

Witness Hearing Record

Made on 15/06/1997 with the Investigative Judge of the Basic Court in Sokolac in the criminal procedure against N.N. because of the crime described by Article 142 of the Criminal Law.

Investigative - judge W i t n e s s
Đorđa Samojko Novica Buha

Court reporter
Dejana Čvoro

Witness hearing attended by:
Public prosecutor

Defendant

Barrister

Started at 13:00 hours

The witness is warned that he is obliged to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. He is warned about the consequences of giving false testimony, and that he is not obliged to respond to specific questions if it is likely that such responses would expose himself or his loved one a relative to grave shame, substantial material harm or prosecution (Article 229 CPA). To general questions, the witness responds as follows:

- 1) First and last name Novica Buha
- 2) Father's name Krsto
- 3) Occupation machinist
- 4) Place of residence temporary Hotel "Jahorina," Pale, phone XXXXXXXXXX
- 5) Place of birth Gornji Velešići No. 126-B, municipality Novo Sarajevo
- 6) Year of birth 14/01/1955
- 7) Relationship with the defendant and the victim _____

After this, the witness says the following about the subject:

I was born in Gornji Velešići, municipality Novo Sarajevo, with residence there in my family home. I am married to Jovanka, maiden name Kovačević, and with her, I have two children. I was an employee of Unis-Pretis Sarajevo.

Since 1980, I was a reservist in the police station Novo Sarajevo, and I was stationed in the reserve police station in Gornji Velešići. The HQ of this reserve police station was in the building of the Local Community in Velešići, Lovćenska 137-A street. Lately, Nurija Zahiragić has been the commander of this police station, and I was his deputy. This station consisted of 65 total reserve members, out of which only 8 were Serbs.

In Gornji Velešići, around 6-8% of the population were Serbs, the rest were Muslims and a very small number of Croats. Until the 60's, this area was populated by Serbs, and since the 60's, there has been a massive influx of Muslims coming from Sanjak, Višegrad, Rogarica and Goražde.

My parents lived in their family home in Gornji Velešići on the west side of a hill called Hum. Their house was around 300m away from a TV repeater. My sister Dušanka, unmarried and an economist, lived with them. The house that I built in 1972 was on the opposite side of the hill, on the north-east side of the repeater, and around 400m away from my parents' home. Just next to my house, there was my younger brother's house, who had also built his family home and had lived there with his family.

In November 1991, I was drafted into the reserve police, and I was placed in Gornji Velešići. One of the main tasks was to protect the TV repeater and other objects on Hum hill. I did not go to my workplace in the company anymore, but I still received my salary from the company. During this time, I personally witnessed Muslims arming themselves illegally in Gornji Velešići, especially since March 1992. I also saw that Rašid Džebo armed himself with an automatic rifle that he had supposedly received from this party, SDA. In the beginning of April 1992, I saw many Muslims with weapons securing their mosque in Gornji Velešići and on their holiday, Eid al-Fitr, that they celebrated those days, they fired from their weapons in celebration, which is how I concluded that they were massively armed.

On 01.05.1992, a group of around 10 armed men, whom I did not know, came to my house. As they had previously surrounded my house, at their request I had to surrender the weapon that I was handed out, an automatic rifle. The same thing happened to other Serb members of this reserve police unit.

On 16.05.1992, during the early morning hours, the Muslims executed an armed assault on the Serbs in Gornji Pofalići. I spent that morning in my house, which I did not leave the whole day, as I could hear the detonations from Gornji Pofalići that whole time. The next morning, my stepmother Ljubica came to my house and told me that my parents' house had been burned down, and that my father Krsto was missing. Immediately, I went

with my stepmother and my neighbor Rešid Džebo to my parents' house, and I saw that it was burned down to bare walls. I assumed that my father was hiding in the basement and that he died there, so I searched for him, but I did not find him. I returned to my house. In the afternoon, my brother Jovica went with Rešid Džebo, Mensur Trnko and Savo Marić to search for my father. They found the remains of my father who had burned to death in the fire wreckage, on the front porch. They found the burned bones which they placed in a wooden casket and brought to Janko's house.

I want to note that my stepmother told me that the Muslims had raided my house as well on 16.05.1992, that she was scared and ran towards the barn. She hid there, and heard a gunshot in front of the house. She then ran away to a neighbor, Gojko Nikolić, where she stayed the night. She thinks that that was the gunshot that killed my father at his front porch. Later, when I went again to my parents' house, I found two automatic rifle shells, 7.62 cal. made by Igman from Konjic.

I buried the remains of my father at the Poljine cemetery in Sarajevo on 19.05.1992. I left Gornji Velešići that same day I never returned again. After the Dayton Agreement, I moved his remains to the Repca cemetery near Pale.

I do not know who participated in my father's killing, but I later heard that among them there probably was Murat Šabić from Kobilja Glava neighborhood in Sarajevo, who was, before the war, an employee of "Tas."

I assume that Samir Mahir from Gornji Velešići could know who killed my father, as he was present when some Muslims had terrorized my father during the assault on Gornji Pofalići.

I disclose the following information about my brother:

JANKO BUHA, son of father Krsto and mother Staka, maiden Čangalović, born on 10.08.1946 in Sarajevo, a professional driver, worked in the MoI school in Vraca, Sarajevo, married to Lena, maiden Radosavčević, father of two children with permanent residence in Gornji Velešići 126-B.

I tried to find out what happened to him through the international committee of ZK and other relevant institutions, but to no avail.

My sister Radojka lived in the neighborhood Dobrinja II. She was married to Dušan Petrović who was arrested in his apartment by the Muslim police on 24.06.1992. He was incarcerated in private prison "Sunce," then transferred to the prison in "Poljooprema" in Dobrinja, from where he has been missing. Milan Kravić, who was incarcerated in the same prisons could have more information about him. Before the Dayton Agreement, Milan Kravić lived in Vogošća, and I do not know where he lives now. Also, Ilija Kukobrat, who now lives in Vojvodina, phone 025/711-219 and Koviljko Trifunović, now in Novi Sad, phone 021/390-413, could know more.

I disclose the following information about my brother-in-law:

DUŠAN PETROVIĆ, son of father Dimitrije and mother Savka, maiden Borković, born on 04.09.1959 in Gradiška - village Turijak, professional carpenter, worked in Famos from Hrasnica, married to Radojka, maiden Buha, father of two children, had permanent residence in Danka Mitrova 3 street, in Dobrinja II, Sarajevo.

As far as I know, Risto Ristović with his wife, Boro Ristović with his wife Joka and daughter Dušanka, Natalija Božić and her son Predrag with his wife and child are the only Serbs now living in Gornji Velešići.

I want to note that Natalija's husband, Trifko Božić, was arrested in November 1992. He was severely beaten in prisons, and he died on his way from injuries he got while in prison.

I demand that a criminal procedure be conducted against the perpetrators of crimes mentioned above and that they are sentenced accordingly.

That is all I had to say. The record was dictated loudly, and everything I said is clearly written down. I do want to read it, I acknowledge it as my own and I sign it as such.

The hearing completed at 14:30 hours

COURT REPORTER

(signed)

JUDGE

(signed)