

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

**Main trial: December 25, 2012**

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

Presentation of evidence continued with a reading of the documents in the case files. All the accused pleaded against the amended indictment, and confirmed that they stood by their earlier defense.

**The closing statement by the Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor**

In his closing statement, the Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor said that he stood by the amended indictment, which he considered proven in its entirety. At the time when the crimes that the indictees are accused of took place, there was an armed conflict going on in the territory of BiH and in Zvornik municipality. From the „Yellow Wasps“ unit, which was part of the Territorial Defense Forces (TDF) Zvornik, emerged a group under the command of the now deceased Simo Bogdanović, but it remained a part of the TDF and functioned in the same area. A proof of this was a list of the members of the unit, which was in the case files, and from which it was evident that the accused Dragana Đekić, Zoran Alić and Đorđe Šević were members of that unit. Therefore, the existence of armed conflict, and the membership of the accused in one of the units of the opposing forces, are undisputed facts. The unit, „Sima's Chetniks“, had about 20 members and was logistically supported by TDF Zvornik. The members of the unit knew each other very well, and they always agreed with the acts committed by other unit members and accepted them as their own. The order for deployment to *Skočić* and the action there was issued by the late Simo Bogdanović, and the accused Zoran Alić, Đorđe Šević, Dragana Đekić, Zoran Stojanović and Zoran Đurđević accompanied him in that action. After arrival at *Skočić*, the accused destroyed a mosque, the destruction of which had no military logic whatsoever, and this was proven by the statements given by the protected witnesses „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“. They stated very consistently and convincingly that soon after a jeep and a truck with soldiers went through *Skočić*, they heard a strong explosion. Regarding the destruction of the mosque, testimonies were also given by the witnesses Bajrić Alija, Jovanović Rade and Simić, and the accused Zoran Alić mentioned in his defense that the mosque was destroyed by some members of his unit. After they destroyed the mosque, the accused went to the part of village where Roma were living, as was confirmed by the statements from protected witnesses, the injured party Zijo Ribić, and Aganović Šerif. On that occasion, the accused expropriated things and gold from the injured parties, beat them, and killed Nuhanović Arif, as was proven by the statements of the witnesses „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“, as well as by Aganović Šerif and Zijo Ribić. Regarding the beatings of the injured parties, Zijo Ribić stated that he saw the soldiers who were beating his father, that they hit him on his shoulder and that he was covered in blood. The witness Aganović Šerif stated that he was hiding close to the place where the injured parties were, and that he heard cries for help and recognized the voice of the deceased Arif Nuhanović. Also, the accused Zoran Alić stated that he saw one member of his unit beating a man and that he heard screams. The Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor considered proven that the accused raped the injured parties „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“ in *Skočić*, on the basis of their detailed and

convincing statements. He also considered as proven the transportation of the Roma villagers from Skočić to Malešić village, on the basis of statements by the injured parties „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“, and their transportation to a location called Hamzići, on the basis of the statement by the injured Zijo Ribić. The execution of the injured parties at Hamzići was proven by the statement of the injured Zijo Ribić, who was the only one to survive the execution, but also by the statements of the accused Zoran Alić, who said that he was together with two unit members, at that time, in the vicinity of the truck used to transport the injured parties. The Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor considered the events in Malešić village, the inhumane treatment and rape of the injured parties „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“, as proven, on the basis of their convincing, mutually consistent statements, and the fact that they recognized the accused during the legal proceedings. He considered the defense of the accused as unconvincing and geared toward avoidance or derogation of their responsibility. He thought that the behaviour of the accused contained all the essential elements of the criminal offence of the war crime against civilian population, and that the accused, during the act, behaved with deliberate intent. He suggested that the accused should be pronounced guilty, and for the accused Đorđe Šević, Zoran Stojanović, and Zorana Đurđević he suggested a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, while for the accused Zoran Alić he suggested a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, as at the time of the felony he was an older teenager, and 10 years in prison is the maximum sentence for older teenagers. The Deputy Prosecutor said there were no extenuating circumstances for the accused, and the aggravating circumstances for them were their highly reckless behavior toward the injured parties, the murder of 28 civilians, seven of them children, as well as the rape of Zlatija Ribić, immediately before they killed her; and that she was 13 years old at the time. Also, their behaviour toward the injured parties „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“ as „servants in the worst sense of that word“. In regard to the accused Dragana Đekić and Tomislav Gavrić, he suggested sentences of 10 years in prison, and in regard to the accused Damir Bogdanović, a sentence of eight years in prison, where the aggravating circumstance was a long period of inhumane treatment of the injured parties „Alpha“, „Beta“ and „Gamma“, and while „Beta“ and „Gamma“ were still minors.

After the closing statement by the Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor, the Chamber received a request from the indicted Zoran Đurđević for exemption of all the Chamber members, so the proceedings on this case were suspended until a decision was made regarding this request.