PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
1993/1413H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
for
SERVICE TO ISLAM

The Selection Committee for the King Faisal international Prize for Service to Islam has awarded the 1993 prize to Ali Izet Begovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in recognition of his contributions to Islam.

President Izetbegovic was born in Bosanski in 1925. He completed his law studies in 1962 and worked as a legal counsellor for a number of scientific and commercial bodies, including the University of Sarajevo. He joined the Muslim Youth Society in 1940 and was imprisoned in 1946 for three years as a result of his Islamic activities. He was jailed again in 1982.

In 1989 Izetbegovic established the Democratic Labor Party, a political Islamic organization. The party chose him as its Chairman in 1990. In November of that year he was elected President of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

President Izetbegovic has not restricted himself to political activism. His intellectual pursuits include the publication of the following books:

1. Islamic Manifesto (1970) (translated into Arabic, Albanian and English).


President Izetbegovic's service to Islam has been multi-faceted. His writings have demonstrated the role Islam plays in the advancement of the individual and society. His political activism and courage have helped his fellow Muslims in the former Yugoslavia, especially in his native Bosnia-Herzegovina, stand up against repression and persecution. He was made to pay dearly for his courage and principles by the Communist authorities who
jailed and persecuted him. Never, however, were his leadership qualities more needed than at the present as his fellow Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina are uprooted from their ancestral land, exposed to a vicious campaign of ethnic cleansing, organized mass rapes, genocide, and concentration camps.

As President Izetbegovic builds bridges and bonds between his people and Muslims throughout the world, he continues to lead them in their heroic struggle to preserve their unique identity in the face of immense challenges, and so he renders to Islam a service both daunting and rare in its time and place.