

Case: Slobodan Medić *et al*
War Crimes Chamber
Belgrade District Court, Republic of Serbia
Case number: K.br. 6-05

Trial Chamber: Gordana Božilović-Petrović, Judge, Trial Chamber President, Vesko Krstajić, Judge, Trial Chamber Member, Vinka Beraha-Nikićević, Judge, Trial Chamber Member

Prosecutor: Bogdan Stanković

Accused: Slobodan Medić, Pera Petrašević, Aleksandar Medić, Aleksandar Vukov and Branislav Medić

Report: Nataša Kandić, Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) and Dragoljub Todorović, Attorney, victims representatives

11 April 2006

Examination of witness Dušan Kosanović

The witness joined the unit in mid-1993, having worked as a RSK police officer at the Tovarnik police station. He joined the unit because he knew Slobodan Medić, who was also from Vinkovački Banovci. His friendship with Medić aside, he was attracted by higher pay and his wages came to 600 German marks.

The unit's links with the Serbian MUP

Asked by the Trial Chamber President to whom the 'Škorpioni' belonged, the witness replied: 'Talk was it belonged, that we were the fire support battalion of the Republic of Serb Krajina, then later word was that we belonged to the Serbian MUP, and this to the SAJ [Special Anti-Terrorist Unit – HLC note].'

The witness served on all three fronts. On the second at Kladuša and the third at Trnovo he carried the camera and recorded the unit's life and work. On the Trnovo front he fell out with the commander and was ordered by him back to the Đeletovci base early. He handed the camera over to Slobodan Stojković.

On the unit's return to Đeletovci Stojković returned the camera to Kosanović together with the footage of the execution. Kosanović had a friend named Momirović make five or six copies of the cassette. He gave copies to Pera Petrašević, Milorad Momić, Aleksandar Medić, Slobodan Stojković and Commander Slobodan Medić.

When the Trial Chamber President asked him specifically whether there was any possibility that Slobodan Medić knew nothing about the cassette and the execution, that he did not receive a cassette and did not see what was recorded on it, the witness replied: 'No, there was no such possibility...everybody watched the cassette, there's no question about that.'

The witness's information about the prisoners

The Trial Chamber President reminded the witness of what he had said in his statement to the investigating judge, namely that on the unit's return to Đeletovci he heard it say that buses had been dispatched to Srebrenica to pick up men to be shot at the front line, that bodies were to be removed from cemeteries around Srebrenica so that when the Muslims went to recover them it would look as if they were soldiers killed in action. Kosanović replied:

'I mentioned no buses at all reaching our unit. Buses could not go as far as Trnovo, which means they could have brought no prisoners to Trnovo. What I said was, that Boca gave, that headquarters had been asking for our driver, those goings-on around Srebrenica, things taking place, that Boca's been asked to provide bus and lorry drivers and that Boca sent there Đura Mileusnić to drive a lorry as well as Braca Bogatić, that he'd dispatched men to help out with a personnel shortfall...I said word was that those people, prisoners had been taken to points along the line and that murders occurred there. I heard it say that the thing happened, that they brought those six men, that they'd meant to bring even more, but that Boca got angry and objected to our men having to do the shooting.'

Authenticity of the execution footage

The witness insisted that he had not tampered with the recording in any way, that he neither added nor erased anything, that the cassette was the master copy, such as he had received it from Slobodan Stojković. He said that he had kept the master copy in a safe in his house before giving it to friends to hide it in Bosnia following the Podujevo trial. In the end, he presented the cassette to Nataša Kandić: 'So, I gave the master copy to Nataša Kandić and it remained in her possession.' He also made available a copy to ICTY investigators.

After presenting the cassettes to Nataša Kandić and the ICTY investigators, the witness watched the recording twice: when the ICTY investigators showed it to him in Tuzla and during interrogation by an investigating judge in Belgrade. He insists that the recording shown him by the ICTY investigators was identical to the master copy record Slobodan Stojković gave him together with the camera.

Victims' Legal Representative notes:

The hearing was attended by Nura Begović, Rejha Avdić, Naza Hasanović, Ešefa Alić, and Refija Alić from the Srebrenica Women's Association, and by Nura Alispahić, mother of Azmir, and Safeta Muhić, sister of Safet.