

[handwritten numbers: 178/98-2]

Number KRI 723/98**RECORD OF WITNESS STATEMENT**

dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 1998 in front of Investigative judge of the District court in Belgrade in criminal proceedings against unknown persons due to criminal offence from Article 144 KZJ<sup>1</sup> of KZ<sup>2</sup>.

Investigative - judge  
Ilija Simić

**Witness**  
Pero Jeremić

Recording clerk  
Olivera Krnjić

Persons present at witness examination:

**public prosecutor**[no entry]**defendant**[no entry]**defence attorney**[no entry]Examination started at [no entry]

The witness was warned that he/she is obliged to speak the truth and that he/she must not keep anything secret, was warned of the consequences of giving false testimony, as well as the fact that he/she is not obliged to answer specific questions if it is probable that he/she would thus expose himself/herself or a close relative to severe shame, considerable material damage, or to criminal prosecution (Article 229 of ZKP), thus the witness gives following answers to general questions:

- 1) Name and surname Pero Jeremić
- 2) Father's name Vaso
- 3) Occupation pensioner

<sup>1</sup> Translator's note: Criminal Code of the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia

<sup>2</sup> t/n: Criminal Code

- 4) Temporary place of residence in Borča, the 21 Bratstva Jedinstva Street, phone: 3328-190
- 5) Place of birth the village of Mekoća, municipality of Kalovik<sup>3</sup> [sic], Republic of Srpska
- 6) Year of birth \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> September 1927 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Relationship to the defendant and the aggrieved party \_\_\_\_\_

Next, the witness states the following regarding the case itself:

[signature: Pero Jeremić]

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The witness was warned that he is obliged to speak the truth and gives the following answers on the court's questions:

I had lived in a big house near the "Viktor Bubanj" barracks with my family. The house had 8 apartments, and there were four of us, brothers. We were the owners. I owned two apartments and two garages. I lived with my wife, Stana Jeremić, in one apartment; she managed to escape and come to Belgrade on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1992. My son, Mladen Jeremić, lived in another apartment; he had also left to Moscow on a business trip in April. When the war broke out, most of the tenants in the house, i.e. most of my relatives left, so only I, my brother Milorad, his wife Bosa and my relative Anđa stayed there.

From 6<sup>th</sup> May and onwards, on several occasions, members of territorial defence came to my house searching for weapons; however, they did not find anything. I remember them coming on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> May and also before that. On 26<sup>th</sup> May, sometime around 1 PM, a group of armed people in uniforms came. They were "Green berets". Their superior was a Muslim with last name Rajković. I do not know his name, but I know that his mother was Fatima. There were around 10 – 12 people. They did a raid of the whole house and carried weapon detectors. By the way, my son's trade company "SINKOM" was in the basement. There was a cash register, computers and other things in the company's facilities. These people asked me to give them the key of the cash register, which I did. I know they took 500 DEM and

<sup>3</sup> t/n: the correct name is Kalinovik

some documents. While the raid was taking place in the house, a shot was heard. After that, around 150 people gathered at very short notice and accused me of shooting. I answered them that I did not shoot since I did not have a weapon. Then, they found a machine gun in a bush by the house and told that I hid it there. I replied that it was a lie and that it was not mine. After, a man came and took me to the garage and started beating me; I do not know his name, but I do know that he was tall and blonde. He hit me in the head with a baton, so soon I was covered in blood. Later they handcuffed me to a fence in front of the house and I was there for two or three hours. Then they put me in a Mercedes and drove me to the “Viktor Bubanj” barracks. They took away everything I had with me – keys, documents and so on. They only left me 200 DEM that this man found while searching and he said: “I will not take the money from you”. I spent around two hours in a solitary confinement in the “Viktor Bubanj”. When they took me from my home I was in my slippers, trousers and shirt; I did not wear any more clothes. On the same day, on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1992 around 6 PM, they drove me to the Central Prison, and a person named Ismet Bajramović alias “Ćelo” was waiting for us there. They addressed him with “colonel”.

In the Central Prison, I was put in a solitary confinement on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Steva Borovina was put there later. Before the war, he was a director of the “OSIGURANJE” and, as far as I know, he is in Belgrade now and also works in the “DUNAV”<sup>4</sup>. After some time, they put us both in room 176 – 178, and there were more people there.

[signature: Pero Jeremić]

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3 – 4 days later, I was called in for a hearing in a hall. There were three men in there – two seemed familiar to me but I do not know their names; they had worked in the “FAMOS” Company. I had been the company’s director of OUR<sup>5</sup> before I retired. They wanted me to confess that the weapon they had found was mine; I denied it and then they said they would draw up the record and bring it to me to sign it. They brought the record twice for me to sign it; I denied since it did not contain what I had said. At the end, they agreed to draw up the record based on what I had actually said. They did not record it and fill out my personal information card until 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> June. On 20<sup>th</sup> June, they put me into a solitary confinement again, and on 22<sup>nd</sup> June they

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<sup>4</sup> t/n: both Osiguranje and Dunav are insurance companies

<sup>5</sup> t/n: associated labour organization

took me out and put me into a truck together with about 100 more people and drove us to the “VIKTOR BUBANJ” camp. By the way, while I was in the Central Prison, I was not physically abused, rather just mentally, and the food was very poor. A man whose last name was “HERCEG” hit me once with his leg. I also remember some of the guards in the Central Prison: Fudo (FRENKI), Meliha – a woman, Mirela, Daut.

All these people were transferred to the Viktor Bubanj with me. I was put in a room with dimensions 6 – 7 m<sup>2</sup> together with 12 – 13 more people. We were given around 70 – 60 g of bread a day and a soup that was actually just plain water, and tea that also contained nothing but water. From the time I got into prison until the exchange, I lost 24 kilograms. By the way, the camp commandant was a man called “BESIM”. I do not know his last name, but I heard he is from Foča. I had a hearing again in July. I was heard by the three men that had interrogated me in the Central Prison. I learned that one of them was Fadil Jahić. On this occasion, they stated that, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, they allegedly found a Shpagin machine pistol, a Scorpion and a machine gun. I told them that was not true but, after the abuse, some other people brought a statement for me to sign. I told them that I cannot see without my glasses so they could write there whatever they wanted. They said that it did not matter and one of them hit me and said that I would sign it, so I did. After that, a big man who was allegedly from the security came. I do not know his name, but he also interrogated me regarding the weapons and he asked me where my son was and if I had his phone number for them to call him. I told him that I did not know where my brothers and relatives were since they had all gone. Then this man told me that I had signed a statement which claimed that they found the weapons at my house. I told him what really happened. Then he took me out of the camp to the terrace and showed me my house. My house was the only untouched while the other Serbian houses were burnt down. He told me that their headquarters was in my house. I answered that it was a better solution than burning it down. Then they brought me back into the room. After some time, I was put in a bigger room since I had some health issues. When I asked for a doctor’s assistance, I was examined by a man who I think was not a doctor, but just a trainee. Then I was summoned, but the trial that was supposed to be in the Municipality Court in Sarajevo was postponed. Then they moved the location of the trial to the “Viktor Bubanj” camp and the date was supposed to be 11<sup>th</sup> September 1992. I was summoned on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1992 and when I told them that my trial date was 11<sup>th</sup>, they said it did not matter. Nihad Šeremet was the judge. There were also a public prosecutor, a recording clerk (female) and one more man.

[signature: Pero Jeremić]

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The judge told them all to leave the room and, when I was left alone there with him, he told me that the trial's outcome was not important since I was about to be exchanged at 11 AM that day. I told him that I wish to say everything that happened, and everything that followed was kind of a mock trial. I was sentenced to 2 years and 6 months in prison. I was not given a verdict; but I enclose all the other documents I have. After I left the courtroom, I saw a man in the hall. I suppose he was Juka's deputy. He asked me how long I was sentenced for and I answered him. He told me "You are going to be exchanged today". I was not given any certificate or any other documents that would prove I had been in prison. After I went to get my stuff – actually, I did not have anything – they put me in a car and I headed to the exchange. That is when one man threatened to kill me and the others and throw our bodies into the Miljeca<sup>6</sup> River. However, the other one told me "Do not worry, you are about to be exchanged". And so I was exchanged at the "Bristol" bridge and crossed to the Serbian territory. After some time, I went to Belgrade. By the way, I remember that, when I left the prison, people who stayed in the room I was in were: Miloš Jokić – I heard that he was killed after the release; Strahinja Živak – he was born in Konjic and he was wounded and sentenced to 15 years in prison for an offence unknown to me, allegedly it was for arming the army. This Živak guy was released from prison in 1994 in an exchange. Other people who were with me in prison were Todor Todorović; Pandurović whose name I do not know; Nastić whose name I do not know; Mile Rodić – I heard he is in Canada and once I quarrelled<sup>7</sup> with him since he was a snitch; Ranko Skoko; Tuholj Ćorović and so on.

By the way, during my time in prison, I did not witness other prisoners being liquidated or even abused. I do not know any other names besides those I have already mentioned.

Regarding the property which I had left in Sarajevo – the aforementioned house, i.e. my two apartments are about 85 m<sup>2</sup> big. The four of us also had 100 m<sup>2</sup> totals of two garages. I had also left two cars – "JUGO" and "STOJADIN".

I am willing to testify on the abovementioned matters before a domestic or an international court. That is all I had to say on the previous matters. The record was loudly dictated, I do not wish to read it, and I sign it without any commentaries.

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<sup>6</sup> t/n: the actual name of the river is Miljacka

<sup>7</sup> t/n: unknown word, most likely the correct word is quarrel or argue

Recording clerk	<u>[signature: Pero Jeremić]</u>	INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE
[signature: illegible]		[signature: illegible]
		ILIJA SIMIĆ

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LOWER PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE II IN

SARAJEVO<sup>1</sup>

KT. No. 276/92

Sarajevo, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1992

RB/OM

LOWER COURT II

IN SARAJEVO

Pursuant to Article 45, Paragraph 2, Item 3  
and Article 241, Paragraph 2 of ZKP<sup>2</sup>, I hereby submit

MOTION FOR INDICTMENT

Against:

Pero Jeremić, son of Vaso (father) and Jovanka, maiden name Govedarica (mother), born on 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 1927 in Mekoća, the municipality of Kalinovik, a pensioner (former employee of the FAMOS / director of OOUR<sup>3</sup> of a housing unit, residing in Sarajevo – the 54-A Prnjavorska Street, currently in the Military Prison,

For:

On 26<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1992, in Sarajevo, in

The 54-a Prnjavorska Street, acquiring and holding in possession: 1 machine gun M-53 cal. 7.9 mm, 1 machine gun "CZ" cal. 7.62mm serial No. 61738, 1 Shpagin machine pistol "Dobošar" cal. 7.62 mm serial No. 651, 1 "Scorpion" pistol cal. 7.65 mm serial No. 10722, 30 bullets cal. 7.29 mm and 330 bullets cal. 7.62 mm, therefore committing a criminal offence of illegal possession of firearms or explosives from Article 213, Paragraph 1 of KZ RBiH<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Attached documents with a statement by Jeremic Pero, verdicts from the Muslim part of Sarajevo.

<sup>2</sup> t/n: Criminal Procedure Code

<sup>3</sup> t/n: basic associated labour organization

<sup>4</sup> t/n: Criminal Code of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

I therefore

PROPOSE

1. A hearing to be scheduled and held before  
the court in accordance with actual and local jurisdictions and people called:

Lower public prosecutor II Sarajevo,

Defendant

Pero Jeremić? The 54-a Prnjavorska Street – Sarajevo,

2. To examine the certificates of the  
temporary forfeiture of the objects at the hearing.

3. To order a pre-trial detention of the  
defendant Pero Jeremić in terms of Article 433, Paragraph 1, Item 1 of ZKP

4. After the hearing and evidence presented,  
to find guilty and convict the defendant in accordance with the law.

I hereby CONFIRM that this copy  
is authentic to the original

Nihad Šeremet

DEPUTY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

[signature: illegible]

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Branimir Rončević

LOWER COURT II SARAJEVO

KV NUMBER – 143/92

Sarajevo, 28 July 1992

Lower Court II Sarajevo sitting in the Trial Chamber consisting of Davorin Jukić as the Presiding Judge and judges Senad Kreho and Nenad Šeleda as members of the Chamber, with participation of recording clerk Slađana Baričanin, in the criminal proceeding against Pero Jeremić, for a criminal offence in violation of Article 213, Paragraph 1 of KZ RBiH, deciding on pre-trial detention against the defendant, and following the issuing of a motion to indict of CJB<sup>5</sup> II Sarajevo, KT – 276/92 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1992 in the Chamber meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1992 and pursuant to Article 433, Paragraph 1, Point 1 of ZKP, issued

## DECISION

On the defendant Pero Jeremić, son of Vaso (father) and Jovanka, maiden name Govedarica (mother), born on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1927 in Mekoća, the municipality of Kalinovik, a pensioner (former employee of the FAMOS), director of OOUR a housing

<sup>5</sup> t/n: Public Security Centre

unit, residing in Sarajevo in the 54-a Prnjavorska Street.

### DETENTION ORDER

Shall be calculated from date and time of deprivation of liberty and placement to custody in the District Prison in Sarajevo and detention may last no longer than two months or until the next court's decision.

Appeal against the decision does not have suspensory effect.

### R A T I O N A L E

CJB II Sarajevo with a motion to induct KT-276/92 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1991 filed charges before this court against Pero Jeremić, for a criminal offence of illegal possession of firearms or explosives referred to in Article 213, Paragraph 1 of the KZ RBiH.

Following the issuing of a motion to indict the Trial Chamber has, pursuant to Article 433, Paragraph 1, Item 1 of ZKP, examined whether there are conditions for detention against the defendant and decided as in the wording of the Decision since there is a justified concern that, while released, the defendant might hide, and there are other circumstances which obviously indicate the danger of defendant escaping since there is war in the country and the defendant might flee to the territory not controlled by the legal organs of RBiH.

RECORDING CLERK  
SLADANA BARIČANIN

PRESIDING JUDGE  
Davorin Jukić

LEGAL REMEDY: Appeal against this decision may be made to the Higher Court in Sarajevo through this Court, within 3 days from the receipt of the decision.

[handwritten note: I was deprived of liberty, beaten and robbed On 26<sup>th</sup> May 1992 and I was released from prison in an exchange on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1992. Detention order has been issued two months after my imprisonment.]

B15399

LOWER – HIGHER COURT IN II Sarajevo K: 226/92

**NOTICE**

**TO THE DEFENDANT TO THE MAIN HEARING**

Pero Jeremić from [no entry]

Street [no entry] Street No. [no entry]

is called as a defendant to the main hearing on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 1992

at 11 AM to this court [illegible] number 23 for a criminal offence

[no entry] in violation of Article 213, Paragraph 1 of KZ

[no entry] 19[no entry].

Presiding judge – Judge

NIHAD ŠEREMET

[signature: illegible]

[no entry]

certified copy - authorised court official

[stamp: The Republic of Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Lower Court II Sarajevo]

The Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina K:[handwritten numbers: II – 2/92]  
[handwritten note: District Military] COURT in [Sarajevo] (file reference)

### Summons to appear

\_\_\_\_\_ [handwritten note: PERO JEREMIĆ]  
(name and last name of the defendant)

\_\_\_\_\_ [no entry]  
(street and street number, organizations etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ [handwritten note: District Military Prison]  
(place)

You are hereby ordered to appear in this court as the DEFENDANT on 11<sup>th</sup>  
September 1992 [no entry] (day) (date) 19 [no entry] at [handwritten note:  
11 AM], in a room No [handwritten numbers: 202] floor [2] for [no entry]

Your failure to appear without a justifiable reason will result in your  
APPREHENSION. You are INFORMED that the defendant, during the course of the  
criminal proceeding may have a defence attorney (attorney), and that the defence attorney  
may attend the hearing of the defendant.

In [handwritten note: Sarajevo] on [handwritten note 3<sup>rd</sup> September] 19[handwritten  
numbers: 92].

Investigative judge,  
Presiding judge,  
Judge,

[handwritten note:  
ŠEREMET NIHAD  
[signature: Š Nihad]

B15401