

THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
PUBLIC SECURITY CENTRE OF I.¹ SARAJEVO
Rogatica Police Station

Number: 13-4/02-83/04

Dated 27th April 2004

RECORD
Of witness statement

Dated 27th April 2004 in the OKP PS² Rogatica regarding the findings on the murder of a SJB³ Novo Sarajevo's police officer Pero Petrović which took place on 4th April 1992.

ATTENDANTS:

1. OSL⁴ : Danko Milović
2. WITNESS: Mitar Šiljegović
2. Recording clerk: Milenka Vuković

Witness examination started at 11:30 AM.

In terms of Article 150, Paragraph 2 of ZKP RS⁵, the witness is cautioned that he must tell the truth and not withhold anything, and that giving false testimony is a KD⁶.

The witness gives the following personal information:

- Name and last name: Mitar Šiljegović
- Father's name: Marko
- Mother's name: Bosiljka, maiden name Savić
- Day, month and year of birth: 8th November 1954, Sarajevo, the municipality of Centar
- Place of residence: [REDACTED]

¹ Translator's note: Istočno Sarajevo

² t/n: Crime Police Department of Police Station

³ t/n: Public Security Station

⁴ t/n: authorised official

⁵ t/n: Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Srpska

⁶ t/n: criminal offence

- Occupation: a purse – sewer
- Marital status: married, father of two children
- Nationality: RS - BiH⁷
- JMB⁸: [REDACTED]

[signature: Šiljegović Mitar]

In terms of Article 8 of the ZKP RS, the witness is informed about the equal usage of alphabets: Cyrillic and Latin; and about the official languages: Serbian, Croatian and Bosniac.

Which alphabet do you wish the record to be kept in? Cyrillic.

Do you understand Serbian language, the language this of this proceeding? Yes.

Do you need an interpreter? No.

In terms of Articles 146 and 147 of the ZKP RS, the witness is informed that, since he is a lineal relative of the defendant, he has the status of a privileged person and may not be forced or may refuse to answer the questions of an OSL or that he can waive the privilege to answer the questions.

The witness has been introduced to the provisions of Article 148, Paragraph 1 of the ZKP RS that he shall have the right to refuse to answer certain questions which answered truthfully would result in in him being prosecuted.

The witness has stated that he shall answer the questions to an authorised official.

Are there any other reasons for you not to testify? No.

Witness signature: [signature: Šiljegović Mitar]

⁷ t/n: the Republic of Srpska – Bosnia and Herzegovina

⁸ t/n: Unique master citizen number

The witness is summoned to reveal everything he knows about the case.

STATEMENT

In the beginning of early war conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992, I had stayed in my apartment in Sarajevo, in the 93 27th July Street, the settlement of Obala. In the period from April to June, uniformed persons came to my apartment and conducted searches of my apartment and other rooms. On those occasions, they asked me to give them small arms and long firearms, as well as my membership card. They also asked if I was a member of a political party, if I belonged to the Radical Party or the SDS⁹.

[signature: Šiljegović Mitar]

I do not know exactly how many times they came to my apartment in the aforementioned period from April to June – when I was arrested. On 13th June 1992, three uniformed persons with rifles in their hands came to my apartment in Sarajevo. One of them hit my head with a rifle butt, then they handcuffed me, put me into a car that was parked in front of the building and then dragged me to the Central Prison in Sarajevo. In the Central Prison, uniformed police officers wearing blue police uniforms interrogated me, abused and beat me in order to make me confess I own small and long firearms and that I belong to one of the Serbian political parties. I spent 48 hours in a solitary confinement in the Central Prison. Then, the aforementioned police officers would take me out of the confinement for a hearing, and after the hearing they would put me back in the cell. Every time they took me out and back into the confinement, I was beaten and mentally abused. I remember it was on 15th June 1992 in the evening when police officers took me out of my confinement to the hall. I saw 11 men and an unknown woman. From the fourth floor, we went through the lines of police officers, guards and military officers who beat us in our way down the stairs and in front of the entrance to a building. There were vans without seats there and they put us in them as if we were just bags of potatoes. During this event, they were all saying to us that we were going to the “Viktor Bubanj” barracks. These guards and police officers also cursed our **Chetnik¹⁰ mother** and told us: “You will all end up in the Viktor Bubanj”. When we entered the “Viktor Bubanj” barracks, we were welcomed by the military – territorial defence members. The first twelve of us who

⁹ t/n: Serb Democratic Party

¹⁰ t/n: a derogatory nickname for Serbs, origin comes from Serbian guerilla forces in WWII

came from the Central Prison were beaten, and then we were escorted to our cells. I was placed in the cell No. 9. There had already been 12 Serbian people in the cell, and I want to mention that the cell's dimensions were 2,60 x 1,65. I met Lukendić, Nešković and Obradović in this cell. I cannot recall their names, and I cannot recall the other persons from the cell. I was taken out of this cell every day to be heard by a judge Kapo, who was born in Rogatica. They wanted to force me to confess that I owned a radio station and weapons and that I was informing the Serbian side on where they should shoot the grenades.

On 29th June 1992 they released me from the "Viktor Bubanj" barracks on the ground that I should check in to the first command of the territorial defence.

On 30th June 1992, uniformed persons came to my door again. They were wearing camouflage uniforms and they told me to check in the Territorial Defence Headquarters, which was located in the SJB Novo Sarajevo, in the Dolac Malta.

[signature: Šiljegović Mitar]

I checked into the aforementioned Headquarters. There was **the Forth Battalion of the 101 mountain Brigade there; the brigade's commandant was Nedžad Ajnadžić and the Battalion's commandant was Enis Srna**. I was incapable of military service and I had not performed it – I do not have my left lung. In the aforementioned command, they put me into a manual labour platoon. The commander of this platoon was Kasimović, I cannot recall his name. In this platoon, I was digging trenches on the Hrasnop Brdo, around the Željko stadium and on the 8th April Square (the square of the heroes). There were around 30 people in the manual labour platoon and they did the aforementioned tasks. Since I had to constantly check in to the commanders who were in the Headquarters located in the SJB Novo Sarajevo, I listened to numerous stories oriented against Serbs and that is how I got some findings from the **story of soldiers in the IV and 101 Mountain Brigade on the murder of a police officer, Pero Petrović, who was murdered on 4th April 1992 near SJB Novo Sarajevo**. A soldier in a camouflage uniform with a nickname "Džimi", who used to sell goods on a stand in the Hrasno market boasted around other soldiers that he was the one to kill the first police officer, the first victim of war – **Pero Petrović**. I want to mention that, in the aforementioned Headquarters, I found out that Sejad Piskić was

a sniper in Grbavica and that he boasted about murdering two minor children from the “Loris” building. He also murdered other Serbian civilians, cut their ears off and lined them up the chain he used to keep around his neck. I also want to mention that, while I was cleaning the ruins in the Viktor Bubanj barracks as part of my mandatory work, I saw Murat Šabanović and his unit in the barracks. He was abusing the prisoners in the same way we were abused in the manual labour platoon.

In 1995, I collected all the paperwork I had had on my incapacity for military service and the then MUP¹¹ in Sarajevo allowed me to leave Sarajevo together with my family.

The witness is informed after the hearing that he has the right to read the record and make any commentaries on the record.

Do you want the record to be read to you? No. [signature: Šiljegović Mitar]

Do you have any commentaries on the record? No. [signature: Šiljegović Mitar]

Will you sign the record? Yes [signature: Šiljegović Mitar]

Witness examination ended at 1:00 PM.

WITNESS	RECORDING CLERK:	AUTHORISED OFFICIAL:
Mitar Šiljegović	Milenka Vuković	Danko Milović
[signature: Šiljegović Mitar]	[signature: illegible]	[signature: illegible]

¹¹ t/n: Ministry of Interior