

# Popović et al. case / Srebrenica

# Trial Chamber affirms crimes at Srebrenica amounted to genocide, and sentences seven senior Bosnian Serb officials

On 10 June, seven former high-ranking Bosnian Serb military and police officials were convicted by Trial Chamber II of a range of crimes committed in 1995 during the fall of the enclaves of Srebrenica and Žepa, in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In its judgement the Trial Chamber confirmed that genocide had taken place in Srebrenica, saying: "The scale and nature of the murder operation, with the staggering number of killings, the systematic and organised manner in which it was carried out, the targeting and relentless pursuit of the victims, and the plain intention—apparent from the evidence—to eliminate every Bosnian Muslim male who was captured or surrendered proves beyond reasonable doubt that this was genocide. In the context of the war in the former Yugoslavia, and in the context of human history, these events are arrestive in their scale and brutality."

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

Drago Nikolić, 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.

Ljubomir Borovčanin, Deputy Commander of the Special Police Brigade of the police forces was convicted of aiding and abetting extermination, murder, persecution and forcible transfer (Judge Kwon dissenting) under Article 7(1) of the Statute and, as a superior, of murder as a crime against humanity and as a violation of the laws of customs of war under Article (3). He was sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment.

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

Milan Gvero, the Assistant Commander for Moral, Legal and Religious Affairs of the VRS Main Staff, was found guilty of persecution and inhumane acts and acquitted of the two counts of murder and that of deportation. He was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment.

Vinko Pandurević, Commander of the Zvornik Brigade, was found guilty of aiding and abetting murder (Judge Kwon dissenting), persecution and inhumane acts. He was acquitted of charges of genocide, extermination and deportation. He was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment.

The Chamber comprised Judge Agius, Presiding, Judge Kwon, Judge Prost, and Reserve Judge Stole.

<u>25 – 28 May</u> Prosecutor in Croatia	During his visit Serge Brammertz met with, among others, President Ivo Josipović, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and the National Council for Cooperation. The main topic of the meetings was the co-operation of Croatia with the Office of the Prosecutor and other matters related to the Tribunal's Completion Strategy.
	The Prosecutor also attended the Regional Conference of Prosecutors on Brioni. As the Prosecutor has stressed previously, regional cooperation is one of the key priorities for his Office and the conference was an opportunity to assess co- operation, highlight its successes and identify areas in which further improvement may be necessary.
	This was the last of the Prosecutor's working visits to the region of the former Yugoslavia in preparation for the OTP's biannual report to the UN Security Council, which will be presented on Friday 18 June.
<u>31 May – 11 June</u> ICTY Principals attend ICC Review Conference	The Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the ICC took place in Kampala (Uganda) from 31 May to 11 June. The Conference marked the first opportunity for the States Parties to the Rome Statute to make amendments to the Statute since its entry into force on 1 July 2002. The Conference also allowed States Parties and other stakeholders, to take stock of the implementation and impact of the ICC's Statute so far.

	All of the ICTY's Principals visited the Conference. The President attended a number of formal meetings at which he shared his first-hand knowledge of the functioning of an international tribunal and his wide experience of international criminal proceedings.
	The Prosecutor took part in a panel discussion on positive complementarity and did speak about the experience of the ICTY Office of the Prosecutor in terms of its co- operation and interaction with the local prosecutors in the region of the former Yugoslavia.
	The Registrar, among many other things, attended a meeting at which the Registrars of various international courts (ICTY, John Hocking; ICC, Silvana Arbia; ICTR, Adama Dieng; and SCSL, Binta Mansaray) discussed a series of topics which fell within their respective responsibilities, such as outreach, victims' issues and co- operation. The assembled Registrars also underlined the importance of the work of the Registry in the field of the 'rule of law'. Furthermore, they stressed the significance of the enduring legacy of international tribunals and agreed to strengthen co-operation in this respect.
<u>8 June</u> Judge Prost appointed as Ombudsperson, 1267 Security Council Sanctions Committee	UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Judge Kimberly Prost to serve as Ombudsperson to assist the Security Council committee which oversees sanctions against the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Judge Prost will help the Committee decide which individuals or entities can be removed from the Committee's consolidated list of people facing sanctions. The appointment of an Ombudsperson is "an important step" in ensuring that the Committee's procedures for delisting individuals and entities "are fair and clear" and "also in addressing the challenges, both legal and otherwise, to the sanctions measures implemented by Members States", said a UN spokesperson, adding that "Kimberly Prost brings to the post an extensive background in the relevant fields of law, human rights and counter-terrorism."
	Sworn-in as an ICTY ad litem Judge on 3 July 2006, Judge Prost was, among other duties, assigned to the Chamber which heard the Popovic et al. case.
<u>10 June</u> President Robinson denies	Convicted on multiple counts of torture and rape in Foča in July and August 1992, Dragan Zelenović is currently serving a sentence of 15 years' imprisonment in Belgium, where he was transferred on 27 February 2008.
Zelenović early release	The Belgian authorities recently notified the Tribunal that Zelenović would become eligible for early release on 21 August 2010 under Belgian law, having then served one-third of his sentence. In his decision, issued earlier today, President Robinson notes that "the Tribunal practice is to consider the eligibility of a convicted person only after he has served two-thirds of his sentence," i.e. on 21 August 2015 in the case of Zelenović.
	Moreover, President Robinson points out that "the gravity of Mr Zelenović's offences is high and that this is a factor that weighs against pardon or commutation of sentence."
<u>11 June</u> Gotovina et al.case: testimony phase is concluded	The trial of Ante Gotovina, Ivan Čermak and Mladen Markač commenced on 11 March 2008 and the Prosecution rested its case-in-chief on 5 March 2009. The Defence cases started on 28 May 2009 and the last Defence witness was called on 19 January 2010. On 21 April, the Chamber granted a Prosecution request to re-open their case. During this phase, the OTP called 3 witnesses on 2 and 3 June 2010, followed by two witnesses called by the Čermak Defence on 10 June 2010. To date, 302 days have been spent in court. The OTP called 81 viva voce witnesses, and the Defence 57: 25 for Gotovina, 19 for Čermak, and 13 for Markač.

# COURTROOM SCHEDULE: 14 JUNE – 25 JUNE

#### MONDAY 14 JUNE

Courtroom I	15:00 – 17:30, <b>Šešelj,</b> Administrative hearing
Courtroom II	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
Courtroom III	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Stanišić &amp; Župljanin,</b> Trial

### **TUESDAY 15 JUNE**

Courtroom I	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Tolimir,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
Courtroom II	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, Stanišić & Simatović, Trial
Courtroom III	09:00 – 13:45, Stanišić & Župljanin, Trial

# WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE

Courtroom I	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Tolimir,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
Courtroom II	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, Stanišić & Simatović, Trial
Courtroom III	09:00 – 13:45, Stanišić & Župljanin, Trial

# THURSDAY 17 JUNE

Courtroom I	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Tolimir,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
Courtroom II	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, Stanišić & Simatović, Trial
Courtroom III	09:00 – 13:45, Stanišić & Župljanin, Trial

# FRIDAY 18 JUNE

Courtroom I	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
Courtroom II	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
Courtroom III	09:00 – 13:45, Stanišić & Župljanin, Trial

# MONDAY 21 JUNE

09:00 – 13:45, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
14:15 – 15:30, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
09:00 – 13:45, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
14:15 – 19:00, Stanišić & Simatović, Trial
09:00 – 13:45, Stanišić & Župljanin, Trial

# TUESDAY 22 JUNE

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Courtroom I	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 15:30, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
Courtroom II	09:00 – 13:45, Stanišić & Simatović, Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
Courtroom III	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Stanišić &amp; Župljanin,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Tolimir,</b> Trial

## WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE

Courtroom I	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 15:30, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
Courtroom II	09:00 – 13:45, Stanišić & Simatović, Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
Courtroom III	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Stanišić &amp; Župljanin,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Tolimir,</b> Trial

#### THURSDAY 24 JUNE

Courtroom I	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Karadžić,</b> Trial
Courtroom II	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Tolimir,</b> Trial
	14:15 – 19:00, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial
Courtroom III	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Stanišić &amp; Župljanin,</b> Trial

### FRIDAY 25 JUNE

Courtroom I	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Stanišić &amp; Župljanin,</b> Trial
Courtroom II	09:00 – 13:45, <b>Perišić,</b> Trial

Public proceedings are broadcast with a 30-minute delay on the ICTY's website.

#### PROCEEDINGS COMPLETED WITH REGARD TO 123 ACCUSED

Since the very first hearing (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 123 of them: 12 have been acquitted, 62 sentenced (four are awaiting transfer, 26 have been transferred, 30 have served their term, and two died while serving their sentence), 13 have had their cases transferred to local courts. Another 36 cases have been terminated (either because indictments were withdrawn or because the accused died, before or after transfer to the Tribunal).

Proceedings are on-going with regard to 38 accused: 11 are at the appeals stage, 7 have been tried but appeals are still possible, and 18 are currently on trial. Two fugitives are still at large.

A further 31 individuals have been or are the subject of contempt proceedings.

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