

Dear fellow students, colleagues and friends,

As some of you may have heard, Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia have been hit by the worst flooding ever seen in the region in the past 120 years. The flooding came as a result of torrential downpours due to cyclone Tamara in the past three days, with three months worth of rain falling within one day. Many tens of thousands of people have been evacuated, leaving some towns completely deserted. Water levels are reaching up to the second floor of buildings in certain places and some suburbs of Sarajevo are completely submerged. There have been casualties as well, especially in areas that rescue services could not reach in time.

Here are some of the BBC articles that show the extent of disaster that has ravaged these countries

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-27459184>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-27454669>

The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2014/may/18/floods-serbia-croatia-cause-mass-evacuation-video>

Some articles from the region

[http://www.b92.net/eng/news/region.php?yyyy=2014&mm=05&dd=16&nav\\_id=90336](http://www.b92.net/eng/news/region.php?yyyy=2014&mm=05&dd=16&nav_id=90336)

<http://inserbia.info/today/2014/05/floods-in-croatia-sava-floods-racinovci-rajevo-selo-2-people-missing/>

Teams have been sent from neighbouring Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia to help Bosnia and Serbia, Russia has sent over crisis teams and the EU is gearing up to send its help as well. Many people have also opened up avenues of funding via text messages that have been shared via social networks. Many compassionate people have organised themselves into groups of volunteers and over 6000 people left Belgrade for Sabac, a small town in Serbia on the Sava that was in severe danger of being flooded, to help protect the town. It was saved but another town, Obrenovac, was completely submerged and evacuated. As a result, one of the countries biggest power stations in Obrenovac is at huge risk of being shut down and hence making efforts even more difficult if electricity goes off. One third of Bosnia is flooded and from the air resembles a huge muddy lake. The scale of damage is unprecedented and Bosnia has been devastated.

**That is why we would like to ask you as fellow students and colleagues to help if you can by supporting the relief efforts in these countries.** Any small monetary donation will help and people are in dire need of canned food, hygiene products and dry and warm clothing. Emergency centres have sprung up in schools, sports halls and hospitals all over the countries to accept the incoming evacuees. As such, there is a great danger of shortages of food, potable drinking water and the basic necessities to help these people.

Below are ways you can donate to all three countries. **Any donation will help.** £1 can buy over 3L of potable water, enough for three people to have drinking water for a whole day (and in times like this, every day counts).

### **Bosnia**

Bank transfer to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

<http://rcsbh.org/novosti/207-urgent-appeal-for-help>

Online payment on GoFundMe page:

<http://www.gofundme.com/bosnianfloods2014>

Or by choosing the second option in the drop-down menu on the website of the Croatian Red Cross:

<https://secure.webteh.hr/donate/79>

### **Serbia**

For Serbia you can donate on PayPal account of the Serbian Government

<http://www.floodrelief.gov.rs/eng/>

### **Croatia**

For Croatia the first option in the drop-down menu of the Croatian Red Cross:

<https://secure.webteh.hr/donate/79>

We thank you very much for your support and hope that we can raise awareness and enough help to send back to the people who need it most. Please spread the word and forward this email to your friends or family if you feel that they can help.

The CUYUS committee

