

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: Miroљjub Vujović, Stanko Vujanović, Jovica Perić, Ivan Atanasijević, Predrag Mađžarac and Milan Vojnović, Serbs from Croatia.

Report: Nataša Kandić and Dragoljub Todorović, victims representatives

22 April 2005

Witness **Radoje Paunović** said that in the fall of 1991 he had been the commanding officer of the 2nd battalion of military police of the Guards brigade, with the rank of a captain first class. On 19 **November** 1991, he was given an order, by the chief of staff, Panić, to provide security for the hospital. They performed this duty until 24 November 1991. Exactly, their duty was to prevent unidentified persons from entering or leaving the hospital. On 19 November, the 4th company arrived; on 20 November 1991, another half a company was added, for strength. At the moment of their arrival to the hospital, there also was the 1st motorized battalion, under the command of Tešić, whereupon his military police took over the security. He said that he had received an order, from Panić or Mrkišić, to strengthen the company, but he had not asked for the reasons of the order. The witness said that there had been no problems with the security; small groups of curious people, three to four, came around; they were not members of YNA, but the citizens of Vukovar. He said that the military police prevented them from staying there. He said that he, personally, had taken Marin Vidić Bili to Negoslavci, to see the brigade commander. He said that the evacuation of the hospital had started on the second day; he had not been present all the time, although Simić had. His unit did not perform the triage of the patients, nor did they take an inventory. He said that his people had not entered the hospital premises. To the best of his knowledge, the triage was carried out by the security organs. He said that some of them had been put into buses and driven away. He said that he had heard, from his soldiers, that they had been taken to the barracks. He said he did not know the number of buses. Members of his unit were given the task of accompanying the buses going toward other parts of the Republic of Croatia. Those buses were returned as Croatia did not want them. He said he did not know who had effected the transport, that the buses were not from the Guards unit, that he had failed to recognize the drivers; the buses did have military license plates. The witness said that he had heard, "much later", about the events at Ovčara, that is, three or four years later.