

## WITNESS STATEMENT

dated 30 August 1994 before investigative judge of the  
Basic court in Zvornik in the criminal proceedings against  
[no entry] due to criminal offence from Article [no entry] of KZ<sup>1</sup>.

Erić Vaso - judge

witness

[no entry]

Mitrović Stana

Recording clerk

Persons present at witness testimony:  
public prosecutor

Testimony began at 17.30 o'clock

I was born in the village of Kušići, where I also lived with my parents. I was a student of secondary school of mechanical engineering. In 1992, during the time of the winter break, I was in the village with my parents.

In the morning on 18 January 1993, the village was suddenly attacked by Muslim armed forces. In that moment, my mother and I were by the stable, intending to feed the livestock. Our neighbour Dragan Marković came and told us to run because Muslims had attacked us. We immediately ran towards the nearby village of Petkovići where my grandmother lived. While we were running, I was wounded below the left hip and I fell. My mother tried to help me, but a big group of Muslims had already come and they trapped us. They led us towards Kušići hill, and as I could not walk, my mother carried me on her back up the hill for about 2km. On the hill, they put us on an oxcart and took us to Srebrenica. They put us in a prison that located was between municipality building and court building.

In the cell where they locked us up, there were Filipović Dostana from Bjelovac, around 50 years of age, and Nikolić Milosava from Kravica, around 60 years of age. The room we were in had an iron door, three little barred windows, wooden floor, two benches, and one heating stove. They gave us one blanket each. They brought me in on stretcher and I lied on it the entire time. The next day and the following few days, they brought women listed below:

- Mitrović Stanija, from Kušići
- Mitrović Milenija, from Kušića

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<sup>1</sup> Translator's note: the Criminal Code

- Stojanka N., from Dvizovića, Skelani municipality
- Mara N., from Dvizovića
- Milka N., "
- Živana N., from Arapovići
- Svetlana, Živana's daughter, primary school student in IV grade
- Ivanka from Žarkovići, Ivanka's grandson Branko, 9 years old
- Danica from Pribojevići.

[signature: Mitrović Stana]

Str. 3

In a conversation we had, Dostana told me that her sister-in-law Goca, who had two young children, was also captured and that she was placed within a Muslim family.

They bandaged my wound only once and gave me a few painkiller pills. My leg was swollen and I could not walk at all.

All women but me they led out for individual interrogations, but they did not beat them, abuse them, or rape them. They complained that they cursed their Chetnik mother and threatened them. Several times they went inside the cell and conducted some interrogation, cursed, threatened that they would take us for slaughtering, and similar to that. On one occasion one of the guards put a gun to Nikolić Milosava's head and threatened that he would kill her first.

The children, Svetlana and Branko, were taken away to sleep within some muslim family, and during the day, they allowed them to come to our cell.

We got food once a day. The bread was made of oats, corn and wheat, and with that little piece of bread, we got bean soup. They gave us minimal amounts of water, depending on the will of the guards. We were not allowed to wash our faces and bathe. We could use the toilet only at a specific time, and sometimes even then they would not let us use it so we had to relieve ourselves in one bucket in the cell.

In the adjacent cell, there were captured men, number of whom I do not know. I heard them wailing and screaming, as well as curses said by guards who beat them with some metal bars. Of the imprisoned men, I saw those who

brought us firewood to the cell so we could keep warm, and they were the following: Ilija Ivanović from Ćosić and another man whose name I do not know. Traces of beating could be seen on them, since their heads were swollen and bruised, and they were hunched and walked with difficulty.

[signature: Mitrović Stana]

Str. 4

I know that my uncle Stanko, born in 1957, who had paralysis of left arm and leg since birth, was imprisoned in that cell. He later told me that they beat him in the head with a gun.

As far as I remember, twenty days after we were captured, they sent Ivanka to take the exchange message, and they held her grandson Branko hostage. However, Ivanka never returned. A few days later, they sent Živana and her daughter Svetlana with the exchange message. However, the two of them never returned either because they were on that instance exchanged for three dead Muslims.

Soon after that, on 6 February 1993, all of us from the cell were exchanged for ten dead Muslim soldiers. With us on the exchange, there were my uncle Stanko, Mara's husband called "Mićan" from Dvizovići, over 50 years of age, and Živana's father-in-law whose name I do not know, but he was an elderly man who was also imprisoned in the adjacent cell. Later I heard that the aforementioned man died of consequences of torturing he went through in prison.

To the exchange, they also brought Anđa, whose last name I do not know, from Petkovci near Zvornik, born in 1965. She told in front of us how she was imprisoned for 5 months in Cerska in one stable, that one man beat her, that she was raped, and that she was pregnant, as well as that they gave her the name "Fata" while she was imprisoned in Cerska.

I do not know any of the guards who stood guard over us except for one whom they called "Budo", but I do not

know his real name or surname. However, some of them I would recognize if I met them.

To our cell, on multiple occasions, came some Zulfo from Sućeska, an older man, who wanted to know if they beat us, abused us, and similar. Naser Orić also came twice and wanted to know the same, and mentioned that he ordered that no one was allowed to beat us.

[signature: Mitrović Stana]

Str. 5

The consequences of wounding and untimely and proper medical help I feel even today. I spent almost four months in the hospital. My leg used to be 5cm shorter, but with great effort of the doctors and wearing casts and weights, it was reduced to 1cm. Since I still do not feel completely well, I must have surgery in Belgrade. Besides, I became psychologically traumatized, so I took tranquilizer pills, and very often I cannot sleep at night because I dream of all those horrific things. I also stopped going to school in II grade of school of mechanical engineering and I could not continue going later.

That is all I had to say, the record was loudly dictated and everything I stated was entered in it, I do not wish to read it, I accept it as my own and sign it.

The testimony ended at 19 o'clock.

[signature: Mitrović Stana]

V e r i f i e d   b y:

Recording clerk:

Investigative judge:

[signature: illegible]