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Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yougoslavie



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REGISTRY

GREFFE

The Hague, 1 April 2005
CT/MOW/956e

TRANSFER OF LJUBOMIR BOROVČANIN

Today, Friday 1 April 2005, Ljubomir Borovčanin was transferred to the Detention Unit of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He had been at large for approximately two and a half years.

Background

The indictment, which was confirmed on 6 September 2002 and unsealed on 27 September 2002, alleges that Ljubomir Borovčanin, serving as Deputy Commander of the Special Police Brigade (“SPB”) of the Ministry of Interior (“MUP”), was present in and around the areas of Bratunac, Potočari, Sandići, Kravica, Srebrenica and Zvornik from 11 July to 18 July 1995.

According to the indictment, while serving as Deputy Commander, Ljubomir Borovčanin was appointed Commander of a joint force of MUP units on 10 July 1995. As Commander, he was ordered to report to Radislav Krstić, then Chief of Staff of the Drina Corps of the Bosnian Serb Army (“VRS”). Units under Borovčanin’s command were deployed in and around the areas of Potočari, Sandići, Kravica and Zvornik from 12 July to 18 July 1995.

In the several days following the attack on Srebrenica, VRS and MUP forces captured, detained, summarily executed, and buried over 7,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys from the Srebrenica enclave, and forcibly transferred the Bosnian Muslim women and children of Srebrenica out of the enclave. The indictment against Ljubomir Borovčanin refers to his alleged involvement in: opportunistic killings in Potočari, opportunistic killings in Bratunac, wide-scale and organised killings in Potočari and Tišća, killings and mistreatment of prisoners captured along the Bratunac/Milići road and wide-scale and organised killings in the Zvornik area, as well as other opportunistic killings.

Ljubomir Borovčanin, together with other VRS and MUP officers and units as identified in this indictment, was a member of and knowingly participated in a Joint Criminal Enterprise, the common purpose of which was, among other things: to forcibly transfer the women and children from the Srebrenica enclave to Kladanj on 12 July and 13 July 1995; and to capture, detain, summarily execute by firing squad, bury, and rebury thousands of Bosnian Muslim men and boys aged 16 to 60 from the Srebrenica enclave from 12 July 1995 until and about 19 July 1995.

Charges

The indictment charges Ljubomir Borovčanin on the basis of his 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/icty>

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- one count of complicity in genocide (Article 4 of the Statute – complicity in genocide),
- four counts of crimes against humanity (Article 5 of the Statute – extermination; murder; persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds; inhumane acts (forcible transfer)), and
- one count of violations of the laws or customs of war (Article 3 of the Statute – murder).

Joint Criminal Enterprise

The joint criminal enterprise, in which Ljubomir Borovčanin was a member and participant, was conceived and designed by General Ratko Mladić and others on 11 and 12 July 1995, and administered and carried out by members of the VRS and MUP forces through the time period and by the means alleged in this indictment.

Members of this joint criminal enterprise also included: General Ratko Mladić, the Commander of the VRS, General Milenko Živanović, Commander of the Drina Corps through about 2000 hours on July 13 1995; General Radislav Krstić, Chief of Staff/Deputy Commander through about 2000 hours on 13 July 1995 and thereafter Commander of the Drina Corps; Colonel Vidoje Blagojević, Commander of the Bratunac Brigade; Colonel Vinko Pandurević, Commander of the Zvornik Brigade; Lieutenant Colonel Dragan Obrenović, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Zvornik Brigade; Momir Nikolić, Assistant Commander for Security and Intelligence of the Bratunac Brigade; Dragan Jokić, Chief of Engineering of the Zvornik Brigade and various other individuals and military and police units.

The full text of the indictment is available on the Tribunal's website www.un.org/icty. Hard copies can also be obtained from the Media Office.