

**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

**28 October 2004**

At the beginning of his testimony, witness **Jovica Kresović** said that he had lived in Vukovar before the war and that he had had a shop which was shelled by the Croats in May and September 1991. Besides, he stressed, he had been arrested so he fled from Petrova Gora to Negoslavci and then to Šid where he was mobilized by a Mitrovica brigade. As he was a reserve signal-corpsman, he was appointed to the post of the commander of the Negoslavci battalion although he was only 19 years old. The witness pointed out that the members of this battalion were "the people from the village and the refugees from Vukovar" and that there were, all in all, between 380 and 400 persons. Witness Kresović added that lower formations of the battalion were companies. After he had been removed from the post of the battalion commander at an assembly of the citizens, the witness, in his own words, remained at the command of the Mitrovica brigade.

Witness Kresović said that he had gone to Ovčara on the day of the fall of Vukovar, on 18 November, or a day after that, to look for his parents. In his words, he went there with Dukić, and probably with Božičković, Čapa and Krivi. Describing the situation he found at Ovčara, witness Kresović said that, when he arrived there, it was still sunny, that he had seen empty buses on his right, one after another, with the prisoners still getting off the last bus. In addition, he said that he had seen the two rows that the people from the buses had to go through before entering the hangar. In his words, there were many people at Ovčara, military and civilian cars. There were soldiers in front of the entrance to the hangar who did not allow anyone to enter the hangar and the people who were in front of the hangar wore different uniforms. He pointed out that, when he approached the hangar, he saw the prisoners inside, with their backs toward the wall, approaching the table where their names were entered into a list. The witness said that he had seen defendant Vujanović, from the back, that he was in a leather jacket or a uniform, and that he knew, from another story, that Vujanović had a hat. Kresović pointed out that he had also seen defendant Lančuzanin and that, as far as Bulić was concerned, he had probably seen him at Velepromet and possibly at Ovčara. He pointed out that in the hangar, among the prisoners, he had recognized Siniša Glavašević, with his face toward the wall, and added that the rows consisted of five persons on one side and five on the other, that there were shouting, that he had seen people slapped on the face. The witness said that he knew witness Dukić, that he had seen him at Ovčara and spoken with him. In his words, witness Dukić disappeared then and later on, as far as the witness could remember, gave him a ride to Velepromet. When asked if he knew the second protected witness, witness Kresović said that he knew him, but he could not say with any certainty that he had seen him at Ovčara. He added that that particular protected witness had told him that he would say to have seen him at Ovčara. The witness said that, at Ovčara, he had seen military vehicles, Pinzgauers, and members of the military police, but he had not seen any YNA

officers.

At the beginning of his testimony, witness **Predrag Šapić** said that, in the fall of 1991, he was a reservist in a military police company of the 80<sup>th</sup> motorized brigade billeted in Negoslavci from 7 or 8 October 1991, and that the commander of his unit was lieutenant colonel Vojinović, while the company commander was captain Dragan Vezmarović. Explaining the circumstances of his arrival at Ovčara, witness Šapić said that on that particular day he had been in Njemci, together with Trifunović and a captain. Upon their return to the command headquarters, they found only a person on duty and received the message to go immediately to Ovčara as "something was happening there". In his words, Trifunović and he went to Ovčara following the order of captain Vezmarović to do so. The witness Šapić pointed out that they, upon their arrival at Ovčara, had seen a large number of people, members of TD, prisoners, military police. Captain Vezmarović ordered everybody, except for the military police, to leave the hangar, which was done. Soon after that (15 to 20 minutes later), the order arrived for the military police to withdraw to Negoslavci. Šapić said that his superiors, Dragi Vukosavljević and captain Dragan Vezmarović, had been at Ovčara. He stressed that he had been very much afraid at Ovčara in view of the fact that he was only 20 years old at the time. As far as he remembered, at Ovčara, Trifunović and he were standing by captain Dragi Vukosavljević, following the procedure, although there was no need to provide him with the body guards. In connection with his earlier statement, given to the investigative judge, that there had been arguments and shoving between the members of TD and the soldiers, Šapić said: "It was something like that... a member of TD pushed him (Vukosavljević) with a hand and said: 'What do you want, old man? Was it you who had captured them?'" After that, in the words of Šapić, Vukosavljević withdrew. The witness said that he stood, together with Trifunović, at the door to the hangar, that there were crowds around the hangar and prisoners and members of TD inside. Continuing his testimony, Šapić said that he was not sure where they had gone first after Ovčara – to Negoslavci and then to the Light Artillery Rocket Division (LARD), but they were told to guard the building of the unit and they spend the night there. In his words, the LARD building was situated some 150 meters from the hangar. He pointed out that at the time of his stay in that building, he had heard two or three times the noise of a vehicle which he believed was a tractor and, after some time, a quiet shooting. In the morning, when a vehicle came to collect them, the witness saw that the hangar was empty and, across the hangar, a yellow boot. The witness said that, at Ovčara, there were 15, 20 or 30 persons who were not YNA soldiers, who wore beards and had motley uniforms. He pointed out that he remembered how one of them had a leather hat on his head. The witness Šapić then said that, together with Trifunović, they were sent to guard LARD because of the request to do so by the commander of the unit, Marček, who was afraid of being attacked.