

# UN refugee staff hold peace rally in Geneva

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GENEVA, April 22 (Reuter) - Almost the entire 800-member staff of the U.N.'s refugee agency held a rally in Geneva on Friday to condemn what they called political indifference toward the killing of civilians and aid workers in world flashpoints.

As the rally it got under way in the Swiss city, the U.N. building in the Bosnian Serb-beseiged town of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia was hit by two tank rounds.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the agency whose staff organised the rally, has four international employees and three local members in Gorazde but none of them was reported injured.

Sadako Ogata of Japan, the U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees, hoped the rally would provoke worldwide anger.

The UNHCR is the main relief organisation in former Yugoslavia and it has recently been burdened with the huge task of feeding tens of thousands of Rwandan and Burundi refugees fleeing ethnic massacres in their homelands.

A UNHCR spokesman told Reuters that virtually all of the agency's Geneva staff took part in the rally.

Adey Makonnen, of the UNHCR staff council, read a message to 1,200 people who marched from the agency's lakeside building to the nearby U.N. European headquarters, Palais des Nations.

"We've had enough of the horrendous killings that we witness every day," she said. "We've had enough of seeing or hearing about women and babies being cut in pieces with machetes. Of civilians trapped like rats in cellars, and being shot, shelled, rocketed and bombed.

"We have gathered here today to express our anger and frustration and to send a message to the political leaders to stop the killing and stop the indifference," she added.

The crowd observed five minutes silence in honour of the victims in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Liberia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, and other countries.

A UNHCR field officer was killed earlier this week in the Somalia conflict, the agency's casualty.

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