



25th ANNIVERSARY

REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

LETTERS FROM BOSNIA

Dear Friend,

My mother and father got married not too long before the war started. They lived in a village near Foca. When the war started, my mother was at the maternity hospital in Foca. She gave birth to me on the first day of the war, on April 7, 1992. While the burning, killings and prosecution of non-Serbs began in Foca...at the maternity ward as a newborn baby I was separated from my mother. She was taken to the infamous concentration camp in Foca. I was taken to Igalo.

My father was killed at the beginning of the war. He never got a chance to see me. I never got a chance to meet him. My mother spent the entire war first in the camps and later in hiding .. I can never, ever forget the day in April when I first met my mother. I was four years old!

The war, concentration camps, the prosecutions in our beloved Foca and the perpetrators have separated a newborn baby from her mother! And after four years, our first meeting did not leave anyone indifferent. My mother came to meet me, and until then I lived with the conviction that my mother was my grandmother. I pushed her away, I did not want to accept that she was my mother. However, day after day, we tried to make up for the lost time. It's in vain! We can never return our lost time, my killed father and our destroyed hometown.

Nevertheless, every action matters, including this one of mine, to speak 27 years after everything that has happened to my family. Since trauma is (un)consciously passed on to children, it is very important not to push anyone's trauma under the rug. It is important to give victims a platform to talk about the torture and trauma that they have experienced because, as hard as it is to listen, it is the first step towards healing.

Sincerely,

Emina Boračić

born in 1992, in Foca