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for the former
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yougoslavie

Press Release . Communiqué de presse

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The Hague, 14 March 2000

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THE TRIAL OF SIKIRICA, DOŠEN AND KOLUNDŽIJA WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY 19 MARCH 2001

The trial of Duško Sikirica, Damir Došen and Dragan Kolundžija will begin on Monday 19 March 2001 at 9.30 a.m. in Courtroom I, in front of Trial Chamber III composed of Judge Robinson (Presiding), Judge El Habib Fassi Fihri and Judge May.

BACKGROUND ON THE ACCUSED

Duško Sikirica was born on 23 March 1964 in Čirkin Polje, Prijedor municipality, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Damir Došen was born on 7 April 1967 in Čirkin Polje, Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Dragan Kolundžija was born on 19 December 1959 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Duško Sikirica is alleged to have been the Commander of the Keraterm camp and, as such, was in a position of superior authority to everyone else present in the camp. The indictment alleges that Damir Došen, and Dragan Kolundžija were shift commanders at the Keraterm camp, supervising one of the shifts of guards that operated the camp. As shift commanders and when present in the camp, they were in a position of superior authority to all camp personnel (other than the commander or deputy commander) and most "visitors".

Duško SIKIRICA

- Detention by SFOR: 25 June 2000
- Transferred to ICTY: 25 June 2000
- Initial appearance: 7 July 2000, pleaded "not guilty" to all counts

Damir DOŠEN,

- Detention by SFOR: 25 October 1999
- Transferred to ICTY: 25 October 1999
- Initial appearance: 1 November 1999, pleaded "not guilty" to all counts

Dragan KOLUNDŽIJA

- Detention by SFOR: 7 June 1999
- Transferred to ICTY: 7 June 1999
- Initial appearance: 14 June 1999, pleaded "not guilty" to all counts

BACKGROUND ON THE INDICTMENT

The Indictment ("Keraterm Camp")

The original indictment, confirmed on 21 July 1995, included nine other accused. The charges against five accused were withdrawn and a revised indictment was filed on 21 July 1998 against Duško Sikirica, Damir Došen, Dragan Fuštar, Nenad Banović, Predrag Banović, Dušan Knežević, Zoran Žigić and Dragan Kolundžija.

Having voluntarily surrendered on 16 April 1998, Zoran Žigić was joined to the Kvočka & others case in an indictment dated 9 November 1998 and is currently standing trial in that case (IT-98-30/1). An amended indictment was filed against Duško Sikirica, Damir Došen, Dragan Fuštar, Dragan Kolundžija, Nenad Banović, Predrag Banović and Dušan Knežević on 24 August 1999.

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

Public Information Services/Press Unit

Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW The Hague. P.O. Box 13888, 2501 EW The Hague. Netherlands

Tel.: +31-70-416-5356; 416-5343 Fax: +31-70-416-5355

The amended indictment, alleges that between 24 May 1992 and 30 August 1992 Bosnian Serb authorities in the Prijedor municipality unlawfully segregated, detained and confined more than 7,000 Bosnian Muslims, Bosnian Croats and other non-Serbs from the Prijedor area in the Omarska, Trnopolje and Keraterm camps. At the Keraterm camp, the majority of the detainees were military-aged males.

According to the indictment, detainees at the Keraterm camp were crowded together so badly in the various rooms of the camp that often they could not sit or lie down. There were little or no toilets or facilities for personal hygiene and the water supply was inadequate. They had no change of clothing, bedding or medical care and were fed starvation rations once a day. Interrogations were allegedly conducted on a daily basis and regularly accompanied by beatings and torture. The indictment states that killings, sexual assault and other forms of physical and psychological abuse were also commonplace at the Keraterm camp. The camp guards and others who came to the camps used all types of weapons and instruments to beat and otherwise physically abuse the detainees. Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat political and civic leaders, intellectuals, the wealthy, and non-Serbs who were considered as extremists or to have resisted the Bosnian Serbs were especially subjected to beatings, torture and/or killed. At a minimum, hundreds of detainees, whose identities are known and unknown, did not survive.

CHARGES

The indictment charges the accused as follows:

Duško Sikirica:

Individual criminal responsibility (Article 7(1) of the Statute of the Tribunal) and superior criminal responsibility (Article 7(3)) with:

- Genocide (Article 4 – genocide; complicity to commit genocide),
- Crimes against humanity (Article 5 – persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds; inhumane acts; murder), and
- Violations of the laws or customs of war (Article 3 – outrages upon personal dignity; murder, or alternatively, cruel treatment).

Damir Došen:

Individual criminal responsibility and superior criminal responsibility with:

- Crimes against humanity (Article 5 – persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds; inhumane acts; torture), and
- Violations of the laws or customs of war (Article 3 – outrages upon personal dignity; torture; cruel treatment).

Dragan Kolundžija:

Individual criminal responsibility and superior criminal responsibility with:

- Crimes against humanity (Article 5 – persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds; inhumane acts; murder), and
- Violations of the laws or customs of war (Article 3 – outrages upon personal dignity; murder).

THE PARTIES

Office of the Prosecutor:

Mr. Dirk Ryneveld
Ms. Julia Baly
Mr. Daryl Mundis

Counsel for the accused:

For Duško Sikirica:
Mr. Veselin Londrović
For Damir Došen:
Mr. Vladimir Petrović
For Dragan Kolundžija:
Mr. Dušan Vučićević
