

**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 April 2006**

#### **Examination of witness Nedo Mladenović**

The witness worked as a sheet metal worker before graduating from a Faculty of Political Science and becoming the director of the public utility company in Zvornik in 1987. Shortly before the conflict broke out he went to Šabac, stayed seven or eight days there, and returned to Zvornik at the urging of his brother. On his arrival in Zvornik, he first went to the Alhos factory in Karakaj where the Crisis Headquarters was stationed. When he arrived the Crisis Headquarters was holding a meeting and he saw there Branko Grujić and other members as well as a member of Arkan's forces which had occupied Zvornik. The witness was put in charge of the utility company and he set about cleaning the town at once. A lot of vehicles had been stolen and many others rendered inoperative, and the witness had a hard time getting a workforce together before cleaning work began.

#### **The setting up of the Clearing up Commission**

Soon after the witness returned to Zvornik, a seven-member commission for the recovery of bodies was established. The commission's president was Kosta Erić and the witness his deputy. Their duty was to recover the bodies and identify and bury them. In the first three or four days 16 Bosniak residents of Zvornik were killed. All of them were shot and all bore entry and exit wounds. The bodies were collected and, on being superficially examined by doctors, buried. The Muslims were buried in zipped body bags and the Serbs in coffins. Dr Zoran Stanković from Belgrade came several times and examined the bodies without opening them up, and Faculty of Medicine doctors also came occasionally. The bodies were kept at Alhos and at a butcher's shop owned by a man called Gera. The Muslims were buried at cemeteries in Kazambaša, Musići, Šahbegovići, and Glumina. The relatives bought the coffins in Ljubovija and received the bags free of charge. A trench-digging machine would dig a large grave and the bodies would be placed in it one next to another. The identified known bodies were marked by name, the unidentified ones by numbers.

The witness knew that in Drinjača where he was born some 80 Muslims were killed in the first 10 days or so of the war in Zvornik (in the first half of April). In the period April-June some 400-

500 Bosniak bodies passed through Gera's butcher shop. Other than those, there were also 100 bodies from Drinjača and about 200 bodies in Alhos – a total of some 800 Bosniaks buried.

**The Čelopek, 'Ekonomija', and 'Ciglana' camps**

The witness said he knew nothing about the Čelopek, 'Ekonomija', and 'Ciglana' camps but said that a large number of Bosniaks were killed at the Technical School. Kosta Erić told him that there were a lot of bodies in Gera's butcher shop but could not say whether they had been brought there from Čelopek. The witness knew Marko Pavlović well and that he was in a commanding position at the Zvornik TO and issued passes. He received his passes from Pavlović and he sometimes lied to him in order to be able to go to Ljubovija to procure materials needed for burial. The witness lived in Šabac throughout his stint as utility company director. He knew that in April-June many military formations were active in Zvornik, including those under Pivarski and Niški, the Yellow Wasps, the White Eagles and others.

The witness never attended an examination of bodies by Dr Stanković. He said that Kosta Erić was once present while Dr Stanković looked at the bodies in Gera's butcher shop and that Stanković had examined 300-400 bodies there. He also said that after these bodies were buried, other bodies were transferred to the butcher shop from the Cultural Centre in Čelopek and from the Technical School in Karakaj. He learned this subsequently and could not say how the victims were killed or who brought the bodies to Gera's butcher shop.