

## Traffic in Sarajevo

### Bosnian transcript in Latin:

Aleksandar: Mirza, možeš li nam reći nešto više o saobraćaju u Sarajevu?

Mirza: Saobraćaj u Sarajevu je, za razliku od nekih većih gradova... Tako, nema toliko gužve osim negdje oko 4, 5 sati, tad je baš baš gužva, a sad ovako trenutno nije. I ljeti je užasno voziti jer je vruće pravo. Tako da... Dešavaju se nesreće, naravno, zato što naš saobraćaj nije dovoljno regulisan, nema policajaca koji bi to regulisali, tako da često se dešavaju nesreće vikendima kada su ljudi pjani, naveče se napiju pa voze 200 na sat. Policije nema nigdje, naravno zaustavit će prije mene u Pandi nego nekoga u Ferrariju, ali to je sad druga tema. Sve u svemu, saobraćaj je za glavni grad, recimo naspram Beograda, koji ima deset traka, mi imamo četiri trake u čitavom gradu, tako da malo... Malo bude gužva.

Aleksandar: Ima li neka promjena u odnosu na kvalitet saobraćaja prije rata o kojem bi ti volio pričati?

Mirza: Pa prije rata... Mislim, bila su starija auta. Golfovi; 1, Golf 2, malo ko je mogao da ima, ne znam, sad, Audija najnovijeg. Ceste su bile skoro pa iste, možda čak se prije kvalitetnije gradilo, što znači ceste su možda bile prije puno kvalitetnije nego sad. Nije se moglo desiti kao sad recimo da šaht ispadne, ovaj, iz ceste, jednostavno da viri, tako da ima rupa, a to se ovdje baš, baš puno dešava. Jedina cesta koja je dobro sređena je glavna cesta. Sve ostale ceste su... Dosta, dosta lošije. Tako da sporedne ceste su užas, pogotovo recimo u dijelovima na Grbavici. Tamo isto kao da vozim reli, ono, ne znam. Tamo otići vozit, to je... Užas. Ali saobraćaj prije rata je bio organizovaniji, ako ništa. Mislim to ima logike, imao si auta koja nisu mogla da idu više od 80 na sat. Nije se moglo desiti nesreća. Sad kad uzmu ove Ferrarije i vozažu... Tako da sve u svemu uglavnom je bilo bolje prije. Sada je malo teže za vozit, mislim. Opasnije, između ostalog.

### Bosnian transcript in Cyrillic:

Александар: Мирза, можеш ли нам рећи нешто више о саобраћају у Сарајеву?

Мирза: Саобраћај у Сарајеву је, за разлику од неких већих градова... Тако, нема толико гужве осим негде око 4, 5 сати, тад је баш баш гужва, а сад овако тренутно није. И лјети је ужасно возити јер је вруће право. Тако да... Дешавају се несреће, наравно, зато што наш саобраћај није довољно регулисан, нема полицајаца који би то регулисали, тако да често се дешавају несреће викендима када су људи пјани, навече се напију па воze 200 на сат. Полиције нема нигдје, наравно зауставит ће прије мене у Панди него некога у Феррарију, али то је сад друга тема. Све у свему,

саобраћај је за главни град, рецимо наспрам Београда, који има десет трака, ми имамо четири траке у читавом граду, тако да мало... Мало буде гужва.

Александар: Има ли нека промјена у односу на квалитет саобраћаја прије рата о којем би ти волио причати?

Мирза: Па прије рата... Мислим, била су старија аута. Голфови; 1, Голф 2, мало ко је могао да има, не знам, сад, Аудија најновијег. Цесте су биле скоро па исте, можда чак се прије квалитетније градило, што значи цесте су можда биле прије пуно квалитетније него сад. Није се могло десити као сад рецимо да шахт испадне, овај, из цесте, једноставно да вири, тако да има рупа, а то се овдје баш, баш пуно дешава. Једина цеста која је добро сређена је главна цеста. Све остале цесте су... Доста, доста лошије. Тако да споредне цесте су ужас, поготово рецимо у дијеловима на Грбавици. Тамо исто као да возим рели, оно, не знам. Тамо отићи возит, то је... Ужас. Али саобраћај прије рата је био организованији, ако ништа. Мислим то има логике, имао си аута која нису могла да иду више од 80 на сат. Није се могло десити несрећа. Сад кад узму ове Ферарије и возају... Тако да све у свему углавном је било боље прије. Сада је мало теже за возит, мислим. Опасније, између осталог.

### **English translation:**

Aleksandar: Mirza, could you tell us more about the traffic in Sarajevo?

Mirza: The traffic in Sarajevo is different than in other large cities... Also, there isn't that much traffic congestion until around four or five in the afternoon. That's the rush hour, but right now it's fine. It's also terrible driving in the summer because it gets too hot. So... Accidents happen, of course, because our traffic is not regulated well enough, there aren't enough police officers to regulate it, so accidents often happen on the weekend when people are out drinking at night. They get drunk and then go as fast as 200 kilometers per hour<sup>1</sup>. The police are nowhere to be seen, and of course they'll sooner stop me in my Panda<sup>2</sup> than someone in a Ferrari, but that's a different topic. All in all, the traffic is... For a capital city, compared to Belgrade which has ten-lane roads, we have four lanes traversing the city, so it can be congested a little.

Aleksandar: Is there a difference in quality of traffic from before the war<sup>3</sup> that you noticed and would like to mention?

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<sup>1</sup> Approx. 124 mph.

<sup>2</sup> Fiat Panda is a common city delivery vehicle throughout Southern and Southeastern Europe. The speaker here implies that the police more often stop people in cheaper or older cars than in expensive newer cars, due to the common view that traffic police refrain from stopping people in expensive new cars because they are either members of the diplomatic corps or are involved in shady practices such as organized crime.

<sup>3</sup> The speaker here refers to the Bosnian War. The Bosnian War was a military aggression that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina between April 1992 and December 1995. The main sides involved were the forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and those of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb and Bosnian

Mirza: Well, before the war... I think the cars were older. [Volkswagen] Golfs - Golf 1 and Golf 2; those who could afford a brand new Audi were rare. The roads were almost the same. Maybe the quality of work was better, meaning that they might have even been better than today. Things like a manhole cover popping out and sticking out in the middle of the road would never happen, and now that happens often; potholes are everywhere. The only road that was done well is the main road [through the city]. All other roads... They're much, much worse. So, the side roads are horrible, especially in some parts of Grbavica<sup>4</sup>. It's like participating in an off-road rally. Going there by car is... horrible. If nothing else, traffic was much better organized before the war. I think that it makes sense; people had cars which couldn't go faster than 80 kilometers per hour<sup>5</sup>. Accidents couldn't happen. Now, when people get Ferraris and drive insanely... So, all in all, it used to be better before. I think it's a lot more difficult to drive now. More dangerous, among other things.

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Croat entities (Republika Srpska and Herceg-Bosna) within Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were supported and supplied by Serbia and Croatia, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> Grbavica is a neighborhood of Sarajevo and a part of Sarajevo's Novo Sarajevo Municipality. The condition of roads that the speaker refers to here is closely related to the fact that Grbavica was occupied by the Bosnian Serb forces during the Bosnian War, and that a large number of tanks and other heavy equipment was used in operations in and around Grbavica during the war. Although the city government did invest a significant amount of money in the reconstruction of infrastructure after the war, it is still an on-going project.

<sup>5</sup> Approx. 50 mph.