

REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
STATE SECURITY SERVICE /SDB/
SDB SECTOR
T U Z L A

00512727

No. 15-4/96 /handwritten/

Date: 10 January 1996

RECORD

CITIZEN FADIL ORIC, son of Hajrudin and Hurma nee Barjaktarević, born on 11 October 1971 in Potočari, municipality of Srebrenica, JMB /personal identification number/ 1110971183121, resident of Potočari 112, Muslim by nationality, citizen of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, finished elementary school, unemployed, married, one child, temporarily accommodated at the Miladije elementary school in Tuzla, on 10 January 1996, in the presence of authorised officials, made the following

STATEMENT

I took part in a break-through towards the Tuzla area on /erased/ 1995 because the Chetniks had seized Srebrenica which had been under UNPROFOR control. We assembled at the village of Šušnjari, municipality of Srebrenica. On 12 July 1997, after midnight, we held a brief meeting and headed for Tuzla. After walking for 1 or 2 km in the Buljim area, municipality of Srebrenica, the column came under small arms and artillery fire from Chetnik positions. The same day, the Chetniks laid heavily-manned ambushes near the village of Kravica, Bratunac municipality; they opened fire at the column and used chemical weapons. Fear and panic broke out in the column, many were killed - maybe several hundred - and the column broke up into smaller groups. I separated from the column together with another 20 civilians and headed in the direction of the village of Pervani, municipality of Bratunac. Walking toward Pervani, I felt sick and exhausted and I fainted. The other 19 people went on without me. I spent two days there. The following day, I met Kadir Osmanović, son of Alja, born in Potočari, Srebrenica municipality, and a man named Smail from Močevići, Srebrenica municipality, aged 45, black hair, medium build. The three of us set out for Konjević Polje, Bratunac municipality, the same day. Four or five days later, I separated from them in the vicinity of Konjević Polje. The following day, we met again on Udrč hill, Vlasenica municipality, where there were some 100 civilians. Smajo stayed with these civilians, while Kadir and I immediately pushed on in the direction of the village of Kamenica, Zvornik municipality. On 20 July 1995, going in that direction, Kadir and I saw a mass grave, 15 to 20 m long and up to five m wide.

00512728

The earth was fresh - the grave may have been dug up two or three days earlier. There were several spots of clotted blood, about 5 cm thick, several ammunition crates and a number of cartridges. We also found a medical card belonging to a woman named Merdžić from Likari, Srebrenica municipality. Around the grave there were a lot of uneven caterpillar prints, which covered an area the size of a five-a-side soccer field. We reached the grave walking 1 km along the railway track in the direction of Zvornik. About 600 m before the grave, we came upon a burned village consisting of some 15 houses. When we reached the grave there was an asphalt road about 150 m away on my left side. Across this road, in the direction of the grave there was a village of about 10 houses. On our right side there was a grove of beech trees and acacia trees about 40 m away from the railway tracks. From the grave we could clearly see some factory smokestacks. I had never been in this area before so I do not know its name. I also recall that at a distance of about 200-300 m from the grave (to the left of the tracks) in the direction of Zvornik, Kadir and I saw a small relay station and two days after that, on an asphalt road, there was a concrete bridge about 10 m long whose iron railings were painted blue. I think it was on 22 July 1997 that Kadir and I were captured by four Serbian soldiers in the area of Đulići, Zvornik municipality. They took us to Karakaj, Zvornik municipality, more precisely to the Standard factory. The same day, we were transferred to the Batković camp in Biljeljina together with another 33 Muslims. The head of the camp was a man named Čekić, aged 45 to 50, small, balding, greying hair, with a moustache. In Batković we did physical labour such as loading flour at the Žitopromet factory in Biljeljina, harvesting fields etc.

While I was at the Batković camp, in late August 1995, a man named Strajo, aged about 50, of medium build, with black hair and a carefully tripped moustache, who used to work as a teacher at the Potočari elementary school before the war, used to come to mix with the inmates. He was interested in the whereabouts of a man named Ibrah Mustafić from Potočari, Srebrenica municipality, who used to be a deputy in our State's Assembly. He told me not to worry about the Srebrenica residents, that many of them were in Milići, Vlasenica municipality, where they were doing physical work at the sawmill.

I also know that Abdurahman Malkić nicknamed Kiko, born in Poznanovići, Srebrenica municipality, spent about a month at the Batković camp while Chetniks investigated his activities.

I spent about two months and a half in Batković. I was subsequently transferred to the municipal military jail in Kotorsko, Doboj municipality, together with another 44 Muslims.

The head of the prison was Zdravko Gligorić, black hair, aged 30 to 35. After a month, he was relieved of his post and replaced by Dragan Šujić, aged 20. There were 135 men at the Kotorsko military jail - some 100 Muslims, 20 to 25 Croats and 10 to 15 followers of Fikret Abdić. The Croats and the followers of Fikret Abdić were better treated, while we Muslims did heavy physical labour, such as clearing fields, pulling down Croatian and Muslim houses that had been burned down and other tasks.

In October 1995, I witnessed the blowing up of a mosque in Kotorsko. The mosque was blown up by five Serbian soldiers I do not know, who had previously blown up several Muslim houses in that village. Before blowing up the mosque, they ordered me, Sakib Efendić, Mensur Efendić, Hasan Salihović (they were all from Potočari in the Srebrenica area), Amir Ibrahimović from Konjević Polje and another five Muslims whose names I do not remember, to dig holes in the walls with a pickaxe, in which

00512729

they then planted explosives. After the mosques were blown up, those of us Muslims from Srebrenica who were in military jail were ordered to /illegible/ the rubble of the mosque to pave a road through Kotorosko. In Kotorosko there is another mosque whose minaret has been pulled down. The Serbs used the ruins of the minaret and the nearby cemetery as a garbage dump. In December 1995, the Serbs ordered 45 of us Muslims from Srebrenica to go to Odžak and remove windows, doors, tiles and other building material from Croatian and Muslim houses; they would take this away somewhere in a truck. When I was in Odžak, I saw the tile factory and the agricultural complex being dismantled and their contents being driven off somewhere. Trees planted outside Croatian and Muslim houses in Odžak were felled and taken to Modriča, as well as lamp posts. In December 1995, I heard from guards, i.e. Serbian military policemen on duty at the military jail in Kotorosko, that 200 civilians from Srebrenica, who were being held in Banja Luka, would be transferred to Doboj and exchanged, and that apart from these 200, there were several hundred Muslims in Doboj. On 24 December 1995, I was exchanged in Sočkovac, Gračanica municipality, together with another 131 Muslims from Srebrenica.

I have nothing to add to this statement, which has been read out loud to me. It contains all that I have said and I accept it as mine. I am prepared to repeat it before any court or other competent institution.

CITIZEN:
/signed/

CLERK:
/signed/

AUTHORISED OFFICIALS:
/two signatures/