



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)

REGISTRY

GREFFE

CC/PIU/328-E

The Hague, 2 July 1998

### KOVAČEVIĆ CASE: THE TRIAL OPENS ON MONDAY 6 JULY 1998

#### *First trial on Genocide charges*

The trial of accused Milan Kovačević will open on **Monday 6 July 1998**. The **hearing will begin at 9.30 AM** before Trial Chamber II, consisting of Judge May, presiding, Judge Cassese and Judge Mumba.

#### Background on the Accused

According to the indictment, Milan Kovačević (born in Bozici, Prijedor municipality, on 10 February 1941) was the Vice-president of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) 's Crisis Staff of the Municipality of Prijedor. *"Between 29 April and 31 December 1992, the Crisis Staff had authority and control over: the attacks on the non-Serbs villages and areas; the seizure and detention of the Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat populations; the establishment and operation of the detention camps; and, the deportation or forced transfer of the Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat population out of the Municipality [of Prijedor]"*.

*"As the Vice-president of the Crisis Staff, Milan Kovačević played a key role in the crimes that occurred in the Municipality of Prijedor. [...]"*

#### Background on the indictment

The initial indictment, issued on 13 March 1997, charged the accused with a single count of complicity in genocide. It was amended on 23 June 1998 in order to bring additional charges. Milan Kovačević is currently charged with Genocide (1 count), Complicity to commit genocide (1 count), Crimes against Humanity (4 counts), Violations of the laws or customs of war (4 counts), and Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (5 counts) for his alleged criminal conduct.

Since the indictment was amended after the initial appearance of the accused on the first indictment on 30 July 1997 and since additional charges have been brought, Milan Kovačević will have to enter a plea on the new charges before the actual beginning of the trial.

.../...

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

#### **Public Information Unit/ Bureau d'information publique**

Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW The Hague. P.O. Box 13888, 2501 EW The Hague. Netherlands  
Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW La Haye. B.P. 13888, 2501 La Haye. Pays-Bas  
Tel.: +31-70-416-5356; 416-5343 Fax: +31-70-416-5355

### **Pending Motions**

On 30 June 1998, the Defendant filed a Motion to strike various counts relating to Article 2, Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and Article 3, Violations of the laws or customs of war, of the Statute.

### **Schedule for Monday**

On Monday 6 July, the hearing will begin with the further appearance of the accused in order to plead to the new charges contained in the amended indictment.

Then, the Trial Chamber will hear oral arguments on the various pending Motions and Requests, and any other outstanding matters.

The trial will commence afterwards.

### **Background on the Parties**

The Prosecution Bench will consist of Ms. Brenda Hollis, Senior Trial Attorney, and Mr. Michael Keegan, Trial Attorney.

The Accused will be assisted by Mr. Dusan Vučićević and Mr. Anthony D'Amato, both from the Chicago Bar.

### **Background on the Chamber**

Trial Chamber II consists of Judge Richard MAY (United Kingdom), presiding, Judge Antonio CASSESE (Italy) and Judge Florence Ndepele Mwachande MUMBA (Zambia).

\*\*\*\*\*