

Case: Branko Grujić *et al* – ‘Zvornik’
War Crimes Chamber
Belgrade District Court, Republic of Serbia
Case number: KV.5/05

Trial Chamber: Tatjana Vuković, Trial Chamber President, Vesko Krstajić, Judge, Trial Chamber Member, Olivera Anđelković, Judge, Trial Chamber Member

War Crimes Prosecutor: Milan Petrović

Accused: Branko Grujić, Branko Popović, Dragan Slavković a.k.a. Toro, Ivan Korać a.k.a. Zoks, Siniša Filipović a.k.a. Lopov, and Dragutin Dragičević a.k.a. Bosanac

Report: Nataša Kandić, Executive Director of the Humanitarian Law Centre (HLC), and Dragoljub Todorović, Attorney, victims representatives

26 December 2005

Defence of Siniša Filipović a.k.a. Lopov

The accused arrived in Zvornik in April 1992 in the company of five or six volunteers from Ruma, their transport having been organized by the Serbian Radical Party. He served in the Yellow Wasps unit under the command of Vojin Vučković a.k.a. Žuća. The unit numbered 30 to 40 men quartered in an improvised barracks in a building belonging to a company in Karakaj. The unit was at first named after Igor Marković, a killed member of the unit, but was later renamed the Yellow Wasps.

The superior officer of this and the other units located in the barracks was Marko Pavlović.

Filipović was 18 years old at the time and totally unfit for military service in spite of having spent 13 or 14 days in training of some sort at Okučani in Croatia.

The accused was aware of the existence of the Čelopek camp and knew that Muslims were imprisoned there. He also knew that the camp was guarded by regular policemen. The nearest he ever went to the Čelopek camp was when on a single occasion he sat in a restaurant some 50 metres from it. From the restaurant, he saw Dušan Vučković a.k.a. Repić and another person arrive and stand in front of the camp. He could not say whether they were in or out. He said he knew nothing else about the Čelopek camp and had never been inside it.

As to the ‘Ekonomija’ and ‘Ciglana’ camps, the accused said he did not know they even existed.

The accused explained that he had been nicknamed Lopov [Thief] because in the actions in which he took part he ‘always prowled like a thief.’

Dragutin Dragičević’s defence

The accused declared the counts incorrect and announced that he would use silence as defence.

Humanitarian Law Center