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International  
Criminal Tribunal  
for the former  
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal  
International pour  
l'ex-Yougoslavie

**Press Release . Communiqué de presse**  
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**TRIAL CHAMBER**

**CHAMBRE DE 1<sup>ère</sup>  
INSTANCE**

The Hague, 24 July 2003

C.C. / P.I.S. / 773e

**GUILTY PLEA BY DARKO MRĐA**

Today, Thursday 24 July 2003, Trial Chamber I comprised of Judge Alphonse Orié (Presiding), Judge Amin El Mahdi and Judge Joaquín Martín Canivell held a hearing to consider a “Joint Motion for Consideration of Plea Agreement Between Darko Mrđa and the Office of the Prosecutor”.

Filed confidentially five days before the opening of the trial, scheduled on 29 July, the Joint Motion reflected a negotiated Plea Agreement whereby the accused would agree to plead guilty to Count two of the Indictment (murder as a violation of the laws or customs of war) and to Count three of the Indictment (inhumane acts as a crime against humanity). During the hearing, the Prosecution introduced an oral Motion to withdraw Count one (extermination, as a crime against humanity) from the Indictment.

The Joint Motion also reflected an agreement between the Defence and the Office of the Prosecutor to recommend to the Trial Chamber that it impose a single sentence within the range of 15 to 20 years imprisonment, with the accused to be given credit for the time he has served in the custody of the ICTY.

Following a short deliberation, the Trial Chamber accepted the change of plea by the accused and entered a finding of guilt on Counts two and three of the Indictment. It also granted the Prosecution’s oral Motion to withdraw Count one.

A date for the Sentencing Hearing will be set in due course.

For background information on the case, please see Press Release 680e.

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