

Bosnia and Hercegovina
Agency for Research and Documentation
AID Sector Tuzla

No.15-56/96
Date: 12/2/96

Based on the provisions of articles 1 and 2 of the Regulation on the incorporation of the Rules of Criminal Procedure of the former SFRY, and in conformity with art. 151 of the said rules, an authorized official of AID, Brcko office, composed on 12/2/1996 in the offices of AID in Srebrenik the following

TRANSCRIPT

Citizen Ramic Sado, son od Adem and Dila Malkic, born 5/3/1966, in Poznanovici, municipality of Srebrenica. Personal ID 0503966183146, agricultural machine mechanic, unemployed, married, without children, temporarily a displaced person, residing at NN Luka bb, municipality of Srebrenik, was interviewed by an authorized official on 12/2/1996 on the subject of war crimes committed by Chetniks against the Bosniak people in Srebrenica and gave the following

STATEMENT

The enemy began to shell Srebrenica very heavily with artillery in July 1995, and we began to withdraw toward the centre of town. On 11/7/1995 enemy forces had already entered Srebrenica, so that women, children and the elderly set off toward the UN camp in Potocari, while the military abled set off toward the village of Susnjari. In that locality, we lined up according to our unit, and then began a very long and uncertain trek toward free territory.

The next day, 12/7/1995, on the road between Buljim and Pobrdje, several artillery shells fell on our column, as a result of which I estimate that about 50 people were killed. Of those I personally know Hozbo Sakic, Dautovic Nijaz, and Ljeskovica Mehmed, all of them from Srebrenica.

On that occasion, we were not slowed down significantly and so we continued on until we stopped in a forest near Kamenica hill, where we planned to take a rest, line up again and continue our journey. The place where we were resting was in the forest at a meddow far from inhabited places, so we were a bit relaxed hoping that we were away from the Chetniks' field of vision. However, some time around 21 h a tree fell, after which fire was opened from infantry weapons, and from PAMs and PATs, causing generalized chaos among the people. The shooting went on for about 15 minutes, after which it became quiet again. According to my estimate about 1000 people were killed there. We went back to extract the wounded but the corpses made our way practically impassable. I did not recognize anyone there because it was night, and there were quite a few wounded whom we were pulling out to a hill.

About 23 h we reassembled on some high ground intending to continue on in the direction of Konjevic Polje. During that part of the journey, some of the people I did know were Smajlovic Seval from Poznanovic, municipality of Srebrenica, Hasanovic Rifet from Pirici, municipality of Bratunac, and Tihic Bego from Skelani, municipality of Srebrenica. Not long afterwards, three more grenades were fired at our column, accompanied by infantry weapon fire, and the progress of the column was interrupted again, while I stayed behind with Zahir Mehanovic from Daljegoste, municipality of Srebrenica.

As we continued on, along the way we met acquaintances Hasanovic Alvir, Redzic Muhamed, and another three men who were with them. In the proximity of the village of Kravice, the seven of us again stumbled on an ambush, so that our group dispersed, and Hasanovic and Redzic stayed on with me.

Continuing on toward free territory, we met up with a group of about 400 people. Among them I recognized Ahmo and Dzamal Tihic from Skelani, municipality of Srebrenica, who were quite respected in the town.

They were planning to surrender, but we did not want to do that, so we continued on. About 50 people from the group joined us, as they did not want to surrender either. We were led by Alija from Zilici, municipality of Vlasenica, I do not know his last name. We made it to the hills overlooking Kasaba, we had to cross the asphalt road there in order to continue on to Udrc. The Chetniks noticed us there, and they began to shoot at us. We split into 5 smaller groups in order to facilitate our crossing.

In my group, in addition to those mentioned earlier, Hasanovic and Redzic, there were also Rizvic Mersudin and Hasudin, nicknamed Siljo, from Kamenica, municipality of Zvornik, Jusupovic Sefik, nicknamed Cica, from Zepa, Salihovic Vahid from Srebrenica, and Begic Sejdalija from Sikirica, municipality of Bratunac.

When we arrived in Kasaba near the relay station, we had to wait there for night to fall in order to cross the asphalt road, and we did so during the first hours of the evening. After crossing the asphalt road, we arrived in Udrc, and then we continued on toward other mountain plateaus, of which the first was Velja Glava. There we encountered 10 corpses, and not far from there there was another group also of 10 corpses, none of whom we recognized.

On 22/7/1995 we reached Snagovo, municipality of Zvornik, where I ran across my brother Omer, Vejzovic Selvudin from Vlasenica, my neighbor Jusic Azem from Srebrenica, and a man by the name of Mujo, from Geroovo, municipality of Vlasenica.

The same day, while we were resting, we noticed the Chetniks coming at us in rifle formation. We had no choice in that situation, and we decided to surrender. Some distance away, Mujo and Azem stayed behind us; they did not surrender and I have no further information about them.

Immediately after capture, they took us to the "Vezionica" factory in Karakaj, where there were more prisoners, and on 23/7/1995, 39 of us were driven to Batkovic camp, municipality of Bjeljina, where by 25/7/1995 there were a total of 164 Srebrenica prisoners. We were met there by the camp commander, Lt. coloner Gojko Cekic, about 50 years old, as well as lieutenants Lujic, "Sarajlija," and Milic.

I remained at the camp until 4/8/1995 when together with Malkic Abdurahman from Poznanovici, municipality of Srebrenica, I was taken to Bjeljina to the "Vanekin Mlin" prison, where we were kept in isolation. These cells were 2.20 by 2 meters and there were only 4 of them. We spent 7 days there and were interrogated in detail.

On 10/8/1995 Avdo Palic was brought to this prison; he was commander of the Zepa brigade, and he remained in that prison after we left. From there, on 29/8/1995 we were taken to the Military Court in Bjeljina. Besides me and Abdurahman Malkic, also brought before the court were Hamza Malkic from Srebrenica, Mevlo from Glogova, municipality of Bratunac, Jusic Kasim from Poznanovici, municipality of Srebrenica. We all gave detailed statements, and they brought as alleged witnesses against us Osmanovic Hedib from Poznanovici, municipality of Srebrenica, and Hasic Sakib, from the same locality.

On that occasion, we were shown court decisions extending our detention for another month, and then they withdrew those decisions and returned us to Batkovici.

Some time in November 1995, together with Abdurahman and another 13 men I went to Lopare, where we cut wood for the needs of the Serbian East-Bosnian Corps. We remained in Lopari for about 15 days, and then we were returned to the camp.

We remained in the camp until 24/12/1995, when 134 of us were exchanged in Sockovac, municipality of Gracanica.

I have nothing further to add on these topics. I affirm that everything I have said is true and I am prepared

to repeat it before a court or some international organization which may be interested. The statement was read out to me and I took part in formulating it, which I confirm by my signature.

Declarant:
s/Ramic Sado

Transcriber:
s/Avdic Mirsada

Statement taken by:
s/Bjelic Dzevad