# INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991

#### WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS IN	FORMATION:					
Last Name: AL	EKSANDRIĆ					
First Name:	Branimir	Middle name:				
Nickname/Alia	s: Buca					
Father's name:	Vitomir					
Date of Birth:	21.09.1949	Gender: Male				
Place of Birth:	Belgrade, Serbia					
Ethnic Origin:	Serbian					
Religion: Ortho	odox					
Current Occupation: Forensic Pathologist, Director of Institute of Forensic Medicine, Belgrade Former:						
Language(s) S	poken: Serbian and Engl	ish				
Language(s) W	Language(s) Written: (if different from spoken)					
Date(s) of Interview(s): 11, 12, 13, 14, 26 June 2007						
Place of interv	iew: The Hague (11, 12,	13, 14 June 2007), Belgrade (26 June 2007.)				
Interviewer: Antoinette ISSA, Trial Attorney, Barney KELLY, Roel VERSONNEN (only 26. June 2007.)						
Interpreters: Bojan ANDRIĆ, Sanda GRUJIN, Besmir FIDAHIĆ, Vesna KORIĆ, Vojislava KATIĆ						
	(only 26 June 2	2007.)				
Language(s) U	sed in Interview: Serbia	n and English				
Names of all persons present during interview(s): the above mentioned and Claire Namy, Intern						
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# Statement of Branimir ALEKSANDRIĆ WITNESS STATEMENT:

#### I. Professional Background:

- 1. I am a Professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Belgrade. I am currently the Director of Forensic Medicine at the Institute of Forensic Medicine, Belgrade. I am also a Professor of Forensic Medicine at the Medical Faculty in Podgorica, Montenegro where I founded the Department of Forensic Medicine. Prior to this I was the Assistant Professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Sarajevo. I graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, Belgrade in 1974 and received my Masters Degree from the Faculty of Medicine, Belgrade in 1980. I received my Doctorate from the Faculty of Medicine, Belgrade during 1991. All my qualifications were in the field of forensic medicine. I also am President of the Society for Forensic Medicine Serbia and Montenegro.
- 2. I am Secretary for the Judicial Forensic Medical Board of the Medical Faculty in Belgrade, which is the highest authority in this field. I have authored and co authored several books in the field of Forensic Medicine and produced over 130 papers on the subject of forensic medicine.
- 3. I am a member of the International Academy for Forensic and Social Medicine and a member of the Serbian Medical Association.
- 4. I participated in the forensic recovery, post mortem examination and identification of mortal remains of victims recovered from the area of Lake Radonjić, Djakovica, Kosovo, in September 1998.
- 5. I was Head of the expert forensic team employed at the forensic recovery of mortal remains at Batajnica, Belgrade during the exhumations carried out there in 2002.
  My Curriculum vitae is attached to my statement as "Annex A."

# II. Duties in September 1998

6. I shall now explain the duties that I performed with specific regard to the body recovery operation, post mortem examinations and formal identifications that were

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carried out in the area of Lake Radonjić and the post mortems and formal identifications that were performed at Hotel Paštrik, Djakovica during September 1998.

- 7. I recall that there was an official request from Investigative Judge Gojković, Peć district Court during September 1998 for the formation of a forensic team to carry out body recovery, post mortem examinations and formal identifications of remains that were to be recovered from the area around Lake Radonjić, Djakovica, Dečane municipality, Kosovo.
- 8. We received a letter dated 9 September 1998 from Judge Gojković addressed to the Institute of Forensic Medicine requesting a team of experts to report the relevant county court and SUP of Peć to investigate the crime scene. This letter is marked ERN U009-6476. (I believe we received this letter on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1998 and it took us half day to prepare ourselves for the next day. A copy of the response from our office is attached as ERN U014-0599. These letters are attached to my statement as Annex B.
- 9. The Head of the Department, Dr. Snežana Veljković for the Institute Forensics Medicine assigned a team to investigate this crime scene. Professor Dunjić was appointed as the Team Leader and I was appointed as the pathologist in charge of the body recovery operation that took place in the area of Lake Radonjić. I was assisted by Assistant Professor Dragan Ječmenica in the recovery of the mortal remains. I was also involved in the post mortem examinations that were held in Hotel Paštrik, Gjakovica and, ultimately, in the identification process itself. Since we heard that the bodies are not fresh. Doctor Marija Djurić who was a forensic anthropologist from the Institute of Anatomy was later invited to join the team. She joined us a day or two later.
- 10. As part of my duties with regard to the body recovery operation that took place in the area surrounding Lake Radonjić. I compiled a daily report of the actions of the forensic team working there. This daily report, which I signed, was submitted to the Investigative Judge upon completion and formed part of the completed autopsy

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reports. This report is dated 16 September 1998 and is attached to my statement as Annex C. I also prepared a draft of this same report which is dated 15 September 1998. These reports are attached to my statement as Annex C.

11. Pursuant to the request of Investigating Judge Radomir Gojković of Peć District Court on 11 September 1998 a team of expert Doctors from the Institute for Court Medicine of the Belgrade University of Medicine went to the location on the territory of Glodjane village, Dečani municipality where bodies were located. The team was accompanied by Investigating Judge Gojković, from Peć District Court as well as crime scene technicians, photographers and a cameraman. I am not sure but I think that at the time the crime technicians, photographers and the cameraman worked for the police in Peć.

## III. Crime Scene

- 12. Our team arrived at the Lake Radonjić area crime scene on 11 September 1998 around 11 am. Upon our arrival on the scene, we met with the Serbian police who were already at the scene.

  Around 1200 hours we went to the Ekonomija farm in Rznić village.
- 13. When we first arrived at the Lake Radonjić canal area close to the concrete part of the canal, we immediately saw approximately 10 bodies that were visible. The bodies were located either on the surface or parts of bodies sticking out from the ground. Immediately after we saw the first bodies the police took us to the Ekonomija farm. That is why my notes referenced at KRI br.105/98 (ERN U009-5291-U009-5297) started with the body in Ekonomija farm (RE-1). All the members of our team were present at the farm, including Dr. Dunjić, Dr. Ječmenica, Krasjnik, the autopsy assistant and myself. At the farm we found the body which we labelled RE-1.
- 14. When we first arrived at the Lake Radonjić scene I instructed Pero Illinčić, the cameraman, to video record the area. I instructed Pero Illinčić what to record and asked him to follow me and record it. When I needed a detailed photograph I would instruct him to take a photograph.

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- 15. I viewed video V000-6011 and at the time 11:10 hrs on 11.9.1998 (sequence 00:0026.04), one can see the road which we took to come to the canal and the general view of the canal. One can also see the small waterfalls at the end of each cascade. On the other side, there is a field. These are the first recordings made after our arrival. We can see the concrete canal and the road that took us to the spot. We can see the cascade in the concrete canal at the time 11.14.
- 16. On V000-6011 at 11:17 on 11.9.1998 sequence 00:02:29:32 the video shows the dirt road which leads to the clearing covered with grass where the first few bodies were found (at the end of the road). There was also a tent at the end of the road which was erected by the VJ or the police for logistical purposes and also for the forensic team to use for lunch during our stay at the field. The big truck on the video is the truck which was used to transport the recovered bodies to the Paštrik hotel. We used only one truck for this purpose. At the end of each day the bodies which were recovered during the day were loaded onto the truck and one person from the Forensic Pathologist team accompanied the bodies from the lake to the Paštrik hotel sitting in the truck and the rest of the team were transported in a car which either drove in front of or behind the truck.
- 17. On V000-6011 at 11:20 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:03:15:33 I recognise a man made bridge that we used to get to the other side of the canal. After the bridge down the stream there is a bigger waterfall which leads into the natural part of the canal. On the concrete sides of the canal many bullet holes could be easily seen. These bullet holes were located exactly where we found dead bodies but I will describe it in more detail later on. We can see bullet holes at 11.22 sequence 4.07.68 on the inner side of the left wall of the concrete canal. This was close to the place where the bodies were found. At 11.23 sequence 04.39.20: we can see the end of the canal, at the right end side of the canal there were bodies.
- 18. On V000-6011 at 11:21 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 04:07:68: one can see bullet holes on the inner side of the left wall of the concrete canal. This was close to the slope where several of the bodies were found.

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- 19. On V000-6011 at 11:23 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 04.39.20 the video shows the first location where the dead bodies can be seen from the out side of the canal. They could be seen on the video lying along the concrete wall approximately where the big waterfalls enter the natural part of the canal. This portion of the video only shows the general view of the bodies and the terrain. The cameraman was recording a general view of the area.
- 20. On V000-6011 at 11:24 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:05'04.13: the video shows the remains of several bodies partly under the lay of the soil or lying on the ground. It was filmed as we found them without disturbing the crime scene. We also suspected that there could be some more bodies at this location or around it. The bodies were still not marked with any numbers as it was just a first overview.
- 21. On V000-6011 at 11.25 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:05.56.01: I identified the body we can see as body number 2. This was taken before any labelling was done.
- 22. On V000-6011 at 11.26 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:06.07.06: we can see the slope where the bodies were located. You could only see the bodies if you got close to them and walked down the slope or looked over the slope. It would be otherwise difficult to see the bodies because they were covered with dirt (reddish-coloured soil) and were mixed with grass.
- 23. On V000-6011 at 11.27 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:07.15.42: we can also see bullet holes on the wall above the bodies.
- 24. On V000-6011 at 11.28 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:07.15.42, one can see another body found on the slope.
- 25. On V000-6011 at 11:30 to 11:43 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:07'58.52-00:11'01.10/00:15'01 one can see part of the bones and a shoe which were found near one of the remains. Later on all the remains and pieces of evidence around (clothes, shoes etc) were marked with numbers. On some of the clothing of the dead bodies one can see bullet holes.

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# Statement of Branimir ALEKSANDRIĆ

- 26. On V000-6011 at 11.34 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 10.02.78, one can see the bones of body 8 and on its left, body 9. One then can see body 9.
- 27. On V000-6011 at 11.36 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:12'09.59, I think one can see body number 3. We can see body 7 (blue shoe).
- 28. On V000-6011 at 11.37 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:12.49.89, one can see body number 5 with a pullover perforated with bullet holes.
- 29. On V000-6011 at 11.39 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:13'29.80 we can see body number 2 (body with orange) and before it was body number 1.
- 30. On V000-6011 at 11.44 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:15'30.17, we can see the cascade and the beginning of the natural canal.
- 31. On V000-6011 at 11:43 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00:14'45.60 the video shows some pieces of clothing along the stream and then at 11:44 sequence 00.15.44.85 one can see the natural part of the canal with the red colour Opel Kadet car overturned on its roof and some garbage around the pool of water. One body can be clearly seen next to the car. This body was later filmed in more detail when it was removed and placed into a body bag.
- 32. On V000-6011 at 11:45 on 11.9.1998 at sequence 00.16.23.25, the video shows different clothing displayed on the rock. According to my notes the police found these clothes in the water and placed them on the rock. One of the green coloured garments is a surgical garment, the type you tie behind the back. Later we marked all the clothes with the number 19.

#### i. Methodology of Recovering the Bodies:

33. We processed the first body at the Ekonomija farm and then we returned to the Lake Radonjić location. We agreed that Dr. Dunjić was to go to find a place to carry out the autopsies and Dr. Ječmenica and I were to stay behind to recover the bodies.

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- 34. The way we processed the bodies was first to process all the bodies that were visible on the surface of the Lake Radonjić canal area. We first marked all the visible bodies and one slipper. We labelled all the bodies 1 to 10 and we marked one slipper as number 6.
- 35. At the crime scene we first labelled the bodies with a number and placed a cone with a number on it next to the body. Then the criminal technicians would place the letter "R" followed by a number inside the body bag, we would place only the number without the letter "R" on the outside of the body bag and once the body was taken to Hotel Paštrik and photographed there, the forensic team photographed the body using a cardboard reference next to the body with the letter "R" followed by a number.
- 36. We placed a number without the letter R on the outside of the body bag because the police labels were much easier to use and the police did not have letters. They only had numbers. We used pieces of paper to label the inside of the bags. The criminal technicians placed these labels inside the bags.
- 37. After we marked the first 10 bodies we found, we photographed and video recorded the bodies. Then we carefully removed each body beginning with body number 1. The first 10 numbers were found on the surface and after we removed each body if we found another body underneath it, we assigned that body the next number in chronological order. For example after the first 10 numbers we labelled, we found two bodies underneath body R-1 and we labelled them R-11 and R-12. The reason we labelled the visible bodies R-1 to R-10 is because they were on the surface and they were photographed and videoed and we did not want to move or change the numbering when we found the bodies located underneath the bodies on the surface in order to avoid confusion.
- 38. It is common forensic procedure when a forensics team arrives at a crime scene to label the bodies before removing them so that the number assigned to a body or to any other piece of evidence stays the same during the entire process of analysis.
  Remains or items should not be moved before their location is marked because a

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description of the location of the remains must be noted only individually but also in relation to each other when they are found at the scene.

- 39. As we located each body, the camera-man photographed and video recorded it. Each body was then placed in a body bag that was marked with a label with the same number both inside and outside the bags. All the bodies were found in a state of advanced decay. Any clothing that was found on the bodies were also found in a state of advanced decay.
- 40. We also decided to use different labels on the bodies we found at Lake Radonjić and the body we found at the Ekonomija farm. We decided to do this on the first day in order to distinguish bodies which we could potentially find at the Ekonomija farm. So we used the letter "R" for the bodies recovered at the Lake Radonjić canal area and the bodies we recovered from the Ekonomija farm were labelled as "RE."
- 41. Once each body had been placed in a body bag and marked we placed each body onto the truck. At the end of each working day, either Dr. Ječeminca or I would travel, one in the truck with the bodies and the other in another vehicle travelling with the truck and the bodies were transported to the garage of Hotel Paštrik where the post mortem and identification of the bodies was to be carried out. The police (MUP) escorted the truck to the Hotel Paštrik in order to ensure our security.
- 42. At the Hotel Paštrik the bodies were examined and described in detail together with any items found either on the bodies or found immediately surrounding the bodies. These descriptions are contained in the autopsy report for each individual.
- 43. All the bodies transferred to Hotel Paštrik where they were handed over to the other part of the same forensic team who organized the post mortem and identification of the bodies.
- 44. From the moment that the bodies were brought to the Hotel Paštrik on the evening of 11 September 1998 as well as every day and night of the recovery and forensic operation, the premises at the Hotel Paštrik were locked by the team of forensic experts and were secured 24 hours a day by the MUP officers.

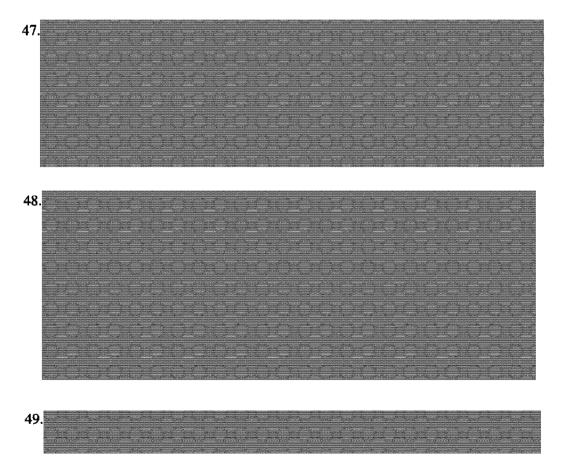
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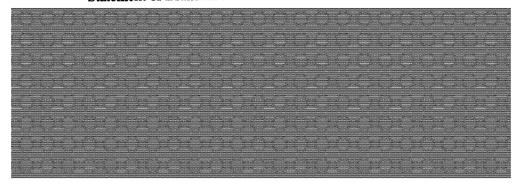
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- 45. In the evenings, after I returned from the canal, I would go back to the Hotel Paštrik and I would discuss the findings with Professor Dunjić. If there was anything specific about a body, I would look at the body and the report. I would always look at the bodies, would review the autopsy report and discuss it with my colleagues. I signed all the reports with Professor Dunjić, even if I did not carry out the autopsy. I also carried out some autopsies myself but I do not remember which autopsies I carried out.
- 46. The reason we placed all the labels or markers where the bodies were located on the surface before we removed the bodies was in order to see the relationship and proximity between all the bodies found and marked. The relationship of the bodies or their proximity was significant because it would be some evidence of how those bodies had come to be there, meaning whether they got there by accident or whether they had been placed there on purpose.



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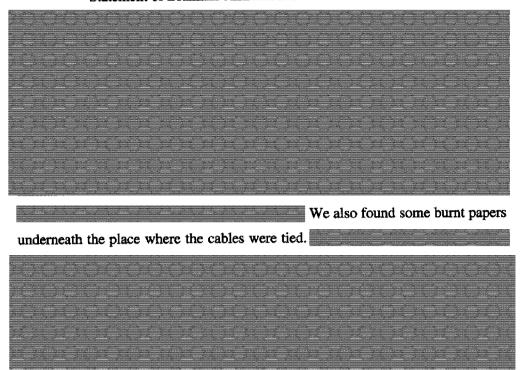
- 50. Collecting bone fragments and other body parts which are found in the immediate vicinity of a body and placing them in a body bag is common procedure. A forensic expert must assess the body parts at the crime scene and determine whether the fragments or parts of a body which are found around a particular body belong to the particular body that was found.
- 51. Similarly, it is common forensic procedure to place an object or item which was found in the vicinity of the body but not necessarily on the body, into the same body bag of that particular body if the forensic expert assesses that this object belongs to that body. For example, if one finds a decomposed finger together with a ring, one may assume that this ring belongs to the hand that was found and you may place it in the same body bag.
- 52. It is also common procedure to place numbers both inside and outside of the body bag because that is how we avoid mixing up the bodies. For example, it is possible that a number may fall off the outside of the bag during the transportation of the body. Moreover, when we carry out an autopsy it is much easier if we place the number of the body outside the bag.
- 53. We normally do not examine the body at the crime scene nor do we attempt to identify the bodies at the crime scene.

#### ii. Ekonomija Farm

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- 54. At the Ekonomija farm, one body was found in the drainage canal, which is covered with concrete plates. The crime scene was first marked with the sign RE-1 and then it was photographed and filmed in general and in detail. The body was found on its back with the arms folded above the head and with a jacket pulled up towards the head. Across the chest the body was covered here and there with manure mixed together with black earth, which was also found underneath the body. The body was placed in a plastic bag that was then marked with a label with RE-1 both inside and outside the bag. The bag was then placed in a truck which ultimately transported the bodies to the Paštrik Hotel where the forensic examination and identification was carried out.
- 55. On the farm there were two large rooms, stables for livestock with an automatic watering trough. In one of the stables there were seven electrical cables, covered with black plastic isolation, separately tied with dead knots to a horizontal metal rod near seven watering troughs for livestock. These cables were cut off at the untied ends. Numerous papers with burnt edges were found on the floor underneath the watering troughs. This location was marked with the sign RE and was also photographed and filmed.
- 56. On video V000-6011 the un-timed and undated footage in the video (after 11:45), (00:17'47.80) shows our team driving to the Ekonomija farm. Upon our arrival at the Ekonomija farm we saw a sewer drain canal on our right hand side. At the end of the sewer drain the body was found in civilian clothes. I cannot remember if it was male or female body. The body was marked as RE-1 and this number which could be seen on the video (at sequence 00.19.00.73 00.19.00.14 00.19.00.28-00.19.34.45). The body was taken from the sewer drain and placed in the plastic body bag by the workers who helped us during the body recovery operation. As far as I know, these workers were usually employed at the grave yard. I don't know if anything else was found with the body, but according to my notes there was nothing. At sequence (00. 19.57.96) the body was placed in a body bag. At sequence (00. 20.11.77), we can see the number placed inside the body bag.
- 57. On video V000-6011 at 12:11 on 11.9.1998 the video shows the interior of the cow shed at the Ekonomija farm. There were also several electrical cables found tied

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- 58. On video V000-6011 at 12:12 on 11.9.1998 (sequence 00:20.41.26) the video shows the burnt papers we found. As I remember it was a local newspaper. Then on the video one can also see, that long hair was found on one of the electrical cables and one of our colleagues, (probably from VJ, but I cannot say exactly) smelled the hair to see if it was burnt (12.15). The hair was not seized because we could not compare it to some other hair found on other bodies. We could not make such a comparison because we did not have the technical ability to analyze the hair.
- 59. On video V000-6011 at 12:15 on 11.9.1998 (sequence 00:21'48.48) the video shows some graffiti numbers in the cow shed which were painted on the other side of the shed from where the cables were found.
- 60. The examination of this location on the farm was completed at 12:30 hours, 11 September 1998.

#### ii. Lake Radonjić Area Crime Scene

61. On 11 September 1998, at 1245 hours we began an examination of the location near the irrigation canal at Lake Radonjić.

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62. On the field near the canal, along the concrete wall and on the slope above it, a total of nine (9) bodies and one left perforated shoe were immediately visible. Above these bodies and on the external side of the concrete wall of the canal there were bullet holes. All visible bodies were marked with signs from R-1 to R-10, the shoe was marked with R-6 and the projectile damage was marked with arrows. Following this the crime scene was photographed and filmed in general and then in detail. Each body was then placed in a plastic bag that was marked with a label with the same sign, both inside and outside the bags. The bags were then placed on a truck that transported the bodies to the Paštrik Hotel where the forensic examination and identification was to be performed.

#### <u>R-1</u>

- 63. The body marked with the sign R-1 was found on the ground with a plastic sack pulled over the upper half and a jute sack (type of sack made of rough cotton used by farmers) pulled over the lower half of the body. Once the body was placed in the bag one could see that underneath it, there were still more bones.
- 64. To recover the body, we carefully rolled the body into the body bag that was placed next to the body. We would not lift the body to avoid the body falling apart. At the time, the body was in a state of decomposition and putrefication.
- 65. I was shown photograph marked with ERN U009-5603, number 102 and I recognise the body R-1, labelled 1 in the photograph. On photograph U009-5600, number 89, I recognise the location of body R-1: it is next to the wall near the bushes.
- 66. I was shown autopsy report U002-5516-5529 relating to body R-1. I did not participate in the autopsy of body R-1. Professor Dunjić started the autopsy procedure on 12 September 1998, while I was still at the crime scene. I recognise my signature on the report.
- 67. On the video V000 6011, the next un-timed and undated footage after the time 12.15 on 11 September 1998 the video depicts me at the canal of lake Radonić near the body marked with R-2 (00.22.08.32). At that time I was working with Dr. Dragan Ječmenica, while Prof. Dušan Dunjić and the assistant pathologist went to

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Djakovica and Peć to find a place where we could store the bodies and perform autopsies later on. Along the concrete wall of the man made canal, the video once again shows the bullet holes and one could also see the bodies which were lying right next to that location with the bullet projectiles. I asked the crime scene technician Petar Ilinčić to follow me with the camera and tape everything I would do. I didn't specifically point out to Petar Iliničić what exactly he should video record, but when the photos were taken of the bodies and different items - I told him precisely what he should photograph.

- 68. On video V000-6011 at sequence 00:24.35.23, I recognise myself in the video uncovering R-1 (no time displayed on the tape, because parts of the bodies or even complete bodies were covered with the soil. I uncovered the body myself because the workers who were assisting with the body recovery would not be able to see if there is one body or several bodies lying together and they could mix up the bones. So I had to do that by myself or tell the workers how and when they could help me or my colleagues.
- 69. On video V000-6011 sequence (00.25.55.64), the first body I uncovered was marked with R-1 and this marker could be seen next to the body. The sacks covering the body were deeply decomposed and mixed with the dirt, so it is hard to see it on the video and also the quality of the video is not very good.
- 70. Then I saw, that under body R-1 there was another body and I asked the worker to help me to dig deeper. I had to do it mostly by myself to see which bones belonged to which body. When the body was cleaned from the stones and the soil, I asked the workers to help me to remove the body. We removed the earth layer by layer and we carefully released the body.

# R11 and R12

71. After we recovered body R-1, with careful digging, two (2) more bodies were uncovered and were we marked them with numbers R-11 and R-12. It was marked with numbers 11 and 12, because as I said before, the bodies which we could immediately see on the surface (or partly on the surface) were marked from 1-10. So the next body which we have found- were numbered as 11...12...etc.

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- 72. These two bodies were found with their heads next to each other. One left and one right shoe were found beside these bodies as well as a rusty piece of barbed wire measuring 2.5 metres in length that was tied into a sliding noose at one end. Long black hair and decaying putrefied soft tissue was tangled in the thorns of the wire. It could not be determined right away to which one of the bodies the hair belonged. We would attempt to determine to which body the hair belonged during the forensic examination and identification. These bodies were then placed in plastic bags that were marked with a label with the same sign, both inside and outside the bag.
- 73. Photograph U009-4019 depicts the location where bodies R-11 and R-12 were found. When body R-1 was removed, we could see there were two bodies present and we labelled them immediately and they were photographed before the soil was removed which shows the bodies underneath the soil.
- 74. Photograph U009-4051 depicts the bodies labelled on the surface with body R-1 having already been removed and when we discovered the two additional bodies which we subsequently labelled as R-11 and R-12.
- 75. Photograph U009-5596 shows the array of the labelled bodies on the surface.
- 76. I went to the mortuary in Hotel Paštrik on the evening of 11 September 1998. I was shown autopsy report U002-6440. I cannot remember if I took part in that autopsy but I know that I carried out autopsies on 13 and 14 September 1998 because it was heavily raining on the site and we could not continue with the recovery process of the bodies.
- 77. From reading the autopsy report, I remembered that there was a good luck charm on the bra of body R-11. But I have no memory whatsoever of the injuries of the victim. This good luck charm is depicted in Photograph U002-6551.
- 78. Photograph U002-6547 shows the body in the mortuary as removed from the body bag, in a state of putrefaction. On photograph U002-6549, I recognise part of the

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bullet which was found on the soft tissue of the second thoracic vertebrae on the left side. I was shown U002-6548 to U002-6550, which depict the bodies as they were photographed in the mortuary.

79	. Body R-12 is depicted in photograph U009-5583. In U009-5598, photograph 57
	and 59, there are bullet holes on the concrete wall both on the inner part of the left-
	hand side of the wall and the outer part of the right-hand side of the wall.

- 80. In photograph U009-5595, number 69, I recognized myself working on the recovery of body 12.
- 81. Photograph U009-4023 depicts the location of bodies 11, 12 and 2 after removing body R-1, and the distance between them. Photograph U002-6553 depicts body R-12. It is a photograph taken during the autopsy. I do not remember where precisely on the body, the wire was found. I could not decide to which body the barbed wire belonged to. It was next to both bodies and not on one.
- 82. I remember we found pieces of hair. This is depicted in photograph U002-6556. On the top picture, I identified pieces of hair. That is the hair that was found near the body attached to the wire. The middle picture depicts the wire through which the hair was tangled.
- 83. Photograph U002-6557 depicts the shoes that were found next to bodies R-11 and R-12.
- 84. I don't remember if I participated in carrying out the autopsy of body R-12. I was shown the autopsy report U002-5654 relating to body R-12 and I recognise my signature.
- 85. On video V000-6011 at the time 13:25 on 11 September 1998, sequence 00:28'52.52 shows how we uncovered body R-11 and placed it in a body bag. To

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avoid losing any bones after the body was uncovered, the body bag was placed near the body and it was simply overturned right into the bag. Then the number was placed inside the body bag and another sticker with the same number- on the top of the bag.

- 86. On video V000-6011 at 13:29 on 11 September 1998, removal of body R-12 began. As the video shows I tried to separate each body as much as possible and to find all the bones. The body was also carefully placed into the body bag. During the uncovering of body R-12 I found the pieces of barbed wire in the ground (time on video 13:35 at 11.9.1998). The barbed wire was also placed inside the body bag together with body R-12.
- 87. On video V000-6011 at 13.35 sequence 00.32.37.06-00.33.02.00 of the video: we see body R-12. You can see me checking the bones to make sure that we include all the bones with the body. When we first removed most of the bodies, we checked the soil to make sure there aren't any fragments of bones or entire bones left over. All bodies were mixed with soil. So there might be little bones, fragments of bones mixed with the soil. I put all the little bones I found in the same body bag I had placed the body in. You can also see the rusty barbed wire. One end of the piece of wire was tied in a sliding noose. I removed the wire in this condition. It is clear from the video that this noose had already been tied in this manner.

#### <u>R-2</u>

- 88. The body marked with R-2 was visible when we found it.
- 89. Photograph U009-5603, number 102, depicts body R-2 as it was when we arrived, before any of the bodies was removed. Photograph U009-4075 shows how we worked: we put a body bag close to the body with a number, we turned the body in the body bag, we put the same number inside the body bag, we closed the body bag and then we put the same number on the body bag.
- 90. On Video V000-6011 at sequence (00.22.29.16) of the video, next to body 1, is body 2 (with orange clothes) with the paper sign R. We can see body number 5 (with blue clothes). We can also see bodies numbered 7 and 8.

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91. On Video V000-6011 at 13:38 on 11.9.1998 (sequence 00:33'40.43) shows the beginning of the removal of body No.2. Body 2 was lying on the ground and dressed with clothes. The body was carefully placed in the body bag.

#### <u>R-3</u>

- 92. The body marked with R-3 was found with the majority of it covered by dirt so that on the surface there was some clothing, trousers, visible. The body was carefully uncovered along with all its parts that could be found the body was placed in plastic bag.
- 93. Photograph U009-4051 shows the relationships between the bodies.
- 94. Photograph marked with U009-5586, number 33, depicts body number 3 after it was placed in a body bag and after it had been marked in the same manner the other bags had been marked. This photograph depicts that after body 3 was removed and placed in a body bag, new bones were revealed underneath it. We then started to dig deeper. Photograph 44 of the same ERN depicts this process. Photograph 44 shows that under body R-3, after we removed this body we found another body which we labelled R-13. Photograph 46 depicts the exact same image as number 44. Photograph U009-5603, number 104 shows only the trousers of body number 3 before the body was recovered. After recovering body R-3 and discovering the bones underneath it we began the recovery of body R-13 before moving on to body R-4.
- 95. I was shown photographs U002-6506-U002-6511: Those photographs are marked with number 3, I don't remember this specifically but the photographs actually show our working methods when we prepared an autopsy, how we set the bones when we are working with bare bones according to their anatomy. Photograph marked with ERN U002-6508, on the bottom number, I can see the trajectory of the bullet. It shows the bones of the pelvic area, the wooden stick depicted in the photograph shows the trajectory of the bullet.

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96. I was shown an autopsy report U002-5545-U002-5550 relating to body R-3. I recognize my signature on that report.

#### <u>R13</u>

- 97. Body R-13 was located underneath body R-3. Found alongside this body was part of a cable with black plastic isolation that had the same characteristics as the cables that we found in the stable at the Ekonomija farm tied to the livestock water troughs. Alongside the body there was part of a twisted mountain climbing rope, about one centimetre thick, that was tied into a sliding noose on one side.
- 98. On photograph U009-5609, number 128, I can see something that resembles a rope. On photograph U009-5616, number 155 and 154, I recognized a piece of climbing rope alongside the body that was twisted into a noose. However the climbing rope had different colours on it but when we found it, it was mixed with soil so it was hard to see the colours. Number 154 depicts the black cable that we found, which appears yellow in the photograph because it was covered with earth. This cable was the same type as the one found at the Ekonomija Farm, the one next to the feeding area for the cattle.
- 99. I was shown the autopsy report U002-5668-U002-5685 relating to body R-13. I recognized my signature on the report. As can be seen on one the mortuary photographs there was a defect in the skull on the occipital bone (U002-6561) and a defect in the jaw (U002-6559).
- 100. On video V000-6011 at 15:18 to 15:23 on 11 September 1998 body R-13 was found along the wall. The body was placed in the body bag (sequence 00.39.42.41) following the regular procedure of placing body R-13 inside the bag and the label with number 13 on the top of it (00.39.12.01). It is clear from the characteristics on the wall lines, holes, scratches that body R-13 was found at the same place as body R-3 (00.39.45.58, 00.40.42.65). As I mentioned before the body R-13 was found along with the electric cable along the body which was similar to those found in Ekonomija farm cow shed. It's not visible on the video because it was not possible to capture everything on video.

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<u>R-4</u>

- 101. The body marked with R-4 was found on the surface of the earth. Photograph U009-4041 depicts body R-4 as visible. U009-5599 shows an array of photographs which depict the general location of where body 4 was found but the photos were taken before the numbers were marked. Photograph U009-5596 (numbers 74-76) and U009-5604, photograph 5 depict body number 4 before the body was removed.
- 102. Photograph U002-6512 top photo depicts body number 4 close to the concrete wall. You can see the right side of the outer wall you can see the bullet holes just behind the location of the bodies 7, 8, and 9.
- 103. I have been shown autopsy report marked U009-5561-U009-5573 and I recognise my signature on this report as the autopsy carried out on this body. I have reviewed mortuary photographs U002-6513 to U002-6515. Photograph U002-6515 depicts the direction of the bullet trajectory which passed through the skull.

**R-5** 

- 104. The body marked with R-5 was found clothed and the clothes contained bones, which were also found surrounding the body. Alongside this body there was a shoe that corresponds to the other shoe found alongside the body marked with R-2.
- 105. Photograph U009-4093 depicts the general view of the group of the bodies before we assigned the bodies with numbers. I recognise body number R-2, R-3, R-4, and R-5. Photograph U009-4105 depicts the same view of bodies as photograph 4093 except the bodies have now been assigned numbers. Photograph U009 6504 number 106 depicts body number R-5. This blue detail shown on this photograph is a sweater with bullet holes in it found on the body R-5. U009-5585 depicts an array of photographs which shows the process of packing the bones of body number 5 into the body bags and the last photo in the array marked 30 shows the bones packed into the body bag.

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106. I have been shown autopsy report U009-5574- U009-5585 and I recognise my signature. I recognise photographs U0026516-U002-6521 as photos taken at the mortuary. Photograph U002-6521 depicts the defect which was caused by a bullet trajectory on the parietal bone.

#### <u>R-6</u>

107. The black left shoe found at the scene was marked with R-6. This shoe was found between the first bodies close to number R-5 as depicted in photograph U009-4105.

# <u>R-7</u>

- 108. The body marked with R-7 was found clothed on the surface of the earth.
- 109. Photograph U009-5596 number 76 depicts body number 7 in relation to bodies R-4, R-8 and R-9. Photograph U009-5604 number 107 depicts body R-7 clothed on the surface before it was removed. Because the entire body was not on the surface we had to dig out some of the body using spades to find all parts of the body. Photograph U009-5615 number 151 depicts when we placed the body into the body bag and turned it around and then assigned the body with a number 7. Photograph U009-4071 depicts body R-7 clothed. This photograph is a magnified version of photograph U009-5604 number 107 which is why we cannot see the number R-7 next to the body.
- 110. I have reviewed autopsy report marked U002-5586-5597 and I recognise my signature. I reviewed photographs U002-6522 to U002-6525 were taken at the mortuary.

#### R-8 and R-8/1

111. We found the body marked with R-8 the majority of it covered by earth so that on the surface only pieces of clothing and bones were visible. The body was carefully uncovered together with all its fragments that could be found. We found a tight noose made of mountain climbing rope surrounding the neck area. This rope

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was approximately one centimetre thick and its circumference corresponds to the circumference of an average neck on a normal adult.

- 112. We also found the following items near the bones of this body, which were mixed in with dirt: a plastic pacifier, a rubber cover for a baby feeding bottle, plastic underwear for baby diapers a little wool cardigan sweater in a size for a baby. A rifle projectile, partly green in colour, was also found beside this body. This projectile was individually placed in a plastic bag and then in the bag with the body, which was then marked with the same sign, both inside and outside the bag.
- 113. Photograph U009-5596, numbers 77 and 76, depicts the relationship between bodies R-7, R-8, and R-9. Number 76 shows the location where body R-8 was found and just above the body, I can see bullet holes on the wall. Photograph U009-5604, number 108, depicts body R-9 and next to it, I can see parts of body R-8 but mostly covered with earth. I believe photograph U009-4089 depicts body R-8 because there is a rope next to it and out of the group of bodies R-7, R-8, R-9. body R-8 was the only one who had a rope next to it.
- 114. I was shown autopsy report U002-5599-U002-5613 relating to body R-8, I recognized my signature on the report. This report has two parts: one relating to body R-8 and one to body R-8/1. I remember this case in particular because of the baby items next to it and this man had an iron bar in his right leg. I was present when he was identified and his family told us that he went to the pharmacy to buy things for his grandchild and on his way back he disappeared. The family who identified him told us when he disappeared.
- 115. We also found parts of bones next to the body, which we labelled R-8/1 during the post mortem examination. It was obvious that we could not sort these bones on site since it was all mixed with soil. We collected all we could manage and flipped everything into a bag. Only during the post mortem examination and after cleaning the remains we could sort out these bones. Therefore we did not label the bones R-8/1 on site. When I arrived at Hotel Paštrik, my colleagues who carried out the post mortem examination told me that they discovered that the remains belonged to

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another body and they labelled the bones R-8/1 and not R-8 because the body within the clothes labelled as R8 belonged to one person and the bones belonged to another person.

- 116. Apart from the fact that the bones were outside of the clothing, anatomical and anthropological characteristics of the bones (e.g. one tibia did not match a femur) led my colleagues to conclude that those remains came from another body.
- 117. On the video V000-6011 at 16.47 (sequence 00.42.46.77): shows when we start working on number 8. We can see Ječmenica removing the earth with his fingers.
- 118. On the video V000-6011 between 17:05 and 17:24 hours on 11 September 1998, the video shows one of the workers holding a small baby's jumper which was found next to body R-8 (00.45.00.69). There was also baby's pampers and a long rope found alongside the body R-8 (17:06 hours).
- 119. On the video V000-6011 at 17:30 on 11 September 1998 (00.53.29.24), the video shows the recovery of a long rope, a kind of mountain climbing rope, because the rope was coloured in different colours like regular mountain rope. The other end of the rope had a noose on it (time 17:24 hours, sequence 00.52.49.54) and was placed in the neck area of the body R-8 at time 17:31 hours, sequence 00.53.55.04: we can see my arm holding the noose around the neck area, we see the head sticking out of the earth, I was holding the noose in this footage in order to demonstrate hat it could be fitted around a neck. You can see the noose around the neck area in footage at time 17:31 hours, sequence 00.54.17.80. At 17.31 hours, sequence 00.54.32.78 you can see the noose, the neck and the marker 8. I remember that the body 8 did not have any soft tissues also around the neck but the size of the noose corresponded to the size of the neck.
- 120. I was shown autopsy report U002-6046-U002-6049 relating to R-8/1. I recognized my signature. The report refers to anthropological analysis of R-8/1.

R-9

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- 121. The body marked with R-9 was only partially covered with dirt. It was found next body R-8.
- 122. For practical reasons, we removed body R-9 before body R-8 because we could not remove body R-8 first because of its position. Body R-9 was on the surface and we had to dig a bit more for body R-8 and we did not want to have body R9 in our way when we recovered body R-8. Looking from the wall, from right to the left, there were bodies R-7, R-8 and 9. Part of body R-8 was stuck under a stone or some rocks.
- 123. On the video V000-6011 at 16:43 on 11 September 1998 sequence 00:41'27.45 the video shows how we recovered body R-9. Dr. Ječmenica was working on removing the body and placed it into the body bag.
- 124. U009-5590-U009-5591 are photographs of the terrain before we labelled the location of the bodies. Photograph U009-5596 depicts bodies R-7, R-8 and R-9 before the bodies were recovered. Photograph U009-5617, number 158, shows body R-9 as it was found, before it was recovered. This photograph was taken from the wall of the canal. Photograph U009-5617, number 160 shows the body in the bag. Inside the bag, there is the label R-9. We labelled the bodies with numbers and when we put the bodies in the bags, we would write the letter R followed by a number inside the bag and we would label the bags only with a number without a letter.
- 125. I was shown autopsy report U002-6012-U002-6019 relating to body R-9. I recognized my signature on the report.
- 126. I was shown mortuary photographs U002-6536-U002-6539. We can see the number on a cardboard at Hotel Paštrik and also the label placed on site on the body. These photos exemplify the method of how we numbered the bodies.
- 127. On 11 September 1998, work at the scene ceased at 18:30 hours when it became too dark to work and we continued the following day.

128. On 12 September 1998, work began at 09:00 hours on the terrain at the location marked "R."

#### R-10

- 129. Bone fragments that were visible on the surface of a pile of gravel as well as a right black plastic shoe (the same model as the left one marked with R-6) were found right next to the outer side of the concrete canal wall and both were marked as R-10. With careful digging of the gravel, body R-10 was uncovered which had a metal wire tied around the waist three (3) mm in diameter. Around the body there was a left and a right rubber peasant shoes and a woman's headband.
- 130. On video V000-6011 on 12.9.1998 at sequence 00:55.40.16: shows when we started digging where body R-10 was ultimately found close to the wall. Some bones protruding from the gravel could be seen. We can see bones protruding from the gravel at sequence 56.04.14 (time 9.18) and 9.22 57.26.06. Sequence 01.00.07.02 shows our team digging to remove body 10 and we can see the marker 10 placed on the concrete wall.
- 131. I was shown autopsy report U002-5621-U002-5649 relating to body R-10. I recognized my signature.
- 132. On video V000-6011 on 12 September 1998 at 09:30 (at sequence 9.28, 01.02.06.91), the video shows a metal single wire which was found around the waist of the body. It was in the area where the waist should be. The body was placed inside the plastic bag along with the shoes which were found with the body.
- 133. On video V000-6011 on 12 September 1998 at sequence 9.32, 01.03.46.39 shows the body in the plastic bag with the wire around the waist.

#### R-14 and R-15

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- 134. About two metres to the right of body R-10 (looking from the direction of the canal) at the end of the concrete wall of the canal from its outer side, there was a pile of gravel, on which there were no pieces of human bones. However, since there was the projectile damage on the wall above this pile of gravel, there was a possibility that a body was located underneath the gravel so we carefully removed the gravel.
- 135. Two bodies were discovered that were then marked with R-14 and R-15 which were underneath a pile of gravel. These bodies had pieces of clothing on them. Near the body marked with R-14, a pair of women's earrings of yellow metal were found, and near the body marked with R-15 a left and right peasant shoe were found. Just above the remains of bodies R-14 R-15 there were many bullet holes on the outer side of the concrete wall. They were marked with arrows so that they can be seen easily on photographs and videos. This can be seen on video V000-6011 of 12 September at 9:37 (sequence 01:04'55.39).
- 136. On the video V000-6011 of 12 September 1998, at 9:40 hours a skull with letter R is shown. This footage was taken from the top of the wall. At 9:41 hours (sequence 01.06.36.55-01.06.39.92) bullet holes above the pile of gravel are depicted which is why we thought there might be bodies below the pile of gravel. At 9:41 hours, (sequence 01.06.49.96) bodies R-14 and R-15 are shown. At 9:42, sequence 01.06.56.22 the bones of body R-15 is shown. At 9:43 at sequence 01:07'17.37 by the end of the concrete canal, on the opposite inner wall, we can see bullet holes at the same level as the outer wall. On the video V000-6012 at 09:43 hours till 09:52 on 12 September 1998 video shows bodies R- 14 (at time 9:43 hours, 01.08.01.19) and 15 (at time 9.49), being placed into the body bags. Body 14 was on the left side of the bullet holes, and body R-15 on the right side of the bullet holes.
- 137. I was shown autopsy report U002-5686-U002-5702 relating to body R-14. I recognized my signature on the report.
- 138. I was shown mortuary photographs U002-6565-U002-6567. They depict the methodology of how we reconstructed the skull that was found.

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- 139. I was shown autopsy report U002-5703-5716 relating to body R-15. I recognized my signature on the report. I was there during the identification process.
- 140. At the end of the day, the bags were placed on the truck.

#### R-16

- 141. Following the removal of bodies R-14 and R-15, we dug about one meter deep into the earth along the outer edge of the concrete wall of the canal and probed the terrain looking for another body or body part. We did this because there were bullet holes on the wall above that area. At the foot of the place where bodies R-7, R-8 and R-9 were found, along the outer concrete wall of the canal, at a depth of about 30 centimetres, we found a body that was marked with R-16. This body was then packed into a bag and it was sent for further forensic analysis. A complete denture for the upper jaw was found near this body.
- 142. I was shown autopsy report U002-5717-U002-5728 relating to body R-16. I recognized my signature on the report.
- 143. On the video V000-6011, between 11:01 hours (sequence 01.12.47.86) and 11:16 on 12 September 1998 video shows the place along the concrete wall where the body R-16 was found and the recovery of body R-16. We managed to extract the body in two parts, the upper and the lower parts. Everything was covered in soil and mud. At the time 11.12 hours, sequence 01.20.38.52 depicts body R-16 as we placed it in a bag.

## R-17

144. Once the body labelled as R-16 had been removed and packed into a body bag with the same labelling inside and out, some more human bones were found protruding in the earth beneath it. Careful digging revealed that there was another body deep in the earth, which was subsequently labelled as R-17. This body was also packed and the body bag labelled inside and out for transport for further

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# Statement of Branimir ALEKSANDRIĆ

forensic processing. A full set of dentures for the upper jaw was found with the head of this body.

- 145. Photograph U009-4033 depicts the process of probing the soil next to the concrete wall. The man with the blue shirt at the left-hand side is Ječmenica, who is closely monitoring what the men are digging.
- 146. On the video V000-6011 between 11:32 hours and 12:05 on 12 September 1998 the video shows removal of body R-17. We can see a denture for the upper jaw at 11:39 hours, sequence 01.29.38.98. It was uncovered very carefully in order not to lose any bones and body parts. Body R-17 was found under the body R-16 at the same location and it was the last body which was found from outside the canal.
- 147. On video still marked at the time 11:42 hours (sequence 01.30.43.54-01.30.54.38), one can see body 17 in the body bag labelled as 17 on the bag.
- 148. In this case, we placed the label for body R-17 after we started digging because we couldn't dig around the label if it had been on the ground because the area was too small and it would be in the way. When we loosened the earth around the body and we could see the body then we placed the marker next to it so we could label it clearly. As we did with body R-10, while we were digging we placed the marker was placed on the concrete wall, for bodies R-16 and R-17 but since the cameraman was pointing down, it could not capture the numbers.
- 149. Body R-17 was the last body we exhumed from dry land. The investigation of the terrain from the outer edge of the concrete wall was completed (at 12:00 hours) and the search for bodies in the natural canal was begun immediately after.
- 150. I was shown autopsy Report U002-5729-U002-5741 relating to body R-17. I recognized my signature on the report. After reviewing the autopsy report I remember the specific spine on this body which was very curved.

R-18

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- 151. A vehicle type "Opel" was found turned up side down and with a burnt rear under the cascade, at the beginning of the natural canal, which continues as a manmade concrete canal. The top half of the skull was found on one of the vehicle's sides, and on the other a body with fragments of the skull and pieces of clothing, as well as a severed left forearm and a first lying beside it.
- 152. On the ring finger of the left fist, there was a characteristic ring made of yellow metal that will be precisely described during the forensic examination. The entire location along with the vehicle, the body, the forearm and the top half of the skull is marked with the sign R-18.
- 153. On the video V000-6011 between 11:18 and 11:28 hours on 12 September 1998 at sequence 01:24'57.00, the video shows the natural part of the canal with a body positioned next to the Opel Kadet and the inner side of the concrete canal. I can also see Petar Ilinčić crossing the canal to the other side and he filmed the overview of the concrete and natural part of the canal.
- 154. On the video V000-6011 at 11.19 hours and 12 September 1998 at sequence 01.22.51.83 we can see the trunk, head and arms of the body as well as the legs. On the video at 11:29 hours, sequence 01.24.41.81 shows body R-18 alongside the car. Before it was labelled and before the forensic team started working on it. We did not label immediately because we did not know how many bodies we were going to find.
- 155. Photograph U003-0016 depicts the waterfall leading to the concrete canal and depicts the car at the bottom of the waterfall. This photo was taken from a different angle. Photograph U003-0023 depicts the location of body R-18: the legs are in front of the car as they are depicted on this photograph. Photograph U003-0024 depicts the separated arm with the gold ring on it. Photograph U009-4059 depicts a close-up view of the gold ring found on the finger of that arm.
- 156. On the video V000-6011 at 12:06 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 01:31'07.50) Petar Iliničić was filming again the surrounding part of the canal with Opel Kadet, the body next to it and clothes which were found by the police in the

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water. One could clearly see the green surgeon garment. On the video it could be heard that Dr. Ječmenica recorded what we were doing on the audio recorder, so later on it was easier to make out a written record.

- 157. On the video V000-6011 at 12:13 hours on 12.9.1998 (sequence 01:35'15.91) the female body which was found next to Opel Kadet was labelled with R-18.
- 158. On the video V000-6011 at 12:19 hours on 12 September 1998 (01:38'31.27) the video shows the part of the lower arm of body R-18 with a ring on it. There were also some shoes found nearby the body and we tried to see, if the shoes belonged to the body or not. I cannot comment too much on the body itself, but everything was described in autopsy report. The body was placed in the body bag in accordance with the procedure described before.
- 159. I was shown autopsy report U002-5742-U002-5749 relating to body R-18. I recognized my signature on the report.
- 160. I was shown mortuary photographs U002-6579-U002-6581 relating to R-18.

R-19

161. At 20 metres downstream along the canal, on a rock, there were pieces of clothing and shoes that had been previously removed from water by the responsible authorities. All the items found were marked with the sign R-19. A green surgical coat was also found among these clothing items, while numerous empty bottles of different infusion solutions as well as several pieces of infusion equipment were lying by the rock. Flesh completely removed from a right male fist in a shape of a glove along with nails (cut to the root, blunt and square shaped) were found on the rock next to the clothing items. The flesh was given to the criminal technicians for fingerprints and dactyloscopic identification. What stood out in particular among the clothing items was the lower part of a grey cotton tracksuit of which the left pant leg was tucked into a male sandal of a dark red colour, in which there was a sock and the foot bones were inside the sock (this will be described in details during the forensic examination and the examination of clothing items).

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162. We put all the items under one label because the police had taken the items before we arrived and put them all at one spot on a border. They found them, as far as we were informed by them, in the area at the beginning of the natural flow of the canal. We labelled these items as R-19.

#### R20

- 163. Body R-20 was initially found by the policemen scuba divers. After we found the body R-18 and clothes R-19, the policemen walked ahead of us and they followed the water flow in scuba diving suits, and when they found a body, they called out to us. Because we could not follow the policemen who were in scuba diving suits through the water, we had to follow the stream on the bank in order to locate the body.
- 164. At 500 metres downstream, behind a small lake, on the dry part of the canyon, at one metre above the water surface, a body was found and marked with R-20. This body was in part covered by mud, and in part by large pieces of clay rock. Upon removal of the body, underneath the body the earth was coloured dirty grey.
- 165. On the video V000-6011 at 13:45 hours, sequence 01.40.38.66 we can see where the police told us to come down the cliff because they found a body. There is a small lake at the bottom. The policemen used a rope-ladder to allow us to go down. We are in the natural part of the canal.
- 166. Photograph U002-6585, top photograph, depicts body R-20 which was stuck under a rock. It must have been stuck there after having been dragged along by the water. These rocks are not stone-made, they are hardened clay. When there was water flow, the body was stuck there. The middle photograph on U002-6585 depicts a close-up view of the body before it was removed. When we removed the body, there was this greenish colour which was left on those rocks because the body was in a state of decomposition.

We can see that on the bottom photograph.

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- 167. On the video V000-6011 between 14:05 and 14:33 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 01:45'88.44-01:52'54.23) the body labelled R-20 was filmed. The body was stuck under small rocks and soil so we had to remove small rocks and stones to be able to take the body out. From the position of the body I can say, that most probably the body was carried to that place by the water flow. It is difficult to separate the body from the clay because when it gets wet it becomes slippery. It took us one hour to extract this body. It could be seen on video that the body was placed inside the body bag along with its number.
- 168. The saponification process was visible on body R-20. Saponification is a particular process of putrefaction which occurs in moist areas. It is a process of decomposition where the soft tissue of a body converts into soap but if it gets wet and you touch it, it begins to foam which is why we get remains which represents a more shapeless mass which still shows a leg and which has not been moved from its previous position.
- 169. The bluish-greenish colour underneath body R-20 is caused by the process of putrefaction. The colour of the clothing transferred to the soil. This is depicted on the video V000-6011 at 14:33 hours, sequence 01.52.54.23. It shows that the body was stuck to that piece of soil for a long time. The fluids which are the product of decomposition goes through the soil and it is absorbed into the soil. So the body leaves an imprint of how it was lying on the clay.
- 170. Photograph U002-6586 also depicts this saponification process. A saponificated body starts foaming the moment you touch it. This photograph shows body 20 after the claylike rock was cut but the body itself has not been moved. So the pieces of soil fell onto the body. We had to cut the rocks made of clay and the pieces of the rock fell on the body which is depicted it here. This saponification process tells me the body was there for a long time, for at least a minimum of a few weeks but I am not able to estimate more specifically the length of time the body has been there.

#### R-21, R-22, R-23, R-24, and R-25

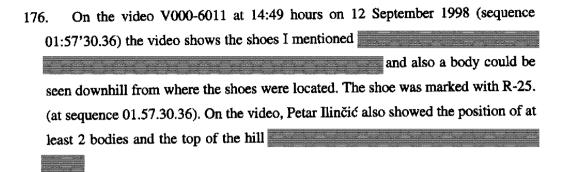
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- Further, some 150 m downstream from R-20, on the dry part of the canvon R-171. 21 to R-24 were found in close proximity to one another at the distance of approximately 4 meters, they were all found in a canyon with a very steep slope. The whole group was found that way. I describe it in the following way: the upper half of a body with fractured parts of the skull, which we marked as R-21; three metres further than R-21, an entire body with fractured parts of the skull, marked with the sign R-22, as well as some partial dentures in the area of the head; another body with fractured parts of the skull and part of a denture found near its head, marked with R-23 (the bodies marked with R-22 and R-23 were found with the head of the body R-22 next to the feet of body R-23); at about one metre downstream from bodies R-22 and R-23, the lower half of a body with trousers was marked with R-24. This group of bodies was found in a canyon whose sides are very steep. On the side on which the bodies were found, first there is a steep slope with a 45-degree angle which is completely overgrown with vegetation measuring 20 metres, and from that point on, the terrain is completely vertical measuring 20 metres and without vegetation.
- 172. On the video V000-6011 at 13:45 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 01:40'52.85) the video shows the canyon from the top of the hill and from that point we were going down with a ladder made of the ropes.
- 173. On the video V000-6011 at 13:47 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 01:41'29.62) video shows one more body stuck between the rocks but Petar Ilinčić filmed it briefly so I cannot say at the moment which body it depicts.
- 174. On the video V000-6011 at 13:50 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 01:42'43.56) the video shows the bodies found downstream from the pool of water



175. On the video V000-6011 between 14:33 and 14:48 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 01:45'33.03-01:53'31.66) different parts of the human remains-

bodies 21-24 were filmed- part of spine, leg with a shoe, hand, parts of decomposed clothes.



- 177. On the video V000-6011 at 14:49 hours on 12 September 1998 (14:50, 01.58.25.07 01.58.49., 41, 01.59.33.72) the video shows a group of bodies (R-22, R-23 and R-24). We believed that the shoe found higher up belonged to the body the parts of which were separated, 21 and 24, because body 21 had a shoe on. This shoe was marked R-25. Next to body R-23, one shoe of a different type was found.
- 178. On the video V000-6011 at 14:51 hours on 12 September 1998, the video shows bodies R-23 and R-24 lying on the bank of the water pool down from the place where the shoe No.25 was found. We also see body R-21 located in close proximity to bodies R-22, R-23 and R-24.
- 179. On the video V000-6011 at 15:06 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 02:01'49.12) the video shows the body R-21 being placed into the body bag. The video V000-6011 is ended at this point.
- 180. The video V000-6012 started at 15:13 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 00:00'31.10) the video shows how the bodies from the lake were lifted up with the rope.
- 181. On the video V000-6012 at 15:16 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 00:01'55.63) the video shows how my colleague Dr. Ječmenica found a porcelain denture likely belonging to body R-22 in the mud of the lake.

Others Present:

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- 182. On the video V000-6012 at 15:18 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 00.05.03.66) Dr. Ječmenica found the arm of one of the body and then I can see on the video that he continued to dig through the mud and recovered the rest of the body, which was R-22. The body was placed in the body bag in the same way we did with all the bodies. I know it is body R-22 because when we continued to remove the surface, we continued to find bones. Later during the autopsy, it was evident that it belonged to the same body.
- 183. On the video V000-6012 at 15:33 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 00:07'28.39) the video shows us finding another body which was carefully placed into the body bag, but I cannot see from the video the number of the body, but I can assume that it could be either R-23 or R-24.

#### R-21 and R-24

- 184. The area where R-21 and R-24 were found is very steep.
- 185. I have been shown the photographs U002-6591: the bottom photo on this array depicts parts of the body R-21. The middle photo depicts the body after it was placed in a body bag. The bottom photograph depicts the parts of the body which are mixed with mud; it is not clearly visible whereas the middle photograph clearly shows which part of the body it is. The top photograph: the photographer took this photograph in haste, before we labelled anything, this could be a lower part of the body but am not too sure.
- 186. When we located the body we suspected that the upper and lower parts of the bodies which we labelled as R-24 and R-21 belonged to the same person because of the proximity of the location where the two parts were found and also because of the anatomical characteristics. That was our working hypothesis. Body R-24 is depicted in U002-6601 top photo as it was found on the scene. We were labelling bodies in the order as we found them.

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- 187. I have been shown mortuary photographs U002-6592-U002-6602 of bodies R-21 and R-24. Photograph U002-6602 depicts the black shoe that was located near R24.
- 188. I have reviewed autopsy report U002-5774-U002-5794. I recognize my signature and I note that we concluded in the autopsy report that R-21 and R-24 body parts belonged to the same person. We concluded that it was the same person after the autopsy, which means after the complete examination (including the bones and the anthropological examination of the whole body).
- 189. At the steep overgrown slope of vegetation, at approximately three metres above this group of bodies, a black shoe was found, and at about three metres from it, in the vegetation, the second shoe of that pair was found. The shoes were marked with R-25.



191. During the search of the surrounding vegetation on the aforementioned steep slope, no other bodies, body parts, clothing items or shoes were found. We assumed that the shoes marked R-25 belonged either to the body marked R-21 or to the lower part of the body marked with R-24. The reason we thought these shoes either belonged to body R-21 or R-24 was because we found body R-22 already with shoes on that body and that a right shoe was found just next to the feet of the body marked with R-23.

### R-22 and R-23

192. The head of R-22 was found to contain a partial set of dentures. Next to it was another body with fracture skull fragments, which was labelled as R-23, and part of

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a set of dentures was found near the head. These two bodies, R-22 and R-23, were found positioned with the head of body R-22 alongside the legs of body R-23.

- 193. Photograph U009-4013 depicts the location of bodies R-22 and R-23. Photograph U009-4077 depicts bodies R-22, R-23 and lower parts of the legs of body R-24 wearing trousers which is not labelled in this photograph before any of the bodies have been removed. We removed it very carefully.
- 194. I was shown the autopsy report U002-5795-U002-5804 relating to body R-22.
  I recognize my signature on the report.
- 195. I was shown the autopsy report U002-5815-U002-5823 relating to body R-23.
  I recognize my signature on the report.
- 196. I was shown mortuary photographs U002-6597-U002-6598 relating to body R-23.

#### R-26

- 197. About ten metres further downstream from R-24, a pair of trousers with leg bones inside the pant legs and a black jacket were found and were marked with R-26. This is depicted in photograph U009-4067. The video-still (15.36, 00.09.46.64) marked as 15:36 on 12 September 1998 depicts the same thing from a different angle.
- 198. On the video V000-6012 at 15:36 hours on 12 September 1998 (sequence 00.09.46.64) we found the trousers further down the stream. The leg bones were found within the trousers. On the video it is seen that those trousers were labelled as R-26.
- 199. I was shown autopsy report U002-5824-U002-5831 relating to body R-26. I recognize my signature on the report.

<u>R-27</u>

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- 200. About fifty metres further downstream from R-26, a pair of trousers with leg bones inside the pant legs and a black jacket were found and were marked with R-27.
- 201. The video-still V000-6012 00.10.38.97 at 15:47 hours on 12 September 1998 depicts the bones, part of the spinal column, two tibia and scapula. Photograph 0188-2550-0188-2551 also depicts this. Photograph U002-6603-U002-6604 depicts these bones as they were photographed in the mortuary. Photograph U002-6604 depicts the clothing after they were washed and dried in the mortuary.
- 202. On the video V000-6012 at 15:47 hours on 12 September 1998 the video shows us finding the bone leg and a part of spine. I collected those bones (I can see myself on the video) and they were labelled as R-27.
- 203. I was shown the autopsy report U002-5832-U002-5837 relating to body R-27. I recognize my signature on the report. I note that the two tibia were from two different persons because they are different in length. The conclusion of the autopsy was that there were at least two victims because we don't know about the other bones.
- 204. I remember that on 12 September 1998 we finished the work when it was getting dark, but we still had some bodies to collect. The next day on 13 September 1998 I remember it was raining during the night and we could not continue the body recovery operation because of heavy water flow.
- 205. Because it had rained the whole day on 13 September 1998 the work was rendered impossible on 14 September 1998 as well. The rain continued until noon on 15 September 1998. The level of the water in the canal had increased due to the heavy rain from the previous night and therefore, due to weather conditions, the work on finding bodies in the canyon was impossible.

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206. On 15 September 1998, the weather conditions stabilized and we once again went back to the canyon area to in the Rznić area, in order to continue with the examination of the terrain and to look for bodies. The work began at 12:00 hrs and it was carried out with the assistance of the MUP diving teams.

#### R-28

- 207. At about 700 metres downstream from the beginning of the canyon, a body was found stuck under a rock in the water. There was a wedding band made of yellow metal on the ring finger of the right fist of the body. The body was marked with R-28. It was found meters away from the canyon. That means that it was immediately beyond the place where we found the body R-27.
- 208. Body R-28 was close to body R-27 but we did not see it on 12 September 1998. I believe we did not see it because it was the end of the working day, it was dark and we were not making any attempt to search other bodies for security reasons (we were in a conflict zone).
- 209. Photograph U003-0043 depicts body R-28 as we found it stuck underneath the rock in the end stream part of the water before the body was removed.
- 210. I was shown the autopsy report U002-5838-U002-5844 relating to body R-28.
  I recognize my signature on the report.
- 211. I identified photographs U002-6605-U002-6606 as the mortuary photographs of body R-28.
- 212. On the video V000-6012 at 12:11 hours on 15 September 1998 the video shows a red Opel Kadet in the pool of the natural part of the canal, but the vehicle was turned over on the wheels by heavy water flow. The rear part of the vehicle was burnt and could be seen on video.

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- 213. On the video V000-6012 at 12:45 hours on 15 September 1998 the video shows the divers walking up the canyon. The divers worked with us to help us with recovery of bones in the canyon and canal. Then the video shows some bones which probably were found by us and placed on the stone. One of the police officers told us that there is one more body down the stream and one more body in jeans. Our forensic team didn't go down the stream until we were told that there was a body or some remains there. It was arranged in that way because we had no proper equipment to search for the remains in the water, so divers and the police searched the water for us and then informed us if they had found any remains.
- 214. On video V000-6012 at 13:02 hours on 15 September 1998 the video shows the place where the body R-28 was found. It was still undisturbed when we arrived and after our arrival the recovery operation began. The body was stuck under the stones because of the water flow and we had to work carefully to collect all bones.

#### R-29

- 215. At about 300 metres downstream from body R-28, a body was found in the water, stuck in the branches, and a sneaker near it. The body was marked with R-29.
- 216. Photograph U003-0042 depicts the branches where body R-29 was found. It was almost intertwined with the branches and got stuck with the branches together at that location. You can see the clothes, thigh bone and more bones. Photograph U003-0040 depicts the same thing from a different angle. You see the water on the left-hand side. Photograph 0188-2553 depicts body R-29 from another angle, down the flow of the water, the water is on the right-hand side. Photograph 0188-2555, at the bottom, depicts body R29 after the labelling has been done.
- 217. I was shown the autopsy report U002-5846-U002-5856 relating to body R-29. I recognize my signature on the report.

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- 218. I was shown mortuary photos U002-6607-U002-6608 of body R-29. The photographs depict that the upper and the lower parts of the jaw corresponded absolutely to one another which indicates that they belonged to the same skull.
- 219. On the video V000-6012 at 13:50 hours on 15 September 1998 the video shows the remains of the body R-29. Some bones with decayed clothes, a blue sweater, and dentures. The body was stuck in the branches and that's how it was found.

#### R-30

- 220. A pair of man's trousers with bones in them were found caught on some branches in the water about 200 metres downstream from R-29. This was labelled as R-30.
- 221. Photograph U003-0039 depicts a pile of branches with the pair of trousers intertwined in them. You can see the label there, R-30. Photograph 0188-2557 depicts the trousers after they were removed from the pile of branches.
- 222. I was shown autopsy report U002-5857-U002-5863 relating to body R-30. I recognize my signature in the report.
- 223. I was shown mortuary photographs U002-6609-U002-6610 of R-30. They show a standard body bag with a decomposed body inside.
- 224. On the video V000-6012 at 14:41 hours on 15 September 1998 the video shows the remains of the body R-30, which was found also stuck in the branches. It was likely taken down the stream with the water flow.

#### R-31

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- 225. At about 150 metres downstream, a body wearing trousers was found in the water and marked with R-31.
- 226. I was shown the autopsy report U002-5864-U002-5873 relating to body R-31. I recognize my signature in the report. From this report, I can see that the body was

rather well preserved compared to the others, we could even recognize the organs (liver, stomach...).

- I was shown mortuary photographs U002-6611-U002-6612 of R-31 which I identified.
- 228. On video V000-6012 at 15:28 hours on 15 September 1998 the video shows how we found the body which was labelled with R-31. This body also was found in the water stuck under a rock. It would be impossible for us to find the body without the divers. A running shoe was also found on (or near by) the body. It was placed in the body bag according to procedure.

#### R-32 and R-18/I

- 229. At about 200 metres downstream, a body was found in the water, stuck in the mud, and it was marked as R-32.
- 230. On the video V000-6012 at 16:01 hours on 15 September 1998 the video shows the location of the remains stuck in the branches which we labelled as R-32 and a skull. I don't see the labelling number of the skull but according to my notes it was R-33.
- 231. Next to the car where body R-18 was found, I found a big part of skull but at the time we didn't know whether they belonged to body R-18 or not so we placed them in same body bag. After the autopsy and anthropological analysis, we concluded that this part of a skull did not belong to body R-18 so we marked it R-18/1 because it was packed together with R-18.
- 232. By marking these fragments as R-18/1, we separated it from body R-18. After we found body R-32 and a fragment of skull was found next to body R-32, we matched the fracture lines of the skull fragments found with body R-32 with a part of the skull of R-18/1 and we concluded that that the fracture line of R-18/1 fit with parts of the skull of R-32.

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- 233. I was shown autopsy report U002-5805-U002-5810 relating to body R-32. I recognize my signature in the report. I was also shown autopsy report U002-5754-U002-5756 for body R-18/1.
- 234. I was shown mortuary photographs U002-6584, U002-6613, U002-6614, U002-6579-U002-6584 of R-32. We found this part of the skull upstream. Later on when we found body R-32 we checked whether that part of the skull matched with the skull and it did. We came to the conclusion that the body was thrown upstream, the skull stayed behind and the rest of the body floated downstream. The skull matching R-32 is depicted in photograph U002-6584.

#### R-33

- 235. At about 150 metres downstream from R-32, a skull on a muddy sandbank was found and was marked with R-33.
- 236. Photograph U003-0041 depicts the skull with number R-33.
- 237. I was shown autopsy report U002-6050-U002-6052 relating to R-33. I recognize my signature in the report.
- 238. I was shown mortuary photograph U002-6615 of R-33. It depicts the skull in the mortuary. There was only a little bit of soft tissue on the temple at the right side of the skull, as well as in the right eye cavity.

#### R-34

239. R-34 are all the clothing and items we could not attribute to any of the bodies, we put all of them into a bag. We washed them, dried them and presented them to the family members. When we finished the identification process, those items that were not identified were handed over to the Investigative Judge together with the unidentified bodies. Those items that were identified were handed over to the families. I don't know what ultimately happened to the unidentified bodies and items. It was under the jurisdiction of the Investigative Judge.

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- 240. On the video V000-6012 at 15:16 hours on 15 September 1998 the video shows the clothes which I believe could be from the bodies which we found in the canal. Those clothes which were found that were unrelated any body were packed in a separate bag. There are no labels seen for the clothes but according to my notes those clothes were marked as R-34.
- 241. Although we placed the clothing and other items which we did not find close to a body and could not attribute to a specific body all into one bag it is not common practice for a forensic team to collect a number items may belong to a different bodies and place them into one bag. We collected them to be able to show them later on to the interested parties. When we could not connect items to a particular body, we did not have enough bags and papers to label it, we could not put aside one bag for one items. We did not even have evidence bags with the seal on top. In this situation, we had to determine what had to be packed separately and what could be packed together. We did this in this case because we did not have enough bags to work with.
- 242. That was the end of body recovery operation from the Lake Radonić canal (canal itself and along the wall outside). The divers had searched the area and would have told us if they had found anything else.
- 243. On 15 September 1998, a grenade exploded on the opposite side of where the team had climbed down the canyon (on the left bank looking down the stream). This occurred when we were close to the last body in the canyon area, the shell flew over the canyon and fell on the other side so we could see the dust rising. The policemen present heard the hissing sound and laid down on the ground. At the time, I was examining the last body, I think it was only a skull, number 33. After that, we wanted to finish our work as soon as possible.
- 244. On the video V000-6012 at 16:36 hours on 15 September 1998 I can see on video that Petar Ilinčić went to film the Radonjić lake to have an overview. I don't remember if I went with him to film the lake. I remember that during our work in canyon, the missile exploded, so we had to leave the place for security reason.

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Nobody

was hurt but the missile landed about 20-30 metres away from us.

245. This was the last day we were at the site. The work on 15 September 1998 ceased at 17:30 hrs.

#### R-35

- 246. On 12 September 1998, bones and a running shoe were recovered by the MUP divers and they were handed over to our team at Hotel Paštrik on the same day in the evening. We did not immediately label these remains so we labelled these remains as R-35 after we finished labelling all the other bodies on 15 September 1998.
- 247. We did not label these remains on 12 September 1998 because the MUP divers had told us that they had found those remains at the very end of the canal and we expected that by that point we would find more bodies and we would assign numbers to them. The divers said they found these bones and running shoe at the mouth of the lake and the (river). The divers also told us something that I also read in Professor Dunjić's documents. They said that at the mouth of this river there is a large quantity of mud in that position and there were lots of branches and this was an obstacle and they concluded it was impossible for any body to flow into the lake. So practically we believed that this would be the last body that would be found which is why we decided to mark this particular body as the last one.
- 248. These remains were kept in the garage at Hotel Paštrik before we assigned it number R-35 in the same area where we kept the bodies before we carried out the post mortem examinations.
- 249. These remains could not have been mixed up with the other body bags kept at the Hotel Paštrik because the other body bags were labelled with numbers. Moreover, each member of the team knew that this bag had been placed in a specific area and we were waiting to label it after we recovered the last body or items found at the canal crime site. We wanted to make sure that the numbers were

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in the ascending order and we did not want to mark that bag out of chronological order.

- 250. I was shown autopsy report U002-5874-U002-5878 of body R-35. I recognize my signature on the report.
- 251. I was shown mortuary photographs U002-6616-U002-6618 of body R-35. We took a photograph before and after the cleaning of the shoe.

#### Remains from Dašinovac

252. On 11 September 1998, the first day we arrived to the scene after 11:00 hours and the Investigative Judge gave us a bag which contained part of the bones found in Dašinovac. That bag was marked with letter "D" and it was subsequently labelled with a letter "D". During the autopsy, this bag was examined separately by my colleague Professor Dunjić. I was not told where they were found precisely in Dašinovac, it was the duty of the Judge to make an official record and a sketch of where the bones were found. These remains were placed on the same truck with the other bodies to go to Hotel Paštrik that same evening. I cannot remember whether those bones were given to us before or after we went to the Ekonomja Farm.

#### Condition of the Bodies

- 253. All the bodies that were found were in a state of advanced decay and partially de-skeletized. The clothes were also in a state of advanced decay.
- 254. The process of putrefaction was at such an advanced stage that some bodies were deskeletonized and there was no soft tissue present. This implies that the bodies were lying there for many weeks. How many weeks is difficult to determine because one must consider that the time the bodies were found during summer which means that the temperature was high during summer. The bodies that were placed below the surface of the ground were at a more advanced stage of putrefaction than the ones at the surface. What also must be considered is the rain in that area and high temperatures.

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- 255. Rain and high temperatures speeds up the process of putrefaction because when bodies are exposed to both moisture and dry air the process of putrefaction is about 20 times faster. Even with these conditions the bodies were at such an advanced stage of putrefaction were there for at least few weeks. This is confirmed by the fact that even those bodies found at the dry part of the canal were also dekeletonized and did not have soft tissue present indicating that they too were at an advanced stage of putrefication. One cannot claim that all the bodies were placed at that location at the same time.
- 256. Furthermore, it could be said that the bodies where we only found bones (incomplete bodies) underneath the surface for example bodies R-14, R-15, R-16, and R-17 were present at that location earlier than the bodies found on the surface because those bodies consisted of dry bones only. Bodies R-14, R-15, R-16, and R-17 could have been there for a few months. My opinion is based on the fact that the bodies were completely left without any soft tissue. Only the bones were left. Whereas other bodies both on the surface and those covered with a shallow grave did have some soft tissue. The amount of soft tissue varied from body to body. The gravel was piled up on bodies R-14 and R-15 which means that the gravel did not get there in a natural way. This means somebody buried the bodies. In respect of bodies R-16 and R-17 one could not exclude the possibility that these bodies were buried there in a natural way because the soil was flattened and because the ground where those bodies were located was next to the canal and next to the slope.
- 257. Bodies on the surface were likely present at that spot for a couple of weeks but the bodies underneath the surface were probably there for a few more weeks than those found on the surface. This means that the bodies underneath the surface had likely been there for a few months.
- 258. In forming my opinion, I considered the bodies that were close to the wall, in shallow earth, and had a water stream next to it (if it was raining the water would be collecting right there where waters were laying) that means the rain water collects in a certain place in that location close to the wall. Had I found bones in a normal grave I would say that bodies in such a putrefied state had been there for

years. But considering the water, location and temperature I would say that theses bodies had been there for a few months.

- 259. My approximation as to how long the bodies had been in the canal area is a very general one. I cannot determine precisely how long the bodies were present. For all the other bodies found on surface and immediately underneath it (excluding bodies R-14, R-15, R-16, and R-17) we can say that they were present in that location around the same time period but I cannot determine with certainty when they got there. Although I would say these bodies were at that location for a minimum period of a couple of weeks.
- 260. Generally, the process of decomposition of the bodies in the natural canal was much faster than the ones on the dry soil. When one removes a body from the water, it decomposes 20 times faster than a body in the dry. It is difficult to say specifically but I would say those bodies had been there for at least several weeks. You have Factors of water, the subsequent drying of the bodies after the rain and the sun all must be considered in looking at the rate of decomposition. And possibly this process may have repeated itself several times because due to the rain and subsequent drying of the bodies after the rain. I believe the bodies in the natural canal must have been there several weeks because the majority of bodies did not have soft tissue or had very little. For example as we saw in the last photograph which depicted body R-35 there was very little tissue remaining at the tendons, which decompose much slower than the muscle. Moreover the autopsy findings showed that the bodies had been largely decomposed which indicates that the bodies had been remained there for at least a few weeks.

#### Forensic Examination and Identification

- 261. Following my duties at the crime scene I worked in the mortuary facilities at the Hotel Paštrik.
- 262. We completed the forensic examination of the bodies and clothes on 16 September 1998 at 23:30 hours. Interviews of relatives of the missing persons and

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Others Present:

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identification of the discovered bodies and their body parts were carried out during the days that followed.

263. I was present when all the bodies were identified. All the members of the team took part in the identification process. After the post mortem examinations were completed, the particularities for each body were noted such as scars, and all personal items were found, we carried out an interview with the families. We received information from the families such as the height of the person, the colour and length of hair, characteristics of the clothes, characteristics of the personal belongings etc. This information was then compared to the findings of the post mortem; if some of the remains seem to match the description of the families, we show the families the items and observe their reaction. Based on their reaction, it may possible to say whether the bodies were correctly identified.

#### Report Regarding The Recovery Operation

- 264. I compiled notes as we found each body at the canal crime site regarding each body. At the end of each working day, I typed up my notes and threw away any handwritten notes I may have written down at the site. I also relied on Dr. Jeceminca's notes which he took by using a voice recorder at the crime site.
- 265. On 15 September 1998, after I returned to Hotel Paštrik in Đakovica, from the Hotel I continued to draft my report which I was drafting at the end of each work day based on my notes. I dated this report 15 September 1997 because it was the last day of the recovery operation. After I finished typing up this report I went back to the hotel late in the evening and my colleagues reminded me of the bones we received on 12 September which we ultimately labelled as R-35 which I forgot to write in my report.
- 266. On 16 September 1998, I amended my report to include the fact that the MUP gave us these bones on 12 September 1998 and I noted that they were assigned number R-35.

Signed:

- I also amended some of the distances of where we found some of the bodies in the natural part of the canal. Because we were shelled on 15 September 1998 we were nervous and I believed that I may not have been as precise in approximating the distances between some of the bodies so Dr. Jeceminca corrected me that evening at the Hotel Paštrik. I amended the distances in respect of bodies 30, 31 and 33. The corrected distances are as follows: In respect of body R-30, I changed the distance from 150 meters in my 15 September 1998 report to 200 meters in my 16 September 1998 report. In respect of body R-31, I changed the distance from 500 meters in my 15 September 1998 report to 800 meters in my 16 September 1998 report. In respect of body R33, I changed the distance of 150 meters in my 15 September 1998 report to 200 meters in my 15 September 1998 report to 200 meters in my 15 September 1998 report to 200 meters in my 15 September 1998 report to 200 meters in my 15 September 1998 report to 200 meters in my 15 September 1998 report to 200 meters in my 16 September 1998.
- 268. Those remains were found shortly after the shelling, we were scared and we did not think straight. In the evening when we calmed down a bit, we agreed on the above-mentioned distances. We discussed how long it took us to get to one place to another and we that is how we reached more precise approximate distances. Additionally, Dr. Ječmenica had a small voice recorder and you can see that on the video-footage, I was taking notes by hand. When he recorded and I didn't take notes, we agreed his tape-recording was reliable. Because I was wearing gloves, I would not always take notes immediately, I would shout out information to him and ask him to record it on his tape-recorder.
- 269. Apart from these amendments the report dated 15 September 1998 and 16 September 1998 is the same report. I also added a note when the autopsy began and when we completely finished the autopsy on 16 September 1998. I made this amendment almost at midnight.
- 270. When I finished making these amendments I handed the report dated 16 September 1998 over to Judge Gjoković and he signed it. I did not give the Judge the report dated 15 September 1998. Therefore the 16 September 1998 report is an official document and the 15 September 1998 report can be considered as a working version of the report. I typed this report in the offices of the MUP in Dakovica, I was given access to their computer at the request of the Investigative

Judge. The Chief of the Đakovica police was in charge of our security. This MUP police station is 400-500 meters away from Hotel Paštrik.

271. On 14 June 2007 I drew two sketches which depict the location of the bodies in the canal. Both sketches are attached to my statement as Annex D. I also viewed two videos marked V000-6011 and V000-6012. Both these videos depict the crime scene as I saw it from 11 September to 15 September 1998 and they depict our work as we recovered the bodies as described in this statement. Both these videos are attached to my statement. Finally, the photographs that I recognised from the crime scene as described in my statement are attached in electronic format on a CD.

# Statement of Branimir ALEKSANDRIĆ WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This Statement has been read over to me in the Serbian language and is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given this Statement voluntarily and I am aware that it may be used in legal proceedings before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the Tribunal.

Signed:	
Dated:	

Signed:

Others Present:

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## INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

## I, Bojan Andrić, Sanda Grujin, Besmir Fidlahić, Vesna Korić, Interpreter, certify that:

- 1. I am duly qualified and approved by The Registry of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to interpret from the Serbian language into the English language and from the English language into the Serbian language.
- 2. I have been informed by Branimir Aleksandrić that he speaks and understands the Serbian language.
- 3. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Serbian language in the presence of Branimir Aleksandrić who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.
- 4. Branimir Aleksandrić has acknowledged that the facts and matters set out in his Statement, as translated by me, are true to the best of his knowledge and recollection and has accordingly signed his signature where indicated.

Signed:
Dated:

Signed: