

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

21 and 22 February 2006

The accused Petrašević informed the Trial Chamber that he wished to put forward a defence.

Petrašević's defence

Regarding all the main points Petrašević in his defence reiterated what he had said in his statement to the investigating judge, which the Trial Chamber President had read out on 21 December 2005 after the accused had declared that he would use silence as defence.

Confrontation of Slobodan Medić and Pera Petrašević

Petrašević said: 'You ought to confess to what happened, because I declare under full responsibility that you gave the order to kill those people. You gave the order expressly to me. This is my assertion and I stand by it.'

To this Medić replied: 'Even if you'd killed a thousand men you have no right to point the finger at your commander. That is, even if he'd ordered you to do it, you'd have no right to finger him. So, a true Serb Obilić [name of Kosovo Battle legendary hero] has no right to point the finger at his commander. Do you know that?'

Confrontation of Pera Petrašević and Branislav Medić

The two were confronted to establish whether commander Slobodan Medić was present outside the command post as they drove off with the prisoners in the back of the lorry. Branislav Medić said that Slobodan Medić was not present at the scene, to which Petrašević replied: 'I can repeat this to you again, I stand by my words. It is one hundred percent true and you know best it is. You've simply been coerced, it's clear to me that you're saying these things because you have to. If you think that that's going to be of any help to you, I myself don't hold it against you, but I must say that that "officers" yarn is such a lie, I just can't swallow it in front of this court.'

Victims' Legal Representative notes:

The hearing was attended, under arrangements made by the HLC, by the following victim family members from Srebrenica: Nura Begović, Zekira Delić, Rejha Avdić, Naza Hasanović and Ešefa Alić. Also present were members of the Srebrenica Women's' Association, and Smajila and Semir Ibrahimović, daughter and son of Smail, Hana Fejzić and Safeta Muhić, mother and sister of Safet, and Neven Anđelić from the Interdisciplinary Studies Centre in Sarajevo.

Humanitarian Law Center