Remembering Srebenica

VFTH

7/9/15

This Saturday the Bosnian community here in Bowling Green will come together to mark the 20th anniversary of the genocide that claimed more than eight thousand lives and forced them to flee their homeland.

This walk to remember has been a long time coming as Amy Bingham reports in this week’s View from the Hill

More than six thousand Bosnian Americans call Bowling Green Kentucky their home now. Many are from the town of Srebrenica, the site of the first genocide to take place on European soil since the Holocaust.

Organizers hope this weekend’s events will help raise awareness about the massacre and make sure the community never forgets.

FULL SCREEN GRAPHIC FOR TAG

Srebrenica Genocide – 20 years later

Friday, July 10th 6 pm

MMTH Auditorium

Survivor Stories and Video Clips

A Walk to Remember Srebrenica Genocide

Saturday, July 11th 3- 6 pm

Circus Square Park

Bring a backpack Saturday to donate to Warren County Schools

 “Nightmares is something I think every Bosnian that lived through Srebrenica still has, I still have nightmares.”

 “Like your running for your life, trying to protect yourself, protect your family.”

Senida Husic was just a child in the ‘90s when Serbian forces seized her hometown of Srebrenica.

 “We had no contact with the outside world, no humanitarian aid was allowed, no medical supplies were allowed.”

She was 9 on 7/11/95 when the genocide occurred claiming more than eight thousand lives.

 “When they separated boys and men, they sent them to certain buses and women and children to other buses. Women and children made it to safe grounds. Boys and men never did.”

Husic and her family arrived in Bowling Green in 1998.

“We moved probably five times after leaving Srebrenica.

 “We used to live in schools, warehouses, anywhere we would be covered pretty much.”

Today the 2008 WKU graduate is helping organize an event to mark the 20th anniversary of the mass killing.

 “I can only imagine how hard it is for this community to talk about this and confront their experiences.”

WKU Sociology Professory Jerry Daday, who will speak at the remembrance ceremony, did his post graduate research on the genocide .

 “At that time I kept asking as a 21 year old student why aren’t we doing anything to stop it.”

As the 20th anniversary approaches, Husic says this chance to heal is long overdue.

“Finally we’ve mustered enough strength and enough courage to open up.

 “We want to express our deepest gratitude to the Bowling Green community. First for taking us in and second for letting us do something like this.”

Husic lost her uncle and her grandfather in the genocide.

Several survivor stories will be shared during a time of remembrance planned for tomorrow night at 6 at WKU’s Mass Media and Technology Hall Auditorium.

A Walk to Remember Srebrenica Genocide will be held Saturday July 11th from 3 to 6 pm beginning at Circus Square Park. Backpacks that are brought will be donated to Warren County Schools.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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