serbs]... I tried [to provoke the bombing campaign] but *my claims were false. There were no extermination camps*, even though conditions [in the detention camps] were terrible.

From Bernard Kouchner, *Guerriers de la Paix: Du Kosovo à l'Irak* (Paris: Grasset, 2004), pp. 374-75. Translated from the French. Emphasis added.