

LETTER TO MINKA

IT 97-24-T
The Prosecutor
General's Office

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Minka ČEHAJIĆ, Đemala Bijedića 16
or Prijedor Hospital
Telephone 21 771 or 23 722

My dear Minka,

Banja Luka, 9 June 1992

I am writing you this letter even though I am not at all sure whether you will get it. Nevertheless, I feel an irresistible need to talk to you, even if only in this manner. Since my /illegible/ on 23 May, when they came to get me at home, I have been living as if in some other world. It is as if everything that is happening to me is like some bad dream, a nightmare, and I simply cannot understand that something like this is possible.

Dear Minka, Amira and my son, you know best how much I love you all, that because of that love I have never, nor would ever do anything that would cause you pain. I know that you know that what they are trying to pin on me has nothing to do with me in the slightest. I only wonder whom I have so displeased and why that I should have to go through all this. But I believe all the same in justice and truth and that everything will be clarified.

Otherwise, I think of you all the time. Your faces are constantly before my eyes. I must admit that Amir's face crops up most frequently, and then a tear or two appears. I know that he will take this very hard, because I know how much he loves me. I would like to ask you particularly, Minka, if you are in contact with him, to try to console him. Time passes awfully slowly and I can hardly wait for the day when I will be with you again, and you will be enough for me in the entire world. I would be happiest if I could go with you so far away, somewhere where there is nobody else.

Dear Minka, I am very worried about /?Sejdo/, /?Nasa/, /?Bika/ and the others. I have heard very ugly things, so please try to let me know somehow what has happened with them. Safet/?a/s Mustafa brought me cigarettes, underwear and the most essential things. I am grateful to him forever. If it were not for that, I would think that I was absolutely alone in the world. I wonder where those good friends are now? But never mind! How is my Bena? Does he ask about his grandfather? I miss him terribly. Today is the eighteenth day since I was arrested, but it feels like a whole eternity to me. I do not know myself how many times I have been questioned, and now judge Živko DRAGOSAVLJEVIĆ is conducting the investigation. I have also asked attorney Beret/illegible/ to attend the interrogation, and could you please also engage Šefik /?TROŠIĆ/ or Emir KULENOVIĆ, whichever of them agrees. I do not know how much longer they will keep me here.

If you are able, please get me some cigarettes, soap, toothpaste, two or three pairs of underwear and undershirts, a tracksuit, an electric razor and shaving cream. Do not send me food because I cannot eat anyway. Send me some ground coffee, if you have any. Tell Amir to stay at Orhan's, and when, God willing, this calms down, go to him. Tell him to go on studying and tell him a hundred times over that his daddy loves him much, much more than he loves himself. I do not even think about myself any more, but he should be an upright and honourable man.