

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

22 November 2004

Witness **Mirko Gavrilović** said that on 6 November 1991 he was mobilized and assigned to the Light Artillery Division of Anti-Aircraft Defense unit stationed in a house in Negoslavci until 17 or 18 November 1991. He pointed out that in the morning hours of 17 or 18 November his unit had been moved to a new position at Ovčara, into the building of the local community. In the afternoon, with the approaching dark, trucks, buses and cars began arriving at Ovčara, and the members of the unit realized that Vukovar had fallen. The following day, in the afternoon, Joca came to fetch him and told him that Marček had told them to go to the hangar and see what was happening with the prisoners there. "In front of the hangar there were some 10 to 15 people, all of them armed, and when we attempted to enter they told us we could not... that they had received orders not to let anyone in." In his words, he and Joca returned to the headquarters, and Joca went to the office to let Marček know about this, while he stood guard that night. Witness Gavrilović pointed out that he had not gone to the hangar again and added that "that night had happened what happened". Gavrilović then said that it was only in the morning that they learned what had happened". That they felt very bad that that had happened when they were there and that all of them asked to be moved from Ovčara to some other location. He added that he did not know whether captain Marček was aware of what had been happening at Ovčara during the night. The witness then said that the persons who had barred them from entering the hangar wore civilian clothes and that they were, in his opinion, members of TD. Witness Gavrilović then denied Marček's claims that it was he who had made the list of prisoners and added that Marček must have confused the name, family name and the person. He went on to point out that during the night one could hear the shooting, which he did not pay great attention to in view of the fact that there was a lot of shooting after the cessation of hostilities and he thought it was just "celebration". Besides, while he stood guard from 8 to 10 in the evening, he heard the operation of a machine, but he paid no great attention to it. At the end, he said that, on the day the crime at Ovčara had been committed, there were some military policemen in front of the hangar, but not when he was there.