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INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION  
OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS  
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY  
OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name: Pašić

First Name(s): Elvedin

Father's First Name: Ahmet

Nickname:

Gender:  Male  Female

Date of Birth: 3 June 1978  
municipality of Kotor Varoš

Place of Birth: Hrvačani,

Ethnic Origin: Muslim

Religion: Muslim

Language(s) Spoken: Bosnian

Language(s) Written (if different from spoken):

Language(s) Used in Interview: English and Bosnian

Current Occupation: Student

Former: Student

Date(s) of Interview(s): 11-12 December 2000

Interviewer: Mazhar Inayat

Interpreter: Vlaho Krstelj

Names of all persons present during interview(s): Mazhar Inayat, Vlaho Krstelj and Joanna Korner

Signature: Elvedin Pašić

Mazhar Inayat

WITNESS STATEMENT:

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I am giving this statement voluntarily. I will state the facts truthfully. If required I would be prepared to testify publicly before the international criminal tribunal at The Hague.

My village Hrvačani was located approximately 13 kilometres from the centre of Kotor Varoš. There were around 100 houses in the village. All houses belonged to Muslims. Tepići a Serb village was located 500 metres north of our village. Savići another Serb village was located less than a kilometre to the east. Before the war Muslims and Serbs got along well. Our school was mixed and I had Serb friends.

My family was very religious.

Before the war my father worked at the post office in Sarajevo. He visited us on weekends. I have one older brother Ahmedin. I have one sister Hamida.

I went to school in Vrbanjci, which was located 5 kilometres from Hrvačani. I would go to school by bus. In April or May 1992, I finished 7 years of schooling. Because of war I could not go to this school again.

Around May 1992, the situation in our area suddenly became tense. One could feel that something was going to happen. I came to this conclusion by noticing several things.

When returning home from school, I would often see military movement in the area. Local Serbs in our area suddenly started wearing military uniforms. Some of them wore the olive green JNA uniform and others camouflage uniform. They were all armed with automatic weapons.

Just as Muslims were getting ready to prepare for the Bairam holidays we noticed the Serb military digging trenches around their villages of Tepići and Savići. I believe they were preparing for something. Our village was located on higher ground, which gave us a clear view of our surroundings. We often used binoculars to detect what was going on around us. We could also notice military tanks moving between the villages of Tepići and Savići. We strongly suspected that the Serbs were up to something. Two well known brothers from our village Murat and Muho Dugonjić after noticing these activities went to talk to Serbs. They met with Serbs in an elementary school that was located between Tepići and Savići. The brothers enquired from the Serbs the purpose behind all the military activity. When Murat and Muho returned they informed the villagers not to worry because they had been assured by Serbs that the military was conducting exercises and that there was nothing to be afraid of.

Two or three days before the Bairam holidays started, 5-6 Serb soldiers in camouflage uniform walked through our village. These men were armed to the teeth. They were local Serbs from the neighbouring villages. I recognised one of them called Boro. He was from Tepići. My parents recognised the others and told me that they were from the village of Savići. When passing through the village they greeted us however no significant thing happened. They walked through the whole village looking at our houses. Later I heard from someone that these soldiers had a bet with some other soldiers that nothing would happen to them if they walked through our village and they were there to prove their point. Our villagers did not react in any way. However the villagers were very worried and wondered why this had happened.

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On the second day of the Bairam holiday my cousin Akif Pašić came to our house. My mother and I were sitting with him. Akif then called my sister Hamida on the telephone. My sister had recently been married and lived in the village of Dabovci with her husband. When Akif tried to call my sister on the phone he told us that he could hear a lot of cross line interference on the phone and that many people were talking at the same time. Akif then introduced himself on the phone and pointed out that he was trying to get through to Hamida's phone. At the other end people started making fun of him. Akif then hung up.

Around this time Akif's sister who was living in Vrbanjci called Akif. She told him that she had great difficulty to reach him on the phone. Then she informed Akif that 3 tanks had taken up positions in Vrbanjci and that she suspected something was going to happen. Shortly afterwards all telephone lines were disconnected.

On the same day we too noticed 2 tanks approaching our village from the direction of Dabovci. The infantry soldiers followed the tanks. The tanks and the soldiers positioned themselves on top of a hill called "Novkaovo Brdo". As the crow flies the distance where the tanks were positioned was approximately 500-600 metres from our village. There was a forested area very close to where the tanks positioned themselves. We could notice around 20 soldiers close to the tanks. There could have been more soldiers in the forested area because we could notice them moving in and out of it. Akif and I also used binoculars to get a better view of what the soldiers were up to.

**I have been shown a map of Kotor Varoš titled SKETCH-1. In the map I have placed two green coloured dots showing the position of the two tanks just above Dabovci. I have signed the sketch.**

After noticing the tanks the people in our village realised that this definitely meant war. Around 20-30 men gathered in our house, which was located in the middle of the village. My father too was present. Our house was quite big. At the time we were also celebrating bairam. The hodža who was making a round of the village greeting people then came to our house when all the men had gathered. Men started to talk about how to protect the village. They verbally started to count names of persons who had weapons. My father was a hunter and owned a licensed hunting gun. When this discussion started my father instructed my mother and I that we should leave the room. Therefore I don't have any idea as to how many weapons were counted.

I don't recall that Serbs ever issued our village with an ultimatum to surrender weapons.

At the time my brother Ahmedin was in Belgrade attending the military academy but the same evening he returned to the village. Because my brother was in the JNA the local villagers had started to refer to him as a Chetnik and this influenced my brother's decision to return to the village and quit the army. The discussions in my house amongst the men lasted for an hour and a half. I don't know what was the outcome of those discussions.

The same night just before 2300 hours we heard megaphone announcements coming from the direction of Tepići. It was said that, "balijas, where are the baklavas and halva; very soon we will come down and dance Kolo". Kolo is a sort of a folkdance. They also called for the two brothers Murat and Muho Dugonjić who were well known and rich. That night around 2300 hours the shelling starting. Serbs gave no warning before the shooting started. No ultimatums were given. It all started suddenly.

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At the time of the shelling my family was sitting watching television. Later I also heard from some youngsters of the village that just before shelling began a flare was fired on top of the village that lighted up the whole area. As soon as the shelling started my father told the whole family to go into the cellar. The shelling continued the whole night and it was very intense. The shells were landing in our village. Sometime early in the morning my father came to the cellar and told us that a nearby house had been hit and that it was time to move out. The only place we could escape to was "Plitska". This was a Croat village that was located 3-4 kilometres west of ours. The whole village evacuated and left for Plitska. This was not done in any organised way. There was complete chaos. Five elderly people who refused to leave were left behind.

Serb snipers who were positioned on higher ground near Tepići and Dabovci were firing at those fleeing. At a certain point close to Plitska to avoid from being hit by snipers we had to crawl a distance of 200 metres. At this point all military aged men including my father and brother separated from us. My father did not tell us where they were going.

The five elderly villagers who stayed behind were killed. I know the name of one person Ibro Dugonjić. He was an old man living on pension. He was a very religious person. I did not see the actual killings of these men.

Since Plitska was a small village it was decided to move to other places. From amongst us some 50 persons who had relatives in Bilice left for that village. The rest of us gathered in a courtyard of a house considering what to do. Shortly afterwards a person by the name of Hasan LNU came from Čirkino Brdo to pick up his sister Zena. Villages of Čirkino Brdo and Hanifići had surrendered their weapons to the Serbs earlier and had signed loyalty oaths. We were told that Serbs had promised these villages that if weapons were surrendered no harm would come to them. Hasan had come in a small farming tractor. His sister requested him that he take us with him to Čirkino Brdo. Hasan told us that he had two houses and that we could come and stay with him. Later that day he took us to his village. We stayed in his house for one week.

While we were living in Čirkino Brdo we worked on Hasan's fields to help him. One day while we were working in his fields Hasan came and informed us that armed soldiers visited him at the house accusing him of feeding balijas. Soldiers threatened Hasan that if they found out that he was harbouring persons from Hrvačani in his house they would return and kill everybody in the village. At this point we decided to leave for Bilice so that Hasan and others in his village don't suffer on our account.

Bilice was a big Croat village. It was well organised and the locals had dug trenches around the village in preparation to defend themselves against a Serb attack. When we arrived in the village I saw around 50-armed men in the trenches. Around 15-20 of them were in camouflage uniforms and wore some Croat symbols. The others were in civilian clothes. Most of the men carried hunting guns however some had automatic weapons too. When we arrived in Bilice all military aged men from my village including my father and brother were already there. My family stayed in this village for a month. We were living on the East Side of the village. However, we could hear shooting and shelling on the West Side and we were told that skirmishes were happening between Croat and Serb forces. During this one-month period some military aged men from Hrvačani assisted the Croats. The others from our village went in the direction of Večići. They included Ahmet Pašić (my father); Ahemdin Pašić (my brother); Nihad Pašić (cousin); Šefik Pašić (uncle); Mehmedalija Pašić (cousin); Sakib Pašić (cousin); Ibrahim Pašić (cousin); Mustafa Pašić (cousin); Redžo Pašić

(neighbour); his son Jasmin Pašić; Alija Pašić (neighbour); his four brothers Refik, Alija, Fazil and one whose name I don't recall but I know that he was one of the persons killed in Večići; Muradif son of Murat Dugonjić; and many others whose names I don't recall now. This group consisted of around 50 men.

The above men had left for Večići at night so I did not see them leave. I don't know if they carried weapons but I know for certain that my father had a hunting gun. My brother did not have any weapons.

Since there were too many people living in Bilice and there wasn't enough food women from my village decided to return to Hrvačani. This group included about 70 women and children. There were no military aged men with us. We walked to our village through Plitska. On the way between Plitska and Hrvačani there are three Serb houses. When we came to this place we saw 2-armed Serbs. One of whom I believe was injured. The Serbs asked us, "where are you balijas going". My mother informed them that we were returning to our village. They told us that there was nothing to go to because all the houses in the village had been destroyed. My mother stated that we still would like to go and take care of our problems. The soldiers said that there was no place for us in this area and that we should go to Turkey. My mother and another old lady said that our home was here and that we don't wish to go anywhere else. The soldiers became mad and said, "OK, we don't give a fuck if you get killed". There was shooting going on in the area and the soldiers left.

We came to our village. It was extremely hot. We entered the village from the south side. First we noticed two houses that belonged to my cousin and my aunt. Those were completely destroyed and burnt. The four walls were still standing but everything inside was burnt. It appeared that everything had been ransacked and looted. The barns were also destroyed. Most of the cattle were gone. I heard from others that when the army seized our village they gathered all the cattle and took the cattle away on trucks. In front of my house I found my dog had been shot dead. My father used it for hunting. In the centre of the village I also saw carcasses of five cows which looked as though they had been shot.

Out of the 100 houses in our village only 3 had not been destroyed. All these 3 were newly constructed homes. All the rest including our house was completely burnt and looted. Before the war my family owned a tractor, television, radio, refrigerator etc. It was all gone including all our furniture. Everything that remained was burnt. Our kitchen and living room had wood panelling. All this was stripped off the wall and taken. My father had a lot of bees. We had about 400 beehives under a shed on our property. All the beehives were gone.

I am a religious person. I had my Quran placed on a shelf in the living room. The shelf had been taken out and I found the Quran lying on the floor. It had been burnt. However, the script inside did not burn. I noticed that inside our house the walls had been stripped at certain points. I believe this was done to find if we had hidden weapons inside the house. I believe Serb friends of my brother who had gone to school with him and knew that my brother was in the military did this.

We also noticed that the village mosque had been destroyed. I believe the Serbs had tried to shell it but did not succeed. We could still see marks of the shells. We noticed that the minaret of the mosque was destroyed with explosives.

For the first time I also saw the effect of the shelling that had happened the night before we fled the village. But I would like to point out that the systematic destruction had taken place

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after the villagers had fled. On the walls of the houses I noticed graffiti saying, "Ovo je Srbija" meaning "this is Serbia". I also noticed the Serb insignias of 4 "Cs" marked on the walls.

The body of Ibro Dugonjić was found by his grandson whose name I don't recall. He and his mother visited their house and had found the body. Later I found the mother crying who told us that Ibro's body was found. I was told that he was burnt to death. I also later heard from relatives of those other four elderly men that were killed that their bodies were found. Except for one who had been shot to death all the others had been burnt to death.

After surveying the village for 2 hours we realised that everything had been destroyed. We all got together to discuss what to do. A few women said that they planned to stay and even started to clean up the mess in their houses. At this point we noticed a tractor-trailer loaded with approximately 15 soldiers coming in our direction from Tepići. We all gathered close to the mosque. Some of the soldiers were wearing camouflage uniform while the others were in olive green uniform. They were all armed with automatic weapons. I noticed the insignia of 4 Cs on those that were in camouflage uniforms. I also noticed that some of the soldiers in camouflage uniforms wore half masks over their faces. The tractor was driven by a soldier.

When the soldiers approached they said hello to us. I personally did not recognise anyone but my mother told me that she recognised most of those soldiers. She said that among them were persons with whom she had gone to school and knew them by name. One of the soldiers who was in a camouflage uniform came down from the trailer and approached us. He asked us what we were doing there. One of the women Razija Dugonjić responded that we had returned to the village and that we plan to live here. The same soldier said that how could we live when there was nothing left in the village. Razija responded that we would manage somehow.

There was a pregnant woman with us who fainted because of the heat. I don't recall her name. She was surrounded by other women who wanted to help her. The soldier walked over and asked if we needed water. One of the women responded that we did. The soldier ordered another one to go to Tepići and to bring a can of water. This was done in the next ten minutes. After we were given water the soldiers started to curse us. They said that this was Serbia and there was no room for us and that we should go to Turkey. One of the soldiers went crazy and was in a threatening mood but the soldier who ordered water for us restrained him.

After seeing this treatment my mother decided to go to Garići. This village was located about 2 kilometres from ours. By this time Garići too had signed the loyalty oath to Serbs. Although most of us left for Garići but six families decided to stay in Hrvačani saying that they did not know anyone in Garići. Those who stayed were cursed by the soldiers who told the families that their safety could not be guaranteed. The six families stayed anyway. To get to Garići we had to pass through the Serb village Savići. Two soldiers were accompanying us from Hrvačani. At that point a woman whose son named Dalibor, whom I knew from school, approached us. She stopped us and tried to get a gun from one of the accompanying soldiers saying that she wanted to shoot us. She said, "our fighters are dying in Večići and you are loitering around here". The soldier politely told her to move away. The woman was crying and started to throw stones at us. Other Serbs too gathered there but they did not do us any harm.

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There is another Muslim village called Vakufci that is located before Garići. Vakufci too had signed the loyalty oath to the Serbs. Around 10-15 families decided to stay in Vakufci and the rest including my family went to Garići. We lived in the house of Atif Agambegović. He was my cousin. We stayed in this village for approximately one month. This was around July 1992. During this period my father or brother did not visit us.

After one month we had to leave this place because there was no more food. My mother and I left for Bilice. We had heard that my brother Ahemdin was coming to Bilice to pick us up. We also heard that Bilice would soon fall to Serbs. We noticed the local Croats packing and getting ready to leave. When my brother came he too warned us to leave and said that he could take us to Večići but that he preferred that we went to Garići. He gave us 200 German Marks and we returned to Garići. The following day Bilice fell to Serbs. Before Bilice fell Serbs had promised everybody there including the fighters a safe passage to Travnik and Zenica. Later I heard from a Croat soldier in Travnik that the Serbs first took them to Banja Luka where they beat them and then were taken to Skender Vakuf. At the Vlašić Mountain everyone was stripped off their belongings and then allowed to go to Travnik.

We stayed in Garići for a long time in the house of my cousin Atif. By this time all the villages in the area except for Večići had fallen to Serbs. Four days before Večići fell we were sitting in Atif's house when another cousin of ours Akif came. He was armed and looked terrible. He had a beard, long hair and was untidy. There were two armed Serb soldiers with him who were waiting outside the house for him. He informed us that, "we had made an agreement with Serbs that all refugees from Hrvačani had to go to Večići". He informed us that the next morning we had to go to Vrbanjci to get travel documents.

The next morning all the families from Hrvačani went to a school in Vrbanjci. The same school where I had finished my 7 years of schooling. At the school we could notice a lot of soldiers. The military had transformed the school into barracks. Here we learned that a truce had been signed stating that there would be no fighting for 5 days so that we could all travel to Večići. A soldier gave us a travel document. At this point the soldiers cursed us. One soldier Josip LNU from Savići even asked my mother about where my father was.

After receiving the travel document our group walked towards Večići. Our group consisted of approximately 100 persons mainly women and children. It took us about 20-30 minutes to get to Večići. There our soldiers were waiting for us. Arrangements had been made for us to go in different houses. Večići is a large village located on a hillside. The village was separated by a river called Cvrcka. When we entered the village my family walked on the right side of the village. This was the first time I had seen my father in about 2-3 months. My father had his hunting gun but he was not in uniform. The men from Hrvačani whom I knew were all in civilian clothes. However, I saw other soldiers in camouflage uniform. The soldiers in uniform numbered approximately 15-20. These are the ones I could see. I did not see my brother carry a weapon. He told me that his main task was to get food to the fighters. I don't know how many men were armed.

When we walked into the village we noticed that the whole place had been destroyed. I wondered how people had survived there. We entered the village from the direction in which at an earlier time Serb forces had broken through the defences. The destruction was most visible here. About 30 houses had been completely burnt. My cousin Nihad Pašić told me that when the Serbs broke through they entered the hospital and shot 15 people. Amongst those killed at the hospital was one of my cousins Ibrahim Pašić. Only one person was left alive so that he could tell the others as to what had happened. We were also informed that howitzers

were shelling the village from the direction of Skender Vakuf. Before we came to the village we were told that aerial bombing was carried out for 3 days. I was also informed that around 100 people in Večići had been killed from shelling.

We spent four days in Večići. During this time there was occasional gunshots but on the 5<sup>th</sup> day heavy shelling of the village started. This shelling continued unabated for about 24 hours. I don't know if there were any casualties. I remained in the cellar. The second day my father came to the house where we were staying and said that the fighters can't hold out anymore and that we had to go to Travnik.

That night my father came back again and talked to my mother. They discussed the option of whether I should stay with my mother and go to Travnik with the convoy or instead accompany my father and the other fighters who were going to attempt to escape through the woods. My father suggested to my mother that I should accompany him because he believed that if Serbs arrested me I could be killed. He said that this is what Serbs were doing to boys that were captured. My mother agreed that I accompany my father. My father then hugged my mother and said, "this may be the last time that I will see you".

We left at 2000 hours that night. Serbs knew that we were planning to leave. I believe they were told this by our own people who were collaborating with the Serbs.

Our group was quite big. It comprised of all the fighters, some children and about 10 women. Amongst men there were 6 of us who were 13 years old. Amongst the women there were two young girls. We walked all night through the woods. I noticed three men from amongst us talking on the radio and I believe they were passing information about our movement to the Serbs. Around 0100 hours when we came close to Ježica we were ambushed and the shooting started. Immediately we ran in two different directions and the group was separated in two. As a result of the shooting 2 men from our group were killed. The victims were Ahmet Zec and his son whose name I don't recall. They were from Večići. I saw their bodies lying about 5 metres away. Other men pulled their bodies under the trees and we left.

The next morning around 0400 hours the two groups got together again. It was raining and we rested at one point. We were so tired that none of us volunteered to look out for the Serbs. Around 0500 hours Serbs surrounded us once again and heavy shooting started. Around 20-25 younger men decided to stay and fight and the rest of us ran towards a field in the direction of a river. We were more than 200 people running and we ran into a minefield. I saw the mines exploding. I saw 10 men killed as a result of mine explosions. One of the killed was Besim LNU from Večići. I saw both his legs blown off.

We could hear shooting coming from the direction where 20-25 young men had decided to stay and fight. We could hear Serbs announcing on megaphones that, "balijas, you have to surrender; if you surrender you will live otherwise you will all die". During the announcements we could hear the Serbs laughing. About 200 of us who were running entered a tunnel. This tunnel was fifty metres long. It probably was a railway tunnel but we did not see the rail tracks. Then one of us who I believe was the collaborator radioed the Serbs saying that we have surrendered. Then the person who radioed took off his white shirt and put it up as a sign of surrender.

Serbs ordered us to put our hands up and to walk out slowly. Our group came out of the tunnel and we walked down a hill. When coming out of the tunnel I noticed snipers on both ends of the tunnel. There was no way that we could escape from there. Around 100 Serb

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soldiers surrounded us. All of us who had weapons were ordered to hold the weapons high up above our heads. We were ordered towards the school of Grabovica. At one point a Serb soldier started to fire his M48 gun in the air. Before we came to the school we were ordered to put weapons on one side, money at another place and gold and other valuables at another location. We were threatened that later if they even found a needle on us that person would be killed.

Then we were ordered to lie on the ground face down. My sister Hamida's husband Elvir was lying on the ground about 10 metres ahead of me. That is the last time when I saw him. We remained in that position for two hours. It was very muddy because of the overnight rain. All this time the soldiers were firing over our heads.

While we were lying the soldiers asked who was the leader of our group. We informed them that it was Besim. They asked for Besim and we told him that he had stepped on a mine and was injured. The soldiers laughed at this. Then they ordered one of us to get up and call Besim. The person who got up called Besim several times. The soldiers then selected the hodža from Večići. They accused him of being responsible for everything that had happened and started to beat him. We were all ordered not to look up so I did not see the beating but I could hear the hodža crying from pain.

Two hours later the soldiers ordered women and children to get up. I did not. My father who was next lying next to me ordered me to get up saying that this way I might survive. My uncle too told me to get up. I was the last boy who got up. At this point I saw the hodža who was all bloody in the face.

Once the women and children got up the soldiers ordered us to walk towards the Grabovica school. This was a hundred percent Serb village. When we got there the local Serbs were spitting at us. They even threw stones at us. Then one of the soldiers ordered us to run and shortly afterwards he ordered us to lie down. This happened five or six times and all this time the locals were spitting and throwing stones at us. Then we arrived in the school and we were taken to the backyard and were made to stand in a line. In front of us in a line stood soldiers pointing their guns at us. At this point a Serb officer came. He was wearing something like a miner's cap that had a torch at the forefront. I noticed pips and a red stripe on his shoulders. He also wore some insignia on his chest. This officer was in camouflage uniform. He said that, "hey, how are you doing". Then he told us his name, which I don't recall. Then he said, "you women and children will go to the school and then tomorrow you will go to Travnik; I guarantee that nothing will happen to you". Then he continued, "you have no guilt whatsoever; you will go to the school but your fighters will pay for whatever happened". He then left.

We were taken inside the school in a classroom. Two soldiers sat in the front at the teacher's desk guarding us. Two or three hours later our fighters were also brought to the school. Those of us who were closer to the windows pointed out that the men had their hands tied with wire. Later I too saw this. The group of fighters were taken upstairs. Around 2200 hours the 2 guards inside the classroom told us that if anyone wanted to go and see the men upstairs that we could go. We had to raise our hands and ask for permission to do this. The first person who raised her hand was a lady from Vakufci called Hajrija Rahmanović. I was too afraid to go. When Hajrija returned she informed us that she saw her husband who had been beaten all black and blue. She also told us that all the men were upstairs. I believe another lady from Skender Vakuf also went upstairs to see some member of her family. When she came back

she informed us that all the men were upstairs. I did not see any other person going upstairs. We spent the night in the school in the classroom. Nothing significant happened that night.

The next morning 2 civilian buses came. These were located about 200 metres from the school. Outside the local Serb women dressed in black had gathered. The women had lined up in two rows and we had to go through them. The two rows of women were standing outside the school fence that was about 10 metres from the door of the school. The guards were standing outside the door near the steps one on each side. When the door opened we were ordered out. As we came out the guards ordered us not to run but to walk normally. I then heard one of the guards, who was standing on the left-hand side say, "if you survive this now; you will live". When our group had started walking towards the fence I was somewhere in the middle of the column. I noticed that people in the front were reluctant to go out first. I hung back and I was amongst the last to exit the school fence.

I saw a kid my age who started walking through the gauntlet. He was being badly beaten on his legs and knees and when he got in the middle he fell. As he hit the ground he continued crawling towards the bus and the women kept beating him. Amongst the crowd there were some boys too who were involved in the beatings. The women were holding axes and pitchforks but were using wood to beat us. Those who did not have anything used their hands and feet to beat us. They were cursing us all the time. I don't remember anything in particular what was being said. Amongst our group no women carried babies. When I went through the lines I was also terribly beaten on my back. I even ran part of the way and almost succeeded in getting to the bus but suddenly a woman grabbed me from the back and threw me on the road. She was holding a knife and said, "let me kill this balija boy; my two sons were killed in Večići". At that time a soldier came and after he pushed the woman aside he literally threw me in the bus. I was the last one to board the bus.

There was a problem with the bus which did not start immediately. The Serbs gathered around it and started to spit and throw stones at us. The driver told us not to look outside because someone may get angry and break the window. This lasted for about 15 minutes. The bus then started and as it was leaving I looked at the school and I could see someone waving at us from the second floor window where our fighters had been detained.

First we went to Vrbanjci and there we joined another 13 buses of refugees from Večići, Hrvačani and other surrounding villages. From Vrbanjci we went to Travnik. We were stopped on Vlašić Mountain where masked soldiers were waiting for us. All of us were ordered out of the buses. At this point we had to surrender all the money and gold. Soldiers literally body searched everybody to make sure that we had given up everything. From here we had to walk to Travnik. It took us about 2 hours to get on the Bosnian side. Our army knew that we were coming and had arranged for transport to take us to Travnik. I never saw the men detained in Grabovica School ever again.

These incidents left a deep impact on me. I couldn't sleep because I had nightmares for two months.

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**WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I understand English perfectly well. This Statement has been read over to me in English language and is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have given this Statement voluntarily and am aware that it may be used in legal proceedings before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the Tribunal.

Signed: *Elvedin Pašić*

Dated: 12 December 2000

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**INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION**

I, Vlaho Krstelj, Interpreter, certify that:

1. I am duly qualified and approved by The Registry of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to interpret from the Bosnian language into the English language and from the English language into the Bosnian language.
2. I have been informed by Elvedin Pašić that he speaks and understands the Bosnian and English language.
3. I have assisted in interpretation of the above statement.
4. Elvedin Pašić has acknowledged that the facts and matters set out in his Statement, as translated by me, are true to the best of his knowledge and recollection and has accordingly signed his signature where indicated.

Dated: 12 December 2000

Signed: *Vlaho Krstelj*

M.I

# SKETCH - I

Urednik  
12-11-00

