

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 **Hasanovic** **Sead**  
Last First Middle

Nickname/Alias:

N/A  
Last First Middle

Address: **Herdershof 2 , 4847 HF, Teteringen, The Netherlands**

Telephone: **0620819262** Date of Birth: **1 April 1964** Gender: **Male**

Ethnic Origin: **Bosnian** Religion: **Muslim**

Occupation: Current: **Unemployed** Former: **Factory worker**

Language(s) Spoken: **Bosnian , and a little Dutch**

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

Date(s) of Interview(s): **9<sup>th</sup> June 2000 and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2000.**

Interviewer: **Bruce Bursik**

Interpreter: **Marc Jeffery**

Language(s) Used in Interview: **English and Bosnian**

Names of all persons present during interview(s): **All persons mentioned above**

Signed/Initialed:

*Sead Hasanovic*

*Sead*

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WITNESS STATEMENT:

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I am Sead Hasanovic, son of Huso. I was born in the village of Šubin, in Bosnia on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1964. I lived in this village most of my life except when I began working in a Battery factory between Srebrenica and Potočari in 1982, where I found accommodation near to the factory.

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On about the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> April 1993, I moved with my wife and children to the UN safe enclave of Srebrenica. I was forced to make this move as we were surrounded by the Bosnian Serb Army and felt that our lives were in danger.

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On the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1995, it became clear that Srebrenica was about to fall to the Bosnian Serb Army and possibly other Serb elements. In order to escape possible death at the hands of these Serbs, I went to the area of Šušnjari to attempt to walk through the woods to free territory with the other men, whilst my wife, and three sons went to Potočari to seek the protection of the UNPROFOR troops based in Potočari.

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It was decided, in Šušnjari, that we would walk in the direction of free territory in Tuzla. I was armed with a private pistol licensed in my name. I carried this for self-defense. The main reason why I carried it was to kill myself should I be seriously wounded. There were many people taking part in this attempt, but because people were leaving at different times and in groups, it is difficult to estimate the number of people that were there. There were mainly men in these groups and very few women. I saw only a total of about ten women taking part in this walk. The age of the people varied and there were boys of about 15 or 16 and older men of about 45 years of age. I left in a group after about half of the people had left. We were told to head in the direction of Udrić mountain where there would be guides to take us the rest of the way. I left in the early hours of the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1995.

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We were walking two at a time but were making slow progress due to the fear of mines. We walked for the whole day. At about 11pm on that same day (13<sup>th</sup> July 1995), we came under fire in an area called Kamenica. People began to disperse and split up. A huge Beach tree fell down and landed on some people. I dived to the ground as we came under heavy fire, to seek protection. There was a lot of earth and branches flying around and I could smell gunpowder. The shooting lasted for about thirty minutes. I was saved, by taking cover next to a Beach tree. After the shelling stopped, I got up to look for my brother, Senad, however the shooting continued. I felt strange, almost a drunk feeling, but I still had my senses about me and felt in control. I saw a lot of bodies amongst the branches and eventually found my brother. We walked ten meters in one direction and then turned in a circle and went back. The area was covered in dead bodies. It is difficult for me to estimate how many people were killed there, as it was dark and I only saw the dead bodies in the light of the exploding shells. The area

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would be briefly illuminated when a shell exploded in the night. The shelling was constant, so there was a lot of light at times. My brother and I went about half way up the hill to escape the shooting. We thought that we may be going in the direction of the Serbs so we turned and went back down the hill.

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People began to gather again to decide what to do next. There were a lot of people and it was difficult to estimate how many were there. We went down a steep hill to a stream. By this time the sun had come out and I could see well. This was on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1995. I saw at least a hundred bodies on the way down to the stream. At the stream, I drank water. The shelling then started again and we left. Some people decided to return and go in the direction of Zepa. Some people went to Kravica to surrender there. Some people had come back and said that they had gone to a road in the Kravica area and had seen the Dutch UNPROFOR troops and APC's on the road. I never saw this and do not know that area well, so I can't say exactly where this was. These people said that the Dutch were speaking on megaphones and were telling them that it was safe to surrender. This group had returned to ask advice on the best option, to surrender to the Dutch, who were guaranteeing their safety or continue as best they could. The rest of the group went to surrender, but my brother and I decided to continue the journey and not surrender. We met up with a husband and wife, but they parted ways with us when making an excuse to relieve themselves. My brother, Senad and I then waited in the area for the next three days. We were waiting until it was safe to cross the Jadar River. We met up with more people near an area called Kamenica. This is not the same Kamenica where we were ambushed, but towards Zvornik. We walked through the village of Lipanj. I saw many dead bodies in the area after passing the school at Lipanj. In fact there were bodies in the whole area and we would come across bodies every ten to fifteen minutes. I also saw people, who could not walk any longer, crawling along the path. From there we went down a hill and crossed an asphalt road. This was the road which came from Zvornik, but I did not know where the road lead to. We waited there for about three days in order to cross this road. I am not sure of the date at this stage, but it was about the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day after setting out from Šušnjari. About 400 people gathered there and it was decided that we would cross the road in groups of ten to fifteen in order to avoid any major problems. At about 10pm that night, I could hear the sound of motor vehicles on the road. Someone shouted for us to get back, but we never came under fire. We waited until the morning and then I saw armed Serb soldiers up on a hill overlooking this road. These soldiers were wearing camouflage military uniforms. They were calling to us to surrender. They said that if we did not surrender they would search the area to find us. Later when it got dark, I managed to cross the road.

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After crossing the road we went up the mountain called Crni Brh. We went in the direction of Zvornik. We met up with about eight or nine other people. Our group then numbered about eleven. We were not sure where we were and some of the group said we were in free territory, when we crossed some railway tracks. We came across a burnt out village and saw about four or five soldiers there, dressed in olive green uniforms. They were all armed. They saw us and shouted to us to surrender. My brother and I ran across the yards of houses to escape. I could hear the soldiers shouting at us to surrender through megaphones. I ran across a field and back to the railway tracks and into an Oak forest. I went up to the railway tracks and could see soldiers talking on a radio. I went back and told the others that the soldiers were about thirty meters away from us. The Serb soldiers appeared suddenly and shouted at us to surrender. My brother and I fled into the forest and across the railway tracks and up a

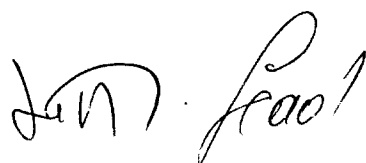
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mountain. There we found an apple tree where we decided to rest. I fell asleep and was awoken by my brother. When I woke I saw Serb soldiers about ten meters in front of me. They were pointing their rifles at us and we had no choice but to surrender. These soldiers cursed my "Turkish" mother. I was told to put my hands above my head and I was searched by a tall soldier with blond hair who found my pistol. I was asked how many Serbs I had killed with it. When I explained that it was a licensed private gun, the soldiers took it and said it was a good trophy. These soldiers assaulted me in that they kicked me all over my body with their booted feet. These soldiers were dressed in military camouflage uniforms and were armed with automatic rifles. They wore red Šapka's, a type of military head dress. These Šapka's had a badge on the front. I am shown a colour photo of a number of military head dresses by investigator Bruce Bursik and have seen one which is the same in every respect to the ones these soldiers wore. I have signed a photo copy of this photo and attach it to my statement as annexure one. I did not notice much else as I kept my head down. The leader of the patrol, said to me: "You are very lucky that you were captured by this corps." And that they had been issued instructions from the authorities the previous day that they had to stop killing those persons who were captured as well as those captured previously and not yet killed. The instruction was issued to keep the captives alive to use us for prisoner exchanges. The area in which we were captured is called Memići. My brother and I were then handed over to military police and then taken to Šekovići. These military police wore camouflage as well as olive green uniforms of the former Yugoslavian army, but all wore white belts. Some of these MP's wore caps, but I cannot recall the details of their emblems. Some of these military Police members wore a Tricolour emblem on their sleeve. I am shown a number of colour photos of military emblems by investigator Bruce Bursik and identify one which resembles the one they wore. I attach a photo copy of this emblem to my statement as annexure two. I remember the white belts which stand out in my memory. The trip to Šekovići took about five or six hours by lorry. The facility to which I was taken to at Šekovići was a military base. I didn't notice too much about the camp as we were not allowed to just look around and the lorry was covered. I could only see out the small eyeholes in the cover. It was hot and at one stage the cover was folded back. It was then that I saw it was a military base and there were many police and military people about. One Serb soldier said that we were very lucky and that we were going to be exchanged. After about three hours we were taken to a detention camp in Batkovići. On our arrival, I saw the Red Cross. The Red Cross recorded all our particulars. I remained in this camp for about two and a half months under terrible conditions. We were not fed well nor given any clothing. I, together with a group of forty five were then transferred to a camp near Dobo, in the village of Kotorsko. I was held prisoner there for another two and a half months and then released on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1995. I attach a copy of my release papers to this statement as per annexure three.

Before the fall of the enclave, I became aware that my former neighbour, Milenko Živanović was the commander of the Prodina Brigade within the Serb Forces. I heard this from others. I never saw him though during my detention. During my detention, I did not see any Serbs who were well known to me. I came to know my captives in Batkovići, especially the policeman who beat me the most. His name was Šuic and he was the commander of the military police responsible for the prisoners. Others who beat me were Mico and Catić. They would beat the prisoners every day. When visits were scheduled by the Red Cross and UNPROFOR, the Serbs would take us out the camp and hide us. While we were at these camps, we were forced to work. About three or four months after the fall of Srebrenica, a policeman told me one day, whilst I was working, that I was lucky compared to how others of us were being treated in

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Vlasenica. He said that there were about three thousand prisoners in Vlasenica. I strongly suspect that there is still many prisoners in Serb hands.

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**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.


Signed: Radovan Miskovic  
Dated: 16-06-2000

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### INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

I, Marc Jeffery, 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, Croatian and Serbian languages into the English language and from the English language into the Bosnian language.
2. I have been informed by Sead Hasanovic 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 Sead Hasanovic who appeared to have hear and understood my translation of this Statement.
4. Sead Hasanovic 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.

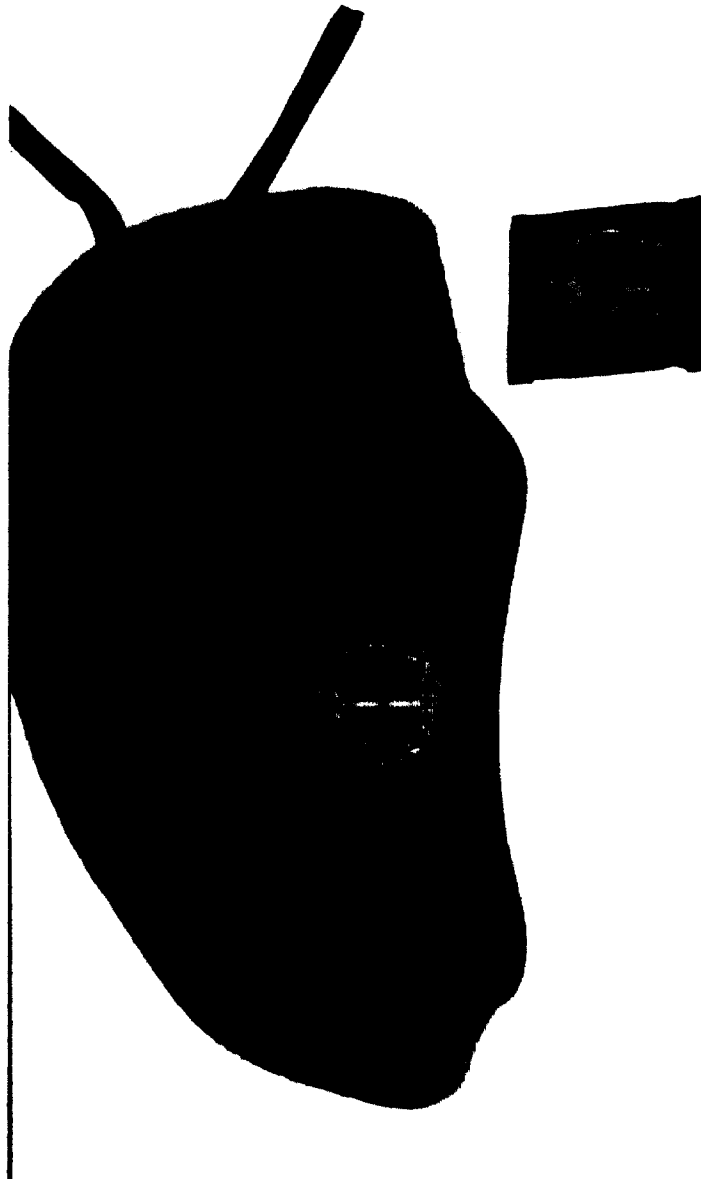
Dated: Marc Jeffery

Signed: 16. June 2000

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ANNEXURE TWO.16  
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ANNEXES THREE

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

BAZ-381160

Zagreb, 22.01.1996

P O T V R D A  
C E R T I F I C A T E

Kojom se potvrđuje da je HASANOVIC (HUSO) SEAD  
Which confirms that family name (father's name) first name

Rodjen 01.04.1964 u Subinu, Srebrenica  
Born on in

Registriran od delegata MKCK dana 26.07.1995  
Was registered by ICRC delegate on

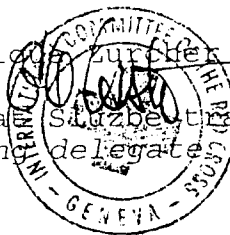
U mjestu zatocjenja BATKOVIC  
In detention place

Redovito posjecivan od 26.07.1995 do 07.12.1995  
Regularly visited from to

U mjestu zatocjenja BATKOVIC, KOTORSKO  
In detention place

Osloboden dana 24.12.1995 prema izjavi vlasti  
Was released on according to the authorities

Véronique Zurcher  
Delegat Službe traženja  
Tracing delegate



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*Handwritten signatures and initials.*

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