

1 Monday, 24th November 1997

2 (10.00 am)

3 JUDGE JORDA: Please be seated. Mr. Registrar, would you  
4 please have the accused brought in?

5 (Accused brought in)

6 JUDGE JORDA: Well, first let me check and see whether the  
7 interpretation is operational, I hope everyone is off to  
8 a good week? Everyone can hear me? Office of the  
9 Prosecutor, you can hear me; Defence you hear me as  
10 well? General Blaskic, you can hear me?

11 MR. BLASKIC: Good morning, your Honour, I can hear you well.

12 JUDGE JORDA: Great, thank you. I would suggest that we get  
13 going. I see that the protective measures have been set  
14 up. Mr. Harmon, go right ahead, sir.

15 MR. HARMON: Good morning, Mr. President, good morning  
16 your Honours, good morning counsel. Mr. President, our  
17 next witness is a protected witness and he has requested  
18 facial protection only. He is named Adnan Zec and he  
19 will be testifying to your Honours this morning about  
20 his observations that he saw before the attack on  
21 16th April. He will describe to your Honours his  
22 observations of the bungalow, he will describe his  
23 observations at the school that he attended and  
24 observations of local Croats leaving the village before  
25 the attack took place. He will also testify about the

1 Territorial Defence to the extent that his father was a  
2 participant in it.

3 Then we will turn, Mr. President, to the events on  
4 16th April, in lower Ahmici. Adnan Zec will describe  
5 the murder of innocent civilians, troop concentrations  
6 that he observed in lower Ahmici, the different units  
7 that he could identify participating in a co-ordinated  
8 fashion in the attack. He will testify about the  
9 destruction of the mosque in lower Ahmici. He will  
10 testify about looting by the HVO, intentional fire  
11 setting of residents of Muslim residences, and he will  
12 testify about the lack of resistance by Muslims.

13 JUDGE JORDA: Mr. Harmon, you have described this very well.  
14 So for the time being at first we are going to begin by  
15 introducing the witness, so Registrar, could you lower  
16 the blinds that we could show the witness in and then we  
17 will raise the blinds so that the people in the gallery  
18 can follow the proceedings. So it is just facial  
19 protection you are talking about, Mr. Harmon?

20 MR. HARMON: That is correct, Mr. President.

21 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you.

22 MR. HAYMAN: Mr. President, may I make an observation?

23 JUDGE JORDA: Mr. Hayman, yes.

24 MR. HAYMAN: We do not wish to delay the proceedings, but we  
25 wish to note that as a matter of principle, unless there

1 is a specific basis for a protective measure, where a  
2 witness has gone out in the media and made himself a  
3 public figure by granting interviews and having his face  
4 photographed and printed in the media, we think there  
5 should be some kind of factual basis for the court to  
6 grant protective measures. We do not wish this  
7 individual to be in any kind of harm's way and we refer  
8 to the court's good discretion and judgement in this  
9 area, but we wish to bring that to the court's attention  
10 and to state our principle view with respect to the  
11 issue.

12 JUDGE JORDA: Before deciding this, I would like to hear  
13 what the Office of the Prosecutor has to say. When was  
14 that interview given, Mr. Harmon? Is this a recent  
15 interview?

16 MR. HARMON: Mr. President, the interview that counsel has  
17 just showed you is a copy of an interview that  
18 I provided to counsel recently in discovery. When it  
19 came to my attention I provided it to him. Counsel is  
20 correct, there is I believe a picture of the witness in  
21 there, but nevertheless, Mr. President, I am prepared to  
22 make a showing today to your Honours of the threats that  
23 have been made to this young man. If the court wishes  
24 to go into private session I will be happy to have him  
25 describe the threats that have been made to him that

1           have caused him sufficient fear that he no longer wants  
2           to have his face shown in public.

3       JUDGE JORDA: What we are going to do is when the witness is  
4           in the courtroom we will ask him the conditions under  
5           which he gave that interview. It is quite right what  
6           Mr. Hayman says, it is difficult to ask for strict  
7           protective measures from the Tribunal. Of course, it is  
8           the Tribunal's duty to protect witnesses, we do that as  
9           and when necessary, but the witnesses themselves have to  
10          see to their own protection. Thank you, Mr. Harmon,  
11          thank you, counsel for the Prosecution.

12                   Let us bring in the witness, please, usher.

13                                   (Witness entered court)

14       JUDGE JORDA: Can you hear me? The first thing you have to  
15           tell the usher, Mr. Registrar, is to put the headset at  
16           the disposal of the witness, otherwise -- can you hear  
17           me? Do you hear me?

18       THE WITNESS: Yes.

19       JUDGE JORDA: You do, great. You are going to tell us your  
20           first and last name and then you will stand and read out  
21           the solemn oath please. What is your name, sir?

22       THE WITNESS: Adnan Zec.

23       JUDGE JORDA: Thank you. Now please stand and read the  
24           solemn declaration which all witnesses are bound to  
25           read. If you would please stand, sir? Please read that

1 oath, sir.

2 MR. ADNAN ZEC (sworn)

3 JUDGE JORDA: Fine, thank you. Please be seated. Mr. Zec,  
4 we will see exactly how your name is spelt, but in any  
5 event, Mr. Zec -- could you spell that please for me, the  
6 interpreters? Z-E-C, Mr. Zec. That is how it is  
7 pronounced, is it? I will work it out in the end.

8 Mr. Zec, you are subject to the protective measures  
9 ordered by the court, you have asked that there be  
10 facial protection for you, that has been provided, but  
11 we have just learnt you had given an interview in a  
12 publication. We do not want to spend much time on this,  
13 but you did think it was appropriate to give this  
14 interview, do not say too much about it, which may lead  
15 to revealing matters relevant to your identity that you  
16 do not want everyone to know, but everyone has to help  
17 out when it comes to protection, including the witnesses  
18 themselves.

19 So Office of the Prosecutor, now you have called  
20 this witness, you have perfectly outlined the main  
21 points of the testimony that your Office is expecting to  
22 hear, so perhaps after some basic identification, we  
23 will ask the witness to testify. Of course, we have our  
24 expedited procedure, as it were, so please interrupt as  
25 little as possible except when there are points of

1 clarification you would like to dwell on and then you  
2 can have questions afterwards which you think are vital  
3 to the case of the Prosecution. So Mr. Harmon, if you  
4 need to go into any questions concerning identification,  
5 please do so. Thereafter, the witness will go into the  
6 areas that you have outlined. Please proceed,  
7 Mr. Harmon.

8 Examined by MR. HARMON

9 Q. Mr. President, I will start by asking him some questions  
10 about identification and then I will ask him some brief  
11 questions about a selected number of topics and then  
12 I will ask him to go into his narrative, with the  
13 court's permission.

14 Adnan, how old are you?

15 A. I am now 18 and I was 13 in 1993.

16 Q. Are you a Muslim?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were you raised all of your life in the village of  
19 Ahmici?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Let me turn your attention to 15th April 1993. Did  
22 you attend school on 15th April?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What, if anything, unusual did you notice when you went  
25 to school on 15th April?

1 A. Yes, I noticed that certain Croatian children, children  
2 of Croatian extraction, were not attending school,  
3 especially the children from Ahmici.

4 Q. Did you normally take a bus to school and back from  
5 school?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did that bus normally pass the location known as the  
8 bungalow?

9 A. Yes, the bus was coming from Turbe, from the direction  
10 of Vitez, then would turn around in Nadioci and go back  
11 to Vitez. I would get on the bus in Ahmici and then  
12 would go to Vitez to go to school.

13 Q. And the bus would go past Ahmici, continue on the road  
14 toward Busovaca until it hit a turn-out after it passed  
15 the bungalow and then it would return to Vitez, is that  
16 correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you tell the judges about the bungalow, please, what  
19 it was and what you saw at the bungalow at various times  
20 before the attack?

21 A. The bungalow was a restaurant of sorts. However, about  
22 a month before 15th April, the military arrived in two  
23 or three buses and they took up their quarters there.  
24 There was machine-gun nest right next to it, and the  
25 soldiers wore camouflage uniforms, and weapons.

- 1 Q. Approximately how many soldiers did you see at the  
2 bungalow the month before the attack on Ahmici?
- 3 A. Approximately there were about 70 soldiers stationed  
4 there.
- 5 Q. Those soldiers were in camouflage uniforms, is that  
6 correct?
- 7 A. Yes, they were in camouflage uniforms.
- 8 Q. When you went to school on 15th April 1993, did you also  
9 see the bungalow?
- 10 A. Yes, on 15th April I did see the bungalow. There was no  
11 bus on that day. When I arrived in a bus, there were  
12 about seven or eight soldiers outside, and whenever  
13 I would pass by there, somebody would always be in this  
14 machine-gun nest.
- 15 Q. The bungalow and the soldiers you are talking about were  
16 Croats, is that not correct?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. I am sorry, did I interrupt you?
- 19 A. Yes, they had the HV insignia on them.
- 20 Q. HV is from -- what does that represent, "HV"?
- 21 A. HV is the Croatian army.
- 22 Q. So on 15th April, Adnan, you saw a smaller number of  
23 soldiers in and around the bungalow, correct?
- 24 A. Yes, that is correct.
- 25 Q. After you returned home from school on 15th April, did



1           you see anything unusual or did you hear about any  
2           unusual activities that had taken place in and around  
3           your house?

4           A. Yes, when I returned, my parents were commenting on why  
5           these children from Ahmici did not go to school that  
6           day. They saw them around on that day. Then the  
7           Milicevic family, these are three households, three  
8           families, they had driven their families away in cars,  
9           and in front of Ivo Papic's house, different vehicles  
10          were constantly coming and going.

11          Q. The Milicevic family is Croat and the Papic family you  
12          mentioned are also Croats, is that correct?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. This individual by the name of Papic, what was his first  
15          name?

16          A. Dragan Papic, Goran and Ivo.

17          MR. HARMON: Did he live across the road --

18          JUDGE JORDA: Mr. Harmon, I thought that we had said certain  
19          things, if you recall, I think we have prepare -- you  
20          have prepared the witness and maybe we could let the  
21          witness get on with his narrative. I know you have some  
22          reluctance to go along with this procedure, I think, but  
23          I do think that we had agreed that we would try to stick  
24          to the essentials of the case. It is perhaps  
25          appropriate for you to put a few questions, but I think

1           you were back in the former way of doing things, as it  
2           were. I would like the witness to testify before the  
3           court, so maybe you could have a few more questions, but  
4           I would like to get on with that procedure. Maybe we  
5           could have a mix of the methods, as it were, counsel,  
6           but here I think we are back to you putting the hundreds  
7           of questions you have worked out with the witness and  
8           I think we have seen that hundreds of questions, they  
9           are not all essential to the case, so let us try to work  
10          on this approach. Please proceed, sir.

11       MR. HARMON: Mr. President, with the court's indulgence I only  
12          have a few more questions and then I intend to have the  
13          witness commence on his narrative, but I need to set the  
14          stage for the witness's testimony in order to put it  
15          clearly to the court.

16       JUDGE JORDA: So you have the court's indulgence. Go right  
17          ahead.

18       MR. HARMON: Thank you, Mr. President.

19                 Adnan, on 16th April 1993, who was living with you  
20          at your home?

21       A. My father, Sabahudin Zec, he was 37 years old; my  
22          mother, Hajrija Zec, who was 40 years old; my sister  
23          Alisa Zec, who was 11 years old, and my sister Melisa,  
24          who was 6 years old; and myself, who was 13 at the time.

25       Q. A few questions about your father. Your father was a

1 member of the TO, was he not?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And your father participated on occasion walking around  
4 the village as part of a village guard, is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. When your father participated as a member of the village  
7 guard, did he have a gun?

8 A. Yes, the village had some hunting rifles and some other  
9 weapons which were handmade, and that is what they were  
10 using and that is how they were guarding the village.

11 Q. On 16th April, the morning of the attack, were there any  
12 weapons at all in your house?

13 A. No.

14 MR. HARMON: Now with the court's permission, with the  
15 usher's assistance, I would like to have Prosecutor's  
16 Exhibit 141 disseminated and I would like one copy of  
17 Prosecutor's Exhibit 141 placed in front of the witness.

18 For the record, Mr. President, 141 is an  
19 enlargement of a portion of Exhibit 50, it is a map and  
20 attached thereto is a legend which identifies the  
21 various numbers and letters that are identified on the  
22 photograph itself.

23 JUDGE JORDA: Counsel, what about the legend here, the  
24 title, is that covered by the protective measures?

25 MR. HARMON: It is, Mr. President.

1                   Adnan, before coming into court today did you have  
2                   the opportunity to locate on a large aerial image a  
3                   number of locations that are relevant to your testimony  
4                   today?

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. Were those locations marked with numbers and letters on  
7           Prosecutor's Exhibit 141 that is in front of you?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. Have you had an opportunity to compare the legend that  
10           is attached to that exhibit with the numbers and letters  
11           that are found on Prosecutor's Exhibit 141?

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. Does the legend accurately correspond to the letters and  
14          numbers and locations described therein?

15          A. Yes.

16          MR. HARMON: Now, Adnan, using that exhibit when you feel it  
17          necessary, to illustrate what you will be telling the  
18          judges, can you please tell the judges what happened to  
19          you and to members of your family on 16th April 1993?

20          JUDGE JORDA: Fine, counsel. I think that is the way  
21          forward.

22                    So you have heard what the Prosecutor has just  
23                    told you, you are going to testify about all the  
24                    elements that are relevant for the case of the  
25                    Prosecution and when you think it is appropriate to do

1 so, you point out the areas that are germane. If you  
2 forget to say something, then do not worry, the  
3 Prosecutor will put a few questions to you and  
4 everything will be cleared up. Now please speak in your  
5 own words and testify, tell us what happened, beginning  
6 by responding to the question just put to you by the  
7 Prosecutor.

8 A. 15th April, in the evening around 9.00 or 10.00, we all  
9 went to bed. In the morning, the following morning,  
10 very early, around --

11 JUDGE JORDA: If you could speak a bit louder please, or  
12 move closer to the microphone, because otherwise the  
13 interpreters have a tough time hearing you. Thank you.  
14 Please do move forward. Just relax, do relax, speak  
15 calmly and near the microphone. Please proceed.

16 A. In the morning around 5.00 or 5.30, we were awakened by  
17 shooting. The bullets were smashing the windows and the  
18 roof tiles. I was sleeping in one room, my two sisters  
19 in another and my parents, my father and my mother, in  
20 the third bedroom. The parents ran out of their bedroom  
21 towards us, to wake us up, so that we could get dressed  
22 and we could run away, because we had to put on some  
23 clothes and the house was already on fire. We were in  
24 the pyjamas and we ran out and at first we stayed in the  
25 hallway on the upper floor of our house. We could not

1 stay there, then we went to the ground floor under the  
2 staircase. We only took the clothes that we could put  
3 on and while we were under the staircase, the parents  
4 agreed that they would go back to the top floor and take  
5 the money and gold, so that we could take it with us.

6 My mother went upstairs and she screamed. We  
7 thought that she may have been hit. However, she was  
8 not hit, the bullet had hit the room and it was a bullet  
9 that set the room on fire, and so she screamed and she  
10 put out the fire, she took the money and the gold and  
11 came back to us downstairs. When she came back, in fact  
12 my parents again talked it through and they agreed that  
13 we should leave the house, because the house was very  
14 soon going to be all on fire and we did not want to be  
15 burned in the house, so they decided that we should go  
16 to the house, Zijad Ahmic's house, which is marked with  
17 number 5. That is the house that is set a little bit  
18 into the ground so it has a kind of a basement.

19 So we tried to wait it out a little bit so that  
20 the shooting would subside. However the shooting never  
21 subsided, so we decided to run out of the house and run  
22 up to the other house. At first, my little sister  
23 Melisa and mama ran out, then my sister Alisa, then  
24 myself and then my father. I was running in the  
25 direction of -- along this road marked in red

1 (indicates), and my parents along the green road.

2 When I came to Nurija's house, this is house  
3 marked with 3, I took shelter behind the upper side of  
4 the house so that I could rest. Then at the moment  
5 I turned the corner, there was a burst of tracer bullets  
6 coming from below. It came in the direction where I was  
7 just running a moment ago. As I was at Nurija's house,  
8 my parents were above our barn, which is marked with  
9 number 2. After I rested a bit there, I continued to  
10 run.

11 I ran to the area of about Zahir's house, and  
12 again I could feel that a burst of fire was shot  
13 immediately next to me and I threw myself to the  
14 ground. When I saw that I was not hit, I got up and  
15 continued to run. When I came out to the road itself,  
16 and this is where this red arrow makes a curve  
17 (indicates), I continued another ten to fifteen metres  
18 along that path, and I saw a soldier who was standing  
19 next to Zahir's house. This is marked with A. That is  
20 where he was standing. It was one soldier who told me,  
21 "where are you going, kid?". I said that I was running  
22 because of the shooting and he said, "run along".  
23 However, next to him, Zahir was already lying on the  
24 ground. He had no weapons on him, he was dressed in  
25 civilian clothes and as I said, this soldier in

1 camouflage uniform was standing over him and he also  
2 was -- had his face painted in black.

3 I continued to run to the cross road, which is  
4 marked with C, and the soldiers -- in fact there were  
5 three soldiers who were at the spot marked by letter B,  
6 and as I had to pass them on the way to Zijad Ahmic's  
7 house, which was marked with 5, as I had to pass by  
8 them, they also stopped me and asked, "where are you  
9 going, kid?", and I responded that I was running because  
10 there was shooting, but they said, "no, stop, go back".  
11 Since I was very close to them, maybe a metre away from  
12 them, I turned around and started running back.

13 However, as I turned around, and I may have made  
14 one or two steps, a burst of fire was shot at me and  
15 I fell down. The three soldiers who were in the spot  
16 marked with B, while I was running in the direction  
17 towards them, as I was approaching them, they were  
18 intermittently coming out and going back as if they were  
19 hiding from someone and they were shooting in the  
20 direction of Gornji Selo, but they were hidden, they  
21 were crouching behind -- the place where they were was a  
22 place where some kind of a shed or a barn was standing,  
23 but that is where they were hiding behind, they were  
24 crouching and then occasionally they would come out and  
25 they would shoot at the upper village.



1           The one who shot at me was the first to the right,  
2           and he was the one who ordered the soldier who was in a  
3           location marked with A to shoot at my parents.

4           When I was hit, in fact when I was about to hit  
5           the ground, I saw that my parents were arriving at the  
6           position marked with D. They came to a stop there and  
7           they were killed by the soldier at A, who received the  
8           order from this soldier by whom I was shot. He told him  
9           and repeated this three times, "kill them, kill them,  
10          kill them". When he said, "kill them" for the second  
11          time, my parents -- in fact my father said, "kill me and  
12          let my wife and children go", but for the third time, he  
13          got the order and he shot two bursts of fire which  
14          killed my parents.

15          As I fell down there, I felt my leg going numb,  
16          and I saw that I was hit in the leg. I was shot in two  
17          different places. I did not dare move because the  
18          soldiers were right next to me so I remained lying there  
19          all day. I put my arms over my face so that they would  
20          not notice that I was alive, simply not to see any  
21          movement, because they were coming over to me. The  
22          soldiers would come to me and would crouch by me and  
23          would shoot at the upper village, so I had to do this so  
24          they would not notice that I would move my eye lids. So  
25          I had to keep my arm over my eyes and in this way, I was

1           also able to observe what was going on around me.

2                     Further on during the day, soldiers kept going by  
3           me because this seemed to be their main thoroughfare, so  
4           to speak, they kept coming and going there. They were  
5           coming from the house of Pjanic, Habiba Pjanic, marked  
6           number 4, from my house marked as number 1, and from  
7           those two directions, they were come and then they would  
8           go different ways towards Zijad's house, number 5 and  
9           further on along the road towards the mosque, but I do  
10          not know how far they would get up there. They would  
11          keep coming back and going and they were coming and  
12          going back a lot.

13                    During the day, I do not know what time it was,  
14          I heard in Zahir's house that there were refugees living  
15          there downstairs. I forget where they were from  
16          exactly, but I heard them being driven out. When they  
17          drove them out, they told them that they had to put  
18          their hands on their heads and they shot dead one of  
19          these people, one of these refugees, a man, I cannot  
20          remember his name though. That is letter G. So he was  
21          executed right in front of the house. The rest of them,  
22          his wife and two children, were driven away, I saw that.

23                    I saw him when he was forced out of the house and  
24          when he was ordered to put his hands on his head and  
25          I noticed that they would actually shoot him then so

1 I closed my eyes and then I heard a burst of gunfire and  
2 he probably fell, I did not see him fall, but I think it  
3 can be assumed. His wife and two children were driven  
4 away, they went by me. I heard them walking, I heard  
5 their steps. I was not watching, I was afraid, I had my  
6 eyes closed so I just heard them walking and I heard  
7 their sighs. They went by me and further on during the  
8 day, they carried a wounded person by me on a  
9 stretcher. That direction is not exactly depicted here,  
10 but they carried this wounded person by and as they  
11 walked up to me, they said, "is this one of our guys?",  
12 but one of the men carrying the stretchers said "no",  
13 and they went on.

14 Also during that day, Andjelko Vidovic, whose  
15 nickname was Acko, went by me with a few soldiers  
16 towards the house of Trako Mehemed and Trako Zilka. We  
17 have not marked this house, though. When they went  
18 further up, I heard them banging at the door, they even  
19 broke a window. I heard a scream. I heard his wife  
20 Zilka scream, then also a burst of gunfire. At that  
21 point, I thought that Zilka was hit and I thought she  
22 must have been shot dead, but after that, I found out  
23 that it was Mehemed Trako who was killed.

24 In the afternoon, before dusk perhaps, I sort of  
25 fell asleep. I do not know if I really fell asleep or

1           whether I simply fainted, I cannot remember that, but  
2           I was simply awakened by a lot of noise, the clamour of  
3           soldiers who were standing next to me when I opened my  
4           eyes, there were 20 or 30 of them altogether. Then at  
5           Almir's shed, some of them were trying actually to  
6           breakdown the door of the garage where the car was.  
7           They wanted to torch it. Others were protesting, saying  
8           that it should not be torched, but he did set it on fire  
9           after all and one of them was talking into a radio.  
10          I could not see him because I did not dare open my eyes,  
11          I was afraid that they would notice I was alive, because  
12          they were simply standing next to me.

13                 At that particular cross road, they were talking  
14          into the radio transmitter and saying, "are you  
15          advancing in the village of Pirici? Do you need  
16          reinforcements? There are plenty of us over here. Send  
17          us explosives for the lower mosque in Ahmici".

18                 After he said that, I do not know if I had moved a  
19          little or perhaps they had noticed me moving before that  
20          or maybe they noticed that I was breathing, one of them  
21          said, "this kid is alive, he is breathing" and he was  
22          pointing at me. Then I already felt that I was dead,  
23          I was simply expecting him to fire at me and kill me and  
24          finish me off.

25                 However, one of them walked up to me, touched me a

1 bit with his foot, kicked me a bit, turned me around a  
2 bit and he said, "no, he is dead, he is not alive". He  
3 said something to that effect. After that, they went  
4 towards Zilka Trako's house and towards Zijad's house,  
5 while Elvir's shed was already burning. I decided to  
6 get up. I was all wet. There was a drizzle that day,  
7 not a lot of rain, but I was all wet nevertheless and  
8 I wanted to get dry. I got up and tried to leave, but  
9 I was very dizzy when I stood up, as if I had had a lot  
10 of alcohol to drink.

11 I tried to steady myself by holding the gate that  
12 was open while they were carrying that wounded person by  
13 me, so I held the gate for a while and then I staggered  
14 towards Elvir's barn, and I managed to get to Elvir's  
15 barn, where the fire was burning, actually. When I got  
16 up from this place where I had been lying, I saw up  
17 there by Zilka's house, or rather by the shed and  
18 towards Zijad's house, I mean in that direction, I saw  
19 soldiers walking up there. Actually the barn was  
20 burning, so I did not know whether it had been torched  
21 then or beforehand, but it was on fire.

22 When I reached the barn, I could not really stand,  
23 so I lay down on the ground and I moved a bit from the  
24 barn so that the roof would not fall on me, and I fell  
25 asleep there. I woke up some time during the night or

1           perhaps it was already morning, I cannot remember what  
2           woke me up, the detonation from the mosque or the heat  
3           that was coming from there, because when I woke up,  
4           I was very very hot. The roof had already fallen off,  
5           everything was on fire but I was not on fire. I got up  
6           and I went to the house of Ahmic Elvir, or Ahmic Mirsad  
7           rather, which is marked number 6.

8           Mr. Harmon, do you want to ask me something at this  
9           point?

10          MR. HARMON: Yes, I have a number of questions that I would  
11          like to ask you.

12          JUDGE JORDA: Counsel, we have heard the testimony of the  
13          witness, we thank him for it. Now what we expect from  
14          you, Mr. Harmon, is not to go through all the questions  
15          again, otherwise that would be pointless as well as it  
16          would be unnecessary suffering on the part of the  
17          witness. Having said that, I think it is perfectly  
18          legitimate that you put the questions which you think  
19          are essential to your case. Go right ahead, Mr. Harmon.

20          MR. HARMON: Mr. President, the witness -- I will ask him a  
21          number of questions and then the witness will continue  
22          with his narrative because he has not concluded his  
23          narrative, but there are a number of points that need to  
24          be clarified and let me proceed then with those  
25          clarifications.

- 1                   Adnan, you said you came very close to a soldier  
2                   who was the single soldier next to the body of Zahir  
3                   Ahmic. How was that soldier dressed?
- 4           A. He had a camouflage uniform on. He had black paint on  
5           his face, something black on his face.
- 6           Q. Did he have any insignia on his uniform?
- 7           A. Yes, he had insignia, but I am not sure what insignia,  
8           I am not sure.
- 9           Q. Did he have an eagle on his uniform?
- 10          A. Yes, he had an eagle on his uniform.
- 11          Q. Where was that eagle?
- 12          A. Yes, on the left-hand side of his chest.
- 13          Q. Now Adnan, let me turn your attention to the three  
14          soldiers who you next came into contact with. Were they  
15          in camouflage uniforms as well?
- 16          A. Yes, they also had camouflage uniforms on.
- 17          Q. Did they have an eagle on their uniforms?
- 18          A. I am not sure whether they had an eagle or a joker on  
19          their uniforms.
- 20          Q. Okay. Did you also see patches with the letters HV on  
21          those particular soldiers?
- 22          A. Yes, during the day as I lay there, many soldiers passed  
23          by me and I saw them wearing HV insignia and I also saw  
24          soldiers in black uniforms. I mean they were dressed in  
25          black, everything they wore was black, and they also had

1 full gear and I also noticed the Vitezovi patch, but  
2 I cannot remember on what uniforms there was a Vitezovi  
3 patch.

4 Q. Adnan, just focusing on the three soldiers who were  
5 involved in the killing of your family, I just want to  
6 focus on the insignia that were on those soldiers. Were  
7 HV patches on those soldiers or were they on different  
8 soldiers?

9 A. I am not sure.

10 Q. You said you were wounded. Can you describe your wounds  
11 to the judges?

12 A. Yes, one bullet hit the upper part of my left leg, my  
13 thigh, and another bullet hit the heel of my left foot  
14 and it went out on the other side.

15 Q. Now I would like to turn your attention to the moment  
16 when your parents were killed. You saw them executed,  
17 did you not?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. When they were running in your direction at the time  
20 they were shot, were they with your two sisters?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were they holding your two sisters at the time they were  
23 shot by these soldiers?

24 A. My father was holding the hand of my sister Alisa and my  
25 mother was holding the hand of my sister Melisa.



1 Q. What happened to Alisa?

2 A. Two bursts of gunfire were shot at them, one burst of  
3 gunfire hit my father and my sister Alisa, and the other  
4 burst of gunfire only hit my mother, while my sister  
5 Melisa was not hit. She simply fainted, she fell on to  
6 the ground together with my mother, but she was not hit  
7 really, my sister Melisa.

8 Q. So your sister Alisa was killed at the same time your  
9 father was killed?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Adnan, at the time your mother was killed, she was  
12 wearing a dress, was she not?

13 A. Yes, she wore a red house dress, a house coat.

14 Q. How was your father dressed?

15 A. My father wore jeans and he only had a sweater,  
16 I think. He did not even have a jacket on. My sister  
17 Alisa was wearing a skirt; my sister Melisa also wore  
18 trousers.

19 Q. Did the three soldiers who were involved in the killing  
20 of your parents have a walkie-talkie with them?

21 A. Yes, the one who shot at me had a walkie-talkie, and  
22 during the day I heard him saying something into it a  
23 few times, but I did not manage to understand what he  
24 was saying, and as far as I could tell, he was some kind  
25 of superior to all of them, because during the day, he

1           would tell the soldiers, "why are you going there? Go  
2           over here". He would curse at them, swear at their  
3           mothers et cetera.

4           MR. HARMON: Now with the assistance of the usher, if I could  
5           have Exhibit 116/2 placed on the ELMO? Mr. Usher, if you  
6           could also take 100/2 as well with you to the ELMO it  
7           would be much faster.

8           JUDGE JORDA: Counsel, the exhibit here that the witness was  
9           referring to, what was the number on that?

10          MR. HARMON: That is Exhibit 141, Mr. President, and we will  
11          be returning to that exhibit with the narrative of the  
12          witness.

13          JUDGE JORDA: I would assume that could be entered into  
14          evidence without any objection on the part of the  
15          Defence. All right, thank you.

16          MR. HARMON: If we could place 116/2 on the ELMO. Adnan, you  
17          said you observed a number of patches while you were  
18          laying on the pathway. I am showing you Exhibit 116/2.  
19          Do you recognise that particular patch and is that patch  
20          similar to what you saw soldiers wearing on April 16th?

21          A. Yes, it is similar to the patch I saw on 16th April.

22          Q. Now let me have placed Exhibit 100/2 on the ELMO, and  
23          ask you, Adnan, is this patch one of the patches that  
24          you also saw on 16th April 1993?

25          A. Yes, this is also the patch I saw on 16th April.

1 MR. HARMON: Mr. Usher, I am finished with those exhibits. If  
2 141, the enlargement of the photograph, could be placed  
3 again on the ELMO, I would appreciate it.

4 Adnan, you saw soldiers wearing patches that were  
5 with an eagle, you saw patches that were Joker patches  
6 and insignia, you saw HVO patches, you saw men in black  
7 uniforms and you saw men in camouflage uniforms. Did it  
8 appear to you while you lay on the ground throughout  
9 that day that the soldiers wearing those various  
10 uniforms and insignia were working together in a  
11 co-ordinated fashion?

12 A. Yes, it seemed that they were all working together as if  
13 they were mixed together.

14 Q. Let me ask you a question about heavier weapons that you  
15 heard being fired on 16th April. Did you hear an  
16 anti-aircraft gun being fired at all that day, while you  
17 were laying there?

18 A. Yes, that day, when I was lying at the location marked  
19 as C, so that is the cross-roads, I heard from house  
20 number 4, the house of Habiba Pjanic, I heard some  
21 voices coming from there. I tried to move then, because  
22 I was fed up, I could not lie that way all the time.  
23 I went all numb, so I tried to move on my elbows, but  
24 I managed to move only about ten to twenty centimetres.  
25 From the direction of Habiba's house, I heard a burst of

1           gunfire. It was not an ordinary burst of gunfire, it  
2           was very loud. From guns, it was not that loud, so  
3           I could hear there was a difference, a difference in  
4           sound. So this burst of gunfire that came from the  
5           direction of Pjanic's house, I was on my elbows and this  
6           burst of gunfire went very high up, about a metre above  
7           me, it hit the house of Hidajet, I cannot remember his  
8           last name, but the house has not been marked all that  
9           well either.

10                        So that is how the house was set on fire. Part of  
11           it hit the iron fence that was above me, and these  
12           bullets ricocheted and went by me and hit the ground.

13        Q. Now let me ask you some questions about your  
14           observations. You said you saw a male refugee who had  
15           his hands above his head shot by some soldiers. What  
16           kind of uniforms were those soldiers wearing who  
17           executed the Muslim refugee?

18        A. Camouflage uniforms, they had camouflage uniforms and  
19           they also had black paint on their faces.

20        Q. You said you saw some soldiers go towards the direction  
21           and toward the house of Zilka Trako and that you later  
22           learned that Mehemed Trako was murdered. What kind of  
23           uniforms did those soldiers have on?

24        A. Also camouflage uniforms.

25        Q. Was Mehemed Trako a Muslim?

1 A. Yes, he was a Muslim and he was a distant relative of  
2 mine.

3 Q. While you were laying on the ground, did you see your  
4 house being set afire and can you please explain to the  
5 judges what you saw?

6 A. Yes. As I lay there that morning, it was quite early,  
7 three soldiers came, I think they were in camouflage  
8 uniforms, they stayed in the house for a short while and  
9 then they went out. Soon after they got out, thick  
10 smoke started coming out of the house, so the house was  
11 set on fire.

12 Q. I would like to turn your attention very briefly to the  
13 20 or 30 soldiers who were standing next to you and who  
14 were in some form of radio communication about Pirici  
15 and about the mosque. Did you ever see what kind of  
16 uniforms those soldiers had on?

17 A. That evening, when that noise woke me up, I opened my  
18 eyes only for a little, a very little, because there  
19 were a lot of people there, 20 or 30 soldiers. I am not  
20 sure whether they only had camouflage uniforms or  
21 whether there were camouflage and black uniforms there,  
22 because I closed my eyes. I was afraid they would  
23 notice I was alive and that they would kill me.

24 Q. On the 16th, before you sought refuge in the house of  
25 Elvir Ahmic, can you estimate how many soldiers you saw

1 passing by you throughout the day?

2 A. During that day, I saw at least 100 soldiers, because  
3 they were passing by me non-stop, going up and down.

4 MR. HARMON: All right. Adnan, if you would now please  
5 continue with your narrative, describing to the judges  
6 what happened once you got inside --

7 JUDGE JORDA: Perhaps before we proceed with the witness's  
8 narrative, I do not know how long it is going to be as  
9 far as the second part goes, but it might be appropriate  
10 to take a break. It is 11.10 and we will resume at  
11 11.30. The court stands adjourned.

12 (11.10 am)

13 (A short break)

14 (11.30 am)

15 JUDGE JORDA: The court is back in session. Please bring in  
16 the accused, Mr. Registrar.

17 (Accused brought in)

18 JUDGE JORDA: Mr. Harmon, we are now going to be hearing the  
19 second part of the testimony of the witness. Now, the  
20 Chamber will be adjourning at 12.30 and then we will be  
21 resuming at 2.45 pm this afternoon.

22 Adnan, you are going to go ahead as you did this  
23 morning and then the counsel for the Prosecution will be  
24 putting questions to you. Please proceed.

25 MR. HARMON: Adnan, would you please then continue with your

1 narrative. Tell the judges what happened next?

2 A. After I entered the house of Mirsad Ahmic, which is  
3 marked with the number 6, that house was on fire. The  
4 walls were very hot, I started going upstairs. I was  
5 walking up the staircase to the landing leading to the  
6 upper floor, so that is the part where the steps stop  
7 and then they continued on upstairs. When I got there,  
8 I was too dizzy to make it all the way up, so I decided  
9 to lie down there. So I lay down and I simply lost  
10 consciousness. I was unconscious for two days and two  
11 nights, and after two days and two nights I came to. It  
12 was early in the morning, it had not dawned yet, and in  
13 front of my eyes, I was seeing the images of these mass  
14 killings, those images were coming back, and the image  
15 of the entire village on fire.

16 I waited until the dawn broke, and I then climbed  
17 to the upper floor of the house. From the top floor,  
18 I did not move from there at all, I was there for eight  
19 days, in fact I only left it on the eighth day. During  
20 the time that I spent in the house of Mirsad Ahmic,  
21 marked as number 6, I saw many dead bodies. I saw my  
22 own family, which is marked with letter D; I saw Husein  
23 Ahmic, who is marked with letter F, that is an older  
24 man, maybe 55 years of age; I also saw Zahir, who is  
25 marked with letter E; I saw two -- I do not know who

1           they were, but they were civilians, and they are marked  
2           with letter I. Since the distance was a bit greater  
3           there, I could only notice that they were civilians.

4           I also saw Mineta Ahmic, who is marked with H, she  
5           was lying in a barn. The door was ajar so that from the  
6           window, I could observe that this was Mineta. Next to  
7           her, I saw someone else, but I was not sure who that  
8           was, but there was someone else next to her and later  
9           I learned, after I had made my way out, I found out that  
10          it was her son, Semir, who was eight years old. That is  
11          Semir Ahmic.

12          During the time I was in this house, the Milicevic  
13          family --

14          MR. HARMON: Excuse me, Adnan, before I interrupt you, before  
15          you proceed with the rest of your narrative, I would  
16          like to show you two exhibits. If they could be placed  
17          on the ELMO successively, Mr. President, the first would  
18          be Exhibit 142 and the next exhibit, if the usher could  
19          take that with him to the ELMO, would be Exhibit 136/1.  
20          If we could start with the small exhibit, 142, and place  
21          that on the ELMO, Mr. President and counsel, 142 is also  
22          accompanied by a legend which the witness has had an  
23          opportunity to inspect and confirm the accuracy of the  
24          A, B and C letters on 142.

25          JUDGE JORDA: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.



- 1 MR. HARMON: Adnan, what has been placed on the ELMO in front  
2 of you is Prosecutor's Exhibit 142, and starting with  
3 the letter A, is that the house of Mirsad Ahmic, the  
4 house where you were hiding during those number of days?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Is the house with the letter B, is that your house?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And the letter C is the house of Nurija Ahmic, is that  
9 correct?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Your family was executed somewhere between your house,  
12 which is letter B, and the house indicated by the letter  
13 A, correct?
- 14 A. Yes, between our house and Mirsad's house and Zahir's  
15 house, which cannot be seen because it is blocked by the  
16 view of my house.
- 17 MR. HARMON: Now Mr. Usher if you could place Prosecutor's  
18 Exhibit 136/1 on the ELMO, Adnan, this is an exhibit  
19 that was previously introduced last week. The house on  
20 the left, do you recognise that house?
- 21 A. Yes, this is my house.
- 22 Q. The house that is a little bit off centre to the right,  
23 is that also the house of Nurija Ahmic?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. In your narrative testimony just a few minutes ago, you

1           indicated that you had seen two civilian bodies and  
2           those are indicated at location I on Prosecutor's  
3           Exhibit 141. You see in the Exhibit 136/1 there are a  
4           number of bodies that are next to your house; can you  
5           see that in that exhibit?

6           A. Yes, I do.

7           Q. Were those bodies, given their location, were those  
8           bodies visible from your hiding place in Mirsad Ahmic's  
9           house?

10          A. No, they were not visible.

11          Q. Adnan, those bodies are different from the bodies that  
12          are located at point I on Prosecutor's Exhibit 141;  
13          those are other bodies?

14          A. Yes.

15          MR. HARMON: Thank you, Mr. Usher, I am finished with those  
16          exhibits.

17                   Adnan, would you please continue then with your  
18          narrative.

19          A. So the following days which I spent in this house  
20          (indicates), the Milicevic family, they are marked with  
21          number 8, they returned their families to their homes,  
22          because on 15th April they had taken them away. They  
23          continued to live there normally, routinely, as if  
24          nothing had happened, whereas the Papic family, which is  
25          marked with number 9, and the Papic -- Dragan Papic's

1 family, which has not been marked on this map and it is  
2 located right next by the road, so all these families,  
3 the Papics were at the location number 9, where this  
4 marking of X in the middle of that circle, that is where  
5 the machine-gun nest was and there was a basement there  
6 where these two families were placed.

7 The machine-gun nest was at the corner of this  
8 house and it had like sandbags stacked up, and as far as  
9 I could notice from the distance from which I was  
10 observing, this could have been sandbags, and there was  
11 something like a machine-gun placed there, and  
12 occasionally, this weapon would be fired from, and the  
13 little forest here (indicates) between the Milicevic  
14 family home marked with 8 and the house marked with 9,  
15 so the forest between the two of them, occasionally  
16 I would see from there that it was an anti-aircraft gun  
17 or maybe submachine-gun placed on a truck, so it was a  
18 heavy piece of weapon, and occasionally this weapon  
19 would shoot at the Gornji Ahmici, upper Ahmici.

20 The Milicevic also brought a big truck covered  
21 with a canvas canopy to their house and they unloaded  
22 something from it, I could not see what it was, it was  
23 covered by this canvas canopy, it could have been  
24 ammunition or something but I was not able to see what  
25 it was.

1           Also in Sakib Pezer's house -- this house is at  
2           the intersection that leads up towards Ahmici from the  
3           main road -- Vlatko Kupreskic came in a vehicle, a small  
4           blue Yugo, with a couple of other people. I do not know  
5           who these other people were, but I was able to recognise  
6           him. They entered the house and next to the house was  
7           some kind of like a carpentry shop. They were bringing  
8           something out of both the house and the shop, I do not  
9           know, I could not observe what it was that they were  
10          bringing out, but they were bringing it out from both  
11          the house and the shop.

12                 On the sixth day, that is from the day of the  
13          attack, I think it was in the afternoon, a truck  
14          appeared at the intersection where I had been shot, and  
15          it came to a stop there. I was in the house and I was  
16          watching from the windows, actually still watching my  
17          parents. The truck came to collect the dead bodies.  
18          When I heard the truck arriving, I hid. There was a  
19          three-seater sofa in there, it was against a wall.  
20          I moved it, but that is where I was spending my nights,  
21          that is where I would sleep.

22                 When I would hear something, some noises, this is  
23          where I would go to hide, so that day, when I heard this  
24          truck arriving, I immediately hid behind there, and you  
25          could hear voices down there, somebody entered the house

1 with -- talked on the radio, I could not make out what  
2 he was saying and the other one came upstairs. I think  
3 he was just checking to see whether there was something  
4 or someone upstairs, so he just peeked through the door  
5 into the room where I was and then he went back. He  
6 also checked the other rooms and then he went back  
7 downstairs. I did not see him because I was behind this  
8 sofa, I was hidden there, and after that, they collected  
9 the dead bodies and shortly thereafter, the truck left.

10 After I was assured there were no noises any more,  
11 I came out from behind where I was hiding, and I looked  
12 and there were none of the dead bodies were there any  
13 more. I followed the truck visually from the window,  
14 and it turned off and stopped in front of my house,  
15 which is marked with number 1. It parked in front of  
16 the entrance to my house, and from the bottom floor,  
17 since it had not burned down -- we were actually  
18 preparing to open up a store there, so we had some flour  
19 and some oil and some other basic foods there. They  
20 just picked all that up and loaded it on to the truck.

21 What I forgot to say is that whilst they had still  
22 not collected the dead bodies, my sister Melisa -- I am  
23 now going back to the first day as I lay there wounded  
24 -- I saw her on the ground next to my mother, but when  
25 I came to and I looked out of the window, I could not

1 see my sister Melisa. She had disappeared. It was just  
2 my parents, my father, my mother and my sister Alisa.  
3 My sister Melisa was simply not there, she had simply  
4 disappeared. Her story, this is what actually happened  
5 to her, when our mother was hit, she pulled her down to  
6 the ground and she simply either fainted or went to  
7 sleep there next to her, and remained there for two days  
8 and two nights, and after those two days, she  
9 presumably -- yes, she got up and Elvir Ahmic noticed  
10 her. He and his own sister at that time were trying to  
11 leave the village, so he spotted her and he called her  
12 over to join them and to try to make it to the upper  
13 village.

14 She refused, she told him that she was not going,  
15 that she was waiting for the mummy to wake up, because  
16 she thought that mum was asleep, she did not know that  
17 she was dead.

18 Elvir and his sister went in the direction to the  
19 upper village, and up there he ran into the Croat  
20 soldiers, I think it was the Jokers. They stopped him  
21 and as far as I know they took him to the camp, but  
22 before they took him there, they asked him whether there  
23 was anybody alive down there. He told them about my  
24 sister, and one of them -- in fact one of them was sent  
25 down to find my sister and to bring her so that she

1 would be taken to the camp together with Elvir and his  
2 sister. This soldier, when he came down there, when my  
3 sister heard that somebody was approaching, she lay down  
4 next to my mother and pretended to sleep.

5 When the soldier came there, based on the  
6 description of Elvir's, the spot where my sister was, he  
7 realised that this is who it was. He called her a few  
8 times, she would not respond, then he picked her up and  
9 carried her to Elvir.

10 When he brought her to Elvir, to the place where  
11 Elvir and his sister were waiting to be taken to the  
12 camp, the soldier who was carrying my sister approaching  
13 him and Elvir called my sister, she opened up her eyes  
14 and told the soldier to put her down, that she could  
15 walk. So my sister was taken to Elvir and they were  
16 first taken to some house in Santici and then to the  
17 camp in Dubravica, and then when I found my way out, she  
18 was released from the camp.

19 I would like to request of your Honours that if  
20 I missed anything, if I omitted anything, that Mr. Harmon  
21 remind me of it.

22 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you, Adnan. You are not too tired, you  
23 are all right?

24 A. I am fine.

25 JUDGE JORDA: You have stood up well, thank you.

1                   Counsel, I assume you have some questions for the  
2                   witness. Go right ahead.

3           MR. HARMON: Thank you, Mr. President.

4                   Adnan, you mentioned that you saw a Croat by the  
5                   name of -- an individual by the name of Vlatko Kupreskic  
6                   going in and out of Pezer's shop. Was Vlatko Kupreskic  
7                   a Croat?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. Was he a member of the HVO, to your knowledge?

10          A. I do not know.

11          Q. You also mentioned that you saw -- let me rephrase the  
12               question.

13                   You also mentioned, Adnan, that your father and  
14                   mother had been intending to open up a shop and that  
15                   there were a number of provisions inside your house and  
16                   that you saw individuals going into your house and  
17                   taking those provisions out. Can you describe those  
18                   people who went in and out of your house and took those  
19                   provisions out?

20          A. They were in camouflage uniforms and, as far as I can  
21               recall, it was one or two men were in civilian clothes.  
22               There were five or six of them altogether.

23          Q. Do you know what kind of provisions your father and  
24               mother had stocked for their future shop?

25          A. Yes, flour, maybe about five tonnes, oil, maybe 20



1 cases, some sugar, salt, chocolate, candy and other  
2 provisions, house provisions.

3 Q. The soldiers that were going in and out of your house  
4 were not UNPROFOR soldiers in camouflage uniforms, were  
5 they?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Next I would like to very quickly turn your attention to  
8 the truck and the people who were coming to collect the  
9 bodies. Did those body collectors also include Muslims  
10 as far as you could see?

11 A. Yes, there were Muslim prisoners there who were in the  
12 camp. They were collecting the bodies, supervised by  
13 the soldiers.

14 Q. You were ultimately rescued then, were you not, after a  
15 number of days by UNPROFOR soldiers, Adnan?

16 A. Shall I continue my story about my rescue?

17 Q. Please, very briefly describe your rescue.

18 A. The eighth day, I noticed the UNPROFOR people in the  
19 village of Pirici. There were six personnel carriers,  
20 and they were making their way slowly to the village of  
21 Ahmici. There were three on the main road and three  
22 were on this byroad going up to Ahmici. That is where  
23 they came to a stop and the UNPROFOR personnel came out  
24 and were observing the village from their vehicles.  
25 I saw all this from the house, and I felt that this

1 would be my only chance if I tried to go towards them  
2 and maybe they could help me to get out of the village,  
3 so I left the house.

4 Since I was wounded in the leg, I staggered,  
5 always holding on to some fence or something similar,  
6 and I went until about Hidajet's house and this is down  
7 the road that leads towards the mosque. Hidajet's  
8 house, by the way, is not marked here.

9 I came to beyond Hidajet's house to a field and  
10 the UNPROFOR was diagonally across but I could see them  
11 clearly. I decided that I would call them from there,  
12 because I was afraid to move any farther in order not to  
13 be seen by anyone. Nobody would see me from either the  
14 soldiers or anybody from the families of Papic or  
15 Milicevic, so from there I called out to the UNPROFOR  
16 people and I said, "come on, help me", in English, and  
17 then I saw them turning around, I saw them having  
18 noticed me. I lay down into the grass which was pretty  
19 high, so that nobody else would notice, spot me there.  
20 After that, when I noticed that they had spotted me,  
21 when they had heard me, I called out once more time and  
22 I continued to lie in the grass.

23 I heard the engines running, and the first thing  
24 that crossed my mind was that the personnel carriers  
25 were leaving. I thought that maybe they think that it

1 is some kind of a trap or something like that, and  
2 I thought that they must be leaving.

3 However, the personnel carriers appeared between  
4 the houses, and then I could see that they were coming  
5 towards me. Three personnel carriers came over to me  
6 and the UNPROFOR personnel came out. They dressed my  
7 wounds just superficially at first and they took me into  
8 the vehicle. They did not have an interpreter with  
9 them, and I had a little bit of English. They asked me  
10 whether there were any other people around there, and  
11 they told me that they were taking me to Travnik, to the  
12 hospital. However I requested to be taken to Zenica, so  
13 we somehow communicated with words and as far as I could  
14 understand, they were telling me that they could not  
15 take me to Zenica because of some shooting, but only to  
16 Travnik.

17 So they put me into this vehicle and I was taken  
18 to the Travnik hospital. I was in the hospital for  
19 three days and on the fourth day, I was released.

20 Q. One last question, Adnan. You said you saw some Muslim  
21 civilians who were detainees collecting the corpses.  
22 Could you recognise any of those Muslims? Did you know  
23 any of them?

24 A. No, I could not recognise anyone then, but after the war  
25 I met a guy who was one of the people collecting the

1           dead bodies. He is from Vitez too. He was detained in  
2           a camp, he was a detainee.

3           MR. HARMON: Mr. President, I have concluded my examination of  
4           Adnan Zec and I would move into evidence Prosecutor's  
5           Exhibit 141 and the attached legend and I would also  
6           move to introduce Exhibit 142 and the attached legend.  
7           Thank you, Adnan.

8           JUDGE JORDA: There is no objection from the Defence, so 141  
9           and 142, those exhibits can be introduced into evidence.

10                  Now Adnan, as the counsel for the Prosecution  
11           probably told you, this is a court of law, we have the  
12           accused here, General Blaskic, who has been accused with  
13           serious charges. It is now perfectly legitimate for his  
14           counsel to put some questions to you.

15                  Mr. Nobile, you will be putting the questions, is  
16           that right?

17                                  Cross-examined by MR. NOBILO

18           Q. Yes, your Honour, thank you.

19                  Mr. Zec, good morning. My name is Anto Nobile and  
20           together with my colleague Russell Hayman, I am the  
21           attorney of General Blaskic and I would like to ask a  
22           few questions in relation to what you have been telling  
23           us about.

24                  A month before the conflict, in April, you saw at  
25           the bungalow the army that came in. Is it true that you

1 told the investigators who questioned you before that  
2 some of them wore green camouflage uniforms and others  
3 had black uniforms?

4 A. I am not sure. Perhaps accidentally I got mixed up.  
5 The soldiers of the 16th April and the soldiers from  
6 October, perhaps I got mixed up and I said differently,  
7 but I am not sure at any rate.

8 Q. So you are not sure, thank you. During your first  
9 questioning, is it true that you drew the patches that  
10 you saw then? Do you remember that, that you drew  
11 patches for the investigators?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you draw the patches that you could recollect at  
14 that point?

15 A. I do not know.

16 Q. Did you draw a HV emblem patch then?

17 A. I do not know.

18 Q. In your previous questionings, at any point did you  
19 mention HV patches that any of the soldiers had on any  
20 occasion?

21 A. As far as I can remember, yes.

22 Q. Was it written down in your statements?

23 A. I think so.

24 Q. You saw HV patches on two occasions, twice, is that  
25 correct?

1 A. No, I saw HV patches like all the others throughout the  
2 day -- you mean HV patches at the bungalow?

3 Q. Yes. How many people were there at the bungalow with HV  
4 patches?

5 A. I do not know.

6 Q. During the day, as they were running by -- you said that  
7 you were lying there and they were running by, how many  
8 people did you see with HV patches?

9 A. I do not know.

10 Q. Now I would be interested in the following: when at the  
11 cross-roads you mentioned, on the one hand there is a  
12 road going to the minaret, to the mosque, and the other  
13 road leads to upper Ahmici, you see the picture here, C,  
14 B. Tell me, these soldiers who were moving towards the  
15 mosque, how were they moving? Were they walking, were  
16 they running, were they crawling? Can you remember  
17 that?

18 A. It is as if they were hiding from someone.

19 Q. Were they shooting in that direction towards the mosque?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. At what distance -- from what distance did you hear  
22 them? We know that you were there at the intersection  
23 and you know where the mosque was. Where were they  
24 approximately as they were shooting towards the mosque?

25 A. Very close to me. Mirsad's house, Husein's house, along

1 the road.

2 Q. So by Husein's and Mirsad's house, they were there and  
3 they were shooting from there towards the mosque?

4 A. Yes, towards the mosque and towards the upper part of  
5 the village.

6 Q. Towards the upper part of the village, yes. Can you  
7 tell me what time it was approximately? I know it was  
8 very difficult in that situation, but at least roughly  
9 what time of the day, when they were shooting towards  
10 the mosque and the upper part of the village?

11 A. It was in the morning.

12 Q. Was it early morning or just before noon, could you tell  
13 me that perhaps?

14 A. When I had arrived, it was 5.00 or 5.30 -- I cannot  
15 really orient myself, it is difficult.

16 Q. All right. Can you tell me how many people were  
17 involved in the fighting towards the mosque, how many  
18 people did you see?

19 A. The army, these men were coming and going. They were  
20 going up there towards Zijad's house too. As far as  
21 I can remember, I already mentioned that that day, I saw  
22 over 100 people.

23 Q. 100 people were coming and going?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Were these the same people or different people? You do

- 1 not know actually how many people you saw.
- 2 A. At any rate, not less than 100.
- 3 Q. Thank you. Do you include in these 100 the people who  
4 were coming back? Do you know that the same people  
5 would come and go by you several times?
- 6 A. I do not know.
- 7 Q. Tell me, the neighbours, Croats, men, did they wear  
8 uniforms before the conflict, most of them, or all of  
9 them?
- 10 A. Mr. Dragan Papic, I can say that throughout the period  
11 from October to April wore black uniform all the time.  
12 I do not know if I ever saw him without a black uniform  
13 and he also had a flag on his house.
- 14 Q. You do not have to tell me about every one of them now.  
15 The younger Croats, did they wear uniforms before the  
16 fighting?
- 17 A. Younger Croats, I am not sure, but one of the  
18 Milicevics, I think he did, yes.
- 19 Q. These neighbours of yours, did they go to the front-line  
20 or were they only there in the village?
- 21 A. I do not know.
- 22 Q. Thank you. Did you give the investigators a note about  
23 who is responsible for the killings in Nadioci, a note  
24 that you wrote in accordance to what your aunt told you?
- 25 A. Yes.



1 Q. I would like to read it to you now and tell me is that  
2 that note:

3 "Miroslav Bralo, called Cicko, from the village of  
4 Nadioci said, 'yesterday in Ahmici I slaughtered and  
5 killed everyone and torched everything and now you are  
6 next'. Then he took out a bloody knife and he said,  
7 'now you are next'. He was referring to the civilians  
8 who are kept in a house above Nadioci from the village  
9 of Loncari. Miroslav Bralo, Cicko, also said that he  
10 killed 17 Muslims from Nadioci on a tractor on which  
11 they were moving towards Muslim territory."

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Would you explain to us how this note was written and is  
14 it true, or rather did I read correctly what you wrote  
15 then?

16 A. Yes, you read it properly. It is the story of my aunt,  
17 who was a prisoner there in that house, and who heard  
18 this conversation, or rather what he was saying, and it  
19 related to them.

20 Q. And you wrote it down then so that you would not forget  
21 it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Tell me, do you know anything about the establishment of  
24 checkpoints in the village of Ahmici, in October, within  
25 the village of Ahmici?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Could you explain it to us in a couple of sentences what  
3 happened?

4 A. There was a checkpoint below my house, so my house is  
5 number 1, so this is a curve below my house  
6 (indicates). It was a checkpoint to prevent the Croat  
7 army from passing towards Novi Travnik.

8 Q. Who established the checkpoint?

9 A. The TO.

10 Q. What did it consist of, this checkpoint, this roadblock?

11 A. A few hedgehogs and nothing else.

12 Q. Mines?

13 A. I cannot remember. Can I ask or can I explain the  
14 reason for this?

15 MR. HARMON: Excuse me, Mr. President.

16 JUDGE JORDA: Yes, proceed, counsel.

17 MR. HARMON: Questioning about checkpoints was not gone into  
18 on direct examination. He merely recounted the story of  
19 the massacre of his family and his survival, so I would  
20 object, Mr. President.

21 JUDGE JORDA: Yes, objection sustained. I was about to  
22 myself in respect of the note which had not been  
23 addressed in the course of examination, so please,  
24 Mr. Nobile, move on to another question.

25 MR. NOBILO: Very well, Mr. President. I certainly accept

1           that the cross-examination has to relate to the  
2           examination-in-chief, so we are going to conclude our  
3           questioning now and we are going to reserve the right to  
4           perhaps call this witness during our part of the trial.  
5           Thank you.

6           JUDGE JORDA: We will see about that in due time,  
7           Mr. Nobile.

8           MR. HAYMAN: I think my colleague's point, your Honour --

9           JUDGE JORDA: Mr. Hayman, go right ahead.

10          MR. HAYMAN: It might be efficient if Mr. Nobile has a couple  
11          of questions which are beyond the scope and perhaps the  
12          Prosecution would even agree to do that now, rather than  
13          have him come all the way back in our case. We simply  
14          raise that possibility. We do not wish to inconvenience  
15          the witness.

16          JUDGE JORDA: Yes, Mr. Hayman. To tell you the truth, the  
17          court would be quite reluctant to have the witness  
18          return in a few weeks or a few months time, I can tell  
19          you that right now. The court had decided on something  
20          quite clear-cut, that is to say the cross-examination  
21          had to be suited, adjusted to the examination-in-chief.  
22          Now this goes for you today, but the same will apply  
23          when you are making your case. I will say the same  
24          thing to the Prosecution. That is the rule, I do not  
25          know if we can call it a rule, in a very flexible

1 manner, I did not interrupt you, for instance, when  
2 Mr. Nobilo asked the question about the note that had  
3 been submitted to the investigators, I was waiting for  
4 an objection on the part of the Prosecution in fact,  
5 because there is going to be these questions and we have  
6 already dwelled on a sufficient number of painful  
7 matters.

8 Now let me see, do you want to ask some additional  
9 questions, redirect, react to the questions from the  
10 Defence, Mr. Harmon?

11 Re-examined by MR. HARMON

12 Q. Adnan, you mentioned in one of your answers to Mr. Nobilo  
13 that Dragan Papic hung a flag out of his house. What  
14 kind of a flag was that?

15 A. As far as I know, it is the flag of Croatia.

16 MR. HARMON: I have no further questions, Mr. President.

17 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you. Let me just -- fellow judges,  
18 Judge Riad? So we are going to proceed to a recess,  
19 that way the witness will also be able to rest a bit,  
20 and we are going to resume at 2.45 this afternoon.

21 (12.25 pm)

22 (Adjourned until 2.45 pm)

23

24

25

1 (2.45 pm)

2 JUDGE JORDA: The court is back in session. Please bring in  
3 the accused, Mr. Registrar.

4 (Accused brought in)

5 JUDGE JORDA: So we are going to resume. Adnan, did you  
6 have lunch, you have rested up a bit? How do you feel,  
7 do you feel okay? Good. We have just about done, but  
8 the judges would like to put some additional questions  
9 to you. I am going to immediately cede the floor to  
10 Judge Riad.

11 JUDGE RIAD: Good afternoon, Mr. Adnan. You have been sadly  
12 present in these very unhappy events where you lost your  
13 family. I believe your direct experience can help us  
14 visualise the global picture of your first-hand  
15 knowledge.

16 I would like to start with the beginning of your  
17 testimony. You mentioned that before the events, which  
18 was 15th April, the Croatian children did not attend  
19 school, and at another phase of your testimony, you  
20 mentioned that Croats like Papic and Milicevic left  
21 their homes and came back several days later. That was  
22 before the events happened? When the children did not  
23 come to school, everything was still quiet?

24 A. No, they took their families towards the dusk on April  
25 15th.

1 Q. But there was no shooting then or anything?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did the media announce that there would be shooting or  
4 anything, or they did it quietly?

5 A. Exactly, nobody knew anything.

6 Q. Except they seemed to have known, I mean otherwise they  
7 would not have left, there was some kind of agreement  
8 among them to leave?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Some kind of planning, let us say?

11 A. Yes, you could say that way. That is, among the Croats.

12 Q. Among the Croats. When we come to the killing phase,  
13 I want first to know, when your father was killed, was  
14 he -- did he have any weapon on him, was he fighting  
15 back?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Was your mother shot at or was she killed by accident  
18 and your sister, I think your sister Alisa, were they  
19 executed or just shot at because there was shooting  
20 everywhere?

21 A. It is impossible that they were shot accidentally, and  
22 if it is necessary, I can clarify further.

23 Q. I do not need that, I just want to know. So people were  
24 shot even without fighting or without carrying weapons,  
25 men as well as women, as well as children?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And without any discrimination, anybody would be shot?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You mentioned that there were walkie-talkies and there  
5 were radio transmitters, you heard orders given from  
6 soldiers to other soldiers to execute orders; you heard,  
7 for instance, that on the transmitter they were asking  
8 for explosives to lower Ahmici. Was there any attack to  
9 lower Ahmici; why did they need the explosives for lower  
10 Ahmici? Was there anybody attacking from lower Ahmici?  
11 Did they need to defend anything? What were the  
12 explosives for?

13 A. They asked for the explosives for the lower mosque in  
14 Ahmici. As I said before, they attacked us and we were  
15 unarmed, we completely did not expect any kind of  
16 attack. For instance the case of my own family, we were  
17 all at home asleep.

18 Q. You said there were 100 soldiers shooting towards upper  
19 Ahmici with machine-guns placed on a truck. Was there  
20 anybody shooting back? Were these 100 soldiers attacked  
21 to shoot back or what was it, was it a battle or were  
22 they shooting to destroy something?

23 A. I do not believe that there was any battle, any  
24 fighting.

25 Q. In all the events you saw, the man killed your parents,

1           and the other people you saw from where you were living,  
2           and the others you noticed, did you have the impression  
3           that there were unrelated groups, each group doing what  
4           he wants, or was it an organised team acting with  
5           co-ordination and according to hierarchy and orders? Do  
6           you understand me? Was it just something which lacked  
7           organisation, anarchy, you know, or a team, well  
8           organised, of soldiers?

9           A. From what I could see, my inference is that this was a  
10          very well planned and well organised operation.

11         Q. And orders would be obeyed and given from one to other?

12         A. Yes.

13         Q. Nobody would do what he likes?

14         A. No.

15         JUDGE RIAD: Thank you very much, Mr. Adnan.

16         JUDGE JORDA: Thank you, Judge Riad.

17                 Judge Shahabuddeen, will you also be putting  
18          questions to the witness?

19         JUDGE SHAHABUDEEN: Mr. Adnan Zec, I have two small  
20          questions for you, and they probably are not terribly  
21          important either. The first one is this: you went to  
22          school on the 15th April; where was that school?

23         A. In Vitez.

24         Q. The second question is this: after you were shot and you  
25          managed eventually to get up, you entered a building and



1           you remained there for some time. I think the building  
2           was at point 6 on the diagram. Could you refresh me by  
3           telling me how long you stayed in that building?

4           A. About seven days. Also that means I was outside for one  
5           day, and I was inside seven days, so eight days in total  
6           before I came out.

7           Q. My question is this: during that time, did you find  
8           anything to eat or to drink?

9           A. I had water, so I only drank water and I found a little  
10          bit of jam, like marmalade, and nothing else.

11          JUDGE SHAHABUDEEN: Thank you very much.

12          JUDGE JORDA: Thank you. Well, we are done, Adnan Zec. You  
13          have stood up very well indeed, this evoked a lot of  
14          suffering for you and the Tribunal would like to thank  
15          you again and wishes you the best in future, that you  
16          recover your peace of mind. I am not going to ask you  
17          what you are doing now because we do not want to  
18          identify you, but you are a young man and we do hope you  
19          will be making the most of your life in future.

20                 Mr. Registrar, perhaps we could lower the blinds so  
21          that the witness might leave the courtroom without being  
22          seen from the public gallery. We do want to enforce the  
23          protective measures as best we can.

24                                 (The witness withdrew)

25          JUDGE JORDA: Mr. Kehoe, you are going to be speaking on

1           behalf of the Prosecution. We are listening to you.

2           Proceed, please.

3           MR. KEHOE: Yes, Mr. President, thank you. Good afternoon,  
4           your Honours. The next witness is a woman by the name  
5           of Djula Dzidic. As with the other witness, the only  
6           protective measure that Ms Dzidic requests is a facial  
7           distortion, no body distortion, so she is not viewed on  
8           television. I have discussed this with Mr. Nobile prior  
9           to commencement of this afternoon's session.

10                    With regard to the evidence to be offered by  
11           Ms Dzidic, and I will say, your Honour, we will be quite  
12           brief with this witness, we will not go through  
13           repetition on this witness, she does offer us another  
14           view within several areas of Zume, which is part of  
15           Santici, where camouflage and black-clad soldiers were  
16           operating together in unison.

17                    In addition, she will offer us evidence on the  
18           direct killings by these soldiers of Ismail Ahmic, Mujo  
19           Ahmic and Fadil Pezer. She will then recount exactly  
20           what happened to her thereafter at the hands of other  
21           HVO soldiers, again dressed in camouflage, being moved  
22           to an HVO location near the Pican cafe and then the  
23           taking of her, along with approximately 50 other women  
24           and children, to the Dubravica school, walking in a  
25           column, taking them to Dubravica school.

1                   I will say this, Mr. President, consistent with  
2                   your instructions, we have photographs of her brothers  
3                   who were killed that day, never seen again, and with the  
4                   court's permission I will introduce those, because I do  
5                   not really think that she will make it through that.

6           JUDGE JORDA: She has agreed to being shown those  
7           photographs?

8           MR. KEHOE: Yes, Mr. President, but I will tell, consistent  
9           with Mr. President, your instructions, I will describe  
10           what the photographs are so she does not have to,  
11           because I think she will get very upset about that.

12          JUDGE JORDA: Fine. I think that is the right way to do  
13          it. Now we are going to proceed as we did this  
14          morning. I was grateful to Mr. Harmon for having gone  
15          ahead in that way, I think it is efficient and I think  
16          Mr. Harmon did ask any questions he had, so I do think it  
17          is a good idea to let the witness -- for witnesses to be  
18          allowed to express themselves freely and then you put  
19          the questions which you think are particularly relevant  
20          for the case of the Prosecution.

21                   Now Mr. Registrar, if you could have Ms. Dzidic  
22                   brought in, please.

23          MR. KEHOE: Mr. President, if I could also ask the Registrar  
24          to pull out Exhibit 120. We have two previously marked  
25          exhibits and then 120, please.

1 JUDGE JORDA: Fine, thank you.

2 (Witness entered court)

3 JUDGE JORDA: Can you hear me?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 JUDGE JORDA: Now you are going first of all to simply tell  
6 me your first and last name, since that can be  
7 disclosed, just your first and last name. Ms.?

8 THE WITNESS: Djula Dzidic.

9 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you. Now if you would please read out  
10 the solemn declaration. Please remain seated when you  
11 do so. We are listening to you.

12 MS. DJULA DZIDIC (sworn)

13 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you, madam. Now you have received  
14 protective measures, the Defence has gone along with  
15 that, the court has accepted it as well, so you can  
16 speak freely before the judges who, of course, are going  
17 to be giving you their full attention. There will be a  
18 few, short bit of questions relating to identification,  
19 then you will testify quite freely, in your own words,  
20 about the essential aspects. You do not need to be too  
21 lengthy, needless to say, and thereafter the counsel for  
22 the Prosecution will put the questions to you relevant  
23 to the case against General Blaskic. After that, the  
24 Defence will be putting questions to you and then  
25 thereafter the judges as well.

1                   If you do feel tired, do not be shy, simply let me  
2                   know and we will take the appropriate measures so you  
3                   have a chance to have a rest. There you are, counsel  
4                   for the Prosecution, proceed, please.

5   Examined by MR. KEHOE

6           Q. Djula, how old are you?

7           A. I am 38 now and I was 33 then, so I would 38 by the end  
8           of this year.

9           Q. Djula, on 16th April 1993, did you live in Zume with  
10           your parents and your brothers and your family?

11          A. Yes, I lived with my mother and my brothers.

12          Q. How long had your family lived in Zume?

13          A. 21 years.

14          Q. Where had they moved from?

15          A. We moved from the village of Pirici.

16          Q. Zume is a part of Santici, is that correct?

17          A. Yes.

18          Q. Was Zume a relatively new village being started in  
19           approximately 1970, 1971?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. Were there both Muslims and Croats living in Zume and  
22           Santici?

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. Djula, you and your family are Muslims, is that correct?

25          A. Yes.

1 Q. Let us turn our attention to 16th April 1993, Djula, and  
2 in your own words, tell the judges what happened to you  
3 and your family on 16th April.

4 A. I will start on that morning. We did not know  
5 anything. In the morning, it was about 5.15 on Friday,  
6 the first explosion we heard was coming from the  
7 neighbour's house, that is what woke us up. We got up  
8 and in the meantime, a lot of bullets were fired into  
9 the house, the windows and elsewhere, we could not get  
10 out. First my mother and I were there, my oldest  
11 brother lived in the summer kitchen with his wife and  
12 two children, so my mother came out first, then I did,  
13 so that we would not be there.

14 We crossed over to Mehmed Ahmic's house, and went  
15 into his basement and after about 15 minutes I happened  
16 to go upstairs and saw that our house was being  
17 torched. I saw two neighbours who were going down the  
18 road and they turned off and came to my house. They  
19 belonged to the HVO. One of them called me out and  
20 I came down. I heard the shooting meanwhile, and when  
21 I approached, there was a dead body there and next to  
22 the house, there were two other dead bodies. They were  
23 lying on their stomachs.

24 I asked where to go next. He first asked me who  
25 else was in the house, and I told him there was a woman

1 with two children and some elderly women and Mehmed  
2 Ahmic and his wife. I said, "where are we to go?", and  
3 he said, "to Vitez". So we started, we went along the  
4 road and we arrived at Pican's cafe. There Zilic came  
5 over, and he was in civilian clothes with a rifle, and  
6 we said, "where now?", and he said, "to Dedic's garage",  
7 and we were locked up there until 5.00.

8 Around 5.00, we went to Nesib Ahmic's house, but  
9 there was another family of Hrjnic, the whole family was  
10 brought there, husband, wife and two sons, and they  
11 brought him and his youngest brother and wife and they  
12 were locked up and we heard a shot and Mehmed Hrjnic,  
13 his other son was lying on the floor. Then we went to  
14 Nesib Ahmic's house. There we spent the whole night,  
15 nobody was guarding us.

16 In the morning, they took us to a shop, which was  
17 above Pican's house, and that day we spent there.

18 Sunday morning, we were taken to the camp.

19 Q. Let me ask you a few questions.

20 A. I would like to be asked questions, I would prefer to be  
21 asked some questions.

22 Q. Let me ask a few questions about what happened on the  
23 16th.

24 A. Please. Yes please.

25 MR. KEHOE: With the assistance of the Registrar, if I could

1 give the witness what has been previously marked as  
2 143A, which is a map, and there is a legend attached to  
3 that which is 143B. If I could ask the usher if we  
4 could put this on the ELMO?

5 Djula, you see the map that is before you with the  
6 circles, is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You assisted us in identifying the locations that are  
9 circled, the houses that are circled, is that not right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Your house is number 1, is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you said that your oldest brother lived with his  
14 family in the summer kitchen behind you.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Number 2 is Mehmed Ahmic's house?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You went to the second floor of Mehmed Ahmic's house,  
19 did you not?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. When you went to the second floor of Mehmed Ahmic's  
22 house, did you see any HVO soldiers?

23 A. Yes, they were holding Pezer -- Mujo Ahmic and -- yes,  
24 you could see everything.

25 Q. How many HVO soldiers did you see?



1 A. When I came downstairs, I saw a total of five. When  
2 they called me out, when I came over to my house, I saw  
3 a total of five of them. One was there when he was  
4 calling me out, because they spotted me upstairs.

5 Q. How were these soldiers dressed?

6 A. They were in camouflage and black camouflage uniforms.

7 Q. So these soldiers that were dressed in camouflage and  
8 black, did they seem to you to be working together?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Now when you were looking down at the second floor, you  
11 said that these soldiers had Ismail Ahmic, Mujo Ahmic  
12 and Fadil Pezer in custody, is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then you said that one of those HVO soldiers called you  
15 downstairs, is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. On your way downstairs, did you hear any gun shots?

18 A. Yes, while I was coming down the stairs, I heard shots  
19 and when I was coming out of the house of Mehmed Ahmic,  
20 I heard the shots.

21 Q. When you got back downstairs, where were Ismail Ahmic,  
22 Mujo Ahmic and Fadil Pezer?

23 A. Ismail Ahmic was in front of my house and Fadil Pezer  
24 and Mujo Ahmic were at the corner of my house, up from  
25 the staircase. They were lying down.

- 1 Q. Were they bleeding?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. They were lying in front of your house, which is marked
- 4 on the map as number 1, is that right?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Did they appear to you to be dead?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. These soldiers that you said were in camouflage and
- 9 black uniforms, did they have any coloured arm bands on
- 10 their epaulettes?
- 11 A. Yes, blue.
- 12 Q. Did they have any hand-held radios?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What type of radios did they have?
- 15 A. Black, it was black. Small like this (indicates) and
- 16 black.
- 17 Q. You also told the judges that you saw from Mehmed
- 18 Ahmic's house that your house was being set on fire, is
- 19 that right?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Tell the judges what you saw about how your house was
- 22 set on fire.
- 23 A. I saw them taking the gasoline and pouring it and then
- 24 setting it on fire. They had big canisters and they
- 25 started from the entrance door.

- 1 Q. Did you recognise any of these HVO soldiers?
- 2 A. No, they had socks on their faces, I could not.
- 3 Q. In addition to your house being set on fire, were other  
4 houses around your house also being set on fire?
- 5 A. Yes, they were all on fire.
- 6 Q. Did you see this group of soldiers moving from house to  
7 house to set them on fire?
- 8 A. Immediately when I was coming over to ask where to go  
9 next, they just moved straight on to the next house, and  
10 setting it afire, because they knew that the house was  
11 empty. The moment we came out of Mehmed Ahmic's house  
12 and were told to go to Vitez, that is what they did.
- 13 Q. Djula, let me turn your attention back to the house on  
14 the ELMO. You identified your house as number 1 and  
15 Mehmed Ahmic's house as number 2. Whose house is number  
16 3?
- 17 A. Ismail Ahmic's.
- 18 Q. He was one of the men that was murdered in front of your  
19 house?
- 20 A. Yes. Because they were going along the side of the  
21 road, and they brought them to our house, so the  
22 soldiers brought them over there so that my family would  
23 come out too.
- 24 Q. Number 4 on the map, whose house is that? Is that Fadil  
25 Pezer's house?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. He is another man that was murdered by HVO soldiers in  
3 front of number 1?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Number 5 is whose house?
- 6 A. Of Sefik Pezer.
- 7 Q. Sefik Pezer is the father of Fadil Pezer, is that right?
- 8 A. No, Ibro is his father, Ibro Pezer. Also he was  
9 killed.
- 10 Q. All these houses that you saw burning, as well as the  
11 men that you saw murdered in front of your house, were  
12 all the houses owned by Muslims and were all the men  
13 that you saw murdered Muslims?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You said that you were told by one of these soldiers to  
16 go towards Pican's cafe. Is that designated on the map  
17 as number 6?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Did you see any soldiers around Pican's cafe when you  
20 went down there?
- 21 A. They were in the cafe and one of them was outside, but  
22 he was wearing civilian clothes, this Zilo Zilic, and  
23 I asked him, "where shall we go?", because I thought he  
24 was a civilian, and he told us to go to the Dedic  
25 garage, but as we were going along the road, no, I did

1 not see anyone.

2 Q. As you were leaving the area from Ahmic Mehmed's house,  
3 who went with you from Mehmed Ahmic's house to the Pican  
4 cafe. Who went with you, without identifying; was it  
5 your family?

6 A. Members of my family, and Mehmed Ahmic and his wife and  
7 no one else.

8 Q. Were your two brothers with you?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What had happened to your two brothers?

11 A. I saw my brothers when they tried to get away to  
12 Pirici. They crossed the fence and I never saw them  
13 again.

14 Q. Continuing on, you were told when you got to Pican's  
15 cafe, you were told to then go to Mujo Dedic's garage,  
16 is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When you moved to Mujo Dedic's garage, which is  
19 designated on the map as number 7, is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you see more soldiers moving from house to house in  
22 that area?

23 A. No, I just saw these civilians as we were going towards  
24 the garage. We found this family in the garage  
25 already. I did not see anyone else, no.

1 Q. Did you see any soldiers around there at all?

2 A. No, only when we got out of the garage and that was 5.00  
3 in the evening. No.

4 Q. In the garage, the Hrnjic family went into the garage  
5 with you?

6 A. Yes, they came afterwards. We were there and they  
7 brought them three hours after us. They brought them  
8 subsequently, three hours after us, the army brought  
9 them or someone.

10 Q. What happened then, after they brought the Hrnjics?

11 A. They were putting people gradually into the garage, one  
12 by one, and then they were locking and unlocking the  
13 garage, so they brought his wife and his younger son and  
14 the husband and the older son remained. We heard  
15 shooting, you could see it too, because they shot them  
16 in the back with automatic rifles, because there was a  
17 big hole in the garage door. So we could see, but we do  
18 not know who they were, no. And they let us out of the  
19 garage already around 5.00, they locked the door.

20 Q. When the shooting was going on, were there soldiers  
21 outside?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did you see these soldiers?

24 A. I only saw two of them while they were lining these  
25 people up to shoot them. I heard them.

- 1 Q. How were they dressed?
- 2 A. They were dressed the same way, they wore the same  
3 uniforms, everything.
- 4 Q. What colour were these uniforms?
- 5 A. Camouflage uniforms.
- 6 Q. You said that you stayed in that garage for a period of  
7 time until about 5.00?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did you then go to Nesib Ahmic's house, which is  
10 designated on the map as number 8?
- 11 A. Yes, it was a weekend cottage, the downstairs part had  
12 been burned down, the upstairs not.
- 13 Q. What happened when you went into Nesib Ahmic's house?
- 14 A. We got into the cottage and we spent the night there,  
15 upstairs. We were on our own, no one guarded us, we  
16 could not go anywhere. But in the morning, at 7.30, on  
17 Saturday, being civilians, we were taken to the building  
18 where the shop was. Again, near Pican's cafe, we took  
19 the same road. This was Saturday morning already.
- 20 Q. On the morning of the 17th, Saturday morning, did  
21 someone come to Nesib Ahmic's house to talk to you, did  
22 a Bosnian Croat come to that house?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Who was that?
- 25 A. Yes, our neighbour Vrebac came, he was not armed or

1 anything, it was as if he wanted to help us. We said we  
2 wanted to go to Sivrino Selo and he said we could not  
3 and then he took us to another house.

4 Q. The Vrebac family lives in the four sided roof house  
5 that is on the map as number 9, is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And the Vrebac family are Croats, are they not?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When you asked Vrebac to go to Sivrino Selo, did he tell  
10 you why you could not go to Sivrino Selo?

11 A. No, we were not allowed to go because we would be killed  
12 by the HVO, by their people. It was not safe for us.  
13 They would not let us, so it was not safe to go  
14 anywhere.

15 Q. Djula, who told you that if you went to Sivrino Selo you  
16 would be killed by the HVO? Who told you that?

17 A. The man who brought us from that house, Vrebac, the one  
18 who took us to the shop. We asked him, we did not have  
19 anyone else to ask, so we asked him and he told us that.

20 Q. Then you went to a location that was marked on the map  
21 as number 10, is that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What happened at that location?

24 A. We got in there, we did not know that we will be  
25 spending the entire night there. In the meantime,



1 various groups arrived, so we were all brought there  
2 together, there were over 50 of us, women and children,  
3 young people, some young people up to the ages of 13 or  
4 14. Later on, they also brought in Ahmic Zenur, four  
5 young men altogether. There were there for half an  
6 hour, they rested up a bit and after that, a HVO soldier  
7 came and said they could go, as if they were supposed to  
8 collect dead bodies, but these people never came back,  
9 I never saw them again, so that is where we spent the  
10 entire night.

11 Anto Paptic guarded us that night, and in the  
12 morning the Croat women who lived nearby in the houses  
13 wanted to bring us something to help us, and finally we  
14 did not want anything. On Sunday morning at 7.30 again  
15 we were taken to the camp by Nikica, to the school.  
16 That is at the railway station, four kilometres away  
17 from us in Dubravica. All the women and children were  
18 all there.

19 Q. You said that men were taken out to dig trenches. Who  
20 took the men out to dig trenches?

21 A. Yes, when we were put into the different class rooms,  
22 women and children were in the class rooms, there were  
23 men who were brought in from Vitez and we actually found  
24 them there when we arrived. They were taken away to dig  
25 trenches. This happened on Sunday, so various incidents

1            occurred. They would come back late in the evening. It  
2            was simply terrible.

3            Q. Let me backtrack a second, I got ahead of myself. You  
4            said that --

5            A. Yes.

6            Q. You said that four men were taken out to pick up  
7            bodies. Did an HVO soldier take those men out to pick  
8            up bodies?

9            A. Yes.

10          Q. How was that soldier dressed, or soldiers dressed?

11          A. In camouflage uniform.

12          Q. Did you see if he had any insignias on his uniform?

13          A. I did not pay attention. Fear. No.

14          Q. While you were at the location number 10, the HVO  
15          headquarters in Santici, did you see UNPROFOR in the  
16          area?

17          A. This was in the afternoon, Saturday afternoon, around  
18          4.00 I think. They were coming and it was not that  
19          I was the only woman, there were many women, so this  
20          Ivica Vidovic, called Jevdjo, worked with them and we  
21          asked for help to be taken away but he would not let us  
22          come and talk to them at all, so I did not talk to them  
23          at all.

24          Q. Let me ask you a question about that. You said you  
25          wanted to talk to UNPROFOR. Who would not let you talk

1 to UNPROFOR?

2 A. Ivica Vidovic, Jevdjo, he would not let us talk to them,  
3 no.

4 Q. Was Jevdjo, Ivica Vidovic, was he a member of the HVO?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So neither you nor any other women or children, or  
7 anyone located at number 10, was permitted to talk to  
8 UNPROFOR, is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You said that you ultimately were taken to the school at  
11 Dubravica, is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How many people that were in this house were taken to  
14 the school at Dubravica?

15 A. Some children, some women, 50 of us altogether. But as  
16 far as the garage is concerned, there were 30 of them.

17 Q. So there were 30 in the garage and then there were 50  
18 brought down to the Dubravica school, is that right?

19 A. Yes, and afterwards more people were brought in, on  
20 Saturday more people were brought in.

21 Q. How did you get from the house in Santici to the  
22 Dubravica school?

23 A. On foot, along the road. A HVO soldier took us, Nikica  
24 Plavcic. He is the only one who went with us to  
25 Dubravica. We walked on foot all the way along the

1 road.

2 Q. Did you walk in a column down the road?

3 A. Column, in a column.

4 Q. So there were 50, approximately 50, mostly women and  
5 children, walking down the road with an HVO soldier  
6 guarding you, down to the Dubravica school, is that  
7 right?

8 A. Yes, just one.

9 Q. Ivica Plavcic was a member of the HVO?

10 A. Was.

11 Q. When you got to the Dubravica school, were there  
12 soldiers at the Dubravica school?

13 A. Yes, we found soldiers at the school and they took us  
14 over.

15 Q. Do you know what type of soldiers were at the Dubravica  
16 school?

17 A. No, we did not know them at all, we only knew Marinko,  
18 because he was responsible. This Plavcic Marinko, he  
19 was the only one who was responsible for us, but not for  
20 others.

21 Q. Did you see any members of the Vitezovi at the Dubravica  
22 school?

23 A. They all had insignia and black uniforms. Most of them  
24 had black uniforms, as far as we are concerned, I mean  
25 the prisoners.

1 Q. Did you learn that some of them were members of the  
2 Vitezovi?

3 A. I heard that, yes. That is some kind of special unit of  
4 theirs, but I could not tell, really.

5 Q. If I can, with the assistance of the usher, if we could  
6 place Exhibit 120 on the ELMO? This is a photograph  
7 that has previously been received in evidence,  
8 Mr. President.

9 Djula, I have shown you this photograph before, is  
10 that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Is your house in this photograph?

13 A. No, not A, the building in front of me, no.

14 Q. How about over to the right, the one marked C?

15 A. Yes, that is my house.

16 Q. That is your house?

17 A. My house.

18 Q. Okay. If we could then put 143A back on the ELMO.

19 Djula, you said that on the morning of the 16th,  
20 your two brothers Nedzad and Muharem left the house when  
21 the shooting started and you never saw them again. Did  
22 you learn that they had been seen at the location number  
23 11 on the map?

24 A. After we were exchanged by the Red Cross, I sought the  
25 truth and the only thing I was told was that they

1 arrived there alive and that is all I know, and that is  
2 the way it is until the present day. I also know  
3 because of their clothes. My younger brother had a  
4 sports suit and the other one just had -- my older  
5 brother had trousers and a shirt and they both had shoes  
6 and that is the only thing I remembered, nothing else  
7 until the present day.

8 Q. When you saw your brothers that morning, were they  
9 armed?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did they have uniforms on?

12 A. No, they were wearing civilian clothes.

13 Q. How old were your brothers on 16th April 1993?

14 A. I cannot remember exactly, I know that my older brother  
15 was born on 25th May 1965 and my youngest brother was  
16 born on 8th January 1972, but now this very moment  
17 I cannot think of it, so my younger brother was 21 then,  
18 I think, and the older one was about 30, not more than  
19 30. I mean in 1963, so in 1993 ...

20 Q. You said you never saw your brothers after 16th April  
21 1993. Did you or any family member recover their bodies  
22 after that date?

23 A. No, never. I investigated and I wanted to get their  
24 bodies, but no. We tried to identify them by their  
25 clothes, because we got a list of the dead bodies that

1           were found, and that is how I came to this conclusion,  
2           but no, we never found the bodies themselves, no.

3       MR. KEHOE: Mr. President, as discussed previously, the  
4           witness has given the Office of the Prosecutor two  
5           photographs, marked at this point as 144/1, which is her  
6           brother Nedzad, and 144/2, which is her brother  
7           Muharem. We would offer those into evidence.

8       JUDGE JORDA: No objection from the Defence with regard to  
9           introducing those to the case file?

10      MR. HAYMAN: Could we see them? (Handed). No objection,  
11           your Honour.

12      JUDGE JORDA: So we have introduced these as evidence.

13      MR. KEHOE: Lastly, Mr. President, the location that is marked  
14           number 11 was a house that was being built by a woman by  
15           the name of Senada, is that right?

16      A. Yes.

17      MR. KEHOE: Mr. President, we would offer into evidence 143A,  
18           which is the map, and 143B, which is the legend attached  
19           to it.

20      JUDGE JORDA: That is fine, so we will enter those into  
21           evidence. You have done, have you, counsel?

22      MR. KEHOE: Yes, Mr. President, I have no further questions.

23      JUDGE JORDA: Thank you. Madam, you are now going to be  
24           questioned, as the Office of the Prosecutor will no  
25           doubt have told you, by the counsel for

1           General Blaskic. It is Mr. Nobile who is going to be  
2           putting the questions to you. Please proceed, counsel.

3                           Cross-examined by MR. NOBILO

4           Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

5                           Miss Dzidic, as you have heard I am Anto Nobile,  
6           the attorney of General Blaskic, and Mr. Russell Hayman  
7           is also General Blaskic's attorney. On behalf of the  
8           Defence only one or two questions. Your brothers,  
9           Muharem and Nedzad, were they members of the TO or the  
10          BiH army?

11          A. My brothers, no. My brother worked and the other one,  
12          no. My older brother worked at the Impregnacija, at the  
13          railway station.

14          Q. Were they members of the TO or the BiH army?

15          A. No.

16          Q. When one of your brothers was getting dressed, did he  
17          take part of a military uniform, did he ask you for part  
18          of a military uniform?

19          A. No, he just asked for clothes. He asked for a vest, but  
20          not a military vest. I know what I am saying. This is  
21          a vest that I could wear or anybody could wear, you  
22          know?

23          Q. Did you tell the investigators from the Office of the  
24          Prosecutor that Nedzad asked you to give him his  
25          military vest?



1 A. No.

2 MR. NOBILO: Thank you, no further questions.

3 JUDGE JORDA: Additional questions from the Prosecution?

4 MR. KEHOE: No, Mr. President, no further questions.

5 JUDGE JORDA: So my dear colleagues, do you have questions?

6 JUDGE RIAD: Good afternoon, Ms. Djula Dzidic. I just

7 wanted to know, when you were in the school of

8 Dubravica, how long did you stay there?

9 A. From the 18th until the 22nd -- from the 18th until the  
10 1st of May and we were registered on the 22nd when the  
11 Red Cross came. The 18th in the morning until 1st May.  
12 We only got out on 1st May and the Red Cross came on  
13 22nd and they registered us all. They brought us food  
14 and they also made it possible for us to wash,  
15 et cetera.

16 Q. How was the treatment in this camp? Was it  
17 a concentration camp? What was it like exactly?

18 A. For us it was terrible, but these were classrooms. It  
19 is a school, you know, with classrooms, so there was a  
20 hallway too and we were staying in the classrooms, that  
21 is where we had beds also, they allowed us to have beds,  
22 and that is where we stayed. But the camp, no, it is  
23 like a school.

24 Q. Not like a prison?

25 A. It looked like a prison, but it is not a real prison,

1 not a real prison, because it is a school. We were not  
2 allowed to go anywhere.

3 Q. But why were you taken there in the first place? Why  
4 did they take you there?

5 A. Believe me, I have no idea. We were waiting for this  
6 exchange, because allegedly we were supposed to be  
7 exchanged and they did not have any place to put us. So  
8 their army was there and that is why we were there.  
9 They did not know what to do with us.

10 Q. Your house has been put on fire, you said that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you see who put it on fire? Were they soldiers or  
13 people from the area? Who was putting the houses on  
14 fire?

15 A. They were wearing military uniforms, naturally they were  
16 soldiers, but who they were, I could not recognise  
17 them. They were soldiers.

18 JUDGE RIAD: Thank you very much.

19 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you. Judge Shahabuddeen?

20 JUDGE SHAHABUDEEN: Miss Dzidic, you spoke about Pican's  
21 cafe and you told us about a man whose name I think was  
22 Zilo Dzidic, and you thought he was a civilian, do you  
23 remember that?

24 A. No, Zilic.

25 Q. I am at fault. Did you know Mr. Zilic before that day?

1 A. Yes, he is one of the locals, he also had a shop there,  
2 a butcher's shop, and he built a house there and that is  
3 where -- there was a bus stop where I caught my bus when  
4 I went to work to Travnik, I grew up there and I knew  
5 practically everyone. He was a neighbour, he was  
6 wearing civilian clothes, so I asked him to help us, but  
7 he held a gun in his hands. That was all.

8 Q. During the time you knew him, did he always wear  
9 civilian clothes?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were some of your neighbours also members of the HVO?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Tell me, your memory goes back to a time before the HVO  
14 was formed?

15 A. Practically all that started in 1992, from 1992, yes.

16 Q. And you also saw the development of the Vitezovi?

17 A. No, I did not know that that was their name, it was all  
18 the same to me.

19 Q. Was this the first time you saw the Vitezovi?

20 A. Yes, the conflict, yes.

21 JUDGE SHAHABUDEEN: Thank you.

22 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you, madam. Your testimony is now  
23 over. The Tribunal would like to thank you very much  
24 for coming to testify here from so far away and we do  
25 hope that you find peace of mind in future. Do not move

1 for the time being, we are going to see to the  
2 appropriate protective measures, so we are going to let  
3 the blinds down so that no one outside the courtroom can  
4 see your face. There you are, I think that now you may  
5 rise.

6 (The witness withdrew)

7 JUDGE JORDA: Now it is Ms Paterson. Good afternoon. You  
8 are going to introduce the next witness? I assume that  
9 we are keeping these protective measures up? It is a  
10 protected witness we are talking about, and I suppose  
11 you have talked to the Defence about it?

12 MS. PATERSON: Yes, Mr. President, this witness has requested  
13 the same protection as the previous two witnesses  
14 today. She just wants her face covered from the  
15 television cameras and she is willing to allow us to use  
16 her name. I informed Mr. Nobile of this before the court  
17 session this afternoon.

18 JUDGE JORDA: Fine. Before the witness comes into the room,  
19 could you briefly tell us what your expectations are in  
20 connection with the Prosecution's case against  
21 General Blaskic? What is the witness going to be  
22 testifying about? Who is the witness, first of all? Is  
23 it a gentleman, a lady?

24 MS. PATERSON: Yes, Mr. President, this witness's name is Azra  
25 Dedic. Her testimony in many ways will complement that

1 of the witness who has just finished. In fact, it was  
2 the garage which belonged to Ms. Dedic's family where  
3 the previous witness and Ms. Dedic were detained for a  
4 period of time on 16th April 1993. Ms. Dedic will  
5 describe what happened to her family and several of her  
6 close neighbours on that day. She will be able to  
7 describe sightings of a significant number of HVO  
8 soldiers in the area. She will unfortunately describe  
9 the death of her husband and son and several of her  
10 neighbours and she will describe some of the same  
11 incidents that followed that this witness has just  
12 talked about, I think she can give complementary  
13 testimony, I do not think it will really be repetitive.

14 As with the previous witness, I have a diagram  
15 I will show her. She brought some family photographs  
16 and the agreement I have with her concerning the  
17 photographs is I will ask her at the time if she wants  
18 to be shown the photographs. If she feels she is up to  
19 it, I will show them to her; if not, I am prepared to  
20 introduce them just as Mr. Kehoe did.

21 JUDGE JORDA: Fine, thank you very much. Now Mr. Registrar,  
22 we can have Ms. Azra Dedic come in. How long do you  
23 plan for her testimony to last, Ms Paterson?

24 MS. PATERSON: I think it will be approximately the same  
25 length as the previous witness, no longer.

1           Approximately an hour, no more than an hour and a half.

2                                   (Witness entered court)

3       JUDGE JORDA: Can you hear me, madam?

4       THE WITNESS: Yes.

5       JUDGE JORDA: Fine, thank you for having come. First please  
6           tell us your first and last names.

7       THE WITNESS: My name is Azra Dedic.

8       JUDGE JORDA: Fine, please remain seated and read the  
9           declaration which the person next to you is going to  
10          provide you with.

11                                   MS. AZRA DEDIC (sworn)

12       JUDGE JORDA: Thank you. Now Ms Paterson is going to put a  
13          few questions to you and then you are going to talk  
14          about the events you witnessed in your own words, in the  
15          manner you see fit. In all likelihood thereafter the  
16          counsel for the Prosecution will be putting some  
17          questions to you in connection with the case against  
18          General Blaskic. He has been accused and he has  
19          counsel, and counsel for the Defence, of course, will be  
20          putting questions to you as well.

21                   Now, we could have some preliminary questions and  
22          then we will listen to the narrative from Ms. Azra  
23          Dedic.

24                                   Examined by MS. PATERSON

25       Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

1                   Ms. Dedic, were you living in the village of  
2                   Santici in Bosnia-Herzegovina in April 1993?

3           A. Yes, I did.

4           Q. How long had you lived in that village?

5           A. 24 years.

6           Q. Would you tell the court who you were living with at  
7           your home in April 1993, what family members lived with  
8           you?

9           A. I lived with my husband and two sons that I had. Then  
10           the older son, when he got married, he moved to a new  
11           house and that is where he lived for seven months with  
12           his wife and small baby Ilma, who is six months old.

13          Q. Would you tell the court the names of your husband and  
14          your two sons?

15          A. My husband's name was Mustafa Dedic, the older son was  
16          Fariz Dedic and the youngest, Haris Dedic.

17          Q. Did your husband, was he known by a nickname or a  
18          shortened version of his first name?

19          A. His name was Mustafa, but they called him -- we all  
20          called him Mujo. Everybody called him that, all  
21          neighbours and everybody.

22          Q. Would you please tell the court the age of your two sons  
23          in April 1993?

24          A. My son Fariz was three days short of being 23, and the  
25          youngest son was -- they were six and a half years apart

1           so I would have to calculate, you see. So 23 and there  
2           is -- the younger one was not adult yet.

3           Q. Are you and the members of your family Muslims?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. In the months preceding April 1993, were either your  
6           husband or either of your sons in the Territorial  
7           Defence or in the army?

8           A. My son Fariz was in the Territorial Defence and my  
9           husband worked in the Sumarija in Vitez, so he had work  
10          duty.

11          Q. So in other words, instead of working for the TO or the  
12          military, your husband was required to go to his regular  
13          job every day, is that correct?

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. Ms. Dedic, I am going to ask you to tell the court what  
16          happened to you and your family on 16th April, but  
17          before you begin I would like to ask the usher to show  
18          you an exhibit which I believe has been premarked number  
19          145. This is an aerial photograph.

20                    Could you please show it to the witness and put it  
21          on the ELMO?

22          A. This is the main road leading to Vitez and Sarajevo. We  
23          lived, looking from Vitez, to the right-hand side and  
24          looking from Busovaca to the left-hand side, so our  
25          houses were on the right-hand side, looking from Vitez.



1 I will start from D, that is my sister's house, Semra  
2 Ribo. D is my son Fariz's house, and A is my house.

3 Q. Ms. Dedic, let me just interrupt for a moment. Your  
4 son's house, is that B or D?

5 A. B.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 A. And my house is A, and E is the garage in front of my  
8 house and C is Islam Ahmic's house, and D is Sefik  
9 Ahmic's house, that is the brother of Islam.

10 Q. Ms. Dedic, let me just interrupt again. Is D the house  
11 of your sister or the house of Sefik Ahmic?

12 A. D is my sister's. Number 2 is Sefik Ahmic's house. It  
13 is only now that I saw it properly, so I apologise.

14 Q. Okay, you may continue.

15 A. That morning, 16th April, because my husband had this  
16 work duty, like every day he went to catch the bus to go  
17 first to Rijeka, not directly to Vitez, and the bus was  
18 leaving 5.15, 5.30 and it had already started, he was  
19 halfway down the hallway, I was following him, and we  
20 heard the powerful explosion and he said, "Azra, it is  
21 over, wake up Haris and let us move over to Fariz's  
22 place". I went to the bedroom and I rose Haris and  
23 I told him we were all going to Fariz's place.

24 Q. Ms. Dedic, can I just interrupt for a moment. I know  
25 you are a little bit nervous. You are speaking very

1 fast; can you just slow down a little bit so the  
2 interpreters can get everything you are saying?

3 A. Yes, I will. As I was going, that is crossing from my  
4 house to my son's house, I lost the sight of my husband,  
5 and as I was crossed over, I saw Islam Ahmic on his  
6 balcony and he said, "where is Mustafa?", and I said,  
7 "he went into Fariz's house". He said, "they are  
8 shooting, I have been hit, go back into the house", and,  
9 of course, I went into the house, that is my son's  
10 house, and my son Haris followed me. When we were  
11 inside, my husband was peeking occasionally through the  
12 window, looking towards the main road.

13 At one point, he said, "there is a woman coming,  
14 I do not know who it is, Azra". At that moment, he was  
15 still peeking a little bit and he said, "they are  
16 shooting", and the shooting was coming from all sides  
17 and he told me and my little granddaughter and my  
18 daughter-in-law to go into a pit, it was like a  
19 staircase, and Hadisa Pezer arrived, she was a younger  
20 woman and my husband probably did not know her, and as  
21 she walked in, she said, "there is shooting everywhere,  
22 do not go out. I am coming from down below, from the  
23 Pezer's house. All our houses are on fire and all our  
24 men have been killed".

25 Then she went down into this little basement with

1 us, and the shooting continued from everywhere. She sat  
2 down by the door and Fariz said, "are they looking for  
3 weapons?", and she said, "they are". He had a pistol,  
4 he was a forester so he got it from his company. He  
5 showed it to her and she said, "whether you had it or  
6 not, they will shoot you".

7 At that point, somebody says, "who is at home?".  
8 My husband came out and I followed him. There was a  
9 dark young man in a camouflage uniform, no mask or  
10 anything. He had a gun in his hand and my husband, who  
11 was beside himself, said, "what is going on? What do  
12 you think you are doing?". He said, "what about what  
13 happened in Zenica?". He said, "I do not know, I am  
14 just doing my job".

15 At that moment, I had a good view from my sister's  
16 house, I could see a column of soldiers coming and they  
17 were already approaching. This same soldier, I had a  
18 good view, about 30 metres ahead of me, and as I was  
19 standing next to my husband, he looked under and he  
20 said, "madam, what is down there?"; I said, "garage".  
21 "Can you unlock it for me?"; "I would have to go over  
22 to my house because that is where the keys are"; "if you  
23 do not mind, go over there". I went over there and  
24 unlocked it while my husband was talking to this young  
25 man, I do not know what he was talking about.

1 Q. Please try and speak a little bit more slowly, I know  
2 you are nervous, but it is important the court hear your  
3 story and hear it correctly. Try and speak as slowly as  
4 you can. Thank you.

5 A. So I went and unlocked the garage, I came back over  
6 there, in front of my son's house and my son had already  
7 taken -- but as I was coming back from the garage,  
8 I crossed over into my house and I saw my son as he was  
9 taking the baby in the cradle to his wife and I stayed  
10 in the house. I was thinking a little bit about maybe  
11 they should have taken some clothes, I do not know what,  
12 it was 10 or 15 minutes past and I heard my son Haris's  
13 voice, "mum, mum, come out because they will kill you".  
14 Then I came out and there were other people coming to my  
15 yard.

16 I saw Mehmed and there were some others below the  
17 garage who were arriving, so I saw some people in the  
18 garage and I saw other people arriving, but I was the  
19 last one to go into the garage and I barely had room to  
20 fit in there. My husband stayed in front of the house,  
21 in front of my son's house. He was still talking to  
22 this young man. At that moment, as I was coming inside  
23 the garage, I already saw that there were a lot of  
24 soldiers in Islam's yard, and I saw them coming, even  
25 more of them.

1           Islam's children were there, Islam was there, near  
2           that pillar, and a soldier was walking around as if he  
3           was guarding us a little bit, but he was also putting us  
4           in this garage. As we all packed into this garage, this  
5           one soldier yelled over to the other one, "lock it up  
6           and if anybody comes out, shoot". So we stayed there  
7           locked in the garage. I do not know how much it could  
8           have been, one or five minutes, we heard bursts of  
9           fire. After that, a dead silence fell for about ten  
10          minutes, fifteen.

11          Then we heard a voice, and since I could not see,  
12          we could not see from this garage, we could only see  
13          straight out to the main road, Hrjnic, Meho Hrjnic was  
14          coming and Ado Hrjnic and behind them was his wife and  
15          his son Haris. We could see them as they were coming  
16          because we had a clear view from the garage on to the  
17          main road, and behind them, behind the four of them  
18          there were two soldiers. As they came halfway towards  
19          the house of my son, somebody must have said to Meho to  
20          stay there and he did. There was a soldier next to  
21          him.

22          The other soldier escorted Ado and Haris and  
23          Samija. When they came, the door was unlocked and they  
24          entered, Samija and Haris, and Ado stepped in -- Admir  
25          was his name, Ado was his nickname. The soldier behind

1           him told him, "hey, you, come back too", and he did go  
2           back to that road by the main road, because his father  
3           was still standing there, not quite on the road, but a  
4           step away from the road. It was just like a little --  
5           there was like -- turned a little bit towards Fariz's  
6           house. Ado also arrived there and stood next to his  
7           father and the two soldiers who were there, they shot  
8           him in, I do not know, the back or stomach, I do not  
9           know, and they fell down. They tried to go forward and  
10          then a minute later, their hair just sort of stood up.

11                 There was then some panic, some silence, there  
12          were about 30 of us in this garage, and this went on  
13          until about 3.35 or 4.00. We did not have watches, it  
14          was just women and children.

15                 Then down the same road, there were three  
16          neighbours of ours, I knew them well. One's name was  
17          Srebrenica, I do not know his first name. The other one  
18          was Draze, I know that one well, and Zoran maybe, a  
19          blond one. Whether they had uniforms or not, I really  
20          did not remember that, but they went -- were walking and  
21          they looked out, Meho and Ado are lying, they came in  
22          front of my house, where I lived, they drank some water,  
23          they stood there, maybe they had a bottle of something,  
24          I do not know, some kind of beverage, I do not know what  
25          it was, and we yelled from the garage, Djula Dzidic she

1           knew them a bit better, she was also with us, and we  
2           called them, called them, "Zoran, Zoran, open up" and  
3           they came over and unlocked us.

4           We all came out into the yard and some people  
5           drank some water. If they had anything in their bags,  
6           they also had something to eat, and I quickly went to  
7           the barn so that I could milk the cow because I had the  
8           granddaughter, so I want wanted to bring her some milk.  
9           We asked them, "where should we go, what should we  
10          do?". One of them crossed the yard and went into my  
11          other sister's house. He said, "you know, it is not  
12          safe here". The first floor was on fire and it burnt  
13          down, but the top floor remained intact and we were  
14          going to go there and he said, "it is not safe there,  
15          but Nesib Ahmic, he has a summer kitchen", so we moved  
16          over there, we went up --

17        MS. PATERSON: Ms. Dedic, let me stop you at this point in  
18          time. If it is all right with Mr. President, I would  
19          like to go back and ask some questions at this point.

20        JUDGE JORDA: Perhaps we could take a break now, everyone  
21          could rest up, the interpreters, the witness, unless you  
22          have a short question, otherwise we will have the recess  
23          now.

24        MS. PATERSON: No, Mr. President, I think this is a perfect  
25          time for a break.

1 JUDGE JORDA: Fine. We will resume then at 4.35.

2 (4.15 pm)

3 (A short break)

4 (4.35 pm)

5 JUDGE JORDA: The court is back in session. Bring in the  
6 accused, please.

7 (Accused brought in)

8 JUDGE JORDA: Ms Paterson?

9 MS. PATERSON: Ms. Dedic, at this point in time I am just  
10 going to ask you a few questions to clarify some parts  
11 of the story you just told the judges. You said when  
12 you came out of your house to go next door to your son  
13 Fariz's house, you had a short conversation with Islam  
14 Ahmic. Do you recall that?

15 A. He told me -- actually he and I were the only ones  
16 facing each other, and he kept saying, "where is Mujo?"  
17 -- "where is Mustafa?", I mean, and I said, "he got  
18 into the house, Harisa's house", and he was on a terrace  
19 and he said at that point, "Azra, get into the house  
20 quickly, you too, I have already been hit". I saw him  
21 from that terrace making this kind of sign (indicates)  
22 and then he left.

23 Q. So did you actually see Islam Ahmic shot and killed?

24 A. No, I did not see when he was hit. He just managed to  
25 tell me this when he was getting back into the house.



1 I was downstairs and he was on a terrace. I was already  
2 in front of my son's house, and he asked me, "where is  
3 Mujo?", and I said, "he got in here", and that is what  
4 he managed to tell me. He said, "I have been hit too,  
5 get into the house quickly", and he went into his house  
6 and I never saw him again.

7 Q. Were you informed later that Islam Ahmic in fact had  
8 been killed by that shot and died?

9 A. No, as we were getting out of the house again, when  
10 I was coming back to the garage when my son called me,  
11 when I was getting out of my house a minute or two  
12 later, Islam Ahmic was standing on the ground. He,  
13 Majda and both sons, Amil and Miza, they were standing  
14 out there and next to them, I saw a soldier standing  
15 next to them. I also went on to the garage and then his  
16 sons and his wife also came into the garage with us, and  
17 Islam remained standing there by that post. I saw him  
18 standing on his own feet.

19 Q. Okay. You also said that at some point in time when you  
20 had come out of your house, you saw a number of soldiers  
21 in the field nearby. Do you recall how many soldiers  
22 you saw in the field?

23 A. I do not know exactly. I was not counting them, but a  
24 line of them were standing up there, they were walking  
25 up to us and some of them had already reached Islam's

1 yard and they were doing something in the yard and one  
2 of them was standing and talking to my husband, my  
3 husband was still there and the man he was talking to  
4 was still there. How many of them were there, I do not  
5 know, but they were coming in and some of them had  
6 already arrived. I do not know exactly how many of them  
7 were there in the yard.

8 Q. When you saw the troops in the field, can you estimate?  
9 Was it as few, for example, as five, or as many as 50,  
10 or do you simply have no idea how many it was?

11 A. I do not know, most probably I saw some ten-odd people,  
12 because that is how much I could see in front of me,  
13 about ten or twenty, something like that. As many as  
14 I could see.

15 Q. Okay, I would like to direct your attention back to the  
16 enlarged aerial photo which is exhibit number 145. Do  
17 you see a number of Xs on that photo above the large  
18 circle? Do those Xs represent the place where you saw  
19 these soldiers in the field?

20 A. I saw them roughly there, yes, as they were coming --  
21 they were coming from that direction, yes, from up  
22 there. By my sister's house, and behind Islam's garage  
23 from that side. As they were approaching my house, at  
24 that point in time I saw Sefik's house on fire -- Sefik  
25 was Islam's brother -- so they were coming from that

1 side.

2 Q. Were you able to see whether or not these soldiers were  
3 wearing uniforms and if so, could you describe the  
4 uniforms?

5 A. Yes. They were wearing camouflage uniforms and black,  
6 most of them were black, and the men who wore them had  
7 stockings over their face and others did not have  
8 anything on their faces, and others had a lot of paint  
9 on their faces.

10 Q. Were the soldiers close enough to you that you could see  
11 whether or not they had any patches or emblems on their  
12 uniform?

13 A. Well no, perhaps I could see one or two HVO. They were  
14 HVO. As I would see them before, some of our neighbours  
15 wore them, so I could see some HVO patches. It seems to  
16 me it was yellow all around.

17 Q. At this time, I would ask Mr. Dubuisson to show the  
18 witness what is already in evidence, exhibit number  
19 100/2. Could you just put it on the ELMO, please? Is  
20 that the emblem that you saw those soldiers wearing and  
21 if not, could you describe what is different about it?

22 A. I do not know what the difference is. I know the HVO  
23 letters well and the chess board sign. How it was  
24 turned, I do not know, I am not very familiar with that  
25 and I never paid much attention to it, but at first

1           sight, this is what it looked like.

2           Q.   Okay, thank you.   Could I just have the aerial  
3           photograph put back on the ELMO?

4                       Ms. Dedic, you said that at some point in time  
5           some soldiers came to the house where you were with your  
6           husband and your sons and had a conversation with your  
7           husband.   Can you describe what that soldier was  
8           wearing, the one that had the conversation with your  
9           husband in front of your son's house?

10          A.   I could not see what these soldiers were wearing.   I was  
11          not really there, there were a lot of boards out there,  
12          a lot of wood, about ten cubic metres, so I could not  
13          see my house, my son's house properly.   I could only see  
14          the road, but from the wood, I could not see my son's  
15          house and I could not see what they were doing in front  
16          of my son's house.   I did not have a good view.

17          Q.   Ms. Dedic, perhaps you misunderstood what point in time  
18          I was talking about.   You said at some point in time you  
19          were in the house and soldiers came to the house and  
20          called your husband outside.   I believe you said you  
21          followed him out and he had the conversation with the  
22          soldier.   Do you remember what uniform the soldier was  
23          wearing at that point in time?

24          A.   That is what you are referring to.   I did not look very  
25          carefully and I could not see it, because as I was told

1 to unlock the door, I had to go to my own house to get  
2 the key and then go and unlock the door, so I did not  
3 look very carefully. I just saw them in passing, but  
4 I did not even look at those who were right in front of  
5 the house.

6 Q. Okay. You said that your husband and your son did  
7 possess some pistols and had the pistols in the house  
8 that day, is that correct?

9 A. My husband had a pistol for 20 years. It was privately  
10 owned and he had a licence, he bought it himself, and my  
11 son was a forestry worker and he had a pistol issued to  
12 him by the forest company he worked for. Also we had a  
13 burglary some time in the autumn, so my husband's pistol  
14 was stolen, but my son's pistol was still there. It was  
15 taken away from us, you know, how should I call this,  
16 this was the local community of the HVO, ours was taken  
17 and Islam's was taken, and then they gave it back in a  
18 day or two. I know these neighbours of ours who took it  
19 away from us and then they gave these pistols back to us  
20 in a day or two, but I cannot remember their names.

21 Also we had some kind of rifle, maybe you know  
22 about this case, you know, people would bring parts of  
23 rifles and then make rifles out of them. My younger son  
24 was fond of shooting, for example, at weddings when  
25 people were having a good time and the younger boy said,

1 "daddy, could I do a bit of shooting?", so he was  
2 shooting between the two houses and he hit a telephone  
3 wire. A man came from the road and he asked my husband,  
4 "who was shooting just now?" , and he said, "Haris".  
5 That rifle remained in our house that night and then  
6 these neighbours, these Croat neighbours of ours took it  
7 away from us afterwards, but now five years later,  
8 I cannot remember their names. I knew their names then,  
9 though, they were the sons of a man who lived pretty far  
10 away from us, about half a kilometre away from us and  
11 they never gave it back to us. It was a very plain  
12 rifle, we had assembled it ourselves. I do not know  
13 whether you know about the case of the military  
14 barracks, when it exploded.

15 Q. Ms. Dedic, you do not need to go into all the detail of  
16 the history of the rifle. I just need to establish, on  
17 that morning, 16th April, did your husband or son still  
18 have that rifle in the house? Yes or no, did they have  
19 that rifle in the house that morning?

20 A. No, I can corroborate that, no. These neighbours took  
21 it away from us. I do not know their names now, I knew  
22 them before, these two brothers, they were going from  
23 one house to another and taking things.

24 Q. That is fine. You said however that your son Haris did  
25 have a pistol. Did he give that pistol to the soldiers

1           when they came to the house?

2           A. Yes. As Hadisa came to our door, at that very moment he  
3           had the pistol in his hands, Hadisa Pezer, he said, "are  
4           they looking for arms?", and she said, "regardless of  
5           whether you give them the gun or not, regardless of  
6           whether you want it over to them or not, they are going  
7           to kill you, that is what my Fadil did too". I do not  
8           know what kind of gun Fadil had. It was some kind of a  
9           hobby, you know. A lot of people had pistols there. As  
10          far as I know, quite a few neighbours had pistols, but  
11          they had licences too, you can check on that.

12          Q. Okay. At any point in time on that day, 16th April, did  
13          you see your son or husband fire that pistol at any of  
14          the soldiers or men coming toward your house?

15          A. No, they did not even try. That is where we lived and  
16          it is in the middle of a field, you cannot really  
17          shoot. How can a father and a son start shooting these  
18          masses of people? They handed over the gun immediately  
19          to the first man who walked in and what they did with  
20          the pistol later I do not know, but they gave it to the  
21          first man who walked in.

22          Q. Okay. Then you said, I believe you said you had gone  
23          and unlocked the garage and going into the garage, you  
24          saw the soldiers leading your son Fariz away, is that  
25          correct?

1       A. Yes, Fariz, the older one is Fariz and the younger one  
2       is Haris. So the older one was married for a year and  
3       a half and he had a six month old baby. This soldier  
4       took him behind the garage, and he held a gun to his  
5       back and he took him to the house of Munib Ribo, my  
6       sister's house, and Munib had just arrived and his wife  
7       too and then I arrived to my son's house and my husband  
8       was there and the wife and the three little girls walked  
9       in to the garage. How much time did it take, 20 or 30  
10      minutes for all of us to be assembled there, all of us  
11      from these houses, but it was pretty fast.

12                When Munib arrived, then the same soldier went to  
13      Siljak Adem, this was my brother and he called him and  
14      said, "uncle, get out, these soldiers are looking for  
15      you and they are not going to do you any harm. You and  
16      Hatka and the children should come over to our garage.  
17      Father and Munib are already there in front of the  
18      garage, so come on", and he went on, he went to the  
19      house of Nesib Ahmic, this same soldier, so they went up  
20      there and they brought Nesib's wife to the garage and  
21      his daughter and his son Elvedin and Elvedin's wife,  
22      whereas Nesib was somewhere at work and the other son  
23      Dzevad.

24      Q. Let me interrupt you just a moment. Would it be correct  
25      to say that you learned that your son Fariz, after he



1           went around the garage, that he went basically from  
2           house to house of your neighbours and family and called  
3           the men out of those houses, is that essentially what  
4           happened?

5           A. Yes, yes. When we started talking in the garage, Hatka,  
6           my daughter-in-law, she came into the garage wounded.  
7           Fariz brought her there, but Hatka, as she was getting  
8           into my garage, she was wounded, and Adem Siljak, my  
9           brother, and my son were not allowed to go in front of  
10          Fariz's house, we did not see them after that, so they  
11          crossed this field and they went towards Islam's yard.  
12          These other soldiers from there were saying, "come here,  
13          the two of you", so they went there and we did not see  
14          them in front of my house any more, or in front of my  
15          son's house.

16          Q. Ms. Dedic, did you learn that your son Fariz was killed  
17          that day?

18          A. When we were locked up, we realised that they had been  
19          killed. We heard bursts of strong gunfire and then it  
20          became very silent. I always talk very fast. When the  
21          Hrjנים were getting into the garage and Haris, they  
22          kept saying, "all your houses are on fire and all your  
23          men are killed in front of Fariz's house". They saw it  
24          as they were coming in. They came into the garage  
25          perhaps ten minutes after us or five minutes after us.

1           They were brought into my yard later and that is when  
2           they told us, Samija and Haris Hrnjic, they said, "Munib  
3           is lying dead by the wood and your Mujo is lying beneath  
4           the walnut tree, lying on his back".

5           At 4.00, when we got out of the garage, these  
6           other women were turning around, but I did not turn  
7           around at that point in time, but I saw then immediately  
8           my husband's foot, he had slippers on his feet while he  
9           was in the house and I turned my head, I could not look,  
10          and at that point in time, around 4.00, as we were  
11          getting out of the house, I saw his foot, the foot of my  
12          dead husband, and I recognised the slippers because  
13          I know that when he walked into the house, he wore those  
14          slippers and he enjoyed wearing slippers when he was at  
15          home.

16        Q.   Okay, so would it be correct to say that both your son  
17           Fariz and your husband Mustafa were killed on 16th April  
18           1993, would that be correct?

19        A.   They were killed, exactly. I saw my husband's foot,  
20           I saw him dead that day, not after that. When these  
21           corpses were collected all over Ahmici, I do not know  
22           who was doing it, UNPROFOR, I am not too sure, my  
23           brother is Adem Siljak, his name was out there at the  
24           board, and my son Ahmic Amir -- I mean Islam's son, and  
25           since Islam's son survived, he was about 18 at that

1 time, then on that board, which was put up on the --  
2 this list which was put up on the board down there, they  
3 thought that it was my son Fariz actually. I cannot  
4 remember all of this now, I know it was about 30  
5 people.

6 This man who was recognising people in old Vitez,  
7 Islam was his boss at Impregnancia and he enjoyed  
8 wearing some yellow shoes and also a special jacket. He  
9 recognised Islam's jacket and shoes and then he said  
10 that that was Islam Ahmic, he put him on the list, he  
11 identified him as such, so he was found in Islam's yard,  
12 and everybody thought it was Amir Ahmic in the yard, but  
13 because he survived, he got out alive together with us,  
14 his mother, when she went to Stari Vitez after about a  
15 year, she took him away from this list of the deceased  
16 and he was also supposed to do his military service.

17 Q. So just to be sure that the court understands, is it  
18 your understanding that your son Fariz and that your  
19 husband are both buried in the Muslim cemetery in  
20 Stari Vitez?

21 JUDGE JORDA: I think the judges have understood that point,  
22 Ms. Paterson.

23 A. Yes, and the man who told us about it, to be very  
24 accurate, the man who was collecting the dead bodies, we  
25 asked, "what did Amir Ahmic wear at that time? What

1 kind of clothes?". He had a leather jacket and leather  
2 boots and we asked about his sweater. He said, "do not  
3 ask me about his sweater or about his head, but he had a  
4 denim jacket and leather boots", that is exactly what my  
5 son wore that morning.

6 MS. PATERSON: Thank you. You said you yourself saw Ado and  
7 Meho Hrnjic killed while you were in the garage. In  
8 addition to Ado and Meho, and your husband and son, how  
9 many other men were killed that morning in the area  
10 around your house and garage. You do not have to go  
11 into details about it, just how many men were killed and  
12 their names, if you can tell us.

13 A. I can, yes. Ado and Meho on the one side and my husband  
14 and Munib on the other side, they were about 20 metres  
15 away. Ado and Meho were killed a bit further up, right  
16 in front of the house, and Mujo, my Mustafa, and Munib  
17 Ribo, my brother-in-law, they were killed a bit lower,  
18 below the house, but to the other side of the wood, I do  
19 not know how to explain this to you, not right in front  
20 of the house, not right in the centre of the yard,  
21 because this wood was collected there.

22 Q. So do you know what total number of men were killed that  
23 morning? Was it nine men that were killed there in that  
24 area?

25 A. Let me count. Ahmic Ado and Meho two, Munib and Mustafa

1 four, Islam Ahmic and Elvedin Ahmic, and my son Fariz  
2 Dedic and Siljak Adem my brother. You do the counting.  
3 Two, four, six, eight. And the ninth was Sefik Ahmic,  
4 because he was killed down there about 100 or 200 metres  
5 away from them, in another part of the field.

6 Q. Okay, thank you. On 16th April, this same day, what  
7 happened to your house? Was your house damaged in any  
8 way and did you see it being damaged?

9 A. When we were locked up in the garage, all these people  
10 were killed, all the houses were on fire, but this house  
11 of mine, we call it the new house and the old house,  
12 I do not know how you are going to take this, my son's  
13 house was the new house and the old house was the one  
14 where I lived. I saw two soldiers coming up, they wore  
15 helmets and they had a litre or two in plastic jerry  
16 cans and they walked into my house. My house was not on  
17 fire yet. All the other houses were already burning, so  
18 they were there a minute or two or ten minutes and then  
19 they went back and the house started burning and they  
20 went to the main road, which was nearby, they went to  
21 the main road, Zenica/Vitez, the Zenica/Vitez main road.

22 Q. Okay, thank you. Now could you continue your story and  
23 tell the judges what happened after you said you left  
24 the garage and were taken to another house nearby.  
25 Continue with your story, please.

1       A. Well, yes, I can. We were in my garage until 4.00 and  
2       then this group moved to Nesib's weekend house, it was  
3       not a real house, the first floor was on fire and the  
4       top floor was not. Draze and Zoran Vrebac were there  
5       and that is where they stayed and that is where we spent  
6       the night, this group of us, all the way until the  
7       morning.

8               In the morning, since Andjelko, Ivan's son, was  
9       around there, and Mirko's son, I forget his name, we saw  
10      their wives going from house to house, they were  
11      parallel house, 10 to 20 metres apart, and Seka,  
12      Nevenka, I forget the others, women's names, "come over  
13      here", we yelled, and they came to this garage and when  
14      we saw who was there and what was going on, she said,  
15      "what shall we do, shall we go?". Those three men had  
16      told us not to budge from there, but they came over  
17      round the fence and they came over. Then Jozo arrived  
18      and Ivan and Andjelko, I think that is what his name  
19      was. They helped us cross the road, they were sort of  
20      protection of some kind.

21      JUDGE JORDA: Ms. Dedic, look towards the judges, please.

22               It is the judges who are going to be dealing with this  
23      case. There is no harm in you not being aware of that,  
24      these are events that did mark you, so we can understand  
25      that you can get caught up, but do continue and then

1           there will be just a few questions for you.

2           A. Very well, thank you. Then we went over there to this  
3           Crisis Staff there and we stayed there the second night,  
4           because it was already dark by then and other groups  
5           were arriving, from Zume and up the main road. So it  
6           was like a collection centre, it was not just us from  
7           our neighbourhood, there were even women from the  
8           neighbourhood where the cemetery was. There were  
9           weekend houses there and so there were a lot of refugees  
10          there, so their woman folk arrived, so from Krcevine and  
11          we all came to this crisis centre, I think we were about  
12          190 or something, and that is where we spent the second  
13          night.

14         MS. PATERSON: Ms. Dedic, let me just ask you a couple of  
15          brief questions to clarify this part of your story.  
16          After you were in the garage, you were taken to the  
17          house of Nesib Ahmic, is that correct?

18         A. Yes, from my garage to Nesib's garage, and then to the  
19          Crisis Staff in Zume.

20         Q. Okay. If I can direct your attention to the aerial  
21          photograph in front of you, can you just tell the judges  
22          which letter represents Nesib Ahmic's house? Would that  
23          be letter F?

24         A. I am going to turn a little bit so that I can follow the  
25          main road, it helps me. The garage is E and Nesib is

1 letter F.

2 Q. You also said that you were taken to the HVO Crisis  
3 Staff headquarters. What number is that on the  
4 diagram? Is that number 3?

5 A. Across the street and up, up, yes. Up around here  
6 (indicates) there is the house of Pican's and then  
7 another one and then Danica's and then under number 3,  
8 yes.

9 Q. How long did you stay at the Crisis Staff headquarters?  
10 How many days were you there?

11 A. We spent -- that be one whole day and night in this  
12 Crisis Staff headquarters, until about 8.00 or 9.00 in  
13 the morning, I do not know exactly what time.

14 Q. Where did you go when you left the Crisis Staff  
15 headquarters? Where were you taken after that?

16 A. We were taken in the direction to Dubravica, to the  
17 school building. It was an elementary school there and  
18 there we stayed 15 or 17 days. Over 15.

19 Q. Just before we go on to the Dubravica school, while you  
20 were still at the HVO headquarters, was there an  
21 incident when some soldiers came and tried to take away  
22 your younger son, Haris?

23 A. This was at the Crisis Staff headquarters in Zume on the  
24 second day. A soldier arrived, quite tall and dark, and  
25 he was saying, "the men who were collecting bodies



1           should come out". We did not know who was going -- then  
2           Zenur came out, Amir his brother and a man named Munib,  
3           I do not know his name. Then when they were going out,  
4           he pointed to my son, to another man and to somebody  
5           from Loncari, then he also pointed at Hasim and his wife  
6           objected to that and he told her to shut up. She  
7           stepped forward towards him and I said, "please do not,  
8           you killed my brother, son, neighbours everybody, spare  
9           him please". This soldier said, "you be silent and if  
10          you are not silent I will kill both you and him".

11                       Then my son was silent there and he sat down.

12          Then he again pointed at Hasim and took him away and  
13          those four men were never seen from that morning on.

14          Q. Can you just briefly describe to the court what this man  
15          looked like, what he was wearing, the man who took these  
16          four men away that day?

17          A. He had black clothes, outfit, it was -- I think they  
18          called them Jokers. He had a hat turned backwards and  
19          he also carried a weapon that was rare. I do not know  
20          about this Jokers, there was like -- he had like a stick  
21          and held it over our heads. We were at least 100 there  
22          in that room, because 30 came just from my garage, and  
23          then as the others joined the group, they were coming  
24          from Prijedor, there were even neighbours, there were  
25          some refugees, some women from those houses that were

1 over on the cemetery side and Krcevine.

2 Q. Okay, and you said that you spent 15 days at the  
3 Dubravica school. After that, were you eventually  
4 released from the school and left the area of Santici?

5 A. After 15 days, we went and we were then taking care of  
6 ourselves. My daughter-in-law, my grandchild, my  
7 younger son and I took a bus and then went out and for a  
8 while we were in Norway, in a camp, and then spent  
9 another three months with a friend and now we have our  
10 own place.

11 MS. PATERSON: Thank you, Ms. Dedic. I have no further  
12 questions, I would just like to introduce some  
13 photographs. Ms. Dedic, we discussed this, as you will  
14 recall, before and I said I would leave it up to you.  
15 Would you like me to show you these photographs or would  
16 you just like me to introduce them directly to the  
17 court. These are photographs of your husband, your son  
18 and some other friends and relatives.

19 A. I could take a look at it. That is the reason why  
20 I brought them, so that I would have it too. These were  
21 the pictures from my son's wedding and I wanted to have  
22 these pictures.

23 Q. Ms. Dedic, I know your inclination is to look at these  
24 and talk about your family members, but if you would  
25 please look at the photographs and just identify who the

1 people are in the photographs. If the court wants to  
2 ask you additional questions, they will do so.

3 A. Yes, I can. I would gladly do it.

4 JUDGE JORDA: Ms. Dedic, it is for you to decide whether you  
5 want to identify these pictures or not. If you care to,  
6 do go right ahead.

7 A. Very well, I will look at them.

8 JUDGE JORDA: Then just very briefly, if you could tell us  
9 who the family members on these pictures are. I think  
10 we all have the same document.

11 A. This is my husband, Mustafa, and this is my son Haris  
12 and this is my younger brother. That is it, it is  
13 over.

14 MS. PATERSON: Just for the record, this is Exhibit 146/1.  
15 The man on the right is your husband Mustafa and the man  
16 in the middle is your son Fariz, is that correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The next photograph, 146/2, could you just identify the  
19 men in that photograph?

20 A. This is Mujo Ahmic, the godfather of my daughter-in-law,  
21 and he was also killed and the man with the moustache,  
22 this is Adem Siljak, my brother.

23 Q. Just so the record is clear, the man in the photograph  
24 in the white jacket?

25 A. Mujo Ahmic.

1 Q. The man with the moustache is your brother, is that  
2 correct?

3 A. Yes, my brother Adem Siljak.

4 Q. Okay. Next photograph, 146/3, the man in the moustache,  
5 is that your brother again?

6 A. Yes, they were killed -- yes, this is again Mujo Ahmic,  
7 this is also from the wedding.

8 Q. And the man in that photograph who has his arm around  
9 your brother, that is your son Fariz, is that correct?

10 A. Yes, Fariz.

11 Q. Finally the last photograph, 146/4, the man in the  
12 centre of the photograph with the red collar, that is  
13 your son Fariz, is that correct?

14 A. And the one who is holding the two fingers, and you can  
15 see him up in the corner, that is Elvedin Ahmic and his  
16 name is also in Stari Vitez. He is Nesib Ahmic's son.

17 Q. So the man in the far right of the photograph, you can  
18 only see half his face, he is holding up his hand, he  
19 was also killed, is that correct?

20 A. Yes, he was killed.

21 MS. PATERSON: Thank you, Ms. Dedic.

22 Mr. President, I have no further questions at this  
23 time.

24 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you. Mr. Nobilo?

25 Cross-examined by MR. NOBILO

- 1 Q. Thank you, Mr. President. I will attempt to be quite  
2 short. Good evening, madam Dedic. You see we already  
3 have the evening upon us and I am the Defence counsel  
4 for General Blaskic, together with my colleague  
5 Mr. Russell Hayman. I only have a couple of questions  
6 for you. When Islam Ahmic your neighbour told you he  
7 was hit, were there any HVO soldiers around?
- 8 A. They were approaching like this (indicates). As I said  
9 before, I do not know the distance, 20 or 30 metres from  
10 the corner of his house and I do not know how else to --
- 11 Q. So at what distance were they?
- 12 A. 20, 30 metres, I really could not tell you, but they  
13 were spread out like this (indicates), so they were  
14 coming this way.
- 15 Q. Islam Ahmic, was he a member of the TO or the army?
- 16 A. I do not believe he was. He travelled with my husband,  
17 he worked in Impregnancia and he also was on work duty,  
18 he was a foreman.
- 19 Q. Did he have any weapons?
- 20 A. He had a pistol, private, just like my husband. Where  
21 he kept it that morning, I do not know, we never talked  
22 about it, but I know I can say this, that when my  
23 husband's pistol was taken away, his was taken away too  
24 and then was returned to him.
- 25 Q. Did he have a rifle?

- 1       A. I do not think so. He was laughing at our neighbours  
2           and our children. He was joking about this rifle that  
3           we had.
- 4       Q. Tell me, is it true that Nenad Santic guaranteed the  
5           safety to your husband and your family?
- 6       A. Yes, that is correct. Nenad Santic has a brother who  
7           was a great friend with my husband. He was a merchant  
8           in Vitez. They would meet often and they were friends,  
9           this brother of his, but I knew Nenad very little, I do  
10          not know him at all, but I know the brother quite well.
- 11      Q. If we can slow down a little bit for interpreters.
- 12      A. Very well, I just naturally speak very fast.
- 13      Q. What did you hear about Nenad Santic? Was he an  
14          important person in the village?
- 15      A. Yes, he was. He was often talked about. I heard  
16          stories from my neighbours, he was some kind of a  
17          commander and I would see him often as a neighbour. He  
18          lived down from us. We did not exchange visits but we  
19          were not hating each other either. But I knew his  
20          brother well. Him I knew much less.
- 21      Q. Very well. When the soldier arrived and talked to your  
22          husband and son and asked them, "did you watch  
23          television last night, that people were killed in Zenica  
24          and that is why the Muslims are being killed", do you  
25          remember that conversation?

1 A. No, I do not, because I did not have enough time. He  
2 stayed there, I only heard these words at the moment  
3 when I was passing my husband. I heard him say, when my  
4 husband said, "by God, people, what is this", this is  
5 what I heard of this dark young man, "well, this is for  
6 what had happened in Zenica", and what happened in  
7 Zenica; believe it or not, I was not following  
8 television programmes that much.

9 Q. Madam Dedic, I will read you a fragment of what you said  
10 in your statement. I will read it in English and you  
11 will get it in interpretation. This is on page 2 of the  
12 witness statement:

13 "My son was close there too. The soldiers said  
14 this is for what you saw on TV last night. Because you  
15 killed our people at the Zenica blockade, now we are  
16 killing your people."

17 Is that what you stated to the investigators when  
18 you spoke to them?

19 A. I do not know, this was five years ago and I gave a  
20 statement even in the court in Zenica, and if there are  
21 discrepancies, I do not know how we can correct that.

22 Q. You have a better memory now than five years ago?

23 A. I do not know what you are referring to.

24 Q. To this.

25 A. Oh, that. I do not know, I am not sure myself. It was

1 five years. I cannot recall every detail and every  
2 word.

3 Q. Very well, thank you. When you came to the garage, what  
4 time was it?

5 A. I could not tell you that, because when the shooting  
6 started, it was 5.15, 5.30, I was not looking at the  
7 watch. I do not know how much it took me to wake up my  
8 husband, maybe a minute or two, and then when I went to  
9 my son's house, I do not know, five or ten minutes,  
10 I cannot tell you.

11 Q. I am interested in something else now. You said that  
12 there was something in Slimane and then they got the  
13 rifles.

14 A. I can tell you this. It was a warehouse of the JNA.  
15 I was told that this existed there before and the word  
16 got around the village that this depot blew up or  
17 something and maybe two days later, people went over  
18 there in cars, we had vehicles there, let us go and see  
19 what is up there. They collected some barrels and then  
20 they were making, putting them together, makeshift  
21 rifles, I do not know. But I know that they were doing  
22 this in my back yard, specially my young son.

23 Q. Was that only your son or were there other people doing  
24 this?

25 A. I do not know, I know about my son. They got these



1 barrels, I do not know who he got it from. I do not  
2 know if it was somebody who went there in their car.  
3 I was not paying that much attention, but they were  
4 working on them.

5 Q. Did many people go in their cars to Slimane?

6 A. I do not know, I did not like to leave my house, my  
7 house is at the end of the commune and we are closer to  
8 Santici than to Ahmici, so I did not go much to upper  
9 Ahmici to people who lived around the mosque. I would  
10 only go there if there were something, some funeral or  
11 something.

12 Q. When your father shot at the telegraph pole, was there  
13 any damage?

14 A. No, it was telephone lines, a temporary makeshift  
15 line to my son's new house.

16 Q. Who took the pistol?

17 A. I really do not know who these people from the local  
18 commune in Santici were. I know them, I know their  
19 faces but not their names.

20 Q. Islam's son who was misidentified as your son who was  
21 killed, how was he rescued?

22 A. I do not know, but that morning he was standing next to  
23 his father, Islam was there, Mijda and Amir, Mirza, I do  
24 not know. Every woman in Ahmici has her own story and  
25 I know that they will all come and tell it.

1 Q. When you were leaving the garage, you said it was around  
2 4.00 in the afternoon. Can you tell me, was there any  
3 shooting going on around?

4 A. When we were in the garage, and indeed the whole time  
5 the next day, when we were being taken in the direction  
6 to this one location, the shooting was going on towards  
7 Sljivcica, Ahmici and as we were passing we were talking  
8 to each other, we were saying "they are shooting", and  
9 that was over up above.

10 Q. So there was shooting going on both when you were in the  
11 garage and when you left it?

12 A. While we were in the garage we could hear again coming  
13 from the upper ground, something like shells.

14 Q. When you came to the Crisis Staff headquarters, what you  
15 said to the Prosecutor was that other women arrived.  
16 What did you mean?

17 A. There were Muslim women, but there was also a neighbour  
18 called Ljube, Karlovca, I think. She came in, she asked  
19 if we needed anything. Gavrinica also arrived. I guess  
20 her husband's name was Gavro. Some other women also  
21 arrived and I really did not take anything from them,  
22 because I had a six month old and I had to take care of  
23 her.

24 Q. These were Croat women?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Was there any shooting going on around the Crisis Staff  
2 headquarters?

3 A. It was silent, it was already dark. I cannot tell you  
4 whether there was any shooting or not, but believe it or  
5 not, in this plight that I was in, I was not paying much  
6 attention to anything except for this small baby of six  
7 months.

8 MR. NOBILO: Very well, thank you very much madam.

9 Mr. President, I have completed.

10 JUDGE JORDA: Ms. Paterson?

11 MS. PATERSON: Yes, Mr. President, I have no further  
12 questions, I would just like to take this opportunity to  
13 move into evidence Exhibits 145 and 146, 145 being the  
14 photo enlargement and the accompanying legend and 146  
15 being the four photographs of Ms. Dedic's family  
16 members.

17 JUDGE JORDA: Fine, thank you. I have consulted my fellow  
18 judges, we deem to have heard sufficient information.  
19 Madam, we hope that your life is going to be happy in  
20 the future. Would you care to add something, madam?

21 A. I just wish to apologise to you, because I was under  
22 this face protection so I did not think that I had to  
23 pay that much attention to you, I did not have to look  
24 at you carefully, but I did not mean any offence. My  
25 only wish is -- that is what I wish to say, but I am a

1 fast speaker naturally and I was afraid I would be  
2 speaking too fast, but may I just say that I hope that  
3 the evil that happened in Ahmici will never happen again  
4 anywhere in the world and my only hope is that nobody  
5 experiences it any more.

6 JUDGE JORDA: Thank you very much. I think we all hope the  
7 same thing. Please do not move for the time being. The  
8 court is adjourned and will resume its proceedings  
9 tomorrow at 10.00.

10 (5.30 pm)

11 (Hearing adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

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