

Paris, the 7th of August 2015

Dear You,

I write a letter to you whom I never met, because I know nowadays that it is very exciting to receive a letter from a friend.

The first time that I heard of the camp of Rivesaltes was when I was looking for some possible relatives. About fifteen years ago, I came across a man who bore the same surname as mine. However, my name finishes with a D, whereas his was added a T at the end. In my mind, all people bearing that name should have come from the same family. So he thought too.

We arranged to meet and he introduced me to a Spanish mate as if I were his cousin.

I remember, it was a special occasion about a film relating the maternity home where he was born. At that time there were mainly Spanish women and Jewish ones that Swiss midwives would take out of the camp for them to deliver in good conditions.

I do not know how many families were split during that war and are still trying to trace their members after so many decades. Wherever you come from, you should know that the Second World War had been an awful one. Nevertheless, in the first place, some people proved to be so kind and so human by keeping Jews in a hiding place in order to save them. Long after the war was over, the saviours continued sending them products from their farms as presents.

What would we do nowadays in such circumstances? Would we be able to do the same?

Should we not have to honour those heroes who were in everyday life just plain normal people? Do we not have to speak of the innocent victims?

I think, through this exhibition, you entered the past maybe to understand better what human rights mean? Probably you came to visit this camp because you are just interested in humankind?

Friendly yours

Liliane

P.S.: Actually, dear you, I do not know who you are, but I could tell you who I am.

Cette lettre est issue des « Lettres de Rivesaltes ».
Un projet initié par l'artiste Anne-Laure Boyer
pour le Mémorial du camp de Rivesaltes
dans le cadre de son inauguration.

Les lettres y ont été exposées d'octobre 2015 à juin 2016.

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Si vous souhaitez engager
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www.lettresderivesaltes.com