

But this distinction between the act of pardoning and the natural aptness to forget is still insufficient. For there are crimes of such a magnitude, crimes so radical, that no one has the power to bestow forgiveness on them. For these, the category of crime against humanity has been brought in, crimes that will never fall under the statute of limitations.

So far, only one man has admitted to the massacre of Srebrenica, and, in the court in The Hague, described his part in it. A Croat, mobilized into the Serb army. His testimony was the more moving since he did not seek absolution for his guilt, he did not act according to the principle 'a crime confessed is a crime half forgiven.' Watching his face, reading his testimony, I recalled these thoughts of Simone Weil: 'Punishment is a vital need of the human soul... And as the only way of showing respect for the hungry is to give him food, the only way to show respect for someone who has put himself outside the law is to return him within the law by subjecting him to the penalty the law has prescribed.'<sup>6</sup>

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