

**Ovčara case**  
**Trial for the war crimes against the war prisoners**  
**War Crimes Chamber of the District Court in Belgrade, Serbia**  
**Number of case: K.V. br.1/2003**

**Trial Chamber:** Vesko Krstajić (the presiding judge), Gordana Božilović-Petrović (judge) and Vinka Beraha-Nikićević (judge).

**Prosecutor:** Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor Dušan Knežević.

**Defendants:** Miroљjub Vujović, Stanko Vujanović, Jovica Perić, Ivan Atanasijević, Predrag Mađžarac and Milan Vojnović, Serbs from Croatia.

**Report:** Nataša Kandić and Dragoljub Todorović, victims representatives

**1 October 2004**

The witness, **Jovan Dulović**, pointed out that, in the fall of 1991, he had been a war correspondent for *Politika Ekspres*. Then, he had stayed in Vukovar, together with some 10 to 15 other correspondents, at the home of the Pajić family which stood across the road from the house of the father of defendant Stanko Vujanović. In his words, captain Radić used to come, very often, to the house of defendant Vujanović; from time to time, major Šljivančanin would also drop in; not far from the said house a unit commanded by defendant Lančuzanin was billeted, the unit which everybody used to call "šešeljevci" (Šešelj's followers).

Very often in the presentation of his testimony, witness Dulović consulted his notebook so that, at one moment, he read from the notebook that, on 13 November 1991, Vojislav Šešelj had been in the house of defendants Stanko Vujanović and Nada Kalaba and had said on the occasion that the Yugoslav National Army (YNA), members of territorial Defense (TD) and volunteers were one and the same army and that "no ustasha may leave Vukovar alive". In the opinion of the witness, this statement had influenced the behavior of the members of TD and volunteers. The witness pointed out that, on 20 November 1991, at about 11:30 hours, he had been in front of the Vukovar hospital; he had not gone into the hospital. There he came across a terrible scene with hundreds of the wounded and the patients. He and his colleagues were taken to the hospital by Štuka, a regular army soldier from captain Radić's unit. There he saw Šljivančanin and Doctors Without Borders. Major Šljivančanin delivered a speech there saying that YNA was trying to prevent the killings, that there were between 60 and 70 persons armed with hand grenades inside the hospital and that nothing untoward would happen to the doctors and the medical staff. He stayed around 45 minutes in the hospital and saw when the people, who would later on be transported to the barracks or to Velepromet, were taken out of the hospital. The witness said that, although he did not see it personally, but was told about it, some people were taken from the other side of the hospital and put in trucks. In the words of the witness, the entry for the next day in his notebook read: "In the nights between 19 and 20 and 20 and 21 November, members of Vukovar TD, Stanko, Daca, Kapetan Rale and others, took out and shot the prisoners, captured Croats suspected of murder. The place of execution was Ovčara, an abandoned farm in the part of the town known as Petrova Gora. The witness stated that a big, bearded man from Smederevo, by the name of Slaviša Pavlović, was particularly ready to talk about all this. He told the witness, in the morning hours of 21 November, how "last night, between 17:00 and 01:00 hours, they had

been killing at Ovčara, and how the prisoners had been begging them and crying and saying they had not shot at our fighters". The witness said that in the morning of 21 he had been in the house of Nikola Pajić, where he had spent the night with photographer Tomislav Paternek. The trial chamber asked witness Dulović to clarify his statements concerning the time period when, in the words of Slaviša Pavlović, the killings at Ovčara had taken place, because, in his statement, he had given a number of different time periods. Witness Dulović, at first, could not remember precisely the time he had spoken with Slaviša Pavlović, but then he pointed out that it had been in the morning of 20 November, somewhere between 08:00 and 10:00 hours, that he had spoken with volunteer Dragica, from Novi Sad, who had told him the details about the crime at Ovčara. However, the presiding judge reminded the witness of his statement given before the Military Court in 2000, where he stated that it was in the morning of 21 November that he had spoken with Slaviša Pavlović. Witness Dulović stated that he could not be sure of the exact date, that a lot of time had gone by from the event and that the statement he had given before the Military Court in 2000 must have been, most probably, based on his memory which, at that time, must have been better. During his testimony, witness Dulović pointed out that volunteer Dragica had said that she had been worried about the fact that everybody who had taken part in that killing was boasting of it and talking about it wherever they had the opportunity to do so. She also told him that, at Ovčara, it was a bulldozer which had dug out the graves and that the volunteers and the members of TD had taken the personal effects from the prisoners. The witness said that volunteer Dragica had told him that major Šljivančanin had also taken part in the shooting and that he had insisted on killing the last prisoner. The witness pointed out that he could not believe that part of her story. After the talks with Slaviša and Dragica, on the same day, he met defendant Vujanović and asked him about the events at Ovčara, whereupon he told him: "I did not have enough volunteers, so I had to take these drunken followers of Šešelj who will now talk about it everywhere, and it won't end well at all". The same evening, the witness met captain Radić who just waved his arm and said: "Let it go! A lot of shit happened." Further on in his testimony, the witness pointed out that, in addition to the people from the Tribunal, he had also spoken about the events at Ovčara with Aleksandar Vasiljević who used to drop in at the editorial board of *Vreme*. "In my opinion, which does not have to be correct, on the basis of everything that had happened there, everything that I had seen there, nobody had ever issued an order, especially not the Army which, nominally, was in command over there, but not in effect. In my opinion, the Army was in a very subordinate position there because, if you remember, mobilization was unsuccessful, there was not enough personnel, so the members of TD, volunteers and paramilitary formations were really in command". The witness pointed out that he had never reported to the army or the police what Slaviša and Dragica had told him and that he had spoken about it to his colleagues for the first time upon his return from Vukovar. He said that he had given a statement about the events in Croatia to a Croatian newspaper, but he did not remember when and who to.