

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

23 and 24 February 2006

Examination of witness Slobodan Stojković

The witness, Slobodan Stojković, joined the ‘Škorpioni’ unit in July 1992 while it was guarding the facilities of the Krajina Oil Industry company. His motives for joining were of a purely financial nature, because pay in the unit was higher than pay in the then police force of the RSK.

Stojković was explicit that Vukov performed the duties of unit deputy commander since he joined the unit early in 1994 but could not say whether there existed a formal (written) decision to this effect. Asked by the Trial Chamber President to describe the manner in which the commander gave Vukov his orders, the witness said: ‘I can’t recall exactly, the expressions he used, it was, I think, normal, for instance, when he gave orders to Vuk to say, “Do this, do that, Go there and then there, Get this thing done...”’

The commander’s order to record the execution

Stojković said that he had inherited the camera from Dušan Kosanović a.k.a. ‘Sova’, who had fallen ill and returned to Đeletovci. The camera was handed to him personally by commander Medić two days before the execution at Godinjske bare. The witness was explicit that the commander had ordered him to use the camera: ‘I don’t remember who woke me up, the upshot was that he had come with the message that Boca wanted me, and that I was to take the camera along because there was something to film...I hastily put on my clothes and presented myself outside the command post, seeing that the others had already been woken...I went up to where the commander stood...when I approached him, he told me, “Go and take pictures of that.”’

The commander’s order to execute the prisoners

The witness said that as the commander gave him the order to go and take pictures Pera Petrašević, Milorad Momić, Branislav Medić, Slobodan Davidović and Aleksandar Medić were

standing next to him. Slobodan Medić turned to them and said: 'Come on, no more palaver, let's go and get the mission done.'

The commander having given his orders, everybody drove off in the lorry carrying the prisoners, with Branislav Medić at the wheel. Stojković sat in the cabin next to Branislav, who told him as they set out that they were carrying prisoners from Srebrenica whom they were to liquidate.

The presence of Vukov and his soldiers at the scene

Regarding the presence of Vukov and his soldiers at the place of the execution, the witness said that Vukov arrived as the prisoners lay down on their stomachs with their hands tied behind their backs, the driver having gone back in the lorry to fetch a fresh battery for the camera. When the Trial Chamber President asked him to explain Vukov's presence there, he replied: '...the commander had probably asked him to go to the spot and be there.'

The witness observed that Vukov and Petrašević conversed rather quietly. He recorded their meeting with the camera. Vukov went away as soon as the lorry returned, but his two soldiers stayed. As to the part these two played, the witness said that after the first four prisoners were killed, they untied the hands of the remaining two so that they could drag the bodies into a summer cottage close by, where they too were shot.

The witness described the execution itself in nearly identical terms as Petrašević and said that he had filmed the whole proceeding.

The witness said that while Branislav Medić was away with the lorry, Aleksandar Medić asked one of the prisoners as they lay beside the road, 'Ever had a screw?' The youth replied that he had not, whereupon Aleksandar said, 'Well, you're not going to have one ever.'

Stojković gave a detailed account of the party's return to the command post where their commander was waiting for them under the plum tree and where Petrašević informed him that the assignment had been carried out.

The video footage

The witness said that he had seen the video footage and that, as far as he could recall things, the recording was authentic and that it included all he had filmed. In his view, nothing was added though he thought that some details he had captured were missing, e.g. shots of Momić and Davidović firing their weapons.

The footage was screened in the courtroom with the witness providing a running commentary, identifying the actors, interpreting who was saying what, and explaining when and where each sequence was taken.

Confrontation of Slobodan Stojković and Slobodan Medić

Looking Medić straight in the eye, Stojković said that Medić had ordered him to go and record the execution, and that the order had been overheard by Đuro Opačić, the commander of Stojković's company. 'You said, "Go and take pictures of that."' Medić for his part denied saying that.

Medić also denied ordering the witness, on the party's return to base, to hand over the video cassette to Dušan 'Sova' Kosanović.

Confrontation of Slobodan Stojković and Branislav Medić

Branislav Medić said to the witness that he was certain that the commander was not at the command post on the day of the execution; that he therefore could not have ordered the witness to film the incident; that the witness was not with him in the cabin while they drove the prisoners to the execution place. Stojković for his part adhered to his previous statements.

Victims' Legal Representative notes:

The hearing was attended, under arrangements made by the HLC, by the following victim family members from the Srebrenica Women's Association: Nura Begović, Zekira Delić, Rejha Avdić, Naza Hasanović and Ešefa Alić. Also present were 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.