

McCloskey, Frank

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

November 17, 1993

Hon. Frank McCloskey
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman McCloskey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the possibility of my meeting with Bosnian rape victims. I share your outrage for the tragedy that has unfolded in Bosnia. Many innocents have suffered as those committed to violence press on.

I regret that I was unable to meet with Ms. Daidzic and Ms. Kapidzic during their visit to Washington. Undoubtedly, the work of their organization is instrumental in helping many victims overcome this tragedy.

I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

FRANK McCLOSKEY
8TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
MILITARY ACQUISITION
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
AND FACILITIES

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, CIVIL SERVICE
CENSUS, STATISTICS AND
POSTAL PERSONNEL

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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HSC

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1408

September 15, 1993

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

306 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1408
202-225-4636

DISTRICT OFFICES:

800-392-6269

ONE CITY CENTRE, SUITE 208
120 W SEVENTH STREET
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404-3929
812-334-1111

FEDERAL BUILDING, ROOM 128
101 N.W. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.
EVANSVILLE, IN 47708-1951
812-465-6484

Dear Ms. Clinton:

One of the greatest of the many human tragedies resulting from Serb aggression in Bosnia is the victimization of more than 50,000 Muslim women who have been raped by Serb forces. Just as is the case with genocide, murder, and torture in Bosnia, this systematic campaign by the Bosnian Serbs is not being properly addressed by the international community. In this case, we have an obligation not only to prevent further abuse and bring the perpetrators to justice, but also to help the victims. The United States' response has been entirely inadequate.

This is why I am writing to you: to ask that you use your good offices, as America's First Lady and a source of leadership on humanitarian and women's rights issues, to urge U.S. policy-makers to lift the arms embargo and enable the Bosnian Army to defend Bosnian women against this type of assault; to provide adequate resources and the political commitment to ensure that guilty "soldiers" and the Serb leadership are prosecuted before the War Crimes Tribunal; and to commit much greater resources to help the women who have suffered these terrible abuses.

NO
now

Lastly, I am writing to ask that you take a few minutes to meet with representatives of Bosnian rape victims. Two remarkable Bosnian women, Aida Daidzic and Diana Kapidzic, will be in the United States between now and October 12 and are available to meet with you at any time during that period. Their organization, "BISER" (International Initiative of Women from Bosnia-Herzegovina), has mobilized Bosnian women refugees to help victims of sexual torture. BISER's membership, largely consisting of Muslim, Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox Christian Bosnian women, has counseled thousands of rape victims and found homes for more than 150 Bosnian orphans. I believe that your holding a brief meeting with them would be extremely worthwhile. I hope that you are able to accommodate them.

Sincerely,

Frank McCloskey

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your letter regarding the possibility of my meeting with Bosnian rape victims. I share your abhorrence for the tragedy that has unfolded in Bosnia. Many innocents have suffered as those committed to violence press on with their deadly task.

I regret that I was unable to meet with Ms. Daidzic and Diana Kapidzic during their recent visit to Washington. No doubt the work of their organization is instrumental in helping many victims overcome their experiences. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Frank McCloskey
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 12, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR MAGGIE WILLIAMS

FROM:

WILLIAM ITOL 

SUBJECT:

Reply to Congressman Frank McCloskey

Attached at Tab A is our suggested reply to Congressman Frank McCloskey from Mrs. Clinton regarding his request for her to meet the Bosnian rape victims.

Attachments

Tab A Suggested Reply

Tab B Incoming

B I S E R

internacionalna inicijativa žena bosne i hercegovine

A B O U T B I S E R

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It is hard to imagine that even today in this very moment bosnian women are being raped in the Serb hold brothel like death-rape camps located on the occupied territories of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

1.5 million people are expelled from their homes , 360 000 massacred more then 50 000 muslim women have been raped, more than a half of who have been killed after they having been raped. Today we do not know anything about the destiny of more than 60 000 bosnian women in the age between 15 and 35 years. 6,14% of the bosnian muslim female population have been raped by serbian military and paramilitary forces , 3,68% of them are pregnant as a consequence of systematic rape.

And that is one of the reasons why "BISER" is existing.

B I S E R is an international initiative of women from Bosnia and Hercegovina who were forced to leave their country because of the war. The basic idea of this organization is to mobilize women-refugees so that they are able to help other women-refugees. In our organisation muslim and jewish, catholic and ortodox women are working together trying to provide help for victims of sexual torture. Our working together regardless of religous background is what we were always used to do in Bosnia and Hercegovina , It means the continuance of the over 600 years - tradition of multicultural coexistence in our homeland . We truly believe that that is the only structure of society able to provide lasting peace to the region. We also believe that this is the only way of life worth struggling for.

B I S E R is also a humanitarian and a human rights organization that is mainly concerned with helping women in need. B I S E R is involved in issues of human rights, of drawing public attention to war crimes against women and bringing war criminals to trial. In coalition with two Bosnian and two Croatian groups B I S E R has started a legal suit against Radovan Karadzic. Our lawyer is Ms. Catharine MacKinnon from the University of Michigan Law School.

B I S E R

internacionalna inicijativa žena bosne i hercegovine

B I S E R 's social work is organized in the following projects:

1. The program of survival

Providing help to women in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

We've found godfathers for 162 orphans. Because of the war against B&H and because of the blockade of humanitarian routes it was very difficult to send any kind of help, also our financial possibilities are limited. Inspite of that we succeeded in sending 12 wheel chairs and 500 pounds of baby food to Sarajevo and 200 pounds of babyfood to a orphanage in Kalesija.

2. Constructing a net of medical-psychotherapeutic help,

This means educating and preparing women refugees for problems that are waiting for them when they return to their homes.

Until now 58 women have been educated for psychotherapeutical and social work. 2762 people from refugee camps are in constant contact with us in order to get support and assistance in a number of questions such as physical and psychical health and a bunch of everyday life problems. "BISER" has provided a constant psychothersapeutical treatment for 14 women, surgical operations for two and cheast-dental treatment for three women.

3. Building refugee camps on Bosnian and Hercegovinian territory

made of family houses with infrastructure: school, place of worship, workshop and an ambulance, keyword "kibuc", thus creating conditions in which women are capable of providing help for themselves. "BISER" provided all professional projects, but because of the present situation we are still waiting to start building.

4. Refugee project "Restore dignity"

Building and organizing infrastructure where help can be provided for individuals - employment, education and health projects. We are deeply concerned about the ongrowing passivity of many of the refugees and about the so-called "helpers syndrom" by many of the people coming to Croatia to "provide help".

At this moment B I S E R has twenty members. They are all Bosnian women, refugees in Croatia and other countries who are qualified in a variety of fields.

To continue our work we need your support !

B I S E R

internacionalna inicijativa žena bosne i hercegovine

CURRICULUM VITAE - AIDA DAIDZIC

- 1957 born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina
- 1980 Diploma-Graduation of Architecture, University of
Sarajevo
- 1984 postgraduate study of Urbanism, University of Zagreb
- since 1988 working as an Assistant on Technische Hochschule, Darmstadt,
Germany
- 1990 Winner of the "Grand Prix" of Collegium Artisticum, for the best annual
contribution in the field of architecture , B&H
- Since '91 Active Member of the 'Society for Threatened Peoples' one of the
most important human rights organisation in Germany
- 1992 editor and initiator of the ZDF Program 'Mona Lisa', together with
Sibylle Bassler concerning genocidal rapes in B&H
- 1993 founder of 'BISER' - International Initiative of Women from Bosnia
and Hercegovina
- One of the founders of the 'German-Bosnian-Hercegovinian-Society

CURRICULUM VITAE - DIANA KAPIDZIC

- 1964 born in Munich, Germany
- 1983 moved to Sarajevo, Bosnia-Hercegovina and started to study
- 1987 Diploma Graduation at the Academy of Fine Arts at Sarajevo
Moved back to Munich, Germany and started to study at the
Academy of Fine Arts in Munich
- Since '92 Active Member of the 'Society for Threatened Peoples' - the second
argest human rights organisation in the German speaking area
- Since Jan.'93 Member of 'BISER' - International Initiative of Women from Bosnia-
Hercegovina
- One of the founders of the 'German-Bosnian-Hercegovinian-Society',
founded in June '93 in Munich, Germany

B I S E R

internacionalna inicijativa žena bosne i hercegovine

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES
WE ARE VISITING AMERICA WITH A SINGLE GOAL AND THAT IS EXPLAINING TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE UNTHINKABLE HUMAN DISASTER AND ATROCITIES THAT ARE BEING COMMITTED TO THE
PEOPLE OF BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA.

OUR PARTICULAR GOAL IS TO STRESS HISTORICALLY UNWITNESSED DESTRUCTION OF
HUMAN DIGNITY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT DELIBERATE
SEXUAL TORTURES IN ORDER TO CONQUER TERRITORIES.

UNFORTUNATELY THIS HAS BEEN QUITE OFTEN PORTRAYED IN THE WESTERN MEDIA AS
THE RESULT OF ANCIENT HATRED. ON THE CONTRARY LIFE IN BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA HAS BEEN
CHARACTERIZED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF ETHNIC TOLERANCE AMONG DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS.
FOR OVER 600 YEARS PEOPLE IN SARAJEVO, MUSLIMS, CROATS, SERBS AND JEWS HAVE LIVED
PEACEFULLY SIDE BY SIDE. THIS SAME PEOPLE ARE NOW SHELLED DAILY BY THE FASHISTIC SERBIAN
REGIME, WHOSE LEADERS SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC AND RADOVAN KARADZIC ARE WAR CRIMINALS
BUT ADRESSED WITH "YOUR EXCELLENCY" BY WESTERN POLITICIANS.

IN OUR ORGANISATION WOMEN FROM BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA, WOMEN FROM
ALL NATIONALITIES ARE TRYING TO PROVIDE HELP FOR THE VICTIMS OF RAPE. OVER A YEAR NOW
WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS TO COMMUNICATE TO EACH OTHER AND THAT IS EXACTLY THE POINT WE
WANT TO STRESS IN THIS JOURNEY.

IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW THE THRUTH ABOUT
GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT WITHOUT A REAL AMERICAN
INVOLVEMENT THIS SLAUGHTER CAN NOT BE STOPPED. ONLY AMERICA CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
AS IT HAS ALREADY BEEN SEEN TWICE IN THIS CENTURY.

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DANGER THAT BOSNIAN MULTIETHNIC, MULTIRELIGIOUS
AND MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY IS TO BE DESTROYED BY NATIONALSOCIALISTIC BELGRADE REGIME
AND BY THE INABILITY OF THE WESTERN POLITICIANS AND UNITED NATIONES TO STOP ONGOING
GENOCIDE.

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE REALIZE THAT THERE IS AN AMERICAN NATIONAL
INTEREST TO SUPPORT ANCIENT MULTIETHNIC SOCIETIES SUCH AS BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA,
BECAUSE AMERICA ITSELF IS NOT ONLY MULTIETHNIC BUT ALSO MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY.
THEREFORE WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE FRONT
OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

SINCERELY AIDA DAIDZIC & DIANA KAPIDZIC

B I S E R

internacionalna inicijativa žena bosne i hercegovine

LETTER OF INTENTIONS

WE, AIDA DAIDZIC AND DIANA KAPIDZIC, ARE MEMBERS OF THE BISER (SEE THE ATTACHED INFORMATION)
SINCE THE BEGINING OF THE AGGRESSION ON BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA WE HAVE ORGANIZED A NUMBER
OF RALLIES AND DRIVES ACROSS GERMANY FOCUSING ON THE GENOCIDE OVER BOSNIAN WOMEN AND
NATION AS WHOLE.

AS ONE OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WE PARTICIPATED AT THE UNO CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN RIGHTS, VIENNA, JULY 1993.

IN AUGUST OF 1992 WE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME ONE OF THE RAPE VICTIM FROM BOSNIA. THIS ENCOUNTER WAS
CRUCIAL FOR OUR FURTHER ACTIVITIES.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO INFORM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT THE
SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ESPECIALLY ABOUT MASSIVE TERROR AND RAPE OF BOSNIAN
WOMEN, AS A FORM OF GENOCIDE.

THEREFORE WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SERIES OF INFORMATIVE LECTURES IN THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 7TH
TO OCTOBER 12TH 1993. THE CONCEPT OF THESE LECTURES IS AS FOLLOWS

- AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS FROM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA;
- A 45-MINUTE INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY AND PEOPLES OF B&H AND INTO THE PRESENT SITUATION IN B&H;
- DISCUSSION WITH THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED TO GET INVOLVED - HOW, WHAT AND WHEN;
- A VIDEO DOCUMENTARY ABOUT B&H.

OUR TENTATIVE SCHEDULE IS: (MINOR CHANGES ARE STILL POSSIBLE)

FROM	TO	CITY	TEMPORARY TELEPHONE NO.
sept. 05	sept. 11	NEW YORK	212 / 682 96 61
sept. 12	sept. 19	WASHINGTON D.C.	703 / 534 85 29
sept. 20	sept. 26	CHICAGO	312 / 943 92 00
sept. 27	sept. 30	LOS ANGELES	310 / 638 03 97
okt. 1	okt. 3	SAN FRANCISCO	510 / 653 05 16
okt. 4	okt. 12	NEW YORK + WASHINGTON D.C.	212 / 682 96 61

OUR GOAL IS TO REACH AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE - ESPECIALLY WOMEN- AND TO MAKE CONTACT
WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE WILLING TO HELP AND LOBBY FOR B&H. ALSO, WE WOULD
LIKE TO INFORM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THROUGH THE MEDIA, ABOUT THE WAR CRIMES IN B&H, FROM OUR
POINT OF VIEW.

WE ARE ASKING ALL THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OUR WORK TO HELP US IN ORGANIZING THIS TOUR.
DURING OUR VISIT TO THE WEST COAST WE WOULD LIKE, IF POSSIBLE, TO MEET SOME MEDIA PEOPLE.
PLEASE CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT THE NUMBERS BELOW. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE

July 15, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR PAM BARNETT

FROM: Unice Lieberman 

SUBJECT: First Lady Photos

Legislative Affairs has sent out photographs to the following Members of the House taken with the First Lady at the White House Reception for the Democratic Whips on June 24, 1993.

John Bryant
Benjamin L. Cardin
Robert E. Wise, Jr.
Philip R. Sharp
Neil Abercrombie
Ron Wyden
William J. Jefferson
Buddy Darden
Frank McCloskey
Dale Kildee
Timothy J. Penny
Nita Lowey
Tom Bevill (POTUS also in photo)
Martin Sabo
James L. Oberstar
Robert T. Matsui
Butler Derrick
Dan Glickman
Jim Slattey
Richard J. Durbin
John Lewis
Bud Cramer
Jim Chapman
Rosa DeLauro