



CONVICTED PERSONS

31 December 2012

Vidoje Blagojević, Mlađo Radić and Haradin Bala granted early release



**Vidoje
Blagojević**

Tribunal President Theodor Meron's decision granting early release to Vidoje Blagojević was made public on 27 December.

On 17 January 2005, a Trial Chamber sentenced Blagojević- the former commander of the Bratunac Brigade of the Bosnian Serb Army - to 18 years' imprisonment for aiding and abetting the persecution, forcible transfer and murder of Bosnian Muslims from the Srebrenica enclave in July 1995. He was also found guilty of conspiracy to commit genocide. On 9 May 2007, the Appeals Chamber reversed his conviction for complicity to commit genocide and reduced his sentence to 15 years' imprisonment.

In his decision of 3 February 2012, the President states: "While Blagojević has demonstrated a degree of rehabilitation and has served almost six months beyond two-thirds of his sentence, his crimes are of extremely high gravity ... taking into account the situation of similarly-situated prisoners, I am of the view that Blagojević's request should be denied at this time but that he should be granted early release effective 31 December 2012."

The full text of the President's [decision](#) is available on the ICTY website.



**Mlađo
Radić**

President Meron's decision granting early release to Mlađo Radić was made public on 9 January.

A shift leader at the Omarska camp, Radić was convicted of persecution, murder and torture. On 2 November 2001, a Trial Chamber sentenced him 20 years' imprisonment. His conviction and sentence were upheld by the Appeals Chamber on 28 February 2005.

Radić's most recent request for early release was filed on 14 June 2011. In his decision of 13 February 2012, the President states: "I note that the only factor that weighs in favour of granting the request is the fact that Radić served two-thirds of his sentence as of 9 August 2011. That said, I reiterate that the Tribunal's practice of considering applicants eligible for early release once they reach two-thirds of their sentences is not an entitlement to early release at that time ... I am of the view that Radić's request should be denied at this time but that he should be granted early release effective 31 December 2012."

The full text of the President's [decision](#) is available on the ICTY website.



**Haradin
Bala**

President Meron's decision granting early release to Haradin Bala was made public on 10 January.

On 30 November 2005, Bala, a guard at the KLA Lapušnik/Llapushnik prison camp, was convicted by Trial Chamber II of torture, murder and cruel treatment, and sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment. His convictions and sentence were affirmed by the Appeals Chamber on 27 September 2007.

His request for early release was filed on 8 November 2011. In his decision of 28 June 2012, the President writes that the factors that "weigh in favour of granting the application are Bala's completion of two-thirds of his sentence as of June 2012 and his family circumstances." The President continues: "Bala's application should be granted, albeit not with immediate effect: Bala's early release should be postponed until the end of the present calendar year, i.e., 31 December 2012, provided that he continues to exhibit good conduct as a detainee and he does not become the subject of any disciplinary proceeding while he serves the remainder of his sentence in France."

The full text of the President's [decision](#) is available on the ICTY website.

IN THE COURTROOMS



Status conferences

Rule 65 *bis* of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence calls for status conferences to be held within 120 days following the initial appearance of an accused, and thereafter within 120 days of the previous status conference. The conferences allow all parties to review the status of the case, and allow the accused the opportunity to raise issues in relation thereto, including their mental and physical condition.

For cases at the appeal stage, Rule 65 *bis* calls for status conferences to be held within the same time frame following the filing of a notice of appeal.

Šainović *et al.* - 12 September

On 26 February 2009, a Trial Chamber convicted former senior Serbian political and military leaders Nikola Šainović, Nebojša Pavković and Sreten Lukić of deportation, other inhumane acts (forcible transfer), murder, and persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds, and sentenced each of the three men to 22 years' imprisonment.

By the same verdict, former senior military leaders Dragoljub Ojdanić and Vladimir Lazarević were found guilty of deportation and other inhumane acts (forcible transfer) and each sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

Former Serbian president Milan Milutinović was found not guilty on all charges.

IN THE COURTROOMS



Status conferences (continued)

Popović et al. - 11 January

On 10 June 2010, Vujadin Popović, formerly the Chief of Security of the Drina Corps of the Bosnian Serb Army (VRS), and Ljubiša Beara, formerly Chief of Security in the VRS Main staff, were found guilty of genocide, extermination, murder and persecution and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Drago Nikolić, formerly the Chief of Security in the Zvornik Brigade, was found guilty of aiding and abetting genocide, extermination, murder and persecution and sentenced to 35 years' imprisonment.

Radivoje Miletić, formerly the Chief of the Administration for Operations and Training at the VRS Main Staff, was found guilty of murder, persecution and forcible transfer. He was sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment.

Milan Gvero, formerly the Assistant Commander for Moral, Legal and Religious Affairs of the VRS Main Staff, was found guilty of persecution and inhumane acts, and was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment.

Vinko Pandurević, formerly Commander of the Zvornik Brigade, was found guilty of aiding and abetting murder, persecution and inhumane acts. He was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment.

Ljubomir Borovčanin, formerly Deputy Commander of the Republika Srpska Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police Brigade, was convicted of aiding and abetting extermination, murder, persecution and forcible transfer, and was sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment. Neither the Prosecution nor the Defence are appealing the judgement with regard to Borovčanin.

FACTS & FIGURES

161 INDIVIDUALS INDICTED

Since the very first hearing (a deferral request in the Tadić case) on 8 November 1994, the Tribunal has indicted a total of **161** individuals, and has already completed proceedings with regard to **133** of them.

15 have been acquitted, **67** sentenced (**22** have been transferred to serve this sentences, **2** are awaiting transfer, **40** have served their term, and **2** died while serving their sentence), and **13** have had their cases transferred to local courts.

133

Total number of accused whose proceedings have been completed.

36

Cases terminated (either because indictments were withdrawn or because the accused died, before or after transfer to the Tribunal).

28

Proceedings are on-going with regard to 28 accused: 15 are currently on trial, and 13 are at the appeals stage.

34

A further 34 individuals have been or are the subject of contempt proceedings.

Extracts of, and/or quotes from, legal documents are not authoritative; only the Order, Decision or Judgement in its entirety reflects the opinion of the Trial Chamber and/or the Appeals Chamber.

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