

Case: Branko Grujić *et al* – ‘Zvornik’
War Crimes Chamber
Belgrade District Court, Republic of Serbia
Case number: KV.5/05

Trial Chamber: Tatjana Vuković, Trial Chamber President, Vesko Krstajić, Judge, Trial Chamber Member, Olivera Anđelković, Judge, Trial Chamber Member

War Crimes Prosecutor: Milan Petrović

Accused: Branko Grujić, Branko Popović, Dragan Slavković a.k.a. Toro, Ivan Korać a.k.a. Zoks, Siniša Filipović a.k.a. Lopov, and Dragutin Dragičević a.k.a. Bosanac

Report: Nataša Kandić, Executive Director of the Humanitarian Law Centre (HLC), and Dragoljub Todorović, Attorney, victims representatives

2 December 2005

Defence of Ivan Korać a.k.a. Zoks

Ivan Korać comes from Kraljevo. He arrived in Zvornik on 13 April 1992 as a volunteer sent by the Association of Serbs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had offices at Terazije 5, Belgrade. He spent two days in Belgrade, staying at the Hotel Srbija. Stojan Pivarski was also there in the company of Sava and Darko Janković who is referred to in the indictment as Pufta. Pivarski was appointed the commander of the unit. ‘We were then taken by bus to Zvornik. In Zvornik, we all followed our orders, were under TO command.’

They were quartered in the former Standard factory. The accused stayed in a first-floor office until he returned to Kraljevo on 16 May and returned to Zvornik around 5 June 1992 at Pivarski’s urging. He served with the unit under Pivarski in Drinjača.

The accused admitted to none of the charges of participating in the beating and killing of prisoners at ‘Ciglana’, ‘Ekonomija’, and the Čelopek Cultural Centre. He said, however, that he knew that Muslims were being kept under guard at ‘Ciglana’ and could not leave. He made repeated visits to ‘Ciglana’ to talk with Slavković, Saša, and others from Kraljevo and hear the latest news from the town.

The accused recalled two incidents regarding ‘Ciglana’. The first time, his mother in Kraljevo informed him that their close relative had been killed near Mostar; the news enraged him, so he went over to ‘Ciglana’ and yelled at and cursed the Muslim prisoners whom he regarded as enemies; overwrought, he fired a burst over their heads. On the second occasion, he took out four prisoners to help him clean out an abandoned Muslim house in which he intended to live.

As to the Čelopek camp, the accused said he knew that there were prisoners inside the Cultural Centre and that they were guarded by reserve policemen wearing blue police uniforms. He denied any knowledge of any prisoners at ‘Ekonomija’.

The accused said, however, that he heard it say that Muslim prisoners were detained in a school in Karakaj. The Trial Chamber did not press him for details.

Humanitarian Law Center