

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:

Name: Okić Last Zijad First Middle

Nickname/Alias: Last First Middle

Address:

Telephone: Date of Birth: 8 March 1961 Gender: Male

Ethnic Origin: Bosnian Religion: Muslim

Occupation: Current: none Former: mason

Language(s) Spoken: Bosnian

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

Date(s) of Interview(s): 17 June 1997.

Interviewer: Michael Blaxill

Interpreter: Jasmina H.Ibrahimović (17 june) Ašida Zaimović (24 june)

Language(s) Used in Interview: Bosnian - English

Names of all persons present during interview(s): Henriette de Ruyter, Zijad Okić, Jasmina H.Ibrahimović (17 june), Michael Blaxill, Ašida Zaimović

Signed/Initialed:

Okić Zijad - *[Signature]*

24. 06. 1997

Ašida Zaimović *[Signature]*

Henriette de Ruyter *[Signature]*

Michael Blaxill *[Signature]*
24. 06. 97

WITNESS STATEMENT:

I have read a copy of a statement in the Bosnian language of three pages which I gave to the Bosnian authorities on 3 February 1993. I recognise my signature on each page of the copy and I confirm that the contents of the statement are true to the best of my recollection, subject to any alterations or additions I now make. I have signed and dated each page of the copy and I attach the copy to this statement of which it now forms part.

I have no alterations or corrections to my statement of 3 February 1993.

I was resident in Žunovnica before the war and working at the military-run TRZ, the maintenance and repair depot in Hadžići. The Serbs were in the majority in terms of employees but I do not know the numbers. All important positions were held by Serbs.

The first I noticed by way of change in the community was in 1991 when the SDS party and the HDZ and SDA all formed people started to separate and one could feel how the Serbs mixed with Serbs and Muslims with Muslims. Since I worked in a military firm I noticed when a group of Serbs talked and a Muslim joined them, they would stop. I was in the big maintenance depot run by the JNA.

When the parties formed and after the election, I did not know who the SDA leader was but the SDS leader was Ratko RADIĆ. He owned a coffee bar called "RR" which I used to go to until the party formed but then we did not dare go because Serbs gathered there for meetings. We were forbidden to go, not because we were told but it seemed obvious we should not. This was the summer 1991. As soon as SDS was established the Serbs began to organize and arm themselves. I know that weapons were taken from the plant and I saw one case of weapons fall from a truck and automatic rifles fell out. Serbian military police stopped us picking them up and said they were going to a storehouse. I knew Serbs were getting arms because at night, when they were drunk they would fire them. A number of reservists started coming to the TRZ and there was a suggestion that Muslims should be reservists but we were not allowed. We employees suggested we should help guard our firm. The commander of the fire unit, a reservist major, Momcilo STANIMIROVIĆ was the one who said we could not. A lieutenant-colonel called SAVIĆ spoke with the Muslim representatives and a list of volunteers for reserve was given. Later, all those named disappeared.

The reservists got weapons and they took out heavy weapons on the apparent reason of exercising. They also said they were there to guard the facility from threat by the HOS, the Croat armed forces. The kinds of weapons we had at the TRZ included tanks, Pragas and artillery weapons-guns and mortars. Many tanks were brought from Ljubljana and the better pieces were placed in the hills around Hadžići. We could see mortar positions around Bare and on the hill of Tinovo they had Pragas and APCs. In Binježevo there were five or six tanks. This was about mid 1991. When the census was done. The weapon removals were taken out during working hours and I saw this myself. The Serb police got APCs and I saw them patrolling in them. Weapons like Pragas would be brought back in the evening, probably to keep up the appearance of training.

This situation and the reservist exercises went on from May 91 until the war started, 10 May 1992 in Hadžići.

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I socialised much more with Serbs than Muslims before but after the SDS started Serbs I passed would only say hello and they avoided socialising with Muslims. I was told by Cico Aćimović, my Serb work colleague that the Serbs intended taking over Hadžići in three days and ethnically cleanse the place. He said that a list of fundamentalists, some forty names would be liquidated and the rest would live together.

I lived in an apartment block where I had Serb neighbours. There was a retired Serb colleague in a mixed marriage (Croat wife) and he was not involved with politics. Their attitude changed. The neighbours started saying we could not live together, it was going to be a Serbian place. No Muslim threatened them but this is what they said, they seemed afraid. I personally was never threatened but the Serbs I knew just avoided contact. I heard however that a nearby Serb village, Bare, had started shooting at another nearby village, Grivići, a Muslim village. A colleague who lived in Grivići had his house damaged. The shooting was done with rifles, light and heavy machine guns.

The police force in Hadžići had been divided, I believe in August 1991, I am not certain Muslim police stayed in the original police station and the Serbs took the PTT building. This was in September. The two functioned separately. The Serb police were engaged out of town in Bijeljina and Bosanski Šamac. The Muslim police wore the original blue uniforms. The Serb police wore the same uniforms but they took the "star" badge off their caps and replaced it with the tricolor Serbian badge. On 8 May 1992 there were small hostilities between two police forces. I observed this with my own eyes. The Serbs wanted to take over health centre by the Municipal building. SDA and SDS negotiated for peace but after the meeting when apparently they had agreed, the Serbs took those buildings and took up positions in the hills. The negotiations were public knowledge. Ratko RADIĆ was present for SDS and Mustafa Dželilović on behalf of the municipality.

There had been no public political or other statements from the SDS or others. None of us knew where the Serbs were gathering outside town. When the reservists came in uniforms (camouflage) we thought it to do with conflict in Croatia. Whenever they returned the story would simply be training exercise. Serbs were taking ammunition from the military post at Zunovnica. I saw hundreds of trucks passing my apartment building.

I carried on working at the TRZ although a lot of Muslims stopped coming to work. Many of us asked the manager why the reservists because we employees would defend it. The explanation we were given was that the reservist gatherings were annual. We asked why no Muslims if it was a regular training. I in fact stayed working until 10 May. The manager was a colonel of JNA called PETROVIĆ. Lt-col GELEVSKI a Macedonian, was chief of security, Captain 1st Class Ismet BAJRIĆ was also in security - he was Muslim. Since BAJRIĆ was chief of staff of security we asked for Muslim involvement in the reservist training. He told us there was nothing to fear as this was not a mobile unit and would not be sent away. This I heard later from colleague Ibro TELARVIĆ, our chosen representative for TRZ Muslims.

We just carried on but no work was done because we were just waiting for war to start because war started already in Ilidža where our buses went through checkpoints there. We heard of other checkpoints at Blažuj and the Muslim police had a checkpoint at the Mostar intersection. Some wealthier Muslims bought weapons for themselves. In Ornogorska street Muslims dug some defence trenches. The Serbian police chief of staff then was Tiho

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GLAVAŠ and Vahid ALAĐus was the Muslim c-o-s and they both went to that street to cover the trenches, according to what I was told at work. Apparently they were told by the family Kovačević that they would cover the point but they did not and next day all fourteen of the family were arrested. They are still missing. I heard about the checkpoint matter later but I knew the family.


Close to my apartment is the Tinovo hill and about two to three years before the war a stronghold and concrete trenches were constructed around the hill though at the time we thought it was a reservoir or something. I was astonished when I saw what it was. My whole neighbourhood could see what was constructed. The people doing the work appeared civilian. I noticed after the elections that weapons were being taken up there. Everything indicates they knew there would be a war and they prepared for it. I think they were planning for PAZARIĆ, TARČIN and BRADINA which were Serb and I heard through people that Serbs there were arming.

10 May 1992, in the evening at 2100 hours, I was in my apartment. It was a Sunday and I had been working. Since we had set up building guards to monitor people in and out of the apartment block. Our MUP building and the Kovačevići settlement were shelled. I heard this. It lasted until 2200 to 2215. After that I heard some small arms fire. Next morning we were surprised because we did not know why and at whom they were shooting. The village of Musići organised defence and refused to surrender weapons, as I heard later.

On 11 May I was in my apartment and at about 1000hours, six Serb police wearing camouflage uniforms, two wearing cockades on their hats and the rest the Serbian flag badge. They had dark military belts. They were searching apartments in the building and two of them came to my apartment and knocked on the door. They said they had to search the apartment for weapons and they would guarantee safety so if I had a weapon I should surrender it. I knew one as Rade VESELINović, a self-proclaimed Vojvoda whom I had known from before, he had been a driver. The other was Miro ŠMARIC whom I also knew as I had done brickwork on his house. Rade wore a cockade and a nametag which gave his name and said "Chetnik Duke". I told him I had no weapon. He asked about neighbours but I said I had no knowledge. I was surprised to see him like this as he had been a good person, kind to people. Since they had searched and I had no weapon they ordered me to stay home under house arrest. My wife was only allowed to go to the spring for water as we had no other supply. Otherwise we were forbidden to go out.

Three were taken the next day: Izet RAMIĆ, Ekrem HASKIĆ and Mirsad KULENOVIĆ "MISKO" Rade took them. This arrest was the day after and Mirsad tried to move a car which was parked by a bakery which had set on fire by a man called Milan nickname DZAMIJA behind the apartment block. Mirsad was looking after the car for a friend and when he tried to move it to avoid it catching fire, Rade shot at him with a machine gun-a burst. Luckily he was not hit. He managed to walk by the garages and reach his apartment but Rade must have recognized him as I saw him being taken away by Rade. I saw through my window.

Arrests continued from the second day until 1 June. People were held in the garage under the municipality building. A neighbour of mine was taken and his sister went to the Serb police to find out about it and was told they were held there for interrogation. She told me. During this time I stayed under house arrest. I received another four visits from Serb police each time searching for weapons. My wife used to work out in a field whenever there was no

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shooting and one time the police, two men I did not know, threatened they would shoot her if they saw her. She did not go out there again. Otherwise no threats until the last visit, the second time that Rade VESELINović came. My wife was downstairs and he brought her up and mentioned the field and that we should not go out and he would shoot her, me and the children if he saw her there again. He said nothing else.

She still had to risk it for water, but went between the buildings in the evening

Around 1600 hours about 15 days later, I had been watching TV. It was warm and I opened the window. I had seen a refugee carrying a child on TV. I saw some Serb residents of the building below and swore about what I had seen and the situation in general. They must have reported me and next morning Zoran GAŠEVIĆ and Mladen TOLJ nickname "GAGA", came to the apartment and started interrogating me. This was in my apartment. They said don't make us get it out of you so I told them. I read their names from nametags on their uniforms. I had not known them before. Zoran wanted to take me away but Mladen said I was depressed by house arrest and should be forgiven. They left and noone came until 7 September 1992.

That day Zoran GAŠEVIĆ, again in uniform, came at 0930 with a girl, also in camouflage uniform. I did not know her but I later found out I knew her mother Slava who had been a work colleague and I was told the girl's nickname "BEBA." She appeared about 22 years old. Zoran spoke first and said we had half an hour for me, my wife and children to dress and get belongings and go to a meeting point in front of kindergarten. I believe BEBA told me the place. We were told we were to be exchanged and that buses would take us to Kobiljača.

We gathered at the point and it took time. In my street all the muslims, so with women and children about 200. Then the buses took us and other people from villages around were picked up. I recognised people from Binježevo, Garovići, Žunovnica and Grivići.

The buses took us to Kobiljača where there were Serb and Croat checkpoints and UNPROFOR. We stayed there in the buses all the time from arrival at about 1300 hours to 2000 hours. We were not provided with food or water or anything. Around 1600 to 1700 we were let off the buses for a while. No exchange took place so we were taken to the Cultural and Sports Centre in Hadžići. There were eight buses and on the return journey some five hundred people on them. We had been accompanied by a police driver and one police guard in each bus. There was a car with members of their exchange committee. I remember the head, nickname TRIFKO was in charge. I knew the drivers were mainly Hadžići people and they included Rade VESELINović, TRBIĆ, Zoran GAŠEVIĆ, Savo KRUNIĆ.- all policemen. So, at the Sports Centre we were told exchange would take place the next day. We were all placed in the big sport hall where they play basketball and so on. They put us all in there together. There was nothing to sleep on. We were allowed to use the toilets and our guards were TRZ employees. The next day buses came about 0900 and we went again to the exchange point but again no exchange. The Serbs of the committee (exchange commission) became angry and wanted to kill people in the first two buses. I did not hear it but my wife told me a Serb got on her bus and cursed their Balija mothers and threatened them with death. We were all taken back to the Sports hall arriving at 2230 hours. We were again all placed in the big hall and we were given some food, mostly for the children. The children had had no food for two days.

We were then kept there for 12 days. All of us remained in that hall for the twelve days. We received food every third day but later Rade, since he was Vojvoda allowed some who lived

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nearby to go home and get food. Croat women who remained in town also brought food. No individuals were taken out by order but sometimes they, the guards would ask for volunteers for a task like unloading something. Noone was forced. Noone was beaten or hurt during this period. I remained until about 23 September, I am not absolutely sure now. During this period most were released, bit by bit. By the time I was transferred there were nearly a hundred men and 71 of us were transferred to Svrake. We were taken in three buses. Former judge Slobadan AVLIJAŠ came in the morning with colleagues we thought we were for exchange but when we got to Mostarsko Raskršće we went on towards Blažuj instead of turning for the exchange place. We drove along the old road towards Semizovac and about 1800 arrived there. We were taken into a house which I found the prisoners called "Plana's House" There were about 160 prisoners already there. I found out they were mainly people from Semizovac, Ilijaš, Podlugovi and surroundings.

They lined up us from Hadžići and took our shaving kit and any blades and then a man introduced himself to us as Branko VLAČO and said he was the commander of the prison and that we were there to help with the other prisoners to cut wood and to dig trenches. He then introduced the watch guards. One I remember well was Rajko DAMJANOVIĆ, one called Mišo and another Momo (I do not know their full names) also Šofer and Slaviša. They were standing around there. We were told to ask the guards if we needed anything like medical treatment. They showed us where to sleep, we were taken into a large room like a restaurant, ceramic tiled floor and walls. There were no mattresses or blankets. We were told by Vlačo that we were too late for food but would get breakfast in the morning and go to work. I think it was about five or six in the afternoon. They left us in that room. It had a barred door so they could see us and the guards had a separate room. There were about ninety five in that room.

In the morning we were taken out and lined up and three work groups were selected. The guards read the names from lists and formed the groups. I was not on the lists so did not work that day. The groups were to go to Žuč one to Čekrčići and one to Vogošća, I heard the guards talking about it. For instance Milošević took the group for Žuč to dig trenches. We were not given any food and the work groups left and we stayed locked in the room. About 30 prisoners to Žuč, 15 to V and 30 to C out of 232 in Plana's house. The people who took the work groups wore exJNA uniforms and tricolor patches. They were locals from around Semizovac. Prisoners said this was the worst prison and we were sure to be killed so we expected bearded Chetniks but these people looked normal.

We were given some food about 1pm. The work groups came back about 7.30 pm. All were there (I saw them) there was a roll call of all their names too. During the day we had talked with others and I heard that on 16 September prisoners had been killed (18) and wounded (16) used as human shields.

The second day I was taken together with my brother to do some electrical work in Vogošća, in fact we were filling in holes where electric cables had been laid. Later that day when we returned I was one of four detailed to dig a grave near the mosque (which had been destroyed) This turned out to be for a dead BiH soldier. We did not know the person but we saw he had been "slaughtered" (meaning his throat was cut.) We could not find any documents so could not identify him. After burying him we were taken back to Planjo's house. We heard that prisoners had to do this from time to time. We were fed about 7pm and we were locked up for the night except for a roll call about 9.30 pm. I had noticed locals giving some food to

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prisoners working so I volunteered for work each day until my exchange which was planned for 9 November. We went to work about 6am and returned 8pm. I worked in several places.

In Žuč we dug trenches and cut wood and also dug trenches in other places where they were preparing lines. Ravne in the direction of Srednje and in Ilidža we also did such work.

On one occasion there was an exchange of dead bodies, 18 October, and we had to go and dig up the bodies from Žuč and take the corpses to Ilidža. The bodies were not identifiable to us. From time to time there was an exchange of light firing between the sides but no heavy fighting. Sometimes, if we were not inside a trench, the firing would come close. Some of us were wounded this way. Sejo BEĆIROVIĆ was hit in the shoulder, also a man called Fadil wounded whilst digging, also in the shoulder. I was with each of them when they were wounded and helped carry them out of the area. I also worked in Ilijaš where my bricklaying skills were used for work on houses. I also worked on the house of civilian police chief in Ilijaš, Lazar SUBOTIĆ.

Once I was taken to the barracks in Rajlovac to do cleaning and I saw some real Chetniks and we were protected by our watch guards because those Chetniks were drunk and our guards feared they may kill us. One Chetnik took out a knife and wanted to cut the throat of one man. We were taken away from there and not taken back there for a time.

Whilst I was in custody guards would occasionally unlock the doors and people from outside would come in and beat prisoners, particularly a professor called Zahid BARUČIJA. I saw him beaten more than once as we were in the same room. The light was poor however so I could not identify them (the only light was from the corridor) I can say they seemed very young, 15 or 16. They would beat with batons and kick. A young guard named SLAVIŠA joined in and it usually happened on his shift. It seemed to be personal and maybe because of bad marks at school.

By the way, we did not see the commander Vlačo any more after the first day. We were informed that a man called ŠPIRO, first name Nebojša, had taken over because Vlačo had been promoted. I saw Špiro but at the time did not know he was commander.

Sometimes other prisoners were beaten after the professor was beaten. This seemed to be at random. The other guards seemed to fear Slaviša because his father was a police commander. They did not interfere with him.

I refer to my previous statement and the description I gave of the trenches and gun emplacements around Hadžići, all is correct. The same applies to what I said about Oštrik. We dug trenches there as it was a front line. There was some light firing from time to time when I worked there. I also worked digging trenches in Dupovci as I said in my previous statement but work in those places was whilst I was held at the cultural and sports centre in Hadžići. There we were only exposed to sporadic fire between the opposing forces.

I did not see anyone used as a human shield whilst I was in Hadžići. Whilst I was in Plane's House, I heard talk of it and twice it happened to me.

9th November 1992 it was planned to exchange 52 Muslims from Hadžići. Serbian police came with lists of names and we found out we were supposed to be exchanged for Serbs from Tarčin and Pazarić. We were taken to Kobiljača by bus. This was arranged by a Croat called

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Dragan JOZIĆ. Another bus came with Serbian prisoners and the Bosnian exchange commission. We all got out and lined up but neither the International Red Cross nor UNPROFOR present. Names were called but nine of the Serbs did not want to pass across. Eleven of us were taken then to the Cultural and Sports Centre as it was too late to go back to Planja's house. The Serb exchange commission held us six or seven days trying to fix exchange but we were then taken back to Plane's house. During this time some fighting started. I asked the Serbs, the watch guards, the nicer ones, about exchange but they gave us no explanation and just stopped talking about exchange.

After that we were taken to Žuč to work for several days at a time without returning to the prison, the longest time being nine days. This was late November and into early December. It was a time when the Bosnian Army tried to take the peak Orlić on Žuč. The Serb forces were giving ground a little and needed new trenches. We were digging trenches and now we were exposed to very heavy exchanges of fire between the sides. We were not permitted to take cover so if someone was outside the trench it was very dangerous.

Somewhere around end November I saw three prisoners killed this way. One was a man I knew only as Durmo, he was carrying railway sleepers used to cover the trenches.

There was also some shelling and I saw the other two killed by a shell falling in the trench. Hazim ČOVIĆ and Bajram SALKIĆ. I saw another who was wounded when we returned to the prison: this was Himzo Šehić whom we treated as the Serbs did not provide any medical help. Another from the family Šehić was missing and I found out he was dead.

Conditions during this period in Plane's house got worse. Dragan DAMJANOVIĆ, a Serb soldier came in and seem to become a senior man in the prison and do as he wanted. He was the one who took prisoners to Žuč. He would beat the professor every time he came. He would take who he needed for the day. Sometimes he forced the wounded to work. Sometimes we were forced to go on foot from Semizovac to Žuč (about 14 km). Sometimes a passing car would stop and the occupants would get out and threaten us or hit us. On one occasion Dragan was drunk and he forced us to line up and stand near a river bridge on that road and stand with legs astride and hands on our heads for nine hours. The professor was among us and from his previous beatings he could not take this and he fell. Other police to whom Dragan had been talking at a nearby checkpoint put a stop to it and we carried the professor back to the house.

DAMJANOVIĆ would select prisoners and beat them. The watchguards would stay out of it. Another soldier called MINJA who appeared to outrank Dragan DAMJANOVIĆ promised he would talk to DAMJANOVIĆ about the line up incident when we told him of it. For a few days DAMJANOVIĆ did not come but then he returned and the abuse continued. He would use a police baton and sometimes kick the prisoner. I saw him break a prisoner's arm with one blow of the heavy police baton. That prisoner could not work for a month. Once during the time we were in Žuč for nine days we were not given any food and were denied water. I went to a kitchen nearby which served the Serb soldiers to ask for water. DAMJANOVIĆ saw me and began to beat me. He kicked me because I was bent down. I stood upright and he hit me in the back with the butt of his machine gun. An officer appeared and stopped it and told Dragan not to mistreat the prisoners.

Regarding food at Plane's house, we were fed but never enough. Bread portions had to be shared between 14 and we had just a few spoonfuls of food. We were not permitted to take a

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bath. There was a shower room upstairs and after two months or so, some could have a cold wash. I was held 75 days before I was allowed to wash myself. We heard that Momčilo MANDIĆ the interior minister was coming and we were given bunk beds and blankets. After he visited the beds remained. This was about 15 December, before I was wounded.

When he visited we asked about exchange and he said for Hadžići people it might be arranged but for locals they were in their area so did not need exchange.

MANDIĆ was wearing a camouflage uniform and a cap with the tri colour Serbian flag.

Some private exchanges were arranged through the families of prisoners. One group of 14 was taken for exchange, we thought, but later brought back and sent to Žuč. 9 of them were killed and their bodies were brought to the mosque in Svrake. DAMJANOVIĆ said "now you see how you Balijas will finish. Anyone who says anything against me will finish this way." SPIRO turned up with a police commission and in front of us I heard him say they would investigate, they knew who had done it and would undertake legal measures against him. We knew Dragan had taken the prisoners that morning. I was part of the burial party for those bodies, a single mass grave. I saw each had been shot in the forehead. I referred to this in my previous statement.

About 1 or 2 December I remember four girls being brought to Plane's house. They were put on second floor. I saw them when they were allowed down for food. When Serbs, friends of the guards, visited they were taken upstairs first. The eldest, aged 22, said to us that she had been kept in a brothel in Ilidza. I never asked their names. I used to see them in the evenings when we all ate together. The younger two girls were always crying they were 16 and 17 years old almost impossible to speak with them. the third was 19. The eldest did all the talking. Sometimes when she spoke we thought she might be on drugs.

Another thing I want to mention is that I was twice taken in November to Sonja's place near Vogosca to cut wood. I could hear the cries of women : crying and shouting but I could not make out what. The women were on the first floor of the restaurant. The ground floor was a restaurant and the first floor was rooms I assumed because it was known that they did accommodation there. The proper name was Kon Tiki but known as Sonja's Place(Kod Sonja) I had been there a couple of times before the war. I saw Nada TOMIĆ there both times I was taken for work. Nada Tomić seemed to be in charge. On the second occasion I saw an UNPROFOR APC pull up and stay some hours. It was still there when we were taken back to Plane's house.

The first time I was used as a human shield was at the end of November and the second time was 23 December.

The first time the Serbs had been pushed back from lines at Žuč below Orlić peak in the direction of Reljevo. There were thirty five prisoners and some Chetniks proposed to counter attack and lined us up. We were on a track facing the Bosnian lines and the Serbs lined up behind us with their weapons. The commander said it was stupid and they and the prisoners would be killed but the Chetniks proceeded and we had to advance 5 to 6 hundred meters but when the Bosnian forces fired they decided to retreat and we all did so. There were some trucks nearby and we were ordered on and taken back to Plane's house. I did not know any of the Serb soldiers but I recognised their camouflage uniforms and shoulder patch with "Vojska Republike Srpske" written on it. The uniforms had a label inside saying they were made in NIŠ(Serbia). I heard them call the commander SREĆKO.

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The second time I was used as a human shield was 23 December. That morning they came as usual for digging work. There was fighting going on and it was difficult to work. About 3pm we were all in the trench and a Serbian soldier ran in holding his middle, he was wounded. He said Bosnian soldiers had overrun two trenches. Three of us were told to fetch stretchers. I could not see one so we three hid by a tree to try and shelter from the firing. Serbian soldiers were withdrawing. They gathered by a nearby summer house and called for reinforcement on a Motorola. We were fifteen prisoners in the detail and we were ordered to dig some foxholes for the troops to take position. 24 soldiers arrived to support that unit. We were ordered to make a line, all fifteen of us and we were told to cross our arms in front of us and hold hands to make a wall. We tried to move a little, 20 to 30 meters, then the Bosnian army fired but did so over our heads. The Serb soldiers were just behind our backs. We were very close, our heads only a few centimetres apart. They had their guns pointing forward under our armpits. When I was able just to look a little behind me I saw Serbs withdrawing a bit. After five minutes they got close to us again and pushed us forward. Again after about twenty meters the Bosnians fired over our heads. We were then ordered to lie down with a Serb soldier to the right of each of us. We had to crawl and we got within forty meters of the Bosnian trenches. One Bosnian soldier tried to run a short distance and the Serb next to me fired at him. Then the Bosnian soldiers returned fire. At that moment I felt I was wounded. I turned (still down on the ground). This exposed the Serb soldier. I shouted and the firing stopped and someone ordered the Serb soldier by me to carry me down to a truck which took me to Vogošća medical centre. When they saw my injury I was transferred to Blažuj hospital for surgery. I had been shot in the hip by shrapnel from a rifle launched hand grenade. I had a lot of shrapnel in me, shattering the hip. Some pieces pierced my stomach and bowels. I spent forty days in hospital. It was my luck that I was conscious and recognised the doctor who attended me. He had done my son's tonsils. He operated immediately. I still have 18 fragments inside me

I was the only Muslim patient there and my guard was able to arrange an exchange. On 29 January 1993 I was exchanged. I went for medical treatment and spent some time at a spa and when I was able to walk I joined the Bosnian Army and I served until 6 January 1996 when I was demobilised. I served in the lines around Hadžići.

Initials:

Okro' Fejad

Alida Jaimovic

Murielle de Ruiters

Michael G. G. G.

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This Statement has been read over to me in the Bosnian 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.

Dated : 24.06.1997

Signed : Okić Zijad



INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

I, Ašida Zaimović, 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 Bosnian language into the English language and from the English language into the Bosnian language.
2. I have been informed by Zijad Okić that he speaks and understands the Bosnian language.
3. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Bosnian language in the presence of Zijad Okić who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.
4. Zijad Okić 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:

24.06.1997 -

Signed:

Ašida Zaimović

107 '93

Pazarić, 03.02.1993.godine

00216114

OKIĆ ZIJAD, sin Hasana i majke Razije rođ. Hadžići, rođen 08.03.1961.godine u Doboju, nastanjen u Hadžićima ul. Igmanska br. 4, trenutno nastanjen u Pazariću-Ferhatlije /kuća Tomanić Ognjena/, po zanimanju zidar, bio zaposlen u TRZ Hadžići, oženjen, otac dvoje djece, po nacionalnosti Musliman, u prostorijama SJB Hadžići u prisustvu ovlaštenih radnika dade sledeću:

00511013

I Z J A V U

Od početka ratnih dejstava do 07.09.1992.godine bio sam u kućnom pritvoru u svome stanu. Odmah na početku kod mene u stan je došao Hade Veselinović i Miro Šmarić koji su mi izvršili pretragu stana tražeći oružje koje nisam ni posjedovao. Prilikom veće razmjene na Kobiljači, 07.09.1992.godine nisam bio razmjenjen već sam sa ostalim građanima vraćen u Hadžiće odnosno tu sam zatvoren u KSERC, gdje sam ostao sve do 23.09.1992. godine, kada sam zajedno sa još 71 zatvorenikom prebačen u Semizovac - selo Svrake. Koliko se sjećam u ovoj grupi zatvorerika zajedno samnom su bili: Beča Ahmed, Okić Izudin, Isić Meho, Ismailovski Džemal, Beharević Ramo, Suljević Aziz, Zukanović Salim, Zukanović Haso, Drina Nezir, Isić Mirsad, Iđić Dževad, Balić Remzija, Alić Hasan, Demirović Fehim, Mujičić Jasmin, Čaušević Mufid, Hasković Ekrem, svi im Hadžića i drugi kojima ja neznam ime.

Za vrijeme od 09.09. do 23.09.1992.godine bio sam uglavnom angažovan zajedno sa drugim zatvorenicima u radnom vodu. Prilikom našeg odlaska na Oštrik gdje smo kopali rovove primijetio sam da na prvoj kapiji TRZ Hadžići imaju iskopana tri rova uz samu kapiju prema cesti u kojima su postavljeni mitraljezi M-53, a kod pogona optike sa donje strane iza samog parkinga ima postavljen i jedan tenk. Na drugoj kapiji-ulaz u servis ima iskopano 6 rovova od kapije prema Grivićima uz žicu do same ceste, a rovovi su razmješteni od kapije do kuće Polje Fuada i Malkić Rasima u kojima su takođe postavljeni mitraljezi M-53, a čošku TRZ prema Comorima ima betonski rov u kome je navodno "Broving". Do doma u Drozgoetvi od teškog naoružanja nisam ništa više primijetio, a u Domu sam vidio da im se nalazi kuhinja. Od Doma na putu prema Selimovićima na oko 200 metara ima ukopano jedno mjesto za sklanjanje tenka, koji odatle izlazi na brdo poviše Doma i odatle dejstvuje /na ovom tenku sam primijetio Šakota Neveljka kao vozača/. Odmah više skloništa Tenka nalaze se tri vikendice u kojima je smještena četnička komanda. U usamljenoj vikendici koja se nalazi na brdu iznad Doma a koja je sagrađena na temeljima neke štale /vikendica neke Suade/, koja je udaljena 200-300 metara od Doma nalazi se mitraljesko gnijezdo i jedan 60 mm ukojoj ima i dosta municije. Koliko sam mogao zapaziti na Oštriku ima ukupno 8 rovova i u svakom ima po tri četnika koji su uglavnom bili iz Rakovice i Drozgoetve. Na kopanju rovova na Oštriku vozio nas je Elčić Vlado a čuvao nas je Elčić Veselko i Sanduka Sreten.

Okic Zijad

17.06.1997

Na Tinovu smo bili počeli kopati rov na prevoju iznad rezervoara u Dupovcima ali ga nismo završili zbog pucnjave sa Ormanja.

U zgradi "Svjetlosti" imaju dva mitraljeska gnijezda na prozorima drugog sprata koji su okrenuti prema Dupovcima. U prizemlju ove zgrade u dijelu prema Hadžićima nalazi se spavaona u kojoj sam vidio 16 kreveta gdje stalno boravi posada od 16 četnika. Komandir ove postave je Kuzman Jovo, a tu se još nalaze Simo Kuzman, Čabak Jefto, Samouković Stojan, Sreten Golubović, a ostale ja ne poznajem. U spavaoni sam vidio i 6 ručnih bacača. Ova mitraljeska gnijezda sam lično radio sa grupom zatvorenika, a radili smo ih tako što smo otvore prozora sa unutrašnje strane zaštitili daskom peticom a iza toga u visini prsa otvore zaštitili betonskim blokovima. U objekat "Svjetlosti" hrana im se dovlači sa vozilom crvene boje "Zastava-karavan" koju vozi Milorad Ačimović zv. "Cico". Pored toga u kući Fadila Dupovca smještena im je neka veza i tu se nalazi jedno mitraljesko gnijezdo u prostoriји trećeg prozora gledajući od Zujevine prema kući Redže Kovacevića, a tu se nalazi oko 6 četnika.

Ja nisam išao u Dupovce, ali su drugi zatvorenici vođeni da pljačkaju kuće, a vođio ih je Miki Saranac. Dalje prugom do TRZ nema više rovova ni nekih oruđa.

U "Coca Coli" /objekat šećerane/ nalazi se magacin brašna a u objektu gdje je ambalaža nalaze se druge namirnice /krompir, grah i dr./.

U restoranu "Zujevina" - na spratu smještena je vojna policija, a u restoranu "Berolina" nema ništa izuzev što taj objekat koriste za spavanje kada ima više vojske.

U garaži Ratka Radića smješteno je dosta nekih velikih mašina u paketima koje je istovarala i dizalica, a ja sam lično jednom prilikom istovarao jednu veliku mašinu za kopiranje za koju nam je isto tako trebala dizalica.

Kuhinje im se nalaze u "Bjelašnici", kasarni Žunovnica i TRZ Hadžići.

U to vrijeme pod podvožnjakom za Žunovnicu bila su smještena tri tenka i jedna samohotka. Lično sam vidio da prugu vozi Samouković Ico, Mrkajić Radenko i Uljarević Dragan, a jedan tenk vozi Samardžić Radmilo.

Među doseljenim Zeničanima u to vrijeme je bilo dosta nezadovoljstva, mnogi bježe, a domaći četnici se preseljavaju prema Binježevu, Miševićima i na Ilidžu, a koliko sam čuo dosta ih je pobjeglo iz Hadžića.

Sa svog prozora sam vidio i groblje "Kopišanj" gdje su bile svakodnevne sahrane a jednom prilikom je moja supruga i išla u Sutice u baštu i ona mi je prenijela da je groblje na "Kopišanju" već popunjeno i da su počeli sahranjivati iza ograde na njivi prema Suticama, i po našim procjenama gore već ima oko 300 grobova a po Hadžićima se može vidjeti i dosta ranjenih mladih osoba. Nas zarobljenike je najviše tukao i zlostavljao Gašević Zoran, Jovičić Nemanja i Rade Veselinović. Pekaru kod obdaništa zapalio je Milan zvl "Džamija".

Okre' Zijad
17.0.6. 1997

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25.09.1992.godine po naređenju Slobodana Avlijaša koji je tada dolazio kod upravnika zatvora u KSIRC-u Mome Mujevića, prebačen sam, zajedno sa još 71 zatvorenikom, u Senizovac-Selo Svrake. U Svrakama sam ostao do 25.12.1992. godine kada sam ranjen u živom štitu u mjestu Ježevi prema Vogošći, a odatle sam prebačen u bolnicu Blažuj koja je smještena u upravnoj zgradi "Sarajevoputeva" gdje ima oko 100-120 ranjenika.

Za vrijeme mog boravka u Svrakama pored kopanja rovova u Ilijašu, Zući, Čekrcićima i Misoći, dva puta sam vođen u živi štit i to na Zuć i prema Vogošći.

Početak decembra 1992. godine kod nas je došlo još 9 zarobljenika sa Kule koje ja nisam vidio jer sam bio taj dan na radu ali sam od drugih zarobljenika čuo da je njih 9 isti dan odvedeno negdje na rad. Naveče smo se raspitivali ko su novi zatvorenici jer se te noći nisu vratili ali niko nam ništa nije znao reći. Nakon četiri dana bio sam određen zajedno sa Beharović Hamom i Japalak Izetom zv. "Kiza" iz Hadžića i još trojicom zatvorenika iz sela Bioča kod Ilijaša da kopamo grobove kod porušene džamije u Svrakama. Tada nam je naređeno da kopamo jednu veću grobnicu za 9 ljudi. Dok smo kopali na kamionu marke "OM", kojeg je vozio Damjanović Dragan iz Podrugova, doveženo je 9 leševa. Kada smo ih snijeli sa kamiona prepoznali smo svih devet leševa koje smo ja, Hamo i Kiza lično poznavali, a radilo se o Omerović Sulji iz Zunovnice, Musić Šabanu iz D.Hadžića, Sunji Sulji iz Binježeva, Čović Ševki iz Grivica, Ismić Fejzi i Enveru iz Gačanovića, Gušić Muštafi iz Hadžića, Mušanović Hajrudinu iz Hadžića i Džemi iz Binježeva kome nismo znali Prezime /mladi, visočiji čovjek, plave kose, malo proćelav. Tom prilikom sam primijetio da su svi bili pobijeni sa metkom u čelo, a potiljak im je bio razvaljen. Tada je čuvar doveo i Hamida Musića iz D.Hadžića da vidi ubijenog brata Šabana koji je ostao sa nama sve dok ih nismo sahranili. Prije nego što smo ih počeli spuštati u grob do nas je došao upravnik zatvora Špiro Nebojša i načelnik SBPske stanice milicije koji je svakom ubijenom napisao ime i prezime na komadić papira koje smo mu mi govorili i te papire sa imenom i prezimenom ja sam svakom ubijenom pojedinačno stavljao u prednje džepove odjeće i onda smo ih ~~put~~ spuštali u grob. Ovom prilikom sam čuo i razgovor između upravnika i načelnika gdje upravnik pita načelnika ko će praviti krivičnu prijavu protiv neke dvojice ljudi kojim~~am~~ nisu pominjali imena, a načelnik mu je odgovorio da on samo napravi izvještaj kada su i gdje odvedeni a SM će podnijeti prijavu. Prilikom prepoznavanja ubijenih na svima sam primijetio dosta povreda i modrica po licu i tijelu jer nam je dozvoljeno da ih pregledamo a kod Fejze Ismića sam primijetio i zalogač hljeba u ustima. Prilikom sahranjivanja ja sam otišao do porušene džamije i uzeo dvije keke i jedan veći komad najlona sa kojima smo ih prekrili.

MEHANOVIĆ

Još sam bio u Svrakama kada je Japalak Izet zv. "Kiza" odveden na Kulu, a odveo ga je sa još nekim zatvorenicima Lalović Ratko, a Beharević je iza mene ostao u Svrakama. Ostalo vrijeme od mog ranjavanja pa sve do 29.01.1993. godine proveo sam u bolnici u Blažuju, kada sam i razmjenjen sa Mrkaja Marinkom naobiljači.

IZJAVU DAO:
Dok Zijad

ZAPISNIČAR:
Medić Šefika
Medić

IZJAVU UZEO:
Enver Dupovac

Dok Zijad
17.06.1997