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

WITN	NESS	INFOR	MA	TION:

Name: RAMADANI

First: Lutfi

Middle:

Nickname/Alias:

Father's name:

Address: Krushe e Vogel. Prizren Municipality

Telephone:

Date of Birth: 20 March 1944

Gender: Male

Ethnic Origin: Kosovo Albanian

Religion: Muslim

Current occupation: unemployed

Language(s) Spoken: Albanian

Language(s) Written: Albanian

Date(s) of Interview(s): 5th October 2001

Interviewer: Investigator Pete Steward

Interpreter: Ilir Jakupi

Language(s) Used in Interview: Albanian and English

Names of all persons present during interview(s): Investigator Pete Steward, Ilir Jakupi and witness Lutfi Ramadani.

Signed/Initialled: Lower Romadon

WITNESS STATEMENT:

I am 57 years old. I live in Krushe e Vogel. I am making this statement to Investigator Pete Steward, further to the statement I made to ICTY investigators on the 18th, 20th July 1999 and the 26th June 2001.

I have been asked a number of questions to clarify some points I made in my previous statements.

I have been asked what uniform the regular or local MUP (Police) were wearing on the 24th, 25 and 26th March 1999?

They were wearing the normal blue camouflage uniform that is issued to them. On this occasion they were wearing either blue or red ribbons around their arms. The ribbons were not worn in combination.

I have been asked what uniform the reservist MUP (Police) were wearing?

The term reservists include the local Serbs who lived in Krusha e Vogel. They were wearing the same blue camouflage uniform as the local MUP. Some wore white ribbons on their arms but sometimes they would change the colours, I think they did this because their aim was not to be recognised.

There were a number of the local Serbs who were not in uniform. These people were still armed and wore red or white ribbons on their arms.

I have been asked if I know who was in charge of the reservists? The man who was in charge was the local Serb Dimitrije Nikolic.

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I have been asked if I have seen the regular MUP with the reservists between the 24th and 26th March 1999?

Yes, they stayed at Dimitrije Nikolic's house just across the road from where I live. They ate and drank there, it was just like a café. They didn't really care what they did, they just urinated in the street and people were too scared to walk past.

I have been asked that when we were captured at Sejde Batushas house on the 26th March 1999, were there any regular MUP with the MUP reservists?

Yes it was mixed group and Dimitrije Nikolic and Djorje Cvetkovic (who I have previously named as Djorje Nikolic) were also there.

I have been asked if I had seen anyone in the village wearing green camouflage uniform in the village between the 24^{th} and 26^{th} March 1999?

Yes there were on the 25th March 1999. They were very young, about 20 to 24 years old. On that day some women came to my home to prepare some food. The people in the green camouflage uniforms had taken up position in a nearby house across the street.

They fired at my house with automatic weapons and then immediately after that shots were fired at my house from an APC. I didn't see the vehicle but they fired a burst of machine gun fire. Only two shots hit my house the rest went over the top of the roof.

I was on the second floor when this happen. One of the rounds went through the outside wall of the house and hit an internal wall. The round fell onto the ground and I took possession of

it. I have handed this round to Investigator Pete Steward. It has been assigned LR/PS/02 as an exhibit number for future reference.

I recognised one these people in the house as Nebosja Nikolic. I know that he was a Police reservist. He was a neighbour. I know that later he was killed Pastrik, Kosare mountain near the boarder with Albania.

I have been asked if I know who these people were? No I do not know who they were.

I have been asked if they were MUP or VJ?

The regular VJ were stationed along the asphalt road, so I think they were Policemen as I know that Nebosja Nikolic was a MUP reservist and he was wearing a green camouflage uniform.

So you think they were MUP wearing green camouflage uniforms?

There were MUP with that uniform on. I came to that conclusion because these were the same people who surrounded the village and entered houses on the 25th March 1999. The age of those persons was older generally speaking.

I have been asked if there were people present wearing green camouflage uniforms during the massacre at the Batusha barn?

Those wearing green camouflage uniforms were along the asphalt road.

I have been asked if they were MUP or VJ?

In the village there was no regular VJ, they were on the asphalt road. They were armed with Pragas with anti aircraft machine guns on them.

I have been asked how many VJ vehicle were on the asphalt road outside Krusha e Vogel? There was a line along the Djakovica/Prizren road (asphalt road). They were first deployed there at 4am on the 25th March 1999. I saw 30 to 40 vehicles parked on the road.

The vehicles I saw were a mixture of APCs (auto blinders) and Pragas. They were not camouflaged.

The APCS were normal blue MUP colour and the Pragas were the normal VJ green.

The Pragas were armed with machine gun and cannon. With the Praga you can have different types of weapons.

The Pragas were manned by VJ.

I don't know who was manning the APCS but I presume it was MUP.

I have been asked if I am aware of any T55 tanks being stationed in the area of Krusha e Vogel at this time?

No.

I have been asked if I saw any rockets on any of these vehicles?

No.

I have been asked if any of these weapons have been used on Krusha e Vogel? Yes that happened at 4.30an on the 25th March 1999. The only damage that caused was bullet impacts on the walls of houses.

There was no artillery used against the village.

I have been asked how I know that the perpetrators for burning the Batusha barn were MUP officer?

I know that because I saw them standing around wearing the same MUP blue camouflage uniform. At that time I did not see anyone wearing green camouflage uniform.

I am prepared to go to court and tell what I have seen and has happened.

I have been advised that my statement may be provided to other Law Enforcement Agencies and/or judicial authorities for the purpose of prosecution. I hereby agree to the release of my statement to such authorities at the discretion of the Office of the Prosecutor.

Initials: Leffe Romotion

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This 5-page statement has been read over to me in the Albanian language and is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given this statement voluntarily and 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:

Datad.

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

- I, Ilir Jakupi, 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 Albanian language into the English language and from the English language into the Albanian language.
- 2. I have been informed by Lutfi Ramadani that he speaks and understands the Albanian language.
- 3. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Albanian language in the presence of Lutfi Ramadani who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.
- 4. Lutfi Ramadani 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.

Dated: 7. x 2001
Signed: Hy Jakung

