

Bosnian Runner Receives Most Meaningful Gift

The Washington Post

December 25, 1994, Sunday, Final Edition

Copyright 1994 The Washington Post

Section: SPORTS; PAGE D2; FANFARE; FOREIGN NEWS

Length: 268 words

Byline: From News Services

Series: Occasional

Body

Christmas came early for former **Bosnian** Olympic **runner** Mirsada Buric-Adam after months of fighting to get her family out of Croatia.

Buric-Adam learned this month that her relatives have finally **received** permission to enter the United States. Her 8-year-old nephew, Adi, called Dec. 12 from Zagreb, where the family ended up after fleeing Sarajevo.

"He was screaming on the phone: 'Aunt! We're coming to America!' " Buric-Adam said.

Buric-Adam sent her sister money to survive and negotiated with U.S. immigration officials. Majda Jarovic, her husband and their two children are due to arrive in January.

Buric-Adam, who dodged bullets on the streets of Sarajevo while training for the 1992 Olympics, married Eric Adam, an audio-visual specialist at the Veterans Administration hospital in Prescott, Ariz.

Jarovic fled Sarajevo with Adi and 3-year-old Irma, traveling by night to reach Zagreb. Once there, she was interviewed by a U.S. immigration official, who told her they were not eligible for a refugee resettlement program for **Bosnian** Muslims.

The family survived on money from Buric-Adam and her husband, who launched a letter-writing campaign. The turning point came soon after Rep. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) wrote to U.S. immigration officials on their behalf, asking to have the case reconsidered.

Jarovic told immigration officials her family had been **receiving** threatening telephone calls since early 1992. The callers threatened to kill Jarovic and her children because Buric-Adam was a member of the **Bosnian** Olympic team. It wasn't clear why immigration officials changed their minds.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (91%); OLYMPICS (89%); CHRISTMAS (79%); RUNNING (78%); SUMMER OLYMPICS (78%); REFUGEES (72%); RESETTLEMENT & REPATRIATION (70%); VETERANS HEALTH CARE (53%); VETERANS (53%); RELIGION (52%)

Bosnian Runner Receives Most Meaningful Gift

Person: JON KYL (54%)

Geographic: SARAJEVO, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (88%); ZAGREB, CROATIA (73%); ARIZONA, USA (79%); BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (95%); CROATIA (93%); UNITED STATES (92%)

Load-Date: December 25, 1994

End of Document