

After Jugo

Sarajevo, the life of a generation

www.afterjugo.com

a multimedia project by Marco Pavan

www.marcopavan.com

Kemal

My name is Kemal Beganović and I live in Sarajevo. During the war I lived in Italy, that's why I can speak Italian. I study Veterinary science and during the summer I work with the tourists. How is life in Bosnia? It is a difficult one for many reasons. First of all because we can not leave the country, we need a visa each time. And then also because there are no jobs. Factories were destroyed during the war and now more than 50% of the population is unemployed. And also those who have a job, they are not well paid. That's why situation in Bosnia is complicated. And also because there are three presidents who do nothing for the people.

But the worst thing is that you can't travel to the European Union. I can go to Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, but only for 10 or 20 days. I hope we will enter in the EU soon. Or at least that we can travel without a visa for few days at least. But maybe the situation here is more difficult for those who were here during the war. They lost many years and now they can't find a job and have no money. I think for them is more difficult. For young people it is hard because we can't travel abroad.

Where you in Sarajevo when the war broke out?

During the war I have been in Sarajevo for two years, and then I escaped when they finished building the tunnel. I was 10 or 11 years old. I remember everything of that period because those two years were like 20 for me. When there is the war you don't have anything to eat, you don't have water, nothing at all.

How do you see your future?

I hope that it will be better. And it will if we enter in the EU and this political "circus" ends. I hope things will get better.

Now many people get a university degree and then they can't find a job. You need someone who can push you. Through corruption. If you don't know anyone the university has no value.

Do you think that after the university you will find a job as a veterinary?

I will look for it, but I am not sure I will find it. Working with tourists is good but I'd like to do something I studied for. But I don't know, it depends on the salary, and if you can find the job. I hope I will.

How are the relationships between different ethnic groups?

In Sarajevo we are about 80% Muslims. With Croats, which means they are Catholics, relationships are good. But with the Serbs they are not so good. And it won't be for the next 50 years at least, because we fought against each other.

In Italy I used to have a Serb friend from Belgrade and we used to go to school together. He helped me because he could speak Italian and I couldn't. Once someone asked me how I could be friend with a Serb while our countries were fighting. I answered: "listen, Italians have been fascists, too, but we are friends. They were not all the same!"