

**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 December 2005**

**Continued examination of the accused Slobodan Medić**

Medić said explicitly that he had appointed Aleksandar Vukov to command the Reconnaissance Platoon. During the time he performed this duty, Vukov was also the *de facto* deputy of the unit's commander Slobodan Medić.

Petrašević exercised his legal right to use silence as defence. In such a case the ZKP provides that the defendant's statement made to the investigating judge is read in the courtroom. The statement was read out by the Trial Chamber President and tendered into evidence for the purposes of the trial.

**Petrašević's statement to the investigating judge**

The accused joined the 'Škorpioni' in March 1995, a few days before it was deployed in the field at Kladuša in BiH. He came to the unit after the break-up of the Serb Volunteers' Guard. On his arrival, he found in command of the Reconnaissance Platoon Aleksandar Vukov, another member of the Serbian Volunteers' Guard. He spent the first 15 days or so in the Reconnaissance Platoon before being detailed by Commander Slobodan Medić as his personal security guard together with Milorad Momić, Slobodan Davidović and Aleksandar Medić.

Regarding the organization of the unit, the accused said that it numbered 400-500 and consisted of two companies, a Reconnaissance Platoon and a Labour Detail. From his statement it follows that Aleksandar Vukov was the *de facto* deputy commander of the unit, although the accused did not say so explicitly.

Petrašević said in this regard: '[...] now and again word was that Vukov is the commander's deputy [...] so when part of the unit went into the field together with the commander, Vukov stayed behind in Đeletovci and effectively performed the duties of command.'

### **The order to shoot the prisoners**

In connection with the charge that he took part in the execution of the six Bosniak civilians, the accused said: ‘One morning, after I’d woken up, Boca [Slobodan Medić] addressed me – go down there, I’ve got an assignment for you – meaning us the security guards. So when I went down I saw a lorry, it was then that Boca gave us the order to go – he didn’t say where, I mean, the drivers had probably been briefed, to kill those men.’

The defendant’s reply to the investigating judge’s explicit conclusion that Slobodan Medić had given the order to kill the men in the lorry was: ‘That is so.’

### **The order to film the execution**

The accused also made clear that the unit commander had ordered Slobodan Stojković to take a camera along and record the execution of the prisoners.

### **The incident**

The accused said that he, Slobodan Davidović, Milorad Momić, Aleksandar Medić, Branislav Medić and Slobodan Stojković set out to carry out the assignment ordered by the commander. The lorry carrying the prisoners was driven by Branislav Medić. The lorry came to a halt beside a field and someone ordered the prisoners to climb down and lie face down in a ditch at the side of the road. Branislav Medić then drove off to fetch a fresh battery for the camera. Meanwhile, Aleksandar Vukov accompanied with two or three ‘Škorpioni’ members had walked downhill from the front line to the place where the prisoners lay. One of them was known to the accused by his nickname ‘Kumić’ and the other as ‘Đole Šiptar’.

‘Vuk [Vukov] strode downhill and I went up to him, I’d detached myself from them [the commander’s security], I wanted to find out what reason Vuk had to come down, whether it was anything to do with this thing and whether he knew, I found out that he didn’t, he merely told us that it was risky to go on because shots were being fired all the time out there...’

The investigating judge asked further questions to find out precisely why Vukov had walked downhill from the front line to the place where the prisoners lay, but the accused gave no clear and specific answer.

The accused admitted that he gave the order to proceed after Branislav Medić returned with the battery. He also admitted that he chose the place for the execution – the yard of an abandoned house. He also admitted that he was the first to order a prisoner to step forward and then shoot him in the back and kill him. As to how the other prisoners were executed, the accused said that Davidović shot the last two in the head as well to make certain; regarding the rest, he said he did not remember because he was in a state of shock, because several rifles were being fired at once, and because much time had elapsed since. He said that the two members of the Reconnaissance Platoon who had arrived with Vukov were present at the execution and that Stojković was filming all the time.

**Victims Legal Representative notes:**

*Petrašević was unable to explain why Vukov had left the front line in the company of two or three soldiers and walked down as far as the spot to which the prisoners were taken. One gained the impression that the accused was trying to shield Vukov and to downplay his guilt.*

The hearing was attended by eight victim family members from the Srebrenica Women's Association headquartered in Tuzla, as well as by Sajma Salkić, sister of Saib, and Smaila Ibrahimović, daughter Smail.

Humanitarian Law Center