

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 INFORMATION

---

Last Name: STOPARIĆ

First Name(s): Goran

Father's Name: Mihajlo

Nickname: Šida

Gender: Male

Date of Birth: 17<sup>th</sup> January 1968

Place of Birth: Sremska Mitrovica

Address:

Telephone: Home:  
Office:

---

Ethnic Origin: Serb

Religion: Orthodox

Language(s) Spoken: B/C/S

Language(s) Used in Interview: English and Serbian

Current Occupation: Invalid, retired

---

Date(s) of interview(s) and place: The Hague, 6 July 2006

Interviewers: Philip Caine

Interpreter: Svetlana Jovanović

Names of all other persons present during interview: Mathias Marcussen

---

Signature of witness: Stoparić Goran

Signature(s) of other person(s) present: Svetlana Jovanović

Caine

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



**RULE 89(F) STATEMENT BY GORAN STOPARIĆ**  
**WITNESS STATEMENT**

1. My name is Goran STOPARIĆ. I was born in Šid on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1968. I was raised in Šid. I am not married and I have no children. I completed the High School for Agricultural Machinery in Šid in 1986. In 1987 I joined the JNA for my military service. I served in Pristina where I specialised in infantry reconnaissance. I spent one year in the army and I was always in Pristina.
2. After completing my military service I worked with my father at his construction company until May 1991. I was not involved in politics and I was not a member of the SKJ (League of Communists).
3. In May 1991 after the events in Borovo Selo, in which I did not participate, an office was opened at the Local Community Centre in Šid. This office was called the TO (Territorial Defence) of SBWS (Slavonia Baranja Western Srem). Through the media the TO-SBWS, with the support of the Serbian Radical Party (SRS), called for people to join the volunteer units. In May 1991 the SRS had two offices in Šid. One was located at Milenko PETRIĆ aka Čiča's house and the other office was provided by the Municipality and was located next to the SPS (Socialist Party of Serbia) office.
4. There were 19 SRS vojvodas. In order to become a vojvoda you had to have 500 volunteers under your control. About half the vojvodas were from Serbia. The others were locals in Croatia and Bosnia.
5. I fell for this nationalistic ideology as thousands of other Serbs did, and sometime in July 1991 I joined the volunteers. I went to the office of the TO, where they wanted to see my military booklet. If I had a stamp indicating that I had received a war time assignment, they couldn't accept me, but since I did not have a stamp, I was accepted as a volunteer. At the TO I was told that I was going to serve at the war front as a member of the TO-SBWS. In fact I was assigned to the TO and I was given an old JNA uniform.
6. This status as a TO volunteer lasted for a week. After that I got a military summons from the JNA. The summons stated that I was to report to the 1<sup>st</sup> Guards Brigade of the JNA and I became a volunteer member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Guards Brigade.
7. In August 1991 in Đeletovci I saw Slobodan MEDIĆ aka BOCA for the first time. He had a group of well trained men. They were there privately, and they had new modern equipment. There were around 20 of them. I did not know at the time who sponsored BOCA and his men, but I realised later on when the Scorpion unit was formed that they were under the DB (State Security) of the Republic of Serbia.

S.G.

81.

K0529685

8. While I was in Šid, I was invited by BOCA, to join the Scorpions, which I agreed to do. The headquarters of Scorpions was in Đeletovci. I became an instructor in the Scorpions and commander of its special reconnaissance unit.
9. I learned that the Scorpions were a special unit of the DB, formed as a satellite unit of the Red Berets at a meeting in Novi Sad between Mihalj KERTES, Dule FILIPOVIĆ, Slobodan GRAHOVAC (Minister of Defence of the Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK)), BOCA, Radovan STOJČIĆ aka BADŽA, and Rajo BOŽOVIĆ. Others may have been present. This meeting took place three months or so before I joined the Scorpions.
10. The Red Berets were the base, the skeleton of all the DB special units. The other units, such as the Scorpions, were satellites. The other satellite units I know of were: the Grey Wolves from near Zvornik; the CSB (Central Security Service) from Doboj; Arkan's Tigers; the Wolves from Vučjak; and the Vipers, commanded by GUMAR. The Scorpions and Arkan's Tigers were the strongest. When Arkan's Tigers were disbanded in 1995, half of them were transferred to the JSO. GUMAR's guys also joined the JSO after the Erdut agreement. Apart from the special MUP units there were also special units of the VRS that were supplied by the DB. Whenever special units in Bosnia were formed there was at least one guy from the Red Berets and he would give them equipment from the DB as a "gift". FRENKI basically says as much on the Kula ceremony video.
11. Each of the units – and these were the best equipped units in the war – had on its left shoulder the emblem with the sword and the 4S's. These were all units on the DB payroll. The "internal insignia" of the unit, such as the Tigers, the Grey Wolves, or the Scorpions designation, was on the right soldier. We also had a Scorpion badge on our red berets. SAJ units also had the 4S's badge. In the JSO everyone had a red beret. In the satellite units only 50% or so had the right to wear a red beret; only instructors, commanders, and distinguished members could wear red berets. The rule was that one should earn the right.
12. The Tigers were based in Erdut; the Red Berets, later the JSO, were in Ilok; and the Scorpions were in Đeletovci. We were all right along the border with Serbia. We worked closely together. The JSO/Red Berets were the main guys. They went into action with both the Tigers and with the Scorpions, but the Tigers and Scorpions never went into action together.
13. While I was with the Scorpions at Đeletovci we were regularly visited by operatives of the Serbian DB and they brought us whatever equipment we needed. They also brought our salaries in envelopes. There was no RSK DB, only the Serbian DB with associates based in Krajina. They had Serbian DB ID cards. Every two or three days people from the DB in Šid would come to see us and from Belgrade DB operatives would come as well. Uniforms we would get at Mile DRAGIĆ's factory. He makes uniforms for both the military and the police even today.
14. The Scorpions had two companies – one was commanded by BOCA's brother and another by a local man. My initial assignment was to train the soldiers of the two companies and to select the 30 best soldiers to form a special reconnaissance platoon,

Signature

S.C.  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

Others present

3

K0529686

- the spearhead of the unit. I was immediately issued an employment booklet stating that I was employed by the Krajina Oil Company and was given a high salary; in return the Scorpions secured the oil facilities of the company. We also received a salary from the Serbian DB and I received a third salary from BOCA himself.
15. When I arrived there were about 200 men in the Scorpions: about half had previous experience the other half did not .
  16. The order came from the top that 60% of our men should be from the RS and RSK and 40% from Serbia. This was so the people at the top in Serbia could always deny the link between the Scorpions and Serbia. They could always claim that these were special forces of the RS and RSK and that the men from Serbia among them were only volunteers.
  17. After forming the reconnaissance team, I was made commander of this special unit within the Scorpions. I reported to Major BOCA. BOCA reported to LEGIJA, MRGUD, FRENKI, and ultimately STANIŠIĆ.
  18. We built a whole headquarters complex at Deletovci, including accommodation, kitchens, gyms, etc. Our expenses were paid by the DB and by the Krajina Oil Company, which provided most of our funds. I was issued an identification booklet by the Scorpions with my photo and rank. It indicated that I was a member of MUP Serbia State Security (DB). My identification booklet did not say RSK, it said Republic of Serbia. It also authorised me to requisition vehicles and communications equipment as needed; this was the same authorisation that members of the DB had. We were told we received the same salaries as other members of the Red Berets. But we actually received more because we had the oil company as our sponsor as well. We were always paid in cash.
  19. Immediately after forming the reconnaissance unit I was deployed for reconnaissance activities in Croatia. Usually when we scouted we tried not to kill any members of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO), in order to maintain our secrecy. But we placed mines where we thought they would move and we set up ambushes. When there was an order to capture people we also did so. The natural border between RSK and Croatia was the Bosut River, and we operated on their side of the river. A few time we carried out scouting actions for other brigades, for instance around Beli Manastir, Osijek, and toward Vinkovci.
  20. Units of the Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina (VRSK) would request that we conduct reconnaissance missions for them. I recall carrying out operations for the special units of the VRSK, that is, their military police. General Lončar of the VRSK always asked for our services. We even gave him equipment when he formed his own reconnaissance unit. When Lončar came to visit our base he had to notify us first; it was as if a lieutenant were visiting. He never commanded us. He had no real significance to us. When he came he came with a request, never an order.
  21. We were directly ordered into action by MRGUD, the Defence Minister of RSK. The VRSK would approach the unit for assistance through MRGUD, or through BOCA directly if the VRSK commander personally knew him. For local actions BOCA had

Signature

S. G.  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

Others present

4


K0529687

- authority to deploy us. But for actions further away BOCA always had to go through Belgrade. Every morning we had a meeting at his office and he would assign tasks for the day. I was always present for these meetings. On Mondays there was a special meeting just for the reconnaissance unit giving us orders for the whole week.
22. Whenever BOCA went for meetings in Belgrade MRGUD went with him. He reported to FRENKI and to STANIŠIĆ.
  23. From Croatia we went to fight in Bihać in Bosnia and Herzegovina twice. (2003, 84)
  24. Later, about two weeks before the fall of Srebrenica, BOCA told me that the Scorpions were going to Bosnia and Herzegovina again, this time to Sarajevo. One of the companies and the reconnaissance unit went, with TOMIĆ as the commander of the reconnaissance unit. TOMIĆ had replaced me as commander when I left. I just went to assist as BOCA asked.
  25. A few days after the fall of the enclaves of Srebrenica, Žepa and Goražde in 1995 all the DB units were pulled out of the Srebrenica area. I left the unit again.
  26. The so-called blockade on military equipment crossing into Republika Šrpska (RS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina may have been serious at the beginning, but in practice it was only for the international community. In reality, thousands of trucks would cross at night from Serbia into the RS.
  27. After I left the Scorpions I was at home for some time until I was contacted by a DB inspector in Šid, who told me that the war was about to end and all the good people should be put in one special unit. He told me to go to the Omorika Hotel on Tara Mountain and call a number that I was given. I did what he said and was picked up by someone who took me to Tara Hotel on Tara Mountain. I was given a room at the Tara Hotel and the following day I met a DB inspector. He asked if I had a criminal conviction. I did not have any, but I was told that it would not have been a problem if I had. About 50 or 60 of us gathered at the Tara Hotel. We were given track suits with a MUP sign. We became reserve members of the JSO. When my name was called out it appeared they knew about my past in the DB's Scorpion unit. They knew my rank and had probably done a background check. I signed a 6 month contract and then after a few months I signed a 3 year contract with the Red Berets/JSO. In the contract the unit was called the JSO – the Special Operations Unit of the Serbian DB – and the contract had the insignia of the 4S's with the sword and the wolf. It also had the stamp of the JSO.
  28. I remained with the Red Berets" until the signing of the Erdut agreement and the peaceful integration of Eastern Slavonia. I only did one operation with the JSO. It was in RSK between Šid and Vinkovci. After the operation the command decided to reduce the manpower of the JSO. Anyone who wanted to terminate his contract could, and I decided to do so. I did sign, however, an agreement to be in the reserves of the JSO and I could be called upon if I was need in wartime.
  29. Upon leaving the JSO /Jedinica za specijalne operacije-Special purpose unit/ which would have been during late 1995, just before or at the time of the signing of the

Signature


  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials


  
Others present

5

- “Erdut Agreement” I returned to my home town of Šid where, as instructed, I returned my weapons and equipment to the Red Berets Training Camp “Pajzoš” near Ilok.
30. I then opened a café - bar with my girl - friend Tanja. The café - bar was called “Baby Blue” and was located on the ground floor of Tanja’s grandfather’s house where we lived. It was a popular meeting place for former Scorpion members and MUP (policemen). A large number of Scorpion members lived in and around Šid.
  31. In Kosovo terrorist acts against the MUP had increased and many considered that war was inevitable. Anti-terrorist action by the forces of Serbia increased during 1998 against the Albanian Kosovar terrorists. They were known as the UCK (Kosovo Liberation Army/KLA). The situation in Kosovo was a main topic of conversation in my café – bar.
  32. During 1998 I remember seeing MUP officers returning from tours of duty in Kosovo with large amounts of money and jewellery. It was obvious to me that the money and jewellery were the proceeds of looting by them in Kosovo.
  33. A number of policemen suggested that I should re-join and get involved in the action in Kosovo. I always said that I was too busy running my business.
  34. In 1999 several days (2 – 3) prior to the commencement of the NATO bombing of Serbia, BOCA visited my house accompanied by his bodyguards. I was not present and he spoke with my girl - friend Tanja. She chased him out of the house. He left his telephone number and told Tanja to tell me to get in contact.
  35. However I met with him several minutes later and had a conversation. He said that “the Yanks or Yankees” were going to hit Serbia hard and that I was needed. He told me that the old Scorpion unit was being re-formed but that this time it would be attached to the SAJ /Specijalna anti-teroristička jedinica MUP-a Srbije-Special anti-terrorist unit of MUP of Serbia/. I didn’t say anything at that time to BOCA. I didn’t agree or disagree to re – join.
  36. I returned to my café – bar. It was filled with Scorpion members. BOCA had visited them all with his proposition. Milovan TOMIĆ was present. He was a friend and former Scorpion colleague whom I’d fought with previously. Milovan gave me a note – book which BOCA had given him with the instructions that I was to enter the names of those wishing to volunteer to join the SCORPIONS for action in Kosovo. Actually, the same day when we were leaving for Kosovo, I gave the note-book to Petar aka Pera PETRAŠEVIĆ who also had similar note-book where he entered the names of those who were re-joining the Scorpions.
  37. I took down the names of those volunteering. BOCA telephoned me later and asked about how many names I had. I had over a hundred names. Serbs from Croatia had even come to Šid to volunteer. It is a fact that around 70% of the Scorpions who went to Kosovo volunteered in Šid. I told BOCA that I couldn’t go to Kosovo. I made the excuse that I was too busy with the coffee – bar. BOCA said don’t be stupid or crazy that I was needed. He said that TOMIĆ couldn’t run the Reconnaissance unit alone.

Signature

  
 Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

  
 Others present

TOMIĆ was known to lose men in combat. If I didn't volunteer BOCA said that he would come to Šid and serve me personally with the mobilization order.

38. I was told by BOCA that three buses would be near the park in Šid at 5pm the next day and I was to be there with the Scorpion volunteers. (This was the day that the NATO war officially started 24 March 1999). Pera PETRAŠEVIĆ, BOCA's bodyguard had organized the volunteers to rendezvous there.
39. I went to the park the next day at 5pm along with TOMIĆ. The buses were there. They were civilian buses with civilian drivers. The majority of the townspeople of Šid turned up to see us off. When everyone was on board we set off to BOCA's house in Novi Sad. The third bus was not full. We were all in civilian clothes. There were approximately 120 men. Many of the volunteers had no experience in fighting and were untrained. I was surprised that we were going to be a detachment of the SAJ. The SAJ I knew consisted of police – trained anti - terrorist specialists. This was the first time to my knowledge that untrained volunteers would operate alongside the SAJ.
40. On arrival at BOCA's house, we were joined by BOCA, his brother Dragan and other volunteers. BOCA and his brother were in uniform. Also there was the man I knew from my previous military service as "MRGUD". He was in civilian clothes. A BMW with Belgrade registration plates was parked outside BOCA's house with two men in civilian clothes whom I assumed were MRGUD's bodyguards. He had been at one time the Defence Minister of the RSK. I didn't know his role at this time but I knew he was with the DB / MUP and I assumed he had probably organized the re - formation of the Scorpions. He had always been a supporter of the Scorpions. The three buses then set off towards Belgrade. MRGUD was in front in the BMW. BOCA was next in his jeep. We did not travel in convoy because of NATO but travelled some minutes apart. Altogether there were around 120 men / volunteers in total. We all had been told not to bring any of our former or personal military equipment with us as we would be issued with uniforms and weapons before going to Kosovo. I had brought with me a pair of night – visor glasses that I owned. These were known as "electronic-eyes".
41. The buses drove to a field just outside and to the south of Belgrade and close to the Niš highway. It was dark by the time we arrived. Here in the field were policemen in uniform at desks with piles of uniforms. They were in a field because of the NATO bombing of military and MUP bases / barracks. Here we were all issued with two sets of uniform, a combat vest, patches, gloves boots etc. We had both the SAJ patch / insignia (the sword with the 4Ss (Serbian S)) and the Scorpion patch / insignia, one for each arm of the uniform. The hat had the regular MUP badge. We were given a camouflage colored baseball type hat (with a peak) with MUP insignia.
42. The uniforms were of NATO color and pattern. One uniform consisted of a tunic jacket and trousers and the other was a one-piece overall with many pockets. We were also issued with "phantom" hats – these were black woollen hats with eye - holes that could be pulled down over the face like a mask. Some preferred using camouflage paint on the face and others the camouflage netting that dangled from the helmet covering the face. We were issued with all.

Signature S. G. Initials SG  
 Goran STOPARIĆ Others present [Signature]

K0529690

43. Because of the NATO situation and the fact that we were expected at our destination (unknown to us at that time) before dawn we did not spend much time here. The buses were dealt one at a time and quickly. When the volunteers had received their kit they returned to the bus which when full then drove off. The next bus - load of volunteers was then dealt with. We travelled in civilian clothes. No weapons were issued at this stage but they were being transported in a light blue truck that followed behind us. We drove on Niš highway south towards Kuršumlija. Again we did not travel in strict convoy fashion. SAJ officers accompanied us in jeeps as BOCA did. MRGUD again travelled in his BMW with his bodyguards.
44. The buses took us to a spa hotel in Prolom Banja situated several kilometres north of Kosovo. We arrived at around 5am. MRGUD took us into the hotel and we were allocated rooms. The rooms were comfortable. This hotel was the SAJ Logistics base.
45. We were here for two days. Uniforms were sorted out by swapping with others to get a better fit. Platoon and unit commanders and personnel were allocated. During this time I was tasked to show / train the new recruits in what was basically house and street fighting, using grenades to clear houses etc. Approximately 50% of the volunteers had no combat experience. In the following 24 hours, I gave a quick training to the newly recruited unit members. We were also issued with our weapons and ammunition. We were all issued with a M70 7.62mm calibre automatic rifle with five magazines of 30 rounds in each. They were of domestic manufacture having been made at Kragujevac, Serbia. The weapons were brand new and covered in grease and oil. It took two days / nights to thoroughly de-grease and clean them for use. "ZOLJAS", hand-held rocket launchers and grenades were also issued. The weapons were issued by Srđan MANOJLOVIĆ who was a former active JNA officer and a former Scorpion. He was assisted by his son Peđa.
46. When we left Prolom Banja we drove towards Kosovo and Podujevo. We did not know our destination at this time but after a short time on the road we stopped at Đavolja Varoš where BOCA outlined the intended mission to the unit commanders. We were to be deployed in Podujevo, where according to Boca, half the town was in Serbian control. Our task was to "clear up the other half." By this he meant us to seize control of everything. We then continued towards Podujevo where we arrived between 3pm - 4pm.
47. We stopped outside the Podujevo police station. It had been demolished by NATO bombing. We drove on for about 1 km where the buses stopped and we exited the buses. As it was late afternoon BOCA told us to find accommodation for ourselves overnight in the local houses which were unoccupied. The mission would commence the following morning. BOCA went off to report to the SAJ Commander. However I don't know who BOCA actually reported to. The SAJ members who already arrived there before us and with the assistance of local MUP we received the information about the part of the town where Kosovo Albanians lived.
48. I understood that the overall SAJ Commander was named FNU TRAJKOVIĆ but I didn't see him at this time. TRAJKOVIĆ's deputy was named FNU TUTINAC. There was also a senior SAJ officer in Podujevo known only as "TOP". He was beneath

Signature

S. G.  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

[Signature]  
Others present



K0529691

TUTINAC in seniority. He was between 35 – 40 years old and fit looking. Like all the SAJ he had very short hair which I think was not dark looking.

49. Podujevo was full of special police units; the PJP /Posebna jedinica policije- Special Police Unit/ and SAJ as well as local MUP and our Scorpion units. There were approximately 500 of us. Young members of the local MUPs in Serbia were allocated to the PJP in Kosovo but in fact, they were administrated by MUP while performing a task for PJP.
50. Milovan TOMIĆ, and me went off to find a suitable house for our overnight quarters as did the others. We located a house. It was dirty and messy but suitable. Whilst TOMIĆ and I were in a back room I saw a number of Scorpions bring a group of Albanian civilians in to the yard of the house. They were being pushed at gun – point and shouted at by Saša CVETAN and others.
51. As I will describe in the following, most of the Albanian civilians were killed shortly thereafter by Saša and others. I have signed and dated a sketch-plan drawn by me of the place where the killings occurred in Podujevo and of the positions of those persons present whom I could remember. Investigator Stewart has marked this sketch plan” GS-NS-01” during an interview on 4 May 2004. I signed the sketch-plan the same day at the bottom right hand side. A redacted copy of the same sketch-plan is attached this statement. I have signed the redacted copy of the sketch-plan today at the bottom to the left. I will be referring to the location of a number of people with the number or letter they have on the sketch-plan and not by their name.
52. I went outside the house to see what was happening. The Albanians looked terrified. They were nineteen (19) in total. There was one elderly man aged around 60 years and the rest were women and children. There were twelve (12) children, aged between 2 years and 14 years. The civilians were taken inside the house to the room Milovan and I had chosen to sleep in and put against the wall. The youngest of the Scorpion group, ⑥ searched the man. TOMIĆ and I stopped him searching the women. I was concerned with what CVETAN and the others intended doing with the civilians, so TOMIĆ and I decided to send the civilians to BOCA. I took the Albanians outside and showed them where to go. The street outside was full of policemen.
53. I have heard that CVETAN had earlier beaten a man, an Albanian civilian, and was about to kill him when he was stopped by his Platoon Commander Rajko OLUJIĆ.
54. TOMIĆ and I decided to find another house and we were outside when I heard someone shout at us. “Why did you take *this* out. Return *that* to a house. Tomorrow when we move on – what is found is found.” It was a policeman shouting at us. I didn’t fully understand what he meant. The group of Albanians were approximately 50 – 60 meters away from us and they were turned back. The man was taken from the group by some Scorpions (I heard later that the man was killed in a nearby tea – house) and the women and children walked back into the court - yard of the house which we had just left and where CVETAN and his group were.

Signature

SG  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

SG  
Others present

9

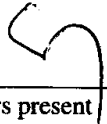
K0529692

55. TOMIĆ and I had moved away into an alley leading to an adjacent street and were not far away when I heard the sound of an automatic rifle shooting. More automatic rifles joined in the shooting. The shooting went on for between 1 and 1.5 minutes. It was continuous and very loud. TOMIĆ and I ran back through the alley towards the house where we had been earlier and where I had seen the Albanians go. I was in front of Tomić. He tried to stop me at the end of the alley but I ran on into an open area surrounded by houses.
56. The shooting had just ceased and I saw Saša CVETAN, ②, ③ and ④ standing in the courtyard in front of, and about 3 – 4 meters away from the wall of the house. At the base of the wall I saw the bodies of the Albanian women and children whom I had seen earlier. The women and children made no sound. There was no crying or moaning. They all appeared to be dead. Some of the women were holding babies/children in their arms. It was a terrible scene. It was deathly quiet except for the sounds of the four men I mentioned discarding and replacing their rifle magazines. I thought that they were going to “stamp” the women and children. This means putting a gun barrel to the forehead of the victim and shooting. This ensures death. However the quick arrival of TOMIĆ and me may have prevented this.
57. Standing some meters away behind the killers I saw ⑥ and a local policeman in uniform. They did not appear to have been involved in the execution. On a balcony of a house overlooking the scene I recognized two Scorpions; A and B. They left the balcony quickly and disappeared from view. They would have had a clear view of what had occurred.
58. CVETAN, ②, ③ and ④ walked towards me and went down the alley towards Nebojša CEKIĆ. No word was spoken between us. I couldn't believe what had happened.
59. After this incident Platoon Commander Rajko OLUJIĆ ordered everyone to get into formation. A medical team arrived and went to the scene of the shooting. An active SAJ member called VUK (wolf) rescued a baby alive in the jumble of bodies. The baby was beneath its mother and had been protected from the bullets. BOCA and TUTINAC also arrived in response to the shooting. TUTINAC was furious and spoke to us in very strong language. I was afraid that he was going to have us all shot. TUTINAC told us that we were being “sent back.” By this I assumed he meant away from Kosovo back to wherever we came from.
60. Within half an hour all the Scorpions, with the exception of one platoon, were on the buses and en – route from Podujevo back to Prolom Banja. We were all depressed. On the bus a Commander named “BRKA” stood up and said angrily, “What kinds of idiots were responsible for this. I have four children myself – let's shoot them now” or words to that effect. Dragan MEDIĆ stood up and said, “I did it. Shut up.”
61. Upon arriving at Prolom Banja and exiting the bus the situation was tense. BOCA made a speech to calm us down. I remember one sentence by him which was, “What did they expect, we are at war, people get killed in war.” Around 30% of the unit dropped their rifles and left.

Signature


 Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials


 Others present

10

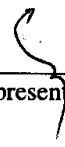
K0529693

62. The rest of us remained at Prolom Banja for five or six days and then the SAJ Commander TRAJKOVIĆ arrived. He thanked us for our help and co-operation and told us to go home and take 10 days leave. I thought this odd after what had happened in Podujevo. He said that we would be contacted when required again. Instructed to return our weapons which we did.
63. I returned to Šid and after 10 days then I and the other Scorpions in and around Šid were visited by BOCA's men, Pera PETRAŠEVIĆ and BRKA. We were told to meet the following day at 5pm at the same place as before in Šid, near the park. I am not good with dates but working from the 24 March 1999 this would have been around the 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> April 1999.
64. The next day I went to the rendezvous. Milovan TOMIĆ was again with me. I saw that there were less Scorpion volunteers than the previous occasion. There were two buses and they were not full. On this occasion the buses went to Ruma where Slobodan MEDIĆ aka BOCA and his brother Dragan joined. The buses drove direct to Kosovo Polje in Kosovo.
65. Here TRAJKOVIĆ occupied a large house and used it as his HQ. TUTINAC was still his deputy. I saw many PJP units in Kosovo Polje and recognized PJP members from Kragujevac. Us, the Scorpions, found accommodation in private houses vacated by their owners.
66. We remained there for 2 – 3 days. BOCA went to Trajković's HQ for pre-operations briefings several times. I accompanied BOCA but remained outside the room where the briefings took place.
67. Then after 2 – 3 days the Scorpions and PJP units were transported by truck and jeep south to Jezerce in the municipality of Suva Reka. Jezerce means "little lake". Here we commenced operations to drive the Albanian terrorists (UCK) out and seize the villages and hamlets. This was called "cleaning." Some places weren't even hamlets, only a house or two. We then moved to north of Strpce and commenced the "cleaning" operation in a north – easterly direction. It was a very mountainous area and we advanced and fought on foot. I remember that there was a lot of snow on the ground at this time. The Albanian villagers had either fled or fled as we approached. I only ever saw civilians in the distance carrying their belongings. We encountered resistance from the UCK and had gun battles but they were not a well – trained army or force and we were superior to them in both numbers and weaponry.
68. When a hamlet/village was taken by us we withdrew, usually around 500 meters away. Then the PJP who were in the rear-guard set fire to all the houses and facilities destroying them. This was a deliberate tactic in order to deprive any Albanians or terrorist of shelter if they returned. It was the intention that no Albanians returned to their houses. The livestock were driven away. A PJP member told me that in burning a house, curtains and settees were set alight first. This was because they were set alight more easily and burnt well spreading the fire. Gasoline was used to start the fire. I didn't see the PJP use "flame – throwers" or any other such fire / flame producing equipment.

Signature

  
 Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

  
 Others present

11


K0529694

69. TUTINAC was the field – commander of the SAJ / Scorpions. TRAJKOVIĆ never appeared in the field during these operations. The SAJ / Scorpion unit was up to 200 strong. However only the Reconnaissance unit of between 20 – 30 men were the active fighters, the others taking part in the action would secure the area. The platoon and unit commanders were equipped with Motorola radios for communication. We used the old Scorpion call-signs, “Scorpion 1” “Scorpion 2” etc. I did not see “MRGUD” at any time on this occasion when I was in Kosovo but BOCA did tell me that MRGUD was to supply us with some “special” equipment. During the first several days we did receive sets of night-vision glasses, bullet-proof vests and weapon silencers. I assumed that this was the “special equipment” provided by MRGUD.
70. We did not carry out any joint operations with the VJ or JSO. We did not require them. Because of NATO the VJ couldn't move around freely during the day in their tanks and military vehicles. Our unit had mortars if bombardment of a village or UCK position was necessary.
71. On the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1999 my unit was tasked to capture a transmitter on the top of a mountain guarded / protected by approximately 50 UCK terrorists. We attacked with hand-held rocket launchers ZOLJAs and grenades. The UCK defence was poor and we captured the transmitter. We remained at this position overnight. The transmitter was on the mountain in front of the village of Budakovo in the Municipality of Suva Reka. Some of the UCK terrorists were killed while others ran away.
72. The next day 2<sup>nd</sup> May at around 12 noon I was shot by a UCK terrorist in my right elbow. He was in a trench about 4 meters away from me at the time. TOMIĆ shot him dead. The bullet caused serious injury completely smashing my elbow joint / bone.
73. I was treated by a SAJ medic who put a splint on my arm and I was escorted to Strpce on horseback from where I was transferred by jeep to Priština hospital. I arrived at the hospital at 9pm that evening. The hospital had a perimeter guard of both MUP and VJ personnel and vehicles. I was in intensive care on my own for 2 days after which I was transferred to a ward for MUP special units patients. There were two PJP members in the room from Kragujevac. Special unit members received better care, food, cigarettes etc than the ordinary VJ soldiers. A Serbian nurse had told me that I had “nothing to worry about” as all Albanian staff had either left or had been expelled.
74. I had a conversation with one of the PJP in the room and he told me how his PJP unit had attacked an Albanian village and killed a number of villagers whom they had then thrown into a well. A grenade had then been thrown in after them. They had been reprimanded by a Commander who told them that no mass graves or evidence of crimes should be found because of the Hague Tribunal. The PJP member told me the name of the village but I forgot it.
75. I or my Scorpion unit had never received any similar instruction or order. During all my military service in the Scorpions fighting alongside the JNA, JSO and MUP/ SAJ, I also had never received any instruction dealing with the Geneva Convention or what was expected of me as regards treatment of the enemy or captured civilians.

Signature


  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials


  
Others present

12

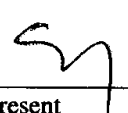
K0529695

76. After a further two days in Priština hospital BOCA sent a jeep with two escorts for me and I was taken to the Banjica Orthopaedic Clinic.
77. I was then transferred to the Belgrade Military Academy (VMA) where I underwent operations on my elbow / arm. A steel pin was inserted and I also had to have skin grafts.
78. I never returned to Kosovo. I was classed as medically unfit as a result of my wound and I continued to receive my salary for the next 12 months. Every two months I had to be seen and examined by a medical specialist at the VMA. He would issue a certificate stating that I was still "not capable of work". This certificate I took to the SAJ base at Batajnica where I received my salary in cash.
79. Altogether between 24 March 1999 and 2 May 1999 I spent a total of around 15 - 16 days in Kosovo in the reserve detachment of the SAJ.
80. On the 13 May 2000 (Police Day) I was awarded a gold coin (medal) and a Certificate. The certificate mentioned that the award was for "professionalism" in carrying out my duties as a member of the SAJ of the MUP of Serbia. The award was made by the then Minister of the Interior, STOJILJKOVIĆ. I had been recommended for the award by TRAJKOVIĆ and TUTINAC. Six or seven other active SAJ members also received awards that day.
81. Whilst in Kosovo I was not aware of the removal of the bodies of Albanian civilians, victims of alleged massacres. Neither I nor any of my Recce Unit was ever tasked to dig up or remove bodies from anywhere in Kosovo. However I do recollect one day, around mid-April 1999 when in Kosovo I was sitting in a coffee - bar drinking coffee, when I saw two open backed trucks drive past going in the direction of Priština. I saw five or six bodies in civilian clothes laying in the rear of each truck. The trucks were driven by policemen in uniform. The café owner said that the bodies were being taken to Obilić for burning. A large power station is located at Obilić outside Priština.
82. I have since heard and read of a large number of bodies, reportedly to be of Kosovo-Albanian civilians, being located at the SAJ Batajnica (May 13) base. Knowing this base, as I do, I believe that the SAJ Commandant at that time and others in authority would have been aware of the burial of these bodies. The trucks containing the bodies could not have entered the base without official orders and clearance as there are two Military Police check-points to pass through before entering the base.
83. Only one person has ever stood trial with the killing of the civilians in Podujevo in the incident I have described above at paragraphs 47-51; this was Saša CVETAN. He in fact stood trial twice. The first time was in Prokuplje District Court. I was approached by the lead defence lawyer for Saša, Zarko KALANJ who wanted me to "help" Saša. I was provided with a statement already written out. This statement was not true. It excluded Saša from involvement in the crime. I was basically to provide him with an alibi saying that he was with me at the time of the incident and he only was shooting his rifle in the air. The lawyer even took me to the prison where Saša was being held to see him. I told Saša to tell the truth.

Signature

  
 Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

  
 Others present

13

K0529696

- 84. When I was called to give evidence I said that I could not remember. This is how I answered all the questions. I was afraid to tell the truth to the Court. Everyone that gave evidence lied in order to help Saša.
- 85. I believe that the Justice Minister saw what was happening and for this reason the trial was transferred to Belgrade District Court. The trial commenced from new again in 2003. I had contacted certain people informing them of the truth and the facts of the incident.
- 86. The same defence lawyer for CVETAN, Kalanj, sent a message to me through Saša's brother for me to meet with him in Novi Sad. This was around 5th December 2003. I met with him. This time he was more cautious and did not have a written statement prepared. Instead he told and instructed me how to answer questions. Mostly I was to say that I couldn't remember and that the civilians in Podujevo were probably killed by NATO.
- 87. I was called as a prosecution witness on 10 December 2003. When I attended to give evidence BOCA came to the court with a number of his bodyguards. He offered me 100,000 DM not to implicate his brother Dragan. I refused. I requested security measures as I was afraid for my life. I did not give evidence that day. Two days later I was called unexpectedly, not for me but for BOCA, and told the truth to the Court.
- 88. Saša CVETAN was at the end of the trial in March 2004 convicted of the murders of the civilians in Podujevo and was sentenced to the maximum of twenty years.

\*\*\*\*\*

- 89. I am willing to testify before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia about the events I have described. But I have significant concerns for my safety, and I would only testify if I can be guaranteed that my safety would not be compromised.

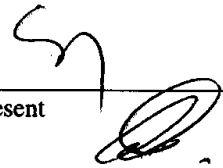
END OF STATEMENT

Signature

S. G.  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

Others present



**DEKLARACIJA**

Upozoren sam na to da bi moja izjava mogla da bude data na uvid organima unutrašnjih poslova i/ili drugim pravosudnim organima. **Ne pristajem** na to da se moja izjava da na uvid navedenim organima, prema nahodjenju Tužilaštva Međunarodnog krivičnog suda za bivšu Jugoslaviju.

Signature

*Stoparić Goran*  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

Others present



K0529698

---



---

**POTVRDA SVEDOKA**

Izjava mi je glasno pročitana na srpskom jeziku i sadrži sve što sam rekao, po svom znanju i sećanju. Izjavu sam dao dobrovoljno i svestan sam da se može upotrebiti u sudskom postupku pred Međunarodnim sudom za krivično gonjenje osoba odgovornih za teška kršenja međunarodnog prava počinjena na području bivše Jugoslavije od 1991, kao i da mogu biti pozvan da javno svedočim pred Sudom.

Potpis: Stoparić Goran

Datum: 0.6.04.2006

---



---

NB: Only the BCS version is to be signed

---



---

**WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This Statement has been read over to me in the Serbian 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.

Dated:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness)

---



---

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials

Others present






---



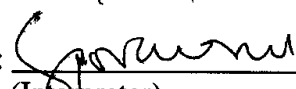
---

**INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION**

I, SVETLANA DONATIĆ, Interpreter, certify that:

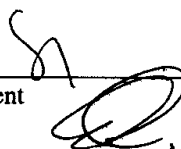
1. I am duly qualified and approved by The Registry of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to interpret from the Serbian language into the English language and from the English language into the Serbian language.
2. I have been informed by Goran STOPARIĆ that he speaks and understands the Serbian language.
3. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Serbian language in the presence of Goran STOPARIĆ, who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.
4. Goran STOPARIĆ 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.

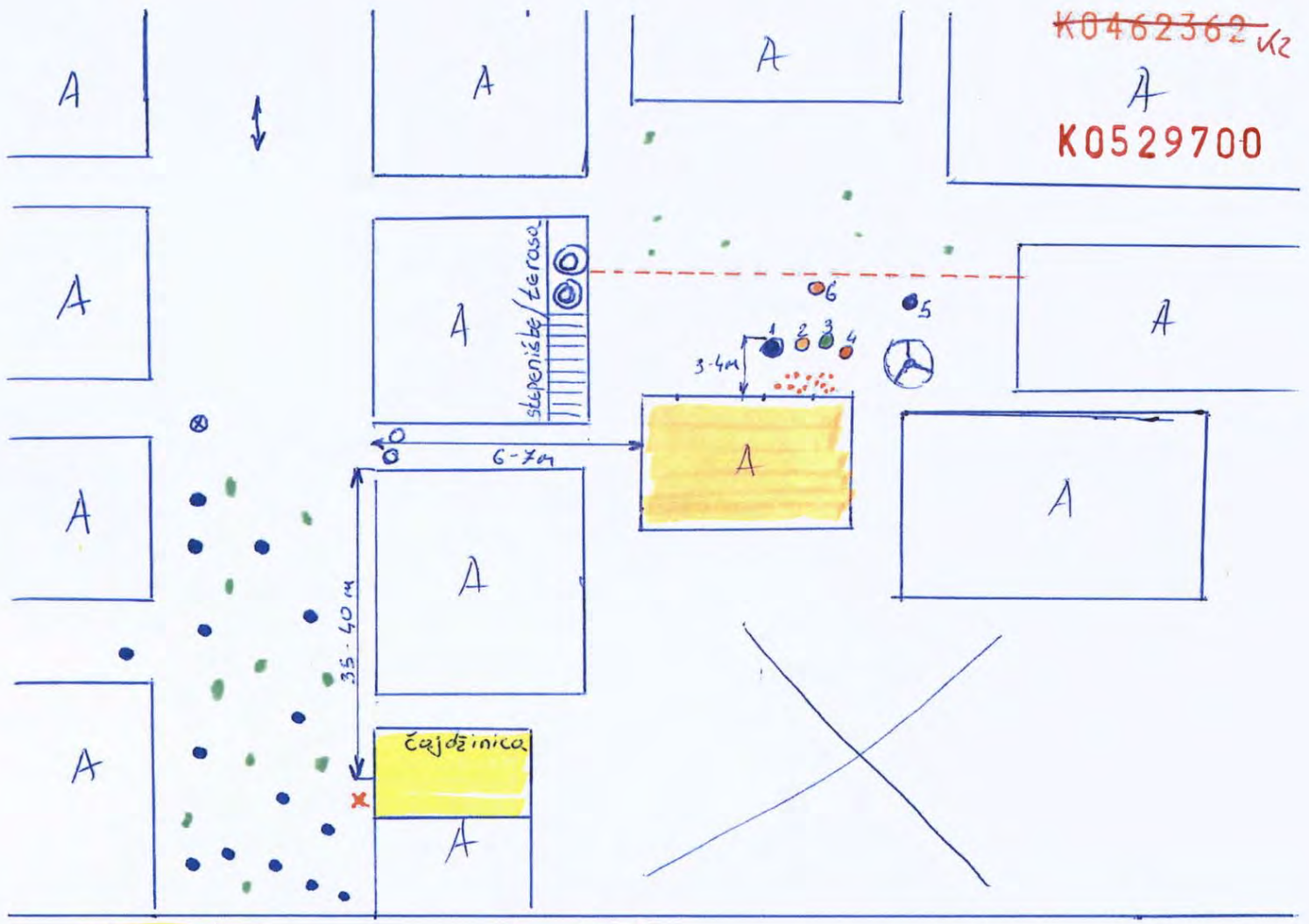
Dated: 06/07/2006

Signed:   
(Interpreter)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Goran STOPARIĆ

Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Others present





~~K0462362~~ K2  
A  
K0529700

Dvorište

Legend

ulica

- 1 ● Cvetan Suša
- 2 ● [redacted]
- 3 ● [redacted]
- 4 ● [redacted]
- 5 ● Nepoznati policajac u plavoj uniformi
- 6 ● [redacted]
- Albanski cididi (12 deca 7 njihove majke)
- [redacted] A B
- nepoznati pripadnici "Skorpiona"
- satelitska antena
- - - srušena žičana ograda
- Cerić Nebojša
- policija u plavim uniformama
- specijalci SAJ-a i "Skorpioni"
- čovek koji je odvojen od grupe **prodaz**
- stoparić Goran
- Tomić Milovan

Isotafol

A porodične kuće  
↕ ulica

X nepoznato

06.07.2006  
Stoparić Goran

04.05.2004  
Stoparić Goran  
*[Signature]*

95-NS-01