



Humanitarian Law Center

Dossier: Camps for Croats in Serbia

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The Dossiers are the product of Humanitarian Law Center's research on possible perpetrators of war crimes and other international crimes committed during the wars of the 1990s on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The Dossiers aim to present to the general public evidence and information on mass crimes whose perpetrators have not yet been brought to justice. The Dossiers urge government institutions to prosecute all those responsible for war crimes, either as perpetrators or order-givers, or on the basis of command responsibility, in order to establish the rule of law and deal with the violent past in post-Yugoslav states.



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Acronyms

DORH	State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
HLC	The Humanitarian Law Center
HDLSKL	Croatian Association of Prisoners in Serbian Concentration Camps
JNA	The Yugoslav Peoples' Army
KOS	Counterintelligence Service
KPD	Penal and Correctional Facility
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
MO	Ministry of Defence
MUP	Ministry of the Interior
OB	Security Organ
OG	Operational Group
OS SFRJ	Armed Forces of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
RSK	Republic of Serbian Krajina
SAO SBZS	Serbian Autonomous District of Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srem
SRJ	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
SSNO	Federal Secretariat for National Defence
TO	Territorial Defence Force
OWCP	Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia
UB	Security Administration
VO	Military District
VP	Military Post
ZNG	Croatian National Guard Corps
ZrL/LRZ	Prisoner-of-War Camp
ŽDO	County State's Attorney's Office
1. pgmd	The 1 st Proletarian Guards Mechanised Division



Summary

On November 18, 1991, after a three-month siege of the city, the Yugoslav Peoples' Army (JNA) took over Vukovar with the assistance of the Serbian Territorial Defence Forces (TO) and military volunteer units. Upon the JNA occupying the city, a large number of members of the Croatian forces, as well as civilians, were captured by the army, including the wounded, women, minors and the elderly, with the intention of exchanging them for the captured JNA members.

The JNA transferred prisoners-of-war by buses and trucks to the territory of Vojvodina where, as early as in September 1991, several camps for prisoners-of-war from the territory of Croatia were established.

According to a research conducted by the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC), the largest camp set up in Serbia was at the Sremska Mitrovica Penal Correctional Facility (KPD). In addition to this camp, there were camps in the Banat villages of Begejci and Stajićevo, in the JNA barracks in Aleksinac, and in the Niš Penal Correctional Facility. In Serbia, there were also smaller “transit” camps and centres, where the detainees stayed for several days before being transferred to some of the larger camps. Although there were more such camps, in this Dossier we have identified facilities in Šid, a military police training centre in Bubanj Potok, and a JNA barracks in Paragovo.

All the camps – except Niš, which was in the area of responsibility of the 3rd Military District (VO) of the JNA -, were within the area of responsibility of the 1st VO of the JNA. The security of the camp was provided by members of the JNA military police. JNA officers were appointed commanders of the camp; however, the real control of the camps was exercised by the Security Administration of the Federal Secretariat for National Defence (UB SSNO).

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Detained civilians and combatants spent between a few days and nine months at the camps. About 7,000 people passed through the camps, and around 3,500 were detained in them for longer periods of time.

The detainees of the camps in Serbia, especially those suspected of being members of the Croatian National Guard Corps (ZNG) or the Croatian Ministry of the Interior (MUP), were exposed daily to mental and physical abuse, and violence and torture, by JNA officers and reserve forces soldiers, members of the TO from the territory of Vukovar, as well as members of the Serb Autonomous Region of Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srem (SAO SBZS) militia who visited the camps. All the inmates were subjected to humiliation and starvation. Sexual abuse was also reported at the camps. At least 14 detainees died as a result of abuse or failure to provide adequate medical care.

The detainees were taken daily to interrogations conducted by UB SSNO officers and JNA security organs (OB), as well as by members of the TO and the SAO SBZS militia, with the presence of camp guards from the JNA military police reserve force. The interrogations were followed by abuse.



The camps in Begejci and Stajićevo were closed in December 1991, when some detainees were exchanged and some were transferred to camps in Sremska Mitrovica, Niš, Aleksinac and Belgrade. The Niš detention camp was closed in February 1992, whilst the detainees in Sremska Mitrovica and the Military Investigation Centre (VIZ) in Belgrade remained open until mid-August 1992, when the exchange of prisoners was organised on an "all for all" basis.

In May 2008, the Vukovar 1991 Association and the HLC filed a criminal complaint with the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor (OWCP) stating the names, surnames or nicknames of 54 commanders and guards at camps in Serbia – the KPD Sremska Mitrovica, KPD Niš, VIZ in Belgrade, and camps in Begejci and Stajićevo. Two years later, the Deputy Prosecutor for War Crimes stated that pre-trial proceedings were underway, but to date, only one person has been convicted in Serbia for crimes committed at camps on the territory of Serbia.

The Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) charged Slobodan Milošević with setting up camps for Croats in Serbia and imprisoning civilians and prisoners-of-war there. These acts qualify as crimes against humanity, violations of the laws or customs of war, and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions. The ICTY Prosecution also charged Goran Hadžić with illegally detaining Croats and other non-Serbs in inhumane conditions in several detention facilities in Serbia. These proceedings were not completed because both Milošević and Hadžić died before the proceedings ended.

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The data used in this Dossier come from three main sources. The first source has been witnesses - former detainees at camps in Serbia, who gave statements to HLC researchers and the Croatian Association of Prisoners in Serbian Concentration Camps (HDLSKL), which provided statements to the HLC. The second source are authentic documents of the JNA and SAO SBZS authorities used as evidence in the *Hadžić, Milošević, Mrkšić et al., Dokmanović* and *Šešelj* Cases before the ICTY. In addition to the documents of the JNA and SAO SBZS, the Dossier also relies on the testimonies of former inmates, of officers of the JNA and UB SSNO at the time, and members of the TO and MUP SAO SBZS, before the ICTY, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Higher Court in Belgrade, and the judicial authorities of the Republic of Croatia, and before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case of former detainees claiming for damages against the Republic of Serbia. The third source is information obtained upon request for access to information of public importance. More than 30 requests for access to information of public importance have been submitted. Most of the requests were sent to the Ministry of Defence (MO), while a few were addressed to municipalities, communal services, and the Commission on Missing Persons. In a large number of cases, the MO refused to provide the requested information, claiming its right to secrecy or stating that they did not have such information. In addition to the above-mentioned sources, relevant media reports were also used.



I. Introduction

During the summer and autumn of 1991, the 1st JNA Military District (VO) - divided into two Operational Groups (OG) - OG South and OG North, together with the Territorial Defence Force (TO) and the SAO SBZS militia -, conducted a series of military actions and attacks to take over cities and villages in Eastern Slavonia and to close the ring around Vukovar.¹ Around 15,000 JNA members were deployed in the wider Vukovar area, with a maximum of 1,800 Croatian forces opposing them within the city.²

From the end of the summer, Vukovar was under siege by the JNA and other Serb forces³, which cut off water and electricity supplies to Vukovar. From July to November 1991, the JNA shelled Vukovar on a daily basis, forcing the majority of the population to live in basements, shelters and cellars.⁴ During the siege, a large number of civilians were killed and the city suffered extensive material damage.⁵

II. The fall of Vukovar and the capture of detainees

After three months of combat between the JNA and Croatian forces, mostly members of the National Guard Corps (ZNG) and the Croatian MUP, the JNA, along with the TO and the volunteer units it controlled, occupied Vukovar on November 18, 1991.⁶ The last sector of Vukovar - Mitnica -, surrendered after two hours of negotiations in the afternoon of November 18, 1991.⁷

After the JNA's success in occupying each sector of the city, most civilians surrendered to the JNA, after months spent in basements and shelters. The JNA and members of the TO and military volunteer units took civilians out of the basements, arrested them and took them collection centres formed in the city, where they were detained for several days.⁸ The largest collection centres for Vukovar civilians, as well as for captured members of the Croatian Armed Forces, were in the warehouses of the companies "Veļepromet" and "Borovo komerc", and on the "Ovčara" agricultural farm.

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1 ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, paras. 34-37; Dossier: The JNA in the Wars in Croatia and BiH, HLC, pp. 27-30, available at: http://www.hlc-rdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Dosije_JNA_eng_inter.pdf.

2 Testimony of Mark Wheeler before the ICTY in the *Dokmanović* Case of 20 January 1998, pp. 207-208; ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 33.

3 Testimony of Imre Agotić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of November 21, 2005, p. 2022; ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 37.

4 The ICRC representatives referred to the people of Vukovar as "mushroom people", because of the time they had spent in basements and shelters, see: ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 57.

5 Testimony of Binazija Kolesar before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of October 31, 2005, pp. 917-920; ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 56.

6 ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 54.

7 *Ibid.*, paras. 146-147.

8 *Ibid.*, paras. 140, 142; Statement of the witness Z.Š. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Z.C. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness R.A. given to the HLC, March 2003; Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of 4 March 2003, p. 17306.



Negotiations on the surrender of members of Croatian forces from Mitnica, the last part of the city of Vukovar occupied by the JNA, began concurrently with the final struggle to seize the city. Representatives of the JNA, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the ZNG participated in the negotiations, held in the Vučedol area, near Mitnica. On 18 November 1991, 181 members of the Croatian forces surrendered at Mitnica.⁹

Following the surrender of Croatian troops at Mitnica, it was agreed at the negotiations that the JNA would allow the departure of more than 4,000 civilians into Croatian-controlled territory.¹⁰

Despite the agreement on the evacuation of the civilian population to areas under the control of Croatian forces, the JNA transferred a large number of civilians, together with Croatian soldiers, first to collection centres in the city - to Velepromet or Ovčara -, and then to Serbia (Sremska Mitrovica, Begejci and Stajićevo), to camps and transit centres that were formed back in mid-September 1991.¹¹

Convoys of buses and trucks with detained Croatian soldiers and civilians left Vukovar on November 18, 19 and 20, 1991¹², accompanied by military police and with at least one armed person on each bus.¹³ The convoys were moving in different directions - through Šid and Novi Sad or through Bogojevo towards Sremska Mitrovica and the camps in Banat.¹⁴ The convoy that went across Trpinja and Vera to the Bogojevo bridge was stopped several times on the way to Serbia, and the prisoners were taken out and beaten. At the Bogojevo bridge, all the prisoners were ordered to get off the bus, after which a group of soldiers in the reserve forces beat them.¹⁵

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9 ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, paras. 145-147; Transcript of negotiations between Borsinger, Colonel Nebojša Pavković and Major Stupar, exhibit no. 00832, *Mrkšić et al.* Case, p. 8; Statement of the witness Z.K. given to the HLC, January 2003.

10 On 18 November 1991, the Croatian authorities returned at least one convoy of 16 civilian buses to the OG South area of responsibility, see: ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 160; Transcript of negotiations between Borsinger, Colonel Nebojša Pavković and Major Stupar, exhibit no. 00832, *Mrkšić et al.* Case, p. 8.

11 ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 158.

12 *Ibid*, para. 160.

13 Statement of the witness B.U., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness D.K., February 2006, the HLC Archive; Statement of the witness O.K., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness B.B. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003.

14 Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006; Statement of the witness I.Š. given to the HLC, January 2005; Statement of the witness Z.C. given to the HLC, March 2003.

15 Crime at the Erdut-Bogojevo Bridge (Defendant *Đorđe Stojaković*) - Hearing Reports from October 5 and 6, 2015, pp. 1-5, available at <https://www.documenta.hr/assets/files/Sudjenja%20u%20tijeku/Izvj%C5%A1taj-s-rasprave-5.-i-6.-listopada-2015.pdf>, accessed March 5, 2020 (only available in Croatian); Statement of H.Š. given to the HLC in January 2003.



Prior to their arrival at the camps, the captured men were separated from the women and children. The separation was usually enforced in Vukovar, just before the boarding of buses and trucks, but also during the trip to Serbia.¹⁶

Most of the detainees at the camps on the territory of Serbia were civilians of Croatian nationality from Borovo, Vukovar, Borovo naselje and smaller settlements around Vukovar. Besides men, there were women, children, wounded, elderly and infirm at the camps. A small number of Croats from Vojvodina, or Croatian citizens arrested on the territory of Vojvodina, were also detained at camps in Serbia, as well as a number of Serbs, mostly military deserters.¹⁷

The detained Croatian civilians and soldiers spent from a few days to several months in transit centres and camps in Serbia, during which time they were transferred from one camp to another several times.¹⁸ In all these facilities, detainees were subjected to torture, inhumane treatment, humiliation and starvation.

Against a number of detained members of the ZNG and the Croatian Ministry of the Interior, the Military Prosecutor's Office filed indictments for armed rebellion, as well as for the crimes against the Serb population in Vukovar; they were tried before the Military Court in Belgrade.¹⁹ However, most of the inmates spent several months in captivity without knowing the reason for their detention, and without an indictment being filed against them.²⁰

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III. Formation of the camps on the territory of Serbia

According to the testimony of the then head of the UB SSNO, General Aleksandar Vasiljević, the first camp on the territory of Serbia was formed on the basis of an oral order of the Federal Secretary for National Defence, Veljko Kadijević, issued on September 14, 1991. Pursuant to that order, the command of the 1st VO of the JNA established a camp in the middle of September 1991 in

16 Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness M.D., February 2006, HLC Archive; Hearing Records of J.M. before the Vukovar Municipal Court of December 8, 2010, HLC Archive; Hearing Records of M.D. before the Vukovar Municipal Court of December 8, 2010, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness E.K., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Z.R., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness B.B. given to HDLSKL, January 2003, HLC Archive.

17 Testimony of C-1160 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of September 17, 2003, p. 26806; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, pp. 8200-8209; Statement of the witness I.P. given to the HLC, November 2018; Statement of the witness Lj.K. given to the HLC, November 2018; Witness Hearing Record of Aleksandar Vasiljević conducted by the Investigating Judge of the Military Court in Belgrade dated January 19, 1999, HLC Archive, p. 8.

18 Statement of the witness D.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003.

19 *Martin Sabljic et al.* Case, HLC Archive; *Marko Filiković et al.* Case, HLC Archive; Indictment of the Military Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade against *Kračak Franjo et al.* dated March 12, 1992, HLC Archive.

20 Statement of the witness V.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003.



an abandoned hunting lodge on the outskirts of Begejci²¹ in the Žitište municipality.²² Even though Vasiljević claimed that prior to Kadijević's oral order, the JNA had not set up any camps or collection centres, a number of captured civilians and combatants from the vicinity of Vukovar testified that they had already been captured and placed in the JNA barracks in Bujanj Potok in early September, from where they were transferred to Begejci in early October 1991.²³

In addition to the camps, on the territory of Serbia, in September 1991, the command of the 1st VO of the JNA formed several transit centres for the accommodation of captured members of the Croatian forces. Thus, the "Directive of the Commander of the 1st VO for the operation in Slavonia", of September 19, 1991, provided for the escort of captured members of the Croatian forces to the "collection centres (ZrL) [designation for prisoners-of-war camps] in the villages of Stejanovci (Ruma) and Šikara (Sombor).²⁴ The Directive of the Commander of the 1st VO did not provide for the arrest and capture of civilians.

The military and political leadership of the then federal state spoke of these facilities as collection centres²⁵, thus denying the existence of camps on the territory of Serbia. However, in the operational reports of the security and command authorities, as well as in the Directive²⁶, the name LRZ [prisoner-of-war camp] was used for some of them.²⁷

21 The name of Begejci was renamed in 2001 and is now called Torak: see the Decree on changing the name of the settlement Begejci to Torak: 24/2001-19 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2001/24/1/reg>, accessed March 5, 2019 (only available in Serbian).

22 Testimony of Aleksandar Vasiljević before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 2, 2013, pp. 7936-7937.

23 *Ibid*, p. 7938; Indictment of the Osijek County State Attorney's Office against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, pp. 43-45; Statement of Josip Kosturik, cited from: "Path of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 92; Statement of Šandor Šileš, cited from "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 95.

24 The ZrL designation was used for prisoner-of-war camps. The Directive of the Commander of the 1st VO for the operation in Slavonia of September 19, 1991 exhibit no. 00695, *Mrkšić et al.*, p. 7.

25 Testimony of Zoran Lilić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of July 9, 2003, pp. 23966-24007; Testimony of Stjepan Mesić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of October 2, 2002, pp. 10674-10675; Serbia: Stajićevo and Begejci in the "drawers" of the Prosecutor's Office, *RFE*, March 10, 2011, available at: https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/srbija_logori_stajicevo_begejci/2334194.html, accessed April 2, 2020 (only available in Serbian); "A collection centre is not the same as a POW camp. It is a place where persons are detained until their identity is established and whether they are civilians or members of the enemy's armed formations.", See: Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 165.

26 The Directive of the Commander of the 1st VO for the operation in Slavonia of September 19, 1991 exhibit no. 00695, *Mrkšić et al.*, p. 7.

27 The November 1991 OB gmtbr report states: "By checking the information on the indicated stay of Suman Nebojša in the 'Intercontinental Hotel' in Belgrade, we found that the said person was conducted to LRZ Begejci by the military police of the 1st VO", See in: A transcript of the operational report OB Gmtbr submitted to the SSNO Security Administration on November 10, 1991, exhibit no. P02285.2284, *Hadžić*; In November 1991, the 1st VO informed the Headquarters of the SFRY Armed Forces that "the 33rd LRZ had been formed in the Zrenjanin garrison (village of Stajićevo)", see: Daily operational report of the 1st VO of November 22, 1991 exhibit no. 00736, *Mrkšić et al.*



All camps established on the territory of Serbia, except for the camp in Niš, were in the zone of responsibility of the 1st VO of the JNA.²⁸ Until the second half of September 1991, Colonel General Aleksandar Spirovski was at the head of the 1st VO, after which Colonel General Života Panić was appointed to that position.²⁹

On September 15, 1991, the 1st VO Command also formed a commission for “identification, security and regulation of status issues of persons deprived of their liberty in conflicts on the territory of the Republic of Croatia.”³⁰ This Commission, composed of JNA 1st VO officers, was tasked with making records of persons deprived of their liberty, as well as determining the places of detention of these persons, the manner of their placement, and the manner of their material and financial accommodation, as well as their exchange.³¹ JNA officer Colonel Mihajlo Stakić was in charge of the Commission, and his deputy was Lieutenant-Colonel Dušan Vinčić; and the members of the Commission were Lieutenant-Colonel Božidar Stanimirović and Captain First Class Siniša Kutlača.³² The formation of commissions was also planned in the commands of the 4th, 5th, 12th and 17th Corps of the JNA, as well as in the command of the 1st Proletarian Guards Mechanised Division (1st pgmd).³³

On September 24, 1991, the 1st VO Command issued an “Instruction on the treatment of persons who finds themselves under the authority of JNA units in the internal armed conflict in the territory of the 1st VO.”³⁴ The Instruction provided that “the placement of persons deprived of their liberty should be in collection centres whose location within their area of responsibility is determined by the corps commander and the commander of the 1st VO.”³⁵ Further, according to the Instruction, it was stipulated that “the external and internal security of the collection centres shall be carried out by military police units.”³⁶

Aleksandar Vasiljević, in a statement given to the ICTY Prosecutor's Office, stated that the commanders of the collection centres were determined and appointed by the 1st VO Command, and

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28 The 1st VO with its headquarters in Belgrade, spread to the eastern parts of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, central and northern Serbia, as well as Vojvodina. The 4th Corps, the 17th Corps, the 12th Corps, the 1st Proletarian Mechanised Division, the 5th Corps, the 24th Corps and the 37th Corps of the JNA were subordinated to it. At the end of September 1991, the Guards Motorised Brigade was reassigned to the 1st VO. See: Combined report for case IT-04-75 of Goran Hadžić and SAO SBZS/TO RSK SVK (1991-1993) Reynaud Theunens, exhibit no. P01753, *Hadžić*, p. 82 and p. 167; Testimony of Bogdan Vujić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of February 20, 2006, p. 4596.

29 Combined report for case IT-04-75, Goran Hadžić, and SAO SBZS/TO RSK SVK (1991-1993), Reynaud Theunens, exhibit no. P01753, *Hadžić*, p. 167. Života Panić died in Belgrade in 2003, see: Gen. Života Panić, 70, Former Head of Yugoslav Army, *Los Angeles Times*, November 22, 2003 <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2003-nov-22-me-passings22.2-story.html>, accessed January 28, 2020.

30 Command Order of the 1st VO strictly confidential, no. 5-86 of September 15, 1991, *Hadžić*, exhibit no. P02921.

31 *Ibid.*

32 *Ibid.*

33 *Ibid.*

34 Instructions on the treatment of persons who are in the power of JNA units in connection with internal armed conflicts on the territory of the 1st VO, dated September 24, 1991, exhibit no. D00101, *Hadžić*.

35 *Ibid.*, p.4, art. 4.

36 *Ibid.*, p.4, art. 5.



that the UB was not responsible for their formation and operation.³⁷ However, the testimonies of these camps detainees clearly point to the fact that Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Živanović, Head of the Department for General and Office Affairs at the UB SSNO, was in charge of these camps.³⁸

The UB SSNO sent to the detention camps the Security Organ (OB) operational groups responsible for identifying persons on admission to prison camps, conducting informative interviews with captured persons, and reporting to the UB SSNO on this matter.³⁹

In his statement before the Military Court, Vasiljević confirmed that there was also a SSNO Commission for the records of prisoners; the Commission was headed by the Assistant of the Deputy Federal Secretary for National Defence, Major General Milan Pujić, who received notices from camp commanders.⁴⁰

By an order dated November 20, 1991, the 1st VO Command established a camp in the village of Stajićevo near Zrenjanin, and a day later one in Sremska Mitrovica, as part of the Penal and Correctional Facility (KPD).⁴¹ At the same time, owing to the lack of places in these camps, a number of detainees were sent to KPD Niš.⁴²

According to the testimony of the head of the UB SSNO, Aleksandar Vasiljević, the unit assigned to secure the collection centres, i.e. the prisoner-of-war camps in Begejci and Stajićevo, was from Čačak; within this unit, "in accordance with the war formation there was a [...] military police platoon."⁴³

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In its research, the HLC found that the guards and keepers at the camps were members of the reserve forces of the JNA military police, while the persons interviewing the detainees were JNA officers, as well as members of the TO and the SAO SBZS militia.

37 Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, paras. 165-166.

38 Statement of the witness M.K. given to the HLC, May 2008; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness B.V. given to the HDLSKL, November 2002; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002; Statement of the witness D.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 33.

39 Engagement of OBs at POW camps from October 10, 1991, exhibit no. P03196, *Hadžić*.

40 Witness Hearing Record of Aleksandar Vasiljević conducted by the Investigating Judge of the Military Court in Belgrade dated January 19, 1999, HLC Archive, p. 8.

41 Formation and organisation of the work of the Collection Center in the village of Stajićevo, Municipal Assembly of Zrenjanin: order dated November 20, 1991, *Hadžić*, exhibit no. P03198; Order of the 1st VO for the formation and organisation of the work of the Collection Center at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD dated November 21, 1991, exhibit no. P03199 *Hadžić*.

42 Statement of the witness A.K. given to HDLSKL, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness J.V. given to HDLSKL, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness M.G. given to HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

43 Witness Hearing Record of Aleksandar Vasiljević conducted by the Investigating Judge of the Military Court in Belgrade dated January 19, 1999, HLC Archive; Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 165.



In mid-December 1991, Aleksandar Vasiljević visited the camps in Stajićevo and Begejci and determined the conditions "in these facilities were inhumane, because it was extremely cold, and there was no adequate heating in the facilities", after which these camps were closed and the detainees transferred to Sremska Mitrovica KPD and Niš KPD.⁴⁴

IV. Transit centres

Starting September 1991, in Serbia, the command of the 1st VO of the JNA established several transit centres where civilians and members of the Croatian forces were detained for a few hours up to a few days, after which they would be transferred to one of the camps, sent to zones under the control of the Croatian forces, or taken for the exchange.⁴⁵

According to the testimony of Ivan Grujić, former President of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for Detainees and Missing Persons, several such centres were to be found in the territory of Serbia. According to this Office, the places of detention were various facilities in Šid, the Central Prison in Belgrade, Novi Sad, the prison in Valjevo, Padinska Skela, Sombor, Bujanj Potok, Odžaci, Subotica, Vršac, Ečka, Ruma, and Zaječar.⁴⁶

Detained Croats testified, in statements given to the HLC and in proceedings before the ICTY, about being taken to Stejanovci, not far from Ruma, where the 1st VO command had established a prisoner-of-war camp, as well as in the JNA barracks in Paragovo, not far from Novi Sad.⁴⁷

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i. Šid

In September 1991, the captured residents of Tovarnik were transferred to a military prison established at a sports centre in Šid.⁴⁸ After that, they were transferred to different locations around Šid, and some of them to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD, and then, in early October 1991, they were returned to Tovarnik and imprisoned in the home of a local resident.⁴⁹

44 In a statement given to the ICTY Prosecution, Vasiljević states: "My opinion was that the conditions in these facilities were inhumane because it was extremely cold, and there was no adequate heating in the facilities. I conveyed my observations to the Supreme Command Headquarters and the prisoners were then transferred to correctional facilities (KP) in Sremska Mitrovica and Niš, where conditions were better." See: Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 165.

45 Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, pp. 17304-17305.

46 *Ibid*, pp. 17304-17305.

47 Statement of the witness I.P. given to the HLC, November 2018; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HLC, January 2003; Testimony of C-1160 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of September 17, 2003, pp. 26830-26837; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, pp. 8205-8207; Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3985.

48 Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3543.

49 Statement of Sanja Mijoković, stated according to: "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 200.



In November 1991, captured civilians from Vukovar were brought by members of the JNA and TO to the sports centre in Šid, where they spent a couple of hours, one night at most, after which they were transferred to camps in Stajićevo and Begejci.⁵⁰

In the evening hours of November 18, 1991, a convoy of buses with civilians and combatants from Vukovar set off for Sremska Mitrovica. The convoy was stopped upon entering Serbia, near the highway to Belgrade, and police inspected the buses. Members of the JNA military police and several members of the TO separated four Croatian soldiers from the bus and beat them for about four hours. At about 7 a.m., they were transferred to the Branjevina orchard near Šid, where there was a military kitchen. They were again ill-treated, and then taken to the Russian palace in Šid, from where they were transferred to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD after a few hours.⁵¹

ii. JNA barracks in Bujanj Potok

In early September 1991, the JNA transferred a number of captured local Croats, civilians and combatants from Tovarnik, Berak, Šarengrad and other villages around Vukovar⁵², to the JNA military police training centre in Bujanj Potok, not far from Belgrade.⁵³

During their stay at the Bujanj Potok barracks, the detainees were subjected to mental and physical abuse by members of the JNA Military Police Reserve.⁵⁴

The detainees were lodged in three military dormitories with 20 or 30 beds each.⁵⁵

Reserve forces soldiers and members of the JNA military police beat detainees with rifle butts and batons. They also kicked them with heavy military boots. They were especially harassed when they went to the W.C. in the building across from the dormitories.⁵⁶ “When they took me, they used to grab me by the hair and put a gun against my neck, and others would beat me with a stick and a butt. It was a ‘part and parcel’ with the W.C.. And in the W.C., they would continue to beat me with anything and everything. When four of them beat you, then they can hit you really hard.”⁵⁷

50 Statement of the witness M.P. given to the HLC, March 2006; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness G.B. given to the HLC, May 2006.

51 Statement of the witness M.Č. given to the HLC, March 2003.

52 Statement of Josip Kosturik, cited according to the “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 92; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 33.

53 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 33.

54 Statement of Josip Kosturik, cited according to the “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, pp. 92-94; Statement of Šandor Šileš cited according to the “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, pp. 95-97; Witness statement of B.H., Memorial of the Republic of Croatia, vol II, *Croatia v. Yugoslavia*, ICJ, p. 226.

55 Telephone conversation with witness J.K. on February 25, 2020.

56 Statement of Josip Kosturik, cited from “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 92; Statement of Šandor Šileš, cited from “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 95.

57 Statement: milj 36, cited from “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 98.



According to the testimonies of former detainees before the Croatian judicial authorities, one person died as a result of abuse at the Bubanj Potok barracks.⁵⁸

Among the members of the military police, the detainees singled out Sergeant Safet Bešlija as particularly brutal.⁵⁹ The HLC has sent a request for access to information of public importance to the Ministry of Defence (MO) to collect information on Safet Bešlija's military engagement.⁶⁰ The MO states in its reply that Safet Bešlija is not a citizen of the Republic of Serbia and therefore the MO has no information on his involvement.⁶¹

From the military barracks in Bubanj Potok, captured civilians and combatants were taken by JNA members in groups of two or three to the JNA barracks in Topčider for interrogation.⁶² The interrogations were recorded by cameras.⁶³

At the beginning of October 1991, about 26 detainees were transferred from the JNA barracks in Bubanj Potok to the Begejci camp in a civilian bus.⁶⁴

iii. JNA barracks in Paragovo

In the autumn of 1991, members of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior arrested Croats in the area of Vojvodina; after questioning them at the police stations, they would take them to the JNA barracks in Paragovo, near Novi Sad, where they handed them over to the military police. Among those arrested were Croats from Vojvodina, arrested on charges of espionage or refusing to mobilise⁶⁵, as well as Croatian citizens travelling through Serbia.⁶⁶ In November 1991, there were more than ten detainees in the Paragovo barracks.⁶⁷

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58 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 16.

59 Statement of Branko Šimunić, cited according to the "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 61; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, pp. 16-17.

60 Request for access to information of public importance was submitted to the MO on March 12, 2019, HlcIndexOut: 170-F137238.

61 Response of the MO no. 3426-4 dated April 4, 2019.

62 Statement of Josip Kosturik, cited from: "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 92; Statement of Šandor Šileš, cited from "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 95.

63 Statement of Šandor Šileš, cited according to the "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 95; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 44.

64 Statement: milj 36, cited according to: "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 99.

65 Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3952; Testimony of C-1160 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case, pp. 26817-26819.

66 Testimony of C-1160 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of September 17, 2003, p. 26806.

67 Testimony of C-1160 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of September 17, 2003, p. 26807; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8206; Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3951.



The barracks in Paragovo was under the control of the JNA military police.⁶⁸

The cell where the detainees were lodged was five square meters in size and was located in the basement of one of the buildings.⁶⁹ There were bars on the door.⁷⁰ The prisoners slept on a board made of planks.⁷¹ JNA military officers were monitoring the cell from the outside.⁷²

The detainees were physically abused. Military police officers forced them to push their hands through the bars, so they could beat them with batons. During the night, they would wake them up every hour or two, and force them to stand in a cell.⁷³ They were not allowed to make conversation.⁷⁴ Some had blankets pulled over their heads.⁷⁵ In the morning, they were taken out into the yard, where they stood lined up with their heads down and their hands behind their backs for several hours. After that, they had to clean the barracks.⁷⁶ Detainees at Paragovo were not told why they had been arrested and imprisoned.⁷⁷

Detainees at Paragovo were questioned by the JNA officers about the reasons for their journey, about persons from the military structures of the Croatian forces and some persons from their environment.⁷⁸ The officers did not introduce themselves, but the detainees recognised the signs of their ranks on the uniforms they were wearing, and testified that they had been interrogated by majors and a JNA lieutenant.⁷⁹ According to the testimony of Mladen Lončar, a psychiatrist from Ilok who spent three days in Paragovo, he was questioned by officers of the Counter-Intelligence Service (KOS)⁸⁰, i.e. the OB.⁸¹

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68 Testimony of C-1160 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of September 17, 2003, p. 26807; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, pp. 8205-8207; Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3985.

69 Testimony of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, p. 9; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8205.

70 *Ibid.*

71 Testimony of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, pp. 9-10; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8206.

72 Testimony of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, pp. 9-10; Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3985.

73 Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8206.

74 Testimony of C-1160 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of September 17, 2003, p. 26835.

75 Statement of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, pp. 9-10.

76 Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3951.

77 Testimony of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, p. 10; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8205.

78 Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Martić* Case of June 12, 2006, p. 5467; Statement of the witness C-1160, exhibit no. 542.1A, *Milošević* Case, p. 10.

79 Statement of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, p. 11; Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3985; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8206.

80 In 1955, the Counter-intelligence Service was renamed Security Organs, see: Military Security Agency - History, available at: http://www.mod.gov.rs/eng/4340/vojnobebezbednosna-agencija-istorijat-4340?fbclid=IwAR0FCUsLZS_b2C-DKXUWuDOswVk9fZt1at63K1q_1qbU-02ykovX-U_dA, accessed March 25, 2020.

81 Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8207.



After several days of interrogations, detainees from Paragovo were transferred to the camp in Begejci.⁸²

V. Begejci Camp

The settlement of Begejci is located in the municipality of Žitište. It is about 155 kilometres away from Vukovar.

i. Formation of the camp

The Begejci camp was established on September 16, 1991, following orders from the command of the 1st VO of the JNA.⁸³ The command of the 12th Corps of the JNA, the so-called Novi Sad Corps⁸⁴, led by Major-General Mladen Bratić, was in charge of forming this camp. After he was killed in November 1991⁸⁵, Major-General Andrija Biorčević was appointed head of the Novi Sad Corps.⁸⁶

The commander of the camp in Begejci was Lieutenant-Colonel Nikola Petrović from the Zrenjanin garrison.⁸⁷ Nikola Petrović passed away on December 21, 1991.⁸⁸

Despite the formal appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Nikola Petrović as camp commander, detainees at the Begejci camp testify that Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Živanović from the UB SSNO, who was seen at the camp and who presented himself as camp commander, had the real authority over the camp.⁸⁹

According to the statement made by Aleksandar Vasiljević before the ICTY Prosecutor's Office, the military unit of the 33rd prisoner-of-war camp in Čačak was in charge of securing this facility.⁹⁰

82 Statement of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, p. 11; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8209.

83 Testimony of Aleksandar Vasiljević before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 2, 2013, p. 7938; "Wild guests of the tame plain", *Zrenjanin*, issue no. 2058, October 18, 1991, p. 3; Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, par. 3469.

84 Testimony of Aleksandar Vasiljević before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 2, 2013, p. 7938.

85 SSNO Bulletin No 82, exhibit no. 00755, *Mrkšić et al.*, p. 6.

86 Testimony of Milomir Kovačević before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of June 10, 2013, p. 5412; Testimony of Reynaud Theunens before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 13, 2013, p. 4538.

87 Ivan Bajer Bato's Certificate dated December 3, 1991, HLC Archive.

88 "Wild guests of the tame plain", *Zrenjanin*, October 18, 1991; "Eight Lives for a Thousand Marks", *Zrenjanin*, October 25, 1991; "Exchanged for Soldiers and Serbs", *Zrenjanin*, December 13, 1991; Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2003 and April 17 and 19, 2003, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, p. 59. Nikola Petrović passed away on December 21, 1991. Response of the MO no. 4178-2 dated April 12, 2019.

89 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8213; Statement of the witness D.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3477.

90 Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 165.



ii. Detainees

In the first half of October 1991, the first detainees, civilians and combatants of the Croatian forces from Berak, Šarengrad, Opatovac, Ilok, Tovarnik and Valpovo arrived in Begejci from the JNA barracks in Bubanj Potok.⁹¹ At the beginning of October 1991, Croats from Vojvodina were brought to Begejci; they were arrested by the Serbian Ministry of the Interior on charges of espionage, and then handed over to the JNA military police.⁹²

From November 11, Croatian civilians from the Velepromet collection centre were being brought to the camp in Begejci. These were mostly civilians from the Vukovar settlements “Boško Buha”, “Švapsko naselje”, and elsewhere, which the JNA, together with the TO and volunteer units, occupied on November 8 and 9; but also locals from other parts of Vukovar, who were taken to Velepromet during October.⁹³

A third large group of prisoners arrived at the camp in several buses, following the surrender of Croatian civilians and combatants on November 20 in Borovo.⁹⁴

Two foreign persons alleged to be from Sri Lanka were also detained at the Begejci camp.⁹⁵

The guards called the group of detainees who were the first to be brought to the camp in Begejci “the pioneers”.⁹⁶ This group was forced to work on clearing the space around the building. They dug holes for toilets, cleaned and removed bushes, and placed poles and wire around the camp.⁹⁷

91 Statement of the witness H.Š. given to HLC in January 2003; Testimony of Stipan Kraljević before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of June 4, 2013, p. 5356, pp. 5365-5367; Testimony of Božo Perićić before the Higher Court in Belgrade in the *Lovas* Case of May 27, 2011, pp. 7-8; Testimony of Ivanka Grgić before the Higher Court in Belgrade in the *Lovas* Case of May 27, 2011, p. 27; Statement of witness GH-085 before the ICTY of February 14, 1996, exhibit no. P02993, *Hadžić*, p. 9; Statement of witness K.M. Memorial of Croatia, vol II, *Croatia v. Yugoslavia* ICJ, p. 115; Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3344.

92 Statement of witness I.P. given to HLC, November 2018; “Wild guests of the tame plain”, *Zrenjanin*, October 18, 1991.

93 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006; Statement of the witness G.B. given to the HLC, May 2006; Statement of the witness K.K. given to the HLC, May 2006; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness M.P. given to the HLC, March 2006; Statement of the witness A.R.S. given to the HLC, May 2006; Statement of the witness O.K., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness B.B., January 2005, HLC Archive.

94 Statement of the Ž.M., February 2006, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006.

95 Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3964; Statement of witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 6, 2013, p. 8241.

96 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 6, 2013, p. 8240.

97 *Ibid*; Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3471; “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, pp. 37, 45.



About 37 women were detained at the Begejci camp, some of whom were lodged in a separate room with the wounded, and some in a barn.⁹⁸ Also minors and people older than 85 were detained at the camp in Begejci.⁹⁹

The largest number of detainees in Begejci was recorded in the period between October 1, 1991 and the end of November 1991. According to the data of the Office for Detainees and Missing Persons, at the time of the closure of this camp, there were 555 people in it.¹⁰⁰

iii. Arrival at the camp

Following the arrival of the buses at the camp, the detainees were forced to run a gauntlet composed of members of the JNA military police.¹⁰¹

While they were running the gauntlet, the soldiers hit them with their hands, feet, metal batons and rifles, without sparing the wounded or women. According to the statements of the detainees, the worst thing was if someone fell while still running the gauntlet: then they would be hit even harder, and the person would not be able to get up on account of the hitting.¹⁰² Members of the JNA would then search and make a list of all the detainees, and then take them to the camp building.¹⁰³ Before entering the barn, they would take away the money and valuables detainees had with them. For the confiscated items and money, the guards provided the detainees with certificates, but there were no receipts for objects of value.¹⁰⁴

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98 Statement of the witness Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness H.Š. given to the HLC in January 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006; Statement of the witness G.B. given to the HLC, May 2006; Statement of the witness O.K., January 2005, HLC Archive.

99 Statement of the witness H.Š. given to the HLC in January 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness I.Š. given to the HLC, January 15, 2005; Testimony of D.V. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of March 24, 2008; Report on the Battle for Vukovar - Cherif Bassiouni, exhibit no. 00603, *Mrkšić et al.*, p. 35; Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in *Stanko Vujanović et al.* of April 27, 2003, p. 38.

100 Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, p. 17304; Analysis of information on prisoners, *Milošević*, exhibit no. P402.5a, p. 8; Letter from Helsinki Watch to Slobodan Milošević and Blagoje Adžić dated January 21, 1992, exhibit no. P00183, *Šešelj*, p. 14.

101 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Minutes from the hearing of B.K. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Ivo Lovrić, based on the film "Head Down, Arms on your Back", B92, 2003; Statement of the witness H.Š. given to HLC in January 2003.

102 Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, pp. 8208-8209.

103 Statement of the witness Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006; Statement of the witness Ž.M. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008.

104 Statement of the Ž.M., February 2006, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in *Hadžić* Case on September 5, 2013, p. 8215; Confirmation of temporarily seized items - Mladen Lončar, exhibit no. P02981, *Hadžić*.



In addition to personal belongings, the detainees in Begejci were also deprived of the medicines they had with them. According to the testimony of B.Š. who was brought to Begejci on November 11, 1991, a young man named Zlatko (it was Zlatko Brajer, see p. 43) was also detained in Begejci, from whom the soldiers confiscated his medicine on his arrival at the camp. After some time, and most probably owing to his inability to take his medicine, this young man passed away.¹⁰⁵

Upon entering the building, the detainees had to stand with their heads down and their hands behind their backs.¹⁰⁶

iv. Conditions at the camp

The camp was located in an abandoned hunting lodge outside the settlement.¹⁰⁷ The inmates at Begejci were housed in the central building of the camp, which was a former barn about 50 metres long and about 10 metres wide.¹⁰⁸ The guards at the camp called this building 'Marakana'.¹⁰⁹ The camp was surrounded by two rows of barbed wire, between which the dogs were maintained.¹¹⁰ The guards used the dogs when visiting the camp and patrolling.¹¹¹

The inmates slept on concrete with a tent wing and a little straw on it.¹¹² There were no windows in the barn, and the door was never closed despite the cold.¹¹³ There was no heating in the room.¹¹⁴ The inmates mostly received one blanket, which they shared with someone else, in order to use another blanket to lie down on.¹¹⁵

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105 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC in June 2006.

106 Statement of witness Ivo Lovrić, based on the film "Head Down, Arms on your Back", B92, 2003.

107 Final report of the United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3469; "Eight Lives for a Thousand Marks", *Zrenjanin*, October 25, 1991, HLC Archive.

108 Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3472; "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 37; Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, May 2006; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8212.

109 Testimony of M.P. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of February 4, 2009; Statement of the witness Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3469.

110 Statement of the witness H.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness A.R.S. given to the HLC, January 2003.

111 Statement of the witness A.R.S. given to the HLC, May 2006; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HLC, January 2003; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8210; Statement of Željko Sabo, cited according to film "Head Down, Arms on your Back", B92, 2003.

112 Statement of the witness B.K., January 14, 2003, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness I.Š., January 15, 2005, HLC Archive.

113 Statement of the witness O.K. given to the HLC, January 2005; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3472.

114 Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3472.

115 Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2005.



The space at the camp was too small for all the detainees, so they could not lie on their backs or stomachs but only on their sides, "like sardines".¹¹⁶

In addition to the main building, the camp had a smaller building about 10 metres long and about 7 metres wide, which housed the camp command.¹¹⁷

There were several watchtowers and a field toilet in the fenced camp complex.¹¹⁸ The toilet actually consisted of four dug holes with a board placed over them.¹¹⁹

Food was prepared at the camp, in a cauldron under the tent.¹²⁰ Detainee Ivo Vukušić from Petrovci near Vukovar was assigned to prepare the food.¹²¹

The inmates describe the amount of food they received as minimal - "just enough to survive."¹²² "The food was bad, of poor quality and in small quantities. I would describe it vividly as - you get water, and if you are lucky, you get cabbage."¹²³ In the morning, the detainees would receive tea, one can of pâté or a can of Dutch loaf, to be shared between four to sometimes six persons.¹²⁴

116 Statement of the witness A.R.S. given to the HLC, May 2006; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Testimony of witness GH-085 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 12, 2013, p. 8543.

117 Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, pp. 8210-8213; Sketch of the Begejci camp, *Hadžić*, exhibit no. P02980; Testimony of D.V. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of March 24, 2008.

118 Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3472; The Sketch of the Begejci camp, *Hadžić*, exhibit no. P02980.

119 Statement of the witness I.Š., January 15, 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Minutes from the hearing of B.K. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archive.

120 Statement of the witness O.K., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Film "Head Down, Arms on your Back", B92, 2003.

121 Statements of Ivo Lovrić and Ivo Vukušić, based on the film "Head Down, Arms on your Back", B92, 2003; Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC in June 2006; Statement of Josip Kosturik, cited from: "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 51; .

122 Statement of the witness H.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.M. February 25, 2006, HLC Archive.

123 Statement of the witness I.Š., January 15, 2005, HLC Archive.

124 Statements of Željko Sabo and Stjepan Tomas, stated according to the film "Head Down, Arms on your Back", B92, 2003; Statement of AND 19, stated according to: "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 53; Statement of the witness Ž.M. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008; Minutes from the hearing of B.K. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archive.



There were water taps around the camp that the detainees used for washing. As it was freezing cold, the taps would often be frozen over.¹²⁵ Drinking water was brought in buckets to the barn, where all the inmates had to use the same one glass.¹²⁶

Detainees were only allowed to bathe once during their time at the camp.¹²⁷ The shower was organized under the tent, about twenty metres from the barn in which they were lodged.¹²⁸ Hair lice spread among the detainees, owing to the impossibility of maintaining hygiene.¹²⁹

In the mornings, the detainees at the camp in Begejci, accompanied by armed JNA reserve forces soldiers, would go to the forest, where they had to collect firewood to heat the rooms where the officers and guards of the camp were staying.¹³⁰ According to the testimonies of the detainees, some of them dug telephone cable channels on the way to the border with Romania.¹³¹

Medical assistance at the camp was provided to the detainees by captured doctors, among whom were Dr. Lončar from Ilok and the director of the “Borovo” Health Centre, Tomislav Đuranec. Thanks to the ICRC’s intervention, the wounded and sick detainees were placed in a separate room that served as a hospital. According to the testimony of the captured doctors, the conditions for treatment were extremely bad - the doctors did not have the opportunity to provide adequate help, owing to very bad conditions of hygiene and the few medicines at their disposal.¹³²

The inmates were also taken to the hospital in Zrenjanin, and then returned to the camp after assistance was provided. B.Š. was detained in Begejci together with her mother, who had a broken arm. By order of Lieutenant-Colonel Živanović, B.Š. and her mother were taken to the hospital in Zrenjanin, where they spent several days. During her stay in the Zrenjanin hospital, B.Š. was given the task of cleaning the dining room.¹³³ A detainee with the initials G.V. was operated on at the Zrenjanin hospital after the guards had beaten him with rifle butts. After the operation, he returned at the camp.¹³⁴

125 Statement of the witness O.K., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Statement of the witness B.K., January 2005, HLC Archive.

126 Statement of the witness O.K., January 2005, HLC Archive; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8218;; Statement of the witness I.Š., January 15, 2005, HLC Archive.

127 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC in June 2006; Statement of the witness G.B. given to the HLC, June 2006.

128 Statement of Stipe Kotromanović, stated according to the film “Head Down, Arms on your Back”, B92, 2003.

129 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8217.

130 Testimony of witness GH-085 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 12, 2013, pp. 8544-8545.

131 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 16, 2002, HLC Archive; Testimony of witness GH-085 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case, p. 8544; “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 46.

132 Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003.

133 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006.

134 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HLC, January 2003.



v. Mental and physical abuse of detainees

The detainees in Begejci were subjected to mental and physical abuse by guards, reserve forces soldiers and members of the JNA military police. They were forced to run from the wire to the building that was known as the “Police”, where the guards would hit their heads and backs with batons.¹³⁵

During the night, camp guards entered the hangar, counted and beat the detainees, sometimes in the hangar itself, and sometimes where they took them outside.¹³⁶

The detainees of the camp in Begejci were repeatedly taken to false executions.¹³⁷ Every night, members of the military police entered the barn and forced the detainees to stand up and repeat the following words: “A minute of silence for the fallen soldiers, civilians, and JNA officers, and all the innocent people killed by you and bastards like you.”¹³⁸

In the barn, the detainees had to sit with their heads down and their hands behind their backs. When soldiers entered the hangar, the detainees had to put blankets on their heads so that the soldiers could not be seen.¹³⁹ The guards did not allow the inmates to talk to each other. Two detainees were in charge of communicating with the guards. One of these detainees would always be on duty, and would be standing by the door.¹⁴⁰

There was always silence in the barn, except when the guards would order the prisoners to stand up and sing the anthem *Hey, Slavs* and various Serbian nationalist songs.¹⁴¹ During the night, the guards would wake them up several times and asked them to sing the anthem.¹⁴² In the morning, they had to line up in front of the barracks, where they sang the anthem while the guards raised the Yugoslav flag.¹⁴³

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135 Testimony of witness GH-085 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 12, 2013, p. 8544.

136 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003.

137 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HLC, January 2003.

138 Statement of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, para. 50.

139 Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2005.

140 Statement of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, para. 44; Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 6, 2013, p. 8236.

141 Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8218; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002; Statement of the witness H.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003. Statement of Stipe Kotromanović and Dominik Vorgić, cited according to film “Head Down, Arms on your Back”, B92, 2003.

142 Statement of Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Statement of the witness B.K., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness G.B. given to the HLC, May 2006; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002.

143 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC in June 2006.



Detainees were often beaten on the way to the toilet.¹⁴⁴ The guards watched the women while they were in the toilet.¹⁴⁵

The camps in Begejci was closed on December 21 or 22, 1991, when some detainees were transferred to camps in Sremska Mitrovica, Niš, Aleksinac and Belgrade.¹⁴⁶

VI. Stajićevo camp

The settlement of Stajićevo is located in the municipality of Zrenjanin. It is about 150 kilometres away from Vukovar.

i. Formation of the camp

On November 20, 1991, on the basis of an order of the 1st VO dated September 15, 1991, a camp was formed in the Zrenjanin village of Stajićevo on the “Livade” farm. This camp was in the area of responsibility of the 24th Corps of the JNA, whose command, together with the OB of the Command of the 1st VO, was in charge of forming, organising and controlling the camp.¹⁴⁷ According to the order of the command of the 1st VO, “[s]taff for the Collection Centre” was provided from the persons at the Zrenjanin garrison.¹⁴⁸

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On November 22, 1991, the command of the 1st VO informed the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the SFRY about the establishment of the 33rd prisoner-of-war camp (LRZ) in the village of Stajićevo.¹⁴⁹

144 *Ibid*; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006.

145 Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006; Testimony of Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003.

146 Some witnesses also state later dates for the closure of the camp. According to the UN, the Begejci camp was open until December 25, 1991; Branko Šimunić testified that he remained at the Begejci camp until December 28, 1991, see: “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 56; Final report of The United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annex VIII, Prison camps, S/1994/674/Add.2 (Vol. IV), 27 May 1994, para. 3469; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness H.Š. given to the HLC in January 2003; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006; Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, p. 17304.

147 Formation and organisation of the work of the Collection Centre in the village of Stajićevo, Municipal Assembly of Zrenjanin: order dated November 20, 1991, *Hadžić*, exhibit no. P03198.

148 *Ibid*.

149 Daily operational report of the 1st VO of November 22, 1991 exhibit no. 00736, *Mrkšić et al*.



The commander of the camp in Stajićevo at first was Lieutenant-Colonel Nikola Petrović from the Zrenjanin garrison,¹⁵⁰ and then Colonel Miroslav Živanović from the UB SSNO.¹⁵¹

Members of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior were also present at the camp.¹⁵² At the trial of Goran Hadžić before the ICTY, Dr. Hicham Malla, a former detainee at the Stajićevo camp, testified that during the first three days of his detention in Stajićevo, civilian police came to the camp with dogs barking at the detainees.¹⁵³

ii. Detainees

Most of the detainees at the Stajićevo camp were captured in the Vukovar area after the fall of the city.¹⁵⁴

The largest number of detainees in Stajićevo was to be noted between November 18 and mid-December 1991. About 660 inmates were detained at the camp for a long time, and a total of more than 1,200 detainees were at some point at the camp.¹⁵⁵

There were women, minors and wounded at the camp.¹⁵⁶ Dr. Hicham Malla testified before the ICTY that nineteen children aged between 12 and 17 were detained at the camp, as well as 470 people older than 60.¹⁵⁷

150 Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 165; Nikola Petrović passed away on December 21, 1991; Response of the MO no. 4178-2 dated April 12, 2019.

151 Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness M.K. given to the HLC, May 2008.

152 Testimony of C-1149 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of July 14, 2003, p. 24292.

153 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3867.

154 Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, p. 17303.

155 Testimony of Aleksandar Vasiljević before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of February 18, 2003, p. 16387. Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, p. 17303; Analysis of information on prisoners, *Milošević*, exhibit no. P402.5a, p. 8; Statement of the witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003.

156 Statement of the witness D.M. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003; Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3866.

157 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3866.



iii. Arrival at the camp

Upon arrival in Stajićevo, all the inmates had to run the gauntlet with the members of the JNA military police and people in civilian clothes, who beat them with their feet, hands and some poles.¹⁵⁸ Both the wounded and the women brought to the camp had to run the gauntlet.¹⁵⁹

After running the gauntlet, the detainees were escorted to the barn, which was the main building of the camp. They were ordered to sit with their hands behind their backs and their heads down. The beatings would continue until all the detainees got off the bus¹⁶⁰, after which they were counted by members of the military police¹⁶¹, who shouted at the prisoners to lower their heads and lie on the floor so that they could not be seen.¹⁶²

iv. Conditions at the camp

The camp in Stajićevo consisted of two barns, different areas, which the guards called "Maksimir" and "Poljud".¹⁶³ About ten days after the arrival of the first detainees, barbed wire was laid down around the camp.¹⁶⁴

The detainees were housed in a large barn that had a recess in the middle of the floor and troughs on the side for feeding cattle.¹⁶⁵ The detainees sat or lay on the damp concrete soiled with the remains of the dung. Here and there would be some straw.¹⁶⁶ Inmate Ž.P. told the HLC researchers: "We sat on the straw all day, with our hands behind our backs, looking at the floor. We didn't even get water regularly."¹⁶⁷ According to the testimony of the detainees, some of them slept in a trough in the barn, on the concrete, without any blankets.¹⁶⁸ There was no heating in the barn.¹⁶⁹

158 Statement of the witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Z.C. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive; Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, pp. 3427-3428; Statement of the witness M.K. given to the HLC, May 2008; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to HLC, January 2003; Testimony of Josip Čović before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of January 31, 20063, pp. 3458-3459.

159 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3428; Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002; Testimony of Josip Čović before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of January 31, 20063, p. 3459.

160 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3861.

161 Statement of the witness D.M. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003.

162 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3430.

163 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3864; Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, pp. 3447-3448; Statement of the witness Z.C. given to the HLC, March 2003; Video footage of the Stajićevo camp, exhibit no. P01415, *Hadžić*; Witness statement of Franjo Kožul, Memorial of the Republic of Croatia, vol II, *Croatia v. Yugoslavia*, ICJ, p. 416.

164 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 12, 2013, p. 3886; Statement of the witness D.M. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003.

165 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3428.

166 Statement of the witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003; Testimony of Mirko Kovačić at the Third Forum for Transitional Justice on 12 February 2008, available at: <https://www.recom.link/mirko-kovacic/>, accessed February 14, 2020; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006.

167 Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003.

168 Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive.

169 Statement of the witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003.



There was not enough food at the camp. The detainees testified that they had two meals a day in Stajićevo.¹⁷⁰ A meal would often consist of a can which four prisoners shared among themselves, or salami with very little bread, usually mouldy.¹⁷¹ For the first 10 to 15 days, detainees received only dry food.¹⁷² After the visit of the ICRC to the camp, the detainees were given a cooked meal.¹⁷³

For the first ten days, there was no designated place at the camp for the toilet. After that, field toilets were made.¹⁷⁴ To defecate, the detainees had to go outside the barn, but then they would be stopped in the yard by the reserve forces soldiers or civilians, who would beat them.¹⁷⁵ As a result, detainees would often urinated where they were at the moment.¹⁷⁶

There was no light or electricity, or glass on the barn windows.¹⁷⁷

Conditions at the camp improved slightly after the ICRC arrived in early December 1991.¹⁷⁸ Until then, the water the detainees received was not drinkable.¹⁷⁹ After the ICRC had visited the camp, the camp administration designated detainees to clean the well, after which water taps were installed where detainees could wash and drink water.¹⁸⁰

Medical assistance to the detainees was provided by captured doctors and medical staff.¹⁸¹ They had limited access to medicines and medical supplies, mostly only what they had taken with them when they were captured.¹⁸² Doctors and medical staff at the camp sent requests to Lieutenant-Colonel Živanović for medicine every day. However, they never received the necessary supplies.¹⁸³

v. Mental and physical abuse of detainees

The detainees at the Stajićevo camp were subjected to mental and physical abuse by guards, reserve forces soldiers and members of the JNA military police.

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170 Statement of the witness D.M. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003, HLC Archive.

171 Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive.

172 Statement of the witness D.M. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003.

173 *Ibid.*

174 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11 and 12, 2013, pp. 3865-3886;

175 Testimony of Josip Čović before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of January 31, 2006, p. 3459.

176 Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive.

177 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3867.

178 Statement of the witness Z.C. given to the HLC, March 2003.

179 *Ibid.*; Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive.

180 Statement of the witness M.K. given to the HLC, May 2008; Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 12, 2013, p. 3887; Statement of the witness Z.C. given to the HLC, March 2003.

181 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3862.

182 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 12, 2013, p. 3878.

183 *Ibid.*, p. 3879.



Members of the military police in Stajićevo were extremely rude to detainees, who were not even allowed to move through the barn without permission.¹⁸⁴ The guards shouted at and humiliated them.¹⁸⁵ The guards would line up the detainees in Stajićevo and then beat them while passing, or take them to the basement where they were beaten.¹⁸⁶ The detainees were abused and beaten every time they went to the toilet.¹⁸⁷

Detainees were exposed to provocations, and violent interruptions of meals, as well as bans on going out to defecate.¹⁸⁸

As in Begejci, the detainees in Stajićevo were forced to sing Serbian nationalist songs, as well as the anthem *Hey, Slavs*. If someone did not know the words, he was beaten. Detainee Ž.P. testified: “We sang the anthem *Hey, Slavs* three times a day, and had to repeat the refrain ‘*Damn the traitor to our homeland!*’ hundreds of times.”¹⁸⁹

During the night, the guards brought the dogs into the barn and incited them against the prisoners.¹⁹⁰

The camp was closed on December 22, 1991, after which a large number of detainees were transferred to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD or to the Niš KPD, while a number of prisoners were sent for exchange.¹⁹¹

VII. Sremska Mitrovica KPD Camp

Sremska Mitrovica today is the centre of the municipality bearing the same name. It is about 75 kilometres away from Vukovar.

i. Formation of the camp

On November 21, 1991, the Command of the 1st VO of the JNA issued an order for the establishment of a camp at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD, which read as follows: “To establish a Collection Centre at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD for the gathering of persons deprived of their liberty owing to armed rebellion against the JNA and atrocities against unarmed people in interethnic conflicts in crisis areas in the Republic of Croatia.”¹⁹² By the same order, an officer from the 1st VO was appointed as the administrator of the collection centre within the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.”¹⁹³

184 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3866.

185 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3440.

186 Judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Slobodan Bačić* Case of April 14, 1999, p. 3.

187 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3441; Statement of the witness D.M. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003, HLC Archive.

188 Statement of the witness M.K. given to the HLC, May 2008.

189 Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003; Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3867.

190 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3867.

191 Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, pp. 17303-17304.

192 Formation and organisation of the work of the Collection Centre within Sremska Mitrovica KPD, order dated November 21, 1991, *Hadžić*, exhibit no. P03199.

193 *Ibid.*



The commander of this camp was JNA Major Zoran Randelović.¹⁹⁴ However, the detainees testified to the presence of Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Živanović from the UB SSNO as being at this camp as well.¹⁹⁵ According to the MO, Živanović was deployed to the Sremska Mitrovica garrison in 1991 and 1992.¹⁹⁶ Colonel Jugoslav Maksimović from the UB SSNO was also recognised as the head of this camp.¹⁹⁷

The HLC sent a request to the MO for access to information of public importance requesting information on the engagement of Major Zoran Randelović during 1991 and 1992.¹⁹⁸ The MO refused to respond, requesting the HLC to provide more details about this person (father's name, date of birth, etc.).¹⁹⁹

In order to secure this camp and “perform police work with persons deprived of their liberty” and accommodated at this camp, 10 military police officers from the Security Organs (OB) of the 1st VO were engaged.²⁰⁰

The order for the establishment of the camp at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD was issued by the 1st VO command on November 21, 1991, but already in mid-November 1991 the captured residents of Vukovar and the surrounding area were being brought to this prison.²⁰¹

ii. Detainees

According to the Croatian Association of Prisoners in Serbian Concentration Camps (HDLSKL), about 1,600 detainees were detained at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD for a long time, and about 4,000 detainees spent at least some time at the camp.²⁰² Detainees were held for from several days to nine months. The camp was closed in mid-August 1992, when 1,656 people were released.²⁰³

On November 19, at least 181 Croatian soldiers - as many as had surrendered at Mitnica on November 18, 1991 - were transferred to Sremska Mitrovica, along with other Croatian detainees from “Velepromet” and a large number of civilians.²⁰⁴ The medical staff of the Vukovar hospital and

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194 Confirmation of temporarily seized items signed by Major Zoran Randelović, HLC Archive.

195 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002.

196 Response of the MO no. 10566-9/19 of January 24, 2020.

197 Testimony of Bogdan Vujić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of February 20, 2006, p. 4615.

198 Request for access to information of public importance was submitted to the MO on October 2, 2019, HlcIndexOut: 170-F139287.

199 Response of the MO no. 1507-2 dated November 5, 2019.

200 Formation and organisation of the work of the Collection Centre within Sremska Mitrovica KPD, order dated November 21, 1991, *Hadžić*, exhibit no. P03199.

201 *Ibid*; Statement of the witness K.H., January 14, 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness M.A., January 3, 2005, HLC Archive.

202 Records of detainees by HDLSKL, HLC Archive; “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 203.

203 Analysis of data on detainees exhibit no. P402.5a, *Milošević*, p. 9.

204 ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 581.



the civilians who took refuge in the hospital were also detained at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.²⁰⁵ There were women and minors at this camp.²⁰⁶ As stated in the list of the detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica camp, the oldest detainee was 86 years old.²⁰⁷

A group of captured civilians from Vukovar and the surrounding area spent two nights at the Pinki Sports Center in Sremska Mitrovica, after which they were transferred by bus to Croatia.²⁰⁸ There were many women in this group. According to the testimony of the captured A.P., the armed soldiers who guarded them insulted and threatened them, telling them: "You Ustasha whores! What do you want? Where are your husbands? We will kill you all, you do not deserve to be taken care of so much! And your husbands are shooting, destroying our houses, our schools, our jobs! What do you expect? What do you want?"²⁰⁹

On November 22, 1991, the command of the 1st VO of the JNA ordered the transfer of 400 prisoners from the Sremska Mitrovica KPD to Aleksinac, under the command of officers from the 376th atb [Transport Battalion] of the JNA. On the same day, the transport of 450 evacuated Vukovar civilians from Sremska Mitrovica and 30 civilians from Šid to Bosanski Šamac was organised. There, they were handed over to the Croatian authorities.²¹⁰

In the second half of December 1991, after the closure of the camps in Begejci and Stajićevo, a number of detainees were transferred to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.

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In addition to detainees from Eastern Slavonia, Bosniaks captured in Posavina were also brought to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD in the spring of 1992.²¹¹

About 90 women were detained at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.²¹²

205 Statement of the witness A.P. given to the HLC, February 2006; Statement of the witness A.K. given to the HLC, February 2006; ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 27, 2007, para. 213.

206 Statement of the witness B.T., February 2006, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness A.J., February 2006, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness A.R., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness B.U., January 2005; Statement of the witness D.R., January 2005, HLC Archive.

207 The list of the detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica camp, exhibit no. P02190, *Hadžić*, p. 9; In a statement given to the HLC, witness D.G. states that the oldest detainee was 89 years old - available at: Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2003.

208 Report no. 823-86/144 of the 1st VO of November 22, 1991 exhibit no. 00737, *Mrkšić et al.*, p.1; Statement of the witness A.P., February 2006, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness D.K., February 2006, HLC Archive;

209 Statement of the witness A.P., February 2006, HLC Archive.

210 Order of the 1st VO no. 43/96-517 of November 22, 1991, exhibit no. P03197, *Hadžić*.

211 Media report from KPD Sremska Mitrovica, exhibit no. P00675, *Šešelji*; Statement of the witness Sulejman Tihić, exhibit no. P608.1a, *Milošević*, para. 88.

212 Testimony of A.K. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008; Minutes from the testimony of M.D. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010; Statement of the witness E.K., January 2005, the HLC archives; Statement of the witness J.M., January 2005, the HLC archives; Statement of the witness M.A., January 2005, the HLC archives.



The women in Sremska Mitrovica were put into a separate room together with the children.²¹³ Cell No. 14, in which they were imprisoned, was about 40m² in size, had bars on the windows and was much too small for so many persons.²¹⁴ There were mats on the floor, with two or three women on each of them.²¹⁵ Next to this room was a toilet that they could use.²¹⁶ Once a week they had the right to bathe. They spent the entire time of their captivity in the clothes in which they were detained.²¹⁷ During the night, the guards would enter the room and line them up and interrogate them about their names.²¹⁸

The room in which they were staying was locked and they were not allowed to go outside, except when they went for interrogation, accompanied by soldiers, or to the basement for bathing.²¹⁹ In the course of the whole month, they would only be taken out for a walk in the prison circle once.²²⁰

There were at least two children in that room with the women. M.R. was six and a half years old when he was brought to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD together with his mother and older brother: "I remember coming to the prison in Sremska Mitrovica. I especially remember one moment, when a military policeman came for me and my brother and took us to his house and told us that if his daughter liked us he would keep us. I got scared and started crying."²²¹

iii. Arrival at the camp

Upon arrival at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD, the women were taken to a room where they were ordered to take off their clothes. There they were searched and interrogated by women in uniform.²²² One of the uniformed women was later found out to be a member of the police named Zdenka.²²³ Their documents as well as the valuables and money they had with them were confiscated.²²⁴

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213 Testimony of Vesna Bosanac before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 9, 2013, p. 3675; Testimony of A.J. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Statement of the witness A.R., January 2005, HLC Archives; Statement of the witness B.B., January 2005, HLC Archives.

214 Minutes from the testimony of M.D. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010; Minutes from the testimony of J.M. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010.

215 Testimony of A.J. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008.

216 Statement of the witness E.K., January 2005, HLC Archive.

217 Minutes from the testimony of M.D. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010.

218 Statement of the witness E.K., January 2005, HLC Archive.

219 *Ibid.*

220 Testimony of A.K. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008.

221 Statement of the witness M.R., January 2005, HLC Archive.

222 Statement of the witness B.B., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness E.K., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness J.M., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness K.H., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness M.A., January 2005, HLC Archive.

223 Statement of the witness B.B., January 2005, HLC Archive; Minutes from the testimony of J.M. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness K.H., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness S.B., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness M.A., January 2005, HLC Archive.

224 Minutes from the testimony of M.D. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010; Statement of the witness M.A., January 2005, HLC Archive.



After getting off the bus and entering the prison circle, the men were forced to run the gauntlet with soldiers hitting them with their fists, feet, rubber truncheons and rifle butts.²²⁵ They were then taken to the playground and later to the sports hall, where they first had to take off their clothes, after which, all their belongings, money, valuables, belts and shoelaces were taken away from them. Most of the detainees received certificates on the confiscated items.²²⁶ The certificate bore the seal of the '33rd Prisoner-of-War Camp Command', signed by the commander, Major Zoran Randelović.²²⁷ Some detainees were returned their confiscated personal items, but not their money or objects of high value.²²⁸

The detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD were lodged in prison cells or in solitary confinement.²²⁹ The captured Croatian soldiers were mostly imprisoned in solitary confinement, cells where there were no windows, and where they would spend more than 20 days.²³⁰

iv. Conditions at the camp

The camp at Sremska Mitrovica was located within the existing prison, which was surrounded all around by walls about four metres high.²³¹ The prison complex consisted of several buildings with sleeping and laundry rooms, as well as kitchens and offices.²³²

In Sremska Mitrovica, detainees were lodged in prison cells ranging in size from 40 to 60 square metres, and without beds. One week after their arrival, they were given mats to lie on.²³³ Owing to the lack of sufficient space, people could not stretch their legs during sleep, and a number of them

225 Statement of the witness B.U., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness D.R., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness M.Č. given to the HLC, March 2003.

226 Statement of the witness M.B. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness V.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003; Testimony of witness Vilim Karlović before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 18, 2013, p. 8682.

227 Statement of the witness V.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness Z.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness M.B. given to the HLC, March 2003; Certificate on temporarily seized items signed by Major Zoran Randelović, HLC Archive.

228 Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness M.D., February 2006, HLC Archive; Statement of R.A. given to the HLC, March 2003.

229 "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 203.

230 Statement of the witness Z.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness Z.Š. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness M.B. given to the HLC, March 2003.

231 "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 203.

232 Statement of the witness Sulejman Tihić, exhibit no. P608.1a, *Milošević*, para. 89.

233 Testimony of B.T. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Minutes from the hearing of M.D. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, the HLC archives; Minutes from the hearing of J.M. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated 8 December 2010, the HLC archives.



were forced to sleep in shifts.²³⁴ There were between 40 and 130 people in the cells.²³⁵ Space was very restricted, and people were forced to stand in the same position for hours.²³⁶ When the guards would enter the cells, the detainees had to face the wall with their hands on the back of their heads, and their heads down.²³⁷

The cells in which they were imprisoned had high windows with bars.²³⁸ Unlike at the camps in Begejci and Stajićevo, the premises of the Sremska Mitrovica KPD had heating.²³⁹

There was not enough food, or it was of poor quality; the meal often consisted only of bread and tea.²⁴⁰ The inmates testified that they would receive some mouldy bread and a tin, for which they often did not receive the openers.²⁴¹ Cooked food mainly consisted of cabbage or beans.²⁴² The food would be brought into the cells and the inmates would eat on the mattresses on which they usually sat and slept.²⁴³ They had to finish lunch within 5 or 10 minutes.²⁴⁴

The detainees did not have items for basic hygiene.²⁴⁵ Next to the cells in which they were lodged, there were toilets with sinks which were cleaned by the detainees themselves.²⁴⁶ Although they did have access to water, their bathing was restricted. Some detainees were allowed to bathe only after one month.²⁴⁷

Inmate D.G., a civilian from Vukovar, said in his statement to the HLC: “We did not receive toilet paper, which is why I was angry, and on one occasion I asked the detainers why they would not give

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234 Statement of the witness B.U., January 2005, HLC Archive; Testimony of B.T. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Statement of the witness M.T. given to the HLC, January 2006.

235 Statement of the witness B.U., January 2003, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness D.R., January 2003, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2005; Statement of the witness M.Č. given to the HLC, March 2005.

236 Testimony of Željko Šandor before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 7, 2012, p. 2257.

237 *Ibid.*

238 Testimony of B.T. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Testimony of A.K. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008.

239 Testimony of Drago Jelić, cited according to: “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 39; Testimony of Vilim Karlović before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 8, 2013, p. 8685.

240 Statement of the witness B.B. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003, HLC Archive.

241 Statement of the witness Z.Š. given to the HLC, March 2003.

242 Statement of the witness A.R., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness B.U., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness E.K., January 2005, HLC Archive.

243 Testimony of B.T. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Statement of the witness GH-054, exhibit no. P02033, *Hadžić*, para. 53.

244 Statement of the witness O.G. given to the HLC, March 2003.

245 Minutes from the hearing of M.D. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archives.

246 Statement of the witness A.R., January 2005, HLC Archive; Testimony of B.T. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Statement of the witness M.A., January 3, 2005, HLC Archive; Minutes from the hearing of M.D. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archives; Testimony of A.K. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008.

247 Testimony of Željko Šandor before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 7, 2012, p. 2257.



us toilet paper. They told me we were many, about 7,000, so they could not supply us all with toilet paper.”²⁴⁸ Those detainees who had money with them could buy toilet paper at the prison canteen.²⁴⁹

Detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD did not have the opportunity to change their clothes or underwear. They spent the entire detention in the clothes in which they were brought to the camp.²⁵⁰ Upon arrival at the camp, a number of detainees received military olive-gray uniforms to wear.²⁵¹

The detainees at Sremska Mitrovica were taken out for walks within the prison very rarely - only about once in every three weeks.²⁵²

v. Mental and physical abuse of detainees

During their stay at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD camp, detainees were subjected to daily physical and mental abuse by the guards. In an interview with HLC researchers, the former detainees point out that “almost every contact with the guards would end with beatings.”²⁵³ The wounded were not spared either.²⁵⁴

Women detained at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD, especially members of the ZNG, were also beaten and abused by the guards.²⁵⁵

As at other camps, detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD were forced to sing Serbian nationalist songs.²⁵⁶ The guards insulted and provoked them. They were often told that Tuđman “did not want them,” and that they had nowhere to return.²⁵⁷

During the night, the guards would enter the cells, line up the detainees and harass them. They all had to get up and stand until the guards ordered them to sit down.²⁵⁸

248 Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2003.

249 Statement of the witness O.G. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness R.A., March 2003.

250 Minutes from the testimony of M.D. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archive.

251 “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 206.

252 Statement of the witness V.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness D.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness M.Č. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness R.A., March 2003.

253 Statement of the witness D.R. given to the HLC, March 2003.

254 Statement of the witness R.A. given to the HLC, March 2003.

255 Statement witness M.V. gave to the HLC, February 2006.

256 Statement of the witness R.A. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness B.B., January 2005, HLC Archives; Statement of the witness E.K., January 2005, HLC Archive.

257 Statement of the witness M.B. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness B.B., January 2005, HLC Archives.

258 Statement of the witness J.M., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness K.H., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness O.G. given to the HLC, March 2003.



In mid-December 1991, the guards at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD were replaced, which resulted in even worse abuse and ill-treatment of detainees.²⁵⁹ The detainees received the most beatings on January 15, 1992, when the Republic of Croatia was internationally recognized.²⁶⁰

VIII. Aleksinac Camp

One of the transit camps on the territory of Serbia was at the JNA barracks in Aleksinac. On November 22, 1991, the command of the 1st VO of the JNA ordered the transfer of 400 prisoners from the Sremska Mitrovica KPD to Aleksinac, owing to lack of space. The detainees were transferred in eight buses under the command of officers from the 376th atb of the JNA.²⁶¹

During the night of November 23, 1991, the detainees who were to be transported from the Sremska Mitrovica KPD were ordered to pick up their belongings, after which they were expelled from the prison premises and paired off, with their hands tied with wire. Thus bound, they had to board a bus which transferred them to the JNA barracks in Aleksinac. During the journey on the bus, the detainees had to keep their heads down.²⁶²

Upon arrival at the barracks, the detainees were forced out from the bus. There they were “welcomed” by soldiers who hit them with their fists, feet and batons while they were running the gauntlet.²⁶³ After that, the detainees were placed in a hangar in the barracks area, where they had to lie on their stomachs next to each other.²⁶⁴ During their stay at the Aleksinac barracks, the detainees were beaten daily by members of the special military police from Niš.²⁶⁵

In October 2019, the Humanitarian Law Center sent a request to the MO for access to information of public importance with the question of who was the commander of the 'Deligrad' barracks in Aleksinac.²⁶⁶ According to the MO's response, from 1991 to July 1992 there was no JNA unit stationed in the Deligrad barracks in Aleksinac.²⁶⁷

259 Statement of the witness V.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003; In his statement to the HLC, the detainee R.A. pointed out: “Even in those days when the Red Cross was there, they would beat people; we requested the replacement of the guards, but then came even worse” - Statement of the witness R.A. given to the HLC, March 2003.

260 Statement of the witness M.Č. given to the HLC, March 2003.

261 Order of the 1st VO no. 43/96-517 of November 22, 1991, exhibit no. P03197, *Hadžić*.

262 Testimony of Z.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Statement of the witness M.G. given to HDLSKL, November 2002.

263 Statement of the witness Z.R., January 2005, HLC Archive.

264 Statement of the witness K.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Testimony of Z.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Statement of the witness D.R., January 2005, HLC Archive; Statement of Petar Mlinarić, cited from “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 336.

265 Statement of the witness M.B. given to the HLC, March 2003.

266 Request for access to information of public importance was submitted to the MO on October 2, 2019, HlcIndexOut: 170-F139284.

267 Response of the MO no. 18131-5 dated December 4, 2019.



IX. Niš KPD Camp

The city of Niš is located in the southeast of Serbia. It is about 375 kilometres away from Vukovar.

i. Formation of the camp

The camp in Niš was located within the Penal Correctional Facility (KPD) in Niš. This camp was under the control of the JNA military police.²⁶⁸

It is not clear who was the commander at this camp. Namely, in the statements given to the HDLSKL, former detainees state that the commander of the camp in Niš was a certain Colonel Radulović. The detainees remember that Radulović served in Šibenik or Zadar before he became the commander of the camp in Niš.²⁶⁹ Inmate Ž.S. recalls that Radulović was captured by the Croatian army before arriving in Niš.²⁷⁰ In a statement given to the media, Branimir Kosec, a priest from Vukovar who was detainee at the Niš camp, recalls that the camp commander was a certain Colonel Jovanović.²⁷¹ On October 2, 2019, the Humanitarian Law Center sent a request to the MO for access to information of public importance, with the question as to who was the commander of the Collection Centre in Niš in the period November 18, 1991 - February 26, 1992.²⁷² Military post - VP 1097 Niš, upon the authorisation of the Minister of Defence, responded that the Ground Forces Command did not have the requested information.²⁷³

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Among the interrogators in Niš were members of the military police from VP 1219 Niš; whilst the items confiscated from the prisoners were handed over to VP 1410.²⁷⁴ Ensigns Dragoslav Tomić and Stojan Cvetković were on the commission that issued certificates for confiscated items at the camp in Niš.²⁷⁵ The HLC sent a request to the MO in order to collect data on ensigns Dragoslav Tomić and Stojan Cvetković from VP 1410, as well as the unit to which they were deployed.²⁷⁶ However, by the decision of February 4, 2020 VP 1097 Niš refused to submit this information referring, to the Law on Protection of Personal Data.²⁷⁷

268 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3450.

269 Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive; Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, pp. 3451-3452; Statement of the witness A.K. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive; Revealed: Vukovar Croats Were Tortured in Nis, Serbia, *BIRN*, January 27, 2011, available at <https://balkaninsight.com/2011/01/27/revealed-vukovar-croats-were-tortured-in-nis-serbia/> accessed February 24, 2020.

270 Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

271 Revealed: Vukovar Croats Were Tortured in Nis, Serbia, *BIRN*, January 27, 2011, available at <https://balkaninsight.com/2011/01/27/revealed-vukovar-croats-were-tortured-in-nis-serbia/> accessed February 24, 2020.

272 Request for access to information of public importance has been submitted to the MO on October 2, 2019, HlcIndexOut: 170-F139285.

273 Response of the VP 1097 Niš no. 18132-6 dated December 2, 2019.

274 Certificate on temporarily seized items dated January 24, 1992, VP 1219, HLC Archive.

275 *Ibid.*

276 Request for access to information of public importance has been submitted to the MO on December 16, 2019, HlcIndexOut: 170-F140174.

277 Response of the VP 1097 Niš no. 492-10 dated February 4, 2020.



ii. Detainees

The first detainees were transferred to the Niš KPD in November 1991 from the Sremska Mitrovica KPD, owing to the lack of space there. In the second half of December 1991, after the closure of the camps in Begejci and Stajićevo²⁷⁸, a number of detainees were transferred to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD and Niš KPD.²⁷⁹

According to the HLC data, there were no women among the detainees at the Niš KPD, but there were minors.²⁸⁰

The camp existed from November 18, 1991 to February 26, 1992.²⁸¹ 447 detainees were released from this camp.²⁸²

iii. Arrival at the camp

As at other camps, in Niš detainees were forced to run the gauntlet of military police immediately after getting off the bus.²⁸³ Military police shouted at the detainees to lower their heads, kicked them, insulted them and told them they stank. The detainees were told they would remain at the camp until they were interrogated.²⁸⁴

iv. Conditions at the camp

The prisoners describe the conditions of accommodation at the Niš KPD as better than the conditions at Stajićevo and Begejci camps. At this camp, detainees were housed in prison cells with bunk beds.²⁸⁵ The cells were heated.²⁸⁶

Soon upon arrival at the Niš prison, the detainees were given old JNA olive-gray uniforms to wear, and their heads were shaved.²⁸⁷

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278 According to the testimony of the detainees from Begejci and Stajićevo, they were transferred to Sremska Mitrovica and Niš between December 21 and 24, 1991.

279 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, pp. 3448-3450.

280 Testimony of Z.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008; Testimony of D.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008.

281 "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 343.

282 Analysis of data on detainees exhibit no. P402.5a, *Milošević*, p. 9.

283 Statement of the witness M.S. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive; Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, pp. 3450-3451; Statement of the witness P.R. given to HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

284 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3451.

285 Testimony of D.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008.

286 Statement of the witness K.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness A.K. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

287 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3451; Statement of the witness D.M. given to the HDLSKL, January 2002, HLC Archive.



The detainees had to spend the first night standing by their beds.²⁸⁸ At the Niš camp, the inmates were escorted to take a shower once a week.²⁸⁹

The inmates received three meals a day, but the food they received was very hot, and they had to eat it in no more than two or three minutes. If someone failed to finish the meal, on the way out he would be beaten.²⁹⁰ The guards would also beat detainees when they went to the toilet, so the inmates avoided asking for permission.²⁹¹

v. Mental and physical abuse of detainees

The inmates describe the abuse at the Niš camp as more brutal than at Stajićevo and Begejci. Soldiers would enter the cells at night, take the prisoners out into the corridor and severely beat them.²⁹² As at other camps, at Niš also, the guards were especially cruel to the detainees on the way to the toilet.²⁹³

The guards forced the detainees to stand in a place 1m² in size without moving for several hours²⁹⁴, pushed their heads into the toilet, and broke their fingers while hitting them.²⁹⁵

According to the testimony of the people who were at the camp in Niš, they received the most beatings on January 15, 1992, when Croatia was internationally recognised, as well as at Orthodox Christmas on January 7.²⁹⁶

X. The Military Investigative Prison in Belgrade

From December 1991 until the beginning of the summer of 1992, several groups of captured members of the ZNG and the MUP of Croatia were transferred from the camp to the Military Investigative Prison (VIZ) in Belgrade. A group of detainees, who were to be exchanged for detained JNA officers in the first half of December, spent two days at the VIZ before leaving for the exchange.²⁹⁷ Those detainees against whom the Military Prosecutor's Office had conducted investigations and filed indictments

288 Statement of the witness D.R., January 2005, HLC Archive.

289 Testimony of Z.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in the case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008.

290 Testimony of D.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008; Statement of the witness D.R., January 2005, HLC Archive.

291 Testimony of D.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 7156/04 of December 1, 2008.

292 Statement of the witness Z.R., January 2005, HLC Archive.

293 Statement of the witness M.G. given to HDLSKL, November 2002, HLC Archive.

294 Statement of the witness K.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Testimony of Z.R. before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade in case no. P 10394/07 of October 1, 2008.

295 Statement of the witness K.R. given to the HLC, March 2003.

296 Statement of Željko Sabo, stated according to the film "Head Down, Arms on your Back", B92, 2003; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević* and *Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 32; Statement of the witness A.K. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

297 Testimony of Vesna Bosanac before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, p. 15639.



were lodged there for a longer period of time.²⁹⁸ In a statement given to the ICTY Prosecutor's Office, Aleksandar Vasiljević stated that 82 detainees had been indicted, 25 of whom had been convicted before the Military Court in Belgrade.²⁹⁹ 121 people left this camp in mid-August 1992.³⁰⁰

Former detainee R.A. told the HLC researchers the following: "On July 1, 1992, I was transferred to the Military Investigative Prison in Belgrade as a war criminal. I was sentenced to death; the list of convicts was published in *Večernje novosti* journal, but I never received that decision. I know that a military indictment was filed against several of us, for crimes against civilians and for armed rebellion (the indictment covered about 30-45 people)."³⁰¹

There were women among the detainees at the VIZ in Belgrade.³⁰²

XI. Visits of the ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited the camps in Begejci, Stajićevo, Sremska Mitrovica and Niš on several occasions. The detainees saw the ICRC's visits as a guarantee that they would not be killed.³⁰³

During the ICRC's visits to the camps, the military officers hid certain prisoners so that they would not be registered.³⁰⁴ A group of about ten prisoners from the Begejci camp, including one woman, were separated and locked in separate rooms when the ICRC arrived, and they were not registered.³⁰⁵ At the Niš KPD, some 30 detainees in solitary confinement were hidden in that they would be taken away by buses from the camp during a visit of the ICRC.³⁰⁶

The conditions at the camps would improve after visits by the ICRC - the detainees would receive a hot meal and drinking water, and they would be allowed to take a bath.³⁰⁷ Through the ICRC, detainees

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298 Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2006; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006; Testimony of Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed February 28, 2020.

299 Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 167.

300 Analysis of data on detainees exhibit no. P402.5a, *Milošević*, p. 9.

301 Statement of the witness R.A. given to the HLC, March 2003.

302 Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006.

303 Statement of the witness G.B. given to the HLC, May 2006; Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006; Statement of the witness Z.Š. given to the HLC, March 2003.

304 Statement of the witness K.R. given to the HLC, March 2003.

305 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006; Statement of the witness B.V. given to the HDLSKL, November 2002, HLC Archive; Testimony of Manda Patko at the Fourth Transitional Justice Forum, October 29, 2008, available at <https://www.recom.link/manda-patko-6/>, accessed January 20, 2020; Statement of C-1160 exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević* Case, para. 71.

306 Statement of the witness M.B. given to the HLC, March 2003.

307 Statement of the witness Z.C. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003.



were able to send written messages to their families.³⁰⁸ However, the beatings of the detainees continued even after those visits.³⁰⁹

XII. Sexual abuse at the camps

Several detainees testified that they had heard of the sexual abuse to which women were exposed at the camps.³¹⁰ Ž.S., in an interview with HLC researchers, recollected: "I know that about 20 women were imprisoned in Begejci, one of whom was physically and mentally abused. They said she was a sniper and for that reason they harassed her every day. She was raped several times."³¹¹

During his testimony before the ICTY, psychiatrist Mladen Lončar, who was detained at the Begejci camp, confirmed that there had been rapes at camps in Serbia.³¹² Lončar testified that after leaving the camp, he had the opportunity in his practice to talk with women survivors of sexual violence at the camps: and that he had learned that some of them were taken to the buildings at the camp in Begejci where the guards were lodged, and also to hotels in Zrenjanin, where they were exposed to sexual harassment.³¹³

In the indictment against Vasiljević and Živanović, the Osijek County State's Attorney's Office (ŽDO) cited statements by detained women that they had been exposed to rape and sexual violence at camps in Serbia.³¹⁴

XIII. Death of inmates

At least 14 detainees died at camps in Serbia as a result of the beatings and ill-treatment, as well as lack of adequate medical care.

308 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2003.

309 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HLC, January 2003.

310 Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3973; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002; Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, p. 3461; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 17.

311 Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003.

312 Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 5, 2013, p. 8227.

313 Testimony of Mladen Lončar before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 6, 2013, p. 8231.

314 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 3.



i. JNA barracks in Bujanj Potok

Mirko Tišma from Baranja died in September 1991 as a result of physical abuse at the JNA barracks in Bujanj Potok.³¹⁵

Detainees who gave statements before Croatian judicial bodies during the investigation into the camps in Serbia state that Mirko Tišma was beaten so badly that he passed away.³¹⁶

In July 1995, the Commission on Missing Persons³¹⁷ handed over the mortal remains of Mirko Tišma to the then Commission on Detainees and Missing Persons of the Republic of Croatia.³¹⁸

ii. Begejci Camp

Zlatko Brajer died at the Begejci camp on December 3, 1991.³¹⁹

Upon his arrival at the camp in Begejci, the guards confiscated the medicine Zlatko Brajer had with him. B.Š., who was detained in Begejci with Zlatko Brajer, told HLC researchers: “On one occasion, he asked to go to the toilet; the guard came for him, and while he was on his way, he suddenly fell sick; the guard laid him down on the nearest bed, and very soon, after a few minutes, he died.”³²⁰

Tomislav Đuranec, a doctor at the Borovo Health Center, examined Zlatko Brajer after his death and concluded that he had been beaten, and that, in addition to the abuse and the chronic illness, the medication for which had been confiscated, he also suffered from pneumonia, as a result of which he died.³²¹

The Commission on Missing Persons of Serbia does not have information regarding the exhumation and transfer of the mortal remains of Zlatko Brajer.³²² His name is not in the ICRC and ICMP records.³²³

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315 *Ibid*, pp. 16-17, p. 33; Telephone conversation with witness J.K. on February 25, 2020.

316 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 16.

317 The full name of the commission in 1995 was: Federal Government Commission for Humanitarian Affairs and Missing Persons. The Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, established in 2006, continued the work of previous government bodies in resolving the issue of missing persons, available at: <http://www.kznl.gov.rs/latinica/komisija-za-nestala-lica.php> accessed April 2, 2020 (only available in Serbian).

318 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of 5 February 2020.

319 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 24.

320 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC in June 2006.

321 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 24.

322 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-5425/1-2019 of December 3, 2019.

323 The list of names of persons sought by their relatives, ICRC, available at: <https://familylinks.icrc.org/croatia/en/pages/search-persons.aspx>, accessed April 2, 2020; International Commission on Missing Persons, available at: https://oic.icmp.int/index.php?w=mp_details&l=en&fname=zlatko&ffname=&lname=b&mp_search=+Search+&verification_code_a=&verification_code_b=&g-recaptcha-response=&verification_code=, accessed April 2, 2020.



iii. Stajićevo camp

According to available data, at least three detainees died at Stajićevo camp.

According to the statements of the inmates who were detained with him, **Branko Koch** (1942) was beaten in front of the barn while he was going to the toilet. Upon returning to the barn, other detainees saw that he had been beaten; he put his hand against his chest, after which he collapsed and died.³²⁴ Branko Koch's son said in a statement given to the Croatian judiciary that on December 15, 1991, a guard nicknamed "Žuti" [Yellow] took him to his father, who was lying on the floor completely naked. According to the testimony of I.K., the bruises from a baton were visible on his father's body. He later found out that his father had been beaten by guards when he went to the toilet during the night.³²⁵ One of the detainees who witnessed the beating of Branko Koch testified that "the guards jumped on his head."³²⁶

According to the testimony of Hicham Mall, who was detained at Stajićevo, **Ivan Kunac** (1951) died after being beaten by members of the military police.³²⁷ During the night of November 24, 1991, Ivan Kunac returned to the camp after being interrogated. In the morning, the other detainees saw that he was covered in blood. They asked Lieutenant-Colonel Živanović to send him to the hospital, but Živanović said that a doctor would come to the camp to check him. The same afternoon, a female military doctor came to the camp and said that no hospital treatment was needed and that she would return a day later. However, Ivan Kunac died during the night.³²⁸

44 The mortal remains of Ivan Kunac and Branko Koch were handed over on July 12, 1995 in Lipovac, Nijemci municipality.³²⁹

According to the testimony of the captured T.Đ., who was nearby, inmate **Ivan Kamerla** (1949) could not mentally endure "all the ugly events, at a certain moment, he just ran and headed for the fence, entangling himself in the barbed wire, and the guards killed him."³³⁰ Witnesses also state that Ivan Kamerla was beaten by several camp guards.³³¹ Ivica Vuletić, a guard at Stajićevo, was convicted of beating Ivan Kamerla before the Osijek County Court.³³²

324 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 25.

325 *Ibid.*, p. 27.

326 *Ibid.*, p. 32.

327 Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, pp. 3441-3442; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 3; Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, p. 17303; Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 12, 2013, p. 3879.

328 Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 12, 2013, pp. 3879-3880; Testimony of Branko Čulić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of March 7, 2013, pp. 3441-3442; Ivan Kunac, HNK Radnički, available at: <http://www.geocities.ws/hnkradnicki/pogKunac.html>, accessed on February 28, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

329 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of 5 February 2020.

330 Statement of witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003; Testimony of Ivan Grujić before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of March 4, 2003, p. 17303; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003.

331 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 24.

332 Judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Ivica Vuletić* Case of December 5, 1997, p. 3.



The mortal remains of the murdered Ivan Kamerla were exhumed from the Belgrade cemetery of Lešće and handed over to his family in 2006.³³³

iv. Sremska Mitrovica KPD Camp

Between the end of November 1991 and May 1992, at least 8 detainees died at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD Camp as a result of beatings or failure to provide adequate medical care.

In the second half of December 1991, **Božo Kelava** was transferred from the Stajićevo camp together with other detainees, to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD. According to the detainees, Kelava was abused in both camps.³³⁴ Ivica Vuletić, a guard from Stajićevo, was convicted of beating Božo Kelava in Stajićevo, causing his death on January 9, 1992 at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.³³⁵

The mortal remains of the murdered Božo Kelava were exhumed from the Belgrade cemetery of Lešće and handed over to his family in July 1995.³³⁶

Josip Boldiš (1956) died as a result of ill-treatment at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD on February 23, 1992.³³⁷ Several inmates witnessed Josip Boldiš being taken away for questioning, after which he never returned.³³⁸

The family of Josip Boldiš found out about his death in August 1992, when the last detainees were exchanged. According to what they were told, Josip received a message from his wife through the ICRC three days before his death, saying that she had given birth and that he had a daughter, which made him happy. He was then called in for questioning, during which he was beaten to death.³³⁹

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The mortal remains of Josip Boldiš were handed over to his family in 1995 in Lipovac.³⁴⁰

Zlatko Cvitković was buried at the Central Cemetery in Sremska Mitrovica as an unidentified person.³⁴¹ His mortal remains were handed over to his family in March 1997.³⁴² The HLC has no information about how Zlatko Cvitković died.

Damir Kiralj (1959) was wounded when he was detained and taken to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.

333 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020.

334 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 31.

335 *Ibid*, pp. 41-42; Judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Ivica Vuletić* Case of December 5, 1997, pp. 3 and 20.

336 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020.

337 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 46.

338 *Ibid*, pp. 2, 28, 31.

339 *Ibid*, p. 46. Telephone conversation with witness D.B. on February 25, 2020; A Serb who defended Vukovar for DNEVNIK.hr about life in the Hero Town: "Foundations for new conflicts are being created", November 16, 2018, available at: <https://dnevnik.hr/vijesti/hrvatska/predrag-pedja-misic-za-dnevnik-hr-o-zivotu-u-vukovaru-stvaraju-se-temelji-za-nove-sukobe---538342.html>, accessed February 25, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

340 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020.

341 Response of PUC "Komunalije" from Sremska Mitrovica no. 4223-1/19 of November 20, 2019.

342 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020.



Seeing him bloody, the detainees who were brought in after him asked the guards to bring a doctor. But the guards refused.³⁴³ In the morning, the detainees found him lying on the floor, dead. Damir Kiralj died during the night of November 20-21, 1991.³⁴⁴

Damir Kiralj was buried at the Central Cemetery in Sremska Mitrovica as an unidentified person.³⁴⁵ In March 1997, the Commission on Missing Persons handed over the mortal remains of Damir Kiralj to his family.³⁴⁶

Antun Plivelić also died as a result of the beating at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD. Plivelić was buried at the Central Cemetery in Sremska Mitrovica as an unidentified person.³⁴⁷ The Commission on Missing Persons of Serbia handed over his mortal remains in July 2003.³⁴⁸

Niko Šoljić (1942) was among the detainees who were brought to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD on November 22, 1991. After running the gauntlet, they were ordered by members of the police to take off their shoes and kneel on the grass. After that, the policemen started hitting them on their knees and feet. Niko Šoljić fainted during that beating. Soon afterwards, he died.³⁴⁹

Niko Šoljić was buried at the Central Cemetery in Sremska Mitrovica as an unidentified person.³⁵⁰ His mortal remains were handed over to his family in July 2003.³⁵¹

Ivan Švraka (1936) died on an unspecified date at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.³⁵² As Ivan Švraka's son confirmed in an interview with HLC researchers, he died at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD as a result of the beating.³⁵³

The mortal remains of Ivan Švraka were exhumed in March 2002 from the cemetery in Sremska Mitrovica.³⁵⁴

343 Statement of the witness Željko Šandor, exhibit no. P00348, *Hadžić*, para. 67.

344 *Ibid*, paras. 67-71.

345 Response of PUC "Komunalije" from Sremska Mitrovica no. 4223-1/19 of November 20, 2019.

346 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020; The list of persons enumerated in the indictment, whose mortal remains were transferred from Serbia and Montenegro, exhibit no. 00551, *Mrkšić et al.*

347 Response of PUC "Komunalije" from Sremska Mitrovica no. 4223-1/19 of November 20, 2019.

348 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020.

349 Testimony of Ljubo Pribudić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of October 17, 2013, pp. 8922-8923; Decision on declaring a missing person dead, exhibit no. P03109, *Hadžić*.

350 Response of PUC "Komunalije" from Sremska Mitrovica no. 4223-1/19 of November 20, 2019.

351 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020; Testimony of Višnja Bilić before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, p. 3809.

352 Telephone conversation with witness I.Š. on March 2, 2020; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 47.

353 Telephone conversation with witness I.Š. on March 2, 2020.

354 Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020.



Đuro Tvorek (1953) was wounded (in the legs) just before the fall of Vukovar. He was detained at “Borovo Komerc”, whence he was sent to Serbia by bus together with other prisoners. The bus he was in was stopped several times before the border, and the detainees were taken off the bus and beaten by unknown members of the JNA. Đuro Tvorek's wife heard from people who were with him that Đuro was taken out and beaten on three occasions, once in Bogojevo. Upon arrival in Sremska Mitrovica during the night of November 19 - 20, 1991, a man sitting on the bus next to him told soldiers that Đuro had died. Đuro Tvorek's body was covered with a blanket and left in front of the prison in Sremska Mitrovica.³⁵⁵

Đuro Tvorek was buried at the Central Cemetery in Sremska Mitrovica as an unidentified person.³⁵⁶ His mortal remains were handed over to his family in 2003.³⁵⁷

v. Niš KPD

At the end of November 1991, **Pero Mesić**, a civilian from Donje Novo Selo near Vinkovci, was detained and, together with his brother, transferred first to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD and then to Niš. During their stay at the camp in Niš, Pero and his brother were taken for questioning several times. According to the testimony of N.M., Pero Mesić's brother, military police took his brother for questioning one day. After a long time, a JNA non-commissioned officer informed N.M. that his brother has died.³⁵⁸ Mesić died at the Niš KPD on November 25, 1991. Three days later, on November 28, he was buried in the New Cemetery in Niš.³⁵⁹

The mortal remains of Petar Mesić were exhumed in 2010 at the Niš cemetery and handed over to his family.³⁶⁰

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XIV. Interrogation at the camps

At all these camps, the detainees were taken to special rooms for interrogations, where they were subjected to beatings, insults and other forms of mistreatment.

³⁵⁵ Telephone conversation with witness M.T. on March 2, 2020.

³⁵⁶ Response of PUC “Komunalije” from Sremska Mitrovica no. 4223-1/19 of November 20, 2019.

³⁵⁷ Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-53/1-2020 of February 5, 2020; Vukovar defender Đuro Tvorek Buried, *Index.hr*, October 10, 2003, available at: <https://www.index.hr/vijesti/clanak/zagreb-pokopan-vukovarski-branitelj-djuro-tvorek/163730.aspx>, accessed February 28, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

³⁵⁸ Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 47.

³⁵⁹ Response of PUC Gorica-Niš no. 1-2737 of November 12, 2019.

³⁶⁰ Response of the Commission on Missing Persons no. 019-5425/1-2019 of December 3, 2019.



The detainees were interrogated by UB SSNO and OB JNA officers, as well as by members of the TO and SAO SBZS militia, in the presence of camp guards from the reserve military police.³⁶¹ The detainees were interrogated about alleged war crimes, the positions of Croatian forces, about what they saw or heard, about certain people they knew, as well as about the business of the companies in which they worked.³⁶² The interrogators provoked and insulted the detainees by calling them Ustashas. The detainees testified that they were asked how many children they had slaughtered, who had they killed, who had mined Serb houses and the like.³⁶³

The detainees were forced to sign already prepared statements saying that they were responsible for war crimes, and that they had committed rapes or murders.³⁶⁴

During the interrogation, the detainees were photographed and filmed.³⁶⁵

During their stay at the camp, the inmates would be taken for questioning several times. Interrogations of inmates were frequent, every two or three days. The inmates in solitary cells would be interrogated several times in one day.³⁶⁶

The detainees rarely complained to their interrogators about the conditions in the camp out of fear, but some reported physical harassment and starvation, which did not result in improved conditions at the camps.³⁶⁷

361 Engagement of OBs at POW camps from October 10, 1991, exhibit no. P03196, *Hadžić*; Testimony of Bogdan Vujić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of February 16, 2006, pp. 4483-4484; Statement of Slavko Tomić given to the Military Court in Belgrade on March 14, 2000 read before the High Court in Belgrade in the case of *Mirosljub Vujović et al.* of June 21 2005, p. 16; Testimony of Bogoljub Kijanović before the Higher Court in Belgrade in the case of *Mirosljub Vujović et al.* of June 23, 2005, p. 4; Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Slobodan Gojković* Case of September 24, 2002; Sremska Mitrovica Case (*Marko Crevar*), available at: http://www.hlc-rdc.org/Transkripti/sm_marko_crevar.html, accessed March 26, 2020 (only available in Serbian).

362 Statement of the witness T.Đ. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness G.B. given to the HLC, May 2003; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006.

363 Statement of the witness V.Š. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness Z.Š. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness D.G. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness B.B. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003.

364 Statement of the witness Z.C. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Ž.S. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness Z.K. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006.

365 Statement of the witness M.T. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness R.A. given to the HLC, March 2003.

366 Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006; Statement of the witness Z.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness K.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness M.Č. given to the HLC, March 2003.

367 Statement of the witness M.B. given to the HLC, March 2003; Testimony of Vesna Bosanac before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 9, 2013, p. 3675.



XV. Interrogators at the camps

On October 10, 1991, the UB SSNO issued an order for the engagement of the security organs in prisoner-of-war camps. With this order, the OB was put in charge of collecting data on “the organisation, formation, arming, training, information, intelligence and security of MUP and ZNG units, as well as on the authorities in the territory from where they come and from which they operated”, through performing informative interviews with detainees at the camps.³⁶⁸

Around October 20, 1991, the UB SSNO sent an operational team of security organs to Begejci to conduct investigations, headed by Slavko Tomić, a retired JNA colonel.³⁶⁹ This team was composed of JNA officers - Colonel Bogoljub Kijanović, Colonel Radovan Radivojević, Captain First Class Slobodan Stošić and retired Colonel Bogdan Vujić.³⁷⁰ This group was sent to Begejci to work on “investigating crimes committed by paramilitary forces, and individuals from the territory affected by the war; also, by conducting informative interviews with them, possible crimes committed by members of JNA units should be investigated.” This task consisted of questioning the prisoners and taking their statements.³⁷¹

On November 18, 1991, UB SSNO ordered Colonel Slavko Tomić’s operational investigative team to move on that day from Begejci to Sremska Mitrovica, “where a prisoner-of-war camp is being set up, as the fall of Vukovar is expected.”³⁷² On the same day, the team was relocated to Sremska Mitrovica.³⁷³ The head of the operational and investigative team of the UB SSNO in Sremska Mitrovica was Colonel Jugoslav Maksimović.³⁷⁴

In addition to the operational investigative team of the UB SSNO, the camp administration and members of the military police, the detainees at Begejci, Stajićevo and Sremska Mitrovica KPD were interrogated by the officials and representatives of the SAO SBZS authorities, as well as members of the SAO SBZS militia.³⁷⁵

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368 Engagement of OBs at POW camps from October 10, 1991, exhibit no. P03196, *Hadžić*.

369 Testimony of Bogdan Vujić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of February 16, 2006, p. 4483.

370 Statement of Slavko Tomić given to the Military Court in Belgrade on March 14, 2000 read before the High Court in Belgrade in the case of *Mirosljub Vujović et al.* of June 23 2005, p. 16; Testimony of Bogoljub Kijanović before the Higher Court in Belgrade in the case of *Mirosljub Vujović et al.* of June 23, 2005, p. 4.

371 Testimony of Bogdan Vujić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of February 16, 2006, pp. 4481-4482; Testimony of Bogoljub Kijanović before the War Crimes Chamber in Belgrade in the *Vujović et al.* Case of 23 June 2005, pp. 4 and 15.

372 Testimony of Bogdan Vujić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of February 16, 2006, pp. 4483-4484.

373 Statement of Slavko Tomić given to the Military Court in Belgrade on March 14, 2000 read before the Higher Court in Belgrade in the case of *Mirosljub Vujović et al.* of June 21, 2005, p. 16; Testimony of Bogoljub Kijanović before the Higher Court in Belgrade in the case of *Mirosljub Vujović et al.* of June 23, 2005, p. 4; Testimony of Bogdan Vujić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of February 16, 2006, p. 4484; Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 170.

374 Letter from Jugoslav Maksimović to Colonel Gligorević, exhibit no. P03200, *Hadžić*; Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 169.

375 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Stanko Vujanović et al.* Case of April 28, 2003; *Sremska Mitrovica Case (Marko Crevar)*, available at: http://www.hlc-rdc.org/Transkripti/sm_marko_crevar.html, accessed March 26, 2002 (only available in Serbian); Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Slobodan Gojković* Case of September 24, 2002.



At the request of the Minister of Justice of the SAO SBZS, Vojin Šuša, the delegation from the SAO SBZS was given access to the camp by the camp administration; they were provided with a list of detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD with the approval of the UB SSNO.³⁷⁶ Colonel Jugoslav Maksimović informed his superiors at the UB SSNO about the visit of the delegation of the SAO SBZS on December 10, 1991: "They wanted to visit the detainees and, in accordance with your suggestion, I allowed them to inspect 3 of the rooms. They stated that they had already recognized about thirty faces - core Ustashes."³⁷⁷

The detainees testified that they were also interrogated by Slavoljub Sremac, who was a judge from Vukovar, the SDS president for Vukovar Boro Savić, the Vukovar prosecutor Grujo Amidžić, Željko Vračarić from Vukovar, Vukovar mayor Slavko Dokmanović, and the Prime Minister of SAO SBZS Goran Hadžić.³⁷⁸

At the beginning of 1992, the security organ of VP 9922³⁷⁹ filed criminal charges with the Military Prosecutor's Office against certain detainees, after which the Military Prosecutor's Office filed indictments.³⁸⁰ In this regard, investigative judges of the Military Court in Belgrade came to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD to interrogate the detainees. Among them were Lieutenant-Colonel Milorad Vukosav³⁸¹ and Captain Mirko Stojanović³⁸², as well as Milomir Šalić.³⁸³

According to the testimony of Aleksandar Vasiljević, criminal charges were filed against 186 detainees "suspected of committing war crimes, murder, rape, cremation and armed rebellion."³⁸⁴ The prosecution indicted 82 people, and convicted 25 before the Military Court.³⁸⁵

In most cases, the interrogators at the camps did not reveal their names to the detainees, so they could only identify them by rank and uniform or, most often, only as military personnel. Some of

376 Letter from Jugoslav Maksimović to Colonel Gligorević, exhibit no. P03200, *Hadžić*, p. 2; Letter from Vojin Šuša to the Commander of the 1st VO dated 27 November 1991, exhibit no. P03262, *Hadžić*.

377 Letter from Jugoslav Maksimović to Colonel Gligorević, exhibit no. P03200, *Hadžić*, p. 2.

378 Statement of the witness Z.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness Ivan Gašparović from May 7 and 8, 2013, exhibit no. P02990, *Hadžić*, para. 39; "Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century", Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 207; Indictment of the Vukovar County State Attorney's Office against *Veljko Kadijević et al.* dated December 24, 2002, p. 44; Testimony of Hicham Malla before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 11, 2013, pp. 3869-3870.

379 In his statement given to the ICTY Prosecution, Lakić Đorović, a former military prosecutor, states that VP 9922 is in fact UB SSNO, see: Statement of Witness Lakić Đorović of August 30, 31 and September 1, 2006, exhibit no. P02671, *Šainović et al.* para. 22.

380 Case before the Military Court in Belgrade *Filiković et al.*, HLC archive; Case before the Military Court in Belgrade *Sabljić et al.*, HLC archive.

381 Case before the Military Court in Belgrade *Filiković et al.*, HLC archive.

382 Witness Hearing Record of K.P. dated February 25, 1992, KI no. 545/92, HLC Archive.

383 Testimony of Željko Šandor before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 7, 2013, pp. 2261-2262.

384 Statement of Aleksandar Vasiljević, dated March 11-15, 2013 and April 17 and 19, 2013, exhibit no. P02913.1, *Hadžić*, para. 167.

385 Ibid, para. 167; Six persons were sentenced to death, while the others were sentenced to prison terms of 6 to 20 years, HLC archives; "Three defendants sentenced to death", *The Army*, July 2, 1992; "Sentence for armed rebellion", *People's Army*, May 7, 1992.



the interrogators used nicknames or pseudonyms when interrogating the detainees. Bogdan Vujić, a member of the UB SSNO investigative team, testified before the ICTY that he used the pseudonym “Colonel Branko” during the interrogations.³⁸⁶ The director of the Vukovar hospital, Dr. Vesna Bosanac, remembers that during her stay at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD, she was interrogated daily by “Colonel Branko”.³⁸⁷

At the camps in Begejci and Stajićevo, the detainees were also interrogated by the camp commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Živanović the from UB SSNO.³⁸⁸ At least one detainee remembers seeing Miroslav Živanović at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD as well.³⁸⁹

According to the data of the Ministry of Defence, during 1991 and 1992, Živanović was temporarily sent from the Belgrade garrison to the Sremska Mitrovica garrison.³⁹⁰ In addition, Order no. 2-2 of the Chief of the SSNO Personnel Administration indicates that Miroslav Živanović was sent to the “Center for Prisoners-of-War” in Sremska Mitrovica on January 7, 1992.³⁹¹ The HLC requested a copy of this order from the MO on the basis of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance.³⁹² The MO rejected the request, stating that “it is unknown what information is requested; it is rather a request for a document containing certain information; that document is a carrier of information.”³⁹³ For that reason, the HLC sent a new request in which it asked for the information from the MO: Was it by the Order 2-2 of the Chief of the SSNO Personnel Administration of Major-General Gojko Krstić, dated January 7, 1992, that Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Živanović was sent to the Sremska Mitrovica KPD collection centre, and to which position.³⁹⁴ However, the MO issued a decision rejecting this request, stating that “the information regarding the duty that Miroslav Živanović performed in the Yugoslav Army, i.e. the position to which he was assigned according to the act on internal organization and systematisation of formation positions within the Yugoslav Army, are secret data marked ‘Confidential’.”³⁹⁵ The HLC finds it unusual that these data were marked as confidential, given that the MO had previously provided the HLC with the information on Živanović’s service in the Sremska Mitrovica garrison.³⁹⁶

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386 Testimony of Bogdan Vujić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of February 17, 2006, p. 4547; Statement of Bogdan Vujić before the Higher Court in Belgrade in the case of *Miroslav Vujović et al.* of December 17, 2004, p. 68; Testimony of Vesna Bosanac before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of February 5, 2003, pp. 15662-15663.

387 Statement of Vesna Bosanac written in prison, exhibit no. D95, *Milošević*, p. 110; Testimony of Vesna Bosanac before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of April 9, 2013, pp. 3674-3675; Testimony of Vesna Bosanac before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of March 26, 1996, pp. 215-216.

388 Statement of the witness GH-085, exhibit no. P02993, *Hadžić*, p. 8.

389 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002, HLC Archive.

390 Miroslav Živanović’s military service ended in 1994. The Ministry of Defence states “permanent incapacity for performing service” as the reason. Response of the MO no. 10566-9/19 of January 24, 2020.

391 Twelfth Prosecution Motion for leave to amend its Rule 65ter exhibit list, July 1, 2013. godine, *Hadžić*, p. 6.

392 Request for access to information of public importance was submitted to the MO on January 15, 2020, HlcIndexOut: 170-F140851.

393 Response of the MO no. 10566-9/19 of January 27, 2020.

394 Request for access to information of public importance was submitted to the MO on January 30, 2020, HlcIndexOut: 170-F141128.

395 Response of the MO no. 1047-5 dated February 14, 2020.

396 Response of the MO no. 10566-9/19 of January 24, 2020.



The detainees speak of Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Živanović, the commander of the Stajićevo and Begejci camps, as a man who showed compassion for the detainees and in whose presence there was no ill-treatment of prisoners.³⁹⁷ However, some detainees testified that Živanović was also present when the detainees were beaten.³⁹⁸

Miroslav Živanović passed away on June 24, 2013.³⁹⁹

i. Members of the TO and the SAO SBZS militia

Croatian civilians and soldiers were interrogated at the camps by members of the TO and the SAO SBZS militia with the approval of the camp administration and the UB SSNO leader.⁴⁰⁰ Some of them the detainees knew already from Vukovar.⁴⁰¹ During the interrogation, the detainees were tortured and beaten. The beating of detainees by members of the TO and the SAO SBZS militia took place with the knowledge, and often in the presence of JNA officers.⁴⁰² Before the courts in Croatia, several members of the militia and TO were convicted of inhumane treatment of prisoners at the camps in the Sremska Mitrovica KPD, Stajićevo and Begejci.⁴⁰³

The detainees testified about the arrival of Marko Kraguljac, a reserve captain of the 453rd Mechanised JNA Brigade from Sremska Mitrovica⁴⁰⁴, at the camps in Stajićevo and Sremska Mitrovica.⁴⁰⁵ In his statement before the Vukovar County Court, Josip Crnjac said that he was interrogated in Sremska Mitrovica by Marko Kraguljac, who had been his neighbour from Vukovar. During the interrogation, Kraguljac hit him in the face wearing brass knucklebusters.⁴⁰⁶ Kraguljac also came to Stajićevo, where he ordered certain detainees to be beaten.⁴⁰⁷

397 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC, June 2006; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002; Statement of the witness M.K. given to the HLC, May 2008; Statement of the witness D.R. given to the HLC, March 2003.

398 Testimony of C-1149 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of July 14, 2003, p. 24269.

399 "Živanović has passed away, Vasiljević lives in Belgrade", *Glas Slavonije*, October 26, 2013, available at: <http://www.glas-slavonije.hr/214484/1/Zivanovic-je-preminuo-Vasiljevic-zivi-u-Beogradu>, accessed on January 15, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

400 Slobodan Gojković, member of the SAO SBZS militia, stated during his Defence before the Vukovar County Court that he and other members of the militia were received by a JNA major upon arrival at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD, see: Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Slobodan Gojković* Case of September 24, 2002, p. 2; In a letter sent to Colonel Gligorević from the UB SSNO, Jugoslav Maksimović states that the arrival of operational teams from the area of SAO SBZS must be coordinated at the UB SSNO with General Vasiljević, see in: Letter from Jugoslav Maksimović to Colonel Gligorević, exhibit no. P03200, *Hadžić*, p.2.

401 Witness statement of Franjo Kožul, Memorial of the Republic of Croatia, vol II, *Croatia v. Yugoslavia*, ICJ, p. 418.

402 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Slobodan Gojković* Case of September 24, 2002, pp. 2-5.

403 Prosecution for war crimes committed at camps and prisons during the Homeland War, DORH, October 2015, available at: <http://www.dorh.hr/fgs.axd?id=1907>, accessed February 20, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

404 The commander of the 453rd mbr was Lieutenant-Colonel Ilija Jokić, see: Report on the Establishment of Civilian Authority of TO Headquarters and Internal Affairs Bodies of December 15, 1991, exhibit no. P02006.1981, *Hadžić*; Notification of the Command 453rd mbr no. 81-987/1 dated April 9, 1992, exhibit no. P01698, *Hadžić*; Testimony of Dušan Jakšić before the ICTY in the *Mrkšić et al.* Case of September 14, 2006, p. 11897.

405 Report on the Battle for Vukovar - Cherif Bassiouni, exhibit no. 00603, *Mrkšić et al.*, p. 35; Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in *Stanko Vujanović et al.* Case of April 27, 2003, p. 21.

406 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Stanko Vujanović et al.* Case of April 28, 2003, p. 8.

407 *Ibid*, pp. 8 and 15.



One of the interrogators at the camps was Marko Crevar, member of the TO, and then of the SAO SBZS militia, who was found guilty before the War Crimes Chamber of the Higher Court in Belgrade of torturing two detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica camp.⁴⁰⁸

Slobodan Gojković, member of the SAO SBZS militia, was found guilty before the Vukovar County Court of torture and inhumane treatment during the interrogation of detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD in February 1992. During his Defence, Slobodan Gojković stated that he and other members of the militia were received by a JNA major upon arrival at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD. They were sent from the headquarters in Vukovar to interrogate the captured Croats about the circumstances of the disappearance of Serbs in Vukovar in 1991.⁴⁰⁹

In January and February 1992, Žarko Amidžić, a first-class captain in the reserve from Vukovar, came to the camp in the Sremska Mitrovica KPD to take part in the interrogation and physical abuse of the detainees.⁴¹⁰

The detainees testified that during their stay at the camps they were interrogated and beaten by Captain Medić, Captain Đuka, military men Stošić⁴¹¹, Veselin Petrović Veso⁴¹², Žarko Leskovac⁴¹³, Darko Fot⁴¹⁴ and Mihailo Katalina Pahulj⁴¹⁵, Milan Ikač Turukalo and a certain Jovanović with the nickname “Boga”⁴¹⁶. Radivoje Jakovljević, with the nickname “Frižider” [Fridge], and Zoran Stanković, with the nickname “Kesega”, came from Vukovar to the Stajićevo camp, where they abused and beat the detainees in the basement.⁴¹⁷

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XVI. Guards at the camps

The guards at the camps were soldiers and reserve forces soldiers of the JNA military police. Detainees give several names and nicknames of camp guards in their statements.⁴¹⁸ Detainees heard from the

408 *Sremska Mitrovica Case (Marko Crevar)*, available at: http://www.hlc-rdc.org/Transkripti/sm_marko_crevar.html accessed January 30, 2020 (only available in Serbian).

409 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Slobodan Gojković Case* of September 24, 2002, pp. 2-8; Statement of the witness B.B. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003, HLC Archive.

410 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Žarko Amidžić Case* of June 1, 2000, pp. 4-7.

411 Minutes from the hearing of J.M. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated 8 December 2010, HLC Archives.

412 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Žarko Amidžić Case* of June 1, 2000, p. 5; Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Slobodan Gojković Case* of September 24, 2002, p. 2; Witness statement of Franjo Kožul, Memorial of the Republic of Croatia, vol II, *Croatia v. Yugoslavia*, ICJ, p. 418.

413 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Slobodan Gojković Case* of September 24, 2002, pp. 4-5.

414 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Stanko Vujanović et al. Case* of April 28, 2003, p. 7.

415 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002, HLC Archive; Indictment of the Vukovar ŽDO against *Stevan Curnić et al.* dated May 30, 1999.

416 Witness statement of Franjo Kožul, Memorial of the Republic of Croatia, vol II, *Croatia v. Yugoslavia*, ICJ, p. 417.

417 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Stanko Vujanović et al. Case* of April 28, 2003, pp. 3, 11, 17.

418 In the book “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, the HDLSKL records a large number of names of guards from the camps on the territory of Serbia. This Dossier lists the names and nicknames of those guards that the detainees explicitly mention in statements available to the HLC.



guards themselves that some of them had been released from prison and had voluntarily joined the JNA.⁴¹⁹ Guards from one camp were often transferred to other camps.⁴²⁰

The guards at the camps wore various uniforms, in police blue and the olive green of the JNA.⁴²¹ The guard with the nickname “Žare” at the Begejci camp wore a JNA uniform with a white belt, while some wore a camouflage uniform.⁴²²

One of the guards at Stajićevo was Slobodan Bačić aka “Čobo”, who was sentenced in absentia before the Osijek County Court in 1999 to 10 years in prison.⁴²³

Ivica Vuletić, a guard at the Stajićevo and Begejci camps, was also convicted before the Croatian judiciary, for attacking captured members of the Croatian Army (ZNG), Croatian police, and other detainees with his fists, with his feet wearing military boots, and with batons to their heads and bodies, and for shoving batons into their mouths and forcing them to sing Serbian songs, causing them great physical and mental pain; as a result of such physical abuse, prisoners Kamerla Ivan and Kelava Božo died of their injuries.⁴²⁴ Vuletić was sentenced to 20 years in prison.⁴²⁵

The detainees of the camp in Begejci remember many names and nicknames of the guards, such as: “Gugi” from Ključ⁴²⁶, corporals “Žare”, “Borko” and “Šeki”⁴²⁷, “Gagi”⁴²⁸, “Voja”⁴²⁹, “Rambo”⁴³⁰, “Crnogorac” [The Montenegrin]⁴³¹, a guard with the nickname “Kapo”⁴³², “Rajko”⁴³³ and others.

419 Testimony of C-1160 before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of September 17, 2003, p. 26807.

420 Inmate Z.P. in his statement for HDLSKL said: “I was at Stajićevo for about two months, then they transferred me to Sremska Mitrovica. I was thinking it would be better, but it was even worse as far as the beating was concerned, because those beasts “The Hungarian” and “The Montenegrin” came after I arrived” - stated according to: Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive; Ivica Vuletić was a guard in Stajićevo and Begejci, see in: Judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Ivica Vuletić* Case of December 5, 1997.

421 Statement of the witness Željko Šandor, exhibit no. P00348, *Hadžić*, para. 78; Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006.

422 Testimony of GH-071 before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of May 1, 2013, p. 3955.

423 Judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Slobodan Bačić* Case of April 14, 1999.

424 Judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Ivica Vuletić* Case of December 5, 1997, pp. 2-3.

425 By the same verdict Ivica Vuletić was convicted for the murders in Vukovar, see: Judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Ivica Vuletić* Case of December 5, 1997, p. 3; Ivica Vuletić partially served his sentence in a prison in Croatia, and the other part in Serbia, which recognized the verdict, see: DORH Statement: The allegations that the State Attorney's Office did nothing are incorrect, available at: <http://www.dorh.hr/NetocniSuNavodi>, accessed March 27, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

426 Statement of the witness B.V. given to HDLSKL, November 2002, HLC Archive.

427 Statement of the witness B.Š. given to the HLC in June 2006; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002; Statement of the witness B.V. given to the HDLSKL, November 2002, HLC Archive; Testimony of witness C-1160, exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević*, paras. 40, 51, 81; Minutes from the hearing of B.K. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archive.

428 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002, HLC Archive.

429 *Ibid*; Statement of C-1160, exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević*, para. 81.

430 Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive; Statement of C-1160, exhibit no. P542.1A, *Milošević*, paras. 41, 81.

431 Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HDLSKL, September 2002, HLC Archive.

432 Statement of the witness A.K. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

433 *Ibid*.



From Stajićevo, the detainees remember men with the nicknames “The Hungarian” and “The Montenegrin”⁴³⁴ and a guard with the nickname “Tajči”⁴³⁵

Detainees from the Sremska Mitrovica KPD remember “Simo”, “Laki”⁴³⁶, “Zeka” and Marko⁴³⁷, then “Žarko”⁴³⁸, “The Kid”⁴³⁹, “Tovirac” from Bosanski Šamac⁴⁴⁰, “Tyson”⁴⁴¹, “The Hungarian”⁴⁴² and “The Montenegrin”⁴⁴³.

The detainees remember Sergeant Safet Bešlija, who was present at Begejci and at the JNA barracks in Bubanj Potok.⁴⁴⁴

The detainees from Niš remember a guard whose last name was Šćekić⁴⁴⁵, then Šaponja and Sajdžija⁴⁴⁶, Sergeant Čekić⁴⁴⁷, and a civilian named Dino.⁴⁴⁸

The detainees who were transferred from Sremska Mitrovica KPD to VIZ Belgrade accompanied by “special forces from Topčider” remember that one of the guards was called Milivoje Sretenović.⁴⁴⁹

For the guards named by the detainees in their statements, the HLC sent request for access to information of public importance to the MO; but in its replies, the MO stated that the name and last name were not sufficient to identify the persons for whom data were requested, as well as that the request related to information containing personal data whose delivery would jeopardise the right to privacy.⁴⁵⁰

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434 *Ibid*; Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive.

435 Statement of the witness M.S. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

436 Statement of the witness Sulejman Tihić, dated September 22 and 23, 1994 and October 31, 1994, exhibit no. P608.1a, *Milošević*, para. 92.

437 Statement of the witness B.B. given to the HDLSKL, January 2003, HLC Archive; Statement of the witness Sulejman Tihić, dated September 22 and 23, 1994 and October 31, 1994, exhibit no. P608.1a, *Milošević*, para. 92.

438 Statement of the witness Z.K. given to the HLC, January 2003; Minutes from the hearing of B.K. before the Municipal Court in Vukovar dated December 8, 2010, HLC Archive.

439 Statement of the witness Sulejman Tihić, dated September 22 and 23, 1994 and October 31, 1994, exhibit no. P608.1a, *Milošević*, para. 92.

440 *Ibid*.

441 Statement of the witness R.A. given to the HLC, March 2003.

442 *Ibid*.

443 Statement of the witness Z.P. given to the HDLSKL, December 2002, HLC Archive.

444 Statement of the witness B.V. given to HDLSKL, November 2002, HLC Archive; Statement of Branko Šimunić, cited according to the “Paths of Hell through the Serbian Concentration Camps 1991 to the 21st Century”, Zagreb, HDLSKL, 2000, p. 61; Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, pp. 16-17.

445 Indictment of the Osijek ŽDO against *Aleksandar Vasiljević and Miroslav Živanović* dated April 11, 2011, p. 32.

446 Statement of the witness P.R. given to HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

447 Statement of the witness A.K. given to the HDLSKL, HLC Archive.

448 *Ibid*.

449 Statement of the witness Željko Šandor, dated June 17, 2003, exhibit no. P00348, *Hadžić*, paras. 118-119.

450 Response of the MO no. 10566-2 of October 24, 2019; Response of the General Staff of the Armed Forces no. 1507-2 of November 5, 2019; Response of the General Staff of the Armed Forces no. 1509-2 of November 5, 2019; Response of the MO no. 10566-3. of December 5, 2019; Response of the MO no. 18131-5 of December 4, 2019; Response of the MO no. 492-2 of January 10, 2020.



XVII. Exchanges

Starting December 1991, exchanges of detainees between the JNA and Croatian forces were organised almost every month with the mediation of the ICRC.⁴⁵¹ Each exchange was approved and confirmed by the Supreme Command Headquarters of the SFRY Armed Forces.⁴⁵²

The agreement on the release and repatriation of all detainees was reached in Geneva on July 28 and 29, 1992, between the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Franjo Gregurić, and the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Milan Panić. The agreement was ratified on August 7, 1992 in Budapest.⁴⁵³

On the basis of this agreement, an exchange was organised on the principle of “all for all” on August 14, 1992, in Nemetin near Osijek. That was when the last group of about 700 inmates from the camps in Serbia was exchanged.⁴⁵⁴

According to the Agreement, those detainees against whom court proceedings had been conducted before military courts and who were convicted before them were also exchanged.⁴⁵⁵

XVIII. Court proceedings related to camps on the territory of Serbia

i. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

The camps for Croats in Serbia were the subject of two ICTY indictments, in the *Milošević* and *Hadžić* cases. The indictment charged former President of Serbia Slobodan Milošević with, among other things, unlawful detention and imprisonment under inhumane conditions of the Croatian and other non-Serb populations from the SAO SBZS, SAO Western Slavonia, SAO Krajina and Dubrovnik and the surrounding area. He was accused of “the long-term and routine enclosure and detention of thousands of Croat and other non-Serb civilians in detention facilities in Croatia and abroad,

451 Aleksandar Vasiljević was at the exchange organised on December 10, 1991. At that time, about fifty detainees, mostly medical staff from the Vukovar hospital, were exchanged for captured members of the JNA and the *Labrador* group, see: Testimony of Aleksandar Vasiljević before the ICTY in the *Hadžić* Case of September 2, 2013, p. 7885; Testimony of Vesna Bosanac before the ICTY in the *Milošević* Case of February 5, 2003, p. 15729; Statement of the witness B.K. given to the HLC, January 2005; Statement of the witness Ž.P. given to the HLC, January 2003; Statement of the witness G.V. given to the HLC, January 2003.

452 „It is all a lie” - General Tumanov’s letter, *Nin*, July 24, 1992.

453 This Agreement was ratified on August 7, 1992 in Budapest as part of the Memorandum of Understanding of November 27, 1991 and its Annex of May 23, 1992. See the Agreement between Croatia and the FRY on the Implementation of the Geneva Conventions under the Memorandum of Understanding - exchange dated November 27, 1991, exhibit no. P02670, *Hadžić*.

454 Statement of the witness D.R. given to the HLC, March 2003; Statement of the witness Z.Š., given to the HLC, March 2003.

455 Statement of the witness M.V. given to the HLC, February 2006: The Agreement between Croatia and the FRY on the Implementation of the Geneva Conventions under the Memorandum of Understanding - exchange dated November 27, 1991, exhibit no. P02670, *Hadžić*.



including prison camps located in [...] Serbia”,⁴⁵⁶ of establishing and maintaining inhumane living conditions for Croatian and other non-Serb civilians enclosed in detention facilities, as well as of the torture, beating and killing of Croatian and other non-Serb civilians detained in these facilities. The proceedings against Slobodan Milošević ended with his death in March 2006.⁴⁵⁷

Goran Hadžić, Prime Minister of the self-proclaimed SAO SBZS and later President of the Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK), was accused before the ICTY of illegally closing or detaining Croats and other non-Serbs in inhumane conditions in several detention facilities in Serbia, such as Stajićevo, Begejci and Sremska Mitrovica, and a prison in Šid, as well as several facilities in Croatia.⁴⁵⁸ On July 22, 2016, the Trial Chamber suspended the proceeding against Goran Hadžić after his death on July 12, 2016.⁴⁵⁹

ii. Trials before the War Crimes Chamber of the Higher Court in Belgrade

In May 2008, the Association Vukovar 1991 and the HLC filed a criminal complaint with the OWCP stating the names, surnames or nicknames of 54 commanders and guards at camps in Serbia - Sremska Mitrovica KPD, Niš KPD, VIZ in Belgrade, and camps in Begejci and Stajićevo.⁴⁶⁰ Two years later, the Deputy Prosecutor for War Crimes stated that pre-trial proceedings⁴⁶¹ were underway, but to date, only one person has been convicted in Serbia for crimes committed at camps on the territory of Serbia, and even this only on the basis of an indictment submitted by the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia (DORH) to the OWCP.⁴⁶²

On February 18, 2015, the War Crimes Chamber of the Higher Court in Belgrade issued a verdict accepting the plea agreement for war crimes against prisoners-of-war, which the defendant Marko Crevar, a member of the TO, had concluded with the OWCP, and sentenced him to one year and six months' imprisonment.⁴⁶³ Crevar was convicted of crimes committed at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD; no charges were filed for crimes at other camps or against the camp commander.

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⁴⁵⁶ Milošević was President of Serbia from 26th December 1990 and after that President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SRJ) from 15th July 1997 until 6 October 2000, see: *Milošević* (IT-02-54), Case Information Sheet, available at: https://www.icty.org/x/cases/slobodan_milosevic/cis/en/cis_milosevic_slobodan_en.pdf, accessed 6 December 2019.

⁴⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁸ *Hadžić* (IT-04-75), Case Information Sheet, available at https://www.icty.org/x/cases/hadzic/cis/en/cis_hadzic_en.pdf, accessed March 30, 2020.

⁴⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶⁰ Association Vukovar 1991 and HLC on camps in Serbia on May 23, 2008, available at: <http://www.hlc-rdc.org/?p=12925&lang=de> and <http://www.hlc-rdc.org/?p=13756>, accessed March 31, 2020 (only available in Serbian).

⁴⁶¹ “Former Croatian detainees in Serbia have been waiting for justice for 19 years”, *RFE*, May 24, 2010, available at https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/logori_srbija_optuznice/2051444.html, accessed March 31, 2020 (only available in Serbian).

⁴⁶² *Sremska Mitrovica* Case, OWCP, available at: <http://www.tuzilastvorz.org.rs/en/cases/cases-/case-name-sremska-mitrovica>, accessed March 31, 2020 (only available in Serbian).

⁴⁶³ Verdict of the War Crimes Chamber of the High Court in Belgrade in the *Marko Crevar* Case of February 18, 2015, available at: http://www.hlc-rdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Presuda_15-18.02.2015.pdf, accessed March 31, 2020 (only available in Serbian).



The HLC considers that the War Crimes Chamber of the Higher Court failed to explain the decision on the sentence in the verdict against Marko Crevar, considering that the sentence was less than the legal minimum for the crime of war crime. The HLC has also pointed out the insufficiently explained qualification of the criminal offence.⁴⁶⁴

iii. Proceedings before the courts in Croatia

Before the courts in Croatia, several proceedings were conducted against guards and interrogators, members of the TO and the SAO SBZS militia, for crimes committed at camps on the territory of Serbia in 1991 and 1992. The HLC sent a request to the DORH for access to information of public importance requesting information on how many proceedings for crimes committed at the camps on the territory of Serbia were conducted before courts in Croatia, how many persons were covered by the indictments, how many persons were convicted in those proceedings, and how many proceedings were conducted in the absence of the accused, as well as how many proceedings are still pending.⁴⁶⁵ In its response, the DORH stated that it does not have the requested information because the DORH does not keep records according to the criteria specified in the request.⁴⁶⁶

In 2015, the DORH published a report entitled “Prosecutions for War Crimes Committed at Camps and Prisons during the Homeland War”⁴⁶⁷, which analysed a certain number of these cases, whilst indictments and judgments were made available to the public thanks to human rights organisations which are monitoring trials for war crimes in Croatia.⁴⁶⁸

Guards Slobodan Bačić and Ivica Vuletić were convicted before the Osijek County Court for crimes committed at the Stajićevo and Begejci camps.⁴⁶⁹

464 *Sremska Mitrovica* Case in the Report on War Crimes Trials in Serbia during 2014 and 2015, HLC, pp. 143-146, available at: http://www.hlc-rdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Report_on_war_crimes_trials_in_Serbia_during_2014_and_2015.pdf, accessed March 31, 2020.

465 Request for access to information of public importance submitted to the DORH on March 23, 2020, HlcIndexOut: 170-F143063.

466 “In order to answer the questions asked, the DORH would have to collect and analyse data in all cases handled by the competent subordinate state attorney’s offices. The preparation of such an analysis implies the creation of new information, which is outside the scope of the Law on the Right to Access Information”, stated according to: Response of the DORH, no. PPI-DO-9/2020-3 dated April 16, 2020.

467 Prosecution for war crimes committed at camps and prisons during the Homeland War, DORH, October 2015, available at: <http://www.dorh.hr/fgs.axd?id=1907>, accessed April 21, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

468 Monitoring of war crimes trials, Documenta - Center for Dealing with the Past, available at: <https://www.documenta.hr/en/pr%C4%87enje-su%C4%91enja-za-ratne-zlo%C4%8Dine.html>, accessed April 21, 2020; Monitoring of trials in the Republic of Croatia, Center for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights, Osijek, available at: <http://www.centar-za-mir.hr/en/category/ps/pracenje-hr/>, accessed 21. April 2020 (only available in Croatian).

469 Judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Slobodan Bačić* Case of April 14, 1999; judgment of the Osijek County Court in the *Ivica Vuletić* Case of December 5, 1997.



In 2007, the Osijek County State's Attorney's Office indicted TO members Marko Crevar, Ljuban Miljanović and Marko Kraguljac for crimes at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.⁴⁷⁰ The proceedings against Crevar were separated, and he was convicted before the War Crimes Chamber of the Belgrade Higher Court.⁴⁷¹

Slobodan Gojković, member of the SAO SBZS, was found guilty before the Vukovar County Court of the beating of detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.⁴⁷²

Žarko Amidžić, Captain First Class in the Reserve Forces, was convicted before the Vukovar County Court for physically abusing detainees at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.⁴⁷³

The judgment of the Vukovar County Court of April 25, 2003, sentenced Darko Fot to 5 years in prison, and Marko Kraguljac and Zoran Stanković to 8 years each, for crimes committed at the Sremska Mitrovica and Stajićevo camps.⁴⁷⁴

In April 2011, the Osijek County State's Attorney's Office filed an indictment against Aleksandar Vasiljević, the head of the UB SSNO, and Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Živanović, for crimes committed at the Stajićevo, Begejci, Sremska Mitrovica, Niš and Stara Gradiška camps.⁴⁷⁵ The DORH referred this case to the OWCP, but the OWCP considered that there was insufficient evidence to file an indictment.⁴⁷⁶

470 Prosecution for war crimes committed at camps and prisons during the Homeland War, DORH, October 2015, pp. 7 and 8, available at: <http://www.dorh.hr/fgs.axd?id=1907>, accessed April 21, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

471 *Sremska Mitrovica Case (Marko Crevar)*, available at: http://www.hlc-rdc.org/Transkripti/sm_marko_crevar.html, accessed January 31, 2020 (only available in Serbian).

472 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Slobodan Gojković* Case of September 24, 2002.

473 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Žarko Amidžić* Case of June 1, 2000.

474 Judgment of the Vukovar County Court in the *Stanko Vujanović et al.* Case of April 28, 2003.

475 The camp at Stara Gradiška was established in January 1992 on the premises of the former Stara Gradiška KPD "for the purpose of receiving and lodging prisoners-of-war from the zone of combat responsibility of the 5th Corps of the JNA". This camp was formed by the command of the 5th Corps of the JNA on the basis of an order from the UB SSNO. More at: Order for the establishment of a concentration camp for prisoners-of-war, dated January 7, 1992, exhibit no. D01847, *Karadžić*.

476 In December 2013, Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor Bruno Vekarić said: "This case was handed over to us by the Croatian authorities, it was even in the phase... I believe... of charges ... against specific persons. Well, you know that it is against Aleksandar Vasiljević, and so on. It is a case a thousand pages long. We have analysed it and have made our decision - we do not accept the case. Our position is that there is not enough evidence in it for these persons to be charged with the crime as they have formulated it. We returned that case to them in accordance with the agreement, so now we all remain in beginning positions. Here, we are working on that case, but we still can't... You know, those who participated in these events in some way, they call it 'collection centres'. There were victims, no one disputes that, but it comes down to some incidents, I would say, that is what we have established, for now, and not to an organised, as they say, camp treatment.", see in: Vekarić: "There were no camps in Vojvodina", *Channel 9*, December 24, 2013, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqlawYQqwtU>, accessed March 31, 2020 (only available in Serbian).



In October 2018, the trial of Aleksandar Vasiljević based on the indictment from 2011 began before the Osijek County Court. In the meantime, the second indictee, Miroslav Živanović, passed away. Vasiljevic is being tried in absentia.⁴⁷⁷

iv. Civil proceedings for reparations

In November 2007, the HLC filed a lawsuit against the Republic of Serbia before the First Municipal Court in Belgrade, for damages on behalf of 12 Croatian citizens, women and minors from Vukovar, who were detained by the JNA members at the Begejci and Sremska Mitrovica KPD camps in November 1991. They spent between 16 and 34 days at the camps, during which time they were exposed to inhumane treatment, starvation, and physical and psychological abuse.

In October 2013, the First Basic Court issued a verdict rejecting the plaintiffs' request in its entirety, explaining that the claim was obsolete, and that, owing to the lack of a final verdict from the criminal court establishing the existence of a criminal offence and the person's responsibility for the crime, the privileged statute of limitations could not be applied." (Article 377 of the Law on Obligations).⁴⁷⁸ The plaintiffs appealed this decision.

In July 2017, the Court of Appeals rejected the plaintiffs' appeal as unfounded and upheld the first-instance verdict, which established the obsolescence of the claims, since a subjective period of three years had elapsed since it was learnt that the diseases of the victims had become chronic.⁴⁷⁹

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In October 2017, the plaintiffs filed a constitutional appeal against this decision. Two years later, in April 2019, the Constitutional Court rejected the constitutional appeal in this case.⁴⁸⁰

Following the decision of the Constitutional Court, the HLC submitted a petition to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). In July 2019, the ECtHR rejected the petition, with the explanation that the European Convention was not in force, i.e. ratified in Serbia, at the time of the event in question.⁴⁸¹

Following the decision of the ECtHR, all regular and extraordinary legal remedies in this case have been exhausted.

477 "Živanović passed away, Vasiljević lives in Belgrade", *Glas Slavonije*, October 26, 2013, available at: <http://www.glas-slavonije.hr/214484/1/Zivanovic-je-preminuo-Vasiljevic-zivi-u-Beogradu>, accessed on January 15, 2020; Crimes at Stajićevo, Begejci, Sremska Mitrovica, Niš, Stara Gradiška camps - trial in absentia, case data: <https://www.documenta.hr/hr/zlo%C4%8Din-u-logorma-staji%C4%87evo-begejci-sremska-mitrovica-ni%C5%A1-stara-gradi%C5%A1ka-su%C4%91enje-u-odsutnosti.html>, accessed March 30, 2020 (only available in Croatian).

478 Judgment of the First Basic Court in Belgrade, case no. P-21329/2013 of October 10, 2013; Bypassing Justice: Obsolescence as a Mechanism of Denying War Victims the Right to Compensation, HLC, June 2018, pp. 28-29.

479 Judgment of the Court of Appeals in Belgrade Gž-3887/2017 of July 7, 2017.

480 Decision of the Constitutional Court of Serbia, Už - 8683/17 of April 16, 2019.

481 Decision ECtHR *Dudaš et al. vs. Serbia*, no. 31031/19 of July 18, 2019.



force and directions and objects of activity of OS RH /*Armed Forces of R. Croatia*/

At the level of operative-tactical structure, protection is to be organised with own forces and means focusing on monitoring grouping and activities of forces in the inhabited places and in the area of communications along the lines of bringing the units.

Zones of intelligence responsibility:

- For 12. K: right, Drava river (along the Hungarian border), left, Slavonian mountains, up to the line Virovitica – Pakrac.
- For 1. pgmd /infantry mechanised Guards division/: right, Krndija – Papuk, left Sava river, to the line: Pakrac – Bos. Gradiška.
- For the 5. K zone operations are extended to the border-line with Hungary.
- 24. and 37. K will organise full system of reconnaissance and monitoring with the focus on units that are moving to the new deployment areas.

b) Providing security

During the preparations, drafting, bringing decisions and performing movement, it is necessary to strictly comply with compulsory measures for protection of secrecy and to implement strict security regime in the zone of carrying out combat operations.

A part of the forces is to be used to destroy and disarm paramilitary units and to transfer them under guard to collection centres (ZrL) – Stejanovci village (Ruma) and Šikara (Sombor).

Special attention is to be paid to detecting and destroying DTG /*sabotage groups*/ along the marching lines and combat operations zone. To focus is to be on protection of KM /*Command points*/, CV /*Communication Centres*/, rear units and other sensitive elements of combat deployment.

Security organs are to be used on KO tasks. Predominantly use JVP /*expansion unknown*/ to secure KM and the Commanders, to disarm paramilitary units, to detect

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/stamp: Federal Secretariat of National Defence
 SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
Strictly confidential number: 35-14533
 10 October 1991

MILITARY SECRET
 STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Engagement of OB /security organs/
 in Prisoner-of-war camps

To: CHIEF OF SECURITY OF THE
SSNO /Federal Secretariat of National Defence/ CABINET

The escalation of combat operations in the territory of the Republic of Croatia has brought about a significant increase in the number of prisoners of war, members of the ZNG /Croatian Guards Corps/ and the MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ of the Republic of Croatia and civilians, members of extremist parties that were armed through the HDZ /Croatian Democratic Union/ line.

The Security Administration sent operations groups of security organs to some camps and carried out direct preparations related to their engagement and direction of intelligence work.

Given this increase in the number of prisoners of war and camps for their reception, the methodology of engagement of security organs in these tasks needs to be changed.

The main shortcoming observed in the processing of prisoners of war carried out so far was the attempt on the part of security organs to hold interviews with the largest number of prisoners possible, which resulted in the poor quality and inadequate depth of intelligence investigations. As a rule, interviews were carried out in order to shed light on information collected later on, crucially important facts and their recording. Generally speaking, none of the methods or means of intelligence work were applied.

In order to improve the operative engagement of security organs in this area in future, it is necessary to change radically the practice to date. To this end it is necessary to do the following:

- Carry out the full identification of prisoners immediately after their reception in the prisoners' camp and report them to the SSNO UB /Security Administration/, giving all the details in accordance with the previously given instructions of the Security Administration. Prisoners who do not have valid documents needed for their identification or have no documents at all should be separately listed in the report. Previous experience has shown that identification is very important because prisoners having no documents or having somebody else's documents are disguised soldiers – deserters, former AVL /active duty military personnel/, people of Albanian ethnicity and other foreigners – mercenaries.
- Before carrying out preliminary interviews, group the prisoners (e.g., those who were born in the same place, served in the same units, were captured together in combat operations, and the like) because this can facilitate checking and possible intelligence cross-checking.

- Priority in preliminary interviews should be given to soldiers and AVL – deserters, former AVL, commanding officers of the ZNG and the MUP, leaders and active members of parties, and persons living in the territory of another republic.
 - Focus intelligence work on creating operative positions among the prisoners in order to collect information about their conduct before they were taken prisoner (when, how and why they became members of the MUP or the ZNG, the places in which they were engaged, their participation in combat operations and in crimes committed against JNA members and the civilian population, and the like). Investigate the manner of and motive for their surrender, their conduct from the moment when they were captured to their arrival at the camp (concealing their identity, destruction of documents and the like, which can point to their activities).
 - Carry out interviews according to a plan and systematically collect information about the organisation, formation, weapons, training, information, intelligence and security support of MUP and ZNG units, and about the organs of authority in the territory from which they are and in which they were active.
 - Direct counterintelligence measures towards: (1) timely investigation, detection and prevention of possible intentions and plans of prisoners aimed at organising armed rebellions, escape from the camp, hunger strikes and other activities and forms of passive resistance, and (2) an assessment and protection of the territory in the which the camp is situated, namely, detection of intelligence bases, infiltrated individuals and groups, connections between the prisoners and their links in the territory, and the like.
 - Use the established intelligence positions to receive fresh prisoners and use the information collected to select these prisoners and take appropriate operative measures.
 - Analyse the work carried out daily and define priority tasks for the following day. In addition to interviews and creating operative positions, study the possibility /?of/ application of operative methods, thus applying a combined work methodology of the security organs.
- Inform all security organs about the content of this document, particularly those who are directly involved in the processing of prisoners.
Inform the SSNO Security Administration daily about the number of prisoners and the results of engagement.

MM/DG

For the CHIEF
 Colonel
 Milenko GLIGOREVIĆ
 /a signature/

1ST MILITARY DISTRICT COMMAND

Strictly confidential no. 8/178-1263

20 November 1991

178/91 /handwritten:

PERMANENTLY/

/stamped/ /illegible/

MILITARY SECRET

Strictly confidential

TELEGRAM

/handwritten: Attachment no. 2/

Order to establish, and organise the work of, a collection centre in the village of Stajićevo, Zrenjanin municipality

FOR THE COMMAND: _____

Pursuant to Item 3 of the Order issued by the Commander of the 1st VO /Military District/, strictly confidential no. 5-86 of 15 September 1991, with the aim of regulating the establishment and organisation of life and work of a collection centre in the village of Stajićevo, Livade Farm, I hereby issue the following

ORDER

- ①. Establish a collection centre in the village of Stajićevo - Livade Farm - Zrenjanin municipality, in the area of responsibility of the 24th Corps, to round up the persons captured in the inter-ethnic conflicts in the territory of the Republic of Croatia.
- ②. The Personnel Organ of the 1st VO Command shall provide the personnel for the collection centre from among the unassigned men of the Zrenjanin Garrison.
- ③. The Command of the 24th Corps and the Security Sector of the 1st VO Command shall be responsible for the establishment, organisation of life and work, and inspection.

The organisation of life and work, as well as the treatment of captured persons, shall be done in keeping with the Instructions on the treatment of persons who, in connection with the internal armed conflicts in the territory of the 1st VO, come under

the control of JNA /Yugoslav People's Army/ units, and other regulations in force which address other technical issues.

4. The logistics support and the financing needed in order to get the collection centre in Stajićevo village - at Livade Farm in Zrenjanin municipality - up and running shall be provided through the 2nd mb/51st mbr /2nd mechanised battalion of the 51st mechanised brigade/ (Zrenjanin Garrison).

The commander of the collection centre shall be responsible for processing the documents of the centre. Funds shall be obtained from the assets allocated under the Plan of Tasks and Finances of the 2nd mb/51st mbr for 1991, under code "273" and task "6490".

The commander of the centre shall exercise the powers conferred in Article 65, items 1, 2, 3, 5, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 25 of the Rules implementing the Law on JNA Funds and Finances, and the handler shall have the power conferred in Article 78 of the same Rules.

The captured persons shall be provided with food in accordance with the rules on the food service in the JNA in wartime and the 12 August 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.

5. For transport purposes, and for transporting persons on official business, the 24th Corps Command will provide one cargo vehicle and one all-terrain vehicle with drivers and place them at the disposal of the centre's commander as of 21 November 1991.

PT/SS

COMMANDER

Lieutenant General

Života PANIĆ

/stamp and a signature/

Copies to:

- 24th Corps /handwritten: 2230/
- 524th PoB /Logistics Base/ /handwritten: 2230/
- Mobilisation Organ /handwritten: by mail/

- Personnel Organ /handwritten: by mail/
- Security Organ /handwritten: by mail/
- InSI /Quartermaster Service/ /handwritten: by mail/
- SnSI /Medical Service/ /handwritten: by mail/
- TSI /Technical Service/ /handwritten: by mail/
- 93rd zmtp /Motorised Protection Regiment/ /handwritten: by mail/
- GrSI /Construction Service/ /handwritten: by mail/
- Chairman of Commission /handwritten: by mail/
- Commander of Centre /handwritten: by mail/

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1st MILITARY DISTRICT COMMAND

Strictly confidential number 8-178/1562

21 November 1991

Forming and organising the

work of the Collection Centre at the

Sremska Mitrovica KPD /Penal and Correctional Facility/

Order –

Pursuant to item 3 of the Order from the commander of the 1st VO /Military District/, strictly confidential number 5-86 dated 15 September 1991, and regarding the collection, accommodation and organisation of persons detained because of an armed uprising against the JNA /Yugoslav People's Army/ and crimes against the unarmed population in the crisis area of the Republic of Croatia, I hereby

ORDER

1. Set up a Collection Centre at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD to hold persons detained because of an armed uprising against the JNA and crimes against the unarmed population in the inter-ethnic conflicts in crisis areas in the Republic of Croatia.
2. The Personnel Organ of the 1st VO Command shall appoint by an order a
director of the collection centre within the Sremska Mitrovica KPD – an

officer and a files clerk, i.e. coordinator – lance corporal, from the officers available to the 1st VO who have not yet been assigned posts.

3. The security department of the 1st VO shall provide 10 police soldiers to carry out police tasks regarding the detained persons at the Collection Centre of the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.
4. Regulate the organisation of life, work and order of the officials and detained persons at the Collection Centre of the Sremska Mitrovica KPD according to the regulations in effect and the house rules of the Sremska Mitrovica KPD.
5. Logistic support and financing of the Collection Centre at the Sremska Mitrovica KPD shall be done according to the regulations of the Rules of PoOb /Logistics Support/ During Wartime and the Rules on Food During Wartime. Direct supervision of PoOb activities in the Collection Centre shall be done by the relevant logistical organs of the 1st VO Command through a direct agreement with the relevant organs of the Sremska Mitrovica KPD. Compile the necessary and legally-founded documents regarding this.
6. Ensure logistic support of the Collection Centre through the person in charge of PoOb at the Sremska Mitrovica garrison – 453rd mbr /mechanised brigade/.
7. Procure approved finances for the work of the Collection Centre from the plan of tasks and financing of the 453rd mbr for the year 1991 – number 358 pursuant to task 6490.

8. With regard to material and financial affairs, the director of the Collection Centre is authorised, pursuant to Article 65, items 1 to 6, 15, 18 to 22 and 25 of the Rules on Implementing Legal Regulations on Financial Operations in the JNA, while the coordinator is authorised pursuant to Article 78 of the same Rules.
9. Organise work and care of the detained persons at the Collection Centre of the Sremska Mitrovica KPD pursuant to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 on the treatment of prisoners of war.
10. Deal with all other issues related to the work of the Collection Centre in accordance with the regulations governing this matter.

PT/SC

COMMANDER

Lieutenant General

Života PANIĆ

/signed and stamped/

Done in six copies and
delivered to:

- Personnel Organ of the 1st VO
- Security Organ of the 1st VO
- Command of the 453rd mbr
- Quartermaster Service of the 1st VO
- Director of the Collection Centre

Excerpt from Twelfth prosecution motion for leave to amend its rule 65ter exhibit list, 1 July 2013
 Hadžić (IT-04-75-T)

65 ter Number	Main Date	Description	BCS ERN	English ERN	Proposed Witness	Under Seal
65ter#06455	10-Oct-91	Copy of a memo from the Federal Secretariat for National Defence, Security Administration, strictly confidential no. SP br 35-14533, dated 10 October 1991, entitled "Engagement of Security Organs at War Prisoners Camps" signed, by the authorisation of the Chief Col. Milenko Gligorevic, addressed to the Chief of Security Organ.	0685-2768-0685-2770	0685-2768-0685-2770-ET	GH-027	No
65ter#06456	07-Jan-92	Order no. 2-2 of the Chief of Personnel Administration of the Federal Secretariat for National Defence, dated 07 January 1992, signed, the Chief General Major Gojko KRSTIC, concerning transfer of Lt. Col. Miroslav ŽIVANOVIC to the 1st Military District's Centre for War Prisoners at Sremska Mitrovica Garrison.	0685-2777-0685-2779	0685-2777-0685-2779-EDT	GH-027	No
65ter#06457	08-Dec-91	A copy of an agreement between the Government of Croatia and the Yugoslav People's Army on the exchange of prisoners reached with mediation and cooperation with the ICRC, dated 08 December 1991, signed, for Croatian MOD Col. Stjepan ADANIC, for JNA Col. Mile GLUMAC and for the ICRC Pierre-Andre Conod.	0685-2818-0685-2819	0685-2818-0685-2819-EDT	GH-027	No

1ST VO /Military District/ COMMAND 96 94
 Confidential no. 43/96-517 /91 /stamp/
 22 November 1991 TELEGRAM
 URGENT
Attachment No. 4

Deliver before _____ hours.

FOR THE COMMAND: _____

Pursuant to the Order of the Logistics Assistant of the SSNO /Federal Secretariat of National Defence/, confidential number 460-287 of 22 November 1991, and the Chief of the SSNO SbU /Transport Administration/, confidential number 460-286 of 22 November 1991, I hereby issue the following

ORDER:

1. - Four hundred prisoners are to be transported from Sremska Mitrovica (KP Dom /Correctional and Penal Facility/) to Aleksinac on 22/23 November 1991 by engaging 8 (eight) buses with drivers - GL /civilians/ - under the command of an officer from the 376th atb /transport battalion/ to be designated by the commander of the 376th atb.
2. - The security organ of the 1st VO Command will organise combat and transport support, including other security measures, as well as the handover of prisoners.
3. - Four hundred and fifty evacuated civilians from Vukovar are to be transported from Sremska Mitrovica, and 30 from Šid, to the area of Bosanski Šamac on 22/23 November 1991 by engaging 10 (ten) buses with drivers - GL - under the command of the commander of the 376th atb and a junior officer whom he so authorises.
4. - The command of the 93rd zmp /Motorised Protection Regiment/ will deploy a patrol of the SbVP /traffic military police/ to lead the column of buses from the 376th atb car pool and to provide security until its return to the unit.

5. - I hereby designate the Chief of the Operations and Logistics Organ of the 1st VO Command Logistics Sector, Colonel Petar TRMČIĆ, as the main coordinator of the activities listed under items 1 and 3 of this Order.

6. - The personnel assigned to these tasks are to be specially prepared, armed with side arms and issued with one b/k /combat set/ of ammunition each.

DJ-ND/RZ

CHIEF OF STAFF

Lieutenant General

Vladimir STOJANOVIĆ

/stamped and signed/

To be delivered to:

- 376th atb command (as a document)
- 93rd zmtp command (as a document)
- 1st VO security organ (as a document)

FOR COLONEL GLIGOREVIĆ,

Colonel, sir,

On 10 December 1991, a delegation of the SAO /Serbian Autonomous District/ Slavonia headed by Goran HADŽIĆ visited the Sremska Mitrovica SC /Collection Centre/. The delegation included the Minister of Justice SUŠA, the Minister of the UP /Interior/ and another representative of theirs.

Allegedly the objective of their visit was to establish co-operation with the operative team interrogating prisoners. They blamed us for the fact that this co-operation was not forthcoming. The Minister of Justice attempted to speak to me in a highly improper manner and I responded to him openly and in an appropriate fashion that I did not wish to speak on those terms. It is true that he was at the *Pinki* sports centre with a delegation at the time when we were putting together a convoy for around 1,500 persons and I was very busy. He was able to observe this himself and he told me, "I can see that you are too busy now and I cannot wait for these people to board. I will come to see you one of these days". He was apparently in the SC of Sremska Mitrovica several days ago (I was probably in Belgrade at the time) and a lieutenant colonel told him that we could not receive them because the commander was away. That is all.

This time round they tried to very brazenly impute things to us which they could not back with any arguments. They are blaming us for allegedly releasing the bloodthirsty Ustasha without consulting them although they have the relevant documentation. They said that they had fought a bloody battle and captured the Ustasha and now we, the army, were releasing them. Before coming here, they had been to the Sremska

Mitrovica CK /Red Cross/ and wreaked havoc on the place, making accusations against the Army and even threatening the Red Cross staff over their involvement in this. They found out about the exchange of the medical staff and that around 900 persons would be exchanged in Bosanski Šamac and elsewhere on that day (10 December 1991). They were very critical on this issue as well, saying, "We know who is doing all this and they will be held to account". They were particularly harsh in condemning the release/exchange of Vesna BOSANAC, M.D. They claimed to have irrefutable evidence about the crimes of genocide committed by Dr BOSANAC which had been confirmed to them by the investigating judge ŠALJIĆ. I asked them why they had been waiting until now if they had this information all along. They said that not even in their wildest dreams did they think that she would be exchanged. They pinned most of the blame for everything on General VASILJEVIĆ. As they were leaving, the unidentified person said, "You could end up losing this general". My response was sharp: "You said it now and never again. We would be prepared to fight a war with you over him." Let that give them something to think about.

You will remember their earlier ultimatums voiced by this same SUŠA, that not a single person is to be released from the SC without their consent.

They wanted to inspect the prisoners and, in line with your suggestion, I let them visit three rooms. They said that they had already recognised some thirty persons who were hardened Ustasha.

They demanded to have lists of prisoners and, with your permission, I gave them copies of lists, and that was the only thing that pleased them. They were displeased

with the prisoners' quarters. They probably expected to see them lying on the concrete ground and so on. They also objected to our allowing them to smoke and so on.

Finally, SUŠA said that he would bring along an armed team to join us in our work. I told them that any armed teams were out of the question, that even they had been required to leave their weapons with the duty officer since we were obliged to adhere to the house rules applicable to everyone in the KPD /Penal and Correctional Facility/. As for the operative team, they would have to see about that with General VASILJEVIĆ at the UB SSNO /Security Administration of the Federal Secretariat for National Defence/. I let them know that we were willing to engage in every kind of co-operation, in the sense that they could send us the information they had about the persons we were holding, they could send over their experienced personnel who were familiar with the persons and events in Vukovar and who could help our team make sure that no criminals escaped our attention or something like that.

They alerted me to the fact that they had indications that a military prosecutor of the JNA /Yugoslav People's Army/, Colonel PAPIĆ, might get involved in all this. According to them, he might help some of the persons at the SC escape unpunished. I did not agree with their position simply because their insinuations were directed at a high-ranking position in the JNA.

I learnt from the SDB /State Security Service/ organ in the KPD camp, Dragan IVANČEVIĆ, that Miloš MANDIĆ is present in our camp (we established that he does exist), that his wife is a secretary to the Minister of the Interior of the SAO Slavonia with whom she is romantically involved, and that they have informed their superiors about it.

The point of this note of mine is, among others, to make their actions and conduct known since they will most probably be visiting the UB SSNO for talks soon.

Colonel

Jugoslav MAKSIMOVIĆ

/signed/

DRAFT TRANSLATION

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