

United Nations  
Nations UniesInternational Criminal Tribunal  
for the former Yugoslavia  
Tribunal Pénal International  
pour l'ex-Yougoslavie

(IT-97-27)

**ŽELJKO RAŽNATOVIĆ****“ARKAN”****ŽELJKO  
RAŽNATOVIĆ***Indicted for wilfully causing great suffering, cruel treatment, murder, wilful killing, rape, other inhumane acts*

Leader of the paramilitary group known as the “Serbian Volunteer Guard” or, alternatively, as “Arkan’s Tigers”

- Died in Belgrade in 2000

*Crimes indicted for (examples):***Murder, other inhumane acts, rape** (crimes against humanity)**Murder, cruel treatment, rape** (violations of the laws or customs of war)**Wilfully causing great suffering, wilful killing** (Grave Breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949)

- On or about 20 September 1995, paramilitary soldiers from the group known as the “Serbian Volunteer Guard” or, alternatively, as “Arkan’s Tigers,” under the command or supervision of Arkan transported twelve non-Serb men from Sanski Most to an isolated location in the village of Trnova, where they shot and killed eleven of the men and critically wounded the twelfth;
- On or about 21 September 1995, paramilitary soldiers from the “Serbian Volunteer Guard” under the command or supervision of Arkan transported approximately sixty-seven non-Serbs (66 men and one woman) from Sanski Most, Šehovci, and Pobježe to an isolated location in the village of Sasina and shot them, killing sixty-five of the captives and wounding two others;

**ŽELJKO RAŽNATOVIĆ****Born** 17 April 1952, in Brežice, Slovenia**Indictment** 30 September 1997

## INDICTMENT AND CHARGES

The indictment against Željko Ražnatović was filed on 23 September 1997 and confirmed on 30 September 1997.

According to the indictment, Željko Ražnatović was formerly president of the fan club of Belgrade's "Red Star" football team. He used this group as a base for the establishment, on 11 October 1990, of a paramilitary organisation known as the "Serbian Volunteer Guard" or, alternatively, as "Arkan's Tigers." He led this group in fighting in the Eastern Slavonian region of Croatia in 1991-1992 and then in various locations in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992. In 1993, Arkan formed the Party of Serbian Unity and put forth candidates, including himself, for national office under the party's auspices. In 1995, he led paramilitary troops of "Arkan's Tigers" into fighting in northwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina. He commanded this force while it was deployed in the city of Sanski Most during September 1995.

The indictment alleged that, as the Bosnian forces ("ABiH") neared Sanski Most in September 1995, a state of panic set in among the Serb civilians and soldiers and many continued to flee in the direction of Banja Luka. Around 15 September 1995, at the invitation of local Serb leaders, "Arkan's Tigers" entered the Sanski Most area in order to restore order and to check the advance of the ABiH. "Arkan's Tigers" established their headquarters at the Hotel "Sanus" in the centre of the town, and Arkan installed himself in the office of the hotel manager. It was from this location that he directed the activities of his paramilitary troops, who set up checkpoints throughout the area and began forcibly drafting Serb men to fight against the ABiH. In addition to establishing checkpoints in Sanski Most, "Arkan's Tigers" also engaged in systematic patrols around the town, in order to identify and detain Muslim and other non-Serb men, to extort valuables from non-Serb families, and to obtain non-Serb homes for use by Serb refugees. During these patrols, the perpetration of beatings and robberies by "Arkan's Tigers" were commonplace. Many of the Muslim and other non-Serb men who were abducted were taken to the Hotel "Sanus" for interrogation by Ražnatović and his subordinates. They were subjected to repeated beatings and harassment by "Arkan's Tigers" and a large number of these detainees were imprisoned in a small boiler room, approximately five square meters in size, located in the basement of an adjoining building.

Željko Ražnatović was charged on the basis of individual criminal responsibility (Article 7(1) of the Statute) and on the basis of superior criminal responsibility (Article 7(3) of the Statute) with:

- **Murder, other inhumane acts, rape** (crimes against humanity, Article 5)
- **Murder; cruel treatment, rape** (violations of the laws or customs of war, Article 3)
- **Wilfully causing great suffering, wilful killing** (Grave Breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Article 2)

Željko Ražnatović died in Belgrade in January 2000.