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ŽELJKO MEJAKIĆ, MOMČILO GRUBAN, DUŠAN FUŠTAR AND DUŠKO KNEŽEVIĆ TRANSFERRED TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Željko Mejakić, Momčilo Gruban, Dušan Fuštar and Duško Knežević were transferred today from the custody of the Tribunal to Bosnia and Herzegovina to be tried in the country's State Court in Sarajevo.

The four Bosnian Serbs are charged with a broad range of war crimes committed during the early stage of 1992-1995 Bosnian conflict against Bosnian Muslims, Bosnian Croats and other non-Serbs in the Omarska and Keraterm camps near Prijedor in northwest Bosnia and Herzegovina. Specifically, they are charged with confining in inhumane conditions, murdering, beating, sexually assaulting, harassing, humiliating and psychologically abusing non-Serbs in camps between May and August 1992.

It is alleged that Željko Mejakić was the Commander of the Omarska Camp at that time, that Momčilo Gruban was a guard shift commander at the Omarska Camp and that Dušan Fuštar performed the same duty at the Keraterm Camp. Duško Knežević, according to the indictment, did not appear to hold an official position in either of the camps but had sufficient authority to be able to enter and leave the camps as he wished.

The Tribunal's Referral Bench ruled on 20 July 2005 that the case be transferred to Bosnia and Herzegovina under the terms of 11 *bis* of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence. Both the prosecution and defence appealed the decision and the prosecution later withdrew their appeal. On 7 April 2006, the appeals chamber granted the transfer.

A partnership with the judiciaries in the former Yugoslavia is a key component of the Tribunal's Completion Strategy. While the most senior leaders are tried before the ICTY, intermediate and lower rank accused may be referred to competent national jurisdictions. The ICTY has transferred six accused to Bosnia and Herzegovina for trial and referred one case involving two accused to Croatia.

The entire text of the decision can be found at:

<http://www.un.org/icty/mejakic/appeal/decision-e/060407.pdf>

Courtroom proceedings can be followed on the Tribunal's website at www.un.org/icty.

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

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