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

23 March 2005

At the beginning of her testimony, witness **Dušanka Katić**, a first cousin of Vujo Zlatar, pointed out that in the fall of 1991 she used to live in Rušanj, near Belgrade, and that on 30 October 1991, she was invited by Zlatar Vujo's sister to come with her and visit Zlatar Vujo at the MMA, as Vujo had been wounded. She said she remembered that date because of the *slava*, St Luke's day. In her words, she used to visit the defendant at MMA almost every day until 18 November when he was moved to a spa near Mladenovac. Witness Katié pointed out that she had visited the defendant in the spa for the first time on 19 November 1991 and for the second time on 21 December, when her father had accompanied her. Toward the end of his rehabilitation, the defendant, in her words, used to visit them on weekends. She pointed out that the first time she had visited him in the spa he had been lying in bed and had not felt very well. She said that she and her husband had gone to fetch the defendant on the day he was released from the spa and added that she had taken the hospital release form. In her words, the first couple of days after the release, the defendant could walk only with the help of two crutches and, later on, one. Katić said that the defendant had returned from Rušanj to Vukovar after the New Year.

Witness Rade Samardžija, the father of the previous witness, Dušanka Katić, said that in 1991 he had lived in Rušanj, near Belgrade. He pointed out that in the fall of 1991, defendant Vujo Zlatar did not visit them and added that he knew that the defendant had been wounded on 30 October 1991. In his words, the defendant was at MMA until 18 November 1991, when he was moved to Selters Spa near Mladenovac, and that he used to visit him at MMA almost every day. The next day, on 19 November, the witness, together with his daughter Dušanka, went to visit Vujo at the spa. After that, he paid a visit to the defendant on 21 November, when he brought him everything he had ordered. In his words, Vujo could not move then. Samardžija pointed out that he had visited the defendant often and added that his daughter usually stayed longer as she was emotionally tied with him from early childhood. Continuing his testimony, Samardžija, although not quite certain, said that the defendant had left the spa on 18 December 1991. In his words, on 19 November, on his first visit to the spa, the defendant was lying and his leg was bandaged. After that, witness remarked, as time went by, the state of the defendant's health was improving, although it could happen, at the beginning of his stay at the spa, for his wound to open and then he would be forced to go to MMA for treatment. At the end, the witness remarked that defendant Vujo had visited the soldier Dujaković in Belgrade and added that the defendant was taken to visit the soldier by his son-in-law.

At the beginning of his testimony, witness **Mile Nišević** said that he had met defendant Zlatar Vujo for the first time at the spa in Mladenovac. He pointed out that he used to know the father of the defendant, Bogdan, from the time Bogdan had lived at Kordun. Describing how he had

learned the defendant was in the spa, Nišević said that he lived in Mladenovac, that buses from Kordun used to come there and that he had heard, from Pero Stanojević, that defendant Zlatar Vujo was in Mladenovac. In his words, Pero took him to the defendant, to the 3rd floor, and introduced him. Defendant told him that he had been at the spa from 18 November 1991. In his words, he often visited the defendant, almost every evening, when his job was over. Continuing his testimony, Nišević pointed out that the defendant, when he saw him for the first time, had been lying down, and that after two days, he was also lying down in his bed, but had two crutches. In his words, Vujo wore a pajama and a sweater and, later on, a turtleneck and a sweat suit. After five or six days, the defendant could slowly, with the help of the crutches, come to the elevator. The witness then pointed out that he had seen defendant Vujo for the last time on 15 or 16 December 1991, when the defendant told him he was to be released soon. At the end, Nišević pointed out that he had met the witnesses Rade Samardžija and Dušanka Katić in the spa and added that the late brother of the defendant had called him and asked him if he wanted to testify in this case.