Dear IADS Members,

Dear IADS Affiliates,

The 66th Mid Year Meeting of the International Association of Dental Students took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina from February 16th to February 20th, hosted by the Bosnian Herzegovinian Dental Students Association.

The IADS Executives are very sad to inform you about the detestable incidents that took place in Sarajevo. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) led by LOC’s President Mirsad Kadic sacrificed the Mid Year Meeting with non-organization, non-communication and most importantly threats and humiliation against international IADS Guests. IADS President was denied to give a speech to the Attendees and Guests of the Congress. International guests were humiliated by LOC, e.g. getting intentionally locked out of their hotel room, denial of getting lunch they have already paid for - the guests were used as bargaining chips. LOC even denied access to the Meeting Room of the General Assembly (GA) on the second day of GA. IADS Executives had to organize a meeting room externally by themselves to ensure the continuity of the meeting. Critical questions from Participants were answered openly (in the official Communication Group) with threats and disrespect.

During a closed session of the General Assembly, the IADS Delegates hardly decided to expel the Bosnian Herzegovina Dental Students Association from IADS due to the mentioned incidents during the congress and the non-cooperation before the congress.

Dental Students from Bosnia-Herzegovina will not have access to our international projects and resources anymore. We are aware that those consequences also affect students who haven’t been involved in the incidents. We would like to emphasize that Dental Students from Bosnia Herzegovina are always welcome in our IADS Family; therefore they can always apply for an individual membership in order to benefit from all our activities.

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IADS Delegates are also aware of the humiliation they received from LOC. Therefore they requested confidentiality for all decisions that took place, until all international IADS Guests and Delegates safely left the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

For us, the IADS Executive Committee, safety and security of our international guests have the highest priority; we advised our guests to leave the Congress early and to leave the territory of Bosnia Herzegovina as soon as they can.

Furthermore we received reports from participants of the Post-Congress in Mostar, describing monetary and social discrimination of international participants.

The International Association of Dental Students will not accept such behavior towards their members and institutional bodies. We will support our guests who experienced humiliation and fear during our meeting in Sarajevo in any action they want to take personally to protect their legal interests. Besides that IADS Executives are willing to enforce our financial claims from LOC through lawsuits in Switzerland if needed.

If you have any further questions, we will stay for your disposal at any time. Contact us at exco@iads-web.org.

Yours Cordially,

Björn Bierlich  
IADS President  
2019/2020

Greta Kersyte  
General Secretary  
2019/2020

Racem Abid  
Treasurer  
2019/2020
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