

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

Report: Nataša Kandić and Dragoljub Todorović, victims representatives

24 March 2005

At the beginning of his testimony, witness **Nebojša Petković** said that in the fall of 1991 he was mobilized into a unit commanded by captain Velimir Telalović. The witness pointed out that he was a sergeant and added that in his platoon there were 32 persons. In his words, they had come to Vukovar around 10 November 1991 and, after around 10 days, they were moved to Ovčara, where they were stationed in the pig breeding farm, more than 300 meters from the hangar. Petković pointed out that they were forbidden to move around and added that he had not heard about the civilians kept in the hangar, and had seen only those who came to the farm. After that, the witness pointed out that he knew nothing about the events at Ovčara. After he was reminded that in his statement given during the investigation he had said that, one night, at Ovčara, a group of prisoners was transported, that the security, consisting of armed, bearded persons, did not allow approach to the reserve officers, that he was told not to show himself until the next morning, and that the army should do its business, and he would do his business, the witness remarked that he did not remember ever having given such a statement. The witness Petković said that they had remained at Ovčara some 20 days and that he had learned about the crime at Ovčara a couple of months after his return from Vukovar.

At the beginning of his testimony, witness **Zoran Krstić** said that in the fall of 1991 he was mobilized into an anti-aircraft defense unit of the YNA Kragujevac brigade and added that he was a gunner with 20-3 guns. In his words, he had no rank at all and he was with Petković in a platoon and was in charge of the first gun. After 10 days or so in Vukovar, the unit was moved to Ovčara where they remained fewer than 15 days. In his words, there were no hangars in the vicinity of his post and the only people they saw at Ovčara were the workers employed by the farm. The witness pointed out that all day and all night he heard the operation of a machine, a bulldozer, behind their position, in the fields. Besides, it was then that he had heard the sound of the volleys being fired, which is a nightmare he still remembers. The witness then confirmed a part of his statement given before the investigative judge where he had said that during his turn of the sentry duty he had heard the volleys being fired, and then individual shots. In his words, a day after that the soldiers from his units told him that the people in the hangar were no more and that this was done by the volunteers. The witness pointed out that, before he heard the operation of the machine and the sound of the volleys being fired, he had seen the people who had been transported in the trucks and then entering the buses. In his words, women and children were transported first and then the prisoners, and he had heard that they had been moved from Ovčara to Sremska Mitrovica. When judge Krstajić presented him with the part of his statement given during the investigation where he claimed he had seen armed members of TD, who were "moving around", witness Krstajić said that there were people coming every day, the people he did not know and who were not from his unit.