

Serbian American Media Center

Box 76-217 * 612 N. Michigan Avenue * Chicago, IL 60611 * (312) 755-0389 * Fax (312)755-0393



Fax Cover Sheet

Date: APRIL 22, 1993

Recipient: MRS. HELEN BENTLEY

Fax No. _____

Sender: GORAN MIKIC

Total Pages: 4
(Including Cover Sheet)

If all pages are not received please notify the sender at (312) 755-0389.

Comments:

Dear Mrs. Bentley

In two weeks I need to submit my application for political asylum. I am sending you a brief summary of my ordeal.

Along with my application for political asylum I will submit the following :

1. Statements from my family in Belgrade regarding repercussions from the government and federal army.
2. statements from an American writer who was a witness to the repercussions I experienced at the time in Belgrade. In addition I will enclose a segment of his book which discusses my experience.
3. Clippings from newspapers in Yugoslavia and other countries which discuss my problems.
4. Draft documents and medical papers stating I was exempt from the draft.

I would like your support and advice in presenting my case.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and assistance.

Yours sincerely

Goran Mikic



I began working as a war time photojournalist covering the fighting in and around Dubrovnik. Afterwards, I covered the battles in Vukovar, Borovo, Tenje, and Osijek for many months. I did not follow typical channels set up for reporters, which mandate that they follow army command. Instead, I ate, slept and worked along side the men on the front lines.

As the battle in Vukovar was subsiding and against army command, I was travelled through a mine field into Borovo Naselje. I was the first civilian to enter this area and one of the first to uncover evidence of the massive crimes committed against Serbian residents of that area by the Croatian Guard. I was also a witness to attempted cover-ups, secret operations, and crimes committed by the Yugoslav National Army.

At this point, the army had prohibited any photographing or filming. However, I succeeded in shooting and developing a number of photographs and later filming the same subjects as well as interviewing the surviving witnesses to the massacres and other operations in that area.

The day after I shot the pictures of the massacre, I appeared on Belgrade TV on the 8:00 News. That day I also gave a telephone interview to Sky News in England, the BBC and Independent British TV. Two of my photographs were published worldwide via Reuters News Agency. The rest of my photographs and reports were published under censorship in Yugoslav newspapers.

The evidence I gathered incriminating the Yugoslav Army was censored and therefore, not published. After hearing my report on the 8:00 news in Belgrade, the Yugoslav National Army had announced on Belgrade TV and in various newspapers that my facts were wrong and that they did not prohibit photographing or filming in that area denying that they were even there.

At this time, I started receiving death threats over the telephone to keep quiet and not print or speak of any of my findings. Surveillance was set up 24 hours a day around my home and photo studio. Consequently, my mother was forced to move out of her home to a safer place. My brother and I also moved to a safer place.

I asked for protection from the Serbian Government and was denied. Instead, I received protection from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Caslav Ocic, in Krayina, who helped me to go to Vukovar and Borovo Naselje a second time to gather more evidence. At this time I interviewed surviving witnesses to the massacre of Serbian residents, **including children**, committed by the Croatian Guard. Likewise, witnesses to crimes committed by the Yugoslav army, one of which was the murder of the Serbian Commandant of the local defense squad of Borovo Selo, were interviewed.

I returned to Belgrade with this supplementary evidence and took it to the Director of Belgrade TV. He asked me to leave the evidence with him and that it would

be aired in a few days. However, I didn't believe him and took the evidence with me, telling him I would bring it back the next day.

That next day I received mobilization papers from the Yugoslav National Army, even though I was exempt from military service for four years for medical reasons. My brother also received his papers and was drafted into the police force. Consequently, my brother was forced to close our photo studio in Belgrade in order to serve in the police force where he is at the present time.

Since I didn't respond immediately to the papers, the Military Police came looking for me the next day. Through a friend in the military, I succeeded in acquiring a military permit to leave the country. I left the country with all of the evidence.

Goran Mikic

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Box 76-217 * 612 N. Michigan Avenue * Chicago, IL 60611 * (312) 755-0389 * Fax (312)755-0393



Fax Cover Sheet

Date: APRIL 26 '93

Recipient: MRS. HELEN BENTLEY

Fax No. 410 - 561 1868

Sender: GORAN MIKIC

Total Pages: 4
(Including Cover Sheet)

If all pages are not received please notify the sender at (312) 755-0389.

Comments:

Serbian Cultural Club " St. Sava"
448 W. Barry
Chicago
IL 60657

Congresswoman Helen Bentley

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