

World & Nation

A recovering Bosnia remembers

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STAFF WRITER

Bosnia marked the tenth anniversary of war last Saturday, April 6, a conflict that terrorized the country for four years. Considered the most devastating war since World War II, over 200,000 people lost their lives and two million people were forced to flee to neighboring countries.

Although the region is now at peace, ethnic division lingers. After years of bloodshed, the war ended in late 1995 after the United States had brokered the Dayton Peace Accords, which split the former Yugoslavian republic into its current state.

According to cnn.com, the Bosnian government is not planning any major events to commemorate the occasion. However, there will be small ceremonies to commemorate

the anniversary, where flowers will be placed at some of the places where war victims died. More the six years after the end of the war, the Bosnian economy is in ruins and the majority of refugees have not returned to their homes.

At the present time, CNN has reported that former Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosovic is facing a war crimes tribunal at the Hague, Netherlands, on several charges. If convicted on any count, he could face life imprisonment without parole.

Some of these charges include crimes against humanity, genocide, breaches of the Geneva Convention (passed in 1949), and violations of the customs of war.

Milosovic is accused of planning the systematic executions of Muslims during the Bosnian war. In addition, he is also accused of planning the

slaughter of ethnic Albanians in 1998.

History and International Studies Professor Jeff Vanke feels that although things have improved in the region, there is still a long way to go. "Yugoslavia's attack on Bosnia in 1992 came one year after an attack on Croatia and Slovenia," he said. Although these now-independent countries signed a truce at the end of 1995, it is primarily NATO occupation in Bosnia that prevents a civil war among Bosnia Serbs, Bosnian Croats, and everyone else - historical Muslims and descendants of mixed marriages.

"Many of these people still hate each other and prevent opposing ethnic groups from returning home," Vanke said, "and there is still no unified government of all Bosnia. Montenegro now wants to secede, and a recent treaty will change Yugoslavia to 'Serbia and Montenegro' if ratified. The situation in the former Yugoslavia is much improved since 1999, with democratic gains in most countries, helping to stabilize peace. But the balance of peace is still very delicate, as it will take a very long time for people to forget their suffering and animosities of the 1990s."

Local news

Raleigh

Shyman Devon Dew, 22, a former student at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, pleaded guilty to 16 counts of armed robbery. All took place in Wake County last year and all involved Asian restaurants except for one. Dew netted around \$21,000 in a four-month period.

Trinity

Barry Paul White, 27, of Trinity, was arrested Sunday for dog-fighting, cruelty to animals, and narcotics. The police discovered the dogfighting ring when responding to a 911 call. There were 18 pit bulls in the area; one was already dead.


Denton

Clifford Hughes, 75, of Denton, was shot around 3:50 a.m. last Sunday by a Randolph County man. The man shot Hughes while firing at noises coming from the woods near his house. Hughes, a runaway Alzheimer's patient, was hit in the back, legs, hands, and head. No charges have been filed.

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IN the KNOW

Who's Who: Saddam Hussein

Title: President of Iraq

Background: Hussein joined the Baath party at the age of 19. In 1959, he made a failed assassination attempt on Iraqi Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kassem and was shot in the leg. He then fled to Egypt and nine years later led his party to power.

After taking office, he murdered dozens in the government on accusations of disloyalty. In 1980 he invaded Iran, starting an eight-year war with no victor. Two years later, he invaded Kuwait but was run out by U.S.-led forces in the Gulf War.



Spotlight: Recently Hussein has given money to families who have lost loved ones due to terrorist acts in the Middle East. He has also said that he will stop selling oil to the U.S. for the next 30 days.