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# **ANNEX 52**

**District Court in Požarevac, Serbia, Minutes of the  
witness hearing of Mirko Mrkobrad, dated 13 March  
1997**

MINUTES ON WITNESS HEARING

Taken on 13 March 1997 before the investigating magistrate of the District Court in Pozarevac in the criminal case against ..... for the criminal act punishable under Article ..... of the Criminal Code

Investigating Magistrate  
Vukasin Stanisavljevic

Witness  
Mirko Mrkobrad

Court Recorder  
Dragisa Jovanovic

The hearing was also attended by:

Public Prosecutor

Defendant

Defence Counsel

The Court rose at .....

The witness was warned that he was bound to tell the truth and that he should not hold anything back; he was also warned against the consequences of giving false evidence and that he should not respond to certain questions if he would thereby embarrass himself or any next of kin seriously or cause damage or be prosecuted as a result of it (Article 229 of the Criminal Procedure Code), so he replied to the general questions as follows:

1. Family and given names: Mrkobrad, Mirko
2. Father's name: Petar
3. Occupation: detective inspector
4. Address: temporarily resident of the village of Lucica, near Pozarevac
5. Place of birth: Karlovac
6. Date of birth: 1961
7. Relationship to the defendant or injured party: .....

Asked to state what he knew about the case, the witness declared:

Ever since I was born until July 1991, I lived in Karlovac. After that, I lived until 8 August 1995 in the Crevarska Strana, in the municipality of Vrgin Most where my parents had built a summer house. On that date, due to the operation conducted by the Croatian army, we had to leave the place of our residence, namely, my parents, my wife and I. My parents headed in a convoy for Bosnia, while I remained on a battle position near the place called Tusilovacki Cerovac, in the municipality of Krnjak, in the territory of the then Republic of Serbian Krajina.

At the beginning of August 1995, I think it was a Sunday, 8 August 1995 I was in a refugee convoy. I was personally acquainted with a very few people from that convoy. I only knew the Dokmanovic family. When the convoy reached the so-called Ravno Rasce, the Croatian army staged its attack. The convoy was cut off from its left flank so that it was halved. I found myself in the other part of the convoy heading for Glina. Before the Croatian army attacked us, we had been bombarded by the artillery. The shelling lasted for some ten minutes. During the shelling, the Zastava truck owned by Vojko Madjericic from Krnjak, took a direct hit. The truck burst into flames, because there was some fuel loaded onto it. I can't tell whether there were any people in it, but I know that the burning vehicle prevented the convoy from moving forward to Bosnia. Since the shelling continued, there were a number of dead and wounded people in the convoy I was in, meaning the severed part of it. I can't be more specific about the dead and wounded, but my wild guess was that there were at least 30 dead and many more wounded people. All this happened before we saw the Croatian army. When the shelling stopped, we could see a unit of the Croatian army of approximately 50 soldiers wearing sub-machine guns, rocket launchers and stingers. Part of the convoy in front of the burning vehicle continued its flight to Bosnia and the part of it I was in, was in disarray, turning back to Glina. The Croatian soldiers used machineguns and mortars to fire upon this part of the convoy. People were falling down as if they had been mowed down. It was hard to tell the number of dead and wounded.

Regarding the Dokmanovic family that was in the convoy, and there were four of them in all, namely, Milan Dokmanovic, who used to live in Karlovac, his wife Ljubica and two underage children, I am not aware if any of them died on that occasion. I only saw Milan at a collective centre in Sisak, five or six days later. However, I didn't speak to him then and, later on. I heard that he was probably exchanged, but I don't know his current whereabouts.

When the convoy managed to get to Glina, which was some 15 kilometres away from Ravno Rasce, the Croatian army had already taken control of Glina. The convoy was allowed to get into Glina and, when it was in the centre of the town, it was surrounded from all sides by the Croatian army. I came to the conclusion that they had already been in the town when the convoy entered. From the position I was on, roundabout near the outpatient hospital in Glina, I estimated that there were some 600 refugees, women and children, mainly civilians and a very small number of uniformed people. All of a sudden, a small-arms fire was opened at them. People were falling down like flies. My wild guess was that about 150 people were killed. Some individuals from the refugee column fired back, but at random. After 10 to 15 minutes, the shooting stopped and the Croatian soldiers appeared. There were some wounded people lying around. A number of Croatian soldiers shot them at close range into the head. They mostly used pistols. I can't tell how many persons were killed or wounded. At the moment when the attack began, I was on the periphery of the convoy. I had nowhere to run to. That was what saved my life, because those killed were, as a rule, the ones to whom the Croatian soldiers came first. Those of us who were somewhat farther had greater chances of staying alive. I witnessed to some Croatian soldiers lining up some refugees and pointing guns to them at close range and killing them. I was lucky to have been captured by a young Croatian soldier.

Two other soldiers came up to him immediately after that. The other two searched me and took all I had on me, which included my ID documents and about 100 DM. That was what they confiscated from me. They also snatched a gold chain from my neck and took it away. The young man put the barrel of his gun to my forehead, but had no guts to kill me. He was indecisive for a while and simply let me live. The others were not that lucky.

At the time of the attacks on Ravno Rasce and Glina itself, I was not aware of the regions of origin of the soldiers who carried out the attacks and committed the massacres. It was only later that I found out that those were the Sisak military units, but I can't be more specific about the units in question and who was in their command.

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As an eye witness to these crimes, I can only mention the above named Milan Dokmanovic, who used to live in Karlovac at the time of the outbreak of war and, later on, at Kusic, in the municipality of Krnjak.

After my capture, I was placed in a basement of a building in Glina. I spend the first few days there. I was then transported to Petrinja where I spent one day and a night. From there, I was moved to the collective centre in Sisak where I spent ten days and to Karlovac where I spent just one day and finally, I was detained for six months in the District Prison of Remetinac, in Zagreb. After that, I was exchanged. I cannot complain about my treatment by the Croatian authorities in Zagreb during my six-month detention there. My treatment there did not go beyond routine procedures except for a few slaps here and there, which was more of an exception than the rule. The worse treatment I was subjected to was in Glina and in Sisak. I was really and truly tormented and tortured there. In Sisak, they left me without six teeth; they fractured two of my left side ribs and broke the joints of my middle fingers on both hands. The treatment of the other prisoners was no better. The only ones spared to some extent were elderly men who were frail, but not all of them. I didn't witness any of the prisoners being killed, but I saw some people being singled out like those in Petrinja. I never saw those people ever again. While I was at these two collective centres, I could hear screams and yells from the adjoining premises. It was the Croatian soldiers themselves who bragged about cutting the throats of two or more Chetniks, this or that night.

I can't give the names or nicknames of the persons who tortured either me or the other prisoners. Since all that happened in Sisak, I suppose that they are all from that region. I used to know Mijo Latin from Sisak before the war. He worked with me at the Secretariat for Internal Affairs in Zagreb. He found me at the collective centre in Sisak and saw the state I was in. After that, they stopped mistreating me and the maltreatment of other people I was in contact with. I am not in possession of any medical documents concerning the injuries I sustained. While I was in prison in Zagreb, I was investigated by the military court of Karlovac. I was interrogated in Zagreb and prosecuted subsequently. I was sentenced at the main hearing to five years in prison. I was not given the opportunity to appeal against this sentence. I am in possession of these documents and will make a photocopy of them.

People from the International Red Cross visited us for the first time while we were at the collective centre in Sisak. That visit came 5 or 6 days after our arrival. I can vouch that the camp authorities in Sisak hid some prisoners from the International Red Cross. I don't know anything about these individuals. As a matter of fact, the delegates of the International Red Cross were given precise hours when they could come to the camp. We were all placed in one big room and there were about 200 of us, on average. However, some people were led away during the night and we never saw them again. Instead of them, other people were brought in, also during the night. So, our numbers were more or less the same. Once, a group of 12 people was brought to the room while a delegate of the International Red Cross was still in. The situation was a bit tense until she was allowed to register even the newcomers. I got the impression that those people had to be concealed from the International Red Cross so that the number of inmates would not be increased, because everything had to add up in the end. I can't tell the names or nicknames of those people; they were all unknown to me. I only know that they were Serbs.

While I was in Sisak, I was not aware that anyone died in the room we were detained in nor was anyone dead in the cell, while I was detained in Remetinac prison. However, I found out, during the walks with other prisoners, that some of the elderly people had died during the day. I can't give any more details about the people who died.

I understand that there were no women prisoners detained in prison, in Zagreb. The inmates were only men aged between 18 and 80.

There were no women and children at the Sisak collective centre either. I heard, but didn't see it for myself, that there were women and children nearby, in another room. I heard women talk through the window or children crying, but I was never in close contact with women and children. While I was in Glina and Petrinja, I was in a basement with two or three men, and was not in contact with any other prisoners. I have no direct knowledge about the fate of those who sought protection in UNPROFOR bases and who were later handed over to the Croatian military or police authorities, because I was not in that situation. Everything I know, I know from Dragan Kotur, who is from Veljun in the municipality of Slunj, and whom I met in Remetinac prison. He told me that he had been wounded at a place called Zirovac and that he managed to go to the UNPROFOR base where the Russian battalion was stationed. He sought their assistance and was given only the most urgent medical attention. He was later turned over to the Croatian authorities in Glina. He was taken to the detention centre of Ozar, near Karlovac, and was subjected to the same treatment as I. I know that he was physically maltreated, but I don't know whether he had any fractures or suffered more serious consequences. He is currently in Pozarevac and resides in the vicinity of the women's prison. He is renting a place there.

I can't give any specific details about the people who died, since I didn't know them well. I only knew people from the places I lived when I came from Karlovac. I didn't know even by sight people who were in the convoy with me or in the detention camps, later on. They told me that they suffered the same fate as I did. However, I don't know their names or any other particulars. If necessary, I am willing to testify even before the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

That is all I had to say.

I have been advised to read the minutes and I declare that I don't want to, because it was dictated out loud.

Witness

Mirko Mrkobrad (Signed)

Court Recorder

Dragisa Jovanovic (Signed)

Investigating Magistrate

Vukasin Stanisavljevic (Signed)

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