

**2012 Report on The Genocide in Prijedor, Bosnia & Herzegovina**

**Institute for Research of Genocide Canada**

Igor Gontcharov

## **Introduction to Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

The municipality of Prijedor is located in the north-western region of Bosnia and Herzegovina known as the Bosanska Krajina.<sup>1</sup> The town of Prijedor is the largest settlement in the municipality. According to the 1991 census, out of a total population of 112,543, 43,9% regarded themselves as Bosniaks, 42.3% as Serbs, 5.7% as Yugoslavs, 5.6% as Croats and 2.5% as “others”.<sup>2</sup> The census, for the first time, identified the Bosniaks as the largest ethnic group in the municipality of Prijedor.<sup>3</sup> The shifting demographic balance in favor of the Muslim population was considered a challenge by the Serbs and became one of the central issues in the municipality’s political life during 1991 and 1992.<sup>4</sup>

## **Independence declarations, increased tension and initial propaganda:**

In June 1991, Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence from Yugoslavia and in October 1991 the Bosnian parliament proclaimed the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The declarations of independence led to war in Croatia, and escalated tensions between the Serbs and the communities of [Bosniaks](#) and [Croats](#) living in traditionally ethnic Serbia territories. Serbian propaganda started to become increasingly visible, leading many Bosniaks and Croats to feel a growing sense of insecurity and fear which resulted in many leaving the municipality of Prijedor.<sup>5</sup> Serbian propaganda came in many forms: the municipal [newspaper](#) Kozarski Vjesnik started publishing allegations against non-Serbs, the Serb [media](#) propagandized the idea that the Serbs had to arm themselves, terms like [Ustasha](#) (Ustaše), [Mujahideen](#) (Mudžahedini) and Green Berets (Zelene beretke) were used widely in the press as synonyms for non-Serb population and Radio Prijedor disseminated propaganda insulting Croats and Bosnian Muslims.<sup>6</sup> As a result of the takeover of the [transmitter](#) station on Mount [Kozara](#) in August 1991 by the Serbian [paramilitary](#) unit the *Wolves of Vucak*, TV Sarajevo was cut off.<sup>7</sup> It was replaced by broadcasts from [Belgrade](#) and [Banja Luka](#) with interviews of Serb radical politicians and renditions of Serb nationalistic songs which would previously have been banned.<sup>8</sup>

## **Serbian Political takeover in Prijedor:**

Growing Serbian propaganda and influence in Prijedor led to the political takeover of the region by Serb forces and politicians. On January 7, 1992, the Serb members of the Prijedor Municipal Assembly and

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<sup>1</sup> Institute for Research of Genocide Canada, “19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Prijedor Genocide,” [Bosniak.net](#), 20 July 2011, April 20 2012 <<http://bosniaks.net/prilog.php?pid=42865>>.

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Research of Genocide Canada, “19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Prijedor Genocide,” [Bosniak.net](#), 20 July 2011, April 20 2012 <<http://bosniaks.net/prilog.php?pid=42865>>.

<sup>3</sup> Institute for Research of Genocide Canada, “19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Prijedor Genocide,” [Bosniak.net](#), 20 July 2011, April 20 2012 <<http://bosniaks.net/prilog.php?pid=42865>>.

<sup>4</sup> Institute for Research of Genocide Canada, “19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Prijedor Genocide,” [Bosniak.net](#), 20 July 2011, April 20 2012 <<http://bosniaks.net/prilog.php?pid=42865>>.

<sup>5</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>6</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>7</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>8</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

the presidents of the local Municipal Boards of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) proclaimed the Assembly of the Serbian People of the Municipality of Prijedor.<sup>9</sup> [Milomir Stakić](#), later convicted by [ICTY](#) of mass [crimes against humanity](#) against Bosniak and Croat [civilians](#), was elected President of this Assembly.<sup>10</sup> The Serb members of the Prijedor Municipal Assembly were following instructions from a document called The "*Organization and Activity of Organs of the Serbian People in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Extraordinary Circumstances*".<sup>11</sup> This document issued by leaders of the Serb Democratic Party (SDS) to its members on December 19, 1991, provided a plan for the Serb Democratic Party to take-over municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as instruction on the creation of Crisis Staffs'.<sup>12</sup> On January 17, 1992, the Assembly endorsed joining the Serbian territories of the Municipality of Prijedor to the [Autonomous Region of Bosnian Krajina](#) in order to create a pure Serbian municipality.<sup>13</sup> On April 14 1992, Serb units erected roadblocks around Prijedor in response to the Bosnian Parliament officially declaring Bosnia-Herzegovina an independent republic a month prior.<sup>14</sup> On April 23, 1992, the [Serb Democratic Party \(SDS\)](#) decided that all Serb units should immediately start working on the takeover of the whole Prijedor municipality in co-ordination with the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA).<sup>15</sup> By the end of April 1992, a number of clandestine Serb police stations were created in the municipality and more than 1,500 armed Serbs were ready to take part in the takeover.<sup>16</sup> The objective of the takeover was to take control of the functions of the [president](#) of the municipality, the vice-president of the municipality, the director of the [post office](#), the chief of the police, the courts and the Banks.<sup>17</sup> In the night of the April 29/30, 1992, 400 Serbian reserve Policemen, some in military uniforms, took control of the town of Prijedor.<sup>18</sup> A declaration on the [takeover](#) prepared by the Serb politicians from [Serb Democratic Party \(SDS\)](#) was read out on Radio Prijedor the day after the takeover and was repeated throughout the day.<sup>19</sup> The [ICTY](#) concluded that the takeover by the Serb politicians was as an illegal [coup d'état](#), which was planned and coordinated a long time in advance with the ultimate aim of

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<sup>9</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>10</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>11</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>12</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Stojan Zupljanin," [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights](#), 6 September 2004, April 20 2012 <<http://sim.law.uu.nl/sim/caselaw/tribunalen.nsf/db2e2884b11f7cbbc125720a007af60b/8cc6f2501fe7c551c12571fe004d31cd?OpenDocument>>.

<sup>13</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>14</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>15</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>16</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>17</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>18</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>19</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

creating a pure Serbian municipality.<sup>20</sup> One of the leading figures of the political take over was [Milomir Stakić](#), who came to play the dominant role in the political life of the Municipality.<sup>21</sup>

### **Post-takeover environment and propaganda against non-Serb elites:**

After the takeover, civilian life was transformed in a myriad ways. There was a marked increase in the [military](#) presence of Serb formations in the town of Prijedor and this increased [fear](#) among the non-Serb population.<sup>22</sup> Serbian police were ordered to follow only Serbian law and demanded that everyone carry identification papers.<sup>23</sup> Radio Prijedor began propagating Serb nationalistic ideas and characterizing prominent non-Serbs as [criminals](#) and [extremists](#) who should be punished for their behavior.<sup>24</sup> According to the ICTY, the printed and [broadcast media](#) spread myths about non-Serb doctors: Dr. Mirsad Mujadžić, a Bosniak politician, was accused of injecting drugs into Serb women making them incapable of giving birth to male children and Dr. Željko Sikora, a Croat, referred to as the *Monster Doctor*, was accused of making Serb women abort if they were pregnant with male children and of castrating the male babies of Serbian parents.<sup>25</sup> Moreover, in a "Kozarski Vjesnik" article dated June 10, 1992, a Bosnian Dr named Osman Mahmuljin was accused of deliberately having provided incorrect medical care to his Serb colleague Dr. Živko Dukić, who had a heart attack.<sup>26</sup> In addition, forged *biographies of prominent non-Serbs*, including Prof. Muhamed Ćehajić, Mr. Crnalić, Dr. Eso Sadiković and Dr. Osman Mahmuljin, were broadcast.<sup>27</sup> Mirsad Mujadzic testified that the aim of this propaganda campaign was to stifle non-Serb resistance by undermining the credibility of prominent and respected non-Serb citizens of Prijedor.<sup>28</sup> According to ICTY conclusion in [Stakić verdict](#) Mile Mutić, the

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<sup>20</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>21</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>22</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>23</sup> Emir Ramic, "Genocide in Prijedor is a black spot on the conscience of the international community," [Congress of North American Bosniaks](#), 19 July 2011, April 18 2012 <<http://www.bosniak.org/genocide-in-prijedor-is-a-black-spot-on-the-conscience-of-the-international-community-and-on-the-conscience-of-those-who-committed-the-crime/>>.

<sup>24</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://sim.law.uu.nl/sim/caselaw/tribunalen.nsf/ae4b0f7b22afa1cdc12571b500329d5e/289c6d5a75238dfec12571fe004d3043?OpenDocument>>.

<sup>25</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://sim.law.uu.nl/sim/caselaw/tribunalen.nsf/ae4b0f7b22afa1cdc12571b500329d5e/289c6d5a75238dfec12571fe004d3043?OpenDocument>>.

<sup>26</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://sim.law.uu.nl/sim/caselaw/tribunalen.nsf/ae4b0f7b22afa1cdc12571b500329d5e/289c6d5a75238dfec12571fe004d3043?OpenDocument>>.

<sup>27</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://sim.law.uu.nl/sim/caselaw/tribunalen.nsf/ae4b0f7b22afa1cdc12571b500329d5e/289c6d5a75238dfec12571fe004d3043?OpenDocument>>.

<sup>28</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://sim.law.uu.nl/sim/caselaw/tribunalen.nsf/ae4b0f7b22afa1cdc12571b500329d5e/289c6d5a75238dfec12571fe004d3043?OpenDocument>>.

director of Kozarski Vjesnik and the [journalist](#) Rade Mutić regularly attended meetings of Serb [politicians](#) (local authorities) in order to get informed about next steps of spreading propaganda.<sup>29</sup>

### **Strengthening of the local army and the beginning of mass discrimination:**

In the weeks following the takeover, the Serb authorities in Prijedor worked to strengthen their position militarily in accordance with decisions adopted at the highest levels of authority in Serbia.<sup>30</sup> On 12 May 1992, the Assembly of the Serbian People of Bosnia and Herzegovina established the Serbian Army under Lt. Gen. Ratko Mladić's command and converted the remaining Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) units into the Bosnian Serb Army.<sup>31</sup> In addition ultra-nationalist paramilitary soldiers under the leadership of Arkan (Zeljko Raznatovic) began appearing in the city.<sup>32</sup> [Major](#) Radmilo Željaja issued an [ultimatum](#) calling for all [Bosniak citizens](#) to hand over their [weapons](#) to the Serbian Army, declare their loyalty to the Serbian Republic and respond to the mobilization call-ups.<sup>33</sup> The ultimatum issued also contained a threat that any resistance would be punished. For the most part, the [civilian](#) population complied with these requests turning in their [hunting rifles](#) and [pistols](#) as well as their permits in the belief that if they did so they would be safe.<sup>34</sup> House searches performed by soldiers of the homes of the non-Serb population were common and any weapons found were confiscated.<sup>35</sup> A month later, many non-Serbs were dismissed from their [jobs](#) in the period after the takeover.<sup>36</sup> The general tendency is reflected in a decision of the Serb regional authorities i.e. Crisis Staff of the Autonomous Region of Krajina (ARK) dated June 22, 1992, which provides that all socially-owned enterprises, joint-stock companies, state institutions, public utilities, Ministries of the Interior, and the Army of the Serbian Republic may only be held by personnel of Serbian [nationality](#).<sup>37</sup> After the consolidation of the Serbian army, Prijedor [radio](#) broadcasted a message obliging non-Serbs to hang a [white](#) cloth outside their [homes](#) as a demonstration of their loyalty to the Serbian authorities.<sup>38</sup> This was a way for Serbian authorities to mark non-Serb houses.<sup>39</sup> Charles McLeod, who was with the ECMM and visited Prijedor municipality in the last days of August 1992, testified that while visiting a mixed Serb/Bosnian

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<sup>29</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>30</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>31</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>32</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>33</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>34</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>35</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>36</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>37</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>38</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>39</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

Muslim [village](#) he saw that the Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) houses were identified by a white [flag](#) on the [roof](#).<sup>40</sup> This is corroborated by the [testimony](#) of Barnabas Mayhew (ECMM), who testified that the Bosnian Muslim houses were marked with white flags in order to distinguish them from the Serb houses.<sup>41</sup>

## Genocide begins

### **Village of Hamberine:**

Shortly after the consolidation of the Serbian Army and the ultimatum calling on all Bosniaks citizens to hand over their weapons, the Serbian army under the command Ratko Mladic began to storm villages in the Prijedor municipality and commit genocide. On 23 May 1992, the Serbian Army surrounded the village of Hambarine, a mostly Bosniak village in the Prijedor municipality.<sup>42</sup> Following an incident in which a dozen Serbian soldiers were shot dead under unclear circumstances near the village, the Bosnian Serb army issued an ultimatum calling on the residents to surrender several individuals allegedly involved in attacks.<sup>43</sup> The ultimatum was not complied with and around noon the next day the Bosnian Serb Army began [shelling](#) Hambarine from the Karane area, the area of Urije and the area of Topic Hill.<sup>44</sup> 400 residents, mostly women, children and the elderly, fled to nearby villages or the Kurevo woods.<sup>45</sup> After the shelling, approximately 1000 Serb soldiers and three tanks attacked the village.<sup>46</sup> The soldiers committed rapes, indiscriminately massacred groups of residents and torched houses.<sup>47</sup> At least 100 civilians were killed during the attack, including 50 civilians who surrendered and were subsequently executed.<sup>48</sup> **“Those who remained were told they would be sent to camps, which occurred around May 28 1992, and were required to wear white armbands to distinguish themselves.”**<sup>49</sup> A military operation was subsequently concentrated on the Kurevo [forest](#) to eliminate the residents who

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<sup>40</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>41</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>42</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>43</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>44</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>45</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>46</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 1,” [The Institute for Genocide Research](#), 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>47</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 1,” [The Institute for Genocide Research](#), 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>48</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>49</sup> “The 1992 Hambarine Massacre near Prijedor, Bosnia,” [We Remember the Bosnian Genocide 1992-95](#), 9 January 2011, April 18 2012 <<http://bosniagenocide.wordpress.com/2011/01/09/the-1992-hambarine-massacre-near-prijedor-bosnia/>>.

attempted to escape.<sup>50</sup> A second attack on Hambarine occurred around 1 July 1992 when Serbs attempted to eliminate the remaining civilians who avoided being sent to concentration camps, killing between 100 and 150 Bosnian Muslim.<sup>51</sup>

### The area of Kozarac:

In the days following the attack on Hambarine, the Bosnian Serb army concentrated its military operations on the area of Kozarac. The wider area of Kozarac, surrounding the town of Kozarac, comprises several [villages](#), including Kamičani, Kozaruša, Susici, Brđani, Babići, Kozaruša, Trnopolje, Donji Jakupovići, Gornji Jakupovići, Benkovac, and Rakovic with approximately 98 to 99% of the inhabitants consisting of Bosniaks.<sup>52</sup> After the Serb takeover of [Prijeđor](#), the population Kozarac tried to control the perimeter of their [town](#) and organized patrols.<sup>53</sup> Despite these efforts Radmilo Željaja delivered an ultimatum on [Radio](#) Prijeđor, threatening to raze Kozarac to the ground if residents failed to surrender men between certain ages.<sup>54</sup> [Stojan Župljanin](#), later accused of [war crimes](#) by [ICTY](#) and one of the most wanted [fugitive](#) besides [Radovan Karadžić](#) and [Ratko Mladić](#) said that unless conditions were met, the army would take Kozarac by force.<sup>55</sup> As of May 21, 1992, the Serb inhabitants began to leave.<sup>56</sup> The attack started on May 25, 1992 with military convoys surrounding the area of Kozarac and Serbian forces shelling the area.<sup>57</sup> Over 5,000 Serb soldiers and [combatants](#) participated in the attack, including the 343rd Motorized Brigade supported by two 105 mm [howitzer](#) batteries and one M-84 [tank squadron](#).<sup>58</sup> After the shelling, Serbs then reportedly announced that the villagers had 10 minutes to surrender.<sup>59</sup> However despite the announcement, Serb forces still entered the villages and went house to house shooting many people in their homes before they were given a chance to leave.<sup>60</sup> One witness reported that several hundred people tried to surrender by carrying white flags, but three

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<sup>50</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>51</sup> "The 1992 Hambarine Massacre near Prijeđor, Bosnia," [We Remember the Bosnian Genocide 1992-95](#), 9 January 2011, April 18 2012 <<http://bosniagenocide.wordpress.com/2011/01/09/the-1992-hambarine-massacre-near-prijeđor-bosnia/>>.

<sup>52</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>53</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>54</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>55</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>56</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>57</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>58</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>59</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>60</sup> "Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," [International Court of Justice](#), 26 February 2007, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/91/13685.pdf>>.

Serb tanks opened fire on them, killing many.<sup>61</sup> Civilians who managed to surrender were taken to the Kozarac soccer stadium where many were executed and others were loaded on convoys to concentration camps.<sup>62</sup> The women and children were taken to [Trnopolje](#) and the men to [Omarska](#) and [Keraterm concentration camps](#).<sup>63</sup> **In certain documented cases educated and professional women were also taken to Omarska to be raped and executed.**<sup>64</sup> The attack continued until May 27, 1992 when all villager resistance ended and the Serb army destroyed and burned down all the remaining houses.<sup>65</sup> In a few documented instances 35 non-Serbian police officers were executed in front of Kozarac primary school, “Young Muslim women” were “herded to Serb military positions” where they are sexually abused, Serb soldiers fired upon a column of non-Serb citizens leaving Kozarac, killing men, women, and children and Eight elderly non-Serbs are “shepherded into a cellar and massacred.”<sup>66</sup> It is also important to mention that no wounded were allowed out of Kozarac. For example, according to Dr. Merdžanić's [testimony](#) before [ICTY](#) he had been denied permission to arrange the [evacuation](#) of two injured children, one of whom had her legs completely shattered, and he had instead been told that all the *dirty Muslims* (in [Serbian language](#): balija) should die there, as they would be killed in any event.<sup>67</sup> The Report of the Commission of Experts in [Bosnia v. Serbia Genocide Case](#) before the [International Court of Justice](#) states that the attack on Kozarac lasted three days and caused many [villagers](#) to flee to the forest while the soldiers were shooting at ‘every moving thing’.<sup>68</sup> Survivors calculated that 2,000-5,000 villagers were killed in the Kozarac area and 1,500 deported to concentration camps from the town of Kozarac alone.<sup>69</sup>

### The town of Prijedor:

On 30 May 1992, Serb forces move into the city of Prijedor starting with Stari Grad, Prijedor’s “Old Town”.<sup>70</sup> Serb forces raze Stari Grad, execute civilians trying to flee and transport those who surrendered to Trnopolje concentration camp.<sup>71</sup> On 31 May 1992 Serbs forces and paramilitary moved

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<sup>61</sup> “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,” [International Court of Justice](#), 26 February 2007, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/91/13685.pdf>>.

<sup>62</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>63</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>64</sup> Rajeev Purohit, “Film Chronicles Suffering at Omarska Concentration Camp,” [The Human Rights Brief](#), 6 July 1997, 26 April 2012 <<http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/v4i2/omarsk42.htm>>.

<sup>65</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>66</sup> “19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide,” [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](#), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

<sup>67</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, “Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic,” [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>68</sup> “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,” [International Court of Justice](#), 26 February 2007, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/91/13685.pdf>>.

<sup>69</sup> “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,” [International Court of Justice](#), 26 February 2007, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/91/13685.pdf>>.

<sup>70</sup> “19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide,” [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](#), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

<sup>71</sup> “19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide,” [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](#), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

through the remaining parts of the city of Prijedor, forcing out non-Serb inhabitants.<sup>72</sup> Some armed resistance to the Serb advance was witnessed but it was quickly subdued.<sup>73</sup> Serb soldiers then systematically rounded up and executed large groups of men.<sup>74</sup> Dozens of corpses of non-Serbs were observed piled throughout the city.<sup>75</sup> The Prijedor Intervention Platoon led by Dado Mrđa, Zoran Babić and others was witnessed committing much of the atrocities.<sup>76</sup> The Platoon was comprised of criminals recently released from jail and was established by orders of the Crisis Staff with the objective of terrorizing the non-Serb populations of Prijedor.<sup>77</sup> The Prijedor Intervention Platoon was active in the whole Prijedor region and was responsible for some of the worst atrocities against the Bosnian population such as the Koricani Cliffs massacre.<sup>78</sup> Many civilians in the town of Prijedor who were not killed were rounded by the intervention platoon and transported to concentration camps; men to Omarska and Keraterm while women and children to Trnopolje.<sup>79</sup> The remaining non-Serb civilians were easily identified due to the white armbands they were forced to wear by the Serb forces and the white flags they were required to hang from their windows in order to distinguish their houses.<sup>80</sup> Eventually in July, Serb forces demolished all buildings built in traditional Muslim style in the city of Prijedor and surrounding areas.<sup>81</sup> A non-Serbian man recounted his experience in the town of Prijedor at the time of Serbian army assault. This account was published in a report by UN Commission of Experts on the former Yugoslavia. According to this man, "On 30 May 1992 at 04.30 hours, it was raining and one could hear machine gun fire from Stari Grad and from up along the river in an easterly direction. It lasted for about an hour and a half. At about 07.00 hours he heard two tanks passing to the street of the JNA (which was a prominent street) from an area near the Sana River. He heard shots from rifles and tanks. The sirens had signalled that people were to seek shelter at about 06.00 hours. Radio Prijedor announced that an attack on Prijedor was imminent. There was a mortar attack on Stari Grad and the New Hotel, possibly from the direction of the airport at Urije. Infantry fire ceased to be heard, but mortar fire lasted until about 13.00 hours. Someone who lived on the ninth floor nearby Radio Prijedor said that tanks and soldiers attacked the radio building. Radio Prijedor was reporting that Ustasas and 'Green Berets' (i.e. Muslims) were the attackers, and the Serbs were called upon to take up arms to fight

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<sup>72</sup> "19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide," [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

<sup>73</sup> "19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide," [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

<sup>74</sup> "19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide," [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

<sup>75</sup> "19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide," [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

<sup>76</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>77</sup> Jennifer Trahan, [\*Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity: A Tropical Digest of the Case Law of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia\*](#) (New York: Human Rights Watch, 2006) 100-101.

<sup>78</sup> Jennifer Trahan, [\*Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity: A Tropical Digest of the Case Law of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia\*](#) (New York: Human Rights Watch, 2006) 100-101.

<sup>79</sup> "19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide," [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

<sup>80</sup> "19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide," [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

<sup>81</sup> "19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prijedor Genocide," [Institute for Genocide Research Canada](http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide), 17 July 2011, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/60194353/19th-Anniversary-of-the-Prijedor-Genocide>>.

these enemies of the Serbian people. At 08.00 hours Radio Prijedor announced that the Army and the Serbian police were in full control but moving on to wipe out all the snipers in the town. He saw many soldiers on a main street nearby his house. Radio Prijedor also instructed all Croats and Muslims to hang a white piece of cloth outside their dwellings, and not to leave their homes. At approximately 13.00 hours detonations were getting closer to his home. People - men, women and children - some barefoot, mainly Muslims, came running from the neighboring street. Then he escorted his wife and children over to a Serbian neighbor walking through his garden. His mother and two brothers lived on the ground floor. One minute later Serbian soldiers (JNA) came into the street. He watched this from the Serbian neighbor's house. Six or seven soldiers entered his garden and fired some shots. His brothers and mother came out of the house. His brothers were beaten with rifle butts, they were commanded to kneel down and hold their hands up behind their necks, the same fate befell also two other Muslims and one Croat plus three more men. All the men who had fled into the street where he lived, were also ordered to take up the same kneeling position, women and children were lined up in a row. A military car arrived. Four identified Serbs [whose names are not disclosed for confidentiality or prosecutorial reasons] came out of their houses and joined the Serbian fighting forces. In passing the kneeling non-Serbian males the Serbs kicked them so that they fell over. Later the 'captives' were ordered to stand up and move towards the radio building, one among them was an identified man almost 90-years old [whose name is not disclosed for confidentiality or prosecutorial reasons]. In the Ilije Bursaca Street an identified man [whose name is not disclosed for confidentiality or prosecutorial reasons] was shot dead in his garden when the Serbs asked him where his children were and he answered that one of them was married in Zagreb. From the area of Radio Prijedor the subdued men were loaded on buses and taken to Logor Omarska. Approximately ten people who had been killed by the Serbs were left outside of the radio station, among them were seven identified men [whose names are not disclosed for confidentiality or prosecutorial reasons]. Women and children were transported from the area of the radio station to Logor Trnopolje."<sup>82</sup> It is also important to mention that a large focus of Serb military in Prijedor was the elimination of Muslim and Croat leaders, including business leaders, intellectuals and especially the leader of the Muslim political party, the SDA, and the party's secretary.<sup>83</sup> In some cases whole families were killed who had the same last name as some of the political leaders, even though they were not related.<sup>84</sup> Such a case was documented in the village of Carakovo.<sup>85</sup> By eliminating the educated elite and the most influential Bosnians and Croats, opposition would be greatly weakened and the human infrastructure needed for a society to function eliminated.<sup>86</sup> The following is a list of influential non-Serbs who were targeted to be eliminated by the Serbian Army: the mayor; politicians from the SDA and the HDZ in Prijedor; an imam; judges and lawyers; employees from the military and civilian sectors; a veterinarian, a physiotherapist, a dentist, and a number of medical doctors; an

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<sup>82</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," United Nations Security Council, 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>83</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 1," The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>84</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 1," The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>85</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 1," The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>86</sup> Florence Hartmann, "Bosnia," Crimes of War, 25 April 2012 <<http://www.crimesofwar.org/a-z-guide/bosnia/>>.

engineer and some economists; headmasters and teachers from schools at different levels; journalists and an editor of Radio Prijedor and of Kozarski Vjesnik; an author and an actor; directors and members of the Rudnika Ljubija management board; directors and managers of Bosnamontaza, Kozaraturist, Celpak, and the biscuit factory Mira Cikota; the director and the secretary of the Prijedor Red Cross, the president of Merhamet (the Muslim charity organization) in Prijedor; restaurant owners, business men and entrepreneurs; leaders of sports clubs and football players.<sup>87</sup> A specific example of an influential Bosnian who was targeted by Serb forces is Muhamed Čehajić, the former mayor of Prijedor who was abducted and then killed in the Omarska camp.<sup>88</sup>

### **The villages near the Sana River:**

Starting on 20 July 1992 a large area of predominantly non-Serb villages near the Sana River (the larger Hambarine/Ljubija area) was attacked in a similar manner to the Kozarac area.<sup>89</sup> The area was first shelled and soon after the villages were assaulted by Serbian infantry and paramilitary who carried out mass executions and destroyed houses.<sup>90</sup> According to eye witnesses, the majority of the Serbs were wearing the uniform of the Serbian army.<sup>91</sup> Some were dressed in the light-blue uniform of the reserve police.<sup>92</sup> Some of those in the army uniform in addition wore red ribbons and red berets. It was believed that the latter belonged to the Marticevci - among them were Serbs from neighboring villages.<sup>93</sup> Some soldiers were wearing white ribbons on their shoulders - they may have been White Eagles.<sup>94</sup> At the time of the attack the areas had a population of close to 20,000, including people who had come for shelter after their villages west of the town of Prijedor had been destroyed.<sup>95</sup> A total of more than 1500 people were killed on 20 July 1992 alone.<sup>96</sup> Civilians who surrendered were rounded up and women and children were separated from the men; the latter are executed or transported to concentration camps.<sup>97</sup> In certain cases when Omarska and Keraterm concentration camps became over filled, men on buses

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<sup>87</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," United Nations Security Council, 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>88</sup> "Letter from Muhamed Čehajić to Minka Čehajić," International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, 14 May 2002, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/sid/186>>.

<sup>89</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 1," The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>90</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 1," The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>91</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," United Nations Security Council, 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>92</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," United Nations Security Council, 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>93</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," United Nations Security Council, 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>94</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," United Nations Security Council, 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>95</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 2," The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

<sup>96</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 1," The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>97</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 1," The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

destined for the camps are executed by Serb soldiers.<sup>98</sup> In many instances in this area and throughout the whole war hundreds of young Bosnian women were abducted and made into sex slaves by Serb soldiers. Mass rape was promoted by Serbian officers as a weapon for the moral and physical destruction of the victims, to help Serbian soldiers relieve the stress of war and as a tactic to guarantee that babies born would be Christian and of part Serbian blood.<sup>99</sup> One case had a Serb soldier telling a Bosnian woman he was raping, "You should have already left this town. We'll make you have Serbian babies who will be Christians."<sup>100</sup> The [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](http://www.icty.org) (ICTY) declared that "systematic rape", and "sexual enslavement" in time of war was a [crime against humanity](#), second only to the [war crime](#) of [genocide](#).<sup>101</sup> Today, the former homes of almost 47,000 people in the Kozarac, Hambarine/Ljubija, and Sana River areas are empty or destroyed and mass graves, some undiscovered, are everywhere.<sup>102</sup> Specific examples of villages near the Sana River where mass killings took place include Biscani, Carakovo, Rizvanovici, Sredice, Zekovi, Lisina, Jogovci, Hegici and Redak.<sup>103</sup> Carakova was encircled by the Serbian army on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 1992.<sup>104</sup> According to one survivor, "Some of the Serbs gave commands such as «Burn down!» and «Kill!»."<sup>105</sup> It was like a hunt, in which also the nearby forest was searched for non-Serbs."<sup>106</sup> 760 "people were killed - shot, burnt alive, beaten or tortured to death in other ways."<sup>107</sup> In Sredice and Rizvanovici, the Serbian infantry, paramilitary soldiers, and other Serbs with them reportedly went from house to house mutilating, killing, and deporting the inhabitants and other civilians who had sought shelter there.<sup>108</sup> Within a few days, no living beings were left in the villages, but in numerous places there were piles of dead men - often fathers and sons together.<sup>109</sup> Many of the dead bodies are said to have been terribly mutilated, 15 dead persons had been chained together, and many smaller piles contained approximately 10 dead bodies

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<sup>98</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 1," [The Institute for Genocide Research](http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf), 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>99</sup> Alexandra Stiglmeier, [Mass Rape: The War Against Women in Bosnia-Herzegovina](#) (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994) 7-12.

<sup>100</sup> "Seventh Report on War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia Part II: Abuse of Civilians in Detention Centers," [United Nations Security Council](#), 22 June 2002, 24 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/documents/sdrpt7b.htm>>.

<sup>101</sup> Andrew Osborn, "Mass rape ruled a war crime," [The Guardian](#), 23 February 2001 <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2001/feb/23/warcrimes>>.

<sup>102</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>103</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 2," [The Institute for Genocide Research](http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf), 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>., Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>104</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>105</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>106</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>107</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 2," [The Institute for Genocide Research](http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf), 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

<sup>108</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 2," [The Institute for Genocide Research](http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf), 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

<sup>109</sup> "The Prijedor Genocide Part 2," [The Institute for Genocide Research](http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf), 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

each.<sup>110</sup> Smaller piles were found even on the doorsteps of private homes, larger ones were in more central locations.<sup>111</sup> In front of one particular house, in a sand pit, there was a relatively larger pile.<sup>112</sup> From here, the Serbs had intended to take numerous captive non-Serbs by bus for detention.<sup>113</sup> But, as the bus was totally overcrowded, it is claimed that the Serbs forced almost half of the passengers to leave the bus and executed them on the spot.<sup>114</sup> In Lisina, “between 70 and 100 Muslim civilians [are] killed” by Serbs forces in between July 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.<sup>115</sup> Near the end of July Serbs forces execute between 100 and 120 Muslim civilians from Jugovci.<sup>116</sup> And on August 1<sup>st</sup> Serbian forces execute 200 Muslim civilians in Redak, south of Ljubija.<sup>117</sup>

### **Firsthand account of Edita Hegić from the village massacre of Hegići:**

“Even when, in the spring of 1992, most of the Bosniak and Croat villages around Prijedor were destroyed and ‘ethnically cleansed’ by various Serb militias controlled by Slobodan Milošević and Radovan Karadžić, Hegići hoped that they would be spared as they didn’t have any armed groups in the village to provoke a conflict with the Serbs. Their relations with their Serb neighbors became progressively less cordial and in most cases limited to essential greetings when they crossed paths. Edita remembers that only Ljubica, a Serb woman living in the village, remained friendly with other Bosniaks. Rising tensions between the two groups were palpable but no one did anything provoke the other side. While Bosniaks limited their movements to essential work in the fields and tending to animals, Serb neighbors would frequently leave the village and on many nights would not return to their homes. This particularly worried the Bosniaks in Hegići as they suspected their neighbors of plotting against them with other Serbs outside the village. On the night of 19 July 1992, none of the Serb villagers stayed in Hegići. The next morning two trucks and four armed transport personnel carriers packed with armed, uniformed men hastily entered the village. They quickly blocked all the exits from the small village. The armed men identified themselves as Serb military police searching for ‘Muslim extremists’, members of the Muslim SDA political party and weapons. The police commander, barking orders over a megaphone, gave an ultimatum to the villagers to hand over all the weapons and all the men from 16 to 60 years of age to come out. They would start burning the houses if the villagers didn’t comply within 10 minutes. Immediately, Hegići men came out of their homes and gathered in the centre of the village. A few hunting rifles and pistols were handed over to the militiamen. Most of the militiamen were not

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<sup>110</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 2,” The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

<sup>111</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 2,” The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

<sup>112</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 2,” The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

<sup>113</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 2,” The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

<sup>114</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 2,” The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-2.pdf>>.

<sup>115</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 1,” The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>116</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 1,” The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

<sup>117</sup> “The Prijedor Genocide Part 1,” The Institute for Genocide Research, 20 April 2012 <<http://instituteforgenocide.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-PRIJEDOR-GENOCIDE-1.pdf>>.

known to the villagers and some spoke the distinct Serbian dialect of Serbs from Serbia, but the villagers recognized one 'soldier' in the group. It was J.M., a local thug who lived just a few kilometers from Hegići, in the Serb village of Jugovci. He was heavily armed Rambo-style and was yelling at the villagers, all of whom he knew well, not to hide anyone or any weapons as he would personally kill each of them. No one dared to speak out. Edita's parents panicked and didn't know what to do with the 17-year-old Fikret. Edita's mother insisted on keeping him in the house, while her father thought it was too dangerous to hide him. In the end, Fikret joined his father. The grandfather, who was 70 years of age, stayed inside hoping that his son and grandson would be back soon. The morning started its bloody course in the following minutes. While most women and children kept away from the windows of their houses, hiding behind the blinds of her kitchen window, Edita was trying to see what was happening outside. What she saw was the beginning of a nightmare, which was to become a defining part of her life. J.M. started swearing at Bego Alagić, one of the villagers, asking him for weapons and accusing him of being an SDA supporter. Bego, a local farmer and a simple village man, tried to explain that he neither had a weapon nor knew anything about politics. J.M. hit Bego across his face. Bego was trying to say something, but before he was able to do that, J.M. aimed his gun at Bego's chest and pulled the trigger. Almost instantly, Bego fell to the ground. Some 20 meters away, Edita was witnessing a cold-blooded murder and she could not believe that what she saw was real. Was it so easy to kill a human being? Minutes later, all the Hegići men were marched outside the village. Shortly after they disappeared from Edita's view, salvos of gunfire started. The shooting went on for half-an-hour and then stopped. Edita feared the worst. The soldiers returned to the village and started searching the houses, looking for valuables, asking for money and harassing the women, children and the few elderly men. No-one dared to resist them. By noon, most of the militiamen had left the village. Some dozen soldiers stayed in the village, preventing anyone from leaving. J.M seemed to be the guy in charge. Later that evening, J.M. and his gang were drinking and singing nationalistic Serb songs. No one slept that night in Hegići. Edita cried with her mother. Her grandfather Smajo silently smoked cigarette after cigarette. In the morning, Edita could not wait any longer. With her mother and grandfather, she went out and, taking a shortcut behind the houses, walked to the paddock where the Hegići men were taken the previous day. On the paddock behind the houses, in groups of up to eight, 84 bodies were lying in the green grass. They were all dead. Edita felt paralyzed while her mother Enisa, frantically started looking for Ale and Fikret. She turned each body to see the face of the victim. Grandpa Smajo helped her. After a while, physically and mentally exhausted, they started to look for the light blue shirt Ale was wearing the previous morning. They spotted him among the other dead men. It took them another few minutes to find Fikret's body. He was lying some 20 meters from the others. He might have tried to run away before he was killed. The bodies were left lying for the next two hot days. The soldiers refused Smajo's pleadings to bury the victims. This was an additional humiliation of the survivors as Muslim custom required the dead to be buried within 24 hours of their death. On the third day, two trucks arrived in the village and four elderly men – Smajo Hegić, Hasan Hegić, Hajrudin Pelak and Husnija Hadžić –were ordered to go with the soldiers to load the bodies onto the trucks. The fragile old men spent hours carrying the bodies of their closest relatives and loading them onto the trucks. Most of those killed were from the Hegić family. When the collection of the bodies was completed, the four men were forced to step onto the truck themselves. When the truck passed next to Edita's house, she saw her grandpa Smajo for the last time. He was standing on the uncovered truck among all the dead bodies. He waved at her while the tears

were running down his old cheeks. Next to him was their neighbor, Hasan. Hajrudin and Husnija were on the second truck. All four disappeared with the trucks that were driving the 84 bodies away. Years later most of the bodies and body parts were found in a mass grave in Jakina Kosa near the distant town of Ljubija. The surviving villagers of Hegići, the women and children, endured a month of pillage, humiliation and violence before they were ordered to march to the football stadium in Prijedor from where they were deported in trucks and buses to central Bosnia, near Travnik, on 21 August 1992. It took two days to empty the stadium in Prijedor of the thousands of desperate people expelled from their homes. During the militias, each robbing and humiliating the expellees as they passed through. Some 200 people were taken from the buses and trucks and disappeared before they reached safety on the other side of the demarcation line on the mountain Vlašić. Once in the Bosnian government-controlled town of Travnik – which was overpopulated with refugees from western Bosnia and thousands of other destitute people with no shelter and limited food rations from the humanitarian aid – Edita and her mother continued their one-way journey initially to Croatia and then further to Austria. They reached Vienna on 18 of October 1992.”<sup>118</sup>

### **Concentration Camps:**

Civilians who were rounded up or surrender to Serb forces after attacks on their villages were put on convoys and sent to concentration camps. These concentrations camps had inhuman living conditions and in some cases served as death camps. Mass [Murder](#), [torture](#), starvation and [rape](#) was common<sup>119</sup> and UN prosecutors compared the camps to [those run by Nazis](#) during the second world war.<sup>120</sup> The main three camps in the Prijedor region, Keraterm, Omarska and Trnopolje, were set up by Serb forces after the attack on Hambarine. As part of the ethnic cleansing operations, these camps helped the Crisis Committee of the Serbian District of Prijedor to reduce the non-Serb population of Prijedor from more than 50,000 in 1992 to little more than 3,000 in 1995, and even fewer subsequently.<sup>121</sup> The [ICJ](#) presented its judgment in [Bosnian Genocide Case](#) on 26 February 2007, in which it had examined atrocities committed in detention camps in relation to Article II (b) of the [Genocide Convention](#). The Court stated in its judgment: "Having carefully examined the evidence presented before it, and taken note of that presented to the ICTY, the Court considers that it has been established by fully conclusive evidence that members of the protected group were systematically victims of massive mistreatment, beatings, rape and torture causing serious bodily and mental harm during the conflict and, in particular, in the detention camps. The requirements of the material element, as defined by Article II (b) of the Convention are thus fulfilled. The Court finds, however, on the basis of evidence before it, that it has not been conclusively established that those atrocities, although they too may amount to war crimes and

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<sup>118</sup> Harzir Halilovich, "Beyond the sadness: Memories and homecomings among survivors of ethnic cleansing in a Bosnian village," [Memory Studies](#), 6 May 2011, 29 April 2012  
<[http://monash.academia.edu/HarizHalilovich/Papers/417589/Beyond\\_the\\_sadness\\_memories\\_and\\_homecomings\\_among\\_survivors\\_of\\_ethnic\\_cleansing\\_in\\_a\\_Bosnian\\_village](http://monash.academia.edu/HarizHalilovich/Papers/417589/Beyond_the_sadness_memories_and_homecomings_among_survivors_of_ethnic_cleansing_in_a_Bosnian_village)>.

<sup>119</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Miroslav Kvočka," [United Nations](#), 28 February 2005, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/kvocka/acjug/en/kvo-aj050228e.pdf>>.

<sup>120</sup> Andrew Osborn, "Five Serbs guilty of Omarska camp atrocities," [The Guardian](#), 3 November 2001, 28 April 2012  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2001/nov/03/warcrimes.balkans>>.

<sup>121</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012  
<<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

crimes against humanity, were committed with the specific intent (*dolus specialis*) to destroy the protected group, in whole or in part, required for a finding that genocide has been perpetrated."<sup>122</sup> The court decision accurately acknowledges that camps were meant for concentration and that many horrible atrocities were committed there, however the court stops short of calling these camps a form of genocide. Many genocide experts have criticized this decision due the overwhelming evidence that points to a clear intent by Serbian forces to displace and eliminate the Bosnian population of Prijedor.

### **Keraterm:**

The [Keraterm](#) ceramic factory was set up as a camp on or around May 23/24, 1992 just outside the city of Prijedor. By late June 1992 the four main halls held about 1,200 people with the number increasing to many thousands by late July. About 85% of all prisoners were Bosniaks from the Prijedor region while about 15% were Bosnian Croats.<sup>123</sup> The conditions of the camp were very cramped with people often sleeping on top of each other on concrete floors while others always had to be standing. The detainees were given one small meal a day which was insufficient for proper nourishment and led to mass starvation.<sup>124</sup> The supply of water was also insufficient and resulted in many reported deaths. The detainees were subjected to severe beatings with weapons, constant humiliation, degradation, inhumane conditions, and fear of death.<sup>125</sup> The camp predominantly served as a death camp for those found "guilty" by Serb forces and it was common place that dozens and sometimes hundreds of detainees' were randomly rounded up, put on convoys and eventually executed. Dozens of mass graves have been found around in the region near Keraterm camp.<sup>126</sup> It was also reported that in mid-July 1992, approximately 12 to 15 Bosniak women were brought to Keraterm, [raped](#), and transported to the [Omarska camp](#).<sup>127</sup> On July 24, 1992, the massacre at [Keraterm camp](#) known as the Room 3 massacre was committed as one of the first larger massacres committed inside the camp.<sup>128</sup> New Bosniak detainees from the earlier cleansed Brdo area were incarcerated in the Room 3. For the first few days, the detainees were denied [food](#) as well as being subjected to beatings and [abuse](#). On the day of the massacre, a large number of Serb soldiers arrived in the camp, wearing military uniforms and red berets. A [machine-gun](#) was placed in front of Room 3. That night, machine gun fire and [moans](#) were reported coming from Room 3. A machine gun started firing. The next morning the guards opened the door and said: *Look at these foolish dirty Muslims – they have killed each other*. A truck arrived and one man from

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<sup>122</sup> "Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," [International Court of Justice](#), p. 119, 26 February 2007, 18 April 2012 <<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/91/13685.pdf>>.

<sup>123</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>124</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>125</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>126</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>127</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>128</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

Room 1 volunteered to assist with loading the bodies onto the truck. Soon after, the truck with all the bodies left the compound. The volunteer from Room 1 reported that there were 128 dead bodies on the truck.<sup>129</sup>

Omarska:

The Omarska [mines](#) complex was located about 20 km from the town of Prijedor.<sup>130</sup> The camp was set up around May 25 and was used by the Serb [military](#) to unlawfully segregate, detain and confine approximately 7,000 [Bosniaks](#) and [Bosnian Croats](#) captured in the [ethnic cleansing](#) of the [municipality of Prijedor](#).<sup>131</sup> [Bosnian Serb](#) authorities termed it an "investigation centre" and the detainees were accused of alleged "paramilitary activities"; however no criminal charges were ever filed against any persons detained at Omarska. The UN security authorities termed it a death camp.<sup>132</sup> The camp authorities generally confined the prisoners in three different buildings: the [administration](#) building, where [interrogations](#) and killings took place; the cramped [hangar](#) building; the "white house," where the inmates were tortured; and in a cement [courtyard](#) area between the buildings known as the "pista", also a scene of torture and mass killings.<sup>133</sup> There was another small building, known as the "red house", where prisoners were sometimes taken in order to be [summarily executed](#).<sup>134</sup> The camp itself was surrounded by permanent [guard](#) posts and anti-personnel [landmines](#).<sup>135</sup> Most of the prisoners were male but it was reported that there were 37 Bosnian females who cleaned the camp and were used by Serb Soldiers as sex slaves; bodies of five of them have been [exhumed](#) since.<sup>136</sup> It is also important to note that Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat political and civic leaders, intellectuals, and the wealthy, who were considered "[extremists](#)", threats to Serbian plans or to have resisted the Bosnian Serbs in any way were sent to Omarska to be executed.<sup>137</sup> Omarska operated in a similar fashion to Keraterm and was designed to discriminate and subjugate the non-Serbs by inhumane acts and cruel treatment.<sup>138</sup> There was a deliberate policy of overcrowding and lack of basic necessities of life, including [inadequate food](#), polluted water, insufficient or non-existent [medical care](#) and unhygienic and cramped

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<sup>129</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>130</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>131</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>132</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>133</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Miroslav Kvocka," [United Nations](#), 28 February 2005, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/kvocka/acjug/en/kvo-aj050228e.pdf>>.

<sup>134</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Miroslav Kvocka," [United Nations](#), 28 February 2005, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/kvocka/acjug/en/kvo-aj050228e.pdf>>.

<sup>135</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>136</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>137</sup> "Bosnia and Herzegovina V. Mejacic, Gruban, and Knezevic," [The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 30 May 2008, 21 April 2012 <[http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/files/docs/presude/2008/Zeljko\\_Mejacic\\_First\\_Instance\\_Verdict.pdf](http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/files/docs/presude/2008/Zeljko_Mejacic_First_Instance_Verdict.pdf)>.

<sup>138</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Predrag Banovic," [United Nations](#), 28 October 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/banovic/tjug/en/ban-si031028e.pdf>>.

conditions.<sup>139</sup> In a documented case 160 people were "packed like sardines" in the "garage" in the middle of the summer.<sup>140</sup> The heat became so unbearable that men would suffocate during the night and their dead bodies would be taken out the following morning.<sup>141</sup> The detainees were constantly beaten with weapons and in many cases this resulted in deaths.<sup>142</sup> Random killings were also a common occurrence at Omarska and some instances prisoners who were brought to dig the graves of those killed never returned.<sup>143</sup> The prisoners all suffered serious psychological and physical [deterioration](#) and were in a state of constant fear.<sup>144</sup> [Ed Vulliamy](#), a [British journalist](#), testified that when he visited the camp, the detainees were in a very poor physical condition.<sup>145</sup> At the *Stakić trial*, the ICTY found that approximately two hundred people were executed in late July 1992 at the camp.<sup>146</sup> About 200 people from Hambarine came to the camp in July 1992 and were initially held in a building known as the *White House*.<sup>147</sup> In the early morning of July 17, 1992 gunshots were heard being fired until dawn. The corpses of the inmates were spotted in front of the White House and the camp's [guards](#) one of whom was recognized as Zivko Marmat continued to shoot rounds into the bodies.<sup>148</sup> The corpses were then loaded onto a truck and taken away. There were about 180 bodies in total.<sup>149</sup> The Omarska camp was closed immediately after a visit by foreign journalists in early August.<sup>150</sup> On 6 August 1992, the detainees at Omarska were divided into groups and transported in buses to different destinations.<sup>151</sup> According to the survivors, usually about 30 and sometimes as many as 150 men were singled-out and killed in the camp every night.<sup>152</sup> US State Department officials, along with representatives of other Western governments, have estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 people perished at Omarska.<sup>153</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Predrag Banovic," [United Nations](#), 28 October 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/banovic/tjug/en/ban-sj031028e.pdf>>.

<sup>140</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>141</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>142</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>143</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>144</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Predrag Banovic," [United Nations](#), 28 October 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/banovic/tjug/en/ban-sj031028e.pdf>>.

<sup>145</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>146</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>147</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>148</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>149</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>150</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>151</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 22 March 2006, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/acjug/en/sta-aj060322e.pdf>>.

<sup>152</sup> Ed Vulliamy, "We can't forget," [The Guardian](#), 1 September 2004, 21 April 2012 <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2004/sep/01/warcrimes.balkans>>.

<sup>153</sup> "The Unindicted: Reaping the Rewards of Ethnic Cleansing in Prijedor," [Human Rights Watch](#), 1 January 1997, 22 April 2012 <<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,HRW,,BIH,,3ae6a8368,0.html>>.

Trnopolje:

The Trnopolje camp was set up in the village of Trnopolje on May 24, 1992.<sup>154</sup> The Report of the United Nations Commission of Experts to the Security Council (the Bassiouni Commission Report) determined that "Logor Trnopolje" was "a concentration camp", functioning as a staging and transit area for mass deportations mainly of women, children, and the elderly population of the Prijedor found "innocent" after "investigation".<sup>155</sup> In contrast they described the [Omarska](#) and [Keraterm](#) camps to which adult non-Serb men accused of alleged "paramilitary activities" were taken as death camps.<sup>156</sup> Despite the fact that the detainees were labeled as "innocent", the camp was guarded on all sides by armed Serbian military and the conditions were still considered inhumane.<sup>157</sup> According to the Bassiouni Commission Report "... the regime at the Trnopolje camp was far better than in Omarska and Keraterm; none the less harassment, water starvation and malnutrition was a problem for all the inmates. Rapes, beatings and other kinds of torture and even killings were not rare. ... Albeit Logor Trnopolje was not a death camp like Logor Omarska or Logor Keraterm, the label «concentration camp» is none the less justified for Logor Trnopolje due to the regime prevailing in the camp."<sup>158</sup> The total number of camp inmates reportedly varied on average between 4,000 and 7,000 people, the vast majority of whom were Bosnian Muslim.<sup>159</sup> Slobodan Kuruzović, the commander of the Trnopolje camp, estimated that between 6,000 and 7,000 people passed through the Trnopolje camp in 1992.<sup>160</sup> Due to the fact that many women were detained at the Trnopolje camp, it was reported that widespread rapes and sexual assaults occurred at the hand of Serb soldiers.<sup>161</sup> The [International Red Cross](#) arrived in the camp in mid-August 1992 and soon after the camp was closed.<sup>162</sup> According to the [ICTY](#) prosecution several hundred non-Serbs were executed at Trnopolje.<sup>163</sup> On 21 August 1992, a large group of about 1,200 civilian detainees released from the Bosnian Serb-run [Trnopolje camp](#) were being transported to the [Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)-controlled territory in central Bosnia. After the convoy reached [Mount Vlašić](#), about 200–250 men were selected and separated from the main group by a group of paramilitary policemen from Prijedor, the so-called "Intervention Platoon", also known as "Red Berets", and crammed onto two

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<sup>154</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>155</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>156</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>157</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>158</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>159</sup> Hanne Sophie Greve, "The Prijedor report," [United Nations Security Council](#), 28 December 1994, 19 April 2012 <<http://www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/comexpert/anx/V.htm>>.

<sup>160</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>161</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>162</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>163</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

buses.<sup>164</sup> According to the survivor Medo Sivac (18-year old at the time), when the rest of the convoy left for [Travnik](#), "they took everything valuable from us, jewelry, [money](#), watches."<sup>165</sup> The separated men were told they were going to be exchanged for prisoners held by the Bosnian government forces, but instead they were taken on a 15-minute journey to the edge of a [ravine](#) at Korićani Cliffs. When the buses arrived at the cliffs, the prisoners on the first bus were taken off and killed one-by-one by being shot while kneeling at the edge of the ravine.<sup>166</sup> After about half the men had been taken off the bus, the rest were taken to be executed in groups of three. Before leaving, the police officers also fired down on the bodies and threw hand grenades at them.<sup>167</sup> Sivac, who was on the second bus, reported how all the passengers from that bus were unloaded together and were then ordered to line up along the cliffs and kneel there: "Then the horrible shooting started. I was falling into the abyss. I didn't lose consciousness, but suddenly I felt that the fall was over, because of the bushes attached to the cliff. I took refuge there, going as far as possible into the bush during the night. In the morning I stepped down somehow to find refuge in the nearby forest. I heard when some people came to burn the corpses."<sup>168</sup> This mass killing became known as the Korićani Cliffs massacre. The Trnopolje camp was officially closed down on September 30, although there is evidence to suggest that some 3,500 remained for a longer period, until they were transferred to [Travnik](#) in Central Bosnia.<sup>169</sup>

### **Prijedor War Criminals**

After the [Yugoslav Wars](#), an international Court was formed to try war criminals ([ICTY](#)). However, ICTY tried only a selected [number of high-ranking people](#) (a total of 161), with local Courts (in [Bosnia](#), [Croatia](#) and [Serbia](#)) starting trials mostly against individuals or soldiers who carried out orders of those high-ranking officers.

### **High Ranking:**

The most prominent and high ranking war criminals charged for genocide and crimes against humanity for the region of Prijedor by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia after the war include Ratko Mladić, Radovan Karadžić, Stojan Župljanin, Milomir Stakic and Radoslav Brdjanin.

Ratko Mladić came to prominence in the [Yugoslav Wars](#), initially as a high-ranking officer of the [Yugoslav People's Army](#) and subsequently as the Chief of Staff of the [Army of the Republika Srpska](#) (the Bosnian Serb Army) during the [Bosnian War](#) of 1992–1995 where he is accused of committing war crimes. Ratko Mladic was finally arrested on 26 May 2011 in [Lazarevo](#), Northern Serbia after being at large for over a

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<sup>164</sup> "Tracking Down The Crimes At Korican Near Knezevo In August 1992," [Nezavisne Novine](#), 25 August 1999, 24 April 2012 <[http://www.cpi.org/regions\\_01/europe\\_01/Kopanja\\_Articles.pdf](http://www.cpi.org/regions_01/europe_01/Kopanja_Articles.pdf)>.

<sup>165</sup> "Tracking Down The Crimes At Korican Near Knezevo In August 1992," [Nezavisne Novine](#), 25 August 1999, 24 April 2012 <[http://www.cpi.org/regions\\_01/europe\\_01/Kopanja\\_Articles.pdf](http://www.cpi.org/regions_01/europe_01/Kopanja_Articles.pdf)>.

<sup>166</sup> "Tracking Down The Crimes At Korican Near Knezevo In August 1992," [Nezavisne Novine](#), 25 August 1999, 24 April 2012 <[http://www.cpi.org/regions\\_01/europe\\_01/Kopanja\\_Articles.pdf](http://www.cpi.org/regions_01/europe_01/Kopanja_Articles.pdf)>.

<sup>167</sup> "Tracking Down The Crimes At Korican Near Knezevo In August 1992," [Nezavisne Novine](#), 25 August 1999, 24 April 2012 <[http://www.cpi.org/regions\\_01/europe\\_01/Kopanja\\_Articles.pdf](http://www.cpi.org/regions_01/europe_01/Kopanja_Articles.pdf)>.

<sup>168</sup> "Tracking Down The Crimes At Korican Near Knezevo In August 1992," [Nezavisne Novine](#), 25 August 1999, 24 April 2012 <[http://www.cpi.org/regions\\_01/europe\\_01/Kopanja\\_Articles.pdf](http://www.cpi.org/regions_01/europe_01/Kopanja_Articles.pdf)>.

<sup>169</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

decade and is currently on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague.<sup>170</sup>

Radovan Karadžić is accused by the [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#) (ICTY) of personal and [command responsibility](#) for numerous war crimes committed against non-Serbs, in his roles as Supreme Commander of the Bosnian Serb armed forces and President of the National Security Council of the Republika Srpska. Karadžić was arrested on 21 July 2008 in [Belgrade](#) after years in hiding and is currently on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague.<sup>171</sup>

Stojan Župljanin was a commander of the Bosnian Serb police during the [Bosnian war](#), Župljanin had operational control over the police forces responsible for the detention camps where thousands of prisoners were held in horrific conditions and many were murdered. Župljanin is also alleged to have played a central role in the destruction of [Bosniak](#) and [Bosnian Croat](#) communities in the [Autonomous Region of Krajina](#). Stojan Župljanin was arrested on June 11, 2008 not far from [Belgrade, Serbia](#) and extradited to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague where he is currently on trial.<sup>172</sup>

Milomir Stakic was elected President of the Assembly of the Serbian People of the Municipality of Prijedor as a member of the Serbian Democratic Party and was one of the leading figures in the Serbian political [coup d'état](#) in Prijedor. His local government helped establish the main concentration camps for [Bosniaks](#) and [Croats](#) in the Prijedor region and *planned the [complete](#) range of operations related to the conduct of the hostilities and the destruction of the non-Serb community in the municipality*. Stakic was indicted on 13 March 1997 and after his arrest was sentenced to 40 years in prison by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.<sup>173</sup>

Radoslav Brdjanin was the vice-President of the Assembly of the Serbian People of the Municipality of Prijedor and after his arrest was sentenced to 32 years (30 following appeal) by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. His position enabled him to facilitate the [ethnic cleansing](#) of Bosnians by putting all of the instruments of State power (media, central administration, housing authority, health service, police, legal system, means of production and employment) into the hands of the governing bodies and those persons committed to an ethnically pure Serb State. It was he who signed the decisions and orders of the Crisis Staff and compelled it into action. The Crisis Staff organized and participated directly in carrying out the alleged crimes: persecutions, deportations, murders, torture, and destruction.<sup>174</sup>

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<sup>170</sup> "Profile: Ratko Mladic, Bosnian Serb army chief," [BBC](#), 16 May 2012, 24 April 2012 <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13559597>>.

<sup>171</sup> "Profile: Radovan Karadzic," [BBC](#), 5 November 2009, 24 April 2012 <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8322507.stm>>.

<sup>172</sup> "Profile: Stojan Župljanin," [BBC](#), 11 June 2008, 24 April 2012 <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7448941.stm>>.

<sup>173</sup> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, "Prosecutor V. Milomir Stakic," [United Nations](#), 31 July 2003, April 20 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/x/cases/stakic/tjug/en/stak-tj030731e.pdf>>.

<sup>174</sup> "Radoslav Brdjanin," [Trial](#), 4 March 2008, 24 April 2012 <<http://www.trial-ch.org/en/ressources/trial-watch/trial-watch/profils/profile/174/action/show/controller/Profile/tab/legal-procedure.html>>.

## **Semi-high ranking individuals indicted for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in Prijedor:**

Dr. Milan Kovacevic was the President of the Executive Committee of the Municipal Assembly of [Prijedor](#) from January 1991 to March 1993. He also served as the Vice President of the Municipality of Prijedor Crisis Staff after the Crisis Staff took over control of the town of [Prijedor](#) in April 1992. As the Vice President of the Crisis Staff, Kovačević played a key role in the crimes that occurred in the Municipality of Prijedor between April and August 1992, most importantly the establishment and operation of [concentration camps](#) targeted for [Bosnian Muslims](#) and [Bosnian Croats](#), including the [Omarska](#), [Keraterm](#) and [Trnopolje](#) camps. He was captured by British [Special Air Service](#) (SAS) troops and U.S. Navy SEALs on 10 July 1997 in [SFOR's Operation Tango](#) and died of natural causes in custody in 1998 while awaiting trial.<sup>175</sup>

Simo Drljača was the [chief of police](#) of Prijedor during the period of the Bosnian genocide and ordered many atrocities against non-Serb civilians such as the Koricani Cliffs massacre. He was shot and killed by SFOR soldiers while resisting an attempt to arrest him in 1997.<sup>176</sup>

## **Other individuals charged for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in Prijedor:**

On 21 [December](#) 2010 at the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on Zoran Babić, Milorad Škrbić, Dušan Janković and Željko Stojnić, all employed at the Public Security Center in Prijedor during the war, were found guilty and between them sentenced to 86 years imprisonment for war crimes committed against more than 200 Bosniak and Croat civilians in the Korićani Cliffs massacre.<sup>177</sup>

On 18 March 2010, Ljubiša Četić was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment by the court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for his role in the Koricani Cliffs massacre as a member of the Prijedor Police Intervention Platoon.<sup>178</sup>

On 19 November 2009 the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina charged Saša Zečević, Radoslav Knežević, Petar Čivčić, Branko Topola and Marinko Ljepoja with the criminal offence of Crimes against Humanity. According to the Indictment, the accused Saša Zečević and Radoslav Knežević worked as police officers for the Public Security Station Prijedor, and in the period between late April and late September 1992 participated in a joint criminal enterprise directed against Croat and Bosniak population of Prijedor Municipality aimed at their persecution. The accused Petar Čivčić, in the capacity of Commander of the First Intervention Platoon of the Police Station of Prijedor, Marinko Ljepoja as a member of the

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<sup>175</sup> "Milan Kovacevic," [Trial](#), 23 December 2009, 24 April 2012 <<http://www.trial-ch.org/en/ressources/trial-watch/trial-watch/profils/profile/281/action/show/controller/Profile.html>>.

<sup>176</sup> "Human Rights Watch Applauds NATO Efforts to Apprehend War Criminals," [Human Rights Watch](#), 10 July 1997, 14 April 2012 <[http://www.hrw.org/legacy/english/docs/1997/07/10/yugosl8842\\_txt.htm](http://www.hrw.org/legacy/english/docs/1997/07/10/yugosl8842_txt.htm)>.

<sup>177</sup> "Ivankovic, Babic et al" [Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 25 October 2011, 24 April 2012 <<http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/?opcija=predmeti&id=179&jezik=e>>.

<sup>178</sup> "Ljubiša Četić sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment," [Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 18 March 2010, 20 April 2012 <<http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/index.php?id=1582&jezik=e>>.

forementioned Intervention Platoon, and Branko Topola as a Guard at the Detention Camp of Trnopolje, committed, participated and aided in the organization and escort of a convoy of around 1,200 civilians, mainly Muslims, but also some Croats.<sup>179</sup>

On 11 September 2009 the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina convicted **Gordan Đurić** of Crimes Against Humanity, and sentenced him to eight years of imprisonment for his role in the Koricani Cliffs massacre as a member of the Prijedor Intervention Platoon.<sup>180</sup>

On 2 July 2009 **Damir Ivanković** was found guilty of crimes against humanity by the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and sentenced him to 14 years in prison for his role in the Koricani Cliffs massacre as a member of the Prijedor Intervention platoon.<sup>181</sup>

On 30 May 2008, **Željko Mejakić**, **Momčilo Gruban** and **Duško Knežević** were found guilty by the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Crimes against Humanity and between them were sentenced to 63 years imprisonment. The enacting clause of the verdict states that the accused participated in abuses and persecutions committed during the period from 30 April to the end of 1992 against the non-Serbs in the territory of the Prijedor municipality; about 7000 non-Serb civilians were subjected to capturing, taking to and arbitrary confinement at the Omarska and Keraterm camps, as part of the plan of permanent removal of the non-Serbs.<sup>182</sup>

On 22 April 2008, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) found **Dušan Fuštar** guilty of Crimes against Humanity and sentenced him to 9 years of imprisonment for his role as a shift commander at the Keraterm camp.<sup>183</sup>

On 23 February 2012, the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina has filed an Indictment against **Predrag Prošić**, charged with the criminal offense of Crimes against Humanity. As a member of the 6th Sana Brigade, **Predrag Prošić** is charged with perpetrating a persecution of Bosniak civilians in the Prijedor municipality on political, national and religious grounds at the end of May 1992 by participating in enforced disappearances and other inhumane acts committed for the purpose of causing great suffering and serious physical and mental injuries.<sup>184</sup>

**Duško Tadić** was a former Serbian Democratic Party leader in [Kozarac](#) and a former member of the paramilitary forces supporting the attack on the district of [Prijedor](#). In 1997 he was sentenced to 20

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<sup>179</sup> "Commencement of trial scheduled in the Saša Zečević et al. case," [Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 19 November 2009, 20 April 2012 <<http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/index.php?id=1442&jezik=e>>.

<sup>180</sup> "Verdict delivered in the Gordan Đurić case," [Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 9 November 2009, 20 April 2012 <<http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/index.php?id=1367&jezik=e>>.

<sup>181</sup> "Damir Ivanković Found Guilty of the Crimes against Humanity," [Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 2 July 2009, 20 April 2012 <<http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/index.php?id=1307&jezik=e>>.

<sup>182</sup> "Željko Mejakić, Momčilo Gruban and Duško Knežević found guilty by the Court of BiH of the criminal offense of Crimes against Humanity," [Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 30 May 2008, 20 April 2012 <<http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/index.php?id=893&jezik=e>>.

<sup>183</sup> "Dušan Fuštar released from custody," [Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 27 May 2008, 20 April 2012 <<http://www.sudbih.gov.ba/index.php?id=883&jezik=e>>.

<sup>184</sup> "Indictment filed against Predrag Prošić," [The Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), 23 February 2012, 14 April 2012 <<http://www.tuzilastvobih.gov.ba/?id=1354&jezik=e>>.

years imprisonment by the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#) (ICTY) for his role in the attacks and his actions at the [Omarska](#), [Trnopolje](#) and [Keraterm](#) detention camps.<sup>185</sup>

[Duško Sikirica](#) was the Bosnian Serb commander of the Keraterm camp. He permitted the persecutions and violence towards detainees in the camp. This included beatings, rape, sexual assaults, harassment, humiliation, psychological abuse and killing. In 2002 he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#) (ICTY) for his role in the atrocities committed at the [Keraterm camp](#).<sup>186</sup>

**Damir Došen**, was a guard shift leader at the Keraterm detention camp in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992. He permitted the persecutions and violence towards detainees in the camp. This included beatings, rape, sexual assaults, harassment, humiliation, psychological abuse and killing. In 2001 Došen was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment by the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#) (ICTY).<sup>187</sup>

**Dragan Kolundžija**, was a guard shift commander at the Keraterm detention camp in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992. Although Kolundžija was aware that detainees were kept in inhumane conditions, beaten, raped, sexually assaulted and killed, the the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#) (ICTY) heard ample evidence of his effort to ease the harsh conditions at the camp for many of the detainees. In 2001 Kolundžija was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment.<sup>188</sup>

[Milojica Kos](#), a shift commander at the Omarska camp, was arrested by SFOR and transferred to The Hague on 29 May 1998. He was convicted in November 2001 for persecution as a crime against humanity and for murder and torture as violations of the laws or customs of war. He was sentenced to six years' imprisonment.<sup>189</sup>

[Miroslav Kvočka](#), was for a short-time the commander of the Omarska camp before becoming one of the two deputies to Zeljko Meakic, the camp commander. Kvočka was convicted in 1998 for persecution as a crime against humanity and for murder and torture as violations of the laws or customs of war. He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#) (ICTY).<sup>190</sup>

[Dragoljub Pricac](#), a deputy to the commander of Omarska was sentenced in November 2001 to 5 year's imprisonment by the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#) for persecution as a

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<sup>185</sup> "Dusko Tadic sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment", [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#), 14 July 1997, 14 April 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/sid/7492>>.

<sup>186</sup> "Dusko Sikirica," [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#), 8 October 2001, 14 April 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/sid/223>>.

<sup>187</sup> "Damir Dosen," [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#), 8 October 2001, 14 April 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/sid/205>>.

<sup>188</sup> "Dragan Kolundzija," [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#), 9 October 2001, 14 April 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/sid/214>>.

<sup>189</sup> "Bosnia concentration camp guard jailed," [BBC](#), 2 November 2001, 14 April 2012 <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1633582.stm>>.

<sup>190</sup> "Bosnia concentration camp guard jailed," [BBC](#), 2 November 2001, 14 April 2012 <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1633582.stm>>.

crime against humanity and for murder and torture as violations of the laws or customs of war. Severe beatings, torture, killings, sexual assault, and other forms of physical and psychological abused were commonplace at Omarska.<sup>191</sup>

[Mlado Radić](#), was a shift commander at the Omarska camp and in November 2001 was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#) for his role at the camp. Radic knew that persons in positions of subordinate authority to him regularly and openly killed, raped, tortured, beat and otherwise subjected prisoners to conditions of constant humiliation, degradation, and fear of death. According to eye witnesses, Radic himself committed crimes, such as rape, against women.<sup>192</sup>

[Zoran Žigić](#), was a policeman and taxi driver who visited the Omarska camp regularly in order to torture and kill prisoners. In November 2001 he was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment by the [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#) for his actions.<sup>193</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Over 4000 people were killed in Prijedor and almost the entire non-Serb population was expelled from their homes. Today the municipality of Prijedor is a part of the Republic of Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina and is a municipality with the highest number of convicted war criminals in the world.<sup>194</sup> From an outsider's perspective life in the area has come back to normal; however an uneasy peace remains due to the memory of the genocide and the present day treatment of survivors. This uneasy atmosphere has maintained an attitude of inter-ethnic intolerance in Prijedor and has kept emotional wounds from healing. One cause of this uneasy climate is the current mayor of Prijedor and leader of the Democratic People's Alliance Marko Pavic. Previously, Pavic had banned the gathering of the families of the victims, who wanted to commemorate the deaths of Bosniaks and Croats killed in the town during the war, saying that such event would "undermine the town's reputation".<sup>195</sup> Refik Hodzic from the International Centre for the Transitional Justice says that Pavic violated the victims' right to remembrance.<sup>196</sup> Marko Pavic also openly claims that the Omarska concentration camp was never a real

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<sup>191</sup> "Dragoljub Prcac detained by SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina and transferred to The Hague," [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#), 6 March 2000, 14 April 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/sid/7891>>., "Completion of Sentence by Dragoljub Prcac," [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#), 4 March 2005, 14 April 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/sid/8637>>.

<sup>192</sup> "Initial appearance of Miroslav Kvočka and Mladen Radic," [International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia](#), 9 April 1998, 14 April 2012 <<http://www.icty.org/sid/7677>>., "Bosnia concentration camp guard jailed," [BBC](#), 2 November 2001, 14 April 2012 <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1633582.stm>>.

<sup>193</sup> "Bosnia concentration camp guard jailed," [BBC](#), 2 November 2001, 14 April 2012 <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1633582.stm>>.

<sup>194</sup> "The Letter to Send to the Mayor of Prijedor Marko Pavic," [Stop Genocide Denial](#), 14 May 2012, 2 June 2012 <<http://stopgenocidedenial.org/2012/05/14/the-letter-to-send-to-the-mayor-of-prijedor-marko-pavic/>>.

<sup>195</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.

<sup>196</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.

death camp but only a holding center.<sup>197</sup> At the moment it is also forbidden for anyone, especially survivors, to visit the former concentration camp and many proclaim that Pavic is responsible for this.<sup>198</sup> Most disturbingly Pavic openly denies the Prijedor genocide claiming that the genocide has not been proven and forbade the marking of the 20th anniversary of the crimes due to the use of the word 'genocide'.<sup>199</sup> To add insult to injury Marko Pavic organized and marked in the Prijedor municipality the 20th anniversary of the Bosnian army attack on the town, when 15 soldiers were killed and 25 members of the Serbian forces injured.<sup>200</sup> Edin Ramulic from the victims [association](#) Izvor thinks that certain groups in Prijedor, especially victims of the Prijedor genocide, do not enjoy the same rights as others and that all the victims from Prijedor should have equal status.<sup>201</sup> "It is disastrous to see that victims from another ethnic group are allowed to do what we were forbidden. The police did not deem necessary to say that the dirge performed as a memorial to Serbian victims would violate inter-ethnic tolerance, although that is what we were told when they banned us from holding the commemoration," said Ramulic.<sup>202</sup> Pavic has been quoted in saying that the "muslims are lying and accusing without proof" for crimes in Omarska and that those who "smear Prijedor's name should not be looking for employment here", which explains why certain individuals from ethnic culture have found it difficult to find employment in Prijedor.<sup>203</sup> Pavic has even gone as far as threatening police action against an event supposed to mark the deaths of 266 women and girls from Prijedor.<sup>204</sup> This action is meant to spread fear among the families of the victims of the Prijedor genocide. Hodzic says that the municipality's policy towards victims is just a part of the wider Republika Srpska's policy of denying the crimes committed against Bosniaks, such as the Sarajevo siege or the Srebrenica genocide.<sup>205</sup> These systemic policies by Pavic aim to silence the survivors and families of Prijedor, attack the basic foundations of democracy and deny certain vulnerable ethnicities in Prijedor their basic human rights. Until the basic human rights of all ethnicities in Prijedor are respected, an uneasy atmosphere will remain.

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<sup>197</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.

<sup>198</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.

<sup>199</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.

<sup>200</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.

<sup>201</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.

<sup>202</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.

<sup>203</sup> "The Letter to Send to the Mayor of Prijedor Marko Pavic," [Stop Genocide Denial](#), 14 May 2012, 2 June 2012 <<http://stopgenocidedenial.org/2012/05/14/the-letter-to-send-to-the-mayor-of-prijedor-marko-pavic/>>.

<sup>204</sup> "The Letter to Send to the Mayor of Prijedor Marko Pavic," [Stop Genocide Denial](#), 14 May 2012, 2 June 2012 <<http://stopgenocidedenial.org/2012/05/14/the-letter-to-send-to-the-mayor-of-prijedor-marko-pavic/>>.

<sup>205</sup> Denis Dzidic and Marija Ristic, "White Ribbons Against Denial," [Balkan Transitional Justice](#), 31 May 2012, 1 June 2012 <<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-white-ribbons-against-genocide-denial>>.