**Source Sheet 1: Srebenica**

**Source 2:** Mr Annan said observers had been quick to blame the Dutch UN battalion which withdrew from Srebrenica in the face of Serb attack.

But he pointed out that the Dutch commander's repeated requests for the use of air power were turned down.

Mr Annan said the UN was wrong to declare it would only use Nato air power against the Serbs as a last resort.

"The cardinal lesson of Srebrenica is that a deliberate and systematic attempt to terrorise, expel or murder an entire people must be met decisively with all necessary means, and with the political will to carry the policy through to its logical conclusion," he added.

Mr Annan said military force should have been used to halt the killings.

"Many of the errors the United Nations made flowed from a single and no doubt well-intentioned effort: we tried to keep the peace and apply the rules of peacekeeping when there was no peace to keep," he added.

''Peacekeepers must never again be deployed into an environment in which there is no ceasefire or peace agreement.''

* BBC News. 1999. World: Europe Srebrenica report blames UN

**Source 1:** The fall of the town of Srebrenica and its environs to Bosnian Serb forces in early July 1995 made a mockery of the international community’s professed commitment to safeguard regions it declared to be "safe areas" and placed under United Nations protection in 1993. United Nations peacekeeping officials were unwilling to heed requests for support from their own forces stationed within the enclave, thus allowing Bosnian Serb forces to easily overrun it and — without interference from U.N. soldiers — to carry out systematic, mass executions of hundreds, possibly thousands, of civilian men and boys and to terrorize, rape, beat, execute, rob and otherwise abuse civilians being deported from the area.

We report on the mishandling of the crisis by the U.N.’s Bosnia peacekeeping force UNPROFOR/UNPF — from the craven decisions of its field commanders prior to the fall of Srebrenica, to its apparent suppression and destruction of evidence of massive human

rights abuses immediately after the fall of the “safe area.”

* Human Rights Watch. 1995. *The Fall of Srebrenica and the Failure of UN Peacekeeping*

**Source 3:** The lawsuit, prepared over the past six years, alleges that although the UN was aware of a pending Bosnian Serb military offensive at least two weeks before it began, neither the Dutch forces nor the UN took steps to save the local population of some 40,000, and were instead concerned only about the well-being of their own forces and had been instructed to use weapons only in self-defence.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the meantime, Dutch officials have transferred the blame to the UN, which allegedly failed to provide sufficient support to defend the town, saying that compensation claims should be directed at the perpetrators of the massacre, Bosnian Serbs, whose several high-ranking officers have been sentenced for their roles in the Srebrenica massacre. Dutch military personnel complained that they had taken on the mission when no one else would, and that they were out armed and outnumbered.

Dutch authorities argue that the UN abandoned the peacekeepers by failing to give them air support when their observation post near Srebrenica was attacked, despite the fact that the soldiers stationed there had requested air support on nine occasions. The UN claims that its office in Sarajevo refused air support in Srebrenica because the Dutch commander there failed to fill the request form correctly.

Still, lawyers representing the victims say this claim is false and that they have evidence that then-UN chief of staff Dutch General Cees Nicolai turned down the offer of air support, and that his decision was backed by Joris Voorhoeve, the Dutch defence minister at the time.

* International Relations and Security Network. 2007. *Srebrenica massacre: UN not immune*