



02955122

**ATTESTATION BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER PURSUANT TO RULE
92 BIS(B)**



International
Criminal Tribunal
for the former
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yugoslavie

I, Kelly Philpott, Presiding Officer appointed by the Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on 12.06.03 pursuant to Rule 92 bis of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, with the assistance of a certified interpreter, certify;

that on 19.06.03 in Andrije Hebranga BB Zadar, 23000

the following person appeared:

Witness's First and Last name(s): Stanko Erstic
 Date and Place of Birth: 21.01.1968, Medvida
 Identity-, or Passport No.:
 Habitual Residence: Medvida

+ addendum 19.06.03

- that in the attached statement dated 28+31 October 2000 and certified by the undersigned on 19.06.03 the said, Stanko Erstic is identified as his (her) author;
- that the above-mentioned witness was provided with a version of the said statement in a language that he (she) understands;
- that the above-mentioned witness was informed, in a language that he (she) understands, by the Presiding Officer that if the contents of the written statement are not true to the best of his (her) knowledge and belief then he or she may be subject to proceedings for giving false testimony;
- that the above-mentioned witness was provided with a text of Rule 91 of the Rule of Procedure and Evidence, in a language he (she) understands;



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- that above-mentioned witness declared that the content of his (her) written statement are true and correct to the best of his (her) knowledge and belief;
- that no pressure was brought to bear on the witness and that he (she) voluntarily signed the attached declaration dated 19.06.03;
- that the following persons were present during the said declaration:

Mehammad Azim Rashid, Investigator
Tihana Dedovic, Interpreter

Additional remarks:



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Done this 19.06.03

At Zadar, Republic of Croatia

Signature of the Presiding Officer

Kelly Ruffalo



Rule 92bis

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**MEĐUNARODNI SUD ZA KRIVIČNO GONJENJE OSOBA
ODGOVORNIH ZA TEŠKA KRŠENJA MEĐUNARODNOG PRAVA
POČINJENA NA TERITORIJU BIVŠE JUGOSLAVIJE OD 1991.**

Dodatak izjavi svjedoka Stanko ERSTIĆ rođen 21 siječanj 1968

Želim da se u moju izjavu od 28 i 31 listopada 2000 unesu sljedeće izmjene:

Paragraf 9: Želio bih pojasniti sa smo istovarivali oružje, municiju i hranu sa kamiona. Nešto od te robe, poput poljoprivrednih strojeva i hrane, bilo je pokradeno iz hrvatskih sela. Takođe u ovom paragrafu želio bih dodati da nakon što sam proveo nekoliko dana u zatvoru u staroj bolnici u Kninu vidio sam Milana MARTIĆA u uniformi u krugu zatvora. Tad sam ponovo istovarivao pokradenu robu sa kamiona i video sam ga kako šeće naokolo.

Paragraf 16: Želio bih dodati da nije samo moja kuća bila uništena i spaljena već i drugih desetak kuća u zaseoku su bile uništene. Takođe jedna od dvije seoske crkve je bila minirana i oštećena.

Predstavnicu ureda Tužiteljice mi je pokazala različite oznake za uniforme od kojih sam ja prepoznao nekoliko jer sam ih vidao na nekim ljudima tokom mog zarobljeništva u Kninu (ERN: 0118-7445, 0118-7449, 0118-7448, 0118-7453, 0118-7457, 0290-9441).

ERSTIĆ STANKO

(Potpis)

[Signature]

(Svjedoci)

19/06/03

(Datum)

Ghara Dedović

(Svjedoci)



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MEĐUNARODNI SUD ZA KRIVIČNO GONJENJE OSOBA
ODGOVORNIH ZA TEŠKA KRŠENJA MEĐUNARODNOG PRAVA
POČINJENA NA TERITORIJU BIVŠE JUGOSLAVIJE OD 1991.

IZJAVA SVJEDOKA

PODACI O SVJEDOKU:

Prezime: Erstić

Ime: Stanko Ime oca: Nikola

Nadimak: Spol: muški

Datum rođenja: 21. siječnja 1968. Mjesto rođenja: Medvida

Nacionalnost: Hrvat Vjeroispovijest: katolička

Jezik/jezici koje govori: hrvatski

Jezik/jezici koje piše (ako se razlikuju od navedenih):

Jezici korišteni u toku razgovora: engleski i hrvatski

Trenutno zanimanje: nezaposlen Prijašnje: zidar

Adresa: /redigirano/ Telefon: /redigirano/

Datum(i) razgovora: 28. i 31. listopada 2000.

Razgovor(e) vodili: William R. Hardin Prevodilac: Vlatka Leko-Roche

Imena svih osoba prisutnih tokom razgovora: vidi gore

Potpis: /potpisano/
(svjedok)

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Paraf: /parafirano/
(ostali prisutni)

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IZJAVA SVJEDOKA

- ① Hrvat sam rođen 21. siječnja 1968., u Medvidi, Hrvatska. Tamo sam pohađao osnovnu školu, a u srednju školu sam krenuo u Benkovcu i prestao sam kad mi je bilo 15 godina. Radio sam nešto malo kao zidar i to smatram svojim zanimanjem. Obvezni vojni rok sam odslužio u JNA u Srbiji od 1987. do 1988. u Zemunu i Kragujevcu. Bio sam u pješadiji.
- ② Osim u vrijeme služenja vojnoga roka, cijeli život sam proveo u Medvidi. Selo je bilo miješano s približno 70 domaćinstava, od kojih su pola bila hrvatska, a pola srpska. Bilo je puno miješanih brakova. Medvida je većinom okružena selima u kojima prevladavaju Srbi. U ta sela ubrajaju se Zelengrad s pretežno srpskim stanovništvom, Parčići u kojima su samo Srbi, i zatim Bruška u kojoj su uglavnom Hrvati, a ima i nešto Srba.
- ③ Hrvati i Srbi dobro su se slagali do otprilike 1988. ili 1989. kad je Milošević počeo sa svojim govorima. Godine 1990. učlanio sam se u HDZ kao i većina Hrvata. Mislim da je referendum za hrvatsku nezavisnost bio 1990. i Hrvati su ga pozitivno dočekali. Slavilo se i svi su bili sretni osim Srba. To je vjerojatno bila prekretnica. Znam da je Srbima bila najmrskija hrvatska zastava. Unatoč tome, sve je bilo dosta dobro do napada na Kruševo u ljeto 1991. Vidali smo sve više ljudi izvana, pa tako i tenkove i vojnike koji su prolazili kroz to područje. Nakon izbora 1990., mi u Medvidi smo shvatili da se Srbi počinju okupljati u lokalnom kafiću, čiji vlasnik je bio Rade Pupovac. Kafić se nalazio pored mjesne trgovine čiji vlasnik je bio Drago Pupovac, a mislim da je u rodu s vlasnikom kafića. To je dovelo do toga da su jedino Srbi tamo odlazili i kad god bismo otišli u trgovinu čuli smo ih kako pjevaju nacionalističke pjesme. Sjećam se da je na vratima kafića bio natpis na kojem je pisalo "Piće zabranjeno Hrvatima i psima". Pjesme su imale riječi kao "Miloševiću šalji nam salate, bit će mesa, klat ćemo Hrvate". Pitate me zašto smo to dopuštali. Odgovor je vrlo jednostavan, oni su imali oružje, a mi nismo. Postalo je vrlo nezgodno odlaziti u trgovinu zbog sve većeg broja neprijateljskih primjedaba naoružanih Srba i zbog toga kako su se ponašali prema Hrvatima.
- ④ Kafić je postao mjesto okupljanja za lokalnu paravojsku, a svi oni bili su dio Martićeve milicije. Većina njih imala je uniforme Martićeve milicije što je najčešće bila zelena maskirna uniforma (gotovo ista kao od hrvatske vojske) i obično su imali maskirnu zelenu kapu poput one za bejzbol. Imali su oznaku na ramenu na kojoj je ćirilnim slovima pisalo "Milicija" i "SAO Krajina". Obično su nosili ono što smo mi zvali "srbijanke", čizme vrlo slične onima koje je imala JNA. Imali su automatske puške proizvedene u tvornici "Crvena zastava" u Srbiji, a tako smo ih mi i zvali.
- ⑤ Vrijeme je prolazilo i tijekom ljeta 1991., postalo je sve teže i teže putovati. Barikade na cesti su počele 1990. prema zaselku Škorići. Prvo su barikade postavljane samo noću, a danju su bile maknute. Na njima je obično bilo četiri ili pet naoružanih muškaraca, Srba, u uniformama ili u civilu.

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- ⑥ Na početku su bili naoružani starim puškama s klizajućim zatvaračem (M-48) i polu-automatskim puškama, ali kasnije tijekom 1990., primijetio sam da su počeli služiti se modernijim puškama i ručnim granatama. Zaustavljali su automobile, pretresali ih, pitali nas imamo li oružje, kamo idemo, gdje stanujemo i takve stvari. Nепrekidno su nas uznemiravali, nazivali nas imenima, psovali nas i općenito se prema nama loše odnosili. Vidio sam barikade i u Brgudu, Parčiću, Klanjevoj Dragi i Zelengradu. Na početku ljeta 1991., strah od ljudi na barikadama je porastao i mi smo postali svjesni toga da su neki ljudi bili uhićeni na barikadama. Znali smo da JNA gomila snage na tom području i paravojska je postajala sve agresivnija. Mene je na kraju paravojska pokupila 2. listopada 1991., a mjesec dana kasnije, 2. studenoga 1991., pušten sam za vrijeme razmjene zatvorenika.
- ⑦ Nekoliko dana prije nego što su me pokupili otišao sam u trgovinu po cigarete. Kad sam izlazio ušao je domaći Srbin, Boško Milanko, u uniformi Martićeve milicije s automatskom puškom kakvu sam gore opisao. Odmah je počeo psovati, nazivati me imenima i pitati me što tamo radim. Rekao sam mu da sam kupio cigarete. Zatim me kundakom puške udario u prsa. Polako sam nastavio dalje i izišao iz trgovine.
- ⑧ Dan prije nego što su me zarobili, Petar Erstić me zamolio da dodem do njega i pomognem mu u polju. Sljedećeg dana, 2. listopada 1991. oko 11:00 sati ujutro otišao sam do njegove kuće i pomogao mu odrezati grane na drveću u polju blizu njegove kuće. Odjednom su došla dvojica muškaraca, imali su uniformi Martićeve milicije i automatske puške. Uperili su puške u mene i rekli mi da bacim sjekiru kojom sam odsijecao grane, i dignem ruke u vis, što sam i učinio. Dvojica muškaraca bili su domaći Srbi i zvali su se Stevo Milanko i Dušan Škorić. Nisu pokazali nikakav interes za Petra Erstića. Rekli su mi da moram s njima i otpratili me do automobila parkiranog oko 300 metara dalje. Još jedan domaći Srbin koji se zove Slobodan Skokna bio je u automobilu. Automobil je bio crvena lada i imao je registarske tablice Teritorijalne obrane. Rekli su mi da me voze u Knin. Vozili smo se u smjeru Kistanja, a kad smo tamo stigli odveli su me u zgradu sa natpisom na kojem je ćirilničnim slovima pisalo "Milicija". Unutra sam vidio još milicajaca. Nakratko su me zaključali u sobu i nisu me maltretirali. Zatim su me odvezli u Obrovac, gdje sam proveo noć u zgradi koja je služila kao policijska stanica prije rata, a preuzela ju je srpska milicija. Sljedećega dana policija me ispitivala o tome što se događalo u Medvidi. Htjeli su znati da li ljudi odlaze, kakva je situacija s oružjem i slične stvari. Očito su mislili da imam nekakvu radio stanicu, jer su me o tome ispitivali. Nisam imao stanicu i nisam znao o čemu govore. Opet su mi rekli da će me odvesti u Knin.
- ⑨ Tog istog dana, dvojica pripadnika Martićeve milicije odvela me u staru bolnicu u Kninu, koju su koristili kao zatvor. Tamo sam ostao sve vrijeme zarobljenštva. Tamo sam bio izložen neprekidnom maltretiranju, stražari su me tukli, a bilo je i cjelodnevnih ispitivanja za sve vrijeme mojeg zatočeništva. Svi stražari bili su paravojska i dio Martićeve milicije. Obavljali smo različite vrste poslova uključujući popravke, čišćenje, utovar i istovar. Radilo se danju i noću. Stražari su nas neprekidno provocirali tako što su nam govorili stvari kao: "Zagreb će biti osvojen", "Split i Zadar gore, a gorjet će i Šibenik", "Sve Hrvate treba ubiti", "Hrvatski narod treba uništiti", "Čitava Hrvatska je u plamenu i uništena i neće još dugo". Svaki dan su nas izvodili iz

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ćelija i tukli nas, psovali nas i udarali nas nogama. Imao sam sreće, jer sam imao samo dva slomljena rebra i jedno napuknuto, ali drugi su bili ozlijeđeni teže od mene.

- 10) Dok sam bio zatočen, sa mnom je bilo još otprilike 120 zatvorenih Hrvata. Ni jednoga od njih nisam prije poznavao. Saznao sam da su bili iz drugih hrvatski i miješanih sela kao što su Islam Latinski, Pridraga i Kruševo. Većina njih bili su civili, osim otprilike 20 pripadnika Zbora narodne garde koji su zarobljeni u Kijevu.
- 11) Između 8 i 10 dana nakon mog dolaska, dok sam ribao hodnik s nekim drugim zatvorenicima, pored nas je prošao general Mladić u uniformi. Mislim da je tada bio pukovnik. Nisam ga tada poznavao, ali dok nam je prilazio čuo sam stražare i druge zatvorenike kako govore da je to on. Kasnije sam generala Mladića vidio nekoliko puta na televiziji, i tada sam ga prepoznao. Oko četiri ili pet dana kasnije ponovno sam ga vidio u prolazu kroz zatvorsko dvorište i mislim da su tada u njegovoj pratnji bili ljudi kapetana Dragana.
- 12) U bolnici se nalazio dio kojega se koristilo za spavaonicu. Znam to, jer dok sam bio tamo, ljudi kapetana Dragana i pripadnici rezervnih jedinica JNA neko vrijeme su odsjeli tamo. Jedan od zadataka koje smo mi imali bio je da poslije njih očistimo spavaonicu u kojoj je bilo oko 25 kreveta.
- 13) U zatvoru smo stalno vidali ljude kapetana Dragana. Bili su bolji od drugih i s njima se moglo razgovarati. Ponekad bi nam davali cigarete. Oni nisu bili domaći Srbi. Po njihovom govoru se činilo da su neki bili iz Bosne, a neki iz Srbije. Bilo je i drugih razlika, jer je njihova maskirna uniforma bila svjetlije zelene boje od uniforme Martićeve milicije i imali su oznaku na ramenu sa srpskom zastavom i srpskim znakom sa četiri slova "S" (na ćirilici). Neki su imali iste oznake i na kapama poput onih za bejzbol, a mislim da su na nekim šeširima imali metalne oznake, ali nisam u to siguran. Svi oni nisu nosili istu vrstu šešira. Neki su imali crne čizme "srbijanke", a neki su imali smeđe čizme marke "adidas". Ljudi kapetana Dragana izgledali su urednije od ostalih pripadnika paravojske. Obično su bili obrijani, imali su kratku kosu i izgledali su urednije.
- 14) Dana 2. studenoga 1991. konačno sam razmijenjen zajedno s drugim zatvorenicima. Nekoliko dana prije razmjene, posjetila nas je delegacija Međunarodnog komiteta Crvenoga križa u pratnji Hrvata Ive Čovića, i rekla nam da ćemo biti razmijenjeni. Nismo u to vjerovali, jer su nam to isto prije govorili stražari i mi smo shvatili da je to bio njihov način provociranja. Noć prije razmjene, dali su nam nekoliko žileta i rekli nam da se sredimo.
- 15) Oko 9:00 ili 9:30 ujutro 2. studenoga 1991., stigli su pripadnici Mladićeve specijalne jedinice vojne policije. Stražari su tako zvali jedinicu koja nas je trebala pokupiti. Imali su uniforme JNA i pancirke. Postrojili su nas, prozvali nas, ukrcali nas u civilne autobuse i odvezli nas u kasarnu JNA u Kninu, gdje su i drugi zatvorenici ukrcani u autobuse. Zatim su nas odvezli do Pakovog Sela gdje smo u autobusima čekali, kako se činilo, nekoliko sati. Na kraju je moj autobus otišao na hrvatsku stranu i mene su pustili. Toga dana razmijenjeno nas je oko 100 iz zatvora. Bilo je tamo 10 do 15

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drugih zatvorenika iz Like koji su ostali tamo u zatvoru. Mislim da je toga dana razmijenjeno oko 60 srpskih zatvorenika koji su otišli na srpsku stranu.

- ① Poslije razmjene odsjeo sam kod svojeg brata u Zadru. Godine 1993., stupio sam u Hrvatsku vojsku i kasnije sudjelovao u operaciji Oluja. Nisam se vraćao u obiteljsku kuću sve do nakon oslobođenja 1995. Naša kuća bila je spaljena i dignuta u zrak. Sraunjena je sa zemljom.

POTVRDA SVJEDOKA

Ova izjava sastoji se od šest stranica i glasno mi je pročitana na hrvatskom jeziku i sadrži sve što sam rekao po svojem znanju i sjećanju. Izjavu sam dao dobrovoljno i svjestan sam da se ona može upotrijebiti u sudskom postupku pred Međunarodnim sudom za krivično gonjenje osoba odgovornih za teška kršenja međunarodnog prava počinjena na teritoriju bivše Jugoslavije od 1991., kao i da mogu biti pozvan da javno svjedočim pred Sudom.

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Datum: 31.10.2000.

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02955137

POTVRDA PREVODITELJA

Ja, Vlatka Leko-Roche, prevoditeljica, potvrđujem sljedeće:

- 1) Odgovarajuće sam kvalificirana i ovlaštena od strane Tajništva Međunarodnog suda za krivično gonjenje osoba odgovornih za teška kršenja međunarodnog prava počinjena na teritoriju bivše Jugoslavije od 1991., da prevodim s hrvatskog na engleski jezik, kao i s engleskog na hrvatski jezik.
- 2) Stanko Erstić mi je dao do znanja da govori i razumije hrvatski jezik.
- 3) Gore navedenu izjavu usmeno sam prevela s engleskog na hrvatski jezik u prisutnosti Stanka Erstića koji je, po svemu sudeći, čuo i razumio prijevod ove izjave.
- 4) Stanko Erstić je potvrdio da su, po njegovu znanju i sjećanju, činjenice i ostalo navedeno u ovoj izjavi istinite, onako kako sam ih prevela, što je potvrdio svojeručnim potpisom na za to predviđenom mjestu.

Datum: 31. 10. 2000.

Potpis: /potpisano/

Potpis: /potpisano/
(svjedok)

31.10.2000.
Paraf: /parafirano/
(ostali prisutni)

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United Nations
Nations Unies



International
Criminal Tribunal
for the Former
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yougoslavie

Prijevod

02955138

**DEKLARACIJA OSOBE KOJA JE DALA PISMENU IZJAVU
U SKLADU S PRAVILOM 92 BIS**

Ja,

Prezime, ime: ERSTIC STANKO

Datum i mjesto rođenja: 21.01.1968, HEDVIDA

Identifikacioni broj ili broj pasoša: _____

ovime potvrđujem, u prisustvu predsjedavajućeg službenika Kelly Philpott

da je sadržaj pismene izjave (izjava) koju sam dao (-la) dana 28 i 31. 10. 2000

i koja je priložena ovoj deklaraciji, po mom najboljem znanju i uvjerenju, istinit i tačan. 19.06.2003

Uručena mi je i kopija pravila 91 Pravilnika o postupku i dokazima Međunarodnog suda na jeziku koji razumijem i znam da protiv mene može biti pokrenut krivični postupak zbog lažne izjave, ukoliko sadržaj moje pismene izjave (pismenih izjava) nije istinit i tačan.

Dana: 19.06.03

U: Zadar, Croatia

ERSTIC STANKO
potpis davaoca deklaracije

Kelly Philpott
potpis predsjedavajućeg službenika



Rule 92bis

**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**

Addendum to Witness Statement of Stanko ERSTIĆ dob 21 January 1968 :

I wish to make the following additions to my statement of 28 and 31 October 2000.

:

In paragraph 9 I would like to clarify that we were unloading weapons, ammunition and food from the trucks. Some of the goods were looted property from Croatian villages such as agricultural machinery and food products. Also in that paragraph I would like to add that after a few days in prison in the old hospital in Knin I saw once Milan MARTIĆ in uniform on the prison compound. I was at that time unloading again looted goods from the trucks when I saw him walking around.

In paragraph 16 I would like to add that not only my house was destroyed and burned but also the other ten or more houses in the hamlet. In addition one of the two village churches was damaged from explosives.

Finally I was shown several patches by a representative of the Prosecution and recognized the following as seeing them on several persons whilst I was imprisoned in Knin. (ERN:0118-7445, 0118-7449, 0118-7448, 0118-7453, 0118-7457, 0290-9441).

(Signed)

(Witnessed By)

(Dated)

01064136

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 INFORMATION:

Last Name: ERSTIĆ

First Name(s): STANKO

Father's First Name: NIKOLA

Nickname:

Gender: X Male

Date of Birth: 21 January 1968

Place of Birth: MEDVIĐA

Ethnic Origin: Croatian

Religion: Catholic

Language(s) Spoken: Croatian

Language(s) Written (if different from spoken):

Language(s) Used in Interview: English and Croatian

Current Occupation: Unemployed

Former: Mason

Address: _____

tel: _____

Date(s) of Interview(s): 28 & 31 October 2000

Interviewer: William R. HARDIN

Interpreter: Vlatka LEKO-ROCHE

Names of all persons present during interview(s): as above

Signature

Erstić Stanko
(Witness)

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Initials

10/31/00
W.R.H. / V.L.R.
(Others present)

WITNESS STATEMENT:

01064137

- ① I am a male Croatian born on 21 January 1968, in Medvida, Croatia. I attended elementary school there and started High School in Benkovac but dropped out when I was 15 years old. I have done some work as a mason and that is what I consider as my occupation. I served my military obligation in the JNA in Serbia from 1987 to 1988 in towns of Zemun and Kragujevac. I was in the infantry.
- ② Except for my military service, I had lived in Medvida my entire life. The village was a mixed village with about 70 households, which were about half Croatian and half Serbian. There were a lot of intermarriages. Medvida is mostly surrounded by Serb dominated villages. The villages include Zelengrad which is mostly Serb, Parčići which is purely Serb, and then there is Bruška which is mostly Croat with some Serbs.
- ③ The Croats and Serbs got along all right until around 1988 to 1989 when Milošević started giving his speeches. In 1990 I joined the HDZ as did most of the Croats. I think the Referendum for Croatian independence was in 1990 and was welcomed by the Croats. There were celebrations and everyone was happy except for the Serbs. That was probably a turning point. I am also aware what the Serbs disliked the most was the Croatian flag. Even so, everything was pretty good until the attack on Kruševo in the summer of 1991. We started seeing more outside influences like tanks and troops moving through the area. As for us in Medvida, after the 1990 election, we realized that the Serbs started gathering at the local bar which was owned by Rade PUPOVAC. The bar is next to the local store which was owned by a person named Drago PUPOVAC who I think is a relative of the bar owner. It developed to the point that only Serbs went there and we could hear their nationalistic Chetnik singing whenever we went to the store. I remember there was a sign on the door of the bar which said "Drinks not allowed for Croats and dogs". Some of the words of the songs included "Milošević send us some lettuce, there will be meat because we will be slaughtering Croats" ("Miloševiću, šalji nam salate, bit će mesa, klat ćemo Hrvate"). I am asked why did we tolerated it. The answer is very simple, they had weapons and we did not. It became very uncomfortable to go to the store because of the ever-growing number of hostile remarks by the armed Serbs there and the way they behaved towards the Croats.
- ④ The bar became the hangout for the local paramilitary which all seemed to be part of "Martić's Militia". They were mostly dressed in the uniform of "Martić's Militia" which usually was green camouflage (almost the same as the Croatian military) and they usually wore a green camouflage baseball style cap. They wore a patch on their shoulder that had "Militia" and "SAO Krajina" in Cyrillic script on it. They would usually wear what we called "Serbian girl" boots (Srbijanke) which were the same type as used by the JNA. They carried automatic rifles made in Serbia by the "Crvena Zastava" factory and that was how we called them.
- ⑤ As time went on, it became more and more difficult to travel as the summer of 1991 progressed. The barricades started in 1990 on the road toward the hamlet of Škorići. At first the barricades were only set out during the night and were removed during the day. Usually they were manned by four or five armed Serbs, dressed in both uniforms and civilian clothes.

10/31/00

Signature Erno Jonko
(Witness)

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Initials V.L.R. / M.K.
(Others present)

⑥ In the beginning they were armed with the old military bolt action rifles (M-48) and semi-automatic rifles, while later on during 1990 I noticed that they started using more modern rifles and hand-grenades. They would stop cars, search them, ask if we had weapons, where we were going, where we lived and things like that. They would continually harass us, call us names, swear at us and basically treat us poorly. I also saw barricades at Brgud, Parčići, Klanjeva draga, Zelenograd. Beginning some time in the summer of 1991, the fear created by the people manning the barricades increased and we became aware that some people were arrested at the roadblocks. We knew the JNA was building up in the area and the paramilitary became more and more aggressive. I was eventually picked up by the paramilitary on 2 October 1991 and one month later, on 2 November 1991, I was released during a prisoner exchange.

⑦ A couple of days before I was picked up, I went to the store to get some cigarettes. On my way out, a local Serb by the name of Boško MILANKO was coming in dressed in the uniform of Martić's Militia and carrying one of the automatic rifles like I described above. He immediately started swearing at me and calling me names and asking what I was doing there. I told him I was buying cigarettes. He then hit me in the chest with the butt of his rifle. I just slowly continued on my way and got out of the store.

⑧ The day before I was captured, I was asked by Petar ERSTIĆ to come to his house and help him in the field. The next day, 2 October 1991, around 11AM I went to his house and was helping him cut branches of some trees in the field near his house. Suddenly, two men arrived wearing the uniforms of Martić's Militia and carrying automatic rifles. They pointed their rifles at me and told me to drop the axe that I was using to cut down the branches and put my hands in the air which I did. The two men were local Serbs by the names of Stevo MILANKO and Dušan ŠKORIĆ. They showed no interest in Petar ERSTIĆ. They told me I was going to go with them and they escorted me to a car which was parked about 300 meters away. Another local Serb I know as Slobodan SKOKNA was in the car. The car was a red Lada and had a license plate of the Territorial Defense. They told me I was going to be taken to Knin. We drove in the direction of Kistanje and upon our arrival there I was taken into a building with a sign which said "Militia" in Cyrillic script. I could see some other militiamen inside. They locked me in a room for a short time and did not maltreat me. Then they drove me to Obrovac where I spent the night in the building that served as the police station before the war and was then taken over by the Serb Militia. The next day, the police asked me a lot of questions about what was happening in Medvida. They wanted to know if the people were leaving, what was the situation with weapons, and things like that. They apparently thought I had some sort of radio station because they interrogated me about that. I did not have a radio and did not know what they were talking about. They again told me I was going to be taken to Knin.

⑨ That same day, two members of Martić's Militia took me to the old hospital in Knin which was being used as a prison. I stayed there the remainder of the time I was captured. While there I was subjected to continual harassment, beatings by the guards and interrogations that took place around the clock for the entire time of my detention. All the guards were paramilitary and part of "Martić's Militia". We were put to work doing all types of things including repairs, cleaning, and loading and unloading things. The work was day and night. The guards would continually provoke us by telling us things like: "Zagreb is going to be

10/31/00

Signature Erstić Stanko
(Witness)

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Initials N.L.R. / M.M.
(Others present)

taken", "Split and Zadar are burning, Šibenik will burn as well", "All the Croats have to be killed", "The Croatian nation has to be destroyed", "All of Croatia was burning and destroyed and it won't last long". Every day they would take some of us out of our cells and beat us, swear at us, and kick us. I was lucky because I only got two broken ribs and one cracked rib but others got hurt worse than I did.

10 While I was being detained, there were about 120 other Croat prisoners detained with me. I did not know any of them before. I learned that they came from other Croat and mixed villages such as Islam Latinski, Pridraga, Kruševo. Most of them were civilians except for about 20 members of the Croatian National Guard who had been taken prisoners in Kijevo.

11 About 8 to 10 days after I arrived, as I was scrubbing the corridor with some other prisoners, General MLADIĆ in uniform walked by us. I think he was a Colonel at the time. I did not know him then but as he approached us I heard the guards and other prisoners say that it was him. I later saw General MLADIĆ on TV several times I recognized him as being the person I saw. About 4 or 5 days later I saw him again walking through the courtyard of the prison and I think at that time he was being escorted by CAPTAIN DRAGAN'S men.

12 There was a section in the hospital that was being used as a dormitory. I know that while I was there, CAPTAIN DRAGAN'S men and members of the JNA Reserve stayed there some of the time. One of the tasks we had to carry out was cleaning after them in the dormitory which had about 25 beds.

13 We would see CAPTAIN DRAGAN'S men at the prison all the time. They were nicer than the others and you could actually have conversations with them. They would give us cigarettes some time. They were not local Serbs. You could tell by their speech that some came from Bosnia and some from Serbia. There were other differences in that their camouflage uniforms were a lighter green than Martić's Militia's uniforms and they had a patch on their shoulder with the Serbian flag and the Serb symbol of the 4 S's (in Cyrillic script). Some had the same patch on their baseball style caps and I think some of the hats had metal insignia but I am not certain. Not all of them wore the same type hats. Some wore the black "Srbijanke" boots and some had Adidas brand boots that were brown. CAPTAIN DRAGAN'S men were all neater in appearance than the other paramilitary people. They were usually clean-shaven, had shorter hair, and just looked neater.

14 Eventually, on 2 November 1991, I was exchanged along with other prisoners. A couple of days before the exchange, a delegation from the ICRC (the International Red Cross Committee), escorted by Ivo ČOVIĆ who was a Croatian, visited us and told us we would be exchanged. We did not believe it because we had been told that before by the guards and we realized it was their way of provoking us. The night before the exchange, we were given a couple of razors and told to clean up.

15 Around 9 or 9:30 AM on 2 November 1991, members from MLADIĆ'S Special Military Police Unit arrived. It was the guards who named the unit that was going to pick us up. They were wearing JNA uniforms and flack jackets. They lined us up, took a role call, then loaded us onto civilian buses and drove us to the JNA barracks in Knin where other prisoners were loaded on the buses. We were then taken to the place called Pakovo Selo where we waited in

10/31/00

Signature Eshio'sherlo
(Witness)

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Initials A-L-R / MKK
(Others present)

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the buses for what seemed like several hours. Finally, my bus drove to the Croatian side and I was released. There were about 100 of us from the prison exchanged that day. There were about 10 to 15 other prisoners from Lika that stayed there in the prison. I think that about 60 Serbian prisoners were released to the Serbs that day during the exchange.

16

After the exchange, I stayed with my brother in Zadar. In 1993 I joined the Croatian Army and later took part in the "Storm" operation. I did not go back to our family's home until after the 1995 liberation. Our home had been burned and blown up. It was leveled to the ground.

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This Statement consisting of 6 pages has been read over to me in the Croatian 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: Ershic Stanko

Dated: 31.10 2000

10/31/00

Signature Ershic Stanko
(Witness)

5

Initials A. Z. R. / M. K.
(Others present)

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

I, Vlatka **LEKO-ROCHE**, 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 Croatian language into the English language and from the English language into the Croatian language.
2. I have been informed by Stanko **ERSTIĆ** that he speaks and understands the Croatian language.
3. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Croatian language in the presence of Stanko **ERSTIĆ** who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.
4. Stanko **ERSTIĆ** 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: October 31, 2000

Signed: Vlatka Leke Roche

Signature Erstic Stanko
(Witness)

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10/31/00
Initials VLR / MR
(Others present)

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Presiding
Officer



Rule 92 bis

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Presiding
Officer



Rule 92 bis

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