

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

26 May 2005

When the presentation of evidence was continued, Saša Radak, also indicted for this crime in April 2005, whose trial was scheduled for 1 June, was supposed to present his evidence; also Ilija Dujaković, who has already been interviewed as a witness, and Radojka Vučković, from Vukovar, who was invited to appear at today's trial by means of a petition submitted to the Republic of Croatia. However, since the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia could not locate her address, the summons was not delivered to her.

Saša Radak did not want to present his testimony because he was indicted for his participation in the crime. In his own words, he had received a lot of material which he should read and he did not want to say anything before presenting his defense.

Ilija Dujaković was invited to appear as a witness because at the time of his previous testimony he was unsure about the time he had left the army. In the meantime, the trial chamber had asked the Military Security Agency about information concerning his service in the army, but the Agency had replied that they did not have any information about him, although they did have records of his brother, Goran Dujaković. The witness noted that his brother had also served his term in the Guards brigade, but had arrived to the brigade six months after the witness. Dujaković then presented to the trial chamber his military identity card where it was written that he had done his regular military service from 19 December 1990 to 22 November 1991, and had been called for a military exercise from 23 November of the same year to 22 January 1992. The witness also submitted photographs of himself from the time when he had served his term in the Guards brigade where it was possible to see, by his side, the first protected witness.

Asked where his brother Goran had been during the fighting in Vukovar, the witness said that he had been in Negoslavci and added that he had found his brother 21 days later, whereupon he took him to Vukovar and introduced him to defendant Zlatar. In his words, his brother had seen defendant Zlatar once or twice and, after the fighting in Vukovar had ended, and never again.

The attorney of defendant Šošić, Beljanski, asked the witness whether any person of Muslim nationality from Bosnia and Herzegovina had served as a courier in the Guards brigade at the time of the fighting in Vukovar and the witness gave a positive answer and pointed to him on one

of the photographs. Attorney Beljanski pointed out that that person, in 1995, had testified before the Hague Tribunal in the trial of Slavko Dokmanović as a protected witness and added that he might ask for this person to be interviewed here in view of the fact that his statement differs from the statement of the protected witness.

When the testimony of witness Dujaković was over, judge Krstajić informed the witnesses that Vilim Karlović and Petar Janjić, aka Tromblon, who had been invited to appear at the continuation of the trial tomorrow by means of a petition submitted to the Republic of Croatia, would not attend the trial because the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia had informed the court that the data they had received were not enough for them to locate the wanted persons. After that, the defense attorneys, Dozet and Štrbac, submitted the data they had been able to find about witnesses Karlović and Janjić, while defendant Milojević submitted the data for Radojka Vučković.

At the very end, judge Krstajić asked defendant Perić whether he knew a certain Sandra, whose maiden name was Marušić, from Vukovar, and the witness answered that he did and that she had been his schoolmate. He added that he had seen her husband, who had been a police inspector before the war, that night in Vukovar.

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