

**COMMITTEE FOR BASIC RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY  
and  
BOSNIAN-INITIATIVE**

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**Request for Donations for „Holidays from War“ Summer 2002**

Again we ask for your support to finance summer camps for children who were physically and emotionally hurt by war and who still suffer from a lack of basic needs. This project is organized for the 9th year by the „Committee for Basic Rights and Democracy“. All helpers are volunteers, and there is no money from official institutions—only private donations. Last summer more than 1700 children and their teachers and guardians were able to relax and enjoy two weeks on the Adriatic Sea in Croatia and Montenegro. In Macedonia the situation in the four camps was depressing and hopeful at the same time. While the army and UCK-terrorists (supported by the Western States) shot each other, expelled people and damaged their houses, the children from both sides were playing, swimming and dancing together on lake Ohrid. The children published the message:

**YOU ADULTS – GET SMART!**

**Why do you abuse our faith?**

**We the children do not know anything about segregation or separation  
neither by nationality or religious determination.**

**We know the language of friendship by which we play and learn.**

**We came in this summer camp in Ohrid in order to continue our play,  
which you the adults interrupted by force.**

**We all share the same fate. We are children from the war-zones.**

**We will live and play together, we know no boundaries.**

Up to now it was not possible to organize camps for Albanian and Serb children from Kosovo in one group together but this summer we hope this also can take place. The situation in Bosnia doesn't become better because the money for reconstruction is cut in order to invest in areas of the world that were damaged by wars after the conflicts in Bosnia. Refugees are forced now to go back to their homes which are often only a bunch of stones on land now surrounded by mine-fields. Some widows and children would rather die than go back to the place of their torture and trauma. The former Yugoslavia is just an example of how grass-root initiatives can give the opportunity for conciliation. There are many war-zones in the world where this could be proved instead of bombing.

**This spring for the first time the „Comitee for Basic Rights and Democracy“ plans to expand the project in order to give young people from Israel and Palestine the opportunity to meet each other. This is a very difficult plan and conditions become worse every day, but we hope it can take place. In addition we want to sponsor holidays for children from Palestine to recover in a nice envirement.**

One „holiday-scholarship“ costs \$ 125. We appreciate any amount.

**Please make out checks to the Bosnian Initiative and send them to Katha Pollitt, c/o The Nation, 33 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003 or directly to us in Frankfurt.**