



25th ANNIVERSARY

REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

LETTERS FROM BOSNIA

Dear Friend,

I lived in Sarajevo until the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina. In fact, I lived my whole life in Sarajevo. In 1979, I got married. In 1982, our daughter Irma was born, and, in 1984, our second daughter Lejla was born. At that time, we had a beautiful life filled with prosperity. My wife and I worked, had our home, a car and two beautiful daughters. It could be said that it was an idyllic family. Unfortunately, it did not last long. Namely, at the end of the 1980s, political as well as nationalist turbulences began in the former state. It was somehow felt in the air that evil was brewing and that war was imminent. The illusion many of us had at that time was that the joint JNA Army would not allow a bloody war. It ended up being a participant in the aggression on BiH and the Siege of Sarajevo. However, few could have guessed that the aggression would be so brutal and that innocent citizens would be killed with so much hatred. The Siege of Sarajevo lasted 1425 days and during that period grave crimes were committed.

During the period of aggression on BiH and Siege of Sarajevo, a number of things happened. However, the most painful one which changed my life forever was on March 20, 1993. My 11-year-old daughter Irma was killed. She was killed by perpetrators from the hill. By a grenade shrapnel. They killed a part of me. My life has never been and never will be without that incurable wound which bleeds every now and then. They say time heals everything, but that is not true. The loss of a loved one, a child, is so painful that there is nothing in this world that can heal it. After our painful loss, my wife and I decided to extend our family. In 1994, our daughter Nejra, was born, and in 1995, Nudzaima. After the birth of Nejra and Nudzaima, my life changed once again. Their smiles brought hope to us. But, March 20, 1993 will always be my open wound and a mark of aggression on BiH.



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The unbearable events of the 1990s, the crimes committed against innocent citizens, especially children, and the aftermath of the war did not allow me to forget and be a silent observer of the post-war aggression against BiH, which is being carried out by other means. In fact, it is very important that the culture of remembrance is nurtured in an appropriate way, because forgetting is also a crime, a path to hopelessness and a certain possibility that the same will happen again. Thus, peace and justice are the foundation of a better future in hope that grave crimes will never happen again. That is why it is imperative to do everything in our power to enable future generations to have a better life without hatred and wars.

Sincerely,

Fikret Grabovica

Sarajevo