



United Nations
Nations Unies



International
Criminal Tribunal
for the former
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yougoslavie

Press Release . Communiqué de presse
(Exclusively for the use of the media. Not an official document)

TRIAL CHAMBER
CHAMBRE DE 1ERE
INSTANCE

The Hague, 7 May 2003
JM/P.I.S./750-e

TRIAL OF MOMČILO KRAJIŠNIK TO BEGIN ON MONDAY 12 MAY 2003

The trial of Momčilo Krajišnik is scheduled to begin on Monday 12 May 2003 at 9.00 a.m. in Courtroom I. The Trial Chamber will be composed of Judge Alphons Orie (presiding), Judge Amin El Mahdi and Judge Joaquín Martín Canivell.

Background on the Accused

Momčilo Krajišnik was born on 20 January 1945 in Zabrđe, municipality of Novi Grad, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The amended consolidated Indictment, filed on 7 March 2002 pursuant to a Decision of the Trial Chamber dated 4 March 2002, generally alleges that Momčilo Krajišnik, a leading member of the Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina (“SDS”) was President of the Assembly of Serbian People in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 24 October 1991 until at least November 1995. The Indictment also alleges that Krajišnik was a member of the National Security Council of the so-called “Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina” from the beginning of June 1992 until 17 December 1992, and that he also served on the expanded Presidency of the “Serbian Republic”.

Factual allegations

According to the Indictment, Krajišnik worked in concert with other members of a joint criminal enterprise, including among others, Slobodan Milošević, Željko Ražnatović aka “Arkan”, Biljana Plavšić and Radovan Karadžić. The objective of the joint criminal enterprise was the permanent removal, by force or other means, of Bosnian Muslim, Bosnian Croat or other non-Serb inhabitants from large areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Indictment alleges that “*the objective of the joint criminal enterprise was primarily achieved through a manifest pattern of persecutions as alleged in the Indictment. In some municipalities this campaign of persecutions included or escalated to include conduct committed with the intent to destroy in part the national, ethnical, racial or religious groups of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats as such. In these municipalities a significant section of the Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat groups, namely their leaderships, as well as a substantial number of the members of the groups were targeted by Bosnian Serb Forces and Bosnian Serb Political and Governmental Organs and their agents for intended destruction. The most extreme manifestations of this form of partial destruction of the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats took place in Bosanski Novi, Brčko, Ključ, Kotor Varoš, Prijedor and Sanski Most*”.

Charges

The Indictment charges Momčilo Krajišnik on the basis of individual criminal responsibility (Article 7(1) of the Statute) and superior criminal responsibility (Article 7(3) of the Statute) with:

Internet address: <http://www.un.org/ictv>

Public Information Services/Press Unit

Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW The Hague. P.O. Box 13888, 2501 EW The Hague. Netherlands
Tel.: +31-70-512-5356; 512-5343 Fax: +31-70-512-5355

- Two counts of genocide (Article 4 of the Statute – genocide; and/or complicity to commit genocide),
- Five counts of crimes against humanity (Article 5 of the Statute – persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds extermination; murder; deportation; inhumane acts),
- One count of violations of the laws or customs of war (Article 3 of the Statute – murder),

On 2 October 2002, co-accused Biljana Plavšić pleaded guilty to one count of persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds, a crime against humanity. Following this, on 25 November 2002, the Trial Chamber ordered that the trial of Momčilo Krajišnik be severed from the sentencing proceedings for Biljana Plavšić. On 27 February 2003, Biljana Plavšić was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment.
