

**Case: *Skočić* (indictée Sima Bogdanović and others)**  
**Higher Court in Belgrade**  
**War Crimes Chamber**  
**Case number: K.Po2. 42/10**

**Issuing of the verdict: February 22, 2013**

**Report:** Lawyer Marina Kljaić, attorney to injured party Zijo Ribić

After the consultations and the voting, the Chamber and the Chair, Judge Rastko Popović, rendered and publicly announced the verdict against the accused Damir Bogdanović, Zoran Alić, Zoran Đurđević, Zoran Stojanović, Đorđe Šević, Tomislav Gavrić and Dragana Đekić, the members of the „Sima's Chetniks“ unit, and pronounced them guilty of the felony of war crime against a civilian population according to Article 142 of the Criminal Law of FRY, as accomplices, in relation to Article 22 of the Criminal Law of FRY; and sentenced Damir Bogdanović to 2 years, Zorana Alić and Tomislav Gavrić to 10 years, Zoran Đurđević and Zoran Stojanović to 20, years and Đorđe Šević and Dragana Đekić to 5 years in prison. Since Đorđe Šević was already legally sentenced to 15 years in prison for another felony (war crime), he was sentenced to a conjoint prison term of 15 years.

The Chamber considered the existence of armed conflict, as an objective element of the indictment, indisputable, as it is common knowledge that the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina started in 1992 and was taking place on all of its territory, between the military formations of Serb, Moslem and Croat peoples, and that the war lasted until the Dayton peace agreement was signed in 1995. The „Sima's Chetniks“ unit came into existence after one group separated from a unit commanded by Vučković Vojin a.k.a. „Žučica“, which was deployed in the area of Zvornik municipality. The „Sima's Chetniks“ unit was commanded by the late Sima Bogdanović, but it still remained a part of the Territorial Defense Forces (TDF) in Zvornik. Its members were volunteers from Serbia and Bosnia. At the time of the events in *Skočić* village, in Zvornik municipality, this formation was stationed in Malešić village, and among them were, besides the late Sima, the accused Zoran Alić, Đorđe Šević, Dragana Đekić, Zoran Stojanović and Zoran Đurđević, while the accused Damir Bogdanović and Tomislav Gavrić joined the unit later, in August 1992. The Chamber found that the accused Zoran Đurđević, Zoran Stojanović, Zoran Alić, Đorđe Šević and Dragana Đekić, as members of the volunteers' group „Sima's Chetniks“, under the command of the late Simo Bogdanović, on July 12, 1992, in *Skočić* village, together with other members of the unit, used explosives to destroy a mosque, and then gathered into one house 32 local Roma inhabitants whom they found in the village (out of the total number of 35 Roma who lived in *Skočić* at the time), most of whom were women and children. They had taken away from them and expropriated valuable items - on this occasion, the accused Dragana Đekić confiscated golden earrings and pendants shaped as a cross and a horseshoe from the injured party „Gamma“, as well as a gold ring that she took from her hand. They had struck the gathered Roma with hands, legs, rifle butts and other objects, and they had killed Arif Nuhanović. The accused Zoran Stojanović ordered two men – a grandfather and a grandson – to strip down and mutually perform oral sex, while some members of the unit raped the protected witnesses „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“. After that they transported all of them by truck to Malešić village, where they separated the injured parties „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“ from the others and took them into houses where the members of the „Sima's Chetniks“ unit resided.

The accused Zoran Đurđević, Zoran Stojanović and Zoran Alić, together with the late Sima Bogdanović and unidentified members of the unit, transported the remaining Roma to a pit at the place known as Hamzići, near Šetići village, and took them out of the truck one by one and killed them using knives and firearms, and threw their bodies into the pit. On that occasion they killed 27 civilians, among whom were seven children and a woman in late pregnancy; and the injured party, Zlatija Ribić, who was 13 years old, they raped before the execution. They only inflicted injuries on Zijo Ribić, who was eight years old at the time, because, although wounded, he managed to survive the execution. The accused treated inhumanely the injured parties „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“, who they kept forcibly during their stay in Malešić village, and forced them to cook, wash their clothing and uniforms, clean the houses in which they lived, ordering them to fulfill all the wishes of the unit members, on pain of death. The accused Zoran Stojanović, Zoran Alić and Dragana Đekić had beaten them on various occasions, and the accused Zoran Stojanović, Zoran Đurđević, Zoran Alić, Tomislav Gavrić and unidentified members of the unit had raped them repeatedly, while the accused Zoran Đurđević, together with unidentified members of the unit, sexually humiliated them by especially insulting behavior, forcing them to dance naked on the table and watch each other while being raped. After their stay in Malešić village, the accused Đorđe Šević, Zoran Đurđević, Zoran Alić and Dragana Đekić left the unit. The rest of the accused, Zoran Stojanović, Damir Bogdanović and Tomislav Gavrić, together with unidentified members of the unit, went to Klisa village and forcibly took with them the injured parties „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“. After they had stayed in Klisa village, the accused spent a short period of time in Petkovci village, and in that period the accused Tomislav Gavrić left the unit. From Petkovci village the „Sima's Chetniks“ unit moved to Drinjača village, when the accused Zoran Stojanović left the unit, taking the injured party „Gamma“ to Serbia with him. In mid-January 1993 the „Sima's Chetniks“ unit, with whom of all the accused only Damir Bogdanović remained, moved to Serbia, taking with them the injured parties „Alpha“ and „Beta“. During the whole of that period since Malešić, until the return to Serbia, the accused Zoran Stojanović, Damir Bogdanović and Tomislav Gavrić treated the injured parties inhumanely, by forcing „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“ to cook for them, wash their clothing and uniforms and clean the houses in which they resided.

The court established all the facts from the testimonies of the protected witnesses – the injured „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“, the injured Zijo Ribić, Alija Bajrić and Šerif Aganović, and from all the other evidence that was presented during the main trial.

The court established there was no proof that the accused Đorđe Šević participated in the execution of Roma in Hamzići, or that he raped the injured „Beta“ and „Gamma“.

While considering the appropriate sentence for the accused, the court took into consideration the number of acts they performed, as well as the recklessness and cruelty expressed by the accused.

The court removed the accused Zoran Alić from detention and ordered him a lighter measure – a ban on leaving his place of residence.