

**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

**24 November 2004**

Witness **Dragi Vukosavljević** said that during 1991 he was the chief of security of the 80<sup>th</sup> motorized brigade from Kragujevac. In his words, his immediate superior was the brigade commander Vojnović, and in the security chain of command Šljivančanin. The witness Vukosavljević pointed out that war operations in Vukovar had ended on 16, 17 or 18 November 1991. He emphasized that he thought that on 16 and 17 November he was guarding the prisoners from Mitnica. In his words, he was given an order by the brigade commander to guard those prisoners with a company of military police. Officers from the command headquarters of his brigade and lieutenant colonel Danilović were also involved in the guarding of the prisoners. He visited Ovčara for the second time when the brigade commander Vojnović issued him an order and a staff car to go to Ovčara as the situation there was delicate. On the occasion, Vojnović also told him that there was a part of a company of the military police and some members of Vukovar TD. Upon his arrival at Ovčara, he spoke with captain Vezmarović who told him that security measures could not be implemented because he could not remove the members of TD from the hangar. A couple of other persons confirmed that it was impossible to implement security measures because of the members of TD who said the prisoners were theirs and asked for the prisoners to be delivered to them. In his words, in the hangar, a group of prisoners was on the right hand side, behind the rope, while another group was in the middle of the hangar and was surrounded by members of TD, military policemen and officers. There were no arguments between the company of the military police and the members of TD and he added that he had gone to the commander, Vojnović, to let him know what was happening and ask him to do something. Witness Vukosavljević pointed out that Vezmarović had just told him that there was a conflict between the members of TD and the military police. Upon his return to the brigade headquarters he did not find Vojnović, so he went to see Mrkšić, in a Pinzgauer, but Mrkšić was at a meeting. As the meeting was in session, Vukosavljević waited for an hour and, when Vojnović came out, he informed him about the events at Ovčara. Vojnović suggested for both of them to go to Mrkšić to let him know about the situation. However, after they had explained the situation to Mrkšić, he told them not to bother him any more with this, as he had other, more urgent things to do. Vukosavljević pointed out that it was decided for the military police to withdraw and leave the prisoners although Vojnović had spoken with Mrkšić about all that. When they returned to Ovčara, the vehicles of the military police were ready for withdrawal and Vezmarović informed the witness that Karanfilov had told him that the military police should withdraw from the hangar. The witness Vukosavljević pointed out that he had compiled a report about that which is, at the moment, in the archives of the Kragujevac corps. He added that he had made three copies of the report, two of which he had kept with him, while the remaining one was delivered to the counter-intelligence in Šid. In his words, he had returned from Ovčara together with Vezmarović and the military policemen. He then pointed out that all the time of his further

stay in Vukovar there were rumors about what had happened at Ovčara. In the words of the witness, when he had entered the hangar door the second time, he saw that there were more people from Vukovar and that the members of the military police were forced to withdraw. He added that there were more than 60 members of TD and that the situation was delicate. The witness Vukosavljević pointed out that he had spoken about the events at Ovčara with Karan and Karanfilov. Describing the difference between the members of YNA and TD, the witness said that the members of TD had mottled uniforms, while members of YNA wore regulation uniforms.

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