



Humanitarian Law Center Foundation

Dossier: Svetozar Andrić





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Abbreviations

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
DK	Drina Corps
HLC	Humanitarian Law Center
GS VRS	Main Staff of the Army of the Republic of Srpska
IBK	East Bosnian Corps
JNA	Yugoslav People's Army
CSCE	Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
PC	Personnel Centre
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IRMCT	International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
KIK	Captain First Class
mtbr	motorised brigade
pb	infantry battalion
SDS	Serbian Democratic Party
SAO Birač	Serbian Autonomous Region Birač
UNSC	The United Nations Security Council
SJB	Public Security Station
TO	Territorial Defence
OWCP	Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor
UN	United Nations
UNPROFOR	UN Protective Force
VJ	Army of Yugoslavia
VRS	Army of Republika Srpska



Introduction

During the armed conflict in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Svetozar Andrić served as the commander of the 1st Birač Infantry Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska (VRS), and, after July 1995, as the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Drina Corps of the VRS.

The evidence presented in this Dossier indicates that, from May 1992, when Andrić ordered the “expulsion of the Muslim population” from the Zvornik municipality and the establishment of the Sušica camp in Vlasenica¹, members of the Birač Brigade, independently or in cooperation with other military and police units, committed numerous crimes in municipalities within the brigade’s zone of responsibility. The Dossier also presents evidence of Svetozar Andrić’s role in the genocide committed in Srebrenica in July 1995.

The First Birač Infantry Brigade participated in the forcible transfer, expulsion and deportation of the non-Serbian population from the municipalities of Zvornik, Vlasenica and Kalesija, the killing of civilians during the occupation of the territory, and the burning and destruction of villages.

Members of the Birač Brigade controlled the Sušica camp, along with other detention facilities within their area of responsibility, where detainees were physically and psychologically abused and killed. Women who were detained in these facilities were subjected to sexual violence.

As the commander of Birač Brigade, Svetozar Andrić participated in the preparation and carrying out of the attack on Srebrenica in July 1995. When the mass executions of the men of Srebrenica were carried out, Andrić, holding the rank of colonel, had been appointed Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Drina Corps VRS. Members of the Drina Corps took part in the executions, and the material resources and personnel of the corps were used to clean up the area and conceal the crimes by burying the victims in mass graves.

No later than January 2006, the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia had access to documents showing that Svetozar Andrić ordered the expulsion of the non-Serb population from the territory of the Zvornik municipality, as well as the establishment of the Sušica camp.

After the disclosure of Andrić’s orders during the trial for crimes in Zvornik², the Humanitarian Law Centre (HLC) sent a letter to the War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia requesting an investigation to be launched against Svetozar Andrić, on the reasonable suspicion that he was responsible for serious violations of the Geneva Conventions during the armed conflict in BiH.³ An

1 Order of the Command of SV "Birač" Brigade dated 28 May 1992, Exhibit P03055, *Karadžić*; Order of the Command of SV "Birač" Brigade dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P03240, *Karadžić*.

2 The documents were presented in the *Zvornik I* case before the then War Crimes Chamber of the Belgrade District Court, see: *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case, available at: https://www.hlc-rdc.org/Transkripti/zvornik_1.html

3 Humanitarian Law Center, "HLC Demands Investigation into Svetozar Andrić and Tomo Kovač be Initiated", Belgrade, 3 February 2006, available at <http://www.hlc-rdc.org/?p=13587&lang=de>, accessed 2 December 2022.



investigation was not initiated, which led the HLC to file a criminal complaint in March 2018 with the OWCP against Andrić for crimes committed in Zvornik and Vlasenica in 1992 and 1993, as well as in Srebrenica in 1995.⁴

Until today, no indictment has been filed against Svetozar Andrić.⁵

The aim of this Dossier is to present the facts about these events to the public and to point out – on the basis of publicly available documents and data - the personal and command responsibility of Svetozar Andrić for war crimes committed in his zone of responsibility. The Dossier is based on military and police documents accepted as evidence in several proceedings before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), witness statements and statements before international and national courts, newspaper articles and other relevant sources.

4 Humanitarian Law Center, "Criminal complaint against Svetozar Andrić", Belgrade, 2 March 2018, available at <http://www.hlc-rdc.org/?p=34855&lang=de>, accessed 2 December 2022.

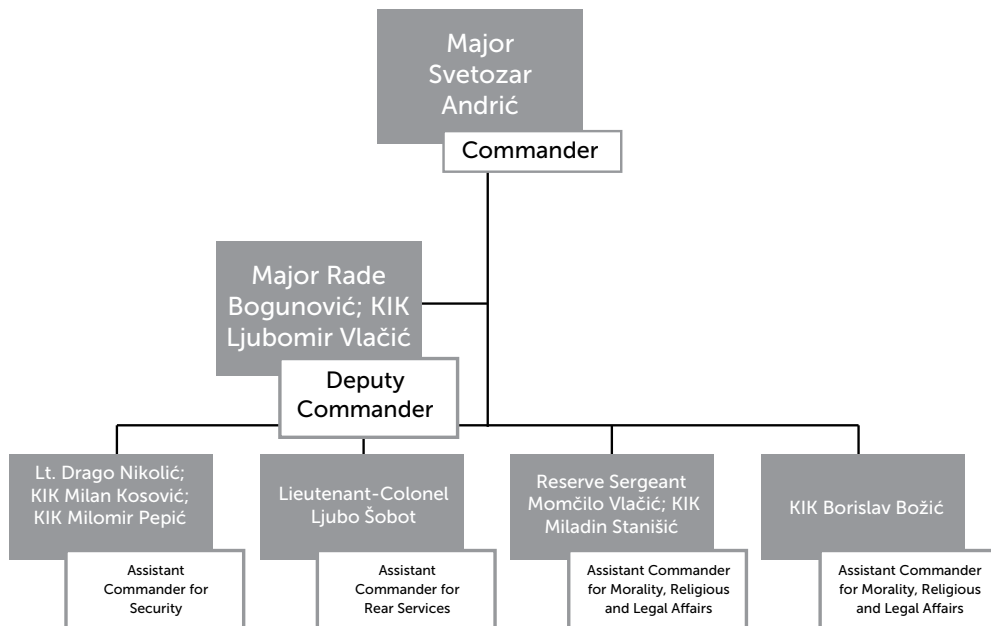
5 In response to the HLC's inquiry into the actions following this criminal complaint, at the beginning of 2023 the OWCP stated that the case was in the investigation phase, but did not specify which procedural actions were being taken; OWCP, response to the emergency no. HLC:25-F160474 dated 9 February 2023.



I Birač Brigade

The First Birač Infantry Brigade (hereinafter Birač Brigade) was formed in mid-May 1992 by the transformation of the 336th Motorised Brigade (mtbr) of the 17th Corps of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA). The initial name of the brigade was the "Birač" Brigade Command. Colonel Radovan Tačić, who had been in command of the 336th mtbr until then, briefly continued to lead and command the "Birač" Brigade Command.⁶

Lieutenant-General Ratko Mladić, Commander of the Main Staff of the VRS, on 19 May 1992, appointed Major Svetozar Andrić as the Commander of the Birač Brigade.⁷ The Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Birač Brigade was Major Rade Bogunović⁸, and after him, until July 1995, Captain First Class Ljubomir Vlačić, aka Buba [Bug].⁹



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Source: Documentary "War Road of the 1st Birač Infantry Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska", by Ljubiša Milutinović, May 2022

6 Defence Order Op.no. 1, "Birač" Brigade Command dated 15 May 1992, Exhibit P04092, *Mladić*.

7 Statement of witness Svetozar Andrić given to the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D03886, *Karadžić*, para. 1; Notepad of Ratko Mladić from 14 February to 28 May 1992, Exhibit P00352.E, *Mladić*, pp. 357-358; Drinski Magazine, "Boy, you are the commander from today", October 1994, Exhibit P02289, *Tolimir*, p. 395.

8 The documentary "War Road of the 1st Birač Infantry Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska", by Ljubiša Milutinović, May 2022, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-NoIHCEsSg>, accessed on 6 July 2022; Testimony of protected witness KRAJ-682 before the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 21 July 2005, p. 16907.

9 From 15 July 1995, Ljubomir Vlačić assumed command of the Birač Brigade. Order of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Srpska of 14 July 1995, Exhibit P06453, *Karadžić*.



The day of the establishment of the brigade is celebrated on 19 May¹⁰, while it was officially renamed the First Birač Infantry Brigade on 16 June 1992 by order of the command of the Main Staff of the VRS. The peacetime location of the Birač Brigade was Zvornik.¹¹

The command post of the Birač Brigade during the war was in Šekovići¹², which is why it is also called the Šekovići Brigade.

The Birač Brigade was part of the East Bosnian Corps of the VRS.¹³ The East Bosnian Corps (IBK) was formed on the foundations of the 17th JNA Corps¹⁴, from which it took over the manpower, military equipment, command structure and part of the zone of responsibility.¹⁵

On 1 November 1992, the Commander of the Main Staff of the VRS ordered the formation of a new corps – the Drina Corps, which included parts of the IBK, Sarajevo-Romanija Corps and Herzegovina Corps.¹⁶ The first commander of the Drina Corps, whose headquarters were in Vlasenica, was General Milenko Živanović.¹⁷ The newly formed Drina Corps also included the Birač Brigade, which was the "base for the formation of the Drina Corps"¹⁸.

The Birač Brigade was decorated with the Order of the Nemanjići, the state recognition of the Republic of Srpska, in September 1996.¹⁹

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- 10 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 1; Drinski Magazine, "First Among Equals", December 1995, Exhibit P00476.E. *Popović et al.*, p. 1.
- 11 Order of the Commander of the GS VRS – on the formation of commands and units of the Army of the Republika Srpska of 16 June 1992, Exhibit P04980, *Mladić*, p. 14; IBK Command dated 11 July 1992, Exhibit 2D00736, *Stanišić and Simatović*, pp. 2-3.
- 12 Drinski Magazine, "First Among Equals", December 1995, Exhibit P00476.E. *Popović et al.*, p. 1.
- 13 In addition to the Birač Brigade, the East Bosnian Corps of the VRS also included the Posavina Brigade, Brčko Brigade, 1st Semberija Brigade, 2nd Semberija Brigade, 1st Majevica Brigade, 2nd Majevica Brigade and Zvornik Brigade; Order of the East Bosnian Corps Command dated 7 June 1992, Exhibit P05400, *Karadžić*, pp. 3–6.
- 14 The IBK was one of the five original VRS Corps (1st Krajina Corps, 2nd Krajina Corps, IBK, Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, Herzegovina Corps). The IBK commanders were Colonel Nikola Denčić, former Deputy Commander of the 17th JNA Corps, then Colonel Dragutin Ilić, and, from August 1992, Colonel Novica Simić. The IBK headquarters were located in Bijeljina. See: Richard Butler, "Report on Command Responsibility at the VRS Main Staff", dated 9 June 2006, Exhibit P02210, *Mladić*, pp. 1, 5; Statement and supplement to the statement of the witness Đorđe Đukić given to the ICTY on 29 February 1996, Exhibit P01052, *Mladić*, p. 10.
- 15 The IBK Zone of Responsibility included northeastern and eastern BiH, with the Sava River in the north and the Drina River in the east, including the municipalities of Zvornik, Bijeljina and Vlasenica. See: Order of the Main Staff of the VRS, Zones of Responsibility and Next Tasks of the Army of 4 June 1992, Exhibit P04381, *Mladić*, p. 3.
- 16 Order of the Main Staff of the VRS on the reorganisation of the Army of the Republic of Srpska of 20 October 1992, Exhibit P03659, *Mladić*, p. 1.
- 17 At the end of December 2021, the Prosecutor's Office of War Crimes of the Republic of Serbia filed an indictment against Milenko Živanović for war crimes in the territory of Srebrenica in the period from 1992 to 1995, http://www.hlc-rdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Optuznica_29.12.2021..pdf, accessed on 23 June 2022; Statement of the witness Milenko Živanović given to the ICTY on 27 October 2013, Exhibit D03932, *Karadžić*, para. 1.
- 18 Birčanski vojnik Magazine, "Road to the Top - Three Years of the 1st Birač Infantry brigade", May 1995, p. 2; Statement of the witness Svetozar Andrić given to the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D03886, *Karadžić*, para. 2.
- 19 The Order of Nemanjići is awarded to units and members of the armed forces for outstanding military feats in combat. The documentary "War Road of the 1st Birač Infantry Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska", by Ljubiša Milutinović, May 2022, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-NoIHCEsSg>, accessed on 6 July 2022.



Zone of Responsibility

In the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade, at its formation, there were seven municipalities: Zvornik, Kalesija, Šekovići, Vlasenica, Bratunac, and the newly formed municipalities of Milići and Skelane.²⁰ With a front length of about 160 kilometers²¹ and around 12,000 soldiers²², the Birač Brigade was one of the larger VRS brigades in terms of distribution and number.

Starting November 1992, the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade included: "Excluding Kalesija – Ravno brdo [hill] – Hrošić – including Kladanj – Debelo brdo – Ljeljan brdo – Žetenica – Steng – Đipa – Koritna kosa – Barice – Petrovačka greda – Oglavci – Pogledala – Žeđ – including Ljeskovik – Tržakovac – Zeleni Jadar – Viogor – Zvijezda – sBišina – including Kasaba – the valley of the Jadar River to the confluence in river Drinjača – valley of the river Drinjača – Kozjak – Lamino brdo – Caparde – Kalesija".²³ During this period, there were 6,054 combatants²⁴, 21 officers and six non-commissioned officers in the Birač Brigade.²⁵

From January 1993, the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade significantly decreased, but included the territories of the municipalities of Kalesija, Šekovići and parts of the municipality of Kladanj.²⁶ The narrower area of responsibility also reduced the number of brigade members, so the number ranged from 3,600 (in early 1993) to about 2,800 soldiers (in 1995).²⁷

Members of the Birač Brigade participated in combats outside their zone of responsibility, often in cooperation with the Zvornik Brigade. They participated in the combats on the Sarajevo battlefield (Operation Lukavac 93), in Bihać, as well as in Majeвица, Teočak, Glamoč and Grahovo.²⁸ In 1992,

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20 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 1; Statement of the witness Svetozar Andrić given to the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D03886, *Karadžić*, para. 2.

21 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, p. 41674; Drinski Magazine, "First Among Equals", December 1995, Exhibit P00476.E. *Popović et al.*, p. 1.

22 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 1; Statement of the witness Svetozar Andrić given to the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D03886, *Karadžić*, para. 2.

23 Drina Corps Command – Brigade zone of responsibility dated 30 November 1992, Exhibit P01203, *Tolimir*, p. 1.

24 The state of the territory in the zone of responsibility of the Drina Corps dated 17 December 1992, Exhibit P06580, *Mladić*, p. 2.

25 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 9.

26 *Ibid.*, p. 2; Assessment of the state of combat readiness in the units of the Drina Corps dated 5 March 1993, Exhibit P05241, *Mladić*, p. 10.

27 Assessment of the state of combat readiness in the units of the Drina Corps dated 5 March 1993, Exhibit P05241, *Mladić*, p. 13; Analysis of the combat readiness of the Birač Brigade in 1994 from 1 February 1995, Exhibit 1D01321.B, *Stanišić and Simatović*, p. 6; Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 10.

28 Birčanski vojnik Magazine, "Road to the Top - Three Years of the 1st Birač Infantry Brigade", May 1995, p. 2; Birčanski vojnik Magazine, "Victory and freedom no others will bring", May 1995, p. 8; Order of the Main Staff of the VRS to the commands of the Drina Corps of 7 July 1993, Exhibit P05035, *Mladić*.



of the 201 soldiers in the Birač Brigade, about 70% of them were killed outside the brigade's zone of responsibility.²⁹

Formation Composition

At the beginning of June 1992, by order of the Command of the IBK, the former units of the Territorial Defence (TO) of the municipalities from the Birač area were transformed into VRS units and as such became part of the Birač Brigade.³⁰

Originally, the Birač Brigade consisted of about 10 infantry battalions, 15 detachments, one armoured battalion, one mixed artillery regiment, support and background units.³¹ Some of these units, by their transformation or transition to another corps, were very quickly extracted from the composition of the Birač Brigade, and so its structure was changing frequently until 1993.

The Birač Brigade was organised in a territorial manner, and according to this principle, it had at least the following infantry battalions in its composition³²:

The **Osmaci 1st Infantry Battalion**, which was formed by the reorganisation of TO Kalesija, so that the zone of responsibility of this battalion included the road route Tuzla-Zvornik³³, including the municipality of Kalesija. The battalion commander was Captain Vlastimir Bećarević³⁴, followed by Colonel Boško Đuričić.³⁵

The **Šekovići 2nd Infantry Battalion**, which performed combat operations in the area between the municipalities of Šekovići and Kladanj. The battalion commander was Novak Tokanović.³⁶

The **Milići 3rd Infantry Battalion**, operated in the area of the newly formed municipality of Milići, which belonged to Vlasenica until 1992. One of the tasks of this battalion included securing a bauxite mine in Milići. The battalion consisted of about 715 members, commanded until 8 December 1992 by

29 Assessment of the state of combat readiness in the units of the Drina Corps dated 5 March 1993, Exhibit P05241, *Mladić*, pp. 3, 10.

30 Order of the East Bosnian Corps of 6 June 1992, Exhibit D01457, *Karadžić*, pp. 1-2; Order of Svetozar Andrić on the renaming of the TO and TO units' headquarters of 8 June 1992, Exhibit P07348, *Mladić*; Decision on the Formation of the Army of the Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina of 12 May 1992, Exhibit P02799, *Mladić*, Art. 2.

31 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 1.

32 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the War Crimes Council of the Belgrade District Court in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 26 January 2007, pp. 37-38; Defence Order Op. no. 1, Command no. "Birač" dated 15 May 1992, Exhibit P04092, *Mladić*, pp. 1-2.

33 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, p. 41672.

34 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the case *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* of 26 January 2007, pp. 13-14.

35 Command of the 1st Infantry Battalion Osmaci of the Birač Brigade from 1 February 1993, Exhibit D430, *Orić*.

36 Notepad of Ratko Mladić from 27 May to 31 July 1992, Exhibit P01478.E, *Karadžić*, p. 244.



the captain of the first class, Milenko Petković.³⁷ In January 1993, this battalion left the Birač Brigade.³⁸

The **Vlasenica 4th Infantry Battalion**³⁹, which was formed from the Vlasenica detachment, which was a unit of the TO Vlasenica Headquarters until 19 May 1992.⁴⁰ The battalion commander was former JNA Major Slobodan Pajić⁴¹, who was replaced in August 1992 by Major Mile Jaćimović.⁴² At the end of June 1992, other units of the TO Vlasenica headquarters – the Cikote detachment based in Rudište and the Drinjača detachment in the village of Luke⁴³ – became part of the 4th Infantry Battalion. The zone of responsibility of the 4th Infantry Battalion was on the road route Vlasenica – Cerska. In January 1993, this battalion left the Birač Brigade.⁴⁴

The **Bratunac and Skelani 5th Infantry Battalion**, whose battalion commander immediately after its formation was Captain Momir Nikolić⁴⁵, and his deputy Dragoslav Trišić. Colonel Dimitrije Šibalić soon took over as commander.⁴⁶ In July 1992, the battalion had about 2,600 members.⁴⁷ In mid-November 1992, this battalion left the Birač Brigade.⁴⁸

The **Zvornik 6th Infantry Battalion**, which was part of the Birač Brigade until 2 June 1992, when it was transformed into the Zvornik Infantry Brigade.⁴⁹

37 Report of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Milići of 8 December 1992, Exhibit P06117, *Karadžić*, pp. 2-3; Tomislav Savkić stated that there were two battalions of the Birač Brigade in Milići, and that he was the commander of one of them from 1 November 1992, see in: Testimony of Tomislav Savkić before the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 and 30 January 2006, pp. 20586, 20682-20683, 20707-20709.

38 At the beginning of 1994, the 1st Milići Light Infantry Brigade was formed from this battalion as part of the Drina Corps, see: Command of the 1st Milići Light Infantry Brigade of 14 July 1995, Exhibit P00120, *Popović et al.*

39 Recapitulation of the actual strength v/o 4. pb Vlasenica dated 16 December 1992, Exhibit T-50, Court of BiH, *Višković*.

40 Order of the Municipal Headquarters to the Commander of OdTO Vlasenica dated 29 April 1992, Exhibit P01067, *Stanišić and Župljanin*; Command of the 1st Vlasenica Light Infantry Brigade of 19 December 1994, Exhibit P02636, *Karadžić*.

41 Report of the guard service near the building of the 4th pb Vlasenica from June 1992, Exhibit P03245, *Karadžić*, p. 1.

42 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, p. 41680; Martin Frančević, "Military Analysis and Expert Opinion in the Case of Garić et al.", Sarajevo, January 2019, para. 14.

43 1st Vlasenica Light Infantry Brigade command dated December 19, 1994, Exhibit P02636, *Karadžić*.

44 From this battalion, in March 1994, the 1st Vlasenica Light Infantry Brigade of the Drina Corps was formed.

45 Momir Nikolić was sentenced to 20 years in prison by the ICTY Appeals Chamber for crimes against humanity, see in: Summary of the ICTY Appeals Chamber Judgment in the *Nikolić* case of 8 March 2006.

46 Testimony of Dragoslav Trišić before the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 20 October 2008, pp. 27030-27031.

47 Payment order for persons from VP 2465/5 for July 1992, Exhibit P00781, *Popović et al.*

48 From this battalion, the 1st Bratunac Light Infantry Brigade and the Independent Infantry Battalion Skelani were formed, which were subordinated to the Drina Corps, see in: War Path of the Bratunac Light Infantry Brigade 1992-1995, Exhibit 3DP00274, *Popović et al.*, p. 1.

49 Drinski Magazine, "On the Victory Road – Three Years of the Zvornik Brigade", 30 June 1995, Exhibit P02096, *Mladić*, p. 1; Order of the IBK Command to the TO Zvornik Headquarters dated 30 May 1992, Exhibit P07346, *Mladić*.



Svetozar Andrić was also in charge of at least three groups of volunteer units, mostly with combat experience from Croatia.⁵⁰ During June 1992, in the area of the municipality of Kalesija, Andrić was in charge of members of the subordinate paramilitary units “Sima's Chetniks” and “Yellow Wasps” [Serbian: “Žute ose”].⁵¹ From approximately June 6, 1992, these units received orders from Andrić, as well as material and technical support, including field vehicles, from the command of the Birač Brigade.⁵² Members of the paramilitary formation “White Eagles” [Serbian: “Beli orlovi”], who had been present in the municipality of Vlasenica since the beginning of the conflict, and especially around the bauxite mine in Milići⁵³, were temporarily placed under the command of the Birač Brigade in October 1992, after leaving the Zvornik 6th Infantry Brigade.⁵⁴

By the end of 1993, the Birač Brigade had five infantry battalions in its composition, namely: 1. pb Osmaci, 2. pb Paprača, 3. pb Bišina, 4. pb Kaštijelj and 5. pb Trnovo.⁵⁵ The Commander of the 5th infantry battalion Trnovo from March to October 1994 was Lieutenant Milorad Pelemiš⁵⁶, later Commander of the 10th Sabotage Detachment of the GS VRS.⁵⁷ In addition to the aforementioned infantry battalions, the Birač Brigade also included an Assault Squad under the command of Miroslav Mića Kraljević⁵⁸, a Reconnaissance and Diversion Platoon, a mixed Artillery Battalion, as well as support and background units.⁵⁹ This military formation was retained by the Birač Brigade until the end of the armed conflicts in BiH.

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- 50 Analysis of the combat activities of the Birač Brigade from July 1992, Exhibit P03172, *Karadžić*, p. 2; Testimony of protected witness at KRAJ-682 before the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 21 July 2005, pp. 16913-16914; Statement of Rade Tanacković given to SJB Bijeljina of 7 August 1992, Exhibit P920, *Krajišnik*, p. 1.
- 51 The name of this unit was actually “Igor Marković” but it was publicly known as “Yellow Wasps”. Testimony of Vojin Vučković before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 6 September 2006, pp. 52-54; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 28 April 2015, pp. 34769-34770; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the District Court in Belgrade - War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 26 January 2007, pp. 13-14.
- 52 Testimony of Vojin Vučković before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* case of 12 October 2010, pp. 11-13; Information from the 1st Infantry Battalion Osmaci to Zvornik Brigade from 1 February 1993, Exhibit D430, *Orić*.
- 53 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1114.
- 54 Transfer of the combatants from Zvornik to Birač Brigade, order of 13 October 1992 Exhibit P05404, *Karadžić*.
- 55 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 10.
- 56 Statement of the witness Milorad Pelemiš given to the ICTY on 18 June 2014, Exhibit D00978, *Mladić*, para. 2.
- 57 The 10th Sabotage Detachment was involved in operations around Srebrenica and participated in the execution of captives at Branjevo and in Bišina. See in: HLC, *Dossier: The 10th Sabotage Detachment of the Main Staff of the Army of Republika Srpska*, Belgrade, 2011.
- 58 In 2018, the Prosecutor's Office of BiH filed an indictment against Miroslav Kraljević for crimes against humanity committed in the municipality of Vlasenica during 1992, see in: Indictment of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH against *Mane Đurić et al.* dated 7 February 2018.
- 59 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, pp. 4, 10.



II SAO Birač

The Birač region in eastern BiH includes the territories of the municipalities of Zvornik, Šekovići, Vlasenica, Bratunac, Srebrenica and parts of the municipality of Kalesija. According to the 1991 census, there were about 195,000 inhabitants in the area, of whom approximately 59% were Bosnian Muslims, while about 38% were of Serbian nationality.⁶⁰

Bosnian Serbs under the leadership of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) had been establishing parallel political and military structures in BiH since the autumn of 1991.⁶¹ At the same time, the JNA and the SDS began arming Serbs and forming military units composed exclusively of Serbs.⁶²

In accordance with the SDS Instruction for the Organisation and Activity of the Organs of the Serbian People in Bosnia and Herzegovina, assemblies of the Serbian people at the local level were formed in the Birač region.⁶³ Regionally, in November 1991, the Serbian Autonomous Region of Birač (SAO Birač) was established in the Municipal Assembly of Šekovići,⁶⁴ which was operational until the summer of 1992.⁶⁵

SAO Birač consisted of the municipalities of Šekovići and Vlasenica, as well as parts of the municipalities of Zvornik, Kladanj, Bratunac, Srebrenica, Živinice and Kalesija.⁶⁶ The President of the Executive Council of SAO Birač was Milenko Stanić.⁶⁷

On 12 May 1992, at a session of the Assembly, the President of the Republic of Srpska, Radovan Karadžić, presented the strategic goals of the Serbian people in BiH that were the basis for the military operations of the VRS.⁶⁸ Three strategic goals were of particular importance for the Birač area: the complete demarcation of the Serbian people from other national communities in BiH; the elimination

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60 Census of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1991, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 72-73, 142-143, 226-227, 234-235, 284-285, 294-295.

61 Reynaud Theunens, "Report for Case IT-09-92 – Ratko Mladić and the 2nd Military District of the JNA – Army of the Republic of Srpska (1992-1995)", September 2012, Exhibit P03029, *Mladić*, Part II, p. 21.

62 Testimony of Izet Redžić before the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 30 August 2004, pp. 5008-5010, 5017-5022; Statement of witness Miroslav Deronjić before the ICTY on 25 November 2003, Exhibit P02511, *Stanišić and Simatović*, paras. 4-36; Javnost Magazine, "Formed Battalion in Birač – For the Defence of Yugoslavia", 9 November 1991, Exhibit P283, *Orić*; Drinski Magazine, "Boy, you are the commander from today", October 1994, Exhibit P02289, *Tolimir*, p. 394.

63 Instructions on the organisation and operation of the authorities of the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina in extraordinary circumstances dated 19 December 1991, Exhibit P43, *Krajišnik*.

64 Javnost Magazine, "Life as SAO – Birač has chosen", dated 9 November 1991, Exhibit P283, *Orić*.

65 Republika Srpska BiH, nos. 308-06, "Free Kalesija", dated 14 May 1992, Exhibit P04095, *Mladić*; Expert Report of Patrick Treanor, "Bosnian Serb Leadership 1990-1992", 30 July 2002, Exhibit P64, *Krajišnik*, paras. 136-137.

66 Minutes of the first session of the Executive Council of SAO Birač, dated 18 February 1992, Exhibit P07083, *Mladić*, p. 2.

67 Minutes of the first session of the Executive Council of SAO Birač, dated 18 February 1992, Exhibit P07083, *Mladić*, p. 2; Testimony of Milenko Stanić before the ICTY in *Karadžić* case of 19 February 2013, p. 33996.

68 Original Minutes of the 16th session of the Assembly of the Serbian People in BiH of 12 May 1992, Exhibit P00956, *Karadžić*, pp. 7-9; Reynaud Theunens, "Report for Case IT-09-92 – Ratko Mladić and the 2nd Military District of the JNA – Army of the Republic of Srpska (1992-1995)", September 2012, Exhibit P03029, *Mladić*, Part II, pp. 37-41.



of the River Drina as a border between Serbia and BiH; and the establishment of a corridor between Semberija and Krajina, for which the municipality of Zvornik was a key element.⁶⁹

In February 1992, the Executive Council of SAO Birač determined the specific tasks to be carried out with the aim of "taking over power as efficiently as possible in the area of SAO Birač".⁷⁰ After the newly established TO headquarters, JNA units and local Serbs had taken power in Zvornik, Vlasenica, Bratunac and other municipalities of the region, SAO Birač proclaimed the general mobilisation of the population and the state of war in the entire area on 29 April 1992.⁷¹

Decisions taken in the following period by the executive body of SAO Birač, on the basis of which Svetozar Andrić issued orders, resulted in the expulsion and imprisonment of thousands of Bosnian Muslims from these areas.

III Attacks on settlements and expulsion of the population from the Birač area

From mid-May 1992, the Birač Brigade under the command of Major Svetozar Andrić participated in armed attacks and the expulsion of the Muslim population from the Birač region. The population was forced to flee to the territory controlled by the BiH Army, while a part was deported to Serbia and then further to Hungary and other countries.

16 On 15 May 1992, Colonel Radovan Tačić ordered the Birač Brigade to establish and maintain control over the municipalities in the Brigade's zone of responsibility with the TO units, and to enable the functioning of the authorities.⁷²

Svetozar Andrić soon afterwards specified the orders concerning the organisation of units, the takeover of power and the emigration of the non-Serb population from the Birač area. On 26 May 1992, he issued an order to the Osmaci 1st Infantry Battalion for the relocation of "women and children from Muslim villages to Kalesija and Gračanica".⁷³ Two days later, Andrić sent an order to the TO Zvornik headquarters, stating that the relocation of Bosnian Muslims "must be organised and co-ordinated with the municipalities through which the relocation is carried out".⁷⁴

69 Commander of IBK Colonel Nikola Denčić on the current political and security situation in the territory of BiH of 20 May 1992, Exhibit P07345, *Mladić*, p. 2; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 28 April 2015, p. 34740-34742; Reynaud Theunens, "Report for Case IT-09-92 – Ratko Mladić and the 2nd Military District of the JNA – Army of the Republic of Srpska (1992-1995)", September 2012, Exhibit P03029, *Mladić*, Part II, pp. 37-41, 124.

70 Minutes of the first session of the Executive Council of SAO Birač, dated 18 February 1992, Exhibit P07083, *Mladić*, p. 2.

71 Decision on declaring the state of war in the entire Serbian Autonomous Area of Birač dated 29 April 1992, Exhibit P03982, *Mladić*.

72 Defence Order Op.no. 1, "Birač" Brigade Command dated 15 May 1992, Exhibit P04092, *Mladić*, pp. 1-2.

73 Order of the Command of the Brigade "Birač" of 26 May 1992, Exhibit P07086, *Mladić*.

74 Order of the Command of SV "Birač" Brigade dated 28 May 1992, Exhibit P03055, *Karadžić*.



At the end of May 1992, the management of SAO Birač announced that it had established the borders of the Birač region and made a decision on "the safe moving of Muslims from the area"⁷⁵, after which women, children and elderly locals were forcibly displaced, while the men were taken to camps.

By September 1992, members of the Birač Brigade had seized and controlled 70% of the territory of SAO Birač⁷⁶, and expelled almost the entire Muslim population.⁷⁷

Kalesija

The municipality of Kalesija is located in the eastern part of BiH, and it was predominantly Bosnian Muslims (79%) who lived in it before the war, while Serbs were in the minority (18%).⁷⁸

Svetozar Andrić participated in the formation of military units and arming of the Serbian population during 1991 as an active officer of the JNA, and at the latest from May 1992 in the combat activities of the Serbian forces in the area of the municipality of Kalesija.⁷⁹ Since the formation of the VRS, in addition to the Osmaci 1st Infantry Battalion of the Birač Brigade, members of the "White Eagles", "Yellow Wasps" and "Sima's Chetniks" paramilitary units had been present in this area.⁸⁰

On 26 May 1992, Major Svetozar Andrić sent an order to the Commander of the Osmaci 1st Infantry Battalion, stating: "Move women and children out of the Muslim villages to Kalesija and Gračanica, whereas the men are to be taken away to the collection centres"⁸¹. The next day, 27 May 1992, under the command of Captain Vlastimir Bećarević, members of the Osmaci 1st pb carried out an armed attack on the village of Šeher and the hamlet of Like.⁸² The locals were forced to leave their homes and gather outside the house of Ibro Alibašić, where the women and children were separated from the men. In the presence of Svetozar Andrić, the soldiers forced the women, children and old people

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75 Javnost Magazine, "Serbian Region of Birač– Established Borders" dated 6 June 1992, Exhibit P06030, *Karadžić*.

76 Speech of Svetozar Andrić in Milići of 25 September 1992, Exhibit D03888, *Karadžić*; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* Case of 29 April 2015, pp. 34839-34841.

77 The state of the territory in the area of responsibility of the Drina Corps dated 17 December 1992, Exhibit P06580, *Mladić*, p. 1; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1220; Letter from the Ministry of the Interior of BiH to Vasvija Vidović of 4 July 1995, Exhibit D04002, *Karadžić*, pp. 12-14.

78 Census of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1991, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, pp. 140-142.

79 Drinski Magazine, "Boy, you are the commander from today", October 1994, Exhibit P02289, *Tolimir*, p. 394; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 26 January 2007, p. 3.

80 Testimony of Vojin Vučković before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 6 September 2006, pp. 53-54; Testimony of Simo Bogdanović before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 27 September 2007, pp. 20-21; Testimony of Dragan Kerkez before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 26 November 2007, pp. 86-87; Command of the 1st Infantry Battalion Osmaci from 1 February 1993, Exhibit D430, *Orić*.

81 Order of the Command of the "Birač" Brigade of 26 May 1992, Exhibit P07086, *Mladić*; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 28 April 2015, p. 34775.

82 Judgment of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the *Zoran Janković* case of 19 June 2007, pp. 17-18.



to board trucks and drove them to the part of the municipality of Kalesija under the control of the Army of BiH.⁸³

Serb forces imprisoned the men from Šeher and Like overnight in a library in Osmaci, where some were beaten. The next day, the men were taken out of the library and boarded onto a bus. Before boarding, the men were forced to go through a line of Serbian soldiers during which they were repeatedly struck. They were transferred and imprisoned in the gymnasium of the elementary school in Papraća (Šekovići municipality).⁸⁴ In this facility, the soldiers held more than 100 men and boys aged 13 to 87 for two to three days. During this time, their valuables and personal documents were confiscated, and they received food only once a day. The detainees were forced to sit all the time, and the guards would occasionally make them hold their hands up high, clasped above their heads.⁸⁵ At the end of May 1992, this group of detainees was taken to the gymnasium of the secondary school in Vlasenica, then to the Sušica camp, and about a month later to the Batković camp.⁸⁶

In addition to Šeher and Like, units under the command of Svetozar Andrić also captured the settlements of Memići, Bulatovci, Staro selo, Hemlijaši, Mahala, Hajvaze, Caparde, Kusonje, Odžaci, Drvenica, Jelovo brdo and Gojčin.⁸⁷ During May and June 1992, members of the Birač Brigade raided houses, and beat, robbed, raped, abused and murdered Bosnian Muslims, including children.⁸⁸

Zvornik

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Members of numerous paramilitary units such as the Serbian Volunteer Guard, the "Šešeljevci" ("Šešelj's Men"), the "Yellow Wasps", the "White Eagles" and others, in cooperation with the Serbian TO, the police and the JNA, seized Zvornik on 8 April 1992.⁸⁹ After the withdrawal of the JNA from BiH, from mid-May 1992, the 6th Infantry Brigade and the Armoured Brigade of the Birač Brigade

83 Testimony of Lutvija Alibašić before the Court of BiH in the *Zoran Janković* case of 18 April 2007.

84 Statement of witness Mujo Ramić given to the ICTY on 23 February 2010, Exhibit P02528, *Mladić*, paras. 3-5.

85 *Ibid.*, paras. 6-7; Statement of witness Tahir Ferhatbegović given to the ICTY on 9 July 2002, Exhibit P02526, *Mladić*, p. 4.

86 Statement of witness Mujo Ramić given to the ICTY on 23 February 2010, Exhibit P02528, *Mladić*, paras. 8-12; Statement of Witness Tahir Ferhatbegović given to the ICTY on 9 July 2002, Exhibit P02526, *Mladić*, pp. 4-7.

87 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 7.

88 Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade in the *Dragan Maksimović* case of 6 June 2018; Judgment of the District Court in Bijeljina in the *Mirko Lukić* case of 4 March 2014; Judgment of the Federal Court of Justice, FR Germany in *Maksim Sokolović* case of 21 February 2001; Judgment of the Cantonal Court in Tuzla in the *Miodrag Trifković* case of 31 October 2010; Statement of Rade Tanacković given to the SJB Bijeljina of 7 August 1992, Exhibit P920, *Krajišnik*, pp. 1-2.

89 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 362; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1249-1252.



were deployed in the area of the municipality of Zvornik⁹⁰, as well as the units of the TO Zvornik commanded by Branko Popović, who went under the false name of Marko Pavlović in Zvornik.⁹¹

The municipality of Zvornik was in the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade until the formation of the Zvornik Brigade⁹² on 2 June 1992.⁹³ Although the TO Zvornik units had not yet officially joined the Birač Brigade, Svetozar Andrić gave orders for combat actions to the TO Zvornik command.⁹⁴

On 28 May 1992, Svetozar Andrić ordered the TO Zvornik to organise the relocation of women and children, and to place the men in camps.⁹⁵

Following the order of 28 May, Serbian forces intensified the expulsion and imprisonment of Bosnian Muslims. The relocation of the population by order of Svetozar Andrić continued after Zvornik left the area of responsibility of the Birač Brigade.

Testifying before the ICTY, Andrić claimed that TO Zvornik did not implement his order, since paramilitary formations controlled the municipality of Zvornik.⁹⁶ However, the ICTY Trial Chamber characterised Andrić's testimony as unreliable, because "it was in his interest to minimise his personal participation in the events in Zvornik".⁹⁷

At a meeting of the Serbian military and civilian leadership held on 30 June 1992, the Commander of the TO Zvornik headquarters, Branko Popović, informed General Ratko Mladić that the Bosnian Serb units in Zvornik were the most active in the relocation of Muslims in the towns of Šepak, Divič and Kozluk.⁹⁸ Bosnian Serbs who fled from other parts of BiH moved into the homes of expelled Bosnian Muslims from Zvornik in June 1992.⁹⁹

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90 Defence Order Op.no. 1, Command no. "Birač" dated 15 May 1992, Exhibit P04092, *Mladić*, p. 2; Richard Butler, Statement on Military Events in Srebrenica (revision) – Operation Krivaja 95, 1 November 2002, Exhibit P358b, *Blagojević and Jokić*, pp. 6-8.

91 Branko Popović was affiliated with the State Security Service of Serbia, and for the crimes in Zvornik he was sentenced before the High Court in Belgrade to 15 years in prison, see in: Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade – Department for War Crimes in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* case of 22 November 2010.

92 Statement of the witness Svetozar Andrić given to the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D03886, *Karadžić*, para. 2.

93 Even after the separation, the Zvornik and Birač brigades continued to collaborate and conduct joint military operations. See: Order for Combat Operations, IBK Command dated 7 June 1992, Exhibit P05400, *Karadžić*, p. 3; Decision for further operations, Drina Corps Command dated 24 November 1992, Exhibit P02095, *Mladić*, p. 2.

94 Order of the Command of SV "Birač" Brigade dated 28 May 1992, Exhibit P03055, *Karadžić*; Order of the Command of the Brigade of SV "Birač" dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit D01035, *Mladić*.

95 Order of the Command of SV "Birač" Brigade dated 28 May 1992, Exhibit P03055, *Karadžić*, item 6.

96 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, pp. 41665-41667; Statement of the witness Svetozar Andrić given to the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D03886, *Karadžić*, para. 5.

97 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, fn. 4703.

98 Notepad of Ratko Mladić from 27 May to 31 July 1992, Exhibit P01478, *Karadžić*, pp. 250-251.

99 About 24,000 Serbs from central BiH moved to Zvornik, see in: Stenographic notes from the extended session of the Council for Harmonisation of Views on State Policy of 21 January 1993, Exhibit P65.220, *Krajišnik*, p. 21.



In December 1992, the Drina Corps command reported to the Main Staff of the VRS that the municipality of Zvornik was "...cleansed, and ethnically clean with a Serbian population".¹⁰⁰

Divič

At the end of April 1992, members of the JNA shelled Divič from Serbia, after which Serbian forces composed of infantry and tank units entered the village, and then robbed the locals.¹⁰¹ Around 28 May 1992, members of the Zvornik TO and the "Yellow Wasps"¹⁰² gathered together and forced between 400 and 500 Divič inhabitants into 11 buses of the Drinatrans company.¹⁰³ Accompanied by Pinzgauer vehicles and two armed soldiers on each bus, the captured locals were taken in a series of groups to the dividing line between the VRS and the Army of BiH. After unsuccessful attempts to forcibly displace civilians to the territory controlled by the Army of BiH, Serb forces returned the inhabitants of Divič to Zvornik, where they separated the men of military age from the women and children.¹⁰⁴

From 29 May 1992, over 160 men from Divič were held in the Cultural Centre in Čelopek, where members of the "Yellow Wasps", "Pivarski" and other units brutally abused, beat and maimed them, and killed at least 60 people.¹⁰⁵ Captured women, children and the elderly were taken to Crni Vrh near Kalesija, from where they were forced to continue on foot towards the territory controlled by the Army of BiH.¹⁰⁶

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100 The state of the territory in the zone of responsibility of the Drina Corps, Drina Corps Command, dated 17 December 1992, Exhibit P06580, *Mladić*, p. 1.

101 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, para. 1581; Testimony of protected witness Z before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 13 June 2006, p. 6-7; Testimony of protected witness V before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 14 June 2006, pp. 4-5.

102 The "Yellow Wasps" worked closely with the Zvornik TO, and from the formation of the VRS they were subordinated to the command of the Zvornik Brigade, while in one period they received orders from Svetozar Andrić, see in: Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 213; Testimony of Vojin Vučković before the Higher Court in Belgrade – Department for War Crimes in the *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić, Branko Popović)* case of 12 October 2010, pp. 35-36.

103 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 365; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the case *Stanišić and Župljanin* of 27 March 2013, para. 1582; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1271.

104 Testimony of protected witness 1 before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 15 June 2006, pp. 11-14; Testimony of Petar Pejić before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 25 April 2007, pp. 15-17; Statement of protected witness ST-088 given to the ICTY dated 30 June 1996, Exhibit P02189.B, *Stanišić and Župljanin*, pp. 4-5.

105 Judgment of the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 12 June 2008, pp. 3-6; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1297-1301; Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade in the *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* case of 22 November 2010, pp. 90-97.

106 Statement of protected witness ST-088 given to the ICTY dated 30 June 1996, Exhibit P02189.B, *Stanišić and Župljanin*, pp. 4-5; Testimony of protected witness Z before the District Court in Belgrade – War Crimes Council in the *Zvornik I (Branko Grujić et al.)* case of 13 June 2006, p. 12.



Kostijerevo

On 30 May 1992, early in the morning, armed soldiers in camouflage or in the uniforms of the former JNA, accompanied by artillery, occupied Kostijerevo.¹⁰⁷ The soldiers gathered together about 150 Bosnian Muslims, including women and children, whom they beat, insulted and cursed, telling them "Let's see if independent Bosnia and Izetbegović can help you now!"¹⁰⁸ The locals of Kostijerevo were taken to the Cultural Centre in Drinjača in a column under army surveillance, where later that day the displaced residents of Drinjača, Sopotnik and Đevanja were also brought.¹⁰⁹ Lieutenant Branko Studen, head of security of the Birač Brigade,¹¹⁰ ordered that the women and children should be taken to Zenica, while the men were kept detained in order to be questioned and sent for exchange.¹¹¹ Shortly after, members of the "White Eagles" paramilitary unit began taking detainees out of the Cultural Centre in groups of ten, and shooting them there and then. They killed about 88 men.¹¹²

Klisa

During May 1992, due to the war activities of the Bosnian Serb units, between 4,000 and 5,000 Bosnian Muslims from the surrounding settlements (Đulići, Grbavci, Kučić Kula, Grebe, Šetići, Čelišmani, Radava, Sjenokosa, etc.) fled to Klisa.¹¹³ The conditions of life in Klisa were disastrous. The place was overcrowded and surrounded by military units, there was not enough food, and people were forced to sleep in the courtyards and on the street.¹¹⁴ Therefore, Serbian and Muslim representatives reached an agreement on relocation from Klisa, and on 1 June 1992 the population headed towards Sapna, in order to reach the territory controlled by the Army of BiH.¹¹⁵ At the intersection in Klisa, they were stopped by tanks and armed Serb soldiers in camouflage and SMB (olive-grey) uniforms, many with

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107 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, paras. 1585-1587; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 369; Statement of protected witness B-1455 given to the ICTY on 22 May 2003, Exhibit P455Aa, *Milošević*, paras. 20-22.

108 Statement of protected witness B-1455 given to the ICTY on 22 May 2003, Exhibit P455Aa, *Milošević*, paras. 23-24.

109 *Ibid.*, Testimony of protected witness VS-1064 before the ICTY in the *Šešelj* case of 25 June 2008, pp. 8700-8702.

110 Branko Studen was the head of security in Birač, then in the Zvornik Brigade, while in the JNA he was the commander of the tank company in the 4th Armoured Brigade, see in: Statement of Branko Studen given to the ICTY of 11 July 2003, Exhibit P822.VV1, *Krajišnik*, paras. 3-12; Indictment of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH against *Pero Radić et al.* dated 3 November 2021.

111 List of people who were captured on 30 May 1992 from the villages of Kostijerevo, Drinjača, Sopotnik and Đevanje, Exhibit P454.3, *Milošević*; Testimony of protected witness VS-1064 before the ICTY in the *Šešelj* case of 25 June 2008, pp. 8702-8704.

112 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 369; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the case *Stanišić and Župljanin* of 27 March 2013, para. 1653; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1334-1338.

113 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, para. 1588; Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 22 November 2010, pp. 101-102.

114 Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 22 November 2010, pp. 101-102; Testimony of Fatima Jašarević before the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 14 October 2009, pp. 15-17.

115 Testimony of Džamila Alić before the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 14 October 2009, pp. 3, 7; Testimony of Đulafera Džinić before the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 12 October 2009, pp. 11-12.



black masks over their faces.¹¹⁶ The soldiers confiscated their vehicles and forced them to walk in a column to Bijeli potok hamlet in the settlement of Đulići. The column of refugees over a kilometer long was escorted by the soldiers – two of them for every ten metres.¹¹⁷

Upon arrival at Bijeli potok, Serbian forces seized their documents and separated the men from the women and children. The men were forced to keep their hands above their heads and board the trucks that drove them in the direction of Karakaj.¹¹⁸ During that time, members of Serb units killed six men.¹¹⁹ Women and children, about 4,000 of them, were forcibly moved by trucks to Memići, and then to the territory controlled by the Army of BiH.¹²⁰ The expulsion and imprisonment of Bosnian Muslims at Bijeli Potok was done by the members of Brnjik, Petkovac and Čelopek companies of the TO Zvornik.¹²¹ The army arranged transportation while police officers helped board the people.¹²²

From 1 July 1992, members of the Karakaj Company of the TO Zvornik and paramilitary units, including the Pivarski Group, held about 700 men and boys from Klisa in the premises of the Technical School Centre (TSC) in Karakaj.¹²³ Due to a lack of air and confined space, a few hours after arriving at the detention centre, about 20 civilians suffocated.¹²⁴ Over the next few days, Serbian forces killed more than 100 detainees on the premises of the TSC, while the others were taken to the Cultural Center in Pilica, and then to the so-called Gera's slaughterhouse, where about 500 men from this group were shot dead.¹²⁵

Kozluk

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At the end of June 1992, members of the TO Zvornik and paramilitary units attacked and captured Kozluk. By order of Svetozar Andrić of 28 May 1992, Serbian forces organised a convoy of vehicles, took about 1,800 Bosnian Muslims, inhabitants of Kozluk and Skočići¹²⁶ and, under the escort of the army and police, drove them to Serbia from where they were deported by trains to Germany, Hungary

116 Testimony of Šeća Delić before the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 12 October 2009, pp. 42-43.

117 Testimony of Fatima Jašarević before the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 14 October 2009, pp. 17-19.

118 Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 22 November 2010, pp. 107-111; Testimony of Džamila Alić before the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 14 October 2009, p. 8.

119 Killed: Murat Džinić (1929), Mustafa Grebić (1960), Alija Džinić (1964), Husein Pargan (1967), Emin Selimović (1949) and Junuz Smajlović (1947), see in: Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 22 November 2010, pp. 106-107.

120 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, para. 1589.

121 Testimony of Petko Panić before the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 11 November 2009, pp. 2900-2901.

122 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1273.

123 *Ibid.*, paras. 1303-1304.

124 *Ibid.*, para. 1307.

125 *Ibid.*, paras. 1308-1315; Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade in the case *Zvornik II (Branko Grujić and Branko Popović)* of 12 October 2009, pp. 254-277.

126 List of persons who were dislocated from Kozluk and Skočići on 26 June 1992, Exhibit P01646, *Stanišić and Simatović*.



and Austria.¹²⁷ Before leaving, the residents of Kozluk had to sign a statement by which they were denouncing their property and leaving their homes voluntarily.¹²⁸

Vlasenica

Vlasenica was in the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade until 16 January 1993. The geographical position made Vlasenica a strategically important municipality, due to the connection of the Sarajevo-Romania region with Serbia.¹²⁹

On 21 April 1992, Novi Sad Corps JNA, Bosnian Serb police, Serbian TO and local armed Serbs seized all important institutions in Vlasenica and seized power in the municipality.¹³⁰ During the action, there was no armed resistance or casualties, and after this date, the Crisis Staff of the Municipality of Vlasenica, chaired by Milenko Stanić, established complete control over life in Vlasenica.¹³¹ After the withdrawal of the JNA and the formation of units of the Birač Brigade in Vlasenica, arrests and interrogations of the non-Serb population became more frequent.¹³² This resulted in the expulsion and detention of thousands of Bosnian Muslims to several detention facilities in Vlasenica municipality.

In the period from April to December 1992, 901 persons of non-Serb nationality were killed in Vlasenica municipality, of which more than 300 remain in the missing persons register. The youngest victim was less than four months old.¹³³

It is estimated that around 14,000 Bosnian Muslims who lived in Vlasenica municipality in the early 1990s had the status of displaced persons or refugees in 1997.¹³⁴

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127 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 366; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, para. 1591; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Simatović* case of 30 May 2013, para. 947; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1261-1268.

128 Statement of the witness Fadil Banjanović before the ICTY on 10 November 2009, Exhibit P00104, *Karadžić*, paras. 2-49.

129 "Who holds Vlasenica, holds eastern Bosnia", see in: Notepad of Ratko Mladić in the period from 27 May to 31 July 1992, Exhibit P01478.E, *Karadžić*, p. 259; Velid Šabić, *Genocide in the Middle Podrinje 1992-1995*, Sarajevo, Institute for Investigation of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, 2008, p. 53.

130 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1114; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, para. 1426; Testimony of protected witness ST-179 before the ICTY in the case *Stanišić and Župljanin* of 10 March 2010, pp. 7443-7444.

131 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1115-1117; Statement of the witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, paras. 28, 48.

132 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1123.

133 Data from the Missing Persons Institute of BiH, see: Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the case against *Predrag Bastah* of 22 March 2022, para. 213.

134 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, para. 1492.



Attacks on villages and settlements in Vlasenica municipality

From May 1992, the 4th Infantry Battalion Vlasenica of the Birač Brigade, the Special Police Platoon under Miroslav Mića Kraljević¹³⁵ and members of the Public Security Station (SJB) Vlasenica have carried out armed attacks on places in the municipality of Vlasenica where Bosnian Muslims constituted the majority.¹³⁶

The attacks were carried out in the same pattern. Members of the Birač Brigade and the SJB have been calling on Bosnian Muslims to surrender their weapons via the loudspeaker system.¹³⁷ Shortly after the disarmament of the population, infantry raided villages accompanied by armored vehicles, searched houses, and separated men from women and children.¹³⁸ Miroslav Kraljević gave orders to Serb forces to kill every Bosnian Muslim who tried to flee, and that the area should be ethnically "cleansed 100%".¹³⁹ Nearly all of the Muslim houses and properties were burned to the ground to prevent the locals from returning. In nationally mixed places such as Piskavica, the houses in which Serbs lived remained intact.¹⁴⁰

At the beginning of June 1992, Serbian forces captured about 500 civilians in Gradina and the surrounding settlements. They were taken to the Sušica camp, the football field in Vlasenica or expelled in the direction of Kladanj. According to witnesses, there were many corpses in the area, and army and police units continued to occupy villages and "kill [...] everything that moved."¹⁴¹

24 By August 1992, all Bosnian Muslims from Vlasenica municipality were expelled, and Bosnian Serbs from other parts of BiH were moving into abandoned houses and apartments.¹⁴²

Members of the Birač Brigade participated in the occupation of the following places and strategically important facilities in the municipality of Vlasenica: "Piskavice, Alihodžići, Urići, Mesići, Kula, Jaroblje, Džemat, Begići, Kuljančići, object Gradina, Hrastovac, Pijuke, Jasikovice, object Grobić, Potajnik, Bećirevići, Rogosija, Metaljka, object Kameno brdo".¹⁴³

135 Special police unit subordinated to the SJB Vlasenica until August 1992, when it was reassigned to the VRS; known as "Mića's specialists", see: Trial Judgment in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, paras. 1759, 4191-4194; Indictment of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH against *Radenko Stanić et al.* of 7 February 2018, p. 2.

136 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, paras. 1759-1760; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1130-1134.

137 Statement of the witness Mehmed Babić given to the ICTY on 14 November 2001, Exhibit P523.A.1, *Krajišnik*, pp. 2-3; Testimony of protected witness ST-080 before the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 9 March 2010, pp. 7350-7351.

138 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1130-1131.

139 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1766.

140 *Ibid.*, para. 1762; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1129-1131.

141 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1762;

142 *Ibid.*, para. 1833; Testimony of Mane Djurić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 3 November 2014, pp. 27709-27710.

143 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, pp. 3, 7; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, pp. 41670-41671.



In addition, members of the Birač Brigade damaged or completely destroyed several religious and cultural buildings in Vlasenica municipality, including the Hajrija mosque, which they mined and destroyed in August 1992.¹⁴⁴

Drum

Drum is about two kilometers away from the center of Vlasenica. Before the war, the majority of the population who lived in Drum were Muslim,¹⁴⁵ while the surrounding villages were predominantly inhabited by Serbs.

Since May 1992, the units of the Birač Brigade had been located on the Drum-Kula-Jarovlje line.¹⁴⁶

Early in the morning on 2 June 1992, members of the Vlasenica 4th Infantry Battalion of the Birač Brigade and the Special Police Platoon attacked Drum.¹⁴⁷ From the direction of Vlasenica, an armoured tank with a machine gun and a group of armed soldiers entered the village.¹⁴⁸ Members of Serb units were shooting and breaking into the courtyards and houses of Bosnian Muslims. Residents were forcibly removed from their homes, and most of the men were killed on the spot.¹⁴⁹ The locals did not provide armed resistance.¹⁵⁰

Within a short time, members of the Vlasenica 4th pb and police had killed at least 20 men at several locations in the village.¹⁵¹ Women, children and three surviving men were lined up in front of a house, where they were guarded by two soldiers holding them at gunpoint. The soldiers then forced them to board a bus, in which they were insulted and threatened with being shot.¹⁵² From there they were taken in the direction of Piskavica, where another detainee was boarded onto the bus, and then to

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144 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, para. 1434; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1808; Report of Andrés Riedlmayer on the Destruction of Cultural Property in BiH, 1992-1995, Exhibit P01404, *Stanišić and Župljanin*, pp. 46-57; Testimony of protected witness ST-179 before the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 11 March 2010, pp. 7523-7524.

145 According to the 1991 BiH census, a total of 724 inhabitants lived in Drum, of which 589 were Muslims, 43 Serbs, 2 Croats, 5 Yugoslavs and 85 others. Population of Bosnia and Herzegovina: ethnic composition by settlements, Exhibit P954, *Krajišnik*, p. 285.

146 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 3.

147 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 352.

148 Statement of the witness Mehmed Babić given to the ICTY on 30 May 2000, Exhibit P523.A.1, *Krajišnik*, p. 3; Testimony of protected witness ST-080 before the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 9 March 2010, pp. 7357-7358.

149 Statement of the witness Mehmed Babić given to the ICTY on 30 May 2000, Exhibit P523.A.1, *Krajišnik*, p. 3.

150 Testimony of protected witness KDZ-603 before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 1 September 2011, pp. 18135, 18157.

151 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 352; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1153; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, paras. 1438-1441; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, paras. 1763-1766.

152 Hussein Omerović, Victims of genocide in the area of Vlasenica 1992-1995, Institute for Investigation of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, 2016, p. 133.



Vlasenica. Witnesses saw bodies left all over the village, including five dead bodies outside a local café.¹⁵³ The surviving inhabitants of Drum, 28 of them, were the first detainees at the Sušica camp.¹⁵⁴

A few days later, members of the Vlasenica SJB forced the detainees from the municipal prison in Vlasenica to participate in the burial of the murdered Drum inhabitants. They found the bodies in a pile in front of a local cafe in Drum. According to the testimony of one of the detainees, all the victims except one had a gunshot wound between the eyes, whilst Osmo Hodžić had been killed by a shot to the chest. The detainees loaded the bodies of 22 men onto a tractor and drove them to an already excavated grave at the Rakita Muslim cemetery in Vlasenica. Before being buried, the corpses were dusted over with lime.¹⁵⁵

The head of Vlasenica SJB, Mane Đurić, had information about the crime in Drum and informed the military police of the 4th Infantry Battalion of the Birač Brigade about it, but an investigation into the crime was never conducted.¹⁵⁶

Testifying before the ICTY, Svetozar Andrić denied that he knew about the murders in Drum or that he participated in them, but stated that the "liberation of the village" involved his subordinate battalion commanders.¹⁵⁷

The mortal remains of 13 victims from the village of Drum were exhumed in 2003 from the secondary mass grave at Ogradice¹⁵⁸ and from other individual tombs. They were identified as: **Huso Aličević** (1944), **Osmo Hodžić** (1966), **Ekrem Jahić** (1959), **Meho Jahić** (1927), **Jasmin Mahmutović** (1974), **Fadil Salihović** (1938), **Fahro Salihović** (1968), **Selver Salihović** (1973), **Hadžo Smajlović** (1937), **Mujo Kuljančić** (1927), **Nedžad Hodžić** (1961), **Amir Džamdžić** (1956) and **Hasan Džamdžić** (1931). It was discovered that three of the victims were over 60 years old at the time of the armed attack, whilst Jasmin Mahmutović was a minor.¹⁵⁹

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IV Detention facilities

From May 1992, members of the Birač Brigade and the SJB arrested and detained Bosnian Muslims, mostly civilians, in several detention facilities in the Birač area. The detention facility that operated the longest and through which most detainees passed was the Sušica camp at Vlasenica. Other places

153 Statement of the witness Mehmed Babić given to the ICTY on 30 May 2000, Exhibit P523.A.1, *Krajišnik*, pp. 4-5.

154 Testimony of protected witness KDZ-603 before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 1 September 2011, p. 18159.

155 Statement of the witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, paras. 93-96.

156 Testimony of Mane Djurić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 3 November 2014, pp. 27702-27705.

157 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, pp. 41672-41673.

158 The mass grave in Ogradice is located about 20 km from Vlasenica, deep in the forest. It was discovered in 2003. See: Bitter Land: Mapping mass graves in the former Yugoslavia, BIRN. <https://massgravesmap.balkaninsight.com/ogradice/>, accessed on 19 April 2023.

159 See: Ewa Tabeau, Addendum to the expert report on evidence of death of 24 July 2013, Exhibit P02797, *Mladić*, pp. 288-293.



of detention were mainly used as transit centres, and were opened as needed to detain men during expulsion operations.¹⁶⁰

In the territory of the municipality of Zvornik, which was briefly in the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade, there were about 25 detention facilities.¹⁶¹ In Bratunac, the largest detention facilities were the Vuk Karadžić School and the football stadium, from where some detainees were later transferred to the prison in Vlasenica.¹⁶² The places of detention in Vlasenica, apart from the Sušica camp, were the SJB building, the municipal prison, the gymnasium of the secondary school and other smaller centres¹⁶³.

Members of the army, military police, paramilitary units and police together provided these facilities.¹⁶⁴ The detainees were kept in crowded rooms, under unsanitary conditions, and without food and water, and guards often subjected them to severe beatings and abuse.¹⁶⁵ Many of the detainees were killed or died as a result of the beatings.

Svetozar Andrić was familiar with the conditions of captivity and the actions of the guards towards the detainees. He visited the gymnasium at Vlasenica High School on a couple of occasions, where the army held about 160 Bosnian Muslims¹⁶⁶ from Kalesija and Šekovići from 31 May to 8 June 1992. Although during the visit he saw detainees who were visibly in poor condition, dirty, bloody and bruised, Andrić repeatedly asked one of the detainees who was wearing a sweater soaked in blood why he was sad and whether someone had been beating them. Andrić then noted that he knew the difference between sickness and sadness, and the detainee, in his opinion, was sad.¹⁶⁷ In addition, Andrić knew how many detainees were in the camps, which he reported to the superior command in June 1992.¹⁶⁸ Also, on the orders of Svetozar Andrić, the camp administration regularly submitted reports to the Birač Brigade Command on the results of the interrogation of detainees.¹⁶⁹

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160 Consequently, the library in Osmaci (Kalesija municipality) and the gymnasium of the school in Papraća (Šekovići municipality) were also used.

161 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 374.

162 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 757-780; Statement of the witness Suad Džafić given to the ICTY on June 20, 2000, Exhibit P484.1, *Krajišnik*, paras. 22-29.

163 The Trial Chamber of the ICTY in the Judgement of Momčilo Krajišnik lists 17 places of detention in the municipality of Vlasenica, see in: Trial Judgment in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 358.

164 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 27 March 2013, para. 1485; Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Bastah and Višković* case of 4 February 2010, p. 5; Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Višković* case of 12 November 2021, pp. 4-5.

165 Statement of the witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 5, 7 and 10 October 1994, Exhibit P00207.B, *Mladić*, paras. 18-27; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1160-1179; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1802.

166 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1802.

167 Statement of witness Mujo Ramić given to the ICTY on 23 February 2010, Exhibit P02528, *Mladić*, paras. 8-10; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, pp. 41689-41691; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 28 April 2015, pp. 34795-34796.

168 See e.g.: Report of the Command of the Birač Brigade sent to the IBK Command of 14 June 1992, Exhibit P03220, *Karadžić*.

169 Order of the Command of SV "Birač" Brigade dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P03240, *Karadžić*, item 3; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, p. 41685.



Sušica Camp

The Sušica camp was the largest camp in the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade. It was located near the centre of Vlasenica in the barracks of a forestry company that used to store equipment and weapons of territorial defence before the war.¹⁷⁰

On 31 May 1992, Major Svetozar Andrić issued an order for the establishment of the Sušica camp, based on the decision of the government of SAO Birač.¹⁷¹ With this order, Andrić, among other things, gave instructions for the interrogation of detainees and prohibited arbitrary decisions on the killing of detainees.¹⁷² The Sušica camp operated until 30 September 1992.¹⁷³

Upon its establishment, the camp manager was Vlasenica SJB member Veljko Bašić, and from mid-June 1992 approximately, the camp was commanded by a member of the Special Police Platoon at Vlasenica SJB, Dragan Nikolić, aka "Yankee".¹⁷⁴ After the Special Police Platoon was disbanded in August 1992, Dragan Nikolić was reassigned to the Birač Brigade, despite the brigade's command being aware of the crimes committed in the Sušica camp.¹⁷⁵

The guards at Sušica were members of the Birač Brigade and Vlasenica SJB.¹⁷⁶ These included Goran Tešić, aka "Goce", Milan Nikolić, Ljubiša Vuković, Siniša Orašanin, Ljubinko Đurić, Nedeljko Golijan, Luka Majstorović and others.¹⁷⁷

The camp management regularly reported to the command of the Birač Brigade and SJB Vlasenica SJB about the situation in the facility and the detainees.¹⁷⁸ The security officer at the Vlasenica 4th pb, Captain Risto Vidović, was in charge of informing the brigade command about the outcome of the interrogation of the detainees.¹⁷⁹ Also, Major Slobodan Pajić, commander of the Vlasenica 4th pb,

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170 Statement of the witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, paras. 104-105; Statement of the witness Momir Deurić given to the ICTY on 16 February 2013, Exhibit D00797, *Mladić*, paras. 3-5.

171 Order of the Command of SV "Birač" Brigade dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P03240, *Karadžić*.

172 *Ibid.*

173 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 353.

174 Dragan Nikolić pleaded guilty to crimes committed at the Sušica camp and was sentenced to 20 years in prison before the ICTY. Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 18 December 2003; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, paras. 1793-1795.

175 Decision of 10 August 1992 of the Vlasenica SJB on the dissolution of the special unit formed during the war within the SJB, Exhibit P06192, *Karadžić*; Testimony of Mane Djurić before the ICTY in *Mladić* case of 30 October 2014, pp. 27652-27654.

176 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1182; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1795; Report of the guard service at the facility of the Vlasenica 4th pb from June 1992, Exhibit P03245, *Karadžić*, pp. 6, 8.

177 Statement of the witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 5, 7 and 10 October 1994, Exhibit P00207.B, *Mladić*, paras. 32, 38, 42; Testimony of Sead Ambešković before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, p. 386; Testimony of Hašim Ferhatović before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 469-470.

178 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1182.

179 Order of the Command of SV "Birač" Brigade dated 31 May 1992, Exhibit P03240, *Karadžić*, item 3; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, pp. 41680, 41684-41685.



reported in June 1992 that the Sušica camp was a public place and that "everyone was practically informed both about the type of facility and the number and structure of detainees".¹⁸⁰

The first detainees were brought to the Sušica camp by members of the army and police in early June 1992 from Vlasenica and surrounding places.¹⁸¹ In the following days, Bosnian Muslims from Kalesija, Šekovići and Rogatica were arrested and brought to the camp.¹⁸² Detainees of the prison in Vlasenica, as well as those who were imprisoned in the SJB building, were also transferred to Sušica.¹⁸³ Upon arrival at the camp, the guards would write down the personal data of the detainees, and then take away their personal documents and valuables.¹⁸⁴

About 1,000 Bosnian Muslims were brought to the camp during the first few days, including women, children and the elderly, the latter were soon transported to Kladanj¹⁸⁵, while the men were held captive. The women were asked to sign off on voluntarily leaving Vlasenica, and 20 of those who refused were held captive in a separate part of the hangar.¹⁸⁶ By the end of June 1992, members of the military and police had imprisoned approximately 200 more women and children in the Sušica camp.¹⁸⁷

Over a period of four months, between 2,000 and 2,500 people passed through the Sušica camp.¹⁸⁸ The number of detainees varied, but on average between 150 and 200 detainees were held in the camp every day.¹⁸⁹ On 7 June 1992, the IBK Command reported to the VRS Main Staff that there were about 800 detainees at the Sušica camp.¹⁹⁰ According to the reports that Svetozar Andrić repeatedly sent to the IBK command, the Birač Brigade held between 500-640 detainees in Vlasenica during June 1992.¹⁹¹

180 Report of the guard service at the facility of the Vlasenica 4th pb from June 1992, Exhibit P03245, *Karadžić*, p. 4.

181 Testimony of protected witness ST-080 before the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 9 March 2010, pp. 7368-7369; Testimony of Redjo Čakišić before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 10 October 1995, pp. 296-300; Statement of witness Mehmed Babić given to the ICTY on 14 November 2001, Exhibit P523.A.1, *Krajišnik*, pp. 5-6.

182 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1184; Statement of witness Mujo Ramić given to the ICTY on 23 February 2010, Exhibit P02528, *Mladić*, paras. 1, 11; Statement of witness Tahir Ferhatbegović given to the ICTY on 9 July 2002, Exhibit P02526, *Mladić*, pp. 2, 5-6; Statement of witness Elvir Pašić given to the ICTY on 21 October 2004, Exhibit P00434.B, *Mladić*, paras. 32-35.

183 Statement of witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, P03212, *Karadžić*, paras. 100-101.

184 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1182; Testimony of Sead Ambešković before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 404-405.

185 About 20 women were detained in the Sušica camp, while 800 women and children were taken to Kladanj. Statement of the witness Mehmed Babić given to the ICTY on 14 November 2001, Exhibit P523.A.1, *Krajišnik*, p. 6; Testimony of Hašim Ferhatović before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 466-467.

186 Testimony of protected witness ST-080 before the ICTY in the *Stanišić and Župljanin* case of 9 March 2010, pp. 7371-7374.

187 During this period, according to the president of the Executive Council of SAO Birač, Milenko Stanić, there were about 800 detainees in the camp, see in: Notepad of Ratko Mladić in the period from 27 May to 31 July 1992, Exhibit P01478.E, *Karadžić*, p. 229.

188 According to the Association of Prisoners at Camps in BiH, around 8,000 people passed through the Sušica camp. Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 353.

189 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1187.

190 IBK Daily Operational Report of 7 June 1992, Exhibit P03237, *Karadžić*.

191 Order of the Birač Brigade sent to the IBK from 14 June 1992, Exhibit P03220, *Karadžić*; Order of the Birač Brigade sent to the IBK dated 17 June 1992, Exhibit P03221, *Karadžić*.



Starting on 27 June 1992, the army and police moved groups of detained men from the Sušica camp to the Batković camp in the municipality of Bijeljina,¹⁹² which was formed by the IBK command in order to relieve the Birač Brigade of the task of guarding detainees.¹⁹³ The women, children and elderly detainees were taken from the Sušica camp to the territory controlled by the Army of BiH.

Conditions of detention and abuse of detainees

Members of the Birač Brigade and the SJB Vlasenica kept the detainees at the Sušica camp in inhumane and unsanitary conditions, often subjecting them to physical and psychological torture, abuse and sexual violence.

The Sušica camp consisted of two hangars and a guard house, and was enclosed by barbed wire.¹⁹⁴ Detainees, mostly civilians, were placed in a hangar measuring about 15x30m, while another facility was used for storing military equipment. Most of the detainees slept on a concrete floor. Initially, there were no toilets in the camp, and detainees had to defecate in groups in a nearby river under the supervision of guards. During the night, they had to use a foul-smelling bucket inside the hangar. They were given water twice a day, while food was scarce and often rotten. Detainees were not provided with hygiene products, medical care¹⁹⁵ or medication.¹⁹⁶ Before the ICTY Trial Chamber, one of the former detainees described the conditions of detention with the words: "The conditions were so bad [...] it would have been better if they had killed us".¹⁹⁷

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Camp guards and other members of Serbian forces took the detainees to forced labour. Detainees were forced to dig trenches, bury the dead, cultivate the land, carry out construction and other physical work, while the women were forced to clean and wash the guard rooms.¹⁹⁸ Also, the detainees were taken out to loot and burn Muslim houses and property.¹⁹⁹

192 List of detainees at the Batković camp, Exhibit P03213, *Karadžić*; Statement of the witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, paras. 145-147; Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 29 April 2015, pp. 34884-34885.

193 Order of the Main Staff of the VRS on the upgrading of the combat readiness of the Birač Brigade of 17 June 1992, Exhibit P03238, *Karadžić*, pp. 1-2; Prisoner of War Procedure, Order of the IBK Command dated 17 June 1992, Exhibit D03237, *Karadžić*, pp. 1-2.

194 Report of the guard service at the facility of the Vlasenica 4th pb from June 1992, Exhibit P03245, *Karadžić*, pp. 3-4.

195 According to the testimony of Momir Deurić, a camp guard, the medical staff came to the camp on two occasions and examined the detainees, see in: Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1792.

196 Statement of the witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, paras. 118-123; Testimony of Habiba Hadžić before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 3 November 2003, pp. 232-234.

197 Testimony of Amir Berbić before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 10 October 1995, pp. 352-353.

198 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1195-1197; List of detainees of the Sušica camp for forced labour, Exhibit P01601, *Stanišić and Župljanin*, pp. 1-4; Testimony of Hašim Ferhatović before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 473-474, 482-483, 486-487; Testimony of Habiba Hadžić before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 3 November 2003, pp. 237-238.

199 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1196; Statement of witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, para. 124.



The guards often mistreated detainees who were forced to work by beating them, pointing weapons in their direction, threatening to kill them, or imprisoning them in a cold room where they fainted due to lack of oxygen.²⁰⁰

Detainees were subjected to physical abuse on a daily basis also within the camp. Dragan Nikolić, who would claim for himself the role of "Lord and Master, and the Law"²⁰¹, as well as other guards, would beat prisoners for hours, causing them to lose consciousness or the ability to walk, as well as to suffer other serious injuries. They were beaten with sticks, rods and rifle stock, kicked with military boots, forced to kneel on gravel or sit in the water for hours.²⁰² Nikolić threatened to put a bomb in the hangar. On one occasion, he fired an automatic rifle over the detainees' heads.²⁰³ Nikolić shoved a bayonet into the mouth of the detainee Fikret Arnaut, causing him to spit and cough up blood.²⁰⁴ After the detainee Reuf Rašidagić begged Nikolić to kill him because he could not take the beating anymore, he replied that the bullet was too expensive to waste on him.²⁰⁵

During the night, the guards would take women and girls out of the hangars and rape and sexually assault them.²⁰⁶ Women were raped and abused in the guardhouse, the Panorama Hotel, private houses near the camp and other locations.²⁰⁷ Dragan Nikolić gave access to the women detainees, both to guards and Serbian soldiers, as well as to other men outside the camp.²⁰⁸

In order to conceal the conditions of detention and the state of health of the detainees, the command of the 4th pb of the Birač Brigade prohibited visits to the camp, as well as bringing in means for recording and interviewing detainees. They also banned the bringing of food and other supplies to detainees.²⁰⁹ Despite this, members of international organisations visited the Sušica camp twice. During these visits, the guards managed to cover up the conditions at the camp and hide many prisoners.²¹⁰ Following a visit to the camp on 2 September 1992, the mission of the Conference on Security and

200 Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Bastah and Višković* case of 4 February 2010, pp. 62-64.

201 Testimony of Ibro Osmanović before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 10 October 1995, pp. 260-261.

202 Testimony of Sead Ambešković before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 383-386; Testimony of Suad Mahmutović before the ICTY in *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 517-520; Statement of the protected witness ST-153 before the ICTY on 1 October 1994, Exhibit P02279.B, *Stanišić and Župljanin*, pp. 4-5; Statement of witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, paras. 131-132.

203 Statement of witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 5, 7 and 10 October 1994, Exhibit P00207.B, *Mladić*, para. 43.

204 Fikret Arnaut was killed in or around the Sušica camp. Statement of witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, para. 130.

205 Statement of witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, para. 125.

206 Testimony of protected witness SU-032 before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 3 November 2003, pp. 279-281; Testimony of Sead Ambešković before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 396-398; Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Bastah and Višković* case of 4 February 2010, pp. 64-67.

207 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 18 December 2003, para. 88.

208 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1782.

209 Report of the guard service at the facility of the Vlasenica 4th pb from June 1992, Exhibit P03245, *Karadžić*, pp. 4, 8.

210 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 353; Final Report of the United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 780, Annex VIII – Prison camps, of 27 May 1994, para. 2799.



Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) reported that the detainees were "frightened individuals who fear the camp authorities" and that they looked exhausted, pale and thin.²¹¹

Killings of detainees

During June and July 1992 at the Sušica camp, detainees were killed, or died as a result of the beatings.

On 22 June 1992, **Durmo Handžić** (1933) and **Asim Zildžić** (1935) were taken out of the hangar and brutally beaten by Dragan Nikolić and guards, including Goran Tešić aka "Goce", for more than an hour. When the guards returned them to the hangar, the other detainees noticed that Zildžić was spitting blood and that his eye was hanging from its socket, and Handžić was crying and moaning in pain. Asim Zildžić passed away after a few minutes, and Durmo Handžić the following morning.²¹² The camp manager, Veljko Bašić, drafted a false report stating that they had both died of a heart attack.²¹³

On the night of 23-24 June 1992, Goran Tešić, Dragan Nikolić and Zoran Tešić, known as "Koke", brought out the detainees **Muharem Kolarević** (1949) and **Dževad Šarić** (1962) and subjected them to interrogation. The guards beat them until they passed out, and eventually killed them with rifle shots. Shortly thereafter, the guards ordered the detainees to bring **Ismet Zekić**, called "**Musa**" (1963), who they accused of killing a Bosnian Serb. After a short interrogation, Goran Tešić killed Zekić, shooting him with a machine gun.²¹⁴ On the same night, Nikolić and members of the local police, including Zoran Obrenović, Slađan Pajić and Ljubinko Djurić, accused the detainee **Rašid Ferhatbegović** (1940) of trying to escape from the camp, after which the guards took him out and killed him with one shot to the head.²¹⁵

Other detainees were ordered to remove the bodies of the murdered detainees and to clear the area in front of the hangar of blood. The mortal remains of the four killed detainees were exhumed in September 2000 in a forest called "Mračni do", not far from the Sušica camp.²¹⁶

On approximately 6 July 1992, the detainees heard **Ismet Dedić** (1955) crying out; he had previously been taken out of the hangar by Nikolić. When he was brought back into the facility, he was covered in blood and unrecognisable. He died shortly afterwards from the consequences of the beating.

211 During the visit of the CSCE Mission to the camp, they found about 40 detainees, see in: Report of the CSCE Mission on Detention Points in BiH from 29 August to 4 September 1992, Exhibit P880, *Krajišnik*, pp. 37-39.

212 Durmo Handžić and Asim Zildžić were buried in unmarked graves at the Muslim cemetery "Rakita" in Vlasenica. Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1204; Testimony of Hašim Ferhatović before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 469-474.

213 Report from the Sušica camp of 22 June 1992, Exhibit P00210, *Mladić*; Testimony of Ibro Osmanović before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 20 September 2012, pp. 2759-2761.

214 Testimony of Hašim Ferhatović before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 475-477.

215 Statement of witness Ibro Osmanović given to the ICTY on 23 August 2011, Exhibit P03212, *Karadžić*, para. 140; Testimony of Hašim Ferhatović before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 11 October 1995, pp. 479-481.

216 *Ibid.*, pp. 481-483; Report of the Chief Pathologist John Clark on Vlasenica grave-site from 30 September 2002, Exhibit P04109, *Karadžić*, pp. 2-3.



Detainee **Mevludin Hatunić** (1949) was granted permission to leave the camp between 3 and 7 July 1992, in order to sign a document giving his house away to a Serb. After returning to the camp, Nikolić accused Hatunić of threatening the Serb that he would be "waiting for an opportunity to deal with him". Consequently, he was beaten severely on three occasions, as a result of which Hatunić died.

In mid-July 1992, Nikolić beat **Galib Musić** (1932) for days, as a result of which he was often unconscious. Galib Musić died as a result of the beatings after seven days.²¹⁷

On 9 June 1992, Goran Višković, aka "Vjetar" [Wind], a member of the military police of the Birač Brigade, together with several other soldiers, firing an automatic weapon, killed **Suljo Hajdarević** (1952), **Džemail Hurić** (1961) and six other unidentified prisoners of the Sušica camp.²¹⁸

Beyond that, members of the Serbian forces, including members of the Birač Brigade, repeatedly took out individuals or groups of prisoners from the Sušica camp, who were not found afterwards and are still on the register of missing persons, or whose mortal remains were exhumed in mass or individual graves.²¹⁹

In mid-July 1992, **Sulejman Pezić** (1939), **Bego Handžić** (1942), **Sakib Šabić** (1949), **Muhamed Šabić** (1952), **Šukrija Efendić** (1951), **Mehmed Hadžić** (1962), **Ejub Hadžić** (1954) and **Hasan Parić** (1954) were killed in the same way.²²⁰ Also, the mortal remains of **Ibrahim Lelo** (1953), who was taken from Sušica in June 1992 by Predrag Bastah Car, a member of the Vlasenica SJB, and by Goran Višković, were never found.²²¹ Detainees **Redžo Hatunić** (1939), **Mustafa Jašarević** (1942) and **Admir Jašarević** (1969), who were taken out of the camp by Višković and other soldiers on 12 July 1992, are still on the missing persons register.²²²

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On 30 September 1992, the funeral of 28 members of the Birač Brigade was held in Vlasenica, attended by senior SDS and VRS officials, including Svetozar Andrić.²²³ In his speech at the funeral, Radovan Karadžić said that these victims should not be forgotten nor the murderers forgiven.²²⁴ On the same day, by order of Mane Djurić, head of the Vlasenica SJB, armed members of the Birač Brigade 4th pb

217 The remains of killed detainees were exhumed at the Muslim cemetery "Rakita" in Vlasenica. Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 18 December 2003, paras. 81-86; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1206; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1768.

218 Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Višković* case of 12 November 2021, p. 4.

219 Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Bastah and Višković* case of 4 February 2010, pp. 3-5; Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Višković* case of 12 November 2021, pp. 4, 8; Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Garić* case of 16 August 2021, p. 6; Statement of the protected witness ST-153 given to the ICTY on 1 October 1994, Exhibit P02279.B, *Stanišić and Župljanin*, p. 8.

220 The remains of all the victims except Ejub Hadžić were found after the war. Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Bastah and Višković* case of 4 February 2010, p. 3.

221 Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Bastah and Višković* case of 4 February 2010, p. 5.

222 Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Višković* case of 12 November 2021, p. 8.

223 Drinski Magazine, "Boy, you are the commander from today", October 1994, Exhibit P02289, *Tolimir*, p. 11; Sky News coverage of the funeral in Vlasenica, Exhibit P00084, *Mladić*.

224 Transcript of the speech of Radovan Karadžić at the funeral in Vlasenica, Exhibit P03261.B, *Karadžić*.



and local police took the remaining prisoners from the Sušica camp under the pretext of moving them to a safe location. At that time, there were about 140-150 prisoners at the camp.²²⁵ Members of the SJB boarded them into a truck in groups of 30-40 persons, and drove them in the direction of Vlasenica, after which they would return to the Sušica camp with an empty truck. The last group of detainees was taken in a minibus run by the "Birač" company, with both police and military personnel involved.²²⁶ All the detainees were shot in the vicinity of Vlasenica.²²⁷ The Crisis Staff of Vlasenica, immediately after learning about this crime, ordered the destruction of all traces of the existence of the camp.²²⁸ The shooting of the last prisoners of the Sušica camp at the Debelo brdo site in Vlasenica was also admitted by the commander of the camp, Dragan Nikolić, before the ICTY Trial Chamber.²²⁹

Pelemiši Camp

In July 1992, members of the Birač Brigade forcibly moved civilians from Vlasenica, as well as those they had previously detained at the Sušica camp, in the direction of the municipality of Kladanj, to the territory controlled by the Army of BiH. Major Svetozar Andrić reported to the IBK command that on 1 July 1992, 180 refugees were taken from his zone of responsibility to the demarcation line near the village of Luke, and sent on foot to Kladanj.²³⁰ Two days later, it was planned to take another 30 women and children from Vlasenica.²³¹

In the same manner, in the second half of July 1992, members of the army and police gathered a group of prisoners from the Sušica camp, along with residents of Vlasenica, mostly women and children. They were boarded into several vehicles with the intention of transporting them to Kladanj. At the village of Luke, members of Serbian forces stopped the vehicles and separated approximately 20 younger women and girls from the group, including a pregnant woman, on the pretext that they would stay at the site to mow the hay. The others were allowed to continue by foot on their way to Kladanj.²³²

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225 The IBK Commander Colonel Novica Simić lists 130 men and 2 women in his war diary. See: War Diary of Colonel Novica Simić from August 1992 to December 1995, Exhibit P06518, *Karadžić*, p. 53.

226 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 1211-1213; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1772.

227 An incomplete list of the murdered detainees at the Sušica camp on 30 September 1992 can be found at: <https://www.glaszrtava.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/spisak-ubijenih-30.9.1992.-godine-susica-pdf.pdf>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

228 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 1212; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 1772; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krajišnik* case of 27 September 2006, para. 357.

229 Defendant's statement during the testimony of Habiba Hadžić before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 3 November 2003, pp. 256-258.

230 Extraordinary Combat Report of the Birač Brigade sent to the IBK Command dated 2 July 1992, Exhibit D01038, *Mladić*.

231 Information on detainees sent to the IBK Command, Military Post Office Šekovići of 3 July 1992, Exhibit P03241, *Karadžić*.

232 Testimony of Zehra Smajlović before the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 13 October 1995, pp. 700-702; Testimony of Hasma Efendić before the Court of BiH in the *Garić* case of 18 December 2019.



A Reconnaissance Sabotage Platoon of the Drinjača detachment was stationed in Luke, which was subordinated to the command of the 4th pb of the Birač Brigade.²³³ Members of this platoon kept women and girls locked up in the premises of the primary school in Luke, and occasionally took them out in order to carry out agricultural work on nearby estates, under supervision.²³⁴

Not later than early August 1992, the detainees were transferred to a private house in the town of Pelemiši, which was used as a detention facility.²³⁵ Milorad Pelemiš, commander of the Pelemiši Independent Company, which was part of the Šekovići 2nd Infantry Battalion of the Birač Brigade, confirmed that under his command, Bosnian Muslims, women and men were held for exchange in a detention facility in Pelemiši.²³⁶

Detained women and girls were raped at the camp.²³⁷ According to a 1994 report by the United Nations Commission of Experts, seven girls aged 14-16 were raped multiple times a week.²³⁸ Milorad Pelemiš, as well as a member of the Pelemiši Independent Company, Dragan Todorović, testified before the ICTY that they knew about a rape and that they filed the crime to the authorities, made a report and beat the perpetrator.²³⁹ However, no one has been prosecuted for this crime.

In addition, members of this company held in captivity a 2-3-year-old child, who was returned to their mother after a year and a half on the occasion of the exchange of detainees near Tuzla.²⁴⁰

About 45 men, women and children were detained at the camp.²⁴¹ Two mass graves uncovered at the site of Pelemiši in 2004 found the charred remains of murdered civilians.²⁴² From the tombs were exhumed the remains of approximately 13 civilians who were held captive in the Pelemis and killed by the members of the Birač Brigade on an undetermined date and under unclear circumstances - namely, **Muriz Manjić** (1976), **Mevludin Manjić** (1977), **Kadir Manjić** (1975), **Minka Mehanović** (1951), **Jasmina Huremović** (1958), **Ferida Osmanović** (1975), **Aida Karać** (1965), **Velida Karać** (1967), **Rašid Dautović** (1947), **Mevludin Mušanović** (1958), **Fahrudin Mušanović** (1961), **Safet**

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233 1st Vlasenica Infantry Battalion Order dated 19 December 1994, Exhibit P02636, *Karadžić*.

234 Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Rade Garić* case of 16 August 2021, para. 605.

235 List of prisoners of war, Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners of War, Pelemiši dated 9 August 1992, Exhibit P07745, *Mladić*, p. 3; Testimony of Milorad Pelemiš before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 30 March 2015, pp. 33829-33830.

236 Testimony of Milorad Pelemiš before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 30 March 2015, pp. 33819-33820, 33827-33828.

237 *Ibid.*, pp. 33828-33831; Testimony of Dragan Todorović before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 12 May 2015, pp. 35440-35442.

238 Final Report of the United Nations Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 780 (1992), Annex IX, 1994, para. 139.

239 Testimony of Milorad Pelemiš before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 30 March 2015, pp. 33828-33829; Testimony of Dragan Todorović before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 12 May 2015, pp. 35440-35442.

240 Testimony of Milorad Pelemiš before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 30 March 2015, pp. 33828, 33831-33832.

241 List of prisoners of war, Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners of War, Pelemiši dated 9 August 1992, Exhibit P07745, *Mladić*, p. 3.

242 International Commission on Missing Persons, Summary of Excavation Report in Pelemiši, Šekovići, from 16 to 23 August 2004, 19 March 2015, Sarajevo, Exhibit P07275.B, *Mladić*, pp. 12-16.



Saračević (1943) and **Ruždija Šestović** (1938).²⁴³ Ferida Osmanović, Muriz Manjić, Mevludin Manjić and Kadir Manjić were minors.

At least 15 inmates of the Pelemiši camp, eight of whom were minors at the time of their disappearance, are still on the missing persons register. The missing persons are: **Fata Hodžić** (1944), **Mersiha Dautović** (1979), **Elvira Parić** (1978), **Azema Gerović** (1961), **Sanela Gerović** (1980), **Amela Gerović** (1984), **Vahda Ibišević** (1972), **Munevera Kičić** (1975), **Đula Nuhanović** (1948), **Muamer Nuhanović** (1981), **Nihada Lelo** (1978), **Rasema Čamdžić** (1964), **Minela Čamdžić** (1985), **Mirsada Hadžić** (1952) and **Asija Žepčanin** (1952).²⁴⁴

V Operation Breakthrough (Serbian: Proboj) and Occupation of Enclaves in Eastern BiH

Owing to the military actions of the VRS and the occupation of settlements in the region of Birač, a large number of population fled to the enclaves in eastern BiH that were under the control of the Army of BiH – Cerska, Kamenica, Srebrenica, Žepa.²⁴⁵ According to estimates by the Drina Corps Command, in the wider area of the Cerska enclave, there were between 10,000 and 20,000 civilians and about 600-700 fighters of the BiH Army at the end of 1992.²⁴⁶

On 19 November 1992, the main headquarters of the VRS ordered the Drina Corps with its Directive No. 4 to exhaust the enemy, inflicting as much loss as possible and forcing "the Muslim population to leave the Birač, Žepa and Goražde areas".²⁴⁷ This started the military operation by name of *Breakthrough*,²⁴⁸ which was aimed at occupying the territory of the eastern enclaves and expelling the Muslim population from the area.

Pursuant to Directive No. 4, Colonel Milenko Živanović made a decision on further combat activities of the Drina Corps. Živanović ordered the units of the Drina Corps to break up and expel enemy forces from their zone of responsibility and to force the Muslim population to leave the enclaves of Cerska, Žepa, Srebrenica and Goražde.²⁴⁹ The Birač Brigade that participated in this operation were

243 Judgment of the Court of BiH in the case of *Rade Garić* of 16 August 2021, para. 598; List of prisoners of war, Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners of War, Pelemiši dated 9 August 1992, Exhibit P07745, *Mladić*, p. 3.

244 Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Rade Garić* case of 16 August 2021, para. 598; Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Bastah and Višković* case of 4 February 2010, p. 9; List of prisoners of war, Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners of War, Pelemiši, dated 9 August 1992, Exhibit P07745, *Mladić*, p. 3.

245 Husein Omerović, *Victims of genocide in the area of Vlasenica 1992-1995*, Institute for Investigation of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law of the University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, 2016, pp. 144-145; Šemsudin Šemso Salihović, *Never Forget Cerska*, translation by Anela Hakalović, Sarajevo, 2015, p. 115.

246 Preparatory Order Op. no. 1, Drina Corps Command dated 19 November 1992, Exhibit P02188, *Mladić*, p. 1.

247 Subsequent actions of the VRS, Directive Op. no. 4, dated 19 November 1992, Exhibit P01968, *Mladić*, p. 5; Amendments to the Directive op. no. 4 of 7 December 1992, Exhibit P02189, *Mladić*.

248 Analysis of the performance of combat actions in the operation code-named "Breakthrough", Exhibit P05162, *Mladić*.

249 Decision for further actions of the Drina Corps Command dated 24 November 1992, Exhibit P02095, *Mladić*, pp. 1-2.



battalions from Papraća, Vlasenica and Milići, as well as the Assault Detachment of Vlasenica under the command of Milorad Pelemiš. Their task was to take the Cerska region with other units and prevent the merger of the BiH Army forces from Žepa and Srebrenica.²⁵⁰

At the end of January 1993, the Drina Corps launched another attack against the enclaves in eastern BiH on the orders of the GS VRS.²⁵¹ Support to the Drina Corps in these operations was provided by the Užice Corps of the Yugoslav Army (VJ).²⁵²

On 1 February 1993, the Drina Corps sent an order to the Birač Brigade to pursue the front line and, in cooperation with other units, conquer the area of Cerska and Kamenica. By the same order, the Birač Brigade was given the task of occupying the areas of Paljevine and Lemino brdo, in order to secure the left flank of the forces in the attack on Cerska.²⁵³

During these operations, the Birač Brigade and other units of the Drina Corps carried out frequent artillery and infantry attacks against the enclaves, which forced the population to flee, while abandoned villages and property of Bosnian Muslims were burned.²⁵⁴ In addition, Serbian forces stopped convoys of international organisations with humanitarian aid at the barricades, further jeopardizing the survival of refugees in the enclaves.²⁵⁵

On 2 March 1993, Svetozar Andrić reported to the command of the Drina Corps that members of the Birač Brigade had taken and burned the village of Gobelje near Cerska, and that the next day they planned to "take down Paljevine".²⁵⁶ Andrić denied this before the ICTY Trial Chamber, stating that Gobelje did not need to be burned because it had been destroyed by shelling in previous attacks.²⁵⁷ He then claimed that he did not know the details of the attack and that reports mentioning the burning of the village were written on his behalf by an "undertrained woman", a lieutenant from the Birač Brigade.²⁵⁸ Paljevine was captured on 3 March 1993.²⁵⁹

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250 *Ibid.*; Decision to resolve Pobude, Konjević Polje and Cerska, of the Drina Corps Command, dated 8 December 1992, Exhibit D01037, *Mladić*, p. 4; Combat order to resolve Kamenica, Cerska and Konjević polje, of the Drina Corps Command, dated 1 February 1993, Exhibit P00556, *Mladić*, pp. 2-4.

251 Combat order op. no. 5 of the Main Staff of the VRS of 22 January 1993, Exhibit D04190, *Karadžić*, pp. 2-3.

252 See e.g.: Order of the Užice Corps of 29 January 1993, Exhibit D00858, *Stanišić and Simatović*; Order of the Užice Corps of 31 January 1993, Exhibit 2D00245, *Stanišić and Simatović*.

253 Combat order to resolve Kamenica, Cerska and Konjević polje of the Drina Corps Command, dated 1 February 1993, Exhibit P00556, *Mladić*, pp. 3-4.

254 Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Reports 1992-1995, University of Tuzla and Research and Documentation Center Sarajevo, 2007, pp. 165-166; Order addressed to Colonel Šibalić by the command of the Birač Brigade IKM of 10 October 1992, Exhibit D817, *Orić*; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 4954-4955.

255 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 4949-4950, 4957; Statement of witness Pyers Tucker given to the ICTY on 12 May 2010, Exhibit P04203, *Karadžić*, paras. 132, 140-141.

256 Regular combat report of the Birač Brigade of 2 March 1993, Exhibit P02193, *Mladić*; Extraordinary Operational Report of the Birač Brigade of 2 March 1993, Exhibit P04244, *Popović et al.*; Combat order to resolve Kamenica, Cerska and Konjević polje of the Drina Corps Command, dated 1 February 1993, Exhibit P00556, *Mladić*, pp. 3-4.

257 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 22 July 2013, pp. 41696-41698.

258 Testimony of Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 29 April 2015, pp. 34872-34875.

259 Report on the occasion of marking the day of the formation of the Drina Corps of 30 October 1993, Exhibit P06458, *Karadžić*, p. 5.



After the fall of Cerska, Konjević Polje and Kamenica in mid-March 1993, thousands of Bosnian Muslims fled to Srebrenica, Žepa and Goražde.²⁶⁰ On 16 April 1993, in order to stop further armed attacks by the VRS on the enclaves and protect the vulnerable population, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 819, declaring Srebrenica a safe area.²⁶¹ UN Security Council Resolution 824 further declared the enclaves of Žepa and Goražde as safe areas.²⁶²

VI Srebrenica

By 1995, about 40,000 Bosnian Muslims, mostly civilians, had fled to the Srebrenica enclave.²⁶³

At the beginning of March 1995, the President of the RS and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Radovan Karadžić, sent Directive no. 7 to the VRS, by which the Drina Corps was ordered to perform the physical separation of Srebrenica and Žepa and to "create conditions of total insecurity, intolerability and hopelessness for the further survival and life of the inhabitants in Srebrenica and Žepa".²⁶⁴

Directive No. 7 also introduced restrictions on the supply of livelihoods to the population in the enclaves.²⁶⁵ Accordingly, from March 1995, the VRS units, including the Birač Brigade, restricted the movement of humanitarian convoys of international organisations going to Srebrenica and Žepa.²⁶⁶ Living conditions in the enclaves consequently deteriorated significantly, refugees were left without food, water and medicine, and a humanitarian catastrophe seemed imminent.

On 20 March 1995, the Commander of the Drina Corps, Major General Milenko Živanović, issued an order which conveyed to the brigade commands the content of Directive No. 7 and on this basis assigned tasks to the subordinate units.²⁶⁷ The objectives of Directive No. 7 were specified on 2 July, 1995, when Živanović issued a Preparatory Order to the units of the Drina Corps, including the Birač Brigade, followed by the Order for active combat operations. These orders contained the entire plan for Operation Krivaja 95, whose intention was the complete separation and narrowing of the enclaves of Srebrenica and Žepa, creating "conditions for the elimination of the enclaves".²⁶⁸

260 Richard Butler, Statement on Military Events in Srebrenica (revision) – Operation "Krivaja 95", dated 1 November 2002, Exhibit P358b, *Blagojević and Jokić*, p. 14; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 4962, 4965.

261 United Nations Security Council, Resolution 819 of 16 April 1993, Exhibit P00021, *Mladić*.

262 United Nations Security Council, Resolution 824 of 6 May 1993, Exhibit P00022, *Mladić*, p. 2.

263 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 4987.

264 Directive for further actions op. no. 7 of 8 March 1995, Exhibit P00838, *Karadžić*, p. 8.

265 *Ibid.*, p. 11.

266 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Tolimir* case of 12 December 2012, paras. 196-203; Order of the Command of the 1st Birač Infantry Brigade of 12 May 1995, Exhibit D00157, *Karadžić*.

267 Command for Defence and Active Combat Actions op. no. 7 of Drina Corps Command, dated 20 March 1995, Exhibit P01468, *Mladić*.

268 Preparatory Order op. no. 1 of Drina Corps Command, dated 2 July 1995, Exhibit 5DP00106, *Popović et al.*; Order for Active Combat Actions op. no. 1 of Drina Corps Command, dated 2 July 1995, Exhibit P00107, *Popović et al.*, p. 2.



The Role of the Birač Brigade in Operation Krivaja 95

The offensive of the Drina Corps began with an intense and non-selective shelling of Srebrenica in the early morning of 6 July 1995.²⁶⁹

A battle group of the size of a reinforced company from the Birač Brigade participated in the attack, and together with the forces of the 2nd Romanija motorized brigade, they formed the temporary 2nd battalion, whose task was to separate the enclaves of Srebrenica and Žepa from the direction of the villages of Pribojevići and Podravanje.²⁷⁰ Major Nemanja Pavlović commanded the Birač Brigade battle group until 9 July 1995, when Colonel Svetozar Andrić took over the command, at the invitation of General Krstić, Chief of Staff of the Drina Corps.²⁷¹

By 9 July, members of the Birač Brigade had advanced to Koštur and occupied the area of Alibegovac, the village of Bučje and the hills near Šiljato brdo, thereby separating the enclaves Srebrenica and Žepa.²⁷² In these advances, they carried out heavy artillery and mortar attacks in the direction of the observation posts of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), after which they captured at least 15 members of the Dutch Battalion in the villages of Slapovići and Bučje, and then took them to Bratunac and Milići.²⁷³ During the first meeting of the VRS leadership with the UNPROFOR representatives at the Fontana Hotel in Bratunac (11 July 1995), the captured soldiers of the Dutch Battalion were held captive and under surveillance, and General Mladić on several occasions implied that their lives were in danger.²⁷⁴ The VRS released the soldiers of the Dutch Battalion from captivity on 15 July 1995.²⁷⁵

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In the evening of 10 July 1995, the Drina Corps Command ordered that the attack be extended and for units to enter the town of Srebrenica.²⁷⁶

The following day, 11 July 1995, the enclave fell, and in the afternoon high-ranking VRS officers, led by General Ratko Mladić, entered the centre of Srebrenica, whence the inhabitants had already fled.

269 Extraordinary Combat Report of Drina Corps Command, dated 6 July 1995, Exhibit 7D00761, *Popović et al.*, p. 1; UNMO report of 6 July 1995, Exhibit P04143, *Karadžić*, pp. 1-2; Richard Butler, Statement on Military Events in Srebrenica (revision) – Operation "Krivaja 95", dated 1 November 2002, Exhibit P358b, *Blagojević and Jokić*, p. 32.

270 Order for Active Combat Actions op. no. 1 of Drina Corps Command, dated 2 July 1995, Exhibit P01465, *Mladić*, p. 3; Extraordinary Combat Report of Drina Corps Command, dated 8 July 1995, Exhibit P04482, *Karadžić*.

271 Statement of witness Svetozar Andrić before the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D030886, *Karadžić*, paras. 18, 22.

272 Testimony of Radislav Krstić before the ICTY in the *Krstić* case of 19 October 2000, pp. 6186-6187; Extraordinary Combat Report of the Drina Corps Command dated 9 July 1995, Exhibit D00288, *Mladić*.

273 Extraordinary Combat Report of the Drina Corps Command dated 9 July 1995, Exhibit D00288, *Mladić*; Warning from UNPROFOR to the VRS dated 9 July 1995, Exhibit P01152, *Mladić*; Statement of the Witness Robert Franken before the ICTY on 15 January 2012, Exhibit P01417, *Mladić*, paras. 58-59.

274 Statement of the witness Efert Rafe before the ICTY on 17 February 1998, Exhibit P01149, *Mladić*, paras. 23-27; Testimony of Peter Buring before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 18 April 2013, pp. 10014-10015.

275 Human Rights Watch, "The Fall of Srebrenica and the Failure of UN Peacekeeping", October 1995, pp. 66-67, available at <https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/bosnia1095web.pdf>, accessed on 2 February 2023.

276 Extraordinary Combat Report of the Drina Corps Command dated 10 July 1995, Exhibit P00591, *Tolimir*.



Svetozar Andrić was one of the generals who walked with Mladić that day into the empty Srebrenica.²⁷⁷

Between 25,000 and 30,000 Bosnian Muslims, of whom about 5% were of military age, took refuge at the UN base in Potočari, on account of the fall of Srebrenica.²⁷⁸ While the majority of women, children and old people fled to Potočari, about 15,000 men and boys in the villages of Šušnjari and Jagličići formed a column (composed of civilians and members of the Army of BiH) which, on 11 July 1995, headed towards Tuzla with the intention of reaching the territory controlled by the Army of BiH.²⁷⁹ On the same day, the units of the Drina Corps began activities to block the column, in order to “prevent the return and withdrawal of Muslim forces to and from Srebrenica.”²⁸⁰

By an order of the Drina Corps, on 12 July 1995 the Birač Brigade and other units made all the buses they had in their possession available to the Corps, for the transport of refugees from Srebrenica, as well as the transport of men to the detention facilities.²⁸¹ The forced relocation of refugees from Potočari began around noon on the same day; it had ended on 13 July 1995 by 8 PM.²⁸² The men and boys, previously separated from their families by members of the army and police, and held in a facility known as the "White House", located near the UN base in Potočari, were transported in separate buses to detention facilities in the municipality of Bratunac.²⁸³

From 13 July 1995 at the latest, the Drina Corps units were engaged in detecting and blocking the column and capturing Bosnian Muslims on the Zvornik – Crni vrh – Šekovići – Vlasenica road.²⁸⁴ Several thousand men, along with civilians separated during the expulsion from Potočari, were captured and held, until their execution in schools, warehouses, and other premises used as detention facilities in the Bratunac and Zvornik Brigade's areas of responsibility.

The Role of Svetozar Andrić in the Srebrenica Genocide

As a commander of the Birač Brigade, Svetozar Andrić actively participated in preparing and executing the attack on Srebrenica. Around 1 July 1995, Andrić attended a meeting of brigade commanders

277 Extraordinary Combat Report of the Drina Corps Command of 11 July 1995, Exhibit D01044, *Mladić*; Srebrenica trial video – identification, transcripts and sources, Antelope/WTN-Reuters/SRT recording, Exhibit P04202, *Karadžić*, p. 25.

278 Report of the MUP – Special Police Brigade of 13 July 1995, Exhibit P02987, *Karadžić*; Report of the Drina Corps Command of 12 July 1995, Exhibit P04388, *Karadžić*.

279 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, paras. 2637-2638.

280 Order of the Command of the Drina Corps of 11 July 1995, Exhibit D00289, *Mladić*, p. 1.

281 Order of the Command of the Drina Corps on the provision of buses for evacuation from the Srebrenica enclave of 12 July 1995, Exhibit P436b, *Krstić*.

282 Intelligence and Security Sector of the GS VRS Report dated 13 July 1995, Exhibit D00306, *Mladić*; Richard Butler, Statement on Military Events in Srebrenica (revision) – Operation "Krivaja 95", dated 1 November 2002, Exhibit P358b, *Blagojević and Jokić*, pp. 43-45.

283 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 5095, 5109-5119.

284 Order of the Main Staff of the VRS of 13 July 1995, Exhibit P00045, *Popović et al.*, pp. 1-2.



from the Drina Corps in Pribićevec, which was convened by Major General Radislav Krstić.²⁸⁵ On that occasion, the Corps carried out a reconnaissance of the terrain and a planning of Operation *Krivaja 95*, as the code name for the attack on Srebrenica read.²⁸⁶

On 9 July 1995, Andrić took over the command of the Birač Brigade battle group, and was one of the first officers to enter the Srebrenica enclave.

After taking over the enclave, Andrić attended numerous meetings of the Drina Corps and the Main Staff of the VRS commanders. At the repeater Bojna, on the morning of 12 July 1995, Andrić and other brigade commanders in the Drina Corps met with General Krstić, who then ordered the Corps units to secure the Srebrenica – Viogor – Sućeška road, and to conduct a search of the terrain in order to locate members of the BiH Army.²⁸⁷ On the same day, at around 9 PM, Andrić attended a meeting at the command post of the Bratunac Brigade with General Mladić, who congratulated the officers of the Drina Corps on their successes in seizing Srebrenica.²⁸⁸ The next day, generals Mladić and Krstić inspected Andrić's unit on Viogor, before launching an attack on the enclave of Žepa.²⁸⁹

On 13 July 1995, there was a change of leadership of the Drina Corps. The former Chief of Staff, Major-General Radislav Krstić, became the Commander, while Svetozar Andrić was appointed Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Drina Corps. The handover of duties between the officers took place at the command post of the Drina Corps in Vlasenica.²⁹⁰ The appointments of Andrić and Krstić were confirmed by a presidential decree of 14 July 1995,²⁹¹ and the decision on these appointments came into force on 15 July 1995.²⁹²

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The ICTY Trial Chamber in the case against Radislav Krstić concluded, on the basis of the available evidence, including the testimony of two members of the Drina Corps and military expert Richard Dannatt, that General Krstić had already been serving as Commander of the Drina Corps since 13 July.²⁹³ From that moment on, Svetozar Andrić and Radislav Krstić were responsible for leading and commanding the units of the Drina Corps.

285 Testimony of Milenko Lazić before the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 4 June 2008, pp. 21728, 21748-21749; Testimony of Vinko Pandurević before the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 29 January 2009, pp. 30839-30842.

286 Richard Butler, Statement on Military Events in Srebrenica (revision) – Operation "Krivaja 95", dated 1 November 2002, Exhibit P358b, *Blagojević and Jokić*, p. 30.

287 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 10 June 2010, para. 1853.

288 Testimony of Mirko Trivić before the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 21 May 2007, pp. 11837-11841; Testimony of the accused Radislav Krstić before the ICTY in the *Krstić* case of 30 October 2000, p. 6575.

289 There are indications that at this parade, General Mladić has already announced to the units the dismissal of the Drina Corps command. Testimony of Vinko Pandurević before the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 30 January 2009, p. 30905.

290 Handover of the Corps Commander's duties, notification of the Drina Corps Command of 13 July 1995, Exhibit P07056, *Mladić*; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krstić* case of 2 August 2001, paras. 312-313.

291 Decree Number 01-1369/95 of the President of Republika Srpska dated 14 July 1995, Exhibit P03044, *Karadžić*.

292 Lieutenant-Colonel Ljubomir Vlačić was appointed Commander of the Birač Brigade on 15 July 1995. See at: Order of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Srpska No. 06-21-51/95 of 14 July 1995, Exhibit P06453, *Karadžić*.

293 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krstić* case of 2 August 2001, para. 331; Testimony of Richard Dannatt before the ICTY in the *Krstić* case of 25 July 2000, pp. 5656-5657.



Involvement of Members of the Drina Corps in Mass Executions

From 13 July 1995, more than 7,000 Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica were killed in organised mass shootings. In several ICTY judgments, it was established that members of the Drina Corps participated in these executions.²⁹⁴ Also, the resources and manpower of the Drina Corps were used during the burial of victims in mass graves, clean-up operations, and concealment of the crimes that were committed by the reburial of mortal remains in secondary mass graves.²⁹⁵

The Drina Corps Command, including Svetozar Andrić, who held the position of Deputy Commander, were sure to have known that units and individuals under their command were involved in these operations. Furthermore, the command of the Drina Corps failed to prevent the crimes, and did not take appropriate measures to punish the perpetrators afterwards.²⁹⁶

All the executions of Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica were committed in the zone of responsibility of the Drina Corps.²⁹⁷

Units of the Drina Corps were involved in mass executions of Srebrenica men and boys at the following locations:

- » On 13 and 14 July, members of the Bratunac Brigade took part in executing 1,313 persons in and around a warehouse in Kravica village;²⁹⁸
- » On 14 July, near Orahovac, members of the Zvornik Brigade killed at least 819 persons;²⁹⁹
- » On 14 and 15 July, members of the 6th Infantry Battalion of the Zvornik Brigade killed at least 401 Bosnian Muslim at the dam near Petkovci;³⁰⁰
- » On 15 July, in Ročević school and on the Drina coast near Kozluk, members of the Zvornik Brigade executed at least 575 men;³⁰¹

294 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krstić* case of 2 August 2001, paras. 290-296, 448-455; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 10 June 2010, para. 1072; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, paras. 2766, 2791, 2825.

295 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, paras. 3002-3005; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 5513-5514.

296 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krstić* case of 2 August 2001, para. 418.

297 *Ibid.*, para. 294.

298 According to the testimony of Momir Nikolić, they were Milovan Matić, Ilija Nikolić and Nikola Popović. Milovan Matić was acquitted before the Court of BiH in 2008 of the charges that he had robbed prisoners and loaded cartridges during the Kravica shooting. See at: Statement of Facts and Acceptance of Responsibility of Momir Nikolić before the ICTY, dated 6 May 2003, Exhibit D00301.B, *Mladić*, p. 5; Testimony of Momir Nikolić before the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 4 June 2013, para. 12098; Court of BiH Judgment in the *Miloš Stupar et al.* case of 29 July 2008, paras. 210-216; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 2707; Indictment of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor in the *Nedeljko Mlilidragović et al.* case of 21 January 2016, p. 4.

299 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 2766.

300 *Ibid.*, para. 2791.

301 *Ibid.*, para. 2825.



- » On 16 July, at the Branjevo military farm, members of the 10th Sabotage Detachment and a few VRS soldiers from Bratunac municipality killed between 1,000 and 1,200 men;³⁰²
- » On 16 July, in Pilica Cultural Centre, soldiers of the VRS, among them, soldiers from Bratunac municipality, killed approximately 500 men;³⁰³
- » On 23 July in Bišina, members of the 10th Sabotage Detachment in cooperation with the members of the Drina Corps, killed 39 men and boys.³⁰⁴

The mortal remains of killed Bosnian Muslims were buried in several mass graves near the execution site. In these operations, the machinery and workforce of the Drina Corps were used, as evidenced by numerous statements and documentation.³⁰⁵

In September and October 1995, members of the Drina Corps and security bodies of the VRS, with the help of civilian authorities and police units, exhumed the mortal remains of the victims from the primary graves and buried them again in secondary mass graves. The aim of this operation was to conceal evidence of the existence of the mass graves and mass shootings of men from Srebrenica in July 1995.³⁰⁶

An estimated 7,905 Bosnian Muslims, predominantly men, disappeared from the Srebrenica enclave in July 1995.³⁰⁷ To date, nearly 7,017 victims have been identified.³⁰⁸

302 *Ibid.*, para. 2861; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 10 June 2010, para. 536.

303 *Ibid.*, para. 2862; Trial Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Milorad Trbić* case of 16 October 2009, paras. 640-644; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 10 June 2010, para. 541.

304 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, para. 2876; HLC, Dossier: "The 10th Sabotage Detachment of the Main Staff of the Army of Republika Srpska", Belgrade, 2011, paras. 89-95.

305 See at: Testimony of Krsto Simić before the ICTY in the *Blagojević i Jokić* case of 23 February 2004, pp. 7329-7333; Zvornik Brigade vehicle log for "Torpedo" excavator from 1 to 31 July 1995, Exhibit P00175, *Karadžić*; Zvornik Brigade Engineer Company daily orders log from 14 to 17 July 1995, Exhibit P04583, *Karadžić*.

306 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, paras. 5513-5514.

307 Ewa Tabeau, "The Integration of the 2012 ICMP Update with the 2009 OTP List of Srebrenica Victims – Research Note", dated 16 April 2012, Exhibit P05004, *Karadžić*, p. 6.

308 International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), Infographic: Srebrenica through numbers until 30 June 2023, available at <https://www.icmp.int/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/srebrenica-bhs-2023-June30.pdf>, accessed on 30 September 2023.



VII Prosecution of Crimes

Trials of members of the Birač Brigade

For the crimes committed during 1992 in the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade (municipalities of Zvornik, Vlasenica and Bratunac), the ICTY and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) convicted the political and state leadership of Republika Srpska.³⁰⁹

The Commander of the Main Staff of the VRS, Lieutenant-General Ratko Mladić, was sentenced to life in prison before the IRMCT for, among other things, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the municipality of Vlasenica.³¹⁰ General Ratko Mladić is the only high-ranking VRS member indicted by the ICTY Prosecutor's Office for crimes committed in the municipalities of Zvornik, Bratunac and Vlasenica until 1995.³¹¹

In November 1994, the ICTY issued the first indictment for war crimes in BiH against the commander of the Sušica camp, a member of the Special Police Platoon, and then of the Birač Brigade, Dragan Nikolić, aka "Yankee". Nikolić pleaded guilty before the ICTY Trial Chamber and was sentenced to 20 years in prison for crimes against humanity.³¹²

In the courts for war crimes in BiH and Serbia, several members of the Birač Brigade were prosecuted. Rade Garić, commander of the tactical intervention platoon within the Vlasenica 4th Infantry Battalion, Goran Višković, member of the military police, as well as Dragan Maksimović and Mirko Lukić, low-ranking members of the Birač Brigade, were convicted.³¹³ Besides them, no high-ranking officer of the Birač Brigade or the East Bosnian Corps of the VRS has been rendered criminally liable before international or national courts for the crimes described in this Dossier.

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309 Radovan Karadžić, Momčilo Krajišnik, Biljana Plavšić, Mićo Stanišić and Stojan Župljanin were sentenced. Miroslav Deronjić was convicted as president of the Crisis Staff of Bratunac Municipality for crimes against humanity committed in Glogova village.

310 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, paras. 1758-1849; IRMCT Appeal Judgment in the *Mladić* case of 8 June 2021.

311 Prosecutor of the ICTY omitted crimes committed in Zvornik and Bratunac municipalities from the amended and final indictment in order to expedite judicial proceedings. See at: Third Amended Indictment of the ICTY's Prosecution in the *Mladić* case of 20 October 2011; Fourth Amended Indictment of the ICTY's Prosecution in the *Mladić* case of 27 December 2011.

312 Dragan Nikolić was released in 2013 after serving two-thirds of his prison sentence and died in Vlasenica in 2018. Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 18 December 2003.

313 See: Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Rade Garić* case of 16 August 2021; Judgement of the Court of BiH in the *Bastah and Višković* case of 4 February 2010; Judgment of the Court of BiH in the *Goran Višković* case of 12 November 2021; Judgment of the High Court in Belgrade in the *Dragan Maksimović* case of 6 June 2018; Judgment of the District Court in Bijeljina in the *Mirko Lukić* case of 4 March 2014.



Trials of members of the Drina Corps / Srebrenica in 1995

For genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, crimes against humanity, and violation of the laws or customs of war in Srebrenica in 1995, 16 persons were convicted before the ICTY, eight of whom were officers of the Drina Corps of the VRS, including Commander Radislav Krstić, Chief of Security Vujadin Popović, as well as the commanders of the Zvornik and Bratunac Brigades.³¹⁴ So far, over 30 members of the Serbian army and police have been convicted before the courts in the region for the crimes in Srebrenica, and several proceedings are still ongoing.³¹⁵ At the time of the writing of this Dossier, the War Crimes Division of the High Court in Belgrade was conducting proceedings against Milenko Živanović, who is charged with ordering and participating in the forced relocation of the civilian population from Srebrenica and other enclaves as the Commander of the Drina Corps.³¹⁶ Ljubomir Vlačić, who replaced Svetozar Andrić as Commander of the Birač Brigade in July 1995, was charged with genocide before the Court of BiH.³¹⁷

VIII Svetozar Andrić

Svetozar Andrić, Lieutenant-General of the VRS, was born on 11 September 1954 in the village of Zelina in the municipality of Kalesija, BiH.

Between 1990 and 1992, Andrić was the commander of the 55th Military Police Battalion of the Belgrade City Defence Command, as part of the JNA.³¹⁸ One company of the 55th Military Police Battalion, under the command of Svetozar Andrić, participated in combat operations in the area around Vukovar during the armed conflict in Croatia.³¹⁹

Andrić joined the preparations for the armed conflicts in BiH during 1991, when he participated in the arming, equipping and military organisation of the Serb population in the municipality of Kalesija and in the area of Birač.³²⁰

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314 Radislav Krstić is also the first person convicted of genocide by the ICTY. See: Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Krstić* case of 2 August 2001; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Blagojević and Jokić* case of 17 January 2005; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Popović et al.* case of 10 June 2010.

315 Proceedings against *Nedeljko Milidragovića et al.* for the shooting of Bosnian Muslims in a warehouse in Kravica are underway before the High Court in Belgrade.

316 Indictment of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia against *Milenko Živanović* of 29 December 2021.

317 The Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Hercegovina, "Indictment Issued against 7 Persons for the Criminal Offence of Genocide", dated 4 December 2023, available at <https://www.tuzilastvobih.gov.ba/?id=5778&jezik=e>, accessed on 22 December 2023.

318 Boško Antić, *School of National Defence: 40th Class 1996/1997*, Belgrade, 2017, p. 135; Savo Sokanović et al., *Generals of Republika Srpska 1992 – 2017: biographical dictionary*, Banja Luka, Ministry of Labour and Veteran and Disability Protection of Republika Srpska: Veterans' Organization of Republika Srpska, 2017, p. 44.

319 *Drinski Magazine*, "Boy, you're the commander from today", October 1994, Exhibit P02289, *Tolimir*, p. 10.

320 *Ibid.*, *Birčanski vojnik Magazine*, "I did not shake hands with Morion", May 1995, p. 4.



On 19 May 1992, Major Svetozar Andrić was appointed Commander of the Birač Brigade of the VRS.³²¹ At the beginning of July of the same year, after the expulsion of the non-Serb population from the municipalities in the zone of responsibility of the Birač Brigade, the Commander of the Main Staff of the VRS, General Ratko Mladić, promoted Svetozar Andrić to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.³²²

With the rank of Colonel, Svetozar Andrić took office as Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Drina Corps no later than 15 July 1995.³²³ From March 1996, Andrić held the position of Chief of Staff of the Third Corps, and, from July 1997, Chief of Staff of the Fifth Corps of the VRS. In 1999, he became the Commander of the Fifth Corps of the VRS, based in Sokolac.³²⁴ He retired on 7 March 2002, with the rank of Lieutenant-General.

The professional status of Svetozar Andrić, who after the formal withdrawal of the JNA from BiH stayed on to serve in the VRS, was regulated through the 30th Personnel Centre (PC) of the Main Staff of the Army of Yugoslavia.³²⁵ As a member of the 30th PC, Andrić enjoyed all the rights and benefits of VJ officers.³²⁶ By order of the President of the FRY, Andrić was removed from office in June 2001, along with 25 other generals of the 30th PC, as well as from the records of professional VJ soldiers.³²⁷ In response to a request for access to information of public importance sent by the HLC, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia has claimed that Svetozar Andrić "was not registered as a member of the Yugoslav People's Army, nor of other armies of which the Serbian Army is a legal successor".³²⁸

In late 1999 and early 2000, Major-General Svetozar Andrić, who was Commander of the Fifth Corps of the VRS at the time, organised meetings with former high-ranking VRS officers to prepare them for statements before the ICTY. Lawyers were also present at the meeting. Andrić and General Radivoje Miletić invoked patriotism on that occasion, and suggested to the officers that they tell the ICTY investigators as little as possible and avoid revealing any incriminating information regarding the events in Srebrenica.³²⁹

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321 Statement of witness Svetozar Andrić given to the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D03886, *Karadžić*, p. 1.

322 Order of the Command of the Main Staff of the VRS of 10 July 1992, Exhibit P07380, *Mladić*.

323 Order of the President of the Republic of Srpska Radovan Karadžić of 14 July 1995, Exhibit P03044, *Karadžić*; Command of the Drina Corps, handover of the duties of commander of the corps from 13 July 1995, Exhibit P07056, *Mladić*.

324 Statement of witness Svetozar Andrić given to the ICTY on 16 July 2013, Exhibit D03886, *Karadžić*, p. 1.

325 30th Personnel Centre of the Main Staff of the Army of Yugoslavia, competent to regulate the legal and personal status of former JNA and VJ members who remained or were subsequently referred to the VRS, in order to retain the rights and benefits of the VJ officers; for officers in Croatia it was responsible for the 40th PC, see: HLC, Dossier: The JNA in the Wars in Croatia and BiH, Belgrade, 2018, pp. 96-99, available at https://www.hlc-rdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Dosije_JNA_eng_inter.pdf, accessed on 8 June 2022; ICTY Trial Judgment in the *Perišić* case of 6 September 2011, paras. 772-787.

326 Personal sheet VJ – Svetozar Andrić, Exhibit P02105, *Perišić*; List of professional soldiers of the 30th Personnel Centre, Exhibit P00738, *Perišić*, p. 1.

327 Order of the President of the FRY of 16 June 2001, Exhibit P01905, *Perišić*, p. 1.

328 MD, answer no. 5537-2 dated 3 June 2022.

329 Testimony of Momir Nikolić before the ICTY in the *Blagojević and Jokić* case of 30 September 2003, pp. 2298-2300; Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Nikolić* case of 2 December 2003, Annex B: Statement of Facts and Acceptance of Guilt, p. 7.



Svetozar Andrić, as a defence witness, testified twice before the ICTY in cases against Radovan Karadžić³³⁰ and Ratko Mladić. On both occasions, the ICTY Trial Chamber characterised Andrić's testimony as unreliable. In the case against Karadžić, the Trial Chamber found that during the testimony, Andrić exhibited dishonesty, because "it was in his interest to minimise his personal participation in the events, as well as to have his testimony in this regard characterised by contradictions, evasiveness and indicators of dishonesty".³³¹

Since 2013, Svetozar Andrić has been actively engaged politically in the Republic of Serbia. He was elected Deputy President of the Municipality of Novi Beograd in July 2016, after he joined the Municipal Assembly as a member of the Serbian People's Party.³³² At the time, the President of the Municipality of Novi Beograd was Aleksandar Šapić. In the XII Convocation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, as of 3 August 2020, Svetozar Andrić served as a Member of Parliament representing the Serbian Patriotic Alliance (SPAS) of Aleksandar Šapić, i.e. the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), after the SPAS joined it.³³³

As of 18 August 2022, Svetozar Andrić has been a member of the Belgrade City Council, as a close associate of Belgrade Mayor Aleksandar Šapić.³³⁴

330 The ICTY Trial Chamber granted Andrić a request for free passage during a testimony, which he submitted for fear of being extradited to BiH authorities and prosecuted. See in: Order for Safe Conduct of 10 July 2013, available at <https://ucr.irmct.org/LegalRef/CMSDocStore/Public/English/Order/NotIndexable/IT-95-5%2318/MRA22773R0000403446.pdf>, accessed on 22 February 2023.

331 Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Karadžić* case of 24 March 2016, para. 4703; The Trial Chamber of the ICTY in the Judgment of *Mladić* assessed that the evidence presented by Andrić was not sufficiently reliable (specifically in relation to the Sušica camp), and that his testimony contained inconsistencies, see: Trial Judgment of the ICTY in the *Mladić* case of 22 November 2017, fn.7565.

332 RTS, "Šapić again President of the Municipality of Novi Beograd", 20 July 2016, available at <https://www.rts.rs/page/stories/sr/story/9/politika/2392640/sapic-ponovo-predsednik-opstine-novi-beograd.html>, accessed on 14 June 2022.

333 National Assembly, MP Svetozar Andrić, available at http://www.parlament.gov.rs/%D0%A1%D0%92%D0%95%D0%A2%D0%9E%D0%97%D0%90%D0%A0_%D0%90%D0%9D%D0%94%D0%A0%D0%98%D0%8B.1141.245.html, accessed on 14 June 2022.

334 Daily Danas, "Two new members of the City Council and new members of the permanent working bodies of the Assembly were elected", 18 August 2022, available at <https://www.danas.rs/vesti/politika/izabrana-dva-clana-gradskog-veca/>, accessed on 18 August 2022.









Birač Brigade Command

26.05.1992

Šekovići

To the Commander of lpb /light infantry battalion/ OSMACI

Based on the overall assessment of the general situation on the SAO /Serbian Autonomous District/ Birač battlefield, I hereby

ORDER:

1. Carry out fortification and the setting up of obstacles on the line reached.
2. Form a battalion as per base units up to full establishment.
3. Carry out replenishment in weapons, ammunition and other materiel for members of your unit.
4. Ban the departure from your territory of men and women fit for combat.
5. Inspect the men daily at the positions and ensure their timely supply in food and that their other needs are met.
6. Move women and children out of the Muslim villages to Kalesija and Gračanica, whereas the men are to be taken away to collection centres.

C O M M A N D E R

Major

Svetozar ANDRIĆ

/a signature/

SV Brigade Command "Birač"

Date: 28 May 1992

Šekovići

To: Zvornik TO /territorial Defence/ Staff

We hereby inform you that nothing has been done until today to set up the 6 Infantry Brigade, the AA Defence Light-Artillery Division or the Tank Company. We are unable to place these units under our command because you are still deploying them at your own will.

Pursuant to the order on the organisation of defence dated 15 May 1992 I hereby

ORDER:

1. Carry out the formation of the aforementioned units from the TO detachment;
2. Nominate managing staff in co-operation with the Secretariat for National Defence;
3. Arrange accommodation for the men at the "Standard" factory together with the Government of the Zvornik Municipal Assembly;
4. I forbid the deployment of these units without my authority;
5. I forbid the carrying out of larger operations without co-ordination with the "Birač" SV Brigade Command and neighbouring units in your territory;
6. The moving out of the Muslim population must be organised and co-ordinated with the municipalities through which the moving is carried out. Only women and children can move out, while men fit for military service are to be placed in camps for exchange.
7. The commanders of the aforementioned units are to be instructed regarding their specific tasks.

COMMANDER

Major Svetožar ANDRIĆ

/signature and stamp/

SV Brigade Command
"Birač"

MILITARY SECRET
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Date: 31 May 1992

Šekovići

Guarding of prisoners

Order

Command Archive

Pursuant to the decision of the "Birač" SAR /Serb Autonomous Region/ Government, which regulates the moving out of the Muslim population from the territory of "Birač" SAR, I hereby

ORDER

1. Set up a camp in Vlasenica and secure it in compliance with international regulations;
2. I forbid the passing of any arbitrary Decision on the physical liquidation of prisoners;
3. The Security Organ of the battalion in Vlasenica shall conduct operative interviews and shall submit all useful information for control and command to the "Birač" SV brigade.
4. The Prime Minister of "Birač" SAR is to establish contact urgently regarding negotiations on the exchange of prisoners.

COMMANDER

Major Svetozar ANDRIĆ

/signed/

ZČ

Interview: Colonel Svetozar Andrić, commander of the 1st Birač Brigade

BOY, YOU ARE THE COMMANDER FROM TODAY

Mr. Commander, what determined you to come to this area and organise the Serbian people?

There are many factors that influenced my commitment, but above all, it was the words of Slobodan Milošević, said in Kosovo [illegible]. At that moment, I made the decision. I remembered the history and stories from my region, especially those from my grandmother, who had the misfortune to lose one son, husband and brother-in-law, and many neighbours, because the people where I was born, which is the village of Zelina in the Serbian municipality of Kalesija, was not organised during the last war. The Turks tricked them. All military-aged men were taken to Kalesija, and then to camps in Germany. That is why I did not hesitate for a moment and I gladly responded to the request of the people of my region. I remember a delegation led by Pero Janković, president of the Serbian municipality of Kalesija, who came to me together with some other people, asking me to help the Serbian people. I replied that I was ready, but only if there were no divisions among Serbs, because I do not want Serbs to fight against each other as was the case in the last war. Since '91, I have been actively working with people from the municipality to prepare the Serbian people for war. We organised units and started arming them. Also in the same year, I had the opportunity to meet with our commander-in-chief, Mr. Karadžić. This was our first meeting, when we talked about the position and future of Serbs in the area of Kalesija and Birač.

How was the first unit formed in the area of the Serbian municipality of Kalesija?

When I made the decision and offered my knowledge, I did not hesitate at all, because I knew that only timely organisation could lead to success, that is, to avoid the fate of the last war. That is why the first and basic thing was for all military fit people to be armed, equipped and trained. That's how it was done. In the course of '91, a battalion equivalent unit was formed, and in March '92, we formed the same unit into formation and conducted two days of training, where we also organised shooting with state-of-the-art weapons. By that time, we managed to arm and equip a large

number of combatants, not only in the municipality of Kalesija, but also in the area of Birač.

-First major action?

Considering that in April we disarmed extremists in the area of the Serbian municipality of Kalesija at the beginning of May, we experienced [illegible]. Given this situation, we decided to carry out an attack on Kalesija on 8 May in the early morning hours, in order to simultaneously organise the breakthrough of the locals from the besieged Jeginov Lug. Already in the afternoon, we arrived in Memići, and at the same time we managed to move out 90 percent of the inhabitants of Jeginov Lug, as well as a battery of 90 mm self-



propelled guns. Some of the villagers did not take my order seriously, so they stayed in the village, but later we managed to get them out.

On 9 May, we arrived close to Kalesija, and the very next day we merged with the Serbian village of Dubnica and thus unblocked it. On 11 May, we set out to establish the government, i.e. SJB, then enabling the electrical system and other vital facilities that were necessary for living and working in that municipality. At the same

time, we asked the assumed command, then the East Bosnian Corps, for the forces from the Lisača region to merge with our forces in the Mahmutovića Brdo region. I was personally at the command post and asked for it, but I did not receive a positive answer because at that time many things were not resolved as the superiors thought they should.

-Was it possible to do more then?

Of course it was, I also asked for the attack to be extended towards Tuzla and for the army not to leave that city, but to accept us when we leave the Dubnica region, and other units from Majeвица, so that we could establish the Dubnica – Čaklovići – Gradina line with the aim of keeping the barracks and guarding Tuzla from those positions. However, many did not understand me at the time because they still considered me young and inexperienced. I was young, but with a great experience because I commanded the Military Police battalion, and one unit was on a very difficult task towards Vukovar, so I gained certain experiences there as well. When I saw that it was not going to happen, I returned to my area again and tried to engage one part of the Zvornik units in order to liberate Medveđa and exit the line Lisača – Mahmutovića brdo, in order to protect the right wing. However, my idea was not understood there, since the commanders of that unit thought that it was better to disarm Divić and other surrounding places and that there would be time for my proposal later. But it turned out that this was a miscalculation and that is why today we have that horseshoe-shaped region that takes up a lot of space, and Zvornik itself is not safe.

-Have you had any contact with the representatives of the army of the former SFRY?

From the liberation of Kalesija until 18 May, we had several meetings with representatives of the republic government, the prime minister, as well as representatives of the former JNA, who claimed at that time that they would not leave us until the units were formed and the staff was trained. I believed that it would be honoured, but, unfortunately, I was mistaken. One evening, Colonel Tačić called me and explained to me that the brigade command was leaving, and I was asked to stay with the people in order to calm them down because the people had already started blocking the warehouses and the equipment that was planned to be transferred through the Drina river. A lot was

taken out, but the people of Šekovići managed to prevent the extraction of the remaining part, especially tanks.

-How was your brigade formed and when?

On 19 May, all representatives of municipalities were invited to Han Pijesak, where General Mladić and his associates held a meeting with us. At the meeting, the goals and tasks of the formation of the Serbian Army and individual units were presented so that the representatives of Birač reacted due to the departure of the 4th Armoured Brigade and because they currently do not have a commander. I was the only active elder in this area at the time, but I was preparing to return to Belgrade.

However, General Mladić said to me at the time: "Boy, you are the commander of the Birač Brigade from today." Realising the seriousness of the situation, I reacted on the grounds that I was temporarily in these areas and that I had to return to the home unit in Belgrade as soon as possible. But it was an order that had to be carried out.

So, on that day was formed the 1st Birač Infantry Brigade, which had seven municipalities in its area of responsibility at the time: Zvornik, Kalesija, Šekovići, Vlasenica, Milići, Bratunac and Skelani.

-What were your most significant tasks?

The tasks of our brigade were quite difficult, complex and very important, and I will especially point out the security of the Pale – Zvornik corridor, the security of the bauxite mine in Milići and the liberation of communication via Konjević Polje. Although the most difficult, we successfully completed the first task. The enemy tried with all its power to cut off this communication and connect its units on the route Tuzla – Kalesija – Čerska – Srebrenica. The second task was also successfully conducted. In addition to preserving all the plants located within the mine, we occasionally provided for the exploitation of ore. We only partially realised the third task, because without the cooperation of other brigades, we were not able to do the job fully and completely.



-Were there any other combat operations in which the brigade participated?

There are numerous actions of our brigade from the beginning until today, and they can be divided into two groups, before we joined the Drina Corps and from the formation of the corps until today. In the first place, it is necessary to mention the combat actions for the liberation of Kalesija, the defence of the communication Zvornik – Pale via Crni Vrh, because then we saved a large number of Serbian population from the area. As part of these actions, the liberation of the village of Memići should definitely be mentioned. Along with the activities in the area, we also conducted active combat activities in the Kamenica region. On 26 September '92, the enemy massacred about 30 people in Podravanje, sparing neither women nor children. That, I must admit, was the first time I got into a critical situation, but with the help of my superiors, primarily Generals Milovanović and Mladić, the situation normalised. Also, in the Bratunac region a great effort was made to defend the "Sase" mine, as well as the entire area of that municipality. Yet, the enemy massacred about 100 combatants and civilians on Petrovdan in '92. On 16 April '93, the enemy launched

a strong artillery and infantry attack from Kladanj towards Trnovo and Pelemiš. After hours of fighting, they were pushed back, but they attacked Pelemiš again. At that time, 60 were killed and 350 wounded from Kladanj alone. About 150 people from Živinice died and about 500 were wounded.

-Back to the present time. In your opinion, what would it mean to lift the embargo on arms imports to Muslims?

I honestly think that the embargo only partially exists. Muslims, it is well known to everyone, have weapons, and have the support of the whole world. Let me just remind you about Vis, in the area of the Serbian municipality of Kalesija, where UNPROFOR acted on our positions with 72 grenades. Thanks to the luck of the war, but also to the skills of our combatants, there were no casualties. So, I really do not think that the enemy is scarce with weapons.

-Are we strong enough to defend what is ours?

Yes. In any case, we can not only defend ours, but also go further; however, our goal is to keep what is ours, not to conquer someone else's. After all, the past confirms it. Regardless of the victims, the Serbs always succeeded. We have lost some battles, but not one war, and we will not lose this one either.

-Who has done their job more successfully, a rifle or a fountain pen, an officer or a politician?

I'm a soldier and I wouldn't want to talk much about life out of line. The fact is that we are attached to each other and that we cooperate, and time will tell about whether and how much they have done. However, I am obliged and I must say that the army has done a lot. Almost everything that was required. When it comes to my combatants, I am satisfied. And yet, looking at the other side, I disagree with the opinion of some individuals who look at it unilaterally. You know, we must admit that it is not easy for these politicians either. We have one enemy, and they have countless. Maybe some things could be done better, but I repeat, I am a professional soldier first and foremost and I try to do my job to the best of my ability.

-Can you brief us on the current situation on the line of defence?

In the area of responsibility of the brigade, the situation is good. There are some small problems here and there,

but this is quite normal. We were not all well before the war. People was always missing something, but most importantly – we are doing well in the military sense. Our lines of defence are secure. They may try [to attack us] as they have done so far, but they will do the same.

-What is the price of success so far?

You know, every success is paid with something. This is war and people die. But still, I have to tell you that our losses are much lower than the other side.

-The relationship between civilian and military authorities?

At first not very satisfactory, however, the more time went on, and the relationships became better.

-In an interview with Drinski, Lieutenant General Manojlo Milovanović, deputy commander of the GŠ VRS, said that your brigade, together with Zvornik brigade, forms the backbone of the defence of Serbs in Podrinje. Would you like to comment on that for us?

Considering that he follows the 1st Birač infantry brigade, General Milovanović knows it very well and,

Interviewed by: Nedeljko Kajiš

when making such a statement he probably had in mind all its results so far as well as the strength of the enemies ahead of us, and yet we resist them in attacks.

-Will the war be over soon?

If I were to decide on it, it would end immediately, in fact, it would never even start, but it is a question that is really difficult to answer. However, I am optimistic, because the conditions for the end of the war exist, slowly the world understands the reality of Serbian demands.

-What bothers you as a commander?

It bothers me that sometimes, in addition to regular military tasks in leadership and command, I also have to deal with secondary tasks that are not in my domain (the standard of combatants, nutrition, dressing, heating, families of the dead and severely wounded), and all this takes me away from everyday military work and task.

-Everyone has desires, what's yours?

If the war continues, I would like Kalesija to be under our control as well.

O R D E R no. 2-36/92 /handwritten: IBK /Eastern Bosnia Corps//
 COMMANDER OF THE MAIN STAFF
 ARMY OF THE SERBIAN REPUBLIC OF
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
 10 July 1992

Pursuant to Articles 4a and 37 of the Law on the Army of the Serbian Republic of
 Bosnia and Herzegovina (*Official Gazette of the Serbian People in BH* no. 7/92)

EARLY PROMOTION type of change 03

To the rank of infantry lieutenant colonel
 is awarded to the infantry major 42

Svetozar ANDRIĆ, son of Petko
 Commander of the Birač Brigade
 of the Eastern Bosnia Corps

born on 11 September 1954 A P S /expansion unknown/ 11 09 54

Promotion will become effective on 10 July 1992. 10 07 92

C O M M A N D E R
 Lieutenant General
 Ratko MLADIĆ
 /signed and stamped/

/The original text is partly scrambled, which is not reflected in this translation/

Command of the 1st /?Birač Light Infantry Brigade/

Strictly confidential no. 14-397/93

/handwritten:/ 9/910

2 March 1993

Regular Combat Report

To the Drina Corps Command

1. In the early morning hours the enemy started an attack along the whole line of our defence: from Spasovnica until the village of Jelačići (towards Kladanj)
2. In the activities that unfolded throughout the day the enemy intruded our /illegible/ (Bišina) and managed insignificantly to suppress our /?unit/ during the day, after sending support and men, the line was recaptured, but we had five soldiers killed and three wounded. There are indications that the list of losses is not definite. Our forces which are moving in the wider area of Kamenica, Gajići and Grobići worked according to plan without major problems. The village of Gobelji has been burnt, and tomorrow the plan is to do Paljevine.
3. The state in the area of responsibility is regular at the moment, for now the situation is under control.
4. There were no extraordinary events.
5. The state of moral is on a satisfactory level.
6. Logistics support report
7. Today in the enemy attack were killed:
Miladin KOSTIĆ, Obren KOSTIĆ, Tihomir PERENDIĆ, Dragan AŠĆERIĆ,
Ljubo SARČEVIĆ and Vladenko LUKIĆ.
Wounded were: Marinko ĐORDIĆ, Rado MILANOVIĆ, Miroslav VUKOTIĆ
and Krunoslav BOŽIĆ. All wounded have been hospitalized. We have no other information.
8. We have no special requests.

Commander:

Lieutenant Colonel

Svetozar ANDRIĆ

RECEIVED:	2 March	19.20 hours	/signed/
	(day and month)	(hour and minute)	(signature)
	/illegible/	/illeg./	/signed/
	(code name) (telegram no.) (group no.)	(urgency)	(processing method) (communications station no.)
PROCESSED:	2 March	19.35 hours	/signed/
	(day and month)	(hour and minute)	(signature)
DELIVERED:			
	(day and month)	(hour and minute)	(signature)

00920085

DECREE NUMBER /handwritten/ 01-1369/95
OF THE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA
of /handwritten/ 14 July 1995

Pursuant to articles 11, /?168/ and 369 of the Law on the Army (Official Gazette of
Republika Srpska number 7/92),

ACCORDING TO WARTIME ESTABLISHMENT, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS
ARE HEREBY APPOINTED TO THE DRINA CORPS:

To the Command:

1. - Radislav KRSTIĆ, son of Milorad,
Major General, personal VES /military occupational speciality/ 31139,
born 15 February 1948 Registration number KMR 1502481

- as commander

VES 31040
FČ /establishment rank/: Major General – Lieutenant General
PG /rank grouping / - 04 (four)

According to RF /wartime establishment/ to date: Chief of Staff (and deputy
commander) in the Drina Corps Command.

2. - Svetozar ANDRIĆ, son of Petko,
infantry colonel, personal VES
31101, born 11 September 1954 Registration number APS 1109541

- as Chief of Staff (and deputy commander).

VES 31098
FČ: Colonel - Major General
PG – 05 (five)

According to the RF, to date: commander of the 1st Birač Infantry Brigade, Drina
Corps.

Appointed as of 15 July 1995.

President of the Republic
Dr. Radovan KARADŽIĆ
/stamped and signed/

Dossier: Svetozar Andrić

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