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## ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTORY

## 2 women tell of war horrors

Rape victims put faces on Bosnia in documentary

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**A**fter what they had been through, Jadranka Cigelj and Nusreta Sivac weren't about to be intimidated by their surroundings at the Council on Foreign Relations.

In the audience for a film about the women's experiences as rape victims at a prison camp in Bosnia were former U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, who helped negotiate the Dayton peace accords; former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro; and John Shattuck, an assistant secretary in the State Department.

Diplomatic answers about why war criminals hadn't been brought to justice didn't satisfy Mrs. Sivac, a former judge, and she wasn't diplomatic in return.

"I don't know who to ask anymore for an answer," she said through an interpreter. "I ask and somebody says the other body is responsible. I just wonder if we victims should go out and arrest them ourselves."

■ The women are consumed with bringing the camp commander to justice.

The experiences of Miss Cigelj and Mrs. Sivac form the basis for "Calling the Ghosts: A Story About Rape, War and Women," the powerful hourlong documentary that is broadcast on Cinemax tomorrow night at 11.

The film deals as much with the two months they spent in the Omarska death camp in 1992 as with their tenacious response afterward in collecting the stories of other victims and seeking to bring their tormentors to trial.

They were colleagues in the Bosnian city of Prijedor during the civil war when the city was overrun by Serbs. Believing Muslim men were in danger, Mrs. Sivac sent her husband away and stayed behind.

She and Miss Cigelj were taken to the notorious Omarska camp, where they slept at night in blood-



Julia Ormond (center) helped get financing for a film about the rape of Jadranka Cigelj (left) and Nusreta Sivac in a Bosnian prisoner camp. AP

splattered offices that had been used to torture men during the day.

Miss Cigelj was beaten and raped twice. One time was an assault by the commander of the camp and several guards that lasted more than four hours.

The women were let go after two months, shortly after journalists began inquiring about the camp. The Serbs were saying that only men were kept prisoner, and the women suspected their captors didn't want them around to be spotted during an inspection.

Miss Cigelj walked home. Her son barely recognized his emaciated mother when she came up the walk.

"Even my dog ran away from me," she says in the documentary.

Fearful that they would be killed if they stayed, the women eventually received permission to leave — victims of the agonizing policy of "ethnic cleansing." They now live in Sarajevo.

The documentary's codirectors, Mandy Jacobson and the Croatian-born Karmen Jelincic, heard stories about rape victims in the war and thought it would make a powerful film subject. Miss Jelincic had a ticket to the former Yugoslavia for her grandfather's funeral, and she took film with her.

She happened upon a scene of what they considered media victimization, depicted with bitterness in the documentary. A crowd of reporters had come to Bosnia looking to speak to rape victims. Many women didn't want to talk, and others were concerned that the suffering of other war victims was being minimized by the rush to speak to those who were raped.

Because Miss Jacobson was

having trouble raising money for the film — a process that took years — she was able to spend time with the victims and gain their trust, she says.

Financial backing was eventually secured, most notably through British actress Julia Ormond, Harrison Ford's love interest in "Sabrina." Miss Ormond was initially going to narrate, but when the filmmakers decided to focus on Miss Cigelj and Mrs. Sivac, it was thought the two women could better tell the story in their own words.

The best way to get revenge, the two women decided, would be to talk about the crimes and collect evidence. They are consumed with bringing the camp commander, who denies raping Miss Cigelj and is still at large, to justice.

"One of the beautiful things about this is that there is something in an individual deciding to speak out," Miss Ormond says in an interview. "We think it is simple and easy and yet there is huge power in it. I do believe that just by protesting you can raise public awareness."

The women are clearly frustrated by the lack of progress in bringing war criminals to justice, an emotion that charged the atmosphere at the recent Council on Foreign Relations discussion about the film.

Miss Cigelj says she is angry that people who served in death camps have been elected to the Serbian Parliament.

"My apologies to American citizens," she says, "but this information is well known and is sitting in the White House right now. It is crystal clear how you can help us."