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

## **22 December 2005**

## Aleksandar Medić's defence

Aleksandar Medić fully confirmed Petrašević's statement regarding the order of the unit's commander, the transport of the prisoners to the said location, the return of the lorry to pick up the battery, the filming of the whole incident, Vukov's arrival, and the shooting of the prisoners. Regarding the part he played in the incident, the accused strongly denied killing anyone.

Furthermore, Aleksandar Medić had told the investigating judge that the 'Škorpioni' were part of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP). When asked by an attorney at the main hearing whether this was true, the accused said that word was that they were subordinated to the MUP and that people inferred this on the basis of the equipment, clothing and weapons they had.

When asked specifically by the Trial Chamber President to whom the unit belonged, the accused replied: 'You know, people said all kinds of things, that we were [part of] the Serbian MUP, State Security, Vukovar Corps, I really don't know. I'm deeply hurt when I read that it was a paramilitary unit. Try to judge for yourself whether one could have armed 550 men out of his pocket, how can I put it, to pay their wages and what not.'

## **Victims Legal Representative notes:**

The evidence given by this accused is particularly important in that it bears out Petrašević's statement that the execution order was given by the unit's commander Slobodan Medić.

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 of Smail.