

Bosnia: Soldiers arrest civilians for anything, director of RES-Q says

• CONTINUED FROM COVER

In 1994, RES-Q's director Stephen Long felt like he was drifting. Long had to retire from the Snohomish County Fire Department after a back injury and was unhappy living in Seattle.

He complained to his sister, who suggested he visit someplace worse. "Go to Bosnia, they're having a war over there," she told me," he said.

Long went to Bosnia and volunteered with nonprofit groups. On a break, he went to visit a local police station and was shocked by the lack of equipment.

"They were fighting fires in jeans and T-shirts," he said. "I thought if I could go back to my old department and ask for their old, outdated equipment, I could really help them."

In Seattle, Long expected to receive a few pieces of equipment. He ended up getting over \$60,000 worth of fire gear from local fire departments. He started RES-Q to obtain status as a nonprofit group and specifically works with firefighters.

"The goal is to give fire departments a chance to do their jobs again," Long said. "We try to interfere with the community as little as possible. I'd rather the fire departments get the attention."

RES-Q's main contacts are the fire departments because they know who needs help and how to steer the group away from trouble.

"There's a lot of mafia in the government," Long said. "Things we take for granted over here can instantly be taken away. You can be arrested for no other reason than they want the supplies off your vehicle."

Long found that out when he tried to bring diapers through a military checkpoint. He believes the two

RES-Q Global Worldwide Relief

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young officers who arrested him probably wanted the diapers for their families.

Long managed to get other supplies through the checkpoints by dressing up as a Roman Catholic priest and stuffing diapers in his robe.

"The children just want to touch you and be held by you."

STEPHEN LONG
Director of RES-Q

"They flagged us right through. You don't mess with a priest," Long said.

While driving to Jablanica, in central Bosnia, men with guns came out of bushes

along the road and surrounded Long's car. They did not wear uniforms and Long thought they could be guerrillas. The men forced Long and the other volunteers out of their car and took what supplies they were carrying.

"I didn't know if we were going to get killed," Long said. "It's mellowed out a lot. Now I would say you're more likely to die from a land mine or a drunk soldier."

Many Americans don't understand that people are trapped in Bosnia and Serbia, Long said. He does not believe American soldiers will leave the area anytime soon.

"They're like a security blanket for the country," Long said. "Life there is not easy like it is for us. They can't just get on a bus or a car and

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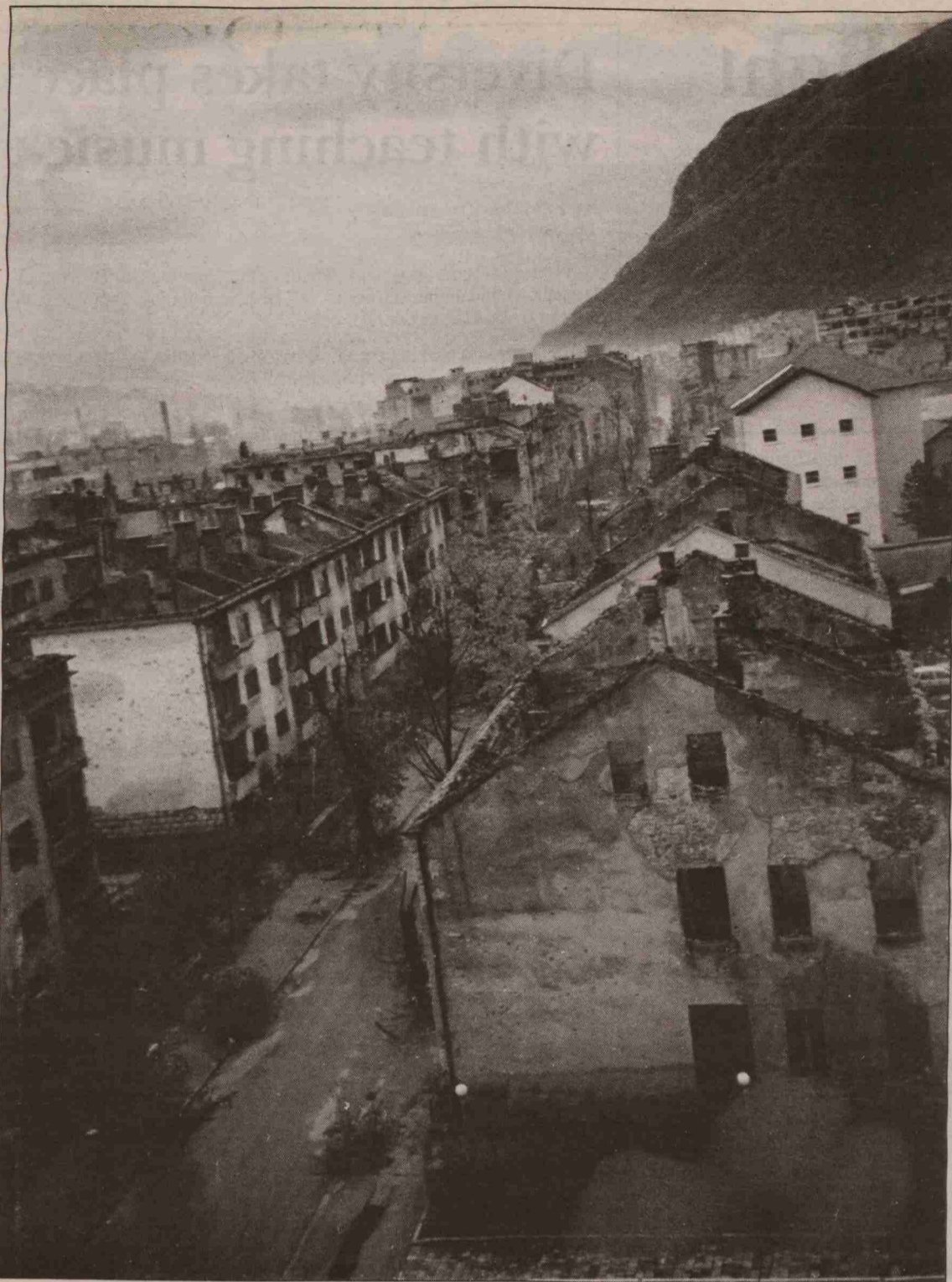


PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEPHEN LONG

East Mostar is a fairly large city in Bosnia — one of the many which has been bombed extensively. RES-Q Director Stephen Long began working in Bosnia after he retired from his job as a firefighter and his sister suggested he help others in need.

GLBA COMING OUT WEEK


Mon. 10/7 12-1:30pm Transgender Issues (Brown Bag Lecture) CUB 214
2-4pm Student Workshop w/ Gloria Anzaldua (CUB Cascade 127)
7:30pm. Gloria Anzaldua Key Note Speech CUB Auditorium

Thur. 10/10 12-1pm Politics Of Community (Brown Bag Lecture) CUB 214
7:30-9:30pm Movies
The Life & Times of Harvey Mills
Paris Is Burning

Tue. 10/8 12pm Laura Bowly, CUB Lair, or Mall depending on weather
12-1:30pm (Alternatives To Violence) ATV, CUB 214 (Brown Bag Lecture)
8:15pm Laura Bowly Butch's Den

Fri. 10/11 12-1pm Religion (Brown Bag Lecture) CUB 214
6:30 Potluck K-House

Wed. 10/9 12-1pm, GLBT Symbols (Brown Bag Discussion)
7:30-9:30pm Movies Among Good Christian People (30 min.)
Tomboy (12min.)
Love Thang Trilogy (12 min.)
Homoteens (60 min.)



Gloria Anzaldua is a Chicana dyke-feminist, tejana patlache poet, writer and cultural theorist. Internationally-renowned and respected, "much may develop from our interactions with Anzaldua's consciousness." (Woodward, NWSA Journal, 1989).

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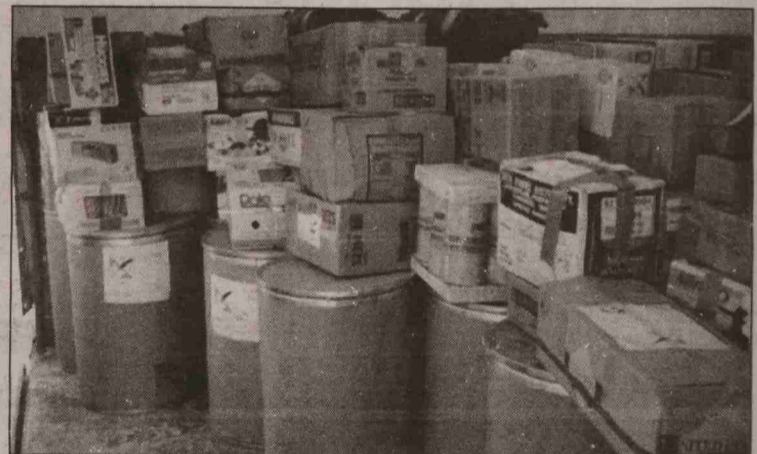


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Supplies are sometimes taken from civilians by the military in Bosnia. Long says he often dresses as a priest when he crosses military checkpoints to transport supplies.

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