

From: LEPA.MLADJENOVIC@ZAMIR-BG.ztn.zer.de (Lepa Mladjenovic)
Orig. To: mgessen@igc.apc.org
Orig.From: LEPA.MLADJENOVIC@ZAMIR-BG.ztn.zer.de (Lepa Mladjenovic)
Subject: cleansing attack on lesbians
Date: Su 07.05.95, 02:59 (received: 11.05.95)
Size: 3850 Bytes

this is what happened to four lesbians in Belgrade, 5th of May 1995

Maja, Lepa, Jelena and Liljana went graffiting after the meeting of the lesbian section 'Labrys' of the Arkadia Lesbian and Group.

At one point a well dressed gentlemen stopped and with an iron decidivness screamed at us to clear off, grabbed Jelena's spray and told Lepa, I know you from University you are that lesbian. He left down hill, we left up hill.

After some time he came back with two other men, one had a big hockey stick while I/Lepa was going back home. The same one stopped me, grabbed me, told me 'i know who you are, dirty lesbian and feminist leader, you are dirtying Dorcol' (this is an old part of town where we were at that moment, where he lives and where I live), 'clear off from Dorcol'. I asked him 'who are you', he said 'dont you say a word', and he held me up the wall for some time, then he said he can hit me in some hollway of the house and kill me. he said to not go the direction i was going but back again and then he said 'go that way to the mosqea, thats where you belong'. (The only Islamic mosqea in Belgrade is just around the corner from where he held me.) I had to go the way he told me and i left.

Then i found the rest of the gang, the three who were ready to leave, and i started to tell them what just happened. Then they appeared again, the three, they came to me again and the same one started again with the hatred iron very aggressive and emotionally charged voice to tell me 'this is your gang, you are dirtying us with your lesbian grafitti'.

then with the extremely proffessional move of his hand he grabbed my glasses broke them in half and threw on the street, then he did the same to the glasses of Jelena. Then Jelena cursed him back, he hit her, then she hit him back with a leg, then he hit her with a very strong professional fist in the face then with legs, threw her on the pavement hit her again few times. Then Jelena was up again, he took the spray she had, started spraying Ljiljana and Maja and everyone on the hair. The two other killers were mainly there backing him, very professionally too. At the end, he told Jelena, 'you are young, why dont you go to school instead joining the lesbian gang, i know this one is your leader' (pointing on Lepa).

People were around, it was 11:30pm in the center of town. Then we left and they left.

comment: it was a first time i looked at man's eyes who was ready to kill me for what i am - i dont know who is he.

it was clear he was trained to kill, that he and all three belonged to some fascist gang, we still dont know which. it was clear they were religious, and self appointed to cleanse Dorcol, part of town they live in. it was clear that our mere voice and our mere presence on 'his land' was producing hatred. it was clear he thought he was offending me by telling me to go to mosqea, place where i have alredy been many times to visit few beautifull women refugees from Bosnia who found there a shelter.

the emotions with which he addressed us was so strong, as if we have killed some of his family. It was clear that lesbians, gays, Muslims, and who knows who else, probably Albanians, Gypsys..... are all on the same list. I wandered about the Muslim people who gather around the area to go to mosqea, what is their experience with this killer/s?

he practically anounced war to me, threatening to kill me if i step on his land/ Dorcol again.

I am thinking how many people he already killed in the war in Bosnia or Croatia? how many women he raped? how many ethnic cleansing atrocities they were part of? what is going to be the next step in the war against me, against lesbians and gays in town?