

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

11 March 2004

Defendant **Predrag Madžarac** denied that he had committed the criminal act he was charged with in the indictment. He pointed out that at the time of the armed conflict he had been in his uncle's house in Petrova Gora street in Vukovar. He was wounded in September 1991 and spent some time in the hospital in Negoslavci before returning to Petrova Gora. When the condition of his health was somewhat improved he joined the people charged with sentry duty in the street. This was his only task until the middle of December 1991 and in all that time he did not leave the street. Defendant Madžarac pointed out that Ilija Galović was some sort of a commander in Petrova Gora street and added that TD of Vukovar did not exist at that time. After the end of the war in Vukovar he met Nikola Dukić, aka Gidža, with whom he had no quarrel nor was he in conflict with. Madžarac pointed out that that was why he was very much surprised when he saw a document where it was written that Dukić had seen him in Grabovo, as he had not gone anywhere at all. The defendant said he was certain that Nikola Dukić must have mistaken him for somebody else. He pointed out that in the minutes of his questioning by the investigative judge it was erroneously written that he had not been seeing Milan Bulić, aka Bulidža, then and there, at Ovčara, and in the town, as he had not been at Ovčara at all so he could not have seen Bulić there..

Defendant **Milan Vojnović** denied the charges from the indictment and pointed out that he was not present at the time the crime was committed, nor had he killed anyone. In his words, he, as an inhabitant of Vukovar, during the war, was assigned to guard duty in the unit of the YNA captain Zirojević, with Pera Miljanović scheduling the guard duty. At that time, TD of Vukovar did not exist, and he added that they had been posted in an outlying street at the outskirts of the town which, together with some other streets, was known as Petrova Gora. When he was shown a part of his statement given before the investigative judge, where he had said that on 14 December 1991 he had received the mobilization call and that he had been assigned to a TD unit, whose commander, in a way, had been Pera Miljanović, Vojnović said that the unit was called TD because all of its members were from its territory. Following the cease fire in Vukovar, on 18 November 1991, he began searching for his daughter who was taken prisoner in the center of Vukovar. He pointed out that in the morning of 19 November, at Velepromet, he had learned that the buses with the prisoners had gone to the barracks. When he arrived to the barracks, a soldier did not let him search for his daughter so he returned home. In the evening hours his neighbor, Rade Bakić, visited him and told him that people from the barracks had been moved to Ovčara whereupon the two of them went there. In the words of the defendant, at the very entrance to the hangar, there stood one military policeman and two in front of the hangar who let him enter the hangar. The defendant pointed out that along the right hand side of the hangar there were prisoners and on the left hand side the soldiers. Since he failed to find his daughter, defendant

Vojinović returned to Vukovar after 15 to 20 minutes. According to the statement of the defendant, the prisoners were in white overcoats, battle fatigues and civilian clothes and he saw no women or children. He said that armed persons at Ovčara wore battle fatigues and added that he had not seen any of the defendants there. Finally, Vojinović said that he had seen some YNA officers there as well as a white van parked nearby.

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