



The Bosnian War Experience

BY: EMINA MEHMEDOVIC

Dad: Muriz Mehmedovic

- BORN IN BOSNIA.
- IN 1970.
- CONSTRUCTION WORKER IN BOSNIA.
- STUDIED ABROAD IN ITALY BEFORE GETTING DRAFTED.
- DRAFTED INTO THE BOSNIA VS. SERBIA WAR (1992).
- DRAFTED AT THE AGE OF 16.
- IN 1994 HE MARRIED MY MOM: SEMSA MEHMEDOVIC DURING THE WAR.
- HAS 11 SIBLINGS

Mom: Semsa Mehmedovic

- BORN IN BOSNIA: 1977
- HAS 2 SIBLINGS
- SHE ATTENDED SCHOOL UP UNTIL 10TH GRADE THEN HAD TO DROP OUT.
- DROPPED OUT DUE TO THE BEGINNING OF THE BOSNIAN WAR (1992).
- STAYED AT AND EARNED MONEY FROM SELLING FRUITS.
- FARMED EVERYDAY.
- MARRIED AT THE AGE OF 16.
- HAD HER FIRST CHILD AT THE AGE OF 17 IN 1995.

Life of Muriz:

- ← BEING DRAFTED AT THE AGE OF 16 WAS ONE OF HIS FEARS.
- ← BEING IN THE WAR HE WAS VERY POOR. HE ONLY GOT BREAD AND WARM WATER FROM THE OLDER SOLDIERS.
- ← THE WAR TOOK SOME OF HIS BEST YOUTHFUL YEARS.
- ← HE SERVED IN THE WAR FOR 5 YEARS.
- ← WHAT HE HAD SEEN WILL ALWAYS COME TO HAUNT HIM IN HIS DREAMS.

Life of Semsá (mom):

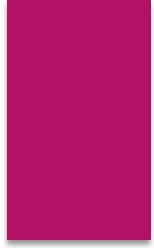
- ❑ AFTER HAVING HER FIRST CHILD IN 1995 DURING THE WAR SHE STRUGGLED TO FEED HER CHILD AND KEEP SHELTER.
- ❑ DURING THE WAR IN 1992-1995 SHE HAD TO CONSTANTLY MOVE TO SAFETY . SHE MOSTLY LIVED IN AN ABANDONED STORE AND SLEPT ON THE COLD TILE FLOORS WITH HER DAUGHTER.
- ❑ HAVING A SICK CHILD AND STAYING ALIVE DURING THE WAR WAS HER HARDEST STRUGGLE MOSTLY AT A YOUNG AGE OF 18.
- ❑ DURING THE WAR SHE MOSTLY ONLY ATE BREAD AND WARM WATER BUT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN SHE ATE NOTHING.
- ❑ SHE WAS MOSTLY ALONE SINCE EVERYONE ELSE WAS TRYING TO BE ALIVE THE NEXT DAY .
- ❑ SHE HAD TO WALK MANY MILES WITH A BABY ON HER BACK DURING THE WAR THROUGH WOODS, STREAMS, AND MOUNTAINS FOR SAFETY .

What was the Bosnian vs. Serbian War?

- IN 1991, YUGOSLAVIA BEGAN TO BREAK UP ALONG ETHNIC LINES. WHEN THE REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BOSNIA) DECLARED INDEPENDENCE IN 1992 THE REGION QUICKLY BECAME THE CENTRAL THEATER OF FIGHTING.
- THE SERBIANS WANTED TO ETHNICALLY CLEANSE OUT ALL THE BOSNIANS.
- SERBIANS WERE MAINLY CATHOLICS AND BOSNIANS WERE MAINLY MUSLIMS.
- THE KILLING TOOK PLACE IN JULY 1995 WHEN 8,000 BOSNIANS WERE KILLED IN WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS THE SREBRENICA GENOCIDE, THE LARGEST MASSACRE IN EUROPE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST.
- AT THE END OF THE FOUR DAY MASSACRE, UP TO 8,000 MEN AND TEENAGE BOYS HAD BEEN KILLED, AND MANY WOMEN WERE SUBJECT TO TORTURE, RAPE, AND OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. THOUSANDS WERE BURIED IN MASS GRAVES.

Genocide in Srebrenica:

- IN JULY 1995, SERB FORCES, LED BY GENERAL RATKO MLADIC, DESCENDED UPON THE TOWN OF SREBRENICA AND BEGAN SHELLING IT. AT THIS POINT, THE ENCLAVE WAS PROTECTED BY ONLY 450 DUTCH PEACEKEEPERS ARMED WITH LIGHT FUEL AND EXPIRED AMMUNITION – THEIR FORCE WAS SO WEAK THAT A DUTCH COMMANDER HAD REPORTED THAT THE UNIT WAS NO LONGER MILITARILY OPERATIONAL A MONTH PRIOR. THE PEACEKEEPERS REQUESTED SUPPORT FROM THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) BUT WERE DENIED. SREBRENICA FELL TO THE SERBS IN ONE DAY.
- MASS EXECUTIONS, CONCENTRATION CAMPS, RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT.
- UP TO 3,000 WERE KILLED, EITHER BY GUNSHOT OR BY DECAPITATION, WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE.
- AT THE END OF THE FOUR DAY MASSACRE, UP TO 8,000 MEN AND TEENAGE BOYS HAD BEEN KILLED, AND MANY WOMEN WERE SUBJECT TO TORTURE, RAPE, AND OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.



Funerals?

- ❑ IN THE UNITED STATES AS THERE WAS WAR AND SOLDIERS DIED THEY GOT TO BE BURIED WITH RESPECT FROM THEIR COUNTRY AND LOVED ONES.
- ❑ AS FOR DURING THE BOSNIAN WAR THERE WASN'T ENOUGH MONEY AND TIME TO BURY SOLDIERS WITH RESPECT AND IN A PROPER GRAVE.
- ❑ INSTEAD ACCORDING TO MY DAD; THEY USED THE DEAD BODIES FOR PROTECTION AND TO BUILD THEIR FORTS HIGHER TO HID BEHIND.



What happened at the end of the 5yr war?

❑ WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE UNIVERSALLY TO THIS WAR?

IN GENERAL THE UN, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA MINIMIZED THE AGGRESSIVE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT AND TREATED THE FIGHTING AS A CONFLICT BETWEEN EQUAL WARRING PARTIES. SEEKING TO AVOID THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING TO A GENOCIDE, MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES REFERRED TO THE CONFLICT AS “ETHNIC CLEANSING” RATHER THAN “GENOCIDE”.

❑ IN NOVEMBER 1995, THE DAYTON ACCORDS WERE SIGNED IN DAYTON, OHIO, OFFICIALLY ENDING THE WAR IN BOSNIA. THIS PEACE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHED TWO SEMI-AUTONOMOUS ENTITIES WITHIN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

❑ BY THE END OF THE WAR, ROUGHLY 100,000 PEOPLE HAD DIED.

❑ MANY SURVIVORS HAVE HAD TO LIVE THEIR LIVES NOT KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. OVER 20,000 PEOPLE ARE STILL MISSING AS OF TODAY.

Work Cited:

- [HTTP://ENDGENOCIDE.ORG/LEARN/PAST-GENOCIDES/THE-BOSNIAN-WAR-AND-SREBRENICA-GENOCIDE/](http://endgenocide.org/learn/past-genocides/the-bosnian-war-and-srebrenica-genocide/)
- [HTTPS://WWW.THEATLANTIC.COM/PHOTO/2012/04/20-YEARS-SINCE-THE-BOSNIAN-WAR/100278/](https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2012/04/20-years-since-the-bosnian-war/100278/)