



Humanitarian Law Center

Dossier: VRS 43rd Motorised Brigade in Prijedor



Humanitarian Law Center

Dossier: VRS 43rd Motorised Brigade in Prijedor

Belgrade,
May 2021

Table of Contents

ABBREVIATIONS.....	5
I. INTRODUCTION.....	7
II. FORMATION OF THE ARMY OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA	10
III. VRS 1st KRAJINA CORPS' AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	11
IV. UNITS OF THE 1st KK IN PRIJEDOR	12
– JNA 343rd MtBr/VRS 43rd MtBr	13
– Other 1st KK units deployed in Prijedor.....	19
– 5th Kozara Light Infantry Brigade.....	19
– 6th Sana Infantry Brigade.....	20
V. THE CONTEXT	22
– Takeover of Prijedor	23
VI. ATTACKS ON VILLAGES AND SETTLEMENTS IN PRIJEDOR MUNICIPALITY.....	25
– Hambarine	26
– Attack on the Kozarac area	27
– Kamičani	31
– Stari grad - Prijedor [Prijedor Old Town]	32
– Attack on Sivci and Jaskići	33
– Attack on the Brdo area	35
– Biščani	37
– Čarakovo and Zecovi	39
– The fate of men and boys who fled the Brdo area	45
– Briševo.....	50
VII. 43rd MTBR AND THE CAMPS ON PRIJEDOR TERRITORY	53
– Keraterm.....	54
– Omarska	57
– Trnopolje	60
– Korićanske stijene – knowledge of the crime	65
VIII. THE COVER-UP OF CRIMES	67



IX. PROMOTIONS AND DECORATIONS.....	69
EPILOGUE.....	71
APPENDICES.....	73



Abbreviations

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CSB	Security Services Centre
HLC	Humanitarian Law Center
IBr	Infantry Brigade
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IOM	Iron Ore Mines
JNA	Yugoslav People's Army
KC	Personnel Centre
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MPOAD	Mixed Anti-Armour Artillery Division
MS	Main Staff
MtB	Motorised Battalion
MtBr	Motorised Brigade
MUP	Ministry of the Interior
OTG	Operational-Tactical Group
PartBr	Partisan Brigade
PartD	Partisan Division
RSK	Republic of Serbian Krajina
SDS	Serbian Democratic Party
SJB	Public Security Station (Police Station)
SUP	Secretariat of the Interior
TO	Territorial Defence Force
VJ	Army of Yugoslavia
VO	Military District
VRS	Army of Republika Srpska
1st KK	First Krajina Corps



I. Introduction

Between May and August 1992, units of the 1st Krajina Corps of the Army of the Republika Srpska (VRS), together with the police of the Republika Srpska, Territorial Defence Force (TO) units and various volunteer groups, carried out attacks on a large number of villages in the municipality of Prijedor inhabited predominantly by Bosniaks and Croats.¹

In the documents of the VRS and the Ministry of the Interior (MUP) of the Republika Srpska, combat operations in the Prijedor municipality were referred to as “cleansing operations” and actions aimed to crush extremist groups.² However, as established in several judgments of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), these operations involved the systematic killings, abuses, arrests and detention of non-Serbs, as well as the destruction and looting of their property.³

More than 3,000 civilians died in the territory of Prijedor municipality in 1992⁴, and around 38,000 Bosniaks and Croats left the municipality before the second half of October of 1992.⁵

18 individuals (in 11 cases) have been finally convicted by the ICTY for crimes committed on the territory of Prijedor municipality during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina,⁶ including almost the entire Republika Srpska leadership headed by Radovan Karadžić, Biljana Plavšić and Momčilo Krajišnik,⁷ several members of the police, security commanders and guard shift commanders at prison camps in Prijedor, as well as members of local and regional authorities.⁸

7

- 1 *Military developments in Prijedor municipality 1991-1992*, Ewan Brown, exhibit S340, *Stakić*, p. 11; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 104; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Krajišnik*, 27 September 2006, para. 474.
- 2 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 24 May 1992, Exhibit S349B, *Stakić*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 26 May 1992, Exhibit P04148, *Mladić*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 29 May 1992, Exhibit P02405, *Mladić*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 27 June 1992, Exhibit P693b, *Brđanin*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 25 July 1992, Exhibit P1441b, *Brđanin*, p. 1; CSB Commission – the work of investigation centres in the region, documents, Exhibit D00470, *Karadžić*, p. 15.
- 3 See e.g.: “cleansing operations” refers to operations of Serb forces that involved taking those who survived attacks to detention centres and often their brutal killing under the pretext that they were members of paramilitary groups such as Muslim “Green Berets”. This was followed by lootings and torching of the survivors’ houses, which resulted in whole non-Serb villages being razed to the ground.
- 4 According to Research and Documentation Centre in Sarajevo (IDC) data, 3,379 civilians lost their lives in 1992 in Prijedor - 3150 Bosniaks, 175 Croats, 16 Serbs, 15 Roma, 11 Macedonians, 4 Ethnic Albanians and 9 of unknown ethnicity, cited from: *Bosnian Book of the Dead*, IDC.
- 5 Security assessment for Prijedor Municipality, Banja Luka CSB, 23 October 1992, Exhibit P03852, *Karadžić*, p. 2.
- 6 They include: Milomir Stakić, Radoslav Brđanin, Momčilo Krajišnik, Predrag Banović; Miroslav Kvočka, Dragoljub Prcać, Milojica Kos, Mlado Radić and Zoran Žigić (*Kvočka et al.*); Darko Mrđa; Biljana Plavšić; Duško Sikirica, Damir Došen, and Dragan Kolundžija (*Sikirica et al.*); Duško Tadić, Mićo Stanišić, Stojan Župljanin; Radovan Karadžić (sentenced to life imprisonment by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in 2019). List of judgments, available at: <https://www.icty.org/en/cases/judgement-list>, last accessed on 30 October 2020.
- 7 The final judgment in the case of Radovan Karadžić was handed down by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in March 2019, available at: <https://www.irmct.org/en/cases/mict-13-55>, last accessed on 30 October 2020.
- 8 See ICTY judgments in the following cases: *Tadić*, *Stakić*, *Brđanin*, *Kvočka et al.*, *Sikirica et al.*, *Banović*, *Mrđa*, *Stanišić & Župljanin*. The case of Međaković et al. was transferred to the Court of B&H, available at: <https://www.icty.org/en/case/mejakic>, last accessed on 30 October 2020.



In November 2017, the ICTY Trial Chamber handed down its judgment in the case of Ratko Mladić, former Commander of the Main Staff of the Army of Republika Srpska (VRS MS), sentencing him to life imprisonment. A final sentence is expected to be rendered in June 2021.⁹ Mladić was, among other things, convicted of the crimes of persecution, extermination, murder, deportation and forcible transfer of people in municipalities across BiH, including Prijedor. It should be noted that Ratko Mladić is the only senior VRS officer to be convicted of crimes committed in Prijedor.¹⁰

In 1999, the ICTY prosecutor charged Momir Talić, former Commander of the VRS 1st Krajina Corps (1st KK) whose area of responsibility included the municipality of Prijedor, “with genocide, complicity in genocide, persecution, deportation, extermination, willful killing, torture, wanton destruction of cities, towns or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity, destruction of or wilful damage to religious buildings and institutions, unlawful and wanton extensive destruction and appropriation of property not justified by military necessity”. The proceedings against Talić were terminated in 2003 due to his death.¹¹

More than 30 individuals have been convicted by courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina of crimes against Bosniak and Croat population in Prijedor, of which fewer than 10 were members of the VRS and the remaining 20-odd were members of the police.¹² Currently, 26 individuals are standing trial in five cases before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for crimes committed in Prijedor, including several members of the 6th Battalion of the VRS 43rd Motorised Brigade who stand accused of crimes committed during the summer of 1992.¹³

To date, none of the commanders of the 1st Krajina Corps brigades that took part in operations in Prijedor, including the 43rd Motorised Brigade (43rd MtBr) of the Army of Republika Srpska, have been held to account either in Serbia or in BiH for crimes committed in Prijedor, despite the fact that the commander and deputy commander of the 43rd MtBr – Vladimir Arsić and Major Radmilo Zeljaja respectively – were indicated as co-perpetrators in the ICTY trial judgement in the case of Milomir Stakić.¹⁴

9 MLADIĆ, Ratko (MICT-13-56), 30 April 2021, Scheduling Order for Pronouncement of Judgement: https://www.irmct.org/sites/default/files/case_documents/210430-scheduling-order-pronouncement-Judgement-MS54039R0000638173-13-56-en.pdf.

10 *Mladić* (IT-09-92) case information available at: <https://www.icty.org/en/case/mladic>.

11 *Talić* (IT-99-36/1) case information available at: <https://www.icty.org/en/case/talic>.

12 BiH War Crimes Case Map, OSCE Mission to BiH, available at: <https://maparz.pravosudje.ba/>, last accessed on 18 February 2021; War crimes verdicts map BIRN, available at: <https://warcrimesmap.balkaninsight.com/>, last accessed on 18 February 2021; Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/>, last accessed on 18 February 2021.

13 Cases: S1 1 K 017538 15 KrI - *Milunić Dušan et al.*; S1 1 K 024175 17 Kri - *Slobodan Taranjac et al.*, S1 1 K 031299 19 Kri - *Babić Ranko et al.*; S1 1 K 033829 20 Kri - *Sabahudin Kajdić*; S1 1 K 038748 20 Kro - *Milorad Kotur et al.*; Branislav Gavranović is standing trial before the District Court in Prijedor for crimes committed in Donja Puharska in August 1992, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3502/show>, last accessed on 18 February 2021.

14 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 469.



This Dossier aims to make public information about the circumstances of crimes committed in the course of the 1992 military operations in Prijedor, and the available information and evidence concerning the role and responsibility of the units of the 1st Krajina Corps of the VRS, most particularly the 43rd MtBr, for crimes committed in this municipality, as well as the actions of officers and the VRS commands they reported to following these crimes.¹⁵

The first part of the Dossier is concerned with the establishment of the Army of the Republika Srpska in May 1992, its corps and units, and the structure of the 43rd MtBr and other units of the VRS 1st KK that were deployed in Prijedor. Also, it presents the political context of the events in Prijedor and provides an overview of the political decisions made at the republic and local levels that set the direction for the VRS during the armed conflict in BiH.

Attacks by Serb forces on villages in Prijedor municipality that followed the Bosnian Serb takeover of Prijedor are analysed in the second part of the Dossier. The attacks largely followed the same pattern. First, Serb forces would issue an ultimatum calling on residents of non-Serb villages to surrender their weapons, after which the villages were shelled, regardless of whether or not the ultimatum was complied with. After the shelling, members of the military and police units would enter the villages and abuse, kill, or capture local non-Serb residents and take them to prison camps, which was followed by looting and torching of the villages.

The third part of the Dossier examines the role of the 43rd MtBr in the operation of the prison camps in the Prijedor area, and in the cover-up of crimes.

The fourth and last part of the Dossier is dedicated to the accolades and decorations that the commanders and units that participated in operations in Prijedor received during the war and their post-war activities.

¹⁵ For easier reading, the Dossier will use the name "VRS 43rd MtBr" when depicting the events taking place at the time of the outbreak of conflicts in Prijedor Municipality, even though 1st KK documents during the summer of 1992 still call this brigade the 343rd MtBr.



II. Formation of the Army of Republika Srpska

The decision to establish the Army of Republika Srpska was made at the 16th session of the Bosnian-Serb Assembly, held on 12 May 1992 in Banja Luka.¹⁶ The VRS was formed by combining the JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) units that remained in BiH with the TO forces.¹⁷

The guidelines for VRS operations were the strategic objectives of the Serbian people in BiH which President of Republika Srpska (RS) Radovan Karadžić presented at the 16th session of the Bosnian-Serb Assembly on 12 May 1992.¹⁸ Especially relevant for the events that ensued in the Prijedor area are the first and second strategic objectives, which envisioned the separation of the RS from the other two ethnic communities in BiH, and the establishment of a corridor between Semberija and Bosanska Krajina.¹⁹

The newly established army corps and units largely mirrored the structure of the JNA corps and units operating in BiH at the time. Serb TO units and Serb volunteer units were incorporated in the VRS.²⁰ The VRS assumed the organisational structure, personnel, military equipment and weapons of the JNA, as well as its regulations.²¹

With the formation of the VRS, the JNA corps operating in BiH changed their names while their structure and commanders remained the same.

As part of this transformation, the JNA 5th Corps became the VRS 1st Krajina Corps (1st KK).²² General Momir Talić, the Commander of the 5th JNA Corps, became the Commander of the 1st KK and his deputy, General Boško Kelečević, retained his post as deputy commander and chief of staff.²³

Lieutenant-Colonel Milan Stevilović was Chief of the Security Organ of the 1st KK until his death in early July 1992.²⁴ He was succeeded by Colonel Stevan Bogojević.²⁵

16 Although the official name of the Bosnian-Serb army until August 1992 was the Army of the Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the name Army of the Republika Srpska (VRS) is used throughout this text for easier reference - see Minutes of the 16th session of the Bosnian-Serb Assembly of 12 May 1992, Exhibit P00956, *Karadžić*, p. 44; Decision on the formation of the Army of the Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Exhibit P02799, *Mladić*.

17 Decision on the formation of the Army of the Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Exhibit P02799, *Mladić*; Decision on the formation, organisation, management and command of the VRS, Exhibit P02906, *Mladić*, p. 3.

18 Minutes of the 16th session of the Bosnian-Serb Assembly of 12 May 1992, Exhibit P00956, *Karadžić*, pp. 7-9; Testimony of Boško Kelečević in *Mladić*, ICTY, 15 July 2015, pp. 37317-37318.

19 Decision adopting six strategic objectives for the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Exhibit P03050, *Mladić*, p. 1; Testimony of Boško Kelečević before the ICTY in *Mladić*, 15 July 2015, pp. 37317-37318.

20 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *D. Milošević*, 12 December 2007, para. 67.

21 Richard Butler, VRS Brigade Command Responsibility Report, Exhibit P02210.B, *Mladić*, para. 1.2.

22 According to the testimony of Boško Kelečević, former chief of staff of the 1st Krajina Corps, the 5th Corps was renamed the 1st Krajina Corps on 19 May 1992, see in: Testimony of Boško Kelečević before the ICTY in *Mladić*, 13 July 2015, p. 37165.

23 Testimony of Boško Kelečević in *Mladić*, ICTY, 13 July 2015, p. 37131.

24 Dobož OG- extraordinary report of 5 July 1992, Exhibit P2188b, *Brđanin*, p. 1.

25 Testimony of Boško Kelečević in *Mladić*, ICTY, 13 July 2015, p. 37140; Intelligence and Security Department of the 1st Krajina Corps – selection of prisoners of war in POW Camp Manjača, 6 August 1992, Exhibit P03720, *Karadžić*.



The status of JNA active-duty servicemen who served in the territory of BiH at the time and were assigned to the newly established army was regulated through setting up interim formations called personnel centres (KC) within the Army of Yugoslavia (VJ). The servicemen were formally dispatched to these centres while de facto being dispatched to VRS units. The 30th KC was in the charge of former JNA or VJ officers deployed to the VRS.²⁶ The servicemen dispatched to the 30th KC had the same status as members of the VJ and retained the same rights they had while serving as VJ members.²⁷

Among the VJ officers whose status was regulated through the 30th KC were Ratko Mladić, Commander of the VRS Main Staff,²⁸ Momir Talić, Commander of the 1st KK²⁹, and Talić's deputy, Boško Kelečević.³⁰ Several other officers serving in the units deployed in the Prijedor area were also members of the 30th KC, including Colonel Radmilo Zeljaja, Colonel Miroslav Majstorović, Lieutenant Vukašin Trifunović from the military police, and Lieutenant Slobodan Cumbo.³¹

III. VRS 1st Krajina Corps' area of responsibility

The 1st KK was the largest corps in the VRS in terms of strength and the size of its area of responsibility.³²

According to the peacetime distribution of forces, the JNA 5th Corps' geographic area of responsibility covered 15 municipalities to the south of the River Sava: Bosanska Dubica, Bosanska Gradiška, Srbac, Prijedor, Banja Luka, Laktaši, Prnjavor, Čelinac, Kotor Varoš, Skender Vakuf, Sanski Most, Ključ, Mrkonjić Grad, Jajce, and Šipovo.³³ With the commencement of military operations in BiH, the 1st Krajina Corps' area of responsibility was extended, and some of its units fought on the frontline beyond its area of responsibility carrying out actions alongside units belonging to other corps.³⁴

11

26 The question of the status and rights of VJ members serving in the Serb Army of Krajina was resolved by the formation of the VJ 40th KC. The 1st KC was abolished in March 2001 by order of the President of the FRY, after which members of the army serving in the 30th KC were removed from the register of professional VJ servicemen, see: Order of the President of the FRY of 28 March 2001, Exhibit P00735, *Perišić*, p. 1; Decree of the President of the FRY of 16 June 2001, Exhibit P01905, *Perišić*, pp. 1-2.

27 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Perišić*, 6 September 2011, para. 832.

28 Register of professional servicemen of the 30th Personnel Centre, Exhibit P00738, *Perišić*, p. 1; Decree of the President of the FRY of 16 June 1994, Exhibit P01902, *Perišić*.

29 Register of professional servicemen of the 30th Personnel Centre, Exhibit P00738, *Perišić*, p. 1; Momir Talić personal information sheet, Exhibit P01886, *Perišić*, p. 7.

30 Boško Kelečević personal information sheet, Exhibit P07458, *Mladić*, p. 16; Testimony of Boško Kelečević in *Mladić*, ICTY, 13 July 2015, p. 37163.

31 Register of professional servicemen of the 30th Personnel Centre, Exhibit P00738, *Perišić*, pp. 1, 2 and 19.

32 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 111.

33 Expert report "Military situation in Bosanska Krajina", Ewan Brown, Exhibit P01803, *Stanišić & Župljanin*, para. 1.85.

34 Analysis of activities by elements of combat readiness in 1992, P2514b, *Brdanin*, p. 3.



In early June 1992, the 1st Krajina Corps' area of responsibility extended to encompass over 20 municipalities.³⁵ During his testimony before the ICTY, the former Chief of Staff of the 1st Krajina Corps, Boško Kelečević, said that the 1st Krajina Corps' area of responsibility covered 28 municipalities and 260 kilometres of the battle line.³⁶ Until September 1992, the 1st Krajina Corps' area of responsibility encompassed 360 kilometres, stretching from Kupres to the Brčko area.³⁷

IV. Units of the 1st KK in Prijedor

All units of the 1st Krajina Corps that were deployed on the territory of Prijedor municipality were placed under the command of the Prijedor Regional Command, which was established for the purpose of better control over the units and more efficient command. The command of the JNA 343rd MtBr, i.e. the VRS 43rd MtBr, served at the same time as the command of the Prijedor Regional Command Prijedor and was headed by Colonel Vladimir Arsić.³⁸

In mid-May 1992, the command of the 5th Corps ordered that units labelled as loyal to the Serb Republic of BiH be united. Pursuant to this order, the commander of the Prijedor garrison, Colonel Vladimir Arsić, ordered that all TO units, volunteer units but also "armed groups of Serb people" be placed under the command of Prijedor Regional Command.³⁹ In the first half of June 1992, the command of the 1st KK ordered that the 6th Infantry Brigade be subordinated to the command of the 43rd MtBr, that is, the Prijedor OTG.⁴⁰ In mid-July 1992, the command of the 1st KK informed the

12

35 Military expert Ewan Brown states that the Corps' area of responsibility covered the entire territories of the municipalities of Bosanska Dubica, Bosanska Gradiška, Srbac, Prijedor, Banja Luka, Laktaši, Prnjavor, Čelinac and Kotor-Varoš, and parts of Bosanski Novi, Sanski Most, Ključ, Mrkonjić-Grad, Šipovo, Jajce, Skender-Vakuf, Travnik, Teslić, Doboj, Derventa and Bosanski Brod municipalities, see in: Expert report "Military situation in Bosanska Krajina" by Ewan Brown, Exhibit P01803, *Stanišić & Župljanin*, paras. 1.93 -1.94; By its order of 4 June 1992, the VRS MS defined the area of responsibility of each corps, according to which the 1st KK area of responsibility covered the area stretching from the confluence of the Rivers Ukrina and Sava, along the bank of the River Sava to the point where the River Una joins the Sava, and along the bank of the River Una to Bosanski Novi in the north; to Bosanski Novi-Majdanska planina, Plećine pass, Lisina, and the village of Jezero in the west; from the village of Jezero to Boračke klisure, along the River Ugar, Korićani pass and Vlašić in the south; and from Vlašić, Mladikovine, Teslić, to the village of Stanari, including Derventa and further to the confluence of the Rivers Sava and Ukrina, see in: The area of responsibility and text tasks of the Army of Serb Republic of BiH dated 4 June 1992, Exhibit P01335, *Stanišić and Simatović*, p. 2.

36 Testimony of Boško Kelečević in *Mladić*, ICTY, 13 July 2015, pp. 37149-50.

37 Information on the current political and security situation in the area of responsibility of the 1st KK, 20 August 1992, Exhibit D00792, *Mladić*, p. 1; Information on military consultation meeting of the commands of the 1st KK, 14 September 1992, Exhibit P01820, *Stanišić & Župljanin*, p. 2.

38 In some documents the Regional Prijedor Command is referred to as the Prijedor Tactical-Operational Group, see in: 1st KK Command order of 30 June 1992, Exhibit P1468b, *Brdanin*, p. 1; *Military developments in Prijedor municipality 1991-1992* by Ewan Brown, Exhibit S340, *Stakić*, pp. 8-9; 343rd MtBr Command's order on replenishment and unification of units of 17 May 1992, Exhibit D125B, *Stakić*.

39 Minutes of the fourth session of the Prijedor Municipal People's Defence Council, 15 May 1992, Exhibit S60B, *Stakić*, p 2; 343rd MtBr Command's order on replenishment and unification of units, 17 May 1992, Exhibit D125B, *Stakić*; Testimony of Slobodan Kuruzović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 27 March 2003, pp. 14563-14564, 14570-14571.

40 1st KK Command's order on units' re-subordination, 8 June 1992, Exhibit P1418b, *Brdanin*.



VRS Main Staff that paramilitary groups from the Prijedor area had become part of the 43rd MtBr during the mobilisation process and were carrying out their assignments in an organised manner.⁴¹

– JNA 343rd MtBr/VRS 43rd MtBr

The 343rd Motorised Brigade (343rd MtBr), also known as the Prijedor Brigade, was part of the JNA 5th i.e., the 43rd MtBr of the VRS 1st KK.⁴² This brigade was directly subordinated to the Corps Commander, Momir Talić.⁴³ It was one of the strongest VRS brigades in terms of manpower. During peacetime, it was based in Prijedor, where its mobilisation base was located.⁴⁴

Its commander was Colonel Vladimir Arsić.⁴⁵ Arsić's deputy was Major Radmilo Zeljaja, who concurrently served as the chief of staff.⁴⁶ The transformation of the JNA 343rd MtBr into the VRS 43rd in May 1992⁴⁷ did not affect its command structure⁴⁸, and its command staff remained the same until October 1992, when Radmilo Zeljaja was appointed its commander.⁴⁹ The chief of intelligence and security affairs in the 43rd MtBr was Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Majstorović.⁵⁰

In mid-September 1991, after a call for mobilisation to which mainly Serbs from Prijedor municipality responded, the 343rd MtBr JNA was relocated to Croatia. The brigade was stationed in the village of Bijela Stijena on Mount Psunj, in the municipality of Nova Gradiška. Members of the 343rd MtBr took part in combat activities in the vicinity of Lipik, Subocka and other villages around Pakrac.⁵¹ Parts of the brigade remained in the area until May 1992.⁵² Pursuant to the plan to relocate the 5th Corps units from crisis areas, the 343rd MtBr was transferred to the Žarko Zgonjanin barracks in Prijedor.⁵³

13

41 The report mentions the "Mačak's group" from the village of Miševići led by Stojan Vračar, "Zolja's Group" led by Dragan Slijepčević nicknamed "Zolja", and "Cigo's Group" led by Momčilo Radanović nicknamed "Cigo", see in: Command of the 1st KK, Intelligence and Security Department, 14 July 1992, Exhibit P05494, *Karadžić*, p. 2.

42 The 343rd MtBr was attached to the JNA from 27 July 1990 to 19 May 1992, when it officially ceased to exist: MoD, reply no. 03/260-2 of 18 January 2021.

43 Officers of the VRS 1st KK after 18 May 1992, Exhibit 172, *Tadić*.

44 MoD, reply no.03/260-2 of 18 January 2021.

45 Official assessment of Colonel Vladimir Arsić, July 1993, Exhibit P07474, *Mladić*, p. 4.

46 Order of the Prijedor Garrison Command dated 15 April 1992, Exhibit D01829, *Mladić*; "Novi komandant Radmilo Zeljaja" ["New commander Lieutenant-Colonel Radmilo Zeljaja"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 9 October 1992, Exhibit 61-3.81, *Sikirica et al.*

47 The JNA 343rd MtBr officially ceased to exist on 19 May 1992: MoD, reply no. 03/260-2 of 18 January 2021.

48 Testimony of Boško Kelečević in *Mladić*, ICTY, 14 July 2015, p. 37250.

49 "Novi komandant Radmilo Zeljaja" ["New commander Lieutenant-Colonel Radmilo Zeljaja"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, Exhibit P2/3.81a, *Kvočka et al.*

50 Testimony of Mišo Rodić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 12 March 2015, p. 33056; Prijedor Operational – intelligence and security organ, 8 July 1992, Exhibit D01941, *Karadžić*, p. 5.

51 Official assessment of Colonel Vladimir Arsić, July 1993, Exhibit P07474, *Mladić*, p. 3.

52 Parts of the brigade stayed in the area until July 1992, see in: "Bez izgubljene bitke" ["Not one battle lost"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 26 August 1994, Exhibit P1506b, *Brđanin*; *Military developments in Prijedor municipality 1991-1992*, by Ewan Brown, Exhibit S340, *Stakić*, p. 11.

53 Plan for relocation of units from crisis areas within the area of responsibility of the JNA 5th Corps, 14 March 1992, Exhibit P01309, *Stanišić & Simatović*, p. 2.



In early May 1992, the JNA 343rd MtBr deployed its units to strengthen the forces on the Prijedor-Ljubija-Kozarac axis.⁵⁴ Soon afterwards, a mobilisation of troops was carried out, which further strengthened this brigade.⁵⁵ By 23 May 1992, the 43rd MtBr had a strength of nearly 6,000 men.⁵⁶

Towards the end of May or the beginning of June 1992, the 43rd MtBr command, together with the intelligence and security organs of the brigade from the Prijedor garrison, moved to the premises of the Kozaraputevi Company by the Prijedor-Banja Luka through road and in the immediate vicinity of the Keraterm camp. Its units stayed at the Žarko Zgonjanin barracks.⁵⁷

Although 22 May is marked as the day of the 43rd MtBr,⁵⁸ this brigade was formally renamed only on 16 June 1992, on the order of the Chief of the VRS MS, Ratko Mladić.⁵⁹

Following the transformation of the 343rd MtBr into the 43rd MtBr, several new battalions were formed. The 43rd MtBr consisted of seven battalions which were deployed in the wider area of the municipality of Prijedor.⁶⁰

The **1st Battalion** of the 43rd MtBr was stationed in Brezičani and covered the territory encompassing the villages of Donja Dragotinja, Gornja Dragotinja, Marini, Jelovac, Veliko Palančište and a part of Čirkin polje.⁶¹ Its 1st Company was stationed in the area of Energo-Petrol and the tyre factory, and was entrusted with securing the facilities and the railroad bridge in Brezičani. The 2nd Company was deployed in the village of Čarakovo and was responsible for securing the school and the rear area in a hamlet of the village of Brezičani. The 3rd Motorised Company was stationed in the village of Gornja Puharska and responsible for securing the elementary school building, with a part of its troops manning a checkpoint. The Anti-Armour Company of the 1st Battalion was based in the area of the Prijedorčanka factory in Brezičani. The 120mm Mortar Company and the rear-guard units were based in the hamlet of Vile in the village of Brezičani.⁶² Reserve Senior Captain Dušan Đenadija

54 A regular combat report from the 5th Corps Command dated 3 May 1992, Exhibit S345B, *Stakić*.

55 Order to conduct a mobilisation of all able-bodied men in the Bosnian-Serb Republic of BiH, Exhibit P892.9, *Krajišnik*; Decision on conducting mobilisation on the territory of Prijedor Municipality, Exhibit P03417, *Mladić*; In May 1992, the 343rd MtBr was manned at 114% or even at 121% according to some reports, see in: A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 23 May 1992, Exhibit P03987, *Mladić*, p. 9, and Report from the 1st KK Command of 27 May 1992, Exhibit P1416b, *Brđanin*, p. 3; Testimony of Ratko Milojica in *Mladić*, ICTY, 2 December 2014, p. 29134; Decision on general mobilisation of men and resources in the Republic, Exhibit P02872, *Mladić*.

56 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 23 May 1992, Exhibit P03987, *Mladić*, p. 9.

57 Testimony of Dragan Radetić in *Karadžić*, ICTY, 21 January 2014, pp. 45686-45687; Testimony of Mišo Rodić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 12 March 2015, pp. 33058-33059.

58 "Vigilant and dignified" ["Budno i dostojanstveno"] *Kozarski vjesnik*, 23 June 1995.

59 Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mladić*, para. 16; VRS MS order on the formation of commands and units of the BiH VRS dated 16 June 1992, Exhibit P04980, *Mladić*, p. 4; Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 194.

60 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 271; Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D04882, *Karadžić*, para. 7; Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mladić*, para. 16.

61 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 271; Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D04882, *Karadžić*, para. 8.

62 Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mladić*, para. 20.



was the commander of this battalion.⁶³ His deputy was Ranko Zgonjanin.⁶⁴ The 1st Battalion had a strength of about 640 men.⁶⁵ This battalion, together with the 4th MtB, the 6th MtB, and the 7th MtB took part in actions in the Kurevo forest.⁶⁶ Parts of the 1st Battalion were present in Gornja Puharska in July 1992.⁶⁷

The **2nd Battalion** was in September 1991 deployed to western Slavonia, where its members took up positions along the Bair-Trokut-Lovska-Kukunjevac axis. The majority of its troops remained in Slavonia until July, while some of them were involved in military actions near Prijedor, namely in the villages of Kozaruša, Kozarac, and Hambarine, as well in the Kurevo forest. During the battles in Slavonija, Captain Milenko Slijepčević was at the head of the 2nd MtB.⁶⁸ Following the battalion's return to the Prijedor area, its commander was Lieutenant Ranko Radovanović.⁶⁹

Using a group of fighters of the 2nd Battalion of the 43rd MtBr, Captain Milenko Slijepčević formed a tank company called "El Manijakos" (The Maniacs).⁷⁰ The commander of this independent company under the command of the 43rd MtBr, which was sometimes called an assault group, was Dragan Janjetović aka "Janjac" until his death in September 1993.⁷¹ The "El Manijakos" company consisted of about 50 men.⁷²

15

63 The TO detachment "Dr. Mladen Stojanović" was also attached to the battalion, see in: Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D04882, *Karadžić*, para. 7; Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 271; "Suđenje Milunić i ostali: nije video optuženog na dan akcije" ["Trial of Milunić and others: he didn't see the accused on the day of action"], *Prijedor danas*, 7 July 2018, available at: <http://www.prijedoranas.com/?p=108554>, last accessed on 18 September 2020; "Iscrtati konačne granice" ["Final boundaries ought to be delineated"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 21 August 1992, Exhibit P2/4.32a, *Kvočka et al.*

64 Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D04882, *Karadžić*, para. 7.

65 Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mladić*, para. 18.

66 *Ibid.*, para. 2; Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D04882, *Karadžić*, para. 8.

67 "Kajdić Sabahudin: Saša i Boško odveli Saida Pašića" ["Kajdić Sabahudin: Saša and Boško took Said Pašić away"], *Detektor*, 20 January 2021, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2021/01/20/kajdic-sabahudin-sasa-i-bosko-odveli-saida-pasica/>, last accessed on 20 January 2021.

68 In mid-June, Milenko Slijepčević was sent to Gradačac with a part of the 2nd battalion, see in: "Without a Battle Lost" ["Bez izgubljene bitke"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 26 August 1994, Exhibit P1506b, *Brdanin*; Milenko Slijepčević died in October 1995, see in: "Čovek koji je pravio državu" [The man who was making the state], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 6 October 1995.

69 Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mladić*, para. 16.

70 "Nezavršena Zekina priča" ["Zeka's Unfinished Story"], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*.

71 "Život za otadžbinu" ["Life Laid Down for Fatherland"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 23 June 1995; "Nezavršena Zekina priča" ["Zeka's Unfinished Story"], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*; "Mi moramo dalje" ["We Must Go On"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 23 July 1993; "Nad junakom junak ima" ["The greatest hero of all"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 3 September 1993; Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Brdanin*, 13 January 2003, p. 12784.

72 "Serb Collaborator Makes Himself at Home", *The Boston Globe*, 3 May 1999.



The **3rd Battalion** of the 43rd MtBr was under the command of Captain Zoran Ristić.⁷³ Towards the end of June 1992, the battalion, having been reinforced with one company from each battalion,⁷⁴ participated in Operation Corridor 92.⁷⁵

The commander of the **4th Battalion** of the 43rd MtBr was Senior Captain Borislav Bojić.⁷⁶ His deputy was Captain Milanko Savić.⁷⁷ The battalion consisted of three companies manned by people from the villages of Rakelići, Busnovi, Čela and Gomjenica in the Prijedor area.⁷⁸ Parts of the 4th MtB participated in actions in Kozarac, Hambarine, Kurevo, Čela and Razboj.⁷⁹

Between November 1991 and February 1992, the **5th Battalion**, also called the “Town Battalion”, was headed by Slobodan Kuruzović, who was later to become the commander of the Serb TO Staff in Prijedor municipality and subsequently the commander of the Trnopolje detention camp.⁸⁰ This battalion participated in battles in the Slavonia war zone as part of the 343rd MtBr. In June 1992, Mayor Krstan Jošić took over command of the battalion.⁸¹

Towards the end of June 1992, parts of the 2nd and 5th MtB, reinforced by the “Cigo” and “Zolje” assault groups and a military police company, were combined into a single enlarged company under the command of Captain Milenko Slijepčević, and deployed to the Gradačac war zone as part of the 4th Tactical Group commanded by Major Radmilo Zeljaja.⁸²

73 1st KK War Diary, entries from 24 June to 30 August 1992, Exhibit P1590a, *Brđanin*, p. 104; “Nezavršena Zekina priča” [“Zeka’s Unfinished Story”], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*, p. 2; Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mladić*, para. 16.

74 “Operation Corridor 92”, an offensive operation of the VRS beginning in June 1992 aimed at gaining control over the Posavina corridor and link the eastern parts of BiH and Serbia with Bosanska Krajina, see in: Report “Military Situation in Bosanska Krajina”, Ewan Brown, Exhibit P01803, *Stanišić & Župljanin*, paras. 2.213-2.218.

75 Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mladić*, para. 19.

76 “Bez izgubljene bitke” [“Without a lost battle”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 26 August 1994, Exhibit P1506b, *Brđanin*; Ratko Mladić’s Notebook, entries from 16 July to 9 September 1992, Exhibit P01417.E, *Tolimir*, p. 44; “Po redu četvrti po borbi prvi” [“Forth by rank but first in battle”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 2 September 1994; By 1994 Borislav Bojić was awarded the rank of major, see in: “Nezavršena Zekina priča” [“Zeka’s Unfinished Story”], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*, p. 2.

77 Ratko Mladić’s Notebook, entries from 16 July to 9 September 1992, Exhibit P01417.E, *Tolimir*, p. 44.

78 *Ibid*; “Po redu četvrti po borbi prvi” [“Fourth by rank but first in battle”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 2 September 1994.

79 “Bez izgubljene bitke” [“Not one battle lost”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 26 August 1994, Exhibit P1506b, *Brđanin*.

80 “Novi direktor Slobodan Kuruzović” [“Slobodan Kuruzović is new director”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 13 May 1994, Exhibit P07363, *Mladić*.

81 Testimony of Jugoslav Gnjatović in *Kvočka et al.*, ICTY, 17 April 2001, p. 10332; He was later replaced by Major Nenad Vujanić, see in: “Nezavršena Zekina priča” [“Zeka’s unfinished story”], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*; “Peti protiv petog” [“The fifth against the fifth”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 31 March 1995 Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mladić*, para. 16.

82 “Nezavršena Zekina priča” [“Zeka’s unfinished story”], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*; The TG4 was composed of parts of the 343rd MtBr, the 2nd Battalion of the 6th Light Infantry Brigade, 1st Battalion of the Light Infantry Brigade from Bosanska Dubica, a battalion from Skugrić, a company from the 4th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr and the 5th Infantry Brigade; see in: 1st KK War Diary, entries from 24 June to 30 August 1992, Exhibit P1590a, *Brđanin*, p. 7.



The **6th Battalion**, aka the Ljubija Battalion of the 43rd MtBr, was commanded by Milorad Bilbija, known by his nicknames “Čiča” and “Rade”.⁸³ His deputy was Milodrag Glušac, nicknamed “Toša”.⁸⁴ This battalion had a strength of 700 men in six companies and a military police platoon headed by Milenko Komosar.⁸⁵ His deputy was Ranko Došenović, aka Rane, who also served as deputy commander for security affairs.⁸⁶ In late June 1992, the Rasavci Company was formed, whose commander was Dušan Milunić.⁸⁷ The company participated in military actions in the Kurevo forest and the village of Zecovi on 23 July 1992, alongside the Volar Company of the 6th Battalion commanded by Boro Glušac.⁸⁸ The Ljeskare Company commanded by Bratislav Bilbija,⁸⁹ the Miska Glava Company commanded by

17

- 83 “Godina uspješnih akcija” [“The year of successful actions”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 25 June 1993; “Nezavršena Zekina priča” [“Zeka’s unfinished story”], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*; Letter from Dr. F. Komarica to Momir Talić dated 22 August 1992, Exhibit P07477, *Mladić*; Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Milojica & Rivić*, 21 June 2019, para. 215; Testimony of Čedo Šipovac in *Mladić*, ICTY, 11 November 2014, pp. 28177-28178; Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 272; “Težak i trnovit ratni put” [“An arduous wartime journey”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 24 June 1994; “Formiranje Ljubijskog bataljona” [“Formation of Ljubija Battalion”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994; Some sources state “čiča Rade” [Uncle Rade] as his nickname, see in: “Od Ljubije do Begova brda” [“From Ljubija to Begovo brdo”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 30 June 1995; “Babić Ranko i ostali: Optuženi nije izdavao naredjenja” [“Ranko Babić et al.: The accused did not issue any orders”], *Detektor*, 1 October 2020, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2020/10/01/babic-ranko-i-ostali-optuzeni-nije-izdavao-naredjenja/>, last accessed on 10 November 2020.
- 84 S1 1 K 024175 17 Kri - *Slobodan Taranjac et al.*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3625/show>, last accessed on 21 January 2021; “Potvrđena optužnica protiv Taranjca i ostalih” [“Indictment against Taranjac et al. confirmed”], *Detektor*, 13 January 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/01/13/potvrđena-optužnica-protiv-taranjca-i-ostalih/>, last accessed on 10 November 2020; “Formiranje Ljubijskog bataljona” [“Formation of Ljubija Battalion”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994.
- 85 “Taranjac i ostali: Optuženi u pratnji zarobljenih” [“Taranjac et al.: The accused escorted the prisoners”], *Detektor*, 2 September 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/09/02/taranjac-i-ostali-optuzeni-u-pratnji-zarobljenih/>, last accessed on 10 November 2020; Milenko Komosar wanted by Interpol, see: <https://www.interpol.int/How-we-work/Notices/View-Red-Notices#2017-282568>, last accessed on 8 March 2021; “Ranko Babić i ostali: Optuženi nije mogao izdavati naredbe u bataljonu” [“Ranko Babić and others: The accused couldn’t have issued orders”], *Detektor*, 23 December 2020, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2020/12/23/ranko-babic-i-ostali-optuzeni-nije-mogao-izdavati-naredbe-u-bataljonu/>, last accessed on 8 March 2021.
- 86 S1 1 K 024175 17 Kri - *Slobodan Taranjac et al.*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3625/show>, last accessed on 21 January 2021; “Taranjac i ostali: Psovke i jauči sa stadiona” [“Taranjac et al.: Cursing and cries from the stadium”], *Detektor*, 17 June 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/06/17/taranjac-i-ostali-psovke-i-jauci-sa-stadiona/>, last accessed on 10 November 2020; “Taranjac i ostali: Rukavica, nož i redenik” [“Taranjac et al.: A glove, a knife and a cartridge belt”], *Detektor*, 15 May 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/05/15/taranjac-i-ostali-rukavica-noz-i-redenik/>, last accessed on 10 November 2020.
- 87 “Milunić i ostali: Bez nezakonitih naredbi” [“Milunić et al.: No unlawful orders”], *Detektor*, 16 February 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/02/16/milunic-i-ostali-bez-nezakonitih-naredbi/>, last accessed on 6 November 2020; Indictment of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH *Milunić et al.*, 26 February 2015.
- 88 “Milunić i ostali: U Zecovima pobijene žena i djeca” [“Milunić et al.: A woman and children killed in Zecovi”], *Detektor*, 30 March 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/03/30/milunic-i-ostali-u-zecovima-pobijene-zena-i-djeca/>, last accessed on 6 November 2020.
- 89 *Ibid.*



Milorad Tomić,⁹⁰ and an intervention platoon commanded by Ljuban Vila also formed part of the 6th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr.⁹¹

The **7th Battalion** 43rd MtBr was officially formed on 4 July 1992, but months before that it had taken part in military actions in the form of an enlarged company.⁹² The battalion consisted of soldiers coming from Urije, Čirkin Polje, Puharska, Garevci, Orlovci and Orlovača. Its commander was Lieutenant Draško Vujić, who was later to become the commander of the 3rd MtB.⁹³ Parts of this battalion participated in battles at Kurevo near the village of Briševo.⁹⁴

The 43rd MtBr had an engineering battalion led by Reserve Senior Captain Dragan Gajić⁹⁵ and a mixed anti-armour and artillery division (MPOAD).⁹⁶

Lieutenant-Colonel Ilija Jazić commanded the Howitzer Division of the 43rd MtBr.⁹⁷

Lieutenant Mile Jović commanded a military police company of the 43rd MtBr. His deputy was Miloš Preradović.⁹⁸ Lieutenant Vukašin Trifunović later replaced Jović as the commander of the MP company.⁹⁹

90 "Taranjac i ostali: Optuženi u pratnji zarobljenih" ["Taranjac et al.: The accused escorted the prisoners"], *Detektor*, 2 September 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/09/02/taranjac-i-ostali-optuzeni-u-pratnji-zarobljenih/>, last accessed on 8 March 2021; "Taranjac i ostali: Zarobljeni civili u Miskoj Glavi" ["Taranjac et al.: Captured civilians in Miska Glava"], *Detektor*, 3 June 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/06/03/taranjac-i-ostali-zarobljeni-civili-u-miskoj-glavi/>, last accessed on 8 March 2021.

91 "Noć koja ne prolazi" ["Night that never ends"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 9 July 1993.

92 "3rd Battalion", *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07364, *Mladić*; "Nezavršena Zekina priča" ["Zeka's unfinished story"], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*, p. 2; "Neprijatelj nema šansu" ["Enemy stands no chance"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 24 March 1995.

93 "Nezavršena Zekina priča" ["Zeka's unfinished story"], *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07620, *Mladić*; Testimony of Draško Vujić in *Karadžić*, ICTY, 28 January 2014, pp. 46085-46086; "3rd Battalion", *Bulletin of the 4th Tactical Group*, May 1994, Exhibit P07364, *Mladić*; "Neprijatelj nema šansu" ["Enemy stands no chance"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 24 March 1995; "Drina nas više neće razdvajati" ["The Drina will no longer separate us"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 13 May 1994.

94 Draško Vujić, witness statement, ICTY, *Karadžić*, Exhibit D04242, para. 7; Testimony of Draško Vujić, 28 January 2014, ICTY, *Karadžić*, p. 46072.

95 Dragan Gajić, witness statement, July 2015, ICTY, *Mladić*, Exhibit D01439, para. 5; Dragan Vujčić, witness statement, 20 July 2015, ICTY, *Mladić*, Exhibit D01359, para. 6.

96 "Od Slavonije do Vozuće" ["From Slavonia to Vozuća"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 15 July 1994.

97 "Živ proglašen mrtvim" ["Living Man Declared Dead"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 2 July 1993; Extraordinary Security Report of the ABiH 3rd Corps dated 30 September 1995, Exhibit P01839, *Perišić*, p. 2; "Artiljeri mira i slobode" ["Artillery troops for peace and freedom"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 7 July 1995; "Zavjet očevima i otadžbini" ["A vow to our fathers and fatherland"], *Krajiški vojnik*, September 1994.

98 Information from the 1st KK Command sent to the Prijedor OG Command, 22 August 1992, Exhibit P03820, *Mladić*; Hronika Prijedora 5 – Vojna policija [Prijedor Chronicle 5 – Military Police], available at: <https://youtu.be/fjkScxCMwvc>, last accessed on 7 December 2020.

99 "Reci istinu da te bolje čujem" ["Tell the truth so I can hear you better"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 9 July 1993, Exhibit P1493a, *Brđanin*; List of conscripts in the Military Police Company securing the town, dated 30 October 1992, Exhibit P02453, *Stanišić & Župljanin*.



The 43rd MtBr also had a reconnaissance-sabotage company named after its first commander Zoran Karlica. After Karlica died, Sergeant Duško Knežević became its commander.¹⁰⁰

On the orders of the 1st KK command of 1 July 1992, the 43rd MtBr's area of responsibility was expanded and the 43rd MtBr commander Vladimir Arsić was authorised to organise and conduct combat operations in the zone of Dubica, Sanski Most, Sanica and the village of Ivanjska.¹⁰¹ The commander of 43rd MtBr was also in charge of units in Bosanski Novi and Bosanska Krupa.¹⁰² The order also stipulated that all militia forces were to be placed under the command of the "area commander who is to decide on their deployment".¹⁰³

In mid-July 1992, the 1st KK Command informed the VRS Main Staff that the Prijedor Command was "successfully controlling the zone from Bosanska Krupa-Bosanski Novi, Bosanska Dubica-Sanski Most all the way to the village of Ivanjska".¹⁰⁴

In June, parts of the brigade were involved in fighting on the Gradačac battlefield under the command of Radmilo Zeljaja, while the brigade command led by Colonel Arsić stayed in Prijedor.

– Other 1st KK units deployed in Prijedor

– 5th Kozara Light Infantry Brigade

The 5th Kozara Light Infantry Brigade was formed as a TO Unit in charge of the Prijedor area within the Armed Forces of the SFRY. The brigade was mobilised in September 1991 and, as part of the 343rd MtBr, participated in fighting on the Slavonija battlefield.¹⁰⁵ The brigade was deployed in the area of the municipalities of Novska, Pakrac and Nova Gradiška.¹⁰⁶

19

100 Testimony of Mišo Rodić, 12 March 2015, ICTY, *Mladić* p. 33077; Application to the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Prijedor dated 8 July 1992, Exhibit P07204, *Mladić*, pp. 1-2.

101 Order of the 1st KK Command op. pov. 560-1 dated 1 July 1992, Exhibit P04027, *Mladić*, p. 1.

102 *Ibid*, p. 3.

103 *Ibid*, p. 2.

104 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 14 July 1992, Exhibit P1435b, *Brdanin*, p. 2; 1st KK Command Information on the current political and security situation within its area of responsibility, 15 July 1992, Exhibit P03985, *Mladić*, p. 2.

105 "I Peta kozarska u vatrenim okršajima" ["5th Kozara engage in firefights too"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 6 December 1991; "Nepokolebljiva u odbrani srpskog naroda" ["Steadfast in defending Serbian people"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 6 August 1993, Exhibit P1505b, *Brdanin*; "Brigada dugog i časnog ratnog trajanja" ["The Brigade of a long and honourable warpath"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 29 July 1994, Exhibit P03914, *Mladić*; Speech of Colonel Pero Čolić of 2 August 1992, Exhibit P737, *Krajišnik*.

106 "Upamtice se zapadna Slavonija" ["Western Slavonija will be remembered"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 31 July 1992, Exhibit P2592b, *Brdanin*; "Brigada dugog i časnog ratnog trajanja" ["The Brigade of a long and honourable warpath"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 29 July 1994, Exhibit P03914, *Mladić*.



In May 1992, the brigade returned to the Prijedor area and participated in military actions in the area.¹⁰⁷ At that time, the brigade was manned at about 95%, having a strength of 1,400 men.¹⁰⁸

Its commander was Colonel Pero Čolić.¹⁰⁹ The 5th Kozara Light Infantry Brigade was stationed at the Žarko Zgonjanin barracks in Prijedor.¹¹⁰ Captain Ranko Kaurin commanded the 1st Battalion of the 5th Kozara Brigade.¹¹¹

Senior Sergeant Momčilo Radanović aka “Cigo” was the commander of the 2nd Battalion, which was stationed in Omarska. This battalion included a reconnaissance-sabotage company known as “Cigo”.¹¹²

Captain Radovan Ilić was the commander of the 3rd Infantry Battalion of the 5th Kozara Light Infantry Brigade.¹¹³ A member of the 3rd Battalion, Lieutenant Slobodan Cumbo, became the commander of the military police company of the 6th Sana Infantry Brigade in April 1993.¹¹⁴

The 4th Battalion of the 5th Kozara Light Infantry Brigade was made up of fighters from Gornji Petrov Gaj, Donji Petrov Gaj, Trnopolje, Omarska, Lamovita, Gradina, Jelička and Marička. Its commander was Major Dušan Tubin.¹¹⁵

– 6th Sana Infantry Brigade

The 6th Sana Infantry Brigade changed its name several times. It was known by the names of 6th Sana Partisan Brigade, 6th Sana Light Brigade or 6th Krajina Brigade. Before the formation of the VRS, it

107 “Brigada dugog i časnog ratnog trajanja” [“The Brigade of a long and honourable warpath”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 29 July 1994, Exhibit P03914, *Mladić*.

108 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 23 May 1992, Exhibit P03987, *Mladić*, p. 11.

109 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stanišić & Župljanin* ICTY, 16 August 2010, p. 13258; “Mobilizacija nije bila jednonacionalna” [Mobilisation was not monoethnic], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 19 July 1991; “Tražili smo da se imenuju i kazne ratni profiteri” [“We asked that war profiteers be identified”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 October 1993; “Slava svih srpskih slava” [“The Glory of all Serbian Glories”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994, Exhibit P06612, *Karadžić; Generali Republike Srpske 1992-2017, biografski rječnik* [Generals of the Republika Srpska 1992-2017, a biographical dictionary], Ministry of Labour and Veteran Affairs of the Republika Srpska/BORS Banja Luka 2017, pp. 186-187.

110 Rade Javorić, witness statement, Exhibit D00895, *Mladić*, para. 4.

111 “Uvek dobro došli” [“Always welcome”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 13 May 1994.

112 “Radovali smo se njihovim uspjesima” [“We have celebrated their successes”], *List Pete kozarske brigade*, June 1995; Information about paramilitary formations in the territory of the Serb Republic of BiH, 28 July 1992, Exhibit P03802, *Mladić*, p. 4.

113 *Generali Republike Srpske 1992-2017, biografski rječnik* [Generals of the Republika Srpska 1992-2017, a biographical dictionary], Ministry of Labour and Veteran Affairs of the Republika Srpska/BORS Banja Luka 2017, p. 88; “Susret starješina i uspomena” [“Meeting of commanding officers and memories”], *List Pete kozarske brigade*, May 1995; “Obilježen dan Trećeg bataljona” [“Marking the 3rd Battalion Day”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 26 September 2020, available at: <https://kozarski.com/obiljezen-dan-treceg-bataljona/>, last accessed on 30 December 2020.

114 “Odbranićemo svoju zemlju, istoriju i tradiciju” [“We shall defend our land, its history and tradition”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 15 July 1994; “Uvijek tamo gdje je najtvrdje” [“Always there where the toughest battles are fought”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 9 September 1994; “Kozara u srcu Grmeča” [“Kozara in the heart of Grmeč”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 9 December 1994; *Šesta sanska pješadijska brigada* [The 6th Sana Infantry Brigade], Radovan Jović, Slovo, Banja Luka, 2019, p. 107.

115 “Dok čute topovi” [“While the Guns are Silent”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 25 June 1993; “Za šest mjeseci-dvije pohvale” [“Commanded Two Times within Six Months”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 13 August 1993.



was part of the 10th Partisan Division of the 5th JNA Corps.¹¹⁶ With the formation of the VRS, it was renamed the 6th Sana Light Infantry Brigade (6th IBr).¹¹⁷

In late October 1991, retired Colonel Branko Basara was appointed the brigade's commander.¹¹⁸ In June 1992, the brigade's Chief of Staff, Major Veljko Brajić, was appointed Deputy Commander of the Brigade.¹¹⁹ The Brigade's command was based in the village of Lušci Palanka in Sanski Most municipality.¹²⁰

Between October 1991 and April 1992, the brigade participated in combat activities in the area of Jasenovac in Slavonija.¹²¹ In early April 1992, the command of the 5th JNA Corps ordered the command of the 10th Partisan Division to relocate the 6th IBr from Slavonia to the Sanski Most area.¹²²

Towards the end of May 1992, the 6th Sana Infantry Brigade had almost 4,000 fighters in 11 battalions.¹²³ Parts of the 6th Sana Infantry Brigade participated in military operations in Hambarine, Kozaruša, Kozarac, Ljubija and Briševo.¹²⁴

On 8 June 1992, the 1st KK Command ordered that the 6th Infantry Brigade of the 10th Partisan Division be placed under the command of the 343rd MtBr Command.¹²⁵

The 6th Sana Brigade also had artillery units and an intervention platoon called "Crni Đorđe" consisting of about 40 members.¹²⁶ Its commander was Sveto Mrda.¹²⁷ In July 1992, the "Crni Đorđe" platoon was reinforced with an additional 90 soldiers.¹²⁸

21

116 *Šesta sanska pješadijska brigada* [The 6th Sana Infantry Brigade], Radovan Jović, Slovo, Banja Luka, 2019, p. 49.

117 *Ibid*; Order of the VRS MS on the formation of commands and units, 16 June 1992, Exhibit P04980, *Mladić*, p. 4.

118 When Basara retired in December 1992, he was succeeded by Colonel Nikola Kajtez, see in: War Bulletin of the 6th Krajina Brigade, 15 December 1992, Exhibit D243B, *Stakić*, p. 2; Wartime journey of the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P02365, *Mladić*, p. 1; Excerpt from a VRS document pertaining to the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P03851, *Mladić*, p. 1.

119 *Šesta sanska pješadijska brigada* [The 6th Sana Infantry Brigade], Radovan Jović, Slovo Banja Luka, 2019, p. 105.

120 An excerpt from a VRS document pertaining to the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P03851, *Mladić*, p. 4.

121 *Šesta sanska pješadijska brigada* [The 6th Sana Infantry Brigade], Radovan Jović, Slovo Banja Luka, 2019, p. 53.

122 5th Corps Command order of 1 April 1992, Exhibit P892.65, *Krajišnik*.

123 By the end of May 1992, the brigade had 3907 fighters, see in Excerpt from a VRS document pertaining to the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P03851, *Mladić*, p. 4; Testimony of Branko Basara in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 13 October 2009, p. 1339.

124 Wartime journey of the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P02365, *Mladić*, para. 7.

125 1st KK Command order on re-subordination of units, 8 June 1992, Exhibit P1418b, *Brdanin*.

126 Excerpt from a VRS document on the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P03851, *Mladić*, p. 4.

127 List of conscripts attached to the "Crni Đorđe" battalion, Exhibit P02419, *Mladić*, pp. 1-4.

128 Testimony of Branko Basara in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 13 October 2009, p. 1373; "Vrućinić: Svjedok opsovao majku policajcu" ["Vrućinić: Witness swore at policeman"], *Detektor*, 19 May 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/05/19/vrucinic-svjedok-opsovao-majku-policajcu/>, last accessed on 12 March 2021.



V. The context

The municipality of Prijedor is located in the northwest of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was an ethnically mixed area, which, according to the 1991 census, had 112,543 inhabitants, of whom 49,351 were Muslims,¹²⁹ 47,581 were Serbs, and 6,316 were Croats.¹³⁰

Following the outbreak of the war in Croatia, Prijedor municipality became strategically important because of its position on the corridor connecting western and eastern BiH, which was used for the supply of goods and enabled the flow of people between the territories of the self-proclaimed Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) in Croatia and Serbia by way of BiH.¹³¹

The importance of Prijedor municipality for the civilian and military government of the newly established Republika Srpska was affirmed in the Strategic Objectives of the Serb People in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which stipulated the separation of the RS from the other two ethnic communities and the establishment of a corridor between Semberija and Krajina.¹³²

Towards the end of 1991, the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) municipal board in Prijedor presented to its members the “Instructions for the organisation and activities of the Serbian people organs in BiH in extraordinary circumstances”, which the SDS Main Board sent to SDS municipal boards on 19 December 1991. This document, known also as “Variant A and B Instructions”, was actually a plan for the takeover of power in municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.¹³³

The instructions stipulated two variants: Variant “A” referred to the takeover of municipalities where the Serbs constituted a majority, and Variant “B” concerned the takeover of municipalities where Serbs were not in the majority. Because Prijedor was not a Serb-majority municipality, only Variant “B” was read out at the meeting of the Prijedor SDS Municipal Board.¹³⁴

In early January 1992, Prijedor’s SDS Municipal Board decided to establish the Assembly of the Serbian people in the municipality of Prijedor.¹³⁵ Milomir Stakić, Vice-President of Prijedor’s SDS Municipal Board and Vice-President of the Municipal Assembly of Prijedor, was appointed President of the Assembly of the Serbian people in Prijedor.¹³⁶

129 The term “Muslim” is used in the Dossier because it was used at the time of the events depicted in the Dossier.

130 In percentages: 43.9% were Muslims, 42.3% were Serbs, and 5.6% were Croats, see in: Bosnia and Herzegovina census, ethnic breakdown, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, p. 20; According to the 2013 census, the Municipality of Prijedor had 89,397 inhabitants, of whom 55,895 were Serbs, 29,034 were Bosniaks, 1,762 were Croats, and 2,706 were others, see in: <http://www.statistika.ba/?show=12&id=20486>, last accessed on 5 April 2021.

131 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, 27 March 2013, para. 502.

132 Decision on strategic objectives of the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Exhibit P03050, *Mladić*.

133 Instructions for the organisation and activities of the Serbian people’s organs in BiH in extraordinary circumstances, Exhibit P00069, *Stanišić & Župljanin*.

134 Summary minutes of the SDS Prijedor MB and the SDS municipal caucus, 27 December 1991, Exhibit S95B, *Stakić*.
135 *Ibid.*

136 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 336.



Over the first half of 1992, close cooperation was established between JNA officers from the Prijedor garrison and the leaders of the Prijedor SDS, despite the fact that the Law on Total People's Defence, stipulating that the JNA was "the common armed force of all the peoples and minorities of Yugoslavia", was still in effect at the time.¹³⁷

– Takeover of Prijedor

Milomir Stakić, President of the Assembly of the Serbian people in Prijedor, on 29 April 1992 convened a meeting at the *Žarko Zgonjanin* army barracks in Prijedor. The meeting was attended by local SDS councilmen, representatives of the police, JNA 343rd MtBr commander Colonel Vladimir Arsić, and Arsić's deputy, Major Radmilo Zeljaja.¹³⁸ A decision was made that the SDS should immediately set about taking over Prijedor municipality pursuant to Variant B of the "Instructions for the organisation and activities of the Serbian people organs in BiH".¹³⁹

In the early morning of 30 April 1992, members of the Prijedor Public Security Station (SJB), assisted by units of the Serbian TO, the 343rd MtBr and the JNA 5th Kozara Brigade,¹⁴⁰ divided into five groups, took over the town and seized all major facilities and institutions, including the Town Hall, the SUP building, the court, the bank, and the post office, and set up check points all over the town.¹⁴¹ Later that day, the 5th Corps reported to the command of the 2nd Military District (VO) that "the takeover of power by the SDS in Prijedor has taken place without the use of force".¹⁴²

23

137 "Prijedor neće biti gladan" ["Prijedor won't go hungry"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 13 January 1993, Exhibit D92-99, *Stakić*; "Mi znamo svoj cilj" ["We know our goal"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 20 May 1994, Exhibit P03841, *Mladić*; "Sećanje na preuzimanje vlasti u Prijedoru" ["Remembering the takeover in Prijedor"] - Radio Prijedor, Exhibit S91B, *Stakić*, p. 1; Testimony of Draško Vujić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 4 May 2015, p. 34991; Analysis of activities by combat readiness elements in 1992, P2514b, *Brdanin*, p. 14; "Srpski pečat za sva vremena" ["Serbian seal for all time"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 20 May 1994; "SDA je imala precizan plan za likvidaciju Srba" ["SDA had a detailed plan for the liquidation of Serbs"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 28 April 1994; Law on Total People's Defence, Art. 99, Exhibit L0001, *Stanišić & Župljanin*; Close relations between the local Serb parties in Prijedor and the JNA were in line with the general tendency in BiH, where the JNA had already acted as the "Serbian army" and a defender of Serbian interests, see in: Conclusion of the assessment of the situation in BiH in the area of responsibility of the 2nd VO, 20 March 1992, Exhibit P00979, *Karadžić*, p. 7.

138 Testimony of Slobodan Kuruzović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 March 2003, p. 14435.

139 343rd MtBr Command's order on replenishment and unification of war units, 17 May 1992, Exhibit D125B, *Stakić*.

140 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 76; In an interview of 1994 Radmilo Zeljaja said that the military (the 343rd MtBr) provided the "maximum amount of help" to the SDS: "Of course, we then supported and provided the maximum amount of help both in organising preparations and advising the SDS on how to overcome certain problems and to seize power", see in: "Mi znamo svoj cilj" ["We know our goal"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 20 May 1994, Exhibit P03841, *Mladić*; Transcript of radio talk show "Sećanje na preuzimanje vlasti u Prijedoru" ["Remembering the takeover in Prijedor"], 29 April 1992, Exhibit S91B, *Stakić*, pp. 1,3; According to some sources, the 5th Kozara Brigade was also involved in preparations for the Serb takeover in Prijedor, see in: "Nepokolebljiva u odbrani srpskog naroda" ["Steadfast in defending Serbian People"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 6 August 1993, Exhibit P1505b, *Brdanin*; In an interview from April 1995, Slobodan Kuruzović said: "We were divided into two groups, a police group and a military group. Drljača, Čado, and Janković organised the police group, and Captains Bojić, Savić, Karlica, and Đenadija, Major Rajlić and I organised the military group", see in: "Nismo smjeli i nismo pogriješili" ["We couldn't afford to make any mistakes and we made no mistakes"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 28 April 1995.

141 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1593.

142 A regular combat report from the 5th Corps Command dated 30 April 1992, Exhibit D167B, *Stakić*, p. 1.



Following the takeover of the town, members of the JNA, TO and police did not allow the Bosniak and Croat municipal employees to enter the Municipal Building.¹⁴³ Members of the police, the TO, the 5th Kozara Brigade and the 343rd Motorised Brigade set up check points throughout the municipality at which Prijedor citizens were stopped, asked for their identity documents, and searched.¹⁴⁴

Following the takeover of power, the Prijedor Municipality Crisis Staff was established, headed by Milomir Stakić, which assumed the functions of the Municipal Assembly. Although not formally members of the Crisis Staff, Colonel Vladimir Arsić and Major Radmilo Zeljaja attended its meetings.¹⁴⁵

The Crisis Staff imposed a series of restrictive measures against the non-Serb population of Prijedor,¹⁴⁶ including a curfew and movement restrictions on non-Serbs,¹⁴⁷ who were required to have a pass issued by the Prijedor SJB, to be able to leave the town.¹⁴⁸ The newly established government replaced all Muslims and Croats from senior positions in the municipality. Personnel changes were also made in the police, schools and public companies.¹⁴⁹ There were instances of the Serb authorities asking non-Serb citizens to sign a declaration of loyalty to the Serb authorities if they wanted to keep their jobs.¹⁵⁰ Prominent Muslims and Croats were arrested and taken to the MUP building or the Prijedor barracks to be transferred subsequently to the Keraterm and Omarska camps.¹⁵¹

The takeover sparked fear amongst the non-Serb population of Prijedor municipality. Movement within the municipality was made difficult owing to the checkpoints set up by the Serbian military and police.¹⁵² Fearing attacks by Serb forces, residents of non-Serb villages around Prijedor set up their own security checkpoints and patrols and stood guard outside the villages.¹⁵³ The patrols comprised

143 Testimony of Slobodan Kuruzović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 March 2003, p. 2.

144 Consolidated statement of witness Mevludin Sejmenović, Exhibit P00283.B, *Mladić*, para. 16; Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 18 October 2010, pp. 16079-16080; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 76.

145 Testimony of Slobodan Kuruzović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 27 March 2003, p. 14560.

146 ICTY, Opinion and Judgment in *Tadić*, 7 May 1997 para. 139; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Krajišnik*, 27 September 2006, para. 471.

147 Testimony of Muharem Murselović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 6 May 2002, pp. 2697-2698; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Krajišnik*, 27 September 2006, para. 471.

148 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Krajišnik*, 27 September 2006, para. 471; "Conclusion: The blockade of the town remains in effect" - published in the Official Gazette of the Municipality of Prijedor of 25 June 1992, Exhibit S180B *Stakić*, p. 38.

149 Decision on personnel changes published in the Official Gazette of the Municipality of Prijedor of 25 June 1992, Exhibit S180B, *Stakić*, pp. 21-34; Consolidated statement of witness Kerim Mešanović, Exhibit P03414.B, *Mladić*, paras. 12 and 23; Consolidated statement of witness Mevludin Sejmenović, Exhibit P00283.B, *Mladić*, paras. 17-18.

150 Consolidated statement of witness Mevludin Sejmenović, Exhibit P00283.B, *Mladić*, para. 19.

151 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 174 – 177.

152 Testimony of protected witness X in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 2002, p. 6853; Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, paras. 33-34; Azra Blažević, witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, p. 5; Testimony of Jusuf Arifagić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 8 August 1996, p. 4923; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 85; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1613.

153 Testimony protected witness C in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 April 2002, p. 2297; A regular combat report from the 5th Corps Command dated 1 May 1992, Exhibit P07299, *Mladić*.



poorly armed local Muslims.¹⁵⁴ In the area of Kozarac village, TO forces made up of local Muslims, aided by a few policemen from Kozarac, stood guard against Serb attacks. This group, armed only with hunting rifles, was not strong enough to withstand the Serb forces.¹⁵⁵

VI. Attacks on villages and settlements in Prijedor Municipality

Between May and August 1992, units of the 1st Krajina Corps, together with the police, TO Units and different volunteer groups, carried out attacks on a large number of villages in Prijedor municipality inhabited by non-Serbs.¹⁵⁶

The attacks largely followed a set pattern: the Serb civilian and military authorities would issue an ultimatum calling on the residents to surrender their weapons; after the deadline for the surrender of weapons expired, a joint attack by 1st KK units, police and volunteer units would commence. In some instances, incidents in which members of the military were killed or injured were used as the immediate cause or excuse for an attack. The attacks would begin with the shelling of a village, after which tanks, backed by infantrymen, would enter the village. This was followed by “mop-up” operations, which meant killings, expulsions and capture of the local population, followed by the destruction of the village.¹⁵⁷ The scale of the attacks by Serb forces was disproportionate to the resistance that poorly armed and not well organised local residents could put up.¹⁵⁸

That the Serbian army’s response was decided in advance rather than spontaneous is corroborated not only by the discernible pattern of attacks, but also by a 5th Corps regular combat report dated 19 May 1992, which reads that the Corps Commander, General Talić, ordered his units to gain control of the territory south to the River Sava and respond to any enemy provocation by destroying the enemy.¹⁵⁹

25

154 Testimony of Jusuf Arifagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 28 August 2002, pp. 7071, 7118-7119; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 140; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1615.

155 Testimony of Jusuf Arifagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 28 August 2002, p. 7071.

156 Military developments in Prijedor Municipality 1991-1992, Ewan Brown, Exhibit S340, *Stakić*, p. 11; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 104; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Krajišnik*, 27 September 2006, para. 474.

157 *Report: Military Situation in Bosanska Krajina*, Ewan Brown, Exhibit P01803, *Stanišić & Župljanin*, para. 2.4; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1038; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 24 May 1992, Exhibit S349B, *Stakić*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command, dated 26 May 1992, Exhibit P04148, *Mladić*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 29 May 1992, Exhibit P02405, *Mladić*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 27 June 1992, Exhibit P693b, *Brđanin*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 25 July 1992, Exhibit P1441b, *Brđanin*, p. 1.

158 *Report: Military Situation in Bosanska Krajina*, Ewan Brown, Exhibit P01803, *Stanišić & Župljanin*, para. 2.4; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 138; In an interview of 1994, M. Stakić confirmed that the Muslims were poorly armed: “We knew they were armed mainly with infantry weapons and hand-held rocket launchers, while we had abundant military resources and brave and courageous guys”, see in: “SDA je imala precizan plan za likvidaciju Srba” [“SDA had a detailed plan for the liquidation of Serbs”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 28 April 1994.

159 A regular combat report from the 5th Corps Command dated 19 May 1992, Exhibit D29-1126B *Stakić*, p. 3.



– Hambarine

The village of Hambarine lies about four kilometres from the town of Prijedor. According to the 1991 census, the village had 3,000 inhabitants, predominantly Muslim.¹⁶⁰

After the Serb takeover in Prijedor, the residents of Hambarine mounted guards and lookouts, and set up checkpoints outside the village, which were manned by armed local residents.¹⁶¹

On the afternoon of 22 May 1992, an incident occurred in Hambarine when a vehicle carrying six Serb soldiers arrived at the checkpoint outside the village. A group of armed residents of Hambarine asked the soldiers to hand their weapons over to them and then opened fire at them.¹⁶² Radovan Milojica and Rade Lukić, members of the 5th Battalion of the VRS 43rd MtBr, were killed in the incident.¹⁶³

This incident was used by Serb military and civilian authorities as an excuse to launch military operations on the territory of Prijedor municipality.¹⁶⁴

In the evening, Serb military and civilian authorities issued an ultimatum demanding that residents of Hambarine hand over the persons responsible for the killings of soldiers and weapons to the Serb authorities.¹⁶⁵

As the ultimatum was not complied with,¹⁶⁶ the next day, 23 May 1992, around noon, the VRS started a three-hour shelling of Hambarine. The village was shelled from three directions – from Karan to the northwest, from the Urije suburb, and from the Topića brdo.¹⁶⁷

On the afternoon of 23 May 1992, Major Radmilo Zeljaja, Deputy Commander of the 43rd MtBr, informed the command that the “mopping up” of Hambarine had begun and that the actions continued despite resistance.¹⁶⁸

160 In Hambarine there were living 2,768 Muslims, 52 Serbs, 7 Croats, 26 Yugoslavs and 23 others, see in Bosnia and Herzegovina census, ethnic breakdown, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 198-199.

161 Testimony of protected witness C in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 April 2002, p. 2297.

162 The Trial Chamber in *Stakić*, having analysed several pieces of evidence to ascertain who opened fire first at the checkpoint near Hambarine, judged that it was the local residents at the checkpoint who opened fire first at the VRS soldiers, ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 130.

163 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 23 May 1992, submitted to the VRS MS, Exhibit P03987, *Mladić*; Certificate of injuries sustained by Ratko Milojica, 30 July 1992, Exhibit D4270, *Karadžić*; “Mi znamo svoj cilj” [“We know our goal”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 20 May 1994, Exhibit P03841, *Mladić*; War diary – Western Slavonija frontline 1991-1992, Exhibit P03946, *Mladić*, p. 138.

164 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 158.

165 *Ibid*, 131; Testimony of Muharem Murselović in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 11 December 2002, p. 12590; Testimony of protected witness C in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 April 2002, p. 2298.

166 SJB report, Exhibit S353B, *Stakić*, p. 2; Testimony of protected witness B in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 April 2002, p. 2268; Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, p. 12686.

167 Testimony of protected witness C in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 April 2002, p. 2299.

168 War diary – Western Slavonija frontline 1991-1992, Exhibit P03946, *Mladić*, p. 139.



After the shelling had stopped, tanks rolled into the village accompanied by infantrymen. The poorly armed villagers put up resistance for a time before withdrawing to the Kurevo forest.¹⁶⁹

During the attack, members of Serbian forces were killing civilians and burned houses.¹⁷⁰ About 400 civilians left the village, the majority fleeing to nearby villages and some hiding in the Kurevo forest, which the army shelled soon afterwards.¹⁷¹ Between 30 and 50 houses were damaged as a result of the shelling, including the mosque, which was subsequently destroyed.¹⁷²

Some villagers returned to Hambarine and stayed there until a new attack on the Brdo area in July. In the days following the attack, members of Serb forces kept coming into the village harassing, arresting and killing the villagers;¹⁷³ which is why some villagers hid in the Kurevo forest for over a month, attempting to break through to the Bihać area or across the Sava to Croatia.¹⁷⁴

The attack on Hambarine was conducted jointly by units of the 1st KK - the 43rd MtBr and parts of the 6th Infantry Brigade including the “Crni Đorđe” intervention platoon, the Prijedor SJB and several voluntary units.¹⁷⁵

– Attack on the Kozarac area

The town of Kozarac is located some 12 kilometres east of Prijedor in the direction of Banja Luka.¹⁷⁶ According to the 1991 census, the Kozarac area, consisting of the town of Kozarac and the villages

27

169 Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brdanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, p. 12688; Testimony of Mirsad Mujadžić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 28 May 2002, pp. 3718-3719.

170 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 133.

171 Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1669.

172 Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brdanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, p. 12688; Testimony of protected witness DD in *Stakić*, ICTY, 9 December 2002 godine, p. 9483; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 138.

173 Testimony of protected witness C in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 April 2002, pp. 2306-2310; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1675.

174 Testimony of protected witness C in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 April 2002, pp. 2302-2304; Testimony of Mirsad Mujadžić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 30 June 1996, pp. 1554-1555; Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brdanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, p. 12689; Report of the “Miloš” group dated 3 June 1992, Exhibit P01387, *Stanišić & Župljanin*, p. 1.

175 1st KK Command, Political and security situation in Bosanska Krajina, 26 May 1992, Exhibit P05405, *Karadžić*, p. 1; 1st KK Command, Information on the current political and security situation, 1 June 1992, Exhibit P02875, *Mladić*, p. 2; The 1st KK Command on 24 May 1992 reported about “an armed attack by Muslim units, who were then mopped-up from the area in an action by our forces”, see in: A regular combat report dated 24 May 1992, Exhibit S349B, *Stakić*, p. 1; Dragan Radetić, witness statement, ICTY, Exhibit D04226, *Karadžić*, para. 17; “Otadžbini na čast i ponos” [“A credit to the fatherland”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 20 May 1994, Exhibit P03852, *Mladić*; the 3rd Battalion, Bulletin of the 4th TG, May 1994, Exhibit P07364, *Mladić*; Wartime journey of the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P02365, *Mladić*, para. 7.

176 Testimony of Muharem Murselović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 6 May 2002, p. 2702.



around it, was inhabited almost entirely by Muslims.¹⁷⁷ The Kozarac area included Kozarac town and several villages, namely Kozaruša, Kevljani, Kamičani, Brđani, Sušići and Babići.¹⁷⁸

Having taken over Hambarine, Prijedor military and civilian authorities issued an ultimatum to the residents of Kozarac, demanding that they surrender their weapons of the TO and police and lift the road blocks from the Prijedor-Banja Luka road to allow passage for a military convoy.¹⁷⁹ The ultimatum was delivered by Major Zeljaja on Radio Prijedor. Zeljaja said Kozarac would be razed to the ground if residents failed to comply with the ultimatum.¹⁸⁰

On 24 May 1992, the convoy, accompanied by infantrymen, set out from the direction of Prijedor and Banja Luka towards Kozarac. As the convoy was entering Kozarac, checkpoint personnel opened fire at it. The army responded by opening fire at houses and religious buildings.¹⁸¹ This firefight, as in the case of Hambarine, was used as an excuse to attack the area using the forces that had been deployed around Kozarac.¹⁸² A shelling of the entire area from nearby hills ensued, even though the army knew that there were no heavy weapons in Kozarac.¹⁸³

On the first day of the attack, the 1st KK Command reported to the VRS Main Staff that Kozarac was sealed off by its units. The next day's report stated that there was fighting in Jakupovići, Kozarac and Kevljani, and that "100 members of the Green Berets" had been taken prisoner.¹⁸⁴ The shelling continued for two days.¹⁸⁵

28 On 26 May 1992, tanks rolled into the Kozarac area followed by infantrymen. Upon entering Kozarac, the infantrymen began torching the houses that had been damaged by the shelling.¹⁸⁶ Later that day, the 1st KK Command reported to the VRS Main Staff that "the cleansing" of the town of Kozarac was in progress.¹⁸⁷

177 In Kozarac lived 3,740 Muslims, 96 Serbs, 35 Croats, 117 Yugoslavs, and 57 others, see in: Bosnia and Herzegovina census, ethnic breakdown, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 196-199.

178 Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, *Stakić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, p. 7729; Testimony of protected witness P in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 May 2002, p. 3314.

179 Testimony of Samir Poljak in *Stakić*, ICTY, 23 July 2002, pp. 6328-6329, 6331; Testimony of Nusret Sivic in *Stakić*, ICTY, 31 July 2002, p. 6765; Testimony of protected witness P in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 May 2002, pp. 3328-3329.

180 Testimony of Nusret Sivic in *Stakić*, ICTY, 31 July 2002, p. 6765.

181 Testimony of protected witness P in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 May 2002, p. 3329; Prijedor SJB report, Exhibit S353B, *Stakić*, p. 3.

182 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 153, 157; In early May 1992 the JNA 343rd MtBr relocated its units to strengthen its forces in the Prijedor-Ljubija-Kozarac area, see in: A regular combat report from the 5th Corps Command dated 3 May 1992, Exhibit S345B, *Stakić*; 1st KK Command report dated 27 May 1992, Exhibit P1416b, *Brđanin*, p. 1.

183 Testimony of protected witness P in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 May 2002, p. 3329; Idriz Merdžanić witness statement, *Stakić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, p. 7729; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 148-153.

184 A regular combat report dated 24 May 1992, Exhibit S349B, *Stakić*, p. 1; The 1st KK reports the next day too that the whole area of Kozarac is sealed off, see in: A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 25 May 1992, Exhibit D175B, *Stakić*, p. 1.

185 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 402.

186 ICTY, Opinion and Judgment in *Tadić*, 7 May 1997, para. 143.

187 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 26 May 1992, Exhibit P04148, *Mladić*, p. 1.



That same day, the army ordered all the residents to leave the territory of Kozarac. Soon afterwards, a convoy was formed. Before the convoy entered the Banja Luka-Prijedor road, the men were separated from the group and taken to the Omarska and Keraterm camps. The women, children and the old were taken to the Trnopolje camp.¹⁸⁸

A number of poorly armed residents of Kevljani spent the first night of the attack hiding in a riverbed, not wanting to go to the forest which was under constant shelling. The next morning, they heard on the radio that they were to surrender by 10 o'clock, or else the army would enter the village. They decided to surrender. They surrendered outside the elementary school in the village. Momčilo Radanovic, aka "Cigo", from the 5th Kozara Light Brigade, and a large number of soldiers in grey-olive or camouflage uniforms were present outside the school. Radanović called out a dozen local residents and ordered them to get inside the school, where they were beaten. Members of the army then searched houses in the village looking for weapons and told the locals that they were allowed to stay in their homes. However, shelling of the area continued. The next day, the army again assembled the residents of Kevljani outside the school, and put them on buses that would take them to Prijedor. In Prijedor, the men were separated from the women and subsequently taken to the Omarska camp.¹⁸⁹

With the onset of the attack, a group of around 100 Muslims and Croats from Kevljani decided to cross Mount Kozara in an attempt to escape the shelling. After spending a night in a forest, they were captured by Serb forces.¹⁹⁰ One person, who had a Croatian passport on him, was killed immediately after being captured, and the rest were taken to the military training grounds in Benkovac, on Mount Kozara.¹⁹¹ According to the testimony of Nusret Sivac at the trial of Milomir Stakić before the ICTY, in addition to army members, members of the "Beli orlovi" ["White Eagles"] unit led by Mirko Jović were stationed at the training grounds.¹⁹²

Upon arriving at the training grounds, a VRS member whose surname was Romanić separated four persons from the group and took them inside a building. Bursts of gunfire were heard coming from the building. About 60 more men were separated from the group that day, taken to a nearby forest in groups and killed.¹⁹³

On 27 May 1992, the 1st Krajina Corps Command reported to the VRS Main Staff about the developments in Kozarac, referring to the operation as "the elimination of Green Berets in the wider

188 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 143.

189 Testimony of Emsud Velić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 13 August 1996, pp. 5166-5177.

190 Testimony of Jusuf Arifagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 28 August 2002, p. 7078; Testimony of Samir Poljak in *Stakić*, ICTY, 23 July 2002, pp. 6338-6341.

191 Testimony of Samir Poljak in *Stakić*, ICTY, 23 July 2002, p. 6346.

192 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 31 July 2002, p. 6765; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 404.

193 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 404; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1040.



area of Kozarac village.”¹⁹⁴ A combat report of the 1st KK states that during the operations in the wider area of Kozarac, “the ‘Green Berets’ casualties were 80-100 killed and about 1,500 captured”.¹⁹⁵ The Security Services Centre (CSB) in Banja Luka in its weekly review reported about “several hundred dead and injured persons”.¹⁹⁶ According to the facts adjudicated in the case of Tadić, 800 people, residents of Kozaruša, Trnopolje, Gornji Jakupovići, Donji Jakupovići, Benkovac at Mt. Kozara, and Ratkovići, were killed as a result of the artillery attack on Kozarac, and the number of captured people corresponds to that stated in the 1st KK report (1,500).¹⁹⁷ After infantry units had entered the Kozarac area, at least 80 civilians were killed, as well as between 10 and 14 Bosniak police officers from Kozarac who had surrendered to the units that entered the village.¹⁹⁸

After being captured, Kozarac had its name changed to Radmilovo, after Major Radmilo Zeljaja.¹⁹⁹

Over 5,000 members of the military, police and volunteer units participated in the attack on the Kozarac area.²⁰⁰ The attack was carried out by parts of the VRS 43rd MtBr backed by two 105 mm howitzer batteries and M-84 tanks.²⁰¹ In addition to 43rd MtBr units, the 5th Kozara Brigade, the “Crni Đorđe” intervention platoon, a reconnaissance platoon, a military police platoon of the 6th Sana Infantry Brigade, and members of the Prijedor SJB Prijedor participated in the attack.²⁰² All units participating in the attack, including TO and volunteers units, were subordinated to the 43rd Motorised Brigade,²⁰³ that is, to its Deputy Commander Major Radmilo Zeljaja, who was directly in charge of the attack.²⁰⁴

194 1st KK Command report dated 27 May 1992, Exhibit P1416b, *Brdanin*, p. 1.

195 *Ibid.*

196 Banja Luka CSB, weekly information 18-25 May 1992, Exhibit P03671, *Karadžić*, p. 2.

197 The ICTY Trial Chamber in *Tadić* accepted the testimony of Colonel Osman Selak and an entry from the war diary of Colonel Osman Selak, former commander of the logistics base, about the meeting held at the premises of the 1st KK on 27 May 1992, at which Colonel Dragan Marčetić, Deputy Commander in charge of operational and educational affairs, informed Corps Commander Talić that 800 people had died in the attack on Kozarac, see in: Testimony of Osman Selak in *Tadić*, ICTY, 5 June 1996, pp. 1934-1935; An excerpt from Osman Selak's war diary, Exhibit P00253, *Mladić*, pp. 1-2; Osman Selak, witness statement, Exhibit P00244.B, *Mladić*, para. 67; ICTY, Opinion and Judgment in *Tadić*, 7 May 1997, para. 565.

198 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1037.

199 Statement of witness M. B. given to the HLC in December 1993; Kerim Mešanović, witness statement, Exhibit P03414B *Mladić*, para. 11; Testimony of Mevludin Sejmenović in *Mladić*, ICTY, 2 October 2002, pp. 3465-3466; Testimony of Osman Selak in *Tadić*, ICTY, 5 June 1996, p. 1935.

200 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 31 July 2002, pp. 6764-6765; According to a report from 1st KK dated 27 May 1992, the units that participated in the attack on Kozarac had the manpower of more than 6,500 at that time, see in: A report from the 1st KK Command dated 27 May 1992, Exhibit P1416b, *Brdanin*, pp. 2-3.

201 A report from the 1st KK Command dated 27 May 1992, Exhibit P1416b, *Brdanin*, p. 1.

202 An excerpt from a VRS document on the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P03851, *Mladić*, p. 6; Wartime journey of the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P02365, *Mladić*, p. 1; Report on activities of the Prijedor SJB for the last nine months of 1992, Exhibit P03948, *Mladić*, p. 4; “Brigada dugog i časnog ratnog trajanja” [“The Brigade of a long and honourable warpath”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 29 July 1994, Exhibit P03914, *Mladić*; YT, Agresori Momcilo Radanovic (Vojaska RS) Kozarac '92 [Aggressors. Momcilo Radanovic (VRS), Kozarac 1992], available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWqrKiKhAJ0&ab_channel=EmalivamFilojekel, last accessed on 15 March 2021; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1620.

203 343rd MtBr Command's order on replenishment and unification of units dated 17 May 1992, Exhibit D125B, *Stakić*.

204 ICTY, Opinion and Judgment in *Tadić*, 7 May 1997, para. 145.



On the occasion of marking the 43rd MtBr's day in May 1994, its commander, Colonel Vladimir Arsić, describing the brigade's wartime achievements said: "The brigade's onslaughts took 48 hours to completely shatter the fundamentalists' dreams of having Kozarac as a bastion of Islam on a territory for centuries inhabited by Serbs."²⁰⁵

– Kamičani

The village of Kamičani is located less than three kilometres from Kozarac. Prior to the war, it had over 3,000 inhabitants, almost all of whom were Muslim.²⁰⁶ During the attack on the Kozarac area from 24 to 26 of May 1992, Kamičani was heavily shelled²⁰⁷ and almost completely destroyed.²⁰⁸ The village mosque was set alight and completely destroyed in early June.²⁰⁹

During the shelling, most Kamičani residents were sheltering in the basements of their houses.²¹⁰ When the shelling stopped and infantrymen entered the village on 26 May 1992, many villagers had left Kamičani, with just a few of them still sheltering in their basements. Members of Serb forces entered the basement of Mehmed Šahurić's house looking for weapons. After that, they killed at least eight civilians, local residents they found in the basement. These are their names: Arif Zenkić, Ibrahim Mujkanović, Teofik Forić, Mehmed Šahurić, Šerifa Šahurić, Atif Jakupović, Đemila Mujanović, and Lutvija Forić.²¹¹ The only survivor, Fatima Šahurić, was taken captive and taken to Trnopolje.²¹²

Jusuf Forić was killed outside Mehmed Šahurić's house in Kamičani.²¹³

The bodies of the nine civilians were exhumed in July 1998 at a location in Kamičani near the gasilhane, where corpses are washed before burial.²¹⁴

The ICTY Trial Chamber established in the judgment in the case of Ratko Mladić that the same units that carried out the attack on Kozarac carried out the attack on Kamičani.²¹⁵

31

205 "Svedočanstvo o junačkim delima" ["A testament to heroic deeds"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 27 May 1994.

206 3,014 Muslims, 24 Serbs, 9 Croats, 4 Yugoslavs, and 64 others, see in: Bosnia and Herzegovina census, ethnic breakdown, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 198-199.

207 Statement of witness KDZ611 Exhibit P04101, *Karadžić*, pp. 6-7.

208 Banja Luka CSB, Security assessment of the territory of Prijedor Municipality, 23 October 1992, Exhibit P03852, *Karadžić*, p. 2.

209 Testimony of protected witness U in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 July 2002, pp. 6248-6249; A report by András J. Riedlmayer: *Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Bosnia-Herzegovina*, Exhibit P04070, *Karadžić*, pp. 246-247.

210 Testimony of protected witness U in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 July 2002, p. 6219.

211 Report "Exhumations and Proof of Death, Prijedor Municipality", Nicolas Sébire, Exhibit P2006.2-s281, *Brđanin*, para. 5.1.2; Autopsy reports for Victims from Kamičani, Exhibit P05641, *Mladić*, pp. 1-18.

212 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 253-254.

213 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1051.

214 Report "Exhumations and Proof of Death, Prijedor Municipality", Nicolas Sébire, Exhibit P2006.2-s281, *Brđanin*, para. 5.1.2.

215 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1053.



– Stari grad - Prijedor [Prijedor Old Town]

In the early morning of 30 May 1992, a group of about 100 fighters led by Slavko Ećimović attempted to take control of Prijedor.²¹⁶ The group comprised local men from Prijedor, mainly Muslims, who had retreated to the Kurevo forest after being subjected to threats and pressure because of their failure to respond to calls for mobilisation. The group was only armed with infantry weapons.²¹⁷ The Serb response was utterly disproportionate. Units of the 43 MtBr and the 5th Kozara Brigade, acting jointly with the Prijedor SJB, launched a counterattack using heavy weapons.²¹⁸ The reconnaissance and sabotage company of the 43rd MtBr led by Zoran Karlica also took part in the counterattack.²¹⁹ Serb forces quickly repelled the attack, after which parts of Ećimović's group retreated across the River Sana into a forest.²²⁰ About 60 fighters, including Slavko Ećimović, were captured and taken to the Omarska camp.²²¹

Later that morning, the army began shelling parts of Prijedor inhabited by non-Serbs.²²² This was followed by "the cleansing of 'Green Berets' in the urban and suburban areas of Prijedor".²²³

The army attacked Stari Grad, the oldest part of Prijedor, inhabited predominantly by Muslims, with tanks and mortars. The shelling lasted all day and destroyed a large part of Stari Grad, a large number of houses and the mosque.²²⁴

216 According to a 1st KK report dated 30 May 1992, this group consisted of about 80 people, see in: A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 30 May 1992, Exhibit P02876, *Mladić*, p. 2; A former member of the security organ of the 43rd MtBr, Mišo Rodić, testified that the organ managed to identify 112 individuals who had participated in the attack on Prijedor, see in: Testimony of Mišo Rodić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 12 March 2015, p. 33020.

217 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 29 July 2012, p. 6573; Testimony of Hanne Sophie Greve in *Tadić*, ICTY, 21 May 1996, p. 1090.

218 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P03832, *Mladić*, p. 1; A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P892.82, *Krajišnik*, pp. 3-5; "Nepokolebljiva u odbrani srpskog naroda" ["Steadfast in defending Serbian People"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 6 August 1993, Exhibit P1505b, *Brdanin*; Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 29 July 2002, p. 6574.

219 Zoran Karlica was injured in action in Prijedor on 30 May 1992 and died from injuries seven days later. The reconnaissance and sabotage company of the 43rd MtBr was named after him, see in: Zdravka Karlica, witness statement, Exhibit D00863, *Mladić*, para. 5.

220 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 16 August 2010, pp. 13250-13254; A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P892.82, *Krajišnik*, p. 1.

221 Slavko Ećimović's group, Attack on Prijedor 29/30.5.1992, Exhibit D00931, *Mladić*, pp. 1-2; In the first half of June 1992, Duško Knežević and Zoran Žigić beat Slavko Ećimović to death in the Omarska camp, see in: Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Mejakić et al.*, 30 May 2008, p. 3; In mid-June 1992, the family of Slavko Ećimović was killed in the settlement of Tukovi, Prijedor, see: Court of BiH S1 1 K 019060 18 Krž *Radaković et al.* <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3524/show>, last accessed on 9 March 2021.

222 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 16 August 2010, p. 13253.

223 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P892.82, *Krajišnik*, p. 1.

224 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 29 July 2003, p. 6575; Testimony of Nihad Haskić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 20 June 1996, p. 2943; Testimony of Kemal Sušić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 26 June 1996, p. 3328; Testimony of Hasiba Harambašić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 18 July 1996, p. 3695.



Members of Serb forces encircled non-Serb areas of the town, entered, searched and looted the houses.²²⁵ Soldiers in camouflage uniforms with red berets or winter hats removed people from their homes and shelters and took them at gunpoint to a part of town where some buses were parked. There, the men were separated from the women and children and transported on buses to the Keraterm and Omarska camps. The women and children were taken to Trnopolje.²²⁶

On 30 May 1992, Radio Prijedor broadcast an order issued by the Serb authorities to non-Serbs to mark their houses with white sheets and wear white armbands. A curfew was imposed and checkpoints were established to restrict the movement of non-Serb inhabitants.²²⁷

The at first sporadic arrests and detentions of Prijedor Muslims and Croats, mostly those in prominent positions, became after 30 May 1992 virtually a daily occurrence.²²⁸ Under the pretext of searching for weapons, members of the army and the police searched and looted houses and flats owned by Muslims and Croats, after which these people were brought to the Prijedor police station and then taken to camps near the town of Prijedor.²²⁹

As early as 7 June 1992, the Prijedor Municipal Crisis Staff established a commission tasked with assessing the damage to buildings and houses caused by war operations.²³⁰ What members of the commission were actually doing was visiting the undamaged non-Serb houses in Prijedor and marking them for destruction. At night, these houses were destroyed using explosives.²³¹ All damaged houses and buildings, private and religious alike, were further devastated in the coming days and months, and later completely removed pursuant to a Crisis Staff decision.²³²

33

– Attack on Sivci and Jaskići

As a result of the Serb attack on the Kozarac area, its inhabitants fled to the villages and hamlets south of Kozarac. Residents of Brđani, Jakupovići, Kamičani, Kozaruša and Bešići took refuge in the

225 Testimony of Kemal Sušić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 26 June 1996, p. 3328.

226 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 29 July 2003, pp. 6574-6577; Testimony of Nihad Haskić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 20 June 1996, pp. 2941-2945; Testimony of Kemal Sušić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 26 June 1996, p. 3327.

227 ICTY, Opinion and Judgment in *Tadić*, 7 May 1997, para. 151; Testimony of Ibrahim Beglerbegović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 6 June 2002, pp. 4104-4105; Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 29 July 2002, p. 6576; Testimony of Hasiba Harambašić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 18 July 1996, p. 3695; Kerim Mešanović, witness statement, Exhibit P03414.B, *Mladić*, para. 20; Rade Mutić 1. dio propaganda [Rade Mutić Part 1 – propaganda], available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTgffL9Faaw&ab_channel=genocid92, last accessed on 9 March 2021.

228 Testimony of Ibrahim Beglerbegović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 6 June 2002, p. 4105.

229 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 29 July 2002, p. 6608; 6619; Testimony of Hasiba Harambašić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 18 July 1996, pp. 3696-3700.

230 Decision establishing a commission to determine extent of damage on buildings damaged by war operations, Exhibit S180B, *Stakić*, p. 28.

231 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 30 July 2002, p. 6693.

232 Prijedor Crisis Staff decision on demolition of buildings damaged by war operations beyond possibility of restoration, 7 June 1992, Exhibit S180B, *Stakić*, pp. 11-13, 18-20; A report by András J. Riedlmayer: *Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Bosnia-Herzegovina*, Exhibit P04070, *Karadžić*, pp. 213-215.



villages of Sivci and Jaskići, near Trnopolje.²³³ In the days following the takeover of Kozarac, members of the VRS, TO and other Serb forces would come into Sivci and Jaskići, search houses and look for the persons they suspected had organised checkpoints and lookouts in Kozarac.²³⁴ Soon, the residents were ordered to hand in their weapons and were forbidden to leave their village.²³⁵

In the first half of June 1992, Serb forces shelled Sivci and set fire to several houses in the village.²³⁶

On 14 June 1992, the VRS, together with TO units, volunteer units and the militia, seized Sivci and Jaskići. Tanks entered the villages first, followed by foot soldiers. In the hamlet of Sivci, soldiers carried out a house-to-house search, separated the men from the women and children and ordered the men to come out of their houses with their hands behind their heads. About 350 men from Sivci were rounded up in a yard of a house which was made to serve as a collection point. On the way to the collection point, the men were repeatedly stopped and forced to lie down on the road to be kicked by the soldiers. All personal belongings and valuables were taken from them. Five buses soon arrived at the collection point to transport the captured men to the Keraterm camp.²³⁷

That same day, at between 14:00 and 15:00 pm, Serb forces attacked Jaskići, a hamlet with only 11 houses. Just as they had done in Sivci, soldiers separated the men from the women, forced the men to get out on a road with their hands behind their heads and beat them. The men were then taken in the direction of Kozarac. After the soldiers had left the village with the captured men, the women found in the village the bodies of five killed men.²³⁸

Because the army stayed in the village in the days following the attack, the women did not dare bury those who had been killed.²³⁹ Three days after the attack, a few of them went to Trnopolje to seek permission from the camp commander Slobodan Kuruzović to bury the killed. Even after obtaining verbal permission from Kuruzović, the women were stopped outside Sivci and mistreated by Serb soldiers. The killed men were later buried by locals in a mass grave.²⁴⁰

At least 19 people were killed during the attack on Jaskići, including the five men whose bodies were found by villagers immediately after the attack and the men who were killed after being taken away from

233 ICTY, Opinion and Judgment in *Tadić*, 7 May 1997, para. 345; Testimony of Senija Elkasović in *Tadić*, ICTY, 1 August 1996, p. 4601.

234 Testimony of Sakib Sivac in *Tadić*, ICTY, 31 July 1996, pp. 4431-4432.

235 *Ibid.*, p. 4431.

236 ICTY, Opinion and Judgment in *Tadić*, 7 May 1997, para. 345.

237 *Ibid.*, paras. 346-347.

238 Testimony of Senija Elkasović in *Tadić*, ICTY, 1 August 1996, p. 4612.

239 *Ibid.*, p. 4616.

240 *Ibid.*, p. 4617.



Jaskići.²⁴¹ The bodies of 14 men taken away from Jaskići were later found in the Jakarina Kosa mass grave, and the remaining five bodies were found in the Kevljani-Sivci and Kevljani-Jaskići mass graves.²⁴²

After 14 June 1992, soldiers continued to come into Jaskići and loot the residents' properties.²⁴³ The village ended up wholly plundered and pillaged, and its houses destroyed.²⁴⁴

In June 1992, parts of the 43rd MtBr were deployed in the wider Kozarac area. Moreover, on the day of the attack on Sivci and Jaskići (14 June 1992), the 1st Krajina Corps Command reported to the VRS Main Staff that the Prijedor Operational Tactical Group (which formed part of the 2nd MtBr, the Howitzer Artillery Division of 43rd MtBr, and the 6th Brigade), were securing the roads around Prijedor in tandem with volunteers and militia, and "cleansing the Kozarac area of the remaining enemy forces".²⁴⁵

– Attack on the Brdo area

The Brdo area covers the villages of Biščani, Rizvanovići,²⁴⁶ Rakovčani, Hambarine, Čarakovo, and Zecovi.²⁴⁷ After the Serb takeover of the whole Kozarac area and the capture or expulsion of its residents, Brdo remained one of the rare areas in Prijedor municipality inhabited mainly by non-Serbs.

In early July 1992, members of Serb forces began coming into the village, capturing the men and taking them to prison camps. In the hamlet of Behlići, three civilians were killed in early July at the hands of members of the reserve police station in Tukovi and soldiers.²⁴⁸

35

A 1st KK report from early July 1992 states as follows: "It is estimated that in the wider Prijedor area there are around 100 renegades, split into small groups of 5 to ten, who are hiding in basements, woods and dugouts. They are usually found when trying to escape or coming out in search for food. They are killed unless they surrender".²⁴⁹

The attack on Brdo began on 20 July 1992. Members of the 43rd MtBr, including the "Zoran Karlica" reconnaissance and sabotage company, and the 6th Infantry Brigade, operating in tandem with Prijedor SJB units and volunteer groups, attacked the Brdo area under the pretext of searching for

241 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, paras. 1656-1657; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 3074.

242 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, paras. 1058-1059.

243 Testimony of Senija Elkasović in *Tadić*, ICTY, 1 August 1996, p. 4617.

244 ICTY, Opinion and Judgment in *Tadić*, 7 May 1997, para. 350.

245 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 14 June 1992, Exhibit P03697, *Mladić*, p. 2.

246 The Court of BiH sentenced Sretko Pavić, member of the Volar Company of the 6th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr, to eleven years in prison for the killings committed at the checkpoint in Rizvanovići in July 1992, see in: S1 1 K 026570 19 Kžk - *Pavić Sretko*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3682/show>, last accessed on 31 March 2021.

247 Map of the Brdo area, Exhibit P00562, *Karadžić*.

248 Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 7; Testimony of protected witness C in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 April 2002, pp. 2310-2312; See also: Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Jurišić*, 8 April 2019.

249 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 6 July 1992, Exhibit P03695, *Mladić*, p. 1.



weapons and “extremists” hiding in the Kurevo woods,²⁵⁰ even though the residents of these villages had already surrendered their weapons after the first attack on Hambarine in late May 1992.²⁵¹

The commander of the 1st Battalion of the 43rd MtBr, Dušan Đenadija, testified before the Court of BiH about a meeting of the brigade’s operative personnel on 22 July 1992, which was attended also by the brigade command and the military police commander. At the meeting, the brigade’s deputy commander in charge of security announced that there was a 600-650-strong armed formation in the Kurevo woods and that an offensive action should be launched.²⁵² The next day, 23 July 1992, members of the 1st, 4th, 6th, and 7th Battalions of the 43rd MtBr were sent to the Kurevo woods “to neutralise Muslim units the size of a battalion”, and also to “mop-up” the villages in the Brdo area.²⁵³

The 6th Sana Infantry Brigade was tasked with establishing a connection with the Prijedor units and participating in the search of the settlements around Ljubija and the Kurevo woods, as well as establishing a communication route on the Sanski Most-Prijedor and Sanski Most-Ljubija roads encircling the Brdo area.²⁵⁴

Two days prior to the beginning of the attack on the Brdo area, the 1st KK reported as follows: “In the Prijedor region, there are no major enemy activities, although there are remnants of groups in the regions of Kozarac, Kozaruša and other Muslim villages” - i.e., in the eastern parts of the municipality.²⁵⁵ Until 25 July 1992, the Brdo area was never mentioned as a particularly problematic area in the 1st KK Command’s regular combat reports. Nevertheless, military reports refer to the attacks on this area as “mop-up actions” and actions aimed at “tracking and neutralising extremist groups”.²⁵⁶

36

250 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić* 24 March 2016, para. 1694; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mradić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1072 and 3484; Report on activities of the Prijedor SJB for the last nine months of 1992, Exhibit P03948, *Mradić*, p. 4; Prijedor SJB dispatch no. 11-12-2304 dated 29 September 1992, Exhibit P1363b, *Brđanin*; Information from the 1st KK Command submitted to the Prijedor OG dated 22 August 1992, Exhibit P03820, *Mradić*, p. 2; Wartime journey of the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P02365, *Mradić*, para. 7; 6th PartBr order dated 18 June 1992, Exhibit P02440, *Mradić*, para. 1; An excerpt from a VRS document on the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P03851, *Mradić*, p. 8; “Tijela u Zecovima” [“Bodies in Zecovi”], Detektor, 5 February 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/02/05/tijela-u-zecovima/>, last accessed on 28 January 2021, “Milunić i ostali: U pretresu sa optuženim” [“On a search mission with the accused”], Detektor, 2 February 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/02/02/milunici-i-ostali-u-pretresu-sa-optuzenim/>, last accessed on 28 January 2021; “Leševi u Zecovima i Gradini” [“Corpses in Zecovi and Gradina”], Detektor, 26 February 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/02/26/lesevi-u-zecovima-i-gradini/>, last accessed on 28 January 2021.

251 Testimony of Mirsad Mujadžić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 30 May 1996, pp. 1549-1552; Transcript of a radio show of 24 May 1992, Exhibit P1547/S240-1b, *Brđanin*, pp. 2-4.

252 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 273.

253 Dušan Đenadija, witness statement, Exhibit D01338, *Mradić*, para. 21; “Milunić i ostali: nije video optuženog na dan akcije” [“Trial of Milunić et al.: He didn’t see the accused on the day of action”], Detektor, 6 July 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/07/06/milunici-i-ostali-nije-video-optuzenog-na-dan-akcije/>, last accessed on 1 March 2021; “Bez izgubljene bitke” [“Not one battle lost”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 26 August 1994, Exhibit P1506b, *Brđanin*; Draško Vujčić, witness statement, Exhibit D04242, *Karadžić*, para. 7.

254 6th PartBr order dated 18 June 1992, Exhibit P02440, *Mradić*, para. 1; An excerpt from a VRS document on the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P03851, *Mradić*, p. 8.

255 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 18 July 1992, Exhibit P01001, *Mradić*, p. 3.

256 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 25 July 1992, Exhibit P1441b, *Brđanin*, p. 1; A combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 27 July 1992, Exhibit P07828, *Mradić*, p. 1.



The attack on the Brdo area began with shelling, after which infantrymen entered the villages.²⁵⁷ During the Serb attack on the Brdo area in the second half of July 1992, hundreds of non-Serbs, mostly civilians, were killed, including women and minors,²⁵⁸ and many were captured and taken to the Prijedor camps.²⁵⁹ On 23 July 1992, the army, police and crisis staff requisitioned at least 14 buses from Autotransport Prijedor bus operator to transport the population from Čarakovo and Tukovi to Trnopolje.²⁶⁰

The command of the 43rd MtBr and the commands of other units that took part in the attack failed to conduct an investigation into the killings of civilians in the Brdo area, some of which were committed by members of this very brigade. What is more, the army played an active part in the cover-up of these crimes by engaging in the burials of victims in mass graves at clandestine locations.²⁶¹

In the days following the “mop-up operations”, members of Serb forces continued to come into the villages to loot the valuables, vehicles and cattle they found there.²⁶²

– Bišćani

The village of Bišćani consists of several hamlets - Mrkalji, Hegići, Ravine, Duratovići, Kadići, Alagići and Čemernica. The 1991 census counted slightly fewer than 1,500 inhabitants in Bišćani, almost entirely Muslims.²⁶³ After the takeover of Prijedor, Bišćani, like the entire Brdo area, remained isolated and surrounded by villages inhabited predominantly by Serbs, who set up checkpoints on the roads.²⁶⁴

37

257 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 27 June 2002, p. 5291.

258 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 409; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, paras. 1713-1715; Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1071.

259 Testimony of Muharem Nezirević in *Tadić*, 23 May 1996, p. 1288; Testimony of protected witness C in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 22 March 2001, p. 919; Testimony of protected witness F in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 29 March 2001, p. 1432; Testimony of protected witness L in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 1 May 2001, pp. 2498-2500.

260 ATP Autotransport Prijedor – Record of transport services provided to the army, Exhibit P07127, *Mladić*, p. 2.

261 In the second half of August 1992, the 1st KK Command sent a dispatch to the Prijedor OG command criticising the behaviour of units in the Prijedor area, stating that members of the “Zoran Karlica” reconnaissance and sabotage platoon “distinguished themselves” in the mop-up operation in Čarakovo by killing civilians and ripping earrings from women’s ears”, see in: Information from the 1st KK Command submitted to the Prijedor OG Command dated 22 August 1992, Exhibit P03820, *Mladić*, p. 2; Draško Vujić testified that he heard at a brigade briefing about the killings of civilians during the operation in the Brdo area, see in: Testimony of Draško Vujić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 4 May 2015, p. 3996.

262 “Milunić i ostali: Ubistva kraj ograde” [“Milunić et al.: Killings beside the fence”], Detektor, 30 August 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/08/30/milunic-i-ostali-ubistva-kraj-ograde/>, last accessed on 1 March 2021; “Strah u Zecovima” [“Fear in Zecovi”], Detektor, 23 September 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/09/23/milunic-i-ostali-strah-u-zecovima/>, last accessed on 15 March 2015; Testimony of protected witness V in *Stakić*, ICTY, 8 July 2002, p. 5729; Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, paras. 445-447; Testimony of protected witness BT30 in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 10 December 2002, pp. 12547-142548.

263 1,421 Muslims, 7 Serbs, 7 Yugoslavs and 5 others, see in: Bosnia and Herzegovina census, ethnic breakdown, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 196-197.

264 Testimony of protected witness X in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 2002, p. 6853.



The attack on Bišćani was preceded by an ultimatum issued by Serb authorities demanding the residents to surrender their weapons. Even though the ultimatum was complied with, seven days later Serb forces launched an attack on the village.²⁶⁵

The attack commenced on 20 July 1992 at around 10:00 am, first from the direction of Tukovi district in Prijedor,²⁶⁶ and then from Brezičani, Cikote and the village of Volar.²⁶⁷ Duratovići was among the first hamlets to come under attack.²⁶⁸

Upon entering Bišćani, members of the army and police, wearing various uniforms,²⁶⁹ entered the houses and ordered the locals, primarily males, some of them minors, to gather at various locations around the village that had been designated as collection points.²⁷⁰

One of the collection points was a local café.²⁷¹ In front of the café, there stood a commander in a grey-olive uniform, wearing leather gloves, dark glasses, and a helmet on his head.²⁷² Testifying before the ICTY in the case of Stakić, protected witness X said that he and his father along with some other people were brought to the collection point outside the café, where they were ordered to form a column. As they stood there, they saw people being beaten, taken behind the café and killed. This witness testified that Hamdija Fikić, Mirhad Mrkalj, Ferid Šabanović, Mirsad Medić and Saša Karagić were killed by Serb forces at that collection point.²⁷³

38

The locals assembled at the collection point outside the cafe were then divided into two groups and transported on buses of the Autotransport Prijedor bus operator to the camp in Trnopolje. As testified by the group of people who arrived in Trnopolje on the first bus, some people from the column never made it to Trnopolje; and a group of 12-13 people who arrived in Trnopolje on the second bus were subsequently returned to the bus and taken in a direction unknown to them.²⁷⁴ It was found out later that only two persons from this group had survived, while the others had been killed at Kratalj, a place between Prijedor and Bišćani.²⁷⁵

At the trial of Milomir Stakić before the ICTY, protected witness C said that his two brothers were sheltering with their families and neighbours in the basement of a house in the hamlet of Mrkalji when the attack on Bišćani began on 20 July 1992. Soldiers came into the basement, separated the

265 Azra Blažević, witness statement, ICTY, November 1994. Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, p. 14; War diary – Western Slavonija frontline 1991-1992 X, *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 2002, p. 6858.

266 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1695.

267 Testimony of protected witness X in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 1992, p. 6859.

268 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1700.

269 The members of Serb forces who attacked Bišćani were wearing different uniforms – grey-olive, camouflage, and blue police uniforms, see in: Testimony of protected witness X in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 1992, p. 6861.

270 Testimony of protected witness X in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 1992, pp. 6859-6860.

271 *Ibid*, pp. 6859-6860.

272 *Ibid*, p. 6864.

273 *Ibid*, pp. 6862-6863.

274 *Ibid*, pp. 6866-6871.

275 *Ibid*, pp. 6870-6873.



witness's brothers from the group and took them outside. They were killed, together with several other people from the hamlet of Mrkalji, in a yard just fifteen metres away from the basement where they had been hiding.²⁷⁶ Their bodies remained at the scene for a few days before being taken away to a place unknown to the witness.²⁷⁷

On 23 July 1992, members of Serb forces lined up between 30 and 40 civilians, residents of Mrkalji hamlet, in a clay pit near the hamlet. The soldiers who captured them were wearing camouflage uniforms, except for a few wearing blue uniforms. There were military vehicles and an armoured personnel carrier at the scene. All the captured men were killed in the clay pit with firearms and weapons mounted on the transporter.²⁷⁸

Around 20 July 1992, in the hamlet of Hegići, members of Serb forces lined up 12 persons in an orchard and killed them with firearms. About 20 more persons were killed at a bus stop between the hamlets of Alagići and Čemernica.²⁷⁹

On 20 July 1992, soldiers in grey-olive and blue uniforms came into the hamlet of Čemernica in military vehicles and armoured personnel carriers. The soldiers herded together around 40 local residents and lined them up at the village cemetery. Two soldiers came up to one of the men in the line, Muhamed Hodžić, and asked his name. When he gave them his name, one of the soldiers shot Hodžić dead. Soon, Milorad Bilbija, the commander of the 6th Battalion (the so-called Ljubija Battalion) of the 43rd MtBr, arrived at the cemetery in the company of his deputy, Milodrag Glušac. Bilbija ordered the soldiers to leave the cemetery.²⁸⁰

39

The women of Biščani were not taken to collection points during the attack, but were subsequently taken to the Trnopolje camp together with the children.²⁸¹ After the attack, members of Serb forces plundered the village.²⁸² They looted television sets, gold items and other valuables.²⁸³

– Čarakovo and Zecovi

The villages of Čarakovo and Zecovi lie beneath the Kurevo forest, near the Prijedor-Sanski Most road. Their pre-war population was mostly Muslim. Čarakovo had about 2,400 inhabitants²⁸⁴, whilst

276 Testimony of protected witness C in *Stakić*, ICTY, 1 May 2002, pp. 2344-2345.

277 *Ibid*, p. 2345.

278 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 256; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 408.

279 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 409.

280 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016 para. 1702.

281 Testimony of protected witness X in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 2002, pp. 6860 and 6871.

282 *Ibid*, p. 6861.

283 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 258.

284 2,324 Muslims, 45 Serbs, 20 Croats, 9 Yugoslavs and 14 others, see in: Bosnia and Herzegovina census, ethnic breakdown, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 198-199.



Zecovi had less than 900 inhabitants.²⁸⁵ The two villages are about one kilometre away from each other.²⁸⁶

In the aftermath of the attack on Hambarine and Kozarac in May 1992, some of the residents, mostly women, children and the old, fled to Čarakovo, while some of the men took to the Kurevo forest.²⁸⁷ In early July 1992, residents of Čarakovo and Zecovi handed over all their weapons and left them in the army barracks in Prijedor.²⁸⁸ Major Radmilo Zeljaja was present during the handover and asked the locals whether they were members of armed formations, after which he told them that everything would be all right and that their villages would not be shelled any more.²⁸⁹

Due to the presence of the army and police, the movement of Brdo area residents was restricted. Members of the army sealed off the villages by establishing checkpoints on the Žeger Bridge and the viaduct, thus blocking the only two entry points into Čarakovo. The checkpoints were manned by mixed police and army forces.²⁹⁰

There were no armed units or weapons in Čarakovo and Zecovi at the time, but the 1st KK Command nevertheless reported to the VRS MS on 25 July 1992 that several “extremist Muslim armed groups” had been discovered in the areas of Čarakovo and Zecovi and that his units continued to “cleanse the areas.”²⁹¹

On 23 July 1992, at about 9:00 am, residents of Čarakovo heard tanks around the village. Soon, shooting began.²⁹² That day, the Žeger checkpoint was manned by members of the military police platoon of the 43rd MtBr commanded by Dragomir Soldat, and the viaduct checkpoint was manned by members of the 1st department of the SJB Prijedor intervention platoon.²⁹³

The army entered Čarakovo on the morning of 23 July 1992. Several groups of soldiers moved through the village. Some among them were identified by the locals as residents of the neighbouring Serb village of Tukovi. Immediately after entering Čarakovo, members of Serb forces began searching the houses, taking the men out of them and torching the houses.²⁹⁴

285 701 Muslims, 152 Serbs, 21 Croats, 10 Yugoslavs, and 3 others, see in: Bosnia and Herzegovina census, ethnic breakdown, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 200-201.

286 Testimony of protected witness V in *Stakić*, ICTY, 8 July 2002, p. 5735.

287 *Ibid*, 2, p. 5726.

288 Sead Sušić, witness statement, Exhibit P07312.B, *Mladić*, para. 10; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karačić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1682.

289 Sead Sušić, witness statement, Exhibit P07312.B, *Mladić*, para. 11.

290 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 724.

291 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 25 July 1992, Exhibit P1441b, *Brdanin*, p. 1.

292 Testimony of protected witness V in *Stakić*, ICTY, 8 July 2002, pp. 5727-5729.

293 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 724.

294 Testimony of protected witness V in *Stakić*, ICTY, 8 July 2002, p. 5729; Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 295; Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Jurišić*, 8 April 2019, paras. 206-209.



A group of 11 men was taken from their houses to the country road and made to line up with their hands behind their heads.²⁹⁵ Soldiers stood around them with pointed rifles.²⁹⁶ Some soldiers hit them with butts and kicked them if they spoke.²⁹⁷ After an hour, the soldiers took these 11 men outside the mosque in Čarakovo and lined them up. The last in the line, Redžep Mujdžić, tried to escape but soldier Goran Gruban caught him and killed him.²⁹⁸ After that, the soldiers executed Husein Sušić, Sulejman Dizdarević, Rasim Sušić, Hasib Musić, Emir Čaušević, Avdo Mujdžić, Husein Kljajić, and Kemal Kahteran.²⁹⁹ Only two persons survived the execution.³⁰⁰ Later on, Zekir Musić was killed at the same place.³⁰¹

The execution in front of the mosque in Čarakovo was ordered by Dragomir Soldat aka “Čiča”, a military policeman in the 43rd MtBr and commander of the military police platoon guarding the Žeger checkpoint. Soldat was seen driving through Čarakovo on 23 July 1992 in a white Mercedes belonging to the 43rd MtBr command.³⁰² A member of the working unit, Velimir Đurić aka “Velja”, and a reserve police officer, Zoran Babić aka “Bakin/Babin”, a member of the intervention platoon at the Prijedor Public Security Station, both from the village of Tukovi, also took part in the execution.³⁰³ Đurić served in the 43rd MtBr from 1 August 1992 until the end of the war.³⁰⁴ Goran Gruban was a member of the pioneer platoon of the 5th Kozara Brigade.³⁰⁵

After that, members of Serb forces fired a projectile setting fire to the mosque in Čarakovo.³⁰⁶

Redžep Mujdžić and Zekir Musić were buried by their families near the mosque. Two days later, Avdo Mujdžić, Husein Kljajić and Hasib Musić were buried by their families. The bodies of other men killed were taken from the village on a military truck.³⁰⁷ The mortal remains of Husein Sušić, Rasim Sušić and parts of the mortal remains of Kemal Kahteran were exhumed in 2001 from the Jakarina Kosa mass grave in Ljubija.³⁰⁸

41

295 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, paras. 295-307.

296 *Ibid*, para. 318.

297 *Ibid*, paras. 307-310.

298 Sead Sušić, witness statement, Exhibit P07312.B, *Mladić*, para. 23.

299 *Ibid*, para. 28.

300 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, pp. 6-7; Sead Sušić, witness statement, Exhibit P07312.B, *Mladić*, para. 30.

301 Sead Sušić, witness statement, Exhibit P07312.B, *Mladić*, para. 29.

302 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, paras. 328, 502; Sead Sušić, witness statement, Exhibit P07312.B, *Mladić*, para. 20.

303 Dragomir Soldat and Velimir Đurić were sentenced to 21 years' imprisonment for the crimes in Čarakovo, and Zoran Babić, who was previously convicted of the killings at Korićanske stijene, received a single sentence of 35 years in prison, see Court of BiH's case S1 1 K 011967 14 Krž - *Dragomir Soldat et al.*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3048/show>, last accessed on 2 March 2021.

304 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, para. 197.

305 “Pohvale” [“Accolades”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994, Exhibit P06612, *Karadžić*.

306 Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Soldat et al.*, 27 March 2014, paras 340, 350.

307 *Ibid*, paras 449-450.

308 *Ibid*, paras. 453, 461.



Later that day, after the killings outside the mosque, Dragomir Soldat from the 43rd MtBr came to the settlement of Donja Mahala in Čarakovo in the company of two unidentified soldiers, and took a local resident, Mirzan Mujdžić out of his house. Soldat ordered one of the soldiers to take Mujdžić behind the house and ask him where the other men were. The soldier took Mujdžić behind the house and killed him with a shot point-blank.³⁰⁹ After the soldiers had left, Mirzan Mujdžić was buried behind the house.³¹⁰

Testifying before the ICTY as a protected witness in the case of Stakić, a female resident of Čarakovo said that on 23 July 1992 she saw the bodies of Rubija Redžić, Fehim Karupović and Adem Hopovac, who had been killed outside their homes in Čarakovo.³¹¹ She also saw eight corpses at the place known as Bare, between Čarakovo and Zecovi. She and her brothers buried them at night.³¹²

Captured men from the Brdo area were taken by soldiers to the Žeger Bridge, whence they were transported on buses to the Keraterm and Omarska camps. A group of younger men captured in Čarakovo was brought to the Žeger Bridge and forced to strip to the waist and keep their hands behind their backs. Their clothes and personal belongings were thrown to the ground next to them. Members of Serb forces, among whom the witnesses recognised two members of the reserve police force at the Tukovi police station - Dragomir Drago Tintor and Mićo Jurišić,³¹³ as well as Stakić, Kojo, Vinko Panić and Mirko Kos,³¹⁴ killed the captives on the bridge and threw their bodies into the river.³¹⁵

After the attack, it was mostly women with children and elderly people, including those who had fled from neighbouring villages, who stayed in the village. They generally hid in the forest at night and returned home in the morning. On 28 July 1992, a group of about hundred people from Čarakovo and Zecovi carrying a white cloth came to the community centre to surrender. The soldiers at the community centre held them captive for three hours at the centre, insulting and mistreating them.³¹⁶ After three hours, members of the army and police took the civilians to the Žeger Bridge on the River Sana.³¹⁷ Five buses of Autotransport Prijedor bus operator arrived soon, and around 150 women, children and elderly persons were put on the buses and transported to Trnopolje.³¹⁸

309 *Ibid*, para. 374.

310 *Ibid*, para. 780.

311 Testimony of protected witness V in *Stakić*, ICTY, 8 July 2002, pp. 5732-5734.

312 *Ibid*, pp. 5735-5738.

313 Mićo Jurišić was sentenced to 11 years in prison by the Court of BiH for the killings of civilians committed in Hambarine and Čarakovo in July 1992. Dragomir Tintor was also charged with these crimes by the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, but he died during the proceedings, see in: S1 1 K 026747 19 Krž - *Jurišić Mićo*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3789/show>, last accessed on 16 March 2021.

314 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, paras. 1069 and 1072.

315 Testimony of protected witness Q in *Stakić*, ICTY, 4 June 2002, pp. 3947-3949; Testimony of protected witness V in *Stakić*, ICTY, 8 July 2002, pp. 5747-5749; Testimony of protected witness L in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 1 May 2001, p. 2500.

316 Testimony of protected witness V in *Stakić*, ICTY, 8 July 2002, pp. 5743-5748.

317 *Ibid*, p. 5747.

318 *Ibid*, p. 5749; "Skoro trideset godina od zločina u Zecovima: Bol koja ne prestaje" ["Nearly 30 years since the crime in Zecovi: Pain that does not go away"], *Detektor*, 22 July 2020, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2020/07/22/skoro-trideset-godina-od-zlocina-u-zecovima-bol-koja-ne-prestaje/>, last accessed on 3 March 2020.



A day prior to the takeover of Zecovi, a meeting took place at the Rasavci community centre between the platoon commanders of the 43rd MtBr 6th Battalion and members of the reserve police station in Rasavci, at which Dušan Milunić, commander of the Rasavci Company, said that the next day they would search the village of Zecovi to find weapons.³¹⁹

Members of the military and police forces from the village of Rasavci, most of whom the locals of Zecovi knew, came into the village on 23 July 1992 and began searching the houses and taking the men out. Residents of Zecovi offered no resistance nor were any weapons found in the village during the search.³²⁰

Members of the army and police marched the men to the local butcher's shop and the school.³²¹ Outside the butcher's shop, the men were beaten with batons and butts, after which members of Serb forces killed eight civilians near the viaduct.³²² More civilians were killed in front of the school in Zecovi.³²³ On the way to the collection points, residents of Zecovi saw bodies of people in civilian clothes. That day, all the men who had stayed in Zecovi were taken to camps.³²⁴ Only women and

319 "Milunić i drugi: Na Gradini mu ubijeni najbliži" ["Milunić et al.: His loved ones were killed at Gradina"], Detektor, 15 July 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/07/>, last accessed on 26 February 2021; "Milunić i ostali: Pucnji u Ismeta Bačića" ["Milunić et al.: Shots at Ismet Bačić"], Detektor, 19 July 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/07/19/milunic-i-ostali-pucnji-u-ismet-bacica/>, last accessed on 1 March 2021; "Milunić i ostali: Nisu vidjeli Četića u akciji" ["Milunić et al.: They didn't see Četić in action"], Detektor, 5 August 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/04/05/milunic-i-ostali-nisu-vidjeli-cetica-u-akciji/>, last accessed on 1 March 2021; "Milunić i ostali: Tragovi iz šume" ["Traces of crime in the forest"], Detektor, 26 October 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/10/26/milunic-i-ostali-tragovi-iz-sume/>, last accessed on 1 March 2021.

320 "Vidio strijeljanje kod škole" ["He saw the killings near the school"], Detektor, 29 January 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/01/29/vidio-strijeljanje-kod-skole/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021; "Učešće u akciji u Zecovima" ["Participation in the action in Zecovi"], Detektor, 1 July 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/07/01/ucesce-u-akciji-u-zecovima/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021.

321 Testimony of protected witness U in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 24 May 2001, p. 3733; "Milunić i ostali: Ubistva kraj ograde" ["Milunić et al.: Killings beside the fence"], Detektor, 30 August 2019, <https://detektor.ba/2019/08/30/milunic-i-ostali-ubistva-kraj-ograde/>, last accessed on 1 March 2021; "Milunić i ostali: Pucnji u Ismeta Bačića" ["Milunić et al.: Shots at Ismet Bačić"], Detektor, 19 July 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/07/19/milunic-i-ostali-pucnji-u-ismet-bacica/>, last accessed on 1 March 2021; "Čišćenje u Zecovima" ["'Cleansing' in Zecovi"], Detektor, 9 December 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/12/09/milunic-i-ostali-ciscenje-u-zecovima/>, last accessed on 5 March 2021.

322 "Milunić i ostali: Ljubiša Četić pucao u Zecovima" ["Milunić et al.: Ljubiša Četić shot in Zecovi"], Detektor, 28 October 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/10/28/milunic-i-ostali-ljubisa-cetic-pucio-u-zecovima/>, last accessed on 5 March 2021.

323 "Krvava djeca s Gradine" ["Blood-covered children from Gradina"], Detektor, 15 January 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/01/15/krvava-djeca-s-gradine-2/>, last accessed on 16 March 2016; "Pucnjava u Zecovima" ["Shooting in Zecovi"], Detektor, 18 December 2015, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2015/12/18/pucnjava-u-zecovima/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021.

324 "Kako sam preživio pokolj 1992. u mjestu Zecovi" ["How I survived the 1992 massacre in Zecovi"], Al Jazeera Balkans, 27 January 2015, available at: <https://balkans.aljazeera.net/news/balkan/2015/1/27/kako-sam-prezivio-pokolj-1992-u-mjestu-zecovi>, last accessed on 5 March 2021; "Milunić i ostali: Stradanje porodice na Gradini" ["Milunić et al.: The death of a family at Gradina"], Detektor, 7 October 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/10/07/milunic-i-ostali-stradanje-porodice-na-gradini/>, last accessed on 5 March 2021.



children stayed in the village. Members of Serb forces sexually abused several women during the attack on Zecovi.³²⁵

Two days after the “cleansing” of Zecovi, members of Serb Forces returned to the village in the evening, killed 29 women and children who had been hiding in two houses in the Gradina settlement and torched the houses.³²⁶

Testifying before the Court of BiH, a former member of the 6th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr, Boro Praštalo, said that several days following the action in the Kurevo forest, he heard the commander of the Rasavci Company of the 6th Battalion, Dušan Milunić, inform the battalion commander, Milorad Bilbija, that women and children had been killed in the village of Zecovi. Bilbija replied that he did not care.³²⁷

Several individuals are standing trial before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina over the crimes in Zecovi: Dušan Milunić – commander of the Rasavci Company; Radomir Stojnić – commander of the reserve police station in Rasavci; Radovan Četić – leader of the local SDS and crisis staff in Rasavci; and Zoran Stojnić, Željko Grbić, Ilija Zorić, Zoran Milunić, Boško Grujičić, Rade Grujić, Uroš Grujić, Rajko Gnjatović, Ljubiša Četić, and Duško Zorić, who are charged³²⁸ with killings, sexual violence and the destruction of property of Bosniak civilians in the village of Zecovi.³²⁹ According to the indictment issued by the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, 69 civilians were killed on the territory of Zecovi and 20 more near Zecovi during the Serb attack. 30 residents of Zecovi died in the camps in the Prijedor area and at least 30 more were killed after being driven out of the village.³³⁰

44

325 “Smijeh muškaraca i plač žena” [“The laughter of the men and the cries of the women”], Detektor, 8 April 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/04/08/smijeh-muskaraca-i-plac-zena/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021; Detektor, “Milunić i drugi: Mrtva tijela u Zecovima” [“Milunić et al.: Dead bodies in Zecovi”], Detektor, 4 November 2016, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2016/11/04/milunic-i-drugi-mrtva-tijela-u-zecovima/>, last accessed on 16 March 2016.

326 Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indictment S1 1 K 017538 15 KrI in *Milunić et al.*, 26 February 2015, pp. 19-21; “Milunić i ostali: Vidio ubijanje porodice na Gradini” [“Milunić et al.: He saw the killing of a family at Gradina”], Detektor, 16 September 2016, <https://detektor.ba/2016/09/16/milunic-i-drugi-vidio-ubijanje-porodice-na-gradini/>, last accessed on 5 March 2021.

327 “Milunić i ostali: U Zecovima pobijene žena i djeca” [“Milunić et al.: Women and children killed in Zecovi”], Detektor, 30 March 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/03/30/milunic-i-ostali-u-zecovima-pobijene-zena-i-djeca/>, last accessed on 1 March 2021.

328 The case against Zdravko Antonić ended due to his death, see in: S1 1 K 017538 15 KrI - *Milunić et al.*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3403/show>, last accessed on 15 March 2021.

329 The Prosecutor’s Office of BiH indicted Miodrag Vujičić, a former member of the Rasavci Company, over the crimes in Zecovi, but he is beyond the reach of the judicial authorities, see in: S1 1 K 027431 18 Kri - *Vujičić Miodrag*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3845/show>, last accessed on 15 March 2021; Indictment confirmed in the case of Miodrag Vujičić, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/vijest/potvrena-optunica-u-predmetu-miodrag-vujii-20804>, last accessed on 15 March 2021.

330 Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, Indictment against *Milunić et al.*, 26 February 2015, pp. 8 and 9.



– The fate of men and boys who fled the Brdo area

A large number of residents of the Brdo area fled to the Kurevo forest at the onset of the “cleansing” operation in that area, and joined residents of Hambarine and Kozarac who had already been hiding there for more than a month. The 1st KK Command reported to the VRS Main Staff about groups of people making their way through the forest in order to get to Bihać, saying that corps units were working towards “tracking down and neutralising the extremist groups”.³³¹

In the second half of July 1992, there were about 500 people in the Kurevo forest, mostly civilians, men and underage boys, armed with fewer than ten rifles.³³²

This group moved through the forest for several days, during which time they split into several groups. Around 21 July 1992, Serb forces began firing on people in the forest near Kalajevo, putting them to flight. One group fled in the direction of the village of Miska Glava, where they were surrounded by about twenty soldiers wearing JNA and reserve police uniforms. The people were ordered to stand in four lines, empty their pockets and toss all their personal belongings onto the ground.³³³ Serb soldiers then marched the group to a country road by the Praštale hamlet near the village of Miska Glava. Several people tried to escape and one person was killed while trying to escape. The group was then transported in several rounds by van to the Miska Glava Community Centre.³³⁴ Reserve policeman Sretko Janjoš confessed that he and Rade Zekanović drove the van.³³⁵

On arriving at the Miska Glava Community Centre, the names of the members of the group were taken down, after which they were confined in the café on the ground floor of the Community Centre building.³³⁶ At a trial before the Court of BiH, a former reserve policeman from Ljubija, Božo Lepoja,

45

331 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 14 July 1992, Exhibit P1435b, *Brđanin*, p. 2; A combat report from the 1st KK dated 26 July 1992, Exhibit P2223b *Brđanin*, p. 1; A combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 27 July 1992, Exhibit P07828, *Mladić*; A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 28 July 1992, Exhibit P03658, *Mladić*, p. 3.

332 Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, pp. 7-8; Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, p. 5212; “Taranjac i ostali: Ubistva u Ljubiji” [“Taranjac et al.: Killings in Ljubija”], 24 April 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/04/24/taranjac-i-ostali-ubistva-u-ljubiji/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021.

333 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5213-5214; Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 8; Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, p. 12691.

334 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, p. 5215; Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 8; “Taranjac i ostali: civili tučeni pa nestali” [“Taranjac et al.: Civilians first beaten then disappeared”], Detektor, 4 June 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/06/04/taranjac-i-ostali-odvođenje-grupe-civila/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

335 “Taranjac i ostali: Optuženi rekao da se zarobljenici pobiju” [“Taranjac et al.: The accused said prisoners should be killed”], Detektor 19 February 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/02/19/taranjac-i-ostali-optuzeni-rekao-da-se-zarobljenici-pobiju/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

336 Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 8.



confirmed having taken down the names of 114 people at the Community Centre.³³⁷ The room in which they were confined was too small for that many people, and it was very hot inside. It was so crowded that the captives sat on the tiled floor with their knees pulled up to the chest.³³⁸ They were given a loaf of bread and a bag of candies to share among themselves.³³⁹ To get some water, they had to sing songs about the Greater Serbia.³⁴⁰

The group was detained three or four days in the Community Centre. The people who guarded them were members of the reserve police force from Ljubija, members of the Miska Glava Company of the 6th Battalion of the VRS 43rd MtBr, members of the military police and members of the Engineering Battalion of the 43rd MtBr.³⁴¹ Milorad Bilbija, the commander of the 6th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr, was also seen outside the Community Centre in Miska Glava.³⁴²

During their stay at the Miska Glava Community Centre, detained civilians were taken upstairs for interrogations during which they were beaten. Other detainees could hear their howls of pain.³⁴³ Nermin Karagić, a detainee who was a minor at the time, testified at the trial of Milomir Stakić before the ICTY that detainees, including his father, were beaten outside the Community Centre too. Also, he saw through a window Islam Hopovac, the brother of his sister-in-law, being beaten.³⁴⁴ At one point, a group of 10-12 civilians were taken from the room, never to be returned there.³⁴⁵ It turned out that they were taken towards Donji Agići, a village located some 10 kilometres from Miska Glava, and killed in the place known as Hozića Kamen in the municipality of Bosanski Novi. The bodies of 11 civilians from the Brdo area who were taken from the Miska Glava Community Centre were later

337 "Taranjac i ostali: Optuženi rekao da se zarobljenici pobiju" ["Taranjac et al.: The accused said prisoners should be killed"], Detektor 19 February 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/02/19/taranjac-i-ostali-optuzeni-rekao-da-se-zarobljenici-pobiju/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021; Nermin Karagić also testified that there were 114 detainees at the centre, see in: Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5215-5218; Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 8.

338 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, p. 5225.

339 *Ibid*, p. 5219.

340 *Ibid*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, p. 5220.

341 *Ibid*, p. 5219; Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 8; "Taranjac i ostali: Pucnjava u Miskoj Glavi" ["Taranjac et al.: Shooting in Miska Glava"], Detektor 30 September 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/09/30/taranjac-i-ostali-pucnjava-u-miskoj-glavi/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021.

342 "Taranjac i ostali: Psovke i jauci sa stadiona" ["Taranjac et al.: Curses and cries from the stadium"], Detektor, 17 June 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/06/17/taranjac-i-ostali-psovke-i-jauci-sa-stadiona/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

343 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5220-5221; Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, p. 12694; "Ubistva u Ljubiji" ["Killings in Ljubija"], Detektor, 24 April 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/04/24/taranjac-i-ostali-ubistva-u-ljubiji/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

344 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5220-5223.

345 Nermin Karagić testified that 12 civilians were taken away from the Centre, while Elvedin Nasić testified that 10 civilians were taken away, see in: Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5221-5225; Testimony of Elvedina Nasić in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, p. 12695.



found at a mass grave in Hozoća Kamen.³⁴⁶ The Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina charged Zdravko Panić and Trivun and Milan Vukić with this murder, while Slobodan Taranjac, Chief of the Ljubija Crisis Staff, and Milodrag Glušac, Ranko Babić and Ranko Došenović, members of the 6th Battalion of 43rd MtBr, were charged with covering up this crime.³⁴⁷

Three or four days later, the detainees were loaded onto two buses and transported to the FC Rudar football stadium in Ljubija.³⁴⁸ On arriving at the stadium, the detainees were made to run to the wall encircling the stadium. A bus driver standing at the gate dealt a blow to every detainee passing through the gate.³⁴⁹

Minors and several other detainees were separated from the others and placed in the dressing-rooms, where they spent several days before being transferred to Trnopolje.³⁵⁰

As the captured civilians stood in line against the wall, soldiers kicked them and hit them with wooden sticks and metal bars for many hours.³⁵¹ Several men were singled out and killed beside the fence. Elvedin Nasić testified that his cousin Irfan Nasić, Muharem Petrovac from Rakovčani, and another man unknown to him were killed at the stadium by Milorad Obradović aka "Stiven".³⁵² Predrag Vasiljević, a member of the military police from Ljeskari, stood next to "Stiven" at the time.³⁵³

346 "Kolektivna dženaza u Prijedoru: Među 23 žrtve i 18-godišnji Ifet Vojniković" ["A collective Janāzah in Prijedor: 18-year-old Ifet Vojniković amongst the 23 victims"], PreporodInfo, 19 July 2017, available at: <https://www.preporod.info/bs/article/9957/kolektivna-dzenaza-u-prijedoru-medu-23-zrtve-i-18-godisnji-ifet-vojniovic>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

347 "Taranjac i ostali: Počelo suđenje za zločine u Prijedoru" ["Taranjac et al.: Trial opens for crimes in Prijedor"], Detektor, 10 April 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/04/10/taranjac-i-ostali-pocelo-sudenje-za-zlocine-u-prijedoru/>, last accessed on 18 March 2021; See also S1 1 K 024175 17 Kri – *Slobodan Taranjac et al.* <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3625/show>.

348 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5225-5226; Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 8.

349 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5228-5230.

350 "Ubistva u Ljubiji" ["Killings in Ljubija"], Detektor, 24 April 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/04/24/taranjac-i-ostali-ubistva-u-ljubiji/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

351 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5231-5236; Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 9; Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, pp. 12698-12701.

352 Nasić identified Obradović by his nickname, see in: Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 9; Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, pp. 12699-12700; A 1994 article in the *Kozarski vjesnik* credits Stiven Obradović, among other residents of Ljubija, with the formation of the battalion, see in: "Formiranje Ljubijskog bataljona" ["The formation of the Ljubija Battalion"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994; "Očevic ubistava prijedorskih zatvorenika" ["Eyewitness to the killings of Prijedor prisoners"], Detektor, 12 June, 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/06/12/taranjac-i-ostali-ocevidac-ubistava-prijedorskih-zatvorenika/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, 27 March 2013, paras. 1189-1192.

353 Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 9; Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, pp. 12700-12702; "Očevic ubistava prijedorskih zatvorenika" ["Eyewitness to the killings of Prijedor prisoners"], Detektor, 12 June, 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/06/12/taranjac-i-ostali-ocevidac-ubistava-prijedorskih-zatvorenika/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.



Members of the Intervention Platoon in dark blue and black camouflage uniforms were amongst those who beat the detainees.³⁵⁴ The Intervention Platoon was made up of police officers and soldiers from the Ljubija area.³⁵⁵ Nermin Karagić said that a major, soldiers in camouflage uniforms with white belts, and a man in civilian clothes whom the soldiers called “Duke” were present at the stadium.³⁵⁶ The military police Platoon of the 6th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr, whose commander was Milenko Komosar, was stationed at the FC Rudar football stadium in Ljubija at the time.³⁵⁷

At least 15 detainees were killed at the stadium in Ljubija in late July 1992.³⁵⁸ A few detainees were ordered to load the bodies of the killed onto the rear of a bus. Nermin Karagić testified that between 15 and 20 bodies were piled in the rear of the bus.³⁵⁹

The remaining civilians were ordered to board bus, and were transferred to the area of the Ljubija mine known as “Kipe”, a place where tailings of the mine were disposed of. It was between 20:00 and 22:00 pm when the bus arrived at “Kipe”. It was dark. The soldiers asked for three volunteers. Nermin Karagić assumed that they wanted them to remove the bodies from the bus. Soon afterwards bursts of gunfire were heard, and the soldiers ordered the remaining prisoners off the bus in groups of three.³⁶⁰ Five or six prisoners were still on the bus when one of the captured civilians tried to snatch a rifle from a soldier in front of the bus. At that moment, the civilians on the bus started jumping through a broken window and making a run for it.³⁶¹ One man was shot right after jumping out of the window. More than 50 civilians were killed at “Kipe”.³⁶² Nermin Karagić and Elvedin Nasić survived the killings.³⁶³

354 Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 14; Testimony of Elvedin Nasić in *Brdanin*, ICTY, 12 December 2002, pp. 12696, 12701.

355 “Hvatanje ekstremista u Kurevu” [“Hunt-down of extremists at Kurevo”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 24 June 1994.

356 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, pp. 5230 -5231.

357 “Taranjac i ostali: Psovke i jauči sa stadiona” [“Taranjac et al.: Curses and cries from the stadium”], *Detektor*, 17 June 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/06/17/taranjac-i-ostali-psovke-i-jauci-sa-stadiona/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021; “Taranjac i ostali: Optuženi u pratnji zarobljenih” [“Taranjac et al.: The accused escorted the prisoners”], *Detektor*, 2 September 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/09/02/taranjac-i-ostali-optuzeni-u-pratnji-zarobljenih/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021.

358 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brdanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 413; The bodies of 11 victims killed at the stadium in Ljubija were found at five locations: the mass grave Redak in Ljubija, Volarić II, Ljeskare II, Budimlić Japra, with two bodies found at an unknown location, see in: ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1095 and 1097.

359 Testimony of Nermin Karagić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 June 2002, p. 5237.

360 *Ibid*, pp. 5245-5246; Elvedin Nasić, witness statement, Exhibit P02600, *Mladić*, p. 9; “Očevidac ubistava prijedorskih zatvorenika” [“Eyewitness to the killings of Prijedor prisoners”], *Detektor*, 12 June, 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/06/12/taranjac-i-ostali-ocevidac-ubistava-prijedorskih-zatvorenika/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

361 *Ibid*.

362 According to ICTY judgments, more than 50 people were killed at Kipe, see in: ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brdanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 414; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1091; However, according to the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH’s indictment in the case of Taranjac et al., more than 80 people were killed at Kipe, see in: “Taranjac i ostali: Počelo suđenje za zločine u Prijedoru” [“Taranjac et al.: Trial opens for crimes in Prijedor”], *Detektor*, 10 April 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/04/10/taranjac-i-ostali-pocelo-sudenje-za-zlocine-u-prijedoru/>, last accessed on 18 March 2021.

363 Nermin Karagić and Elvedin Nasić testified before the ICTY in the cases of *Stakić* and *Brdanin*.



A former military policeman from Ljubija, testifying under protective measures before the Court of BiH, said that on 27 July 1992, he reported for duty at the stadium and saw a parked bus, an accordionist and a lot of civilians lined up against the wall. He heard people singing the Serb patriotic song, “Who’s that ling, who’s that saying, Serbia’s small”. Inside the stadium, he saw soldiers shooting into the air and hitting people in the back with rifles. According to him, a certain Gligo³⁶⁴ kicked a man and then shot him in the forehead. Witness S-2 stated that “Brzi”, “Švraka”, Milorad Obradović aka Stiven, and men from the Intervention Platoon were present at the stadium.³⁶⁵ Also present was the commander of the 6th Battalion of the 43 MtBr, Rade Bilbija.³⁶⁶

Witness S-2 said that he was given the task by the division commander to escort the captured civilians to Bihać, as he was told. S-2 got onto a bus carrying the civilians from the stadium, as well as the bodies of those killed. When they arrived at Kipe, he was the only soldier to stay on the bus. He saw the civilians getting off the bus in groups of three and heard a rifle being cocked. He became scared and hesitated to get off the bus. When he did, a civilian jumped on him. Soldier Ljubo Knežević aka “Zemunac” shot and killed the civilian, wounding S-2.³⁶⁷

At a trial before the Court of BiH, a former member of the 6th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr and an employee of the Iron Ore Mine (IOM) Ljubija, Gavril Janjoš, testified that he buried the killed civilians with an excavator at Redak and Kipe.³⁶⁸ According to the IOM Ljubija logbook, one excavator was used for the army’s needs on 27 July 1992.³⁶⁹

Several individuals are standing trial before the Court of BiH over the crimes committed at the Miska Glava Community Centre and the killings of civilians at the football stadium in Ljubija and at Kipe. They are: Slobodan Taranjac, former chief of the Ljubija Crisis Staff; Milodrag Glušac, former Deputy Commander of the 6th MtB of the 43rd MtBr; Ranko Došenović, former Assistant Commander of the

49

³⁶⁴ Probably Mile Gligić Gligo from the Ljubija Crisis Staff, see in: “‘Zelene beretke’ napadaju” [“Green Berets’ on the attack”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 17 June, 1994; “Formiranje Ljubijskog bataljona” [“The formation of the Ljubija Battalion”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994.

³⁶⁵ “Očevic ubistava prijedorskih zatvorenika” [“Eyewitness to the killings of Prijedor prisoners”], *Detektor*, 12 June, 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/06/12/taranjac-i-ostali-ocevidac-ubistava-prijedorskih-zatvorenika/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

³⁶⁶ “Taranjac i ostali: Psovke i jauci sa stadiona” [“Taranjac et al.: Curses and cries from the stadium”], *Detektor*, 17 June 2019, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2019/06/17/taranjac-i-ostali-psovke-i-jauci-sa-stadiona/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021; “Očevic ubistava prijedorskih zatvorenika” [“Eyewitness to the killings of Prijedor prisoners”], *Detektor*, 12 June, 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/06/12/taranjac-i-ostali-ocevidac-ubistava-prijedorskih-zatvorenika/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

³⁶⁷ “Očevic ubistava prijedorskih zatvorenika” [“Eyewitness to the killings of Prijedor prisoners”], *Detektor*, 12 June, 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/06/12/taranjac-i-ostali-ocevidac-ubistava-prijedorskih-zatvorenika/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021; Taranjac i ostali: Od ranjenika čuo za strijeljanje, 4 December 2017, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2017/12/04/taranjac-i-ostali-od-ranjenika-cuo-za-strijeljanje/>, last accessed on 17 March 2021.

³⁶⁸ “Taranjac: Ubijene muslimane bagerom zakopao” [“Taranjac: He buried killed Muslims using an excavator”], *Detektor*, 21 May 2018, available at: <https://detektor.ba/2018/05/21/taranjac-ubijene-muslimane-bagerom-zakopao/>, last accessed on 16 March 2021.

³⁶⁹ ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, p. 4075.



6th MtB of the 43rd MtBr, in charge of security; and Ranko Babić aka “Lipicaner”, Marinko Praštalo, Rade Zekanović, Zdravko Panić, Trivun Vukić, Milan Vukić, Slobodan Knežević and Milorad Obradović aka “Stiven”, members of the Miska Glava Company of the 6th MtB, the military police, and the regular police.³⁷⁰

– Briševo

The village of Briševo is situated about 18 kilometres from Prijedor. Administratively, it was part of the Ljubija local community. Before the war, it had about 400 inhabitants, almost entirely Croats.³⁷¹

Serb forces first shelled Briševo on 27 May 1992, from the directions of Rasavci (Prijedor municipality) and Oštra Luka (Sanski Most municipality).³⁷² The shelling did not cause major damage to the village.³⁷³ Residents of Briševo formed a delegation and sent them to Rasavci to find out why their village had been shelled. The Serbs in Rasavci told the delegation that it was intended as a warning and ordered them to hand in their weapons, which the residents did the following day. All they had was a dozen legally owned rifles.³⁷⁴

Over the following days, residents of Briševo stood guard at night for fear of being attacked by Serbs, but there were not any weapons left in the village.³⁷⁵

The situation in Briševo was relatively calm until 24 June 1992, although its residents were not able to leave the village because of checkpoints established by Serb Forces.³⁷⁶ On 24 June, police officers from Ljubija came into the village in a van and arrested several villagers,³⁷⁷ saying they were taking them to the police station in Ljubija for an interview. But this did not prove to be the case. Instead, the men were taken to the Prijedor camps.³⁷⁸

The attack on Briševo commenced on 24 July 1992 at around 3:00 am, with heavy shelling. As the shelling grew heavier, residents of Briševo sheltered in the basements of their houses. Several villagers were killed in the shelling.³⁷⁹ The shelling continued throughout the morning. Soon, Serb forces opened fire from infantry weapons too. At about 9:00 am, Serb forces, made up of 1st KK units and

370 S1 1 K 024175 17 Kri - *Slobodan Taranjac et al.*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3625/show>, last accessed on 16 March 2021.

371 370 Croats, 7 Serbs, 1 Muslim, 16 Yugoslavs and 11 others, see in: Bosnia and Herzegovina census, ethnic breakdown, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 198-199.

372 The 6th Sana Brigade was deployed in the area of Oštra Luka, see in: Testimony of Branko Basara in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 13 October 2009, pp. 1365-1366; Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 3 July 2002, pp. 5559-5560; Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, para. 26.

373 Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, para. 26.

374 *Ibid*, paras. 27-30.

375 *Ibid*, para. 32.

376 Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 3 July 2002, pp. 5565-5566.

377 Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, paras. 35-36.

378 Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 3 July 2002, pp. 5567-5568.

379 *Ibid*, p. 5573.



volunteer units, entered Briševo,³⁸⁰ after which members of different military formations in grey-olive uniforms entered the houses, took out their residents, beat and humiliated them, and subsequently killed a few of them.³⁸¹

The village was looted and torched. Soldiers looted pieces of furniture, vehicles, agricultural machines, home appliances and the like.³⁸² A number of houses were damaged and the Catholic church was destroyed in the shelling.³⁸³ Several houses were torched after the infantry had entered the village.³⁸⁴

By the evening of 25 July 1992, most of the soldiers had pulled out of the village³⁸⁵, taking away with them 36 residents of Briševo as captives.³⁸⁶ The captives were transported to the Krings company hall in Sanski Most, which served as a detention camp.³⁸⁷

After the soldiers had left, the locals, who had been hiding in the vicinities of the village, returned to Briševo and buried the first victims. In the days following the attack, the locals continued to bury the dead, but were sometimes prevented from doing so by groups of armed Serbs who continued to come to Briševo to loot and burn the remaining property in the village.³⁸⁸ By November 1992, Serb forces had destroyed all the houses in Briševo.³⁸⁹

During the attack on Briševo between 24 and 26 July 1992, Serb forces killed at least 68 people, including 14 women, several minors and persons older than 60, as well as disabled people. Most of those killed were civilians.³⁹⁰

The attack on Briševo was executed by two units of the 1st Krajina Corps - the 6th Sana Infantry Brigade (the 6th IBr) and the 5th Kozara Brigade, backed by volunteer units.³⁹¹ In the first half of June 1992, the 1st KK Command ordered the subordination of the 6th IBr to the 43rd MtBr, i.e. the Prijedor OTG.³⁹²

51

380 *Ibid*, pp. 5573-5574; Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, para. 47.

381 Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, paras. 48-53; Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 3 July 2002, pp. 5579-5580.

382 Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, para. 55.

383 *Ibid*, para. 63.

384 *Ibid*, 46, 62-63; Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 3 July 2002, pp. 5579, 5582-5583.

385 Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, para. 60.

386 *Ibid*, para. 64.

387 *Ibid*; The Sanski Most Crisis Staff in May 1992 set up a detention centre in an abandoned hall of the Krings Company, which was secured by the police, see in: ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 2013.

388 Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, ICTY, paras. 67-69.

389 *Ibid*, para. 93.

390 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 412; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1735; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1112.

391 Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 3 July 2002, pp. 5584-5587; Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 4 July 2002, pp. 5637-5638; Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, paras. 49-50; Briševo attack map, Exhibit S184B, *Stakić*; 6th PartBr order dated 18 June 1992, Exhibit P02440, *Mladić*, pp. 1-5; Wartime journey of the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P02365, *Mladić*, para. 7; An excerpt from a VRS documents on the 6th Infantry Brigade, Exhibit P03851, *Mladić*, p. 8.

392 1st KK Command order for re-subordination of units dated 8 June 1992, Exhibit P1418b, *Brđanin*.



On July 18, 1992, the command of the 6th IBr ordered that combat operations be conducted the next day in the area of Ljubija and its surroundings.³⁹³ Units of the 6th IBr, operating in tandem with the Prijedor Brigade, were ordered to take up positions on the line next to the hamlet of Atlija and the village of Ljubija and to seal off the villages,³⁹⁴ and then “destroy armed enemy groups with sudden fire, while gathering unarmed men capable of fighting into the area of Milin Birt, from where they are to be transported further. Leave women, children, and elderly men in their homes.”³⁹⁵ The order stipulated mortar attacks on Kurevo and Briševo from the Javorik hill.³⁹⁶ On 22 July 1992, the commander of the 6th IBr, Colonel Branko Basara, issued a new order to fulfil the tasks from the previous order. The action was scheduled to begin on the morning of 23 July 1992 with a search of the terrain by Prijedor units. The annihilation of armed groups was also ordered.³⁹⁷

Testifying before the ICTY in the Stakić Case, Briševo resident Ivo Atlija said that most of the soldiers who participated in the attack wore grey-olive JNA uniforms and red bands around their arms or helmets, with a few wearing Chetnik insignia and winter caps.³⁹⁸ Basara’s order of 22 July 1992 stipulated that during the combat operations in the area of Ljubija, fighters were to wear two red bands – one on the shoulder and one around the left arm above the elbow.³⁹⁹ In addition to ordinary soldiers, three or four VRS officers were present in Briševo during the attack.⁴⁰⁰

The Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina has charged Branko Basara, the commander of the 6th Krajina Brigade, and Nedeljko Aničić, the commander of the Municipal TO Staff in the Serbian municipality of Sanski Most, with the crimes in Briševo.⁴⁰¹ Towards the end of 2019, the case against Basara and Aničić was transferred to the Serbian judiciary.⁴⁰²

393 The order itself is dated 18 June 1992, but the text of the order says that “during 19 July 1992, the provision of one daily meal for manpower should be secured”, which indicates that the action was planned for 19 July and that the date in the header is a misprint, see in: 6th PartBr order dated 18 June 1992, Exhibit P02440, *Mladić*, pp. 1-3; Military expert Ewan Brown says in his report that it was a misprint, see: *Military developments in Prijedor Municipality 1991-1992*, Ewan Brown, Exhibit S340, *Stakić*, p. 29.

394 6th PartBr order dated 18 June 1992, Exhibit P02440, *Mladić*, para. 1.

395 *Ibid*, par 2.

396 *Ibid*, par 8.

397 Order issued by Branko Basara dated 22 July 1992, Exhibit P02440, *Mladić*, p. 5.

398 Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 3 July 2002, pp. 5575, 5577; Ivo Atlija, witness statement, Exhibit P00168.B, *Mladić*, paras. 49-50, 56.

399 Order issued by Branko Basara dated 22 July 1992, Exhibit P02440, *Mladić*, p. 5.

400 Testimony of Ivo Atlija in *Stakić*, ICTY, 3 July 2002, p. 5583.

401 Podignuta optužnica za zločin protiv čovječnosti protiv dva lica iz predmeta kategorije II [Charges brought against two individuals for a crime against humanity in a category II case], 21 July 2014, available at: http://www.tuzilastvobih.gov.ba/komponente/print_vijesti.php?id=2550&jezik=b, last accessed on 30 March 2021; Potvrđena optužnica u predmetu Branko Basara et al. [Indictment confirmed in the case of Branko Basara et al.], available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/vijest/potvrđena-optužnica-u-predmetu-branko-basara-i-dr-19904>, last accessed on 30 March 2021; For crimes committed in Briševo, in front of the Court of BiH, there is an ongoing proceeding (trial) against Mirko Vrućinić, a former Chief of SJB Sanski Most and member of the Crisis Staff in Sanski Most. However, during this proceeding, Vrućinić had left BiH and escaped to Serbia, see in: “Serbia Gives Citizenship to Fugitive War Crimes Defendant”, available at <https://balkaninsight.com/2021/04/22/serbia-gives-citizenship-to-fugitive-war-crimes-defendant/>, accessed on 26 April 2021.

402 S1 1 K 016738 14 Kro – *Branko Basara et al.*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3435/show>, last accessed on 30 March 2021.



VII. 43rd MtBr and the camps on Prijedor territory

Between the second half of May 1992 and the end of September 1992, units of the VRS 1st KK, acting jointly with the Prijedor SJB, captured Muslims and Croats, mostly civilians, from the Prijedor area, and confined them in several detention facilities in the municipality of Prijedor. Although it was the Crisis Staff who established the detention facilities in the municipality of Prijedor, there was close cooperation and coordination between the Crisis Staff and members of the Serb forces - the army and the police - in the management and operation of these facilities.⁴⁰³ There were dozens of different detention and collection centres on the territory of the municipality of Prijedor, most of which were transit centres, while Omarska, Keraterm and Trnopolje were detention facilities where detainees were kept for longer periods of time.⁴⁰⁴ In these three facilities, detainees were subjected to psychological and physical abuse, sexual abuse and torture. They were starved, denied water, hygiene and medical care. A large number of people were killed in these three camps.

The Žarko Zgonjanin military barracks was one of the many transit centres in Prijedor.⁴⁰⁵ Detainees, mostly civilians, having spent between a couple of hours and a few days in the barracks, were transferred to one of the camps in the municipality.⁴⁰⁶ At the end of May and during June 1992, about 30 Muslims from Prijedor were detained in the barracks and held there for a few days under the custody of members of the military.⁴⁰⁷ There, they were interrogated and beaten by members of the military and the regular police.⁴⁰⁸ According to detainees' accounts, Lieutenant Jović, who would slap them and force them to write and sign various statements, and the security officer Kovačević were among those who interrogated them.⁴⁰⁹

53

The camps on the territory of Prijedor fell within the area of responsibility of the 43rd MtBr of the 1st KK.⁴¹⁰ Following the attacks on the villages in the municipality of Prijedor, Serb forces, comprising the 43rd MtBr and other units of the 1st KK and the police, apprehended a large number of people and took them to Omarska, Keraterm and Trnopolje camps. On 1 June 1992, the 1st Krajina Corps reported to the VRS Main Staff that corps units were in full control of the Prijedor area and that they had about 7,000 prisoners,⁴¹¹ 2,000 of whom had been taken to Omarska, about 5,000 to Trnopolje,

403 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 377.

404 In its judgment in the Momčilo Krajišnik Case, the ICTY Trial Chamber states that there were 58 detention facilities in the territory of Prijedor, see in: ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Krajišnik*, 27 September 2006, para. 483.

405 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 250.

406 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1884.

407 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 864; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Krajišnik*, 27 September 2006, para. 485.

408 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1882.

409 It was most probably Lieutenant Mile Jović – the commander of the Military Police Company of the 43rd MtBr; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 864.

410 Testimony of Osman Selak in *Mladić*, ICTY, 27 September 2012, p. 3142; Selak points out the fact that the 1st KK Command informed the MS about the event relating to the camps, which indicates that the camps fell within the corps' area of responsibility, see in: Osman Selak, witness statement, Exhibit P00244.B, *Mladić*, para. 68.

411 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 1 June 1992, Exhibit P02367, *Mladić*, p. 1.



and slightly more than 100 to the prison in Stara Gradiška.⁴¹² All the captives were treated as if they were members of the “Green Berets” and, as such, sent to camps.⁴¹³

Furthermore, the 43rd MtBr was involved in transferring detainees between the camps and in displacing people from the municipality after their release from the camps.⁴¹⁴ Units of the 1st KK knew that most of the camp detainees were civilians and that there was no evidence of their involvement in armed conflicts.⁴¹⁵ Nonetheless, these people were not allowed to return home after being released from the camps, but were displaced from the municipality.⁴¹⁶

Already at the end of July 1992, the 1st KK Command, reporting on the situation in Prijedor, noted that “the concentration centres i.e., camps for prisoners of war, are a growing cause for concern, and the question is what to do next”.⁴¹⁷

A report of the 1st KK Command dated 22 August 1992 indicates that not only the corps command, but also the Prijedor OG command, were aware of the poor conditions and killings committed in the camps. The report states as follows: “Everyone is shaking off responsibility for the camps and collection centres, trying to shift the blame for issuing orders for mass killings of civilians in the camps and centres onto someone else. This is particularly the case after the visit of foreign journalists to Prijedor, that is, to Omarska and Trnopolje”.⁴¹⁸

– Keraterm

54

The Keraterm camp was established pursuant to the decision of the Prijedor Municipality Crisis Staff,⁴¹⁹ on the premises of a former ceramic tiles factory on the outskirts of Prijedor town. It was operational from 24 May to 21 August 1992. About 4,000 detainees passed through the camp. They were Bosnian Muslims and Croats, who had been captured by members of the 43rd MtBr and other units of the 1st KK following the takeover of the villages in Prijedor municipality.⁴²⁰ Nearly all detainees were civilians

412 Information on the current political and security situation, 1st KK, 1 June 1992, Exhibit P02875, *Mladić*, p. 2.

413 The 1st KK report states that its “units apprehended more than 2,000 members of the ‘Green Berets’ who are detained in Omarska, 135 who are in the Stara Gradiška prison, and about 5,000 who are in Trnopolje”, see in: Information on the current political and security situation, 1st KK, 1 June 1992, Exhibit P02875, *Mladić*, p. 2.

414 Security Affairs Department of the 1st KK – selection of POWs in the Manjača POW camp, 6 August 1992, Exhibit P03720, *Karadžić*; Request for a truck – 1st KK Command, int. no. 07.07.43/92 dated 7 August 1992, Exhibit D04717, *Karadžić*; Dispatch of the Prijedor SJB no. 11-12-2136 dated 18 July 1992, Exhibit P03947, *Mladić*, pp. 1-2.

415 Security Affairs Department of the 1st KK – selection of POWs in the Manjača POW camp, 6 August 1992, Exhibit P03720, *Karadžić*.

416 Information from the 1st KK Command sent to the Prijedor OG Command, 22 August 1992, Exhibit P03820, *Mladić*.

417 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 28 July 1992, Exhibit P03658, *Mladić*, p. 3.

418 Information from the 1st KK Command sent to the Prijedor OG Command, 22 August 1992, Exhibit P03820, *Mladić*.

419 Report from the Prijedor SJB, Exhibit S353B, *Stakić*, p. 4; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 377.

420 Report by the commission for inspection of collection centres and other facilities in the ARK [Autonomous Region of Bosanska Krajina], 17 August 1992, Exhibit P03549, *Karadžić*, pp. 4-5; Testimony of Draško Vujić in *Mladić*, 30 April 2015, pp. 34977-34978.



and there were women amongst them.⁴²¹ People were brought to and removed from the camp on a daily basis. When there was no more space to accommodate the increasing number of detainees, some of them were transferred to Omarska and Trnopolje.⁴²²

More than 300 detainees were killed in the Keraterm camp.⁴²³

Prijedor SJB reserve police officer Duško Sikirica was commander of security in the Keraterm camp. Direct physical security was provided by members of the regular police, but there were also members of the military police among camp personnel.⁴²⁴

Investigators from mixed teams comprising police officers and members of the 43rd MtBr were in charge of interrogation of detainees. Three such teams operated in Keraterm, each consisting of three members – a representative of the public security service, a representative of the state security service and a representative of military security service.⁴²⁵

Members of the 43rd MtBr intelligence and security organ interrogated the detainees in the building next to the camp which housed part of the 43rd MtBr military police. The building housing the 43rd MtBr command, which had since June 1992 been located across the street from the Keraterm camp in the building of the Kozaraputevi Company, was also used for that purpose.⁴²⁶ The investigators from the military security organ reported all the information gathered through interrogations to Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Majstorović, chief of intelligence and security affairs at the 43rd MtBr.⁴²⁷

Towards the end of May 1992, Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Majstorović sent Dragan Radetić from the 43rd MtBr military police to the Keraterm camp. Radetić, being a lawyer, had the task of attending interrogations conducted by the mixed teams in order to determine whether elements of criminal offences against the armed forces could be found in detainees' statements.⁴²⁸ Radetić spent about 15 days at Keraterm, during which he himself interrogated detainees, before being transferred to the Military Prosecutor's Office in August 1992.⁴²⁹ In his testimony before the ICTY in the case of Sikirica et

55

421 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, paras. 1265 and 3349.

422 Testimony of Jusuf Arifagić in *Tadić*, 8 August 1996, p. 4943.

423 CDTF and TPOS, Mapping of camps/detention sites – Keraterm factory, pp. 11-21, available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-LooexrvXiUjVWYlJkV2s4S1k/view>, last accessed on 9 February 2021.

424 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brdanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 849; A SJB report, Exhibit S353B, *Stakić*, p. 4; ICTY, Trial Judgment in ICTY *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1792.

425 Dragan Radetić, witness statement, Exhibit D04226, *Karadžić*, para. 30; ICTY, Sentencing Judgment in *Sikirica et al.*, 13 November 2001, para. 82.

426 Testimony of Mišo Rodić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 12 March 2015, pp. 33058-33069; Testimony of Dragan Radetić in *Karadžić*, ICTY, 20 January 2014, p. 45673; Testimony of protected witness DL in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 16 July 2001, p. 4973; Testimony of protected witness F in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 29 March 2001, p. 1388.

427 Testimony of Mišo Rodić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 12 March 2015, p. 33057; Dragan Radetić, witness statement, Exhibit D04226, *Karadžić*, para. 28.

428 Dragan Radetić, witness statement, Exhibit D04226, *Karadžić*, para. 28.

429 Testimony of Dragan Radetić in *Karadžić*, ICTY, 21 January 2014, p. 45695; Testimony of protected witness F in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 29 March 2001, pp. 1388-1390.



al., protected witness W said that Radetić extinguished cigarettes on his arms during interrogations.⁴³⁰ According to the statement that Radetić gave to Radovana Karadžić's defence counsel, his team found „no facts amounting to elements of criminal offences against the armed forces” during their work at Keraterm.⁴³¹ Interrogators at Keraterm included also Mišo Rodić, a member of the intelligence organ of the 43rd MtBr, who interrogated detainees in the presence of members of the military police,⁴³² and Pero Tadić, a member of the military police.⁴³³

The Prijedor Regional Command, i.e., the 43rd MtBr Command, was aware of the ill-treatment of detainees in the Keraterm camp. In mid-June 1992, the Prijedor Regional Command's intelligence body reported the misconduct of Zoran Žigić to the 1st KK security body. Žigić was a member of the Prijedor SJB unit in charge of securing the camp, who visited the Keraterm camp, mistreated detainees and extorted money from them in exchange for freedom.⁴³⁴ The Prijedor SJB soon filed a criminal complaint against him for „taking bribes” and he was arrested.⁴³⁵ In early July 1992, Duško Sikirica, Commander of Security in the Keraterm camp, made an official note stating that Zoran Žigić, „a uniformed and armed person”, repeatedly visited Keraterm and, together with Duško Knežević, Zoran Vokić and Nedjeljko Timarac, beat detainees to death.⁴³⁶ But regardless of the note, Zoran Žigić was arrested only for taking bribes. A few days following his arrest, Sergeant Duško Knežević from the 43rd MtBr Reconnaissance and Sabotage Company sent a request to the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Prijedor for the release of Zoran Žigić from custody because he was to be sent to the battlefield in the Derventa area. As stated in the request, “considering that Zoran Žigić is an extremely skilful, obedient and hard-working warrior-soldier and certainly one of the best explosives experts , it is for these reasons that we ask [...] that the named individual be released from custody”.⁴³⁷ The next day, the investigating judge of the Basic Court in Prijedor issued a decision cancelling Zoran Žigić's detention

430 Testimony of protected witness W in *Sikirica et al.*, ICTY, 28 May 2001, pp. 3883, 3922.

431 Dragan Radetić, witness statement, Exhibit D04226, *Karadžić*, para. 28.

432 Testimony of Mišo Rodić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 12 March 2015, p. 33070.

433 Testimony of Radomir Rodić in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 13 September 2010, pp. 14485-14486; Testimony of Milovan Dragić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 16 January 2003, p. 10507.

434 Official note by the Security Organ of the Prijedor Region Command dated 13 June 1992, Exhibit P02896, *Mladić*.

435 Prijedor SJB's request for placing Zoran Žigić in custody, 1 July 1992, Exhibit D01926, *Karadžić*; Prijedor SJB's criminal complaint against Zoran Žigić dated 2 July 1992, Exhibit P07210, *Mladić*.

436 Prijedor RSM's official note II of 4 July 1992, Exhibit D04140, *Karadžić*; Zoran Žigić was sentenced by the ICTY to 25 years in prison for crimes against humanity, torture and cruel treatment. It was established that Žigić worked as a guard in the Keraterm camp for a short period of time and that he repeatedly entered the Omarska and Trnopolje camps to abuse, beat, torture and/or kill detainees, see the ICTY case of *Kvočka et al.*, available at: <https://www.icty.org/en/case/kvocka>; Duško Knežević was sentenced by the Court of BiH to 31 years in prison for crimes committed in the Omarska and Keraterm camps, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/2440/show>; In May 1998, the ICTY Office of the Prosecutor withdrew the charges against 14 persons accused, including Nedjeljko Timarac, of crimes committed in the Omarska and Keraterm camps. This was done in accordance with the Office of the Prosecutor's strategy to maintain a focus on the prosecution of high-ranking perpetrators, see in: Statement by the Prosecutor following the withdrawal of the charges against 14 accused, 8 May 1998, available at: <https://www.icty.org/en/press/statement-prosecutor-following-withdrawal-charges-against-14-accused>.

437 Request for Zoran Žigić's release from custody dated 8 July 1992, Exhibit P07204, *Mladić*.



order, on the grounds that “there is a compelling need to deploy the accused in the Zoran Karlica unit as he is an excellent and skilful warrior-soldier and expert on explosives”.⁴³⁸

On 25 July 1992, the 1st KK Command informed the VRS MS about “an attempted mass escape” from Keraterm on the night of 24-25 July 1992. As stated in the report, the escape was prevented and 50 detainees were killed in the process.⁴³⁹ The next day, the 1st KK Command reported that „last night in the Keraterm camp there were again attempts to escape but they were prevented on time“. ⁴⁴⁰ Both of these documents show that the 1st KK Command was aware of the massacre committed by the guards in the Keraterm camp, even though the number of killed persons was highly under-reported (more than 200 detainees were actually killed) and their deaths were presented as the consequence of their attempt to escape the camp. On the morning following the massacre, officers of the 43rd MtBr battalions were also informed about the massacre.⁴⁴¹ Despite the fact that the 43rd MtBr Military Police was deployed in the camp and quartered right next to the camp building, and the fact that the 43rd MtBr Command itself was quartered in the immediate vicinity of the camp, there is no information that the 43rd MtBr Military Police ever conducted an investigation into the massacre.

– Omarska

The Omarska camp was operational from 27 May 1992, when the first detainees were transferred there from Keraterm due to lack of space,⁴⁴² until the second half of August 1992, when the detainees from this camp were transferred to the Manjača and Trnopolje camps.⁴⁴³ More than 3,000 detainees passed through this camp, mostly civilians, including about thirty minors and nearly forty women.⁴⁴⁴

Hundreds of detainees were killed or disappeared in this camp.⁴⁴⁵

57

438 Decision releasing Zoran Žigić from custody dated 9 July 1992, Exhibit P06598, *Karadžić*.

439 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 25 July 1992, Exhibit P1441b, *Brđanin*, pp. 1-2.

440 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 26 July 1992, Exhibit P00248, *Mladić*, p. 1.

441 Draško Vujić, witness statement, Exhibit D04242, *Karadžić*, para. 8.

442 A SJB report, Exhibit S353B, *Stakić*, pp. 4-5.

443 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 7 August 1992, Exhibit P04039, *Mladić*; According to a Banja Luka CSB report, by mid-August 1992, 1,331 persons had been transferred from Omarska to Manjača, and 1,773 to Trnopolje. At that point, 179 persons remained in the camp, see in: CSB regional investigation centres commission, Exhibit P02900, *Mladić*, p. 5.

444 A SJB report, Exhibit S353B, *Stakić*, pp. 5-6; Prijedor SJB – Report on activities - the first half of 1992, Exhibit P05528, *Karadžić*, p. 7; CSB regional investigation centres commission, Exhibit P02900, *Mladić*, p. 5; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 3349.

445 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 220.



On 31 May 1992, a few days after the Omarska camp had become operational, the Chief of the Prijedor Public Security Station, Simo Drljača, formally confirmed the decision of the Crisis Staff of the Prijedor Municipality establishing the Omarska camp. The order stipulated the placing of persons deprived of their liberty in the industrial compound of the open-pit mining facilities of the Omarska mines.⁴⁴⁶

The camp was run by members of the Prijedor SJB.⁴⁴⁷ Direct physical security was provided by the police, while the army was responsible for providing external security and mining the area around the camp to prevent escapes.⁴⁴⁸

Drljača's order attests to the fact that the public security service, the state security service, and the military security service worked closely together in selecting detainees. For this purpose, mixed teams of investigators were set up. Lieutenant-Colonel Miroslav Majstorović from the 43rd MtBr, Mirko Ješić, a state security officer, and Ranko Mijić from the Prijedor SJB were in charge of these teams.⁴⁴⁹ These teams conducted daily interrogations of camp detainees. Every detainee was at least once interrogated about his political activities, opposition to the takeover in Prijedor, and possession of weapons. The interrogations were accompanied by beatings and mistreatment.⁴⁵⁰ As attested by Mirko Ješić, who was in charge of the state security team, members of military security service usually worked independently from other members of the mixed teams, because they investigated "members of the army".⁴⁵¹ Former detainees recollect seeing Lieutenant-Colonel Majstorović in Omarska.⁴⁵²

58

In mid-July 1992, a delegation comprising representatives of the civilian, police and military authorities in the RS, visited the Omarska camp, accompanied by members of local authorities from

446 Prijedor SJB's order no. 11-12-20 of 31 May 1992, Exhibit P02895, *Mladić*.

447 *Ibid*; Željko Mejakić, commander of the Omarska police station, was the commander of the Omarska camp. Miroslav Kvočka was his deputy, and Dragoljub Prcać was his administrative assistant, see in: ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Kvočka et al.*, 2 November 2001, paras. 406, 439; Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Mejakić et al.*, 30 May 2008, p. 196; Prijedor SJB's order no. 11-12-20 dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P02895, *Mladić*.

448 A document created by the Wartime Police Station in Omarska on 21 June 1992 stating that 19 members of the army providing security in the Omarska collection centre need to be issued special passes, Exhibit P03962, *Mladić*; A SJB report, Exhibit S353B, *Stakić*, p. 4; The CSB Investigation Centres commission – the work of investigation centres in the region, Exhibit P02900, *Mladić*, pp. 3 – 4.

449 Lieutenant-Colonel Majstorović was directly subordinate to Lieutenant-Colonel Milan Stevilović, the chief of the intelligence and security organ of the 1st KK, and later to his successor, Colonel Stevan Bogojević, see in: Testimony of Mišo Rodić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 12 March 2015, p. 33056; Prijedor SJB's order no. 11-12-20 dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P02895, *Mladić*; Testimony of Mirko Ješić in *Kvočka et al.*, ICTY, 14 May 2001, p. 11704.

450 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Kvočka et al.*, 14 May 2001, paras. 19, 68-73.

451 Testimony of Mirko Ješić in *Kvočka et al.*, ICTY, 14 May 2001, p. 11766.

452 Testimony of Kerim Mešanović in *Brdanin*, ICTY, 30 October 2002, pp. 11181-11182.



Prijedor. Major Radmilo Zeljaja, Chief of Staff of the 43rd MtBr, was also in the delegation.⁴⁵³ During this visit to Omarska, a group of detainees was lined up and ordered to greet the delegation with the Serb three-finger salute and to sing Serb nationalist songs.⁴⁵⁴

In early August 1992, the Chief of the VRS MS, Ratko Mladić, approved a visit by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and foreign journalists to the camps in Manjača, Trnopolje and Omarska. In this regard, the 1st KK Command ordered the 43rd MtBr and the Prijedor police to take all necessary measures “to bring these camps into a favourable condition”, which meant “order, cleanliness, functioning health care for prisoners, properly kept records of admission and release of detainees, registration of those who had died and findings as to the cause of their deaths”.⁴⁵⁵ This document indicates that the 1st KK Command was aware of the conditions in the camps and that the 43rd MtBr had authority over the camps located within its area of responsibility and was therefore able, together with the police, to influence the conditions in these camps.

On 5 August 1992, a group of foreign journalists was received by representatives of the civilian, police, and military authorities in Prijedor, including the commander of the 43rd Brigade, Colonel Arsić. During a conversation with the journalists, Arsić suggested that they should visit the Manjača camp instead of Omarska.⁴⁵⁶

Later that day, the Prijedor SJB informed the SRBiH MUP that “investigation of prisoners of war” had been completed in cooperation with the army, and that 1,466 detainees from Omarska had been found criminally liable and would be transferred the following day, 6 August, to the Manjača camp “under armed escort”, while the remaining detainees, who were “considered uninteresting from the security point of view”, would be transferred to Trnopolje escorted by SJB members.⁴⁵⁷

59

⁴⁵³ The delegation was composed of: Radoslav Brđanin, President of the Wartime Presidency of the Autonomous Region of Krajina, Stojan Župljanin, Chief of the CSB, Radoslav Vukić, President of the SDS Regional Board, Predrag Radić, President of the Banja Luka Municipal Assembly, Simo Drljača, Chief of the Prijedor SJB, Drljača's bodyguard Milorad Vokić, a group of politicians from Prijedor, a group of journalists from Banja Luka, and Radmilo Zeljaja, see in: Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 30 July 2002, p. 6640; According to a *Kozarski vjesnik* article, Radoslav Brđanin visited Prijedor and Omarska on 17 July 1992, see in: “Nikome nije lako” [“This is not easy for anyone”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 17 July 1992, Exhibit P361, *Krajišnik*.

⁴⁵⁴ Kerim Mešanović, witness statement, Exhibit P03414.B, *Mladić*, paras. 68 and 69; Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 30 July 2002, pp. 6640-6641; Testimony of protected witness BT1 in *Brđanin*, ICTY, 27 January 2003, pp. 16364-16365.

⁴⁵⁵ Permission for an international commission to inspect the camps, 1st KK, 3 August 1992, Exhibit P05460, *Karadžić*, p. 1.

⁴⁵⁶ Testimony of Edward Vulliamy in *Stakić*, ICTY, 16 September 2002, pp. 7916-7917.

⁴⁵⁷ SJB's dispatch no. 11-12-2178 dated 5 August 1992, Exhibit P03854, *Mladić*; About 179 detainees remain in the Omarska camp, see in: CSB Regional investigation centres commission, Exhibit P02900, *Mladić*, p. 5.



As early as the morning of 5 August 1992, about 120 detainees brought a day earlier from Keraterm were loaded onto buses heading for Sanski Most. This group of detainees was killed about thirty kilometres from Prijedor at the Hrastova Glavica pit, by unknown members of Serb forces.⁴⁵⁸ The next day, 6 August 1992, about 1,300 detainees from Omarska were loaded onto about 15 buses and transferred to the Manjača camp, escorted by members of the Prijedor Public Security Station and its Intervention Squad. There were about 80-90 detainees on each bus, and they were forced to lie on the floor on top of each other to make the bus look empty.⁴⁵⁹ After travelling for more than ten hours, the buses arrived in front of the Manjača camp in the evening of 6 August 1992.⁴⁶⁰ The detainees spent the whole night in the buses parked in front of the camp gate.⁴⁶¹ During the night, members of the Prijedor SJB and its Intervention Squad would take some detainees off the bus and beat them. On the night of 6-7 August, at least nine civilians, detainees from Omarska, were killed in front of the Manjača camp gate.⁴⁶²

On 7 August 1992, the 1st KK Command reported to the VRS MS that about 1,460 detainees had been transferred from Omarska to Manjača and that “some of them died during the transfer.”⁴⁶³ However, there is no information indicating that the 1st KK conducted an investigation into the deaths of detainees during their transfer from Omarska to Manjača.

Later that day, members of the security organs in the Manjača camp submitted a report to the Department of Intelligence and Security Affairs on the arrival of detainees from Omarska. As stated in the report, among the people delivered to the security personnel in Manjača as “hardened extremists”, there were people over 60 and minors who could not possibly have taken part in battles, let alone have been “hardened extremists.”⁴⁶⁴

– Trnopolje

The camp in Trnopolje was set up in the elementary school, the social centre, a warehouse and neighbouring houses in the village of Trnopolje, in Prijedor municipality.⁴⁶⁵ At one time, parts of the

458 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 211-212; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, p. 454; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, paras. 1775-1778.

459 Testimony of Muharem Murselović in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 11 October 2010, pp. 15717-15721.

460 *Ibid*, pp. 15723-15724.

461 *Ibid*, ICTY, 11 October 2010, p. 15724.

462 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, paras. 1421-1424; Here are the names of those killed in front of the gate: Nihad Bašić, Dedo Crnalić, Nezir Krak, Said Babić, Samir Džafić, Osman Denić, Kemal Jakupović, Zdenko Tokmadžić and Jasmin Ališić aka “Jama”, whose mortal remains have never been found. Darko Mrda and Zoran Babić, members of the Prijedor SJB Intervention Squad, have been convicted of the murder in front of the Manjača camp, see in: Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Mrda et al.*, 30 November 2018, paras. 307- 469.

463 A regular combat report from the 1st KK dated 7 August 1992, Exhibit P00224, *Mladić*, p. 2.

464 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, 27 March 2013, para. 178.

465 A SJB report, Exhibit S353B, *Stakić*, p. 3.



camp compound were fenced off with wire.⁴⁶⁶ Around the camp, there were checkpoints manned by armed soldiers and snipers with their sights on the camp.⁴⁶⁷

The camp operated from 25 May 1992 until the end of September 1992, but a certain number of detainees remained in the camp beyond September 1992.⁴⁶⁸ By 30 September 1992, about 23,000 civilians had passed through the camp, and there were still 3,000 people remaining there.⁴⁶⁹ Although detainees who were brought to Trnopolje from the Omarska and Keraterm camps described the conditions in Trnopolje as less harsh and easier to bear than in the former camps, in this camp too numerous killings took place, and mistreatment, beating and torture were daily occurrences.⁴⁷⁰ Also, many instances of sexual abuse were reported in the Trnopolje camp.⁴⁷¹

Initially, only women, children and elderly men of Muslim and Croat ethnicity were brought to this camp, after being captured by the 43rd MtBr and other units following the takeover of their villages. Later on, after the closure of the Omarska and Keraterm camps, able-bodied men who were thought by the police and military authorities not to have participated in armed conflicts were also transferred to Trnopolje.⁴⁷² Residents of Trnopolje whom members of the police and military, but also SDS members had captured in the village or threatened with death unless they left, were also detained in the camp.⁴⁷³ People who had nowhere to go after their villages had been destroyed and their houses torched came to the camp on their own, believing that being in the camp would increase their chances of joining a convoy that would take them to safety.⁴⁷⁴ At any given moment, there were more than 2,000 people in the camp, and on some days the number of people exceeded 5,000.⁴⁷⁵

61

466 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1819; Testimony of Azra Blažević in *Tadić*, 13 June 1996, p. 2479; Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 11 September 2002, pp. 7843-7845; Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 30 July 2002, pp. 6688, 6691.

467 Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, pp. 7751-7755; Mevludin Sejmenović, witness statement, Exhibit P00283.B, *Mladić*, para. 44.

468 Report on Prijedor SJB activities in the last nine months of 1992, Exhibit P03948, *Mladić*, p. 4; "Zatvara se Trnopolje" ["Trnopolje about to shut down"], *Glas*, 17 October 1992, Exhibit DB227B, *Brđanin*.

469 Prijedor CK report on activities 5 May-30 September 1992, Exhibit S434B, *Stakić*, p. 7.

470 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 242 and 225; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 450; Testimony of Edward Vulliamy in *Stakić*, ICTY, 16 September 2002, p. 7962.

471 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, paras. 513-514; Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, paras. 63-67.

472 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 143; Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, p. 7755; Testimony of Boško Kelečević in *Mladić*, ICTY, 14 July 2015, pp. 37257-37258; ATP Autotransport Prijedor – record kept of transportation services carried out for the needs of the army, Exhibit P07127, *Mladić*.

473 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1273; Mevludin Sejmenović, witness statement, Exhibit P00283.B, *Mladić*, para. 45.

474 Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 1 October 2012, pp. 3399-3400, 3402-3403; Testimony of Mevludin Sejmenović in *Mladić*, ICTY, 3 October 2012, p. 3548; Testimony of Edward Vulliamy in *Stakić*, ICTY, 16 September 2002, p. 7961; Sead Sušić, witness statement, Exhibit P07312.B, *Mladić*, para. 35.

475 Azra Blažević, witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, p. 15; Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 38, Testimony of protected witness ST-249 in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 26 November 2010, p. 17857.



The camp administration did not provide food to detainees in Trnopolje. In the beginning, the people ate what they had with them when they were captured. Later on, it was agreed with the municipal Red Cross office that the Red Cross should provide milk for the children and allow the detainees to buy bread for themselves.⁴⁷⁶ Occasionally, the camp management allowed women, children and elderly men to go out of the camp and look for food in nearby gardens and abandoned houses.⁴⁷⁷ Before the arrival of the ICRC in August 1992, the people subsisted on foodstuffs that their relatives or residents of nearby villages would bring them, which they used to cook themselves in the camp.⁴⁷⁸

As the camp was overcrowded, some detainees slept in the open air, in makeshift shelters or in the vehicles used to transport them to the camp. Inside the buildings, there were no beds and nothing to cover themselves with, so detainees slept on the floor with their clothes on.⁴⁷⁹ There was a makeshift health care facility in the camp where a few detained doctors and nurses provided medical care to detainees, but which lacked basic medical supplies and medications.⁴⁸⁰ The hygienic conditions were very poor. There was only one hand-pump for detainees to obtain water from, and just a few toilets. Due to the poor hygiene, lice appeared. Many detainees contracted dysentery, scabies or hepatitis.⁴⁸¹

The Trnopolje camp was set up in the same way as the Keraterm and Omarska camps – by a Crisis Staff decision; but unlike these two camps, Trnopolje was run and secured by the army, that is the Prijedor Regional Command.⁴⁸²

Major Slobodan Kuruzović was the commander of the camp.⁴⁸³ Kuruzović was on 29 May 1992 dismissed as the commander of the Serb TO force and subordinated to the Prijedor Region Command, which was headed by Colonel Vladimir Arsić.⁴⁸⁴ Kuruzović stayed in a house very close

476 Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, pp. 7757-7758; Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 45; Azra Blažević, witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, pp. 23, 25.

477 Testimony of protected witness P in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 May 2002, p. 3350; Testimony of protected witness X in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 2002, p. 6875.

478 Detainees at Trnopolje testified that the camp management for a short period of time organised preparation of collective meals, but there was not enough food for everyone so the idea was soon abandoned, Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, paras. 31, 42, 44 and 74; Azra Blažević, witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, pp. 23, 25.

479 Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, paras. 37-38; Testimony of protected witness P in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 May 2002, p. 3351.

480 Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, paras. 31, 39, 42, 61.

481 *Ibid.*, para. 40.

482 CSB Regional Investigation Centres Commission, Exhibit P02900, *Mladić*, p. 3; Prijedor SJB dispatch no. 11-12-2178 dated 5 August 1992, Exhibit P03854, *Mladić*; Crisis Staff confirmation of decisions that fall within the competence of the Municipal Assembly, Exhibit S250B, *Stakić*, p. 6.

483 Testimony of Emsud Garibović in *Kvočka et al.*, ICTY, 27 September 2000, p. 5823; Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 30 July 2002, p. 6691; Testimony of protected witness U in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 July 2002, p. 6224.

484 Besides, Slobodan Kuruzović was a member of the Crisis Staff in his capacity as the commander of the Prijedor Municipal TO force, see in: Decision appointing the Prijedor Municipality Crisis staff, Exhibit S180B, *Stakić*, p. 4; A Prijedor Crisis Staff decision dated 29 May 1992, Exhibit P03710, *Karadžić*.



to the Trnopolje camp.⁴⁸⁵ In camp, he was addressed as „Major” and wore a military uniform.⁴⁸⁶ He was accompanied by the Balaban brothers, who were members of the military police.⁴⁸⁷ Kuruzović’s assistant and deputy was Slavko Puhalić, a military police reservist serving in the 43rd MtBr.⁴⁸⁸

Members of the TO force and members of the reserve component of the 43rd MtBr from Prijedor maintained security in the camp.⁴⁸⁹ The majority of camp guards wore military uniforms.⁴⁹⁰ Detainees recognised members of the 5th, so-called “town battalion” of the 43rd MtBr, among the camp guards.⁴⁹¹ Nusret Sivac testified that he had recognised the following members of the 5th Battalion among the camp guards: Boro Grubić,⁴⁹² Zoran Knjeginjić, Aco Ostojić, and Ostojić’s sons Roman and Igor.⁴⁹³

Male detainees were occasionally taken for interrogation, which took place in a room adjacent to the health care facility.⁴⁹⁴ During interrogation, detainees were hit by wooden sticks, metal bars, and rifle butts, and punched and kicked.⁴⁹⁵ Deputy camp commander Slavko Puhalić would often walk through the camp looking for detainees from the lists he had, and these detainees would be subjected to interrogation.⁴⁹⁶ Sometimes, Puhalić interrogated detainees himself, and was present while they were beaten.⁴⁹⁷ Among those who beat detainees, witnesses identified Željko Rudak nicknamed “Deba”,

485 Testimony of Azra Blažević in *Tadić*, ICTY, 13 June 1996, pp. 2492-2493; Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 11 September 2002, pp. 7832-7833.

486 Testimony of Azra Blažević in *Tadić*, ICTY, 13 June 1996, p. 2477.

487 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Mladić*, ICTY, 8 November 2012, p. 4816.

488 Testimony of Vasif Gutić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 1 August 1996, p. 3063; Testimony of Slobodan Kuruzović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 March 2003, p. 14543; Testimony of Slavko Puhalić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 16 February 2015, p. 31706; Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 35; Testimony of Azra Blažević in *Tadić*, ICTY, 13 June 1996, p. 2486; Annex to the report on assigned and returned motor vehicles from the Čirkin Polje Logistic Base, Exhibit S433B, *Stakić*, p. 7.

489 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Mladić*, ICTY, 8 November 2012, p. 4816; Testimony of Slobodan Kuruzović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 28 March 2003, pp. 14716-14717; Testimony of Enis Bešić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 9 August 1996, pp. 5045-5046; Annex to the report on assigned and returned motor vehicles from the Čirkin Polje Logistic Base, Exhibit S433B, *Stakić*, p. 7.

490 Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, p. 7750; Testimony of Azra Blažević in *Tadić*, ICTY, 13 June 1996, pp. 2477, 2485; Testimony of protected witness ST-249 in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 26 November 2010, p. 17857.

491 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Mladić*, ICTY, 8 November 2012, p. 4816; Slobodan Kuruzović was at the head of the 5th Battalion of the former 343rd MtBr until February 1992, see in: “Novi direktor Slobodan Kuruzović” [“Slobodan Kuruzović is new director”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 13 May 1994, Exhibit P07363, *Mladić*.

492 Testifying in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, Nusret Sivac said that Boro Grubić had died, see in: Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 16 August 2010, p. 13238.

493 Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Mladić*, ICTY, 8 November 2012, p. 4816.

494 Azra Blažević witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, p. 15; Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, paras. 45-46.

495 Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, p. 7766; Testimony of protected witness U in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 July 2002, p. 6250; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 242; Testimony of Eniz Bešić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 9 August 1996, p. 5047.

496 Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 35.

497 Testimony of Eniz Bešić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 9 August 1996, p. 5047; Testimony of Vasif Gutić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 6 August 1996, p. 4709.



Mladen Mitrović,⁴⁹⁸ Mladen's brother Marijan Mitrović, a certain Stojanović nicknamed "Zemunac", Branko Mitrović,⁴⁹⁹ Dragan Škrbić,⁵⁰⁰ members of the 43rd MtBr Dragoje Čavić⁵⁰¹ and Stojan Madžar,⁵⁰² as well as Darko Mrđa, a member of the Prijedor SJB Intervention Platoon, who visited the camp.⁵⁰³

The camp administration allowed not only members of the military and the police, but also civilians who were not part of camp personnel, to enter Trnopolje and abuse the detainees. The visitors who abused detainees in Trnopolje included Zoran Žigić, a guard in the Keraterm camp, and members of the Intervention Platoon of the Prijedor Public Security Station.⁵⁰⁴ Idriz Merdžanić testified before the ICTY about the visit by members of "El Manijakos", a tank unit of the 43rd MtBr in June 1992.⁵⁰⁵

A large number of rape incidents took place in the Trnopolje camp. The victims were women and young girls. The youngest victim was a twelve-year old.⁵⁰⁶ Rapes were committed not only inside the camp compound, but women were also taken outside the camp to be raped in nearby houses or at checkpoints.⁵⁰⁷ The rapists were not only camp guards but also other men who were allowed to enter the camp.⁵⁰⁸ The camp commander, Slobodan Kuruzović, kept a women incarcerated in the house near the camp compound where he was staying for almost a month and repeatedly raped her.⁵⁰⁹ One night, members of the *El Manijakos* tank unit came into the camp and took away about 10

498 Testimony of Eniz Bešić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 9 August 1996, pp. 5046-5047; Azra Blažević, witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, p. 16; see also the Court of BiH, Trial Judgment in *Zečević et al.*, 28 June 2012, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/2610/show>, last accessed on 22 February 2021; Mladen Mitrović was tried in the USA for providing false and fraudulent information in his application for US citizenship. Seven witnesses were heard at the trial who recognised Mitrović as a guard in the Trnopolje camp, and a few of them testified that Mitrović had beaten them. Mitrović was sentenced to four years and eight months in prison and had his US citizenship revoked. His sentence was affirmed on appeal in September 2020, see: United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia Atlanta Division *Mitrovic v. United States*, 3 September 2020, available at: <https://casetext.com/case/mitrovic-v-united-states-1>, last accessed on 22 February 2021.

499 Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 52.

500 *Ibid*, para. 52; According to Zdravka Karlica's statement, reservist Dragan Škrbić too served in the 43rd MtBr, more precisely, he was a member of the Zoran Karlica Reconnaissance-Sabotage Company, see in: Zdravka Karlica, witness statement, Exhibit D00863, *Mladić*, para.13.

501 List of the military personnel of the 43rd MtBr, Exhibit D00767, *Mladić*, p. 8. Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 52.

502 List of the military personnel of the 43rd MtBr, Exhibit D00767, *Mladić*, p. 27; Azra Blažević witness statement, Exhibit P03617. B, *Mladić*, p. 19; Zdravka Karlica, witness statement, Exhibit D00863, *Mladić*, para. 15; "Hrabri Krajišnici uspjehno izvršili zadatak" ["The brave men of Krajina have successfully fulfilled their task"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 10 June 1994.

503 Azra Blažević witness statement, Exhibit P03617. B, *Mladić*, p. 16.

504 Testimony of Azra Blažević in *Tadić*, ICTY, 13 June 1996, p. 2488; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Kvočka et al.*, 2 November 2001, paras. 675-676; Azra Blažević, witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*; Testimony of protected witness X in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 August 2002, pp. 6881-6882.

505 Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Mladić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, p. 7764; Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 64; Azra Blažević, witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, p. 21; Even though he did not say the name of the unit, Nusret Sivac too testified that a tank unit came to Trnopolje, see in: Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 30 July 2002, p. 6690.

506 Testimony of Vasif Gutić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 6 August 1996, p. 4665.

507 *Ibid*, p. 4667.

508 Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, paras. 63-65.

509 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brdanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 513; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 791-805.



women. After midnight, they brought the women back, only to take away another group of women.⁵¹⁰ Doctors detained in the camp reported the rapes to the camp administration, namely to Dr Ivić from the medical team and to Slobodan Kuruzović, after which five women were sent to Banja Luka for a gynaecological examination. This was why members of the “El Manijakos” unit entered into arguments with Kuruzović.⁵¹¹ Lieutenant Slobodan Cumbo of the military police also knew about the rapes taking place in Trnopolje. Cumbo visited the camp on several occasions and introduced himself to detainees as a person in charge of that part of Prijedor municipality.⁵¹²

Pero Ćurguz, a representative of the Prijedor Red Cross office, visited the camp every day and signed release papers for detainees. Besides this, he was also responsible for burying the dead and often took detainees out of the camp to collect and bury dead bodies in the hamlets of Elezi and Sivci near Trnopolje.⁵¹³

For the entire period of the Trnopolje camp's existence, detainees at Trnopolje were deported from this camp to territories controlled by the Army of BiH, which explains the high detainee turnover in the camp. Convoys of detainees were organised in agreement with the army, more precisely the Prijedor Regional Command and Colonel Arsić. Initially, people were transported by train to Central Bosnia, from where they were transported further on, on trucks and buses, to Army of BiH-held territories.⁵¹⁴ Although the Prijedor Region Command knew that the people detained in Trnopolje were civilians who, as determined by Serb military and police authorities, had not taken part in the armed conflict, they were not allowed to return to their homes. Moreover, before their release from the camp, they were forced to hand over all the valuables they had with them and sign over their property rights to the Prijedor authorities.⁵¹⁵ In this way, the army participated in the expulsion of the Croats and Muslims from the Prijedor area.⁵¹⁶

65

– Korićanske stijene – knowledge of the crime

On 21 August 1992, the Prijedor Crisis Staff and the Prijedor Red Cross office organised the transfer of detainees, mostly men, from the Trnopolje camp and the Prijedor suburb of Tukovi to territory controlled by the Army of BiH.⁵¹⁷ A convoy consisting of eight buses and eight trucks, escorted by the

510 Testimony of Vasif Gutić in *Tadić*, ICTY, 6 August 1996, pp. 4667-4668.

511 *Ibid*, p. 4670; Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 64.

512 Idriz Merdžanić, witness statement, Exhibit P00269.B, *Mladić*, para. 65; Azra Blažević witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, p. 14; Testimony of Azra Blažević in *Tadić*, ICTY, 13 June 1996, pp. 2490-2491.

513 Testimony of Idriz Merdžanić in *Stakić*, ICTY, 10 September 2002, pp. 7786-7787; Azra Blažević witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, pp. 14, 19, 25.

514 Prijedor SJB dispatch no 11-12-2136 dated 18 July 1992, Exhibit P03947, *Mladić*, pp. 1-2; Azra Blažević witness statement, Exhibit P03617.B, *Mladić*, p.15; Testimony of protected witness P in *Stakić*, ICTY, 22 May 2002, p. 3350.

515 Jusuf Arifagić, witness statement, Exhibit P03388.B, *Mladić*, p. 22.

516 Expert report “Military situation in Bosanska Krajina”, Ewan Brown, Exhibit P01803, *Stanišić & Župljanin*, para. 2.133.

517 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1834.



Intervention Platoon of the Prijedor SJB, travelled from Trnopolje, via Kozarac, towards the separation line on Mount Vlašić. The convoy was stopped several times and members of the Intervention Platoon robbed the detainees.⁵¹⁸

After passing Skender Vakuf, the convoy was stopped again. Members of the Intervention Platoon separated out more than 200 younger, able-bodied men and loaded them onto two buses they had previously emptied. The rest of the detainees were loaded back onto the buses, and the convoy continued its journey to the separation line. Meanwhile, the separated men were transported on the two buses to a nearby mountain pass on Mount Vlašić known as Korićanske stijene.⁵¹⁹ The men were ordered to get out and kneel down at the edge of an abyss, after which they were shot. The bodies of them killed fell into the abyss. Members of the SJB then fired from above and threw hand grenades into the abyss to kill those who might have survived. At least 200 men were killed.⁵²⁰

A few days after the massacre, the commander of the Trnopolje camp, Slobodan Kuruzović, talked to the commander of the 43rd MtBr, Colonel Arsić, about the events at Korićanske stijene and, on Arsić's orders, wrote a report on the event for the 1st KK command.⁵²¹ As early as 22 August 1992, the 1st KK Command informed the VRS Main Staff about the massacre of civilians at Korićanske stijene, indicating "a group of police officers who escorted the convoy of refugees towards Travnik" as being those responsible for it.⁵²²

Before long, members of the Intervention Platoon of the Prijedor SJB were identified as the perpetrators of this crime. Shortly after the massacre, the Intervention Platoon was disbanded and its members were sent to Han Pijesak to join the 43rd MtBr, despite the fact that the brigade's command knew about the massacre at Korićanske stijene.⁵²³ In early September 1992, the 1st KK Command informed the VRS Main Staff that the event at Korićanske stijene had negatively affected the morale of the 1st KK fighters, noting that "thankfully, the international public has not learnt any details about it."⁵²⁴

518 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 215-216; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 457; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, para. 1835.

519 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 217-218; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, paras. 458-460; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, paras. 1834-1835.

520 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 217; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, paras. 459-460; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Karadžić*, 24 March 2016, paras. 1838, 1847.

521 Testimony of Slobodan Kuruzović in *Stakić*, ICTY, 26 March 2003, p. 14531.

522 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 22 August 1992, Exhibit P892.85, *Krajišnik*, p. 2.

523 Prijedor SJB dispatch no. 11-12-2267 dated 14 September 1992, Exhibit D01882, *Karadžić*; Prijedor SJB dispatch no. 11-12-2344 dated 13 October 1992, Exhibit D02017, *Mladić*; From Exhibit S436B, *Stakić* - Darko Mrđa's file kept at the MoD, Prijedor Division, shows that Darko Mrđa on 9 September 1992 joined the VP7362 Prijedor, which is in fact the 43rd MtBr; from April 1993 until the end of the war, he served in the VP7388 i.e., the 5th Kozara Brigade; Testimony of Čedo Šipovac in *Mladić*, 11 November 2014, p. 28138; Annex D to prosecution pre-trial brief Organigrams of military and police units, 24 February 2012, *Mladić*, pp. 2 and 4.

524 Combat morale among 1st KK units, report for August 1992, 3 September 1992, Exhibit P03951, *Mladić*; p. 5.



VIII. The cover-up of crimes

Following the attack on the Brdo area, members of Serb forces came into the villages in the area every day to take several villagers to collect the bodies of the victims and load them onto trucks.⁵²⁵ The Logistics Battalion and the 6th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr were in charge of collecting the bodies in the Brdo area.⁵²⁶

In Bišćani, Ranko Došenović of the 6th Battalion of the 43rd MtBr and soldier Slavko Petrović organised the collection of the bodies of the killed.⁵²⁷ Stojan Aleksić of the 43rd MtBr also issued orders for collecting the corpses.⁵²⁸ There were other armed soldiers in camouflage uniforms who supervised the dozens of men who were ordered to collect the corpses. Two older armed guards in grey-olive uniforms named Dušan Stevanić and Mirko Savić, were also present.⁵²⁹

At the trial of Milomir Stakić before the ICTY, protected witness S described what happened after the arrival of two military trucks in the hamlet of Čemernica on 23 July 1992. The witness and other men were forced to load the corpses collected in the Bišćani area, including those collected from the Mrkalji clay pit and other hamlets, onto the trucks. Once the trucks were fully loaded, they were driven away by members of the military. According to the testimony of the driver hired for that job, the order to drive away the corpses was issued by an officer from the Žarko Zgonjanin barracks.⁵³⁰

Between 300 and 350 bodies were collected within two days in the Brdo area. Most of the bodies had gunshot wounds. All the victims were Muslims in civilian clothes from the Brdo area.⁵³¹ VRS reservists, together with members of the 43rd MtBr Logistics Battalion, drove the trucks loaded with corpses to the Military Police checkpoint in Tukovi, where they handed the trucks over to other soldiers who drove them away, bringing them back empty again a couple of hours later.⁵³² The bodies were unloaded into a pit at Tomašica.⁵³³

Between May and the end of July 1992, members of the Logistics Battalion of the 43rd MtBr, together with members of the Prijedor SJB and the Prijedor Crisis Staff, took part in the burial of bodies at Tomašica, and in their subsequent reburial in a secondary mass grave in the southern mine known as Jakarina Kosa.⁵³⁴

525 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Brđanin*, 1 September 2004, para. 409.

526 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, paras. 1071 and 3484.

527 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 259.

528 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1071; Rade Javorić, witness statement, Exhibit D00895, *Mladić*, para. 28.

529 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1071.

530 *Ibid*, para. 1071.

531 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 261.

532 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1071.

533 Protected witness S said at the trial of Stakić that he had seen a travel order stating Tomašica as final destination and “Žarko Zgonjanin barracks” written at the bottom of the travel order, see in: ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, para. 260; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 1071.

534 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 4090.



From 1991 onwards, the company Ljubija Iron Ore Mine was very cooperative with the 43rd MtBr and other army and police units from Prijedor, lending them their equipment, weapons, explosives, and mining and construction machines and vehicles.⁵³⁵ Towards the end of 1991, Colonel Arsić asked Ljubija IOM to give him maps showing the activities and works carried out in the mines, including the mines which were no longer exploited.⁵³⁶ Many Serb workers at this company were mobilised into the 43rd MtBr and the 5th Kozara Brigade, whereas non-Serbs were told on 22 May 1992 not to come to work anymore.⁵³⁷ From April or May 1992 onwards, the eastern mine known as Tomašica, which formed part of the Ljubija IOM complex, was controlled by the Prijedor Crisis Staff and the 43rd MtBr. Access to Tomašica was controlled by members of the reserve army force until the end of the war.⁵³⁸ During July 1992, army units repeatedly took fuel from the Ljubija IOM and requisitioned their vehicles and machinery, including graders, excavators and bulldozers.⁵³⁹

At a meeting held between the officers of the 1st KK and Ratko Mladić in late May 1993, the chief of security in the 1st KK, Colonel Stevan Bogojević, informed the participants about the existence of the mass grave at the Tomašica mine. Bogojević relayed the content of his conversations with Simo Drljača, head of the Prijedor SJB, Colonel Vladimir Arsić, Commander of the 43rd MtBr, General Bogdan Subotić, RS Defence Minister, and Mile Matijević, head of the police at the Banja Luka CSB, about the mine where they had “buried about 5,000 Muslim corpses”. As Bogojević said, the military and police authorities in Prijedor did not know what to do with the corpses and wanted to get rid of them “by incinerating or grinding them or in some other way”, which is why they turned to the superior military command. Mladić replied that those who had killed them should get rid of them, adding that an investigation should be launched into this case and that the information should be kept safe to prevent it “from getting into the hands of unauthorised persons”.⁵⁴⁰

483 mortal remains were exhumed from the Tomašica mass grave on the basis of which 275 victims were identified. 373 mortal remains were exhumed from the mass grave at the Jakarina Kosa site, and 311 victims were identified.⁵⁴¹ They include the victims killed in Kozarac, Jaskići, villages in the Brdo area, Ljubija, as well as the victims killed in the Keraterm, Omarska and Trnopolje camps.⁵⁴² The majority of victims whose bodies were found at Tomašica were killed in July 1992.⁵⁴³

535 Testimony of Ostoja Marjanović in *Mladić*, ICTY, 9 November 2015, pp. 40970, 41020; Performance report of Ljubija Iron Ore Mine, Prijedor, during war operations, Exhibit P07385, *Mladić*, pp. 6-8; List of vehicles used by the VRS and their state of repair, 11 April 1994, Exhibit D01082, *Mladić*.

536 Testimony of Ostoja Marjanović in *Mladić*, ICTY, 9 November 2015, pp. 41020, 41024, 41036.

537 *Ibid*, p. 40967; Testimony of Ostoja Marjanović in *Mladić*, ICTY, 10 November 2015, p. 41066; Testimony of Mirsad Ališić in *Kvočka et al.*, ICTY, 5 June 2000, pp. 2462-2463.

538 ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Mladić*, 22 November 2017, para. 4080.

539 *Ibid*, para. 4075.

540 Ratko Mladić's notebook, 2 April - 24 October 1993, Exhibit P00358.B, *Mladić*, pp. 154-155.

541 Missing Persons Institute of BiH, reply, 19 March 2021.

542 Proof of death expert report for victims from the Tomašica mine, Ewa Tabeau, Exhibit P07449.B, *Mladić*, p. 18.

543 *Ibid*.



IX. Promotions and decorations

Units that participated in crimes on the territory of Prijedor municipality and their commanders were repeatedly praised, decorated and promoted during the war, although the 1st KK Command was aware of the crimes committed in the area of responsibility of its brigades.

As early as end of May 1992, Momir Talić, the Commander of the 1st KK, for the first time praised in writing all fighters and officers of units operating under the command of the Prijedor Region Command for “the resolve, bravery and skilfulness they demonstrated in fighting paramilitary formations in Hambarine, Kozarac and Prijedor”.⁵⁴⁴ The 43rd MtBr received praise in 1st KK Command reports for its outstanding combat performance.⁵⁴⁵

At an assembly of troops held on 26 June 1992 in the village of Lamovita to bid farewell to parts of the 43rd MtBr and other Prijedor units who were to participate in the battle for the Posavina corridor, Vladimir Arsić addressed the soldiers, saying, among other things: “You have shown excellent discipline, sense of duty and responsibility in carrying out your tasks”.⁵⁴⁶

In November 1993, the head of the Banja Luka CSB, Stojan Župljanin, presented certificates of appreciation to the 43rd MtBr and the 5th Kozara Brigade “for the help provided in the fight for the freedom of the Serbian people”. Radmilo Zeljaja too received a certificate of appreciation from Župljanin.⁵⁴⁷

The next year, 1994, the President of the Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadzic, awarded the 43rd MtBr VRS with the Order of Nemanjići “for heroism demonstrated in armed combat and setting an example with the deeds achieved so far”.⁵⁴⁸

Additionally, Colonel Vladimir Arsić, Commander of the 43rd MtBr, was awarded the Order of Karadjordje’s Star 2nd Class⁵⁴⁹ and praised by the 1st KK commander, Momir Talić, for commanding the Kozarac takeover operation.⁵⁵⁰

544 A regular combat report from the 1st KK Command dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P892.82 *Krajišnik*, p. 3

545 Information on the current political and security situation, 1st KK Command, 1 June 1992, Exhibit P02875, *Mladić*.

546 Genocid u Prijedoru - Lamovita – smotra [Genocide in Prijedor – Lamovita – muster], available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewTrAzAsaWg&ab_channel=genocid92, last accessed on 4 November 2020.

547 “Rame uz rame sa vojskom” [“Side by side with the army”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 26 November 1993, Exhibit P02436, *Mladić*.

548 “Slava svih srpskih slava” [“The Glory of all Serbian Glories”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994, Exhibit P06612, *Karadžić*; “Prijedorskim junacima-orden Nemanjića” [“Order of Nemanjići to heroes from Prijedor”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994, Exhibit P03277, *Mladić*, p. 3; Intercepted conversation of 29 June 1994, Exhibit P02439, *Tolimir*; “Odlikovanja i pohvale” [“Decorations and accolades”], *Krajiški vojnik*, July 1994; A video clip about the 43rd MtBr, July 1994, Exhibit P07028, *Mladić*.

549 “Slava svih srpskih slava” [“The Glory of all Serbian Glories”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994, Exhibit P06612, *Karadžić*, p. 1.

550 Official assessment of Colonel Vladimir Arsić, July 1993, Exhibit P07474, *Mladić*, p. 3.



Members of the 43rd MtBr and the 5th Kozara Brigade were decorated individually several times during the war.⁵⁵¹ In July 1995, Radovan Karadžić decorated 71 members of the 43rd MtBr, including Milorad Bilbija, Commander of the 6th Battalion.⁵⁵²

In July 1992, Radmilo Zeljaja was designated for promotion by the Commander of the 1st KK, Momir Talić. In the autumn of 1992, Zeljaja was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel,⁵⁵³ and the next year, 1993, to the rank of Colonel.⁵⁵⁴ After BiH, Zeljaja participated in war operations in Kosovo, as an officer of the 3rd Army of the Yugoslav Army (VJ). In March 2001, he was promoted to the rank of Major-General of the VJ.⁵⁵⁵

Pursuant to a decree by the President of Republika Srpska, Colonel Vladimir Arsić was in May 1993 appointed Commander of the Operational Group Doboj,⁵⁵⁶ and two years later promoted to Major-General.⁵⁵⁷

After the war, the Commander of the 5th Kozara Brigade, Pero Čolić, was appointed Chief of the VRS General Staff after being conferred with an extraordinary promotion to the rank of Major-General.⁵⁵⁸

In 2017, President of Republika Srpska Milorad Dodik decorated the 6th Sana Brigade with the Petar Mrkonjić medal “for its outstanding bravery and contribution to the creation and defence of Republika Srpska and preservation of the Serbian people’s identity”.⁵⁵⁹

551 “Priznanja za junaštvo” [“An award for heroism”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 27 May 1994; “Slava svih srpskih slava” [“The Glory of all Serbian Glories”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 1 July 1994, Exhibit P06612, *Karadžić*, p. 2; “Za primjer budućim generacijama” [“A role model for future generations”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 28 July 1995; “Peta ratna godina Pete kozarske - medalje i pohvale” [“The fifth war year of the 5th Kozara Brigade – medals and accolades”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 4 August 1995.

552 “Za primjer budućim generacijama” [“A role model for future generations”], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 28 July 1995.

553 Register of incoming correspondence of the 1st Krajina Corps for 1992, Exhibit P05279, *Mladić*, p. 4; MS dispatch no. 02/2-47 addressed to the 1st KK on 22 January 1993, Exhibit P04087, *Mladić*.

554 *Generali Republike Srpske 1992-2017, biografski rječnik* [*Generals of the Republika Srpska 1992-2017, a biographical dictionary*], Ministry of Labour and Veteran Affairs of the Republika Srpska/BORS Banja Luka 2017, p. 84.

555 *Ibid*, pp. 84-85.

556 Doboj OG or 9th OG, Decree no. 01-111/93 of the President of the Republika Srpska, 27 May 1993, Exhibit P07478 *Mladić*; On the same day, the commanders of the 1st KK informed Ratko Mladić about the existence of a mass grave at Tomašica, Vladimir Arsić knew about attempts to conceal it, see in: Ratko Mladić’s notebook, 2 April - 24 October 1993, Exhibit P00358.B, *Mladić*, pp. 154-155.

557 Decree no. 1213/95 of the President of the Republika Srpska, 23 June 1995, Exhibit P07807, *Mladić*.

558 “Sjeća generala” [“A purge of VRS Generals”], AIM, 12 November 1996, available at: <http://www.aimpress.ch/dyn//pubs/archive/data/199611/61112-005-pubs-sar.htm>, last accessed on 29 March 2021.

559 *Šesta sanska pješadijska brigada* [*The 6th Sana Infantry Brigade*], Radovan Jović, Slovo, Banja Luka, 2019, p. 12; RTRS, “Dodik uručio odlikovanja povodom Vidovdana - Krsne slave Vojske Republike Srpske” [“Dodik confers decorations on the occasion of St Vitus Day, the day of the VRS”], 27 June 2017, available at: <https://lat.rtrs.tv/vijesti/vijest.php?id=258928>, last accessed on 30 March 2021.



Epilogue

In preparing this Dossier, the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) made several requests to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of the Republic of Serbia for access to information of public importance. The information requested concerned the JNA 343rd MtBr and officers serving in the brigades deployed in Prijedor during the war.

In response to these requests, the MoD informed the HLC that the 343rd MtBr was part of the organisational structure of the JNA from 27 July 1990 to 19 May 1992, when it was officially disbanded.⁵⁶⁰ However, as stated in the response, this Ministry does not hold information regarding the brigade's area of responsibility and its battalions nor does it have its war diary, because the brigade never delivered its archived materials.⁵⁶¹

The MoD denied the HLC the information pertaining to the military service of Vladimir Arsić and Radmilo Zeljaja, citing data confidentiality.⁵⁶² The MoD did not provide any response to the HLC's requests for information on the military service of Slobodan Cumbo and Miroslav Majstorović.⁵⁶³

Former Commander of the VRS 43rd MtBr Major-General Vladimir Arsić (b. 1947) retired in late March 1997. According to available information, he lives in Serbia.⁵⁶⁴

After the war, Major-General Radmilo Zeljaja (b. 1957) had his status in the VJ regulated under the Agreement on the regulation of the status of members of the 30th KC.⁵⁶⁵ Zeljaja retired in February 2002 and lives in Serbia.⁵⁶⁶ He appears as an interviewee in the dramatized documentary "Corridor 92", a co-production between "Zastava film" Military Film Centre, Radio Television of Serbia, and Television of Republika Srpska, which premiered on 9 January 2021.⁵⁶⁷

71

⁵⁶⁰ MoD, reply no. 03/260-2 18 January 2021.

⁵⁶¹ MoD, reply no. 254-4 dated 8 February 2021.

⁵⁶² MoD, decision no. 6418-3 rejecting the HLC request, 21 July 2020; MoD, decision no. 6417-4 rejecting the HLC request, 21 July 2020.

⁵⁶³ Request for access to information of public importance submitted to the MoD on 1 December 2020, HlcIndexOut: 170-F147030; Request for access to information of public importance submitted to the MoD on 1 December 2020, HlcIndexOut: 170-F147029.

⁵⁶⁴ *Generali Republike Srpske 1992-2017, biografski rječnik* [Generals of the Republika Srpska 1992-2017, a biographical dictionary], Ministry of Labour and Veteran Affairs of the Republika Srpska/BORS Banja Luka 2017, p. 48.

⁵⁶⁵ Agreement on the regulation of the status of members of the 30th KC, Exhibit D00249, *Perišić*, Article 2; *Generali Republike Srpske 1992-2017, biografski rječnik* [Generals of the Republika Srpska 1992-2017, a biographical dictionary], Ministry of Labour and Veteran Affairs of the Republika Srpska/BORS Banja Luka 2017, p. 85.

⁵⁶⁶ *Generali Republike Srpske 1992-2017, biografski rječnik* [Generals of the Republika Srpska 1992-2017, a biographical dictionary], Ministry of Labour and Veteran Affairs of the Republika Srpska/BORS Banja Luka 2017, p. 85.

⁵⁶⁷ Filming of a dramatized documentary about the establishment of Corridor 92, available at: <http://www.mod.gov.rs/eng/16163/snimanje-dokumentarno-igranog-filma-o-probijanju-koridora-1992-godine-16163>, last accessed on 30 March 2021; RTS, Koridor 92, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8fh819qtv0&ab_channel=RTSMerilavremena-Zvani%C4%8Dnikanal, last accessed on 30 March 2021.



A monograph on the Prijedor Veterans' Organisation, scheduled to come out in the first half of 2021, will describe the wartime paths of the 43rd MtBr, the 5th Kozara Brigade, and Prijedor police units. The author of the monograph is Rade Mutić, a war reporter, whose biased reporting was no more than a vehicle of Serb war and nationalist propaganda,⁵⁶⁸ and the monograph reviewers are Radmilo Zeljaja and Ostoja Barašin, former commander of the 5th Kozara Brigade.⁵⁶⁹

Reserve Major Slobodan Kuruzović, the former commander of the Trnopolje camp, has died.⁵⁷⁰

Colonel Miroslav Majstorović has died.⁵⁷¹

The commander of the 6th Krajina Brigade, Colonel Branko Basara (b. 1939), retired at his own request in mid-December 1992.⁵⁷² He was briefly reactivated between March and August 1993 and served as commander of an operational group in Prijedor, after which he finally retired and moved to Belgrade.⁵⁷³ In 2014, the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina indicted Branko Basara and the commander of TO forces in Sanski Most, Nedeljko Aničić, for crimes committed in Briševo and Sanski Most. Towards the end of 2019, the case was referred to the Serbian judiciary.⁵⁷⁴ On 25 March 2021, the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia submitted the indictment to the Higher Court in Belgrade for confirmation.⁵⁷⁵ Both Basara and Aničić live in Belgrade.⁵⁷⁶

Major-General Pero Čolić (born in 1937) retired in October 1997.⁵⁷⁷ He died in 2005 in Belgrade.⁵⁷⁸

568 Testimony of protected witness ST-244 in *Stanišić & Župljanin*, ICTY, 1 December 2010, p. 17988; Testimony of Nusret Sivac in *Stakić*, ICTY, 30 July 2002, p. 6673; ICTY, Trial Judgment in *Stakić*, 31 July 2003, paras. 107 i 614; HRW, *The Unindicted: Reaping the Rewards of 'Ethnic Cleansing'*, January 1997, vol. 9 no. 1, available at: https://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/bosnia2/#N_106, last accessed on 30 March 2021.

569 "U pripremi monografija prijedorske boračke organizacije" ["Prijedor Veteran Organisation monograph is in the works"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 16 August 2017, <https://kozarski.com/u-pripremi-monografija-prijedorske-boracke-organizacije-video/>; "Štampanje monografije prijedorske boračke organizacije" ["Prijedor Veteran Organisation monograph is in print"], *Kozarski vjesnik*, 17 July 2020 <https://kozarski.com/stampanje-monografije-boracke-organizacije-prijedor-iduće-godine/>; Ostoja Barašin, witness statement, Exhibit D00790, *Mladić*, para. 16.

570 ICTY – Decision on accused's motion to subpoena Slavko Puhalić, ICTY, *Radovana Karadžić*, 20 March 2013, para. 3.

571 Testimony of Boško Kelečević in *Mladić*, ICTY, 14 July 2015, p. 37265.

572 War Bulletin of the 6th Krajina Brigade, 15 December 1992, Exhibit D243B, *Stakić*, p. 2.

573 Testimony of Branko Basara in *Mladić*, ICTY, 20 April 2015, p. 34401.

574 S1 1 K 016738 14 Kro - *Branko Basara et al.*, available at: <http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/predmet/3435/show>, last accessed on 30 March 2021.

575 OWCP, reply Pl. no. 3/21 dated 1 April 2021.

576 Podignuta optužnica za zločin protiv čovječnosti protiv dva lica iz predmeta kategorije II, [Charges brought against two individuals for a crime against humanity in a category II case], 21 July 2014, available at: http://www.tuzilastvobih.gov.ba/komponente/print_vijesti.php?id=2550&jezik=b, last accessed on 30 March 2021; Branko Basara, witness statement, Exhibit D01031, *Mladić*, para. 1.

577 *Generali Republike Srpske 1992-2017, biografski rječnik* [Generals of the Republika Srpska 1992-2017, a biographical dictionary], Ministry of Labour and Veteran Affairs of the Republika Srpska/BORS Banja Luka 2017, p. 187.

578 *Ibid.*, p. 186.







00938549

MILITARY SECRET – STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

1st KRAJINA CORPS COMMANDOperational strictly confidential number ~~474-1~~ /crossed out/ 44-1/150-1 R G b/d
/head of group for combat operations/

27 May 1992

Stara Gradiška

Report on Elimination of "Green Berets"
in Wider Area of Kozarac Village.-

TO SRPSKA REPUBLIKA BH ARMY MAIN STAFF

Concerning the destruction of the "Green Berets" in the wider area of Kozarac village
we submit the following report:

1. The armed conflict started on 25 May 1992 and ended on 27 May at 1300 hrs.
 2. Participating in the armed conflict on our side were components of the 343rd Motorised Brigade (an enlarged motorised battalion), supported by two 105 mm howitzer batteries and one M-84 tank squadron.
 3. The total strength of the "Green Berets" was 1,500 – 2,000 men without heavy weapons.
 4. Overall results:
 - The wider area of Kozarac village, i.e. the area of the villages of Kozaruša, Trnopolje, Donji Jakupovci, Gornji Jakupovci, Benkovac, Ratković /grid coordinate 830/ has been entirely freed of "Green Berets";
 - 80 – 100 "Green Berets" were killed and about 1,500 captured;
 - part of the "Green Berets" (100-200 persons) at large on Mt. Kozara;
 - our own casualties are five killed and 20 wounded, and
 - minor damage (already repaired) on the track assembly of two M-84s.
- The B. Luka – Ivanjska – Kozarac – Prijedor – Bosanski Novi road and the wider area of Kozarac completely under the control of the 1st KK.

OONP /organ for operations and training affairs/ HEAD

Colonel Dragan /illegible/ MARČETIĆ

/signed/

/stamp: 1st KRAJINA CORPS COMMAND/

RECEIVED:	27 May	2100 hrs	/signed/
	(day & month)	(hour & minute)	(signature)
	1694	/illegible/	/signed/
(codename) (telegram nr.) (groups nr.) (urgency) (processing mode)	/illegible/		
PROCESSED:		2215 hrs	
	(day & month)	(hour & minute)	(signature)
SUBMITTED:			
	(day & month)	(hour & minute)	(signature)

MILITARY SECRET – STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
Coded – deliver immediately

1st KRAJINA CORPS COMMAND
Strictly confidential number 44-1/257
25 July 1992

00867027

TO SERBIAN REPUBLIC ARMY MAIN STAFF

REGULAR ACTIVITY REPORT

Section 1:100,000 - as in the previous reports

1. In the course of the day, the enemy mainly continued to observe the cease-fire. They continue to bring in fresh forces from the area deep inside their territory (Zagreb, Karlovac, Dubrovnik, Virovitica, Đakovo) so that along the line: Bijelo Brdo – Novi Lužani (north of Derventa) – Obodni kanal – Gornje Kolibe village – Aginci village the following enemy forces are deployed as follows:

– 137th Brigade, 3rd a. /expansion unknown/ Brigade from Dubrovnik and 108th Brigade: between Bijelo Brdo and Zborište village.

– From Zborište – Obodni kanal – Gornje Kolibe: 1st Battalion of the 153rd Brigade and the 3rd a. Brigade from Zagreb; in the area of Gornje Kolibe: the Bosanski Brod Brigade; and from Gornje Kolibe through Donje Kolibe to the Sava river: 101st a. Professional Brigade.

– artillery of different types and various calibre is deployed in and firing from already familiar areas (Kaniža village, Gajevo, the Migalovci forest, Bebrina village [west of Slavonski Brod] and Gornja and Donja Bebrina villages, Klakar and Podvinje [east of Slavonski Brod].)

– The remaining forces are grouping and making their preparations in the area around Orašje, Županja, Gradačac, and south of Dobož.

– In the area of Mt. Vlašić and the upper Vrbas river there were no operations or provocations by the enemy, with the exception of an attack against our scouts' patrol in the area: Mt. Dnoluk (north of Brvanci village – the area 12 km south-east of Jajce).

– In the area of: Čarakovo village and Zecovi village (3 km east of Ljubija) several groups of Muslim extremists were detected and the mop-up of these areas continues.

– The prisoners at the collection centre in Prijedor located in the *Keraterm* factory attempted a mass escape on the night of the 24th. The attempt was thwarted and about 50 prisoners were killed in the process.

2. The state of combat readiness in the units of the Corps' is favourable and stable. Certain problems are present in Tactical Group 3, more precisely in the 327th Motorised Brigade, Krajina and Osin brigades where for some time now the combat morale, order and discipline have failed to reach the required level.

The command of the Tactical Group 3, assisted by Operative Group Dobož and 1st Krajina Corps commands are taking all steps to raise combat readiness to the necessary level.

A patrol of the 1st Scouts' Company in the 30th Krajina Division one of responsibility on reconnaissance mission in Mt. Dnoluk was caught in an ambush north of the

00867028

Brvanci village, resulting in the death of the leader of the patrol, reserve Sergeant Duško KOLUNDJIJA from Prijedor, and in minor wounds for two more soldiers.

3. Situation on the ground has not changed significantly since the last reports. The social and material situation in general is becoming increasingly complex.

4. You will receive a special report by the Command of the 1st Mixed Anti-armour Artillery Brigade on the unusual incident of 23 July – murder of policeman Boro, son of Lazo, MILIĆ from the village of Trijebovo – SO /municipal assembly, here: municipality/ Mrkonjić Grad.

5. There were no major changes in the security and morale situation since the last reports. The fact that the have reservists received some of their pay has somewhat improved the mood of the troops.

6. Logistics support proceeded according to plan, within the limits of what is humanly and materially possible. Repairs were made on: two tanks, three armoured personnel carriers and 12 vehicles. A total of 40,008 warm meals were prepared and 4,542 combat rations were issued. There are 551 sick and wounded in stations hospitals.

7. There were 10 killed and 29 wounded since the last report (Prijedor, four killed and five sustained minor wounds; Jajce, one killed and two sustaining minor wounds, Derventa – Doboj – Gradačac, five killed, 22 wounded).

8. Conclusion and anticipated developments.

The tactical and operative position of our forces is good. Although the enemy has assembled fresh forces against our positions in the area to the Northeast of Derventa, Gradačac and Mt. Vlašić, we shall strengthen those positions by re-grouping and resting our troops, and by bringing in fresh forces. Special attention should be devoted to the area south of Doboj, as well as to all POW camps. It was with that goal in mind, that the commanders of units have today received from the Commander of the Corps assignments and measures to be taken in case of an intervention by foreign armed forces.

HEAD OF THE GROUP FOR RiK /command and control/ b/d /combat operations/

Colonel Ludvik KRAJNC

/signed/

/stamp: 1st KRAJINA CORPS COMMAND/

RECEIVED:	25 Jul (day & month) 2146	1840 hrs (hour & minute)	/signed/ (signature)
(codename)	(telegram nr.)	(groups nr.)	(urgency) (illegible/)
PROCESSED:	25 Jul (day & month)	1910 hrs (hour & minute)	/signed/ (signature)
SUBMITTED:	25 Jul (day & month)	19 hrs (hour & minute)	/signed/ (signature)

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
MILITARY SECRET

COMMAND OF THE 6TH PARTISAN BRIGADE

Strictly confidential No. 736-1.....

.....18 June..... 1992.....

ORDER FOR THE EXECUTION OF COMBAT ACTIVITIES

TO THE COMMAND OF THE 3rd Infantry Battalion

On the basis of information gathered, it has been discovered that in certain areas the extremist Muslim population is preparing for armed combat against the Serbian people. For the purposes of secrecy, groups of extremists are withdrawing from inhabited places to wooded areas where they are building dugouts, using hunting lodges and carrying out training. At night they go into inhabited places to pick up food and other material supplies. It is estimated that more numerous groups are located in: /?/urjevo forest – around 100 Green Berets, Briševo – up to 50, Čarakovo up to 30 extremists, and in the wider area of the Stara Rijeka opencast mine – about 50 extremists/Green Berets. For the purposes of coordinating with forces from Prijedor in combing the terrain in the area: Čarakovo, Oštra Luka, Koprivna, Stari Majdan, Stara Rijeka, Ljubija and Donja Ljubija, I hereby

ORDER

1. Units of the 6th Partisan Brigade are to take the line: Miloševići village, Grujičići village, Topići village, Marjanovići village, Kantari village, Koprivna village, Stari Majdan, Stari Rijeka (/?/uštanica stream), Atlije village, Ljubija and Donja Ljubija, block enemy forces and prevent them from retreating through their own positions.
2. Destroy armed enemy groups with sudden fire, and take unarmed persons fit for combat to the Milin Birt area, from where they will be transported onward. Leave women, children and old men in their homes.
3. The Military Police shall organise the control of the movement of personnel and vehicles in the Milin Birt area and prevent all looting. Stolen goods and /?/vehicles/ shall be seized and taken to /illegible/ Palanka.
4. Deployment of units:
 - Company of the 4th pb /Infantry Battalion/ combs the terrain from the /?/ehići village – Kestenar village line and comes out onto the Miloševići village – church – Grujičići village line.
 - /text struck through/

- Usorci company – 6th /Light/ combs the terrain from the Obod – /Vedište – Veliko Polje line and emerges onto the Mastikose village – Marjanovići village – Veliko Polje line.
 - Company of the 10th pb takes position on the Mastikose village – /Antari village line.
 - Company of the 11th pb takes position on the Zbjeg village – Kneževići village – Vodišni Vrh line.
 - /illegible/ 6 in the /Usorci village area /Okvići hamlet.
 - Company of the 7th pb takes position on the Urmovac source – eastern slopes of Zalih/Vac line.
 - Company of the 9th pb takes positions on the northern slopes of Vokulje – Stara Rijeka – tt /trig point/ 361 line, combs the terrain and emerges onto the Muštani/Vac stream – K /elevation/ 478 line.
 - Company of the 2nd pb takes position on the road west of Kozina – Barišići village line, combs the terrain and emerges on the K 478 – K 474 – Barišići village line.
 - Company of the 3rd pb takes position on the line of the Barišići village – Ljubija road.
5. All units must establish communications with Prijedor units before emerging in front of their positions and shall coordinate action in the search, particularly in the settlements of Donja Ljubija, Ljubija, Stari Majdan and others.
 6. Secure personnel with a /illegible/ on 19 July 1992.
 7. Supply all units with a combat set of ammunition and requisite quantities of fuel.
 8. The 120-mm mortar platoon shall provide support from the /Javorik/ area (1:25,000), and shall lay down fire in preparation for operations against /Kurjevo and Briševo.
 9. Opening fire unnecessarily i.e. without sight of the enemy is strictly forbidden, and particularly while returning after the completion of the task.
 10. The command post shall be in the Krušćik tt 527 area.
 - /send/ a report at 0700 hours to confirm that positions have been taken and after completing the task.
 11. Medical support:
 - each company shall carry two stretchers.
 - one ambulance on the Donja Ljubija – Ljubija axis and one on the /asavci – Milin Birt axis shall move in keeping with the speed of searching the terrain.

COMMANDER
Colonel
Branko BASARA
/signed; stamped:/
MILITARY POSTCODE NO. 6797
BANJA LUKA

/handwritten document:/
22 July 1999 /as printed/

NEW ORDER FROM COLONEL BASARA
TRANSCRIPT

Immediately set about preparing units for the task you have received. /?A company/ must have over 100 men. Re-read the order you have received.

Establish communications at 0700 hours on 23 July 1992. The Prijedor /troops/ will start the search at 0800 hours. The Brigade is to be ready at 0700 hours. Identification is to be facilitated with two red tapes, one on the left shoulder and the other above the left elbow. Put the tapes on at 0700 hours on 23 July.

Do not fire unnecessarily.

Do not set fire to houses. Looting is forbidden. Leave the population alone if they are peaceful. Only lock up the extremists. Liquidate armed groups.

You have received dry rations. Take them and distribute them in the morning of 23 July. Move units with full security. Arrange departure so that you are in the area at 0600 hours /illegible/.

Take the communications plans that you received with you.

BASARA

/illegible/

/illegible/

/note: every alternate page is blank except for an ICTY stamp affirming that the original of the copy was presented to Jutta Paczulla for inspection/

Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
 SECURITY SERVICES CENTRE
 BANJA LUKA
 PUBLIC SECURITY STATION
 PRIJEDOR

Strictly Confidential */handwritten/*

Number: 11 - 12 - 20 */handwritten/*

Date: 31 May 1992

With a view to the speedy and effective establishment of peace on the territory of Prijedor municipality and in accordance with the Decision of the Crisis Staff, I hereby order the following:

1. The industrial compound of the "Omarska" Mines strip mine shall serve as a provisional collection centre for persons captured in combat or detained on the grounds of the Security Services' operational information.

2. Together with the appropriate documents, the persons taken into custody shall be handed over to the chief of security, who is duty-bound in collaboration with the national, public and military security co-ordinators to put them up in any of the five premises allocated for the accommodation of detainees.

3. A mixed group consisting of national, public and military security investigators shall be responsible for the work with and categorisation of detainees. They shall organise themselves respecting the parity principle. Mirko JEŠIĆ, Ranko MIJIĆ and Lieutenant Colonel MAJSTOROVIĆ shall be responsible for their work.

4. Work with detainees shall be adjusted to the prevailing circumstances which means that those who have been assigned to deal with them must be available non-stop - that is from 0000 to 2400 hrs. This implies their constant presence at the

collection centre from which they can be absent only exceptionally and with the superior officer's permission and the notification of the chief of Prijedor Public Security Station.

5. The investigated persons shall be escorted together with the relevant criminal or official reports to the Remand Prison in Banja Luka or Stara Gradiška for further criminal processing.

6. Security services at the collection centre shall be provided by the Omarska Police Station, with an adequate number of policemen who shall be present at the collection centre at all times and shall organise guard duty according to the on duty-on call-off duty principle.

7. The Mines' Management shall organise meals for investigators, guards and detainees according to norms established in agreement with the quartermaster service. At the same time, the Mines' Management shall organise regular cleaning as well as maintenance of plumbing, electrical fixtures and other utilities. It shall also ensure other kinds of logistical support for the work and stay of the given number of persons on the given premises by imposing obligatory work on skilled employees.

8. The Management shall without delay fence off the compound around the Management building with barbed wire, placing a barrier on the road to Omarska, and shall also provide drinking water. The guards shall prevent any unauthorised persons from approaching or entering the collection centre in accordance with the official guard duty rules.

9. Authorised representatives of the Army of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall without delay lay a mine field in accordance with the mining regulations, which includes making a mine field layout, correct marking, etc.

10. Should it prove necessary, the Mines' Management shall in collaboration with the chief of security and security services co-ordinators make available the maintenance and repair shops and office space in collaboration with the security chief and security services co-ordinators in the interest of greater efficiency.

11. The security services co-ordinators shall submit a report on the preceding 24 hours to the Chief of the Prijedor Public Security Station daily at 1200 hrs, or immediately when the circumstances allow no delay.

12. The chief of security shall do the same with regard to the operation of the security services and possible security problems.

13. All authorised officials who have been assigned duties at this collection centre or related to it shall observe the positive legislation and rules of service. In particular, they must keep official secrets and protect the property in their charge.

14. The Mines' Managers and Management shall select reliable and qualified personnel for assignment to the duties required of them at the collection centre. They cannot replace them unless absolutely necessary and with the approval of the Public Security Station. The Management shall send a list of all appointed staff members to the Public Security Station in Prijedor without delay.

15. I most strictly prohibit giving any information whatsoever concerning the functioning of this collection centre. All official documents shall be kept at the collection centre and may be taken out or destroyed only with the permission of the Chief of the Prijedor Public Security Station. This shall be the responsibility of the security staff.

16. I demand most energetically that all the personnel and authorised officials in particular strictly observe these instructions. Failure to do so shall result in severe disciplinary and other measures.

17. The implementation of this Order shall be supervised by Police Chief Dušan JANKOVIĆ in collaboration with the Banja Luka Security Services Centre and with the support of authorised executive personnel.

COPIES TO:

1. Crisis Staff
2. Security Services Co-ordinators
(MIJIĆ, JEŠIĆ and Lieutenant Colonel MAJSTOROVIĆ)
3. Security Services Centre - Banja Luka
4. Police Chief
5. Security Chief
6. General Manager of the "Ljubija" Iron Ore Mines
7. Files

Chief

Public Security Service

DRLJAČA

/signature/

/Stamp: Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Republic Secretariat of Internal Affairs

Security Services Centre Banja Luka

Public Security Station

P R I J E D O R /

Received on behalf of MIJIĆ, Iron Ore Mines
and Security

1. /signature/

2. /signature/

151 B. ML.

- * Ammunition → poor . . .
- * In Petrovo → production of RoB /hand grenades/. –
- * Čajavec produces mines . . .
- * In the depot there are enough of
all types of mines. –
- * Maintenance → a lot of technical staff have
been trained. –
- * The problem is the procurement of engines for tanks
and APCs as well as some
assemblies. –
- * 5 tow trucks are not operational.
- * In Čačak there are quite a few repaired
items that are awaiting payment and can then
be collected. –
- * From Jelšingrad a presa /word unknown/ was brought over
for the 1st Partisan. –

* General NINKOVIĆ

- Today a commemoration of
the service was organised in the theatre. –
- Tomorrow there is an exhibition of Milić od Mačve.

Colonel BOGOJEVIĆ:

- ① - 4-5 days ago Simo DRLJAČA arrived,
the former Chief of the Prijedor SUP /Secretariat of the Interior/, he was sent
by the Minister of the RS /Republika Srpska/ MUP /Ministry of the Interior/,
and he came about the Tomašica mine.

B. ML. 152

near Prijedor, where earlier they had
buried around 5,000
Muslims / bodies. I'm sure that the world
knows about this from the released
prisoners.

DRLJAČA came to leave this with
us, and they want to get rid of
it (by burning, grinding or
some other way).

There are all kinds of bodies, and they have
involved SUBOTIĆ in this.

The team includes DRLJAČA, he was in charge
even while this was being done, at the
meeting were General SUBOTIĆ,

ARSIĆ, DRLJAČA, me and Mile MATIJEVIĆ
from the B/L /Banja Luka/ SUP /Secretariat of the Interior/.

* I ask for your position.

* My position: They killed them, so they
should get rid of them, and
an investigation must be launched in
connection with this case and the
information retained well to prevent it getting into the
hands of unauthorised people. -. –

- ② In Kotor Varoš (MZ /local commune/ village of Šiprage)
the Muslims have a developed
intelligence network towards
Zenica and Travnik. The process of cutting it off is underway.

Dossier: 43th Motorized Brigade of Army of Republika Srpska in Prijedor
First Edition

Publisher
Humanitarian Law Center
Dečanska 12, Belgrade
www.hlc-rdc.org

Author: Jovana Kolarić
Translation: Angelina Mišina
Proof Editing: Jonathan Boulting
Design: Milica Dervišević
Print Run: 100
Printing: Instant System, Belgrade

ISBN 978-86-7932-117-6
© Humanitarian Law Center

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

357.5(497.6)"1992"
355.426(497.6)"1992/1995"
341.322.5(497.6)"1992"
355.48(497.6)"1992"

KOLARIĆ, Jovana, 1987-

Dossier: VRS 43rd Motorised Brigade in Prijedor / [author Jovana Kolarić] ; [translation Angelina Mišina]. - 1st ed. - Belgrade : Humanitarian Law Center, 2021 (Belgrade : Instant system). - 72 str. : faksimili ; 25 cm

Prevod dela: Dosije: 43. motorizovana brigada VRS u Prijedoru. - Podatak o autoru preuzet iz kolofona. - Tiraž 100. - Appendix 1-5: str. [75-86]. - Napomene i bibliografske reference uz tekst.

ISBN 978-86-7932-117-6

a) Република Српска. Војска. 43. моторизована бригада ВРС -- 1992 б) Грађански рат -- Ратни злочини -- Босна и Херцеговина -- 1992-1995 в) Приједор -- Војна историја -- 1992

COBISS.SR-ID 39342601

