

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: Miroljub Vujović, Stanko Vujanović, Jovica Perić, Ivan Atanasijević, Predrag Madžarac and Milan Vojnović, Serbs from Croatia.

Report: Nataša Kandić and Dragoljub Todorović, victims representatives

10 February 2005

At the beginning of her testimony, witness **dr. Ranka Krunić-Protić**, a physiotherapist, said that in November 1991, she was employed in Selters Spa in Mladenovac, at their Rehabilitation Institute. In her words, the spa treated the persons in need of corresponding aftercare and she herself was assigned to the ward with less seriously ill patients. After the hospital release form of defendant Zlatar Vujo was shown to her, dr. Krunić-Protić confirmed that the signature on the release form was hers, that the hospital release forms looked like that at that time and added that she did not remember the particular case of defendant Zlatar Vujo. The witness then pointed out that that was the only documentation of the defendant from Selters Spa, as the spa was flooded some time later. The witness added that the hospital release form should have been accompanied with other documents. In her words, the defendant must have been on the third floor in view of the fact that he had been ambulatory and had a crutch. Witness Krunić-Protić said that the patients could have been admitted any other day, beside Thursdays, provided there was a vacancy, and said that it was possible that the defendant had been admitted on 18 November 1991. She then went on to say that it was impossible to have the documents say he had been admitted on Monday while in reality the patient had been admitted on Thursday. In her words, the patients could leave the spa for the weekend, but they had to be back and be present for the doctors' rounds on Sunday evening. After she had been shown the defendant's claim that after a couple of days at the spa his wound had opened and he had been returned to the MMA, dr. Krunić-Protić pointed out that this was theoretically possible and added that it was possible to see, from the examination results of the defendant, that his wound had opened and that he could have been returned to MMA for additional treatment. The witness pointed out that the rules concerning visits to the patients in the spa were rather flexible. Speaking about the circumstances of her court appearance as a witness, she said that she had been invited by Zlatar Vujo's attorney. In her words, she had filled out the hospital release form for the defendant and had signed it together with the head of the department and the spa's director. She said that it was possible that both signatures on the defendant's hospital release form had been signed by dr. Uljarević. In her words, the patients could leave the spa if they had to buy anything, or go to the post office, but only within a radius of 500 meters.

At the beginning of his testimony, witness **Bogdan Miljanović** said that during the fighting in Vukovar he had been assigned to the kitchen at Petrova Gora. In his words, he wore a uniform and was armed with an automatic rifle, and his immediate superior had been Pero Miljanović. He then said that he did not take part in the fighting and added that he did know the defendants. The witness pointed out that defendant Vujo was his next-door neighbor who used to live across the street from his house. In his words, Vujo was wounded toward the end of October and returned from the treatment a couple of days before the New Year. He said that Vujo had first been

treated in Belgrade and then in a spa. When he saw him before the New Year, the defendant was using crutches to help him walk. Continuing his testimony, Miljanović said that he had been seeing Zlatar Vujo every day before he was wounded. The witness then said that he had heard about the events at Ovčara much later. After a part of defendant Vujo's statement given in the investigation was shown to him, the part where he said that in December 1991 he had been able to walk without the crutches, the witness insisted that he had seen the defendant with the crutches.

At the beginning of his testimony, witness **Stevan Kovačević** said that he knew some of the defendants and that he knew best Zlatar Vujo who was his neighbor. In his words, upon his return to Vukovar, he learned from the brother of defendant Vujo that the defendant had been wounded on 30 October 1991. The witness pointed out that he had seen the defendant for the first time after he had learned about his wound only a couple of months later. Speaking about the events at Ovčara, the witness pointed out that, after three or four days, a soldier told him that something dreadful had happened there. He learned the details two or three months later. At the end, he pointed out that, on the occasion, he had heard that the army had murdered the Croats from the hospital who had changed into physicians' uniforms.

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