

**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 January 2006**

**Branislav Medić's defence**

Branislav Medić was the unit's driver. He also worked as a car mechanic because he could do motor vehicle repair. His sister was married to the unit's commander.

The accused admitted that he drove the prisoners from the command post to the spot where they were executed. He also admitted that he was present at the execution with a rifle in his hand, but insisted he did not fire because he was terrified.

He said that on his way to Trnovo to pick up supplies he was stopped by men in two Pinzgauer all-terrain vehicles including a VRS lieutenant-colonel who asked him where the unit that had arrived from Vukovar was stationed. He led them to the weekend cottage settlement where the 'Škorpioni' had their command post. It was there that the lieutenant-colonel told him that the prisoners were to be transferred from the two Pinzgauers to the 'Škorpioni' lorry. The prisoners having been transferred, the lieutenant-colonel went into the 'Škorpioni' command post with, according to the accused, Petrašević, Davidović, Momić and Aleksandar Medić inside. He said that these four boarded the lorry together with the photographer Stojković and he drove the lorry from the command post to the place near the front line which could be reached safely and where the execution took place. On arrival the prisoners were ordered to get out of the lorry and to lie down beside the road with their hands tied behind their backs. The accused drove back to Trnovo to fetch a fresh battery for the camera as the one being used had meanwhile run down. The defendant's account of the execution itself tallies with what was recorded and with the evidence given by Aleksandar Medić, Petrašević and Stojković. He insisted that he did not fire from the rifle he held in his hand during the execution.

It is to be noted that, according to the accused, the unit's commander, Slobodan Medić, was absent from the moment the lieutenant-colonel arrived to the time of the execution.

When the Trial Chamber President observed that it was illogical for them to be ordered to kill six men by a VRS lieutenant-colonel whom they did not know and who was not their superior officer, the accused replied: ‘You see, I’m trying to explain things to you, but there are things I can’t remember for the life of me, I just can’t. As to the officer, our commander Slobodan Medić wasn’t there at that moment, they arrived, a lieutenant-colonel or colonel, that was a high rank as far as we were all concerned, we respected their orders as we were under their command, we’d gone to their parts to fight for them, for their needs, so we all of us considered that we ought to respect their orders.’

The Trial Chamber President informed those present that the HLC had filed a submission to examine Hana Fejzić, Safet’s mother, Safeta Muhić, Safet’s sister, Semir Ibrahimović, Smail’s son, Osman Salkić, Sidik’s relative, Nura Alispahić, Azmir’s mother, and Hana Salkić, Saib’s mother.

The submission corrects the names of the victims and injured parties as given in the indictment and raises the number of identified victims from three in the indictment to five.

**Victims’ Legal Representative notes:**

The hearing was attended by eight victim family members from the Srebrenica Association headquartered in Tuzla: Nura Begović, Rejha Avdić, Naza Hasanović, Ešefa Alić, Refija Alić, Muzafer Ibrahimović and Hajra Čatić.