

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

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Belgrade, April 27, 2026

Re: Request for action - 1993 Spot News award to Bojan Stojanovic

Dear World Press Photo colleagues,

Following the publication of the award winning journalist Barbara Matejic investigative report [“Killing for the Photo”](#) (originally published by Novosti / BIRN Croatia, 23.5.2025), and in light of the findings and conclusions, the Independent Journalists Association of Serbia (IJAS) and BH Journalists Association (BHJA) request **revocation of the 1993 World Press Photo Spot News prize of the WWP awarded to Bojan Stojanovic.**

Ms Matejic work on this story earned her a regional [Srdjan Aleksic award](#) in 2025 , while the report is shortlisted for the [2026 European Press Prize](#) and the [2026 True Story Award](#). In it Ms Matejic argues that the photographs of an execution of Husein Krso cannot be treated as simple, unaided documentary evidence of a spontaneous atrocity. Her investigation established credible evidence that the event had been photographed with Stojanovic’s prior knowledge of the execution about to take place. Multiple sources, including experienced war photographers and war-crimes investigators interviewed or quoted, raised the technical points, such as the proximity, lens choice and sequence of frames that strongly suggest the photographers’ presence was more than incidental. This was eventually confirmed by Stojanovic though he has been known to change his account of the event over years.

These conclusions are evidenced in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia official transcripts, including the statements by the Goran Jelusic, the executioner whose actions the awarded photograph shows. War criminal Jelusic’s testimony indicates that police officials had arranged for two photographers to capture the murders of two Muslim prisoners - Husein Krso and Hajrudin Muzurovic - and use it for propaganda purposes in Serbia. ICTY transcripts and testimonies featured in the article also indicate the WPP awarded photographer, Bojan Stojanovic and his colleague, Srdjan Petrovic, were known to cooperate with local army authorities and had access that independent press would not have had in Breko in May 1992.

In July 2022, upon receiving evidence from Ms Matejic that the victim Husein Krso was not a sniper but an innocent civilian, The World Press Photo agreed to change the original caption under the awarded photo on its website. However, it has not addressed nor remedied the deeper ethical concerns about whether the award was granted to an image produced through staging or complicity in a war crime.

With support of the Husein Krso surviving family members, bearing in mind undisputed role of media during the wars in the Western Balkans, and given the gravity of the direct and indirect evidence

provided, as well as the World Press Photo record and importance for global standards in photojournalism, IJAS and BHJA request of the Foundation to take the following steps:

1. Revoke the 1993 Spot News award presented to Bojan Stojanovic and issue a formal apology to Husein Krso family impacted by misuse or misrepresentation of the image;
2. Publish a correction with contextual explanation to accompany the photograph in World Press Photo website, relevant channels and archives;
3. Publish a public statement acknowledging the findings of the investigation, the specific concerns raised about the Brcko photographs and the 1993 award presented to Bojan Stojanovic and what steps were taken about it.

Why this matters?

Representing the family of Husein Krso, his son Mustafa explained to IJAS and BHJA that as long as Stojanovic's photo remains awarded and featured on WPP website, his father is *being murdered all over again*. While the photo is available on the internet, its removal from WPP website would be welcomed, but Krso family highlights the importance of revoking the award and providing a clear explanation about what happened as crucial.

In her report, Ms Matejcic refers to the ICTY transcripts from the trial against Jelusic. She writes: *As the trial continued, Judge Riad requested to speak. Fouad Abdel-Moneim Riad, an Egyptian with a wealth of international legal experience, was 71 years old at the time. "Perhaps you can help me understand something which appears very bewildering to me. We have at least ten pictures, and I wondered how they were taken. How can a person who is killing in this way take a photographer with him to picture it? Do you have any interpretation for that?" Judge Riad asked.*

Due to intervention by the prosecutor, the answer was provided in a private session, but the question itself speaks loudly of ethical concerns WPP should address, especially due its long reputation of a global arbiter of trust in visual journalism. Its [Contest code of ethics](#) details key criteria, and if award-winning imagery is later credibly shown to have been staged, produced through complicity in crimes, or used as propaganda, the WPP must act. Failure to do so undermines public trust in press photography, dishonours victims and survivors, and allows impunity for methods that cross the boundary from documentation into facilitation of atrocity. We hereby urge the World Press Photo to address our request with the seriousness it demands and to lead by example in restoring accountability and ethical clarity to the history of photojournalism.

We are looking forward to receiving your response by May 12th, 2026.

Please confirm the reception of our request.

Sincerely yours,

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