

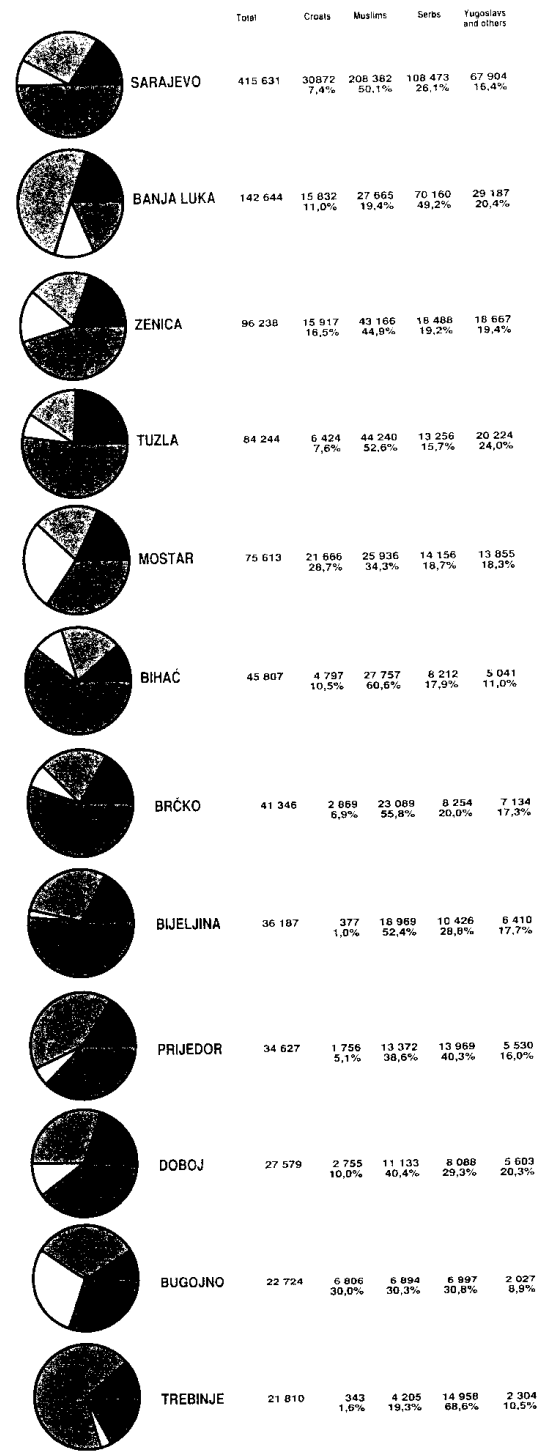
DOSSIER

**CRIMES OF MUSLIM
UNITS AGAINST
THE CROATS IN BiH
1992 - 1994**

UBLIC OF CROATIA



PLACES OVER 20 000 INHABITANTS



**GROUP OF AUTHORS • CRIMES OF MUSLIM UNITS AGAINST
THE CROATS IN BiH 1992 - 1994**



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Group of Authors

D O S S I E R

**CRIMES OF MUSLIM UNITS AGAINST THE CROATS
IN BIH 1992-1994**

Mostar, 1999



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THE GENESIS OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND CROATS IN BIH

Ever since the loss of their kingdom in the early 12th century, the Croatian people have been aspiring after their independent state and freedom. In order to realise these aspirations, the Croats have given enormous sacrifices and been exposed to constant pressures and persecutions by mightier neighbours during their centuries-old history. In this book we shall give only an outline of the relevant historical developments without going into particulars of these Croatian sacrifices and suffering.

When the Osmanli Turks conquered Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 15th century, the Croatian Catholics were in for hard times in this country. Due to terrible persecutions they massively fled the BiH territory, giving way to the Vlachs-Orthodox population. The persecutions and suffering of the Croat Catholics were especially pronounced in the 17th century, after the Turkish military defeat in the famous Wars of Vienna 1683-1699. In fear of Turkish reprisals many of Croatian Catholics fled to the liberated areas of Slavonia, Lika and Dalmatia. Apart from these horrid persecutions and migrations, there was another cause that drastically reduced the number of Croats in BiH: islamisation of a substantial part of BH Croats. In short, the Turkish period is, therefore, a period of negative selection of the worst kind for the Croatian people, with the most capable being killed or lost for the national cause. The edge of the Turkish persecution was particularly aimed at the Franciscan Order, which at the time was considered to be "the only gateway to the heart of the Croatian people". No wonder that, according to numerous written sources, about 100 Franciscans were executed during the Turkish rule.

When the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy occupied BiH in 1878, better times came for the Croats here. However, the Austro-Hungarian rule, governed by its own national interests, was anxious to keep the national balance in BiH. Such policy tried to sever cultural, economic and all other links with the neighbouring countries, advocating Bosniachood or Bosnianhood in the national sense (Bosnians with three religions). But Bosnianhood failed to become an alternative to the Croatian and Serbian national movements in BiH. Even most Muslims in BiH of the Austro-Hungarian times, rejected the idea of Bosniachood, so that one may well say that

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by the early 20th century Bosniachood did not present any real political power or alternative to national movements.

Due to the lack of unity in the Croatian national policy at the turning point after World War I, the Croatian people found themselves in the first common Yugoslav state, in which Great-Serbian domination and hegemony were legalised.

This hegemony had its foundation in the first Constitution of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SCS), in which, among others, national unitarism was legalised, as an expression of the realisation of a policy of the "three-tribe people". The climax of persecution and suffering of the Croats between the two world wars was the assassination of the leader of the Croatian people, Stjepan Radić and his colleagues in the National Assembly in Belgrade in 1928.

The establishment of the Independent State of Croatia in 1941 marked a variant of the solution to the Croatian question that was based on the negation of Yugoslavia. Introducing an extremist totalitarian system of rule, in war conditions, the Ustasha movement practised Balkanic political methods for the first time in Croatian policy. It should, however, be noted that this radical Ustasha policy was a response to the Great-Serbian hegemonistic policy of a total negation of the existence of a Croatian state of any kind.

In the Communist Yugoslavia from 1945 to 1990 persecutions and suffering of the Croatian people continued with horrible crimes on the well-known Plain of Bleiburg and later on "The Way of the Cross". After the surrender of the Croatian army and of many civilians (according to the British military sources about 200,000 people), a heinous massacre and brutal killing of Croatian soldiers and civilians started. All those who survived the slaughter on the Plain of Bleiburg, and in other places, had to start on a long forced march through Yugoslavia known in the Croatian people as "The Way of the Cross", during which they were exposed to horrible suffering. These columns of death were being more and more reduced due to mass killings and exhaustion on the way, so that only minor groups reached even as far as Macedonia.

Catholic priests were a special target of the Communist regime and of the Partisans. Only in the Herzegovinian Franciscan Province 66 Franciscans were killed, 20 of them professors and 9 doctors of sciences. Most of them were killed on "The Way of the Cross", while a few were murdered in Mostar and thrown into the Neretva river; a good part of them were massacred in Široki Brijeg, and several were killed near Zagvozd and Imotksi where the partisans had taken them. Also 13 diocesan priests and a nun were killed.

During the war and the post-war period in 76 Herzegovinian parishes 16,904 persons were killed, most of them on "The Way of the Cross".

Although the Constitution of the Communist Yugoslavia provided for the right of every federal republic or nation to self-determination and even cessation, the Croatian people could not realise this right in the conditions of the Communist dictatorship before 1990.

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At the time of the totalitarian Communist regime the Croatian man was persecuted in every possible way. We shall give only a few examples to corroborate these assertions.

With a verdict of the Military Court in Skopje, No. K:100/48 of 31 March 1948, the private Tomislav Šutalo, a Croat from Čapljina, was sentenced to death and executed by firing squad only because he let water freeze in the engine of a truck, causing the engine block to crack from cylinder 3 to 6. In the explanation of the sentence the Court concluded that the defendant, as a Croat from Čapljina, would be a lasting social danger for the newly established social order, and that the protection of the society could be achieved only by this kind of punishment - capital punishment by firing squad.

The same year the District Court in Mostar pronounced a sentence No. K 404/48 against the bishop of Mostar, dr. Petar Čule, for letting an article be published in a Catholic paper under the headline "Bolshevik atrocities", in which, as the Court puts it, "one goes further in grossest libels, imputing what the German beasts did, to the Soviet people and their Red Army, that in the Forest of Katyn it killed 12,000 Polish officers". Only in Michael Gorbachov's time did the Soviets admit that it was them, not the Germans, who committed this crime.

With the verdict of the District Court in Mostar No. K: 79/70 of 4 September 1970, Prof. Ivan Alilović, was sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment for verbally instigating the breaking of brotherhood and unity of the peoples of Yugoslavia and demanding national equality.

Alilović got such a heavy sentence although in his addresses he only retold what the Zagreb magazine "Kritika" had published in its issue of 27 June 1969, namely that the composition of federal officials was the following: Serbs 492, Montenegrins 58 and Croats 32. In pronouncing this sentence the Court had no mercy. It wanted to make an example of Alilović to other Croatian intellectuals gathered round Prof. Alilović and the Croatian Cultural Society in Mostar.

With the verdict of the District Court in Mostar No. K: 90/81 of 22 October 1981, Fa. Jozo Zovko, a priest from Međugorje, was sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment for having preached his faith, the Gospel and the Bible and for having painted the candles in the church in three colours: red-white-blue.

In this famed trial, through the imprisonment of an innocent priest for an uttered word, voiced opinion and confession of his faith, the Communist rule cut at the very root of the Croatian being - the Catholic Church.

Without going into a deeper analysis of the position of the Croatian people in the Communist Yugoslavia in the conditions of a one-party totalitarian system, we could note that, during all the time of this dictatorship, which lasted all way to the first free elections in 1990, Serbian domination was being established in the overall socio-political life of the country with a varying intensity and in spite of a declared equality of all peoples. Such policy brought about a systematic economic pauperisation of the Croatian people, especially in BiH, which resulted in mass emigration to the countries of Western Europe, America and Australia in search of employment and better life. At the same time, Great-Serbian propaganda about the so-called genocidal character of the Croats was spread systematically through the diplomatic network of the former Yugoslavia and in other ways. Unfortunately, a part of the world publicity was tricked by this false propaganda. We are witnesses that even in the present time "the international community" seems to continue the same policy. If it holds true that one whole nation cannot be collectively responsible, why then the Croatian people in BiH have a feeling today that it is just them who are being tried in the Hague?

The Croatian people in BiH, the smallest and the most displaced of the three constituent peoples in the country, is threatened with the danger of losing the status of a constituent nation and becoming a national minority. An analysis of an independent American institute seems to confirm this:

"The fate of the Croats in BiH in the latest war is tragic. According to the independent US Information Agency (USIA) the greatest victims of the war in BiH are the Croats. More than 40% of the Croats in BiH are war victims. The investigations of the said Agency show that 42% of the Croats suffered direct physical consequences of the conflict, while at the same time only 15% Muslims and 13% Serbs suffered such consequences. More than a half of the total number of Croats in BiH have been exiled or were in other ways forced to leave their homes. According to the same research about 200 thousand Croats were banished from the areas of the Federation in which the Muslims have now a majority. Of course, when we say that the Croats are the most numerous victims, it means proportionately not in absolute figures, since the Croats are the fewest in number of the three main peoples in BiH. According to the 1991 census there were 758 thousand Croats in BiH or 17.8% of the total population."

II.

These century long sufferings that the Croatian people have been going through on their way towards their own independent state, failed to bring any results until the 1991-1995 war. However, it should be emphasised that the total Croatian national corpus is today divided in two sovereign states: the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The dissolution of the former Yugoslavia was accompanied by the creation of new states and their international recognition. In those stormy historical times, BiH occupied a special place manifesting certain peculiar qualities, which distinguished it from other members of the former state. According to the SFRY Constitution from the year 1974, BiH had the status of one of the six federal units, so it was not an independent state.

In contrast to all other republics of the former Yugoslavia, whose very names implied their dominating nation (Slovenia-Slovenes, Croatia-Croats, Serbia-Serbs, Macedonia-Macedonians and Montenegro-Montenegrins), only the name of Bosnia and Herzegovina did not suggest its (multi)national composition.

Namely, the specific and tempestuous history of Bosnia and Herzegovina has bred three peoples (nations): Serbs, Croats and Muslims (who will officially change their name to Bosniacs on 28 September 1993). It is a fact that in the course of the 20th century the Muslims have several times changed their national name, for example Turks, Croat-Muslims, Serb-Muslims, ethnically uncommitted, Yugoslavs, Muslims, etc.

All historical documents, especially those from World War II (ZAVNOBiH = Session of the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as all constitutions of the Communist Yugoslavia, have always stressed the fact that BiH is a multi-national country with equal position of all the three nations in it. So for example the resolution adopted by the ZAVNOBiH at Mrkonjić Grad on 25 November 1943 pointed out, among others, that BiH peoples "through their only political representative body ZAVNOBiH want their country, which is neither Serbian, nor Croatian, nor Muslim but rather both Serbian and Croatian and Muslim, to be free and brotherly Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which full equality of all Serbs, Croats and Muslims shall be safeguarded".

In the first free multi-party elections (19 November 1990) it was just the national parties of these three peoples that won an overwhelming victory (HDZ, SDS and SDA).

However, even before BiH became an independent and sovereign state, the problem of its internal structure had imposed itself. Within the former Yugoslavia it was a unitarily organised federal unit. It should be noted that the General Staff of the JNA as early as in 1990 had disarmed the Territorial Defence on the whole Yugoslav territory, and restructured the military districts negating the borders between the republics.

In the war conditions in autumn 1991, the legitimate representatives of the Serbian people proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the then Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RBiH), organising at the same time Serbian autonomous provinces, constituting some time later the Assembly of the Serbian people in BiH, and finally declaring the Republic of the Serbian people in BiH on 9 January 1992.

The representatives of the Serbian people in early 1992 withdrew from the Parliament and other governmental bodies, whereby the central government lost its legitimacy.

At the same time, the legitimate representatives of the Croatian people in BiH, elected in the first free multi-party elections, at the time of the Great-Serbian aggression on Slovenia and Croatia, and of the attack of the so-called JNA on the Croatian population in the south-eastern part of BiH bordering on the south Croatia, were taking steps on self-organisation and self-defence.

The institutional form of that self-organisation, which was in the first place an aspect of the right to self-defence in order to preserve the own existence, was the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna (HZ H-B), proclaimed on 18 November 1991, on the very day when the Croatian Vukovar fell.

The Decision on establishing the HZ H-B, among others, notes that the Croats in BiH have supported a federal BiH, but have always stressed that they would do this in protecting their own interests, and the historical interests of the whole Croatian people. At the same time it rejects the unitary model of the state system as unacceptable in a multi-national community such as BiH. The HZ H-B had the character of a political, cultural, economic and regional entity. The said Decision points out that the newly established Community will respect the democratically elected government of the RBiH as long as the country remains independent of the former and every kind of a future Yugoslavia. All this was reiterated in the Charter of the HDZBiH adopted in November 1992. Among others, the Charter emphasises that "BiH is a sovereign, independent and internationally recognised country inhabited by three constituent and equal peoples Croats, Muslims and Serbs". The war in BiH gathered momentum with the attack of the so-called JNA and Serb paramilitary units, which the JNA had armed beforehand, on the Croatian and Muslim population in spring 1992. Aware of the impotence and disintegration of the then legal government of the RBiH and of the non-existence of its defence system, the Presidency of the HZ H-B adopted a Decision on establishing the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) on 8 April 1992, as a top defence body of the Croatian people and other peoples in this Community. Until the conflict with the Muslims in spring 1993, the Muslims also participated in the military and civilian structures of the HVO (proof: Decision of the Assembly of the City of Mostar of 29 April 1992, etc.). Besides, it is still more important to mention the Decision of the then BiH Presidency which recognised the HVO the status of a civilian and military organisation in the defence of BiH against the so-called JNA and Serbian paramilitary forces.

The persistence of the Muslim political leadership on a unitary Islamic state, in which the Croats could not exercise their nation-building and constituent rights in and to BiH and secure their long existence in this country, led to the Croato-Muslim conflict.

The genesis of the conflict between the Muslims and the Croats in BiH must be considered in the context of the overall happenings during the year 1992, which are:

1. Serbian aggression upon BiH, as a cause and direct trigger of future conflicts

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as, notes that the Croats demanded that they would do in the interests of the whole of the state system of BiH. The HZ H-B had the right to the said Decision respect the democratically elected organs independent of the state, reiterated in the Charter of the Charter emphasises the "officially recognised country of Muslims and Serbs". The so-called JNA and Serbian army, on the Croatian and the disintegration of the defence system, establishing the Croatian body of the Croatian conflict with the Muslims and civilian structures of Mostar of 29 April 1992, decision of the then BiH civilian and military forces of the JNA and Serbian

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2. Strengthening of the pro-Islamic line in the leadership of the Muslim people in BiH, particularly caused by great suffering of Muslims during the 1992 aggression;
3. Too large a concentration of the exiled population in the central, free part of BiH, and the fight for life space; and
4. Operationalization of the plans of a part of Muslim top from the Democratic Action Party for creating Islamic order and an independent Islamic state in a section of the territory of the former BiH.

In such circumstances the Croatian people in BiH demanded, quite legitimately, a change in the country's structure to the effect of establishing their own federal unit, without negating the integrity of BiH. In this connection, the Croatian Republic of Herceg-Bosna (HR H-B) was established on 28 August 1993 on the model of the Republika Srpska proclaimed earlier, but with a huge difference that the Croatian unit does not negate the integrity of BiH. In the preamble of the Basic Decision on the Establishment and Proclamation of the Republic it was specifically pointed out that the final form of the internal organisation of the BiH state would be regulated by a tripartite constitutional agreement of the constituent peoples. (Official Gazette of the HR H-B, No. 1, October 1993). The Decision puts a clear stress on the constitutiveness of the peoples and their equal rights to regulate, in a democratic and peaceful way, their joint life in the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Republic was defined as an undivided and indivisible democratic state of the Croatian people in BiH (a federal unit), based on human rights and freedoms, rule of law and social justice.

It was also stressed that the Republic will freely enter into a federation of republics, and that the people will exercise their sovereign rights in the Republic, except those rights that are of common interest and such as are transferred to the future federal state. As for the territory of the HR H-B, the Decision says that it is a temporary area of the former HZ H-B, and that the final borders will be defined by the Constitution of the Republic. This was subject to a prior agreement of all the three constituent peoples on the change of the governmental, and political/territorial organisation of BiH.

The attack of the so-called JNA, and the destruction of Croatian villages in BiH bordering on Croatia (the village of Ravno and others), was not considered as an aggression on BiH by the Muslim leadership with Alija Izetbegović at the head. "This is not our war," he said at that point, and this statement of the then president of the BiH Presidency stuck deep in the memory of every Croat. It perfectly fits into one of the principles he outlined in his "Islamic Declaration" (ID), a program of its kind for the creation of a compact Islamic state, which says: "To be too early here, is equally dangerous as to be too late." (Alija Izetbegović: "Islamic Declaration", Bosna, Sarajevo, 1990, p. 43).

Anyway, the rump and thereby illegitimate BiH Presidency (after the withdrawal of legitimate Serbian and Croatian members from it), proclaimed immediate war danger only on 8 April 1992, that is, half a year after the start of the actual aggression, and the state of war only on 20 June 1992.

The fact is that at a referendum held on 29 February and 1 March 1992, the Croatian people in BiH led by the HDZ, together with the Muslims (the then name of this nation which will be used throughout this book), voted for a sovereign and independent state of BiH, which was the foundation for its subsequent international recognition.

The Serbian people in BiH were, almost unanimously, against this solution, advocating instead the stay of BiH within Yugoslavia. In such circumstances BiH got into a state of an overall chaos. When the war in BiH became a reality, nobody had a legal or legitimate power, for each national corpus had its own vision how to organise the new community.

The Serbs in BiH obviously kept in mind that the military power was in their hands, since the so-called JNA was on their side, and that, in case of a possible show-down, they could count on a strong support of Serbia and Montenegro. From the very beginning they had been advocating a division of BiH, and their proposals were of a confederal nature, or those of a loose Union.

The Muslims entered this new historical phase with a feeling of triumphalism: they had become a leading ethno-nation in terms of the numbers, and were concentrated in towns and cities.

Relying on Islam as an ideology, they were sure to have the support and assistance of Islamic countries.

However, as they were neither militarily nor organisationally prepared, they had long been trying to buy time, anxious to keep the status quo (the former Constitution), which essentially meant a unitary civic state in which they, as the largest nation, would dominate.

They had in mind that BiH was theirs in a way, that they were successors to the pashadom of the Ottoman Empire, and that the role of the majority nation belongs to them, according to the standard model of the Serbs in the former SFRY. So, the theory of the "leading nation" was in play once again.

It is interesting to know why the Muslims had such an adventurous idea. It is even more interesting why they insisted on the **differences** at all costs, which, objectively looking, was not grist to their mill. **Religious**, emotional and national consciousness was stirred up. The climax of passion came with the well-known multiple religious rites (džuma namaz = collective Friday-noon prayer for males in a mosque) in the BiH Parliament, right amidst the session of the BiH Assembly.

The famous "*Islam Declaration*" was put into circulation, at the beginning of which stands the objective of its author: **islamisation of Muslims**, as well as the motto: **to believe and to fight**.

In the Chapter "The Islamic Order", Section "Faith and Law", Izetbegović says: "The shortest definition of the Islamic order defines it as a unity of faith and law, education and force, ideals and interests, spiritual community and political order."

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What Izetbegović set forth in the chapter of his ID dealing with minorities, found its full application in the war in BiH (p. 37). He says: "The Islamic order can be realised only in the countries in which the Muslims make a majority. Without such majority the Islamic order would be reduced only to power (for the other element - the Islamic society - would be missing) and may turn into violence." So, what Muslims need for the realisation of their aspirations is outvoting in BiH. In addition to being a majority nation, Muslims also need the territories on which "non-Muslim minorities within the Islamic state, **subject to loyalty**, would enjoy religious freedoms and full protection".

One more chapter in the ID deserves our attention. It deals with the question how to attain to the goal called the Islamic order. The creator of the ID has an answer to that, too. It reads: "The Islamic order cannot start without religious revolution, but it cannot successfully continue and be accomplished without political revolution." (p. 38) If Izetbegović sets Pakistan as a model state of the Islamic order (p. 44) no further comment is necessary as to what kind of BiH the actual member of its Presidency would like to have and what was the lodestar to the so-called ARBiH and to its commanders in the past war.

For this purpose, at the start of armed conflicts in BiH, paragonovernmental organisations were set up, such as: Patriotic League, Green Berets, the organisation "Young Muslims" and others. At the international level, one asks support and aid from all sides and one spreads the news about Muslims being threatened.

If the Serbs scored the first results on the "battlefield" applying barbaric methods, the Muslims managed to present themselves to the public opinion in the world as the only innocent victim of the aggression in BiH.

The support of the international community to the Muslims and the condemnation of the Serbian warfare methods and behaviour encouraged the Muslim establishment not to budge an inch from its intention.

The BiH War Presidency was in the Muslim hands from the beginning to the end, and they made all the decisions independently. The fact that they managed to formally include certain Serbs and Croats into the Presidency, who were neither legal nor legitimate, only testifies to their great diplomatic skill in creating the illusion of a multi-national state.

The war between the Croats and the Muslims marked a new phase of Muslim dominance in the management of civilian affairs and control. Nothing was legal and legitimate, or based on the constitutional norms. Everything was regulated by Decrees and Ordinances, justifying that, of course, with war conditions.

This problematic situation, caused by the total disintegration of the central government in BiH during the war, is reflected in the constitutional obligation of the rump Presidency (Amendment LI to the BiH Constitution) "to refer these Decrees or Decisions to the BiH Assembly for adoption as soon as it is in position to be convened".

Since the Serbs had left such participation in the government much earlier, with the departure of the Croats and the Croatian part of the government (after the

outbreak of the war with the Muslims), the whole power devolved just upon the Muslims. They were the only authority that the international community, in a way, recognised. Anyway, when BiH was proclaimed member of the UN, the BiH delegation was made exclusively of Muslims. All state symbols (flag, coat of arms, anthem) were designed and adopted only by Muslims for the whole of BiH.

In contrast to the Serb political leadership in BiH, which had advocated the confederal model of the BiH structure from the very start, which would actually mean its division and negation of its statehood, Muslim political circles advocate the so-called unitary and civic BiH, where, by the very nature of things, national equality and constitutiveness of the three peoples in BiH would be called into question.

Since neither the confederal (the national only) nor the unitary (citizens only) concept suits the state structure of BiH, there remains only the federal model. The Croatian political leadership in BiH has been proposing this only possible and realistic solution for BiH from the very beginning, never negating the statehood and the existence of the state of BiH. This is corroborated by all acts of the HZ H-B and of the HR H-B, as well as political documents of the HDZ BiH.

It is almost an axiom in constitutional and political science that federalism does not necessarily require multi-ethnicity, but multi-ethnicity on the other hand almost of necessity requires some kind of a federal state.

As per definitionem there is no federation without federal units, the greatest question of fixing territorial boundaries of the future federal units posed itself. So the federation on no account means a division of BiH in the sense as it was understood and presented to the international community by the Moslem political top. In this sense very indicative is a statement by Alija Izetbegović that in BiH "we (Muslims) have to share with others either the territory, which means division of Bosnia, or the power" putting these two in collision.

The problem was by which criteria the boundaries between the federal units should be defined. The fact is that all peace plans for BiH tried to solve this question (from Cutilliero to Washington and Dayton). It was always the map, the borders and the territory that were disputable, while the prevailing criterion of division was the ethnic one, besides geographic, historical, economic, transport and other criteria.

This was clearly confirmed by the International Balkan Commission in its report, where, among others, it says: "Every peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina had, with all seriousness, to solve the following dilemma: how to reconcile the conflicting interests of the three national communities and at the same time preserve the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In fact, each plan, from the first to the last, took ethnicity as the point of departure. That is why every new plan for Bosnia meant a new stage of ethnic division."

Cutilliero's and Owen-Stoltenberg's plans proposed a Bosnia consisting of three federal units (states, republics), while Vance-Owen's plan saw Bosnia consisting of 10 provinces.

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We think that the Croatian political leadership in BiH was right when it supported the federalistic concept because this was in its greatest part confirmed by Washington and Dayton Agreements.

The 1991-1995 war in BiH was atypical and it would be difficult to explain it by any traditional or modern definition. According to some (Muslims) it was a classical act of aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina first by Serbia, and then, after the conflict with BiH Croats, by Croatia. But at this point it was in fact a conflict of the three ethnic groups about the internal restructuring of the state.

The fact is that BiH had been attacked before it was internationally recognised as a sovereign state. It was the areas inhabited by the Croats that were first attacked.

The basic cause of the war between the Croats in BiH and the Muslims in this country were different standpoints and conceptual exclusivism regarding the form of the organisation of the state.

In this sense, on the track of a federalistic solution, the institutional forms of the organising of the Croats in BiH (HZ H-B, HR H-B, HVO) had double meaning:

1. At the beginning, with the aggression on BiH by the so called JNA and Serb paramilitary forces even before BiH got the status of an independent state, and after the disintegration of the central government as a result of that aggression, such a make-up was the only form of self-organising and self-defence of the Croatian people in BiH.
2. During the very conflict between the Muslims and the Croats in BiH, caused by clashing views on the make-up of BiH, HR H-B was an anticipating federal unit and a constituent factor in the arrangement of the new state community. Ethnic cleansing of Muslim and Croatian population from the areas under the control of Serb forces (about 70% of the BiH territory) changed the ethnic structure to the disadvantage of the Croatian people in HVO-controlled territories of BiH. It should be noted that the largest number of the exiled Croats went to the Republic of Croatia, while the exiled Muslim population remained mainly in the areas under the control of the HVO. In connection with this fact, the Muslim political leadership consciously aimed their military and political potentials at the areas held by the Croats, believing that they would cope easier with the Croats than with the well-armed Serbs.

The last war took many victims among the Croatian population in BiH: 8,530 HVO members were killed or are missing, 19,501 soldiers were wounded. The exact figures for the civilian victims are not available, but it is assumed that they amount to 30% of the total Croatian military victims in BiH.

In the period from September 1992, when the armed aggression of the former JNA and Serbian armed groups upon the R BiH began, to the end of 1992, about 750,000 non-Serbian inhabitants were exiled from the Serb-controlled area of BiH (over 70% of the territory of the R BiH). Most Muslims were exiled to those areas of BiH that were under the control of the Army of the RBiH (A RBiH) or of the Croatian Defence Council HVO. So, from the Bosanska Kraina (greater Banja Luka area) 100,000 Muslims were exiled to the area of Bihać, and 200,000 of them to Central Bosnia. About 130,000 Muslims from the Posavina area and north-eastern Bosnia were exiled to the greater Tuzla area, while about 100,000 Muslims were exiled from eastern Bosnia to the area of Central Bosnia. About 20,000 Muslims from eastern Herzegovina were exiled to the area of Herzegovina, mostly to the area of Mostar.

At the same time, about 140,000 Croats were exiled from the Bosanska Posavina and the region of Banja Luka to the Republic of Croatia (RC), and about 30,000 Croats from the areas of Kupres, Jajce, Skender Vakuf and Kotor Varoš were exiled to the area of north-western Herzegovina, whereby the ethnic structure of free areas in BiH, that were co-inhabited by the Croats and Muslims, was significantly disturbed.

It is evident that most exiled Muslims found refuge on the free territory of BiH, i.e. in the greater Tuzla area and on the territory of Central Bosnia. Most exiled Croats found refuge in the R of Croatia, a minor part of them in Herzegovina. (Displacement survey is given in Picture 1.)

Such a large inflow of exiled population to the territory of Central Bosnia brought about a significant change in the national structure, especially in 22 municipalities in which Muslim-Croat conflicts occurred. (A survey of the geographic position and of the number of inhabitants in these 22 municipalities is given in Picture 2). So the pre-war ratio of Muslims and Croats in these 22 municipalities was approximately 1.6:1 in favour of Muslims, and end 1992, by which time most non-Serbs had been exiled from other parts of BiH due to the Serbian aggression, that ratio rose to 3:1 in favour of Muslims. (A survey of the free territory of the 22 municipalities, and the Muslim-Croat ratio both according to the 1991 census and after the Serbian aggression end 1992, is given in Picture 3)

Forcible displacement of the population during 1992 is one of the most decisive moments for the outbreak of Muslim-Croat conflicts, because, due to the overpopulation of that part of territory, a lack of life space occurred. In other words, the military domination of the Serbs in the occupied part of BiH territory allowed no return of the exiled to the territory they had lived before, while considerable inferiority of then allied Muslim and Croat units made a military recapture of the occupied territory impossible. This brought about a conflict of the former allies - the Muslims, whose anyhow large number in the meantime had grown even more, and the Croats who were far outnumbered by the Muslims - for neither of them had enough power to recapture the territory lost to the Serbs. The Croats were anxious to keep the territories where they were in majority, while the Muslims,

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oppressed with the burden of so many refugees who found refuge there running away from the Serbs, and of newcomers from Islamic countries, mujahedins, tried, in their fight for more living space, to capture some of traditionally Croatian territory, which can be seen from the enclosed maps.

In spite of the gradual build-up, the Muslims still could not parry the military superior Serbs, but, thanks to their numbers, achieved a full balance of forces with the Croats, which, during the mutual conflict, resulted in much greater suffering of the Croats, especially in Central Bosnia.

In the period from January 1993 till the signing of the Washington Agreement in February 1994, and even after the signed Agreement, there came to systematic, planned and organised ethnic cleansing and persecution of the Croats in those areas of BiH that were under the control of the so-called Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ARBiH for short) and Muslim authorities, especially in those 22 municipalities. In the said period about 3,500 Croats were killed and another 120,000 expelled from their homes. Over 13,500 residential buildings in more than 400 places were destroyed. More than 170 religious and cultural structures were also destroyed.

(Picture 4 presents control of territory in the 22 municipalities, in which conflicts between Muslims and Croats occurred, after the signing of the Washington Agreement.

The basic cause of the conflicts in BiH, as stated above, are different views of the internal organisation of BiH. As these problems could not be solved peacefully, they were solved by war conflicts, which led to a complete break-up of the former constitutional order. The result was three state entities within BiH with their separate constitutional systems.

How much complex and contradictory the problem of BiH is, is confirmed by one of the views in the report of the said International Balkan Commission which says that these problems belong to the most difficult problems of the modern society. Among them were also these: the relationship between nation and state; opposing expectations of ethnic and religious minorities; development of nationalism, regionalism, confederalism; chances of survival of a multi-ethnic state; acceptance of cultural autonomy; demands of the modern democracy and civilian society; the role of political parties; employment; transition to the market economy; activity and role of media; and constitution problems. Moreover, in the Balkans, where history so often forms the standpoints of contemporaries, the success of our talks depended on a good knowledge of the past.

It is necessary to note that the Washington Agreement from 1994 (establishment of the Federation BiH) and the Dayton Agreement from 1995 guarantee constitutiveness, and historical and state-building rights to the Croatian people in BiH. However, since many provisions of these peace agreements are of a general character, often contradictory, and differently interpreted by the partners, the Croatian people, as the smallest in BiH in terms of numbers, are in for a hard struggle for the preservation of their historical and state-building rights. Consequently, the

Croatian people in BiH, referring to these rights of theirs, shall never allow to be reduced to some ethnic or religious groups, or national minorities.

We would like to point out that the purpose of this publication is to tell the truth about the suffering and persecutions of the Croats in BiH, and at the same time deny the persistent allegations of the Bosniac political leadership that the Croats are exclusive culprits for the Croato-Muslim conflict in BiH.

The Croatian people in BiH do not want to come again into the position in which they were in the Communist Yugoslavia, in which the Great-Serbian propaganda created, by a classical interchange of theses, a negative picture about the overall Croatian corpus. The fact is that a part of Bosniac political leadership is anxious to impose the thesis on the international public about the collective guilt of the Croats in the latest war, a thesis which a part of the international community does accept. With this book, the Croats in BiH want to show that, in spite of their own sufferings, BiH is their homeland, in which they want to live on equal footing with the other two peoples. Any imposed solution would mean negation of BiH as a state, since it would not be accepted by all the three peoples.

This book is based on the authentic documents in possession of the Croatian side in BiH. Numerous testimonies of eye-witnesses and survivors were used, then various real evidence such as official reports and investigations, court documents, autopsy findings, photos and video records, etc. Identical documentation was made available to the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Although more than six years have passed since the establishment of the International Tribunal, up to date (August 1999) not a single person has been indicted for the crimes described in this book, and it is uncertain when this is going to happen. On the other hand, numerous criminal proceedings are underway before the International Tribunal against quite a number of Croats; it is obvious that the Tribunal has failed to strike a balance between the crimes committed and the indictments issued. Among others, this fact calls into question the basic principles on which the work of the International Tribunal is founded, and they are independence, impartiality, equity and objectivity.

It is clear that the International Tribunal judges the responsibility of individuals, but if such responsibility is not sanctioned, a feeling of a collective guilt of a whole nation is created, which is pernicious for the future coexistence in BiH, and in the future such feeling of guilt might become a new seed of dissension and misunderstanding. Therefore, on every occasion one should intensify and insist on the responsibility for the committed war crimes, not in a declarative but concrete manner, for their creators, order givers and perpetrators are persons with a name and surname. What causes concern is the fact that the International Tribunal is used as an instrument for achieving certain political goals and for the influence of great powers.

However, regardless of all possible remarks, the International Tribunal has its importance and its role, and in this respect it should be given support. It is unrealistic to expect that the Tribunal will sanction all perpetrators of war crimes, for its present

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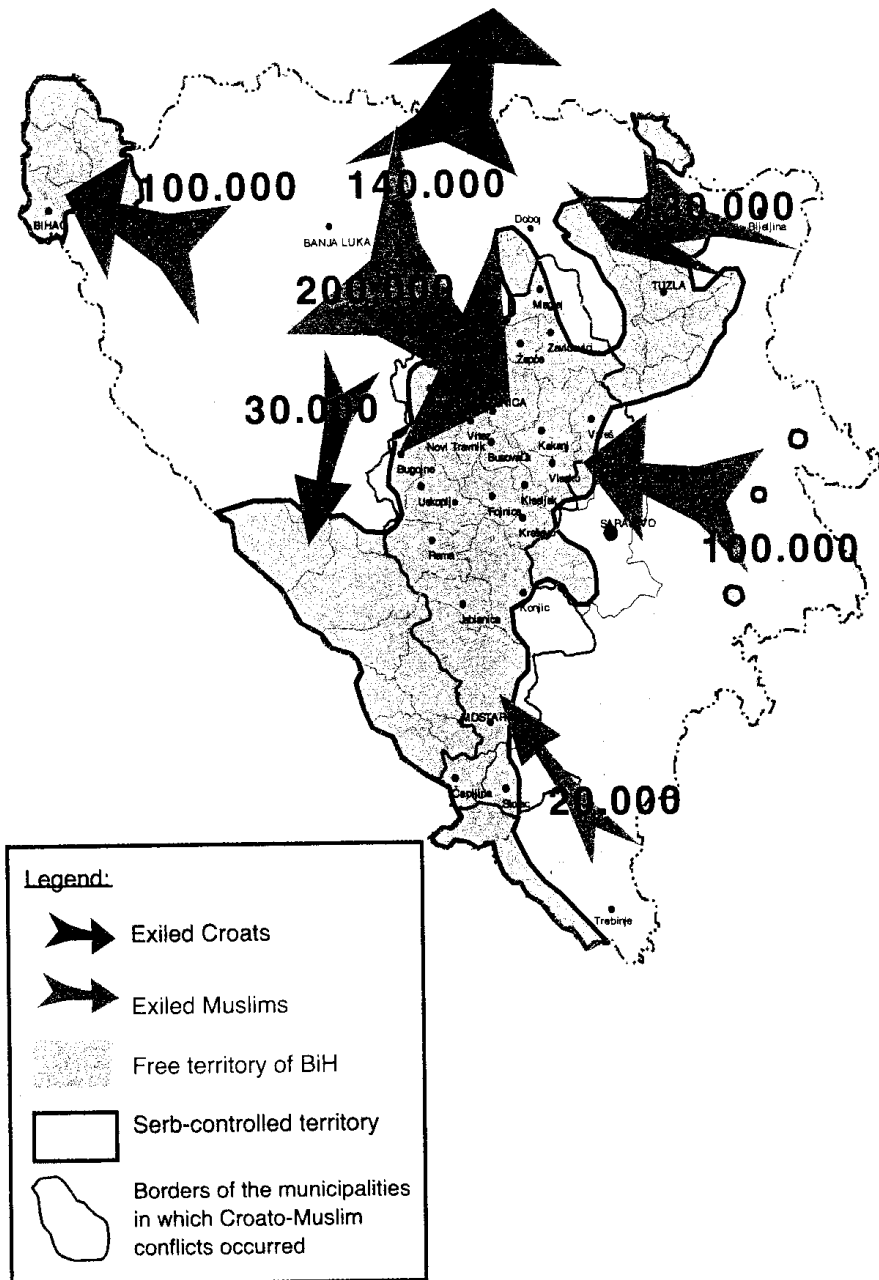
structure does not allow it. The Tribunal will sanction only a smaller number of perpetrators of war crimes, hopefully those most heinous ones, and all the rest will remain in the competence of local courts. In this process numerous difficulties will appear for the BiH judiciary, given the structure of the state, and on the other hand, without the punishment of the majority of responsible persons for the committed war crimes it will be very difficult to achieve full stability in BiH.

At the end we would like to point out that we support equal treatment of all committed war crimes, so one of the future books will deal, in an identical way, with the crimes committed on the Croats in BiH by the so-called JNA and the Serb armed forces.

In presenting these deeply moving facts about the crimes committed by Muslim units on the Croats in BiH we had no intention whatsoever of stirring up hatred or calling to any kind of revenge. Our wish was to tell the world the truth about the crimes committed on the smallest nation in BiH in the name of some, at the threshold of the 21st century, inconceivable ideology advocated by the creator of the said "Islamic Declaration", the incumbent member of the BiH Presidency, Alija Izetbegović, who at the same time bears the greatest responsibility for all the crimes committed by Muslim units against the Croats in BiH. Next to him is Haris Silajdžić, the then prime minister of the so-called Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, now co-chair of Council of Ministers of BiH. Beside them, the responsibility under commanding duty is born by their generals and high state officials:

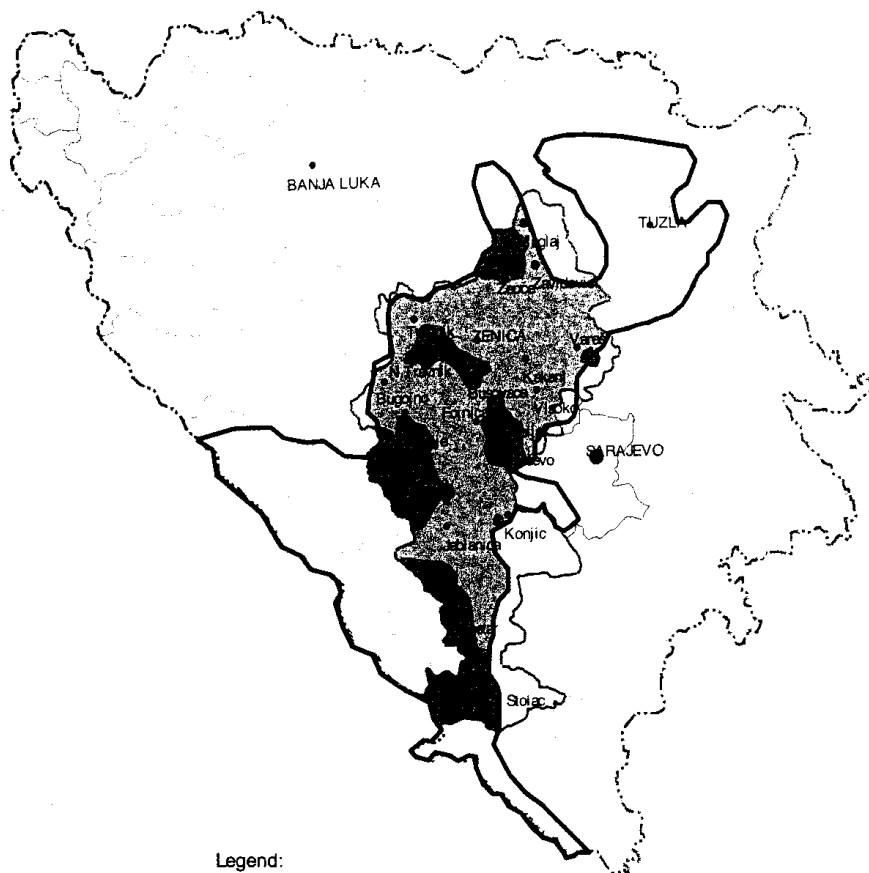
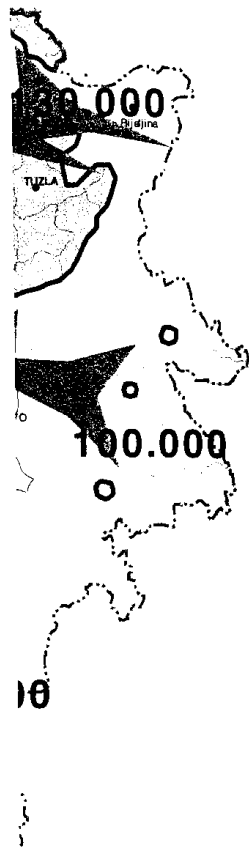
- **Sefer Halilović**, chief of the General Staff of the so-called A RBiH from 25 May 1992;
- **Rasim Delić**, commander of the General Staff of the so-called A RBiH from 8 June 1993;
- **Bakir Alispahić**, the then minister of the Interior of the RBiH;
- **Mehmed Alagić**, commander of the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH under whose command was also the extremist Muslim unit, the 7th Muslim Brigade;
- **Sakib Mahmuljin**, deputy chief of the Cabinet of the Supreme Military Command of the so-called A RBiH and chief of staff of the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH till April 1994; now deputy defence minister in the Federation BiH;
- **Vehbija Karić**, member of the General Staff of the so-called A RBiH;
- And **others** whose names are listed in this book.

DISPLACEMENT OF NON-SERBIAN POPULATION IN BiH DURING THE SERBIAN AGGRESSION IN 1992



ATION IN BiH
IN 1992

CONTROL OF TERRITORY AFTER THE WASHINGTON AGREEMENT



Legend:



Croat-controlled territory



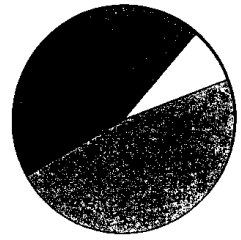
Muslim-controlled territory



Borders of the municipalities of Croato-Muslim conflicts

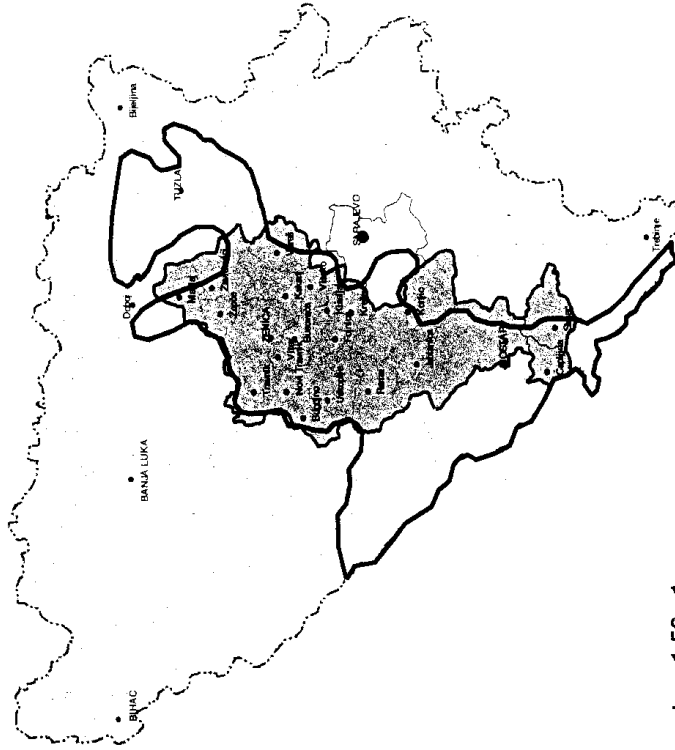
NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION ACCORDING TO THE 1991 CENSUS

Municipality	Muslims	Croats	Serbs	Others	Totals
BUGOJNO	19697	16031	9673	2488	46889
BUSOVAČA	8451	9093	623	712	18879
ČAPLINA	7672	14969	3753	1488	27882
FOJNICA	8024	6623	157	1482	16286
JABLANICA	9099	2291	504	797	12691
KAKANJ	30528	16556	4929	3937	55950
KISELJAK	9778	12550	740	1086	24164
KONJIC	23815	11513	6620	1930	43878
KREŠEVO	1531	4714	34	452	6731
MAGLAJ	19569	8365	13312	2142	43388
MOSTAR	43856	43037	23846	15889	126628
N. TRAVNIK	11625	12162	4097	2829	30713
RAMA	7225	12259	45	231	19760
STOLAC	8101	6186	3917	475	18681
TRAVNIK	31813	26118	7777	5039	70747
USKOPLJE	14063	10706	110	302	25181
VAREŠ	6714	9016	3644	2829	22203
VISOKO	34373	1872	7471	2444	46160
VITEZ	11514	12675	1501	2169	27859
ZAVIDOVIĆI	34198	7576	11640	3750	57164
ZENICA	80359	22510	22434	20215	145518
ŽEPČE	10820	9100	2278	768	22966
Total	432825	275924	126105	73474	910328
	47.54%	30.31%	14.07%	8.07%	100%



Muslims
 Croats
 Serbs
 Others

RATIO: Muslims : Croats = 1,56 : 1



Legend:



Municipalities in which Croato-Muslim conflicts occurred

1. MUNICIPALITY OF BUGOJNO

Armed conflicts in Bugojno started in May 1992 by an attack of Serbian forces. The attack was resisted and the town defended jointly by the HVO and A RBiH units, the HVO being the dominating military force in Bugojno. By the end of 1992 more than 20,000 Muslims had come to Bugojno after having been exiled from the Serb-occupied BiH territories. This greatly disturbed the national structure of the municipality, especially if we recall that according to the 1991 census the territory of Bugojno had 46,849 inhabitants, out of which Muslims 19,697 (42.1%); Croats 16,031 (34.2%); Serbs 8,673 (18.9%); and Others 2,488 (4.9%).

1.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUGOJNO

After the inflow of so many Muslims exiled by the Serbs, and after a number of incidents and conflicts between the units of the so-called A RBiH and the HVO in the neighbouring municipalities, in early 1993 the conflicts between the HVO and the so-called A RBiH became more frequent in Bugojno as well. In isolated attacks of A RBiH soldiers, 11 HVO soldiers were killed in the period from January to mid July 1993. The murder of *Josip Jurčević* and *Mirko Kasalo* in the village of Alibegovići on 16 April 1993 made an especially painful impression on the Croats of Bugojno. The two were murdered immediately after the signing of one of many joint statements of the so-called A RBiH and the HVO for the public calling to peace and joint fight against the Serbian aggressor. Nothing less of a shock for the Croats of Bugojno was the murder of *Jozo Čović*, who was killed with a burst of fire from a dashing car on 9 May 1993 in front of the Ljubljanska Banka in Bugojno, where he was on duty guarding the building. A prelude to the organised crime of A RBiH soldiers was the murder of the HVO member *Franjo Žulj*, whom A RBiH soldiers first killed and then mutilated in the Golo Brdo region, on 27 May 1993.

17 July 1993 may be marked as the date of a planned, general attack on the HVO units and the Croatian people in Bugojno, when in the village of Vrbanja, several persons in the uniforms of the so-called A RBiH, their heads veiled with kerchiefs, opened fire from an ambush at the car carrying five unarmed HVO members who were returning from the swimming pool. They were: Miroslav Talenta, Mijo Vučak, Dražen Miličević, Ivica Grabovac, and their cook nicknamed Divlji. *Talenta* was killed on the spot; Dražen Miličević, although wounded, managed to escape; Ivica Grabovac was seriously wounded, captured and later, with the first aid administered, was released. *Mijo Vučak* was captured unscathed, and after some A RBiH soldiers and local Muslims had gathered around him shouting "kill the Ustasha" he was killed with two shots at close range, while the destiny of the cook nicknamed Divlji is not known.

Although this heavy crime was committed, the HVO members tried to make a joint investigation by sending a joint police control to make inspection. But it was too late, for the next day already, A R BiH units started coming in from neighbouring towns which the so-called A R BiH had already cleaned of the Croats, mujahedin units also came, and after that mass attacks started on all the settlements where the Croats lived: first on the town district of Gaj, inhabited exclusively by the Croats, defended by 45 home guardsmen and a dozen of HVO policemen. As the fight was unequal, all the HVO members and the civilians withdrew towards the "Kalin" Hotel where the HVO military hospital was housed, and where the seat of the HVO military police was. So at one moment about 300 persons found themselves in the "Kalin" Hotel without food, water and without any conditions for a longer stay. Already on July 21 the UNPROFOR APCs evacuated the wounded and the medical staff from this war hospital.

As the HVO was not prepared for the war with the so-called A R BiH in Bugojno, the isolated HVO posts one after another fell or surrendered. The only isolated post that stood ground for a few days was that in the Ljubljanska Banka defended by 5-6 HVO soldiers. The so-called A R BiH continued vigorous attacks on all other posts held by the HVO: the command posts of the 1., 2. and 3. Battalion, and at the "Kalin" Hotel.

When on 24 July the Croatian flag was no more to be seen on the command post of the 1. Battalion, because it had been forced to surrender the day before, after A R BiH soldiers had constantly been calling the "Ustashas to surrender" over megaphones and through constant bursts of fire, the commander of the military police in the "Kalin" Hotel decided to surrender. The military policemen were separated to one side and about 250 Croatian civilians to the other. The 2. and 3. Battalions surrendered on 25 July 1993. After the surrender of all the HVO units on the territory of the Bugojno Municipality, the most horrible crimes started against everything that was bearing the Croatian stamp.

In the attacks of the A R BiH units on the HVO units more than 175 HVO soldiers were killed and 350 captured. Over 10,000 civilians were displaced or exiled from the territory of the municipality. More than 90% of the 3,000 remaining Croats were taken in for questioning and kept in prison from a few to 15 days, just enough time for their houses and all their property to be plundered, so that most of them, upon release from prison, had to look for ways and means to leave the territory of the Bugojno municipality. By the end of 1993 many civilians of the Croatian nationality had been trying to escape across the front lines or through the Serb-controlled territory to the HVO-controlled territory, some of them losing their life in the process (10 in all), many were wounded, and a part was detained by the Serbs in the camps (15 persons). After the disbandment of the "Stadion" camp and the release of the detained Croats on 19 March 1994, the remaining Croats had no more reason to stay either, and they were anxious to leave the Municipality of Bugojno following in the footsteps of their dear ones. So in mid 1994 there remained only 1,110 Croats in Bugojno.

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After the so-called ARBiH had put the whole of the Bugojno Municipality under its control, mass murders of civilian persons continued. This was aimed at intimidating the civilian Croatian population and expelling all the Croats. In the process more than 60 civilian persons were killed after the conflicts had stopped; several women were raped.

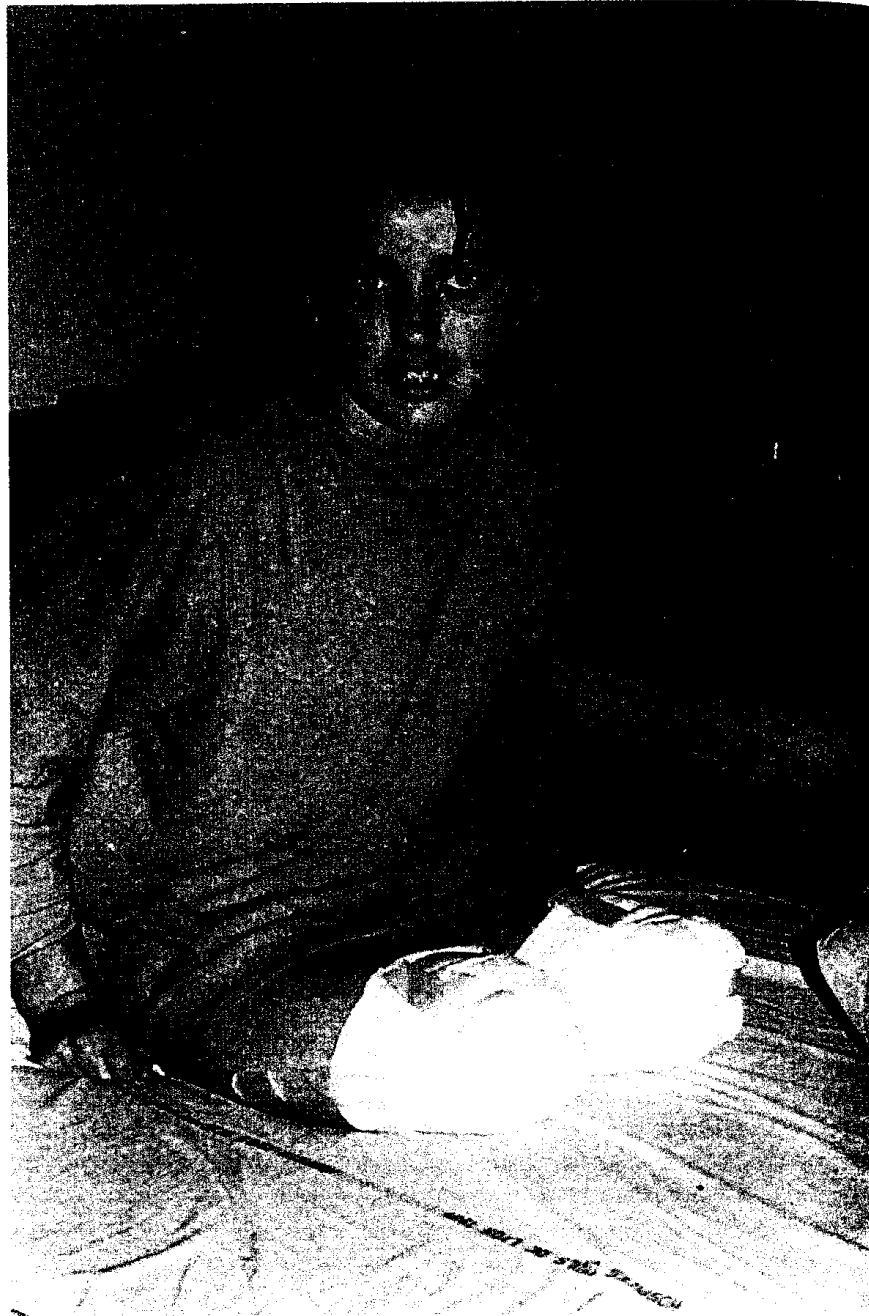
The destruction of the Croatian property in Bugojno took cataclysmic proportions. So by the end of 1994, over 2,550 Croatian family houses were blasted, burnt, demolished, plundered or otherwise destroyed or made inhabitable. In addition to family houses, all appertaining facilities were also destroyed: garages, cow-sheds, stables, summer kitchens etc. The villages that, before the conflict, had been completely populated by the Croats (Kandija, Goruša, Humac, Zanesovići, Udurlije, Lug, Rosulje, Crniče, Lendjerovina and others) were utterly destroyed, while in the villages with mixed population (Vrbanja, Gračanica, Zlavast, Odžak, Golo Brdo, Vesela, Karadže, Drvetine) all Croatian houses and all Croatian property were destroyed. The Muslim authorities encouraged the activities on the destruction of the Croatian property by having set up an Agency for Buy-Out of Building Material and Technical Objects, rewarding in this way the Muslim population that took part in such actions. The detained HVO members and civilian Croats were taken to court for "informative talks" where in front of judges **Nihad Idrizbegović** or **Dinko Begović** they had, against their will, to sign waivers of claims to their apartments and all possessions in favour of certain Muslim families, most often the families of the killed ARBiH soldiers.

With the purpose of obliterating the memory of the century-long presence of the Croats on the territory of the municipality, cultural and religious buildings were destroyed, tomb-stones in graveyards desecrated, etc. Thus the church in Drvetine and the parish houses in Gračanica and Kandija were burnt, the churches in Glavice, Kandija and Gračanica were demolished and desecrated, and so were all the Catholic graveyards on the territory of the Bugojno Municipality.

1.2. THE CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUGOJNO

In contrast to other places where the crime was committed in one place, at a definite time and by an exact number of perpetrators - in Bugojno we have to deal with a crime in its continuity, a crime that started on 17 July 1993, lasted very long, and was aimed at destroying the Croatian man, the Croatian property and the Croatian name in general. For this reason it is especially difficult to systematise and separate individual crimes. Here we shall deal with:

- the tragedy of captured and then killed HVO members, especially the disappearance of 21 Croats from the camp whose fate has remained unknown to the present day;
- the tragedy of civilian persons, with a special accent on the acts of robbery against civilian persons.



One of the victims of war crime

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1.2.1. The Killed Prisoners of War

The first HVO member who had been captured and then killed was *Mijo Vučak*, whose murder on 17 July 1993 in Vrbanja marked the beginning of A RBiH attacks on the Croats in the Bugojno Municipality. As already said, in the village of Vrbanja some persons dressed in A RBiH uniforms and with the heads veiled with kerchiefs opened fire from ambush at the car in which the members of the HVO anti-terrorist group were coming back from the town swimming pool, unarmed. They were: Miroslav Talenta, Mijo Vučak, Dražen Miličević, Ivica Grabovac, and their cook nicknamed Divlji. Talenta was killed on the spot; Dražen Miličević, although wounded, managed to escape; Ivica Grabovac was seriously wounded, captured and later, with the first aid administered, was released. Mijo Vučak was captured unscathed, and after some A RBiH soldiers and local Muslims had gathered around him shouting "kill the Ustasha" he was killed with two shots at close range, while the destiny of the cook nicknamed Divlji is not known. Direct perpetrator of this crime is not known, but what is known is that the A RBiH unit in the village of Vrbanja was under the command of **Ismet Hadžibegović, AKA Dursum**, later a member of the Muslim War Presidency of the Bugojno Municipality and the chief of the police.

Mario Zrno, a member of the 1. Battalion of the HVO Bugojno Brigade, was captured and locked up in the nuns' convent in Bugojno. On 30 July 1993, together with nine members of the 1. Battalion and ten HVO members detained in the camp in the grammar school building, he was taken to disinter the bodies of the Muslim soldiers killed in the village of Vrbanja. After having dug up the dead, Mario and his group were taken to the Muslim graveyard in the village of Crniče to dig up the graves for the re-interment of the bodies of the Muslim soldiers. While digging up the graves, the prisoners of war, especially Mario and Vinko Zrno, were exposed to heavy physical maltreatment, to the blows with spades, picks, batons, feet etc. Especially zealous in this hitting business were the locals: **Muhko Velagić, Safet Velagić, Alija Osmić** and **Mujo Karadža**. After an hour and a half of hitting, the blue-beaten prisoner Mario Zrno never regained consciousness. Prisoners Zoran Galić and Perica Šistov were forced to pull Mario Zrno by the legs towards the van in which they had come to the graveyard. At one moment a Muslim aimed a kick at the back of Mario Zrno's head so that the head swung back vigorously, and Mario Zrno passed away in the van during the drive to the camp.

The statements of other prisoners of war testify to this event:

"During the beating I lost consciousness two or three times, and when I came to for the first time, Mario Zrno was lying next to me, also unconscious..."

"...Mario Zrno was digging next to me. We were at our powers' end. We were not able to dig any more, I had no more strength either, I could hardly hold the pick in my hands, let alone dig. At one moment Zrno let go of the

pick, at which Gržić, nicknamed Mrvica, jumped up at once and hit him with the baton. He fell to the ground; they cursed his Ustasha mother and kept saying 'lo and behold, he wanted to buzz off' while the poor man was wiggling hand and foot, gasping for breath, unable to breathe. And then they pulled him out: Semso, Juso, Mrvica, Muhko; they would not let us watch. They ordered us to take the little Mario Zrno to the van..."

The body of the murdered Mario Zrno was later buried in the Sultanović graveyard in Bugojno. After some time, the chairman of the Commission for Identification of War Victims and the then chair of the Basic Court in Bugojno, **Nihad Idrizbegović**, without specifying date or reference number, issued a certificate falsely certifying that Mario Zrno had died of the wounds sustained in the region of the breast in the fights on 19 July 1993.

Mladen Havranek, a HVO military policemen, was captured and locked up in the furniture salon. On 5 August 1993, about 05:00 hours, the following prisoners were called over and ordered to come out to the upper part of the camp above the cellar: Mladen Havranek, Dragan Brečić, Frano Košak, Miro Marjanović and Zrinko Alvir. Waiting for them and dressed in the A BiH uniforms, were: **Edin Vrban**, **Nermin Karadža AKA Germa**, **Šaćir Duraković AKA Bravica** and **Edin Hubljar**, all with iron tubes and bars, and police batons in the hands. The prisoners were beaten all over with these objects. Mladen Havranek died on the spot of the injuries sustained, while the other four prisoners were transported to the A RBiH War Hospital, and were unable to get out of bed for several days. The beating caused lasting body damage to all the four. At the moment when the prisoners were taken out the guards were: **Said Kaltak** and **Kemo Kulaš**. Two of the four direct perpetrators of the murder, **Edin Vrban** and **Edin Hubljar**, got killed later, one in a car accident and the other in the action.

As a member of the 1. HVO Battalion, **Vlatko Kapetanović** was captured by A RBiH soldiers on 23 July 1993 and locked up in a private garage in Donjići, not far from the command of the 1. Battalion. Already in that garage, Vlatko Kapetanović had his arms tied up behind his back lying in a pool of water they poured on him when he lost consciousness due to beating. Those who most beat him and other detainees in that garage were the members of the A RBiH unit called "Šejtani" ("The Satans"): **Atif Begić** and **Amer Karagić**, as well as **Naser Musić** who used to bring in his men to beat the prisoners. Two days later, on 25 July 1993, he was transferred with other prisoners to the nun's convent where he was interrogated by the prison commander **Safet Kršlak**. In the evening of 25 July 1993 Vlatko Kapetanović and Mario Glišić were taken out into the closed yard of the nuns' convent and beaten black and blue so that they could hardly stand on their feet. The next day, on 26 July 1993 in early morning hours, Vlatko Kapetanović was again called to come out. On the road in front of the building a black Mercedes was waiting. **Alija Osmić** and another person threw him into the boot, and the car drove off in an unknown direction. The father of Vlatko Kapetanović had been tracing his son till 20 September when he was informed that the body of his son had been found on the Garački Podovi, thrown into the bushes.

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- **Selmo Cikotić**, commander of the OG "Zapad"
- **Dževad Mlačo**, teacher and chairman of the War Presidency of the Bugojno Municipality,
- **Tahir Granić**, commander of the 307. Brigade A RBiH,
- **Abdulah Jeleč**, chief of staff for the defence of Bugojno,
- **Kemal Džafić**, chief of Security Staff for the defence of Bugojno,
- **Zeir Mlivo**, graduated economist, and prime minister of the Bugojno Municipal Government,
- **Senad Dautović**, chief of Bugojno Public Security Service,
- **Enes Handžić**, chief of Security of the 307. Brigade A RBiH,
- **Abdumalik Abdibegović**, Secretary of the National Defence Secretariat,
- **Besim Hodžić**, commander of the Military Police
- **Semin Rustempašić**, commander of the unit for special purposes "Green Dragons",
- **Muriz Kalajhodžić AKA Murgo**, commander of the unit for special purposes "JOKS",
- **Hanefija Prijjić AKA Paraga**, commander of the A RBiH unit for special purposes,
- **Ismet Dursum**, chief of the Bugojno MUP,
- **Meho Sadiković**, commander of the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium,
- **Enes Sijamija**, member of the Military Police,
- **Faruk Aganović**, guard in the camp, later commander of an A RBiH unit.

1.3. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

About 600 HVO members and civilians went through the Bugojno prisons or rather torture chambers: stadium of the FC "Iskra", cellar of the furniture salon "Slavonija", convent of the nuns, cellar of the grammar school, "Vojin Paleksić" school building, prison in the Police Station Bugojno, premises of the BiH Bank, and other makeshift prisons in various parts of the Municipality of Bugojno, where the detained Croats were subjected to the cruellest maltreatment by A RBiH soldiers, which resulted in the tragedy of 44 detainees - HVO members - out of which 21 HVO members were taken away in an unknown direction and their destiny has never been cleared up. Especially tragic were the first moments of capturing when the captured persons were taken to various private garages and buildings where they were exposed to the most brutal physical tortures, especially at the hands of the local Muslim population. The camp on the "Iskra" stadium was one of the most difficult and for the detainees most fatal of all the camps in BiH. The detainees were forced to give blood, some of them as many as three times in 10 days. The detainees were taken to forced labour on the front lines, where some of them stayed

2. MUNICIPALITY OF BUSOVAČA

According to the 1991 census there lived 18,879 inhabitants in the Municipality of Busovača. The national composition of the population was the following: Muslims 8,451; Croats 9,093; Serbs 623; Others 712.

2.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUSOVAČA

The area of the Busovača Municipality is one of key geostrategic areas since two important routes pass through it: the Zenica - Kaonik - Vitez highway, and the connection with Sarajevo through the Kaonik-Busovača junction. The preparations and organisation of the A RBiH units for armed conflicts with the HVO units date back to the month of May 1992. The aim of military and civilian officials of Muslim authorities in BiH was to subordinate the HVO units to those of the RBiH Army, to disarm the Croatian population and to put it in a subordinate position and so to take control of the central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In order to realize the said plan, under the pretext of preparations against the aggression by the VRS on BiH, the Muslim political top issued an order to form military formations within the Muslim people in central Bosnia, including Busovača, and to intensively equip A RBiH units with material and technical resources. Within the scope of the said activities, in the village of Kaćuni (the seat of the Territorial Defence - TO) during 1992, the military formations were illegally set up, filled with the domicile Muslim population. Also, the works were intensified on fortifying the front line facing the HVO. Intelligence data were constantly gathered about the strength of HVO units, material assets and equipment of the HVO, and about the number of soldiers in its units.

Along with the said activities, continuous propaganda was spread about the Muslim people in BiH being threatened by the Croats, in spite of the fact that the Croats in central Bosnia were in a subordinate position, especially given the fact that the Muslims exiled by the VRS (Army of the Republika Srpska) were accommodated in central Bosnia. A significant role in the said period was played by organised arrivals of foreign citizens from Islamic countries, who, through Islamic religious organisations, were further propagating "the thesis about the Muslims being endangered by the Croats".

In early December 1992 major moves of RBiH units were observed at the locations that were strategically essential for the defence of the Busovača territory. At the same time, the activities were illegally being carried out on A RBiH units entrenching themselves, on fortifying the dug-outs, and the like at the location between the villages of Lončari, Jelinak, then in the region of Kuber, in the villages

of Merdani and Gornji Solakovići. The construction or repair of access roads to the said positions, and that of well fortified shelters were also observed. So, for example, at the locality of Kuber, a position from which it was possible to oversee Busovača and Vitez, 10 dug-outs and 14 trenches were constructed capable of holding about 120 soldiers.

Mid January 1993 A RBiH soldiers had dug in their heavy weapons in prepared positions in the village of Merdani (elevation Hum), at Žlibine above the village of Solakovići, Šudine, in the region of the village of Dusina and in other positions. At the same time, the domicile Muslim population was being evacuated from the part of the town where the Muslims were in minority, as well as from the places with Croatian majority. Abreast with the said activities, incidents were systematically provoked aimed at provoking conflicts on a larger scale. These include: setting up of check-points, non-selective shooting at the villages inhabited by the Croats, armed hold-ups as far as the attempt to kidnap Ignjac Koštroman, the high official of the Croatian people in BiH, in the place of Kaćuni. Apart from the 333. Mountain Brigade of the so-called A RBiH, which numbered 2.300 soldiers, the so-called A RBiH in the Busovača region was reinforced by the forces from Zenica, the so-called "Krajišnici" (about 400 members of the so-called "Kraina Brigade of the so-called A RBiH") and with about one hundred MOS (Muslim Armed Forces) soldiers, from extremist A RBiH units, which had foreign citizens from Islamic countries in their ranks.

On 23 January 1993 in the place of Kaćuni a meeting was held of the highest Muslim officials of military and political power from Zenica and Busovača at which the current situation in the central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina was examined, and the plan elaborated how to take control of the territory of the Busovača Municipality.

The next day, that is on 24 January 1993, in the place of Kaćuni, on the Busovača - Kiseljak road, A RBiH soldiers intercepted a patrol of the HVO MP, and several civilian persons. On that occasion *Ivica Petrović*, a member of the HVO MP, and *Igor Bogdanović*, a civilian, were arrested and later mutilated and killed. At the same time, the joint A RBiH forces took the prepared battle positions. In the course of the day all army-able Muslims came out to the prepared positions, gaining so the control of all key traffic routes in the Busovača Municipality.

In the combat operations that followed, apart from the domicile A RBiH 333. Mountain Brigade, the units from Zenica also took part, reinforced by the forces arrived from Kakanj and Visoko. The A RBiH 17. Kraina Brigade was operating in the Local Community of Kaćuni (Kaćuni, Bukovci, Oselište and Gusti Grab). The A RBiH 352. Mountain Brigade from Vitez also participated in the attacks on the bordering parts of the Busovača Municipality.

The aim of the above A RBiH joint forces was to conquer Busovača whose fall would bring them control over the HVO units in the central part of BiH. During the offensive operations the A RBiH units managed to realize a part of their aims: by cutting Busovača from Kiseljak they gained control over the so-called "green corridor", i.e. they now controlled the road Zenica - Lašva - Dusina - Lugovi - Kaćuni - Silos - Fojnica.

2.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUSOVAČA

In the period from January 1993 to May 1994, A RBiH soldiers committed heavy violations of the international humanitarian law against the Croats inhabiting the Busovača Municipality, by unlawful attacks on civilians and civilian facilities, and intentional murders of civilians and detainees. During January, in the place of Gusti Grab intentional murders of civilian persons of Croatian nationality were recorded. After having captured Gusti Grab, the Municipality of Busovača, on 26 January 1993, A RBiH soldiers killed eight civilians of Croatian nationality. They were mainly aged people, and permanent invalids:

- *Mijo Grubešić*, born in 1934, killed with cold steel (butchered) in the place of Gusti Grab;
- *Anda Grubešić*, born in 1935, murdered with cold steel (butchered) in the place of Gusti Grab;
- *Ankica Batista*, born in 1929, killed on her door-step in the place of Nezirovići;
- *Niko Krišto*, born in 1927, killed in his family house in the place of Gust Grab;
- *Ljuba Ljubičić*, born in 1936, killed in her family house in the place of Kačuni;
- *Anto Šimić*, born in 1938, killed in the place of Gusti Grab in his family house;
- *Anto Šteko*, born in 1935, killed in his family house in the place of Gusti Grab;
- *Anto Stapić*, born in 1966, killed in the place of Javor in his family house.

Marijan Čavara, born in 1936, was killed on 27 January 1993, (killed on his door-step in the place of Gusti Grab).

On 28 January 1993, *Nikica Livančić*, born in 1937 in the place of Bukovica, was killed in his family house in the place of Prosje.

On 4 June 1993 *Kata Pravdić*, born in 1924, was first raped then mutilated and killed. On that occasion A RBiH soldiers made the son of the killed woman, *Stipe Pravdić*, a mentally retarded person, watch the raping and killing of his mother, after which they killed him, too. The rape and murder of Kata Pravdić and the murder of her son Stipe were committed by *Osman Helvida, AKA Kokan*, son of *Redža*, born on 2 March 1959 in Busovača, resident of the place of Kačuni.

On 27 February 1994, *Stipo Tomas*, born in 1937, was killed in his family house in the place of Bukovica. The following A RBiH soldiers took part in the murder and maltreatment of the family of Stipe Tomas, his wife Ljubica, their daughter



The lower part of the body of a killed civilian

Ivana and their two under age granddaughters: **Elshani Sejdi**, by nationality Albanian, resident of Bukovica, Municipality of Busovača, then **Adis Palalija**, son of Mujo, born in Sarajevo in 1975, **Selver Topalović**, born in 1970 in the place of Višnjica, member of the A RBiH 123. Mountain Brigade, **Vahid Tolja**, born in 1974 in the place of Višnjica, Municipality of Busovača, **Fikret Vreto**, born in 1971 in Višnjica, Municipality of Busovača, **Mufid Palalija**, born in 1969 in Višnjica, Municipality of Busovača.

Apart from the said murders of civilian persons of Croatian nationality, members of the A RBiH units plundered, and then devastated or completely destroyed the family property of the Croats in the above mentioned places. The property of the Croats in the villages of Oselište and Bukovica was also looted and burnt.

In the shelling of Croat-inhabited places, an unjustified shelling because there were no military facilities in them, five Croats were killed, while material damage done to civilian facilities as a result of the shelling was enormous.

On 18 April 1993, **Milka Katava**, born in 1943, was killed by a mortar bomb fragment fired from the A RBiH positions at Mejdan. In the village of Polje, on 20 April 1993, **Jozo Krišto**, born in 1930, died from the wounds inflicted upon him by mortar bomb fragments. In the place of Luka an exploding mortar bomb fired from the A RBiH positions killed **Marica Šušnja**. On 13 September 1993, **Ruža Totić**, a girl, died after having been wounded by a shell fired from the A RBiH positions. On 20 July 1993 in the place of Donje Polje **Anto Bošnjak**, born in 1932, was killed by a sniper shot.

On 15 June 1993, in the locality of Busovačke staje, A RBiH soldiers encircled and attacked a convoy of civilians who were forced to return to Uskoplje because, due to the fights in the central part of BiH, they could not continue their journey to the Tuzla region. Apart from the civilians who intended to visit their relatives in the Tuzla region, there was also a group of civilians (aged people and children) who were transporting aid in food and clothing on horses to the Croats in the central part of Bosnia. In the morning hours on 15 June 1993, after the convoy had come to a stop at the locality of Busovačke staje, they were encircled by A RBiH soldiers, and mortar and small arms fire was opened at them. On that occasion a burning hut collapsed onto the wounded **Marinko Popović**. In her statement a woman eyewitness, who was in the convoy (a medical technician by profession), says that 18 persons were killed in the shooting of A RBiH soldiers at the group of civilians at Busovačke staje. A score of civilians was wounded.

Apart from the above mentioned murders, A RBiH soldiers heavily wounded 28 civilian persons by sniper shots and by shelling civilian facilities.

Thus, on 30 August 1993, in the place of Polje, a sniper shot fired from the A RBiH positions, wounded **Aleksandra Vujica**, a girl born in 1989.

The shells fired from the A RBiH positions at the civilian facilities in Busovača wounded eight children:

- *Ivan Skočibušić*, born in 1990, wounded on 13 September 1993 when a mortar bomb exploded in the Kadića Strana street;
- *Maja Totić*, born in 1987, wounded on 13 September 1993 when a mortar bomb exploded in the Vrbak street;
- *Jelena Andrijašević*, born in 1989, wounded on 11 October 1993 when a mortar bomb exploded in the Vrbak street;
- *Ivan Ivoš*, born in 1987, wounded on 17 October 1993 when a mortar bomb exploded in the Vrbak street;
- *Dragana Matanović*, born in 1989, wounded on 17 October 1993 when a mortar bomb exploded in the Vrbak street;
- *Kristina Katava*, born in 1985, wounded on 17 October 1993 by an exploding mortar bomb in the settlement of Luka;
- *Danijela Vujica*, born in 1990, wounded on 26 October 1993 when a mortar bomb exploded in the place of Hrasno; and
- *Miroslav Šušnja*, born in 1978, wounded on 2 January 1994, by an exploding mortar bomb in the 18. November street.

In the conflicts between the so-called A RBiH and the HVO a number of HVO soldiers was captured. After the capture 7 HVO members were killed, while all others were cruelly maltreated during their detention.

Civilians of Croatian nationality who remained to live in the places inhabited by Muslim majority went through great suffering and maltreatment. Several intentional murders and a rape were recorded that were committed by A RBiH soldiers. During January 1993, after having set fire to the family house of Jozo Stapić, A RBiH soldiers shot at his son **Ante Stapić**, who was running away unarmed before a group of Muslim soldiers. A woman neighbour and the mother of the killed Ante Stapić took his body into the shed in front of the burning house and covered it. According to the statements of the eyewitnesses of Stapić's murder, A RBiH soldiers did not allow the family to bury their son, so his body remained about a fortnight in the shed of the family house. After the mother of the late Ante Stapić had gone to the Command of the domicile A RBiH brigade in the village of Rijeka, she got the permission to bury her son's body in their front garden.

Several aged civilians, who had remained in the village, were exposed to everyday maltreatment.

We quote the testimony of a woman witness of the suffering of the Croats in the village of Javor:

"...They lifted my fifteen sheep, and every three or four days they would come to plunder, although they had nothing more to take. Then they passed over to my sister's house. One day while they were plundering my house, a Muslim soldier, about 20 years of age, went to my sister's house, dragged my sister out of the house and down to the cellar and raped her. She is 65 years of age. On that day, Saturday 30 January 1993, a MOS commander came, unknown to me, and my sister came running and crying, and she said that a soldier had raped her, to which the commander only waved his hand and went on through the village of Šudine."

On 7 December 1993, in the place of Čep, Municipality of Busovača, three ARBiH soldiers broke into the house of **Luca Vuleta**, born in 1923. After a stab with cold steel Luca was raped and left in the house unconscious. The neighbours took her to hospital in Zenica. Medical tests and the investigation carried out by the BiH MUP (Muslim police) showed that Luca had been raped, and that she had been inflicted cold steel wounds in the region of the head. On 10 December 1993 Luca Vuleta died from the consequences of the maltreatment. She was buried in the Prašnica graveyard in Zenica.

In the Local Community of Kačuni, Municipality of Busovača, in the "Silos" building, a prison was formed in which Croats were unlawfully imprisoned, beastly treated, and used as living shields. Before the war in BiH, the "Silos" prison in the local community of Kačuni had been used for storing military reserves in wheat for the needs of the Busovača Municipality. Through this prison 22 persons of Croatian nationality passed, while 16 more were arrested and deported to other prisons of the KPD (Correctional Home) Zenica and the Musical School in Zenica.

In the period from January 1993 to the beginning of 1994, in the area of the Municipality of Busovača 173 persons of Croatian nationality were killed. Three persons are still registered as missing. During military operations 512 persons were wounded. From the area of the Municipality of Busovača 1.012 Croats were exiled out of which 820 have temporary residence in other municipalities.

In the villages that had been inhabited by Croats before the war, and out of which they had been exiled during the conflicts with ARBiH units, Muslims devastated all Catholic graveyards.

2.3. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

2.3.1. The "Silos" Prison in Kaćuni

The "Silos" prison was formed in the place of Kaćuni during Croato-Muslim conflicts in central Bosnia. Before the war the said structure served for storing wheat for commodity reserves for the Municipality of Busovača. Since it was a structure inappropriate for the accommodation of people, locking prisoners up into a concrete room with concrete walls with open roof structure represents violation of international humanitarian law relating to the treatment of prisoners. The prison was formed in January 1993 and closed down in May 1994. As the Croats arrested in Fojnica were also deported to the "Silos" prison in Kaćuni, we lack the exact figures of people who went through that prison, but we can with certainty say that 22 Croats from the Municipality of Busovača and 42 Croats arrested in the place of Zabrdje, Municipality of Kiseljak, stayed in it. The prison was supervised by the members of the MP of the A RBiH 333. Mountain Brigade within the 3. Corps. On the basis of statements about the conditions in the prison, we learn that the prisoners were physically and psychically maltreated. They were forced to learn Islamic religious rites and prayers. Also they were subjected to long and exhausting questioning accompanied by beating. Entry into the prison was admitted to all A RBiH soldiers who stayed in the area of the Local Community of Kaćuni, which means that the detainees were exposed to everyday maltreatment.

The detainees were prevented from easing the nature, and they, for fear of beating when coming out of the room, refrained from exiting the room to a larger extent. According to the testimony of detainees, the most difficult day of the week was Friday, for on this day Muslims used to go to mosque to perform Islamic religious rites. About 150 - 200 Muslims would pass through the "Silos" prison on Fridays. On such occasion the detainees had to stand to attention. In that short period that the stay of Muslim civilians lasted, the Croats were exposed to insults and threats by death. Upon their arrival to prison, the prisoners were stripped of their quality clothes and footwear so that they mainly went around barefoot regardless of weather conditions. The food was poor and inadequate for the given number of detainees. In addition to such hard conditions they were forced to heavy manual labour, for example, felling trees with hand saws. Also, the prisoners used to be taken to forced labour of fortifying the A RBiH front line.

The following people stood out in the beating of detainees in the "Silos" prison:

- **Nisvet Jahić**, born in 1965, who at that time was holding the duty of the chief of criminal service of the MP of the A RBiH 333. Mountain Brigade, personally questioned and beat the detainees;
- **Fuad Baručija**, born in 1961 in the place of Skradno, since he was in the specified period one of the guards in the "Silos" prison, personally beat the detainees. It

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was him who allowed entrance of A RBiH soldiers into the prison who then, in addition to maltreatment, forced the Croats to learn Islamic prayers.

The persons responsible for the suffering of Croats in the Municipality of Busovača:

- **Enver Hadžihasanović AKA Džedo**, presently official in the F BiH Ministry of Defence, and during 1993 he discharged the duty of the commander of the A RBiH 3. Corps;
- **Džemal Merdan**, official in the F BiH Ministry of Defence, during 1993 he held the office of the Chief of Staff of the A RBiH 3. Corps;
- **Dževad Mekić AKA Tabularaza**, in the period from January to April 1993 held the office of the commander of the A RBiH 333. Mountain Brigade;
- **Ekrem Halidžić**, by order of the A RBiH General Staff he was appointed commander of the A RBiH 333. Mountain Brigade in April 1993;
- **Faik Lušija**, presently an official of the F BiH MUP (deputy minister of the interior for criminality), in the period from January 1993 to the end of conflicts he held the office of the Chief of Staff of the A RBiH 333. Mountain Brigade based at Kaćuni;
- **Husnija Neslanović**, presently an official of the F BiH MUP, Security Service Centre (CSB) Zenica, in the period from April 1992 to March 1993, he held the office of the SDA chairman for the Municipality of Busovača;
- **Asim Mekić**, chairman of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Busovača, in January 1993 he was elected chair of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Busovača seated at Kaćuni;
- **Asim Sunulahpašić**, head of the Financial Department in the office of the executive of the Municipality of Busovača, at a meeting held on 23 January 1993 he was appointed chairman of the Executive Board of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Busovača;
- **Alija Begić**, in the said period was holding the office of the commander of the Military Police (MP) of the 333. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Rizah Imamović**, manager of the "Silos" prison at Kaćuni during 1993;
- **Nisvet Jahvić**, in January 1993 held the office of the chief of criminal service of the MP of the 333. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Fuad Baručija**, one of guards in the "Silos" prison;
- **Fikret Ćuskić**, in the said period held the office of the commander of the 17. Kraina Brigade A RBiH;
- **Enes Lepirica**, commander of the 2. battalion of the 17. Kraina Brigade A RBiH;

- **Mirsad Šestić**, presently an official in the F BiH Ministry of Defence, at the time specified he was in command of the offensive operations of A RBiH units against the villages of Jelinak and Putiš, Municipality of Busovača;
- **Sead Šljivar**, commander of the Kaćuni task force within the A RBiH 7. Muslim Brigade;
- **Arif Lušija**, in the period from January to mid February the named was one of SDA officials for the Local Community of Podlugovi, at the same time he was a member of the 333. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Osman Helvida AKA Kokan**, a member of the 333. Mountain Brigade, participated in the murder of Kata Pravdić and her son;
- **Dževad Smajlagić**, in the period in question, was in command of the 314. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, which was holding the positions on the Mejdani, from where mortar bombs were fired which caused civilian casualties.

3. MUNICIPALITY OF FOJNICA

According to the 1991 census there lived 16.296 inhabitants in the Municipality of Fojnica. The national composition of the population was the following: Muslims 8,024; Croats 6,623; Serbs 157; Others 1,492.

3.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF FOJNICA

The outbreak of conflicts between the so-called A RBiH and HVO in the municipalities of central Bosnia also caused tension and demonstration of force in the Municipality of Fojnica, with an A RBiH unit called "Dusinski odred" ("Dusina Detachment") taking the lead. Prior to the outbreak of major conflicts, a few murders of Croats had occurred which additionally strained the situation in the municipality. So on 15. May 1993, at a check-point in Vlaška Ravan (which was under the control of an A RBiH unit called "Prokoški odred" whose commander was Mustafa Omerčević) A RBiH soldiers stopped a vehicle in which there were *Dubroslav Bošnjak*, *Snježana Zelenika* and *Zdravko Penezić*, after which every trace of them is lost and now they are registered as missing. On 1. June 1993 the members of the "Dusinski odred" under the command of *Fikret Fejzić*, entered deep into the HVO zone of responsibility and in the region of Dugo Brdo, from ambush, killed *Željko Beblek* and *Miodrag Šušnjara*. The same day general mobilization was carried out and all key elevations and check-points in the municipality taken. A RBiH soldiers took the Križ elevation dominating Fojnica. At the intervention of UNPROFOR a meeting of the HVO and A RBiH commands was held at which it was agreed that the captured elevations be left, and so the freedom of movement was temporarily established. Since a War Hospital had been established at Fojnica for the whole central Bosnia and since the Municipality of Fojnica was proclaimed a "hospital zone", which was confirmed by an agreement between the representatives of the Croatian and Muslim people (through the mediation of UNPROFOR and brigadier Hayes), the representatives of the Croatian people were anxious to ease tensions and overcome misunderstandings. In spite of everything, in the course of June new A RBiH units arrived to the territory of the Fojnica Municipality: 333. Brigade, 317. Kraina Brigade, and a large number of mujahedins.

The all-out attack of A RBiH units on the HVO in the Fojnica Municipality started on 2. July 1993, causing an exodus of more than 5176 Croats from the Fojnica Municipality who had lived in 30 inhabited places in the Municipality. Over 1500 residential buildings, leaving out of account all the auxiliary facilities (stables, garages, etc.) were destroyed and burnt in the process. During the attacks of A RBiH units on the Croatian settlements in the Fojnica Municipality and after the entry of A RBiH soldiers into these settlements 132 persons of Croatian nationality

The HVO members *Ivica Šakić* and *Josip Lučić* were captured on 20 July 1993 at Zlavast and interned in a meat dry-kiln, property of the Šoljić family, and then in an old house of Pero Lučić at Zlavast, and after three nights spent there they were taken away to the unknown. After the disappearance of her son, the mother of Ivica Šakić inquired after the whereabouts of her son with the A RBiH soldiers **Nijaz Đuliman, Atif Đuliman, Safet Jusufspahić** and **Osman Jusufspahić** who were guarding the prisoners. They told her they did not know where he had been taken to but that they had been taken with other soldiers, for soldiers had to be separated from civilians. On 11 September 1993 Milka Šakić, mother of Ivica Šakić, learned that her son had been buried in the graveyard in the Humac village and she had his body disinterred. Milka Šakić identified her son, and the body remained in the grave in which it had been buried. Josip Lučić was taken to Gračanica and shot dead on 25 July 1993 together with Ivica Šakić and a few other HVO members, and buried in the graveyard in the village of Humac. His body has not been identified yet.

On 18 July 1993 at Kordići, the HVO member *Franjo Ivandić* surrendered to the A RBiH soldiers **Zijo Čehaja, Mirso Čehaja** and Mirso's younger brother when he saw that they had captured his mother, step-father, and the woman he lived with in a common-law marriage. After his surrender Franjo Ivandić was kept for three days in the village of Kordići. Then on 22 July 1993, he and other captured HVO members were taken to Zlavast where Franjo was locked up in the meat dry-kiln owned by the Šoljić family. On 25 July all the captured HVO members were led away to Gračanica and shot dead there. After some time Franjo Ivandić was buried in the graveyard at Humac. His mother Delfa Toljan identified him on 6 October 1993. His body was totally mutilated.

The HVO members *Ivo Gunjača* and *Ivo Miličević* were captured at Kordići, and taken first to Zlavast together with Franjo Ivandić, and then to Gračanica where they were shot dead on 25 July 1993.

From the above stated it is evident that the five HVO members, after having been captured, were interned in the villages of Zlavast and Kordići and that they were taken in the direction of Gračanica and executed. During their internment at Zlavast they were guarded by the A RBiH soldiers: **Nijaz Đuliman son of Rasim, Atif Đuliman son of Tahir, Safet Jusufspahić son of Zahid** and **Osman Jusufspahić son of Muharem**, all from Zlavast, who sent them in the direction of Gračanica where they were killed. The three HVO members were captured at Kordići by **Zijo Čehaja, son of Hasan; Mirsad Čehaja** and his younger brother. They took them to Zlavast together with civilian *Mara Jazvić* who was also killed at Gračanica.

The HVO member *Miro Kolovrat* was captured in the IMPO department store in Bugojno soon after the conflicts broke out, and was interned in the prison housed in the grammar school building, where the prison deputy commander, **Nijaz Bevrnija**, menaced him with death during the questioning. On 23 July he was taken out of the prison in the grammar school and brought in front of the Ljubljanska Banka building in Bugojno to call the HVO members in the building to surrender. From there he was taken to a nearby building, to an apartment above the bookshop

"Kultura" from Belgrade, where he was killed on the sofa in the sitting position. The guards in the prison, A R BiH soldiers, after some time forced two prisoners to wrap the dead body of Miro Kolovrat into a blanket, take it out of the apartment and leave it in front of the entrance of the Ljubljanska Banka building to make seem as if the HVO members from inside the Ljubljanska Bank building had killed him. After some time other internees picked up the body of Miro Kolovrat and buried it in the Sultanovići graveyard in Bugojno. Directly responsible for the murder of Miro Kolovrat is Nijaz Bevrnja, deputy commander of the prison in the grammar school building.

The HVO members *Davor Jezidžić* and *Željko Tabaković* were taken from the camp on the stadium of the FC "Iskra" in a group of some 60 detainees, all tied with wire, to the front line between the HVO and the so-called A R BiH at Uskoplje, where they were forcibly engaged in digging trenches and ditches and other works in the most dangerous places on the front line, exposed to a direct peril. While doing these works Davor Jezidžić was killed in early October 1993, and Željko Tabaković on 1 November 1993.

The first group of HVO prisoners from Bugojno was driven to dig trenches on the front line at Uskoplje as early as 18 August, after the request of the commander of A R BiH 317 Mountain Brigade, Fahrudin Agić, AKA Pajo, sent to the commander of the A R BiH 307 Mountain Brigade from Bugojno, Tahir Granić, all with the consent of the commander of the Operating Group West, Selmo Cikotić.

Branko Juričić, son of Ante and Jela (née Glavaš), a member of the 2. HVO Battalion, happened to be at his home in Bugojno in the Đuro Pucar Street 13b where he was disarmed by Nijaz Bevrnja. On 21 July 1993 some A R BiH soldiers commanded by Nijaz Bevrnja called for him and told him they were taking him to the MUP (Ministry of the Interior - Police) for questioning. However, they took him down to the cellar of the building he lived in. Then they sent him across the street, and shot at him. He was hit with a rifle bullet. Although seriously wounded, he managed to crawl up to the entrance of the neighbouring building where he passed away. The body of Branko Juričić was left on the staircase of the building for two days. It should be noted that the two A R BiH soldiers did not go after Branko when he was sent to the other side of the street, so it is supposed they knew he would be shot at. He was shot at from the cellar of the building he lived in. The building was under direct supervision of the A R BiH member, *Hamdija Gavranović*, so he is certain to know who shot at Branko. The identity of the persons who had led away Branko was not established, since Branko's mother did not know them.

Zdravko Božić, *Dominko Jukić*, *Zdravko Bijader* and *Ivo Miljak*, all HVO members, were captured in the village of Kula, from where they were taken to Drvetine, 5 km away from Kula, and killed there. All the captives had been physically maltreated, after which Dominko Jukić was slaughtered, and the other three killed by fire-arms. They were temporarily buried near a house at Drvetine, and after the exhumation they were buried in the graveyard in the village of Bristovi, and in the graveyard at Čaušlije respectively.

An extremely heinous crime happened in the village of Gračanica where a unit was operating under the command of Hanefija Prijjić, AKA Paraga, which

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killed the **Miloš family**. The HVO members in the place of Gračanica, **Ivica Miloš** and his two sons **Mladen Miloš** and **Draško Miloš** gave up their arms to their neighbours **Mulaga Čusto** and **Hasan Čusto**, after the latter had asked them to do so saying that Gračanica had fallen and that every further resistance was pointless and that their fight has no sense. After they had given over their arms, they remained in the cellar of **Draško Miloš's** house. In the course of the day they were joined by **Mladen Miloš's** wife, **Lucija Miloš**, with her under age son **Mato**, and by **Pavo Miloš**, son of **Franjo**, a HVO member who had also surrendered his arms. In the morning of 2 July, between four and five o'clock, **Hanefija Prijjić**, nicknamed **Paraga**, burst into the cellar of **Draško Miloš's** house where they had been placed, with four of his soldiers, crying abusively: "Stand up, Ustasha, fuck your mother, we are going to butcher you all!" In the same room they separated **Lucija** with her small child on one, and the four men on the other side. There they started beating the men; they stripped them of their bracelets, watches, necklaces, etc. After half an hour they separated **Pavo** and **Draško** and said they would remain in **Draško's** house, while **Ivica**, **Mladen**, **Lucija** and the child were taken to the house of **Ferid Čusto** and put in the cellar. One of A RBiH soldiers took **Lucija Miloš** out and tried to rape her, but gave up after her persistent resistance. Soon after that **Pavo** and **Draško** were also brought to the cellar of **Ferid Čusto's** house where they were fiercely beaten up again by A RBiH soldiers. They put **Pavo** over an old storage battery and kept jumping on his back saying that his spine should be broken. They took **Mladen**, **Pavo** and **Draško** out in front of the house where a shot was heard, after which **Pavo** and **Draško** were returned to the cellar. **Mladen** was said he had tried to escape and was probably killed. After that two A RBiH soldiers took **Lucija** to **Zlavast** to the house of **Mehmed Bambur**, and **Mulaga Čusto** took her back to the house of **Draško Miloš** to take some things for the child. On the way she learned that her husband **Mladen** had escaped and was hiding in the house of **Mulaga Čusto**. **Lucija** entered the house of **Mulaga Čusto** and tried to swaddle up the baby, when **Hanefija Prijjić**, nicknamed **Paraga**, burst into the house, accompanied by his soldier **Muris Kalajdžisalihović**, AKA **Murgo**. They started shouting at **Mulaga** accusing him of being a Ustasha himself, because he was hiding a Ustasha in his house. They were beating **Mladen** and **Mujaga** with rifle butts and feet, and they both fell to the ground. They dragged them out of the house and soon two bursts of fire were heard. **Mujaga** came back into the house, followed by **Paraga** who was yelling at him to bury the Ustasha in five minutes or he would kill him, too. **Mulaga** and a boy went out and hurriedly buried **Mladen** in a potato field. Soon afterwards **Mulaga** told **Lucija** that the rest of the **Miloš family** had been killed, too. **Lucija** got to know that it was A RBiH member **Muris Kalajdžisalihović**, nicknamed **Murgo**, who fired two bursts at **Mladen** breast and killed him. Apart from the **Miloš family**, the soldiers of the unit of **Hanefija Prijjić**, nicknamed **Paraga**, also killed in Gračanica **Niko Miloš**, nicknamed **Čibo**, who had been detained after having surrendered the arms with others, and **Nikica Lučić** who had been captured and who had been killed by A RBiH member **Hasan Haznadarević**.

Apart from these horrible murders, 11 HVO members were wounded while being in captivity doing the hardest physical works on the front line, including demining.

1.2.2. Missing Prisoners of War

During the captivity of HVO members in the camps / torture chambers 21 captured HVO members disappeared from the camp, whose destiny has not been cleared up to date. This act, in the opinion of each Croat of Bugojno, is an organised act of the Muslim political and military leadership aimed at a definitive solution of the question of Croatian presence in Bugojno. As among the missing there are even six highly positioned officers from the HVO Bugojno Brigade, a few citizens with university qualifications native of Bugojno, and several HVO members who cut a figure in the organisation of defence at the time of Serbian attacks on Bugojno, and since the majority of them were registered by the ICRC, it is rightly believed that the order for their taking away from prison and execution was given by a military and/or political level which surpasses the local Bugojno limits and reaches up to the top of Muslim leadership, and/or SDA leadership. There is an ample documentation about the whole case, either with the ICRC or the families of the missing who used to communicate with the detainees, as well as a multitude of statements of the captured HVO soldiers who were in the captivity together with the missing. In the following text we shall give only the names of the missing, and the time and way of their disappearance. The exact facts about the taking away of each prisoner can be given by **Enes Handžić**, at that time a security agent in the OG "West" which was under the command of **Selmo Cikotić**. Enes Handžić would give a slip of paper to the members of the Brigade Military Police with the names of prisoners to be taken away. After that none of the prisoners ever came back to prison.

Marko Bartulović, HVO member, was captured on 18 July 1993 and taken to Prusac. He spent the next few days at Prusac where with other captives he dug trenches toward the Serbs. There he was spotted by **Enes Sijamija** from Porič, deputy commander of the Military Police in Bugojno, who with a few friends of his beat him mercilessly up, threw him half-dead into the boot of the car and drove off in an unknown direction. Since then every trace of Marko Bartulović has been lost. The motive for this, most probably, murder lies in the fact of unsettled pre-war "accounts", for Marko Bartulović had killed the father of Enes Sijamija and was sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment for that, which he had served to the full. It can be said that the responsibility for the disappearance, practically murder, of Marko Bartulović is born by Enes Sijamija who simply made use of the newly risen situation and committed murder "from base motives", and by the commander of the Prusac Sector, **Besim Učembrić**. Marko Bartulović was not registered by the ICRC.

Mihovil Strujić, HVO member, was captured in the "Kalin" Hotel on 25 July 1993. He went through all the camps in Bugojno where he was tortured and beaten.

He spent most time at Prusac from where he was taken away end September 1993, and has not been heard of ever since.

Nikica Miloš, HVO member, son of Jozo, captured on 25 July 1993. He was beaten up several times and tortured to the point of unconsciousness. From the camp on the stadium of the FC "Iskra" he was taken to the BiH Bank about 4 October and since then every trace has been lost of him. He was registered by the ICRC on 29 September 1993.

Niko Džaja, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He had been beaten since the moment of capture in front of more than 250 captured Croatian civilians. Later he was tortured in all possible ways and transferred to all the camps in Bugojno to avoid his registration by the ICRC. While he was digging trenches at Prusac he was taken away to the BiH Bank and has not been heard of ever since. He was not registered by the ICRC.

Nikica Miloš, HVO member, son of Dragutin, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno camps and everywhere underwent heavy physical maltreatment. End October he was taken away from the FC "Iskra" stadium and has not been heard of ever since.

Perica Kovačević, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno camps and underwent heavy physical maltreatment in all of them. He was taken away from the FC "Iskra" stadium on 15 November 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 28 September 1993.

Ivo Miloš, HVO member, was captured on 24 July 1993 and went through all Bugojno prisons. In all the camps he was heavily maltreated, and from the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium he was taken away in early October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 28 September 1993.

Ante Markulj, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno camps where he underwent heavy physical maltreatment. From the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium he was taken away on 10 October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC in October 1993.

Miroslav Dilber, HVO member, was captured on 27 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno camps where he underwent heavy physical maltreatment. From the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium he was taken away end October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 20 October 1993.

Zdravko Juričić, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno camps where he underwent heavy physical maltreatment. Although he suffered of diabetes, he was never given medical aid. From the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium he was taken away on 7 October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 29 September 1993.

Pero Crnjak, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno camps where he underwent heavy physical maltreatment. From the camp

on the FC "Iskra" stadium he was taken away mid October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 29 September 1993.

Mario Subašić, HVO member, was captured when the so-called A RBiH started attacks on the HVO and was terribly maltreated in prisons: in the furniture salon, in the "Vojin Paleksić" Elementary School building and in the grammar school building. About 26 July he was taken away from the "Vojin Paleksić" Elementary School in the car of Enes Sijamija and has not been heard of ever since. He was not registered by the ICRC.

Vinko Ivković, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993 and was locked up in the grammar school building from where he was taken away and has not been heard of ever since. In the village of Kotezi, Municipality of Bugojno, the corpse of an unknown person was found, marked with number 166 by the Commission for Identification. The description suggested that it might be the body of Vinko Ivković. Since he was taken away rather early, he was not registered by the ICRC either.

Dragan Erkapčić, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno prisons where he was heavily beaten and in other ways maltreated. End October 1993 he was taken away from the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 28 September 1993.

Branko Crnjak, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno prisons where he was heavily beaten and in other ways maltreated. Mid October 1993 he was taken away from the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium and since then every trace of him has been lost. He was not registered by the ICRC.

Stipica Zelić, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993 in the "Kalin" Hotel. He went through all Bugojno prisons where he was beaten black and blue and in other ways maltreated. Whenever the ICRC representatives visited the camp he happened to be in, he would be transferred to a different one. Till end September 1993 he had been engaged in trench digging on the front line at Donji Vakuf from where he was taken to the BiH Bank for hearing after which every trace of him has been lost. He was not registered by the ICRC.

Jadranko Gvozden, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno prisons and was transferred to Prusac to dig trenches. End September he was returned to the BiH Bank building where every trace of him is lost. The statements of some witnesses suggest that the dead body of Jadranko Gvozden was seen in the cellar of the BiH Bank. He was not registered by the ICRC.

Zoran Galić, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993 and locked up in the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium from where he was taken away on 15 November 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 20 October 1993.

Niko Zlatunić, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993, and went through all Bugojno prisons. He was taken away from the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium on 7 October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 28 September 1993.

Franjo Jezidžić, HVO member, was captured on 18 July 1993. He was detained in most Bugojno prisons and in the end was taken to the camp at Prusac to forced trench digging. End September 1993 he was taken away from Prusac in an unknown direction and has not been heard of ever since. He was not registered by the ICRC.

Dragan Miličević, HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993 and detained in the camp on the stadium of the FC "Iskra". On 15 November 1993 he was taken out of the camp for questioning by the deputy commander of the camp, **Fuad Kukavica**, in person, after which every trace of him was lost. He was registered by the ICRC on 20 October 1993.

1.2.3. Suffering of Civilian Persons

After the so-called A RBiH had attacked the HVO in Bugojno and gained control over the whole Municipality of Bugojno, its soldiers committed the crime of raping on several occasions. Five raped persons are on record. There are documents and statements of the victims about these rapes. This number is supposed to be larger, but other cases of rape were not registered and documented due to patriarchal relations prevailing in this environment.

When the so-called A RBiH attacked the Croats in Bugojno, the Croats were labelled as hostile people so that everybody could do to them whatever they pleased: civilians were mercilessly killed, maltreated or detained as prisoners of war. Croatian houses were thoroughly looted and stripped of everything that had any value; a number of A RBiH soldiers behaved like criminals of the worst kind. All this was possible because it was encouraged by the highest authorities. How otherwise explain the fact that the perpetrators of the murder of 90 helpless civilians were neither searched after nor sanctioned?

Below are the names of the killed civilians, including in some cases the way they were killed, or the names of perpetrators.

The officials of the Bugojno MUP, **Bernard Karajlić** and **Saša Ilić**, took the civilian **Ratko Crnjac**, born in 1942, out of his apartment on 22 July 1993 and brought him to the MUP building. After consultations with their superiors, they took him out in front of the building and murdered him with a pistol shot in the occiput.

Mara Jazvić was captured on 18 July 1993 in the village of Kordići by the A

stadium he was taken away mid October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 29 September 1993.

HVO member, was captured when the so-called A RBiH started to dig trenches and was terribly maltreated in prisons: in the furniture salon, "Elementary School building and in the grammar school building". On 15 July he was taken away from the "Vojin Paleksić" Elementary School and has not been heard of ever since. He was not registered by the ICRC.

HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993 and was locked up in the school building from where he was taken away and has not been heard of ever since. In the village of Kotezi, Municipality of Bugojno, the corpse of a person was found, marked with number 166 by the Commission for Missing Persons. Description suggested that it might be the body of Vinko Ivković. He was taken away rather early, he was not registered by the ICRC either.

HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno prisons where he was heavily beaten and in other ways maltreated. He was taken away from the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium on 7 October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 28 September 1993.

HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno prisons where he was heavily beaten and in other ways maltreated. He was taken away from the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium on 7 October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 28 September 1993.

HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993 in the "Kalin" Hotel. He was taken away from the camp on the FC "Iskra" stadium on 7 October 1993 and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 28 September 1993.

HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993. He went through all Bugojno prisons and was transferred to Prusac to dig trenches. End September 1993 he was returned to the BiH Bank building where every trace of him is missing. Statements of some witnesses suggest that the dead body of Jadranko was found in the cellar of the BiH Bank. He was not registered by the ICRC.

HVO member, was captured on 25 July 1993 and locked up in the school building from where he was taken away and has not been heard of ever since. He was registered by the ICRC on 29 September 1993.

with the captured HVO soldier Franjo Ivandić, was taken by Nijaz Đuliman to Gračanica where they were both murdered.

Vlatko Vasilic was put into custody by the police court judge because he disregarded compulsory work order, that is, refused to go to forced labour. On 30 January 1994, by order of **Haris Haznadarević**, an official of the Bugojno MUP, he was taken from a special section of the stadium camp (separated for civilians) and sent with a group of 300-500 Muslims to dig trenches toward the HVO at Uskoplje. On that occasion he was murdered with a pistol shot in the occiput.

Drago Alvir was captured after the attack of the so-called A RBiH on Bugojno, and soon killed by the A RBiH member **Naser Musić** under the false accusation that he had been a sniper.

Ilija Brečić was called by his neighbour **Azem Kapetan** to surrender. When he appeared at the door, in civilian clothes and unarmed, Azem Kapetan fired a burst at him, killing him on the spot and wounding his son *Dragan Brečić*.

The members of the A RBiH Military Police came to the house of *Niko Grabovac* on 19 July 1993, seized his rifle and told him not to leave his apartment. On 23 July 1993 two A RBiH soldiers called for him and took him towards the Bugojno MUP building. In the evening hours they killed him in front of the BiH Banka.

On 23 July 1993, A RBiH units called "Zečevi" ("The Hares") dragged the following civilians out of the cellar of Slavko Mršo's house: *Slavko Mršo*, an architect, born in 1931; his wife *Manda Mršo*, also architect by profession; and Slavko's mother *Jela Mršo*, aged 80 years. They were led away together with an HVO member *Mičo Grlić*. According to the statements of some witnesses, they were killed and their charred bodies were seen in the cellar of one of neighbouring houses.

Mario Kasalo, born in 1978, died in Split hospital of a through-shot wound after he had been shot at by an unidentified A RBiH member.

Ljubo Košak, an old man born in 1929, was wounded near the fish-market in Bugojno and left there unaided till the next morning when he was no more giving any signs of life.

Blago Miličević, born in 1942, was killed in the shed of Mile Čebedžić on 22 July 1993. A big letter U (Ustasha) was cut into his forehead with a knife.

Pavka Maros, born in 1934, was killed by **Enes Manjušak** with a burst of fire in front of her house on 29 July 1993.

Anda Ninković, born in 1936 was killed by a bursting bullet in the head on 21 July 1993.

Tadija Paurević, born in 1937, was killed with fire-arms on 22 July 1993.

The corpse of *Jure Šuta*, born in 1933, was found on 23 July 1993. It is not known how he was killed.

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Pero Visković, born in 1941, was wounded in front of his house in Malo Selo on 22 July 1993. He managed, however, to come to the Medical Corps of the HVO Second Battalion where he passed away.

Franjo Kirin, born in 1907, after having been evicted from his house in the Antuna Mavraka Street in Bugojno, he settled down in the nuns' convent in Malo Selo together with his two daughters. On 12 August he went to see his house and never came back. After a few days his family learnt about his death from the police; his body was mutilated. Franjo Kirin was killed by his neighbour **Meho Tanković** from the village of Vrbanja. According to the statement of other neighbours legal proceedings were instituted against Meho Tanković and he was sentenced by the Higher Court in Zenica. This is the only case when Muslim authorities punished somebody for a crime against the Croats.

Vinko Kasalo was killed end July 1993.

Žarko Jukić was killed in an unknown way on 19 July 1993.

Ivica Jezidžić, born in 1948, was found by his brother Nikica Jezidžić in the former's house, half-burnt.

Marijan Bekavac, born in 1943, *Jure Dusper*, born in 1936, *Blaž Ivić*, born in 1939, *Dominko Lučić*, born in 1923, *Frano Lebo*, born in 1931, *Josip Markić*, born in 1933 and *Marijan Nosić*, born in 1943, were caught on 30 October 1993 when trying a flight out of Bugojno to get across to the HVO controlled territory. They were all executed with a bullet into the occiput. It is supposed that these seven Croats were killed by **Muriz Kalajdžisalihović**, AKA Murgu, and **Mehmed Husić**, AKA Čimbur, military commander of Vesela.

Pero Marijanović was killed on 13 January 1994 by A RBiH soldiers on the road near Duratbegović Dolac.

Marica Marina was wounded during an attack of the so-called A RBiH on her house in which, besides her, there were five more women and a small male child, Josip. After the A RBiH soldiers, by threatening to kill the little Josip, had extorted 7000 DEM and some Croatian dinars, they took the civilians to the Muslim village of Vileše, leaving the wounded Marica Marina in the house where she died.

Niko Jurišić, born in 1930, was killed from ambush near the place of Kostadinovac on 20 June 1993.

Vinko Jurišić, born in 1942, was killed on 11 July 1993 at his house in the Grgiči village.

Slavko Topić, born in 1954, was captured in the area of the Grgiči village end July 1993, and died from the consequences of excessive blood taking.

Josipa Visković, a seventeen-year-old girl, was killed with a sniper by **Ramiz Prijić**, nicknamed Brnjo.

Smiljan Radielović, nicknamed Drago, born in 1926, was killed on 19 July 1993 in front of his house at Gajska.

Aleksandar Košak, born in 1939, was killed at his home in Gaj on 19 July 1993.

Ivo Visković, born in 1906, ran away before the attack of the so-called A RBiH from the village of Kula and settled down in the nuns' convent. After some time he returned to see his estate. His brother's son found him in the house half-burnt on 2 August 1993. It is supposed he was burnt alive in the house.

Pero Palinić, born in 1933, his wife *Ljuba Palinić*, born in 1934 and *Vinko Palinić*, born in 1934 were killed at Kula in the house of Pero Palinić on 24 November 1993: Pero with two shots in the breast; Vinko with two shots in the left temple, and Ljuba with one shot in the breast, after which the house was blown up with explosive. Delfa Palinić, wife of Vinko Palinić, survived this massacre. The murderer of Vinko Palinić is **Hanaz Dželilović**, their neighbour from Kula, who appeared in the house in a camouflage uniform with a black kerchief on the head. It is supposed that some more persons from the Dželilović family took part in the crime.

Božena Tomasović, born in 1967, was killed on 19 July 1993 in an unknown way, allegedly killed by an exploding shell.

The dead body of *Pero Gavrić*, born in 1958 in Lug, was found end July in Lug.

Tadija Vujević, born in 1963, was taken out of his house on 2 July 1993, 15 days before the start of the armed conflict, by unknown persons in the A RBiH uniforms, and killed at Mačkovac, on the road to Vesela.

Ana Dole-Lozić, born in 1927, lived alone in her house. During the conflicts in May 1993 Ana Dole was killed and left in the house which was set on fire about 24 July, when the body of the above named was burnt.

After the conflicts *Ivo Grabovac*, born in 1929, remained the only Croat in the village of Rosulje, which used to be inhabited solely by the Croats. In the night of 6 July 1993 he was taken out of the house by some persons in A RBiH uniforms. The next day his body was found in a small channel of the river Vrbas with the temple shot through. After this murder there were no more Croats in the village of Rosulje.

Mijo Križanović, born in 1925, was killed and mutilated at his home in Vrpeć, and then buried in a dunghill by the shed. His body was found and excavated by Nikica Strujić. The body was found under unknown circumstances, together with several other bodies of the killed Croats, near the school at Čipuljić, tied with a rope to the legs of *Janja Strujić*, born in 1923, who had also been killed and mutilated at her home in the village of Vrpeć. It is not clear why the bodies were tied and

July 1993

dragged 4-5 km from Vrpeć to Čipuljić. *Jozo Klarić*, 60 years old, was also killed with them. After that there was not a single Croat left in the big village of Vrpeć.

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Zdravko Dilber was killed at his home in Gračanica on 18 July 1993.

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Anto Dilber, born in 1945, was last seen on 28 July 1993. His corpse was found in the riverbed of the Vrbas between the villages of Gračanica and Zlavast. There are hints that he might have been killed by *Salem Šehić*, or at least Salem Šehić might know the name of the murderer(s).

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Stipo Grbavac lived in Crnić, and was killed end July 1993 in Gračanica.

Fanika Harambašić lived in the village of Vrbanja where she was butchered at her door-step.

Mara Lučić was stabbed to death in the night of 19 July 1993 in Zlavast, while her legs and arms were tied up. It is supposed that she had been raped prior to murder.

Josip Lučić, born in 1920, after having fled from his native Gračanica to Humac, returned to Gračanica where he was killed on 24 July 1993 by a blow with a blunt object in the region of the head.

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End July 1993 the following natives were killed in the village of Gračanica under unclarified circumstances: *Stipo Maros*, born in 1932; *Željko Miloš*, born in 1969; *Ratko Maros*; *Hubert Šimić*, born in 1931; *Stipo Bošnjak*, born in 1933, killed on 1 August 1993; and *Miroslav Miličević*, born in 1963, whose body was identified in the churchyard at Humac.

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The village of Gračanica used to be equally inhabited by Croats and Muslims. After the massacre of the Croats, out of 747 pre-war Croats there is not a single Croat in Gračanica any more. Direct responsibility for murders and exile of the Croats from Gračanica is born by the unit named "Zeleni zmajevi" (Green Dragons) under the command of *Semin Rustempašić*, while direct executioners were *Hanefija Prijčić*, nicknamed Paraga, *Muris Kalajdžisalihović*, nicknamed Murgo, and *Nermin Karadža*, nicknamed Germa.

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Jakov Gašpar, born in 1929, *Stipo Marinčić*, *Vinko Perić*, born in 1929, *Ivanko Penava*, born in 1973, *Dragutin Bartulović*, born in 1933, *Zdenko Bartulović*, born in 1966, *Ilija Keškić*, born in 1906, *Zdravko Keškić*, *Stipo Lubar*, born in 1949, and *Stipo Stipić*, born in 1952, were killed in the villages of Jablanje and Odžak.

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After the murder of the above ten persons in the villages of Jablanje and Odžak, in the period from 19 to 23 July 1993, the corpses of all the killed were thrown into the grave of Niko Lubar in the joint graveyard Odžak-Jablanje. Their exhumation was carried out on 3 June 1996, after which all the persons were identified. This grave was opened by Frano Penava on 1 January 1995 who found out that the corpses had been covered with polyethylene foil. But during the exhumation the polyethylene was gone, the bodies were partly burnt, and a ladder had been lowered into the grave; so it is to assume that somebody attempted to burn the corpses in order to make identification impossible and to hide the way the civilians had been killed. After this massacre not a single Croat was left in Jablanje, and in the village

of Odžak there remained one Croatian family that left Odžak a year later so that after their departure there are no Croats in Odžak either.

Dragan Kustura, born in 1930, *Ante Lučić*, born in 1959, *Jozo Milardić*, born in 1914 and his wife *Milica Milardić* were killed in the village of Goruša. Jozo Milardić and his wife Milica did not withdraw with the rest of the Croats from Goruša, but remained in their house. When A RBiH soldiers burst into their house, they tried to force the hidden money from them. After a few threats they killed Jozo, and sent Milica to go into the field to dig out the hidden money. When she returned from the field and was entering the house *Nermin Smajić* threw a hand bomb at her and killed her. After that they set their house on fire whereby the dead bodies of Jozo and Milica Milardić were also burnt. After these murders, in the village of Goruša, that used to be inhabited mainly by Croats, with only a few Muslim families, there remained only Marko Marina with his wife. Even they left Goruša a year later so that now Goruša is void of Croats.

As in the village of Gračanica, the heinous murders in the villages of Jablanje, Odžak and Goruša were committed by the members of the A RBiH unit named "Green Dragons" commanded by Semin Rustempašić.

Josip Pocrnja got killed by an exploding shell while he was engaged in a working platoon.

Ana Blatančić was killed in the village of Zlavast on 20 July 1993.

Marija Čokljat, born in 1929, went on 3 September 1993 to the village of Kandija to dig up some potatoes. Since she failed to return, her husband, accompanied by the police, went to the village of Kandija and found Mara violently murdered by strangling and with the blows with a blunt object on the head. It is assumed that the perpetrator of this murder, too, is Mehmed Tanković, who killed Franjo Karin in a like way.

Ivka Konta, born in 1928, went to see her brother's house in the village of Kandija on 10 September 1993. She was found killed and burnt in her brother's house.

Slavka Živko remained in the village of Vučipolje after the withdrawal of the Croats from the village. She was killed under unknown circumstances.

Dragija Svalina, born in 1927, mentally retarded person, remained alone in the village of Kandija after the withdrawal of the Croats. She was found dead on 8 August 1993.

Stipo Udovičić, born in 1928, went with Rašid Manjušak to Golo Brdo to sell him the hay that he left at home. While they were at Golo Brdo, an explosive device was thrown at them. Stipo Udovičić got killed instantly, while Rašid Manjušak was seriously wounded.

Zdravko Bojić, born in 1951, was found end July 1993 hanged by rope.

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Pero Brkanović, born in 1928, *Ivo Kolovrat*, born in 1949, *Igor Kolovrat*, born in 1975, were killed on 25 July 1993 with sniper shots fired by A RBiH soldiers

Stipo Kasalo, born in 1938, was killed end July 1993 in an unknown way.

Frano Živko, born in 1928, was killed on 18 July 1993 in front of his son's house at Vučipolje.

Josip Žulj, born in 1961, was killed at Vučipolje on 28 July 1993 after all conflicts had stopped.

Ljuba Dujmović did not want to withdraw with other Croats from the village of Glavice, and was killed when A RBiH marched into the village.

Josip Gvozden and *Stipo Gvozden*, sons of Ivo, were killed end July 1993 under unclarified circumstances in the village of Glavice.

Vlado Marina was killed in the village of Glavice on 17 July 1993 while returning from the funeral of the killed Miro Talenta at Vrbanja.

After the murder of *Ljuba Dujmović*, *Josip* and *Stipo Gvozden* and *Vlado Marina*, in the village of Glavice in which exclusively Croatian population had lived, except for a few Serbian families in the hamlet of Gredine, not a single living Croat remained.

Božo Sučić, born in 1939, a psychically sick person, was killed in his house on 19 July 1993.

Frano Žulj, born in 1960, was murdered with knife stabs on his field on 25 May 1993.

Since the number of the killed Croat civilians in the Municipality of Bugojno is higher than 280, in this review only a part of the killed could be mentioned. As the investigations into the deaths of civilians continue, the number of the killed and massacred is sure to be much higher, which will show the real proportions of the war crimes against the Croatian civilian population in the Municipality of Bugojno.

1.2.4. Acts of Robbery over Civilian Persons

Not a single Croatian family that remained in Bugojno after the so-called A RBiH had gained full control over this town, passed without some form of torture or robbery. As already said, the Croats were labelled as a hostile people and anybody could do to them whatever they pleased. After the withdrawal of the HVO from the territory of the Bugojno Municipality, all Croatian property was at disposal and every Muslim could take whatever he chose without fear of consequences. During the raids of armed robbers into apartments most of them introduced themselves as police! Although records exist of all acts of robbery, the review that follows comprises only a small number of characteristic robberies arranged in chronological order.

On 5 September 1993, about 21 hours, armed persons, dressed in A RBiH uniforms, burst into the house of *Vladimir Zrno* and his wife *Stanka*, introducing themselves as military policemen. They separated *Vladimir* and his wife *Stanka* and maltreated them in various ways in order to extort money they had. After the maltreatment that lasted more than an hour and after the threats with murder, *Vladimir* gave over the money he had: 165 DEM, 50 coupons and 2500 Croatian dinars. His wife, who had been taken to the bedroom, at first would not admit she possessed anything, but after the torture she gave them her bag containing 2800 DEM, a golden necklace, a chain, a cross, two bracelets and a ring. After that the raiders forced her to strip to the skin and searched her vagina saying they were looking if she had hidden the money there!!

On 7 September 1993, about 22 hours, three persons in camouflage uniforms and with rifles in the hands burst into the house of *Branko Zrno* and *Zora Blažević* near the leather factory. They immediately started hitting *Branko* with fists asking money and gold of him. His wife *Zora* was driven off to another room. *Branko* gave them all he had right away: 90 DEM, 100 ATS and 2000 Bosnian dinars, but the raiders kept beating him thinking he had not given them all he had. Torture and beating lasted till midnight: they were threatening *Branko* that they would slay him, they put a kitchen knife under his throat and even made a small cut into it, they made two knife cuts on his stomach, they cut a vein in his right wrist. They tied the mouth of *Branko's* wife and beat her demanding money. As she had nothing they tore off a golden ring from her finger. When going away they left a rifle (!). Police came to take it after *Branko* had reported the case to them. Of course, in spite of this glaring evidence the police never discovered the perpetrators.

On 9 September 1993, about 21:50 hours, the house of *Andrija Ruža* was burst into by two persons in camouflage uniforms and with rifles in the hands. Apart from *Andrija Ruža* his wife *Slavenka* and her father *Karlo Čuljak*, there were several other people in the house who had come to stay overnight for security reasons: *Štefica Keškić* and *Jelena Keškić*, *Anda Jezidžić* and *Marija Jezidžić*, and *Bosa Kasalo*. This was an everyday practice that the Croats from several isolated houses used to come together in one house where they would stay overnight together for security reasons. It goes without saying that the deserted houses were an easy pray to so many robbers.

So, after the robbers had burst into the house of *Adrija Ruža*, they demanded, under threat of shooting, money and gold from those present there. At the same time they were beating *Slavenka Ruža*, her husband *Andrija*, and *Štefica* and *Jelena Keškić* with rifle butts. After that they took 230 DEM from *Slavenka*, her husband and her father; 1000 DEM and the wedding ring from *Štefica Keškić*; 1000 DEM from *Jelena Keškić*; and 270 DEM from the rest. The raiders left the house about 23:30 hours threatening the victims to keep quiet about this or they would be killed.

On 14 September 1993, four persons in camouflage uniforms, with stockings on the faces and rifles in the hands, burst into the apartment of the Bugojno lawyer *Stjepan Vukadin* who was there with his cousin's father- and mother-in-law, who

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intended to stay overnight there because of greater safety than in their house at Bristovi. With rifles aimed at his head they demanded money from the host. As he said he had no money, one of the robbers took a big knife out of its sheath, put it under his neck and asked for money again. After the repeated answer that there was no money in the apartment, the raider hit Stjepan with the knife's haft on the forehead so that blood ran all over the face of Stjepan Vukadin. As the blows grew stronger, and Stjepan had no money to give to the raiders, the raiders turned to other inmates demanding money from them. They immediately said the money was in the wife's bag and gave the raiders 5000 ATS and 500 DEM. After having got the money, the raiders threatened the victims not to tell anybody about this, otherwise they would be killed, and their apartment blown up.

On 14 September 1993 about 20:50 hours, a group of five raiders burst into the house of *Jozo Kotarac* in the village of Jasika, beat Jozo and his wife Emilija, demanding money from them. During the beating Jozo lost consciousness several times and was in a very poor condition. Having got no money, they took a video-recorder, an electricity meter, 18 kilos of detergent and other minor things.

On 14 September 1993, in the village of Jasika, unknown perpetrators beat up five Croats, two of them sustaining heavy body injuries. Because of this case the villagers settled with a few Muslim friends to come to their village to protect them from raiders. So Mehmed Husić with his family and 4-5 more adult people came to the village. On 15 September 1993 *Dragan and his brother Pero Lučić* were in the house to which Mehmed Husić had moved, and about 21:00 hours they set out for their house some 50 m away. Dragan's daughter-in-law met them in front of the house and told them not to go into the house because raiders are inside. At once Mehmed Husić with a group of Muslims encircled Dragan's house and called on the raiders to surrender. After some time they came out leading Dragan's wife at gun point. They asked to be let to the car "Renault 4" after which they would let Dragan's wife go. Mehmed Husić agreed and followed the robbers on foot, with arms. In the meantime the robbery had been reported to the police who set an ambush 1 km away from Dragan's house. There came to a cross fire, and Dragan's wife sustained heavy through-shot wounds.

On 26 October 1993, in the morning, when they returned from the house of Dominko Kajić where they usually spent the night, *Vinko Kajić* and his wife *Ljuba Kajić* found masked and armed raiders in their house with rifles in the hands. They put rifle barrels into their mouths threatening to kill and burn them unless they give them money. They beat Ljuba Kajić so much that her head was very swollen, and the eyes completely closed with swellings. As the raiders stayed in the house all the night they managed to collect two sacks full of valuable things.

On 27 October 1993, about 21:50 hours, three raiders in camouflage uniforms burst into the house of *Dragutin Miličević*. They tortured him and his wife physically

and psychically, put rifle barrels into their mouths, kitchen knife under the throat, after which they extorted from them 600 DEM, 200 ATS, 50 \$, three golden chains and a golden ring.

On 3 October 1993, about 23:00 hours, raiders in camouflage uniforms burst into the house of *Dominko Miličević* at Alibegovići. They tortured him and his mother physically and psychically, aiming the rifle at their heads and bodies, till they had ransacked the whole house taking away a radio set, a fur coat and some minor things.

On 14 December 1993 unknown armed burglars broke into the house of *Stipo Tomas* taking away about 500 kg of barley. His house had also been raided mid October when he was beaten and robbed of 1 500 DEM, golden jewellery and some other things.

On 6 January 1994 in the morning, a man in uniform and with a rifle entered the apartment of *Marija Čurčuja* showed some kind of warrant and started ransacking the apartment. Besides the host, there were Slava Jurišić and Selma Imamović in the apartment. After the rummage the raider took away 1 000 ATS and 40 DEM, earrings, three rings and a necklace from Marija; from Slava Jurišić he took earrings and a wedding ring, and from Selma Imamović two rings and earrings.

On 5 March 1994 about 20:00 hours, three armed raiders in camouflage uniforms burst into the house of *Stjepan Goreta*. They tied him and his brother up and pressed them into the WC. On that occasion they took 200 DEM from Stjepan, and 230 DEM from his brother, looting also all the food stuffs in the house.

On 19 April 1994, about 2 hours in the morning, two armed soldiers broke into the house of *Fabijan Tabaković*, aged 86, who lived with his wife aged 81 years. After having hit them several times they tried to rape Fabijan's wife. When she said she was sick of cancer, they gave up! They took away 300 DEM.

This sad review could go on indefinitely. Here only the most characteristic examples of violence and robbery have been mentioned. Neither the majority of cases has been listed, nor did robberies stop with the last mentioned case.

After all that had been done to the remaining Croats in Bugojno, and being without any protection by Muslim authorities, most of the remaining Croats from Bugojno were seeking ways and means of leaving Bugojno. Their suffering and departures were a strong message from Muslim authorities to those Bugojno Croats who ever thought of returning to Bugojno!

As already stated, the responsibility for the crime against the Croats in Bugojno reaches much farther than the Muslim authorities of Bugojno, for a crime of such proportions could not have passed unnoticed and without reaction of the Muslim highest political and military top. Therefore, the responsibility for the crimes against the Croats in Bugojno, apart from direct perpetrators listed for individual cases, is born by:

were killed, out of which 18 civilians were killed heinously: *Jozefina Krajina, Kata Milušić* and *Ivan Milušić, Mato Lalić, Slavko Katavić, Ivan Iviš, Luca Barbić, Ana Musa, Anđelka Barbarić, Mato Jurak, Franjo Jurak* and *Marta Jurak, Bernardica Pravdić, Ivo Bošnjak* and *Ilija Kapetanović*. An especially atrocious crime happened on 13. November 1993 when four armed persons, most probably members of the unit called "Crni labudovi" ("Black Swans"), burst into the Franciscan monastery in Fojnica and killed two priests: *fra Nikica Miličević*, the guardian, and *fra Leon Migić*, the vicar.

3.2. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

During the attacks of A RBiH units on the Croats in Fojnica, 237 Croats were captured and they went through Muslim prisons in the Elementary School building in Fojnica, in the Branch School at Ostružnica, in the "Silos" building at Klokoti and the prison at Parsovići. An especially heavy physical maltreatment and other forms of torture were experienced by 20 Croats taken to the prison in "Silos" building at Kaćuni.

A RBiH soldiers devastated and/or desecrated the church in the village of Kazijeveći, as well as the local graveyards in the villages of Ščitovo, Ostružnica, Lučica, Mujakovići and Kazijeveći.

The following A RBiH units are responsible for the persecution of Croats and other crimes against Croats in the Fojnica Municipality: 310. Mountain Brigade under the command of **Nihad Kamenjaš**; Demolition and Intelligence Platoon of the 310. Mountain Brigade under the command of **Muharem Huskić**, Demolition and Intelligence Detachment under the command of **Remzija Hajdarević**, the unit "Crni labudovi" under the command of **Hasan Tirić**, the unit named "Živiničke ose" ("The Živinice Wasps"), the unit named "Laste" ("The Swallows") under the command of **Ekrem Tufo**, "Dusinski odred" ("Dusina Detachment") under the command of **Fikret Fejzić**, "Prokoški odred" (Prokosi Detachment) under the command of **Mustafa Omerčević**, and "Frkina jedinica" ("Frka's Unit") under the command of **Ferid Provalić**.

3.2.1. The Prison in the "Silos" Building at Kaćuni

It has already been mentioned that during the attacks of A RBiH units on the Croats in Fojnica, 237 Croats were captured and passed through Muslim prisons in the Elementary School building in Fojnica, in the Branch School at Ostružnica, in the "Silos" building at Klokoti and the prison at Parsovići. An especially heavy physical maltreatment and other forms of torture were experienced by 20 Croats taken to the prison in the "Silos" building at Kaćuni.

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Most of them were captured after the attack of the so-called A RBiH on 2 July 1993 in the village of Ostružnica, in front of their houses. From there, Muslim soldiers transported them, tied with wire, in a truck to the "Silos" prison at Kačuni. The prisoners were put in two rooms: 16 in one and 7 in the other, where they spent 73 days. The conditions in the prison were very bad, the prisoners had no water, they slept on the concrete floor without any covers, and were daily maltreated by A RBiH soldiers. One day the Muslim guards who guarded them, brought in children and women to beat them. In order to humiliate them, all the prisoners had to stoop, and the children would go along the file slapping them on the face. **The prisoners had an especially hard day on 14 July 1993 when 14 groups of Muslim soldiers, each having from 3 to 5 men, took turns in beating them, so that in the course of that day the prisoners were beaten over 14 times.** The result of these beatings were heavy bodily injuries (broken ribs, cut eyes, cracked skulls etc.) and blood swellings over the whole body. After 45 days spent in the "Silos" prison at Kačuni, the prisoners saw the daylight for the first time. On that occasion the Muslim soldiers guarding them made them jump from a bridge several metres high into the water that was only 40-50 cm deep. All prisoners had to jump and all sustained heavy bodily injuries. The prisoners used to lose consciousness very often due to exhaustion.

4. MUNICIPALITY OF JABLANICA

According to the 1991 census in the Municipality of Jablanica there lived 12,691 inhabitants. The national composition of the population was the following: Muslims 9,099; Croats 2,291; Serbs 504; Others 797.

4.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JABLANICA

The operationalization of the plan for the exile of the Croats from the Municipality of Jablanica began intensively in March 1993 when **dr. Safet Ćibo** was appointed war president of the municipalities of Jablanica, Konjic and Prozor, and after the meeting of all commanders of A RBiH and MUP units for the area of the Northern Herzegovina in Jablanica on 20 March 1993.

On 13 April 1993 the A RBiH units blocked all roads on the territory of the Municipality of Jablanica and restricted the freedom of movement for the Croats in the town, and made it impossible for them to communicate among each other by disconnecting their phones. On 15 April 1993 the "Muzej" camp in Jablanica was established, where the Croats from the town were detained. At the same time open conflicts started between the A RBiH units and the HVO of the Municipality of Jablanica in the villages of Risovac, Sovići and Doljani, or more exactly, in the part of the Municipality inhabited mainly by the Croats. In the course of the day the members of Muslim units were raiding the apartments of the Croats, interning military conscripts and forming working platoons of them. In the meantime their property had been plundered. It was an organised arrest of the Croats from the very town since the MUP and A RBiH MP members, during the arresting operation, had a list of the Croats with addresses, and at the entrance of residential buildings a truck was already waiting for them to take them to prison. The order for the arrest of the Croatian civilians was issued by **Hasan Hindić**, an official of "A RBiH Headquarters" Jablanica. The executor of the command was **Safet Idrizović**.

The members of the working platoons, the Croats of the Municipality of Jablanica, had to do the hardest physical works for the needs of the Muslim authorities in the town itself and on the front line. Most of them were detained in the "Muzej" prison in Jablanica. On several occasions the families of the detained Croats from Jablanica were maltreated, plundered and evicted from their flats under the threat that the members of their families detained in the "Muzej" prison would be liquidated.

Although the local television broadcast a statement several times calling the Croats to come to the MUP premises for protection, after they had reported themselves to the MUP, no protection was provided for them. Quite the opposite, they were accused and maltreated instead. The Croats who had remained in the

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apartments were exposed to physical and psychical maltreatment. They were also denied humanitarian aid.

The majority of the Croatian population, or more than 1,700 inhabitants who used to live in the Muslim-controlled area, were exiled, their property looted, and most of their buildings (more than 280 residential buildings) devastated or completely destroyed. On the territory of the Municipality of Jablanica 51 persons of Croatian nationality were killed and another 5 are registered as missing.

The largest number of the killed was registered on 28 July 1993 in an attack of Muslim units on the village of Doljani when 38 (thirty-eight) locals of the village of Doljani were killed, out of which 24 (twenty-four) HVO members and 14 (fourteen) civilians. During the attack 7 (seven) civilians were wounded, two of them dying later from the sustained wounds. Five villagers are still registered as missing.

When the A RBiH units raided the village of Doljani, they captured 210 villagers out of which 59 minors (children), and about 100 persons were over 60. All captured Croats were interned in the "Muzej" camp in Jablanica and were victims of inhuman treatment.

The persons responsible for the affliction of the Croats in the Municipality of Jablanica are:

- **Dr. Safet Ćibo**, the then president of the War Presidency of the municipalities of Jablanica, Konjic and Prozor
- **Enes Kovačević**, commander of the 44. Mountain Brigade A RBiH,
- **Emin Zebić**, head of the "SJB" ("Public Security Service") Jablanica,
- **Safet Idrizović**, commander of the "A RBiH Staff", Jablanica,
- **Hasan Hindić**, member of the "A RBiH Staff", Jablanica,

4.2. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

4.2.1. The "Muzej" Prison in Jablanica

The "Muzej" prison in Jablanica was established on 15 April 1993 by the Decision of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Jablanica. **Ismet Dedajić AKA Dedo** was appointed warden of the prison. The prison was established for the captured HVO members and Croatian civilians. It was closed down in March 1994, after the cessation of the hostilities between the Croats and Muslims in BiH.

During the existence of the prison 85 Croats with the status of POW went through it and more than 400 civilians among whom 69 minors (children, the youngest being only 37 days of age) and about 100 persons above 60 years of age.

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The "Muzej" prison in Jablanica was divided into upstairs rooms where the Croatian civilians were placed, and the cellar rooms where the HVO members were confined. The living conditions in the prison were below every level of human dignity. One single room held at times as many as 300 detainees with a few sanitary appliances in bad repair, a few water taps, without the possibility of personal hygiene. Due to unsanitary conditions in the prison most prisoners were taken ill with skin diseases. The rooms were paved with granite tiles, which, especially in winter, caused difficulties since there was no heating nor enough blankets. The window panes were broken which caused the prisoners, especially in winter, to catch cold. At the same time, during winter, certain guards turned on the air-conditioning on several occasions and additionally cooled the room, which caused even more illness and freezing. In addition, the prisoners were often taken ill because the food was bad and inadequate in terms of quantity (one or two meals daily consisting of a slice of bread and a cup of unsweetened tea), so that most prisoners, on leaving prison, had lost up to 20 kg of weight. Four aged civilian persons died from the consequences of malnutrition, cold and unsanitary conditions in the prison. In spite of the presence of doctors in the prison, most prisoners were denied medical aid. So the little girl Magdalena Jurić was given medical aid only five days after she had fallen seriously ill.

All prisoners were victims of inhuman treatment, and almost all of them were physically and psychologically maltreated. Beatings and maltreatments were on a daily basis, prisoners were robbed of all their valuables, money, clothes, footwear etc. The guards made it possible to any of Muslim civilians or A RBiH soldiers to maltreat and humiliate the detainees, which would get worse with the arrival of units from other places. At least two woman detainees were raped. They were taken out of the civilian ward by **Nihad Bojadžić AKA Blek**, deputy commander of the "Zulfikar" unit, who beat and raped them.

The conditions in the prison, and humiliation of interned civilians are illustrated by the example of a woman prisoner who in her statement said:

"... But in the morning when they brought in breakfast, if it deserves to be called so, it was milk, the policeman put the bowl on the floor, I come closer to the bowl to take it up, but he will not let me under the threat of the rifle, makes me to lap up like a cat and tells me so: 'Lap.' I had to do so for I dared not take the bowl in the hands..."

Especially hard were the conditions in the cellar rooms of the "Muzej" where the captured HVO members were confined. In four rooms 2,5 by 3 m in size, paved with granite tiles, a score of prisoners were crammed.

Apart from insanitary conditions and food shortage, the prisoners were beaten over every day, physically maltreated, forced to sing Islamic religious songs.

Sometimes they were forced to ease nature in the rooms they were staying in, to which one of the prisoners testifies this way:

"... Lie down here. I lied down on the floor, it was concrete, and he ordered me to hold my hands above the head. I had to do that. As soon as I had done so, he hit me heavily with the heel in the region of the kidneys, for I was lying face down, and said: 'Will you kill Muslims?' I told him I had killed nobody, but he went on hitting me savagely. In fact he struck me only in the region of the kidneys, first with the heel of one foot, and then with both feet in the back. If I tried to protect me, with my hands, he would hit me with the toecap of his shoe in the side, in the ribs, and ordered me to put up my hands..."

The members of UNPROFOR and other international organisations tried several times to help the prisoners, but were prevented from doing so by military and civilian officials of the Municipality of Jablanica. Only once during their visit the ICRC representatives managed to distribute soap (one bar of soap for four persons) with the apology that no other humanitarian activities were allowed to them.

The group of detained Croats, HVO members and able-bodied civilians, were regularly taken to work on the front line where they were engaged in digging trenches, carrying and digging-in of heavy weaponry, getting wounded and dead A RBiH soldiers out of the battlefield and the like. It was in such circumstances that the detainee **Zdravko Nizić** got killed, while several others were slightly or seriously wounded. The prisoners were also driven to work in times of combat activities and they were not allowed to take shelter. To illustrate the working conditions on the front line we quote a part of the statement of a prisoner:

"... In addition to the food being lousy, and to maltreatment in the prison itself, they started driving us to forced labour, day in day out. Hungry, beaten black and blue, and weak as we were, we had to cover, even early in the morning, as many as 10-15 km on foot with one slice of bread and a tin for four. We toil the whole day, we come back about 23 hours in the evening, and again you have nothing to eat, and the next day it starts all over again..."

Special tortures and maltreatment were undergone by those detainees who used to be taken to the place of Donja Jablanica where the seat of the "Zulfikar" unit was, where the cruellest physical and psychical maltreatments were recorded (extinguishing cigarettes against the naked skin, putting fire crackers in the bosom, breaking of bones, etc.), committed by the members of this unit, especially its deputy commander **Nihad Bojadžić AKA Blek**. It was with his approval that the detainee **Zoran Milas** was killed. He himself intentionally wounded the detainee Ilija Kaleb, who had been severely beaten beforehand, with a pistol shot. Besides Nihad Bojadžić, the following members of the "Zulfikar" unit stood out in the maltreatment of the prisoners: **Popara, Nedžad, Džeko** and **Deba**. They used to take certain prisoners out to Jablanica at night and asked them to extort money from the remaining Croats in Jablanica.

End September 1993 about 20 detained Croats were taken to Drežnica, Municipality of Mostar, with the intention to use them as living shield in the conquering of Vrđi. The detainees were placed in the local church and were exposed

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to cruel physical and psychical torture. According to the testimony of the prisoners they were beaten with religious pictures and statues, were forced to eat the leaves of religious books and rosaries. Sexual maltreatment of the detainees engaged in the forced labour at Drežnica was also recorded. This group of detainees was returned from Drežnica on 22 October 1993, and sent to the "Muzej" in Jablanica, on 4 November 1993. In the "Muzej" prison they were registered by the ICRC on 16 November 1993, although some of them had been detained for more than 7 months already, during which time they had been moved to 5-6 prisons. Physical and psychical consequences of the maltreatment of the detainees made a strong impression on the ICRC representatives.

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To illustrate the conditions in the prison and the conditions the detained HVO members had to work in on the front line, here is a part of the statement of a detained HVO member engaged in the arrangement of the A RBiH front line at Drežnica:

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"... We were there for 4,5,6 days. We never went out. They beat, maltreated us every evening. That Zijo Kurtović would bring in each time 3 groups of boys from Drežnica at 24:00 hours who beat and maltreated us. They forced men to put their sexual organs into each other's mouth. They would beat us with the objects that happened to be in the church: icons, candlesticks, crosses, whatever they laid their hand upon. The food was meagre. One loaf of bread, a large home-made one, for 20 of us, one tin for five, a bottle of water for us 20. After five, six days they let us out to work."

The natives of the village of Drežnica especially stood out in the maltreatment: **Zijo Kurtović, Hasan Delić, Hasan Kurtović, Nijaz Alić AKA Spina.**

The "Muzej" prison in Jablanica was closed down after the exchange of detainees on 1 March 1994. The most responsible persons for physical and psychical maltreatment, and for the conditions the detainees lived in are:

- **Dr. Safet Ćibo**, chairman of the War Presidency of the municipalities of Jablanica, Konjic and Prozor;
- **Ismet Dedajić AKA Dedo**, warden of the "Muzej" prison;
- **Šaćir Mehić**, warden of the "Muzej" prison, after Dedajić;
- **Enes Kovačević**, commander of the 44. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Safet Idrizović**, commander of the "A RBiH Headquarters" of the Jablanica Municipality;
- **Emin Zebić**, chief of the MUP of the Jablanica Municipality;
- **Zenaid Đelmo, AKA Cake**, official of the SJB Jablanica who had the authority of issuing warrants for arresting and imprisonment of the Croats, for determining the life and sojourn regime in the camp, it can be said that he was superior to the prison warden;
- **Zulfikar Ališpago AKA Zuka**, commander of the "Zulfikar" unit;
- **Nihad Bojadžić AKA Blek**, deputy commander of the "Zulfikar" unit;
- **Sead Kurt**, commander of the A RBiH MP of the Jablanica Municipality;
- **Seno Džino**, commander of a unit of the A RBiH MP;
- **Zijo Kurtović**, commander of the A RBiH MP at Drežnica.

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4.3. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS, INFLICTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

4.3.1. The Crime in the Village of Doljani

On 28 July 1993, the village of Doljani, Municipality of Jablanica, came under an organised attack of the so-called A RBiH from several directions, preceded by the raids of demolition teams of the so-called A RBiH (Special demolition team under the command of **Bećir Behrem**).

During the offensive action of the A RBiH units 42 persons of Croatian nationality were killed, out of which 38 villagers of Doljani.

Since the members of the 44. Mountain Brigade A RBiH from Jablanica, who knew the ground quite well, also participated in the attack, they blocked all the roads and paths by which the villagers of Doljani might exit, which resulted in mass killings of civilians while trying to escape from the already occupied parts of the village.

According to the statements of witnesses who managed to escape the massacre by hiding in the forest, A RBiH soldiers, during the attack on the building where the command of the HVO unit "Mijat Tomić" was, put a living shield of some 50 civilians, including small children, in front of themselves in spite of the fact that at the moment of the attack only a few HVO members were in the building.

The most heinous massacre was committed at the locality called Stipića livada (in the Čvrstica region, about 10 km from the village) where, during the sanitation of the ground, 22 (twenty-two) bodies were found killed at close range. The largest number of persons got killed during the pulling out, when A RBiH soldiers, from ambush, opened small arms fire at a group of civilians and soldiers who were moving towards Risovac. A part of those who survived the shooting and all the wounded were captured. After maltreatment they were all killed and mutilated. By inspection of the ground it was established that there were no combat activities with heavy weaponry at the locality of Stipića livada. However, the mutilated bodies of the killed indicate to the fact that a number of the dead were killed by explosive devices. Also, the shells found on the Stipića livada confirm that a few were killed with a hunting gun, the so called shotgun, at close range.

According to the statement of a surviving woman witness, *Željko Miškić*, an HVO member, was singled out from the group on the Stipića livada by an A RBiH member who addressed him by the family name. Željko was later found with his hands tied, castrated and with a ripped belly. *Marinko Zelenika* had his eyes gouged out by A RBiH soldiers, the body of *Milenko Gagro* was found with the head scalped. *Ljubomir Božić* had his arm wrenched off by Muslim soldiers, the old woman *Anica Ripić*, born in 1934, who was wounded in the shooting, was found dead with visible traces of maltreatment. The corpse of *Zvonko Pinjušić* shows the

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A few bodies on the Stipića livada were found piled on one another. During the sanitation of the ground on the Stipića livada some of the bodies found were blown up with hand bombs.

The direct perpetrators of the crime on the Stipića livada are: **Bećir Behrem**, **Amil Halihodžić**, **Jusuf Kevrić**, **Miralem Krnjić AKA Paja**, **Sead Hatić**, **Avdo Malović AKA Šok**, **Enver Zebić AKA Berba**, **Amir Spahić AKA Prpa**, **Alija Malović**, **Ibro Sihirlić**, **Mithat Đelmo**, **Hazim Krnjić**.

The same day in the hamlet of Krkače in the village of Doljani, A RBiH soldiers killed 8 (eight) Croats. On that occasion *Ivan Žarić* was wounded with a grenade, and died at hospital in Jablanica. According to the available information, the above named was operated on and subjected to a post-operative treatment until the moment when **Hata Zukić - Goranka** and **Zulka Škampo**, Muslim nurses from the village of Doljani, forcibly turned off the infusion, causing *Ivan Žarić's* death.

The identification of the killed established that *Jure Soldo*, born in 1970, was beheaded and his head put into a PVC bag. According to the statements of the surviving witnesses, *Stipe Bradarić*, born in 1953, was forced by **Mirza Ovnović**, an A RBiH soldier, to jump from a 30 m high cliff. In the hamlet of Krkače the old woman *Iva Pavlović*, born in 1929, was murdered by **Šćuk Bahrudin**, an A RBiH soldier.

When trying the flight from the hamlet of Krkače a group of civilians was shot at, and *Igor Lebo*, a small boy, was wounded. While his mother was trying to stop his bleeding, A RBiH soldiers came up and shot at her. After having been wounded in the leg, this time the little *Igor Lebo* was hit with two bullets in the back, which caused his death. The body of the under age *Igor Lebo* was found later mutilated with cold steel.

In the hamlets of Stupari, Orlovac and Šarančevići, the village of Doljani, the same day 8 (eight) Croats were killed. According to the statements of witnesses, the bodies of the killed *Milan Pole* and *Andrija Groznica* were mutilated by Muslim women who also participated in the attacks on Doljani: **Ena Zekotić**, **Zenaida Malović AKA Čička** and **Mirsada Drljević AKA Dada**. In the hamlet of Stupari the body of *Ruža Čolić* was found. She was wounded by A RBiH soldiers on her door-step, and died within 24 hours from the sustained wounds. *Martin Ripić* was slaughtered in front of his family house in the hamlet of Stupari. *Pava Stipanović* was also killed in her family house. *Andrija Stipanović* was killed near his family house. *Andrija Miličević* was killed when coming out of his wife's parents' house.

The natives of the village of Doljani, after the village had been occupied, were arrested and deported to the "Muzej" prison in Jablanica. The witnesses who

escaped the massacre and deportation, hidden in Doljani at the time of the attack, speak about an organised transport of civilians on the trucks that had already been standing prepared. Among the arrested there were 21 children under five years of age, the youngest child having been only 37 days of age, then 42 children between five and fifteen years of age, 10 pregnant women, 39 women, and 31 persons over 60 years of age. About 210 Croats from the village of Doljani were arrested and deported to the "Muzej" prison in Jablanica.

In the maltreatment of the captured civilians and HVO members the following individuals especially stood out: **Salko Siharlić, Ismet Zukić, Fadil Kubić, Huso Hasidić, Ibrahim Siharlić, Hasan Rizvić, Mirza Zahirović, Senad Munikoza and Zajko Siharlić.**

After the slaughter in the village of Doljani, on the local CTV television Jablanica, which was fed with the information about the war events by the Press Service of the 44. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, the participants in the attack on Doljani were publicly commended by the commander of the 44. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, **Enes Kovačević.** "Commendations and congratulations" on the attack on Doljani were also extended by the War Presidency of the Municipality of Jablanica; in the course of the evening **Fazlo Dervišbegović,** an official in the Press Service of the 44. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, also appeared on the CTV Jablanica.

After the carnage in Doljani A RBiH soldiers first plundered and then devastated or totally destroyed the Croatian family houses.

The persons responsible for the crimes against the Croats of Doljani, Municipality of Jablanica, are:

- **Dr. Safet Ćibo,** chairman of the War Headquarters of the municipalities of Jablanica, Konjic, and Rama;
- **Muhamed Marić,** deputy chairman;
- **Emin Zebić,** chief of the SJB Jablanica;
- **Ahmet Salihodžić - Cicko,** deputy chief of the SJB Jablanica;
- **Safet Idrizović,** commander of the "A RBiH Headquarters";
- **Enes Kovačević,** commander of the 44. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Sead Džino,** deputy commander of the Brigade;
- **Semir Čilić,** chief of the Brigade;
- **Mustafa Škampo,** chief of the Operating-Instructional Affairs;
- **Džemal Begović,** commander of the "Jablanica" Battalion;
- **Ekrem Kevrić,** commander of the "Glogošnica" Battalion;
- **Džemal Ovnović,** commander of the "Sovići" Battalion;
- **Enes Zukić,** commander of the Independent Commando Company;
- **Ramiz Idrizović,** commander of the Accompanying Company "Jablanica";
- **Bećir Behrem,** was in command of the attack on Doljani;
- **Hasan Rizvić, Senad Munikoza and Zajko Siharlić,** members of the 44. Mountain Brigade A RBiH and "the most outstanding" participants in the attack on Doljani.

5. MUNICIPALITY OF KAKANJ

According to the 1991 census, in the Municipality of Kakanj there lived 55,950 inhabitants: Muslims 30,528; Croats 16,556; Serbs 4,929; Others 3,937.

5.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAKANJ

The systematic campaign of creating intolerance towards the Croats in the Municipality of Kakanj started mid 1992, and the first major crime was the murder of *Igor Stojčić*, on 20 June 1992. On several occasions the Croats were exposed to maltreatment, insults and unjustified arrests; they were also expelled from public places with insults and curses.

In early 1993, the provocations of A RBiH soldiers from the units with the greatest influence of newcomers from Islamic countries - mujahedins - gained in intensity, which should be observed in the context of general happenings in the central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On 23 February 1993, in the village of Biljoševo, A RBiH soldiers took down two Croatian flags from the check-point, tore and burnt them. Organised arrests of HVO members was in progress. Two members of the HVO of the Municipality of Kakanj were arrested by A RBiH soldiers on 24 February 1993. At the same time, at the locality of Zladnica, on the Bugojno - Novi Travnik road, the bodies of two members of an HVO unit that belonged to the Kakanj Brigade were found. The investigation proved that they were killed by A RBiH soldiers. On 28 February 1993, at a check-point set up by A RBiH soldiers on the Visoko - Kakanj road, A RBiH soldiers set fire to a tank lorry, property of the HVO. On 18 March 1993 the little girl *Gordana Radoš* was wounded by a sniper shooting from A RBiH positions. On the same day A RBiH soldiers killed *Ivo Vuletić*, commander of HOS (Croatian Armed Forces) units set up on the territory of the Municipality of Kakanj. Military and civilian officials of the so-called A RBiH used to say "that two armies cannot exist in BiH". A proof for that was their demolition of the building where the command of the HVO Brigade of the Municipality of Kakanj was seated, on 20 April 1993. An HVO member was killed on that occasion. On 24 April 1993, mujahedins burnt ritually the Croatian flag in the village of Čatići, Municipality of Kakanj.

In the context of the said events, in the town itself, A RBiH soldiers also acted as snipers. At the same time, in the mountaineers' home "Bočica", concentration of A RBiH soldiers could be observed. Also, at A RBiH check-points HVO members were allowed no passage in spite of an arrangement between Croatian and Muslim

municipal representatives on cessation of combat activities in the Municipality of Kakanj. It should be pointed out that the said events (individual murders, snipers, removal and burning of Croatian flags) were an introduction into an overall attack on the Croats and HVO members of the Municipality of Kakanj. The same or the like happenings were recorded in almost all municipalities in which Croato-Muslim conflicts occurred. In the period from February to June 1993, the split between the Croats and Muslims living in the area of Kakanj manifested itself also through the ways the humanitarian organisations were operating. Caritas, a humanitarian organisation of the Catholic Church, distributed food and clothing regardless of national or religious membership of recipients, while Merhamet, a Muslim humanitarian organisation, offered humanitarian aid exclusively to Muslims, conditioning this aid by participation in A RBiH units.

Prior to open offensive actions of the so-called A RBiH, as already stated, A RBiH soldiers killed eight Croats: *Igor Stojčić* was killed on 20 June 1992; *Tomo Tomić* on 26 July 1992; *Ivo Vulić*, commander of HOS units of the Kakanj Municipality, on 18 March 1993; *Jozo Tunjić* on 19 March 1993; *Mirko Stjepanović* and *Zdenko Benić* on 10 April 1993; *Vinko Stjepanović* on 19 April 1993; and *Marinko Benić* on 18 May 1993.

5.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAKANJ

In early June 1993 A RBiH soldiers started open attacks on the Croats living in the Municipality of Kakanj. The Croats were led away from their apartments, locked up and maltreated. The aggressiveness of A RBiH units was enhanced by mujahedins who had reinforced the A RBiH ranks before the attack.

On 5 June 1993, the village of Ričice was attacked. The villagers, due to A RBiH intensive offensive operations, were forced to pull out in the direction of Vareš, and the Croatian family houses were looted and devastated. After having put the said village under their control, military and civilian officials of Muslim authority called on the exiled Croats to come back, which later caused additional suffering of the Croats who believed that their safety is guaranteed in the Municipality of Kakanj. One of the natives of the village of Ričice went to the village to see his family house. Having discovered that his car was missing he referred to the command of the 309. Mountain Brigade A RBiH. The command of the said unit issued a certificate to him, authenticated with the seal of the said brigade and signed by its commander **Džemal Hodžić**, certifying that his car had been confiscated for the needs of the so-called A RBiH.

On 9 June 1993 A RBiH soldiers launched a planned and organised attack on the Croats in the villages of the Municipality of Kakanj: Teševo, Seoce, Veliki

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Exhumation in Kraljeva Sutjeska



Trnovci, Dujmovići, Bjelavići, Gora, Crnač, Slapnica, Lipnica, Nažbilj as well as on the HVO units and civilian population in the town of Kakanj. After having placed the said villages under their control A R BiH soldiers, under the threat of arms, forced the civilian population to leave their family houses and homes. After that, the family property of the Croats was looted, and the houses and auxiliary facilities burnt.

On 10 June 1993 the villages of Lučići and Lozančići were attacked. During the attack a civilian person got killed, and another seven wounded. Two civilian persons were wounded by A R BiH sniper fire.

On 11 June 1993 A R BiH soldiers completely encircled the Croats in the village of Čatići. At the same time, the civilians moving from the direction of Kakanj towards Kraljeva Sutjeska and Vareš found themselves in this encirclement, too.

The officials of the Muslim authorities would permit no entry into the encircled villages to the UN representatives either. A large number of Croatian civilians was arrested and taken to the Kakanj coal mine.

On 12 June 1993 the attacks on Croatian villages and HVO members were intensified. The HVO Kakanj Brigade was given an ultimatum to surrender. The civilian population was used as a living shield in the attacks on the remaining Croatian places.

The same day, while the Croatian civilians were pulling out of the village of Čelikovina (they were doing this by night since the village was constantly exposed to shelling and small arms fire) A R BiH soldiers opened fire at the column of Croatian civilians trying to pull out in the direction of Vareš. On that occasion the following civilians were killed: *Nenad Bradarić*, *Mato Grmač* and *Drago Barić*.

At that time the UN representatives were touring the area in armoured personnel carriers several times, but they were allowed no reaction and no help to the Croatian population.

The natives of the villages of Kovači and Bradarići, after A R BiH soldiers had cut the road on 13 June 1993, found themselves totally encircled. They tried to pull out in smaller groups but most of them were caught in ambushes set by A R BiH soldiers.

After the capture, A R BiH soldiers killed 24 persons of Croatian nationality from the village of Kovači. According to the statements of surviving witnesses, there were 12 Croatian families in the village and only 12 HVO members who could not offer any resistance to the attacks of the so-called A R BiH. A UN patrol happened to be in the village, and after it had left the village, the crime was committed. The civilians were ordered to lie down on the ground after which small arms fire was opened at them. Two women were wounded: *Mirjana Jurić* and *Antonija Jurić*. They were holding their children in the arms at the moment of wounding. There was another little girl in the group of the wounded. After the shooting at the captured group of Croatian civilians from the village of Kovači, A

RBiH soldiers ordered the women to pick up the wounded and to take them to a nearby house. Immediately after the women had brought the wounded into the house they had been shown (there were also seven women among the wounded), A RBiH soldiers started shooting at the group that had remained in front of the house. On that occasion they killed 24 civilian persons, out of which from the Jurić family: *Jure Jurić*, his sons *Dragan Jurić*, *Ljubomir Jurić* and *Stjepan Jurić*, and the daughter-in-law *Jagoda Jurić*. Antonija and Mirjana Jurić, daughters-in-law of the Jurić family, had remained in the house where the wounded civilians had been accommodated. After the A RBiH soldiers had left the place of the crime, the detained women started for the village of Teševo. Along the way they saw the bodies of the killed natives of the village of Bradarići. At close range, with several shots, A RBiH soldiers had killed: *Janja Bradarić*, *Anda Bradarić*, the seventeen-year-old *Robert Bradarić*, and *Marko Bradarić*. The same day in the village of Drenovik the following people were killed: the eighteen-year-old *Mato Bradarić*, *Ivan Bradarić*, *Stjepan Bradarić* and *Franjo Bradarić*.

The shot Croats from the villages of Kovači and Bradarići: *the five killed members of the Jurić family*, then *Robert Bradarić*, born in 1976, *Stjepan Bradarić*, born in 1946, *Ivan Bradarić*, born in 1948, *Mato Bradarić*, born in 1975, *Janja Bradarić*, born in 1933, the husband of the killed Janja, *Marko Bradarić*, born in 1930, *Ivo Markanović*, born in 1952, *Blaško Franjić*, born in 1953, are on the list of the missing persons, because their bodies were not delivered at the request of their families in spite of the testimonies of witnesses that the said persons had been buried outside the local graveyard in the place of Grmača, Municipality of Kakanj. According to witnesses' statements, outside the local graveyard in the place of Grmača the following killed Croats were also buried: *Marinko Jurić*, born in 1974, killed in the village of Drenovik, *Anda Bradarić*, born in 1946, killed in the village of Teševo, *Nenad Bradarić*, born in 1968, killed in the village of Grmača, *Matan Grmač*, born in 1972, killed in the village of Grmača, *Drago Babić*, born in 1967, killed in the village of Grmača. The said persons are also on the list of the missing persons.

In addition to the above mentioned persons there are another 30 Croats who are registered as missing although the place of their murder and resting place are known. The information given by the municipal authorities of Kakanj to the families of the killed abound in contradictions. Since on the lists of the dead there are names of living persons it is to assume that no identification was carried out when the dead were being buried, but they were buried together in mass graves.

The Croatian civilian population of the village of Klanac was also forced to leave the village. A RBiH soldiers, after having conquered the village, forced the remaining Croats to do humiliating actions. The old man *Jure Lovrić* was forced to carry A RBiH soldiers on his back, on all fours. A few Croatian families who intended to return to Klanac, a few days after their exile, found their family houses plundered and burnt. When spotted on their return by A RBiH soldiers these opened small arms fire at them. A civilian got killed in the shooting.

In the village of Bištrani four civilian persons were killed, and in the village of Slapnica nine Croatians were killed, five of them on 13 June: *Zdenko Stojčić*, born

in 1965, then *Franjo Stojčić*, born in 1972, *Mladen Stojčić*, born in 1966, *Borislav Stojčić* and *Drago Martinović*, born in 1960. They were buried in the place of Slapnica.

In the statements of witnesses we find particulars about murders of civilians, burnt buildings and family houses. The bodies of the killed civilians were in most cases taken to Kakanj and buried without identification into the town cemetery with markings N.N. The following statement of a witness speaks about a drastic case of crime against Croatian civilians:

"... The girls were raped and then slaughtered (killed with knife)... one case was in the village of Slapnica, and two cases in a village whose name I cannot remember. In that village two elderly girls lived with their father, an old sick man. We found the father of these girls dead on the bed. His throat was cut (killed with knife). The girls were 40 and 45 years of age. One was Janja and the other Anda by name. We found them dead in the bathroom with obvious traces of rape. One of the girls was tied by the hands to the washstand with her head in the basin. The other was tied to the bidet with her head in the bidet. On the necks of both girls knife injuries were apparent. ..."

Statements of other surviving witnesses testify to the suffering of the Croats in the Municipality of Kakanj at the time of military attacks of A RBiH soldiers:

"...The situation in Kakanj is extremely dramatic. The Muslim army is burning and killing everything that bears the Croatian name. In the village of Slapnica (south of the town of Kakanj) Muslim forces have massacred the Croatian civilian population. Since entry into the village is impossible, the exact number of the killed Croats is not known. The village of Čatići (south of the town of Kakanj) has been in total encirclement for five days now. The Croatian villages of Gona, Slapnica, Gornji Banjevac, Bilići, Vlajići have been completely burnt down. Women and children are taking to the woods to save their naked lives. In the town itself the Croats are being arrested and killed. The camps for the Croats are on the grounds of the thermal power plant 'Čatići', 'Cementare' and 'Rudnik'. A part of the arrested population is used as a living shield in the attacks on the remaining Croats. A river of exiled Croats is flowing towards Kraljeva Sutjeska and Vareš..."

In the attacks of the so-called A RBiH, and during its capture of the places inhabited by the Croats, a total of 33 civilian persons were killed, 26 of them in one single day, 13 June 1993.

Murders and exiles of the Croats living in the area of the Municipality of Kakanj continued even after 13.037 Croats had been exiled.

In the village of Nažbilj, on 22 October 1993, the following people were killed and buried outside the local graveyard: *Ilija Crepulja*, *Pero Šipić*, born in 1932 and *Mara Crepulja*, born in 1949.

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Killings of the Croats in the Municipality of Kakanj continued after the cessation of the conflicts between the Croats and Muslims: *Jelka Vazgač* was killed on 8 May 1996, *Danko Jurčević* on 30 September 1996, and *Ivo Knežević* on 13 December 1996. Four HVO members were killed after having spent some time in detention of the so-called A RBiH. They are: *Vitomir Bagavac*, *Drago Ljoljić*, *Marinko Roša* and *Jozo Maračić*.

In the period from 20 June 1992 to 13 December 1996, in the area of the Municipality of Kakanj, A RBiH soldiers, helped by mujahedins, killed 69 Croats: 24 civilian persons, 41 HVO members, and four captured HVO members. In the same period 1,700 family houses were totally destroyed or devastated in 28 villages where the Croats lived. Also, 15 Catholic religious structures were destroyed or devastated, and all the Catholic graveyards were devastated.

The Croats that were seized during the attacks were locked up in the prisons established in the area of the Municipality of Kakanj, where they were exposed to physical and psychological maltreatment. Prisons were set up in the "Sretno" Hotel in Kakanj, in the coal mine in Kakanj, and in the thermal power plant "Čatići". A large number of them, upon the arrest, were deported to prisons in Zenica.

The responsible persons for murders and exile of the Croats in the Municipality of Kakanj:

- **Kemal Čelebić**, president of the Municipality of Kakanj;
- **Kemal Bradlija**, chief of the MUP of Kakanj;
- **Irfan Imamović**, commander of the A RBiH MP in Kakanj;
- **Omer Spahić**, khoja (Muslim priest) from the place of Kaparovići;
- **Abdulahmid Maktouf**, son of Mehmed, born on 3 January 1939 in Basra, Iraq, resident of Travnik. He is mentioned as an organiser of bringing mujahedins to these areas, commander of an extremist detachment "El Mudžahid" seated in Travnik;
- **Abu Ajam**, commander of a part of the "El Mudžahid" detachment seated in Travnik. He personally declared he was executing the assignments received from Alija Izetbegović;
- **Commander of the 309. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;**
- **Halil Brzina**, commander of the 7. Muslim Brigade within the 3. Corps A RBiH;
- **Hasan Tirić**, commander of a special unit called "Crni labudovi" (Black Swans);
- **Commander of a special unit called "Živiničke ose" (Živinice Wasps);**
- **Commander of the "Handžar divizija" (Yataghan Division).**

6. MUNICIPALITY OF KISELJAK

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Kiseljak had 24,164 inhabitants: Muslims 9,778; Croats 12,550; Serbs 740; Others 1,096.

The Croato-Muslim conflicts in the Municipality of Kiseljak should be considered in the context of overall developments in BiH, especially in the central part of BiH. The Municipality of Kiseljak accommodated about 4,500 Muslims, exiled by the Serbs during 1992. The exiled Muslims found refuge, first of all in the form of organised accommodation in schools and other public buildings which were adapted as reception centres for refugees, while a large number was lodged in the family houses of the domicile Muslims. At the time in question, the HVO units kept the front line against the VRS units at Jajce, and Travnik.

6.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KISELJAK

While passing through to take positions against the VRS on the Travnik front line, the HVO members were provoked on several occasions by the Territorial Defence (TO), the predecessor of the so-called A RBiH. On 20 October 1992, on the Busovača-Vitez road, in the place of Ahmići, *Andelko Vidović*, a member of the HVO Kiseljak Brigade, was killed. He was on his way to the Travnik front line against the VRS. At the same time, the A RBiH units were providing themselves with arms. The growing intolerance between the two armies was evident.

In early 1993, or more exactly on 26 January 1993, A RBiH soldiers cut the Kiseljak - Busovača road in the place of Kaćuni, which meant the beginning of suffering of the Croats who happened to be on the territory inhabited by Muslims. After having placed the Kiseljak - Busovača road under their control, military and civilian officials of Muslim authorities, in the place of Kaćuni, Municipality of Kiseljak, formed parallel government institutions: MUP units, and other municipal government bodies. The organiser of parallel authority was *Ejub Majić*. Muslim employees, who had been legally employed in common government institutions in Kiseljak, left their work posts and went to Kaćuni to carry out their assignments. The municipal officials of the Croatian people were anxious to solve the problem of parallel power by negotiations trying to establish cooperation with the institutions in Kaćuni, but every cooperation was rejected. Soon afterwards, A RBiH soldiers started arresting the Croats living in the villages with Muslim majority. Murders and attacks from the direction of Silos and Jankovići were also recorded. In these attacks *Mijo Musa* was killed while *Vjekoslav Ćurčić*, *Ilija Ćurčić* and *Vlatko Musa* were seriously wounded. The HVO ambulance, which rushed to help the wounded,

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was shot at by A RBiH soldiers. On that occasion the medical technician, *Mirko Barbić*, died from the inflicted wounds.

6.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KISELJAK

End January 1993, the A RBiH units, carried out the first armed attack on the units of the HVO "Ban Jelačić" Brigade. The HVO units in the village of Bilalovac were attacked. There followed the exile of the Croatian people from the said village. Namely, on 23/24 January 1993, after their offensive, the A RBiH units placed Bilalovac under their control. Soon after the so-called A RBiH had taken Bilalovac, *Ante Katana* and *Marinko Ljolje* were led away. Their dead bodies were found mutilated some 20 days after their disappearance near the house of Ante Katana. Because of everyday maltreatment the Croats of Bilalovac were forced to leave the village and settle down on the HVO-controlled territory. Before they left Bilalovac A RBiH soldiers maltreated them to extort money.

On 23 April 1993, in the village of Orahovo, Municipality of Kiseljak, the bodies of *Kata Bošnjak* and *Iva Bošnjak*, were found with visible signs of maltreatment with cold steel (butchered).

On 24 April 1993, in the villages of Polam and Očehnjići, A RBiH soldiers arrested 70 persons of Croatian nationality and confined them in the "Plinare" building. At the same time, A RBiH soldiers attacked the villages of Zavišje, Lisovo Brdo, Gomionica, Badnje and Brestovsko.

In early May 1993, in the village of Kazagići, 14 bodies of killed Croats were found.

During June 1993, in the village of Zabrđe, A RBiH soldiers detained about one hundred Croatian civilians from the villages of Bukovica, Zabrđe, Toplica and Žeželevo.

In the attacks of the so-called A RBiH 14 civilian persons were killed: *Zorica Galić* was killed on 18 April 1993; *Stjepan Džoja* on 13 June 1993; *Ivan Marković*, *Pero Marković*, *Ljubo Marković*, *Danica Marković*, *Janja Nikolić* and the twelve-year-old *Spomenko Lučić* were killed on 17 June 1993 in an attack of the so-called A RBiH on Gojkovac. *Anto Katana* and *Marinko Ljolje* were led away during the attack on Bilalovac, their bodies were found later near the house of Ante Katana. *Mara Bradara* was killed on 5 July 1993, *Ivka Trogrlić* on 25 September 1993, *Kata Mrmjavac* on 20 October 1993, and *Šimo Kvasina* on 23 November 1993. Regarding the murder of 6 civilian persons in the village of Gojkovac, it should be stressed that there were no military strongholds or units of the HVO in the village, and that the members of the A RBiH "Grobari" unit ("Grave-Diggers"), under the command

of **Fikret Haskić AKA Grobar**, after having killed the Croats, set fire to Croatian family houses.

During 1993, in the attacks of the so-called A RBiH on the HVO and the Croats living in the Municipality of Kiseljak 208 Croats were killed, out of which 14 civilian persons, 193 HVO members, while one HVO member is registered as missing. A total of 387 residential buildings, property of the Croats, were destroyed or devastated. Also, Catholic religious structures were systematically destroyed or devastated; the nuns' convent at Brestovsko was hit with incendiary ammunition. In the village of Gojkovac the local Catholic graveyard was destroyed, and so were the graveyards in the villages of Orahovo, Kazagići and Bilalovac.

6.3. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

In the period from 1 February 1992 to 1 April 1994 A RBiH soldiers kept in custody 337 Croats who were locked up in three buildings: "Plinara" in the village of Klokoti; Primary School building at Zabrđe, and the "Silos" buildings at Kaćuni.

In the "Plinara" prison 197 Croats, mainly civilian persons, were confined, who happened to be on the A RBiH-controlled territory at the beginning of combat activities. In the Elementary School at Zabrđe 98 Croatian civilians were detained, while in the "Silos" 42 Croatian civilians were locked up. All detainees were exposed to physical and psychical maltreatment. In the statement of a detainee in the "Plinara", in the place of Klokoti, it is said that A RBiH soldiers came to abduct him in the evening hours, on 18 April 1993, while his brother and father were taken to the "Mali raj" ("Small Paradise") building in Bilalovac. MUP members beat him over every day with wooden batons. Apart from doing hard physical works on the front line, the detainees from the "Plinara" were also used as living shield in the attacks of the so-called A RBiH.

The following persons stood out in the maltreatment:

- **Izet Sajnica**, member of the 9. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Edim Čolo**, member of the 9. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Semir Hasić**, member of the 9. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Selver Kečo**, official of the PS Zabrđe;
- **Kanija Hasić**, member of the 9. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Smajo Hasić**, member of the 9. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Elshani Sejdi**, an Albanian, member of the "Handžar divizija"
- **Izet Selimović**, commander of the MUP Kiseljak;

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- **Nezir Kazić**, superior to the MUP officers safeguarding the prisons.
MUP members **Mujo Kečo** and **Fadil Žilić** participated in beating the detainees
in the village of Bilalovac.

The detained soldiers and Croatian civilians were daily exposed to the threats
of physical liquidation. It should also be noted that their fate was decided upon by
civilian officials of the parallel authority formed at Kaćuni, Municipality of Kiseljak.

The persons responsible for the suffering of the Croats in the Municipality of
Kiseljak are:

- **Ejub Mujić**, president of the Municipality of Kiseljak;
- **Sead Sinanbašić**, commander of the 325. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Ferid Provalić**, commander of the special unit called "Frkina jedinica" ("Erka's
Unit);
- **Halil Brzina**, commander of the 7. Muslim Brigade A RBiH;
- **Tufo Ekrem**, commander of the "Laste" ("Swallows") unit;
- **Fikret Hasić**, commander of the "Grobari" ("Grave-Diggers") unit;
- **Izet Selimović**, commander of the PS Zabrdë;
- **Izet Boja**, deputy chief of the MUP Zabrdë;
- **Halid Ganija**, commander of the PS Bilalovac;
- **Sefer Nuhić**, deputy commander of the PS Zabrdë;
- **Refik Tufo**, commander of the PS Tarčin;
- **Esad Grudić**, commander of the 17. Kraina Brigade.

7. MUNICIPALITY OF KONJIC

According to the 1991 census, on the territory of the Municipality of Konjic there lived 43,878 inhabitants: Muslims 23,815; Croats 11,513; Serbs 6,620; Others 1,930.

7.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KONJIC

The planned and systematic exile of the Croats from the territory of the Municipality of Konjic started after the decision of the Muslim political leadership to remove the democratically elected political leadership in the Municipality of Konjic and to appoint, instead, **dr. Safet Ćibo** as war president of the municipalities of Jablanica, Konjic and Prozor. The implementation of the decision started after the meeting held on 20 March 1993 in Jablanica, with the participation of the commanders of all military and police Muslim formations operating in the municipalities of Jablanica and Konjic, and of the representatives of the police from Hadžići and a representative of the military police of the 4. Corps of the so-called ARBiH from Mostar. The conclusions from the meeting were intimated to all major Muslim officials, including Alija Izetbegović, and the general **Sefer Halilović** (Document Number: 16-8/8-62/93, dated 20.3.1993)

The realization of the conclusions meant the beginning of a planned and organised attack on the Croats, which in the military sense means the destruction of the HVO military units (the former partner) and the exile of the Croatian civilian population from Konjic and the Neretva valley. The chronology of the affliction of the Croatian people in the Municipality of Konjic confirms the above stated.

7.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KONJIC

On 23 March 1993, in several places, approximately at the same time, in the Municipality of Konjic, **8 HVO members were treacherously killed**, all the entrances into Konjic were blocked, a large number of Croats was arrested, and the Croatian villages of Kostajnica and Falanovo Brdo were shelled from Ostrožac.

On 25 March 1993 in the village of Orlišta, ARBiH soldiers killed four civilian persons of the Kostić family: *Ivan Kostić*, *Branko Kostić*, *Anda Kostić* and *Janja Kostić*, and burnt down the Croatian houses in the village. The same day new ARBiH units came to the area of the Municipality with a total of 6,000 soldiers: "Zulfikar", "Akrepi", "Crni labudovi", a brigade from Hrasnica, and BiH MUP members, "Laste".

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On 13 April 1993 in the village of Bušćak, A RBiH soldiers fraudulently captured and then mutilated to death the HVO member *Miroslav Majić*.

In the morning of 14 April 1993, A RBiH soldiers raided the village of Bušćak killing, in the house, the HVO members *Branko Majić* and *Slavka Majića* and seriously wounding *Viktor Majić* and *Pero Majić*. On 16 April 1993 in the village of *Trusina*, A RBiH soldiers committed the most vicious crime in the Municipality of Konjic, when 15 civilian persons and 7 captured HVO members were killed.

On 17 April in the village of Jukići, A RBiH soldiers butchered two civilian persons of the *Jukić family*, and after the crime they played football with the cut-off heads. On 18 April 1993 in the village of Ovcari, the HVO member *Petar Grgić* was captured and shot dead in front of the house; in the village of Galjevo two civilian persons, *Mato Azinović* and *Apolonija Azinović*, were killed by *Muharem Habibija*, while in the villages of Galjevo, Borovac and Repovica 38 Croatian houses were burnt down.

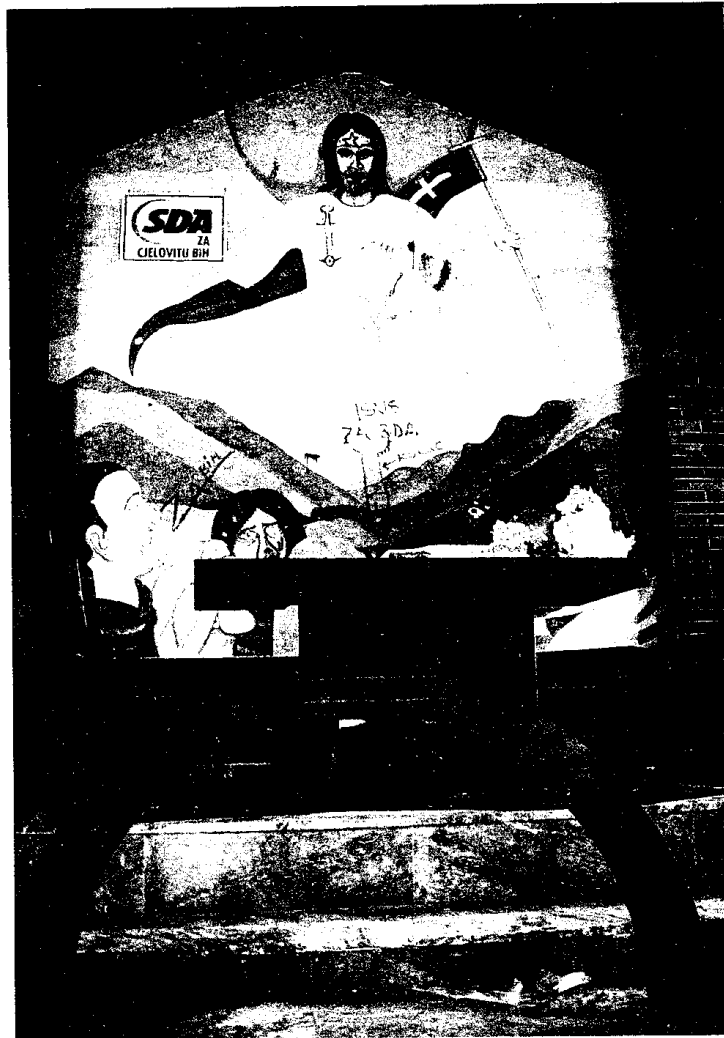
On 19 April 1993, A RBiH soldiers captured and atrociously killed the HVO member *Zoran Kuljanin*. On 20 April 1993 in the village of Bjelovčina, A RBiH soldiers killed two civilian persons *Mate Soldo* and *Ivka Soldo*, and in Konjic the civilian *Mirko Ivanković* was killed.

On 22 April 1993 in the village of Vrce, A RBiH soldiers *Zijo Lepara* and *Safet Gagula*, and several members of the "Zulfikar" unit, killed and mutilated six elderly civilian persons: *Ivan Stanić* and *Stoja Stanić*, *Đoko Ristić* and *Petra Ristić*, *Anuša Kožul* and *Kata Kaleb*, while in the village of Podorašac the HVO member *Mladen Jurić* was captured and killed, and the old woman *Dragica Zovko* was hanged.

On 25 April 1993 in the village of Radešine, which had been in total encirclement for more than a month, about 150 civilians and 27 HVO soldiers surrendered to the SPABAT of the UNPROFOR, which guaranteed them safety and the way out of the zone of the war operations. Soon upon surrender the UNPROFOR members delivered the Croats to an A RBiH unit led by *Mithat Pirkić-Mitke*. Four HVO members were shot dead on the spot: *Željko Azinović*, *Stjepan Pandža*, *Branko Rajić* and *Luka Matković*. The HVO member *Marijan Pandža* was killed later in Čelebići, where all the soldiers and other male civilians had been taken. The remaining inhabitants of the village were taken to the Ostrožac prison, Municipality of Jablanica, where they were used as a living shield in the attacks on the HVO.

On 1 May 1993 in the village of Mrkosavci, the A RBiH member, *Hikmet Lipovac*, killed the civilians *Cvitan Knežević* and *Ilija Ilić*, and plundered their estates. In the town of Konjic, A RBiH soldiers killed *Mario Kovač*, an HVO member, in his apartment.

On 16 May 1993 in the village of Čelebići, A RBiH soldiers shot dead *Marko Marić*, 71 years old. On 17 May, by order of *Fikret Prevljak*, an A RBiH officer, the captured HVO members *Zlatko Trlin*, *Ante Banović* and *Jozef Brovenika* were executed.



Recognizable Muslim "iconography" in St. Leopold's Church, Čelebić, Konjic

On 12 June 1993 in the village of Gorani, A RBiH cruelly murdered a civilian person *Jozo Jurić*. On 6 July, while trying to flee from Konjic, four women were shot dead on the Bokševica mountain: *Jelka Buzuk*, *Emilija Mijić*, *Šima Merdžo* and *Kata Blažević*, and a civilian male person *Andelko Stojanović*.

On 20 July 1993 in the village of Sultići, A RBiH soldiers mutilated to death the civilian person *Stjepan Stanić*.

On 4 August 1993 in the village of Pokojište, A RBiH soldiers mutilated (flayed alive) the captured HVO member *Petar Jozić*.

On 30 August 1993 in the village of Donja Orahovica, A RBiH soldiers killed four civilian persons: *Jozo Ružić* and *Stanko Ružić*, *Pero Skočibušić* and *Mate Šimić*, and heavily wounded seven civilian persons: *Ruža Ružić* and *Jela Ružić*, *Ilija Bebek* and *Mara Bebek*, *Ruža Lozić*, *Ivica Pehar* and *Dovano Tomić*, and beat over five civilian persons.

On 9 September 1993 in the village of Oteležani, A RBiH soldiers killed the civilian person *Šimun Banović*, and on 14 September in the village of Trešnjevica, *Blaž Kozarić*, 90 years of age, was killed with a hammer in front of his blacksmith's shop.

On 12 January 1994 in the village of Trešnjevica, the civilian *Janko Radoš* was killed.

During the persecutions 58 civilians were killed in all, out of which 49 victims of classical execution. Among the victims there are four children. A total of 27 civilians, including six children, were wounded, mostly after the cessation of combat activities. 151 HVO members were killed, out of which 32 after the capture, while 321 were wounded, out of which 61 are permanently disabled.

In the period specified, more than 10,000 Croats or over 90% of the Croatian population of the Municipality of Konjic were exiled. The Croats were exiled from all places in the Municipality except Zabrde, Zaslavlje and Turija, which remained under the control of the HVO and where most Croats living today in the Municipality of Konjic remained. The Croatian property was plundered and burnt down in 16 settlements completely, in 31 partly.

Various kinds of physical and psychical maltreatment were undergone by several tens of civilians and captured HVO members. A large number of civilians who remained on the territory of the Municipality were held under home arrest, their phones were disconnected, they were not receiving humanitarian aid like other citizens, and several hundred civilians went through various kinds of physical and psychical maltreatment. Especially horrifying is the case of *Jelka Jurić*, a 74-year-old woman, who was physically and sexually misused in the village of Kostajnica on 1 November 1994.

During the conflicts all Croatian settlements were non-selectively shelled. Especially grave is the case when the hospital in the village of Kostajnica was shelled although it was visibly marked with the sign of the Red Cross. The witness of the attack at this hospital was the chief of military monitors in this area, the Dutch major Coupepe.

In the period specified the churches in the following places were devastated: Konjic, Bijela, Glavatičevo, Čelebići, Kostajnica, Obri, Žitače, Gorani and Solakova Kula, while the churches in Radešine and Bukovica, and the parish house in Žitače were totally burnt down. The graveyards in the following places were defiled: Musala - Konjic, Kostajnica, Čelebići, Radešine, Donje Selo, Trusina, Vrci, Obri. The priests in Konjic were psychically maltreated on several occasions.

During the exile of the Croats from the Municipality of Konjic, 13 prisons/camps were set up in this Municipality through which more than 2,200 Croats passed. A number of the Konjic Croats was detained in the prisons on the territory of the municipalities of Jablanica and Tarčin. In none of these prisons were the prisoners treated under the rules of the Geneva Convention. The detained Croats were tortured with hunger, physically and psychically maltreated, their blood was pumped out forcibly, they were used for digging trenches and as living shields. During all these tortures in prisons, 6 persons were killed and 5 more seriously wounded.

For the exile of the Croats from the territory of the Municipality of Konjic the most responsible are:

- **dr. Safet Ćibo**, president of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Konjic;
- **general Arif Pašalić**, commander of the 4. Corps A RBiH;
- **Hasan Hakalović**, commander of the "Neretvica" Brigade;
- **Enes Kovačević**, commander of the "Neretva" Brigade;
- **Mithat Cerovac**, commander of the 43. Brigade A RBiH;
- **Nezim Halilović - Muderis**, commander of a brigade of the 4. Corps;
- **Mitah Pirkic - Pirke**, commander of the A RBiH unit - "Akrepi";
- **Zulfikar Ališpago - Zuka**, commander of the A RBiH unit - "Zulfikar";
- **Nihad Bojadžić - Blek**, deputy commander of the unit "Zulfikar";
- **Nusret Šahić**, commander of the Battalion of the MP of the 4. Corps A RBiH;
- **Jusuf Hadžajlija - Homeini**, assistant for intelligence matters of the "Neretvica" Brigade;
- **Edo Žilić**, warden of the Musala prison in Konjic;
- **Ismet Mehić**, military prosecutor;
- **Jasmin Guska**, chief of the Police Department Konjic;
- **dr. Ahmet Jusufbegović**, manager of the Community Health Centre Konjic.

7.3. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

During the exile of the Croats from the Municipality of Konjic, the Muslim authorities formed 13 prisons/camps in this Municipality through which more than 2,200 civilians and soldiers passed. The Table below gives a list of the prisons, and the number of detained Croats.

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Pos.	Prison	Period of existence	Number of detainees
1	Solakova Kula	28.4.93.-16.9.93	20
2	Parsovići	28.3.93.-2.10.93.	78
3	Gorani	17.4.93.-6.9.93.	26
4	Buturović polje	15.7.93.-20.4.94.	42
5	Seonica	28.4.93.-15.10.93.	48
6	Višnjevice	28.5.93.-23.12.93.	76
7	Ostrožac	28.5.93.-15.10.93.	58
8	Čelebići	28.5.93.-28.2.94.	97
9	Musala-Konjic	14.4.93.-28.4.94.	780-1.300
10	Screw Factory Konjic	28.4.93.-22.2.94.	386
11	Ovčari	18.4.93.-10.5.93.	120
12	Podorašac	20.4.93.-18.7.93.	34
13	Bradina	18.6.93.-20.1.94.	300

Apart from these prisons, the Konjic Croats were also detained in the "Silos" prison in Tarčin, where 68 Croats until 1 May 1994 were confined; in the "Muzej" prison in Jablanica, where 25 Croats were detained; and in the prison in Donja Jablanica, where 16 Croats were interned.

During the internment **6 persons were killed and 5 seriously wounded**. The killed persons are:

- *Mato Drljo*, on 28 March 1993 in the prison at Buturović Polje;
- *Marijan Pandža*, on 25 April 1993 in the prison at Čelebići;
- *Slaven Kolar*, on 14 May 1993 in the prison at Čelebići;
- *Grgo Turić*, on 28 May 1993 in the prison at Jablanica;
- *Jozo Stanić*, on 14 September 1993 in the prison at Čelebići, and
- *Zoran Milas*, on 20 September 1993 in the prison at Jablanica.

Military persons were not separated from civilian ones in these prisons; in some of them there were also under-aged persons (even four-year-old children). The internees were tortured with hunger (their daily ration was a slice of bread and a porridge consisting of 3-4 spoonfuls of underdone rice). In the *Musala* prison they burnt the genitals of Zoran Muftić, and the perpetrator was Mithat Pirkić-Mitke. All internees fit for military service were physically and psychically maltreated, and most of them were requested to sign for the so-called A RBiH.

In the *Musala* prison several persons on four occasions were even forced to give their blood. Blood was taken by order of dr. Safet Čibo and dr. Ahmet Jusufbegović, manager of the Community Health Centre in Konjic. Blood pumping was supervised by dr. Vladimir Stojanović, and the blood was pumped out by

Branko Mršić (both Serbs). The internees were taken to blood drawing at gun point by Emir Kovačić, chief of the security of the War Hospital and bodyguard of dr. Ahmet Jusufbegović.

Dozens of internees were taken every day to the front line to dig trenches and other military facilities, to pull out the wounded A RBiH soldiers, etc. They were taken to work at places facing the HVO positions, and not the VRS positions. During these works they were exposed to direct peril.

7.3.1. The "Musala" Prison

Political and military Muslim leadership, as early as in May 1992, in the narrow town area, in the district of "Musala", established a prison where the persons of Serbian nationality living in the area of the Municipality of Konjic were interned. In the "Musala" district there was the seat of the MUP of the Municipality of Konjic, an elementary school building, the town cemetery, and sports and recreation centre of the Municipality of Konjic (hereinafter called SPS).

The first group of arrested Croats was locked up in the "Musala" on 17 April 1993. The interned Croats were separated from the Serbs. The Serbs were placed upstairs in the SPS while the Croats were confined in locker-rooms and in the hall. The manager of the prison was **Ismet Hebibović AKA Bročeta**.

According to the statements of internees it can be stated that the internees were treated in the way that violated the humanitarian law on prisoners of war.

In May 1993 the internees were visited by the ICRC for the first time, and only five months later were they allowed aid in food. The food stuffs and hygiene supplies delivered by the ICRC were entrusted to the prison warden **Ethem Žilić**. However, they ended up in sale on the black market, while the internees used to get one or two tins and minimal quantities of supplies for personal hygiene.

The UN representatives visited the internees once for the purpose of making a list of internees. During the visits of international organisations certain internees were hidden away in order to conceal the traces of torture.

After the village of Trusina had been placed under the control of the so-called A RBiH, the Croats arrested in the village were deported to the "Musala" where some of them were exposed to the cruellest physical and psychical maltreatment. A few internees from the village of Trusina stayed for twenty days handcuffed with police handcuffs to the radiators and daily beaten all over. According to their statements, *Ivica Džalto*, *Zdravko Knežević*, *Radovan Stanić* and *Jure Sudar* were exposed to special forms of torture. They were forced by A RBiH soldiers to sit on fire, then they would burn parts of their bodies and after that they would bring them back unconscious.

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In spite of the guards, the groups of MUP and A RBiH soldiers had free entrance into the building where the internees were. They would come every day and indulge in maltreating the internees. Some of these maltreatments were extremely humiliating:

*"... On one occasion, after twenty days of our stay, two girls in uniforms and police insignia came into our room, one in a black and the other in a motley uniform. The one in the black uniform took off her lower clothes and said: 'Come on, Ustashas, rape me.' As we did not react, she put on her clothes again, girded her waist and jumped on **Ivica Džalto** and started beating him with her fists and feet with karate blows. He was dripping with blood. When he fell she forced **Radovan Stanić** to lick the blood from the floor. Then the other continued beating us all. During all that time a policeman was standing at the door with an machine gun aimed at us..."*

After the so-called A RBiH had occupied the village of Vrce, Municipality of Konjic, on 16 June 1993, the arrested Croats from the village of Vrce, both civilians and HVO members, were also deported to the Musala prison.

After they had been brought to the SPS building they were dispossessed of their personal belongings. Before they were brought into the rooms of the SPS "Musala" they were lined up against a wall and beaten. While stripping them of their personal property they found Croatian certificates of citizenship with *Marko Livača* and *Ante Krešo*. They put the certificates into their mouths and set fire to them.

The internees in the "Musala", had their blood forcibly taken several times. In May 1993 **Emir Kovačić AKA Škemba**, whom later the internees called **Drakula**, asked the internees for voluntarily blood donation for the wounded in Konjic. The next time Emir Kovačić brought an expert team for blood transfusion from the Community Health Centre in Konjic to the prison. In one of the persons in the expert team the internees recognised Branko, medical technician from the Community Health Centre in Konjic, a person of Serbian nationality. On that occasion, in spite of his resistance, they forcibly took blood from *Zvonko Jurić* and from all internees whose blood type happened to be zero.

The person in charge of selecting the internees whose blood was to be forcibly taken was **Sejo Čibo**, deputy warden of the "Musala" prison. In spite of the fact that the internees had lost much weight and had been exhausted, forceful blood taking was carried out in short time intervals. During blood pumping they would put pistols into the mouths of some internees.

In addition to forceful blood taking the internees were daily taken to the front line to forced labour. Since they had to do hard physical work without food, many of them would faint during the line-up upon the return. In a conversation between the prison manager **Ethem Žilić** and one of the guards, the former said he did not care about internees fainting from exhaustion and that the decision about the food and the ban of visits was taken by **Nusret Šahić**.

In addition to the exhaustion from hunger and everyday beating the internees would be taken out in the streets during the Serbian shelling of the town.

As concerns the taking of internees to work on the front line, in the morning hours A RBiH soldiers would come to prison looking for volunteers for forced labour. If nobody came forward, they would select about 100 Serbs and about 100 Croats and take them to trim the front line. Should there come to an exchange of small arms fire the internees were forced to stand to attention. The Croatian women who had not had a chance to leave Konjic, would go every day on foot to take food to the internees. However, the guards were preventing even this kind of help. The food brought to prison by family members of internees would be taken away at the entrance and distributed at the discretion of the guards, in other words, little of that food reached the internees.

The statement of one of internees speaks about the circumstances in which the internees were physically maltreated

"... During the first 12 days they beat my son 7 times to the point of collapse. A guard comes, and takes him away, they would beat him, that's what my son told me, with hoses, chairs, fists, whatever they laid their hands upon, never was he able to come on his feet, he would come crawling on all fours..."

One of the ways of psychical maltreatment of internees was to force them to humiliating actions, such as standing on one foot, making push-ups and other exercises, which resulted in utmost exhaustion of internees.

It is a known fact that 32 internees were taken from the "Musala" prison to the prison in Bradina where they were delivered to the "Zulfikar" unit. Internees were regularly physically punished by the members of this unit, they were forced to drink urine, they were forced to fight each other (the so-called "box matches" were organised), they were forced to jump headlong into the water only 40 cm deep from a height of only 2 m, to eat hard objects (crosses, rosaries and the like). The organiser and the responsible person for such acts is **Nihad Bojadžić-Blek**, the then deputy commander of this unit.

The most drastic violation of human rights was using internees as a "living shield". The cases are known when internees were used as "living shield" in the attacks on the Zlatar building, and on the villages of Radešine, Turija, Vrce and Budišnja Ravan. Besides, during the military operations of Muslim forces against the HVO, several dozens of internees were taken out from the *Musala* prison and lined up as "living shield" in three places in the town of Konjic: the old bridge, the new bridge and in front of the *Musala* prison. They would stay for 4 to 6 hours.

The *Musala* prison formally stopped functioning in December 1995. The last major group of Croatian internees was exchanged on 10 March 1994. However, after the exchange there still remained 10 Croats in the prison who were exchanged later. After the exchange of Croatian internees, Serbian internees still remained in the prison.

The responsible persons for the maltreatment of internees in the *Musala* are:

- **dr. Safet Ćibo**, president of the War Presidency;
- **Ethem Žilić**, the prison warden, and
- **Emir Kovačić**, engaged by the Community Health Centre in forceful blood taking from internees.

Those standing out in the maltreatment of internees were:

- Miralem Macić,
- Nermin Mangić,
- Halil Gakić,
- Nurko Duranović,
- Sabit Ćibo,
- Ibro Matic, member of the MUP Konjic,
- Osman Kurtović, and
- Ibro Alić, member of the MUP Konjic.

7.4. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS, INFLECTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

7.4.1. The Crime in the Village of Trusina

On 16 April 1993, in early morning hours, in the village of Trusina, in which some twenty Croatian and about thirty Muslim families used to live in peace, the members of the ARBiH units from the surrounding villages, hiding in the houses of the domicile Muslims, together with ARBiH soldiers from the village of Trusina committed a massacre of Croatian civilians and HVO members. Having raided the defenceless Croatian houses in the village, the ARBiH soldiers went from house to house driving the Croats out of the houses and killing most of them cold-bloodedly. From a number of Croatian natives of the village of Trusina they formed a living shield and took them towards the HVO positions. Blackmailed by possible murder of their dear ones, the HVO members surrendered. The six HVO members who were holding the said position and who surrendered were taken to the village and shot dead. Also, all elderly men who happened to have their sons in the HVO were shot. All the killed had been thoroughly plundered before the execution, and their houses burnt down. During the raid on the village ARBiH soldiers were wearing black ribbons tied around the head, and some of them black army uniforms as well.

In the village of Trusina the following Croats were killed: *Ilija Ivanković* and his wife *Anda Ivanković*; *Stipe Mandić* and his son *Mile Mandić*, who had come to Trusina as refugees from Sarajevo; *Jure Andelić*, *Cmiljko Krešo*, *Ivica Krešo*, *Veljko Krešo*, *Ivan Drljo*; in one house three aged people were killed: *Ante Tunjo Drljo*, his wife *Kata Drljo* and his mother *Kata Drljo*; then *Zdravko Drljo*, *Željko Blažević* - a refugee from Konjic, *Stipo Ljubić*, *Nedjeljko Krešo*, *Pero Krešo*, *Franjo Drljo* and his brother *Andrija Drljo*, Andrija's son *Ivica Drljo*, *Branko Mlikota*, and *Tomo Drljo*. The way these people died is best visible from the statements of witnesses of the crime:

"... After that they took me to the house of Ante Drljo where they had already brought out of the house and lined up Ante Drljo, his mother Kata and his wife Kata. They ordered me to fall in line with them, and after a few moments

one of those soldiers told me, Ante and his wife Kata to start along the path to the main road. Having walked for some 50 metres in this way I noticed my husband lying on the ground and I made towards him. When I came up I saw he was killed with several shots from small arms. At the same time Muslim soldiers fired two bursts at Ante and Kata Drljo. Ante was killed outright, and Kata was crying for help. While Kata was crying for help and trying to get up, they fired the third burst at her, and they forced me to go to the main road... While I was on the road they were driving several other civilians towards me: Marica Krešo, whose husband Cmiljko had been killed in their house, while she herself had been wounded; there were three children of her son Pero with her, one of the children (Arijana) had been wounded, and then there were Anica Krešo, Anđelka Šagolj and Ana Krešo. Anđelka Šagolj was also leading three children with her, out of which the three-year-old Mario was wounded. These children and Marica happened to be in the house of Cmiljko Krešo when the Muslim army opened fire at them and wounded them. The body of the killed Cmiljko remained in that house and the house was immediately burnt. Behind that group they were leading Veljko and Ivan Krešo, both over 60 years of age. They killed Veljko outright, while they were hitting Ivan with rifle butts breaking his three ribs; they asked him to show them the house of Jure Krešo. In this way they brought him to that house; Ivica Krešo, Jure's father came out of the house, then Celija Anđelić and Ivica's wife Šima came out, and the soldiers started swearing at Celija and beating her, saying to her she was Jure Krešo's mother. Šima managed to escape and hide in the cellar, and they took us to a Muslim house in Trusina. I think their surname is Mašić, while they kept Ivica Krešo in front of the house where they killed him later... None of the HVO soldiers from this village fired a single bullet at the Muslims, only six of them fled outside the village, but the Muslim army started towards them with children and women before them as a living shield asking them to surrender otherwise they would kill their wives and children. Fearing for the fate of their dear ones the HVO members surrendered, but the Muslim soldiers killed them almost immediately after the surrender, after having removed the women and children from that spot. The six soldiers were killed in front of the old house of Ivan Drljo... On 17.4.1993, we managed to take care of only six corpses and bring them into their houses, while the rest of the dead, 16 of them, remained in places where they had been killed, because we had to leave the village the next day..."

During the committal of the crimes, A RBiH soldiers were taking the captured women and children about the village and threatening them with murder and intimidating them in other ways. In all that, the children had to pass by and watch the mutilated bodies of the villagers. Here are excerpts from statements of other witnesses:

"... We were together both civilians and those five-six soldiers who had surrendered. They took gold and money. All that we had. They told me they could guarantee only for my daughter that she would stay, and as for my son Dragan they said they were not sure he would stay alive, because he was already fourteen. They said they would chase us towards Parsovići or shoot us right away. They were still not clear about what to do with us... They said to us: 'Today we will clean up Trusina and Buturović Polje, tomorrow Kostajnica and so on all way down to Mostar. Not a single Croat shall exist. And we are going to clean up Mostar, too, all way down to Neum...'"

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"Down there, as we went on, I saw Muslims gathering, about thirty of them. This one asks them how they did the job. They say: 'Excellent, everything according to schedule and the way it should be!'. I turn round and I see down there a man lying on the road face down, under him a pool of blood. I was shocked. It was Veljko Krešo..."

The statements of witnesses speak of the way the Croats were afflicted:

"... He banged his fist on the table and asked her where her son was. They probably knew who should be killed. All whom I saw had been killed in the same way: either a bullet in the forehead or in the back, as if one and the same man had done all that. I saw my parents killed. They were killed in front of the house. Mummy was hit in the forehead, and father in the back. Two of the neighbours were also killed. They were all killed outside. I heard it from the women who brought the dead into the house that they had all been killed in this way (a bullet in the forehead or the back)..."

According to the statement of witnesses, most of the A RBiH soldiers who had committed this crime on the Croats were native of Trusina, and a lesser number of them of the neighbouring villages, and a few members of the "Zulfikar" unit. Some of the A RBiH soldiers who participated in the crime are: **Smail Memić, Sejdo Hakalović** and his brother **Sead Hakalović, Zejnil Gostijević, Nihad Mašić, Redžo Poturović, Adnan Gostijević, Bajko Gostijević, Čazim Mašić, Braco Šahinović, Nedžad Šahić, Redžo, Šaćir, Hasib Poturović and Smail Poturović**, all from Trusina, **Ejub Sarajlić** from Parsovići, **Nedžad Demirović** from Gradac, **Esad Smajić** from the village of Gorani, and the members of the "Zulfikar" unit with nicknames: "**Struja**", "**Džeki**", "**Beli**", "**Tito**", "**Mrak**" as well as those two girls **Sanela Varišić** and **Mejra Šabić**, AKA Lola. In the atrocity during the committal of the crime stood out: **Sejdo Hakalović** and **Mejra Šabić**, and the A RBiH member nicknamed "**Struja**", who, through the system of communications, asked of the superior command, in the hearing of the captured civilians, the permission to shoot them and to burn their houses. The permission for the execution of the prisoners was given by **Jusuf Hadžajlić**. The statement of a witness of the crime speaks of the execution by firing squad:

"... When they brought our husbands, they tied them and lined them up against a wall, with their head turned to the wall. The following people were there: Nedželjko Krešo, Željko Blažević, Ivo Drljo, Franjo Drljo and Pero Krešo. They led us past them behind the wall. The said people were shot by bursts of fire by Seid Hakalović, son of Zaim and by the Šabić girl. The weapon called 'death sower' was handled by a tall, grizzled man with a small pointed chin whom they called Struja..."

Besides the above mentioned persons the responsibility for the crime in the village of Trusina is born by:

- **Dr. Safet Ćibo**, president of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Konjic;
- **Jusuf Hadžajlić**, commander of the A RBiH MP at the locality of Klisa,
- **Hasan Hakalović**, commander of the A RBiH "Neretvica" Brigade.

8. MUNICIPALITY OF KREŠEVO

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Kreševo had 6,731 inhabitants: Muslims 1,531; 4,714 Croats; 34 Serbs; Others 452.

In 1993 and 1994, during the conflicts between the so-called A RBiH and HVO, on the territory of the Municipality of Kreševo 80 persons of Croatian nationality were killed. In the period from 17. to 27 June 1993, during the attacks of the so-called A RBiH, more than 530 Croats were exiled from the villages of Pirin, Deževica and Crnički Kamenik, and from the parts of the villages of Crnići, Poljani and Mratinici. About 110 residential buildings were burnt down in the process. About 20 inhabitants of the village of Pirin were captured and placed mostly in the Elementary School at Zabrđe, and a lesser part in the nearby houses. When the so-called A RBiH raided the village of Deževica, 9 civilians were arrested. Most civilians, apart from the prison in the Elementary School in the village of Zabrđe, went through the prisons in the branch school at Dusina, and through the "Silos" prison in Tarčin. During the attack of the so-called A RBiH on the village of Pirin, two civilian persons were treacherously killed: *Marko Mišanović* and *Kata Vukoja*, and five persons were wounded. The members of the 82. Foča Brigade of the so-called A RBiH, under the command of **Galib Hodžić**, and the members of the Crnica Detachment, under the command of **Kemo Neradin**, captured *Dominko Barešić* and *Marijo Stanić*. After having tortured them they killed them by tying them and burning them alive. During the identification some parts of the body were found completely burnt in the region of the stomach. On 17 October 1993 the members of the 9. Mountain Brigade of the so-called A RBiH, under the command of **Nezir Kazić**, arrested *Jakov Mišanović*, whom they killed with fire-arms after a short interrogation.

Apart from the Croatian houses in the villages of Pirin, Deževica and Crnički Kamen, A RBiH soldiers also devastated or destroyed the parish church, the chapels and Catholic graveyards.

The Croats were exiled from the said villages by the following A RBiH units:

- The 9. Mountain Brigade under the command of **Nezir Kazić**,
- The unit under the name of "Grobari" commanded by **Fikret Hasić AKA Grobar**,
- The unit under the command of **Zulfikar Ališpago AKA Zuka**,
- The 17. Kraina Brigade under the command of **Esad Grudić**,
- The 82. Foča Brigade under the command of **Galib Hodžić**,
- "Dusinski odred" ("Dusina Detachment") under the command of **Fikret Fejzić**,
and
- "Crni labudovi" ("Black Swans") under the command of **Hasan Tirić**.

Thirty-nine persons from the Municipality of Kreševo, who went through Muslim prisons, were exposed to various forms of torture and inhuman treatment. The first twenty days or so, most of them were daily questioned and beaten up.

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and HVO, nationality of the so-called, Deževica, Poljani and others. About 100,000 people were killed in the war. In the end, the so-called "Silos" were built in the mountains of Pirin, and the "Vukoja" was the name of the soldiers of the "Dominko" by tying the body to the ground. In 1993 the command was after a

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Information was demanded from most prisoners which they could possibly not know, and were therefore additionally tortured. Most prisoners were daily performing all kinds of hard manual labour on the front line, whereby they were intentionally exposed to peril at times of fire exchange across the front line. While working on the front line *Mario Kujundžić* was seriously wounded, and lasting physical and psychological consequences were registered with all prisoners after their release from prison.

The following A RBiH soldiers especially stood out in the maltreatment of prisoners:

- **Izet Sajnica** and **Edin Čolo**, members of the 9. Mountain Brigade;
- **Fikret Fejzić**, commander of the "Dusinski odred";
- **Galib Hodžić**, commander of the 6. Corps of the so-called A RBiH;
- **Kemo Neradin**, at the start of the conflicts commander of the "Crnica Company" then commander of the 82. Foča Brigade until September 1993, after that he is in the logistics of the same unit;
- **Izet Selimović**, commander of the parallel PS in Zabrđe;
- **Ismet Guska**, commander and **Zejnir Andrić**, **Salko Gosto** and **Mirsad Hasečić**, members of the PS Tarčin.

The responsibility for the behaviour of A RBiH soldiers towards prisoners rests with:

- **Kasim Kuliš**, president of the Muslim Municipality of Kreševo,
- **Sejo Skopljak**, chairman of the SDA Kreševo,
- **Izet Selimović**, commander of the PS Kreševo, and
- **Tufko Refik**, commander of the PS Tarčin.

9. MUNICIPALITY OF MAGLAJ

According to the 1991 census, on the territory of the Municipality of Maglaj there were 43,388 inhabitants: Muslims 19,569; Croats 8,365; Serbs 13,312; Others 2,142.

9.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAGLAJ

On 24 June 1993 there came to an armed conflict between the so-called A RBiH and the HVO on the territory of the Municipality of Žepče when the members of the 319. Mountain Brigade of the so-called A RBiH entered the area of Gornja Papratnica, and in the zone of the HVO responsibility carried out an armed attack on several trenches in the region of Krmak elevation 654. The members of the HVO units in the Municipality of Maglaj did not know about the outbreak of conflicts, but soon after the beginning of conflicts the members of the 201. Mountain Brigade of the so-called A RBiH, with **Esad Hidić** at the head, captured and disarmed a platoon (27 soldiers) of the 3. HVO Battalion, who on that day were carrying out their regular military duties on the defence line at Plana established to prevent the VRS from penetrating into the town of Maglaj itself. All the captured HVO soldiers went through a long and hard torture in prison, subjected to hard physical labour and everyday beating. The same day, the members of the 379. A RBiH Brigade carried out an armed attack on the joint check-point at Crni Vrh on the Novi Šeher - Tešanj road, and captured three HVO members, whom they then took to Tešanj, where they robbed, tortured and killed them.

The killed HVO members are: *Miroslav Zeić, Franjo Ćuro* and *Marinko Ivandić*. Besides, on 24 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers killed two HVO with sniper shots: *Ivica Batarilo* and *Ivo Kožulović*. They were killed by an A RBiH member, a sniper, nicknamed Zemko. In the area of Novi Šeher *Ljilja Maglica*, a civilian woman born in 1978, was killed by a sniper.

After these events in the whole responsibility zone of the 111. xp. Brigade there came to a long and violent conflict resulting in heavy casualties and destruction, and also in a number of maltreatments, killings and captures of HVO members and civilian population. The crimes in the area of the Municipality of Maglaj were committed by the members of the 201. Mountain Brigade and those of a special unit called "Zelena legija" ("Green Legion").

On 16 July 1993, *Luka Miličević*, a civilian born in 1931, was killed in front of his family house by a sniper firing from the positions of the so-called A RBiH. The activity of A RBiH snipers was especially frequent in the area of the village of Tomići where an A RBiH sniper, **Senad Mahmutagić AKA Ćevap**, killed three civilian persons:

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- *Karlo Banović*, born in 1946, on 27 August;
- *Pava Jugović* born in 1949, on 4 September 1993, and
- *Mato Banović*, born in 1957, on 27 September while he was trying to pull out the wounded *Ankica Sović*, also hit by a sniper.

After the raid of the so-called A RBiH from the place of Oručë on the Croatian village of Čusto Brdo on 13 September 1993, A RBiH soldiers captured, in their house, four civilian persons of the Zekić family and the HVO member *Ivo Jozić*, whom they tortured during the day, mutilated by chopping off his arm in the elbow and left tied up to die. Four civilian persons were taken to prison in the premises of the Maglaj MUP where they remained interned till the cessation of the conflicts between the HVO and the so-called A RBiH, exposed to everyday psychical and physical torture. In an attempt to take control over a section of the Fojnica-Pazarić line, the members of the 201. A RBiH Brigade and the units named "Zelena legija" raided the village of Novakovići on 21 January 1994, captured the civilian *Mato Slišković*, born in 1940, and killed him with fire-arms at close range. After that they chopped off part of his body with a knife. In this attack A RBiH soldiers also killed the under-aged *Josip Vilić*, born in 1978. On 28.11.1993, just before the end of the Holy Mass, a 120 mm mortar shell, fired from the A RBiH positions in the area of Nekolj, Municipality of Maglaj, landed in front of the church at Brankovići. There were no casualties, but considerable damage was done to the church.

During the conflicts the Croatian population on the territory of the Municipality of Maglaj went through great suffering, exiles and other heavy forms of inhuman behaviour. In the attacks of the so-called A RBiH 98 persons were killed, 420 persons exiled from four villages in which 46 residential buildings were destroyed, and three churches devastated.

9.2. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

In the Municipality of Maglaj there was one single prison both for civilians and soldiers in the MUP building in Maglaj. It was in function from the very outbreak of conflicts till the exchange date on 5 March 1994. Four civilian persons and 30 HVO members were interned in this prison. The internees were daily maltreated and hit both by the guards and Muslim individuals who used to come to prison wilfully. The persons who stood out in torturing the internees were *Željko Verić*, commander of the "Zelena legija" and the guard in the prison *Isak Memišević*. Regardless of weather conditions the internees used to be taken to forced labour in the A RBiH positions where they were often exposed to physical maltreatment and several times to injuries with deadly instruments (*Pero Banović*, *Anto Nikolić* and *Mato Babić*). The internees, *Anto Bakula* and *Tadija Relota*, after having spent 40

days in the Maglaj prison, were transferred to Tešanj where they were daily maltreated. They were even tried before the Municipal Court in Tešanj and sentenced to eight years of jail. The internee *Anto Šupuković*, captured on 21 January 1994 in the area of Novakovići, was locked up in the MUP building in Maglaj where he spent all the time in solitary confinement, except the time when he was questioned. All the internees went through a hard period of torture and physical labour, and lived in very difficult conditions in prison. Treatment of internees was below human dignity. The Croats were declared enemies and outlaws, and consequently they were given worse treatment than animals.

Direct torturers of the Croats in the MUP prison in Maglaj are:

- **Mahmut Memišević**, prison warden,
- **Isak Memišević**, prison guard,
- **Željko Verić**, commander of the "Zelena legija" from Zenica,
- **Zajko Delić**, Maglaj MUP member.

Responsible persons for maltreatment of prisoners are:

- **Aida Smajić**, SDA woman president and president of the Municipality of Maglaj,
- **Esad Hidić**, commander of the 201. A RBiH Brigade,
- **Ismet Mustajbašić**, member of the War Presidency of the Municipality of Maglaj.

10. MUNICIPALITY OF MOSTAR

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Mostar had 126,628 inhabitants: Muslims 43,856; Croats 43,037; Serbs 23,846; Others 15,889.

During the years 1991 and 1992 the Serbian forces exiled more than 15,000 Muslims from eastern Herzegovina towards the City of Mostar. The HVO liberated the City of Mostar and the Neretva valley. A battalion composed of Muslims participated in the fights for the liberation of Mostar. During 1992, the HVO held more than 90% of the total defence line against the Serbian aggressor on the territory of the Municipality of Mostar. During this period the so-called A RBiH was organising and filling up its units, which were not primarily used for holding the front line against the Serbs but rather for the preparation of placing Mostar under their control, taking the advantage of the disturbed demographic structure, created by the inflow of exiled Muslims from eastern Herzegovina. End 1992 and during January 1993 the local Muslim political, military and religious leadership had a number of meetings at which the attitude was taken that Muslims should not participate in the joint authorities of the City of Mostar. The imperative attitude that finally prevailed in the Muslim leadership was **to divide Herzegovina in three national provinces with the Muslim province in the Neretva valley (including the City of Mostar)**. In a letter to Alija Izetbegović, of 5 January 1993, the top officials of the Muslim people in Herzegovina emphasize that they were "...ready to do our best for an all-out mobilization of Muslims in these areas in the shortest possible time ..." After that Muslim representatives encourage the Muslims to desert the HVO and to go over to the so-called A RBiH. So it happened that in April 1993 the whole front line against the Serbs was deserted, and the Muslim members of the 4. and 5. HVO Battalions captured the Croats on the front line and went over to the A RBiH. The reinforced A RBiH forces (at that time the 4. Corps of the so-called A RBiH already existed), were provoking, in a planned and systematic way, a number of incidents with the HVO forces, confident of a repetition of the situation from Konjic and Jablanica where the so-called A RBiH had managed to push the HVO back, and to exile the complete Croatian population from the said municipalities. These isolated incidents grew into an open conflict in May 1993.

10.1. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOSTAR

On 30 June 1993, according to an earlier plan of the A RBiH command, together with the A RBiH forces from the area of the City of Mostar, the HVO members of Muslim nationality in Bijelo Polje and Vrapčići, captured the whole area on the left bank of the Neretva, except for a small part round the nuns' convent in Bijelo Polje,

banishing or capturing the whole Croatian population. During the action, but after the capture, *9 HVO members were killed*. The civilian persons *Jozo Sesar, Ivan Perić* and *Verka Perić*, were also killed, while *Marko Leko*, an HVO member, disappeared. A large number of civilians and soldiers were wounded. About one 100 HVO members and 115 civilian persons were captured, among whom there was a considerable number of children, women and old men.

The same morning, in the village of Vrapčići, the HVO members *Zdravko Mihalj, AKA Kina*, and *Dragan Rakić* were killed at capture; *Ivan Kolobara, AKA Droba* was killed after the capture. Two days later, on 2 July 1993, the HVO members *Vinko Perić* and *Davor Merdžo* were killed. They had been captured on 30 June 1993.

In the village of Gnojnice, which had been under the control of the so-called A RBiH since the beginning of the conflicts, from May to end July 1993, the remaining 17 Croats, all aged civilian persons of over 55 years of age, had been kept confined in the family house of *Nikola Filipović*, where they underwent various physical and psychological maltreatments, while the owner of the house remained bed-ridden due to the consequences of beating.

During the conflicts between the so-called A RBiH and the HVO, A RBiH soldiers killed several civilian persons by non-selective shelling of the City area. So in an artillery attack on civilian targets in the districts of "Đikovina" and "Panjevina", on 3 September 1993, 5 civilian persons, including a child, were killed and 20 civilian persons wounded, including 7 children. On 25 January in the district of Zgoni, a mortar bomb killed four and wounded two children and an old woman.

On 9 September 1993, during the build-up of A RBiH forces for the execution of the "Neretva 93" operation, which was approved by the top level political and military leaders of the Muslim people, in the village of Grabovica the following A RBiH units were temporarily located: **the unit for special purposes of the A RBiH General Staff "Zulfikar", a part of the 44. Jablanica Brigade, a part of the 9. Motorized Brigade Sarajevo - about 120 members who were subordinated to the "Zulfikar" unit, a part of the MP Battalion of the 4. Corps of the so-called A RBiH, MUP members from the police station Jablanica**, whose members killed 32 civilian persons, including a four-year-old child, 13 persons older than 70 years, and 10 women. At that time the village of Grabovica had been under full control of the so-called A RBiH for several months already, the front line was far in the south, and in the village there were no armed forces of the Croatian people, nor were A RBiH soldiers provoked in any way before the massacre.

On 19 September 1993, after the surrender of 7 HVO members to A RBiH soldiers, *Pero Kosir* was beaten so cruelly that the next day he died from the sustained injuries. While his dead body was being carried out of the building they were interned in, an A RBiH member fired a shot into the dead body saying, "never trust a Ustasha even when he pretends to be dead". Amidst horrible torture, they cut off the ear of the HVO member *Jure Kosir*. A day later, on 20 September 1993, they first cut with a knife the word "MAX" (referring to Maks Luburić, a Ustasha officer) in the forehead of *Dragan Lasić*, a captured HVO member, then they led

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him out of the room in which they were interned. There in front of the building he was shot dead by the A RBiH soldiers Zikrija Ljevo and a person nicknamed "Kordić".

On 20 September 1993, after A RBiH soldiers had temporarily occupied the district called "Kolonija" in Rodoč, they killed 6 civilian persons, while 4 civilian persons are missing.

In the conflicts between Muslims and Croats on the territory of the Municipality of Mostar, 72 civilian persons of Croatian nationality and 219 HVO members were killed - 5 of them soon after the capture, and 24 later in captivity - while 23 persons are registered as missing.

During the conflicts a total of 10,000 Croats from 19 inhabited places were exiled (mainly on the left bank of the Neretva), while in all the 19 places the Croatian property was totally or partly devastated (about 1,200 buildings).

10.2. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

During the conflicts between Muslims and Croats on the territory of the Mostar Municipality, the Muslim authorities set up four prisons through which more than 120 civilian persons (including 15 minors, 26 aged people over 70 years of age, and 42 women) and 105 HVO members had passed. During the captivity 24 internees were killed, and more than 50 were slightly or seriously wounded. Almost all internees went through the hardest forms of physical and psychical maltreatment.

10.2.1 The Prison in the Hamlet of Meke in the Village of Potoci

The prison for civilian persons in the *Meke* hamlet in Potoci was set up on 1 July 1993, and closed down on 8 July 1993. The prison held 88 civilian persons from Bijelo Polje, arrested in their houses during the attack of the so-called A RBiH on Bijelo Polje, on 30 June 1993. The same persons were transferred on 9 July 1993 to the building of the "IV. Elementary School Mostar", where they had been confined until 22 July 1993, when they were once again transferred to the Elementary School building in the village of Potoci, where they spent most of their captivity.

10.2.2. The Prison in the Elementary School in the Village of Potoci

The prison for civilian persons in the Elementary School in the village of Potoci was set up on 22 July 1993, when the internees from the IV. Elementary School in

Mostar were transferred to it, and closed on 2 December 1993, after an exchange of prisoners. As stated above, this prison received the internees from the prison in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar and a number of internees from elsewhere so that the total number of people interned in the village of Potoci was 110, out of which 15 minors (eight children under 10 years of age), 26 aged people (over 70 years of age) and 38 women.

During the stay of internees in these both prisons the guards and A RBiH soldiers practised various methods of physical and psychical maltreatment of internees, unlawfully set up and used working platoons on the front line, denied medical aid to internees; the living conditions were hard. The internees were especially tortured with hunger so that most of them lost 20 to 30 kg of weight. A case of rape was registered, but the victim, shunning the publicity, refuses to testify to it.

The text below makes mention of only the most drastic examples of psychical and physical maltreatment:

A score of internees constituting a working platoon intended for various physical works (fortification of the front line, pulling out of the wounded and the killed, etc.), went through all kinds of physical and psychical maltreatment. In doing such assignments in the period from 2 August to 3 November 1993, **7 prisoners lost their lives**, out of which 5 were intentionally shot at short range, while the other two were killed in a cross fire while digging trenches on the front line. The internee *Stanko Zovko, AKA Đatko*, was killed by the A RBiH member *Mehtet Kaminić* at close range on 2 August 1993, while digging trenches on the front line in the village of Potoci (near the "Borik" pub). On 28 August 1993, *Marko Sesar* was killed while working on the front line in the village of Potoci (opposite the nuns' convent). *Marko Bilić* was killed in the same way in the village of Potoci, on 31 August 1993. Especially brutal was the way in which three prisoners were killed on 26 September 1993, on Mt. Čučurak above the village of Livač, while hauling an antiaircraft gun of the so-called A RBiH. On that occasion the A BiH soldier *Mirsad Omanović, AKA Alaga*, who was accompanying a group of 12 interned Croats, three of them minors, killed *Stjepan Bilić, Tomo Brajković* and *Žarko Drinovac* at close range by the method of gradual killing (he shot them in the legs, the arms, the parts of the body, and left them bleed to death). Then he made others literally pull them downhill to the hamlet of "Skenderove mlinice", where they had to cover them with stones, although Stjepan Bilić was still giving signs of life at that moment. On 3 November 1993, *Ljubo Škobić* was killed while he was digging trenches on the front line in the village of Potoci (on the M-17 road).

Also, in the same period four cases of serious wounding and infliction of heavy bodily injuries were registered during the performance of works on the front line

or through the beating by A RBiH soldiers. On 24 August 1993, **Ibrahim Demirović, AKA Hećim** (commander of the brigade) and **Hebib Čopelj**, selected 37 internees, mainly aged and infirm persons, and one child (that they might not run away), with the intention of using them as living shield in the operations of the unit of Ibrahim Demirović in the village of Raštani and in the vicinity of the HPP Mostar. Among the internees there was an old man, *Mile Karlušić*, an invalid who could not walk, so he was being pushed in a wheelchair in front of the living shield. The 30 selected civilians remained in the group until 28 August 1993. During that time they spent one night in each of the following places: in a private house in the village of Vrapčići, the hamlet of Marići, and in the rooms of a business building belonging to the Cotton Mill "Đuro Salaj" in Vrapčići. All this time they were exposed to brutal physical and psychological torture, beating and starvation, and to the cross small arms and artillery fire on the front line while being led to the HPP Mostar.

In maltreating the internees (even pregnant women and aged persons, some of whom succumbed after the release from captivity) the following persons especially stood out: **Šemso Čagalj, AKA Sultan, Mujo Karadža, AKA Hodža, Zikrija Ljevo, Edin Omanović, AKA Beća, Vernes Zahirović, Lutvija Duraković, Sead Macić, Esad Macić, Rifat Skorupan, Mirsad Vrce, Mumin Nazdrajić** and other perpetrators, unknown to the internees.

10.2.3. The Prison in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar

The military prison in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar was established on 30 June 1993 and closed down on 19 March 1994, when an exchange of prisoners was effected. Somewhere between 115 and 130 internees were confined in this prison, out of which 4 women and 6 civilian persons. The prison consisted of two cellar rooms: one 7,5x6m, and the other 2x3m in size, both 2,2 metres high and each with one 80x80 cm opening, formally intended for getting in coal. The rooms communicated with each other through a door. Both openings were boarded up from outside, so that the rooms were always in darkness or lit by a small neon light. Hygienic conditions in the prison were disastrous. The internees would lie on wooden palettes, or on a number of sponges; due to rain water the floor was regularly flooded. The use of the WC was allowed only twice a day, in the morning and in the evening, while during the day the internees relieved themselves into an open container without a cover placed in the bigger room and it spread an offensive smell. The internees were not allowed to wash or have a bath so that some of them had a bath only after six months of captivity, although many of them were engaged in disinterring an interring corpses, cleaning the City and the like jobs. Medical aid was administered to the internees by two interned doctors, mainly through advice and wound dressing, for drugs were none, or they were very rare, when the representatives of international humanitarian organisations visited the prison.

Most internees from this prison were accepted by or were taken later to the temporary prison in the former "SDK" building or in the cellar of the department store "Razvitak" in Mostar for questioning, beating and torturing. During the works on the front line or on the farms they would be temporarily placed in the rooms adapted for prison in the village of Blagaj.

Unlawful and inhuman methods of physical and psychical torture were applied to the internees in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar and in all temporary prisons to which the internees used to be temporarily taken. The statements of all internees speak about torture. Here is the statement of one of them:

"...In the evening, when they started playing their music, we knew they were coming for us. They would come into the cell and point at a few people to come out. We in the cell could hear them beating people and screaming. The men would come back after one, two, three hours, covered with blood and beaten black and blue..."

"... Every day we toiled from morning till night. In the evening, when the work was over, beating followed. One evening they started beating us at 21:00 hours and finished at about 5:00 hours. My colleague Mirko Skoko had his ribs broken. In spite of that they drove him to work..."

The living conditions in all these prisons were very much alike, and the internees were tormented with hunger, so that most of them lost from 20 to 40 kg of weight. A statement of an internee:

"...When I came to prison I weighed 98 kilograms, and in the 10th month, 58 kilograms. The food in prison never changed. On the last day they gave us the same as on the first..."

or the statement of another internee:

"...I entered prison with 102 kg, and left it with 56 kg..."

The internees were taken every day out to do all kinds of manual labour on trimming the front line where they underwent all kinds of bodily and mental maltreatment. In Blagaj the internees were mainly beaten by the local Muslims. On several occasions the internees had to run the gauntlet of the local Muslims who heavily beat them with hard wooden or metal objects.

During the performance of these assignments, in the period from 5 July to 7 October 1993, 17 internees were killed, and 50 more slightly or seriously wounded. Most of the internees were intentionally exposed to peril by being taken in front of the shelter at the time of major shelling or infantry attacks, especially in the Šantića Street in Mostar. Some of them were killed from the back by A RBiH soldiers. In this way the following internees were killed in the Šantića street: *Marko Mikulić* - on 5 July, *Slavko Kolobara* - on 6 August, *Stojan Škobić* - on 13 August, *Tomo Karlušić* and *Branko Grgić* - on 18 August, *Zoran Bošnjak* and *Ante Lovrić* - on 20 August, *Branko Kožul* - on 23 August, *Filip Raić* - on 4 September, *Ante Mikulić* - on 18 September, *Stanko Zovko* - on 21 September,

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Andelko Vrljić - on 1 October, and *Antonio Buntić* - on 7 October 1993. Apart from these, the following internees were killed on the front line while carrying out the assigned works: *Zdenko Jovanović* and *Ivan Ravlić* - on 18 September, in front of the "SDK" building in Mostar, and *Goran Tomić* - on 18 September in the "Sjeverni logor" ("Northern Camp").

Upon coming to prison, blood type of each internee was identified, and several times they had their blood taken in the "Higijenski zavod" (Institute of Hygiene) in Mostar. Some internees had their blood taken by force as many as five times in five months of captivity. The organisers of blood taking were **dr. Dragana Milavić**, employee of the War Hospital in Mostar, and **Slobodan Marić**, deputy manager of the prison in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar.

The internees were inhumanly psychically and physically tormented, while heavy beating caused death of *Mario Lasić*, on 21 September 1993. In the beating which caused the death of Mario Lasić the prison cook **Predrag Ajkić, AKA Pajke**, stood especially out; he beat Lasić with a big wooden ladle. A large number of internees sustained bodily injuries, mainly with lasting consequences. Apart from chastisement and shooting from fire-arms past the heads of the internees, as a special form of mental maltreatment, the internees were made to drink their own urine, to take part in organised box matches where they would punch each other until collapse - which was a favourite pastime of the guards, etc. The statement of an internee given upon the release speaks of the consequences of heavy beating:

"...Deformation of the skull, they broke my nose bone, my forehead bears the scars made by the handle and the ladle they hit us with, the scars from wooden objects, mostly..."

The following persons especially stood out in the beating of internees: **Mirsad Ćupina** (the prison warden who encouraged his subordinates to beat the internees), **Slobodan Marić** (deputy prison warden and commander of the guard shift), **Huso Oručević** (commander of the guard shift), **Edin Tanović, AKA Tana** (commander of the guard shift), **Mirsad Zekić** (commander of the guard shift), **Adis Batlak, AKA Dado**, **Nusret Beatović**, **Mili Čišić**, **Alija Gušić** (from Tasovčići near Čapljina), **Sladjan Medić**, **Senad Oručević, AKA Senče**, **Zijo Oručević, AKA Zike**, **Huso Oručević**, **Nebojša Radenović, AKA Nešo**, **Haso Stupica**, **Hamid Šunje, AKA Hamo**, **Hilmo Toporan**, **Zijad Redžović**, **Predrag Ajkić, AKA Pajke**, **Mirsad Handžar**, **Nezir Kovačević**, **Mirza Stupac**, **Alija Batlak**, **Nezir Pribišić**, **Enver Stranjak**, **Miro Bijedić**, **Memija Boškailo**, **Nezir Bilušić**, **Mirsad Ćustović, AKA Lija**, and other prison employees and A RBiH military policemen unknown to the internees as well as civilians who were let into the prison or outside the prison premises, where they indulged in maltreating the internees. The best known are: **Semir Ćemalović, AKA Pika**, **Lola Kudin** (shot at close quarters at one of the internees and wounded him seriously), **Ahmed Peco**, a certain **Nešo (Brzi)**, a certain **Slaven** and others.

The persons responsible for the establishment of prisons/camps and the inhuman treatment of civilians and HVO members during their captivity are:

- **Arif Pašalić**, commander of the 4. Corps A RBiH until 6.11.1993,
- **Mustafa Išović**, deputy commander of the 4. Corps A RBiH,
- **Sulejman Budaković, AKA Tetak** chief-of-staff of the 4. Corps A RBiH until 6.11.1993, and from this date commander of the 4. Corps A RBiH,
- **Esad Humo**, commander of the 41. Brigade A RBiH,
- **Semir Drljević, AKA Lovac**, commander of an A RBiH brigade,
- **Zijo Lerić**, commander of the MP Battalion of the 4. Corps A RBiH,
- **Šemso Čagalj, AKA Sultan**, probably commander of the MP unit in Bijelo Polje,
- **Mujo Karadža, AKA Hodža**, deputy commander of the MP unit in Bijelo Polje,
- **Mirsad Ćupina**, warden of the prison in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar till 15.10.1993,
- **Mirsad Handžar**, warden of the prison in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar from 15 October till 3.12.1993,
- **Mirsad Vražalica**, warden of the prison in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar from 3.12.1993 till January 1994,
- **Hasan Memić**, warden of the prison in the IV. Elementary School in Mostar from January 1994. till 19.3.1994
- **Eno Ćurić**, warden of the prison in the Elementary School in the village of Potoci,
- **Esad (Eso) Tipura**, deputy warden of the prison in the Elementary School in the village of Potoci

10.3. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS, INFLICTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

10.3.1. The Crime in the Village of Grabovica

The village of Grabovica is located on the bank of the Neretva 35 km north of Mostar and 12 km south of Jablanica, and belongs to the Municipality of Mostar. It comprises several hamlets on both shores of the lake of the "Salakovac" HPP of a total length of 6,5 km: Grabovica, Čopi and Ominje on the right, and Grabovica proper and Sjenčine on the left shore of the Salakovac lake. Before the war these hamlets were exclusively inhabited by the Croatian population, a total of about 220 people in some 70 households.

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At the beginning of the conflicts between the so-called A RBiH and the HVO, on 10 May 1993, A RBiH soldiers captured, practically without major resistance, the area of Grabovica in which there were 35 HVO soldiers. During this action one HVO member was killed and four captured and taken to the "Muzej" camp in Jablanica. Two days after the capture of Grabovica, A RBiH soldiers executed by shooting the HVO soldier *Željko Rozić*, who had surrendered, and two Croatian houses were burnt: the houses of *Dragan Mandić* and *Pero Mandić*. Upon the capture of Grabovica by the so-called A RBiH there remained 91 persons of Croatian nationality in it, mostly aged people and children.

Plundering of Croatian property by Muslim soldiers from Jablanica and the surrounding villages was on a daily basis (livestock, home appliances, furniture, etc.). When the sixty-year-old *Jozo Istuk* protested against the plunder of his property and cattle, A RBiH soldiers killed him in July 1993. In addition to the plunder of their property, the remaining Croatian population was maltreated and intimidated every day.

In this period Grabovica was under direct control of the 6. Corps A RBiH, that is the then Operating Group (OG) North-2 commanded by **Zulfikar Ališpago - Zuka**, who was also the commander of a unit for special purposes of the A RBiH Supreme Command Staff (SCS) "Zulfikar". Deputy and acting commander of the "Zulfikar" unit at that time was **Nihad Bojadžić, AKA Blek or Nihko**. Besides the "Zulfikar" unit members, the members of the "Drežnica Battalion" from the 4. Corps A RBiH under the command of **Mustafa Beglerović - Mujica**, often stayed in the area of Grabovica. Due to difficult communication between Mostar and Jablanica in this period, the control over Grabovica was also exercised by the civilian authorities of Jablanica, or rather by the head of the Jablanica MUP, **Emin Zebić**, and by the president of the war presidencies of the municipalities of Jablanica, Konjic and Prozor, **dr. Safet Ćibo**.

This situation lasted until early September 1993 when the preparations of the so-called A RBiH for the "Neretva 93" operation started. This operation was approved by the Chair of the BiH Presidency **Alija Izetbegović** and by the commander of the A RBiH SCS, **Rasim Delić**. Its objective was to place the area from Bugojno to the Adriatic sea under the control of the so-called A RBiH.

According to the commands of the commander of the A RBiH SCS, Rasim Delić, the exponents of the offensive operations in the "Neretva 93" action were the units from the 4. and 6. Corps A RBiH, reinforced by the units from the 3. Corps, and the 1. Corps A RBiH:

Parts of the 9. Mountain Brigade under the command of **Ramiz Delalić - Ćela**,

Parts of the 10. Mountain Brigade under the command of **Mušan Topalović-Caco**, as well as minor units for special purposes:

"Igmanski vukovi" ("The Igman Wolves"), under the command of **Edib Šarić**,

A group under the command of **Adnan Solaković** known as "Solakovi ljudi" (Solak's Men") or "Adnanova grupa" ("Adnan's Group"),

"Handžar divizija", and

A detachment for special purposes of the BiH MUP "Laste". A unit of the SCS for special purposes called "Zulfikar" under the command of **Zulfikar Ališpago-Zuka** and **Nihad Bojadžić** had been here from earlier.

For the purpose of following the execution of the action and coordinating between the units of the 4. and the 6. Corps A RBiH, and other units participating in the action, the commander of the SCS ordered a detached command post (DCP) of the SCS to be formed with the seat in Jablanica consisting of: **Sefer Halilović**, **Vehbija Karić**, **Ziĉro Suljević**, **Rifat Bilajac**, **Džemal Najetović**, **Edin Hasanpašić** and **Namik Džanković**.

At the same time, apart from the commander **Zulfikar Ališpago-Zuka**, the following men were added to the command of the OG North-2: **Edib Šarić**, **Huso Alić**, **Kasim Korjenić** and **Reuf Sidran**.

The said units started arriving to Jablanica on 6 September 1993. From there most of them were sent further to Grabovica, so that there were more than 700 soldiers in Grabovica. Generals Vehbija Karić and Ziĉro Suljević were charged with the reception and quartering of the soldiers on behalf of the SCS DCP. According to the statements of witnesses, incidents started as soon as the units arrived, and Vehbija Karić, in front of the lined-up A RBiH soldiers, ordered that the units be billeted on the houses of the Croats, and added "should anybody protest, throw him in the Neretva".

Before the arrival of A RBiH soldiers to Grabovica, the representatives of civilian authorities from Jablanica and A RBiH representatives with general Karić at the head had visited the village and informed the local Croatian population that A RBiH soldiers would come to the village, and that they should receive them in their houses and that they had nothing to be afraid of.

In the night of 8 September 1993 thirty-two (32) civilian persons of Croatian nationality were tortured and massacred in their homes. There are no living witnesses of the crime, except two brothers *Goran Zadro* and *Zoran Zadro*, at that time boys of 11 and 13 years of age, who eye-witnessed the murder of their family: mother *Ljubica Zadro*, father *Mladen Zadro*, sister *Mladenka Zadro*, grandmother *Matija Zadro* and grandfather *Ivan Zadro*. They also saw several dead bodies of the killed neighbours. Here is a part of the statement of *Goran Zadro* speaking about the murders:

"...Ćela's and Caco's men came, about three hundred of them. We were with them for three days. Did they shoot, boy - God forbid! On the third day Ćelo and Caco ordered that everybody should be killed. Three young men came to our house. One had a white T-shirt on, his hair was cut in Italian fashion, the

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other had a white waistcoat, a bullet-proof shirt and a brown knife, and the third a blue bullet-proof shirt and waistcoat. They asked us whether we had any livestock. We said we had. Then they asked whether we were Croats. We replied we were, without hesitation. The told papa to come out and show them where the cattle was. As he was afraid to go alone, the grandparents went with him. Shouts and loud talk came from there. Probably they were lining them up. I was not looking. A burst of fire was heard. They killed them all. If my brother had not obeyed me, he would have been killed, too. I said to him: 'Come on, let's hide.' And then we hid. They killed my grandmother Matija, grandfather Ivan, father Mladen, and I was telling ma that we should hide, or at least that they hide (ma, sister and brother), and that I would go to see whether they had killed them. Ma did not want to, and she said: 'Come come, this will soon blow over. You know how many soldiers have been to our home already. About two hundred of them followed in succession. They would come, have a cup of coffee and a chat.' When they had killed the three of them, they came back for my ma and sister. My ma's name is Ljubica, and my sister's name is Mladenka. They took the two of them there behind the stable. Shooting was heard for a long time. We then hid, and later climbed even higher up the hill. My sister had just completed her fourth year of life..."

In the night of 8 September 1993 the following persons were killed:

1. *Pero Čuljak*, born in 1913;
2. *Matija Čuljak*, born in 1917;
3. *Cvitan Lovrić*, born in 1936;
4. *Jela Lovrić*, born in 1940;
5. *Mara Mandić*, born in 1912;
6. *Ivan Mandić*, born in 1935;
7. *Ilka Miletić*, born in 1926;
8. *Anica Pranjić*, born in 1914;
9. *Franjo Ravlić*, born in 1917;
10. *Pero Marić*, born in 1914;
11. *Ivan Šarić*, born in 1939;
12. *Dragica Marić*, born in 1914;
13. *Josip Brekalo*, born in 1939;
14. *Luca Prskalo*, born in 1939;
15. *Andrija Drežnjak*, born in 1921;
16. *Mara Drežnjak*, born in 1921;
17. *Dragica Drežnjak*, born in 1953;
18. *Ilka Marić*, born in 1921;
19. *Ruža Marić*, born in 1956;
20. *Martin Marić*, born in 1911;
21. *Marinko Marić*, born in 1941;
22. *Luca Marić*, born in 1944;
23. *Marko Marić*, born in 1906;
24. *Matija Marić*, born in 1907;
25. *Ruža Marić*, born in 1935;

26. *Ivan Marić*, born in 1906;
27. *Matija Marić*, born in 1923;
28. *Mladen Zadro*, born in 1956;
29. *Ljubica Zadro*, born in 1956;
30. *Mladenka Zadro*, born in 1989;
31. *Živko Drežnjak*, born in 1933;
32. *Ljubo Drežnjak*, born in 1932.

According to autopsy findings at the Pathological Ward of the Clinic-Hospital-Centre Firule in Split, the statements of witnesses and later reconstruction of events, it was concluded that most victims had been killed in a most atrocious way:

- *Jozo Brekalo* was crucified, then he was beheaded and his head impaled;
- *Luca Brekalo* was tortured for a long time and in the end burnt alive;
- *Pero Marić* was butchered.
- *Ivan Šarić* was killed in front of his wife *Ljubica Šarić* who herself was then raped. After a long captivity she was exchanged and upon arrival to Mostar committed suicide - as a result of stresses sustained.

After the committed massacre general **Vehbija Karić** issued an order to **Zulfikar Ališpago - Zuka** to block the whole area of Grabovica in order to prevent the crime from becoming known. From the statement of an A RBiH member who was present in Grabovica at that time we have singled out the part that speaks about the setting up of check-points:

"I was personally present when Vehbija issued an order to place check-point before and after Grabovica, so that nothing might transpire about the crime. The command was issued to Zuka and I know that he immediately sent three men in each direction with an order that nobody whatsoever, not even the police, or UNPROFOR, or journalists, or anyone else, should step on the territory of the village of Grabovica."

In order to cover up the evidence of the crime committed, A RBiH soldiers were ordered to throw the corpses into the Neretva river, so that only 11 bodies of the killed Croats from Grabovica could be exchanged in an exchange that followed after the cessation of the conflicts. The statement of an A RBiH member, present in Grabovica at the time of the crime, speaks of the throwing of the bodies of the killed Croats into the Neretva:

"The next morning there were no more Croats in the village. I saw their corpses in the Neretva."

Moreover, some of the A RBiH top officers even asked for those two boys, the only witnesses of the crime, to be executed, too, in order to conceal the crime. **Ramiz Delalić-Ćelo** speaks about that in his statement for the Sarajevo weekly "Dani", the issue of 24 October 1997:

"...Then I put the two boys into the car and took them to Zuka's base in Donja Jablanica. I told them everything I had heard from the boys. There were: Sefer Halilović, Zuka, Vehbija, Zičro, Bilajac, Nihad Bojadžić, Zuka's deputy... Some said the children should be done away with, lest the offense should become known. I was categorical: the children should be sent to their uncle and aunt and into safety. I will not disclose who put such a proposal for the children because I did so in my statement to the Military Security Administration."

On 10 September 1993 a meeting of high military and civilian officials was held in Konjic at which they were informed about the crime in Grabovica. Present at the meeting were: **Rusmir Mahmutćehajić, Safet Ćibo, Bakir Alispahić, Sefer Halilović** and **Vehbija Karić**. Reports about the crime committed in Grabovica were sent from this meeting to **Alija Izetbegović** and **Rasim Delić**.

Immediately after the committed crime, statements were taken from the perpetrators of the crime by the officer of the Security Administration, **Namik Džanković**. Later a team of the Security Administration carried out an investigation with the only aim to hush up the responsibility of the members of the A RBiH GS, especially that of general Vehbija Karić. According to later statements of A RBiH soldiers in the press, who were present in Grabovica at the time of the crime, "The Security Administration came to know all the details of the massacre in Grabovica."

That the massacre in Grabovica had been planned is corroborated by the fact that a member of the 44. Mountain Brigade from Jablanica, immediately before the beginning of the killing, had come to Grabovica in order to save Stoja and Ivan Prančić who were his wife's relatives. The said soldier, with the consent of Zulfikar Ališpago - Zuka, managed to get the two old people out of Grabovica.

About 40 Croats from Grabovica, who had survived the carnage, were taken to the "Muzej" camp, allegedly for their personal safety. The Croats interned in the prison in Jablanica were kept there until the exchange in March 1994.

Presently not a single Croat lives in Grabovica; all their houses have been plundered or burnt down. The so-called A RBiH turned the house of Dragan Mandić into its barracks, and in the house of his brother Franjo there is a mekteb - an Islamic religious school - for A RBiH units, while the house of the third brother serves as a military clinic.

The graveyards that used to belong to the Croats of Grabovica have been devastated in the way that most of tombstones have been destroyed. In a few cases old tombs were opened and the bones taken out and thrown into the Neretva.

11. MUNICIPALITY OF NOVI TRAVNIK

According to the 1991 census, on the territory of the Municipality of Novi Travnik there lived 30,713 inhabitants: Muslims 11,625; Croats 12,162; Serbs 4,097; Others 2,829.

First armed incidents between HVO and A RBiH units in the area of the Municipality of Novi Travnik were recorded in June 1992. After six days of armed incidents, through the negotiations of municipal military and civilian officials, cessation of combat activities was arranged.

11.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NOVI TRAVNIK

In early October 1992, in the area of the Novi Travnik villages: Šenkovići, Sinokos, Donje Pećine, and in the town itself, there came to open armed conflicts in which A RBiH soldiers used heavy artillery in their offensive actions.

One of the objectives of the so-called A RBiH was to place under its control the route Uskoplje - canyon of the Bistrička Rika - Novi Travnik - Travnik, and the route Bugojno - Ravno Rostovo - Travnik - Novi Travnik. In the realization of the said objective, the method of intimidation was used, or more exactly, robberies, murders, interceptions and maltreatments of the Croats were recorded on several occasions on the said roads, rendering these only two communications with the central part of BiH unsafe for movement. With a view to cut the supply of humanitarian aid, three Italian humanitarian workers were killed on the Uskoplje - Novi Travnik road, in the canyon of Bistrička Rika.

The realization of the plans of Muslim military and civilian officials - the two main ones being the control of the central part of BiH and the subordination of the HVO to the so-called A RBiH in the area of the Municipality of Novi Travnik - started in October 1992, when the members of the A RBiH units, in an attempt to take control of the town part of the Municipality of Novi Travnik, set fire to the petrol station. Also, two residential buildings, in which the Croats lived, were destroyed.

In October 1992 A RBiH soldiers placed a part of the town under their control. In this offensive of the so-called A RBiH 8 (eight) HVO members were killed, some of them having been shot from the arms with built-in sniper.

In the period from 21 to 29 October 1992, A RBiH soldiers mounted another offensive against the Croats and the HVO units in the area of the Municipality of

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Novi Travnik. In these combat actions 9 (nine) HVO members were killed, another 10 were seriously wounded, and about 40 sustained slight bodily injuries. A RBiH soldiers completely destroyed three residential buildings in Novi Travnik, then the building in which the Command of the Stjepan Tomašević Brigade was housed, the Communication Centre, and the equipment of the local radio station.

With a view of provoking conflicts on a larger scale, mid April 1993, mujahedins kidnapped four members of the command of the HVO Brigade "Stjepan Tomašević" while they were making a tour of the defence lines held by the HVO against the VRS units, in the Kamenjaš-Mravinjac section. The mujahedins took these four to the prison in a motel in the village of Ravno Rostovo which was under their control. In the said motel there were A RBiH soldiers, foreign citizens from Islamic countries, who, on the plateau of Ravno Rostovo, were training Muslims who accepted the way of "jihad warfare". Their behaviour and activity were the greatest threat to the Croats living in the central BiH. The four arrested HVO officers of the "Stjepan Tomašević" Brigade spent 35 days in prison where they were subjected to bodily and mental maltreatment by mujahedins. They were exchanged on 17 May 1993.

In early June 1993, A RBiH soldiers, after repeated armed conflicts with the HVO, changed the direction of their attack from Travnik to Novi Travnik and Busovača, which, as in most municipalities of central BiH, was the beginning of an offensive of A RBiH units against the Croats and HVO units of Central Bosnia.

During June 1993, 56 Croats of the Novi Travnik Municipality lost their lives as a result of the attacks of A RBiH soldiers.

11.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NOVI TRAVNIK

11.2.1. Chronology of Events During June 1993

On 5 June 1993, A RBiH units attacked the Croats living in the villages of Stojkovići and Bučići;

On 9 June 1993, during an attack on Šenkovići, or more exactly, on the part of inhabited by the Croatian population, **Mustafa Perenda**, from Sinokosi, Municipality of N. Travnik, together with a few A RBiH soldiers, called **Josip Jurišić** and **Zdravko Jurišić** to come out of their family house, and then they killed them on their door-step. At about 18,00 hours, A RBiH soldiers took complete control of Šenkovići. On that occasion **43 HVO members** were arrested and locked up, and so were the civilians living in the village. According to the statements of witnesses, civilians (women and children) were forced to do humiliating jobs for the domicile Muslim population in the village (farm work) while the army-able men were

engaged in doing hard physical work (trimming of A RBiH front lines, digging of dug-outs and the like). Soon upon the capture of the village by the so-called A RBiH, a prison was set up in its Elementary School building. **The arrested villagers of Šenkovići were exchanged on 17 September 1993.**

On 10 June 1993, from the direction of Travnik, A RBiH soldiers started offensive actions against HVO units in u Novi Travnik and Busovača. The same day, A RBiH soldiers started attacks on the villages of: Đakovice, Zubići, Rastovci, Margetići.

After A RBiH soldiers had captured the village of Petačići, the Croatian civilians - mostly aged persons, women and children - were ordered to leave their family houses. After that they were deported to those parts of the Municipality of Novi Travnik that were under the HVO control. Army-able men remained in captivity; they were relocated to the prison in the village of Opara, in the sports hall.

On 11 June 1993, the civilian population of the village of Budušići was forced to leave their homes due to constant attacks of the so-called A RBiH. **Three civilian persons lost their lives** on that occasion. At the same time, the villages of Zenepići, Pobrđani, Hadžići and Margetići, found themselves in a total encirclement by the so-called A RBiH.

On 12 June 1993, the Croats and HVO members in the villages of Zenepići, Pobrđani, Margetići and Hadžići were attacked from the direction of Ravno Rostovo, and from the direction of Gornji Vakuf and Bugojno, and put under total siege. During the pulling out of the wounded from the villages of Margetići, Rudo and Donje Pećine, A RBiH soldiers fired at ambulances and at the vehicles with visible signs of the Red Cross.

On 13 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers launched attacks on the Croats in the village of Kasapovići. **Three civilian persons were killed** in the process.

On 14 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers, launched an attack on the villages of Margetići, Rudo and other villages which they had put under siege before. In the village of Rudo, **7 HVO members were killed** in the A RBiH attacks, and a dozen more wounded.

On 14/15 June 1993, due to heavy artillery and infantry attacks of A RBiH forces, about 3,000 Croats were exiled from the Croatian villages of Margetići, Hadžići, Zenepići, Pobrđani, Đakovici, Ruda, Pećine, Novkovići, Torine and Kovačići.

On 15 June 1993, the attacks on Margetići, Zubići, Rastovci, Gornje and Donje Pećine were intensified. The Croatian civilians were exposed to mortar and sniper fire. In the course of the day the villages of Gostunj and Putićevo also came under an attack.

On 17 June 1993, with an aim to take control of the only routes leading to central BiH (Bugojno - Ravno Rostovo - Novi Travnik, and Uskoplje - canyon of Bistrička

Rika - Novi Travnik) A RBiH soldiers, supported by mujahedins, launched an offensive on the villages of Sebešić and Rostovo. In the village of Čitluk, two children and a woman were wounded by sniper shots.

On 18 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers intensified their attacks on Sebešić (a Croatian village situated on the Uskoplje - canyon of the Bistrička Rika - Novi Travnik road. Regarding the attack on Sebešić, in the book "War Memories of General Alagić" the author general Mehmed Alagić says:

"... The battle for Sebešić is a text-book example of warfare philosophy of this group. Our tactics was to infiltrate a part of the forces into the rear and to create the conditions for an attack from a circular base. I read the confession of an HVO fighter in Globus who was fighting in Sebešić, and then deserted. He claims that Sebešić was being attacked by five brigades. The truth is that only three battalions were attacking Sebešić. Although a platoon was delayed, the action ended in 45 minutes..."

On 24 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers attacked the Croats living in the village of Rostovo. Given that the civilian population, due to constant threats and the presence of mujahedins in Rostovo, moved to Sebešić, there remained about 25 HVO members in Rostovo, mostly elderly men. The organised attack on the group of 25 HVO members started on the Catholic feast of St. John the Baptist. On that occasion the Croats that had remained in Ravno Rostovo were captured. One of the surviving witnesses of the attack on Rostovo, speaks in his statement about the humiliations to which they were exposed by A RBiH soldiers:

"...There I recognised four Muslims from the village of Dahovo: Budo (it's his nickname, but I don't know his true name) aged 25; Fehko Rizvić (maybe his true name is Fehim) aged about 27; Adem (son of Paša) Sarajčić, (age about 28 years) and another Sarajčić whose name I don't know, but his father's name is Šećo. They were young people and I don't know their full names. Two unknown ones were holding sabres, one behind my back and the other under my chin. A third unknown soldier started then to strike me in the ribs and the back with the butt of his rifle; he also kicked me with his feet in army boots. Then the Sarajčić boy, son of Šaćo, said to them: Stop beating him, he is an aged man. Before he said that, one of the unknown two, took off my trousers and panties and said: 'Now we are going to circumcise you that you, too, may be in the true faith of Islam!'After that the commander of the Muslim army called 'The Hares' ordered them to take me home. He said: Set his house on fire and let him watch it burning. They set it on fire. I watched my house burning, and I had built it with great difficulty, stinting myself even of food in order to built it. I never felt worse. Humiliation and bitterness mixed with the pains in the wounded shoulder. The houses of my neighbours were burnt at the same time..."

The arrested Croats from the village of Rostovo were transferred to the prison in Opara.

On 25 October 1993, in the village of Zubići A RBiH soldiers, supported by the mujahedins of the "El Mudžahid" unit, completely encircled 80 HVO members. On that occasion, the commander of the HVO defence line in the village of Zubići,

was captured after having first been wounded. After bodily and mental maltreatment the members of the "El mudžahid" unit killed the commander *Emil Popović* with a shot in the back of the head.

The affliction of the Croats of the Municipality of Novi Travnik continued during the Croato-Muslim conflicts all way until the signature of the Washington Agreement.

A large number of the killed (more than 30 Croats) were shot by sniper. One of the reasons for such a large number of the killed by sniper was the engagement of the "sports shooting team" from Zenica as a special A RBiH unit in central BiH. It was mainly civilians who got killed, and a large number of the killed was hit while going in search of drinking water, since A RBiH soldiers had cut the water supply for the part of the town in which the Croats lived.

Also, the shelling of the central part of the town by the so-called A RBiH resulted in the deaths of civilians, especially children.

Immediately before the open attacks on the HVO units and the Croats of the Municipality of Novi Travnik, as well as during the conflicts themselves, 199 HVO members and 30 civilian persons were killed. The greatest victims were the Croats who remained to live in the villages that were surrounded by those with Muslim majority, as well as in the villages with equal number of Croats and Muslims: Potočani, Kopila, Sebešić, Zubići, Kasapovići and Budušići.

During the Croato-Muslim conflicts, **707 Croats were wounded** out of which **182 civilian persons**. The shelling of the villages inhabited by the Croats **caused death of 41 persons of Croatian nationality**, while an exceptionally high number of the Croats were killed by Muslim snipers. The largest number of casualties was recorded at the time when people went in search of fresh water, since the Muslims had turned off the water supply.

On the territory of the Municipality of Novi Travnik the Croatian houses were plundered, devastated or completely destroyed in the villages of: Margetići, Hadžići, Zenepići, Pobrđani, Đakovići, Ruda, Pećine, Novkovići, Torine, Kovačići, Sebešić, Šenkovići, Dahovo, Rat, Rostovo, and the Croatian houses in the villages where the Croats were in minority: Vodovod, Kopila. **A total of 904 residential buildings of the Croats were totally destroyed.**

Also devastated or destroyed were the parish churches in Pećine and Rostovo, mainly after a truce was signed. The Catholic graveyards and chapels were also devastated in the villages where the Croats lived.

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11.3. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

During the Croato-Muslim conflicts in the Municipality of Novi Travnik, Muslim military and civilian officials gave order for the establishment of four prisons where the Croats, captured in the area of the Municipality of Novi Travnik, were interned:

- prison in the Elementary School building Trenica,
- prison in the Elementary School building in the place of Opara,
- prison in the Secondary School Centre in Novi Travnik,
- prison in the village of Šenkovići

On 9 June 1993 A RBiH soldiers interned over 100 civilian persons of Croatian nationality, and about 150 HVO members of the Novi Travnik Brigade.

11.3.1. Prisons in the Elementary Schools in Trenica and Opara

In the period from 9 June 1993 to 17 September 1993, 30 HVO members of the units of the Novi Travnik Brigade were confined in the prisons in the village of Trenica (Elementary School building), and in the place of Opara (Elementary School building). The prison manager was the then security chief of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH **Ismet Šahinović**, who was especially engaged in questioning the prisoners and gave direct commands for their beating. The prisoners were tormented with hunger with the consent of the prison manager. They were also engaged in the performance of hard physical jobs, especially in the arrangement of the A RBiH defence lines stretching from Zubići to Rankovička kosa. Several times the prisoners were used as a living shield in the operations of the so-called A RBiH.

In the prison in the village of Opara the interned Croats were locked up under the staircase in the school building for four days. After the questioning a number of internees were deported to the prison in Travnik, the barracks of the former JNA, where they were interrogated by mujahedins.

The persons responsible for inhuman treatment in the two prisons are:

- **Ismet Šahinović**, prison warden, at the time specified, security chief of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Mirsad Skopljak**, commander of a battalion within the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;

- Zijo Lugan, an A RBiH member;
- Hajrudin Sarajčić, an A RBiH member;
- Sejkan Grizić, an A RBiH member;
- Suljo Haskić, an A RBiH member;

11.3.2. Prison in the Secondary School Centre in Novi Travnik

The SSC prison in Novi Travnik existed from 9 June 1993 to February 1994. It held 12 HVO members. The prison manager was **Enes Kukić AKA Kukan**, commander of the MP of the 308 Mountain Brigade A RBiH. The prisoners in this prison were exposed to chastisement, especially at the hands of the MP members of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH. With the consent of the prison manager, Muslim civilians, living in the part of the town under the A RBiH control, also participated in beating the internees.

The following persons stood out in the maltreatment and beating:

- **Enes Kukić**, commander of the MP of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, at the same time the prison warden;
- **Ramiz Poprženović**, retired criminal inspector;
- **Sabahudin Višo**, director of the local radio station;
- A certain **Karać AKA Džeki**, official of the Intelligence Service of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Besim Silajdžić**, member of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Haris Kalbić**, member of the MP of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Sejo Omeragić**, member of the MP of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Zoran Trklja**, member of the MP of the A 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Šerif Lendo**, member of the MP of the 308. Mountain Brigade A RBiH.

11.3.3. Prison in the Village of Šenkovići

The prison in the village of Šenkovići existed in the period from 9 June 1993 to 17 September 1993. 275 persons of Croatian nationality were interned in it, out of which 75 HVO members, the rest being civilians. The internees in the Šenkovići prison were engaged in performing hard physical works and forced to various humiliating actions (hard farm labour) for Muslim civilians. The army-able men were forcibly engaged in trimming the front line of the so-called A RBiH facing the HVO in the town itself, around the "Partizanka" building (shooting range) in digging trenches in the town and the like. Upon the return from daily drudgery the internees were maltreated. Likewise, during the hearing (interrogation) they were inflicted heavy bodily injuries. Most internees had to ask for medical aid due to the effects of the heavy beating.

The persons responsible for inhuman treatment of internees in the prison of Šenkovići are:

- **Hamdija Patak**, prison warden;
- **Atif Haskić**, commander of a domicile A R BiH unit of the village of Šenkovići within the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH;
- **Sefir Kalbić**, commander of the Sector;
- **Nihad Perenda**, member of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH, one of the guards;
- **Esad Perenda**, member of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH, one of the guards;
- **Meho Kopčić**, member of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH, one of the guards;
- **Safet Haskić**, member of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH, one of the guards;
- **Sulejman Haskić**, member of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH, one of the guards;
- **Ismet Zec**, member of the MUP;
- **Fuad Kugat**, member of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH.

Persons responsible for the affliction of the Croats living in the Municipality of Novi Travnik:

- **Fikret Ćuskić**, chief of staff of the 7. Corps;
- **Džemal Merdan**, chief of staff of the 3. Corps;
- **Enver Hadžihasanović**, commander of the 3. Corps A R BiH;
- **Refik Lendo**, commander of A R BiH units in Novi Travnik;
- **Halid Krnjić**, the mayor;
- **Nazif Muslić**, prime minister of the municipal government;
- **Sefir Kalbić**, commander of the Sector;
- **Hajrudin Škulj**, chief of the MUP;
- **Jasmin Krnjić**, commander of the Brigade Police of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH;
- **Enes Kukić AKA Kukan**, chief of the MP of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH;
- **Bismili Zurapi**, commander of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH;
- **Ismet Šahinović**, security chief of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH;
- **Melvedin Berberović**, artillery chief of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH;
- **Sabahudin Višo**, director of the local radio station;
- **Mehmed Aščić**, commander of the sniper unit;
- **Džemo Zahirović**, commander of the 1. Battalion of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH;
- **Mirsad Skopljak**, commander of the 3. Battalion of the 308. Mountain Brigade A R BiH.

12. MUNICIPALITY OF RAMA

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Rama had 19.760 inhabitants: Muslims 7,225; Croats 12,259; Serbs 45; Others 231.

12.1. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RAMA

During Croato-Muslim conflicts in the Municipality of Rama 36 civilian Croats were killed.

The first civilian victim in Rama was *Franjo Zadro*, who was killed by A RBiH soldiers while he was cutting wood in the locality of Crni Vrh, on 23 October 1992.

On 31 July 1993 A RBiH soldiers seized and killed *Dragan Bilić*, a HVO member. His body was exchanged on 27 July 1994.

The most heinous crime against the Croats in the Municipality of Rama happened on 14 September 1993 in the place of Uzdol when the so-called A RBiH raided the village and **killed and mutilated 29 civilians of Croatian nationality including three under age children**. At the same time 12 HVO members were also killed.

On 16 September 1993, during an attack of Muslim units at the locality called Križ, close to the village of Hudutsko, **24 HVO members and two civilian persons of Croatian nationality were killed**. On that occasion four captured HVO members were shot dead after the capture, the executioners were two A RBiH soldiers who volunteered for the execution of the prisoners. The witnesses of this crime are the internees (Croats) of the "Muzej" prison who happened to be there trimming the A RBiH positions.

On 15 January 1994 in the village of Paroš *Miro Jakovljević*, a member of the HVO, was captured and then mutilated to death.

In the conflict with the A RBiH units about 218 Croats, who used to live in the villages controlled by the so-called A RBiH, (Pajići, Ivanci, Banja Lučica, Hudutsko, Tošćanica, Greviči, Šcipe) were exiled. Also, the property of the Croats living in the said villages was first plundered and then devastated or completely destroyed. In the village of Hudutsko the local chapel and the school were completely destroyed, while in the place of Uzdol the church was damaged.

The responsible persons for planning and organising the crimes against the Croats (mainly related to the realization of the plan "Neretva 93") are:

- Rasim Delić, the then commander of the A RBiH;
- Sefer Halilović, chief of "Staff" of the so-called A RBiH;
- Vehbija Karić, officer of the A RBiH General Staff (GS);
- Enver Buza, commander of the Independent Prozor Battalion.

12.2. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS, INFLICTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

12.2.1. The Crime in Uzdol

In the early morning hours, or more exactly, at 5:30 hours, on 14 September 1993, a group of about 120 armed members of the Independent Prozor Battalion of the so-called A RBiH, under the command of **Enver Buza**, raided the Croatian village of Uzdol, Municipality of Rama killing 41 Croats (29 civilian persons and 12 HVO members).

During the year 1993, since Uzdol bordered on the villages inhabited by Muslims, only Croatian civilians over 60 years of age remained to live in it who, in spite of the attacks of Muslim units, did not want to leave their homes.

In the attack of A RBiH units on the village, the villagers were caught sleeping so that the bodies of the killed civilians were found in burnt houses or close to their family houses. A few of them were found on the village road while they were trying to escape.

Whole families were killed in this attack, for example, *the Zelić family: mother Ruža Zelić*, born in 1944, and her two under age children, *Marija Zelić*, born in 1980 and *Stjepan Zelić*, born in 1983. According to the statement of the surviving witnesses of the crime in Uzdol, the boy *Stjepan Zelić* was shot at close range in the back of the head while trying to escape. Afterwards the dead boy was mutilated with cold steel. Also, *Jadranka Zelenika*, born in 1981, and her grandmother *Ruža Zelenika* were killed in sleep in their family house. They were both killed with fire-arms at close range, and then mutilated.

Martin Ratkić, born in 1925 and his wife *Kata Ratkić*, born in 1928, were burnt alive in their family house. According to the statement of the surviving witnesses of the carnage in Uzdol, *Dragica Zelenika*, born in 1934, was also burnt.

Mijo Rajić, born in 1924, was killed on his door-step, while his wife *Ivka Rajić*, bed-ridden for the last ten years, was mutilated to death in the house. All other civilians were also killed mercilessly, and most of them were mutilated afterwards.

Below is the list of all civilians killed on 14 September 1993 by A RBiH soldiers in Uzdol:

- Jela Džalto, born in 1950,
- Zorka Glibo, born in 1938,
- Mara Grubeša, born in 1934,
- Mato Ljubić, born in 1923,
- Kata Ljubić, daughter of Jozo, born in 1948,
- Kata Perković, daughter of Ilija, born in 1922,
- Stanko Rajić, son of Niko, born in 1927,
- Lucija Rajić, born in 1933,
- Šima Rajić, born in 1914,
- Mara Rajić, daughter of Jakov, born in 1938,
- Mijo Rajić, son of Marko, born in 1924,
- Ivka Rajić, born in 1921,
- Domin Rajić, son of Ivo, born in 1936,
- Ivka Rajić, daughter of Martin, born in 1934,
- Martin Ratković, son of Petar, born in 1925,
- Kata Ratkić, born in 1928,
- Luca Zelenika, born in 1906,
- Janja Zelenika, daughter of Križan, born in 1931,
- Dragica Zelenika, daughter of Ante, born in 1934,
- Ivan Zelenika, son of Mate, born in 1930,
- Ruža Zelenika, daughter of Kazimir, born in 1931,
- Jadranka Zelenika, daughter of Kazimir, born in 1981,
- Ruža Zelić, daughter of Mijo, born in 1944,
- Marija Zelić, daughter of Jozo, born in 1980,
- Stjepan Zelić, son of Jozo, born in 1983,
- Ante Stojanović, son of Jure, born in 1920,
- Ankica Stojanović, born in 1949,
- Franjo Stojanović, son of Toma, born in 1916,
- Serafina Stojanović, born in 1922 (Franjo's wife).

In the raid of the so-called A RBiH on Uzdol 12 HVO members were also killed who were not engaged on the defence line at the moment of the attack; they were on leave.

In 24 hours, for which A RBiH units kept control over Uzdol, most residential buildings were burnt, mainly during the very attack, while others were first looted and then devastated or completely destroyed.

BiH soldiers

That it was not a group of wanton individuals, as the high officials of the so-called ARBiH and the then Presidency of the RBiH tried on several occasions to tone down this crime against the Croats, is evident from a passage in the book "The Cunning Strategy" by Sefer Halilović. In an article entitled "The Truth about Uzdol", he writes:

"...At a consultative meeting in Zenica held on 21 and 22 August 1993, attended by the commander of the General Staff, the chief of the General Staff, the chiefs of all administrations, commanders of all Corps (except the 5. Corps) and the minister of the RBiH MUP, Bakir Alispahić, the commander of the General Staff, after a two days' discussion handed out, among others, the following assignments:

- Prozor (Makljen, Vilića Guvno) is dealt with by the Third Corps in co-operation with the Sixth Corps;

- Capture of the village of Vrđi, lifting the blockade of Donja and Gornja Drežnica and lifting the blockade of the Jablanica - Mostar road is planned by the Sixth Corps, and carried out by the Reconnaissance-Demolition Brigade 'Zulfikar', and the 'Drežnica Battalion', with the participation of the 45. Mountain Brigade and the units of the Fourth Corps positioned in Bijelo Polje."

In the same book Sefer Halilović speaks about an organised and planned offensive action covering the area from Bugojno to Mostar. After the proposed plan had been approved, a team was set up consisting of: **Rasim Delić, Sefer Halilović, Zičro Suljević, Rifat Bilajac, Džemal Najetović, Edin Šahinpašić** and **Namik Džanković** who, as organisers and in charge of the realization of the plan named "Neretva 93", are responsible for the crime committed in Uzdol, whose occupation was foreseen in the said plan.

Regarding the crime committed on the civilians of the village of Uzdol, Municipality of Rama, Sefer Halilović in the subtitle "The Truth about Uzdol" says:

"...On 13 September, after the undertaken measures, all the units went about their business. The Prozor Battalion raided the village of Uzdol but was pushed back after 11 hours by strong HVO forces. Only after several days did we learn that the Independent Prozor Battalion did some illicit actions in the village of Uzdol..."

Likewise, in his book Sefer Halilović notes that the Independent Prozor Battalion was commanded by Enver Buza from Visoko, which for general Halilović was beyond comprehension.

Also killed
they were

Confidential
not looted



A victim of the massacre in Uzdol

13. MUNICIPALITY OF TRAVNIK

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Travnik had 70,747 inhabitants: Muslims 31,813; Croats 26,118; Serbs 7,777; Others 5,039.

Before the war in BiH, Muslim population had inhabited the majority of industrial towns including the town of Travnik. The communication between the towns of central Bosnia, inhabited predominantly by the Muslim population, improved during the combat activities.

A large number of Muslims exiled by the Serbs found lodging in central Bosnia, the large number of army-able men making a substantial potential, which at the same time opened the possibility for the military potential to become decisive in the country's policy.

Also, at the time specified the Muslims had control over most capacities of special-purpose production, except the military industry plant in Vitez, which was a constant target of the attacks of A RBiH units. Placing the Municipality of Travnik under control was one of priority tasks of the so-called A RBiH, since it was the territory having natural access to other areas inhabited by Muslims, which later opened for them the possibility to act in other operative and tactical directions. One of the most important strategic goals of the so-called A RBiH in this respect, that should be especially pointed out, was gaining control of the **Sarajevo - Zenica - Travnik** road route.

13.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS OF THE TRAVNIK MUNICIPALITY

The coming of **Mehmed Alagić** to the Municipality of Travnik meant the start of the realization of the A RBiH plan: establishing control over the Municipality of Travnik, which would open the possibility for further attacks on the HVO-controlled territory in central Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The realization of the said plan was preceded by the establishment of an Operating Group called "Bosanska Krajina" (hereinafter called OG BK). The order to establish the OG BK was issued on 27 February 1993. The OG BK consisted of the following units: 7. Muslim Brigade, 17. Kraina Brigade, 27. Mountain Brigade and 37. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, then 705. Mountain Brigade, the so-called Jajce Brigade. The OG BK also included parts of the units of the OG West; 306. Mountain Brigade, 325. Mountain Brigade, 312. Mountain Brigade, 308. Mountain Brigade and 305. Mountain Brigade A RBiH.

The concentration of the said units was in Travnik, and after that the first incidents with the HVO units were recorded.

Violation of the international humanitarian law on the Croats in the Municipality of Travnik was evident as early as in October 1992 after the Serbs had captured Jajce and banished the Croats and Muslims from that area. As the Croats and Muslims were pulling out across the territory under the control of the so-called A RBiH, the HVO members were disarmed at check-points while Croatian civilians were robbed when entering the territory of the Municipality of Travnik.

In the context of the said developments, one of the ways of intimidating the Croats living in the Municipality of Travnik was the behaviour of certain political and religious officials of the Municipality of Travnik towards the Croats. We single out the behaviour of **Muhamed Ćurić**, the mayor of Travnik and the president of the War Presidency who used to address the managers of the companies with the words: "Have you got Ustashas in the company?" The said review of employees resulted in firing the Croats from companies. Out of many statements of **Mehmed Ćorhodžić**, member of the SDA Executive Committee (hereinafter IO SDA), who addressed the Muslim population through electronic media and press, we single out the one dated 12 August 1993, broadcast by the radio station Travnik in which he, among others, said:

"Wherever a muezzin proclaims the hours of prayer from the minaret, the Catholic church bells shall fall silent for all eternity, and the Croatian foot shall never again tread on this Bosnian ground."

Apart from the suffering of the Croats at the hands of the VRS, the tribulations of the Croats living in the Municipality of Travnik at the hands of A RBiH soldiers (preceded by intimidation and creation of intolerance between the Croats and Muslims through media) started with the murder of the commander of the HVO Travnik Brigade, **Ivica Stojak**. Namely, on 20 October 1992, in front of the Muslim religious school "Medresa", at a check-point set by the members of the 7. Muslim Brigade A RBiH, the car carrying the commander and the chief of the HVO Travnik Brigade was shot at. On that occasion the commander of the Brigade was killed while the chief of the Brigade, Zvonko Gašo, was seriously wounded. The halted car was shot at by **Semir Terzić AKA Tara**, member of the 7. Muslim Brigade A RBiH and **Enes Aličić** from a distance of two to three metres after the car had pulled over at the A RBiH check-point. The commanders of the TO Staff and of the A RBiH forces, **Hasan Ribo** and **Jasmin Jaganjac** respectively, were informed about the said incident thirty minutes after it had happened, and so was **Fikret Ćuskić**, commander of the 17. Kraina Brigade of the so-called A RBiH, but nothing was undertaken in order to arrest the perpetrators.

After the murder of the commander of the HVO Travnik Brigade and the wounding of its chief, A RBiH soldiers in the Municipality of Travnik continued unprovoked murders of the Croats, HVO members and civilians. They were shot at from ambush, and at check-points set by A RBiH soldiers in order to control the movement in the Municipality.

Violations of the international law of war are evident in military attacks of the so-called A RBiH on HVO members, civilians and civilian structures that followed. We single out only some of intentional murders below.

13.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRAVNIK

On 17 March 1993, in the place of Dolac, Municipality of Travnik, at the junction of the Travnik - Guča Gora road *Ivo Jurić* and *Zoran Matošević*, HVO members, were killed. They were shot at from a van carrying A RBiH soldiers and a few foreign citizens from Islamic countries, mujahedins. After having killed these two with the fire from the van, the above mentioned got off the van and shot again at the dead bodies from machine guns.

Regarding the said events it should be pointed out that, apart from the domicile A RBiH soldiers, who were in charge of intimidating the Croatian population, the volunteers from Islamic countries, mujahedins, were a special threat. They had their seat in the village of Mehurići, Municipality of Travnik, and could freely move about the Municipality of Travnik provoking incidents that often ended in murders.

Just before the Catholic Easter, on 9 April 1993, Muslims started an organised arrest of the Travnik Croats who held some important offices before and during the war in BiH. Those participating in this arrest action were members of the MUP, A RBiH and MOS (Muslim Armed Forces). On that day of 9 April 1993 about 70 Croats were arrested and interned in a fortress in the old part of Travnik. Some of the arrested were also physically maltreated. Those standing out in the maltreatment of the interned Croats in the fortress were members of a special unit called "Mečetova policija" ("Meče's Police") under the command of **Ismet Kurtešević AKA Meče**, then **Izo Trbović** and his brother nicknamed **Nane**. On that occasion the Croatian flags, hung out for the feast of Easter, were taken off and burnt.

On 15 April 1993, the organised action of arresting the Croats of Travnik was resumed. The following prominent Croats were arrested and interned: headmaster of the Travnik Grammar School; *Ivo Rajković*, the former manager of the multi-plant firm "Borac" Travnik; *dr. Branimir Markunović*, a renown surgeon; *Josip Neimarević*, *Josip Gržić*, *Gojko Šarac*, *Stevco Radočaj*. They were also all locked up in the fortress in the old part of Travnik.

The same day, due to frequent provocations by A RBiH soldiers, and to the presence of mujahedins in the places where Muslim Bosniacs lived, most inhabitants of the village of Miletići were compelled to leave the village. But a number of Croatian villagers stayed behind believing that they would be protected by their Muslim neighbours, since the village of Miletići was surrounded by the places exclusively inhabited by Muslims. However, on 24 April 1993, a group of some 50 members of the 7. Muslim Brigade A RBiH (a brigade within the 3. Corps A RBiH, composed of foreign citizens from Islamic countries and of domicile Muslims who favoured the way of "jihad warfare") raided the village of Miletići. They assembled



A mutilated and killed civilian thrown into the lake at Grahovčici

the Croats (about 30 of them) in one place, tied them with a rope and took them to the village of Poljanice near Mehurići, Municipality of Travnik. Five of the Croats from the captured group were singled out by A RBiH soldiers and kept back in the village of Miletići. Two days after the arrest, the Croats who had been taken to Poljanice, were returned to Miletići where they found the killed and mutilated Croats who, at arrest, had been singled out as army-able. They are: *Anto Petrović*, born in 1937, *Frano Pavlović*, born in 1963, *Stipo Pavlović*, born in 1934, (wounded during the raid of the so-called A RBiH on the village of Miletići), *Tihomir Pavlović*, born in 1974, and *Vlado Pavlović*, born in 1974. In those two days that the Croats from Miletići were interned, their property had been looted. (More details about the tragedy of the Croats in the village of Miletići in a separate section below).

On 16 April 1993, a motor vehicle with two HVO members driving to the village of Guča Gora, came under small arms fire.

In mid April 1993 the wounded HVO soldiers were thrown out of the complex of the Regional Hospital in Travnik. The War Hospital at Nova Bila received on that occasion about 110 wounded HVO members. At the same time, the Croats were intimidated, their houses burst into, their property robbed; they were threatened and evicted from their apartments in Travnik. The provocations of A RBiH soldiers, reinforced by foreign citizens, mujahedins, went on in the surrounding villages, as well.

End April 1993, in the village of Jankovići, a Croat was killed by a sniper shot.

On 2 May 1993 the village of Gornji Dolac was attacked, and so was Guča Gora.

On 13 May 1993, *Franjo Brkić*, born in 1970, was led away from the family house of his mother *Kata Brkić* (on 24 April 1993 she was maltreated and then robbed by three members of the A RBiH "Kraina Brigade"), in the village of Rudnik-Bila, by the member of the Travnik MUP *Suad Šabanović* from the place of Purići. Two hours after he had been led away, his body was brought back in a "Zastava 101" car. He was killed with fire-arms.

Mid May 1993 A RBiH soldiers, by setting check-points, blocked all the roads connecting the area of the municipalities of Travnik and Zenica. The Croats were allowed no exit or entry into Travnik at the said check-points. Also, robberies, seizures of cars and the like were recorded at these check-points.

On 15 May 1993 A RBiH soldiers shot at a vehicle carrying Ivo and Anto Pranješ. The same day, in the village of Maljine A RBiH soldiers maltreated the shepherd *Mijo Jurić*.

On 21 May 1993, on the Gora - Šarići road, in the place of Kraban, *Mato Topalović* was killed, and *Berislav Turić* seriously wounded. They were attacked by MOS members dressed in black uniforms.

On 3 June 1993 A RBiH soldiers launched an armed attack on the Croats and HVO members in the village of Polje, Municipality of Travnik. Just before this attack, the villagers of Polje had been cut off their water and electricity supply. Participating in the attack were Muslims living in the village of Polje. On that occasion the following people were killed: *Darko Anić*, son of Branko, born in 1958; *Mirko Dujmušić*, born in 1944, and *Mario Munetić*, a seventeen-year-old boy. The Croatian civilian population of the village of Polje was interned; some of them spent as many as 70 days in captivity.

The maltreatment of Croats at A RBiH check-points continued: at the location of Slimena, an A RBiH check-point, four HVO members and two civilians were seized.

On 4 June 1993, the church at Bukovica was targeted with artillery missiles. The same day the HVO units at Kalibunar and Jankovići were attacked, and A RBiH soldiers attacked also the village of Donje Putičevo.

On 5 June 1993, in the village of Kalibunar, *Krešo Skočibušić* was killed in front of his family house by a hand grenade thrown at him, wounding also his son *Mladen Skočibušić*.

The same day, in the town of Travnik, two groups of Muslim children were marching past the parish office - one would shout "tekbir" and the other would respond with "Allahu ekber", and then they would join in chorus and shout "opkoli pa pokolji" ("siege lay, and slay").

On 5 June 1993, the conflict affected the whole Travnik area and the bordering parts of the Municipality. A RBiH soldiers carried out a pillage raid on the villages of Gornji Dolac and Gornja Bojna. On that occasion four HVO members were killed. Another five HVO members, and a larger number of civilian persons were wounded. In an attack on the village of Peševići one child was killed.

The same day A RBiH soldiers started an armed attack on the civilian population of the village of Peševići near the place of Turbe. On that occasion they killed a five-year-old girl *Vedrana Perčinlić*. During the attack the Croatian population managed to evacuate the attacked area. Only *Nikola Družetić*, an old man born in 1907 stayed behind in the village, and his destiny has not been known since.

On 6 June 1993, on entry of A RBiH soldiers into the village of Bukovica, an old man *Marko Lovrinović* was killed.

In the period from 4 June to 6 June 1993, the following civilians were killed in the village of Dolac: *Anica Bešlić*, *Tomo Bilačić*, *Milka Blažević*, *Ivo Marjanović*, a certain *Luca*, a charge of the Old People's Home, *Josip Medić*, *Juro Herceg* (butchered in his own house in the village of Vilenica by A RBiH soldiers), *Viktor Svalina*, *Finka Bojanović*, *Finka Pendeš* and *Čedo Prošić*. They were all killed in their homes.

On 6 June 1993, *Jozo Rojnica*, born in 1933, was killed by a sniper from the house of *Hodžić Naser AKA Nasko* in front of his house in Dolac, where the Muslims buried him in the yard. After 15 days they took his body out of the tomb, and there is no knowing what they did with it.

On 6 June 1993, *Mijo Vrhovac*, a civilian aged about 60 years, was killed between the stadium of the FC "Lašva" and the Lašva river.

8 June 1993 was an especially tragic day for the Croats of Travnik.

That day the joined forces of the OG BK attacked the HVO units and the Croatian civilian population living in the Municipality of Travnik. **They killed 92 persons of Croatian nationality: 68 civilian persons and 24 HVO members.**

The rest was taken to the prison at Mehurići, the seat of mujahedins, where they were subjected to the cruellest physical maltreatment. Here is the chronology of the offensive actions and activities of A R BiH soldiers and the units filled with foreign citizens, mujahedins, on 8 June 1993:

- On 8 June 1993, the Croatian population of the village of Postinje, due to an armed attack of A R BiH soldiers, was evacuated at about 4 hours to the neighbouring village of Maljine. During the evacuation, A R BiH soldiers opened small arms fire on them killing the following people: *Mara Balta*, born in 1930, *Franjo Pušelja*, *Tomo Pušelja*, born in 1930, and the, *Dragan Jurčević AKA Bucu*, son of Niko Jurčević.

- On 8 June 1993, A R BiH soldiers entered the village of Podovi in early morning hours (6,00 sati), and started ransacking and plundering. On that occasion *Ivo Barać* was killed, one of the three Croats that had remained in the village. The other two Croats were taken to the Muslim part of the village of Podovi and locked up in the garage of *Samir Gopa*, where they remained confined for 24 hours. On 9 June 1993 they were taken to the village of Brajkovići and confined in the house of *Lovro Šimić* where 35 Croats from Brajkovići and the surrounding villages had already been confined. This group of internees spent 75 days in prison. On that occasion in the village of Podovi 4 houses were burnt, while Muslims moved into 10 houses later. All facilities were plundered and destroyed. The manager of the said camp was *Džemo Arnautović*, born in 1940 in Han Bila. A R BiH soldiers passing by the above mentioned house where the Croats were confined, maltreated them and on several occasions opened small arms fire at the house.

- On 8 June 1993, the joined OG BK forces attacked the Croats in the village of Ovnak. On that occasion 23 Croatian families were forced to leave Ovnak. *Šimun Čuturić*, born in 1917, was killed in the village. He was buried four days later. The family houses of the Croats that were not burnt, were later occupied by Muslims.

- On 8 June 1993, in an attack on the village of Grahovčići four civilians were killed: *Stipo Čuturić*, born in 1928, was killed in his family house, and buried on 12 June 1993 in the village of Ovnak. *Ana Čuturić*, born in 1927, the wife of the killed Stipe, was also shot dead in the family house. Her body bore the evidence of burning. She was buried in the village of Ovnak. *Markan Barbić*,

- was killed from a machine-gun. His body was found in a lake near the village of Grahovčići. He was buried in the village of Ovnak.
- The same day, in the attacks on the civilian population of the village of Dolac-Bila, *Jadranko Kurt*, born in 1973, was killed while *Franjo Brkić* was led away from his family house, killed, and then returned in a car trunk.
 - In an attack on the village of Čukle, 8 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers killed 19 Croats.
 - In the massacre committed on 8 June 1993 in the village of Maljine 36 civilian persons were killed, while another ten were wounded. Those apprehended were confined in the village of Mehurići, the seat of mujahedins.
 - On 8 June 1993, in an attack of A RBiH soldiers on the Croats of the village of Brajkovići 7 civilian persons were killed. *Luca Barbarić*, an old woman of 70, was burnt in her family house; *Stjepan Bobaš*, born in 1926, was killed in front of his family house and buried near by; *Marko Josipović*, born in 1934, was killed near his family house and buried near by. *Alfonz Matković*, born in 1933, an invalid (without both legs), was killed in the village and buried in the village of Ovnak, *Paro Matković*, born in 1968, was killed near the village and was not buried, *Ante Klarić*, born in 1946, was killed near his family house, and *Marijan Barić*, was killed on Pješčara.
 - During the attacks on 8 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers exiled the Croats from 35 villages, the major ones being: Guča Gora, Grahovčići, Čukle, Orašac, Podovi, Mišanjica, Radonjici, Bukovica, etc. In the said villages the Croats were subjected to ritual murders by beheading, to executions by firing squad, and were taken to prisons.
 - On that day, 8 June 1993, in the village of Čukle, *Škuco Matković*, was killed by ritual beheading. In the village of Ovnak, to which the apprehended Croats had been brought, 27 captured civilians were killed. *Šimun Čuturić*, born in 1903, was hanged on a post by A RBiH soldiers.
 - In the village of Krpeljić, 7 Croats were killed that same day.
 - The Croats apprehended in the above mentioned villages were locked up in several camps which had been established in the Municipality of Travnik. A large number of them was sent to the KPD Zenica.

Violating the international humanitarian and war law in its military attacks on civilians and captured HVO members, the so-called A RBiH, supported by the units filled with volunteers from Islamic countries (mujahedins), killed 563 Croats in the Travnik Municipality, while 37 Croats are still registered as missing.

In the period from 1 June 1993 to 5 April 1994 a number of murders and woundings of the Croats happened, the perpetrators being A RBiH soldiers. So:

- 30 civilian persons were killed by sniper including 10 women and 5 children;

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- 300 civilian persons were wounded including 80 women and 40 children, and
- 90 civilian persons were wounded by sniper shots including 30 women and 40 children.

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In the attacks on the Croats of the Travnik Municipality, A R BiH soldiers were destroying all religious institutions and structures, especially after Travnik had been totally "cleansed" of the Croats. In the village of Brajkovići the church and the parish house were damaged by artillery missiles. The Bogduša graveyard and chapel, the Dolac graveyard, and the graveyard in the village of Podovi were also devastated.

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In the village of Bukovica tombstones were devastated. The chapel was first robbed, then burnt down. In the village of Čukle the parish church and the graveyard were damaged.

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In the village of Dolac, the parish church, after having been hit by artillery missiles, was plundered and then devastated. The votive chapel "Gospino vrelo" ("Our Lady's Spring"), was plundered and then totally destroyed. The parish church and the Franciscan monastery in Guča Gora served for a time as a command post of A R BiH units, and after that they were looted and devastated.

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In the village of Orašac the Catholic graveyard was totally destroyed. In Ovčarevo, A R BiH soldiers looted and devastated the parish church and the parish house. In Putićevo the church tower was totally destroyed by blasting. The votive chapel of St. Antonio and the tombstones in the place of Vidoševići were devastated. In the place of Vilenica the chapel was looted and then turned into a public toilet. In Grahovčići three Catholic graveyards and the pertaining chapels were devastated. In the town of Travnik itself St. John the Baptist's Church was damaged several times with small arms shots.

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The seminary church of St. Alois in Travnik was devastated, while in its western wing Muslims were accommodated. The graveyard chapel and the graveyard "Bojna" in Travnik were devastated, and 39 tombstones pulled down.

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The attacks on the Croats by the so-called A R BiH and its taking control of the Municipality of Travnik in the period from 1992 to 1995 resulted in **19,500 exiled Croats** from about 3,800 family houses. The Croats were totally exiled from 58 places out of which 28 had been inhabited by Croatian majority.

The persons responsible for the crimes against the Croats in the Travnik Municipality are:

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- **Muhamed Ćurić**, mayor of Travnik;
- **Halid Genjac**, chairman of the Travnik SDA;
- **Muhamed Ćorhodžić**, member of the SDA Executive Committee of the Travnik Municipality;
- **Nusret Abdibegović**, the mufti of Travnik;
- **Salko Beba**, inspector of the SDB Zenica, Travnik detachment, was for a certain time in charge of detainee exchange;
- **Fikret Ćuskić**, chief of staff of the 7. Corps A R BiH;
- **Džemal Merdan**, commanded the attack on Guča Gora;

- **Enver Hadžihasanović**, commander of the 3. Corps A RBiH at the time of the attacks on Maljine and Bikoše;
- **Esad Sipić**, commander of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH seated at Han Bila;
- **Fahir Čamdžić**, commander of the 1. Battalion of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Bahrudin Kumro**, commander of the 2. Battalion of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Ferid Tarakčija**, member of the IO SDA, at the time of the attack on Maljine was commanding a company of the 1. Battalion of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Asim Koričić**, commanded the 7. Muslim Brigade;
- **Semir Terzić**, assistant commander for the Political Activity and Religious Matters of the 7. Muslim Brigade;
- **Asim Fazlić**, chief of the Travnik MUP;
- **Abdulahmid Maktouf**, commanded the unit "El Mudžahid";
- **Abu Ajam**, commander of a part of "El Mudžahid" Detachment.

13.3. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

In the period from April 1993 to the signing of the Washington Agreement, A RBiH soldiers had established several prisons in the Travnik Municipality, out of which we single out seven locations where the Croats used to be most frequently interned. They are:

- Travnik - the old town - the fortress,
- Travnik - the "JNA barracks",
- Slimena - khoja's house,
- The village of Guča Gora - the Franciscan monastery,
- The village of Brajkovići - Šima's house,
- The village of Orašac - Poljanice - a camp under the supervision of mujahedins,
- The village of Mehurići - the base of mujahedins.

Just before the open attacks on the Croats of the Travnik Municipality, a prison was established in a fortress in the old part of Travnik where the Croats were interned who had held some of responsible offices before and during the JNA aggression on RBiH.

On 9 April 1993, members of the so-called A RBiH, MUP and MOS, supported by the members of the special "Meče's Police", interned about 70 Croats from the narrow town area in the fortress in the old part of Travnik. During the captivity they were all physically maltreated.

On 15 April 1993, a group of about 10 Croatian intellectuals from Travnik was locked up in the fortress.

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In June 1993, after an open aggression on the Croats of Travnik, 400 Croats were confined in the old fortress prison.

A R BiH soldiers kept the Croatian internees in the narrow town area, in the "JNA" barracks. The said camp was visited by ICRC representatives on 10 June 1993. The "JNA" barracks in Travnik served also as a centre where the internees were questioned, and then taken to the KPD prison in Zenica. According to the statement of a surviving internee, a vehicle owned by the Arab humanitarian organisation "IGASA" pulled up at the "JNA" barracks in Travnik. The interrogations to which the apprehended Croats were subjected, were also attended by foreign citizens, the Arabs, and Salko Beba as interpreter.

During the month of June 1993, at the location of Slimena, 150 Croats from the surrounding villages were confined in the house of the local khoja. The internees were exposed to physical and psychical maltreatment. They were also engaged in hard manual labour. In the attacks of the so-called A R BiH they were used as living shield. Slavko Božić was killed in the prison at Slimena with a pistol shot in the mouth.

In the prison at Brajkovići, in the house of the Šimić family 37 Croats from the surrounding villages were confined. They were exposed to physical maltreatment. The camp manager in the village of Brajkovići was Džemo Arnautović from Han Bila.

The camps Orašac - Poljanice and the camp in the village of Mehurići were under the supervision of the extremist 7. Muslim Brigade A R BiH and of the "El mudžahid" unit. The inmates of that camp were the Croats apprehended in the surrounding villages. There they were subjected to ritual killings, as for example ritual beheading in the gauntlet made of mujahedins accompanied by the Arabic cry "tekbir - Allahu ekber". The ritual murder by beheading was committed on the internee Dragan Popović. The executioner, Hasan Alić, son of Mustafa from Suhi Dol, volunteered for the beheading.

In the prison in Mehurići, members of the 7. Muslim Brigade (which was also composed of mujahedin detachments), in addition to physical and psychical maltreatment, ritual killings by beheading were also practiced. The domicile Muslims, A R BiH soldiers, who approved of the "jihad warfare", were also charged with beheading as a part of the ritual. One of such ritual beheadings was also attended by the Croats interned in the Elementary School prison at Mehurići, who, after one of the internees had been beheaded, were forced to kiss the cut-off head in the forehead. In the village of Mehurići, according to still incomplete data, about 40 young men and one girl were executed by firing squad.

13.4. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS AND INFLICTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

13.4.1. The Crime in the Village of Čukle

On 8 June 1993, the joint of A RBiH forces attacked HVO units in the broader area of the Travnik Municipality. Due to constant attacks of A RBiH units, to which mujahedin units had been added, HVO soldiers were forced to retreat from the north-eastern parts of the Travnik Municipality from the direction of Ovnak, and from the western and south-western part from the direction of Turbe.

The same day the forces of the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH, after having captured the HVO positions in the broader region of the Ovnak pass, attacked the unprotected civilian population in the village of Čukle. During this attack and after they had taken the village, A RBiH soldiers killed 19 persons of Croatian nationality. 175 Croats were exiled from the village of Čukle, and their property plundered and then burnt.

After the capture of the village of Čukle, the soldiers of the 3. Corps killed the following persons in that village: *Vinko Janković* (killed in his family house); *Dragun Marjanović*, born in 1925; *Tomo Stojak* and *Franjo Stojak* (killed in the village); *Ivo Galić*, born in 1928 (killed near his family house); *Fabijan Lauš* (killed in Ovnak where he was also buried); *Zlatko Marjanović*; *Drago Perić* and *Pero Kolenda* (killed in the village). The bodies of *Pero Kozina* and *Pero Kolenda*, killed in the village, have not been found yet.

In the village of Čukle the following people were also killed: *Branko Mrkonja*, *Miroslav Kozina*, *Ante Stojak* and *Kazimir Kozina*.

After the capture of the village of Čukle, the members of the 306. A RBiH, Brigade, in the sight of their mother Serafina, singled out two brothers *Drago Lauš* and *Miroslav Lauš*. *Miroslav Lauš*, born in 1971, was stabbed to death by *Jasmin Luković*, son of Omer. *Miroslav's* brother *Drago* was killed with fire-arms. During the attack another brother of the Lauš family was also killed, and so was their father.

The old woman *Mara Gazibarić*, born in 1925, was killed after having been wounded and then thrown into a burning house. Her remains have never been found.

The under-age *Srećo Marjanović* was wrenched from his mother's arms by A RBiH soldiers. During the exhumation carried out on 12 July 1994, his head was found beside his other remains, severed from the trunk. Subsequent expert opinion established that *Marjanović* had been beheaded.

Pero Kozina, an HVO member, was wounded during the attack on the village of Čukle. After A RBiH soldiers had seized the village, he was among prisoners of

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war. During the exhumation carried out on 9 July 1994, no head was found among the remains of Pero Kozina. Subsequent expert opinion established that he had been ritually beheaded.

The old man *Božo Žabić*, born in 1927, was killed by ritual beheading. Last time he was seen in a group of captured civilians and HVO members. At the exhumation the cut-off head of Božo Žabić was found on his stomach. Apropos, according to the statements of witnesses, the murder by beheading was a ritual practiced by mujahedins, who attached great importance to this loathsome act, and demanded mainly from younger A RBiH soldiers to commit this act, whereby they would become devoted members of mujahedin units.

Tomo Stojak, born in 1936 and *Vinko Stojak*, born in 1933 were shot dead in sight of other detainees.

The Croats who were not killed in the village were taken to Ovnak where they eye-witnessed the suffering of the Croats captured in the surrounding villages.

The responsible persons for the murders of the Croats in the village of Čukle are:

- **Enver Hadžihasanović**, commander of the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH;
- **Esad Sipić**, commander of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Munir Karić**, chief of staff of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Šerif Patković**, commander of the 7. Muslim Brigade and
- **Jasmin Luković**, member of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH.

13.4.2. The Crime in the Village of Maljine

Armed incidents provoked by A RBiH soldiers in the broader area of the village of Maljine were recorded in the course of May 1993, when a motor vehicle carrying two Croats was shot at. After that, as already mentioned, the shepherd *Mijo Jurić* was seized and maltreated.

Constant provocations of mujahedins and other A RBiH soldiers, caused the Croats living in the villages with Muslim majority (Podovi, Podstinje and a part of Maljine) to leave their homes in smaller groups and find refuge in the other part of the village of Maljine inhabited by the Croatian population. During one of such evacuations on 6 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers opened small arms fire at the group of the moving Croatian civilians killing four of them: *Mara Balta*, *Franjo Pušelja*, *Tomo Pušelja* and *Dragan Jurčević*.

On 7 June 1993, A RBiH soldiers, provoked by nothing, shot at a group of Croats, civilians from Maljine. *Anto Tavić* was killed in the shooting while *Drago Jurić* and his wife *Mara Jurić* were wounded. The Muslim would not allow access to the wounded: they shot at anybody who tried to come closer to them. So they were pulled out only in the evening.

In early morning hours on 8 June 1993, A R BiH soldiers started a general attack on Maljine. Encircled by the villages in which Muslims constituted majority (Poljanice, Donje Maljine, Dub, Suhi Dol, Mehurići, Pode and others) the Croats were forced to surrender. Apart from the domicile A R BiH unit, mujahedins were also participating in the attack. According to the statement of a surviving woman witness, A R BiH soldiers, during the talks about the surrender, threatened that, unless they surrender, they would be left to the mercy of mujahedins.

After the Croats had surrendered, A R BiH soldiers separated the men on one and the women and children on the other side. Then about 70 army-able men were singled out of the total of 298 Croats who lived in Maljine. The column of the captured Croats was sent to the village of Mehurići. The invalids, immobile persons and the wounded were killed by mujahedins on the spot lest they should impede the movement.

The column of the captured Croats escorted to Mehurići was exposed to plunder by the domicile Muslim population. While passing through the village Poljanice, the captured Croats were intercepted by the soldiers of the "El mudžahid" unit: **Isak Aganović**, son of Fazlo, and **Alaga Jašarević** from Mehurići, Muslims who joined that unit. They intended to slaughter all the captives, but were prevented from doing so by a few soldiers of the 17. Kraina Brigade. Nevertheless, the said two singled out about 40 captured Croats from the column and took them towards the hamlet of Bikoše, the village of Maljine, with the intention to shoot them dead. In addition to the two above mentioned, five foreign citizens, mujahedins, and two more domicile Muslims, members of the said unit who had hoods on their heads, volunteered for the execution of the singled-out Croats. In the hamlet of Bikoše, the group of the singled-out Croats was lined up, amid the threats of the present mujahedins that they should all be slaughtered and their heads impaled. One of the mujahedins, who did not know Croatian, was mimicking that they should be thrown into a well.

One of the captives, *Mijo Tavić*, since he suffered from epilepsy, had a fit just at that moment, which caused confusion both among the captives and the mujahedins, who in panic opened fire at the captured Croats, which a few of them used for escape.

In an uncontrolled shooting at the captives, a member of the "El mudžahid" unit was also wounded. As he asked for first aid to be administered to him, this was made a good use of by several captured Croats, so that 7 out of 45 managed to escape, while others were executed. Out of 7 runaways 5 were wounded. The soldiers of the "El mudžahid" unit, after the bursts of fire at the lined-up group of captured Croats, in order to make sure there were no survivors, shot in the head of those showing any sign of life. Here is a part of the statement of a surviving witness of the execution of the captured Croats in the hamlet of Bikoše, the village of Maljine:

"...V.P. started to run first, they shot after him. They saw they had maybe wounded him, and when he started running again, they saw there was nothing of it, they turned their rifles at us and started shooting at us. They were shooting at everybody, firing bursts at us. During the shooting, when I saw them shooting at us, I threw myself to the ground, and my colleague T.P. protected me, I was not even wounded and the others, 35 or 40 of them, they were all either killed or wounded. After my fall to the ground silence ensued, only a shot was heard here and there. Since these mujahedins were setting off, they shot in the forehead, in the head of those who were giving sign of life to finish them..."

The captured from the said group who managed to escape (Zdravko Pranješ and Stipo Pavić) were running in the direction of Vlašić to the Serb positions, while the other five were intercepted by a group of a dozen of ARBiH soldiers in the hamlet of Lug, the village of Podovi. On that occasion **Safet Dautović** and **Sulejman Dautović** opened fire at them. **Željko Pušelja**, **Darko Pušelja** and **Marijan Bobaš** were wounded again while the other two managed to escape to the territory under the control of the HVO.

The three wounded Croats who were caught while trying to escape were led to the village of Mehurići by **Safet Dautović**.

During the attacks, in the village of Miletići and the hamlet of Bikoše 36 Croats were killed and about 10 of them wounded. 270 civilians, women and children were taken to the prison in Mehurići, the seat of mujahedins.

Apart from the commanders of military units, the leaders of political and religious authorities in Travnik also knew about these events. They issued political decisions, guidelines and instructions, and gave their political support to such behaviour of ARBiH soldiers.

The most responsible person for the murders of the Croats in the village of Maljine, and for the internment of 270 civilian persons is **Alija Izetbegović**, SDA president.

The most responsible political and religious leaders are:

- **Muhamed Ćurić**, president of the Travnik Municipality and president of the War Presidency. In discharging the said duty he planned the actions of ethnic cleansing in the parish of Guča Gora. He is one of the more responsible political officials for the events on the territory of the Travnik Municipality;
- **Halid Genjac**, during 1992/93 he held the office of the SDA president of the Travnik Municipality. In cooperation with **Muhamed Ćurić**, he proposed decisions on ethnic cleansing of the Travnik region and on the exile of the Croats from there;
- **Mehmed Ćorhodžić**, member of the SDA Executive Committee (IO) of the Travnik Municipality;
- **effendi Nusret Abdibegović**, the mufti of Travnik. He had a great influence on the faithful and political leaders. He also took part in making all major decisions related to the Travnik area;

- **Salko Beba**, was appointed chairman of the Commission for Exchange at the time of the affliction of the Croats in the Travnik Municipality;
- **Fikret Ćuskić**, commander of the 17. Kraina Brigade within the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH. Later he was appointed chief of staff of the 7. Corps A RBiH;
- **Džemal Merdan**, personally commanded the offensive operations in the area of the Travnik Municipality;
- **Enver Hadžihasanović**, at the time specified commanded the units of the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH participating in the attack on Maljine and other places where the Croats lived;
- **Esad Sipić**, during 1993 commanded the 306. Mountain Brigade of the so-called A RBiH based at Han Bila. Planned and participated in the offensive actions on Maljine, responsible for the execution of the captives at Bikoše;
- **Fahir Čamdžić**, at the time of offensive actions on Maljine commanded the 1. Battalion of the 306. Kraina Brigade A RBiH;
- **Bahrudin Kumro**, at the time of offensive actions on Maljine commanded the 2. Battalion of the 306. Kraina Brigade;
- **Ferid Tarakčija**, at the time of offensive actions on Maljine commanded a company of the 1. Battalion of the 306. Kraina Brigade;
- **Asim Koričić**, commander of the 7. Muslim Brigade at the time of offensive actions in the area of the Travnik Municipality;
- **Semir Terzić**, one of the commanders in the 7. Muslim Brigade;
- **Asim Fazlić**, chief of the Travnik MUP. PS Mehurići and Maljine were under his command;
- **Abdulahmid Maktouf**, son of Mehmed, born on 3 January 1939 in Basra, Iraq, resident of Travnik. Married to a Muslim woman. Organiser of bringing in mujahedins to the area of BiH. At the time of offensive actions in the Municipality of Travnik commanded a detachment of the "El Mudžahid" unit seated in Travnik. The unit took a direct part in the attack on the village of Maljine. The members of the said unit are participants in the execution of the captured Croats at Bikoše;
- **Abu Ajam**, commander of a section of the "El Mudžahid" detachment seated in Travnik. He is responsible for the execution of the Croats at Bikoše. He personally declared that this detachment was receiving orders directly from Alija Izetbegović.

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As participants in offensive actions in the village of Maljine and in the execution of the Croats, in addition to **Tahir Čamdžić**, **Bahrudin Kumra**, **Ferid Tarakčija** and **Semir Terzić**, the following are evidenced:

- **Isak Aganović**, son of Rašid and
- a certain **Bašić**, a refugee from the village of Oborci, Municipality of Donji Vakuf, member of the 7. Muslim Brigade.

13.4.3. The Crime in the Village of Miletići

The village of Miletići, 9 km away from the town of Travnik, was inhabited by Croatian and Muslim people. The Croats inhabited Gornji Miletići (14 Croatian families) while in the surrounding villages there lived about seven thousand Muslims. After the first multi-party elections in BiH, the domicile Muslim population constituted a local self-rule seated at Mehurići.

After the Serbian aggression, with the approval of Muslim military and political top, foreign citizens from Islamic countries set up their command post in the premises of the elementary school in the village of Mehurići, Municipality of Travnik.

The presence of mujahedins caused emigration of most Croatian population from Gornji Miletići. There remained only 30 Croats, mainly aged people, in the village.

On 24 April 1993, about 16:00 hours, some 50 armed members of the "El mudžahid" unit, without any reason whatsoever, raided the village of Gornji Miletići. All the Croats, except one who had managed to escape, and **Stipe Pavlović**, who had been left wounded, were brought together in the centre of the village. The members of the "El mudžahid" units tied the hands of the captured Croats, even of the children, and ordered them to leave the village, with their heads drooped. Four male persons were singled out of the column: **Ante Petrović**, **Frano Pavlović**, **Tihomir Pavlović** and **Vlado Pavlović**. The captured Croats, under escort of the members of the said A RBiH unit, were taken to prison in the village of Mehurići, in the family house of Milojko Savić, then, after the night spent at Mehurići, they were taken to the village of Luke where they were placed in the Muslim houses. The third day they were returned to Miletići, where they found the dead bodies of those four Croats detached from the group.

The body of **Stipe Pavlović**, who had been wounded during the raid on the village, was found in the hall of the family house lying on the back, and with the legs stretched out.

The body of **Tihomir Pavlović** was found in the kitchen of Stipe Pavlović. It was in the sitting position on the couch with the legs crossed and the hands tied behind the back. Traces of maltreatment were visible in the extremities, and in the region of the stomach and the legs.

The body of **Frano Pavlović** was also found in the family house of Stipe Pavlović, or more exactly in the sleeping room. It was laid on the stomach with the head put



One of many victims of mujahedins - Stipe Pavlovic from Miletici

into a larger receptacle. A large quantity of blood that was still in the receptacle, and a metal ladle dipped in the blood suggest that the perpetrators of this loathsome crime drank the blood of the victim. But, since there are no witnesses, this remains only an assumption, which has a footing in the fact that the ritual of jihad warriors also includes drinking victim's blood. In an attempt to bring the body of Frano Pavlović into a decent position, the eye-witness of this scene gave up when his arm sank into the stomach cavity of the mutilated Pavlović. Next to the body of Frano Pavlović, the contorted body of *Vlado Pavlović* was found lying on one side, with the head near the legs.

The body of *Anto Petrović* was found laid on the stomach, with the head turned aside. A thorny rose stem, with some grass around, stuck in his mouth.

The local Muslim population would not allow the relatives of the killed to bury them at the locations of their liking. So they were buried in the Šikalovo graveyard on the A RBiH-controlled territory.

On 24 July 1993 the residents of Cornji Miletici were transported to Vitez in armoured personnel carries of the UNPROFOR.

Those responsible for the murders of these Croats, and for detention of civilians are:

- **Enver Hadžihasanović**, commander of the 3. Corps A RBiH;
- **Esad Sipić**, commander of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Bahrudin Kumro**, commander of the 1. Battalion of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- a certain **Ramadani**, commander of a part of the "El mudžahid" unit;
- **Tahir Jašarević**, member of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Hamid Malanović**, member of the 306. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- **Osman Tahirović**;
- **Sabahudin Suljić AKA Budo**;
- **Dedo Suljić**, and
- **Avdo Suljić**.

14. MUNICIPALITY OF USKOPLJE

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Uskoplje had 25,181 inhabitants: Muslims 14,063; Croats 10,706; Serbs 110; Others 302.

14.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF USKOPLJE

The first armed incidents in the then Municipality of Gornji Vakuf were recorded in 1992, or more exactly, on 20 June 1992 when the members of a Muslim unit commanded by **Hanefija Prijic AKA Paraga**, under verbal threats, led away a larger number of the Croats living in the part of the town with Muslim majority, to the emptied town swimming pool and kept them there for two days.

The said incident caused one of the officers in the Municipal HVO Quarters to visit the command of the Muslim unit "Zelene beretke" ("Green Berets") commanded by Hanefija Prijic which was based near the town swimming pool. During this contact the commander of the "Green Berets" declared that he does "not want to cooperate with the Croats". He especially emphasized that he "will not respect the orders and decisions of the TO Staff Gornji Vakuf nor their commander Fikret Musa.

As early as in June 1992 a classical example of a systematic propagandist war preparation was recorded in Uskoplje. Namely, **Akif Agic**, the then reporter of the RTV BiH, in a poll that he carried out in the part of the town where Muslims live, one of the questions was: "Are you afraid of the Ustashas?" The resulting videocassette was intended for internal use and for the distribution among Muslims working temporarily abroad.

Shortly before the first armed incidents between the HVO units and the TO, at the locality of the Raduša mountain four high officers of the HVO were killed from ambush under still unclarified circumstances while touring the defence line against the Serbs. They were: **Marko Jurić AKA Mak**, **Zvonimir Fontanam**, **Hajrudin Salihović** and **Vlado Gavranović**. The murder of the HVO officers only increased the tension and mistrust since the four were key personalities in charge of the organisation of the units and the defence of the territory of the Municipality.

Mistrust and intolerance were additionally increased when the TO members refused the parity participation in the defence of the territory of the Municipality against the attacks of Serbian forces, and started to frequently desert the defence lines.

As early as end 1992 several incidents were recorded in the Municipality, such as taking down of Croatian flags, setting of check-points, intimidation and verbal insults of the Croats living in the places predominantly inhabited by Muslims.

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Intensive combat activities in the Uskoplje Municipality were recorded again in the period from 23 to 25 October 1992. A day before the conflict the TO members had deserted their positions facing the Serbian forces at Idovac.

In spite of negotiations, the Muslims went on taking down Croatian symbols, burning Croatian flags, all in an effort to provoke a conflict on a larger scale.

After the first armed conflicts between the HVO and the then TO, **Fikret Musa** was removed, and the duty of the commander of the TO Staff was taken over by **Fahrudin Agić AKA Pajo**, which further aggravated the security situation in the area of Uskoplje.

14.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF USKOPLJE

A large-scale conflict in the Uskoplje area started already on 12 January 1993. On that occasion A RBiH soldiers deserted the defence line opposite the Serbs in the region of Skrte, Skrtsko brdo. At the same time, the food supply for the HVO members, who had remained on the defence line, was cut off since A RBiH soldiers had blocked the road leading to Raduški Kamen. In spite of the cease-fire agreement, A RBiH soldiers attacked almost all Croatian villages. Since the so-called A RBiH had already taken all dominating elevations, they now had the control of the Bugojno - Uskoplje and Uskoplje - Rama roads. The Croats of the Uskoplje Municipality were now in a total encirclement exposed to artillery and infantry attacks.

During the conflicts A RBiH soldiers massacred and mutilated 11 civilians. In the village of Bistrica, on 14 January 1993, *Ilija Ivoš*, born in 1939, was seized and killed in his family house. On 24 January 1993, in the village of Bistrica, *Ruža Kvasina*, born in 1940, was killed while coming out of the house. The same day in the village of Bistrica *Paulina Jozić*, an old woman born in 1914, was killed with automatic weapons. On 24 January 1993, *Marijan Juričević*, born in 1928, was killed in the town with sniper in front of his family house. The same day *Anka Grgić*, born in 1923, was killed in the town with a sniper shot.

The most outrageous crime committed by A RBiH soldiers in February 1993 in the Uskoplje Municipality was recorded in the village of Bojska when A RBiH soldiers, in the place which had not been involved in direct combat activities, deep in the territory controlled by the so-called A RBiH, killed four members of the Okadar family. This crime will be dealt with in a separate section of this chapter.

In the village of Bistrica, on 23.1.1993, A RBiH soldiers seized *Ivica Škrabo* and *Stipe Škrabo*. After maltreatment they were mutilated and killed with cold steel.

In the village of Lužani, A RBiH soldiers killed a wounded HVO member, *Vinko Šapina*, with a shot in the face from a shotgun.

After the cessation of combat activities, a commission composed of the representatives of the HVO and A RBiH under mediation of the UNPROFOR, made a tour of the defence lines of the parties to the conflict. The snapshots taken on that occasion show concreted dug-outs and trenches of the so-called A RBiH, which is the evidence of a long prepared and organised attack on the Croatian villages and HVO units.

Immediately after the cease-fire agreement, **Enver Zejnilagić**, a former JNA officer, succeeded **Jusuf Heljić** as commander of the domicile A RBiH unit, the 317 Mountain Brigade. Heljić had the task to organise the A RBiH units. With the replacement of the commander of the 317 Mountain Brigade, robberies and hold-ups intensified on the road passing through the A RBiH-controlled part of the town. Terrorist actions of some A RBiH groups were particularly intensified in the region of Bistrička Rika, i.e. on the Uskoplje-Travnik road. This was aimed at making the only traffic artery with central Bosnia unsafe for movement.

On 29.5.1993, in the canyon of Bistrička Rika, in the region of Guser, four employees of an Italian humanitarian organisation were seized by an extremist Muslim unit commanded by **Hanefija Prijić AKA Paraga**. One of them managed to escape. The bodies of the three humanitarian workers: *Fabio Morena*, *Sergio Lana* and *Guido Puleti*, were found on 2.6.1993 at the locality of the Radovan mine, near the village of Bistrica. On that occasion the body of the killed *Mijo Milić* from Uskoplje, who had disappeared in the region of Bistrička Rika on 12.5.1993, was also found. The said bodies were found scattered on the locality of the Radovan mine and they bore the evidence of massacre.

When an UNPROFOR APC hit a planted mine, which seriously wounded the driver, the supply of humanitarian aid to the Central Bosnia was suspended.

Intensive combat activities between the HVO and the so-called A RBiH were recorded end June 1993 and lasted till end October 1994. The conflicts had been preceded by the so-called A RBiH having occupied the locality of Relej, a dominating elevation overlooking the whole town area and its broader surroundings. In the said period the Croats experienced the greatest exodus.

During the conflicts between the HVO and the so-called A RBiH in the Municipality of Uskoplje, the so-called A RBiH killed 123 HVO members. When capturing civilians and HVO members A RBiH soldiers manifested an utterly extremist behaviour, which is especially evident from the few examples we give:

On 12 January 1993, in the place of Lužani, after having wounded the soldier *Vinko Šapina AKA Ćipa*, A RBiH soldiers killed him with a shotgun at close range which was born out by the commander of an A RBiH platoon within the domicile unit from Lužani.

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On 18 January 1993, in the place of Uzričje, *Miroslav Ivanković* was captured and then killed with a hand-grenade.

On 29 April 1993, in the part of the town inhabited by Muslims, an HVO ambulance was halted. The driver and the escort (two HVO members) were maltreated by A RBiH soldiers for full six hours. They cut crosses into their bodies with knives, and then let them cross over to the Croatian part of the town, undressed.

In early August 1993, *Ante Kopač* was seized in his family house in the place of Pernice. He was physically maltreated in Duradbegov Dolac, butchered and thrown into the Vrbas river by A RBiH soldiers.

On 22 December 1993 in the place of Ždrimci, on the locality of Vidak, after having captured the said locality A RBiH soldiers burnt up the following HVO members: *Mato Protuder, Žarko Protuder, Ivica Brnić* and *Branko Katović*. One of the perpetrators of this crime in the dug-out at Vidak was *Dževad Čaušević*. *Stanko Žuljević* was captured on that occasion.

In early August 1993, after the A RBiH units had occupied the Croatian village of Krupa, they seized *Sajka Šegović*. After maltreating and massacring her, A RBiH soldiers cut her head off.

End August 1993, in the village of Donja Ričica, A RBiH soldiers seized *Delfa Dumančić*, maltreated her physically, mutilated her and after the murder threw her into a grave in the devastated graveyard in Donja Ričica.

In the period from June 1992 to end February 1994, the Muslims exiled 4,554 Croats.

Before the war in BiH, the Croats had lived in 36 inhabited places in the Municipality of Uskoplje out of a total of 51 places, while today they live only in 15 places. So, the Croats were exiled from 21 places. Together with Muslims the Croats used to live in 24 places while today they live with Muslims only in 3 places (Bistrica, Hrasnica, Uskoplje) which nowadays are divided. Out of a total area of 402 km² of the pre-war Municipality of Gornji Vakuf, the Croats managed to defend successfully 121 km² at the end of conflicts. In such a small area there live 6,500 inhabitants now, including the exiled Croats from other places who had found temporary accommodation there.

On the A RBiH-controlled territory 95% family houses and business buildings in the ownership of the Croats were destroyed, especially in the places out of which the Croats were totally exiled. Out of that number 1,100 family houses were burnt down or totally devastated.

During the conflicts all Croatian villages were non-selectively shelled; on several occasions the War Hospital, clearly marked with the sign of the Red Cross, was shelled.

In the said period the Nuns's Home was burnt down, while the parish church at Humac was devastated or blasted several times. Also, in the local graveyard at Humac crosses were removed from tombs and taken away.

In Paić Polje the chapel was completely devastated; the tombstones continued to be systematically devastated even after the cessation of combat activities.

The parish church in Bistrica, the parish house and the nuns' convent sustained minor damage during the combat activities. However, after the so-called A RBiH had placed Bistrice under its control, the church was totally devastated, while the parish house and the nuns' convent were looted and then burnt down. The local graveyard in Bistrica, the chapel and the tombstones were devastated after the cessation of combat activities.

The local graveyards in Donja Ričica, Gornja Ričica, Lužani, Krupa, Pernice, the chapels and the tombstones were devastated or totally destroyed.

The parish church in Uskoplje, which is under the supervision of the Croats, was hit several times with artillery missiles during the combat activities, while St. Antonio's Home, where the seat of Caritas was, was burnt together with humanitarian goods with incendiary ammunition.

During the combat activities Muslim flag with religious symbols was hung out several times on the affiliated church in Voljice, which was on the demarcation line.

The persons responsible for the sufferings and exile of the Croats of the Municipality of Uskoplje are:

- **Abdulah Topčić**, SDA chairman, the then delegate in the BiH Assembly
- **Abdulah Garača**, the then executive of the Municipality of Gornji Vakuf and vice-president of the War Presidency
- **Akif Agić**, reporter of the RTV BiH
- **Fahrudin Agić**, the then commander of the 717. Mountain Brigade A RBiH
- **Jusuf Heljić**, for a time commanded the 717. Mountain Brigade A RBiH
- **Enver Zejnilagić**, commanded the 717. Mountain Brigade A RBiH
- **Hanefija Prijić AKA Paraga**, the then commander of the unit "Green Barets" and of the A RBiH MP
- **major Edin Šero**, commander of a battalion of the 717. Mountain Brigade, and after the war commander of the 717. Mountain Brigade A RBiH
- **Dževad Agić**, commander of a battalion of the 717. Mountain Brigade A RBiH
- **Fuad Zec**, commander of a battalion of the 717. Mountain Brigade A RBiH

14.3. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS, INFLICTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

14.3.1. The crime in Bojska

In the village of Bojska, the Municipality of Uskoplje, according to the 1991 census, there were 859 Muslims and three Croatian families: the Okadar family, the Živko family and the Franjić family, that had lived there until the conflict with the so-called A RBiH. As Bojska, at the time of Croato-Muslim combats in February 1993, was deep in the territory under the A RBiH control, it was not affected by direct combat activities. A RBiH soldiers used the village as temporary destination for the units coming from other municipalities. Soon after the open conflict of A RBiH and HVO units in the area of Uskoplje, as already said, the following people, after maltreatment, were mutilated and killed in the village of Bojska, in their family house:

Ilija Okadar, son of Frano, born in 1930, mutilated and killed by A RBiH soldiers on 7 February 1993. Buried in the graveyard in the village of Bristovi, Municipality of Bugojno.

Pavka Okadar, daughter of Frano, born in 1939, killed on 7 February 1993. Buried in the Grabovi graveyard in the village of Kandija, Municipality of Bugojno.

Frano Okadar, son of Danko, born in 1907, mutilated and killed by A RBiH soldiers on 21 February 1993. Buried in the Grabovi graveyard in the village of Kandija, Municipality of Bugojno

Finka Okadar, daughter of Frano, born in 1932. Raped, mutilated and killed by A RBiH soldiers on 21 February 1993. Buried in the Grabovi graveyard in the village of Kandija, Municipality of Bugojno.

On 28 January 1993, under mediation of UN representatives, a meeting was held in the UNPROFOR base in Uskoplje of A RBiH and HVO representatives (colonel Željko Šiljeg and Selmo Cikotić) at which a cease-fire was arranged. At the initiative of the commander of the local HVO brigade "dr. Ante Starčević" it was requested that, under mediation of UNPROFOR, a tour be made of the villages inhabited by Muslims in which before the war there had been a few Croatian families as well, for Muslims would not allow Croatian representatives to visit their compatriots living there.

After a tour of the village of Bojska had been approved, on 22 February 1993, a team composed of HVO, A RBiH and UNPROFOR representatives, together with cameramen of the HVO Brigade, found the above mentioned mutilated and killed members of the Okadar family (Frano and Finka Okadar) in their family house. Their bodies bore evidence of physical maltreatment. Namely, stabs with cold steel were visible on Frano Okadar's body, his nose and a part of his ear were cut off,

and after the maltreatment A RBiH soldiers butchered him. The corpse of his daughter, Finka Okadar, also bore traces of physical maltreatment (cold steel stabs in the arms, neck and other parts of the body). Her body was found stripped nude up to the waist, which indicates that she had been raped by A RBiH soldiers before they killed her.

Close to the house of the Okadar family the corpses of *Ilija Okadar*, and his sister *Pavka Okadar* were found. They had lived in a joint household with Frano and Finka Okadar since they were close relatives.

The Živko family, who had lived in Bojska before the war, was banished, and with that the village was completely “cleansed” of the Croats.

Direct perpetrators of the massacre over the Okadar family are the members of the domicile Muslim unit, commanded by **Semin Rustempašić** and **Hanefija Prijic AKA Paraga**.

15. MUNICIPALITY OF VAREŠ

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Vareš had 22,203 inhabitants: 6,714 Muslims; 9,016 Croats; 3,644 Serbs; and 2,829 of Others.

15.1. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VAREŠ

Vareš was the last town in central Bosnia with Croatian majority to be ethnically cleansed of the Croats by the so-called A RBiH in an attack from 18 October to 2 November 1993. The increased tension in the Municipality of Vareš caused by the events in the neighbouring municipalities, led to frequent incidents and demonstration of force by A RBiH soldiers as early as in June 1993, and everything culminated in a general attack end October. So on 18 October A RBiH soldiers first exiled 150 Croats from the village of Kopjari, followed by the expulsion of the Croats from all the villages in the Municipality of Vareš. The Croats were retreating towards Vareš Majdan and the town of Vareš. So from 20 villages, inhabited exclusively by the Croats, almost all the inhabitants were exiled, except for a few dozens of inhabitants in each who could not flee, either because of old age or for other reasons.

On 30 October 1993, in an attack of the so-called A RBiH on the village of Duboštica, 18 HVO members were captured and taken to the military investigation prison in Tuzla. Three of them: *Mate Filić*, *Goran Lekić* and *Ante Pejčinović*, were taken by A RBiH soldiers to Careva Ćuprija and executed. The responsibility for their murder is carried by *Refik Rotić* from the 119. Banovići Brigade A RBiH.

On 2 November 1993 - in a general attack of A RBiH forces in the region of Planica, Perun and Karasovina - 39 HVO members were killed, 45 slightly or seriously wounded, and 40 captured. A number of the captured HVO soldiers was killed instantly in the most atrocious way (butchered, stabbed with knife all over the body, with smashed heads or burnt). The responsibility for these crimes is born by the members of the 7. Muslim Brigade under the command of *Halil Brzina* and his deputy *Šerif Patković*, and by special units of the 3. Corps A RBiH ("Frkina četa", under the command of *Ferid Provalić*; and the Reconnaissance-Demolition Company of the 7. Muslim Brigade).

After the all-out attack of the so-called A RBiH on the town of Vareš and Vareš Majdan on 2 November 1993, all the Croats from these places went into exodus, so that only 700 Croats remained on the A RBiH-controlled territory out of approximately 9000 Croats before the war. The HVO "Bobovac" Brigade, in pulling

out of the Municipality, put up the defence line round the villages of Višnjići, Pržići and Daštansko, so that about 11 km² of the Vareš Municipality remained under the control of the HVO.

A RBiH soldiers, having entered the territory of the Vareš Municipality, behaved atrociously and cruelly towards the unarmed and unprotected civilian population that had remained in their homes. A RBiH soldiers manifested their cruelty by killing the old and the weak, by burning the houses, desecrating the churches, chapels and graveyards, and by looting all that was Croatian. After having taken control of the whole Municipality of Vareš on 3 November 1993, A RBiH soldiers went on committing crimes. So in the village of Borovica five civilian persons were killed. Their corpses were found by UN representatives who had entered the village. The killed persons are: *Ilija Ivkić*, born in 1941, his body bore evidence of torture and stabs with cold steel. *Stjepan Marković*, born in 1938, was killed in front of his family house. His body was mutilated, the head smashed with a blunt object, and the throat stabbed with a knife. Several through-shot wounds were visible on the body. The body of *Marko Parić*, born in 1934, was found under the ruins of the burnt house. The body of *Ivo Vukačić*, born in 1915, has never been found, but it is assumed to have burnt in the house which had been set on fire and burnt to the ground. *Mato Ivkić* was killed in his family house with several knife stabs, after which the body was burnt down together with the house. Apart from the bodies of civilians, in the village of Borovica the UN representatives also found the body of an HVO member *Kruno Odaković*, which had been mutilated: the head smashed with a blunt object, the back of the neck slit open with a sharp object, and his breast showed several wounds inflicted by knife stabs.

The crime on the Croats in the village of Borovica was committed by the members of the 7. Muslim Brigade, under the command of **Halil Brzina**, an A RBiH member from the place of Brnjic, Municipality of Kakanj; and by the members of the 329. A RBiH Kakanj Brigade. Upon entry into Vareš Majdan, A RBiH soldiers, apart from looting everything that belonged to the Croats, violently killed 5 civilian persons:

- *Ferdo Lovrenović* was killed in front of his house.
- *Jozo Petrović* was killed from fire-arms at close range.
- *Jerko Terzić* was killed in front of his house.
- *Svetislav Jazić*, a pensioner, was killed in his apartment, and
- *Alojzije Čović* AKA *Alko*, was killed in his brother's apartment.

Upon entry of A RBiH soldiers into the town of Vareš three civilian persons were killed:

- *Ivo Pejčinović* AKA *Altoka*, a pensioner, was killed in the street with a metal crow-bar,
- *Pero Miletić*, a pensioner, was killed in a hut in the village of Brezik in which he lived, and then the hut was burnt together with the body.
- *Ivo Jelić* was killed in Marko Miričić's house, which was then set on fire.

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The responsibility for these crimes (murders, plunder and maltreatment of civilians that had remained in the places taken by the so-called A RBiH) is born by the following units of the so-called A RBiH:

- 329. Kakanj Brigade,
- 126. Visoko Brigade,
- 304. Breza Brigade,
- The Independent Detachment of Vareš and
- Special units of the 3. Corps A RBiH ("Frkina četa", "Crni labudovi", Reconnaissance-Demolition Company of the 7. Muslim Briagde A RBiH) in their attack on Vareš under the command of **Hašim Spahić** and his deputy **Hrusten Mališević**.

Those standing out in cruelty at killing and torturing of civilians were:

- the members of the 7. Muslim Brigade under the command of **Halil Brzina** and his deputy **Šerif Patković**,
- the members of the 304. Breza Brigade under the command of Mirsad Begić, and
- direct executioners **Mirsad Salčinović AKA Komuna** (killed several captured HVO members) and **Zaim Begić AKA Zajče**, commander of a special detachment.

Upon entering Vareš A RBiH soldiers also committed the crimes of rape. Two victims of rape were registered: Ž.P. and M.F.

During the attacks of the so-called A RBiH on HVO units in Vareš, 73 HVO members were captured and imprisoned in military investigative prisons in Tuzla, Breza and Zenica, and in Vareš itself, in which a camp was established where 36 civilian persons were detained (**The prisons in Vareš were in the building of the Secondary School Centre; in the building of the Autotrans company; in the military prison "Samačka", a building formerly used as singles apartments, ownership of the Vareš Iron Works; in the military prison "Kapitalna", the office building of the Vareš Iron Works; and in the children's day-care centre "Danica Pavlič"**). The treatment of the detained HVO members was contrary to the Geneva Conventions about the treatment of prisoners of war. The prisoners were heavily beaten and tortured in other ways (beaten with wooden batons, feet and iron bars, tormented with hunger, interrogated almost every day, ritually beaten while Muslim music was played, were forced to fight each other until collapse, on several occasions they were threatened with death, on the front lines they were forced to dig trenches and do other dangerous jobs, etc.), so that most prisoners came out with lasting bodily damage, and some of them with permanent mental consequences.

After the signing of the Washington Agreement, Muslim authorities in the Municipality of Vareš practiced apprehending the Croats who started coming to the Municipality of Vareš, either to see their relatives or their estates. In this way more than 200 Croats were taken into custody. Many of them were subjected to

inhuman methods, and many underwent various kinds of brutality. A large majority of the apprehended were subjected to interrogation and had to sign various statements under duress, after which they were banished from the territory of the Municipality of Vareš.

The responsibility for inhuman treatment of prisoners and of the Croats who, after the signing of the Washington Agreement, tried to return to the Vareš Municipality rests with military and civilian authorities of the Municipality of Vareš, especially:

- **Mervana Hadžimuterzić**, woman president of the War Presidency of Vareš;
- **Hrustern Mališević**, chairman of the IO of the Municipality of Vareš;
- The executor of their orders **Sead Opereta**, commander of the PS Vareš.

For the treatment of the captured HVO members the responsibility is born by the command of the 16. Division seated in the Municipality of Vareš, or rather the command of the 122. A RBiH Brigade: **Enver Hadžiahmetović**, **Salih Čilaš**, **Rusmir Musa** and others.

A RBiH soldiers completely destroyed almost all Catholic structures and graveyards in the Municipality of Vareš. In places of Gornja and Donja Borovica, A RBiH soldiers completely destroyed the church and the parish house. A cross that stood on the plateau in front of the church, was pulled down and broken into pieces, as if to show that coexistence and Catholicism cannot survive in the Municipality of Vareš. The religious structures and graveyards in the places of Borovičke Njive, Kopjari, Duboštica, Mir, Bijelo Borje, Vijaka, Donja Vijaka, Krčevina, Očevija, Pogar, Vareš Majdan etc. were treated in the same way. Many of the damaged structures continued to be destroyed even after 1995., or 1996, which has a special weight. The parish priest of the Vijak parish, *fra Željko Filipović* was beaten up when A RBiH soldiers entered the village, and later he was taken in and questioned on two occasions. During the attacks on the HVO in the Municipality of Vareš, A RBiH soldiers burnt about 700 family houses, and several hundreds of auxiliary facilities. All other Croatian houses that had not been burnt, were plundered and in various ways devastated.

16. MUNICIPALITY OF VISOKO

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Visoko had 46,160 inhabitants: Muslims 34,373; Croats 1,872; Serbs 7,471; Others 2,444.

16.1. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VISOKO

During the conflicts in BiH, there were no HVO units in Visoko. With the outbreak of conflicts between the so-called ARBiH and the HVO in neighbouring municipalities, heavy pressure was exerted on the Croats by constant provocations and intimidation aimed at their exile from the territory of the Visoko Municipality. So out of about 1900 pre-war Croats about 1400 were exiled. The houses of the exiled Croats were occupied by Muslim refugees exiled from eastern Bosnia by the VRS or the houses were destroyed or burnt. Several Croats, who had remained in the Municipality of Visoko, were killed. We note the case when an ARBiH soldier, *Zejnir Dukmanović*, on 10 January 1994, burst into the house of *Stjepan Mijić* in the village of Bulčići, asked money from him and stabbed him several times with knife in the region of lower extremities. When he got the money, *Zejnir Dukmanović* fired a whole clip at *Stjepan Mijić* from a machine gun. The witnesses of this crime are the villagers of Bulčići.

The soldiers of the 7. Muslim Briagde burst into the family house of *Jelenko Vuković* in the place of Donje Moštre killing *Jelenko* and his four cousins. Also, the soldiers of the 7. Muslim Briagde, butchered *Jure Blažević*, *Frid Blažević* and *Ana Brkić* in the family house in the place of Zimča.

The following ARBiH units exiled the Croats or committed the crimes on them in the Municipality of Visoko:

- A unit called "Frkina jedinica" under the command of *Ferid Provalić*, and
- The 7. Muslim Briagde under the command of *Halil Brzina*.

The individuals standing out in the committal of the crime are:

- *Abdulah Matoruga* AKA *Avdica*,
- *Jasmin Salan*,
- *Zejnir Dukmančić* and
- *Ferid Provalić* AKA *Frka*.

17. MUNICIPALITY OF VITEZ

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Vitez had 27,859 inhabitants: Muslims 11,514; Croats 12,675; Serbs 1,501; Others 2,169.

With the Serbian aggression on BiH during 1992, hundreds of thousands of non-Serbian population, mostly Muslims, were exiled from the parts of north-western, northern, eastern and south-eastern BiH. The exiled Croats found temporary accommodation in Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia (RH) and in the countries of the European Union. Muslims leaving their homes were also accommodated in the RH, and in other European countries, but most of them stayed in central Bosnia where their countrymen Muslims dwelt.

The number of refugees in central Bosnia was on a steady increase. In November 1992, the records of the Red Cross and those of the Social Welfare Vitez, show that **4,500** Muslim refugees had found their temporary residence in Vitez. As the largest number of exiled Muslims was accommodated in the family houses of the domicile Muslims, the living space was narrowed. End May 1992 the units of the Vitez TO provoked the first armed conflict with the villagers of Serbian nationality in the village of *Toiovići*. By August 1992, **363** persons of Serbian nationality had left their homes under the pressure the A RBiH units. For this act of war crime against civilian population - instigation of exile - the responsibility is born by **Munib Kajmović**, president of the Vitez SDA and **Fuad Kaknjo**, president of the IO of the Municipality of Vitez. The Serbian population was exiled by the TO members under the command of **Ševkija Đžidić**.

With this act Muslim military and civilian officials permanently solved the housing problem for a number of Muslims exiled from other parts of BiH.

On 1 June 1992, the first Croats were murdered by the TO members (predecessor of the so-called A RBiH). That day, in the place of *Grab*, Municipality of Vitez, two HVO members were killed: *Ivica Pocrnja* and *Vlatko Žuljević*. The subsequent expert opinion showed that they had sustained heavy bodily injuries before having been murdered. Direct murderers of the two are **Hasan Patković** son of Osman from the village of *Ljubići*, Municipality of Vitez and his three sons **Erđin Patković**, **Nezir Patković** and **Edib Patković**.

The first armed conflict between the so-called A RBiH and HVO soldiers in the Municipality of Vitez was preceded by a meeting of Alija Izetbegović's envoy, **Mirsad Ćeman**, with the regional Muslim political leadership in Zenica on 13 October 1992.

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From 12 to 20 October 1992 there followed the first conflicts on a larger scale in the area of the village of Ahmići after A RBiH soldiers had blocked the Sarajevo - Bosanska Gradiška road by setting a check-point at Ahmići and thereby barred the passage of the HVO from Kiseljak to Jajce. The said conflict affected the stability of the defence of Jajce, so that the Serbian units occupied the Municipality of Jajce in those few days that the conflicts in Vitez lasted.

New armed incidents followed. On 3 November 1992 in the place of Kruščica, A RBiH soldiers intercepted and seized seven members of the HVO MP, and a civilian Ante Rajić, who, after physical maltreatment, were exchanged. Direct torturer of the apprehended HVO members was **Edin Livnjak AKA Dino**, son of Mahmut, born on 6 June 1963.

17.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE VITEZ MUNICIPALITY

In the period from 16 April 1993 to the end of the conflicts with the signing of the Washington Agreement, on the A RBiH-controlled territory the Croats were systematically exiled, intentionally killed and unlawfully interned. All detainees, especially civilian ones, were inhumanly treated.

On 16 April 1993 in the place of Počulica the commander of the domicile A RBiH unit ordered that all Croatian civilians be apprehended. On that occasion eighty-two (82) civilian persons of Croatian nationality were apprehended and interned.

On 23 April 1993, the soldiers of the 325. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, with the permission of the guard, killed three and wounded six civilians interned in the village of Počulica. The killed civilians are: **Jozo Vidović**, born in 1945, **Ivo Vidović**, born in 1939 and **Pero Papić**, born in 1960. Among the wounded civilians there were four women.

The Croats interned in the place of Počulica used to be taken out to forced labour trimming the A RBiH defence line.

Murders and unlawful arrests of Croatian civilians were recorded in the part of the town under the control of the so-called A RBiH, in Mahala. Out of 35 interned civilians of Croatian nationality five were killed. This will be dealt with later in the book when we shall speak about the crimes in the Mahala prison.

On 10 June 1993, a mortar bomb, fired from the positions of the 325. Mountain Brigade in the part of the town under the control of the so-called A RBiH, killed eight children. During the Croato-Muslim conflicts a dozen more children were killed by exploding bombs or sniper fire.

In the period from December 1993 to January 1994, A RBiH units killed 141 persons of Croatian nationality.



A consequence of shelling: A small girl without a leg - Vitez



On 22 December 1993 in the region of the village of Dubravice, the hamlet of **Križančevo selo**, in an attack of A RBiH units 66 persons of Croatian nationality were killed, out of which 3 civilians and 63 HVO members. Another case of mass killing was recorded on 9 January 1994, when the so-called A RBiH attempted to capture the road and cut Vitez from other parts of central Bosnia under the control of the HVO. On that occasion, in the place of Sivirino Selo, the hamlet of **Buhine kuće**, A RBiH soldiers killed 25 Croats, out of which four civilians and nine HVO members were captured, tied, and then killed. The same day A RBiH soldiers captured 14 persons, out of which 13 civilians, and deported them to the KPD prison in Zenica.

When preparing their offensive actions, A RBiH soldiers used civilians on several occasions in order to penetrate deep into the HVO-controlled territory without danger.

In one of such attempts on 19 December 1993, in the village of Križančevo Selo, A RBiH soldiers sent along the demarcation line the Štrbac family: *Andrija Štrbac*, born in 1946, and his son *Ivica Štrbac*, born in 1979. They were both killed when stepping on a land mine.

Wounding of civilians was, in the largest measure, the result of shelling the inhabited parts of the Municipality of Vitez, and of the sniper fire. An analysis showed that 95% of killings and woundings were recorded during cease-fire.

Five persons from the area of Vitez are still registered as missing. They are:

- *Stipica Grgić*, son of Ivo, born in 1963, last time seen at Kuber;
- *Marko Livančić*, son of Ante, born in 1958, last time seen on 18 April 1993;
- *Vinko Čerkez*, son of Ivo, born in 1926, apprehended and locked up at Krušćica (it is known with all certainty that he was killed by an explosive device tied around his waist by A RBiH soldiers);
- *Zoran Vidović*, son of Ante, born in 1963, captured by MUP in the A RBiH-controlled part of the town, Mahala, and
- *Dragica Prkačin*, daughter of Vidoje, born in 1934, captured (it is known with all certainty that she was locked up in a wooden hut by A RBiH soldiers and then burnt). Her remains have never been found.

In the eleven months of conflicts between the HVO and the so-called A RBiH, 682 persons of Croatian nationality from Vitez were killed, and more than 1,457 wounded. 64 civilians were killed out of which 18 under age children.

In the attacks of the so-called A RBiH on Vitez and surrounding villages 199 civilians were wounded out of which 60 children.

In the armed conflict in the Vitez Municipality, the HVO units, due to constant attacks and pushing back by the ABiH, were compelled to withdraw to the narrow town area. With 25 February 1994, or more exactly until the signing of the Washington Agreement, the units of the Vitez HVO controlled 34,7%, and the ABiH 65,3% of the total territory of the Vitez Municipality.

According to the official data of the Social Welfare Centre in Vitez, 507 Croatian families, or 1,519 Croats, were exiled in the period from 16 April 1993 to 25 February 1994. The criminal act of war crime against civilian population was committed in the villages of: Brdo, Divjak, Dubravica, Kruščica, Ljubuč, Počulica, Putkovići, Sadovače, Sivirino selo, Tolovići, Zabilje, and in the part of the town called Mahala.

A total of 530 residential buildings in the ownership of the Croats were completely destroyed or devastated, leaving out of account the auxiliary facilities

17.3. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

During immediate combat activities of A RBiH and HVO units, 241 civilian persons were unlawfully interned in the prisons established by the so-called A RBiH, where they were exposed to physical and psychical maltreatment. The civilians were interned in the following places: Počulica, Divjak-Grbavica, Kruščica, Sivirino Selo and in the part of the town under the control of the so-called A RBiH called Mahala.

17.3.1. The Prison in Počulica

On 16 April 1993, the commander of the 3. Battalion of the 325. Mountain Brigade of the so-called A RBiH ordered that all Croatian civilians living in the place of Počulica, a total of 82 persons of Croatian nationality, be apprehended.

The next day A RBiH soldiers started bringing to Počulica the Croatian civilians living in places where Muslims were in majority. They left only a few aged and bed-ridden persons in their family houses (four old women and an old man).

In addition to inappropriate accommodation (cellars of family houses and the Village Home where about 70 Croats were confined), intentional killings and wounding of internees were also recorded in the village of Počulica. So on 23 April 1993, fire was opened at the door of the Village Home where the Croats were interned (about 100 bullets were fired). On that occasion three persons were killed and six wounded

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The killed persons are:

- *Jozo Papić*, born in 1938;
- *Ivo Vidović*, born in 1939 and
- *Pero Papić*, born in 1960.

Those wounded are: *Ana Brković*, born in 1938, *Štefica Brković*, born in 1946, *Kata Čeko*, born in 1929, *Jozo Jurčević*, born in 1937, *Kata Stojak*, born in 1913 and *Željko Papić*, born in 1963.

During their stay in the prison in Počulica, the Croats were also used as a living shield, while A RBiH soldiers were burying their dead, since demarcation lines were very close.

Able-bodied men were taken from the prison in the Village Home and forcibly engaged in trimming the front line.

Ante Krišto, who was killed during the capture of the village of Počulica, was buried together with the swine that A RBiH soldiers had killed.

According to the statements of interned Croats, foreign citizens of Islamic religion were present in Počulica as A RBiH soldiers. They could be recognised by their specific clothes, dark complexion and broken Croatian.

17.3.2. The Prison in Mahala

In the part of the town under the control of the so-called A RBiH called Mahala 37 civilians were interned, mainly aged people and retarded persons, who became victims of maltreatment and killing by A RBiH soldiers.

Out of 37 Croats interned in the A RBiH-controlled part of the town - Mahala - five Croats were killed, two of them being registered as missing, i.e. their remains have never been found. They are:

- *Dragica Prkačin*, born in 1934, apprehended in Mahala, closed in a wooden hut and burnt. *Vlado Prkačin*, Dragica's son, born in 1955, mentally retarded, was killed and castrated; and after that they put his sex organ into his mouth. He was exchanged as such.
- *Drago Jurčević*, born in 1953, a mentally retarded persons, was also killed in Mahala.
- *Zoran Vidović*, born in 1964, was killed while being taken to prison. His remains have never been found.
- *Andelko Rajić - Mišković*, born in 1964, was butchered in front of his family house.

Unlawful internment, murders and torture of civilians were done also in the prison of the 325 Mountain Brigade A RBiH in the place of Krušćica. Twenty six (26) civilians of the place of Krušćica went through this prison.

Apart from physical and psychical maltreatment, the interned Croats, even children among them, were driven into the mine fields. Also, in order to prevent them from escaping explosive was tied round their bodies. *Vinko Čerkez*, born in 1926, was killed in this way and his remains have never been found.

In addition to engaging the internees for trimming the front line, A RBiH soldiers also used them when passing through mine fields in their attacks. In one of such actions, having stepped on a land mine, *Andrija Štrbac* and his son *Ivica Štrbac*, born in 1979, got killed.

17.3.3. The Prisons in Sivirino Selo and Prnjavor

Able-bodied men from the villages of Sivirino Selo and Prnjavor, interned in the prison in Počulica, used to be taken out and engaged in trimming the defence line of the so-called A RBiH.

In the village of Sivirino Selo they would carry out the works on the fortification of the defence line and then be returned to Prnjavor where they had a temporary residence. In addition to forcible engagement on the front line, the interned Croats were exposed to physical and psychical maltreatment by A RBiH soldiers, especially on their way back from work (beating and verbal threats "that they would be slaughtered")

The persons responsible for internment, maltreatment and killing of internees in the Vitez Municipality are:

- **Džemal Merdan**, born on 6 August 1950 in Busovača, at the time in question commander of the Regional Staff of the Zenica TO, presently an official in the Federal Ministry of Defence of the F BiH;
- **Enver Hadžihasanović AKA Džedo**, during the conflicts held the office of the commander of the 3. Corps A RBiH, presently an official in the Federal Ministry of Defence of the F BiH;
- **Šerif Patković**, retired colonel of the so-called A RBiH, at the time of the conflicts commanded the 7. Muslim Brigade A RBiH;
- **Šefkija Đžidić**, born on 27 April 1954, at the time of the armed conflicts between the HVO and the so-called A RBiH held the duty of the chief of Staff of the Vitez TO. Then, from April 1993 till February 1994 he commanded all the Liberating Forces (OS) of the so-called A RBiH in the area of Vitez including a part of the 325 Mountain Brigade A RBiH - the 4. Battalion, a platoon of the A RBiH MP and the MUP in the part of Vitez called Mahala. Responsible for the death of eight children who died from the consequences of shelling Vitez. Presently an official of the MUP of the Central Bosnian Canton;
- **Nesad Hurem**, commander of the 1. Battalion of the 325. Mountain Brigade A RBiH,
- **Safet Sivro**, commanded the 3. Battalion of the 325. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, the command post of Počulica;

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- **Minet Akeljić**, born on 18 February 1957, at the time of armed conflicts commanded the A RBiH MP, command post of Krušćica;
- **Ibrahim Avdić AKA Cicko**, commanded the platoon of the A RBiH MP; and
- **Edin Bešo**.

17.4. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS, INFLICTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

17.4.1. The Crime in Križančevo Selo

Permanent provocations of A RBiH soldiers on the whole territory of the Lašva Valley, where the Croats were encircled by the majority Muslim population, made it impossible for the defence of that part of BiH to be organised, since Muslims greatly outnumbered the Croats there, especially if we take into account extremist Muslim units, filled by foreign citizens of Islamic religion. The objectives of the then BiH Presidency (rounding up the compact territory in central Bosnia under the A RBiH control) are clearly stated in an interview of the Presidency member **Ejub Ganić**, given on 3 January 1994 to the Reuters News Agency, when he said:

"... We are trying to come to terms with the HVO to let them come out (of the encirclement) and send our forces in, but, of course, Zagreb rejects this idea. What Zagreb needs are scenes of suffering to justify its action in Mostar, but we shall capture the Lašva Valley one way or other..."

So on 22 December 1993, the so-called A RBiH army launched a general, combined artillery and infantry attack on the HVO positions in the defence of Vitez, then on the villages of Bila, Nević Polje, Novi Travnik and Busovača. The same day A RBiH soldiers attacked the HVO positions in the region of Uskoplje, or more exactly, the villages of Ždrimci and Dobrošin, aimed at capturing the elevation Crni vrh, and cutting the Uskoplje - Rama road.

In the course of the day the demolition teams of the so-called A RBiH at the locality of Križančevo Selo, or rather Šafradinove kuće, seized a part of the HVO defence line, and put the HVO units under siege. During this operation of the so-called A RBiH the civilians found in Križančevo Selo were killed on the spot, while HVO members were captured and later executed by a ritual characteristic of the treatment of prisoners by mujahedins. At first nothing was known about the fate of the captured or the number of the killed in Križančevo Selo since the commander of the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH, **Enver Hadžihasanović**, denied access to the village to international organisations, to UNPROFOR and ECMM. Only later, after the said international organisations had made a tour of the region where the massacre of civilian population had been committed, was it reported that a grave



Križančevo Selo - Identification

in the place of Počulica hides **28 bodies of the killed Croats** from Križančevo Selo. At the request of UN and ECMM, A RBiH soldiers allowed the inquest into eight bodies of the killed HVO members. On that day an exchange was arranged for 27 January 1994, after which the remains were returned to the grave.

As A RBiH soldiers did not allow pulling out of the killed from the region of Križančevo Selo, HVO members, on several occasions, in organised actions, picked up the bodies of the killed in the zone within the demarcation lines. In one of the actions of pulling the bodies out of the region of the demarcation line, on 21 January 1994, HVO members pulled out five dead bodies, and a day later another 13 bodies, and two days later yet another 3 bodies. *Jozo Križanac*, the father of *Tomislav Križanc*, who was killed in the attack of the so-called A RBiH on Križančevo Selo, was killed while trying to pull out his son's dead body in the demarcation zone.

On 1 February 1994 in an exchange of dead bodies, A RBiH handed over 30 dead bodies of HVO members out of which 28 bodies of the HVO soldiers who were captured in the attack on Križančevo Selo and then killed.

The autopsy of 29 dead bodies of HVO members showed that the captured HVO members had been killed mainly with cold steel.

The body of *Josip Šafradin*, in addition to through-shot wounds in the region of the neck and the hip, bore evidence of cold steel stabs (a cut in the region of the neck, several stabs in the region of the stomach and the chest).

Stipo Šafradin was killed with a blunt object, or more exactly, his head was smashed. *Marijan Maros* was killed in the same way. Before killing *Damir Zlojić* A RBiH soldiers had broken his jaw and the right arm.

Stipica Jurčević had his both ears cut off by A RBiH soldiers before they killed him.

A cut on the body of *Živko Delija* suggests a death by cold steel (butchered).

Drago Križanac was killed by having been hit with a sharp heavy object on the head.

Dragan Zamboni was killed with cold steel, his head was smashed.

Ivica Šafradin was also killed with cold steel.

Željko Šafradin apart from through-wounds, had his head smashed by A RBiH soldiers.

Niko Knežević was killed in the same way (his head was smashed).

The body of *Dragan Gudelj* bears evidence of cold steel stabs, and the right side of his head was smashed with a blunt object.

Nedeljko Grbavac was killed in the same way (his head was smashed).

Autopsy findings show that ten captured HVO members had through-shot wounds in the region of the head and the neck.

A part of the statement of a surviving witness of the A RBiH attack on Križančevo Selo speaks about the abduction of the HVO members captured in that village:

"...I assure you they were captured alive. I saw them with my own eyes and I hoped they would respect the rights of soldiers at capture and that they would not kill them, as I hear today that they had done that after all. There they entered the house (Džemo's) and we could not see any farther and watch what was happening to them and what was going to happen. Most probably they took them along a trench to Sivrine Kuće, and then further towards Počulica, where they were most probably killed..."

The identification of the remains of the Croats killed in Križančevo Selo was carried out in the period from 22 January 1994 to 3 February 1994. The identity of 64 Croats killed in the attack on Križančevo Selo was established.

Those responsible for the slaughter of the Croats in Križančevo Selo are:

- **Enver Hadžihasanović**, commander of the 3. Corps A RBiH;
- **Mahmut emir Karalić**, commander of the 7. Muslim Brigade;
- **Fikret Čuskić**, commander of the unit "Krajiška brigada" which participated in the attack; and
- **Ferid Provalić**, commander of the unit "Frkina jedinica", which participated in the attack.

17.4.2. The Crime at Buhine Kuće

Mid April 1993 A RBiH soldiers captured a position on the hill of Krivače, a dominating elevation above the village of Šantići, Municipality of Vitez, from where the villagers were exposed to systematic sniper fire. Snipers killed or wounded a dozen of persons in the hamlet of Buhine Kuće, the village of Šantići. Three persons were killed: *Mirko Šamića, Magdalena Pranjković*, aged 17, and a certain *Buhić*.

On 9 January 1994, in the place of Šantići, or more exactly, in Sivri Selo, at the location called Buhine Kuće, Municipality of Vitez, A RBiH soldiers carried out an infantry attack aimed at taking the Vitez-Busovača road, whereby Busovača would find itself in a full encirclement, which would also make possible offensive actions of the so-called A RBiH against the HVO from the direction of south-east.

In the action of placing Buhine Kuće under the control of A RBiH, preceded by an artillery preparation, 25 persons of Croatian nationality were killed. The attack was carried out in early morning hours (05:00 hours) so that the villagers were

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caught in sleep. The statements of the surviving witnesses of the attack on Buhine Kuće, say that A RBiH soldiers, passing through the village, were throwing hand grenades into the family houses and, with the cries "Allahu ekber", forced the civilian population to try an escape. Abstracts from the statement of a surviving under age girl witness speak of the crime on the civilian population in Buhine Kuće:

"...Early in the morning, somewhere about 5 o'clock, a strong detonation near my house woke me up. The detonations grew more frequent. I jumped up out of the bed. My ma, pa and brother were also on their feet. Shouts, uproar, calls, explosions, flash of light coming through the window, I thought I was in hell. 'Ustasha, get up!' 'For Home, ready!' voices were reaching my ears. The window panes were trembling, breaking and smashing about the house. Bullets were flying into the rooms... We ran across the kitchen with our heads bent. My daddy ...ran out of the house to our aunt's... Daddy went out of the house and never came back again.

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Ma did not have time to put the shoes on my little brother's feet, she ran out carrying my little brother who was six years old. I ran out after them, and there, right in front of the house a uniformed soldier was standing with a red beret and yellow cloth on the upper arm, with his rifle aimed at us. First he shot at ma from a distance of about 1 to 2 metres. I heard a crack (the sounds whose exact origin I cannot determine and all kinds of detonations) and shooting all about the village. But the crack I heard I shall never forget as long as I live. I saw my ma fall ...

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I screamed, caught my brother and started running. The same soldier shot at me and my brother... from a distance of 4-5 metres... I suddenly felt that my right arm was not mine, and a terrible pain. I managed to run into my house. I hid. I did not dare to breathe. Bullets were whizzing above my head. I and my brother ran out of the house again. The soldiers were calling and running after me. I was carrying my brother with one hand. I said to him..., if you can walk, go, I cannot any more...

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...In Buhine Kuće I saw a Muslim soldier fire a burst at A.G. who was 20. Muslim soldiers threw a bomb into the house of A.B. and she ran screaming out of the house, calling for help. There were more murders in the village, but I was unable to see them for fear.

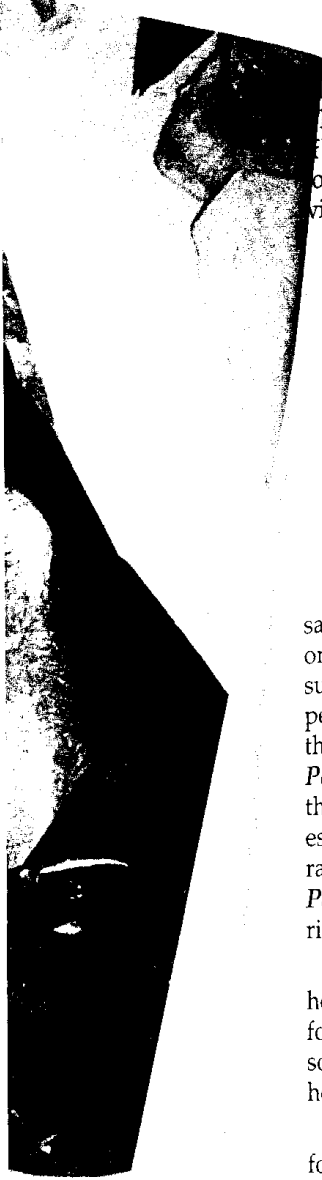
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My brother is in hospital, he was wounded by Muslim soldiers..."

After the HVO had recaptured the hamlet of Buhine Kuće, on 21 January 1994, during the sanitation of the ground, 9 dead bodies of HVO soldiers were found in one of the houses. They had been captured alive and then murdered after physical maltreatment. The identification process proved that all the nine killed HVO members were tied with wire. The body of the killed **Mario Baračević** was found



A victim of the heinous massacre in Buhine Kuće



with the hands and the feet tied. The soldiers were stripped of their uniforms. They were found only in their underwear). The bodies of the killed bear evidence of cold steel stabs, while a few of them had their fists shot through. Some of the bodies were found with broken shoulders and elbows, and with traces of blows with blunt objects in the region of the head..

The following HVO members were identified:

- Mladen Grgić, son of Rafael, born in 1973;
- Ivica Lovrenović, son of Ante, born in 1967;
- Smiljan Papić, son of Vlatko, born in 1969;
- Mario Buligović, son of Josip, born in 1972;
- Goran Kafadar, son of Mijo, born in 1972;
- Anto Božić, son of Mate, born in 1972;
- Ivan Kreševljak, son of Zrino, born in 1975;
- Toni Jazvić, son of Ivan, born in 1975; and
- Mario Barešić, son of Marko, born in 1974.

During the sanitation of the ground bodies were found of those who tried to save themselves by taking to flight. The body of the killed *Marko Buhić* was found on the road, or more exactly, only the upper part of the body, and he was buried as such. A score of days later the lower part of the body was found: the legs, the open pelvis and a part of the spine. The body of *Novka Jurić* was found near by. During the sanitation of the ground, on one of the terraces in the village, the body of *Dragica Petrović* was found with a visible knife cut below the right rib arch. The report on the autopsy of the bodies found at the locality of Buhine Kuće states that it was established that *Draženko Jutenda* was captured wounded and then killed at close range with fire-arms - a shot in the head. The autopsy also confirmed that *Dragica Petrović* was killed by having been ripped up with a knife in the region of the right rib arch.

The examination of the body of *Nikola Janković*, an HVO member, shows that he, after having been wounded in the leg, tried to stop the bleeding, for he was found with his leg tied off with the army belt. However, he was seized by A RBiH soldiers and killed. The autopsy showed that Janković was killed with an axe (his head was cut up from above the right brow to the back).

In the same way the bodies of the remaining 14 killed Croatian civilians were found including three women. The bodies of the killed bore through-shot wounds and cuts inflicted by cold steel.

An abstract from the statement of a surviving witness speaks of the crime committed on the civilian population, especially on under age children, by A RBiH soldiers at Buhine Kuće:

"...Behind that house my wife was mown down by a burst of fire, and I was hit in the left upper arm, on which my child was leaning. They killed my baby in my arms. I ran helter-skelter all about the yard; the furious Muslim

soldiers were running in the direction of the child's cry. 'Butcher them all!' 'Burn down everything!' 'Allahu ekber!' - I heard the cries of the raving soldiers... I also heard a painful 'howling' of a man whom the Muslim soldiers had caught. In the yard of a house I saw the killed A.V. (she was lying on her left side). I saw another three killed women. Their faces were turned to the ground so that I don't know who they were.

I carried my son Danijel, born in 1992, as far as the clinic in Vitez, and from there he was transported to Nova Bila. The same day he died of the sustained wounds. I remained without my wife and my only child..."

The perpetrators of the crime at Buhine Kuće are the soldiers of the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH.

The responsibility for the crime rests with **Mehmed Alagić**, and deputy commander of the 3. Corps **Džemal Merdan**.

The attack on Buhine Kuće and the murders were carried out by the members of the unit which included mujahedins - a unit from Zenica called "Gerila". The commanders of the said unit are Turkish nationals of Bosnian origin:

- **Haris Husković** AKA Hamza;
- **Mehmed Husković**, resident of Sarajevo;
- **Kemal Turković**;
- **Faik Duraković**, commander of the "Gerila" unit;
- **Elvir Karić**, commander of a section participating in the murders;
- **Fidija Kahrیمان**, a member of the "Gerila" unit;
- **Bećir Kahrیمان**, a member of the "Gerila" unit;
- **Haris Takalić**, a member of the "Gerila" unit; and
- **Zero Beganović**, a member of the "Gerila" unit.

18. MUNICIPALITY OF ZAVIDOVIĆI

According to the 1991 census the Municipality of Zavidovići had 57,164 inhabitants: Muslims 34,198; Croats 7,576; Serbs 11,640; Others 3,750.

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18.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZAVIDOVIĆI

On 24 June 1993 there came to an armed conflict between the so-called A RBiH and the HVO in the Municipality of Žepče, while on the territory of the Municipality of Zavidovići the Muslim forces regrouped in order to banish the Croats from that Municipality or rather to take over the control of the part of the Municipality inhabited predominantly by the Croats, and which was under the control of the 111. xp HVO Brigade. The A RBiH units from Zavidovići, first of all the 318. Brigade, reinforced by the unit "Zelene beretke" ("Green Baretts") and other units for special purposes, started occupying dominant facilities and deploying snipers who controlled the routes and villages with majority Croatian population, and opened fire at all moving targets with an intention to kill and then exile as many Croats as possible, creating so the conditions for plundering and destroying of Croatian property in the town and in the surrounding villages. This whole process had been carefully planned from the highest Muslim top: the War Presidency of the Municipality of Zavidovići, chaired by **Halid Muhić**, and the SDA, whose chairman was **Husein Muratović**. The plan was implemented by A RBiH units headed by **Refik Lendo**, initiator of the conflicts between the HVO and the so-called A RBiH in the Lašva Valley, and the commander of the 318. Brigade, **Jasmin Šarić**.

The conflict between the so-called A RBiH and the HVO in the Municipality of Zavidovići was preceded by a number of incidents provoked by A RBiH units, encouraged by the Muslim political top, which manifested itself through setting of police check-points in the areas with Croatian majority, attempts to place the HVO and HOS units under the command of the so-called A RBiH, and physical assaults on HVO members. One of such examples was the murder of **Boris Tešanović**, an HVO member, who was killed with fire-arms by a member of the A RBiH MP.

18.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZAVIDOVIĆI

During the conflict itself, a major number of civilians was killed, especially on the territory of the Municipality that had remained under the control of the so-called A RBiH. A certain number of civilians was killed or wounded by sniper fire or in the shelling of civilian targets in the depth of the HVO-controlled territory. During the conflicts 37 civilian persons were killed, and 18 more seriously wounded, most of them in the A RBiH-controlled area. The proportions of the crime committed by A RBiH units, are best visible from the way the civilians of Croatian nationality were killed:

- *Pero Dojmi*, was killed during forced labour, while digging trenches for A RBiH units in the area of Vozuća.
- *Nikola Dusper*, was killed by a sniper shot on 25 June 1993 in Zavidovići.
- In the area of Viništa, sniper shots fired from A RBiH positions killed the following civilians: *Vlado Tomas*, 25 June 1993, *Jozo Tomić*, 27 June 1993 and *Pero Marković*, 7 July 1993.
- *Anto Tadić*, born in 1951, was captured on 25 June 1993, and killed on 7 July 1993 in Dubravica.
- *Josip Vološčuk*, was captured by A RBiH soldiers and killed in Vrbica on 25 June 1993.
- *Ivica Grlić*, born in 1968 was captured on 25 June 1993, after which he was tortured and killed in Dubravica. The responsibility for his death is born by *Mujo Latifović*, commander of a platoon from Dubravica.
- *Marko Šimić* and *Anto Ivešić* were captured by A RBiH soldiers, on 26 June 1993 in their homes in the village of Debelo Brdo, after which they killed and mutilated them. Marko Šimić had one fist and both ears cut off, and his tongue pulled out through a cut in the throat. Anto Ivešić was stripped naked and left so in front of the house.
- *Anto Jukić*, born in 1946 and *Damir Nedić* were killed on 5 July 1993 in the shelling of the village of Jukići.
- *Ivo Kajić*, born in 1942 and *Marijan Matic*, born in 1976, were captured on 20 July 1993, and killed from behind in the region of Lovnica with fire-arms shots.
- *Janko Marković* was killed by a sniper shot on 19 August 1993 in the region of Dubravica.
- *Nikola Vrbić*, captured in Biljačić, and killed at forced labour on 25 August 1993 in the area of Dubravica.

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- *Franjo Vrbić*, born in 1937, was killed by a sniper shot in Biljačić.
- *Alekasndar Petrov*, was wounded at capture in Zavidovići, and after that he was tortured and killed by A RBiH member **Rifat Sabitović**.
- *Mato Marjanović* was killed in Zavidovići by A RBiH soldiers from Gornji Lug with surnames of **Ahmetović** and **Kovačević**.
- *Ivica Antunović*, was killed while digging trenches for the so-called A RBiH.
- *Mara Lukić* was killed by an exploding shell in the shelling of a civilian settlement from the A RBiH positions, on 7 September 1993.
- *Niko Ilić*, *Ivica Šimić* and *Mato Ivešić*, born in 1929 were killed in the village of Dolina by sniper shots fired from the A RBiH positions.
- *Milosava Antunović*, born in 1948, was killed from the consequences of the shelling of civilian targets in the village of Osova.
- *Ivica Tadić*, was captured on 20 September 1993, and after that he was killed by Fikret Fejzić from Lovnica.

and *Ivica Tadić* were killed in a raid of the so-called A



Apart from the home units and individuals of the so-called A RBiH, mujahedins, who were under the patronage of the SDA leadership from Zavidovići, were also participating in the exile and maltreatment of the Croats. Mujahedins and the units they were in were especially brutal towards the Croats who had been captured or forcibly engaged in work platoons on the defence lines held by the so-called A RBiH. In August 1993 mujahedins beat up *Ivica Ivandić*, and then raped his daughter. Also, mujahedins beat up an old woman *Marica Enling*, and *Nikica Tadić* from Podubravlje, whom they captured when he tried an escape from Zavidovići, after which they beat and maltreated him for about 10 days. Also, when the faithful were returning from the Mass on the feast Our Lady's Nativity, 8 September 1993, A RBiH soldiers and a number of Muslim civilians insulted and physically attacked some of them. Especially frequent verbal attacks were aimed at the parish priest *Žarko Vujica* whom the local authorities did not want to protect in spite of the frequent calls from his office when he was physically maltreated. All the Croats that had remained on the territory under the control of the so-called A RBiH were included in the work platoons for digging trenches on the front lines.

The units that participated in the said cases are:

- 318. and 320. Brigade A RBiH from Zavidovići,
- The special unit "Green Barrets",
- The unit of the Military Police from Zavidovići,
- "The Sniper Detachment" from Zenica,
- "The Green Legion",
- The special unit "Asim Čamdžić",
- The special unit "Itani", and
- Other units of the 2. and 3. Corps A RBiH.

For the exile and murders of the Croats in Zavidovići directly responsible is the political and military top:

- **Halid Muhić**, president of the War Presidency Zavidovići,
- **Husein Muratović**, president of the SDA Zavidovići,
- **Refik Lendo**, commander of the OG "Bosna",
- **Ahmet Odžackić**, deputy commander of the OG "Bosna",
- **Husein Zilkić**, deputy president of the War Presidency Zavidovići,
- **Jasmin Šarić**, commander of the 318. Brigade A RBiH,
- **Šemsudin Srejić**, commander of a battalion of the 318. Brigade A RBiH,
- **Edin Bešlagić**, commander of a battalion of the 318. Brigade A RBiH,
- **Fuad Zilkić**, commander of the 320. Brigade A RBiH,
- **Mirsad Starčević**, commander of a battalion of the 320. Brigade A RBiH,
- **Nurija Bašić**, prison warden,
- **Mirsad Kadić**, chief of the Zavidovići MUP

Direct perpetrators of the crime on the Croats on the territory of the Municipality of Zavidovići are:

- **Amer Džaknić**, commander of the IDV,
- **Vahid Alić**, commander of the defence line towards Vinište,
- **Zair Ribić**, exiled the Croats from Podubravlje,
- **Amir Imširović**, deputy prison warden,
- **Edhem Džinić**, sniper,
- **Hadis Vrgočević**, sniper,
- **Fikret Bešić**, sniper.

18.3. PRISONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZAVIDOVIĆI

After the outbreak of conflicts in the Municipality of Zavidovići, a military custody was formed in the cellar of the old town hall. Its purpose was acceptance, questioning and detention of the Croats who had remained on the territory under the control of the so-called ARBiH, and their sending to the forced labour: digging of trenches on the front line, pulling out of the wounded, repair of war damage and hard manual labour while constantly exposed to war operations and direct peril. In doing the above works, a number of internees was killed or seriously wounded.

In the first month of the conflict all able-bodied men, Croats, were kept in custody, especially those living on the left bank of the river Bosna under the control of the so-called ARBiH.

The internees had a very bad treatment, very bad hygienic conditions, food was meagre, and they were often maltreated by the guards.

The prison manager was **Nurija Bašić**, and his deputy **Amir Imširović**.

19. MUNICIPALITY OF ZENICA

According to the 1991 census the Municipality of Zenica had 145,518 inhabitants: Muslims 80,359; Croats 22,510; Serbs 22,434; Others 20,215.

19.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ZENICA

The realization of the plan of military officials of the so-called A RBiH - taking control of the Municipality of Zenica and subordination of the HVO units - started on 15 April 1993. On that day the members of the "El Mudžahid" detachment, who were under direct command of the 3 Corps of the so-called A RBiH, at the locality of Podbriježje, kidnapped *Živko Tolić*, commander of the Zenica HVO Briagde, killed four policemen in his escort: *Ivica Vidović*, *Marko Ljubić*, *Tihomir Ljubić* and *Anto Zrnčić*, as well as an accidental passer-by of Muslim nationality. That this kidnapping was planned and coordinated from the highest top of the A RBiH command, will be shown by other events, described in detail on the pages that follow. Three days later A RBiH soldiers launched an all-out attack on the Croats and the HVO units in the Municipality of Zenica. Only in one day 6 000 Croats living in the Municipality of Zenica were exiled. In the next few months another 6 000 Croats were exiled, which means that in the first half of the year 1993, more than a half of the Croatian population of the Municipality of Zenica was exiled.

The exodus of the Croats of the Municipality of Zenica continued even after the signing of the Washington Agreement. Presently in Zenica there lives a very small number out of 22,500 pre-war Croats that had lived there until the Croato-Muslim conflicts. They are mostly aged people while younger generations of Croats are mainly leaving the area of the Municipality of Zenica for existential and safety reasons. When with the cessation of combat activities the whole territory of the Municipality of Zenica was placed under the control of the so-called A RBiH, statistically seen only 5% Croats live on the territory of the Municipality of Zenica. The places in which the Croats used to live before the war in BiH have been ethnically completely cleansed.

Heavy violations of the humanitarian law on civilian population and the violation of the Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war were recorded during 1993, at the time of offensive actions of the so-called A RBiH in the Municipality of Zenica. In the said period A RBiH soldiers committed the crime against the civilian population in the villages of: **Šušanj**, **Dusina**, **Bilivode** and **Zmajevac**, and in the very town of **Zenica**.

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Shortly before the outbreak of an open attack on HVO members and the Croats living in the Municipality of Zenica, demonstrations of force, aimed at intimidating the Croats, were recorded in the town itself. The members of the 7. Muslim Brigade, composed of mujahedins, were marching in the streets of the town every day. In the evening hours the Croats were led away, and increasingly frequent provocations were recorded on the local radio station Zenica, which additionally deteriorated the relations between the two ethnic groups.

As early as on 17 April 1993, the so-called A RBiH attacked the HVO on the hill of Kuber, as well as the Croatian village of Bilivode.

The next day the units of the 3. Corps of the so-called A RBiH, as well as special MUP units, in a coordinated and planned action, attacked the HVO units and all Croatian villages in the Municipality of Zenica from several directions. Before the very attack, all major traffic routes had been cut, and the HVO members, who had remained in the town, were apprehended. Having captured the Kuber elevation, the so-called A RBiH had cut the Croats of Zenica from the Lašva Valley; the eastern part of the town across the Bosna river was also cut off (Crkvice, Gračanica, Perin Han). With the general attack of the so-called A RBiH on HVO units and the civilian population in the western side of Zenica (Podbriježje, Janjac, Grm. Zmajevac, Stranjani, Čajdraš, Gornja Zenica, Raspotočje) most of the Croats disappeared from this region; more than 600 buildings were plundered and burnt, dozens of civilians and prisoners were killed. Most of the exiled, more than 3,000 of them, together with HVO members found themselves in an encirclement in the village of Čajdraš, while the 2. Battalion of the HVO Zenica Brigade - together with the civilian population from Stranjani, Janjac and Konjevići - got through to Ovnak. In Čajdraš, about 500 civilians and HVO members were captured and interned in the KPD Zenica. All this was happening in spite of negotiations that were intensively going on with the Muslim side.

On 18 April 1993, the Croatian Home was attacked; as early as at 05.00 hours A RBiH soldiers attacked the HVO Headquarters at Trokuće, in spite of an agreement on cooperation and joint patrols.

19.2. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

In early 1993 two prisons were established in the narrow town area:

1. KPD (House of Correction) Zenica and
2. Building of the Musical School in Zenica.

On 17 April 1993, after A RBiH units had started the action of apprehending the Croats in the Municipality of Zenica, especially of the members of the HVO Zenica Brigade, they were put in the above mentioned prisons.

19.2.1. The Prison in the Musical School Building

The Croats, HVO members and civilians, were placed in the cellar rooms of the school building. There was no inflow of fresh air to the cellar in spite of the windows which the prisoners did not dare to open because on several occasions A RBiH soldiers opened fire at the windows of the rooms they were placed in. The walls were wet with moisture. The prisoners slept on wooden pallets. Since there was a large number of prisoners in the cells, they had to sleep in shifts, because the floor was of concrete and wet with moisture. From the cellar rooms they would be taken out for the so-called questioning, which was accompanied by beating, and physical and psychical maltreatment. During the questioning, the interrogators would take personal and identification data from prisoners; they were especially interested in the names of Croatian military and civilian officials, depending on the area the interrogated person came from. When the persons summoned for interrogation was leaving the cellar they were confined in, they would be beaten at the very exit from the cellar. The interrogation took place on the third floor of the Musical School. In the first days the prison guards and wardens used to withhold food from the internees who were in addition beaten. The said interrogations could last for as many as six hours on end. They were usually carried out at night in order to disturb the biorhythm of internees, which was a way of psychical maltreatment of internees. In order to damp the cries of the person interrogated and beaten, they would play loud Islamic religious music. Another way of psychical maltreatment was forcing the prisoners to learn Islamic prayers and religious songs.

If the interrogator/torturer was not satisfied with the answers to the questions put, beating followed so that some of the internees would be brought back to the cell unconscious. Even before a prisoner could have a chance to answer the questions put to him, he had already been beaten by the members of the A RBiH Military Police who were taking him for interrogation. Two brothers, **Smajo and Sejdo Osmanović**, were among these policemen.

With the increase of the number of internees in the Musical School building, physical and psychical maltreatment gained in intensity. According to the statements of internees in the Musical School in Zenica, they got food very rarely; it was a custom to jump a whole day in the food supply. In the cellar rooms of the prison another difficulty for detainees was the way of easing nature. There was a can of about 4 litres in the cell into which the prisoners relieved themselves. Given that in one room there were up to 20 detainees, urine and faeces spread an unbearable stench in a room without fresh air inflow. Some detainees even gave up food and water sometimes in order to reduce the need of relieving themselves. Another reason for refusing food was that the detainees had to refer to the guards for food, which only gave them another occasion to beat the detainees.

The cellar was damp to such an extent that the walls were wet. The windows had to be kept closed because A RBiH soldiers, on their return from the battlefield, were in the habit of shooting at the building of the Musical School.

Apropos of this, *Anto Vrvilo*, one of detainees, drew the attention of one of the guards, *Vahid Dizdarević* from Vrselj near Poljska, to this wanton shooting, and he promised to see to it. However, ten minutes afterwards Anto Vrvilo was taken to a cell where some Muslims were locked up who had refused to go to the front, and they beat him up. After that Anto Vrvilo was returned to his cell where he got about 100 blows with a wooden baton. While he was lying on the floor unconscious, one of A RBiH soldiers made a photograph of him.

On 5 June 1993 the detainees were taken away in an unknown direction, except two of them who were relocated to the attic. One of these two was charged with cleaning the WC and on such occasions he would often meet foreign citizens of Islamic origin in the building of the Musical School, distinguishable by their dark complexion and long beards. In a neighbouring room in the attic these strangers were performing their religious rites. On the door the word "Hezbollah" was written in Latin alphabet, while in the rooms, where religious rites were performed, there were texts of Islamic religious prayers.

According to the statement of detainees, the internees of this prison were several times relocated in order to conceal the real conditions the detainees were kept in, and the persons who were detained there.

Below we shall deal with only some of the ways of physical and psychical maltreatment of interned Croats in the building of the Musical School in Zenica.

Apart from unsuitable living conditions in the premises of the Musical School, and the everyday physical and psychical maltreatment, the internees were several times used for the performance of hard manual work. It is the detainees registered by the ICRC. A number of internees were kept hidden from the international humanitarian organisations.

On one occasion, *Vlatko Ivanković*, one of detainees, dug out a pit in front of the Music School building. After that, another detainee was brought to the pit and told this was going to be his grave "unless he is cooperative", that is if he fails to answer the questions according to their instructions. The detainee, *Slavko Mandić*, who had gone through heavy physical treatment, was once asked: "**Would you be sorry if we cut your throat?**", and Mandić had to answer: "**No, I would not**". At that one of them, with his "Bowie" knife, cut off the collar of his shirt and made a cut on his throat.

In the Music School prison, a concentration camp for the Serbs and Croats, 12 internees were killed.

19.2.2. The Correction House (KPD) in Zenica

During April 1993, besides the detainees from other parts of central Bosnia, more than 450 Croats only from the area of the Municipality of Zenica were interned in the KPD Zenica.

In May 1993, criminal proceedings were instituted against 57 internees because of their membership in HVO units. Detainees who had spent a certain time in the Musical School used to be deported to the KPD, to recover, as witnesses state, after physical maltreatment, although here, too, food was meagre and maltreatment on the everyday agenda.

In the prison the internees were not allowed to speak with other internees. The internees had to stand to attention in their cells when the members of the A RBiH Military Police were passing by.

In the prison premises there were rooms where civilians were interned and a building where HVO members were detained. The KPD Zenica also had a cell where some Croats were confined who were not known of, that is, they had no contacts with other detainees, and were not registered by the ICRC.

Fahrudin Skopljak, commander of the security of the KPD camp, especially stood out in maltreatment and beating of detainees.

The persons responsible for the affliction of the detainees in the Music School prison in Zenica and for the murders of Croats in the Zenica district are:

- Jasmin Isić,
- Mensur Pijanić,
- Besim Perenda AKA Šukrija,
- Nesib Talić,
- Vehid Dizdarević,
- Faruk Avdić,
- Hajran Pašanović,
- Jusuf Karalić,
- Nešib Delabić,
- Smajo Osmanović,
- Sabahudin Sarajlić,
- Fuad Karalić,
- Nesib Dragilović,
- Hajrudin Dulan,
- Sejo Osmanović,
- Emir effendi Mahmutefendija Karalić,
- Jusuf Šeta, warden of the prison on behalf of the 7. Muslim Brigade, and
- Šerif Patković.

19.3. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS, INFLECTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

Three months before A RBiH soldiers started the general attack on the Croats of the Zenica Municipality, or more exactly on 26 January 1993, in the villages of **Dusina** and **Višnjica** A RBiH soldiers had executed by shooting 14 (fourteen) persons of Croatian nationality.

In the village of **Dusina**, in addition to seven Croatian families and a few persons of Serbian nationality, there were some refugees from the villages of Višnjica and Šušanj, who had tried to reach the territory under the control of the HVO. However, in the offensive actions of the so-called A RBiH, they were seized together with the locals of Dusina. After having separated men from women, a group of civilians was singled out (younger women, girls and men) who were used as a living shield in the attacks of the so-called A RBiH aimed at conquering the remaining villages of the Zenica Municipality. Two hours later they were returned and accommodated in a family house in Dusina. After that they started taking out the men who would be returned to the room with visible injuries caused by beating. When an A RBiH commander, who participated in the attacks around Zenica, was killed, A RBiH soldiers opened fire at the family house where the apprehended Croats were. When the shooting stopped, one of A RBiH soldiers came into the house and, on the basis of a list he was holding in the hand, singled out a group of about 10 Croats who were then shot dead. About 18:00 hours the Croats from Dusina were sent to Višnjica and placed in a school building in which the Croats from Višnjica and Lašva had already been locked up. The crime in the village of Dusina will be dealt with in more detail in the Chapter with the same name.

In the village of **Zmajevac**, Municipality of Zenica, on 18 April 1993, A RBiH units carried out a classical execution on 6 (six) civilians, out of which three bed-ridden old men of 80 years of age (*Anto Vidović*, *Ivan Vidović* and *Jure Krešo*), then on *Stipe Trogrlić*, aged 60, a four-year-old girl *Magdalena Zrnčić*, and *Jozo Anić*.

The three old men, *Anto* and *Ivan Vidović* and *Jure Krešo*, were killed in their family houses. *Stipo Trogrlić* was killed on his door-step, while the little girl *Magdalena Zrnčić* was killed in the arms of her mother who was wounded on that occasion. *Jozo Anić* was first apprehended and then killed with cold steel (butchered).

The statement of a woman witness of the massacre in the village of Zmajevac says:

"...She was in front of me so that the bullet hit her in the ear on the right side of the cheek and penetrated into her stomach. The little girl started spitting blood, three times so, her whole body was jerking. We screamed and shouted to him not to shoot, for women and children are inside. The khoja paid no heed to that and fired a whole burst at us..."

After that the khoja ordered that we be taken to the assembling place. I had to leave the dead child at home. They were setting all Croatian houses on fire, haystacks, stables and all. They burnt our stable, too, killing a cow, a calf, a goat and three kids. And all that burnt down to the ground. The soldiers were shouting 'Allahu ekber' and others responded with 'Allahu ekber'. The khoja was shouting 'Allah is slaughtering', and the others were responding at the top of their voices 'Allah is slaughtering', and that day they burnt down all the villages on the slopes of Zmajevac (Kozarci, Zalje, Grm). More than 50 houses were burnt down, the whole population was exiled, and the unburnt houses were plundered."

On 25 April 1993 the locals found three burnt corpses in a weekend house of Neda and Mira Župan in the village of Bilivode. A later autopsy identified the victims as **Jozo Krišto** born in 1926, **Luka Šestan**, born in 1930 and **Mirko Letić**, born in 1948. According to the statements of witnesses, all the three were snatched in their family houses on 19 April 1993 and burnt alive in the said weekend house. Last time they were seen in the place of Rašće, on the road to Zenica. They were sitting by the roadside with their hands tied behind the back. **Eniz Bašić**, an A RBiH soldier, and several other A RBiH soldiers were together with them.

In the period from April to June 1993 in the place of Bilivode about 30 family houses owned by the Croats were burnt down. All the Croatian inhabitants were banished.

On 8 June 1993 an attack on the village of Šušanj was launched from the direction of the village of Poratje, when A RBiH soldiers killed 16 civilian persons, mainly aged people, while all the inhabitants of Šušanj were exiled. The following people were shot dead in the village:

- **Vlado Marković**, son of Boriša, born in 1922,
- **Dragan Vidošević**, son of Mate, born in 1909,
- **Drago Marković**, son of Pavao, born in 1933,
- **Niko Vidošević**, son of Stipe, born in 1922,
- **Anto Vidošević**, son of Anto, born in 1916,
- **Anto Marković**, son of Mate, a bed-ridden person killed in the family house,
- **Kazimir Marković**, son of Stipe, born in 1931, after having been wounded in the village of Šušanj, died in Zenica hospital.

After that the following people were killed:

- **Zoran Marković**, son of Jozo, born in 1956;
- **Rudo Marković**, son of Borko, born in 1951 (died from the consequences of wounding for he bled to death);
- **Ilija Marković** son of Zorka, born in 1962, was shot dead after he had been transported as wounded with civilians;
- **Ilija Vidošević**, son of Stipe, born in 1912, shot dead in the village;
- **Stanko Marković**, son of Pavao, born in 1931, was found shot dead in a nearby forest where he was buried on 14 June 1993;

- *Jordan Vidošević*, son of Toma, born in 1913, shot dead in the village and buried at Ovnak;
- *Željko Vidošević*, son of Anto, born in 1970, shot dead in the village, and
- *Ivo Vuleta*, son of Drago, born in 1952, and another unidentified male person, also both shot dead in the village.

By the inspection of the list of those shot dead, it is evident that, with the exception of a few younger men, most of them were aged persons. The crime on the civilian population in the village of Šušanj was committed by the members of the 314. Mountain Brigade A RBiH; 303. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, and the members of the 7. Muslim Brigade, since the surviving witnesses saw the symbols of the said units on the uniforms of A RBiH soldiers who participated in the attacks. One of the responsible ones is **Besim Spahić** who, according to the statements of witnesses, insisted on ethnic cleansing. Also, there are witnesses who at the time specified were interned in the KPD Zenica and they bear witness that a part of the building was evacuated for, as the prison guards then said, "the Ustashes from Ovnak".

A witness of Muslim nationality bears witness in his statement to the execution of the Croats of the village of Šušanj:

*"...I happened to be in the village of Šušanj on 8. 6. 1993 when the Muslim army was attacking this village. It was worst about 11 o'clock when shells were landing all about the village, and all the inhabitants started fleeing towards Ovnak. The attack was coming from the village of Poratje, and the Muslim army was already entering the village from eastern and northern side with the cries 'Allahu ekber'. The shooting stopped in the afternoon, maybe about 16:00 hours, and then the 'cleansing' of the village started, as the Muslim soldiers called it... Two hours later I saw the soldiers leading down the road the old men **Marković Vlado, Vidošević Anto and Vidošević Niko**. The soldiers were wearing the symbols of the military police (Later I learnt that they belonged to the 314. A RBiH Brigade). Then out of Slavko's house they led Vidošević Dragun, he was over 86 and could hardly walk....They were plundering the houses....Then they took us towards Ovnak. At one moment Vlado said "Osman, give my love to my children"...*

Then down the hill there came 3 - 4 soldiers painted with masking colours and asked whether they were Ustashes, and about me whether I was a Ustasha, too. They answered: 'He is one of ours'. Then they moved down the four old men with bursts of fire. I was trembling all over..."

After the exile of a large number of Croatian population that had lived in the Zenica Municipality, and after the Municipality had been placed under the control of the so-called A RBiH, murders and maltreatment of the Croats continued. Below we shall mention only some of intentional and unprovoked murders of the Croats.

- *Dragutin Jonjić*, killed in his family house in the sight of his wife;
- *Dalibor Tavić*, killed in the Music School prison in Zenica;
- *Ivan Gavranović*, killed in the street in Zenica;
- *Alojz Štrbac*, died of the wounds inflicted by a shell fragment;
- *Jozo Udovičić*, killed by a hand grenade;

- *Nikola Botić*, killed together with his wife with a hand grenade;
 - *Božo Jerković*, killed in the village of Janjac;
 - *Andrija Štrbac*, together with his under age son *Ivica*, born in 1979, as already said, was driven into a mine field;
 - *Tomislav Trogrlić*, disappeared in 1997. His body was found in the region of Šljivčica;
 - *Vjekoslav Pandža*, also disappeared and so did *Zora Mandić*.
- In the period from 1993 to 1997, two women were raped.

In August 1993, A RBiH soldiers attacked the parish church in Crkvice. On that occasion they beat the parish priest *Zvonko Rajić*, the chaplain and a nun. The parish house was looted. The Caritas warehouse was also plundered. A group of Croatian women from Zenica organised a protest rally during the same month in front of the seat of the EU Monitoring Mission, but A RBiH soldiers dispersed them with batons and teargas.

The so-called A RBiH used the Croats from the Zenica Municipality as a living shield in the attacks on the remaining areas of Central Bosnia. The evidence of that are the corpses of the Croats found every now and then all about central Bosnia.

After the so-called A RBiH had occupied the whole Zenica Municipality, they started a forced mobilization of the Croats into the units of the so-called A RBiH. About 2,500 Croats were forced to leave their family houses and sleep in the woods. Such as were apprehended were driven to perform hard manual labour, to fortify the defence line and the like.

Also, the Croats who refused to join the so-called A RBiH were interned in the prisons in Zenica. For this reason about 450 Croats were interned. Criminal proceedings were instituted against them for the criminal act of "mutiny against the state and the A RBiH". Maximal prison sentences were pronounced on such occasions as in the case of *Vinko Vidović*, sentenced to 10 years of jail. Court proceedings were instituted against 52 detainees for the criminal offence of "armed rebellion".

During its offensive actions the so-called A RBiH established prisons in the narrow town area, or more exactly, in the KPD Zenica and in the Music School, to which the Croats from the Zenica Municipality were deported as well as the Croats apprehended in other parts of central Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, the so-called A RBiH, established a prison in the village of Gračanica in the building of the Elementary School. More than 1 000 persons of Croatian nationality went through the said prisons. Only the prisoners in the KPD Zenica were registered by the ICRC.

In April 1993 in the KPD Zenica there were 500 interned Croats. About 150 HVO members were taken away by the soldiers of the 7. Muslim Brigade.

In the period from 17 April 1993 to 16 May 1993, 32 HVO members were killed, 320 of them were imprisoned in the KPD Zenica; about 600 Croatian family houses

were burnt down, while others were plundered or devastated. More than 5,000 Croats were exiled from Zenica. A commission composed of Željko Tadić, Franjo Kržanac, the parish priest, Pero Karajica, the parish priest and Božo Marković, on 18 June 1993, made a tour of the villages in which the Croats used to live and found out that in the village of Šušanj, 27 civilians were confined in two houses, and that the business facilities had been devastated or burnt down. From the village of Konjevići, the hamlet of Malkin, the Croatian civilian population had been banished.

With the cessation of combat activities in the area of the Zenica Municipality, desecration and destruction of religious structures were recorded. The chapel in the village of Podbriježje and most of tombstones and crosses were pulled down. In the villages of: Stranjani, Crkvice, Čajdraš, Raspočje, Perin Han and other places where the Croats used to live, tombstones and crosses were pulled down, and the church in Čajdraš was shot at. St. Elijah's Church in Zenica was stoned, explosive was planted under the entrance of St. Joseph's Church. In addition to the above stated, Catholic religious ministers were physically attacked several times; the parish priest in Crkvice was beaten up and so was a nun.

The units participating in the murders and imprisonment of the Croats living in the Zenica Municipality are:

- 3. Corps A RBiH;
- 314. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- 303. Mountain Brigade A RBiH;
- 7. Muslim Brigade A RBiH;
- Detachment "El Mudžahid";
- Battalion of the MP of the so-called A RBiH; and
- Special units of the MUP.

The persons responsible for the affliction of the Croats living in the Zenica Municipality are:

- **Stjepan Šiber**, member of the GS of the so-called A RBiH;
- **Ejup Ganić**, member of the Presidency of the then R BiH;
- **Behrudin Salčinović**, SDA republican delegate, governor of the Zenica/Doboj Canton;
- **Besim Spahić**, chief of the Municipal Council of the Zenica Municipality;
- **Fuad Džidić**, president of the OO SDA of the Zenica Municipality;
- **Enver Hadžihasanović**, commander of the 3. Corps A RBiH;
- **Džemal Merdan**, one of high officials of the 3. Corps A RBiH;
- **Jasmin Šarić**, one of high officials of the 3. Corps A RBiH;
- **Ibrahim Purić**, commander of a reconnaissance unit called "Zelena legija";
- **Šerif Patković**, member of the 7. Muslim Brigade;
- **Halil Brzina**, member of the 7. Muslim Brigade;

- Abu-El-A-Miali, "El Mudžahid" detachment;
- Jusuf Šeta, warden of the KPD prison Zenica;
- Vehid Subotić AKA Geler, responsible for the suffering of the Croats in Dusina;
- a certain Khoja from Puhovac, responsible for the suffering of the Croats in Zmajevac;
- Fahrudin Skopljak, commander of security in the KPD camp Zenica and
- Hasan Alić, warden of the KPD camp.

19.3.1. The Crime in the Village of Dusina

Three months before the general attacks of the so-called A RBiH on the HVO and the Croatian population of the Municipality of Zenica started, in the village of Dusina, within the Local Community of Lašva, Municipality of Zenica, 10 persons of Croatian nationality had been killed on 26 January 1993. A day before, fearing the forthcoming attacks of A RBiH soldiers, the civilians from the village of Višnjiča had found temporary refuge in Dusina, while army-able men tried to organise some kind of defence, or more exactly to establish a defence line which had not existed before.

Violation of the humanitarian law and of the law of war in the treatment of the Croatian civilian population in the Local Community (LC) of Lašva by A RBiH units, recorded in the village of Dusina, started in the early morning hours by the attack on a small HVO unit and civilian population, when A RBiH soldiers, provoked by nothing, killed 10 Croats, seven of whom were executed by firing squad, two were killed during the attack, and one died after physical maltreatment. It should be noted that 76 % of the total population of the LC Lašva were Muslims, and that the LC Lašva could not possibly have been an insecurity factor for A RBiH units. In the village of Dusina, LC Lašva, there lived seven Croatian families and a few persons of Serbian nationality.

The night before the very attack, electricity supply was cut so that A RBiH soldiers could sneak unobserved deep into the territory of the LC Lašva inhabited by the Croats. After they had disarmed the small HVO unit, made of the domicile population, the participants in the attack started apprehending the Croats who happened to be in Dusina. Together with the HVO members they were taken to the Muslim part of the village of Dusina. The captives were brought in front of the house of Nijaz Elvid. The captured HVO members, together with younger women and men, civilians, were singled out of the group of the Croats apprehended in Dusina and taken as a living shield to force a group of about 10 HVO members at the locality of Brdo to surrender without offering any resistance. The commander of the defence at the locality of Brdo was told that the women would be pushed forward unless they surrender.

Since it was only a few HVO members, they surrendered and were taken, together with others, to the house of Stipe Kegelj where the civilians had already been locked up. After that the A RBiH soldiers started the interrogation, or more

exactly, it was the weapons they were interested in. All that was accompanied by physical maltreatment and threats. Among others, one of the captured was threatened with the murder of his daughter unless he told them where the weapons were that the Croats of the village of Dusina had already given over to A RBiH soldiers at capture. According to the statements of the survivors, *Mladenko Kegelj* who had been taken to the "Mejtek" building, died of the consequences of physical maltreatment. They took the men one by one out, and after some time would bring them back to the room with visible signs of physical maltreatment. At the news of the death of a commander of their units, A RBiH soldiers closed the door of the house in which the apprehended Croats were, and then opened small arms fire at it. When the shooting stopped, *Ahmet Elvid* entered the room and, on the basis of a list he had, called over nine men who were then taken out of the room. Ten minutes after that, seven of them were executed by firing squad, while two from the said list survived.

The surviving captives spent that night in the house of Stipe Kegelj, and after that were deported to the village of Lašva where they were placed in the building of the Elementary School, in which the Croats from the villages of Višnjica and Lašva (LC Lašva, Municipality of Zenica) had already been confined.

Two days later, 50 Croatian families, after having handed over the keys of their family houses, were exiled from the area of the LC Lašva to Zenica, and further to Busovača. 31 (thirty-one) civilian persons, together with the HVO members, were taken to the KPD Zenica and to the Music School prison in Zenica.

From a total number of the apprehended, 25 were confined in the KPD Zenica while six of them *Viktor Rajić*, *Jozo Krišto*, *Srećko Krišto*, *Dragan Radoš* and *Franjo Batinić* were taken to Music School first where they were kept for three days, and after that were transferred to the KPD Zenica, unconscious due to physical maltreatment.

The bodies of the Croats executed in Dusina were taken to the Zenica hospital where the cause of their death was established by autopsy. After the autopsy of the corpses of the executed Croats a protocol was made, which, at the request of the families of the dead, was never presented.

That it was a planned and organised crime against the civilian Croatian population, as already stated, is confirmed by the fact that such a small number of the domicile Croats living in the area of the LC Lašva could not be any threat to the A RBiH units, since these were the villages with predominantly Muslim population, 76% of them.

In the attack of A RBiH units on the village of Dusina the following people were killed:

- *Draženko Kegelj*, born in 1973,

- *Franjo Rajić*, born in 1965, a

- *Mladen Kegelj*, born in 1969, was taken out of the house of Stipe Kegelj to the Muslim religious building Mejtek where he died of the consequences of physical maltreatment.

The Croats executed in the village of Dusina, who were taken out of the house of Stipe Kegelj, where they had been confined, are:

- *Niko Kegelj*, born in 1938,
- *Vinko Kegelj*, born in 1940,
- *Stipo Kegelj*, born in 1931,
- *Pero Ljubičić*, born in 1922,
- *Avugustin Radoš*, born in 1964,
- *Zvonko Rajić*, born in 1954, and
- *Vojislav Stanišić*, born in 1924.

Two Croats (out of a total of 9 who were called over to come out) survived the shooting.

Before they were executed, they had all been physically maltreated with cold steel. *Zvonko Rajić* had his heart cut out by A RBiH soldiers.

On the basis of the statements of witnesses of these heinous crimes, most Croats executed in the villages of Dusina and Višnjica had been maltreated by A RBiH soldiers before the execution. The statement of one of the surviving witnesses says:

"...They drove us out of the house, nine of us. Six civilians and three soldiers. From the first group they singled out one man, and so there remained eight of us. They lined us up in front of the house of Ivica Kegelj. After that the Muslim commander said 'now one for each'. Since there were six soldiers, they shot and killed six. Two of us remained alive."

In this attack of the Muslim army on Dusina, Višnjica and Brdo these villages were burnt down, plundered, and the population was banished, so that already in January the village of Lašva was ethnically completely cleansed."

The executed Croats from the villages of Višnjica and Dusina, except a few of them, were not engaged in HVO units. After having placed the above villages under their control, A RBiH soldiers set on fire 500 Croatian residential buildings.

The A RBiH units participating in the crime in the LC Lašva:

- The unit of the MP of the 3. Corps A RBiH, commanded by **Bakir Alispahić** from Busovača;
- Members of the unit subordinated to the commander of the 3. Corps **Enver Hadžihasanović**, deported the captured Croats to the Zenica prisons;
- A unit composed of the workers of the Zenica Iron Works, the so called Railway Battalion under the command of **Mensur Keleštura** from Zenica;
- A part of the 7. Muslim Brigade under the command of **Šerif Patković**, which was subordinated to **Džemal Merdan**, chief of the Corps. **Šerif Patković**, in the sight of other detainees, shot dead *Zvonko Rajić*;

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- Members of the unit "Škorpion" (Scorpion) under the command of **Vehib Šehabović AKA Geler**, who ordered the execution of 10 captured Croats in the village of Dusina, and
- The members of the domicile A RBiH unit of the LC Lašva.

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20. MUNICIPALITY OF ŽEPČE

According to the 1991 census, the Municipality of Žepče had 22,966 inhabitants: Muslims 10,820; Croats 9,100; Serbs 2,278; Others 768.

20.1. BEGINNINGS OF A RBiH ATTACKS ON THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ŽEPČE

The conflicts between the Croats and Muslims in central Bosnia and in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were intensified in the course of May 1993, brought a certain dose of tension into the Municipality of Žepče as well, which caused an increase in mistrust between, until then, allied units of the HVO and the so-called A RBiH. In the very town of Žepče provocations started - by realignments and demonstrations of force - with an A RBiH unit called "Green Baretts" taking the lead. Such a tense situation culminated on 24 June 1993 when A RBiH soldiers with their demolition team entered the area of Gornja Papratnica, the region of Krmak, elevation 654, opened rifle fire and killed two HVO members. Also, the same day A RBiH soldiers removed the check-point of the HVO military police which was at Begov Han, although the check-point, under an agreement between the so-called A RBiH and the HVO, was set as early as in mid 1992. The same day, while tending his cattle near his house in the village of Hrastuša, *Franjo Pavković* was killed. The said events initiated open conflicts, and a compact part of the territory of the municipalities of Žepče, Maglaj and Zavidovići, which was in the zone of responsibility of the 111. xp Brigade, was brought into complete encirclement, which was the first step of the so-called A RBiH in its plan of banishing the Croatian population and taking control of the said territory.

20.2. CRIMES AGAINST THE CROATS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ŽEPČE

On 20 July 1993, *Ivo Katić and his under age son* were seized and killed in the area of Velike Rudine while they were cutting down firewood. On 16 August 1993, *Franjo Pavković*, while he was tending cattle in the village of Hrastuša, was seized near his house and then killed. Especially horrible is the murder of an old woman *Mara Pavković*, born in 1916, from the village of Preka, which was under the control of the so-called A RBiH. The old woman was seized in her family house on 16 September 1993, and taken to Hrastuša, to the house of Toma Blagojević, was mutilated with a sharp object, and then burnt in the house. The perpetrator of this

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heinous crime is *Edin Delić*, born in 1971, member of the "Green Baretts" within the 319. Mountain Brigade A RBiH.

All the captured HVO members, were killed in a brutal way by A RBiH soldiers. So the members of the "Green Baretts", on 29 June 1993, after having captured *Anto Jukić*, an HVO member, in the region of Divove vode, tortured and killed him; then they tore his eyes out and cut off his limbs. *Adolf Han*, an HVO member, was captured on 25 June 1993, then taken to the family house, which was in a village under the control of the so-called A RBiH, and killed. *Fabijan Tadić*, an HVO member, was captured on the defence line at Bukovik on 22 December 1993 and killed brutally: his head was cut off with a sharp object and was found at a distance of 100 metres from the trunk.

Defending themselves and seeking a way out of such a situation, the Croatian people and the HVO members went through great suffering, persecution, massacre and other heavy forms of inhuman treatment. In the conflicts with the A RBiH 117 persons were killed, 820 persons were exiled from four villages in which 217 residential building and two churches were destroyed. An especially heinous crime was committed by A RBiH soldiers on 16 August 1993 when they raided the village of *Kiseljak*, inhabited exclusively with Croatian population, and which is 4 km away from Žepče on the Žepče-Zavidovići road. On that occasion A RBiH soldiers burnt down most of the Croatian houses in the village, atrociously killed eight, mostly aged persons, and 4 HVO members, after the capture. More than 20 civilian persons, among them a mother with a newly born baby and old men above 70, were used as a living shield, when an A RBiH unit was backing out of the village of *Kiseljak*. The apprehended civilians were maltreated by A RBiH soldiers, were driven in the "living shield" through rugged mountain massifs, and a part of them was locked up in the KPD Zenica and Begov Han.

During the conflicts A RBiH soldiers unselectively shelled the inhabited places on several occasions, targeting the Catholic churches in Žepče and Golubinja, elementary school buildings in Papatnica and Bistrica, and several business facilities having no military importance at all. Several persons got killed or seriously wounded by A RBiH sniper fire.

A number of the Croats exiled from Maglaj, Zenica, Teslić and Zavidovići found refuge in the Municipality of Žepče, so that now the number of the Croats living in the Žepče Municipality is larger than that before the war.

20.3. UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT AND INHUMAN TREATMENT

The apprehended civilians of the Croatian nationality from the area of the Municipality of Žepče were confined in makeshift camps on the hill of Orahovica, in Golubinja, as well as in the KPD Zenica and Begov Han. The position of the

apprehended civilians was very difficult, they went through physical and psychological maltreatment and humiliation. The said prisons had been established as early as in 1992, and they first served for the internment of Serb civilians and later of Croatian ones.

On 24 June 1993, the day when the conflict broke out, a group of Croats, employees of the Zenica Iron Works, was called to Zenica to collect parcels of food. A number of employees did go to Zenica that day to collect the said parcels, but were apprehended during their stay in Zenica.

Pero Topić, a journalist, underwent an especially cruel torture in A RBiH prisons. He was apprehended on 16 August 1993 when the so-called A RBiH raided the village of Kiseljak. After severe interrogations and maltreatment in various places (Orahovica, Želeća, Golubinja), Pero was relocated to the KPD Zenica, where he got the status of a prisoner of war. During his stay in the KPD Zenica he was tortured, he was hit by the prison guards **Rasim Kulačić** and **Muris Kadrić**, and by the camp warden **Hasan Alić**. From the day of his arrest to the transference to the KPD Zenica (interrogation period) he was most maltreated by **Deni Bašić**, **Narcis Dročić**, **Mirasad Šestić** and **Suad Hasanović**.

20.4. MASS MURDERS, INTENTIONAL KILLINGS, INFLICTION OF HEAVY BODILY INJURIES

20.4.1. The Crime in the Village of Kiseljak

The village of Kiseljak is 4 km away from Žepče and is located on the Žepče - Zavidovići road. Before the war the village of Kiseljak had been inhabited exclusively by the Croatian population, and during the conflicts between the so-called A RBiH and the HVO it was closest to the front line.

On 16 August 1993, towards evening, by order of **Refik Lendo**, commander of the OG "Bosna", and **Suad Hasanović**, commander of the 303. Mountain Brigade A RBiH, about 130 A RBiH soldiers under direct command of the commander of the 2. Battalion of the 303. Brigade A RBiH, **Mirsad Šestić**, raided the village of Kiseljak, in which there were no combat units of the HVO or any military facilities. On that occasion A RBiH soldiers burst into family houses, burning the houses and killing the civilians. Most civilians were driven out of the house in the open and shot dead.

The killed civilians are:

- *Niko Širić*, born in 1922,
- *Kata Širić*, born in 1926,
- *Ivana Širić*, born in 1980,
- *Franjo Krezić*, born in 1934,

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- *Kata Krezić*, born in 1933 and *Florijan Krezić*, born in 1963 (who as refugees from Golubinja were lodged in Kiseljak),
- *Kata Katić*, born in 1934, and
- *Ivica Mandura*, born in 1969, a mentally retarded person (killed in the Jelovski Potok while marching in the "living shield", because, due to his handicap, he did not understand the instructions of Muslim soldiers).

Apart from the said civilians, four HVO members were also killed:

- *Alojz Vuković*, born in 1960 and *Vinko Zovko*, born in 1962, who were in the village at home on leave, and
- *Luka Šimunović*, born in 1967 and *Božo Širić*, born in 1961, who tried to liberate a group of civilians.

The statements of the witnesses of the crime speak of the capture and murder of the civilians:

"...Then a Muslim soldier jumped in and started shooting about the house. He was shouting to us to surrender, he would do us no harm. We all went out of the house, with our hands on our heads... Then they drove us along the road between my house and my father-in-law's house. When we were about ten metres from the road, they shot at us from behind. We all fell down on the road... Florijan Krezić was hit in the head, right behind the ear, I saw his brain leaking out of the head. The little Ivana Širić was hit in the left side of the body. From the front the wound looked like a red rose on her shirt. Her face and her body turned blue, and on her breast an 'opening', just like a blooming rose. Kata Krezić was hit all about her body, blood was running out of her mouth, her breast, her arms and legs. Franjo Krezić was hit in the stomach and the back. I was hit in the legs..."

In the attack of A RBiH soldiers on the village of Kiseljak several civilian persons were seriously wounded: *Kata Zovko*, born in 1931, *Janja Bulajić*, born in 1941, *Marijana Zovko*, born in 1977, and *Ana Širić*, born in 1958.

As HVO members reacted quickly and approached the village of Kiseljak, A RBiH soldiers seized 24 civilian persons and used them as a living shield while pulling out of the village to territory under the control of the so-called A RBiH. Among the civilians in the living shield there was Ana Bulajić with her ten-days-old daughter, and Ana Katić, an old woman of 72. All of them, under constant threats and blows, and continuous shooting from small arms by A RBiH soldiers, had to walk 7 kilometres across rugged mountain paths. The group of civilians on their way to Želeća and Golubinja, in addition to beating, was exposed to excruciating physical efforts. They had to carry wounded Muslim soldiers and the spoils. On reaching Golubinja, an A RBiH commanding outpost, they were

provocatively questioned and exposed to other kinds of maltreatment. Since in the attack of the so-called A RBiH on the village of Kiseljak five A RBiH soldiers were also killed, among them a mujahedin, all very important for the so-called A RBiH, four days later an exchange of dead bodies was carried out: five bodies of the killed A RBiH soldiers for the release of 23 civilians of Croatian nationality. The only civilian who was not released was the journalist *Pero Topić*, born in 1947, who, at the time of the attack of the so-called A RBiH on Kiseljak happened to be in the village taking pictures of the course of the attack and of the killing of civilians. His camera was seized, and the film destroyed. During the interrogation he was especially tortured by the commander of the 303. Mountain Brigade **Suad Hasanović**. The MUP members, who participated in the action in the village of Kiseljak were under the command of **Ramiz Bećirhodžić**.

Direct perpetrators of all murders and crimes are:

- **Rasim Džeravhović**, commander of the demolition platoon;
- **Dževad Džeravhović AKA "Bugar"**, deputy commander of the demolition platoon;
- **Ramiz Ibrahimagić**, a soldier of the 2/303 Mountain Brigade, who killed civilians in Kiseljak;
- **Edin Delić**, a member of the "Green Barets" of the 319. Mountain Brigade;
- **Deni Bašić**, commander of the military police based in Golubinja;
- **Rasim Kulačić**, a guard in the KPD Zenica;
- **Muris Kadrić**, a guard in the KPD Zenica, and
- **Šemso Spahić** (a sniper) from Žepče, now president of the Hunting Club Žepče.

Apart from the above listed, the perpetrators of the murders of the Croats in the raid on Kiseljak are certain: **Šahinović, Ramiz, Bida, Trako, Kajtaz, Sejko, Kapić and Rasim**, who were group leaders.

The persons responsible for this crime are:

- **Refik Lendo**, commander of the OG "BOSNA".
- **Suad Hasanović**, commander of the 303. Mountain Brigade,
- **Mirsad Šestić**, from Zenica, commander of the 2. Battalion of the 303. Mountain Brigade,
- **Narcis Dročić**, commander of the "Green Barets" of the 319. Mountain Brigade,
- **Enver Hasičević AKA Encó**, deputy commander of the "Green Barets" (formerly a member of the HOS and the HVO) and
- **Ramiz Bećirhodžić**, born in 1953, commander of a special MUP unit "MUP Detachment".

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