

WITNESS STATEMENT

dated 19 December 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 KZ¹.

Vaso Erić - judge

witness

[no entry]

Vujadinović Miloš

Recording clerk

Persons present at witness testimony:
public prosecutor

I was born in the village of Čumovići where I finished eight grades of primary school in Srebrenica, and later obtained qualifications and operated construction machines. I married Desankom Cvjetinović from the village of Hranče near Bratunac, and we have two sons together. I built a house in the village and lived in it separated from my parents who stayed in the old house.

At the beginning of the war in former BiH, people heard in the village that Muslims were arming themselves and preparing to attack the Serbs, so we started performing certain preparations on that matter for self-defence and protection, because our village was surrounded by Muslim villages. We also made some lists of the potential defenders of the village. On 6 May 1992, Muslims suddenly attacked the Serb village of Gniona near Srebrenica, on which occasion Simić Lazo and Milošević Radojko were killed, and the village was burned and destroyed to the ground. Due to that, us in my village organized village guards for self-defence and protection from the potential Muslim attack.

On 8 May 1992, I heard that Goran Zekić, former MP in the Assembly of the Bosnia and Herzegovina, was killed in ambush, so on 9 May 1992, I went with my neighbour Vujadinović Milinko to Srebrenica to see what happened to Goran, because we knew each other from before and were friends. However, in Srebrenica, I saw that the town was completely empty and I only met Simić Milisav there who told me that after Goran's murder all Serbs left Srebrenica and

¹ Translator's note: the Criminal Code

that people should flee from it as soon as possible.

When we returned to the village, we found there Muslims from the village of Borkovića: Ahmetović Meho, Jusuf, Abdulah, Ahmet, and Kemal. They came to negotiate with us on not attacking each other and keeping each other safe as it was in the past. We made a deal to go the next day to a Muslim village of Bacuta and to also make a deal with them not to attack each other. However, on 10 May 1992, we did not find people on Bacuta with whom we could negotiate so they told us there to return to Borkovići to see Ahmetović Selim, as we did and there we found soldiers of Naser Orić, commander of Muslim armed forces in Srebrenica.

[signature in Cyrillic: Vujadinović Miloš]

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Together with me from Čumovići, there were Vujadinović Milovan and Dušan. Naser's armed soldiers were led by Hasanović Mervudin [sic], who was a mine supervisor in Sase, and there I also recognized Mustafić, whose first name I cannot remember, who owned a storage of materials in Gornji Potočari. I also recognized Šehić Samir, a taxi driver from Potočari. When we met them, instead of negotiating with the residents of Bacuta, Mehrudin Hasanović immediately gave me an ultimatum to within 45 minutes hand over the weapons we had in Čumovići, and would leave Vujadinović Milovan as hostage. It was clear that this was all a game set up by Ahmetović Selim and Meho from Borkovići.

From there to Čumovići, about 3km away, Dušan and I were escorted by six of Naser's armed soldiers, among which I knew Ahmetović Selim and Hadžović Nezir from Borkovići, i.e. Bacute. When we got to Čumovići, I explained the situation in which we were in to the residents, and we concluded that we should hand 7-8 rifles over to the Muslims, mainly hunting rifles and carbines for which we had legal licences, as well as my personal gun, in order to get Milovan who was held hostage. Muslims took those weapons with them to Bacuta, where they also escorted me, Dušan, and Milovan, who was in the meanwhile released. On Bacuta, Naser Orić was waiting for us together with Mirza, his deputy, whose last name I do not know, who is from the village of Budak. Naser gave us some verification on taking away the weapons and he gave my gun back to me.

Actually, I knew Naser personally from before because he was a policeman in Srebrenica prior to the war.

After that, Milovan, Dušan, and I returned to our homes. On 11 May 1992, several families left Čumovići, specifically families Vasiljević, Blagojević, and Ristanović, and moved to safer places, while the Muslims, from 13 to 15 May 1992, burned the hamlets of Čumovići village, specifically Vasiljevići, Rovići, Sijenovo [sic], Osredak, and Vijogor, led by Zulfo Tursunović with his men, and from my house I personally watched those hamlets burn. They took all livestock with them to Potočari and Lekovići, and beforehand they

[signature in Cyrillic: Vujadinović Miloš]

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looted all movable property.

There were no victims because the residents left the village prior to that, except for the murder of Zekić Miloš from the village of Sijemovo, who was, as I heard, murdered by Mešanović Mensur from Babuljica.

From 15 May to 4 June 1992 us in the village were not disturbed or abused by anyone, but we were under constant control of armed Muslims from neighbouring Muslim villages so we could not move anywhere.

On 4 June 1992, Kamenica Sabit, son of Šaban from Borkovići, came to my house. He gave me a note that was allegedly written by Naser Orić, which said that I must hand over three mortars, three bazookas, a radio station, a sniper, and a machine gun, and to bring all that to Selima Ahmetović in Borkovići. I went to Ahmetović Selim's house in Borkovići, unarmed, and there I met Šekić Samir from Potočari, Hasanović Avdo from Likari, Salkić from Budak, whose first name I do not know. I told them that I did not have the weapons they requested, but they responded that they would go back to Čumovići with me and that I must give them the requested weapons by 14 o'clock, and then the aforementioned escorted me back home. When we came to the centre of the village, to the house of Vujadinović Mihajlo, soon other residents, neighbours, gathered, and we once again claimed that we did not possess that weapon. After that, they took me, Vujadinović Rajko, and Milovan to Bacuta and led us into the house of Hasanović

Nezir, probably the place of their command. Besides the aforementioned men, in the house, there were also Hajro Bešić from Bratunac, whom they called "chief", Samir from Potočari, Hadžović Sabahudin from Srebrenica, and one of Meša's sons from Potočari, whose last name I do not know. They separated us, Rajko and Milovan together, and they kept me in that room and I was interrogated by Hajro Bešić. He said that he had lists of our fighters made by us and showed me those papers which I recognized because we, as I mentioned before, made lists of defenders of the village who could be engaged in keeping watch. I do not know how they obtained those lists.

[signature in Cyrillic: Vujadinović Miloš]

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Bešić started interrogating me about those lists and the aforementioned weapons they requested. On that occasion, he put the rifle barrel in my mouth, put a knife under my throat threatening he would slaughter me, put cigarettes out on my arms, and beat me with his fists, rifle butt, kicked me and stomped on me. I was also beaten by Hadžović Sabahudin and Šekić Samir, so I was all swollen and bruised and bloody from the beating. They beat the other two also, and they beat Milovan the most, put cigarettes out on his face and body, rode on him two, three at a time, and made him carry them around the yard, and abused him senseless in other ways, in order for him to confess about the aforementioned weapons. In the meanwhile, Muslims found some weapons in the village, mainly rifles, after which they led all residents, including my parents, wife, and children, to Bacute. They led me out in front of them, all of them lined up beforehand, as they said, so they could shoot them, and ordered me to say good bye to my family and then returned me again to the same room. I saw that in the meanwhile Mirza from Budak, Naser Orić's deputy, arrived. Around 21 o'clock, Naser Orić arrived too, interrogated me and requested the weapons that were on the list. I told him that we in the village of Čumovići never had such weapons nor a radio station, and he said that they would arrest me and escort me to prison in Potočari, as they did. They took us to the prison by tying our hands behind our backs and rope around our necks, put me and Milovan Vujadinović in a truck, since prior to that they released Rajko,

and escorted us to the house of Hadžović Azem in Potočari. We were locked up in a cement warehouse in the house of Azem Hadžović. We spent the night there and with us there were three armed young men, whose names I do not know, who interrogated us. One of the young men I once saved from a landslide during one digging, when he was covered by land, and I pulled him from under it and saved his life. He recognized me and did not allow anyone to beat me that night.

In the morning, around 6 o'clock, one military policeman in uniform came, whose surname I do not know, from Potočari, who was allegedly the chief of police in Potočari.

[signature in Cyrillic: Vujadinović Miloš]

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He said that we would have to go to Čumovići to find the aforementioned weapons, drove us with trucks to Bacuta, and from there we went on foot to the village. He was accompanied by about 40 soldiers. When we got to my house I found my family who returned in the meanwhile, and all valuable things were looted from the house. That is where I found out that those things were looted by Hasanović Enes and his group from Gaj, Potočari. That Amir ordered to return the things taken from my house, which they mainly did.

Since the aforementioned weapons were not found, Amir and his group returned, and until 8 June we were not disturbed. In the meanwhile, to my house came Hasanović Azmir from Lehovići, Dautović Azem, and son of Bećir Hodžić, also from Lehovići, and looted about 100kg of flour and some other groceries from my house.

On 8 June 1992, Muslims attacked Zalazje, and I listened the whole day to the ongoing battle. Around 18 o'clock, Hadžović Nezir and another person from Potočari whom I do not know came to my house on horses and ordered me to go with them to the village cemetery where Naser Orić was waiting for me. When we got there, we found Naser and he ordered me to come with them to Potočari so I would go to Zalazje on the next day and negotiate with the Serb army on the exchange of their killed and wounded Muslim soldiers. I spent the night in one house in Potočar [sic], and in the morning Naser came again. He was accompanied by a person named "Mrki"² from Voljevica, name of whom I do not

² t/n: literal translation of the word is dark

know, and a person called "Miš"³, whose name I also do not know. I was driven to Srebrenica and there they gave me a letter written by Naser Orić personally, and in which he requested to have all wounded and killed soldiers from the battle in Zaladje [sic] delivered to him, and they gave me a van which I was supposed to use to transport those Muslims they requested. I went to the position of the Serb army in Zalazje where I greeted by Rakić Milo, the troop commander, and others. They did not accept the request for delivering the aforementioned Muslims, but instead on the back of that same paper wrote that they would give the killed and wounded Muslims, as well as 40 of their captured soldiers in exchange for the remaining 35 residents of the village of Čumovići who were still there. [signature in Cyrillic: Vujadinović Miloš]

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However, Naser Orić did not accept that and returned me to Zalazje again, sticking to his first request.

I decided not to return to Srebrenica, i.e. my village, again, so I went to Belgrade on a recovery from injuries I got from the beating I mentioned earlier, and on which I was sent by the command of the Army of the Republic of Srpska in Bratunac. After my departure for Belgrade, the negotiations on getting the residents of the village, including my family, out of Čumovići village were continued and were eventually successful, so they all came to Bratunac. The village of Čumovići stayed under Muslim control, and all houses in it were burned after valuable things and furniture were looted from them.

As consequences of beatings and abuse by Muslims, which I listed earlier, even today, I have severe headache, pain in spinal area and kidney area, which are also significantly damaged.

In the village following things were burned: my house with ground floor, first floor, and attic, build in 1986 and fully furnished with all modern appliances, garage, electric mill grinder, two stables, my father's house and other outbuildings. Muslims also drove away the tractor along with tractor-mounted machines that I had, two chainsaws, and various tools. They took away the following livestock: 25 sheep,

³ t/n: literal translation of the word is mouse

four cattle, and nine pigs, which I presume they killed. In my estimation, this property could cost about DEM 500,000.

That is all I had to say on the previous matters, 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.

[signature in Cyrillic: Vujadinović Miloš]

The testimony ended at 20 o'clock.

RECORDING CLERK
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JUDGE
[signature: illegible]