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POPUKA/MESSAGE:

As per our tel. conversation please find enclosed the material that we have received this morning from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Crimes against ethnic Serbian civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina.


ZIVKOVIC

1406 11 92 13-E (YUGOSLAV AIRPOST) WIKASO
SERBIAN REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
State Documentation Center for Investigation of War Crimes
against the Persons of Serbian Ethnic Origin

No. 55/92

Date: August 2nd, 1992

CRIMES AGAINST ETHNIC SERBIAN CIVILIANS IN
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA.

(Contained herein are only crimes supported by proper
documentation and live witnesses)

SARAJEVO

In many parts of Sarajevo, there are concentration camps and other places in which Muslims are torturing and killing citizens of Serbian ethnic origin, that is, of Orthodox religion. The State Documentation Center for Investigation of War Crimes against Ethnic Serbs in the Territory of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has, to date, determined the exact locations, types and extent of torture, based on statements of witnesses who have undergone the torture, as well as based on other reliable sources, for some camps in Sarajevo only. Well-known criminals, whose release before the outbreak of war conflicts was made possible by Alija Izetbegović's pardon in the name of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, have established "private" prisons in the cellars of apartment buildings and in other facilities, garages, business premises of private companies, which fact is witnessed by the many civilians released through the exchange of prisoners.

The testimony of Željko Rašević, given to Serbian television at Pale on July 22nd 1992, who had undergone a real underground chain of "private" jails in Sarajevo, is telling. Filip Vuković, head of the State Commission for the Exchange of Prisoners in the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, stated at the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, July 18th 1992, that the "owners" of these jails charged each prisoner with a DM 300 to 3,000 bail in order to release them.

During the exchange of captives, the Muslim authorities resort to impermissible means. While still in jail, Serbs are told lies: that the Serbian side is refusing to collect them through the exchange, that lives of members of their families would not be guaranteed should they pass to the other side during the exchange. Criminal cases have also been registered: a number of Muslims is issued false documents by the Ministry of the Internal Affairs onto the names of arrested Serbs, who then appear before TV cameras and the UNPROFOR Mission claiming that they do not wish to go to the free Serbian territory. In some cases, the Muslim authorities take and then "lose" identity cards of arrested persons, in order to prevent them from proving their identity. Consequently, during the exchanges they are returned to Sarajevo. Such is the case of Milka Milanović, nee Tintor, and her sister Zorica Tintor.

Serbs in Sarajevo are also tortured and murdered in their homes. Every single Serbian apartment has been searched several times so far, under the pretext of "search for guns", which served as an excuse for robberies of money and valuables, arrests, intimidations, and harassment, followed by one and the same official explanation: "mistake." Also by "mistake", Slavko and Milica Aščerić and their children, were afflicted severe injuries in their apartment (16, Hasana Brkića Street), in retaliation of top republican officials for Slavko's refusal to accept the function of the Republican Public Prosecutor of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This serves as a way to speed up a well masked ethnic cleansing of Sarajevo by the Muslims, using a number of Serbs as hostages.

Since the outbreak of the war, a large number of Serbian artists, writers, professors and researchers fled their homes in Sarajevo, escaping arrest. Artists' studios and paintings of Milivoje Unković and Ratko Lalić were looted and demolished. When the war first started, the offices of the Serbian Culture and Education Society "Prosvjeta" and the editorial office of "Javnost", the sole Serbian gazette in B&H, were demolished, together with their property and records. All files, records, manuscripts and research papers were seized from the homes of some twenty Serbian writers, professors and researchers, their private libraries destroyed, and valuables stolen. Instructions for this cultural genocide came from their Muslim and Croat colleagues, who, as in the case of actor Pejaković and singer Popović, joined the crime of genocide. The same applies to the fact that some 50 professors from the various Sarajevo Liberal Arts Faculty departments were fired because of "terrorist activities."

On July 20th, the Management Board of RTV Sarajevo made a decision, upon the suggestion of the Ministry for Culture of B&H, to ban broadcasts of songs performed by the Serbs. Exemption was made for authors whose songs glorify the rule of Alija Izetbegović and the struggle of his fighters. This is a good example of the way in which the Serbian culture and people are treated in the RTV Sarajevo programmes.

Following are examples of the treatment of Serbs in Sarajevo hospitals: Milan Dragaš (1958), was wounded by a sniper in the Marijin Dvor area, while attempting to accommodate one person into the ex-Military Hospital. He was then transferred to

the Koševo Hospital, where he was harassed and wounded again. Namely, he received certain medical treatment, but Muslim patients broke his nasal bone and afflicted severe wounds upon him, causing some eye-sight damage. After that, he was arrested and confined in the Main Prison, where he was harassed by the prison hoodlums Slavko Herceg, some Puda, Refik and Dario. Jovan Matović (1957) was wounded in Dobrinja, on his way to throw garbage outside his flat. He received first aid in the Dobrinja Health Care Center, and then transferred to the Koševo Hospital, where he was harassed like Milan Daragaš, but with less severe consequences. He was then arrested and taken to the Main Prison, and the harassment was repeated. The charges are always the same: snipers, chetniks, terrorists.

On July 20th 1992, between 6.00 - 6.30 p.m., a group of some thirty Muslims from Breza, Tihović and Nahorevo, assaulted a mini-bus full of women and children going from Pale to Ilijaš, on the Srednje Semizovac Road, in Ljubina, by the "Ranch" Restaurant. Zorka Marković, Gordana Marković, Vlatka Macanović (1976), Slavica Djukanović (1978), Marica Marković and her husband were wounded. Slavica Djukanović's brother and mother, from Hadjići, were killed. This Muslim assault against civilians was led by Enes Durak, participant in the massacre of civilians in the village of Čemerno.

Moravska Street. The first mortar assault of Muslim forces of the Serbian sections of Sarajevo, in late May 1992, was focussed on the lower parts of the street. The evening bombing completely demolished five housing facilities, causing serious damage on twenty more houses. Five civilians, two women and three men were killed, and a large number of people were wounded, some of which gravely. Pandurović and Lalović were deadly wounded.

Ozrenska Street. Four "Green berets", liquidated in the vicinity of No. 100, had killed in a most horrifying manner the four-year-old son of Djordje Drašković, his brother Slobodar Drašković, Danilo Lale, while Djordje's wife, the step-mother of the juvenile victims, was wounded.

The Main Prison. A Sarajevo criminal and drug-addict and ex-convict, Ismet Bajramović Čelo, who in person had participated in arresting, harassment and killing of arrested Serbian men and women, was appointed for the principal of the Prison from the very beginning of the war. The Sarajevo actor Josi,

Pejanović is also in the prison administration. Sulejman Horo, the son of Ramiz, from Poča, is in charge of the 5th floor, where female detainees are accommodated. Certain Remo has specialised in the raping of juvenile females, maidens and younger women; some Fudo has made a whole collection of golden jewelry seized from female prisoners who hoped to be spared from compulsory rape; certain Jusufović, the son of Esma, usually reaches the prison as if for sporting activities : dressed in a T-shirt, sneakers, with a towel - well-equipped for exercising severe violation upon those confined. The detainees must, under the threat of physical violation, sign a statement and show it on Sarajevo TV broadcasts, as in the darkest chapters of prison practices. According to the witnesses who had been detained in this prison, every night 5 to 6 Serbs of different age lose their lives while fresh, innocent persons replace them the next day. The 67 year-old Jelisavka's crime was that a page from a book of Serbian poets had been found in her flat. The crime of V.M., a 16 year-old girl, was that she was Serbian and that some of the prison monsters wanted to abuse her sexually.

Savić (Milan) Nada (1942), Vukašinović (Novak) Milada (1948), Dragaš Milan (1958), Matović Jovan (1958), who have been detained in its cells, are witnesses of the horrors of the Main Prison.

The Koševo Stadium has been transformed into a concentration camp which over 6.000 Serbs have experienced. Most of them were released and it is not easy to make an estimate on the number of civilians detained there at present. Mid-July 1992, the news spread that the "green berets" threw live Serbian children from the Koševo stadium into cages with wild beasts. Serbian fighters in the surrounding areas of Kromolje nad Jezero have heard horrifying cries from the zoo.

The former student hostel "Mladen Stojanović" has been turned into a department of the Sarajevo Security Services Center, and many of the detainees of the former "Viktor Bubanj" barracks or the Main prison, experience their initial shock when faced with the Independent B&H "Order Authorities".

The former "Viktor Bubanj" barracks, now known under the name of "Juka's Prison" since its first principal was Jusuf Juka Prazina, appointed for commander of the B&H Armed Forces' special units by the Presidency of B&H. According to the

testimonies of a dozen witnesses, Prazina personally sent to death over 30 Serbian civilians. One of the venues of Juka's crimes is the cafe "Borsalino". Apart of the unheard of physical harassment, those detained in this cafe-turned-into-camp are exposed to the torture of being bereft of food and water, of exhausting physical hardships like those of Nazi camps in World War II. Over 200 Serbian men and women are continually being detained and exposed to torture in the former "Biktor Bubanj" barracks. This camp serves as an example of "law and order" and it is regularly visited by foreign delegations and journalists, the inmates being forced to give false statements in front of the cameras. Horrifying harassment, even murders, are recorded during the transporting of those detained. Those arrested are welcome by the camp guards and dogs. There are 12 cells for men and seven cells for women, certain Mirella being the main capo for the latter. A substantial number of wives of active or retired officers of the former JNA are being exposed to torture in this camp: Ravijojla Džepina; Saveta Ninković, an old-age pensioner and her husband; Vida Babić, an old-age pensioner from Grbavica; senile Gospava Brakus (1916); Ilinka Rajić (1918); Nada Pržulj (1943), commercial manager of a company trading in pharmaceuticals, and her husband Miroslav Pržulj; Stana Miljić (1946); Marica Rozalija Selimović (nee Nadj), accused of helping a Serbian family to leave Dobrinja for Lukavica; a 60-year old Jovanka from Skenderija, who was initially exposed to dogs at the Main prison and to personal harassment by Jusuf Prazina; Radinka Odžaković (1970), a retarded girl, accused of being a sniper, and particularly maltreated after being wounded, and shown to foreign TV reporters; Nedjo Mihajlović, arrested June 13th at Dobrinja, twice wounded while exercising the prison "work obligation"; Ranko Milošević (24 years of age), his family name being his main crime. On the eve of exchanges of detainees, the prison is being filled with new ones, although these are totally innocent people. The wives of the militaries are being arrested with the idea of changing them for food, weapons and ammunition. Pestilence and lice reign in the camp, medical care and hygiene control being on the lowest possible level, almost equal to zero. All the arrested are submitted to "work obligation".

The tunnel in the settlement of Ciglane and the underground atomic shelter in the vicinity have, in mid May, been transformed into a camp for the Serbs. Very few people have been freed from there since, and those who have come through testified that they have been forced to give blood for the wounded Moslems.

The basement of the "FIS" Sports Centre in the Mla Irbi Street, has been turned into a prison, and a part of the police station - where the following soldiers of the Yugoslav People's Army were kept as prisoners from their arrest on 3 May 1992 until their release on 20 July: Dragan Petković, from Odžaci, Nedeljko Dimić from Bačka Topola, Goran Savić from Višnjiceva, Miroslav Omčikus, from Belgrade, Ivan Oršić, from Novi Sad, Goran Milanović, from Trstenik, Zoran Stevanović from Niš, Niko Arsenić, from Gornja Špijunica - all of whom were taken prisoners when the military column was attacked at the time the Second Military Region was being evacuated. After having been freed, the soldiers told the military investigating authorities that the famous Sarajevo pop singer Davorin Popović - Zimpek, and Avdo Panjeta, a high official of the Ministry of the Interior of Bosnia-Herzegovina participated in their "re-education" in prison.

Massive arrests in the settlement of Dobrinja started in mid June. The first to be taken in were intellectuals and distinguished citizens of Serbian nationality. Only the flats of the citizens of Serbian nationality were searched, under the pretense that it was being done for the purpose of "searching for arms". An order had been issued that a list of Serbs be made. At that time, Nedjo Mihajlović, Director of the "Dijamant" enterprise was arrested. The same group of the Muslim military police that arrested Mihajlović on 13 June, and whose member is, inter alia, a certain Goran (a former employee of the Sarajevna Banka head office) a certain Alija (who worked in "Bosnalijek", a person registered as a mentally derrnged person), a certain Mirsad, a certain Huso (who used to work as warehouse hand in the "Jugokomerc" in Dolac Malta, a head in the Dobrinja 5 headquarters) arrested Nedja's wife, Milena Mihajlović (1951) and Radomir Šećerov (1946), head of the department for agro-meteorology at the Hydro-meteorological Institute of Bosnia-Herzegovina; Mališa Mandić, electrical engineer; on 9 July Radomir's wife, Nevenka Šećerov (1951); Gordan Drašković (1963=, his wife Tatjana Drašković and brother Zoran Drašković (1966); a certain Mrs. Mandić, leaving her 8 year-old daughter alone in the flat; Sava Šumar, teacher, and another group of some 10 unidentified Srbs from Dobrinja. The sole explanation for the arrest was "It is because you are Serbs". All their telephone lines were disconnected. That job was entrusted to a certain Šime, a former waiter at the "PTT Inženjering" Co. The arrested were first taken either to the Territorial Defense Headquarters at Dobrinja 5 or to the police headquarters at Dorinja 2, and then to

one of the many cellars converted into prison. A prison located beneath the "Privredna banka" - a former warehouse of the "Sunce" shop, consisting of three larger cells whose walls were stained with blood and a room for the guards - has been identified. Many killings have taken place in those prisons. Some of the prisoners committed suicide, while all the prisoners were subjected to unseemly physical and psychological torture, hunger and lack of light. After a few days of horror, the survivors were taken to the vacated JNA barrack - Viktor Bubanj - or the Central Prison. At Dobrinja, younger women and girls of Serbian nationality were raped in their flats. In late June a young girl at Dobrinja 5, entrance F-1 was raped and then killed completely naked and with a cut tongue. Her body was thrown out and then shot by gunfire between two apartment buildings, where the body remained until noon next day. Serbs from the near by Nedžarići were accused of having committed that loathsome act(!).

The arrested young women and girls were taken to the "Zagreb" Hotel at Marijin Dvor, down-town Sarajevo, where a brothel was opened for the Territorial Defense and the different Moslem militia members. The famous Sarajevo "Evropa" Hotel, in the immediate vicinity of Baščaršija was also converted into a brothel for the girls and women of Serbian nationality. In mid July 1992, at the Breka neighbourhood, Moslem extremists killed the father and mother of Sanja Mikić, while the girl was taken to the "Evropa" hotel.

BRADINA

Around 1 May 1992, some 500-600 Serbian refugees from Konjic, Mostar, Bijelo Polje, Jašenjan, Ostrošac, Dobričica, Požetva, Nevizak - mainly women and children - were already in Bradina. During the first half of May additional 1.000 people - men women and children, i.e. complete families - came to Bradina from Ljuta, Zlatar, Brđani and the burned down Blace and Džep.

Zvonko Zovko, the son of Pera Percan, member of the Ustashi army from World War II - in his capacity of the Commander of the Croatian Defense Council - along with ten other Croats - among whom were Andjelko, whose nickname is Prinke, a tradesman from Podorašac, and Moslems from the village of Bale Zukići, Podorašac and Repovci - among whom were Meho Alibegović, a truck operator from Repovac, ? Mandžuka with his son ?, both truck

operators from Repovac - all together some 100 armed men - attacked Bradina on 12 May. From that time until 25 May Bradina was under constant fire of heavy artillery. It was attacked from all sides: Moslems from the village of Repovci, Bulatovići, Tuhobići, Višnjevica and from the surroundings of the Butrović Polje, and the Croats from Butrović Polje, Trešnjevica and the towns in western Herzegovina. Among them were the brothers Zdenko and Ivica Grbavac, sons of Rude from Ljubuški.

Zdenko Grbavac participated in the war in Croatia, wherefrom he transported into Herzegovina a number of robbed cars, household appliances and valuables, some of which he sold in the area of the Konjic commune. The two Croats mentioned above, cousins of Mate Boban, from Grude, financed most of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ Party) needs in Konjic and armed the Croats.

On the said day, Bradina was attacked from the Konjic direction by the Moslems from Konjic, the village of Brdjani, Džepi and the Croats led by Zvonko Zovko who - according to the testimonies of Ljiljana, daughter of late Boždan Gligorević, brothers Ahmet and Aska Jusufbegović, sons of Avdo, cut with his own hand the head of Sretko Rade Kuljanin, called Beko. They kicked the head through the center of Konjic, and impaled it.

From the direction of Crvene Stijene and Lanište, Bradina was attacked by Moslems from the villages of Glavatićevo, Bjelimići, Humoljani, Lukomir, Spiljani, and Šuhovići.

From the direction of Sarajevo it was attacked by the Moslems from the vilages of Pazarić, Osenik, Luke, Tarčin, Japalaci, Budmulići, Gornja Bioča, Duranovići, Trzanj, Vukovići, reinforced by 800 "green berettes" from Brasnica, and the Croatia Defense Council (HVO) members from Kreševo.

According to the witnesses' estimates, some 3.500 to 4.000 men participated in the attacked reinforced by heavy artillery. During the attack 57 Serbs, who were in Bradina as refugees, fell as victims. The Moslems buried them by means of trench excavators, in the churchyard of the Orthodox church of St. Spas in Bradina.

plundered and burned down to the very last house - i.e. the home of Nikola (Jovan) Gligorević. On that occasion 80 year old Malina Gligoreva, widow of Jovan, and Nikola's mother. She died on 7 June of the wounds inflicted. A total of some 300 family houses were burned to the ground. Stables and auxiliary buildings - often with live cattle in them - were also burned down. The men that burned the houses took away foodstuffs, household appliances, valuables, cars and agricultural machinery. During the night they also took away the livestock.

Out of over a hundred Serbs that were killed in Donja Bradina, it is known for certain that the following people were victims: Mile (Mijat) Kuljanin, Radenko (Relja) Kuljanin, Pero (Relja) Kuljanin, Ratomir Kuljanin (burned alive in his home), Slobodan (Boro) Kuljanin, Drago (Simo) Kuljanin, Gojko (Drago) Kuljanin, Milenko (Drago) Kuljanin, Goran (Branislav) Kuljanin, Milorad Kuljanin, Nedjo (Vaso) Kuljanin, Milorad (Radmirlo) Kuljanin (killed in the camp in Čelebići), Srećko (Rade) Kuljanin, Vaso (Trifko) Žuža, Branko (Božidar) Žuža, Todor (Stevo) Žuža, Jovo (Stevo) Žuža, Mirko Mrkajić, Zoran (Mirko) Mrkajić, Spasoje (Savo) Mrkajić, Pero (Djoko) Mrkajić, Šćepo Mrkajić (killed in the camp in Čelebići), Ilija Mrkajić (invalid, killed in the camp in Čelebići), Pero (Djordrdje) Mrkajić (killed in the camp in Čelebići), Nikola (Jovan) Gligorević, Borislav (Mirko) Gligorević, Sava Gligorević (burned in the house of Sreta Kuljanin), Petko (Pavle) Gligorević (killed in the camp in Čelebići), Marko (Petar) Djordjić, Njegoš (Boro) Koprivica (a minor), Nedjo (Boško) Draganić, Veseljko (Savo) Živak, Zdravko (Andjelko) Živak, Tomislav (Čedo) Živak, Velimir (Strahinja) Živak, Slobodan (Strahinja) Živak, Boro (Relja) Savić, Vaso (Petar) Vujičić, Dragan (Petar) Vujičić, Miroslav (Jovo) Vujičić (killed in the camp in Čelebići), Bogdan Kureš, Gojko (Savo) Miljanić (killed in the camp in Čelebići), and NN (whose carbonated body was found in Sreten Zelenović's bar).

ČEMBRNO

Members of the Bosna-Herzegovina Territorial Defense unit from Kakanj, among whom were - according to witnesses' testimony - Nusret Baslija, Enes Durak, the Pavlović brothers: Simo and Stjepan, a certain Zoran, a certain Spahić (or Selmanović son of a man whose nickname was Karabeg), attacked in the early morning hours of 10 May 1992, the Serbian village of Čemerno and

killed 31 person of Serbian nationality and inflicted heavy wounds on a considerable number of others. The following persons were killed: Aćim Bunjevac, Miloš Bunjevac, Mirosava Bunjevac, Ranko Bunjevac, Slavčjka Bunjevac, Milinko Trifković, Rajko (Milinko) Trifković, Janja Trifković. On the occasion six Serbian fighters were taken prisoners: Gojko Djurić, Žarko Malešević, Milovan Malešević, Sreten Janković, Radomir Jevtić, and Nenad Micić. First, they were disarmed, forced to take their clothes off, and after unbelievable tortures shot, contrary to all conventions on the treatment of prisoners of war. The village of Čemerno was burned to the ground.

GORAŽDE

Serbs living in Goražde were ill-treated and humiliated even before the all-out conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina had broken out. Goražde is the place where many criminals from the area of Foča, Višegrad, Rogatica and other East Bosnian towns and villages, who participated in massive killings of Serbs found refuge. Thus, the Serbs imprisoned in Goražde became victims of the torture of the most hardened criminals.

Milena Pajović, managed to make a break through the siege on 26 July. According to her testimony, the Moslems "shoed" the former Mayor of Goražde (the orthodox Nikola Helet) with horseshoes, cut a cross on his forehead and chased him through the town. According to the testimony of Milena Pajović, the Moslems forced fathers to rape their daughters, and later killed them both. The crucified live prisoners and threw them into the Drina River. The body of Vojna Helet's daughter was found on the bank of the river. The mother was crucified together with her six year old daughter. The imprisoned son of Ostoja Radović was massacred and forced to eat his own flesh. Members of his family were killed. The prisoners were broken their arms and legs and afterwards killed. Not even the children were spared. The waters of the Drina River wash up their dead bodies.

Serbian villages of Obarak, Bujkovića, Odžak, Sašići, Borak Brdo were burned down, while remains of incinerated Serbs were discovered at the site of burned houses.

Information Service of the Army of the Serbian Republic published on July 29 the names of 19 civilians whose bodies were identified. Killed were: Duško Nikolić, Brane Nikolić,

Milan Zdilar, Boja Zdilar, Brane Lujić, Marjan Stojanović and his mother, Stojan Janković, Milenko Jevdjević, Mišo Jevdjević, Uglješa Stojanović, Dragan Mihajlović, Zoran Sorak, Stjepan Jakšić, Rade Jakšić, Milija Jakšić, Milan Lazović, Todor Apostolov and Milojko Jakšić. The information states that the number of killed persons is much higher.

Vivid is also the example of the village Bukvica in which Moslems murdered seven members of the Vukašinović family: Božana, Veljko, Vukašin, Grozda, Danica, Milorad and Miloš all of them over 65 years old. Only Pero Vukašinović survived. This crime was committed by Hamed Bogdanić, a shopkeeper, and Salem Kadić, a forester. Vukašinovića's family folk fiddle was found in Hamed Bogdanić's house. On the wood engravings of Njegoš and Karadjordje, the killers drew the images of sultan Murat and Alija Izetbegović in pencil.

Many of the killed members of Moslem militia had on them opiate drugs, usually "parkopan" of the Turkish origin, of which there is evidence. Food packages originating from NATO storehouses were also found.

According to articles published in "Politika Ekspres" on July 21, 1992 the Moslems from Trabeško brdo near Goražde put on fire one Serbian house after another, and wrote messages to Serbs with fire-brands on half-burned walls threatening to drive them out to the last men from the Drina banks. They captured and took away all villagers from Bučje village.

BREZA

In late March 1992 three assembly centers were established in the local Health Center, Police Station and the Coal Mine "Sretno" in Breza for the Serbian population, followed by arrests of the civilian population.

The order for the arrest of Serbs, plundering of their property and burning down of their houses was issued by the President of the Breza Commune (??) who claimed in front of the arrested men that Alija Izetbegović himself authorized him not to leave behind a single Serb alive.

In the Health Center alone there were about 200 civilians - men, women and children from 12 to 40 years of age. The women were raped and then slaughtered or strangled in the city pool, where the bodies were incinerated. They carved men's skins with the drawings of mosques, and about twenty of them were taken away and killed. The captives were given iron bars and coerced to fight against each other. The criminals stated that Bosnia-Herzegovina will be an Islamic state, and that all Serbs will worship Allah.

The Police Station was, according to eye-witnesses the most infamous and notorious torture site. The major inspirator was a certain ? Sirotanović, son of Alija.

In the early May all Serbian houses were first plundered, and then burned down. All Serbs were expelled from Breza. Shocking is the testimony of Radislav Adžić who was tortured in Breza camps, at the same time as his house was burning in the Branjevac settlement with his wife and a year-and-a-half old twins in it. Their names are: Adžić Gladjana, nee Veljančić (1969), Adžić Radislava Snježana (1990) and Adžić Radislava Siniša (1990).

ČAPLJINA

As early as March 1992 the Croats started with first arrests of Serbs in Čapljina and its surroundings, especially on the right bank of the Neretva, as well as with persecutions, torture and plundering. The majority of Serbian population left their homes and property, fleeing into Serbian towns in East Herzegovina. Those who stayed behind, disappeared overnight. This was especially the case, after the evacuation of the former Yugoslav Army garrison in Čapljina. Arrests continued during April too. Jovica Zurovac (father Pera, born 1939) was arrested on April 16, in Jasenica near Čapljina. Together with him was also arrested Maksim Zurovac (father Maksim, born in 1941). Since then both of them are in the concentration camp in Ljubuško with hundreds of other Serbs.

In late July 1992 sixty-eight years old Ljuba Šarić ran away from torture to which she was subjected in the Mostar Hospital in which she spent almost six months without any idea what was going on in Herzegovina, and arrived to Prebilovce

village near Čapljina. During World War II, Prebilovci became a biblical symbol of the sufferings of innocent Serbs who were thrown alive into pits. A charnel-house was built in Prebilovci in 1991 as a crypt for Orthodox temple, in which bones of the victims taken out from the majority of pits all over Herzegovina were placed. This is what this old woman said about this: "Everything is burned down. There is nothing left. Not a single tile was left on the village houses. Only one can be seen at the foothill, and that is a barn. There are some tiles left on it. They have looted everything. There is nothing left of the church and the charnel-house, all has been levelled with the ground. There is no church, nor foundations...

KONJIC

On April 26 1992 about 150 members of the Croatian Defence Forces (HOS) arrived to Konjic and the day after on April 27, about 100 members of the Croatian National Guard (ZNG) and regular Army of the Republic of Croatia. They said that Serbs had nothing to fear, and that nothing would happen to them. However, when they saw Croatian and Moslem women and children leaving Konjic heading for Split, Serbs started moving out, i.e. started a flight towards the villages of Borci, Zagorice, Bijela and Bradina. The town was left practically ethnically pure. Machine-gun nests were placed at the motel and other vital spots in the town and its surroundings, facing Serbian villages. They were also established in Croat villages of Zalivlje, Zabrđe, Turija, Jošanica, Repovici. After the HOS and ZNG members the so called "yellow ants" arrived in camouflage uniforms. Barriades which were already set up in the direction of Serbian villages, were reinforced with "yellow ant" members who joined the regular and reserve units of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs members of Konjic, the so called "Alija's army". They were in total control, searched every and each one, made arrests and tortured people, ransacking and plundering all Serbian flats. The remaining Serbs from Konjic disappeared overnight, and the Neretva river washed up their bodies few days later. Thus the water washed up bodies of a pensioner Slavko Suša and a man nicknamed Giga, a worker employed in the "Igman" factory. After May 6, the St. George's Day, there were practically no Serbs left in Konjic, except for few elderly people.

Those rare Serbs who stayed in Konjic were arrested by: Rizvić Mehmed Mehmedalija, a policeman from Bradina and a settler from Zvornik; Fadil Spiljak, a trucker from Šunj; Hamid Spiljak, a policeman from Šunj; and two other unidentified men. The ringleaders were the following Croats: Zvonko Zovko and brothers Zdenko and Ivica Grbavac, sons of Rudo who also participated in the crimes committed against the Serbs at the battlefields in Croatia, who were robbers and criminals, settlers from Ljubuško and close relatives of Mate Boban.

MODRIČA

After taking over the village of Čardak, soldiers of the Army of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina confiscated photos taken by Ustasha soldiers. In the house of Stjepan Perković (1914) there were photos of the civilian Serbian population being taken away for execution. Among those who committed these crimes were Stjepan Perković (1949), son of Stjepan, and Stjepan Bajić. Both criminals, who were members of the regular Army of the Republic of Croatia, were killed in fightings around Modriča, while forged passports were found in their belongings.

TRAVNIK

In mid July 1992 Tihomir Madjarević, Boro Medić, Jovo Prole, Milivoje Višnjić and Vitomir Mičević, prominent Serbs from Novi Travnik, Zenica and Vitez were released from prisons on Smetovi near Travnik in the exchange of prisoners. During their imprisonment in the Lašva valley they have been exposed to horrible torture and physical sufferings. Milivoje Višnjić, for example, suffered terrible torture when Ustashe in Vitez beat him for nine days while his hands were cuffed and a wooden box was put on his head. Bora Medić had a letter U carved by a nail file along his entire forearm.

TOMISLAVGRAD

The State Documentation Center for War Crimes Investigation has reliable evidence on the existence of camps for Serbs in the villages of Raščani, Kongora, Eminovo selo, Oplećani and Lipa, and one in Tomislavgrad (formerly Duvno) in which there

are 325 captives, out of which 82 children, 103 persons over 60 years, and 123 women. By April 17, 13 men of Serbian nationality were arrested in Tomislavgrad and there are no information of what happened to them afterwards.

FOČA

According to the testimony of Rada (Spasoje) Elez (1965), on 23, June in the early morning hours, about three hundred armed Moslems undertook from the direction of the village Tuhaljić, mount Korjen and Jahorina an infantry and artillery attack on the village Jamniče in the broader region of the commune of Foča. On that occasion they killed: Dragan Elez (1967), thirteen-year old Nova Elez (1979), Milorad Elez (1932), Ilija Kovač (1945), Milan Golubović (1963), Njegoš Savić (1970) all from the village of Jamnići, as well as Dragan Šolaja (1973) from the village Modro Polje, and wounded Milovan Elez (1965). They finished off the wounded Njegoš Savić with an axe. The attackers took the horses they found and mounted on them the things they robbed from the Serbian houses which they set on fire afterwards. In the hamlet Tuhaljić they burned down 6, in the hamlet Račići 10, in the hamlet Marisolići 2, and in Modro Polje 10 houses, while the hamlets of Podgradje, Lučilo, Hodžići, Podrid, Rosulja, Kolakovići, Podstijena i Milotina were burned down completely. Among the attackers the inhabitants of Jamnići recognized their former neighbors: Galib (Osman) Djoza, Hasan (Avdija) Djoza, Ismet (mehd) Djoza and Hando (Abid) Bubićar.

VISOKO

According to the testimony of Mirko Ostojić, deputy commander of the Ilijaš brigade and war-director of Radio Ilijaš, given to "Ekspres politika" on July 10, 1992, the former president of the commune of Ilijaš was the main perpetrator of crimes against the captured Serbs in Visoko. The former policeman Safet Sivac and Atif Hehib were his accessories. "Among the assassins is a woman named Fahreta who enters prison cells, greeting the prisoners with Ak'shamhairulah and then whips the tied and helpless people. The sadistic and monstrous orgies do not end until the victim is dead. It is known for certain that there was a number of victims. In addition to local assassins and thugs, some, who proved especially cruel were "imported" from Bijelo Polje and Novi Pazar".

KIJUČ

According to the findings of the security service, detailed preparations for longstanding war operations and ethnic cleansing of the commune from Serbian inhabitants began in Kijuč even before the war. Thus, a few dozen young men were sent to military training camps in Croatia; dugouts were made in the vicinity of Moslem villages; modern hospital equipment even for the most complicated surgery was brought in clandestinely; the local slaughterhouse was altered as a future prison and torture chamber for Serbs. In mid July the police station took away over 600 pieces of different fire arms.

TARČIN

In the settlement of Tarčin, commune of Hadžići, over 500 Serbs from the surrounding Serbian villages, arrested on May 12, are kept in an assembly camp in a silo.

BREZA

At the end of May 1992 three assembly camps for Serbs were established in Breza: in the health centre, police station and coal mine "Sretno", upon which the arrests of civilians began.

The order for the arrest of Serbs, the looting of their property and burning down of their houses was given by the president of the commune (??) who told the arrested men that he has the authorization of Alija Izetbegović not to let even one Serb free.

Only in the first few days about 200 civilians - men, women and children from 12 to 40 years old were brought to the health centre. The women were raped, and then slaughtered or strangled in the city pool where the bodies were burned. They carved drawings of mosques on men's skin, and some of them, about twenty, were separated and killed. The prisoners were given steel rods and forced to fight among themselves. The criminals were heard to say that Bosnia-Herzegovina will be a Moslem country and that all Serbs will worship Allah.

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The police station is, according to witnesses, the most well known and ill-famed torture chamber. The main instigator is a certain ? Sirotanović, the son of Alija.

In the beginning of May all the Serbian houses in Breza were robbed and then burned. All the Serbs from Breza were expelled. The testimony of Radislav Adžić, who was maltreated in the camps in Breza, while his house where his wife and one-and-a-half-year old twins were, burned in the settlement of Branjevac is extremely upsetting. Their names are: Adžić Sladjana, nee Veljančić (1969), Adžić (Radislav) Snježana (1990), Adžić (Radislav) Šiniša (1990).

TRNOVO

According to the testimony of Ljeposava Ljuboja
the Muslims from Ploškić and