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International
Criminal Tribunal
for the former
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Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yougoslavie

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INITIAL APPEARANCE OF MILOJICA KOS

The Registry of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) confirms that Milojica KOS, who was detained on 28 May 1998 by members of the S-For forces, was transferred to the ICTY that same evening and was taken into custody at the ICTY's Detention Unit.

The next legal step is the appearance of the accused before a Trial Chamber in order to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty on each of the counts he is charged with in the indictment issued against him.

This initial appearance hearing will be held onbefore Trial Chamber I.

This hearing is open to both the public and the media.

Background on the indictment

Milojica KOS is one of eight accused named in the indictment issued by the ICTY on 13 February 1995 with regard to atrocities allegedly committed between May and August 1992 against Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat civilians from the Prijedor district (northwestern Bosnia) held at the Omarska camp, a makeshift detention facility where *"the Serb forces killed, raped, assaulted, beat and otherwise mistreated the prisoners"*.

Background on the accused

According to the indictment, Milojica KOS a/k/a/Krle was a shift commander who supervised one of the three shifts of guards that operated the camp. As a shift commander, when on duty, he was in a position of superior authority to all the camp personnel, second only to the camp commander and his deputies.

Background on the charges

Milojica KOS is indicted in his alleged capacity as superior to others in the camp. He knew or had reason to know 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"*.

Milojica KOS is charged with criminal responsibility for the acts of his subordinates with respect to 4 counts of Crimes against humanity, 3 Counts of Violations of the Laws or Customs of War, and 4 counts of Grave Breaches of the Geneva Conventions.
