

Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
STATE SECURITY SERVICE
SDB /STATE SECURITY SERVICE/ - SECTOR TUZLA

00512683

No: 15-6/96
Date: 12 January 1996

RECORD

CITIZEN RAMO OSMANOVIĆ, son of Ramiz and Fatima nee Tihić, born on 2 October 1975 in the village of Pribidoli, municipality of Srebrenica, JMB /personal number/ 0210975183127, resident of Pribidoli 88, Muslim by nationality, citizen of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, finished elementary school, unemployed, unmarried, as of 24 December 1995 staying in the house of Muslim Plavšić in the village of Donja Orahovica - Riječica hamlet, municipality of Gračanica, on 12 January 1996, in the presence of authorised officials, made the following

STATEMENT

I set out on 11 July 1995 to attempt to break through to the free territory, because the Chetniks had seized Srebrenica which had previously been controlled by UNPROFOR, specifically the Dutch battalion. We gathered at the village of Šušnjari, municipality of Srebrenica. On 12 July 1995 we held a meeting and set out for Tuzla early in the morning. In the evening of the same day, in the area around Kamenica village, Bratunac municipality, the Chetniks began firing at the column with artillery and infantry weapons. In this area, the Chetniks organised a powerful ambush and beside shooting at us, they used various chemical weapons. There was total panic and fear; the column fell apart. At that point, the Chetniks used megaphones to call us to surrender. A few hundred people were killed and about 300-400 were wounded. After hearing the call on the megaphone, between 2,000 and 3,000 people surrendered and carried the wounded with them, because they had been promised safety and medical assistance. I do not remember what happened then, because I felt sick, dizzy, very thirsty and was hallucinating. I fainted there and awakened the next day at about noon. There was no one around. I immediately headed toward Konjević Polje, Bratunac municipality. The same day, on a hill beyond Konjević Polje, I met a group of 300 Muslim civilians. They were taking off their white shirts and putting them on sticks with the intention of surrendering to the Chetniks. I did not want to surrender, so I separated from the group, together with two other civilians I did not know. The three of us left with the intention of crossing the asphalt road in Konjević Polje. However, when we were about 400 metres from this group of 300, from the hill, we saw the Chetniks surround the civilians and shoot them with automatic weapons. We saw this clearly from the hill because the civilians were in a clearing in a grassy area. Fearing

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Chetniks might be lurking in the immediate vicinity, we pushed on. After walking for 500 to 600 metres, we met a group of about 10 civilians, of whom I knew only one, a man named Dahmo. He is about 40, short, has black hair, is lean; he is from the village of Tokoljaci, Srebrenica municipality. We joined them and together we set out to cross the asphalt road in Konjević Polje. There we met another 300 Muslims from Srebrenica and we all spent the night at that spot. The following day, I separated from the group together with another 10 civilians, of whom I knew only a man named Muharem. He used to be a civilian police officer in Srebrenica. In the morning, that same day, we crossed the asphalt road and, the following day, we reached Mt Udrč, Vlasenica municipality, where we met several hundred civilians. The following day, the whole group, including me, headed toward the village of Kamenica, Zvornik municipality. After a few days, we reached the surroundings of the aforementioned villages, but we did not know which way to take from there to the free territory. The group split into smaller groups. Sead Aljić from Kadrići, Srebrenica municipality, Sabit Beganović from Sjedače, Srebrenica municipality, Sadik Kovačević from Peć, Srebrenica municipality, another seven civilians whose names I do not remember and I set out in the direction of Snagovo, Zvornik municipality. On 21 July 1995, eleven of us reached Snagovo where we again met a large group of civilians. The same day, I separated from that group and joined another group of eleven. I recognised Sead Aljić from Kadrići, Midhat Kadrić from Bratunac and Šihran Osmanović from Podševari, Srebrenica municipality. The same day, the twelve of us reached Baljkovina, Zvornik municipality. Two days later, we set out toward the village of Nežuk, Zvornik municipality. After walking a short while, we saw that we did not know the terrain and decided to return to Baljkovica. However, on our way back, we met a man named Nurdin from Blječevo, Bratunac municipality, aged about 20, tall, lean, with black hair, who said he had been close to the free territory but had not crossed over because he was afraid of Chetnik ambushes. We agreed that Nurdin would take us to the spot where he had been. Two days later, we arrived in the village of Osmaci, Kalesija municipality, where we were taken prisoner by several Serbian soldiers. The same day, we were transferred from Osmaci to Šekovići and then to Karakaj, Zvornik municipality. Also on the same day, we were transferred from Karakaj to the Batkovići camp, Bijeljina municipality. While I was in Šekovići, I saw that two Muslims stayed there as inmates. I think they are known to Omer Hodžić from the village of Bašuta, Srebrenica municipality, who was exchanged on 24 December 1995. There were about 160 to 170 Muslims from Srebrenica in the Batkovići camp. We did hard labour, such as loading flour at the Žitopromet factory, harvesting fields, felling trees on Mt Majeveca etc. On 24 December 1995 I was exchanged together with another 131 people in the village of Sočkovac, Gračanica municipality.

I have nothing to add to this statement. The statement was read out loud to me and accurately reflects my words. Everything that I said has been correctly written down and I accept it as mine. I am ready to repeat it before any court or other competent institution.

CITIZEN:
/signed/

CLERK:
/signed/

AUTHORISED OFFICIALS:
/two signatures/