

FOB**briefs**

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NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF BOSNIA

The New Initiative Takes Off *FOB Develops Innovative New Approach to Community Empowerment*



Christopher Bragdon (back row, center) with the Tuzla Association for the Hearing Impaired at their auto repair workshop.

By Christopher Bragdon

Living on charity is a humiliating and debilitating experience. Unfortunately, it is an experience that many Bosnians know too well. A very common refrain one hears from Bosnians is that they do not want to live on charity. They want jobs. They want to earn a living. Bosnians deeply appreciate the good will of Americans who have devoted their own funds to help them. Yet their need for help in recovering from a horrible genocidal war is accompanied by a profound need for a sense of accomplishment, for self-respect, for dignity. Often humanitarian aid has had the unintended effect of ruining the optimism and

sense of self-reliance so needed in Bosnia. And, mirroring the Bosnians' concerns, donors would like to know that their good will is being used to help people become self-reliant, not become stuck in an endless cycle of dependency.

In response to this need for an innovative and truly empowering way of delivering aid, Friends of Bosnia has developed a model for revitalizing communities that is fueled by goodwill funds but has none of the common pitfalls of humanitarian aid. This model for community-business empowerment, called "The New Initiative," embodies no outright charity, no sense of entitlement, and no dependency. Our pilot project

involved bringing together the business, government, and community organizations of Tuzla to restore the city's central park, with each organization making a significant contribution.

ANATOMY OF A PROJECT

Despite its ultimate great success, our pilot project got off to a very precarious start. In late June 2001, Tuzla was inundated with the worst floods in decades. All major roads into Tuzla were cut off, and homes in surrounding villages were being swept away. The situation was so bad that for some it brought back the disturbing feeling that Tuzla was once again surrounded by a hostile force. Consequently, our project, which required

significant contributions from the local government and the business community, was not a top priority. And although Tuzla Mayor Imamovic had promised in April to provide us with what we needed for our July project, because of the floods there was some question as to whether we could even have a meeting with him. With our window of opportunity closing and our time for adequate preparations running short, things were not looking good.

Luckily, the president of our partner organization, Vehid Sehic of the Forum of Tuzla Citizens, repeatedly went to bat for us, and we finally met with Mayor Imamovic about five days

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The Tuzla Center for Information Technology

By Christopher Bragdon

Adnan Salkic, the 28-year-old president of the Tuzla Center for Information Technology (CIT), believes he owes his life to mosquitoes.

At 8:52 PM on May 25, 1995, in Tuzla, Bosnia, mosquitoes drove Adnan and his girlfriend from Kapija Square to the refuge of a nearby restaurant. At 8:55, a high-explosive artillery shell detonated in Kapija Square,



The CIT-run Internet club Stelekt in Tuzla.

tearing through the multi-ethnic fabric of Tuzla and killing 72 people from all of Tuzla's ethnicities. The ultranationalists surrounding

Continued on page 6.

Koraj



Members of a Koraj family helped by FOB enjoy their new home.

In last year's newsletter, we shared the story of our August 2000 meeting with a woman living in the wreckage of her former home with her son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren in Koraj, Bosnia. The woman cried when we first met her, because she did not know how her family would survive the winter. Friends of Bosnia provided \$100 in flour and oils to help feed the family through those difficult months.

We are happy to inform you that she and her family are now doing well. Before winter set in last year, an Austrian organization built a brand-new home for the family. They are very grateful for the help that FOB's goodwill funds gave them and asked that we thank all of you who have so generously supported the people of Bosnia.

Janja

In last year's newsletter, Friends of Bosnia reported fixing 33 homes in Janja, Bosnia, with our partner organization The Forum of Tuzla Citizens. We undertook these efforts in response to organized violence in July 2000 against returning Bosnian Muslims, during which 62 homes were attacked by rock-throwing mobs. The intention of this immediate aid was to give moral and material support to the returning families and

to discourage continued violence. In April 2001, we returned to Janja and learned that, while there are still tensions, there has been no repeat of organized violence.

In the days immediately following the July attacks last year, US peacekeepers patrolled the streets; in August 2000 the US ambassador, Thomas Miller, visited the people who had been attacked and reassured them. On the same day as his visit, Friends of Bosnia and the Forum of Tuzla Citizens began fixing homes and continued through September; later that fall, larger organizations repaired the remaining houses. Together we made a difference.

The Tuzla Orphanage



Friends of Bosnia has pledged to make an annual donation to the Tuzla Orphanage. With our initial contribution (August 2000), we asked how the funds could be best used; they said it was a rather desperate time and what they most needed was food and baby formula for the youngest orphans. As a sign of progress, in April 2001, when we returned to make further donations, the orphanage chose to spend the funds on a field trip for the children who were not old enough to leave the premises unsupervised. Another encouraging development is that USAID will be rebuilding the orphanage's gymnasium this year, and an FOB donor

may be traveling to Tuzla in 2002 to build a volleyball court for the teenagers.

If you would like to contribute to the orphanage, please send a donation to Friends of Bosnia and note that it is for the orphanage. If you would like to participate in deciding how the funds are spent, you can e-mail Chris Bragdon at chris@friendsofbosnia.org and he can let you know what is most required at the time.

Balkan Festival Great Success!

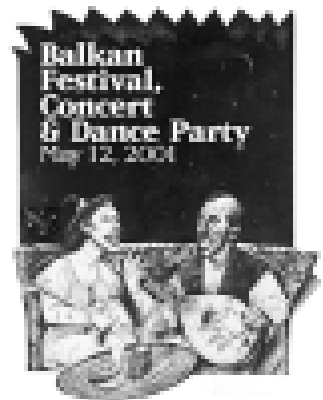
With more than 150 people dancing to Balkan music, Friends of Bosnia filled the Red Barn at Hampshire College on Saturday, May 12, for a Balkan Festival of music, dance, and food. The evening was a joint fundraiser with the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding in Leverett, Mass.

Featured performers included the magnificent Zlatne Uste Balkan Brass Band, the 50 Voice Balkan Chorus, members of the Emerald Stream Chorale and the Montague Singers led by Mary Cay Brass, and the Orijent Express Balkan

FOB-produced Kosovo documentary appears at Kosovo Commission panel



The FOB-produced Kosovo photo documentary, *Reconstructing Kosovo*, was exhibited at Brandeis University in December 2000 during a Kosovo Commission panel discussion. Commission Chairman and former ICTY Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone is seated second from right. Since September 2001, the exhibit has visited 10 locations, including Harvard, Stanford, Georgetown, and Tufts universities. It will be at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center in Cambridge, Mass., from November 15, 2001, through January 11, 2002.



Band. Balkan folk dancing and instruction was led by Karl Finger Azir Begovic.

Thanks to everyone who made the evening a great success!

Sixth Anniversary Commemoration of the Srebrenica Massacre



Women survivors from Srebrenica and other mourners attending the sixth anniversary commemoration in Potocari on July 11, 2001.

By Glenn Ruga

On July 11 this past summer—six years following the siege of Srebrenica—a commemoration took place at the former UN base in Potocari, where the refugees from Srebrenica fled before being abandoned by the United Nations. On a blistering hot summer morning, the small mountain road to Srebrenica was bumper to bumper with buses. The road was also lined with local Serbs watching the convoy. It was very interesting to watch them watch us. Many gave us the three-finger Serb nationalist salute. Some spat. Most had bewildered looks mixed with fear, hate, guilt, and confusion. I didn't have sympathy for those who felt hate, but to the others I wished I could communicate that we came in peace. Many children mimicked what they learned at home and gave us the Serb finger. The majority of the kids, though, just looked like innocent children anywhere

who only wanted a good future. I felt a deep compassion for them.

On the way through Republika Srpska not far from Srebrenica, we passed a warehouse that had been the site of a massacre six years before. To our horror, in front of the warehouse was a group of local Serbs roasting pigs on a spit. Our Bosnian translator insisted that it was timed for us to see as we passed by on our way to the commemoration. In other parts of Bosnia, one often sees lambs and pigs roasting, but it's always associated



Men praying in the front rows at the ceremony while an imam read from the Koran.

with an eating establishment or a celebration. This sad day for us was a celebration for the local Serbs.

The commemoration itself took place in a barren and very hot field across from the former UN compound. Most of the attendees were traditional Muslim women who had lost family members. In the front row were also a fair number of Muslim *hodjas* (religious men) in black robes and hats.

The ceremony lasted 45 minutes. The imam called the faithful to prayer, and the followers bowed to Mecca, covered their faces, and turned their heads in one direction then the other. The music of the imam's voice was very beautiful. The words were directly from the Koran and spoke of tolerance and forgiveness; an English translation was provided. At one point many of the women started crying, and some fainted in the heat.

After the ceremony, most of the Muslims had lunch as they sat in the shade and relaxed. Only one food vendor had set up shop. He had a roasted lamb, a hatchet, and a scale and would hack off a piece of the lamb and sell it to hungry customers.

Later we took a brief tour of the inside of the base and saw Dutch graffiti from six years earlier. Similar to the graffiti of young men from anywhere in the world, it talked of sex, boredom, liquor, and killing. Most of it was quite vulgar.

On the bus back, we were accompanied by a member of the Bosnian federal police, who was from Srebrenica. He told us his story of fleeing to Potocari with his family six years before, but suspecting the worst, he broke away and joined the convoy of 5,000 others who tried to escape through the woods. Most were killed, but he managed to stay alive by spending the next 70 days roaming the woods with a small group of men. He first went to Zepa, where he rejoined the BiH army. When Zepa fell to the Serbs, he again escaped to the woods and went back to Srebrenica. Finding that he could do nothing there, he wandered up and down the Drina River valley for the next month and a half until he made it across the front lines into Klandanj.

On the way back to Tuzla, we stopped at a cafe as soon as we reached Federation territory. A Dutch radio journalist on our bus unpacked a portable satellite uplink to send his report home. The rest of us enjoyed a cold drink or coffee and reflected on the day. It had been a very moving experience for me; I could only imagine the emotions of those who had lost loved ones in the massacre on a summer day six years before.

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends:

Our days are now colored by the tragic events of September 11th and their aftermath. One day the United States was at relative peace; here at FOB we were doing our best to help rebuild a part of the world so recently racked by war. The next day we all became victims of the greatest-ever military assault on US civilians; a month later, our own nation was at war.

This is uncharted territory for most of us. Not since World War II have US citizens felt threatened at home. But the Bosnians haven't been so lucky. Friends of Bosnia was born out of war in the Balkans—a war aimed largely at civilians. For three-and-a-half years Serbian ultranationalists laid siege to Bosnia, causing unimaginable devastation and loss of life.

What does the new world reality mean for Bosnia, for the Balkans, and for FOB? None of us know for sure. It is possible that US troops will soon be taken out of the Balkans and replaced by NATO troops from other countries. This would not be good news for the Bosnians or Kosovars, who see the United States as the only nation really protecting their interests. To everyone's surprise, the peace process in Macedonia is moving forward on both sides, albeit slowly.

There is also renewed attention on the connections between international terrorism, Islamic extremism, and the wars in Bosnia and Kosovo. It is no secret that volunteer majahideen were active in both wars, and in Bosnia they comprised their own brigade. But more important to this debate is that the Balkans represent a secular, moderate, and modern view of Islam. The Bosnian Muslims and Kosovar Albanians are convincing examples that there need be no clash between Judeo-Christianity and Islam. The clash everywhere is between intolerance and tolerance, between extremism and moderation, and between fundamentalism and secularism—regardless of whether the antagonists are Serb-ultranationalists, Muslim fundamentalists, or white supremacists.

For FOB the new situation means many things. It deepens our commitment to the Balkans and has made many Americans more sympathetic to the experience of Bosnia. But with the economy in recession, and with our nation embarked on a war that our leaders promise will take years, much is less certain than it once seemed.

One thing is sure, however; at FOB we are as committed as ever to accomplishing our mission of reconstruction and reconciliation in the Balkans. We hope that you will join with us and sustain your commitment to this important work.

We wish you all peace in the upcoming year and pray that the violence everywhere in the world will end soon.

Glenn Ruga
Director

New Board Members

Friends of Bosnia is pleased to welcome two distinguished individuals as new members of our board of directors.

Mary Ellen Keough, MPH

Mary Ellen joined the board in summer 2001. Her career in health and human rights began in a large community-based health center in Boston, where she served as director for education and research and was responsible for community-based health studies, outreach, and bringing cultural and access issues to the forefront in health professions education.

In 1997, her interests in health and human rights led her to pursue international work that began with the Boston-based Physicians for Human Rights. There she served as director of the Antemortem Database Project in Bosnia and as director of the PHR Family Support Project in Kosovo. A major goal of these programs was to assist and support families in the identification and return of missing persons exhumed by the International War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Mary Ellen is currently director of educational programs for the Meyers Primary Care Institute in Worcester, Mass., which promotes educational programming in primary care. She is also an instructor in the University of Massachusetts Medical School Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and serves as the faculty adviser for the newly formed UMass Medical

School chapter of Physicians for Human Rights. Mary Ellen has coauthored two papers addressing family rights and psychosocial issues, based on her experiences in Bosnia and Kosovo. She holds a master's degree in public health from Boston University.

Smajl Cengic

Smajl is the newest member of the Friends of Bosnia board of directors. A native of Banovici, Bosnia, a town 20 miles outside of Tuzla, he remained in Bosnia until the war ended then settled in the Boston area in October 1996.

Smajl has a degree in business from the University of Belgrade. Before the war, he was a marketing and sales representative for a manufacturing company in Bosnia. He is currently an employment specialist and counselor at the International Institute of Boston, working primarily with refugees from Bosnia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia. He is also studying to complete a business degree here in the United States. Smajl has one son, age 15.

Send us your e-mail address

If you aren't receiving e-mail news from us, you are not on our distribution list.

Send your email address to info@friendsofbosnia.org to receive timely updates from FOB and announcements of programs sponsored by FOB and other organizations.

FOB Supports Srebrenica Survivors through Women for Women International

Since 1994 Friends of Bosnia has been supporting refugee women in Bosnia through Women for Women International, a project based in Washington, D.C., that helps women in Bosnia, Kosovo, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Bangladesh (www.womenforwomen.org). Currently we are sending a monthly donation through Women for Women to Merka Sehic from Brautunac, near Srebrenica. Her story is tragically similar to those of thousands of other women from Srebrenica: She was driven out of Brautunac early in the war and fled to Srebrenica. When the final offensive came in July 1995, she fled to the UN compound in Potocari with her family. At one point her young son and daughter were separated into the "to be killed" line. But they were able to escape back to buses that took them to Bosnian territory. Her husband, like so many thousands of other men from Srebrenica, tried to escape through the woods. She has not seen him since and still does not know exactly what happened to him.

After fleeing Potocari, Merka went to Kladanj, Srebrenik, then as a refugee to a one-room apartment in Sarajevo, where she lives now. She has three children, the eldest a 21-year-old daughter who is studying political science at the University of Sarajevo. The culmination of Merka's tragedy, like that of so many other families, is that she had

settled in the home of a Serb who fled Sarajevo after the war. But the Serb who owned the home traded it to a Bosnian Muslim, who now wants to move in.

According to all the current laws, Merka must leave. But she has absolutely nowhere to go. Her home in Brautunac was destroyed, and she and her family would not feel safe there anyway: this past summer a Muslim father and his 16-year-old daughter went to visit their home near Srebrenica, where a sniper shot and killed the teenage girl. Merka is distraught and has no idea what she will do.



Merka and Nedzada Sehic, refugees from Srebrenica, must leave their one-room apartment in Sarajevo, but the government has not provided them with a place to go and they cannot return home.

Friends of Bosnia sends Merka \$25 a month, and she receives \$60 from the government. But these funds are not nearly enough for her to buy a home or rent an apartment.

Women for Women International is helping hundreds of women like Merka

throughout Bosnia and throughout the world. We are grateful for the efforts of this organization and proud to work with them to provide help where it is needed.

Letters of Support Following the WTC Disaster

After the World Trade Center disaster on September 11, FOB received many words of condolences and support from the Balkans. Following are just a few of those received.

Dear friends:

I use this opportunity to express my deepest condolence to you and to all Americans with hope that your great spirit will prevail in such tragic moment for your great nation, and that those who are responsible for such horrible action will be founded and brought to justice. I have to say that my mind is with all of you my good friends in such tragic moments for all of you.

Regards,

Amir Tobudic, Tuzla, Bosnia

Dear Friends of Bosnia:

Kosova Albanians are deeply saddened by this senseless terrorist attack. We feel condolence and sympathy with

American nation. Those attacks against innocent people and American institutions is also an attack against democracy and freedom. We think that such terrorist acts should be stopped once and forever. We will never forget the Americans and their allies help to us during our most difficult hours. We therefore stand by your nation and support your actions in protecting the values of democracy and freedom throughout the world. Lot of people from our community donated blood for the victims. In every town of Kosova three minutes of silence was held, and candles where lit up in remembrance of innocent victims. God Save America and American nation.

Enver Vrajolli
Pristina, Kosovo

Dear All:

In these very difficult moments for United States of America and entire world, in

my personal name, in the name of my family, many friends and colleagues, allow me to express my condolence and commiseration for the innocent victim of this madness. This evil act is a terrible attack against all those values we believe to be the fundament of humanity. However, I am deeply confident that you will find enough strength to overcome this tragedy and continue on the road we will like to be your co-passengers.

Sincerely yours,

Luan and Vlora, Pristina, Kosova

Dear Friends of Bosnia:

We all hope you are OK, and all of your friends are OK. We are deeply sorry for everything that happened to your people. We don't have words for it. Hope that all of your friends are well.

Our condolences,
Radio kameleon staff,
Tuzla, Bosnia



Roma children were among the dozens of volunteers during The New Initiative pilot project in July 2001.

The New Initiative

Continued from page 1

before the work was to begin. To our delight, despite the civil emergency, Mayor Imamovic came through with all he had promised and more. For our two work weekends at the central park, we could look forward to an entire array of support from the municipality, including trucks, tools, equipment, and workers.

With so little time, the challenge then became working through the bureaucracies to line up all our resources by the starting date. As part of the park restoration, the Tuzla Association for the Hearing Impaired (TAHI) had offered its metal fabricating and painting workshop for restoring damaged trash containers. But we needed the paint, metal, and damaged containers from the municipality delivered immediately to TAHI, as volunteers had only four days to prepare over 20 containers. Apparently through some form of divine intervention, we were able to shave the promised three-day delivery time to just five hours. It required searching through the municipal maze

of bureaucrats, but we found that one person who could make the magic phone call. From then on, all was well with the contributions from the municipality.

The challenge then became mobilizing Tuzla's business community. We needed to demonstrate that businesses would be willing to contribute to the park restoration either as a marketing opportunity or as a matter of civic pride. Student volunteers from the Tuzla Center for Information Technology fanned out into the city to look for contributions from local businesses. Soon pledges were coming in. The most popular radio station in Tuzla, Radio Kameleon, pledged music at the park during the work weekends and offered free airtime to promote the event. Restaurants offered free food for the volunteers.



Volunteers from a landscaping firm plant a garden during The New Initiative pilot project.

And the national landscaping and floral firm Strelacija made a very significant and lasting donation: it pledged six workers and about 50 plants for the park, and agreed to maintain an area of the park indefinitely.

A WIN-WIN SITUATION

The New Initiative works by appealing to each organization's self-interest, as well as its desire to help the entire community. The municipality offers material and in return gets free laborers for restoring public land. Businesses provide funding and in return receive marketing opportunities. And community organizations provide volunteers in return for funding. For each hour a volunteer works, the contributing community organization receives \$10 in credit toward material aid. Thus TAHI, in return for repairing the trash cans and contributing volunteers to the park restoration, earned funding for new equipment at its workshop. With the new equipment, TAHI can create more jobs and generate more revenue. The student volunteers from the Tuzla Center for Information Technology earned funding for new computer equipment. And each volunteer had the satisfaction of helping both his or her own organization and the entire Tuzla community.

Our pilot project demonstrated the potential for The New Initiative to make a significant difference in rebuilding Bosnia. During our restoration of Tuzla's central park, all sectors of Tuzla's society contributed without any of the debilitating side effects of charity—cynicism, resentment, and a sapping of self-reliance and self-respect. Tuzlans of all stripes—

including people with hearing disabilities, college students, and Roma (Gypsy) families—all worked together and shared a sense of accomplishment.

This experience was unlike any other the Bosnians had had with international aid efforts. Bosnians assumed leadership of the project and enjoyed the limelight and the well-deserved credit, and no international organization was promoting itself—rather, the one American who indeed had the power of the purse was in the dirt with the Bosnians, sweating along with everyone else. In fact, our July 2001 New Initiative pilot project was so successful that the World Bank is paying Friends of Bosnia to travel to Washington, D.C., in 2002 to present the New Initiative to potential donors. Cornell University is joining FOB and our partner organization The Forum of Tuzla Citizens in implementing The New Initiative, to further develop this model for reducing poverty.

With the completion of our 2001 pilot project, FOB took a major step toward an annual community-supported work festival that gives Bosnians the opportunity to earn a better future.

CIT

Continued from page 1

Tuzla purposely targeted a favorite gathering place, Kapija Square. They knew it would hold many young people that evening, since May 25 is a holiday: National Youth Day.

In the spring and summer of 1997, having returned to America after my first trip to Tuzla, I would lie awake each night fearing for the



Sladana Pejic, CIT management board member, outside the Internet cafe in Tuzla.

safety of the people I had met there. That year there was still talk of withdrawing NATO peacekeepers from Bosnia, and I knew that if they withdrew, the killing would resume and there would be nothing I could do to stop it. During those months it was difficult to sleep at night. For some reason the image that kept returning to me was that of Sandro Kalesic, a three-year-old boy who had been killed at Kapija Square and whose picture I had seen at Tuzla's memorial cemetery.

CIT TAKES THE LEAD

Because the peacekeepers remained in Bosnia, Friends of Bosnia has been able to focus on a lasting rebuilding effort. Through that work, I have come to know Adnan Salkic. This last April, while FOB helped establish the Tuzla Center for Information Technology as an independent nongovernmental organization, I learned that Adnan had been at Kapija Square on May 25, 1995. And I learned that just before he and his girlfriend left the square, they offered to take the three-year-old Sandro Kalesic with them; his parents, intending to leave shortly, declined the offer.

When I heard of this connection to Sandro four years after my first trip to Bosnia and six years after the massacre, it gave me faith that we are headed in the right direction and made me believe that there is a reason why Adnan and I have met each other. With the leadership of CIT being 50 percent Muslim, 30 percent Croat, and 20 percent Serb—representative of Tuzla's ethnic distribution—CIT is more than a school for information technology. It's also a community organization that can be a catalyst for change. Indeed, CIT is now at the forefront of establishing an effective student union to lobby for professional academic standards throughout Tuzla University. And in July 2001, the CIT leadership team provided the grassroots management for one of Friends of Bosnia's community development pilot projects [see page 1].

Adnan and I talk about ways CIT can utilize the Internet to reach across former confrontation lines in Bosnia. In the aftermath of September 11, we feel a greater urgency to bring the secular and nonsecular communities of Islam and Christianity into peaceful coexistence. Indeed, the central questions for Bosnia have now become the world's questions: Can the cultures born of the world's major religions live together in peace? Can we avoid this horror of mass murder?

Adnan and the leadership at CIT are determined to do their part in answering those questions for Bosnia. And for those dedicated to rebuilding a multiethnic and democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina, CIT is very much part of the solution.

For every aspect of achieving peace and reconciliation in Bosnia, the crucial piece of the puzzle is job creation. Everything hinges on that one challenge. With some regions facing an unemployment rate approaching 80 percent, the job situation has become a crisis. In order for Bosnia to retain its most talented students and professionals and not lose these potential leaders to emigration, there must be genuine career opportunities in Bosnia. In order for there to be a reservoir of forgiveness, Bosnians must have the means to provide for their own families. And while there can be some justice in prosecuting war criminals who destroyed much of Bosnia, complete justice must include returning a degree of prosperity to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to those who endured the war.

BOSNIA NEEDS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

In some fields, the problem is not a lack of jobs but a dearth of qualified individuals to fill them. Hundreds of high-paying jobs in information technology (IT) are available today in Bosnia. In everything from entrepreneurial start-ups to large companies to government agencies, the need for IT specialists is great. The problem is that Bosnians do not have the necessary hands-on training in IT, and Bosnian businesses are either unable or unwilling to provide that training. Young, talented Bosnians are eager to learn, to work hard, and to earn a living; Bosnian businesses have jobs ready to be filled. It is crucial that this gap be bridged.

Friends of Bosnia is helping the Tuzla Center for Information Technology do just that. Since I first met Adnan Salkic and his associate Damir Imamovic in spring 1999 and set up an official relationship with CIT in August 2000, Friends of Bosnia has provided CIT with over \$30,000 in funding. We helped the organization secure a lease on its 1,300-square-foot building in the center of Tuzla, register as an independent nongovernmental organization, and purchase a Cisco router, firewall computer, digital camera, \$6,000 Breezecom radio link, and 15 work stations. We helped renovate the building and pay for professional services. And we helped CIT develop a relationship with Cornell University, through which professors and student volunteers are helping CIT develop an English as a Second Language program and create a comprehensive development plan.

Friends of Bosnia is honored to work with the leadership at CIT and proud of what we have been able to accomplish together during this past year. We are very grateful for the generosity of those in America and Canada who have contributed funds and time to help this dream come true. Yet we are intimately aware that none of the achievements would have been remotely possible without the people at CIT like Adnan—people who are willing to work for weeks on end sometimes without any compensation except the hope that they can succeed. We look forward to sharing more success stories from this partnership in the years to come.

FRIENDS OF BOSNIA PROUDLY CO-PRESENTS TWO AWARD-WINNING FILMS FROM THE BALKANS



THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN BOSTON

Featuring two award-winning films from the Balkans:

Living Afterwards: Sedina, Jasmina, and Senada—three survivors from Srebrenica—discuss their experiences as they try to heal and create a future for themselves. (83 min.)

Postcards from Peja: Young people in Kosovo talk about their fears and hopes for the future following the war in 1999 and ten years of oppression. (15 min.)

Both will be shown at the International Institute of Boston, One Milk Street, Boston

12 noon and 2 pm, Saturday, January 26, 2002

\$8.00

For ticket information, contact:
617-338-6022

For complete festival information: www.hrw.org/iff/

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Web Resources on the Balkans

The following websites provide useful and up-to-date information about current events in the Balkans. If you are aware of others, please forward the URL to info@friendsofbosnia.org.

Albanians in Macedonia Crisis Center
www.alb-net.com/amcc/

B-92 Net
www.b-92.net

Balkans Today
www.europeaninternet.com/balkans/

Bosnet
www.bosnet.org

The Bosnia Institute
www.bosnian.org.uk

Coalition for International Justice
www.cij.org

Friends of Bosnia
www.friendsofbosnia.org

Institute for War and Peace Reporting
www.iwpr.net

International Campaign to Ban Landmines
www.icbl.org

International Crisis Group
www.crisisweb.org

Kosovo Commission
www.kosovocommission.org

OSCE
www.osce.org

This Week in Bosnia Hercegovina
www.applicom.com/twibih/

The Tuzla Center for Information Technology
www.friendsofbosnia.org/CIT

UNMIK
www.un.org/peace/kosovo/pages/kosovo1.htm

Women for Women International
www.womenforwomen.org

Your Support Is Needed!

YES, I want to support this newsletter and all of FOB's efforts to bring peace and reconciliation to the Balkans.

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\$250 \$ _____

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