### 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:

**SMAJLOVIĆ** 

First Name(s): Idriz

Father's First Name: Jusif

Nickname:

Gender: Male

Date of Birth: 23-Mar-1956

Place of Birth: Tokoljaci,

Srebrenica Municipality

Ethnic Origin: Muslim

Religion: Islam

Language(s) Spoken: Bosnian

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

Language(s) Used in Interview: English and Bosnian

**Current Occupation:** 

Former: Locksmith

Date(s) of Interview(s): 17-Oct-2001 and 19-Oct-2001

Interviewer: Daniel Perry

Interpreter: Barbara Matijević

Names of all persons present during interview(s): Idriz SMAJLOVIĆ, Daniel Perry and

Barbara Matijević

Signature: Christine Tolsiz

Barbara Suetopuic

### WITNESS STATEMENT:

My name is Idriz SMAJLOVIĆ and I am giving 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. I realise that the information I am giving may be used to prosecute both people of Serbian ethnicity and /or people of Bosnian ethnicity.

The war in the region of Srebrenica started in April 1992. Once the war started and Srebrenica was taken by the VRS I escaped to the village of Tokoljaci where I joined the village guard. My unit the Tokoljaci TO was part of the Kragljivoda Brigade. The Commander of the Kragljivoda Brigade was Ibro DUDIĆ. The Kragljivoda Brigade was part of the Biljeg Battalion. Ahmo TEHIĆ commanded the Biljak Battalion.

I spent most of the war, until the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1993 guarding the village of Tokoljaci while the younger soldiers were used to attack other villages. I did not participate in any of the village attacks.

I recall during the early part of the war there was a nurse called "Rada". She was a Serb. She stayed behind when the Muslims recaptured Srebrenica. She worked as a nurse in a house not far from the hospital in Srebrenica. The house was located in Stari Grad. She would give the old and no good medicine to the Muslims and sell the good medicine on the side. I know this because she tried to inject me with the old medicine and I noticed this. I had problem with my back, rheumatism. I know that she injected my brother in-law Nurija MALAGIĆ with something and after that he died. He was just lightly wounded and should not have died from his wounds. He only had part of a shell from a grenade that went through his mouth and knocked some of his teeth out.

I heard that Nurse Rada was a spy. Everyone was suspicious of her but we were short of medical staff. She was watched all the time and I was told that she was caught spying. I heard that she gave information to the Serbian Army. I do not know what happened to her. I heard the house she was working in was shelled and maybe she died in the shelling. I do not know she just went missing. I do not know why she was not taken care of for being a spy. I do not know if she was ever imprisoned.

I remember that during late summer the Muslim Army from Srebrenica attacked the region of Podrovanje. When I went to Srebrenica to check on my house I heard that there were 3 or 4 prisoners taken during the attack on the Podrovanje region. I heard that the Serb POW's were part of a tank unit. I was told that they were being held in the MUP building prison. I was curious so I went down to the prison to see the POW's. I was curious about what happened to two women, Hatidža and Amira JAHIĆ. The were from my neighbouring village Radovćići and they were captured by the VRS. When I saw the POW's I did not know them so I did not ask them anything. I do not recall the names of these prisoners. The prison was in the basement of the MUP building. I entered the MUP building from behind where there was a special entrance that lead directly to the prison. I was standing on the outside of the entrance to the cell looking through the bars at the prisoners. I was about 10 meters away from the POW's. I saw 3 POW's. One of the POW's was wearing the old olive green KJNA uniform and the other two were wearing camouflage uniforms. I do not recall seeing any signs that the POW's were beaten.

Smof love dariz Bastara Matijeni

The police in civilian police uniform let me into the prison area. I do not know the names of the policemen that were on guard at the prison the day I visited the POW's. I know that I was told I could not talk directly to the POW's and I elected not to ask questions. I do not know who was in charge of the prison.

I know that the POW's were exchanged for the bodies of Akif USTIĆ and his men in the fall 1992. The exchange took place in the town of Vitez. I was told about this by soldiers in my battalion. I do not know who was in charge of the exchange for the Srebrenica Armed Forces.

Naser ORIĆ, the Commander of the Srebrenica Armed Forces would come to our territory every so often to discuss future military operations with the Commanders Ahmo TEHIĆ and Ibro DUDIĆ. They would meet in the house of Ibro DUDIĆ. The house was located in the village of Osat. I was not privy to the conversations in the house. The commander of my village went to these meetings. His name is Hedib SMAJLOVIĆ. He would brief his troops following these meetings. When instructions for attacks would come Hedib SMAJLOVIĆ would inform us that Naser ORIĆ has given instructions to attack and he needs volunteers. I recall that we received instructions from Naser ORIĆ to be part of the forces for the attacks on Skelani, Brežani, Kravica, Loznička Rijeka and Bjelovac. My Commander would tell the volunteers what their roles were. Whether they would have to do some reconnaissance or which direction to attack from.

On the rare occasion's Naser ORIĆ would come to our village and when he did we would line up our soldiers and Naser ORIĆ would speak to us. I recall that Naser ORIĆ gave speeches telling us that we had to be good men and to follow the Koran. Naser ORIĆ said that he received instructions from Alija IZETBEGOVIĆ saying that we should be the type of army that will attract the Serb soldiers to join the ABiH. Naser ORIĆ visited my village 2 or three times between April1992 and March 1993. Naser ORIĆ said that he wanted us to take prisoners because he wanted to exchange them. He said do not burn the villages because our villages were burnt and our people will have to live some where one day. He said that we can take food and clothes and other things that we needed but not to burn the villages. He would say that one day we will have our country and everyone would live in peace.

During the month of March 1993 the VRS with the support of the Serbian Army (Novi Sad Corps, Valjevo Corps and Užice Corps) were attacking our territory and we had to retreat to Srebrenica. I know that the Serb Army was supporting the VRS because some of the dead Serb soldiers had identification papers on them. General Morillon arrived and the area around Srebrenica became a demilitarised zone.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1995 while trying to help the DUCHBAT soldiers defend their positions in the village of Jadar I stepped on a land mine and part of my heal and achilles tendon was blown away.

I know that in the month of June 1995 after I got wounded some of the ABiH soldiers in the Srebrenica left the pocket and attacked VRS positions outside of the pocket. They attacked the village of Višnjice.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1995 the VRS entered Srebrenica. I was being treated for my wounds in the Srebrenica hospital at the time. I noticed that the medical staff were packing their things and leaving. I knew at that point that Srebrenica had fallen into Serb hands.

Gurajtorie Votoriz Boban Matipuric

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1995 I was transported in a garbage truck with about 25 other wounded people. We could not get to the UN compound so the UN soldiers put us in three smaller UN vehicles and we were transported to the UN compound in Potočari. We were taken into the factory. The Red Cross officials were there and they were taking care of us.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1995 General MLADIĆ, along with Serb Officer Milisav GAVRIĆ and Serb Officer Momir NIKOLIĆ, entered the factory. There were also some other people who were carrying cameras and video equipment. They were taking photographs and filming the wounded. I recall General MLADIĆ telling GAVRIĆ and NIKOLIĆ to check the wounded and to capture those that should be captured. I think they were checking our wounds to see if they were caused by military actions. NIKOLIĆ and GAVRIĆ asked us about our wounds and where we got wounded. Following these verifications by NIKLOIĆ and GAVRIĆ, I along with 6 other wounded were separated from the rest. We were still in the factory but separated from the rest. The names of the people that were separated with me are:

SELIMOVIĆ, Sadik,

VILIĆ, Sadik,

HASANOVIĆ, Aziz.

SALĆIMOVIĆ, Amir,

JUSIĆ, Kasim,

ALIĆ, Hajrudin, (1959) (He died in prison because the VRS would not treat his wounds.)

I recall that as we were being separated the Red Cross Representative and General MLADIĆ we arguing because the Red Cross Representative wanted to evacuate the wounded. Red Cross Representative wanted to have guarantees that the wounded will be cared for. I heard General MLADIĆ say, "Those that should be captured are to be captured". The Red Cross representative was a woman of French nationality. She was about 30 years old, shoulder length curly blond hair. She was short and a little over weight. She did visit Bijelina after I got there. I saw her crying in Bijelina.

It was night-time on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1995 when the seven of us that were separated from the rest were transported to Bratunac. I am not sure of the exact location of the detention facility in Bratunac. I was in some kind of barracks.

I was interrogated that same night by GAVRIĆ and NIKOLIĆ in Bratunac. They were asking about the attacks by the ABiH and who were involved in these attacks. I was asked about the members of my family that were in the army. For every answer that they did not like I got kicked.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1995 the other wounded people that were held in the village of Tišča where transported to Bratunac and we were reunited. There were 15 of the approximately 20 wounded people that were with me at the UN compound the previous day. I learned that 4 of the young men were taken away by the VRS and not heard of since. The names of the missing men that I can remember are Izam LNU, from the village of Zapolje, Hamdia(Father's name Alija, from the village of Žanjevo) LNU, Semir (Jakub) HRUSTIĆ

Surgitorie Totris, Barbara Matylane

from the village of Šljivice. All of us were taken by transport truck to Bijelina where we were held in the VRS prison camp. We travelled from Bratunac along the Drina dirt road passing through the villages Krasan Polje, Osamsko, Polon, Zelinje, Drinjaća, Zvornik and on to Bijelina.

The person in charge of the camp was aka "Čelik" that means, "steel". He had the rank of "Potpukovnik" 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant Colonel. I know this because I heard his men call him lieutenant Colonel. I am able to identify this man.

Another VRS soldier who was a guard at the prison was Corporal Dragan LUJIĆ. He is from the village of Čađavica.

We were beaten in the prison and they focussed beating on our wounds. Everyone was in the same room and we were more than 200 in the room.

On three occasions I was taken before a military judge. The court was held in a barrack near by. The first time I was taken before the Judge was between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1995. I do not know the name of the Judge.

As I stated earlier Hajruden ALIĆ died in prison because they would not replace his catheter. I would like to mention also that Ramo MUJIĆ, who was also wounded and in the prison with me, died from his wounds because the VRS would not treat him.

We did not receive medical treatment until the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1995 when the Red Cross representatives arrived at the prison. We continued to be beaten and humiliated but we received some treatment.

While in prison we were given one meal a day but the meal was usually pork and bread. Some pig's ears and tails were fed to us. I know that in the prison there was a building in which the interrogations took place. Some of the POW's were taken there for, in some cases up to 4 weeks and when they were returned they were always disfigured.

I was exchanged on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1995. We were exchanged one Muslim for one Serb. I know that 9 Muslim children were also exchanged.

This statement is true to the best of my recollection. Should I be asked to elaborate on this statement I am will to do so.

Suglone Tariz

Baban putyane

### 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:

#### INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

I, Barbara Matijević, 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 Idriz SMAJLOVIĆ 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 Idriz SMAJLOVIĆ who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.

4. Idriz SMAJLOVIĆ 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:

Signed:



# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

BAZ-381139

Zagreb, 13.02.1996

trazenja

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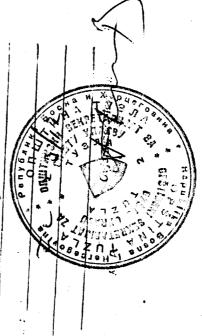
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## REPUBLIKA BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA LIČNA KARTA OSOBNA KARTA

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Jedinstveni matični broj IDRIZ

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Ime roditelja SMAJLOVIĆ

Prezime

BH 0917183

23.03.1956.g. Tokoljaci Datum i mjesto rođenja
Srebrenica, BjH Općina i država rodenja
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