



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Producer: Velma Šarić  
Script version: Final  
Duration: 11:06

### BOSNIA: CROSSING BRIDGES - ONE MAN'S HEROISM

The war in the Balkans turned one-time neighbours and friends, into enemies. We bring you the story of an ordinary man's courage, crossing racial barriers and armed lines to save lives and help reconciliation

#### VIDEO

NERETVA RIVER  
ZORAN WALKING ALONG RIVER  
C/U OF WAVES

#### AUDIO

MUSIC (15")

ZORAN WALKING AND ON CAMERA

ZORAN MANDLBAUM: (In Serbo-Croatian)  
*"With the arrival of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1878, many Jews came to Bosnia and Herzegovina. My great-grandfather Josef Mandlbaum came to Foča. In 1905, they moved to Mostar.*

SIGN POST TO MOSTAR

*I was born in 1946. My brother in 1948.” (33”)*

**INSERT TEXT PANEL:**

INTERIOR OF SYNAGOGUE

During World War II, his parents were among those who fought against the Nazis. (9“)

**ZORAN MANDLBAUM:** (In Serbo-Croatian)

SCENES OF TOWN

*“My mother, Finci, was from Sarajevo... and her whole family was killed in the Holocaust. (7”)*

**INSERT TEXT PANEL:**

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE  
CONCENTRATION CAMP

An estimated more than half a million Jews from the Balkan region died in the Holocaust.

BOMBED OUT HOUSES

When war broke out again in the 90s, Zoran feared for his community. (14”)

**ZORAN MANDLBAUM:** (In Serbo-Croatian)

ZORAN GETTING DRESSED

*“As the president of the Jewish community, I didn’t know what was taking place. I didn’t know what would*

	<i>happen to us Jews.” (10”)</i>
ZORAN LEAVING APARTMENT	<i>“1992 caught us all here in Mostar by surprise.” (6”)</i>
ZORAN ENTERING SCHOOL YARD	
ZORAN CALLING HIS GRANDSON	<u>NAT SOUND:</u> (In Serbo-Croatian) <i>“Come to your grandpa!” (2”)</i>
ZORAN PICKING UP HIS GRANDSON FROM SCHOOL	<u>ZORAN MANDLBAUM:</u> (In Serbo-Croatian) <i>“The war first started in Croatia. It began as a civil war.  It started when Croatia adopted the new constitution that declared it a country for only <u>Catholic</u> Croats.  It defined all other non-Catholic ethnic groups as minorities.” (25”)</i>
ZORAN BUYING NEWSPAPER	<i>There were talks that this part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was majority Croat, was to become a part of Croatia.</i>
BOMB-DAMAGED HOUSES	<i>That’s when the persecution of Muslims in Mostar began.” (14”)</i>
ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE	

VEHICLES AT CHECK POINT

JANA ON CAMERA

JANJA VELJKOVIC: (In Serbo-Croatian)

*"I lived on the east side of Mostar, on the left bank of the Neretva River, until 1993.*

*The population there was majority Muslim.*

BOMB-DAMAGED BUILDINGS

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

*When war with the Serbs broke out... we moved to the west side on the right bank of the Neretva. Then, when conflict between Croats and Muslims started...the Muslim population moved back to the east side of Mostar.*

*I went back to my apartment too." (49")*

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

INSERT TEXT PANEL:

Some 55,000 Muslims were trapped in eastern Mostar, separated by the iconic bridge straddling the Neretva River. (9")

ZORAN ON CAMERA

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

ZORAN MANDLBAUM: (In Serbo-Croatian)

*"I organized humanitarian convoys carrying packages...which were made by citizens on the west bank... for friends, relatives, and citizens living on the east side of town." (19")*

ZORAN WALKING AND ON CAMERA  
BRIDGE BEING SHELLED

*"I think I might have been one of the last people to cross the old bridge."  
(12")*

ZORAN WALKING AND ON CAMERA

*"It was on May 30, 1994, when they realized, especially Mišić [Croat military commander]... that they couldn't stop me because my will to help people was too strong." (19")*

ZORAN WALKING AROUND CAR

*"So they placed a bomb under my car. My car exploded and damaged surrounding cars.*

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF CITY  
BEING SHELLED

*My first thought was about how I would have died if I'd been inside that car."  
(15")*

PEOPLE RUNNING  
JANJA ON CAMERA

JANJA VELKOVIC: (In Serbo-Croatian)

*"Some time passed. No one was able to go anywhere.*

*One day, I walked out into my courtyard...and there was Zoran!*

*That was such a shock.*

*It was as if God was watching over us. There was no one else I would have rather seen in that moment than Zoran.*

ZORAN WALKING

*Up walks Zoran, carrying half a loaf of*

JANA ON CAMERA

*bread wrapped in paper... I was frozen in place.*

*When Zoran showed up, my faith was restored.*

*I knew if this man could get past the barriers, the war would also pass.”  
(43”)*

TEXT PANEL:

Zoran not only brought food. He also risked his life helping people like Azra, another Muslim, reach safety. (7”)

AZRA HASANBEGOVIC: (In Serbo-Croatian)

AZRA LOOKING AT PHOTOS

*“They were taking people from their apartments. We knew if they had taken us that night...the worst could have happened. That night, during the police-mandated curfew, he came to get me...leaving the building was the scariest moment...” (17”)*

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

ZORAN WALKING

*“When he was helping people, he never paid attention to their nationality...or whether they were male or female. Through his example, we can learn what it means to be human.”  
(14”)*

AZRA WALKING DOWN STEPS

AZRA SPEAKING WITH ZORAN

DRIVING THROUGH TUNNEL  
ZORAN ON CAMERA

ZORAN MANDLBAUM: (In Serbo-Croatian)

*"We are going to Heliodrom where, in 1993, a large number of people were imprisoned." (6")*

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF PRISON  
CAMP

*"Muslims were detained in this camp. Those people were held here for around 10 or 11 months.*

ZORAN ON CAMERA  
ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF  
PRISONERS

*I managed to get in and bring them small gifts...letters, chocolate, and cigarettes." (19")*

ZORAN WALKING BY CAMP

*"When I see this place it reminds me of some of the hardest times for our city. First, when Serbs were taken away in '92, and then Muslims in '93." (11")*

ZORAN LOOKING THROUGH  
BARRED WINDOW

TEXT PANEL:

Zoran was supported on his operations by the UN Peacekeeping mission, UNPROFOR. (6")

ZORAN STANDING AT DOOR OF  
PRISON CAMP

ZORAN MANDLBAUM: (In Serbo-Croatian)

*"Our city didn't deserve this. Mostar has many other things to be*

*famous for...not camps like this. (11”)*

ZORAN WALKING AND ON CAMERA

*“We, the national minorities, are fighting for a unified Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

*I fought for years against being labeled as a minority.*

*I do not feel like one...*

*I am a Herzegovinian citizen practicing the Jewish religion.*

*We all eat the same food, wear the same clothes and go to the same schools.*

AERIAL SHOT OF CITY AT NIGHT

*We all socialize together and go to the same events.” (26”)*

PAN UP METAL CROSS

*“We cannot move forward without the truth, because without the truth there is no reconciliation.” (5”)*

TEXT PANEL:

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

When the Balkan War ended in 1995, around 100,000 people were killed and more than two million people were displaced from their homes.

The United Nations Alliance of Civilisations is dedicated to improving



understanding and cooperation amongst peoples to avoid future tragedies. (17”)

ZORAN MANDLBAUM: (In Serbo-Croatian)

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

*“So that our children will know what happened in our city.*

ZORAN ON CAMERA

*Take this journey with me...*

*Face the things people do not wish to remember...*

*We should not forget...*

*We should not forget that all the bridges in Mostar were destroyed.”*

(21”)

INSERT TEXT PANEL:

W/S OF BRIDGE

The bridge was rebuilt with international funding in 2005. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (6”)

ZORAN MANDLBAUM: (In Serbo-Croatian)

*“I’m the kind of man who just wants to help ... when I see an injustice being done to someone. I want that person overcome it and feel better. So, just an*

ZORAN WALKING ALONG RIVER

*ordinary man, willing to help anyone he  
can help."*

SHOTS OF THE CITY

MUSIC (21")

C/U ON STONE WITH THE WORDS

"DON'T FORGET"

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century

A production of  
United Nations Television  
Department of Public Information

## **BOSNIA: CROSSING BRIDGES – ONE MAN’S HEROISM**

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**Special thanks**

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