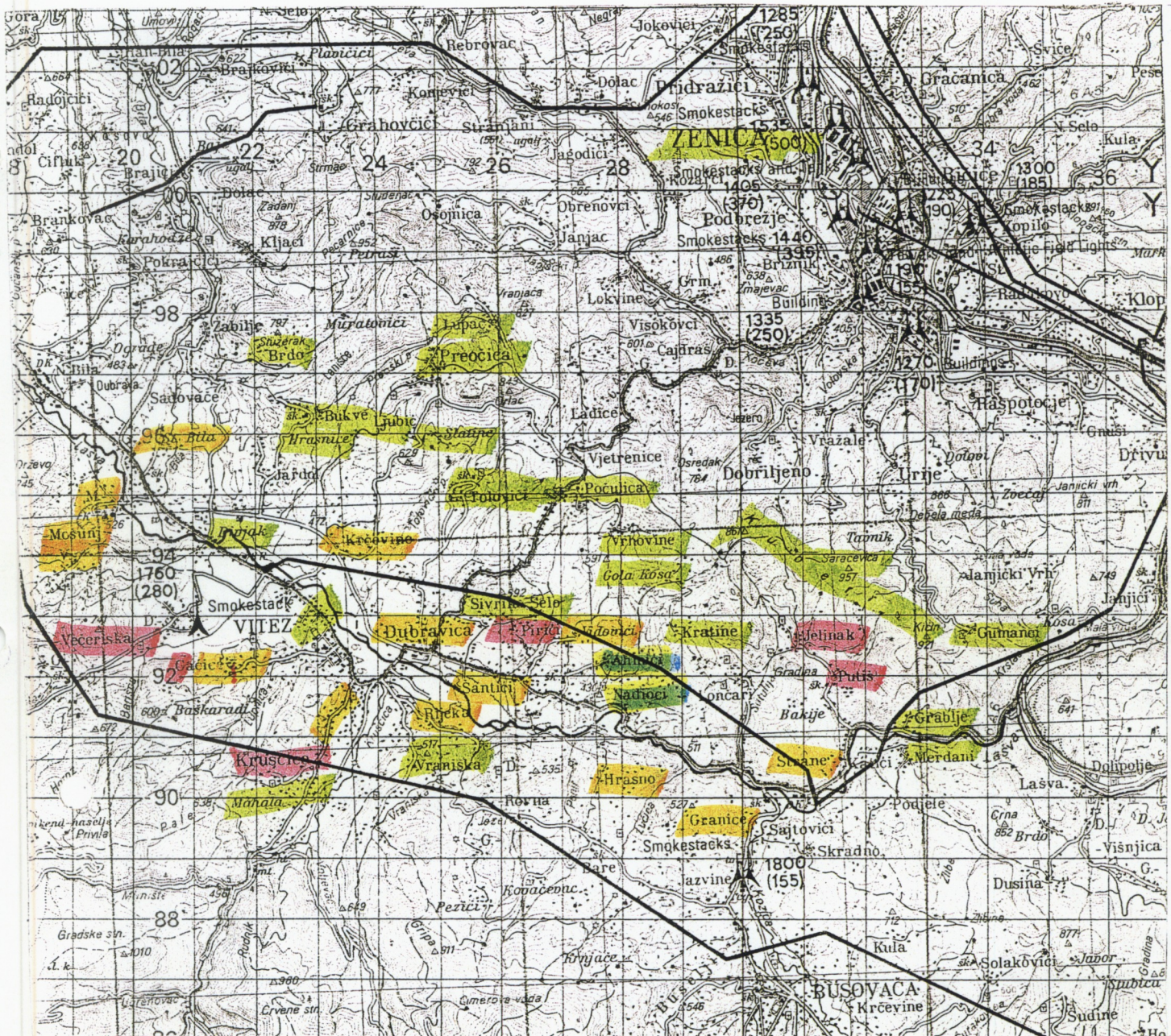


MAP MARKED BY COLONEL BLASKIC

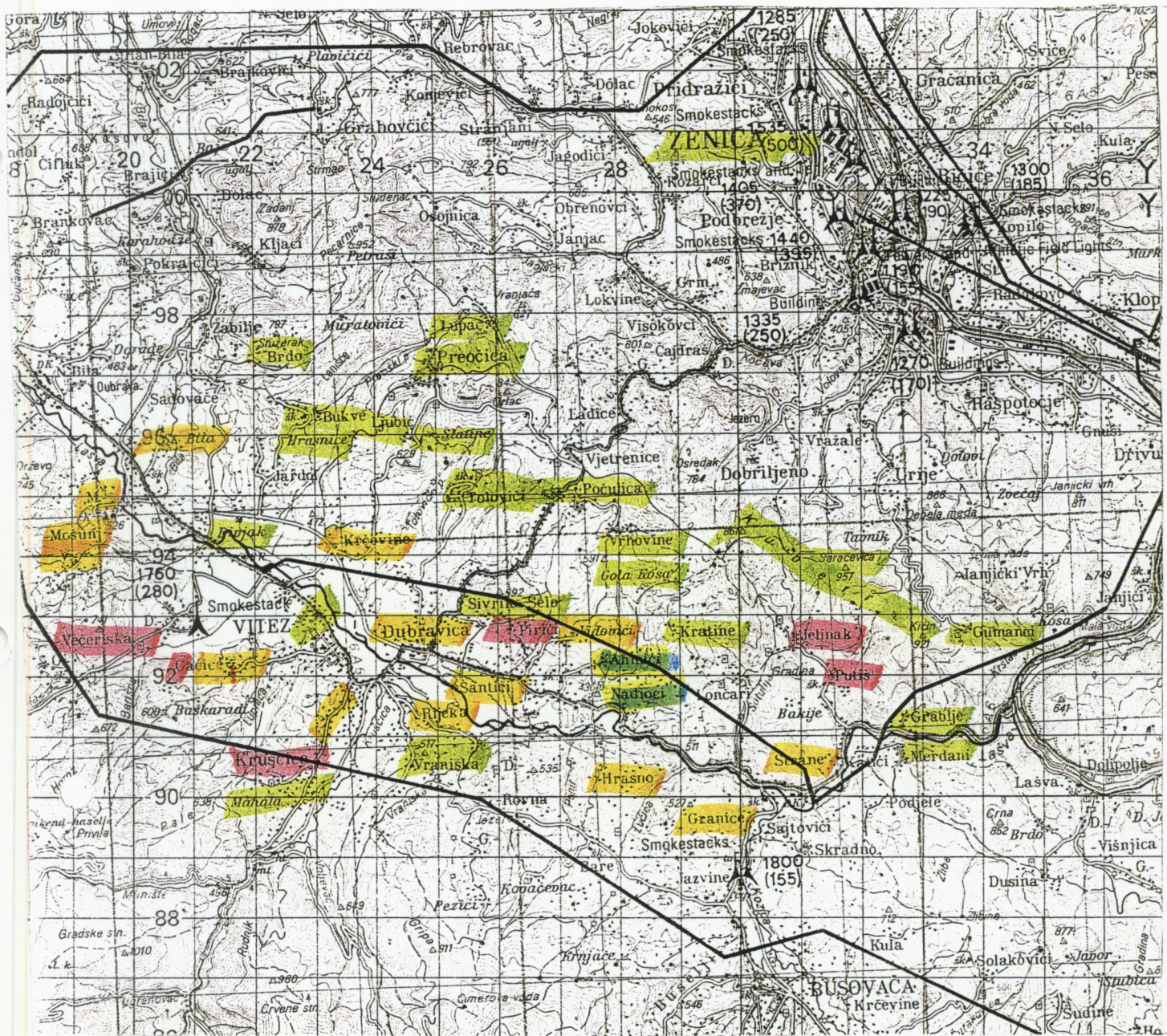
Key: Croat  
Muslim  
Mixed





MAP MARKED BY COLONEL BLASKIC

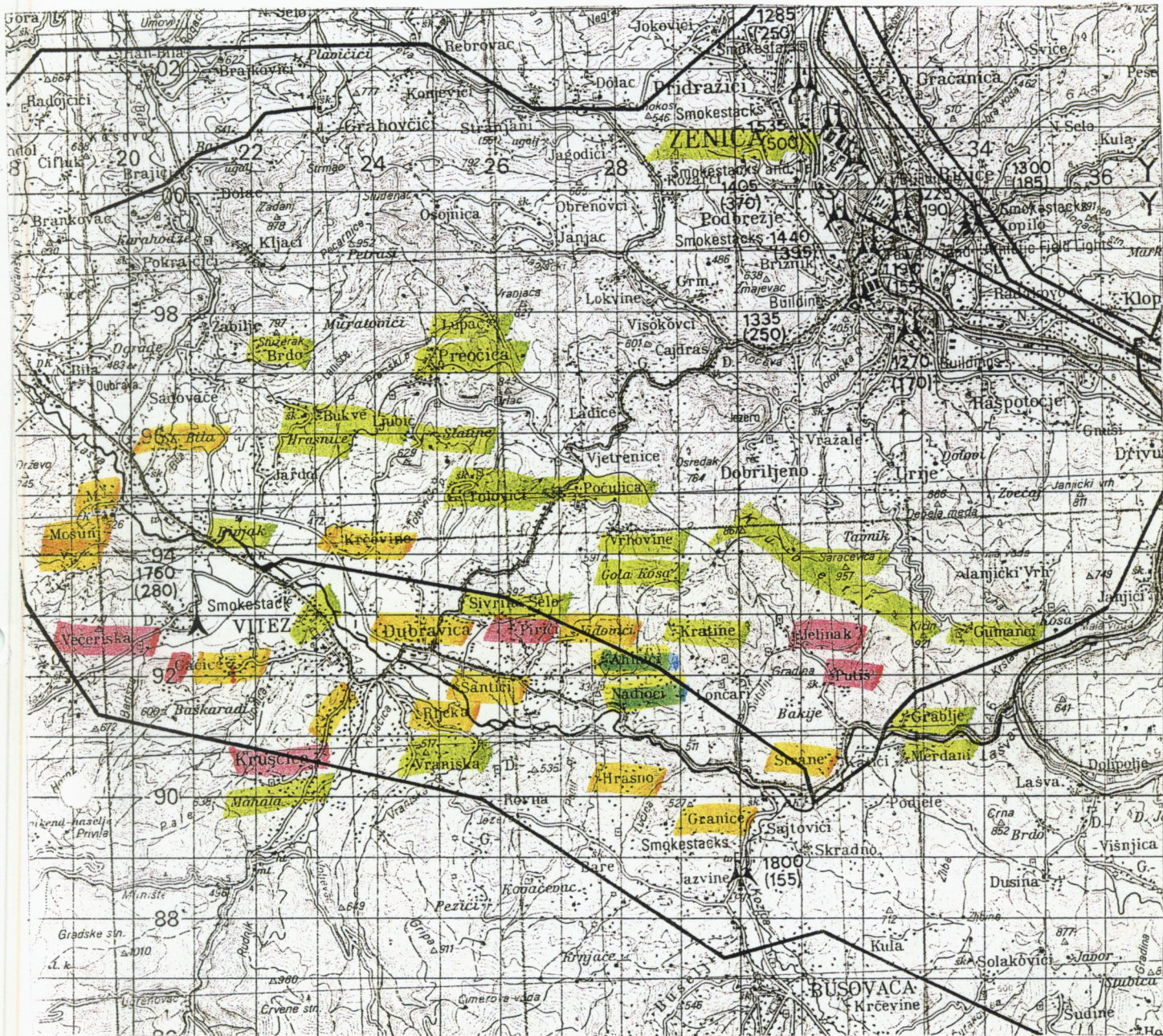
Key: Croat  
Muslim  
Mixed





MAP MARKED BY COLONEL BLASKIC

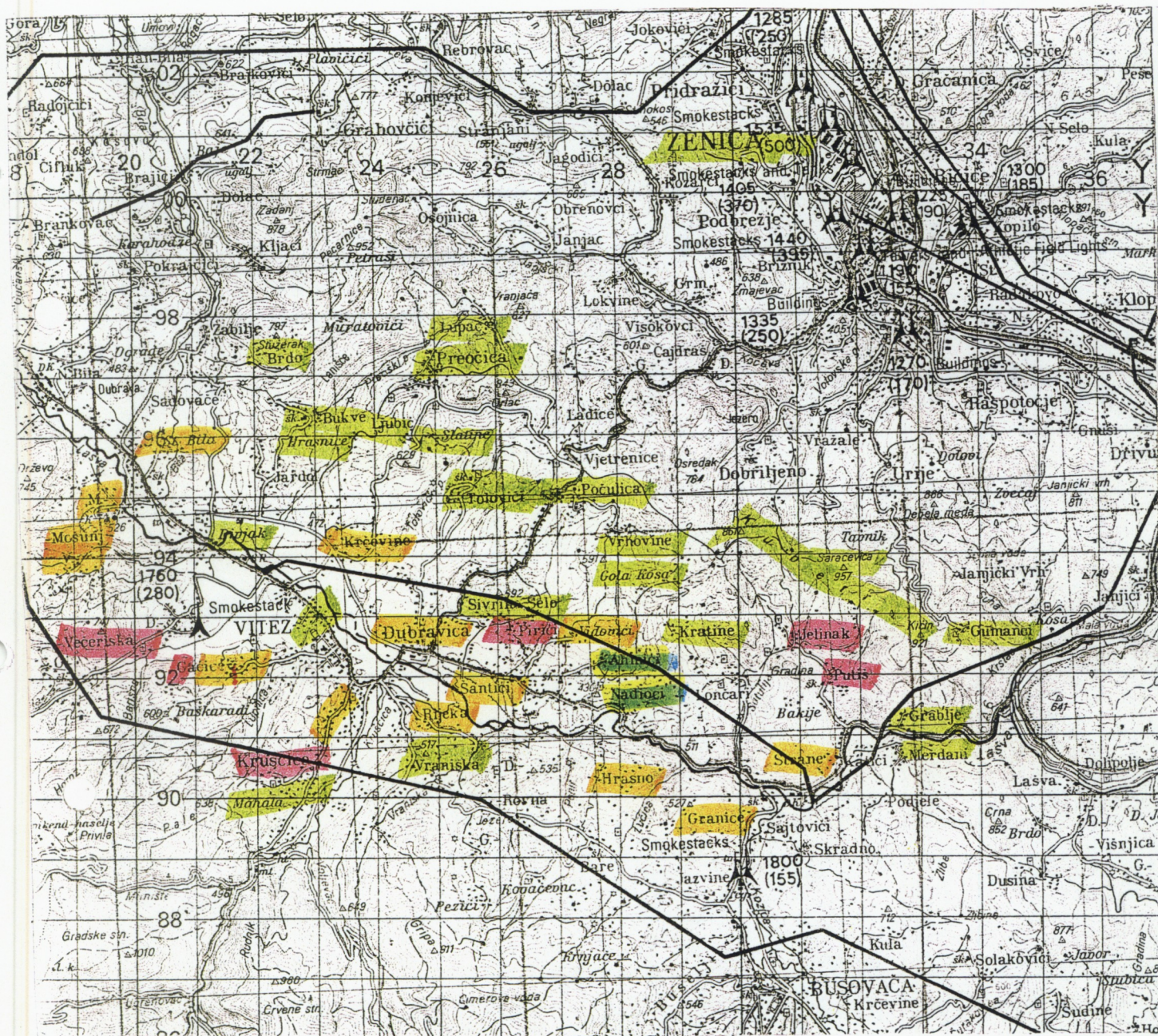
Key: **Croat**  
**Muslim**  
**Mixed**





MAP MARKED BY COLONEL BLASKIC

Key: **Croat**  
**Muslim**  
**Mixed**





15 May 1993

Charles McLeod MBE

**HQ ECMM  
HUMANITARIAN SECTION**

**REPORT ON INTER-ETHNIC VIOLENCE  
IN VITEZ, BUSOVACA AND ZENICA  
APRIL 1993**

**020179**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PAGE

1. Report on Events in Vitez and Zenica - April 1993
2. Note on Reports of Meetings

### ANNEXES

- A. 7 May 1993 - Meeting with the Mayor of Zenica  
Appendix 1 - Orders for the return of refugees to Zenica  
Appendix 2 - List of 13 leading Muslims from Vitez
- B. 7 May 1993 - Meeting with Fr Stepin of Zenica
- C. 7 May 1993 - Meeting with head of ICRC in Zenica
- D. 7 May 1993 - Meeting with Commander 3 Corps BiH
- E. 8 May 1993 - Meeting with Fr Bozo of Cajdras  
Appendix 1 - Letter to 3 Corps BiH Army
- F. 8 May 1993 - Meeting with the Mayor of Vitez  
Appendix 1 - Agreement on Muslim Government in Vitez  
Appendix 2 - Proposed joint statement from Mayor of Vitez  
Appendix 3 - Reply from Mayor of Zenica
- G. 8 May 1993 - Meeting with Commander OZ Vitez HVO  
Appendix 1 - Map marked by Colonel Blaskic
- H. 8 May 1993 - Meeting with Deputy Commander Kruscice Bde BiH
- I. 9 May 1993 - Meeting with Deputy Commander 3 Corps BiH  
Appendix 1 - Temporary Right of Residence Form
- J. 9 May 1993 - Meeting with Second in Command of BRITBAT
- K. 9 May 1993 - Meeting with Enver Hodza, Imam of Busovaca
- L. 9 May 1993 - Meeting with Chief of Police in Busovaca
- M. 10 May 1993 - Meeting with the Mayor of Zenica
- N. 10 May 1993 - Visit to the Centre for Human Rights in Zenica  
Appendix 1 - List of believed dead from Ahmici  
Appendix 2 - Table of statistics on Ahmici
- O. 10 May 1993 - Visit to Kaonik prison  
Appendix 1 - List of Muslim prisoners held at Kaonik prison
- P. 10 May 1993 - Meeting with Hasan Sadibasic, Vitez
- Q. 11 May 1993 - Meeting with Deputy Commander 3 Corps BiH  
Appendix 1 - List of prisoners released from Zenica
- R. Table of Events reported by ECMM and UN.
- S. FOLD OUT MAP OF THE AREA.

020180



## REPORT ON EVENTS IN VITEZ AND ZENICA - APRIL 1993

Following the events in Vitez and Zenica during the second half of April I went to the area to talk to leading members of the community on both sides. My aim was to find out what had happened and impress on both sides that whatever the excuses, this should not be allowed to happen again. My report is rather long, but the summary of my thoughts follows.

The Croats in Vitez launched a coordinated attack on 16 April against the Muslim villages around Vitez and on Old Vitez, the predominantly Muslim part of the town. At the same time they arrested thirteen leading members of the Muslim community, who were also leading members of the Vitez community. Two were shot dead during their arrest, two were released and the others are still in prison.

The most violent attack was on the village of Ahnici, where 90% of the Muslim houses were destroyed and over 100 civilians killed, many by being burnt in their homes. At the same time the Croats attempted to move the Croat population out of Zenica and the surrounding villages, in order to justify the expulsion of the Muslim population from Vitez. Many Croats did leave their houses as a result of propaganda they heard from Vitez.

Most of the Croat population has returned to their houses in Zenica municipality. There was some destruction of property, but the authorities are working to provide greater security and confidence. The Muslim population in Vitez municipality are now concentrated in Old Vitez, which resembles a minute version of the Warsaw ghetto, and Kruscica, a village to the South of Vitez that is equally cut off. The same is true of Busovaca.

The Muslim reaction from Zenica was to attack the key road junctions East of Vitez and North of Busovaca, effectively cutting off those two towns. The Muslim forces were only prevented from achieving this by accepting the intervention of the ECMM and UNPROFOR who brokered a ceasefire.

The Croats have effectively established a totalitarian regime, having removed any political opposition and established their own combined political/military structure. They are using extreme methods of terror and genocide to remove the Muslim population, and were only prevented from total success by their miscalculation of the Muslim military reaction.

The Croats in Vitez and Busovaca openly state that their aim now is to secure an UNPROFOR buffer between Vitez and the Muslims in Zenica, after which they will evict the Muslim population, and finally adopt the fully democratic principles of the Vance Owen Plan within the ethnically pure region that they have been given.

Events throughout the rest of Central Bosnia-Herzegovina, and latterly in Mostar, appear to follow the same pattern that emerged in the Vitez area. It is hard to believe that in each case the events are the acts of isolated extremists or agents provocateur working for the Serbs.



## NOTE ON REPORTS OF MEETINGS

I have reported in detail what was said during meetings with a selection of the main political, military and civil leaders in Vitez, Busovaca and Zenica. This is because the reader can gain a vivid impression of the events through these descriptions, and because what was said, and in many cases not said, gives a clear understanding of why the events took place.

During meetings I took detailed written notes, and used a photocopied map of the area and coloured highlight pens to encourage people to describe where and how events took place.

The notes that I took are almost entirely reproduced in the following Annexes, with a few minor corrections to language. For this reason the text moves from the first to third person depending on how the interpreter was speaking.

There are gaps in the notes, particularly at the beginning and end of meetings, and while I was delivering political messages. In some cases I have filled in the gaps as comment.



7 May 1993

**MEETING WITH BESIM SPAHIC, MAYOR OF ZENICA**

Present: Mayor of Zenica  
Chairman of Civil Defence  
Press Officer  
Translator

Comment: following an introduction and explanation of why I was there I invited Mr Spahic to tell me what had happened from his point of view.

The problems started on 16 April.

Belgrade and Zagreb have the same aims, to conquer Bosnia-Hercegovina. Zagreb failed in it's first attempt and so has now adopted the same methods as the Serbs. The only way out is to fight for an independent Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The HVO wants to prove that the lifting of the embargo is unnecessary. They want to ruin Bosnia-Hercegovina because as a mixed country it has a unique goal to provide a democratic basis. We can see the HVO positions in Zenica to see what their intentions were.

The HVO blocked part of Zenica. The blockade continued even after the meeting with the HVO to unlock the town. Therefore the problem causing the conflict was the wish of the BiH to protect civilians in Vitez and the HVO tried to prevent BiH from doing it.

BiH was unable not to react. The most severe conflict was in the area round Pridrazici because the HVO considered North West Zenica as part of Vitez municipality. 16 people were killed, but not in a massacre.

After the outbreak of hostilities the War Presidency ordered BiH, HVO, HDZ and the church leaders to go to the spot and try to provide for the protection of civilians who were there as well as the preconditions for getting civilians back to their houses. There are written orders from the War Presidency. Appendix 1.

About 2,000 Croats were moved from their houses in South West Zenica, on orders of the HVO, to Grahovcici. The order for the movement of civilians was one of the methods used to justify the massacre in Vitez because they should have shown that Croats were in danger and forced to leave. Sakic, president of HDZ in Zenica, requested ECMM and UNPROFOR, the day before, to move the Croats out of Zenica. This request was rejected.

On the same day after the conflict we commenced bringing civilians back. This was performed by military and civilian forces with representatives of the Catholic church. A number of people robbed Croat houses. Investigations are under way and arrests of ordinary thieves will take place.



That day and the next we did the job which for the first time we organised the move of civilians back to their houses despite HVO preventing them to come back.

The great number of problems are present due to the strong emotions because of events in Vitez and several hundred refugees and stories, and because of criminal individuals.

Dobriljeno and Tavnik are villages where Croats have not come back. Seven houses have been set on fire. Today we met them and agreed to form a police station with local inhabitants. They promised to go back to the village today but civil defence will provide the means for their return tomorrow. This is virtually the only village that did not come back to their houses, so it is very difficult to preserve the houses.

In Ladic and Vjetrenice some Croat houses were burnt because this is next to Vitez municipality and before this we had great problems with the HVO. HVO from the village often blocked the road.

But in all the crisis areas we have formed temporary areas of civil defence, the authorities had been banished by the HVO. Local people and the local priests work intensively to solve the complex problems.

The headquarters of the civil defence has contacts with Miss Green of UNHCR in order to get back about 2,000 civilians. In Nova Bila the Croats want to come back but are prevented by the HVO. Miss Green has solved the organisational problems and maybe tomorrow they will send transport to get them back.

40 Croat houses and 1 Muslim house have been destroyed during and after the conflict in Zenica. 16 people were killed during the fighting. 16 people were killed by HVO shelling in central Zenica. 24 Muslims were buried by civil defence from Busovaca and Vitez. UNPROFOR and BiH brought them to Zenica because no one in Busovaca could do it.

The aim is to prevent further movement by force from Vitez because with the people in Zenica it creates dreadful emotions which do not help to solve the problems.

We make no difference of ethnic origins. The president of HVO has been given the opportunity to take part in the cabinet as the vice mayor/president. Neither the president of the HVO nor HDZ have been arrested. Sakic asked the mayor to arrest him, but his property is defended. Sakic has visited all areas of conflict with the mayor.

HVO soldiers refused to obey commands and refused to shoot their neighbours and soldiers of BiH and asked to surrender their weapons to end the conflict.

At the same time as the conflict started the commander of the HVO in the area to the East of Zenica came to the town hall and said that he was at the disposal of the BiH, so there was no shooting. Zenica has not taken revenge, but wants normal living conditions.

Only some individuals were arrested. But it happened for the first time that on the orders of the War Presidency the task was given to the



police and civil defence to provide protection of territory from which Croats left, to protect property and immediately to get them back to their houses.

In Grahovcici there are about 100 HVO hardliners from Hercegovina who are possibly responsible for action in the past days. Therefore we need to open the road.

The primary question is reopening of communications from ports to Zenica. A UNHCR convoy was stopped at Zitomislic on 6 April. Therefore pressure must be put on Tudman to do this.

HDZ left power in Zenica because they wanted to destroy civilian power in order to justify the fact that Muslims in so called Bosnia were out of power. But despite our invitation to come and participate they did not on orders of HDZ.

We offered the HVO to be financed in the same way as BiH. We have found that a proportion of the goods intended for this municipality were stolen on the way here.

It costs DM5 to the HVO to travel on roads in Herceg Bosna and a truck costs DM500. They did not want to be financed on the same lines as BiH because they do not get as much cash.

Comment: Mr Spahic gave me a list of 13 men who were missing from Vitez, and asked me to find out where they were. The list is at Appendix 2. It is clear from the descriptions of their functions that they represent the opposition to the HVO/HDZ in Vitez. I spoke to some of them in Kaonik prison, Annex O, and to one who had been released, Annex P. BiH in Kruscica and Zenica confirmed that two of them had been shot, Annexes H and I.



**ORDERS FOR THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO ZENICA**

In accordance with article 1 of the decree on establishment of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Zenica ("Official Gazette of Zenica Municipality" No 4/92) at the session held on April 17th 1993, the War Presidency made the following

**CONCLUSIONS**

**I**

To establish joint check points and joint patrols with civil police, BiH Army and HVO representatives.

**II**

To remove all the barricades in the town and to provide free movement.

**III**

Civil police authorities have to do their best to investigate the crimes committed within the last three days, to find out who did these crimes and to enable Mr Totic Zivno to be released as soon as possible.

**IV**

Civil police authorities, BiH Army military police and HVO military police are to provide security to all the citizens of Zenica Municipality.

**V**

To provide free access to the hospital, free movement for ambulance vehicles at all check points and security of the hospital to be taken over by a mixed civil police.

**VI**

The commanders of military units are to give orders for ceasefire in the area of the Municipality, to stop digging trenches and to fill the trenches made in the last few days.

**VII**

Joint Commission made of representatives of Municipal Civil Defence HQ, HVO and ECMM to go to the village Dobriljeno and if necessary separate sides in conflict and stop conflict if any.

Zenica, April 17th 1993

**PRESIDENT  
WAR PRESIDENCY  
Besim Spahic**



In accordance with article 1 of the decree on establishment of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Zenica ("Official Gazette of Zenica Municipality" No 4/92) at the session held on April 18th 1993, the War Presidency made the following

## CONCLUSIONS

### I

The respective headquarters are requested to immediately give orders for unconditional ceasefire. All units are to be withdrawn into barracks and headquarters respectively.

### II

Civil police and Civil Defence are obliged to provide security for people and their property in the areas of conflict. It is necessary to provide conditions for all those who left their homes to be able to return to their houses or flats. Residents committees are obliged to organise their own duty (without having weapons) in the apartment houses.

Zenica, April 18th 1993

PRESIDENT  
WAR PRESIDENCY  
Besim Spahic



- In accordance with article 1 of the decree on establishment of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Zenica ("Official Gazette of Zenica Municipality" No 4/92) at the session held on April 26 1993, in regard to the organised return of refugees to the area of Zenica Municipality, the War Presidency made the following

#### DECREE

##### I

The Municipal Civil Defence HQ is hereby obliged to take all necessary measures in order to prepare and organise the return of refugees from Grahovcici to Zenica. The Municipal Civil Defence HQ is also obliged to provide return of refugees from Vardiste to Bilivode.

##### II

The Municipal Civil Defence is ordered to provide necessary assistance and conditions for normal life to all the refugees returning to their homes.

##### III

This decree comes in to force immediately.

Zenica, April 26th 1993

PRESIDENT  
WAR PRESIDENCY  
Besim Spahic

Na osnovu člana 1. Odluke o obrazovanju Ratnog predsjedništva  
Kriznog štaba opštine Zenica ("Službene novine opštine Zenica", broj 4/92), Rat-  
no predsjedništvo na sjednici održanoj 17. aprila 1993. godine, donijelo je sljedeće:

## ZAKLJUČKE

### I

Da se formiraju zajednički punktovi i zajedničke patrole koje će sačinjavati predstavnici MUP-a, Armije Republike BiH i Hrvatskog vijeća obrane.

### II

Da se uklone sve barikade u gradu i omogući nesmetan saobraćaj.

### III

Da organi MUP-a učine sve što je u njihovoj moći da se razjasne zločini koji su počinjeni u poslednja tri dana, da se počinioci otkriju i da se kidnapovani gospodin Živko Totić što prije oslobodi.

### IV

Da organi MUP-a, Vojne policije Armije Republike BiH i Vojne policije HVO-a obezbijede sigurnost svim građanima na teritoriji opštine Zenica.

### V

Da se osigura nesmetan pristup bolnici, da se omogući slobodan prolaz sanitatskim vozilima na svim kontrolnim punktovima i da obezbjeđenje bolnice preuzme civilna policija - mješovitog sastava.

### VI

Da zapovjednici vojnih jedinica i postrojbi narede da se obustavi pucnjava na području opštine, da se prestane sa ukopavanjima i da se zatrpaju posljednjih dana iskopani rovovi.



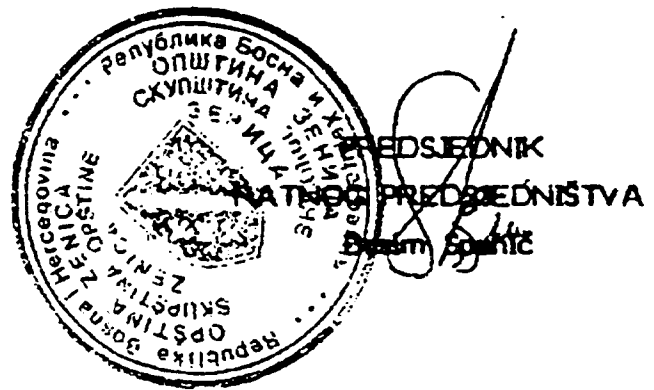
## VII

Da u Dobriju ode zajednička komisija sastavljena od predstavnika Opštinskog štaba odbrane, Hrvatskog vijeća odbrane i Evropske posmatračke misije, po potrebi izvrši razdvajanje sukobljenih strana i obustavi sukob ukoliko ga bude bilo.

Broj: 01 - 8 - 9 - 88/93

Datum: 17. aprila 1993.

Zenica



## DOSTAVLJENO:

- 1 x MUP - Zenica,
- 1 x Opštinski štab odbrane Zenica,
- 1 x HVO Zenica,
- 1 x 3. korpus - Vojna policija,
- 1 x Opštinski sekretarijat za NO,
- 1 x Evropske posmatračke misije,
- 1 x Opštinski štab CZ Zenica,
- 1 x Regionalna bolnica Zenica,
- 1 x a/a.

A1-5

020190

Na osnovu člana I. Odluke o obrazovanju Ratnog predsjedništva  
Kriznog štaba opštine Zenica ("Službene novine opštine Zenica", broj 4/92), Rat-  
no predsjedništvo na sjednici održanoj 18. aprila 1993. godine, donijelo je sljedeće

## ZAKLJUČKE

### I

Zahtijeva se od nadležnih komandi da odmah izdaju naredjenja  
o bezuslovnom prekidu vatre. Sve formacije treba da se povuku u kasarne i vo-  
jame.

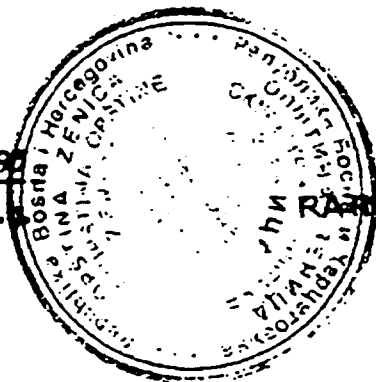
### II

Obavezuju se MUP i Civilna zaštita da obezbijede sigurnost imo-  
vine i ljudi na prostorima gdje je bilo sukoba. Potrebno je obezbijediti svim gra-  
đanima koji su napustili svoje domove da se vrate u svoje kuće ili stanove. Oba-  
veza je kućnih savjeta da organizuju neoružano dežurstvo u stambenim zgradama.

Broj: 01 - 8 - 9 - 89/93

Datum: 18. aprila 1993.

Zenica



PREDSEDNIK

RATNOG PREDJEDNIŠTVA

Basim Spahić

### DOSTAVLJENO:

- 1 x 3. korpus Armije BiH
- 1 x Opštinski štab odbrane Zenica,
- 1 x HVO Zenica,
- 1 x MUP Zenica,
- 1 x Opštinski štab CZ Zenica.
- 1 x n/a.



Na osnovu člana 1. Odluke o obrazovanju Ratnog predsjedništva  
i Izornoj štabe opštine Zenica ("Službene novine opštine Zenica", broj 4/92), Ra-  
tno predsjedništvo na sjednici održanoj 26. aprila 1993. godine povodom organizo-  
vanja povratka izbjeglih lica na područje opštine Zenica, donosi

## NAREDBU

I

Nalaže se Opštinskom štabu civilne zaštite da preduzme sve  
potrebne aktivnosti na pripremi i organizaciji povratka izbjeglih lica iz Grahov-  
čica u Zenicu.

Takodje se nalaže Opštinskom štabu civilne zaštite da obezbijedi  
i povratak izbjeglih lica iz Vardišta u Bilivode.

II

Zadužuje se Opštinski štab civilne zaštite da obezbijedi neop-  
hodnu pomoć i uslove za normalan život lica koja se vraćaju na prostore odakle  
su izbjegli.

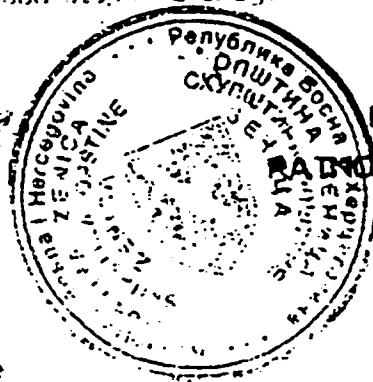
III

Ova Naredba stupa na snagu odmah.

Broj: 01 - 8 - 9 - 87/93

Datum: 26. aprila 1993.

Zenica



PREDSEDNIK

RA TNOG PREDSEDNIŠTVA

Basim Šahić

DOSTAVLJENC:

1 x Opštinski štab civilne  
zaštite Zenica,

1 x a/a.

AI - 7

020192

**LIST OF 13 LEADING MUSLIMS ARRESTED IN VITEZ**

- ① Munib Kaimović, predsjednik SDA Vitez -
- ② Fuad Kaknjo, predsjedj. IO Opštine Vitez
- ③ Midhat Varupa, predsjednik KDM "Preporod" Vitez
- ④ Čazim Ahmić, direktor Logističkog centra
- ⑤ Suad Salkić, gl. i odgovorni urednik TV Vitez
- ⑥ Šaban Mahmutović, načelnik SJB Vitez
- ⑦ dr Muhamed Mujezinović, predsjedj. Ratnog predsjedništva
- ⑧ Bahtija Sivro, član Ratnog predsjedništva
- ⑨ Nedim Zlotrg, šef krim-službe u SJB
- ⑩ Salem Topčić, jedan od čelnih ljudi SJB Vitez
- ⑪ Nusret Kalčo, član Koord. odbora za zaštitu interesa Muslimana
- ⑫ dr Fuad Zećo, član Ratnog predsjedništva
- ⑬ Hasan Sadibašić, član Ratnog predsjedništva opštine Vitez

- 
1. President of SDA, Vitez.
  2. President of the Executive Council of Vitez municipality.
  3. President of the Muslim Cultural Society "Preporod", Vitez.
  4. Director of the logistic centre.
  5. Director of TV Vitez.
  6. Head of the Office for Public Security (SJB) in Vitez.
  7. President of the War Presidency.
  8. Member of the War Presidency.
  9. Chief of the criminal department of the SJB.
  10. One of the main members of the SJB in Vitez.
  11. Member of Coordinating Council for protecting Muslim interests.
  12. Member of the War Presidency.
  13. Member of the War Presidency of Vitez municipality.



7 May 1993

#### MEETING WITH FATHER STEPIN

Comment: Father Stepin is the Catholic Priest whose parish is central Zenica. I visited him with the Head of ECMM Regional Centre Zenica. After they had discussed current problems Father Stepin gave me a description of what had happened.

21 young people missing and are not in the jail. It is possible that they are in the music school or 7 Muslim Brigade. 3 Corps BiH have promised information. Houses have been robbed and cars stolen. Every night people are taken from their homes. Most go to the prison or MUP, but some go to the music school.

3 Corps BiH are doing their best to calm the situation. Their activity is aimed at Busovaca and Vitez, either retaliation.

On the other side of the hill worse atrocities have taken place. Even now there are cases of ethnic cleansing and it makes our efforts more difficult because it is a kind of action/reaction. A family expelled from Vitez causes a reaction here.

I have seen soldiers burnt but no civilians burnt and when I visited \*\* with Jasmin (of 7 Muslim brigade) we heard that people who remained in their houses were forced to transport goods for BiH with tractors. Since they did not come home I asked Jasmin to check where they were and release them.

But we found these 3 men burnt in a house in Miletici. They were sitting on a couch, and had probably been killed then burnt. Such things are causing fear.

In these so called border areas Muslims (MOS) came from Zepce. They are more brutal than local people. That is why we now have people wanting to sell everything and move because otherwise it will be taken. It causes the spreading of rumours. There are rumours and part truth.

But if we do not want worse cases, if no more people were taken away we could be stabilised. But who can predict? 250 and 60 families have not come back from Nova Bila and Grahovcici and 200 families in the border areas do not want to live in their houses and have moved to friends or relatives in the city.

But these are insignificant. We can visit all the villages again, at least those where cases were widespread. It would be good to see what the situation is like in Gorni Zenica.

Originally little was damaged 40 new houses and buildings have been burnt recently and most people ran away and most houses have probably been robbed as well.

An appeal about prisoners was broadcast but then the BiH made a protest

and said that it was too late for the bible because as we are appealing to criminals with the words of the bible not to do to others what you do not want to have done to yourself.

As a result from now on it is not possible to visit prisoners, only their representatives. Fr Bozo was told in the headquarters of the prison that they had been given orders by 3 Corps BiH. Nothing has been written about this.

Fr Bozo is responsible for all prisoners and visits in Zenica. He was nominated by the priests of Zenica to take care of prisoners.

There are 3 places where camps are supposed to be: the music school is run by MOS, which belongs to 7 Muslim brigade. People arrested by 7 Muslim brigade which has its own police. It is within 3 Corps because they belong to 3 Corps.

They took Anto Zivkovic. He was mistreated in his flat and taken away. His wife knows he is alive. 7 soldiers from 7 Muslim brigade came for him. They had good information about him including where he was born and where he worked. They accused him of being ustase.

There is a problem of discrimination against Croats. They all used to work in the steel works or other places. They now give out family parcels instead of salaries. They do not give them to Croats and their families because they say some of them joined the HVO. Particularly withholding food from the families of those in prison is not humane.

MOS are not foreigners, although mujahadeen and foreigners are connected to them. They are local forces within BiH as HOS was part of HVO. We consider it the most extreme group in BiH. Probably part of them are out of control but they still seem coordinated, particularly as they know such detail about people. It would not be possible for outsiders to have such detail.

He spoke to Spakic 2 days ago and said that they must do 2 things if they do not want to go back. The military authorities and civil authorities have to find a solution regarding HVO prisoners. If that is a regular military force as they claim them at least those who are innocent should be released. Anyway military forces have to agree what to do with them. They have been detained for 20 days already. Their families are concerned. It will be very difficult to convince the families to stay if they do not know what has happened to their men.

In the border areas towards Vitez it is most probably necessary in cooperation with military or civil police, even international patrols established because its proved that even when there is good will they can not control those from the other side of the hill. Therefore a separation line is needed.

I am afraid that a larger incident could lead to a chain reaction and therefore no one would control the situation. In which case I told 3 Corps BiH we would all have to go to prison.

We need to establish joint patrols in Grahovcici, Stranjani and Janjac, which would be seen in a positive way. Local people feel more secure

and trouble makers feel less confident.

In critical positions we need these patrols because there is a risk of panic, we need to keep rumours down. People do not trust BiH or MUP although I have to say all of them except MOS are doing their job very well and are very correct.

The situation with houses that are empty is such that we should check the condition they are in because they are burnt or taken over. The municipal authorities should find a way, with 3 Corps. They have to protect the houses, regardless of whether the people want to return or not.

As long as the municipal authorities do not produce a solution for the HVO it will be very difficult to get families back from Novi Bila because fathers of families have taken weapons and joined the HVO. Thus families are afraid if all HVO have been arrested here.

When I saw it was a problem I asked the Commander of 3 Corps to give a guarantee to families that no one would mistreat them until they could solve the problem of the soldiers returning. He said he would meet Fr Stepin to give him the guarantee but he could not give a written one, so in effect it is not possible.

I speak to Hasanovic on the phone but he has never had time to meet him personally. I think it is bad that the Croat politicians have not visited the prisoners.

Comment: We agreed to meet again in the morning, then to visit Fr Bozo so that we could see at first hand the condition of some Croat villages and hear what details Fr Bozo had to add.



7 May 1993

**MEETING WITH JEAN-LUC NOVERRAZ, HEAD OF ICRC ZENICA**

Comment: Since access to prisons was a major concern, and ECMM was making progress as a result of its strong contacts, I wanted to make sure that what we were doing was coordinated with ICRC. The key points from a short and friendly meeting are as follows:

I asked what access ICRC have to prisoners in Zenica. He said that they only have access to the main prison, not to the MUP or music school.

I said that we were working on access for us and Fr Stepin within the context of the political pressure we were applying, and asked if he had any objections to this and would want to be associated with our efforts.

He said that they have very good cooperation between ECMM and ICRC. There is no problem if we can get access to the prisons and good if we can help ICRC too.

Comment: Following the visit to Kaonik and release of Croats from Zenica I discussed what we were achieving again with ICRC to ensure that our approach was still coordinated.

Annex D to  
ECMM H/S 720  
Dated 15 May 1993

7 May 1993

**MEETING WITH HADZIHASANOVIC, COMMANDER 3 CORPS BiH**

Comment: The Head of ECMM RC Zenica said he had four points to discuss: movement of troops, access to prisoners, hostages and the investigation of recent events.

Regarding the movement of troops Hadzihasanovic said that this was only a rotation. Access to the prison is no problem for ECMM or Fr Stepin. He claimed no knowledge of the other prisons such as the music school and MUP. He did say that there were other forces at work.

Access to the music school was not a problem, but he would have to make a phonecall first.

It was best to go slowly. He wanted to have 7 Muslim brigade under control rather than not. The mujahadeen are not under control. There are many elements who are not controlled.

He recommended I should meet one of his staff in the morning to go into detail.

8 May 1993

**MEETING WITH FR BOZO OF CAJDRAS**

Comment: Fr Bozo is the Catholic Priest whose parish is the villages South West of Zenica, on the mountain road to Vitez. We started off in his house:

In my area the situation is different. 80% of people stayed in their homes and after that there was high pressure and burning of houses and threats so after that all of them ran away.

Most burnt houses were on the border with Vitez municipality. Now 15 houses have been burnt, not just there but in the area near Zenica. 5 of them were only summer houses but the effect is the same. So you can imagine what happens when people rob a house.

We are told that 4 of the robbers were arrested, they had military uniforms. Even people from Australian TV were there and the military police from 3 Corps took the TV crew away. The robbers escaped.

During the whole conflict only one Muslim house was burnt, due to incendiary bullets. Near the HVO headquarters in Podbrezje there are 45 Muslim families living and nothing happened to them when the headquarters moved.

When the conflict started the HVO withdrew from Podbrezje to Cajdras/Grm so afterward the whole HVO HQ was in the school, just before the decision to surrender was made.

They thought they had taken more losses than they actually had because houses were burning. You could expect them to have retaliated but they did not and I am proud of them.

450 HVO were arrested at the beginning. Now 280 are still in prison. Civilians were released. Not as promised at a rate of 20 or 25 each day, because otherwise after 20 days they should all be released.

At the moment I do not have a list of all those in prison. We know for the villages but in town it is more difficult. There are 216 people on my list who surrendered but we do not know who has been released.

There is a list of 21 who were arrested later and we do not know where they are. Some of them have been seen in 7 Muslim brigade HQ and some in the music school and some in the mujahadeen HQ.

In Ladice one woman said that they would like police patrols at night, during daylight it is alright, but not at night. Her husband was taken the night before by men in uniform and beaten. Later he came back but has disappeared again. One house had been robbed and the house of a civil policeman from Zenica who had moved to the Vitez police had been blown up.



Comment: We then drove from Cajdras along the mountain road through Ladice to Vjetrenice. A 4 man patrol from 319 Brigade was walking down the road in Vjetrenica YJ2795. They stopped and watched and helped 4 local men stealing hay from a house that had been abandoned. The soldiers said that they had only started patrolling the day before and knew nothing of the blown up house. The local HQ was at the end of the road. At 2696 6 houses had been burnt and two destroyed. There was a Croat position next to the houses, overlooking the valley into Zenica.

In total Fr Stipan said that about 35 houses had been robbed, 15 burnt and about 180 people had moved out of their houses.

Back at Cajdras Fr Stipan had a prepared list of problems which he read out on the steps of the church, while a group of about 50 local people listened and then put their own questions:

All soldiers who were in HVO are in prison and should be freed. And all the 21 who have been arrested later should also be released.

We are now in danger. Many who were soldiers were not arrested. Now police, mainly MOS, come at night to their homes and take them away. If they are guilty of something the BiH military police should come.

All military formations that are not from Zenica should be removed. The war is over here in Zenica.

Vjetrenice and Ladice should be protected by military and civil police, or better still by UN troops. We expect that all our goods and houses and farm machines should be secure.

They shoot pigs and steal cows and they take food, day by day. Criminals take everything and destroy everything. They have taken two cars, then brought them back once they had been registered as stolen so that the owners would be stopped and accused of driving a stolen car.

Everyone who worked in the factory receives food parcels. But if the men are in prison the whole family of those in prison gets nothing.

All the people whose houses have been destroyed live with families. The authorities have not provided any assistance.

Only one house was burnt during the conflict, now in the three parishes 65 or 70 houses have been burnt.

Till now HVO were legitimate troops and could leave work when called up without losing their jobs. Now they lose their jobs too so they do not get fed.

Increasingly there is no security so people leave.

Many people who have no houses want to leave. I am against leaving. We do not get information from local TV and radio, there is a blockade on information for us here.

Topic Ruzica from Busovaca and her 15 year old daughter are stuck in Cajdras as a result of the fighting. They want to get back. Gelic Maria wants to go to Vitez with her two children.

Most people from Janjac went to Grahovcici, and most houses stayed intact. The BiH said that they could all come back.

In Stranjani 243 families, 60% of the houses, were robbed. 8 houses were burnt. Many families left and many want to come back.

In Grm 9 houses and 3 stables were burnt. In Podbrezje 5 houses were burnt and about 30% robbed. In Zaharje 11 houses were burnt and 10 robbed. In Bilireden 9 houses were burnt and 30 robbed. In Gornje Vardiste 10 houses were robbed. In Haspotocje 1 house was burnt.

8 soldiers were killed in the conflict and 4 soldiers were killed in the war: the 4 bodyguards who were killed on 15 April. 12 civilians were killed. 3 of them were taken from their houses in Bilivode, killed and then burnt. This was possibly done by the inhabitants of Dobriljeno. They were found burnt on the couch in a weekend house.

The key to this is military and civil police patrols, and at best patrols by UN troops to protect them, particularly at night. They want to stay here in their homes and with their jobs.

Comment: Fr Bozo gave me a copy of a letter sent to 3 Corps BiH in Zenica, in which he starts by saying that the situation is stabilised, but then goes on to list his grievances. Appendix 1.

LOCAL CIVIL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS  
Č A J D R A Š

and  
ROMAN CATHOLIC HOLY JESUS HEART  
PARISH PRIEST'S OFFICE

Č A J D R A Š  
Nr. 78/93

Annex E to  
ECMM HS/720  
Dated 15 May 1993

to B-H ARMY  
III CORPS COMMAND

to MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

to MUNICIPALITY CIVIL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS

SUBJECT: Report on unpleasant events on Vjetrenice for period  
from April 29 - May 6, 1993

R E P O R T

We are glad that some less good people have stopped with burning and mining of houses. The last number is: 15 burned houses and 4 stables and 2 mined houses.

We thank God and good people for no further killings, and our gratitude we direct to the above-mentioned titles. The Police station in Čajdraš started to work and that contributed towards reducing crimes and evil.

We are sad and worried due to these facts:

- members of Croatian Defence Council (HVO) Zenica are not released yet although it was promised to us that 20 - 30 people would be released daily,

- at least from the families that have up to three brothers in the KP (penal-correctional institution) no one has been released yet.

- members of the VII Moslem brigade (at least that is how they call themselves) took away: Dragan (Ilin) Jonjić and Ivica (Petar) Knežević together with another 16 young men from Zenica and even after 15 days of searching we do not know for sure where they are accommodated or if they are still alive. Anto Vrvilo from Vjetrenica is probably in Bilmište, and there is a rumour that the others are in the Music school or Lesnina!

- the apartments that belonged to the members of HVO have to be emptied. Up to now we are acquainted with some cases! Will this practice continue?

- families of our boys that are in the KP can not get victuals at ironworks. If they have deserved the punishment their families surely did not! This is DISCRIMINATION !

- priest has the right to get in wherever his parishioner or persons that are entrusted to pastoral care are. Božo Markotić was denied that right twice. He was allowed to meet with room superiors only. That surely is something but it is not enough.

- access to the hospital should have been unlimited for priest because of wounded and ill people, without any inquires. Gentlemen, what are we going to do with confessions and anointments? What about the basic right of every man and believer: TO OPEN ONES SOUL? I fear that there was no enough caution before making such important decisions so that somebody who proves that decisions are not right becomes guilty instead of those people that made these decisions.



- on Vjetrenica, persecution of people and stealing of their property is still in progress. After the "Zenica War", people were in their homes on Vjetrenica. Only inhabitants of Gornji Grbavci and some families from Gornje Ladice left their homes, and on that occasion their houses were robbed in a "cultured manner" because only valuable things were taken at that time, and today all of them had to move out and their houses are ruined - a lot is stolen but even more is simply destroyed.

- allegedly, on Vjetrenica we have stationed a large MOS (Muslim Armed Forces) group from Žepče. Members of those forces are seeding restlessness and distrust.

- often, there are blackmails: "Give me your sheep, and tomorrow it is not only sheep but also a lamb and if you tell somebody you are dead". Since there are many attempts to steel cows, the people from Gornji Dio had to sell all of them.

The above-mentioned Titles are requested to establish such a state of security so that all 38 families may return to their houses, even if they are ruined.

Chronology of strange events:

- Ivica Čečura, Ivo Čečura, Slavko Tomić and Zoran Petraš are still not returned from Preočica, though "all the civilians should have been released".

- on April 29, 1993 at 14:00 hrs a burning house was noticed in Gornji Grbavci. We are not sure whose property it is.

- on April 30, 1993, at 20:30 hrs a house, owned by Ante (Tuna) Puđa, started to burn.

- on May 1, 1993 fire was set to the house belonging to Ana Grbavac on Vjetrenica; at 20:40 hrs the same happened to a shed belonging to Marko Grbavac from Vjetrenica.

- on May 2, 1993 Ilija Vrvilo was molested: "You are still here? Why don't you leave?" Many threats were said and they asked many different things from him. As this was happening repeatedly, he was forced to leave the house after a few days.

- About 20:00 hrs five persons in uniforms entered the house of Ilija Paškalić. They started to molest and threaten him. Ilija and his daughters left straight away but his son stayed saying: "You can throw me out only if I'm dead!" They were threatened not to tell about this to anyone, and because the military police came (civil police was not willing to come up there during the night) the following day they took away one sheep and one lamb to punish him.

- Ivo Žepačkić reported that people in uniforms paid him a visit and asked for his tractor. Intervention of civil police prevented this action.

- During the night May 2/3, 1993 the windows were broken as well as the most of the furniture in these families: Jelić Dragan, Jelić Ante, Jelić Nika, Kajić Luce, Grbavac (Marko) Ante, Grbavac (Marko) Marko, Grbavac Nikica, Grbavac Vinka, Grbavac (Vinko) Ante, Grbavac (Vinko) Marko, Grbavac (Markan) Ante, Grbavac (Markan) Pero, Grbavac Drago and Grbavac Stipan.

- on May 4, 1993 two persons in uniforms tried to steal a cow that belongs to Tikvić Janja. That was prevented by policeman Ivo Šimić.

Thank You for Your time and attention! We hope for Your protection.

Čajdraš, May 6, 1993

Pero Tikvić, on behalf of CD  
Božo Markotić, vicar

020203

RIMOKATOLIČKI ŽUPNI URED  
PRESVETOG SRCA ISUSOVA  
Č A J D R A Š  
Br. 78/93

ARMIJI BIH  
KOMANDI III KORPUŠA  
MINISTARSTVU UNUTRAŠNJIH POSLOVA  
OPĆINSKOM ŠTABU CIVILNE ZAŠTITE

PREDMET: Izvješće o nemilim događanjima na Vjetreničama za  
period 29. 04. - 06. 05. 1993.

Gornje na čelu molimo da ostane na čelu kako bi se svih 38 obitelji moglo vratiti svojim kućama.

I Z V J E Š Ć E

Kronologija naših događaja:

- Iz prethodne su našu brigadu radosni smo što su neki manje dobri ljudi prestali sa paljenjem i miniranjem kuća. Zadnja brojka glasi: 15 zapaljenih kuća i 4 štale, te dvije minirane kuće.

- 29. 04. Bogu i dobrim ljudima zahvaljujemo da nema novih ubojstava, a zahvalnost upućujemo i gornjim Naslovićima. U Čajdrašu je proradila i stanica MUP-a pa je i to doprinijelo da zlatni kriminala bude manje.

- Žalosni smo i zabrinjava nas što:

- pripadnici HVO Zenica još nisu na slobodi iako nam je bilo obećano kako će dnevno biti oslobođeno 20 - 25 ljudi,

- barem iz onih obitelji gdje su po trojica braće u KP domu niti jedan nije oslobođen

- pripadnici VII Muslimanske brigade (ili se tako predstavljaju) odvedoše: Dragana Jonjić Ilinog i Ivicu Šnežević Petrovog te još 16 mladića Hrvata iz Zenice za koje niti nakon 15 dana traganja ne znamo pouzdano gdje su smješteni i da li su živi? Anto Vrvilo sa Vjetrenica je vjerojatno na Bilmištu, a za druge se govori kako se nalaze u Muzičkoj školi ili u Lesnini?

- stanovi koje su posjedovali pripadnici HVO moraju biti ispražnjeni. Do sada smo upoznati sa nekim slučajevima! Hoće li se takva praksa nastaviti?

- obitelji naših momaka koji su u KP domu ne mogu u željezari dobiti namirnice. Ako su oni zaslužili kaznu, njihova djeca i žene sigurno nisu! To je DISKRIMINACIJA!

- svećenik ima pravo ući tamo gdje su mu župljani ili osobe povjerene na pastoralnu skrb. Boži Markotić se to već dva puta uskraćuje, a omogućava susret samo sa sobnim starješinama. I to je svakako nešto, no nije sve.

- pristup svećeniku u bolnisu zbog ranjenika i bolesnika trebao bi biti neophodan i komotan, a on se mora obaviti bez imena, prezimena, mjesta i ikakve priče. Gospodo, što ćemo sa ispovijeđu i bolesničkim pomazanjem? Što sa temeljnim pravom svakog čovjeka i vjernika: OTVRITI SVOJU DUŠU? Bojim se da je prije nekih važnih odluka bilo premalo opreza, a sada nije kriv onaj tko je odluke donosio, nego netko tko dokazuje kako nisu u

redu neke odluke.

- na Vjetrenicama nastavlja se progon ljudi i pljačka njihove imovine. Nakon "zeničkoga rata" na Vjetrenicama su ljudi bili u svojim domovima. Domove su napustili samo Gornji Grbavci i pojedine obitelji iz Gornjih Lađica i tom zgodom su njihove kuće bile "kulturno provaljene" jer je odnesena samo bijela tehnika i skupocjena roba, a danas su svi morali iseliti i njihove kuće su unakažene - mnogo je odneseno, a više polupano.

- na Vjetrenicama, navodno, imamo stacioniranu veću grupu MOS iz Žepča. Pripadnici tih snaga siju nemir i nepovjerenje.

- često imamo ucjene: "Daj ovcu, a sutra ovcu i jagnje i ako nekome kažeš, gotov si" te česte pokušaje oduzimanja krava tako da su ljudi iz Gornjeg dijela morali sve krave prodati.

Gornje Naslove molimo da uspostave takovu sigurnost kako bi se svih 38 obitelji moglo vratiti svojim, makar i unakaženim kućama.

#### Kronologija čudnih događaja:

- Iz Preočice još nisu vraćeni: Ivica Čečura, Ivo Čečura, Slavko Tomić i Zoran Petraš, a "svi civili su trebali biti pušteni".

- 29. 04. 1993. u 14,00 primjećeno kako gori kuća u Gornjim Grbavcima. Nismo sigurni čije je vlasništvo.

- 30. 04. 1993. u 20,30 počela goriti kuća, vlasništvo Puđa Ante (Tune) na Rašcu.

- 01. 05. 1993. zapaljena kuća Ahe Grbavac na Vjetren., a u 20,40 zapaljena šupa, vlasništvo Marka Grbavac sa Vjetrenica.

- 02. 05. 1993. maltretiran Ilija Vrvilo: "Zar si još tu? Zašto ne odlaziš? Izrečeno mnogo prijetnji i svašta su od njega tražili. To se ponavljalo pa je morao napustiti kuću nakon nekoliko dana.

Oko 20,00 pet uniformiranih osoba upalo je u kuću Ilije Paškallja. Otpočelo je maltretiranje uz prijetnje. Ilija i kćeri su odmah pobjegli, a ostao je Ilin sin uz napomenu: "Samo me mrtvoga možete izbaciti"! Zapriječeno ima je da nikome ne smiju kazati, a jer je došla vojna policija (civilna nije bila voljna po noći poći gore) u znak odmazde uzeli su mu ovcu i jagnje narednoga dana.

Ivo Žepačkić prijavio je kako su ga posjetila uniformirana lica i tražila traktor. Intervenirala civilna policija i spriječila otimačinu.

U noći 02/03. 05. 1993. razlupani su prozori i veći dio pokućstva u obiteljima: Jelić Dragana, Jelić Ante, Jelić Nike, Kajić Luce, Grbavac Ante Markova, Grbavac Marka Markova, Grbavac Nikice, Grbavac Vinka, Grbavac Ante Vinkova, Grbavac Marka Vinkova, Grbavac Ante Markanova, Grbavac Pere Markanova, Grbavac Drage i Grbavac Stipana.

04. 05. 1993. Dva uniformirana lica pokušala oteti kravu od Tikvić Janje. Spriječio ih je radnik MUP-a Ivo Šimić.

Hvala Vam na vremenu i pažnji! Preporučamo se u zaštitu.

Čajdraš, 06. svibnja 1993.



Božo Markotić, župnik  
020205

E1-4



8 May 1993

**MEETING WITH IVAN SANTIC, MAYOR OF VITEZ AND PERO SKOPLJAK, COMMANDER OF POLICE IN VITEZ**

Comment: Mr Santic seemed to take pleasure from the fact that my Muslim interpreter had to translate his comments about Muslims:

Recommended that we should read a short novel by Ivo Andric which would allow us to understand the real problems.

He is sure that neither the Croats nor the Muslims of Vitez are guilty of the events that have taken place because we worked together and knew each other well. We know that the Muslims from Vitez have no good weapons and the Croats from Vitez do not want to fight with the Muslims here.

Extreme Croats do not need to fight with Muslims because HVO rules anyway. 8 out of 9 managers in the factory were Croats, and Croats had the main functions in the town. The Muslims had their HQ in the rubbish tip. Only crazy men would think that Croats and Muslims had to fight. Before the fighting we proposed the organisation of a combined government.

The name "HVO" is a big mistake because of the "H" for "Hrvatsko". There should be something Muslim in the name because 42% of the population are Muslims and 46% are Croats in the area. He proposed that HVO should be "H" and Muslim but the government of Herceg-Bosna did not accept it.

We really want peace here and it was very close. It is true that we had separated the government of HVO and BiH. But HVO exists because when the war was started in Croatia more than half the government of BiH moved to Zagreb and started businesses.

Bosnian people were not prepared to defend the area. In these conditions it is alright to organise the HVO because of the need for defence from the Serbs. Often in opposition to Herceg-Bosna, but agrees with the need to organise the HVO.

Because of the name there was antagonism between Croats and Muslims here. In the part of SDA there are also extreme groups and they really want to take us back 200 years, to the Turks.

Suddenly they went driving through the streets of Vitez and called Allah from the back of open trucks. The wives of very intellectual people had to wear scarves. These are reasons why the Croats reacted like this. The war was acceptable in the interests not of the local government but of the top government.

On 15 April people were under great pressure because they heard of an attack from Zenica to Vitez. A month ago there was just tension in the area.

On 16 April in the morning it started. They could see tanks in Vjetrenica, and it is interesting that they suddenly appeared there.

The defence of Vitez was chaotic. As a result Muslims were displaced from the surrounding villages, people expected the end when they heard the heavy shelling.

Later it was very difficult to come back to normal defences. Official HVO groups were under government HQ control. But in the villages they were to start with under local control. They were defending themselves, or there was no control.

They could see Mujahadeen from Zenica and 7 Muslim brigade coming down the hill from Vjetrenice. Vitez is now partially occupied by Zenica's army.

Comment: Villages under control of the BiH were marked on my map.

Before the war the villages were under the control of the local population but not forces from Zenica. Before this situation 4 body guards were killed in Zenica, then 20 more were killed. They can see that Zenica wanted to put pressure on Vitez.

The local government of HVO was very democratic and did well. Civil government in Vitez was not on exactly the same line as Herceg Bosna, they just want the area to be democratic.

They were afraid that the war could come to Vitez. They knew that if there was war in Vitez between Croats and Muslims it would be bad, because Vitez is very near Zenica.

In Vitez there is an explosives factory and every 10th man has too much explosives that he has taken. There are many mixed villages and the town is mixed. It makes a catastrophe under these conditions in a war.

They tried to construct a Muslim government in Vitez. They signed a paper and informed the population in Vitez. Copy at Appendix 1. Both proposed to stop fighting and get on with the Vance Owen plan.

Comment: The document was signed on 20 April, by Dr Muhamed Mujezinovic and Ivan Santic. Dr Mujezinovic had been President of the War Presidency until his arrest by the HVO on 16 April, along with the other leading members of the Muslim community.

He proposed that an official joint statement should be given to the mayor of Zenica. Appendix 2. The mayor of Zenica answered. Appendix 3. In the answer you can see that Vitez is guilty and Zenica is not guilty. The paper was written to be signed, not to not be signed. The big problem is that Izetbegovic did not sign the paper with Boban.

They really did something in the plan so as to prevent genocide. But they have no success yet. The government insists that local military police in Vitez must be larger and it was done yesterday. I think that the situation in Vitez will be better from day to day. There is a problem with some people who come into peoples' houses, so Blaskic has ordered his forces not to enter Muslims' houses.

It is a worse situation than before the fighting and very difficult to talk to the Muslims. And many Muslim leaders are in prison, and lots of Croatian leaders are in prison in Zenica. I would like to release all the people.

The agreement between Croats and Muslims can not come out of this conflict. The only chance is UN forces in the area and they organise displacement from Zenica to Vitez and from Vitez to Zenica.

It will not be ethnic cleansing, simply it will be the wish of the people to move. You can imagine that in that case there will be less tension between Croats and Muslims.

After that they can organise local government and it will be very difficult to do. But the main condition of peace is not power and not fighting. If the UN do not do anything there will be fighting again.

Most agencies think they are in charge and can do things but is not real and will be very different. The police, both civil and military, are in control. We want the UN to control the area in the middle and there would be peace if Zenica did not come into the area.

Before the current fighting 21 HVO were killed in Novi Travnik, Gorni Vakuf and Zenica. They have BiH documents that prove that they want to liquidate HVO leaders. BiH said that HVO were not legitimate. This is very important for Vitez because they did not want fighting here.

They chose a government in Sarajevo to organise them as our government is in Grude. Central government is in Grude as Bosnia-Herzegovina's government is in Sarajevo. They chose to send to Grude and Sarajevo the same list of people who are in government, but the Muslims do not accept it.

The legal government in Sarajevo was not to arm Croats, Muslims and Serbs. Izetbegovic told them that the war in Croatia was only between Croats and Serbs, nothing to do with B-H. Croats in B-H could not accept it because they knew Bosnia would be next. Alija Izetbegovic did not believe it.

Croats armed themselves, but it was illegal according to the government in Sarajevo. Muslims attacked on the "green line": Konjic, Jablanica, Gorni Vakuf and Bugojno in a synchronised attack. They want to take the part of land with Zenica.

The fight between Zenica and Busovaca is between extreme Muslim and Croat governments, and the continual attack between them. Zenica is full of mujahadeen. The biggest problem is that refugees also come to Zenica. Croat refugees too, but they went to Croatia.

Travnik has 15,000 refugees and there are 20-25,000 in Zenica. The government promised them houses and that is the real problem. There are no documents to prove it.

They have information in that there are snipers in Old Vitez. He wants to organise a meeting with Munić Kajmović, SDA in Old Vitez, because we know more about democracy than they do.

Tudman's politics: the Serbs' main political aim is to conquer, with the Muslims we have to find a dialogue and life with them. Croats, in large scale politics, do not want a fight with the Muslims, and this is also the politics of our community.

The fighting here is because of ex-JNA officers. For example Sefer Halilovic and Haji Hassanovic were at Vukovar, and Refik Lendo of Novi Travnik has his wife and children in Serbia. They can not see the logic of a Muslim attack in their area.

Regarding the village of Ahmici, he knows the victims of Ahmici and they will be happy when the international court says something about it. There was a check point there 2 months ago and the Catholic graves were desecrated in Ahmici. At that time HVO from Kiseljak needed to go to Jajce but could not because of the fighting. There has always been antagonism there.

The BiH wanted to attack in a hook East then South of Vitez to Novi Travnik, and Ahmici was the first village to fall.

There is human displacement of people, and I do not agree with ethnic cleansing, and we try hard for democracy. But they have to respect the facts. The population here were unfortunately fighting and can not live together.

It is better than in Zenica where Croats can not go to other places. They have released all arrested people in Vitez except 13 people because they need to be asked question in Busovaca and Kaonik.

They offered to allow the Muslims to leave and asked the authorities in Zenica to do the same. 82 people want to stay in Poculica even though it is occupied. But they want to stay because on radio Zenica they said that Vitez and Busovaca will fall very soon thus they cannot go there anyway.

They need truth on radio and television.

Comment: In the context of para 6 of the proposed joint statement, Appendix 2, this is a demand for total control of the media.

We are now between war and peace, we have a ceasefire. On the front line in Old Vitez they have the most people killed; 1 or 2 are killed every day. This is a really big problem because Muslims want to stop the shelling and Croats have better heavy weapons. When they asked the UN to open the road an ambulance was shot.

So in very simple terms what is needed is a UN buffer zone, movement of people and then the implementation of the Vance Owen plan.

Comment: All of this was said with a straight, if slightly smug face. The suggestion that as a result of a Muslim attack there was a chaotic defence of Vitez in which the Muslims were displaced from their villages around Vitez is incredible.



Vitez, April 20, 1993

Appendix 1 to  
Annex F to  
ECMM HS/720  
Dated 15 May 1993

THE JOINT STATEMENT  
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF MUSLIMS AND CROATS IN  
THE MUNICIPALITY OF VITEZ

1. Military commands of HVO and B&H Army are demanded to establish immediately a cease-fire in all areas where conflicts occurred,

2. Civilian representatives of the Croat and Muslim population unanimously state that there would again have been no conflicts in Vitez unless influenced by global policies and military activities coming from outside of the municipality.

3. AS THE GREAT NUMBER OF KILLED, WOUNDED AND CAPTURED PERSONS IS ALREADY EVIDENT, WE DEMAND THAT ALL MILITARY COMMANDERS ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW.

4. Both parties have agreed that in Vitez and Province 10 the Vance-Owen plan should be implemented even before it is signed by the Serb party. In addition, they support the structure of military commands in accordance with the ethnic structure of the province and the municipality.

5. It is demanded of all civilian structures on the highest level to establish immediately continuous political dialogue, until stable peace and authority are established in municipalities and provinces.

On behalf of Muslim  
representatives:

Dr. Muhamed Mujezinović

On behalf of Croat  
representatives:

Ivan Šantić, Eng.

VITEZ, 20.4.1995.godine

## ZAJEDNIČKA IZJAVA

PREDSTAVNIKA HRVATA I MUSLIMANA u općini Vitez.

1. Od vojnih zapovjedništava HVO i Armije BiH se zahtjeva da se odmah uspostavi primirje na svim područjima gdje je došlo do sukoba.

2. Civilni predstavnici hrvatskog i muslimanskog naroda jednolazno izjavljuju da u Vitezu ne bi ni ovoga puta došlo do sukoba iz utjecaja globalnih politika i vojnih akcija koje dolaze izvan naše zone.

3. BUDUĆI DA JE VEĆE EVIDENTAN ZAISTA VELIKI BROJ MRTVIH, RAJENIH I ZAROBLJENIH, OD VOJNIH ZAPOVJEDNIKA TRAJIMO DA SE U NAJBRŽNOM ROKU POSTUPI PO MEĐUNARODNIM HUMANITARNIM NORMAMA.

4. Obe strane su suglasne da se u Vitezu i Provinciji 10 i rije potpisa srpske strane primjeni Voz-Švež-ov plan. Isto tako se odričava ustrojstvo zapovjedništava vojske u skladu sa nacionalnom strukturom provincije i općine.

5. Od civilnih struktura vlasti na najvišem nivou ODMAH zahtjeva uspostavu kontinuiranog političkog dijaloga, sve do trajne uspostave mira i uspostave vlasti u provincijama i općinama.

Ispred predstavnika Muslimana

Muhamed dr. Mujesinović

Ispred predstavnika Hrvata

Ivan Šantić dipl.ing.

Mayor of the Municipality of Zenica  
Mayor of the Municipality of Vitez

Appendix 2 to  
Annex F to  
ECMM HS/720  
Dated 15 May 1993

May 2, 1993

### JOINT STATEMENT

1. We jointly state that the conflicts between Muslims and Croats in Central Bosnia are not the expression of the will of either of these two nations. The conflict was provoked by the extreme forces aided by the members of KOS with the purpose of weakening the resistance toward the Serbo-chetnik aggressor.

2. We invite all Muslims and Croats in conflict to cease immediately all reciprocal conflicts and all mutual hostilities. We should realise immediate peace, but the investigation and the punishment of the guilty ones for the already created catastrophic consequences we should leave to regular Courts and legal institutions. Through deepening of hostilities and armed conflicts, again as until now, innocent citizens would suffer.

3. We ask all citizens that in this, perhaps most difficult time in history, show maximal understanding and help to the great number of unfortunate and completely impoverished from the consequences of this genuinely absurd war.

4. Not only do we distance ourselves, but we confirm that we should intensively stop criminal events with our regular police forces, which, unfortunately, mostly due to the false presentations, are attributed to the members of legal formations of the Army of B&H and HVO.

5. Since, due to the totally blockaded provisions, starvation threatens all our population, we demand from the highest representatives of the B&H Army and HVO that through the joint command the free usage of the roads between the municipalities, and toward Split and Ploče should be made possible. Also, we demand that, in accordance with the regulations of Geneva Convention, blockades of power generation media and water should not be used for aims of war.

6. In order to stabilise the cessation of hostilities and achieve general diminution of the tensions, we demand from the information media that in every case they should report only completely confirmed information without personal commentary.

7. Unconditionally we do dedicate ourselves to a quick realisation of the state, provincial and municipal government in order to the decisions of the Vance - Owen plan and joint statement of Mr. Izetbegović and Mr. Boban of April 25, 1993.

MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF VITEZ:

MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZENICA:

Gradonačelnik općine Zenica  
Gradonačelnik općine Vitez

Dana, 02.05.1995. godine

#### ZAJEDNIČKA IZJAVA

1. Zajednički izjavljujemo da sukobi između muslimanskog i hrvatskog naroda u srednjoj Bosni nisu izraz volje niti jednog od ova dva naroda. Sukob su izazvale ekstremne snage potpomognute pripadnicima AOs-a sa ciljem da se oslabi otpor prema srbočetničkom agresoru.
2. Pozivamo sve sukobljene Muslimane i Hrvate da odmah prekinu sve međusobne sukobe i sva međusobna neprijateljska djelovanja. Ostvarimo startni mir, a istragu i kažnjavanje krivaca za već nastale katastrofalne posljedice prepustimo regularnim istražnim i pravosudnim institucijama. Produbljivanjem neprijateljstava i oružanih sukoba opet bi kao i do sada stradali uglavnom nedužni građani.
3. Molimo sve građane da u ovim, možda u povjesti ovih prostora, najtežim vremenima pokažu maksimalno razumjevanje i pomognu velikom broju unesrećenih i potpuno osiromašenih od posljedica ovog zaista besmislenog rata.
4. Ne samo da se ograđujemo, već se i obavezujemo da ćemo regularnim policijskim snagama intenzivno suzbijati kriminalne radnje koje se nažalost, najčešće zbog lažnog predstavljanja pripisuju pripadnicima legalnih postrojbi Armije BiH i HVO.
5. Budući da zbog potpuno blokirane opskrbe našem cjelokupnom stanovništvu prijeti glad, zahtijevamo od najviših predstavnika Armije BiH i HVO da zajedničkom naredbom omoguće slobodno korištenje prometnih pravaca među općinama, te prema splitu i ročama. Također zahtijevamo da se u skladu sa odredbama Bernovske konvencije za ratne ciljeve ne koriste blokade energetskih medija i vode.

.....



6. U cilju stabiliziranja primirja i općeg smanjenja napetosti zahtijevamo od informativnih medija da o svakom događaju objavljuju samo sasvim provjerene informacije bez subjektivnih komentara.
7. Bezrezervno se *zabrinemo* za što skoriju uspostavu državnih, provincijskih i općinskih vlasti u skladu sa odredbama Vens - Oven-ovog plana i Zajedničke izjave gosp. Izetbegovića i gosp. Bobana od 25. travnja 1993.godine.

Gradonačelnik OP.INE VITEZ :

Gradonačelnik OP.INE ŽENICA:

ASSEMBLY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZENICA

To the Mayor of the Municipality

VITEZ

Your excellency,

Referring to your proposal about the giving of the joint statement by the Mayor of the municipality of Zenica and Mayor of the municipality of Vitez, regarding the events on the territories of these municipalities, we give the following declaration:

If the joint statement should be given, then having in mind that it is given by two municipality Mayors, as 1, especially to the actual events on the territory of the Vitez municipality, it could not be made general and independent from actual events on the particular territories. It cannot address the questions of conflicts of the two nations (which really do not exist), but should clearly and only start from the undeniable facts of this moment such as:

1. The troops of HVO are in the villages: Ahmići, Gačice, Večerska and others, and by shelling of the civilian targets (Zenica, Preočica, Bukve, Lopac etc.) they perpetrated a crime never before noted unto the history of common living on these territories.

2. The statement should contain an expressed condemnation of crimes, the discovery of the crime and dedication to the neutral investigation and punishing of the criminals for the perpetrated crimes.

3. The investigation and punishment will not be carried out by "regular" bodies, it should be stated precisely which are these bodies.

4. Investigation of the criminal offenses (the condemnation of which is not in dispute) could be the justification of the perpetrated crimes. There is the impression that the undeniably perpetrated crimes, through the proposed formulation in the statement, in reality want to be presented as the excesses of the individuals or groups that out are of control, and not as the realisation of part of the whole plan, which objectively they do present. When one adds the fact that these individuals, as it is stated in the statement, are present in the Army of B&H and the HVO as well, then there are no guilty ones, but also there are guilty ones on both sides, which is not and cannot be truth.

5. The remaining specifications in the statement (the consequences, future necessities, the freeing up of the communications, media etc.) make sense only after the confession of committing as the cause of the investigation. Otherwise, they become a burden on our shoulders and in our thoughts, which is a premeditated attempt to impose the impression that the solution cannot be found without somebody or something, and to give the impression of hopelessness.

020215

6. Absolutely unacceptable is the theory from the statement that these monstrous crimes were committed by some extreme parts. The names should be exactly stated as well as the responsible commanders who committed these crimes.

In the end, welcoming the initiative on giving the joint statement, we express full readiness to arrive at a satisfactory solution through joint efforts, and to arrange the meeting at a neutral place, at which we could, together with legal representatives of the Croat and Muslim population from Vitez, try to do everything on the abating the conflicts.

With respect,

PRESIDENT  
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZENICA  
Besim Spahic

020216

GRADONAČELNIKU OPŠTINE

VITEZ

tel. centrala 072/33-111

tel. grads 21-215

telex 32-476

viza

datum 4. maja 1993.

Poštovani gospodine,

U vezi Vašeg prijedloga o davanju zajedničke izjave gradonačelnika opštine Zenica i gradonačelnika opštine Vitez, u vezi dešavanja na područjima opština, dajemo sljedeće obrazloženje:

Ako će se davati zajednička izjava onda ona, obzirom na činjenice koje se daju dva gradonačelnika opština, kao i, posebno, na stvarna događanja na području opštine Vitez ne može biti uopštena i nezavisna od stvarnih događanja na konkretnim područjima. Ona se ne može baviti pitanjima sukoba dva naroda (koji stvarno i postoje) nego mora jasno i izričito poći od, u ovom momentu nespornih činjenica koje su:

1. Jednice HVO su u selima: Ahmići, Gačice, Večerska i nekim drugim, kao i granatiranjem civilnih ciljeva (Zenica, Preočica, Bukve, Lupac i dr.), počinili dosadašnjoj historiji zajedničkog življenja na ovim prostorima nezabilježeni zločini.

2. Izjava mora da sadrži izričitu osudu zločina, pronalaženje zločinaca kao i obavezivanje na nepristrasnoj istrazi i kažnjavanju krivaca za izvršene zločine.

3. Istragu i kažnjavanje neće provoditi nikakvi "regularni" organi, moraju precizno navesti koji su to organi,

4. Ogradjivanje od kriminalnih radnji (čija osuda nije ni sporna) ne može biti opravdanje za počinjene zločine. Ima se utisak da se nesporno učinjeni zločini predloženom formulacijom, u Izjavi žele prikazati kao eksces pojedinaca ili grupa izdanih od kontrole, a ne kao realizacija dijela ukupnog plana, što objektivno i postoje. Kada se ovome doda i to da tih pojedinaca, kako stoji u Izjavi ima i u BiH i u HVO-u, onda krivca nema, odnosno krivca je na obje strane što nije, i ne može biti istina.

020217

F3-3

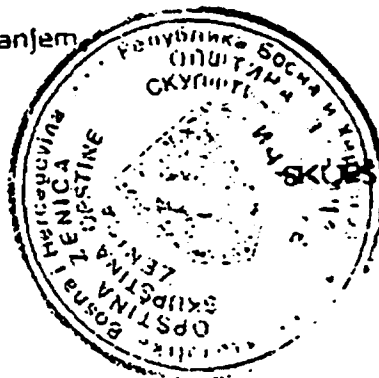


5. Ostali navodi u izjavi (posljedice, buduće potrebe, oslobađajuća komunikacija, medija i dr.) imaju smisla tek poslije priznavanja učinjenog, kao i istraživanja uzroka. U protivnom one postaju balast na našim ledjima i u našim razmišljanjima, što je smišljeno nastojanje da se nametne utisak da se ne može naći rješenje bez nekoga ili nečega, te da se dobije utisak beznađa,

6. Apsolutno je neprihvatljiva teza iz izjave da su ove monstruozne zločine učinili nekakvi ekstremni dijelovi. Moraju se tačno navesti pojedinci, a ne samo i odgovorni zapovjednici koji su to učinili.

Na kraju, pozdravljajući inicijativu o davanju zajedničke izjave izražavamo punu spremnost da se zajedničkim naporima dođe do zadovoljavajućeg rješenja nastale situacije, te da dogovorimo sastanak na neutralnom mjestu kojem bismo zajedno sa legalnim predstavnicima hrvatskog i muslimanskog iz Viteza pokušali učiniti sve na smirivanju sukoba.

S poštovanjem



PREDSJEDNIK  
SKUPŠTINE OPŠTINE ZENICA,  
Besim Španić

8 May 1993

**MEETING WITH COLONEL TIHOMIR BLASKIC, COMMANDER OF HVO OPERATIONAL ZONE VITEZ**

Comment: This meeting was relaxed and businesslike. Colonel Blaskic was very clear in his opinion that the Croats were effectively surrounded in Vitez, and thus should live in peace with the Muslims. When I pushed him, saying that I had heard a very different story from his political associates, he said that there was a difference between the military and the politicians. He gave no indication that there was any reason why he, as commander of the operational zone, should have had any idea of the activities of the HVO when they commenced on the morning of 16 April. It seems he was taken completely by surprise:

On 15 April BiH had strong forces in Travnik. They know this because someone from Travnik at a HVO check point stopped a convoy of 3 busses and 6 trucks and 13 other vehicles. This force tried to get through to Travnik 3 times and eventually they let them through. The HVO also ordered that they could enter Travnik barracks.

From 8 to 15 April BiH were reinforcing Travnik, living in Muslim villages round Travnik. On 15 April the group was stopped coming from Travnik at 2000 to Ahmici, and on 15 April we heard shooting in the area round Ahmici.

On 16 April at 0515 I woke up when I heard loud explosions and shooting in Vitez. I did not know what it was. I called the warrant officer who was the watchkeeper in the Operational Zone HQ but he did not know what it was, although he could hear the noise near the HQ.

I ordered that he should call the commander of the Vitez Brigade. The Vitez Brigade watchkeeper reported that the brigade commander was not in the HQ but was probably at home asleep.

Later we found heavy fighting in Vitez and in the villages round Vitez. So the first thing to do was to secure the HVO buildings in Vitez and the centre of town. Later we tried to secure the Croat villages as well as we could.

The Vitez Brigade has 300-350 professionals and the rest are reservists, so they were in their villages, where they still exist.

In Zenica there are 3 BiH brigades and 7 Muslim brigade. The 2nd battalion of 305 Brigade is in Busovaca, part of the brigade is in Silos and the 1st battalion is in Solakovici.

BRITBAT gave a guarantee that 305 Brigade from Jajce would go to Zenica. We do not want them to move from Gorni Vakuf to Zenica because we think they caused the troubles in Gorni Vakuf. The Muslims wanted them to move to Lasic to fight Serbs, but they fought well against Croats in Busovaca and Kiseljak.

Comment: He marked the positions of Croat, mixed and Muslim villages on the map, Appendix 1, to demonstrate the fact that the Croats are cut off and surrounded. He did not mark Ahmici and Nadioci with anything.

If the forces are not separated there will be worse conflict. The Croats have no other escape, none of the roads are open, we are surrounded and we want to defend ourselves.

Do not think that the other side want to separate the forces. There is no clear dividing line and it is a war of neighbours against each other. The greatest problem is the forces brought in from the outside. If there were only local forces were here we could have peace.

On 23 January the Busovaca to Kiseljak road was cut. Busovaca was occupied and ethnically cleansed. If the UN does not separate the forces is clear that there will be more conflict.

In Zenica there is HOS, Green Legion and mujahadeen. We have left the roads open so it is easy for extremists. There is a PW camp for Green Legion at Bilimisce, the Mujahadeen have a camp at Arnanti.

Either they have to withdraw their forces or separate them. I do not think it will last long because the Muslims will try again to attack Busovaca and Vitez.

Comment: He marked the positions of Croat, mixed and Muslim villages on the map, Appendix 1, to demonstrate the fact that the Croats are cut off and surrounded. He did not mark Ahmici and Nadioci with anything.

If the forces are not separated there will be worse conflict. The Croats have no other escape, none of the roads are open, we are surrounded and we want to defend ourselves.

Do not think that the other side want to separate the forces. There is no clear dividing line and it is a war of neighbours against each other. The greatest problem is the forces brought in from the outside. If there were only local forces were here we could have peace.

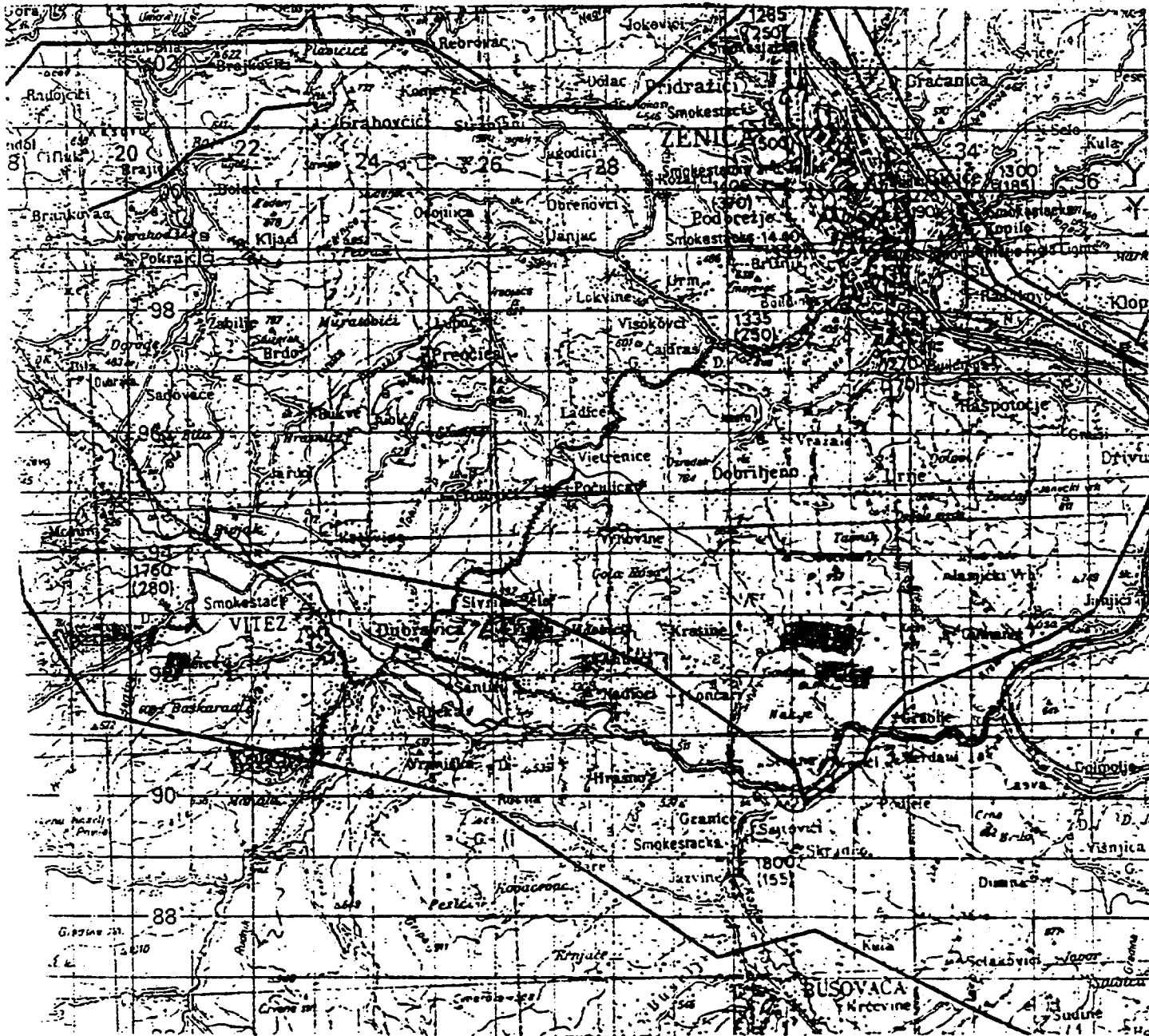
On 23 January the Busovaca to Kiseljak road was cut. Busovaca was occupied and ethnically cleansed. If the UN does not separate the forces is clear that there will be more conflict.

In Zenica there is HOS, Green Legion and mujahadeen. We have left the roads open so it is easy for extremists. There is a PW camp for Green Legion at Bilimisce, the Mujahadeen have a camp at Arnanti.

Either they have to withdraw their forces or separate them. I do not think it will last long because the Muslims will try again to attack Busovaca and Vitez.

MAP MARKED BY COLONEL BLASKIC

Key: Croat  
Muslim  
Mixed





8 May 1993

**MEETING WITH DEPUTY COMMANDER OF KRUSCICE BRIGADE BiH AND HUKJE HALILOVIC, COMMANDER OF THE 1st BATTALION**

Comment: When we arrived the Brigade Commander was at a meeting of the Joint Operations Centre between BiH and HVO, chaired by ECMM. He was returned by BRITBAT while we were there, but said very little. We received a warm welcome:

There are two soldiers killed on 17 April. They told the HVO that they were missing and then after the recovery of 5 HVO bodies the 2 BiH bodies were found. They need ECMM help to recover the bodies. He marked the position on the map.

Ahmici was genocide, to get rid of Muslims, so that is why we have fighting in Vitez. After collecting bodies in the village Ahmici and Old Vitez they have put them in graves in the mosque. There were 97 bodies, and they could not identify 43 bodies.

This is a real situation and it is genocide. They have a report of the funeral and a description of the bodies, the way they were killed. So far they have information on 97 killed but it is not the total.

Croatia destroyed all signs of Muslim culture. Mosques are destroyed and often shelled. BiH has to defend themselves and from their side they have not shelled any churches. It is true that some Croat houses have been burnt, but that was done by Muslim extremists.

Houses should not be burnt. They could be used for refugees and displaced people. They are totally surrounded here and they have no way out. They have no road communications, telephones and so on. The only things they have are from the international community. They have had help from the international community.

Ahmici was done by the government and forces of the HVO. The shelling was done by the HVO and the troops came from the HQ on the main road at Nadioci. The shelling was from Hrasno.

They did it for Herceg-Bosna. They want to have a state within a state. What happened in Ahmici has happened in all the other places too. There is no solution in sight. They could not believe it of their neighbours. The joint command in Travnik may be the way out.

They also have also had a lot of people arrested. PW had to dig trenches for the HVO. PW are held in the cinema in Vitez, at HVO HQ, in Dubravica primary school, the oil station and the chemical factory in Vitez.

There is a list of 300 people who were in the cinema, but it is not complete because some have been released and he does not know who. When the HVO released 100 there were 19 who released who were not on the list. The ICRC know the locations.

Before the HVO released people, intellectual people from Vitez, about 20 or 30 of them; were not released. They were professors and engineers.

Hukje Halilovic said that he is afraid that because of the 2 bodies in the HVO area there could be an attack again. Also they have no information about the village of Novaci.

Because Kruscice is in a valley and HVO are on the hills the HVO filled the tyres of trucks with explosives and rolled it down the hill, but the lighter that they used to ignite it did not work. The BiH found 70kg of explosives.

Before this the HVO on the hill put explosives into a cart with a horse and tried to send it down the hill. But the other horse that normally worked with this horse was in a field on top of the hill, and the horse would not leave its partner, so the explosion was on the HVO part. There were 7 or 8 victims.

Houses are blown up every night. They hear shooting all the time.

9 May 1993

**MEETING WITH RAMIZ DUGALIC, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF 3 CORPS BiH**

They expect an ultimatum from the HVO for the surrender of Old Vitez, which they will reject. This will lead to a repeat of Ahmici. So they request a standing patrol from UNPROFOR to prevent an attack.

Snipers have killed two boys in Old Vitez. They are located in the church tower, in Krcevine and in the hotel.

The car bomb was used by the HVO to destroy the mosque. They also have three trucks with explosives and the intention to attack again. They make explosives in the factory and there are trucks in the factory.

During the ceasefire the HVO brought in new forces. They also brought in the HV. In Mostar there are two brigades of HV.

The problem of the HVO is very deep because it is not just a military structure but also a civil structure. One prisoner seen yesterday by the Ambassador has papers showing his Croatian citizenship and his pension from the MUP. He was in the HVO, not in uniform but organising it all. He worked with Kordic in an illegal way. He is the same as the others, they all have documents.

If he accepts the HVO methods they will not produce anything.

Starting at 0300 there were arrests and killing in Vitez, Ahmici, Nadioci and Busovaca, and an attack on Kruscica. 13 members of the SDA and civil government were arrested in central Vitez. They are now in Kajonik. It was the plan that they should be arrested and the fear is that they should be liquidated.

The first so far was the murder of Slotrg Nedim and his wife Mira. The HVO killed them and their children saw it. He was not an extremist because he was married to a Serb.

Mahtovic Saban, whose wife and children are still in Vitez, was the chief of civil police in Vitez. His house was burnt. Because he was in the house he jumped out of a window and was shot as he ran away.

Varupa Mitat was the town lawyer in Vitez until the HVO imposed their government. They were killed and arrested in the early morning when the attack went in to Ahmici. Therefore it was a coordinated plan by the HVO.

Basically the Croats and Serbs are working together.

There used to be about 100 Muslims in Nova Bila, now there are none. They had to leave because of the violence. Ocenici was burnt. 2 women and children were killed and the population has moved to Zenica.

The HVO has two formations. One legal one which is doing the dirty jobs. Darko Krakjevic, now a colonel, is in command. He uses drugs and he was in HOS earlier. He also has a "secondary school", ie interrogation centre. That is the reason why you think that perhaps the crimes in Ahmici were committed by HOS.

This is a licence that Muslims have to leave their homes. Example at Appendix 1.

The HVO also has a legal organisation called "Joker". The leader of Joker is Anto Furundja.

They have proof that HVO carried out the attack at Ahmici because of what the survivors have told them. They also captured two HVO who were involved in the attack. I can see them, but not now. It will take a phone call.

Comment: After some persuasion Dugalic first said that they knew that the HVO had been there because they had badges taken from them. He produced HVO and MUP badges, which I rejected because they could have come from anywhere. Then he said that they had captured two HVO. I am not sure whether this was a complex deception, because he never actually let me see the men.

Returning to the subject of the car bomb in Vitez, Blaskic gave the order to put the man who drove the bomb into the truck and Darko Kraljvecic carried out the attack. The HVO wanted to put 3 tonnes of explosives into the truck but in the end they only used 700 kg. The driver was not a local man. He had been working in Switzerland and came back to drive humanitarian aid. They told him to deliver a message, and did not tell him about the explosives.

Appendix 1 to  
Annex I to  
ECMM H/S 720  
Dated 15 May 1993

**CERTIFICATE FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY**

Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina  
Croatian Community Herceg Bosna  
Department for Defence  
Unit Vitezovi  
Vitez

Date: 24.04.93

**RATIFICATION**

Which confirms that the flat, address: M. Tita Lamela A5-A9, Ulaz 2, second floor, is given for temporary use to Krizanac Jako by this unit. The former owner of this flat was Ekmescic Faruk

By Order

Colonel Darko Kraljevic

From : \*ARHITEKTONGKI ATELJE\* TRAVNIK tel/fax 072 814 030 Jan. 04. 1998 05:47 AM

Republika Bosna i Hercegovina  
HRVATSKA ZAJEDNICA HERCEG BOSNA  
ODJEL OBRANE  
POSTOJBE ZA PH-VITEZOVI  
V I T E Z

Republika Bosna i Hercegovina  
HRVATSKA ZAJEDNICA HERCEG-BOSNA  
ODJEL OBRANE  
POSTOJBA ZA PH-VITEZOVI  
VITEZ

Datum : 24.04.1993 godine,

Org. pu	Ustav	Priloga	Vrijednost
	2-146		

P O T V R D A

Kojom se potvrđuje na stranišće postrojbe da  
Križanac Jaki Kojeljić na privremeno korištenje stan  
ulici M. Tita, LAKTIĆI 15-AD, ULAZ br. 2, na 2 katu  
broj stana 21, radnjak vlasništvo Ekmečić Parika.

Z A  
Pukovnik D. KRALJEVI  
ODJEL OBRANE VITEZ





9 May 1993

**MEETING WITH MAJ BRIAN WATTERS, SECOND IN COMMAND OF BRITBAT**

I had a long conversation with Maj Watters about the events of 16 April and the next few days. He made four main points:

- a. The attacks on Old Vitez, Kruscice and Ahmici seemed to be coordinated and were all carried out by the HVO.
- b. Ahmici seemed to have been carefully selected as a target because of its tradition as being holy ground, having produced a high number of Imams.
- c. The Croats appeared intent on moving the Muslim population out of Vitez, and they had been unprepared for the rapid and successful response of the BiH.
- d. In his opinion the HVO were only saved by the ceasefire brokered by UN and ECMM.

9 May 1993

**MEETING WITH ENVER HODZA, IMAM OF BUSOVACA**

Comment: Because I did not know where Enver Hodza lived, I went first to the mosque, which was locked, then asked a man in the road. He took me, after a couple of enquiries, to Enver Hodza's house. At first Enver Hodza refused to speak to me, but then changed his mind and invited us into his house:

A muslim woman was raped at about 2300 last night. Someone in HVO uniform came into her house and took her to another house about 500m away.

They are totally isolated in Busovaca. There is an information blockade. The Muslims younger than 60 years old have to dig trenches for the HVO. They cannot pray in Busovaca. Muslims are not allowed to go out of their houses and some have had to leave because of HVO violence. He is allowed to bury the dead.

Yesterday he was with the president of Busovaca, currently Zoran Maric of HVO. He spoke with him about the problems of Muslims in Busovaca, basically the Muslims want to leave Busovaca. About 300 families have had to leave their homes and move to other places: Zenica, Kacuni and wherever they have families.

He asked Zoran Maric to give them some protection. He asked for a telephone line so they can contact outside. He was promised it. All Muslim houses that were empty have been taken over by Croats. They have all been robbed.

In Ocenici between 20 and 23 April 5 women were killed and the houses all burnt. The families all moved to Busovaca. There was a funeral on 25 April for Nuhagic Umihana (1914), Nuhagic Fatima (1956), Nuhagic Fatima (1937), Nuhagic (Husjna) Latifa and Nuhagic (Husjna) Hajra.

In some mixed villages there are some burnt Croat houses. Because the family is homeless they come into town and take over a Muslim house. In Jelinak the HVO burnt all the Muslim houses, then the Muslims burnt the Croat houses. Local radio Busovaca said there are 650 displaced Croat families in Busovaca. They live in weekend houses or Muslim houses.

The Topalovic family was killed in Busovaca: Topalovic Ahmet, the father, Topalovic Sabrija, his son, and Topalovic Adil, his grandson. The son's wife Bedrija was wounded and she is in Travnik hospital. The funeral was on 27 April, and they were killed by Zoran "Schwabo". The neighbours ran away.

They are afraid and were told yesterday that Muslims can have no weapons. They were all taken away from them on about 24 January. Some people threaten them. Croat refugees do it. But no one threatens him.

In this part of town all people are Muslim, from the mosque to the crossroads. Muslims know many things about violence but they are afraid and can not talk freely.

The big problem is with food. They receive it from the Red Cross. For

270 families they get 100 boxes. One person gets half a litre of oil. He used to work in the humanitarian organisation Igatha, but Igatha had not received aid for a long time. Muslims in Busovaca have no cars because they have all been stolen by HVO.

Skandro Kemal was buried on 24 April. He was a driver who was arrested between Vitez and Travnik, one of 90 drivers who have been arrested. He was killed by a sniper while digging trenches. Lugonjic Omer was buried today. He was also a driver who was killed.

He is very afraid and told Maric yesterday that he wants to leave. They have heard some news that the HVO will attack again and all Muslims will be killed.

Maric says that he will send a military patrol but it will not happen. Maric says that everything that was done here was the work of extremists. Maric really wants to help but thinks that he cannot.

He has a pass signed on 1 May 1993 by Drsko Grubersic, commander of the HVO brigade, Zoran Maric, President of HVO in Busovaca, and Dario Kordic of HDZ. Kordic seems to be the man calling the shots.

He does not know who is behind it, but HVO say it is extremists who are doing it. After the rape they sent a patrol to find out about it and some people who spoke to the girl. She went to the clinic.

People from the Busovaca government, Muslims, are not here any more. They had to leave. At the moment he is the only person speaking for the Muslims but he has no power. He does not want to leave the other Muslims here, but he will leave if they all leave. Yesterday 15 Muslim families left Skradno on foot. If they are caught by the HVO they will have to go back.

Comment: As we were getting up to leave the imam's house, the HVO police arrived and came into the house. They asked if there were any problems and suggested that they should sit down so that any problems could be discussed. I said that we were leaving, but would be delighted to come with them to their office to discuss their problems, which we did.

9 May 1993

**MEETING WITH CHIEF OF POLICE IN BUSOVACA**

Present: Nikica Petrovic, chief of civil police in Busovaca  
Zjelko Lastro of the regional police  
Zoran Vareskovic, deputy chief of military police in Busovaca

They have a problem because a member of the military police was shot by a sniper.

The rape case is being investigated by the regional police. They have two suspects, both young and both drunk. They hope to have them arrested tonight.

Comment: In response to questions about whether the suspects would be tried by a military or civil court, and what sort of sentence was expected in a case such as this, there was apparently great difficulty understanding the questions. The eventual answers were that the minimum sentence for rape is 3 years. They will be tried by the only court that exists at the moment, which sits in Travnik.

They are doing all that they can to promote peace. Petrovic used to work with the people in Zenica. Anto Markovic has been arrested. He was living in Zenica. His wife has called several times and said that she has problems with MOS in Zenica. Markovic is not a soldier, he worked in the forensic department of the police.

They have information that people have been released by the BiH then re-arrested by extremists: MOS.

Zlatko Alexovski is responsible for Kajonic prison. It is HVO, not run by the police. It is under the jurisdiction of the military court in Travnik.

I said that I had spoken to Fr Bozo and described the conditions of Croats that I had seen. They said that because Fr Bozo had brought back 2 busses of Croats to their houses, who had then been tortured, he could be considered to be a criminal. He thought of what was right according to his heart or the Church, not of politics.

10 May 1993

**MEETING WITH THE MAYOR OF ZENICA**

I had a second meeting with the mayor of Zenica to give him information about the 13 key men arrested in Zenica. I then told him about the conditions that I had seen in Vitez and Kruscica.

Finally I told him about the letter sent by Mate Boban to the international community and Izetbegovic, outlining the case against the Muslims and justifying the use of force against them. I stressed that at this time it was crucial for the Muslims not to react with violence of any sort, because this would be used by the Croats to prove their case.

Mr Spahic was left in no doubt as to the severity of the situation, and I made specific reference to the Croats in his prison and the Croat houses that had been burnt in his municipality. He said that he fully understood the point I was making and would do his best to ensure that the Muslims did not react to the provocation.

10 May 1993

**MEETING WITH THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZENICA**

People met: Hadjic Ragib, head of the office.  
Benjamina Saranovic, independent investigator.  
Nurka Babovic, leader of the investigation team.

Comment: Mr Hadjic began with a long set of political "headlines", as he called them.

The political background is important. The Serbs and Croats have a deal to divide Bosnia-Hercegovina. They want to destroy the state of Bosnia-Hercegovina. That is an old concept, over 150 years old.

They think the time is right and they will try to impose Serb and Croat politics in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Muslims have no part in their concept, or they want to reduce the Muslim part.

It started with Serb aggression. During the war Croatia had a double position: publicly pro-Bosnia, and on the other side identical to Serb politics.

Their aim is ethnic cleansing between the so called Croat and Muslim areas. The worst crimes have been committed on the boundaries. Their aim is a cleansed corridor between the two parts so that there is no contact between the two sides.

The second aim is to reduce the number of Muslims in the Croat areas so Croats are in the majority in their areas. Because the Muslims are terrorised they have to leave their houses. On the boundaries everything was destroyed.

Europe has to understand that there are two fascist regimes: Belgrade and Croatia; totalitarian and non-democratic, based on the maximisation of nationalistic problems.

The solution for Bosnia-Hercegovina is to implement democracy from Belgrade and Zagreb in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Since they are both totalitarian regimes we will have conflict here, because they can only exist in war.

The relationship between Belgrade and Zagreb is balanced. If you increase the level of violence on one side so you do on the other. Milosevic made Tudman. They are the same as each other.

The fight for the Maslenica bridge was a political deal. The Croats attacked and the Serbs had to withdraw. It was in a global picture.

The centre try to find crimes committed by the HVO during the conflict in the period of the last year. On the subject of Ahmici, there were 4 Muslim houses in Nadioci, the next hamlet, and all the families were killed.



They have information about the refugees from Jajce who were living in Ahmici, and many of them were killed, but it is impossible to identify them because they did not know their names.

One boy had to jump from the second floor, before that his brother jumped and was killed by the fall. The boy was in the village for 6 days and saw the dead people who were burnt. And a member of the Croat Red Cross told him that all Muslim boys over 7 years old had to be killed.

It started at 0600 and they did not expect it would happen. They were surrounded by HVO so they could not leave. They had to stay in their houses and 4 or 5 soldiers from HVO attacked each house. HVO put snipers in the woods and everyone who ran away was shot.

At 0545 people were sleeping and they did not expect it would happen. The HVO soldiers put sponges on their shoes so they could not hear them coming. The soldiers came into the houses and started shooting and it was impossible to run away because the soldiers were already there. Everyone who was outside was shot.

The people who were able to run away were in terrible shock, so it was very difficult for them to talk and to get the detail. Some of the women saw their neighbours killing their husbands and children.

In Zenica there is a woman, a grandmother, who was raped. People did not expect it, they were not prepared. They have used the same way of killing in Busovaca, people were not ready and they were killed.

In Ahmici they believe that 16 complete families were killed, 19 families lost one member, 17 families lost 2 members and 1 family lost 3 members. Appendix 1 is a list of those believed to be dead, appendix 2 has statistics.

But that is not the total information. They believe that 180 houses were burnt, and there were 200 Muslim houses in the village. Refugees from Ahmici are now in Vrhovina, which is shelled every day.

There is information that 15 people are held in the chess club in Vitez, and also people held in the cinema.

Ocenici is a Muslim village that has been cut off, they do not know what is going on there, but there are reports of a bad smell.

Most of the people who were involved in Ahmici were the people from Santici, the Croat village on the South side of the road opposite Ahmici.

They have a list of 120 people identified by testimony of survivors who were involved in atrocities in Vitez, Ahmici and other places.

Comment: They refused to let me see the list, let alone have a copy of it because of the risk of reprisals. I now have a copy of the list, which cannot be published because it is not substantiated by any accompanying evidence. It may be of interest to historians.

Appendix 1 to  
Annex N to  
ECMM H/S 720  
Dated 15 May 1993

**LIST OF PEOPLE FOR WHOM THERE IS REASON TO SUSPECT THEY WERE  
KILLED IN AHMICI**

(The list was made from the testimony of witnesses)

Note: the names that have been crossed out are people who have  
subsequently been found to have survived.

SPISAK LICA ZA KOJE SE OSNOVANO SUMNJA DA SU UBIJENI U AHMIĆIMA

15.04.1993. GODINE

(SPISAK JE SAČINJEN NA OSNOVU IZJAVA PREŽIVJELIH SVJEDOKA)

1.	Šiljak (Ahmet) Adem	1955.	Šantići	
2.	Dedić (Ahmet) Mustafa	1948.		
	Dedić (Mustafa) Faris	1969.		sin
3.	Ribo Munib	1958.		
4.	Đidić Muharem			
	Đidić (Muharem) Nedžad	1972.		sin
5.	Ahmić Smail		Ahmići	
	Ahmić (Smail) Mujo		Ahmići	sin
6.	Ahmić (Sakib) Naser	1963.	Ahmići	
	Ahmić (Sakib) Šuhret	1955.	Ahmići	brat
	Ahmić Zehrudina	1965.	Ahmići	supruga
	Ahmić (Naser) Elvis	1985.	Ahmići	sin
	Ahmić (Naser) Sejad	3 mjeseca	Ahmići	sin
7.	Ahmić Ramiz	1928.	Ahmići	
	Ahmić (Ramiz) Asim	1958.	Ahmići	sin
	Ahmić (Ramiz) Rasim	1961.	Ahmići	sin
	Ahmić (Ramiz) Nazif	1948.	Ahmići	sin
	Ahmić (Nazif) Amir	1979.	Ahmići	unuk
8.	Ahmić (Dervo) Islam	1947.	Ahmići	
	Ahmić (Dervo) Šefik	1949.	Ahmići	brat
	Pušćul (Mujo) Muzafer	1957.	Ahmići	zet
9.	Ahmić (Nesib) Elvedin	1974.	Ahmići	
10.	Hrnjić Meho	1943.	Ahmići	
	Hrnjić (Meho) Admir		Ahmići	sin
11.	Ramić (Čazo) Naim		Ahmići	
	Ramić (Čazo) Zenur		Ahmići	brat
12.	Ahmić (Šemso) Hašim		Ahmići	
	Ahmić (Hašim) Fahrhan		Ahmići	sin
13.	Pezer (Kasim) Sakib	1952.	Ahmići	
	Pezer (Sakib) Mevludin	1974.	Ahmići	sin

14. Pezer (Semso) Šefik	1940.	Ahmići	
Pezer (Šefik) Ahmet	1966.	Ahmići	sin
15. Pezer (Feho) Ibrahim	1938.	Ahmići	
Pezer (Ibrahim) Fadil	1966.	Ahmići	sin
Pezer Čaza		Ahmići	supruga
16. Trako Mehmed		Ahmići	
17. Ahmić (Čamil) Esad	1940.	Ahmići	
Ahmić (Esad) Hajra	1974.	Ahmići	kći
18. Karić Ibrahim	1941.	Ahmići	
✓ Karić (Ibrahim) Ibro	1974.	Ahmići	sin
19. Ahmić (Fehim) Nadira	1947.	Ahmići ?	
Ahmić (Čazo) Besim	1968.	Ahmići	sin ? u ljepu
20. Osmančević Sabahudin	1964.	Ahmići	
21. Pjanić (Hajrudin) Muamer	1972.	Ahmići	
22. Ahmić Alija		Ahmići	
Ahmić (Alija) Muris	1964.	Ahmići	sin
23. Ahmić Sakib		Ahmići	
Ahmić Sadeta		Ahmići	supruga
Ahmić (Sakib) Samir	1974.	Ahmići	sin
24. Pezer (Omer) Halid	1974.	Ahmići	
Halidova nena je izgorila u kući			
25. Pezer Kasim		Ahmići	
Pezer (Kasim) Osman	1965.	Ahmići	sin
26. Ahmić Mineta		Ahmići	
✓ <del>Ahmić Mirsad</del>		<del>Ahmići</del>	<del>supruga</del>
Ahmić (Mirsad) Semir	1986.	Ahmići	sin
27. Ahmić Zahir	1946.	Ahmići	
28. Ahmić Husein	1929.	Ahmići	
29. Ahmić Hazim (penzioner)		Ahmići ?	
Ahmić Čelebija		Ahmići	supruga
? Zakovan za svoju ćzamiju sa svojom ženom. b. sapatjen			
30. Pezer Fata	1946.	Ahmići	
31. Hrustanović Meho (penzioner)		Ahmići	
Hrustanović Zarfija		Ahmići	supruga
32. Šehić Enver	1959.	Ahmići	
Šehić (Enver) Elvis	1983.	Ahmići	sin

33. Ahmić Munib (penzioner)		Ahmići	
Ahmić Džulba		Ahmići	supruga
Ahmić (Munib) Hajrudin	1955.	Ahmići	sin
Ahmić Raziya	1962.	Ahmići	snaha
34. Ahmić Hajra	1919.	Ahmići	
Ahmić Zulejha	1952.	Ahmići	kći
35. Ahmić Redžib (penzioner)		Ahmići	
36. Keremo Vehdija (penzioner)		Ahmići	
37. Ahmić Džemal (penzioner)		Ahmići	
Ahmić Rasma		Ahmići	supruga } zapalio
38. Pezer Aziz (penzioner)		Ahmići	
Pezer Nezira		Ahmići	supruga } zapalio
Pezer (Aziz) Siradž	1948.	Ahmići	sin
39. Zec Sabahudin		Ahmići	
Zec Hajra		Ahmići	supruga
Zec (Sabahudin) Alisa	1981.	Ahmići	kći
40. Pehlivanović Redžep	1951.	Ahmići	
Pehlivanović Sadika	1956.	Ahmići	supruga
41. ??? Šerika	1914.	Ahmići	
Nabodena na kolje.			
42. <del>Ahmić Ferid</del>		<del>Nadioci</del>	
43. Čerimić Mehmed		Nadioci	
Čerimić Aiša		Nadioci	supruga
dva sina i kći		Nadioci	djeca
* zaklani *			
44. Salkić Osman (penzioner)		Nadioci	
Salkić Sabiha		Nadioci	supruga
Salkić (Osman) Emsad		Nadioci	sin
Salkić Hatka		Nadioci	snaha
troje djece		Nadioci	unučad
Salkić (Osman) Esad		Nadioci	sin
* ubijen rafalom, a zatim raznesen eksplozivom			
Salkić Fatima		Nadioci	snaha
troje djece (od 2 do 14 godina)		Nadioci	unučad
Salkić (Osman) Mirnesa		Nadioci	kći
Mirnesino dijete		Nadioci	unuče



**TABLES OF STATISTICS ON AHMICI**

From the testimony of people who were lucky enough to run away on 16 April 1993 from the village of Ahmici, we found out that the village was inhabited by a majority population of Muslims, with about 200 houses which have been burnt.

We visited a place where there are 39 people from Ahmici. From their testimonies we found out the following data:

- 103 people were killed.
- 49 people were in the camp and most of them were exchanged.
- 6 people disappeared.

From their testimonies we also found out:

**DATA BY FAMILIES**

	Total Family	1 member	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Killed	16	19	17	1	===	===	53
Prison Camp	2	4	8	3	2	1	20
Unknown	===	2	===	===	1	===	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>

**DATA BY SEX**

	Men	Women	Kids	Total
Killed	70	26	7	103
Prison Camp	13	32	4	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>152</b>



DATA BY AGE

	Killed	Camp	Total
0 - 5	2	4	6
6 -10	3	5	8
11-15	4	7	11
16-20	6	3	9
21-25	4	1	5
26-30	7	2	9
31-35	5	1	6
36-40	6	1	7
41-45	6	4	10
46-50	6	=	6
51-55	4	2	6
56-60	=	=	=
61-65	1	=	1
66-70	1	=	1
71 +	2	=	2
	46	19	65
TOTAL	103	49	152

10 May 1993

**VISIT TO KAONIK PRISON, DIRECTOR ZLATKO ALEXOVSKI**

Mr Alexovski used to work in Zenica prison. He thinks that his prisoners are lucky because he is a professional who knows how to handle them.

The job is difficult regardless of the kind of prisoners. The problem is that they have a large number of people and there is still some fighting in the area. There is quite a lot of fear because of the fighting, people feel threatened and there is fear on both sides, both from those inside and out.

The problem is that someone needs to provide certain guarantees to both prisoners and jailors, because some people are not strong enough and you expect reactions from them under certain conditions.

So far they are not bad problems that they could not solve or that would cause chaos. This can be checked by talking to people. There is no kind of mistreatment.

More or less all the rules of the Geneva Convention are obeyed in most cases. There is some flexibility because he is used to respect the rules of the prison in Zenica.

In January this year he was here when 400 Muslims were arrested here. During this conflict the situation was worse because fighting was close and there was a bigger conflict and the outcome of the conflict was not certain. If you are familiar with the present situation you can see that there is pressure on the HVO.

ICRC from Zenica visit very regularly, 3 or 4 times in the last conflict. In case they happen to have 2 or 3 more prisoners arrive they inform ICRC. I think ICRC have no objections in regard to my work. I can not guarantee for the others, but certainly for my work.

The biggest problem is that we are poor, there is a lack of food and money. There is a lack of food and we do not think that we have good conditions here. The cells were quickly constructed and not designed for their current purpose.

Currently there are 79 Muslim prisoners. There were more: on 16 April we had 107 prisoners, on 6 May we had 109 prisoners and on 9 May we also had 109 prisoners.

This is an appeal for the release of 5 people from ICRC, an appeal for the release of ICRC drivers, arrested on 14 April in Novi Travnik. When we speak of those who work for ICRC and do not, I have sent them a letter saying that I would like to warn them who they engage within their humanitarian organisation. These are soldiers.

Comment: When questioned about the charges against the prisoners being held in the prison there was a complicated answer:

This prison was not established just for this conflict. It is the military prison for the whole region of Central Bosnia. So all these Muslims arrested during this conflict are in the charge of HVO of Busovaca and Vitez. He wants to stress that they (the HVO) do not do their job professionally and officially.

This prison is just to hold them. For example here is the release document signed by a local brigade commander authorising the release or exchange of a prisoner.

Another problem is that almost all of the staff were mobilised and taken to the front line, so one of his guards is 60 years old, and most of them are unable to do their jobs when he is absent. He lives here because his flat was emptied in Zenica.

The 2 basic problems are lack of food and a lack of security staff. The 3rd problem they are trying to solve is the problem with those people who are arrested, who are brought here without any selection. But he must stress that the women and children are not brought here.

Both soldiers and civilians are brought. The explanation that he is given for the civilians is that they are brought for their protection. With the soldiers it is obvious.

The 4th problem is internal exchange. There were a great number of those agreed by local commanders or other important people within the local community.

Or often someone is given permission to be released because they know someone important. Thus we are left with the poor who do not have such good relations with the rich and powerful. The only comfort, if that is what it is, is that the most important people from Vitez were also brought here.

5th is the kind of work that the prisoners have to do. Because I know that the Geneva Conventions do not allow prisoners to be taken for any work if their lives are in danger. I have been warned about that by the ICRC as well.

But I am not the only one responsible for this, because I just carry out orders. The brigade commanders in Busovaca and Vitez give them. Not that I want to avoid my responsibility. Because I am not the one who releases people to do the work. In order to clear it up I went with Beatrice of the ICRC to the commander in Busovaca where she protested for the people to be taken to work under such conditions.

She was given the answer I almost completely agree with. We here actually do not have enough people to do the security jobs. Someone had to dig the trenches and it happened that the men to do that were the prisoners. On the contrary it would happen that Busovaca would be occupied and I do not need to explain what would happen if mujahadeen occupied it, so in a way the Muslims protected Busovaca.

This compared to the Geneva Convention is not right, but regarding the need for the trenches to be dug I think that it is right. One day we were digging trenches and the Muslims attacked our position and everyone tried to run away. So when we gathered together we found that 2 men were missing. There had been 6 of them digging trenches.

Not all of the prisoners are military. They do not have details of who is military and who is civilian. It is the problem of the military police and the intelligence organisation.

They have released, or rather will release the civilians. None of the Muslims have been charged with anything, other than being members of the BiH army.

The prison is for the whole of central Bosnia-Herzegovina. But they can not even get a kilo of bread up from the South, let alone a prisoner. So they have several small prisons in the districts.

They have space for 80 and have about 40 criminals as well as the Muslims.

I do not think anyone would accept responsibility for the small prisons. According to my personal estimation I would consider these small prisons as private prisons, no one would take responsibility. For example the music school in Zenica.

But I would like to stress that in Busovaca there are no double prisons, for example in Zenica there are several places outside the main prison.

As far as I know, my father-in-law was taken a few days ago by a terrorist group: 7 Muslim brigade. My mother-in-law had a phone call that he is alive and well and will be killed if any civilian in Busovaca is killed after 7 May at 1130.

When they took my father-in-law they gave her a kind of receipt where it is written 3 Corps BiH and name those who were there: Delalic Nasid and Pehenda Besim were the people who did it.

The brother of one of my guards was taken to the main prison, and since I used to work there I asked about him and was told he was there. But when the brother called he was told he was not there. His name is Janic Ilja Dragan.

I do not know about the cinema in Vitez, but I know they are kept in some basements. I was told that last night, when I talked to prisoners from Vitez. They said that in some basements conditions were good and some were bad.

Concerning the problems within his guards he has 4 men whose brothers were killed in the front line and a lot of people from Busovaca lost members of their families. In such critical situations people used to drink too much. You can imagine what happens when such drunk people come to take revenge.

Would you shoot a man who has lost his brother to stop him from abusing a Muslim? In order to restrain them without shooting my guard are not carrying weapons. You will see that those who have contact with the prisoners do not carry weapons. All the weapons here are some old fashioned rifles and we only carry them at night.

It can be very dangerous because we work here with people, we are responsible for their lives. You should check with them.

I do not want to avoid my responsibility. I do not know the exact date when the ceasefire was agreed, when the UN came to separate the two sides. At that very moment when the UN went to separate them the BiH killed Muslims because they should know that only Muslims kill Muslims.

Therefore relatively they are all secure here. To confirm that they should see that you carry flak jackets, outside it is more dangerous.

I want to repeat once again, if we did not have trenches dug then who can say what would have happened? Presently there is not large scale fighting. There are incidents, snipers are active. A civil policeman was killed yesterday.

I have doubts that we will have peace here; I have heard there is a general call up in Zenica.

In Jelinak we gathered all the women and children into one house to protect them from the men who had lost brothers. Then we told them to go to Zenica. They escorted them on foot to the petrol station then told them to go to Zenica.

BiH now control Jelinak. The village was burnt at the very beginning, on the second day of fighting. We were on one side and they were on the other. They started shelling and we withdrew from our positions. Then they burnt the houses. All of them have been burnt.

For example our people from Kacuni were all expelled and then they burnt the whole village. The first case happened in Dusina, where BiH entered the village and killed all the Croats. They actually cut the heart out of the body of the commander. This was back in January.

Comment: We then went to look at the prisoners. One man asked if he could ask a question, and then asked why he was being held. Alexovski said that in this case he knew, having spoken to the men who brought the prisoner in. He had been arrested for his own protection, because he was tending a field in a conflict area.

I commented quietly that if it had been me, I would have sent him to Zenica for his protection, rather than putting him into a cell. Alexovski said that in that case, since the man was clearly a civilian, we could take him back to Zenica with us. He told the man to take his coat and leave the cell. While we were still talking they organised a car to take him back to the point where he was picked up.

This prompted a discussion of whether all the other civilians who were being held for their own protection should be released, which was continued once we had seen looked into the other cells in the building.

We spoke to several men who had been arrested in Vitez on 16 April. They said that they were civilians and asked when they would be released. For the most part they were teachers and engineers. All of them said that they had been arrested at home. The list of Muslim prisoners held is at Appendix 1.

In every cell at least one prisoner made a point of making a short statement to the effect that all the prisoner were well treated and had no complaints about their conditions. These statements were reminiscent of the speeches made to the commandant of Manjaca by prisoners when they were released.

On the question of the definition of a soldier, there was a long discussion centred on the argument that any man between the ages of 16 and 60 was a soldier, so there could be no civilians. But at the same time some of the men held were clearly civilians, so the definition of a soldier as someone who was captured during combat, wearing a uniform with a weapon in his hand was offered as the alternative. Alexovski finally said that he would get the military police to decide, and would send us lists of the soldiers and civilians as soon as they had. Comment ends.

For the civilians, HVO actually offered unconditional release and I think in a day or two it will be achieved for civilians. For soldiers things are more complicated because 3 Corps require a one-for-one exchange.

I do not know how many other soldiers they have or we have, so there are some problems. I promise that on by part I will do my best for the civilians as a positive sign. Most probably these 2 first will be released because I cannot provide a 100% guarantee for the others.

Comment: He claimed not to have seen the joint order signed by Petkovic and Halilovic, ordering the release of all civilians, so we said we would fax him a copy.

I will go with you to both HQs and will give them a guarantee that I will act in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. He said that he would fax us lists of all those who had been brought into the prison, all those who had left, and all those who remained.

LIST OF MUSLIM PRISONERS HELD AT KAONIK PRISON

Republika Bosna i Hercegovina  
HRVATSKA ZAJEDNICA HERCEG - BOSNA  
HRVATSKO VIJEĆE OBRANE

ODJEL ZA BRAVOSUDJE I OPĆU UPRAVU  
M O S T A R  
OKRUŽNI VOJNI ZATVOR KAONIK  
B O S N A O O A

Datum: 10.05.1993. god.

SPISAK RATNIH ZAROBLJENIKA

1. OSMANČEVIĆ DOGAZIM
2. KULUOSMAN SMAIL
3. HABIL SALIH
4. OČELIKOVIĆ HAJRUDIN
5. MUSLIJA DZEMAL
6. TUTNJIĆ OSMAN
7. KOVAČO BEŠIĆ
8. OSMANČEVIĆ RADIĆ
9. OSMANČEVIĆ DŽIHO
10. TRAVANČEVIĆ HANZA
11. BEŠLAGIĆ RUSMIR
12. MEHINOVIĆ ETHEM
13. LIVNJAK EDIB
14. SANIĆ SUAD
15. BEŠO MUSTAFA
16. SULUNPAŠIĆ RASIM
17. SINANOVIĆ ALIJA
18. OSMANČEVIĆ RIFET
19. OSMANČEVIĆ NEHIM
20. OSMANČEVIĆ ŠPREM
21. OSMANČEVIĆ SIDIK
22. OSMANČEVIĆ MURAT
23. OSMANČEVIĆ MUSTAFA
24. OSMANČEVIĆ ŠPETA
25. OSMANČEVIĆ RASIM
26. OSMANČEVIĆ SUAD
27. OSMANČEVIĆ SUAD
28. OSMANČEVIĆ RASIM
29. KERMO RASIM
30. KOVAČO ŠEŠUĐIN
31. KERMO FADIL
32. RIDZAL RAHIM
33. MUHAREMOVIĆ JUŠUF
34. RISO SIDIK
35. RIDIL IDRIZ
36. OSMANČEVIĆ ŠEŠO
37. KALABIĆ AHMET
38. ✓ MUHAREMOVIĆ RASIM - HOGAĆ HITAKS
39. SUKANOVIĆ ENVER
40. ✓ GARANOVIĆ RASIM - MOKRANOS.
41. ✓ ŠEŠEVIĆ NEĐIAD
42. ✓ GASSIMANOVIĆ SULEJMAN ✓

~~730 705~~

730 705 Td.

SUBAŠIĆ DEVIŠ

- Don't know the name  
of the man who was  
released.

From JUSOVANA THE JUSTICE 14.05.93  
BE RELEASED THROUGH...

020247



- 43. <sup>B</sup> MASSIMANOVIC MUHAREM ✓
- 44. OSMANOVIC FUAD
- 45. HODZIC MUSTAFI
- 46. SEZIC ALMIR
- 47. BULJIC ZAKIR
- 48. MEVIC MUSTAFA
- 49. HAMZIC ENVER
- 50. RIBIC FIKRET
- 51. OSMANOVIC ENIZ
- 52. PEZER HIRNES
- 53. DZERZIC FUAD
- 54. AHMID HIMZO
- 55. PEZER ENIR
- 56. KARIC MUJAGA
- 57. SINANOVIC RIFET
- 58. NADZAL FIKRET
- 59. SALDUM MEVLIN
- 60. KLOVO N. V. S.
- 61. ...
- 62. ...
- 63. ...
- 64. ✓ ...
- 65. BABIC ALIJA
- 66. ✓ ...
- 67. AHMID OSMAN
- 68. ✓ ...
- 69. KARIC RAME
- 70. BALKIC BRAC
- 71. BALKAN OSMAN
- 72. KARIC FUAD
- 73. BIVIC BAHTIJA
- 74. X ZLOTIC EDIB — FOREIGN IN VITEL PRILE 16/04
- 75. SMAJLOVIC BERVIC
- 76. X DZIDIC RADIS — ... (14/04) — 16/4
- 77. MUTABDZIC NAIM
- 78. SBAYAN NASSIR
- 79. PRADZALIC SAID

✓ AHMID ELIASIM — ENGINEER.  
18/04

KARASKO RAMO ✓

Zaključeno sa ... 79.

UPRAVNIK OBRUJE ...

Blatko ...

10 May 1993

**MEETING WITH MR HASAN SADIBASIC, FORMER MEMBER OF THE WAR  
PRESIDENCY OF VITEZ MUNICIPALITY**

Mr Hasan Sadibasic was on the list of missing people given to me by the mayor of Zenica. I learned that he had been arrested and then released, and visited him at home in Vitez to talk to him.

He said that he and his family had a normal evening on 15 April, then went to bed at about midnight. They were woken at about 0600 by banging on the door. When his wife went to the door several men came into the house and arrested Mr Sadibasic and his daughter's boyfriend who was staying the night.

At this point in his narrative a next door neighbour came to the house in great haste and came in. He was introduced as a neighbour and offered coffee. He then produced certificates for Mr Sadibasic and his wife, which I gathered were a guarantee from the HVO that they could live in the house.

I finished my coffee, thanked my hostess, who was terrified, for her hospitality and left. I later found out that the neighbour was the civilian head of the local HVO in that district of Vitez.

11 May 1993

**MEETING WITH RAMIZ DUGALIC, DEPUTY COMMANDER 3 CORPS BiH**

I had a second meeting with Ramiz Dugalic to ask him when I could see the two prisoners he had mentioned. He said that they had, unfortunately been exchanged by a unit on the mountain road, in exchange for the family of one of the commanders. The names of the soldiers were Cecera Ivo and Brkovic Nikola.

He said that ethnic cleansing was continuing in Vitez, and Croats were moving into empty Muslim houses. There was very little they could do to stop it.

He said that there were about 150 Muslims held in a concrete hangar in the HVO barracks in Kiseljak. He was very concerned about their conditions.

He asked if we knew about the rape in Busovaca. I told him the information that we had been given by the police in Busovaca, but he remained sceptical about the justice that would be carried out. He said that he had information that Kulic Safeta, Smolje Zoran and two others were responsible for the rape.

I then gave him a very long explanation of the current position as I saw it, with particular emphasis on the situation of the Muslims in Vitez and Busovaca, and the prisoners. I suggested that the only way that the Muslims could overcome the problem of definition of military and civilian prisoners was to go beyond it, because so far almost all releases of prisoners related to exchanges or conditions of any sort failed.

I recommended that if the BiH released all the prisoners that they were holding, under ICRC supervision, other than those specifically accused of being war criminals, who should be investigated with complete access for the international community, then they would have a very powerful argument against the HVO if they played any games at all regarding the release of categories or exchange of specific numbers of prisoners.

That afternoon ECMM and ICRC were called and told that the first 9 prisoners were being unilaterally released. Their release was supervised by the ICRC, with whom that evening I discussed the concept that I had been suggesting. The names of those released, given to me by Dugalic that evening, is at Appendix 1.

LIST OF PRISONERS RELEASED IN ZENICA - 11 MAY 1993

SPISAK LICA ZA OTPUSTANJE

1. ~~Pekić (Drago) Ivo~~ IEC (MARKO) MIRKO
2. Jurešić (Ilija) Viktor
3. Macković (Marko) Mario
4. ~~Jurešić (Ivo) Drago~~ ČEČURA FILIPA FILIP
5. Puda (Petar) Božo
6. Ivanović (Jura) Milenko
7. Krczić (Ilija) Zlatko
8. JOLIĆ (MUSTAFA) FIKRET
9. FEĐOŠ (PETAR) VLADISLAV

Zenica, 11.05.1993.god.

MKČIK  
Boatman



EVENTS REPORTED BY ECMM AND UN \* 13 - 30 APRIL 1993

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
13.04.93	Travnik YK1200	ECMM report that the situation remains tense. HRC attended meetings at which a reduction of tension was agreed. The disputes over flags had resulted in death of 2 BiH soldiers and one woman refugee. During the night "uncontrolled" forces within HVO and BiH fought in the centre of town.
13.04.93	Travnik YK1200	4 HVO officers were kidnapped in the area of Sinoko YJ0791, allegedly by members of 7th Muslim Brigade.
14.04.93	Travnik YK1200	HVO reacted to the kidnapping of 4 officers by closing the road from Gorni Vakuf YJ0768 to Travnik. ECMM trying to defuse the situation.
14.04.93	Busovaca YJ3086	ECMM met mayor of Busovaca and President of the War Presidency of Kacuni YJ3485. They agreed that they must soon form a temporary municipal joint government. Progress was made towards the filling of trenches.
14.04.93	Novi Travnik YJ1294	ECMM accompanied HVO/BiH commission investigating the kidnapping of HVO officers. When briefing the HVO comd in Novi Travnik the chief of local HVO Mil Pol arrived and said that he was arresting Mr MERDAN, DComd 3 Corps BiH, who was part of the commission. After tense negotiations the group were allowed to leave.

15.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	HRC Zenica chaired a meeting between presidents of HDZ and HVO, HVO Bde Comd, mayor of Zenica, chiefs of regional and local police, DComd 3 Corps and CO BRITBAT. Main issues were security in the town, investigation into the kidnapping of HVO officers and cooperation between communities to avoid more incidents.
15.04.93	Busovaca YJ3038	ECMM report small arms fire and some shelling in Putis YJ3292 result in report of 2 dead and 2 wounded. Alleged that HVO started the fighting.
15.04.93	Kacuni YJ3483	ECMM and BRITBAT report small arms fire at 1530 from near Kacuni Bridge to Milavice YJ355851. Confirmed by chief of police, Kacuni. ECMM protested to HVO Bde Comd in Busovaca, who said that HVO were being shot at by BiH positions overlooking the HVO check point at Gavrine Kuce YJ3190. This was confirmed.
16.04.93	Jablanica YJ2237	ECMM report BiH report of HVO shelling on Slatina YJ1942, Ostrozac YJ2841, Krstac YJ2637, Dolni Paprasko YJ2540 and Gorni Paprasko YJ2540.
16.04.93	Novi Travnik YJ1294	ECMM report that the Commission for investigation of kidnap of HVO officers is making progress and some Muslims arrested in retaliation have been released.
16.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	ECMM report HVO claim that BiH attacked HVO HQ at about 0530. There was heavy fighting in the area of Vitez.
16.04.93	Preocica YJ2597	BRITBAT report at 0730 a number of houses on fire in the predominantly Muslim village of Preocica, beleived to be the result of artillery fire.

16.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	BRITBAT patrol in Vitez at 0800 report about 10 houses on fire and 3 bodies seen in the main street.
16.04.93	Rijeka YJ2491 Vraniska YJ2490	BRITBAT patrol at 0815 report heavy fighting in the area of Rijeka, mainly Croat, with many houses burning in the next, mainly Muslim village Vraniska.
16.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	BRITBAT patrol at 0948 report seeing HVO mount an attack on the BiH held ground around the area of the sports stadium YJ230929 in Vitez.
16.04.93	Gorni-Veceriska YJ1892	BRITBAT report heavy fighting round Gorni Veceriska, with many houses on fire and several civilian casualties.
16.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	BRITBAT report 16 people killed and 25 burnt houses.
16.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	BiH report arresting of Muslim civilian population.
17.04.93	Travnik YK1200	ECMM report HVO and BiH comments that tension in Travnik was high but still under control.
17.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	ECMM report shelling and mortar fire in Vitez almost all day.
17.04.93	Bila YJ2095	BRITBAT and ECMM intervened to prevent HVO attempts at ethnic cleansing of Bila, near HQ BRITBAT.
17.04.93	Gorni Veceriska YJ1892	BRITBAT report that Gorni Veceriska was coming under attack from the HVO.
17.04.93	Santici YJ2691	BRITBAT patrol report houses in Santici were on fire and a large number of people, believed to be Muslims who had lived in the houses, were seen.
18.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	HVO requested ECMM and UNPROFOR to mediate to allow 2-3,000 Croats to leave Zenica to Cajdras YJ2897.



18.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	Mayor of Zenica requested mediation to allow 200 Muslims to be brought from Vitez YJ2392 to Zenica.
18.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	ECMM told by "mujahadeen" that they hold 10 HVO hostages to be exchanged for foreign prisoners held in HVO prisons.
18.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	ECMM report tension remains with sporadic shelling and shooting in suburbs. There is movement of the population coming into Zenica from the villages to the South West.
18.04.93	Vitez YJ2392 Gornja Rovna YJ2589	ECMM report fighting continues in Vitez and Gornja Rovna, where HVO attack BiH from all sides. Shelling, shooting, destruction of property and looting.
18.04.93	Zernica/Kuber Hills YJ3094	HVO Bde Comd MARIO CERKEZ voices concern at alleged massacre in Zernica/Kuber Hills area.
18.04.93	Rovna YJ2689 Pezici YJ2688	BiH LO reports heavy fighting in the area of Rovna and Pezici.
18.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	BRITBAT report that the mosque in Vitez has been destroyed with a lorry bomb. Approx 30 dead.
18.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	ECMM liaised with ICRC about investigating wounded and dead in villages of Sivirino Selo YJ2593, Ahmici YJ2891, Novaci, Veceriska and Novi Dio Vitez.
18.04.93	D. Veceriska YJ2092	BRITBAT report 3-400 refugees on the Eastern edge of D. Veceriska at 0553.
18.04.93	D. Veceriska YJ2092	BRITBAT report about 12 HVO assaulting from house to house in D. Veceriska at 1300.
18.04.93	YJ205946	BRITBAT report 300 refugees in the old IRC warehouse preparing to move to Travnik YK9200.

18.04.93	Vitez	YJ2392	BRITBAT report 200-220 refugees moved to Travnik YK9200 after the truck bomb in Vitez destroyed their homes.
19.04.93	Zenica	YJ3199	ECMM confirm that 6 rounds probably fired from a howitzer, possibly 122mm, landed in Zenica killing 16 and wounding about 30. The rounds were fired from the direction of 250 degrees, or one km north of Vitez.
19.04.93	Vitez	YJ2392	ECMM visited a prison under the HVO Bde HQ in Vitez holding 62 male Muslim prisoners. They also visited a BiH prison South of Vitez where 4 women and 2 children were held in one room and 8 men in another room. Details passed to ICRC.
20.04.93	Zenica	YJ3199	ECMM report the town is generally quiet but fear and tension is still high, particularly with the Croat population.
20.04.93	Vitez	YJ2392	ECMM report that the situation is very tense with shelling and sniping. Unconfirmed report of shelling of HVO HQ and PTT. Many refugees with luggage seen on the streets.
20.04.93	Gacice	YJ2192	ECMM report unconfirmed report that HVO gave an ultimatum to Gacice and then started to attack the village. BRITBAT report a substantial number of houses burning in Gacice at 1630.
20.04.93	Zenica	YJ3199	Ceasefire signed by CinCs HALILOVIC (BiH A) and PETKOVIC (HVO), with Gen MORILLON and J-P THEBAULT.

20.04.93	<p>Zenica and Croat suburbs.</p> <p>Cajdras YJ2997 Vjetrenice YJ2795 Janjac YJ2799 Kozarci YJ2900 Osojnica YJ2599 Stranjani YJ2621 Grm YJ2998 Zahalje YJ2898 Dobriljeno YJ3095</p>	<p>ECMM visited the following villages, and were told in all of them by Croats that they had received aid and protection from their Muslim neighbours: Cajdras, 4 houses burnt, 38 empty; Vjetrenice, 3 burnt houses, 2 burnt stables; Janjac 209 Croat families left their houses; Kozarci, many damaged houses as a result of shelling; Osojnica, deserted Serb village; Stranjani, 7 burnt houses and most of 240 Croat houses robbed, only 40 families still there; Zahalje, 8 burnt houses, 4 Croats killed; Dobriljeno, all Croat inhabitants less 2 families have left, one family killed, all houses vandalised and robbed.</p>
20.04.93	<p>Zenica and Croat suburbs YK2701-YK3201- YJ2897-YJ3397</p>	<p>ECMM met LISNJIC NURAGA, local BiH comd, who said he had strict orders to assure security of vacated Croat houses with military police. Every HVO soldier who wanted to return could do so if he surrendered by handing in his personal weapon and was not involved in shelling of Zenica. In one village ECMM saw the arrest by BiH military police of a group who had been robbing houses.</p>
20.04.93	<p>Zenica YJ3199</p>	<p>ECMM visited BiH's military section of Zenica prison with two Catholic priests. More than 200 Croats, military and civilian are held there. They said they have not been mistreated in the prison. Some civilians had already been released and one old man was released. Authority for release is Comd 3 Corps, BiH A. ICRC were briefed on this and possible detention centres at Bilimisce, Music School, Zening Building and Nemila.</p>

21.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	ECMM report sporadic shelling and shooting continued in Vitez and the nearby villages. Houses continue to be destroyed and dead bodies can be seen on the roads.
21.04.93	Poculica YJ2795 Dubravica YJ2492	ECMM and ICRC visited Poculica and Dubravica to investigate allegations of prisons there. The local commanders agreed that ICRC could return on their own to visit the prisons.
21.04.93	Ahmici YJ2892 Novaci YJ2491 Rijeka Grbavica	ECMM and ICRC visited the villages of Ahmici West, where all the Muslims have left and some men are in prison in Dubravica; Ahmici East where 90% of houses and the mosque are destroyed and there are no people left; Novaci where about 200 Muslim women and children are living in 3 houses, half of whom would like to be evacuated; Rijeka where there are a few Muslim families and Grbavica where there are a few Croat families.
21.04.93	Travnik YK9200	ECMM report the situation as calm but there are unconfirmed reports of maltreatment of the Muslim population.
21.04.93	Kozarci YK2999	ECMM with Father STEFAN visited Kozarci. A few houses had been burnt. The village had been evacuated after the fighting but some of the inhabitants were returning.
21.04.93	Zalje YJ2998	ECMM with Father STEFAN visited Zalje. The village was deserted and at least 25 houses were burnt. Father STEFAN said that 10 civilians including a 90 year old man and a 3 year old girl from the village were killed. The team saw some criminals escaping with stolen property. There was evidence that 90mm ATW and 20mm HMG had been used in the area.

21.04.93	Podbrezje YK3099	ECMM with Father STEFAN visited Podbrezje. One house had been burnt and several robbed.
21.04.93	Gornje Gradisce YK3099	ECMM with Father STEFAN visited Gornje Gradisce. The village was not damaged and local Croats said that they were protected by their neighbours.
22.04.93	Klokoti Gas Factory YI393800	Vitez JOC, ECMM and BRITBAT were stopped at BiH CP outside the gas factory who made threats and demands that they should be searched, but refused.
22.04.93	Junction YJ3491	ECMM saw one house burning. They were told that it had been hit by two shells at about 1600.
22.04.93	Gladovici YK3309	ECMM met the Imam and former Imam. They said that 100 of the 550 inhabitants were in the armed forces. The village seemed calm, with farmers busy in their fields. There was electricity.
22.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	ECMM report that the radio station "Radio CD" was put off the air when equipment was destroyed by a masked gang.
22.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	HQ HVO Middle Bosnia in Vitez report three mortar rounds impact in Vitez, confirmed by BRITBAT.
22.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	ECMM confirm that three shells hit West part of Zenica.
22.04.93	Prozor YJ1055	ECMM reports tension in the town. Shops are closed. No electricity for 4th day. Reports suggest that Muslims may be seriously harassed.
22.04.93	Doljani area YJ1441	Fighting continues.

22.04.93	Slatina area YJ1943	ECMM told by Col SILJEC, HVO OZ Comd, that he controls Slatina and his troops are 4km from Jablanica YJ2237. He will continue attacking to take the town and free the villages East of the of it because the Croats are threatened by Muslims.
22.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	ECMM confirm that three rounds fired from a howitzer, possibly 122mm, landed in W Zenica. They were fired from direction 290 degrees, on a line 3km north of Travnik YK1200. It seems unlikely that the shells were fired by the Serbs because of the range.
23.04.93	Dreznica valley YJ1823	IV Bn, 41 Bde ABiH remains isolated in the valley.
23.04.93	Capljina YH1977	SPABAT report indications that HVO Mil Pol in Capljina have arrested 1-200 Muslims, mostly doctors, engineers and teachers. They were possibly to be sent to Zenica.
23.04.93	Jablanica YJ2237	SPABAT report indications that 800 Muslims were removed by HVO in several busses from the area round Jablanica. They were said to be going to Prozor, but have not been seen.
23.04.93	Jablanica YJ2237	ECMM report tension decreasing in Jablanica and Mostar, and open fighting continuing North of Jablanica and Kils.
23.04.93	Svinjarevo BP6374 Gomionica BP6473 Gromiljak BP6372 Polje Visnjica BP6371 Rotilj	CANBAT LO confirmed that Muslim villages of Svinjarevo, Gomionica, Gromiljak, Polje Visnjica and Pales Rotilj were attacked. It seems the villages were set on fire mainly by incendiary rounds fired from artillery in Kiseljak and HMG. Atrocities including rapes were confirmed in Rotilj.

23.04.93	Svinjarevo BP6374 Behrici BP6473 Gomionica BP6473 Hercezi BP6272 Gromiljak BP6372 Preocica YJ2496 Kruscica YJ2390	BRITBAT reported inter-village fighting in Svinjarevo, Behrici, Gomionica, Polje Visnjica, Hercezi, Gromiljak, villages East of Kacuni YJ3453-Kiseljak YJ6569 road where Croats attacked Muslim villages, Preocica with artillery and rockets on the Muslim village and Kruscica with mortar fire on the BiH HQ.
23.04.93	Jardol YJ2295	ECMM report BiH offensive launched in the area of Jardol.
23.04.93	Svinjarevo BP6374	ECMM report HVO offensive launched in the area of Svinjarevo.
23.04.93	Krcevine XJ2494	Comd 3 BiH Corps reports that 91 mainly Muslim inhabitants of Krcevine were taken to an unknown destination in busses.
24.04.93	Ostrozac YJ2740 Konjic YJ3738 Parsovici Doljani YJ1441 Sovici YJ0943	SPABAT report the situation extremely tense with fighting in Ostrozac, Konjic, Parsovici, Doljani and Sovici.
24.04.93	Zenica YJ3199	BRITBAT report 2 artillery rounds land in Zenica at 1405 hrs. HVO deny firing them and accuse BSA at Vlassic YK1007.
24.04.93	Kruscica YJ2290	ECMM and BRITBAT found more than 2,000 Muslim refugees in Kruscica in urgent need of food.
24.04.93	Svinjarevo YJ6374 Behrici YJ6473 Gomionica YJ6473	ECMM and CANBAT investigated situation 3 out of 8 villages round Kiseljak YJ6569 before fighting made them stop. In Svinjarevo, Behric and Gomionica about half the houses were destroyed, some of which were burned. There were no inhabitants.
24.04.93	Kruscica YJ2290	ECMM visited 325 Bde BiH HQ in Kruscica. 2-3,000 people are surrounded in the village by HVO. The team was fired on as they returned to Vitez YJ2392.

24.04.93	Grahovcici YK2301	ECMM team visited Grahovcici where c.2,000 Croat refugees are short of food and need medical supplies. Most are willing to return to their houses close to Zenica, most of which are still intact. If fighting starts again they requested evacuation to Vitez.
24.04.93	Radesine YJ3141	SPABAT report BiH forces attacked and took Radesine, an HVO pocket surrounded by BiH.
25.04.93	Jablanica YJ2237	SPABAT report 60 HVO and 200 women, children and old people fleeing from Radesine YJ3141 stopped their patrol east of Ostrozac. The Croats demanded protection and said that there were many wounded. BiH moved in and disarmed the HVO. Negotiations were made to evacuate the wounded and civilians.
25.04.93	Kuber Mountain YJ3193	Col Blaskic, HVO Comd Middle Bosnia, threatening to move troops from Kiseljak YJ6562 and Zepce YK6423 to repel alleged BiH attack. BRITBAT patrol reported only small arms fire around Putis.
25.04.93	Miletici YK1906	ECMM and BRITBAT were told by HVO and inhabitants that Muslim soldiers, described as extremists, not regulars, drove into the village and ordered all but five men to leave. Later report suggests that the villagers resisted and killed on Muslim. Investigation showed all houses intact but most empty. Bodies of 5 men were found: 3 killed by bullets (2 in the head) and 2 by explosions. At least two had hands tied behind their backs. Muslims were described as Arabic in appearance. Leader's name was "RAHMADAN". They wore ordinary uniform and some had police badges on the shoulder with a triangle. They spoke arabic.



25.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	Outgoing artillery and mortars heard near BRITBAT camp during the day.
25.04.93	Old Vitez YJ2392	The old, Muslim, part of Vitez was shelled with mortars during the day.
25.04.93	Rotilj YJ6369	ECMM and CANBAT investigated results of fighting.
25.04.93	Janjac YJ2799 Stranjani YK2601 Konjevici YK2501 Susanj YK2303	ECMM, UNHCR, police and catholic priest organising return of 1,500 plus Croat refugees to their villages of Janjac, Stranjani, Konjevici and Susanj.
25.04.93	Kula YJ3287	BRITBAT report sporadic shelling and small arms fire as a result of a BiH offensive in the area. HVO artillery near Vitez YJ2392 and Bila YJ1996 fire defensive fire into the area.
26.04.93	Grahovcici YK2301	ECMM facilitated return of 1,400 Croat DPs from Grahovcici to Janjac YJ2799, Stranjani YK2601, Konjevici YK2501, and Susanj YK2303. HVO had strongly threatened it would be safer to move to Nova Bila YJ1896. About 300 took this advice and about 300 stayed in Grahovcici.
26.04.93	Vidovici YJ2792 Ahmici YJ2792 Putis YJ3192 Jelinak YJ3092	BRITBAT report that Vidovici, Ahmici, Putis and Jelinak are deserted.
26.04.93	Vitez YJ2392	HVO/HDZ in Vitez make a public announcement that all women, children, elderly and sick from the area of Vitez are free to leave the municipality on a temporary basis, for their own security, as long as the decision is an individual one.
26.04.93	Solakovici YJ3387	BiH allege that HVO attacked Solakovici from Kula YJ3287.

27.04.93	Ograde YJ2097	BRITBAT report heavy exchange of fire in the mainly Croat village at 2330 hrs.
27.04.93	Sadovace YJ2196	BRITBAT report burning houses at 2330 hrs.
27.04.93	Bemrici BP6473 Gomionica BP6473	BRITBAT report BiH are defending villages from HVO attacks from the South, supported by mortars in Kiseljak YJ6569. Burning houses.
27.04.93	Kazacici BP6378	CANBAT report heavy fighting with small arms and mortars. Forces seem to be preparing for a lengthy inter-village conflict.
27.04.93	M. Sotnice BP6179	CANBAT report 10-12 houses burning.
27.04.93	Miletici YJ1906	BRITBAT removed 5 Croat corpses from Miletici to the local cemetery.
27.04.93	Ahmici YJ2792	BRITBAT with HVO and BiH reps from JOC and imam removed 8 Muslim corpses from Ahmici to Zenica.
28.04.93	Gomionica BP6473 AND/ OR Gromiljak YJ6372?	ECMM and CANBAT escort fired on by renegade HVO while investigating burned down village of Gomionica/Gromiljak. ECMM told that HVO Bde Comd had be sacked two days before and was out of control.
28.04.93	Vilenjak YJ6879	ECMM and MDM investigated refugee situation in Vilenjak. Of 18,900 registered refugees, over 1,000 came from NW of Kiseljak: Svinjarevo, Jehovac, Gromiljak, Behrici, Gomionica and Bilalovac.
28.04.93	Mostre YJ9878	ECMM visited collective centre in Mostre where more than 600 refugees (mainly elderly) are staying.

28.04.93	Busovaca YJ3086	ECMM received confirmation that UNHCR convoy of 40 trucks plus BRITBAT escort were hijacked by HVO and held at Busovaca. HVO CinC PETKOVIC ordered Mr KORDIC to release convoy.
29.04.93	Sovici YJ0943	ECMM team hampered by HVO from entering smoking Muslim village of Sovici.
29.04.93	Gomionica BP6473	Was visited by ECMM and Halilovic. BiH troops were extremely nervous and concerned about the destruction of Rotilj YJ6369
29.04.93	HQ HVO Kiseljak BP6569	ECMM visited the HQ. HVO admitted that Muslims had suffered far more than Croats during recent clashes.
29.04.93	Polje Visnjica BP6371	ECMM confirmed that most of the Muslim houses have been burnt. All Muslims have left. Still Croats living there.
29.04.93	Hercezi BP6172	ECMM confirmed some Muslim families returned. Seem to be good relations between the two communities. More than 14 Muslims were killed in this area.
29.04.93	Visnjica YJ6270	ECMM confirmed 40 out of 150 Muslim houses burnt. Only 40 families returned. Still some frictions left between the two communities.
29.04.93	Gomionico BP6372	ECMM and CANBAT confirmed village is totally destroyed. Team again threatened by HVO.
29.04.93	Kakanj YJ6989 Vares YJ8693	BRITBAT report HVO fear attempts by BiH to eliminate Croats.
29.04.93	Bakje BP3091 Jelinak BP3092 Gradina BP3092 Kula YJ3287	BRITBAT report heavy fighting in Bakje, Jelinak, Gradina and Kula.

30.04.93	Hercizi BP6179 Ulsnjica BP6271 Gomionica BP6473	CANBAT report evidence of further ethnic cleansing. Gomionica was completely burnt to the ground with no sign of inhabitants.
30.04.93	Jelinak YJ3192	BRITBAT report BiH apparently occupying houses in the deserted Croat village.