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INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION
OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY
OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name: HUSIĆ

First Name(s): Ramiz

Father's First Name: Sejdin

Nickname:

Gender: Male

Date of Birth: 19.09.76

Place of Birth: Brezovica

Ethnic Origin: Bosniak

Religion: Islam

Language(s) Spoken: Bosnian

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

Language(s) Used in Interview: English and Bosnian

Current Occupation: Unemployed

Former: Car mechanic

Date(s) of Interview(s): 9th of June 1999

Interviewer: Jan Kruszewski

Interpreter: Alma Imamović

Names of all persons present during interview(s): Alberto Perduca

Signature: Husić Ramiz

Alma Imamović
Jan Kruszewski

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WITNESS STATEMENT:

I used to live in the village of Brezovica with my family until 1993, when we left for Srebrenica because the Serbs forced us out of our village.

On the 11th of July 1995, it was a Tuesday, in the afternoon I left Srebrenica with my father, Sejdin and my brother, Enver. My second brother, Šaban, born in 1982 or 1983, was killed in an accident in Srebrenica in 1993.

We had to leave because the enemy attacked the village. None of us were armed. My mother and sister left for Potočari to seek shelter in the UN compound. At Buljim we joined others and a column was formed, mostly men and a few women, that headed towards the free territory. I was at the rear of the column when we left Buljim in the morning of the 12th of July. I had lost my father and my brother at this stage. There were armed soldiers among us, but I do not know how many.

I do not recall any names of locations that we went through; I was not familiar with the area. We were ambushed three or four times before we finally surrendered.

The first ambush took place around noon on the 12th of July when we tried to cross a field to enter the woods. Someone opened fire on us from the right with machine guns, and I had to stay in the field with 50 – 70 others to seek shelter for two hours. I did not know the names of the others that were there with me at this stage. The enemy had their positions on the hill so I could not see any of them, neither did I notice anyone returning fire. I saw four men getting killed by a shell in this ambush. I knew one of them as a journalist, Nino Čatić, he used to report on radio from Srebrenica before the fall.

After we had walked for approx. 15 minutes a second ambush took place. As we entered a creek, fire was opened from all sides, I ran away to seek shelter. I was confused but managed to escape and cross a hill together with a small group of people. As I was running away I saw approx. 10 dead people and approx. 20 wounded who were begging for help. Some of those who got killed and wounded were soldiers carrying rifles, others civilians, but I do not remember how many of each.

We crossed another hill and joined another group of the column. I found my father among them. At this time, we had no idea where my brother Enver was. We stayed in this location for another 15 minutes and as fire was opened upon us again, the group of 200 - 300 people split in two. I did not see any in the column returning fire. My father remained in this area to look for my brother and I left with approx. 30 others. Some of them knew the way towards Kamenica and Kravica.

As we approached Kamenica, we met some people who told us that it was not possible to get further. They had checked the area and had noticed that the enemy had prepared another ambush. I went down to a creek and drank some water, and I fainted. When I woke up two or three others helped me, I felt confused.

Around 0330 in the morning of the 13th of July, I was in a group of approx. 50 people in a field with high grass. I still felt a bit confused, asked myself if I was in a dream. However, I soon realised that this was real. I got up and three men approached us. They advised us to surrender to the Serbs. I do not know if they were Serbs or Muslims. Two of them wore new camouflage uniforms; the third one in civilian clothes carried a first aid kit.

Ja

A.R.

Asm.

A young man in my group, I do not know his name, told me to lie down. He had a machine gun and wanted to fire upon those three men who he said were Chetniks. He opened fire, killed the two in uniform and hit the third one with the first aid kit in the knee. He remained lying in the grass next to a creek and asked for help, said that he was a Muslim, but nobody believed him. We left him in that area.

After this incident, around 0400 o'clock in the morning, Serbs called us on megaphones from a distance at about 500 meters, telling us to surrender. We stayed a little longer, then the young guy that had opened fire on the three alleged Serbs gave me a rifle and told me and another young guy to go up the hill and check if there were Serbs around. Suddenly we were told to stop and someone asked us where we were heading. We told them that we were from Srebrenica and they replied that they were from the mountain battalion of the Bosnian army. We approached them and I recognised one man from this battalion. Actually he was a distant cousin of mine, Mevlid, I do not now his last name. He was a messenger in this battalion. I told him about the shooting incident. Mevlid confirmed that the three men were from their unit and that we had to go back and inform the others about this.

When I returned to the young man that had the machine gun, I informed him that our soldiers were in the area, and gave the rifle back to him. He told us that we could not join them, as we did not have any arms.

Then I returned to my group, it was daylight by now, and I saw approx. 30 dead bodies in the creek. It was very hot; I could smell the stench from the bodies. Among the bodies I recognised a man from Srebrenica, a Gypsy nicknamed Zoran, around 35 years of age.

I went down the creek and met a group which prepared to go to Žepa. I asked if I could join them, but they hesitated. As we were talking about me joining them, I saw my brother Enver coming down from a hill carrying a plastic bottle in his hand. I was really surprised to see him. I asked him about me father. He told me that my father had been wounded and that he was on his way to get some water for him. We got some water and went back to our father. As we were walking up the hill, we found him under a tree. My father told us he was all right, but he did not look that way; he was wounded in the stomach having been close to where a detonation took place. There were a lot of people around, some of them badly wounded. I stayed with my father.

At around 1000 o'clock in the morning the Serbs called us to surrender again. They told us we were surrounded and could not get out. We walked a little further and saw UNPROFOR vehicles and soldiers in UN uniforms on the asphalt road. I realised we were above Kravica. The Serbs told us that UNPROFOR was waiting for us to take us to Tuzla and exchange us for Serbs soldiers. Some of us could not wait to surrender to UNPROFOR, some thought it was a trap. There was a discussion within the group.

After an hour or so the Serbs gave us an ultimatum to surrender before 1500 hours, if not, they would start shelling us. My father and brother were with me at this time. My brother suggested that we should surrender; he could not take it any longer, but my father advised us not to surrender. He told us to leave him there and continue towards free territory. We stayed for some 15 minutes, my father asked for water. I borrowed a bottle of water from a man and went down towards the creek 200 meters away. Two other young guys joined me. As we approached the creek, two Serbs in flak jackets showed up and came close to one of the others. Two of us managed to hide behind a tree, but the third one of us was captured. I heard him whining and we ran from the place. I also saw a man in a tree trying to commit suicide.

M. HOR. Jm.

I brought water back to my father, and then went back to the tree with two armed soldiers. The man in the tree was stabbing himself in his throat with a knife shouting that we were Chetniks. He finally came down and we took the knife from him, calmed him down and brought him back to the group. He died after about half an hour. I heard his name was Mirsad.

Later on a man from Srebrenica, Ramiz, nicknamed "the butcher", who ran a butchers shop, approached us and told people to put down their weapons. He must have been insane, because after some time he threw a hand grenade within the group that killed at least three or four men. Shrapnel from this grenade hit my right upper arm (shows wound, JK).

Around 1400 hrs we started walking towards Kravica in a column. Before we left I met three men from my village, Safet Husić, Mehmed Husić and Habib, LNU, who helped us carry our father. We soon realised that Enver, my brother, had separated from us. Some of the people, there were approx. 10 of them who did not want to surrender, committed suicide. I saw them lie down and put hand grenades under their stomach; they blew themselves up.

We continued towards Kravica, we saw both killed and wounded people. Upon seeing those dead bodies, I saw two more men in our column commit suicide. After having walked another kilometre, I met my brother Enver again. He collected water for my father. We crossed a minefield, and again lost Enver. I did not see him again until we reached the meadow where all people were gathered.

I was in a group of approx. 1000 people. As we approached the asphalt road around 1630 hrs, a Serb soldier asked us for money, we told him we did not have any. I saw a lot of baggage, rucksacks and personal belongings along the track as we approached the main road. He then told us to go towards a partly destroyed house on the right hand side close to the asphalt road. I saw two armed Serb women in uniform outside this house. They carried Skorpion pistols. Safet Husić was separated from the column and told to enter the house, and we were told to cross the asphalt road and join a large group of people on a meadow. I have never seen or heard from Safet since. I also know the following names of people that surrendered together with me: Mehmedalija Husić, born 1965 from Brezovica, Mensur Alić, born 1977, from Jagonja, Bratunac, Kiram Mehić, around 27 years of age, and Hamed Kabilović, around 30 yrs old, both from Poloznik, Bratunac, Sead Krdžić, around 35 years of age, from Osmače, Srebrenica. I have never seen or heard from any of these persons again. There were also two women among us.

At the meadow, a Serb soldier in camouflage trousers and shirt with a red bandanna around his head, addressed us and told us about the rules for detainees. He instructed us to hand over any sharp objects in our possession and that we should report to the guards if we needed to go to the toilet. He mentioned that we were to be detained in an agricultural warehouse in Kravica and then exchanged. The soldier was about 28 years of age, approx. 180 cms, strongly built, brown short beard, brownish hair. He said he was from Tuzla, and was making jokes about giving us the keys to his flat in Tuzla so we could stay there.

There were 15 – 20 Serb armed soldiers in the area.

He also mentioned that the Commander of the Army of Republika Srpska Ratko Mladić and a Drina Corps Commander would arrive at 2000 hrs to inform us about what would happen to us eventually. He did not mention the name of the Drina Corps Commander.

JK HOR ASU.

While at the meadow, I saw several buses with Muslim women pass by. A SMB coloured tank with an anti aircraft machine gun, was parked next to us, and some smaller military vehicles on the asphalt road, two UN APCs and two jeeps. They fired shells from the tank towards the hill we had come down.

There were also soldiers with UN helmets, but I realised they were Serbs and that the UN vehicles and helmets were only used as a trick for us to surrender.

After we had spent some time at the meadow, a Serb soldier from the tank, told my brother and Dulan Tabaković to collect water for the wounded. Dulan had a head injury; his head was bandaged, but he was able to move. He brought water back to the soldiers operating the tank. A soldier called Krle; I heard someone call him by this nickname, jumped down from the tank and grabbed Dulan and took him to a cornfield. Krle threw away the water. After approx. 20 minutes I saw that Krle had returned to the tank, but I never saw Dulan return to the meadow. Krle was approx. 23 years of age, 175 cms, slim, brown hair, clean shaven, wore a camouflage T-shirt.

My father was lying close to the tank, the Serb soldiers had separated the wounded from the others. I have never seen or heard from my father again.

The Serb soldier with the red bandanna called those who were born in 1979 and 1980 to stand up. About ten stood up, but I did not. Mehmed Husić and Meho, LNU, told me to get up. I replied that I was older, but they told me that I looked younger. I told them I could not leave my father, but they just grabbed me and made me stand up. I have never seen or heard of Mehmed and Meho again.

I was one of the last to stand up. The youngsters started to run towards the road. The soldier with the red bandanna told me to go faster. One of the soldiers sitting on the tank cursed the soldier with the red bandanna when he let me go. In a ditch next to the road I saw two dead bodies in civilian clothes. We were told that those two had tried to escape and that the Serbs were forced to kill them.

On the asphalt road, I got onto a civilian blue truck with a yellow canopy. On board there were approx. 20 women that had arrived from Potočari. Some of the women mentioned that we were in Sandići outside Kravica. A Serbian soldier had stopped this truck on the road. We, the eleven youngsters boarded the truck. The truck stopped in Vlasenica for approx. ten minutes, and locals threw stones at us, but also cigarettes.

At Tišča, we got off the truck and the men were separated from the women. There were two tall young men among us. I did not know them or their names. One soldier approached one of them and asked him what he had done in Srebrenica. He said that he had worked for UNPROFOR. He was told to go into the basement of a house nearby. I never saw this man again.

We were told to walk towards Kladanj and help the elderly women. When we reached the last checkpoint near the tunnel, at around 2230 hrs, a soldier named Željko called me to give me a cigarette. He asked me who released me and how I got there.

Another soldier across the road called me and started cursing me and the man who released me. He said he would kill me and push me into the ditch. I cried and begged them both to let me go. He told me to go to a little house nearby with a light outside. On his camouflage uniform I could read the text Military Police (Vojna Policija) above a patch with a two-headed eagle and the four S's in Cyrillic and below the text Drina Wolves (Drinski Vukovi). I overheard him discussing with his commander what to do with me.

JM HOR. Hhu.

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Finally, the Commander came over to me and introduced himself as Željko Živkić from Živkići, Vlasenica municipality. He was about 35 years of age, approx. 175 cms, clean shaven, brown hair, a bit bald in front and wore the same type of camouflage uniform as the other soldier.

Željko said to me that if my brother had been there he, that is my brother, would not have been able to help me, but now I am helping you as you were my own brother. He shook my hand and let me go across to Muslim controlled territory.

I have drawn a sketch of the area where we surrender and were held. I attach this to my statement as Attachment no. 1, signed and dated.

You have shown me 30 colour pictures (IIF no. 109921, printed off video ERN V000-0550, JK) and I have numbered the pictures on which I have recognised persons/situations as follows:

Picture no. 1 – caption 00:24:36:00

On this picture in the background, left corner, you can see the luggage that we had to leave behind close to the house and the main road where we surrendered. The man in the light blue shirt is Ramo; I knew him from Srebrenica, I have heard that he did not survive. I also recognise the two soldiers on the picture, they both asked us for money and the one to the right said that we should not be afraid.

Picture no. 2 – caption 00:25:08:11

The man on the right is Juso, he was from Srebrenica town, I used to see him there several times. Juso and the other man on the picture were carrying a wounded man, I think I was in front of them just before we surrendered.

Picture no. 3 – caption 00:25:11:11

I recognise the man on the picture, I think his name is Bekir, he was in the same column as me when we went downhill towards Kravica or Sandići.

Picture no. 4 – caption 00:25:16:12

I think this boy's name is Almir, born in 1978 or 1979, from Pasmulići, and his brother's name is Nihad, now living in Gradačac. He was told to take his camouflage T-shirt off by a Serb soldier. Almir got this T-shirt from UNPROFOR. I am not sure if Almir had to go into the house or went to the meadow. I have never heard of him since.

Picture no. 5 – caption 00:12:36:04

This picture shows Ramo, the same person as on picture no. 1, on the meadow. The Serb soldiers made him call for his son Nermin to surrender from the woods. At the very top of the picture you can see the cornfield to where Dulan Tabaković was taken by Krle. I do not recognise any of the persons in the bottom right of the picture.

John Hor *Almir*

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Picture no. 6 – caption 00:24:05:02

The two men on the picture are the brothers Tabaković, Senahid and Safet. Safet was nicknamed Sajo. They were both wounded by shrapnel during the flight through the woods.

Picture no. 7 – caption 00:24:16:20

The face of the man on the picture is familiar to me, I saw this man when we were about to surrender. I am almost sure that this picture is from outside the house where we surrendered.

Picture no. 8 – caption 00:25:13:13

This picture shows Almir and my brother Enver as they were approaching the Serb soldiers that were waiting for us.

Picture no. 9 – caption 00:25:19:20

This is my brother Enver.

Picture no. 10 – caption 00:25:14:17

This shows Almir again, the same person as on picture 4 and 8.

Husic' Ruzic
Ahmedovic

Jan Krizic

WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This Statement has been read over to me in the Bosnian language and is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given this Statement voluntarily and am aware that it may be used in legal proceedings before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the Tribunal.

Signed: Ramiz

Dated: 9.6.99.

INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

I, Alma Imamović, Interpreter, certify that:

1. I am duly qualified and approved by The Registry of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to interpret from the Bosnian language into the English language and from the English language into the Bosnian language.
2. I have been informed by Ramiz Husić that he / she speaks and understands the Bosnian language.
3. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Bosnian language in the presence of Ramiz Husić who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.
4. Ramiz Husić has acknowledged that the facts and matters set out in his / her Statement, as translated by me, are true to the best of his / her knowledge and recollection and has accordingly signed his / her signature where indicated.

Dated: 9.6.99.

Signed: Alma Imamović

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Security

5-6 sold.

Tank

Supply

red band.

Medicines

Security

Security

asphalt road

Civ. veh.

Civ. veh.

Civ. veh.

Civ. veh.

WS
WS

house

20m

UN APC

UN jeeps

house

Legend:

- S - soldier
- Civ. veh - civilian vehicle
- WS - Woman-soldier

Amusement

Amir Louiz
09.06.1999.

\$ \$

Surrogate Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour

Evidence Reference Number **0081-3507-0081-3526**

SYNOPSIS / DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE

Witness statement - Ramiz HUSIĆ, dob 190976 in Srebrenica s/o Sejdin

Cross Reference (if applicable) ERN: 109921