

KI Number: [illegible]

RECORD OF WITNESS STATEMENT

Dated 5 November 1995 before investigative
judge of the Lower court in Ilidža
 in the criminal proceedings against unknown persons
 due to criminal offence from Article [no entry] of KZ¹.

Bratislav Čukić - judge
[no entry]

Witness
Borislav Šušić

Recording clerk
Aleksandra Cvetković

Persons present at witness examination:

public prosecutor
[no entry]

defendant
[no entry]

defence attorney
[no entry]

Examination began at 10 AM

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 ZKP²), thus the witness gives following answers to general questions:

- 1) Name and surname Borislav Šušić
- 2) Father's name Radmilo
- 3) Occupation bachelor of laws
- 4) Temporary place of residence temporary the 237 Gladno Polje, Hadžići
- 5) Place of birth Luke, Hadžići
- 6) Year of birth 8 March 1959
- 7) Relationship to the defendant and the aggrieved party [no entry]

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

[signature: Šušić B.]

¹ Translator's note: Criminal Code

² t/n: Criminal Procedure Code

Upon graduating from the Faculty of Law, I started working at the State Security Service in the SUP of BiH³ in 1982. I was residing with my parents in Sarajevo, in the Brankova Street; now I'm residing in the 21/4 Hiseta Street. I married Ljiljana, maiden name Andrić and we have a minor child together.

In the period between 1985 and 1987, I was assigned as a commander of the police station in Hadžići; in 1987 I was assigned as a secretary of SUP in Hadžići, and I had performed this function until 1st June 1991. After that, I was transferred to the Police Administration of the then Republic Ministry of Interior of BiH in Sarajevo. At the beginning of May 1992, Jusuf Pušina – the then Assistant Minister of Police, called me and without any explanation took my official ID and my weapon. After that, I took sick leave and, on 15th June 1992, I was issued a rescript on my transfer to the administration department in the Police Administration and my task was tracking dispatches in the field of public order, so I did not perform any operational tasks from that moment. Regarding the official documents, I was issued an accreditation card which I kept on my lapel all the time as a public ID document, in the MUP⁴ as well as outside of it.

As I have already mentioned, I was excluded from all the operational tasks in the police. Privately, I could not move freely through the city anymore, as I could have done before, due to the situation in Sarajevo during that period.

There were few Serbs left in the MUP. Certain members of MUP who were extreme Muslims were mounting pressure in different ways to make all the unknown persons leave the police and to have only Muslims, the SDA⁵ members, in the MUP. Persons who stood out in these actions were Enver Halvadžija, the Secretary of the National Defence in Novi Grad; Avdo Habib, the Assistant Minister of Police; Malik Krivić, Police Commander in the Novi Grad Station and Mehmed Kamenica from Goražde, the inspector. By the way, police was generally in some kind of disorganization and in a mess all the way until the middle June 1992, when they started organizing themselves more seriously. Ministry of interior was formed, led by Jusuf "Juka" Pušina, the Minister.

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³ t/n: Secretariat of Interior of Bosnia and Herzegovina

⁴ t/n: Ministry of interior

⁵ t/n: Party of Democratic Action

Jozo Jozić was appointed Undersecretary of the National Defence. He emigrated in 1993 as an intelligence officer of the Croatian Intelligence Service (SIS), and he was replaced by his previous deputy, Nedžad Ugljanin – the extremist born in Mostar. A group of snipers belonging to the formation of the State Security Service was formed under his direct command. Persons from the group whom I know are Dragan and Boris Šošić, Croats and close relatives. Ugljanin personally came and participated in some of their actions. In September or October 1992, I was able to, circumstantially, see Dragan Šošić returning from one of the actions and writing a report on it. Among other things, this is what he wrote: “I was on a watch on top of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the “Elektroprivreda”. I fired two shots. One of them was successful as I shot a woman in front of the MUP School in Vrace. She was washing the pans, facing away from me”. Ostoja Janković conformed that this murder happened as described by Dragan Šošić. Janković was the head of SDB in Sarajevo before the war, and he was in the reserve police at the time when he talked to me about this. He made a comment on this case in my presence and said: “Fuck this State Security which kills women from the back”. Janković emigrated in 1993 and is currently in Austria. I am not familiar with where the Šošić brothers are.

Members of the State Security participated in all the searches of Serbian apartments together with the military organs of the security. They were looking for the alleged “fifth column” and the “snipers”. After they would return from these actions, I could hear them say codes like “Fly, fly” – this code meant that they threw a Serb from a high-riser. Cases like this frequently happened in Alipašino Polje and in Novi Grad, but I am not familiar with any concrete cases.

As far as I know, the State Security Service was behind the launching of Juka Prazina in Sarajevo. They were fully supported by the Party of Democratic Action, i.e. by Alija Izetbegović, who promoted him to the General and Commandant of all the special units in Sarajevo. This was publicly announced on TV and other media.

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Assistant Minister of Interior Affairs for the police tasks – the uniformed part of the police – was Ismet Dahić, previous commander of the Novi Grad Police Station. He was removed from this position in 1993 and replaced by Omer Stambolić from Hrasnica, a former Head of the Police Station in Stup, where he had robbed a huge fortune in the warehouses of the business capacities. His assistants were Ivan Ilić – a Croat, and Dragan Vikić – a Croat and a commandant of the special police unit.

With his unit, Dragan Vikić participated in all the combat operations and MUP's actions. They carried out an attack on Serbian civilians in Pofalići and Velešići, aiming to drive out Serbs from these areas. They carried out the attack together with the 102nd Brigade of the so called Army of BiH, i.e. with the Velešići and Pofalići's units of the 101st Brigade led by Safet Zajko from Pofalići and Enver Šehović, also from Pofalići. I heard that between 250 and 300 Serbs were murdered. They were civilians, mostly elderly people, women and children. No Serbian soldiers were captured, there were no records of captured soldiers who went on trial, and it had not been officially stated that such soldiers existed.

Bodies of these victims were buried in the city's disposal site – a junkyard in Buća Potok, above the "Zrak" facility. The bodies were actually buried with an excavator. I had a chance to personally see this disposal site. It is a chasm around 100 meters deep. Every day, garbage is brought there from Sarajevo and tossed down with excavators. Ramiz Ademović told me in the Central Prison (I will discuss below about my time in the Central Prison and other prisons) all about tossing down bodies from Pofalići and Velešići in this disposal site. Ramiz was a driver in the "Šipad Standard" Company in Stup. He now works as a driver in the city bakery and he was sentenced for some thieveries. According to him, he was a direct participant in the action in Pofalići. Allegedly, he stood out as a great soldier. Regarding the previous matters, he said the following: "Corpses and graves should not be looked for in Pofalići and Velešići, they should be looked for in the junkyard in Buća Potok".

[signature: Šušić B.]

The majority of Serbian civilians captured in the action in Pofalići and Velešići were imprisoned on the property of the “Rad” RO⁶ in the settlement of Buća Potok and they were murdered there. Benjamin Škulj – Benjo and Mirsad Džip, pre-war criminals who served their time in jail for murdering Boro Krajišnik, his sister Borka and their mother with Samir Petrović alias “Petra” as an accomplice, told me about this. In prison, they openly spoke about murdering a married couple Šiljević together with Nedžad Serdarović alias “Sisica”. They said that they slaughtered the husband – Risto, and strangled the wife - Kosa. They also said that they murdered an older man whose last name was Nikolić and who owned a video club in Buljakov Potok. They belonged to a unit called “Strela” led by Smajo Šikalo, a famous karate man and a criminal from Buljakov Potok. They participated in action carried out on Pofalići, Velešići and many others. Their crimes were proven but, thanks to the investigative judge Muhidin Kapo, all the evidences was ruined and they were released.

As far as I know, actions on Pofalići and Velešići were carried out by units of Dragan Vikić and Juka Prazina, as well as by the aforementioned 102nd Brigade of the Velešići and Pofalići’s unit.

Regarding the attack carried out on the line of military ambulance vehicles of the former JNA⁷ on 2nd May 1992, the only thing that I am familiar with is the following: charged power lines for trolleys and trolleybuses that were thrown on this line and killed most people in the line, were dragged by a yellow “FAP”⁸ and that, soon after, Juka Prazina’s group of people came there and murdered people in the line. Captured persons from this line were tortured mostly by Abdulah alias “Dule”; I do not know his last name, but I know that he was a former chauffeur for the “Bristol” hotel. He kept prisoners in a basement of the “FIS” sports hall opposite the MUP and in the “Đuro Đaković” cinema. Abdulah is now considered to be an honourable citizen of Sarajevo; he owns the “Zlatni Ljiljan”⁹ café in the business premises of the “Sarajka” department store. He has become a wealthy man.

On 28th May 1992, sometime after 9 AM, I was walking down the Vase Miskina Street from the direction of the Eternal Flame towards Baš Čaršija. In front of the photo optics, the “JAY” and the

[signature: Šušić B.]

⁶ t/n: labour organization

⁷ t/n: Yugoslav People’s Army

⁸ t/n: a truck produced by an Automotive Manufacturer from Priboj, Serbia

⁹ t/n: “Golden Lily”

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fountain pen repair shop; and also on the opposite side of the street – on the left, in front of the post office, I saw TV cameras set on the camera stands. The street was full of passers-by. About 20 m away from me, there was a big number of people queueing in front of the “UPI-Klas” bakery waiting to buy some bread. At that moment, Haris Avdić called my name. He owned the “Hacijenda” Pizza place and café on the stands of the “Željezničar” football club. He was Juka Prazina’s SWAT member at the time. He hurriedly asked me: “Where are you going and what are you doing here”? I replied that I was heading to the market to buy some things, and he replied: “Go quickly; we are doing some work here”. At that moment, I noticed a red “Jetta” arrive with tires screeching and Adnan Solaković, commandant of one of Juka Prazina’s units, got out of the car. Solaković and Avdić shook hands and left to the “Bosna Sport” basement, which was in the immediate vicinity.

I was rushing past the aforementioned queue of people waiting for bread and took a turn behind the “Markale” marketplace towards the Maršala Tita Street. When I was around 30 – 40 meters away from the queue, I first heard two shots from the direction of the Faculty of Economics. Right after that, I heard a strong explosion in the Vase Miskina Street. I mechanically started running down the Maršala Tita Street, ran past the marketplace’s wall that is placed alongside the street and, from the other side of the market, I glanced at the Vase Miskina Street, towards the Maršala Tita Street. I saw a big number of people and bodies lying on the ground, I saw broken shop windows, distraught people running, screaming and shouting, I saw smoke and dust. I did not linger, but ran towards the MUP instead. It was about 300 m away from the place I was at and it took me 5 minutes maximum to get there. In the dispatching room, which was next to the building’s entrance, I saw Mehmed Hadžimešić – the duty officer. He immediately asked me: “Do you know what has happened?” and immediately added: “The massacre in the Vase Miskina Street”. Our team led by Emir Kreho (a homicide police inspector of the Public Services Centre in Sarajevo) went to the crime scene. I was surprised by Hadžimešić’s words and asked when the team left to the scene, and he responded that they had left five minutes ago.

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This made me confused and I thought, without making any comments, that the only way for the team to already be at the crime scene was if they left before the explosion. I want to mention that, at that time, I was unassigned and had no decision on my assignment to any position – which I have previously mentioned – so I occasionally went to MUP, just like all the other people who were in the same position at that time.

Five minutes later, Hadžimešić turned on the TV that was in the room, and the scenes of massacre in the Vase Miskina Street had already been televised. Based on the scenes on TV, I concluded that they were shot from the camera that I had previously seen set in front of the post office. I stayed at the MUP and, 20 – 30 minutes later came Mirza Jamaković, the head of anti-sabotage department and a famous expert in pyrotechnics. He did not make any comments and he did not show any signs of anxiety. Soon, he left and he did not show up at MUP for days.

That same evening, I watched a TV Sarajevo's report from the crime scene. Among other things, they showed what was left of the grenade's tail that allegedly had exploded in the Vase Miskina Street. The grenade on TV was large calibre and contained a lot of wide wings on the tail. However, few days later I was in the dispatch room and I saw photographs from the crime scene with the rest of grenade's tail. It was smaller calibre and had thicker wings. What I saw there made me conclude that the shots on TV were doctored.

Sometime later, while I was imprisoned in the "Viktor Bubanj" camp – the period that I will discuss in more detail below - in a number of cells on the mezzanine, there were detainees from Ramiz Dolalić alias "Ćelo 2" and Mušan Topalović alias "Caco"'s group. They often called each other out loud and protested for being arrested, and all the other detainees on the mezzanine could hear that, including me. While they were yelling, I heard Haris Kreko from Topalović's group shouting:

[signature: Šušić B.]

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“Mother fuckers, where are Ganić and Mahmutčehaić now? When we had to, we killed our own people, too. Where are they now to help us? Now we are no more good to them so they locked us up...” and similar things. Haris Kreka was in a cell with Boris Spajić, Vojo Spajić’s son, who was a professor of civil law at the Faculty of Law in Sarajevo. After some time, when I was transferred to the Central Prison together with Boris Spajić, I asked him about Haris Kreko. He told me that Mušan Topalović – Caco’s group, of which he was a member, was ordered to bombard the Vase Miskina Street, and that snipers fired two shots from the Faculty of Economics building as a signal for the start of bombarding. He also told me that a shell was fired from a spot above the Kazani, on the left side of the Miljacka River.

Boris Spajić is currently in Sarajevo and plans to escape and head to the Czech Republic to meet his son from the first marriage. He was sentenced to four years in prison for illegally transporting Serbs from Sarajevo to the territory of the Republic of Srpska. The sentence was abolished in February 1995.

There was an armed group operating in each of Sarajevo’s neighbourhoods, usually consisting of famous criminals. This situation had lasted until the middle of September 1992. The official police did not perform their duties during that period and was completely inferior to these groups. The only active group was the special police unit. They were active in combat operations together with those groups and some units of the so called Army of BiH, led by Sefer Halilović at that time. This special police unit was led by Dragan Vikić and his deputy, Kemal Ademović, participated with him in all the actions. Ademović was closely connected to the highest management of the Party of Democratic Action and he was in a direct contact with Alija Izetbegović.

During my stay in Sarajevo as I was moving around the city and communicating with my co-workers at the MUP, I found out that the central part of the municipality of Stari Grad was held by Sakib Puškar alias “Puška”, who was a close friend of Haris Silajdžić, Jusuf Pušina and Ismet Dahić, and who was famous for being a pre-war criminal. His headquarters was in the Centre for learning foreign

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languages, in the Vase Miskina Street. He had a prison in the basement of that building. He is currently in Sarajevo and he is a member of the so called Army of BiH as a colonel.

Mušan Topalović alias “Caco” held left side of Miljacka, in the municipality of Stari Grad, all the way to Grbavica and the Jewish Cemetery. He was a former criminal and musician in taverns. Avdo Hebib killed him on 28th October 1993 to revenge his son who had been killed by Caco. Topalović’s headquarters was in the Primary School facilities, in Bistrik. There was also a prison in this school. Captured Serbs were brought there by buses. They caught Serbs all over the city and brought them to this prison, which was also a huge torture place. A place called “Kazani” was also under his patronage. I heard that 500 murdered Serbs were thrown into this place. The corpses were thrown into the ditches – sink-holes around 300 meters deep, and then destroyed with a lime. Alen Hatić, Topalović’s biggest supporter, used to drop off the lime in his “TAMIĆ”¹⁰. I was present at times when Hatić openly spoke about this to other prisoners in the Central Prison. According to him, the majority of murders in “Kazani” were committed by Sejo alias “[illegible]”. I am not familiar with his real name and last name. He was also in the Central Prison and I heard him boasting about those murders.

I want to mention that criminal proceedings were brought against members of this group – the perpetrators of crimes in “Kazani” after Topalović was murdered, and they were detained in the “Viktor Bubanj” camp. During the conduction of criminal proceedings, investigative bodies did everything in their power to present the perpetrators as persons of diminished responsibility. As a result, they were all ordered protection measures of treatment at the neuropsychiatry department at the Koševo hospital. During the proceeding, 17 bodies of their victims in Kazani were found and exhumed. Fifteen of them were identified as Serbs from Stari Grad, and two remained unidentified.

Ramiz Delalić alias “Ćelo 2” held the right side of Miljacka in the municipalities of Stari Grad and Centar under his control. His command was in the kindergarten in Stari Grad above the Orthodox Church. A prison and a torture place were in the basement of the building. Delalić personally organized the murder of Nikola Gadović

[signature: Šušić B.]

¹⁰ t/n: a truck produced by a Yugoslavian, later Slovenian commercial vehicle manufacturer

in front of this orthodox church, at the beginning of March 1992 during a well-known wedding celebration. However, he was never held accountable for this murder. He now owns a café in the Štrosmajer Street next to the cathedral.

Juka Prazina directly held the municipality of Centar, all the way to Ilidža, under his control. He was also the main person in the whole city. His command was in the kindergarten in the Sutjeska Street. He had prisons in several places. One of his main headquarters was in the settlement of Alipašino Polje – B phase. It was fenced with wire, ditches and machine-gun nests, so no uninvited persons could approach it. There, he also had a prison for Serbs under direct control of Juka's deputy and closest associate – Samir Kahvedžić alias "Kruško". Juka Prazina also had headquarters in the "Borsalino" café; in the basements of apartment buildings in the Španskih Boraca Street; in the heat plant in the B phase; and in the "Andrija Rašo" and "21. Maj" primary schools. One of his closest associates, Edhem Omerović – Edo, held the settlements of Otoka and Čengić Vila under his control. He had prisons in the Socijalističke Revolucije Street; in the basement of the Commercial Bank; in the kindergarten in the Palmira Toljatija Street; in the former "Tvin" furniture shop in the Džemala Bijedića Street; in the "Slobodan Vuković" Primary School in the Čengić Vila; in the business premises of DP¹¹ "Energopetrol", opposite the "Slobodan Vuković" Primary School. Omerović is currently in Sarajevo and owns a café in premises of a former hairdressing salon "Valera" that had been owned by his mother before the war, in the Božidara Adžije Street.

One of the most notorious prisons was in the "Vladimir Nazor" school for retarded children in the Ivana Krndelja Street. Only few people made it out alive from there. It was established and controlled in the beginning by Edin Bahtić alias "Fićo", a former football player in the FC "Željezničar". He emigrated at the end of 1992 or the beginning of 1993 and lives abroad now. After him, the prison was held by Rusmir Čakalović alias "Rus", a Muslim residing in the Sremska Street with his wife Gordana, maiden name Pandurević. There were a lot rumours in Sarajevo about the two of them directly participating in the abuse and murders of prisoners. Rusmir was sentenced for illegal transport of Serbs from Sarajevo and he is

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¹¹ t/n: public enterprise

currently serving his sentence, while Gordana is in Sarajevo.

Enver Zornić, Izet Tinja, Amir Hodžić, Mirsad Hašani – an Albanian and Enver Džanko controlled one part of the settlement of Hrasno. They had their own armed unit that got completely out of hand. I am not familiar with the exact location of their command, but I assume it was in the premises of a student service, up the Ivana Krndelja Street, where their prison was located. They murdered and robbed a lot of Serbs, as well as companies “Jugokomerc”, “Iskra” and “INA”. They were sentenced in Sarajevo at the end of August in 1993 to imprisonment from 5 to 14 years. Among others, they murdered judge Zorica Gogalo’s husband who was a Croat so, allegedly, Franjo Tuđman was personally interested in the criminal proceeding held against these persons.

Bejadin Abdulovski alias “Dino”, a former weightlifter in the SD¹² “Željezničar”, had control over the other part of the settlement of Hrasno – from the Pere Kosorića Square to the FC “Željezničar” stadium and facilities of the RO “Strojorad”. His command and prison were located in the premises of the “Ivan Goran Kovačić” Primary School, a place where many Serbs died. Abdulovski is still in Sarajevo and lives at the Pere Kosorića Square.

Brothers Džilda and Izo Begić and Fahrija Kurtaj alias Fahro controlled the Koševsko Brdo. The Koševo stadium and a sports hall “Zetra” with its underground business facilities are located in this area. The stadium and the sports hall were locations of prisons in which interrogations and murders of many Serbs were conducted. Their bodies were thrown into Miljacka and left floating there for days. However, I am not familiar with the names of any victims. Besides brothers Begić and Kurtaj, Jusuf Prazina and Zoran Čegar, one of Dragan Vikić’s assistants also had prisons there. One of the persons who were often seen in these premises was Senad Granulo, a member of Dragan Vikić’s Special Forces. His wife Gordana works in the State Security Administration and she was closely connected to Asim Dautbašić, Nedžad Ugljanin’s assistant and one of the leading persons in the State Security. Izo Begić, Kurtaj and Granulo are currently in Sarajevo, and Zoran Čegar is in Zagreb as a military attaché from BiH. Asim Dautbašić is currently in the BiH embassy in Germany as a counsellor.

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¹² t/n: sports society

There are family tombs of old Sarajevo families at the old “Lav” and the “Sveti Josip” Catholic cemeteries in the Stjepana Tomića Street. These tombs were abandoned 20 years ago. Many corpses of murdered Serbs whose identity has remained unknown were thrown into these tombs. Their corpses were secretly thrown into these cemeteries, at night. This cemetery is located right next to the “Koševo” stadium and the “Zetra” sports hall.

Boris Krstičević alias “Čile”, a Croat from Sarajevo, who was a pre-war thief and an idler, had his own armed group that controlled a part of the city from the Faculty of Civil Engineering to the Maršala Tita Street, a neighbourhood that closes the Kralja Tomislava Street and the Đure Đakovića Street. His headquarters was located in the premises of the “Naš Dom” department store, in the Sutjeska Street. The department store’s basement was a prison. This group was highly extreme and they were preparing an assassination of Radovan Karadžić – something that Krstičević used to boast about publicly. He is working in the State Security Administration now and currently is in BiH consulate in Frankfurt.

Zlatko Lagumdžija (not a famous public figure), a pre-war criminal from Sarajevo, had his own armed unit which controlled the Kranjčičeva Street. There are a few apartment buildings called “Karingtonke” and a part of the Marijin Dvor neighbourhood all the way down to the railway station in this street. His headquarters was located in the business premises of the “Karingtonka” building, in which garages were turned into a prison. The “RS” café was opposite this building, but I do not know if there was a prison in that café. Lagumdžija is currently in Sarajevo.

The settlement of Pavle Goranin (Švrakino Selo) was controlled by criminals. I am only familiar with their nicknames: “Kemica”, “Kiklop”, “Sejo Bubuleja” (I heard that he slaughtered many Serbs and that his specialty was slaughtering from behind), Davor Matić alias “Žmiro” and “Muco”, who was later killed in a violent confrontation of criminals. Their headquarters was in the “Pavle Goranin” Primary School, but they occasionally moved it to different apartments. The school premises were also a prison for Serbs. One of the members of this group was Fahrudin Zahiragić alias “Čara”, who is sentenced for a theft and is in the Zenica Correctional Facility.

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“Sejo Bubuleja” is currently in Sarajevo, and I am not familiar with places of residence of others.

Besides the aforementioned persons, in Čengiće Vila, Otoka and Pavla Goranina was also a battalion under the command of Borislav Kuno – Latić alias “Riki”, a famous international criminal who was Juka Prazina’s direct subordinate. His unit conducted numerous crimes, and he was killed by one of his bodyguards.

Since the beginning of war, the Dobrinja housing project was under control of Ismet Hadžić, Alija Izetbegović’s personal friend and a religious fanatic. People who were coming to the settlement were the so called Mujahedeen, religious officials – soldiers on the path of Islam whose sanctity is dying for the Islamic idea. Many of them are foreigners from Palestine, Syria and other Islamic countries; and most of them are from Iran. Dobrinja was completely closed and no one could get in or out of it. The first cleansing of Serbs happened there. I am familiar with the fact that a prison for Serbs exclusively was formed in the “Sunce” restaurant; more precisely in the bombing shelter in this building. No one was allowed to visit the prison – not even the representatives of international charity organizations, police or military organs. Hadžić is directly connected to Alija Izetbegović, who visits him in Dobrinja once a week in order to hold a religious service. The headquarters of foreign Islamic organizations are also located in Dobrinja.

The settlements of Buljakov Potok, Buća Potok, Briješće, Sokolje and the whole “21 Maj” Street at that time were under control of Smajo Šikalo alias “Smajke” and his group with the most modern weapons and the best organized logistics. Their headquarters was in the Railway Industrial High School (ŽIŠ) in the Živka Jošila Street. There is an infamous prison for Serbs that still exists there. People who were captured in this prison, among others, were: Sretko Damjanović, Borislav Herak and Nada Tomić. They were interrogated and tortured there, especially Sretko Damjanović. This group looted many Serbian homes and commercial properties. The most infamous persons best known for murders and robberies were Benjamin Škulj alias “Beno” who immigrated to Austria, Mirsad Džip, Samir Petrović alias “Petra”, Nedžad Serdarević alias “Sisica”, Edo

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Kurtović alias “Grbo” and Mirsad Ćato. They are all residing in Sarajevo now.

It is widely known that there were and still are brothels in Sarajevo in which young Serbian women were brought. The brothels are in the following hotels: “Beograd”, “Zagreb” and one was in the “Evropa” – until it was burnt down. The brothels are also in the “Monik” and “Bellvedere” boarding houses, as well as in the all aforementioned headquarters of the paramilitary units. Detained Serbian women were raped in the Central Prison, on the fifth floor, in the stockroom number five, right from the stairway. I heard that one of them was B M , but I am not familiar with her current place of residence. People who told me about the rapes in the Central Prison and who could testify of that are Darko Kovač, Zdravko Škobo from Ustikolina near Srbinje and Slobodan Pavlović from Sarajevo. They are still serving their sentences, and I am sure they will cross to the territory of the Republic of Srpska as soon as they are released. The so called female part of the Central Prison for convicts is on the third floor in room number three, but I am not familiar with what was happening in that room.

There are several brigades in Sarajevo, in the frame of the first corpus of the so called Army of BiH. There are military prisons in the headquarters of all brigades. The initial investigations and interrogations of arrested Serbs are conducted there by military police and military units of these brigades. All Serbs went through heavy beatings in these prisons during the interrogations. There were cases of deaths but they were not documented and the actual number of the deaths is unknown. In this regard, the most famous is the 101st Brigade who had a prison in the basement of the “Viktor Bubanj” barracks, and the 102nd Brigade who had a prison in Hrasno, in the “RMK” Factory of wire and in the premises of the ŽIŠ (Railway Industrial High School).

On 20th June 1993 around 5 AM, I left my apartment in my tracksuit and my slippers, to fill the canisters with water behind the “Vladimir Perić” Primary School. As I was returning, three uniformed men whom I did not know stopped me. One of them took his pistol out and put it to my stomach, while the other put a sack on my head and tightly tied a rope around my neck. At the same time,

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they handcuffed me. I was put on the backseat of a car, tied up, and the car headed at full speed and with tires screeching in a direction unknown to me. This happened in front of the building I was living in.

During the car ride, they set on my back and hit me. After some time of a ride at high speed, we stopped. They took me off the car and pushed me down the stairs to the basement of a building. I was still tied up, with a sack on my head and handcuffed. They set me up in a chair. About half an hour later, I noticed a man entering the room from the left. I could see through the sack that he was carrying a lit candle. Immediately after that, he started beating me without any questions asked. The punches made me fall off the chair and then I would get back on again. I was out of breath, and blood coming from my mouth and nose was choking me. As far as I could see, there were three persons that beat me non-stop in this room. While they were beating me, they yelled at me: "Speak!", but they did not ask any specific questions. After some time, they asked me about [illegible] data. When I answered, they continued to beat me. They addressed each other with "Marko", "Pero" and other Serbian names. They asked me if I knew that I was in the premises of the "Strojorad", on the Serbian territory. One of them accused me of being the main spy in Sarajevo, so he asked me to tell everything about the organization of a military and civil intelligence service, and so on. Among other things, they told me that they had arrested my brother, who allegedly confessed everything. I cannot recall how much time passed until, by my estimation, the men who had previously come in with a lit candle took the handcuffs off my hand and asked me to explain to him the pyramid of military intelligence service in Sarajevo, the pyramid and the structure of the State Security Administration and so on. Based on the terminology this man used, I concluded that he belongs to the structure of military security organs. I also concluded that the questions were provocative and that they wanted to let me know I was imprisoned on the Serbian territory. After some time, they told me they were not "Chetniks"¹³ and that I should feel free to tell them everything I knew. However, they were not content with my answers, so they continued hitting me with various objects, after they had previously handcuffed me again. I used to faint, and

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¹³ t/n: a derogatory nickname for Serbs, originates from Serbian guerrilla forces in WWII

they would drench me with water, drag me across the floor and kept abusing me while threatening to kill me.

I do not remember how long I had been in the basement when they dragged me out of it, but I did notice it was night time. They put me in a car and drove me for about half an hour, with occasional hard breaking. During the ride, they were deciding upon the ways of killing me among themselves. About half an hour later, they took me out of the car and faced me against the wall- that was the first time they took the sack off of my head. I noticed that I was standing next to the closed tunnel above the settlement of Ciglane. They told me that I was taken to the shooting, and they decided among themselves that they would first shoot me in my legs, and then in my spine – so I could suffer for a longer time. At one moment, I felt a heating sensation in my back and fainted; but I did not hear a shot being fired.

I woke up at the hospital in Koševo, in trauma wing. I was treated by doctor Vuković and doctor Malinović (she works at the military hospital in Milići now). I was diagnosed with three broken ribs on the left side and four on the right side; a broken ribcage, a cracked sternum, my left kidney moved for about 6 cm, my right arm fractured in two places and other injuries all over my body. The injuries were diagnosed after the scan and reported in my discharge summary which is supposed to be in the documentation in the Central Prison in Sarajevo.

I spent 12 days in the intensive care unit being infused, and during that time two police officers from the MUP were watching in front of my door.

During my stay at the hospital, I was recalling everything that had happened to me and I concluded that one of the persons who arrested and beat me was Enes Radžo, the inspector of State Security of the Security Unit Protecting Specific Persons and Facilities. At the time, he personally secured Miodrag Simović, the then Deputy Prime Minister of the so called BiH until March 1993. The person who interrogated me and mentally abused me the most was Fikret Muslimović, a pre-war Colonel Security of the JNA in Sarajevo military area. Before the war, he was the head of JNA Security in

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the military area of Sarajevo, and I had personally known and contacted him since 1985.

After 12 days at the hospital in Koševo, Boriša Delić – a Muslim and Boris Tankosić – a Croat, both retired workers at State Security Service came to pick me up. They greeted me and asked who did this to me. They allegedly picked me up to take me home and they helped me to get to the car. During the ride, they told me that they would take me to the MUP since Minister Alispahić and State Security Undersecretary, Jozo Jozić, allegedly wanted to talk to me.

However, they brought me to the Central Prison and escorted me to a room on the third floor. They asked me to confess everything without saying what I was supposed to confess. They also gave me a sheet of paper to write my statement on, urging me to cooperate. About one hour later, they gave me an order for pre-trial detention which said I was suspected of divulging official secrets pursuant to Article 127 of KZ. In the evening, they came intoxicated and started asking me about my whereabouts while I was in service, about my friendships in my private life and so on. In the meantime, they withdrew the aforementioned order for pre-trial detention and gave me another decision that stated I that I was suspected of espionage pursuant to Article 128 took over from KZ of the SFRJ¹⁴. During the interrogation, prison guards entered the room and beat me, abused me, cursed me and did many other things in their presence. It lasted for a whole night and, before dawn, they escorted me to a cell on the fourth floor. After a short period of time they continued interrogating me, and I was beaten and abused again. After two days of the consecutive interrogation in the aforementioned way, they decided to type a statement which I signed.

I stayed for three more days in the Central Prison. Then, they transported me to the former JNA “Viktor Bubanj” barracks that was renamed to the “Ramiz Salčin” barracks. I was escorted to the cell number 11 on the mezzanine. Military prisons had been located here from before. I spent ten days in this cell and I was beaten the

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¹⁴ t/n: the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia

whole time by military police officers; i.e. I was beaten during the interrogations in the other room. Vuko Bogdanović from Ilidža was also in this cell. He had also been previously beaten and he helped me recover after the beatings during the interrogations. He is in Ilidža now, and he got out in October 1994.

The aforementioned Boriša Delić and Boris Tankosić visited the prison every day and participated in the interrogations. Besides them, a person who also attended the interrogations was a military prosecutor Ljubomir Lukić – a Serb who had been an attorney in Sarajevo before the war. He emigrated in 1994 and currently resides in France.

One day, while patrolling the prison, Himzo Dolan – the prison warden who used to be a Warrant Officer in the JNA and Senad Kreho – the President of the Military Court who was a judge and a prosecutor in the Lower Court, i.e. in the Prosecutor's Office II in Sarajevo came into my cell. They got interested about my case and I told them that I had been imprisoned without a decision issued. That same night, the military police officer Ramiz, who was the officer of the guard back then, came in. He used to work as a guard in the Foča Correctional Facility. He handed me an order for pre-trial detention which was retroactively dated ten days before, and which stated that I was suspected of espionage.

The next day, I was sent to cell number one on the mezzanine and I stayed there until 15th September 1993 when I was put in cell number seven. The guards kept beating me every day, mostly during night. There were 12 cells in this part of the mezzanine in total. They had bars instead of walls on the side next to the corridor. There were five more cells on the other side of the corridor. They were out of my sight and Muslims – members of the so called Army of BiH were imprisoned in those cells. They put covers on the bars of cell number one, so I could not see people passing through the corridor. Still, I could hear voices and cries of other prisoners.

During the investigation, I was interrogated by the investigative judge Vladimir Školjarić. I had known him from the time I studied at the Faculty of law. His office was on the

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Barracks' second floor. People present at the examination, besides the aforementioned prosecutor Ljubomir Lukić and an ex officio lawyer, Namil Silajdžić from Sarajevo. They persistently insisted that I had connections with Sead Rekić, a former Major in the JNA who was accused of five criminal offences and who was in prison at that time. I did not know him, but they claimed to have found Rekić's sniper at my place – which was not true. I denied these and other false accusations, but I had to sign a statement that had already been typed by Špoljarić. I was beaten by one of the guards, in their presence.

Around seven days later, I was called to attend the trial of Mario Vignjević, my former co-worker, a Serb. The judge was Fahrudin Teftedarija. He was suspected of illegal organizing an escape from Sarajevo. The prosecutor Lukić insisted that I witness against Vignjević, which I could not accept since I was not familiar with anything from his case. This was the reason why they beat me heavily after they had brought me back to my cell.

When I was transferred from cell number one to cell number seven, Borislav Herak was in cell number seven. Other prisoners had previously told me, during the rare walks we were allowed to have, that he is the main provocateur and that I should avoid him. He acted insane and every day went to the Court President, Senad Kreho's office. He brought cigarettes: Marlboro, Winston and others from there. He tried to provoke me in different ways. He was sentenced to death under charges of a rape, genocide and other most serious offences. Although insane, he was used in detention by investigative organs as a provocateur and a delator. He was not beaten. He had lived in Pofalići prior to the war. He was an idler and a marginal figure with a mentally incompetent behaviour. He walked around cemeteries a lot in order to drink alcohol during funerals.

Based on Herak's problematic and false testimony, Damjanović Sretko from Vogošća was sentenced to death and Nada Tomić, also from Vogošća, was sentenced to three years in prison and is now living in Vogošća. Some of Herak's letters testify of his personality. I managed to take one of them out and it is in my possession now. Seven days later, Herak was taken to the Central Prison and they occasionally brought other people to my cell.

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On 30th October 1993, I was taken to the trial in front of the Judge Davor Jukić. Among other judges in the Criminal Council, I recognized Judge Muhidin Kapo. I had previously personally seen him and other guards in cell number six, beating Dragan Zelić from Ključ. He was arrested on the line of contact. Senka Nožica, an attorney from Sarajevo, was appointed as an ex officio counsel. I was sentenced to 13 years in prison. The prosecutor, Lukić, was not content and demanded a higher punishment.

After the verdict was handed down, I was brought back to my cell and got severely beaten by guards that night. The guards who beat me the most were Esad Kuruglija; his brother Ado; Muftić whose first name I do not know; and Sakib, the officer of the guard. They were all guards in the Foča Correctional Facility prior to the war.

Besides them, persons who stood out in abuse and physical torture of prisoners in the “Viktor Bubaj” barracks were, as far as I could notice: Babić whose name I do not know, around 19 years old, blond, resided in Pale before the war; Baltić alias “Balta”, around 25 years old, from Sarajevo; Rifet alias “Role”, around 26 years old, from Sarajevo; Kemo Dautović from Sarajevo; Suljević whose first name I do not know, he worked in the “Knjaz Miloš” mineral water warehouse before the war; Ramiz, the officer of guard from Foča, and others whose names I cannot recall at this moment. In most cases, the prison warden, Himzo Dolan, was present during the tortures and abuse of prisoners.

Serbian soldiers on the battle lines were captured in the basement of the prison. I was not in the basement, but I could hear screams and cries of prisoners down there. Novo Tadić could testify of what was happening in those cells. He survived tremendous tortures and lives in Vogošća now. Military police of the 101st Brigade of the so called Army of BiH were in charge of the prisoners in the basement. Commandant of this group at that time was Nedžad Ajnadžić, who was an active military personnel before the war, and now he is Commandant of the First Corps of the so called Army of BiH.

During my imprisonment in the “Viktor Bubanj” barracks, none of the prisoners died under torture. At that time, as far as I

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remember, imprisoned persons were: Nikola Andrić who is in Grbavica now, sentenced to six years in prison, got beaten a lot; Mladen Lubura who was sentenced to five years in prison and exchanged on 15th October 1995 and lives in Ilidža now; Nenad Gvozdenović who was released in an exchange in May of 1994 and lives in Belgrade now; Davor Janjić who was sentenced to one and a half year in prison, he was released in May of 1994 and lives in Belgrade now; Goran Ždralo who was sentenced to three years in prison, he was released in April of 1995 and lives in Ilidža – Doglodi now; Borislav Herak who was sentenced to death and whom I had previously mentioned, he is in the Central Prison now; Sretko Damjanović who was sentenced to death, he is in the Central Prison now; Vuko Bogdanović who was sentenced to two years in prison for an attempt of escape from Sarajevo, he had been captured in prison in Hrasnica with his wife, who was also imprisoned in Hrasnica, they are in Ilidža now; Duško Petrović from Hrasnica, a former FAMOS football player, he is somewhere in Serbia now and he is familiar with everything that happened in prisons in Hrasnica; Božo Džorem, a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses cult, after he was released from prison he was allegedly killed by a grenade together with his wife and child; Novo Tadić who was imprisoned as a soldier of the RS¹⁵ and heavily abused, he is in Vogošća now; Đoko Đokić, around 65 years old, a lunatic who was sentenced for being a sniper and for a rape, he is still in the Central Prison; Zdravko Kekić, a former secretary in the Reljevo MZ¹⁶ in Ilidža, he had a house in Buljakov potok, in June 1992 he was sentenced to one and a half year in prison for possession of a rifle and at the end of 1993 he was sentenced again to five years in prison for the alleged organizing of Serbs, he allegedly lives in Trnovo and he knows much about the sufferings of Serbs in Sarajevo, he was exchanged on 15th October 1995; Petar Mušić – Pero who was sentenced to five years in prison for not reporting the attempt of escape from Sarajevo done by Milenko Radanović – a worker on a gas station, he had a big house in Pofalići and now lives in Zrenjanin – his wife's place of birth, together with their child; Milenko Radanović who was sentenced to 15 years in prison, but his sentence was commuted to a sentence of five years, he is probably in Novi Sad now with his family; Rajko Čvoro, born in 1928, a former worker on a gas station, he was sentenced to five years in prison and lives in Pale now; and Dragan Zelić from Ključ, sentenced to eight years in prison as a member of the Army of RS, he was eerily abused and transferred to the Central Prison where he was murdered on 17th November 1993.

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¹⁵ t/n: the Republic of Srpska

¹⁶ t/n: local community

Since April 1995, the prison in the “Viktor Bubanj” barracks, i.e. the “Ramiz Salčin” has been integrated into the civil central prison under the unique management of the Central Prison. The management and the guards of the prison have been assigned different posts in the barracks, or they have remained in the same positions – but under the management of the Central Prison.

I was transferred to the Central Prison on 1st November 1993. I had spent the first three days on the fifth floor, and then I was moved to the third floor. I was not abused in this prison, unlike the previous prison I had been to. The guards and other prison staff mostly maintained a professional relationship towards the prisoners. People who were beaten were usually individuals who allegedly violated house rules and disturbed peace. A person who stood out in the beatings was Hilmo alias “Kralj” – before the war, he was a guard in Foča, and now he is the officer of the guard in the “Ramiz Salčin” prison. By the way, he used to welcome the prisoners transferred from the barracks’ prison and beat them up. As far as I could notice, there were around 30 convicted Serbs and 50 convicted Muslims. The number varied, and there were people with minor offence charges. The prisoners who committed minor offences and those with minor offence charges were taken to do different kinds of labour in the city.

The worst part was mental abuse and terror conducted in various ways, and it was something I could barely stand. During that time, individual persons were taken to the isolation in cell number five on the third floor. They were subjected to a special treatment there and suffered severe tortures.

On 13th November 1993, the guards called for: Milan Kolak, convicted for murder before the war and a famous prison delator; Mirsad Nimani, an Albanian from Sarajevo, convicted for a murder before the war, also a delator; Haris Ovčina, a multiple convict, junkie and a felon; Đoka Đokić and Dragan Zelić. They took them to the isolation cell – cell number five, without stating reasons for that.

On 17th November 1993, we were informed that Dragan Zelić hanged himself in that cell. However, when he was released from the cell, Haris Ovčina told us, in front of other prisoners, that a

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person who strangled and hanged Zelić was Mirsad Nimani. Zelić had previously been knocked out by “leponex” pills.

At that time, the head of the educational service was Ahmed Elezović from Bihać who was an extreme nationalist and kept a direct contact with delators such as Nimani, Ovčina and Kolak. A few days after Zelić’s hanging, Elezović disappeared from the Central Prison. The prison warden was Meho Sobo, a pre-war judge in Foča and an extreme nationalist. He was replaced on 15th September 1994 by Esad Osmanbegović from Sarajevo, who was a former inspector of the Ministry of Justice. Ten days later, Ahmo Elezević returned to his old work place; i.e. he returned before Osmanbegović became a warden.

On 24th February 1995, Dragan Zelić’s scenario repeated. This time, Jovo Ninković from the settlement of Pionirska Dolina, around 60 years old, was set aside together with the afore mentioned persons. He was transferred to cell number five, which became an infirmary in the meantime. Jovo Ninković died in this room. He was most likely poisoned.

The aforementioned Herak and Damjanović had stayed in the Central Prison, in the cell reserved for the death penalty prisoners – the so called “death cell”, in the separate rooms.

I was released from the Central Prison in an exchange on 26th September 1995, together with Novo Tadić, Dragan Ristović, Alaksa Slavnić and his son Milorad.

Even today, I suffer consequences of torture and abuse I was subjected to in the “Viktor Bubanj” prison and barracks. I have most problems with kidneys. I have kidney issues and I had been urinating blood continuously for about a year and a half. I have difficulty breathing and it is hard for me to move around. The movements in my right hand are limited in the area of my right fist. My wife and my child managed to exit on 20th February 1995 with her documents modified to her maiden name.

I want to mention that, according to my findings, the Security Services Centre in Sarajevo has a list of 4.200 Serbs who are

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forbidden to leave Sarajevo. My wife was on this list, too, but she managed to leave with the documents with her maiden name on them.

Around 20 more Serbs were left in the Central Prison in Sarajevo. They were sentenced to different prison sentences. Three of them were sentenced before the war, for a murder. Except for the aforementioned persons, people who are still in prison are: Savo Ivanović, around 69 years old, convicted to 15 years prison, he has been imprisoned since 1992 and have experienced severe tortures; Čedo Savanović from Kikinda, he was sentenced to five years in prison as a member of the Army of RS, he experienced severe tortures and managed to avoid his eyes being ripped out and other things; Mirko Božić from Velešići, he was sentenced to five years in prison; the aforementioned Đoko Đokić; Milenko Mijatović from Rajlovac, he was sentenced to seven years in prison; Borislav Mitrović who was sentenced in June 1992, he was a former State Security Administration employee; Miroljub Torbica, a former MUP employee who was sentenced to five years in prison, he is in a serious health condition and he is disabled; the triplets Miloš, Nenad and Aleksandar Bokan from Sarajevo, born in 1976, they were sentenced to one and a half year in prison for the attempt of illegal crossing; Ilija Jovetić from Sarajevo who was sentenced to two years for rejecting the mobilisation; Predrag Novaković who was sentenced to two years in prison for an illegal attempt of escape; Predrag Vekić from Sarajevo who was sentenced to two years in prison for the attempt of escape from Sarajevo; Stevo Kostić from Sarajevo who was sentenced to a year and a half in prison for the attempt of crossing to the Republic of Srpska; Branislav Lazić from Sarajevo who was sentenced for an illegal attempt of crossing to the territory of the Republic of Srpska; Branko Arsovski who was sentenced to four months in prison for rejecting to work in the Civil Protection; and Slobodan Jovičić who was sentenced to four months in prison for rejecting to work in the Civil Protection.

This is all I had to say on the previous matters, the record was loudly dictated to me and everything I stated was entered in it; I do not wish to read it, I accept it as my own and as such I sign it.

Examination ended at 11:55 PM.

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JUDGE

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