

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:

Last Name: SELIMOVIC

First Name(s): Sadik

Father's First Name: Bajro

Nickname:

Gender: ☒ Male ☐ Female

Date of Birth: 4 November 1962

Place of Birth: Zalusje, Bratunac

Ethnic Origin: Muslim

Religion: Muslim

Language(s) Spoken: Bosnian

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

Language(s) Used in Interview: English and Bosnian

Current Occupation: Mechanic technician

Former: the same

Date(s) of Interview(s): 10 November 2001

Interviewer: PIEKOS, Kazimierz

Interpreter: MUHAMEDOVIC, Samir

Names of all persons present during interview(s): MANNING, Dean

Piglosa *Selimovic Sadik*
Samir

WITNESS STATEMENT:

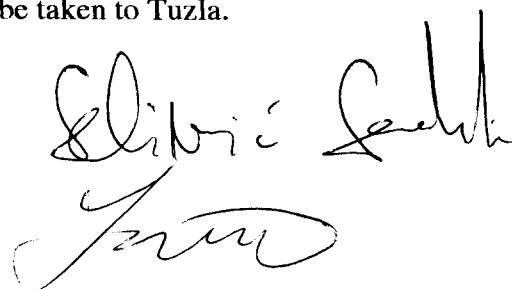
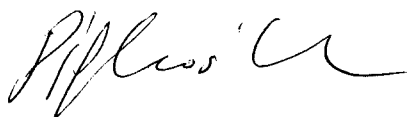
I am here to give a statement to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and I am doing so voluntarily. No one threatened me or forced to do so, nor has anybody offered me any promises. I understand that should the individuals I can give evidence against be charged as war criminals, my name may become public. I understand that if I testify in The Hague, The Netherlands, the necessary security will be provided by the Tribunal. I shall make it clear when I am talking about what I saw or experienced and I shall make it clear when I am talking about what I have heard from somebody else

I was already questioned by The ICTY in November 2000. In relation to the statement given at that time I am able to provide the following further details.

At the end of my staying at the Bratunac hospital, I think that it was on Thursday 20 of July 1995 I am not so sure about this date, but I am quite sure it was one day before I was transported from Bratunac Hospital and brought to Batković prison. I was an eyewitness of the separation of the wounded from the Bratunac Hospital.

I was in the Bratunac hospital in a section which was before the war the place of work of the accountants. It was a building connected with the hospital, at a lower level than the hospital having it's own entrance and maybe a connection to the main hospital building. I have drawn 3 sketches showing the location of the hospital in Bratunac, the location of the building I was in and the plan of hospital room of the section of the hospital I was in. I have numbered the attachments as 1, 2 and 3 and signed and dated each one which is attached to this statement. I have included on the diagram number 3 the names of the people who were with me in the hospital room or in the other rooms which I could see. These people were Burić Nesib, Sadik Selimović, Idriz from Cerska, Tabaković Hamdija, Juso nicknamed Poručnik, Čkalja from Dobrak, Gračanlić Đemo, Mehmedović Alma and her mother Zumbra, Esed, Inu Imam from Pirići and Kiko from Sase.

There was a doctor from the Dutch battalion all the time with us wounded. Around 11.00 in the morning the Serb Jokić – a policeman from Bratunac – came to the room I was in and took Osman Halilović from Tegare because Osman was accused for committing a murder or murders. There was another policeman with Jokić. Both of them, Jokić and another man were civilian police officers. Some half an hour after Halilović was taken, the representatives from ICRC came. They came to our room and gave us the pieces of paper, actually they were the forms to be fulfilled. There were sections regarding our names, dates of birth etc. They told us it was not for the ICRC registration but for the reason to allow us to travel, a kind of a pass. I did not know any of the ICRC people. There were about 10 persons from the ICRC and approximately 5 of them were women. I am sure there was a Serb representative of the Red Cross among these 10 people. These were the only persons present in the room with the exception of wounded. They told us they will be going to Potočari to collect the wounded who were still in Potočari in the UN compound. They did not mention the number of the wounded to be collected. They also told us they would come to take us later on. We filled in the forms and the forms stayed with us. The ICRC left and they came back 14.30 in the afternoon the same day. Meantime after the ICRC left the Serb personnel, nurses and doctors visited our room and told us the good news namely we would be taken to Tuzla.



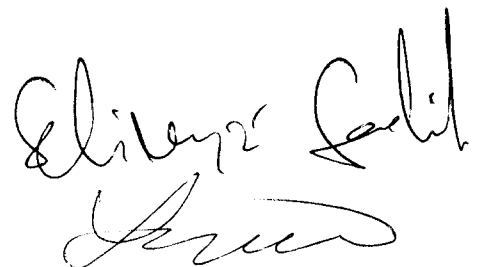
Ten or twenty minutes before the second arrival of the ICRC people Momir Nikolić came to our room. I saw that he visited the other rooms with wounded also. He was accompanied by Milomir- the former chief of Bratunac police and there was a nurse with them. I do not know her name but she was a wife of the director of the health centre in Bratunac, Nikola Ždrakanović.

They were going from one wounded to another wounded and the nurse was explaining the nature of the injury. Milomir was holding the list of wounded people who were in Bratunac Hospital. After Momir Nikolic would question each wounded person for a minute or two and then decide what was to be done with the wounded person. Milomir then wrote on the list as a result of what Nikolic decided. They came to me, I don't know what Nikolić said to the others but I heard what he said to the others close by and to me. He recognised me and he said "how come that you are here" or similar words. He asked me "how come you are here my neighbour", I responded to him as a professor, as he was my professor before. I said "Professor, because of the circumstances". He asked me if I was a soldier and I said I was for the time that I needed to survive, I was as much as I needed to survive. Then he turned towards Milomir and he said "He's staying". Then I begged him once more "Professor, please let me go to Tuzla", I was almost crying.

He said "What kind of a good neighbour would I be if I did not cure you completely and send you back to Tuzla so you could chase the Serbs around Majevisa again". Then he went on to question Burić who was next to me. He also questions Burić for a long time because he was from Osmače, they thought of this as a Muslim stronghold which provided a lot of Muslim fighters. He asked him if he had a position in the military and asked him if he participated in this or that action. This Burić was in charge of education for children in Srebrenica. I believe that of the fact that Burić was severally wounded he let him go to Tuzla.

At that time the ICRC representatives arrived accompanied by Dutch Doctors and Doctor Vujić from Bratunac. Because I studied a bit of German I listened to this doctor speak in German, I did not realise very well at this time but I understood that he was begging Nikolic to allow the rest of the wounded to go to Tuzla. This conversation was between the Dutch Doctor and Doctor Vujić and Nikolic. Doctor Vujić was supporting that all the wounded be transferred to Tuzla. Nikolić replied literally "I'm in charge here, if you want you can take those that I selected, if not you can leave them here I know what to do with them". This was directed at the ICRC, particularly an older lady with grey hair. At this time others from the Red Cross collected the forms from us that we filled in. They then loaded the wounded onto vehicles, those that couldn't walk they loaded them on stretchers.

As I was desperate I approached some local who told me he was the driver for ICRC and he was from Trebinje and that he could not help me. Then I didn't know if there were some more people to stay in Potocari or with me at the hospital. When they were almost at the end of the loading there was no one left in the room except me, and then Doctor Vujić came running into my room and he told me there is one empty seat left may be we can put you in the convoy. So at that moment I went out the hospital door with him and then I could see the situation. There was a truck and many jeeps, maybe more than 10 and about 40 people there and amongst them I also noticed some UN soldiers. I was too afraid at this time to worry about too many details. I stayed at the door and Doctor Vujić went to the Red Cross and they asked Nikolić if I could go but it was no good.

As I was desperate I came back inside, and I didn't go to my room but another room and I saw Gračanlić Dzemo crying on his bed. Half an hour after Rd Cross left with the wounded Ductbat came in with more wounded, they brought 7 wounded that had been in Potocari at the UN base before that. Some of the names of those people are Hasanović Aziz, Vilić Sadik, Jusić Kasim, Smajlović Idriz and Hajrudin Alić. After these new arrivals we were guarded then by new people, before we were guarded by a group I believed to be war invalids and then when the new wounded arrived we were guarded by Military Police from Bratunac Brigade. They wore white belts and the first guard that I saw was Zarić Rade who was a football player and I used to play football with him. He was from Bratunac.


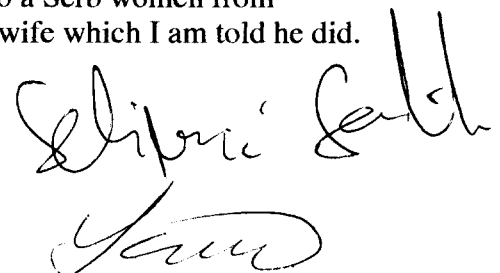
Then I found out from these Potocari wounded that Momir Nikolic had also made a selection of them in Potocari. These 7 told me that they were separated, put onto an UNPROFOR truck and then taken to Bratunac, they did not know what happened to the rest who stayed. They mentioned the names of some who stayed in Potocari including Bajro Salihović, who was born in 1962, we were drafted together, he was from a place called Biljaca, his father's name Šaćir. He was wounded on his arm and face but he could move around. There was also Semir Hrustić, who was from the village of Sljivovica, Srebrenica municipality, he was maybe born 1972 or 73, his father's name was I think Jakub. Hamdija Hasanović who was from Žanjevo village, in Bratunac municipality born in 1969 or 70 and I don't know his father's name. Izam Osmanović who was from Zapolje, who was maybe born in 1970 or 72. All these 4 people were able to move around even though they were wounded.

In the statement I gave to the ICTY in November 2000 it is said that these 4 were taken towards Tuzla but got lost on the way. What I know is that these 4 people were in Potocari when I was taken from there and I was told that they remained there when the 7 other Potocari wounded were brought to us in Bratunac Hospital. What I can confirm is that these 4 people were wounded on the same occasion as I with some other persons and that we were all taken to the Srebrenica Hospital. From there we were transported on the 11th of July by UNPROFOR to Potocari, and I saw them for the last time in Potocari on the 12th of July 1995.

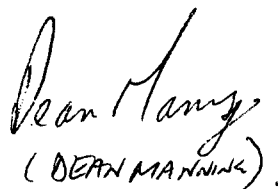
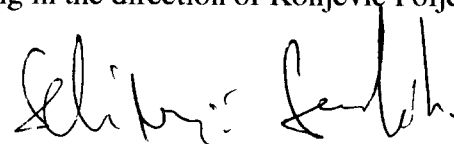
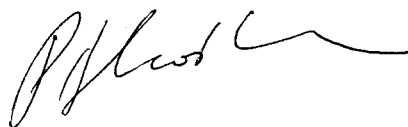
That night, after the separations and the Potocari wounded had arrived, the Commander of the Bratunac Brigade, that's how he introduced himself, came to the room, I think he said he was Ognjenović. He told us that there was a lot of pressure on him, that the local inhabitants wanted to execute us but that he would do everything in his power to ensure we survived the night. That was a difficult night but they reinforced the guards and nothing happened. So the following morning they started loading us to be taken away. This included the 7 wounded from Potocari and the two of us, I also saw that there were other wounded in another part of the hospital. There were in total 22 of us. These people later also told me that they had been separated from other wounded by Momir Nikolić.

We were transported onto a heavy truck, a commercial truck for the transport of goods. I know the name of the driver of the truck as Marinko, his first name, he was in Bratunac and he used to work as a driver in the transport company Vihor. We were transported to what I later found out was Batkovići along the road going by the river Drina which was not paved.

It was a long trip, we arrived at about 10 in the night. The guards on the truck explained that we had a flat tyre on the truck and that's why it took so long. The driver of the truck recognised one of the wounded, Sadik Vilić, who was married to a Serb woman from Batkovići itself. This driver told him that he would inform his wife which I am told he did.

Momir Nikolic was my teacher in 1979, he was a teacher of Defence and Protection in Bratunac and I knew him well. As the JNA has a reserve makeup he was the commander of a sabotage and reconnaissance unit and I was also a member of that reserve unit in 1987 and 1988. I think that 3 years before the war started he began to work in the municipal staff of the Territorial Defence based in Bratunac. His father's name is Vaso. Momir lived at a place called Repovac which is at the entrance to Bratunac going in the direction of Konjević Polje.



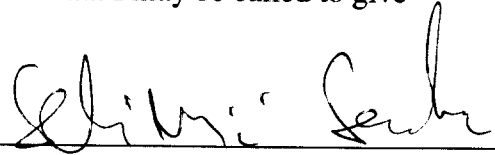
(DEAN MANJINK).



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: _____



Dated: _____

10.11.2001.

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

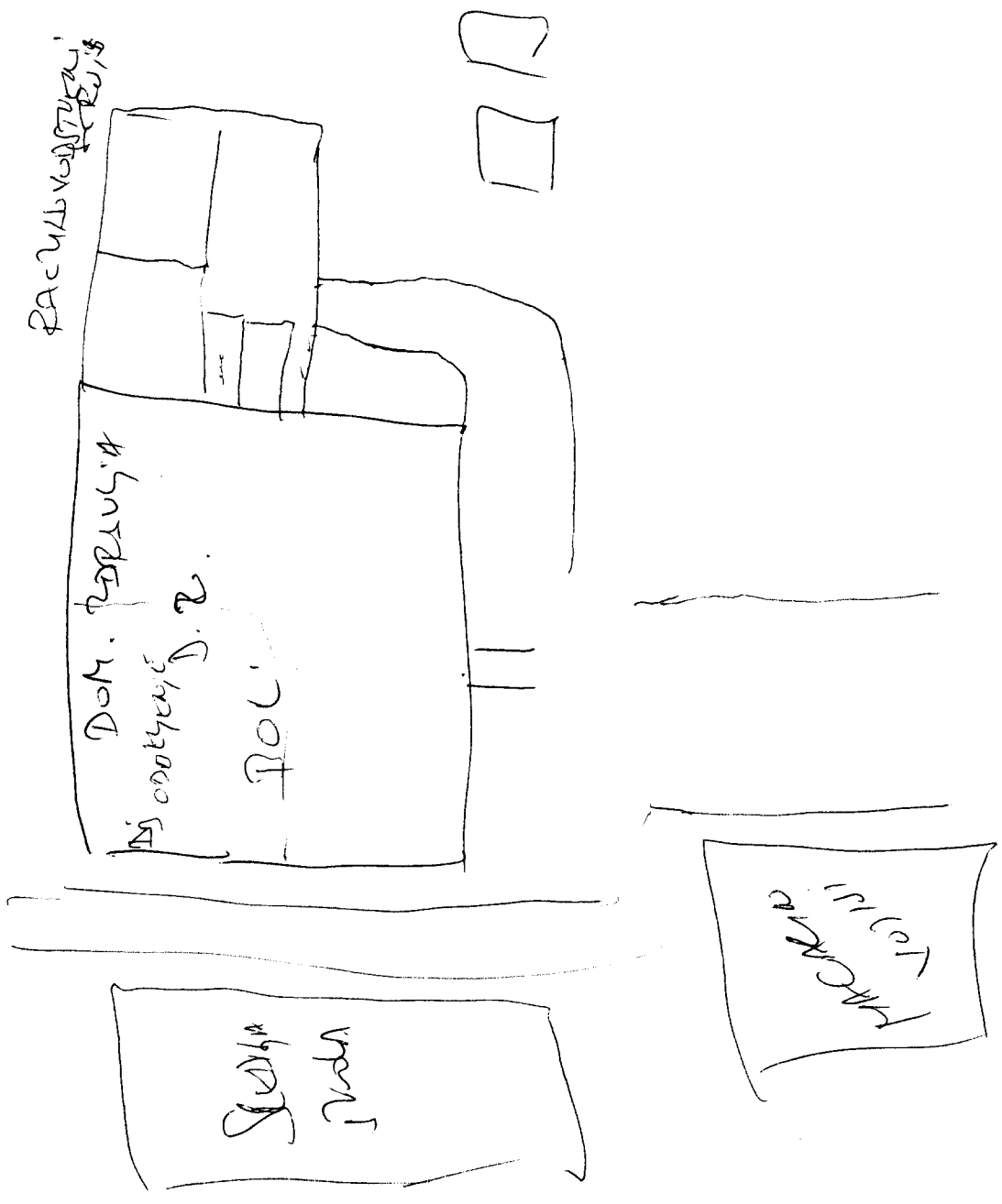
I, MUHAMEDOVIC, Samir Interpreter, certify that:

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 SELIMOVIC Sadik 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 SELIMOVIC Sadik who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.
4. SELIMOVIC Sadik 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: 10 November 2001

Signed: _____

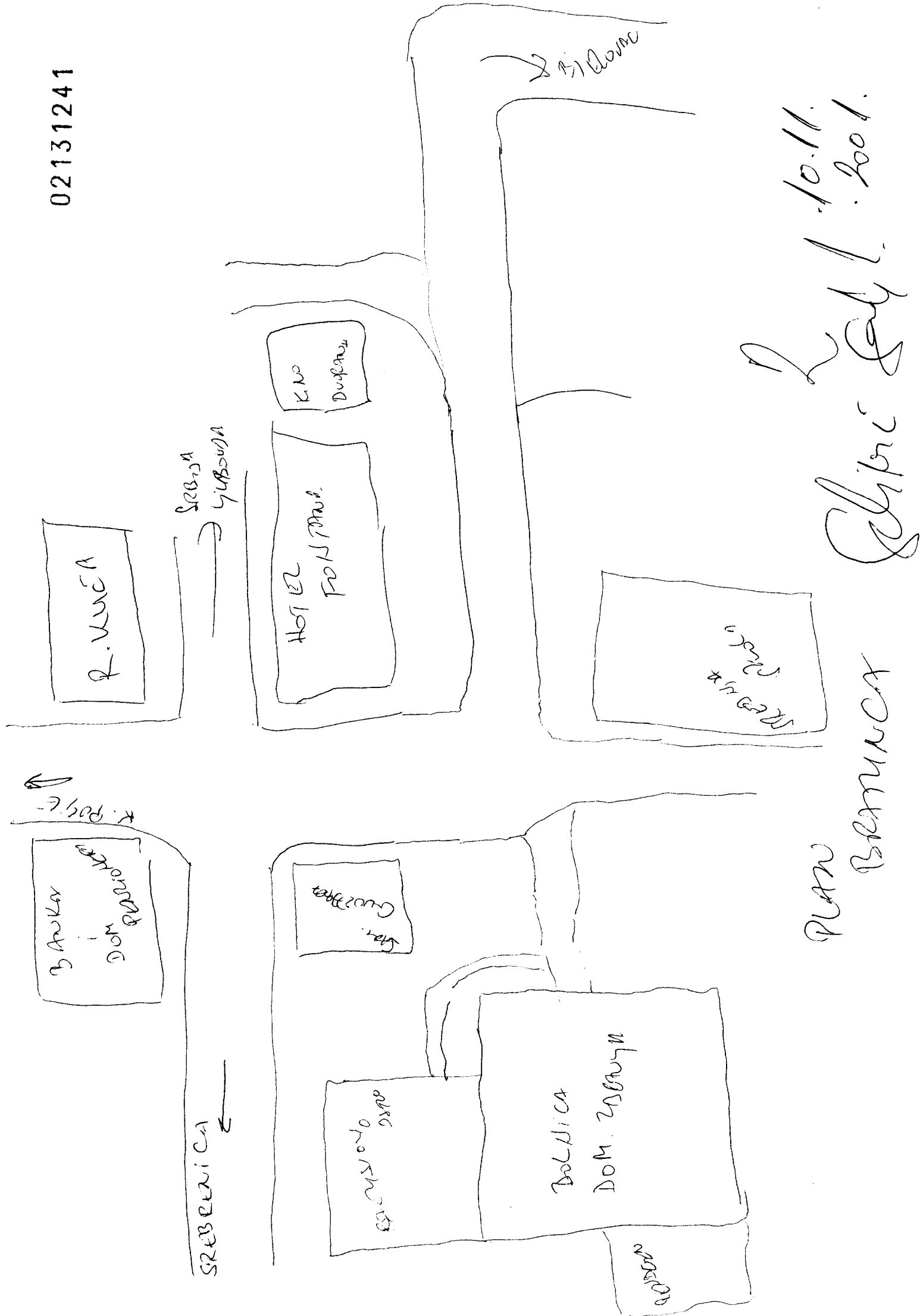
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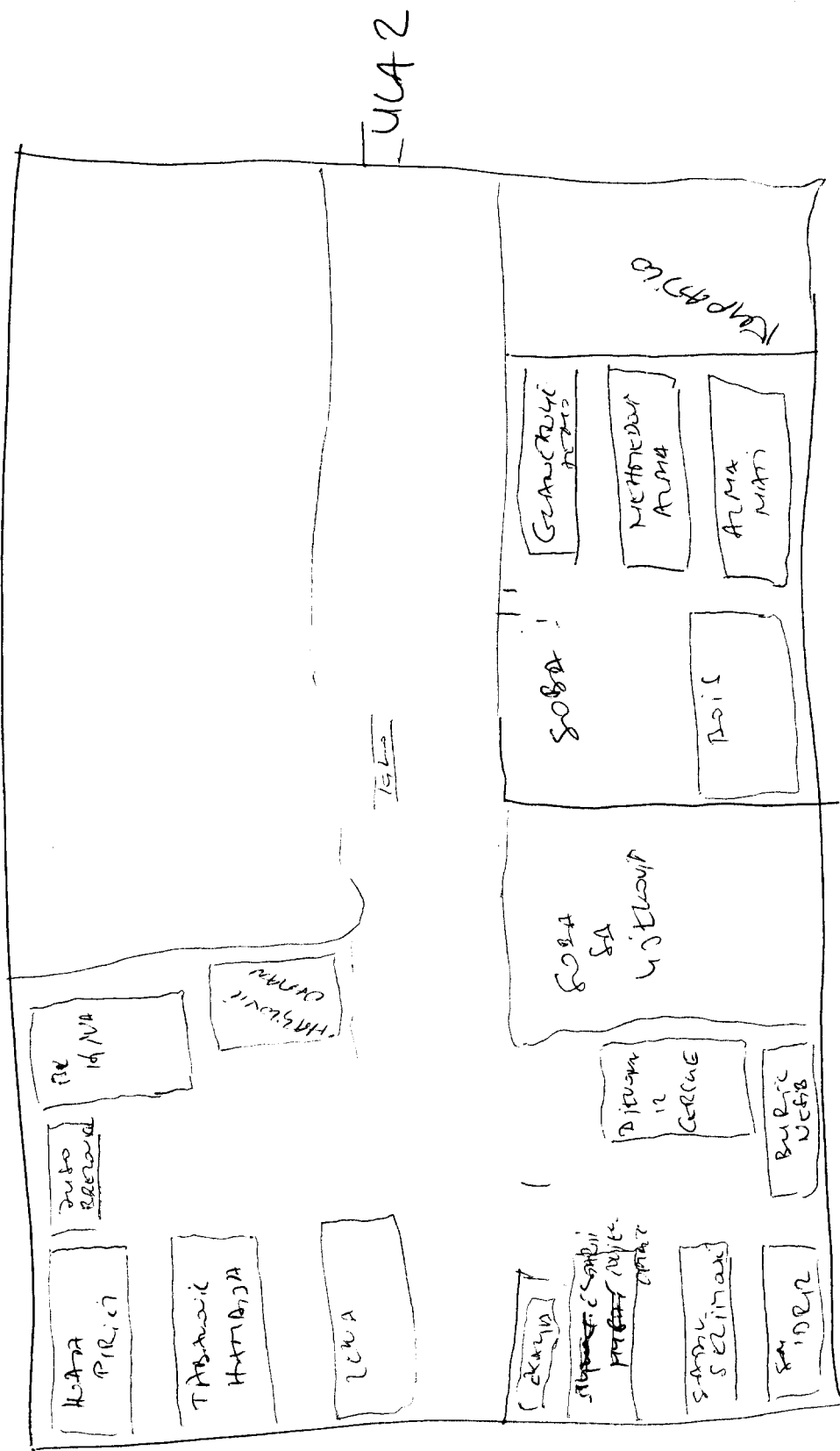
Elmeri Seidl
10.11.2001.

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Giprić Edil.



Рачуноведство
Зубович
10.11.2001.