



I am also pleased to see some of the participants at the Voices from South Africa in 2001. For me it is very important that we have been given another opportunity to speak and that our voices are heard again.

In April 1992 the Bosnian Serbs took forcibly power in Prijedor, that with the help of police, the former Yugoslav army (who at that time was composed of only Serbs) and the paramilitary forces from Serbia. In Prijedor the majority population was of Bosnian Bosniaks (Muslims), then Serbs (Ortodox Christians), Croat0.003Tc(Cr)6.6(oa)2



committed. The killed men would be placed in the trucks and they would be taken somewhere. In Omarska, persons were dying mostly due of torture. I have seen Once, one Serb guarding soldier took a knife and made a cross on a women's face. I saw in front of my eyes how they were torturing my former colleagues, friends, and persons I knew. The worst feeling I had was that I could not do anything, I felt helpless. I could not help all those who suffered so much.

Women had to work and had to clean and do everything they were asked by the concentration camp guards. Besides all that, the worst were the nights for women in Omarska because the guards would come to the rooms and take us somewhere in the camp and rape. That happened on a regular basis. We were not allowed to say anything to anybody. I was regularly raped and beaten. I was the only remaining

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Five of the women did not survive Omarska. Four of them were later found in a massgrave, and one is still

because it is extremely difficult to think and to talk about it, even for me today, but I have to be strong and to let my voice be heard.

Torture, concentration camps, genocide as in Bosnia, Rwanda and in the Nazi Germany, should never ever have happened. In Prijedor, thousands of men were killed. Over the last years, more than one hundred mass and single graves have been discovered. All those victims were civilians, and among them many were women and children. Still a large number of persons are still missing.

Lastly, I would like to remind us that this is Europe where we thought that concentration camps belonged to the past and would never happen again. Unfortunately, the concentration camps in Bosnia is something very rarely spoken about, which is dangerous. We should not close our eyes to what happened. We should condemn it and never allow it to happen again”.