



Conseil Economique
et Social

Distr.
GENERALE

E/CN.4/1996/125
20 mars 1996

FRANCAIS
Original : ANGLAIS

COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Cinquante-deuxième session

Point 10 de l'ordre du jour provisoire

QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES LIBERTES
FONDAMENTALES OU QU'ELLE SE PRODUISE DANS LE MONDE,
EN PARTICULIER DANS LES PAYS ET TERRITOIRES
COLONIAUX ET DEPENDANTS

Lettre datée du 24 novembre 1995, adressée au Président
de la Commission des droits de l'homme par le Représentant
permanent de la République fédérative de Yougoslavie
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire tenir, ci-joint */ , le Rapport du Comité du gouvernement fédéral chargé de rassembler des données sur les crimes contre l'humanité et le droit international, intitulé "Informations sur les crimes de guerre commis les 1er et 2 mai 1995", sur la route Okucani-Stara Gradiska, par des membres de l'armée croate contre la population civile serbe de la Slavonie occidentale. Je vous serais obligé de bien vouloir faire distribuer ce rapport aux membres de la Commission.

Celui-ci contient des déclarations de témoins qui attestent le fait que de nombreux crimes ont été commis par l'armée croate contre la population civile serbe, en particulier contre les groupes vulnérables de cette population, à savoir les enfants, les femmes et les vieillards.

L'Ambassadeur

(Signé) Vladimir Pavicevic

*/ Le texte de l'annexe est reproduit tel qu'il a été reçu, dans la langue dans laquelle il a été soumis.

I N F O R M A T I O N

ON THE WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE CROATIAN ARMY AGAINST THE SERBIAN CIVILIAN POPULATION OF WESTERN SLAVONIA ON THE OKUCANI - STARA GRADISKA ROAD ON 1 AND 2 MAY 1995

On 1 and 2 May 1995, members of the Croatian army attacked fiercely the Okucani-Stara Gradiska road, near the village of Novi Varos, in order to intercept the refugee column of the Serbian civilian population of Western Slavonia fleeing the attack of the Croatian army from the direction of Okucani towards Stara Gradiska and the Sava River and intending to enter the territory of the Republic of Srpska across the bridge near Gradiska.

During the attack, members of the Croatian army killed mercilessly the people in the column, mainly women, children and the old, who were fleeing their homes by cars, tractors, carts, bicycles and on foot.

Hundreds of bodies of the killed people remained on the road, whose number is being identified, as well as remnants of vehicles. The Croatian authorities removed for days these traces by burning bodies whose stench was felt also on the other bank of the Sava River in the territory of the Republic of Srpska or by taking them away together with the remnants of vehicles. After that, they washed the road and then allowed representatives of international organizations and UNPROFOR to have access to the area.

Numerous witnesses, interrogated by investigating judges in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Srpska where these persons have found shelter as refugees, speak about the ordeal of the Serbian civilians in this column.

Below are excerpts from statements made by some witnesses.

Witness 628/95-11 * says:

"...In Okucani, I took my tractor and trailer, picked up the most necessary things and with my neighbour joined the convoy of refugees moving from Okucani to Bosanska Gradiska.

The convoy set out about 5 a.m.

In front of the village of Novi Varos, members of the Croatian army opened fierce fire from infantry and heavy weapons on the convoy of civilians from the direction of the Prasnjak forest, 50 m away from the road. Many civilians were killed. Vehicles were burning. It took 8 hours to pass that 4 m-long part of the road to the Strug canal.

The convoy had to stop frequently and when the attackers were pushed back it would continue its trip. I saw a great number of dead civilians on the road and the vehicles moving on along the road had to run over them.

I think that 400 to 450 killed civilians remained on the road.

Among the killed, I recognized only:

1. Zoran Vukadinovic and
2. Milan Cicvara

When we crossed the Strug canal, we were incessantly shelled by the Croatian army on our way to the Sava River...".

Witness 628/95-1 says:

"... When on 1 May 1995, about 8 p.m., members of the Croatian army intercepted the Okucani-Nova Gradiska road near the village of Novi Varos, along which Serbian refugees were moving from the direction of Okucani, I saw, at the place called Pustara, a yellow "Mercedes" with the Okucani registration plates approaching from the direction of Okucani towards Novi Varos. There were five passengers in it.

I saw two Croatian soldiers stop the car. I clearly heard their conversation and one of them called: "Come here, you have five Serbs here, slaughter them." He probably called one of his fellow soldiers standing by the road. Five Croatian soldiers ran to the road and standing near the car began to shoot at its passengers from automatic rifles until they emptied the magazines.

Having killed all passengers in the car, they pushed the car from the road to a ditch on the right side. The killed passengers remained in the car...."

Witness 654/95-5 says:

"... The aggression of the Croatian armed forces against Western Slavonia began on 1 May 1995. On that day, the evacuation of the civilian population from Okucani for Gradiska was organized. I was also active in the evacuation. I transported women and children by bus in four rounds during that day together with bus drivers L.N., R.M. and M.C.

I set out for the last round about 9.30 p.m.

Although the Okucani-Gradiska road was incessantly shelled and bombed by the Croatian armed forces during the previous rounds, we managed to break through without any consequences.

The column of cars, tractors and trucks was moving from the direction of Okucani towards Gradiska.

About 9.30 p.m., I set out with women and children in the bus. I was followed by the bus driven by M.C. Our buses were shelled again. However, for the first time that day, the bus was fired at from infantry weapons from the direction of houses and yards by the road and nearby Prasnik forest on the part of the 500 m-long road from the centre of the village of Novi Varos to the Strug bridge. Therefore, I accelerated and managed to cross the Strug canal unhit.

On the road through the said part of the village of Novi Varos, I saw a "Zastava 101" car hit which then turned to the right and bumped into a gate and a "Zastava 750" car which was also hit from infantry weapons. It turned to the right and bumped into a house by the road. I could not see what happened to their passengers, for it was night and I did not dare slow down. In front of me, I saw a tractor driven by an old man with a trailer with several civilians in it. I saw when the old man was hit from a rifle from the direction of a yard on the left side of the road. When the old man fell to the right side of the wheel, the tractor turned to the right, bumped into a pole and turned over. As far as I could see, the civilians remained on the road, but I could not see what happened to them after that..."

Witness 654/95-2 says:

"... On 2 May in the morning, about 5.15 a.m., I set out in my truck from Okucani towards the Sava River. I drove through the village of Novi Varos, although shots could be heard from that direction during the whole night and that morning. On both sides at the entrance of the village of Novi Varos, I heard characteristic shots of the Singapore rifles. I heard shots over the truck. At the entrance of the village, I saw a tractor with things scattered around it (bed linen, dishes, etc.). A motionless man was lying over the wheel. Farther in the village, I saw many tractors and passenger cars and dead people lying beside them.

Since the fire from the direction of houses on the left side of the road leading to the Sava River was becoming ever fiercer I accelerated. In order not to run over dead bodies, I had to drive on the pavement and sidewalk and thus avoided to be stopped and somehow managed to leave the village of Novi Varos unhit.

In view of the situation I was in, I could not say how many Serbs were killed on the road through Novi Varos. Among the killed, I saw

1. Ignjatije Odlovic from Benkovci
2. a man called "Suber" from Okucani and
3. "Migel", salesman from Bodegraj

On my way from Okucani to Gradiska, I passed by UNPROFOR checkpoints - at the place called Pustara, at the exits from the village of Novi Varos and Nova Varos towards Gradiska - I saw no "blue helmet" there. The checkpoints were deserted..."

Witness 654/95-4, who was near Benkovci on 1 May, also says:

"... About noon, I saw a plane, probably a "MIG". It was flying from south towards Pakrac and when it was between Radjenovci and Bijela Stena, at the place called Tromedja, I saw it throw bombs which immediately exploded and heard a strong detonation. Later on, I heard that the convoy of 400 civilians was at the place called Tromedja near Bijela Stena which was bombed from that plane and that a great number of them were killed.

About 9 p.m., I set out from Okucani towards the Sava River. I was riding a bicycle. All the time, shells were falling in the vicinity of the road along which the convoy was moving. Most vehicles moved with their lights on.

At the entrance of the village of Novi Varos, I saw a "Ferguson" tractor crashed against a pole by the road and an old man and a woman dead beside it. In its vicinity, I saw a "Ursuz" tractor which was turned over and a man and woman lying dead beside it; then a dark blue "Jugo 45" car with three persons killed in it; then a white "Mercedes 300" which crashed against a pole by the road with two dead men in it. Not far away from it, there was an empty "Regata" car. These cars and bodies were on the 50 m-long part of the road and farther on, at about 100 m, I saw other vehicles, also stopped and turned over. A great number of dead civilians was beside them. I had to ride my bicycle between their bodies wishing to leave that place as soon as possible.

As far as I remember, I saw at least 25 killed civilians. I could see all this because most of the vehicles were not moving.

When I arrived in Gradiska, I saw my "Lada karavan" car in a street with its lights on and door open. I was surprised because I knew that I left my car in Benkovci. Soon, I found out that R.M. and K.M., who were wounded in Benkovci,

drove the car, i.e. that the lightly wounded person drove my car to Gradiska with wounded children. They went to the hospital..."

Witness 654/95-6 says:

"... On 2 May in the morning, I saw that many Serbs set out in a convoy from Okucani towards Gradiska on the Sava River wherefrom news came that Croats attacked convoys in the village of Novi Varos. I heard that many people had been killed on the previous night when the convoy had been attacked.

On 2 May around 5.30 p.m., I set out for Gradiska.

At the entrance of Novi Varos, I saw many demolished cars, tractors and trucks. Many killed civilians were on the road. At the same time, our column was attacked by Croats who were on the left side of the road, in the Prasnik forest, in the direction in which we moved. Because of that, we moved slowly and the column had to stop frequently and move on under the shower of bullets. We travelled through Novi Varos until the next day, 3 May, and arrived in Gradiska on the Sava River at about 7 p.m. All the time, we had to stop frequently and stay at some places for couple of hours.

I could not say how many civilians were killed at Novi Varos. Among the killed, I saw small children several months old lying dead beside their killed mothers. I counted three small children killed beside their mothers and, certainly, there were more of them, but I could not watch that scene and tried not to pay great attention.

Although I could not have a closer look of victims, I still recognized the following persons from the village of Rajic:

6. Branka Bosanac
7. Sima Kosovac
8. Ilija Djurasinovic
9. Stevo Pravica
10. Milan Bajic and
11. Milan Milasinovic

and from Bjelovar:

12. Vukasin Tesanovic from Banjaluka and
13. a refugee I knew by his nickname "Rumeni"

N.S. told me that he saw how Croats, on 3 May, cleaned the road through Novi Varos, removed the demolished vehicles and burned bodies, after which they washed it..."

Witness 628/95-2 says:

"... On 1 May 1995, about 6 p.m., I decided to try to reach Gradiska by tractor. In Okucani, I picked up the most necessary things and set out with my mother, uncle, aunt and a neighbour. When we reached the toll-gate on the highway, I saw a woman hit by a shell lying on the road. On the Dubovacki overpass, there was a tractor beside a pole and a dead man and a wounded woman were beside it. Near the UNPROFOR checkpoint, where the Nepalese battalion used to be deployed, I saw two damaged cars and 2 or 3 killed civilians beside them.

I continued to drive while shells fell on the road and around it. In the meantime, a column of tractors, trucks and other vehicles moving in the same

direction in which I was moving was made. I saw that some of them were hit by shells and that some people were killed.

At the entrance of the village of Novi Varos, Croats intensified their shelling from the direction of the Prasnik forest. While moving on, I saw many damaged cars and other vehicles, as well as bodies on the road.

Near the "Slozna Braca" inn, I saw several wounded persons, including Ignjatije Lukic. The picture was the same to the exit from the village of Novi Varos, to the destroyed bridge on the Strug canal.

I was not in the situation to estimate the number of victims I saw by the road. On the next day, when we crossed the Sava River, Croats killed at the entrance of Novi Varos

14. Milka Kesic

who, having decided to return to Okucani, drove a car from Gradiska. On that occasion, T.S. was seriously wounded..."

Witness 628/95-3 says:

"... On 2 May, about 4 a.m., we set out for Gradiska by the road going through the village of Novi Varos. Civilians were travelling by tractors, trucks, cars and other vehicles, and I walked with other defenders. When I arrived in Novi Varos, I saw killed civilians, damaged tractors and cars on the road as the result of the attack of Croats on the convoy of civilians who tried to make breakthrough on 1 and 2 May. I was moving in the column of civilians which was also exposed to infantry and artillery weapon fire of Croatian armed forces from the direction of the nearby Prasnik forest and houses by the road.

I did not recognize any one among the killed persons, but I saw five bodies of the people who were unknown to me. As far as could see, the greatest number of killed civilians were in the place called Pustara and near the Strug bridge ..."

Witness 628/95-1 says:

"...We passed the village of Novi Varos and a column of civilians followed us. During the breakthrough in the village of Novi Varos, I saw a large number of killed civilians who had tried to force their way through on 1 May after 8.00 p.m. There were children among the killed.

A great number of trucks and tractors were also on the road with many bodies of killed civilians. I saw a child's arm on one of the wheels of a truck which was on fire.

After the breakthrough, we approached the Strug canal. We were followed by a column of civilians who had also been attacked by the Croatian armed forces. A great number of victims were also in this column..."

Witness 628/95-10 says the following about the Novi Varos breakthrough:

"...During our breakthrough in Novi Varos in the early morning on 2 May, we were exposed to the fierce fire attack of Croatian armed forces. I saw cars, trucks and tractors which were turned over. As far as I can remember, about 9.00 a.m. I came to the last houses in the village of Novi Varos, in the direction of Gradiska on the Sava River. Because of the enemy's fire, we were forced to stop and look for a more secure shelter. I saw several civilians shot dead including

15. one person from Rajic

whose name is unknown to me. Not far from this place, I saw Rade Petkovic who was running to the Sava River and I have not seen him since then and I do not know whether he is alive. Then I was captured and I went on foot to Okucani. I saw many cars turned over on the road and near them many traces of blood, women's hair, but I did not see any dead body on the road. In the ditch by the road, I saw only the body of the killed

16. Milan Cicvara from Smrtic
whom I had known before. On the way I met Croatian soldiers..."

In his statement, witness 618/95-4 says following:

"... I sat on a tractor which drove my nephew, together with his wife, my mother and wife and two small children. At Novi Varos, Croats opened cross fire from infantry weapons at us from a nearby woods. As far as I can remember, it was after 5.00 p.m. I saw many people hit by bullets falling from tractor trailers on the asphalt road, while younger people were jumping over, hiding near the road and running in the direction of the Sava River. In that general confusion, I saw when Jela Vukovic, from Gredjani, born in 1913, fell from one tractor. She was wounded and screamed for help: 'Please, don't leave me.'

Driving the tractor at full speed, we went through the village and managed to remain unhurt. As far as I could notice during the drive, in the general confusion and disturbance, I saw at least 15 killed civilians on the asphalt road and a great number of the wounded tottering at both sides of the road calling for help..."

Witness 618/95-5 testifies before the investigating judge:

"...As soon as we entered the village of Novi Varos, I saw a great number of bodies of dead civilians who had been killed the night before during their attempt to make a breakthrough to Bosanska Gradiska. The bodies lay on the asphalt road and beside the road all along the village of Novi Varos until the Strug canal. According to my assessment, on this part of the road there were approximately over one hundred bodies of women, the elderly, and I think that there were children too. While we were driving along this part of the road, we were exposed to occasional shelling of the Croats. At the moment when a long column of civilians arrived, the Croats opened fierce fire from infantry and other weapons from deserted houses in the village and the nearby woods. I could not see what happened behind in the column, but I heard later that many people were killed on that occasion..."

Later on, I found out that the following people were killed in the column of civilians:

17. Nikola Stanic

18. Zeljko Lauros from Okucani
and that B.R. and M.Lj. were wounded..."

Witness 715/95-4 says:

"... I was in Okucani on 1 May 1995 when the Croatian army attacked Western Slavonia. About 7.00 p.m. I drove my daughter and her children to Gradiska by my car. On my way back to Okucani, I met a long column of Serbian population leaving the area of Okucani.

About 9.00 p.m. I arrived in Okucani and since the shooting could be heard in the immediate vicinity I set out again with my relatives by my car to Gradiska. Tractors with trailers, carts and cars were moving in the same column which was

very long. Mostly old men, women and children were in this column. The heaviest fire was opened near the village of Novi Varos until the Strug canal. Croatian soldiers were mercilessly shooting at the column. People who were on tractors and trailers were falling down on the road and their bodies remained by the road or on the trucks and carts. An extremely great number of killed women, children and old men were lying on the road. Those who remained alive continued to drive towards the Sava River. Tractors and vehicles were left on the road and some of them were burning.

I really cannot tell how many Serbs were killed and whose bodies were left lying, but I know that there were many of them. The fire opened by Croatian soldiers was lethal for they fired at short range.

After some time, I saw on the Croatian TV that this part of the road between Okucani and Gradiska was completely clean. When I had driven along this road a few days before that, it had been completely jammed by vehicles and bodies of the killed Serbs. The vehicles which had been left had been drilled all over with bullets. Everything was removed and cleaned out in the meantime.

The column was also bombed by Croatian aircraft which dropped bombs and exposed to the machinegun fire.

In this column, two children of my neighbour Gordana Kojic lost their lives:

19. Nemanja Kojic, 9 years old and

20. Dajana Kojic, 7 years old

Their mother Gordana was seriously wounded and she is hospitalized..."

Witness 715/95-2 says:

"... I lived in Okucani until 1 May 1995 when, after the aggression of the Croatian army, I left Okucani heading to the Sava River with my one and a half year old daughter.

When we came to the village of Novi Varos, half way between Okucani and Bosanska Gradiska, members of the Croatian army attacked us by shells and infantry weapons.

I noticed there a vehicle on fire covered with blood which had been hit earlier by a shell.

When I entered the territory of the Republic of Srpska, I stayed in the village of Orahovo, near Gradiska, until 4 August 1995. During the attack of the Croatian army on Orahovo I was wounded twice..."

Witness 715/95-3 underlines in his statement the following:

"...In the early morning hours on 2 May 1995 I was on the tractor in the column which was attacked by members of the Croatian army when it arrived in the village of Novi Varos.

That part of the road which was about 3 km long was covered by so many bodies of the killed Serbs that one could traverse it without setting foot on the ground.

Tractors were turned over on the road which Croatian soldiers set on fire. Croatian soldiers killed old men, women and children leaving their bodies on or beside the road. I saw that Croatian soldiers killed:

21. Milan Gajic from the village of Medara while his father was wounded in the back.

I saw that M.D. was wounded and that his son N.A. was wounded in seven places.

The trailer which I drove was loaded with the wounded.

I know that great number of bodies of the killed Serbs were left lying on the road, that the Croatian army piled them up, poured petrol over them and set them on fire.

When my wife heard that our son had been allegedly killed, she had a stroke and died a few days later in the Republic of Srpska..."

Witness 715/95-36 testifies:

"...While I was driving towards the bridge on the Sava River and Gradiska, somewhere in the middle of the road, I noticed many tractors, carts, passenger cars and freight and other vehicles.

A large number of the bodies of women, children and men were lying on the road on which I was driving, as well as by the road and in the ditches.

As I was driving further the number of demolished vehicles and those which were turned over increased as well as the number of dead bodies. The greatest number of the killed people were in the area of the village of Novi Varos and near the "Seik" inn.

When I came to the Strug canal, the bridge was destroyed and the column moved very slowly there since we had to cross the canal near the destroyed bridge.

After the column crossed the Strug canal, an aircraft flew over it and threw several bombs and opened machinegun fire at it.

I am positive that 1000 - 1500 bodies of the killed Serbs were lying on the road from Okucani to the bridge on the Sava River towards Gradiska ..."

Witness 715/95-33 testifies:

"...The Croatian army was incessantly attacking the column of Serbs, who were fleeing towards Gradiska, from the Prasnik forest. Croatian aircraft were also flying over the column and bombed it. A great number of Serbs who were in the column lost their lives during the bombing.

The column was moving on while the dead bodies remained lying on and beside the road. The road from Okucani, where the column was made, to the bridge on the Sava River in the direction of Gradiska is 14 km long.

I think that between 400-500 Serbs were killed then.

Among the killed there was a large number of women, children, the old and exhausted. There were many wounded people who could not continue to move further and they remained lying on and beside the road.

At the checkpoint on the Sava River bridge, UNPROFOR soldiers were laughing at these people. It seemed that they enjoyed watching the ordeal of the Serbian people.

During the movement of the column towards the Sava bridge I saw the following people killed:

22. Branko Vujic from the village of Bodegraj, Municipality of N o v a Gradiska

23. Dusan Ljiljak from Ladjevac, Municipality of Nova Gradiska and many other people whose names I do not know..."

Witness 715/95-8 says:

"... On 1 May 1995 about 4.00 p.m. I drove my car from Okucani to Gradiska. I reached the column of tractors, carts and freight vehicles moving towards the Sava River. Near the village of Novi Varos, the Croatian army opened fire on the column from the Prasnik forest. But since the fire was not very heavy we continued to move.

When we came near the Sava River, Croatian aircraft suddenly appeared and bombed the column and the explosions could be heard. Then vehicles in the column started to burn and many refugees lost their lives. The refugees who arrived later said that members of the Croatian army had run over the Serbs who were fleeing towards the Sava River by tanks and that they had poured petrol over their dead bodies and set them on fire and then washed the road from Novi Varos to the Sava bridge..."

Witness 715/95-34 says:

"... On 1 May 1995 about 5.00 p.m. I left Okucani by bus to Gradiska.

We were in the column of the vehicles moving towards the Sava River. The Croatian army opened heavy fire from the Prasnik forest and Nova Gradiska at the column and a great number of the Serbs in the column were killed and their bodies left lying beside the road all along the bridge on the Sava River.

I know that the following person was killed:

24. the wife of Dusan Bosnjak from Trnava
whom the Croatian soldiers killed near the Sava bridge..."

Witness 439/95-21, a priest of the Serbian Orthodox Church, who was in his house in Okucani on 1 May 1995, says the following:

"... On 1 May 1995 I drove my wife, children and two other women from Okucani to Banja Luka by my car.

The following day on 2 May 1995 about 7.30 a.m., I drove back to Okucani. In Gradiska I gave a lift to

25. Milka Kesic from Okucani
who sat on the seat on my right side. I drove over the bridge on the Sava River and the Strug canal. While entering the village of Novi Varos, a machine gun burst was fired at my car from the houses on the right side of the road.

Milka Kesic was immediately shot dead and fell on my side. I was hit in nine places but I continued to drive the car until it stopped. Under the incessant fire, I managed to get out of the car and ran about 200 m towards the centre of the village and fell down there.

In front of me, I saw a horrible scene. Many cars were turned over and a great number of civilians were lying beside them dead on the road. Some were moving shocked among the cars under the fire from the infantry weapons. Many cars were burning. In the houses on both sides of the road there were women, children and old people who managed to find shelter there.

From one house, ten metres away from me, a civilian, who was hiding there, ran out to help me. I was taken to a nearby house where I was provided assistance. I do not know how long I was lying there. Some civilians managed to take me to a car which took me to the hospital in Banjaluka.

I cannot tell how many people were killed in the village of Novi Varos. I can only tell that there were a great number of women, children and old people. I do

not know what happened to the victims left in the village of Novi Varos. Those who arrived after me said that Croats had burnt their bodies.

Among the wounded I saw V.P., M.M. and many others whose names I cannot remember at the moment but who I knew well by sight.

Among the killed people, I saw the following persons whom I knew:

26. Momcilo Dojic
27. the wife of Momcilo Dojic
28. Ostoja Dejanovic and
29. a Vukasin ..."

Witness 439/75-14 testifies:

"... In the morning on 2 May 1995 we arrived near the village of Benkovci and saw a group of four Croatian soldiers who blocked the road. We hid in the bushes and looked at that direction. I saw a cart drawn by white horses with a man and a woman in civilian clothes.

Other civilians went after them. The Croatian soldiers stopped them and I heard their voices: "Slaughter them, what are you waiting for?" A few minutes later, those Croatian soldiers turned the cart and whipped the horses towards Okucani. I saw the man and the woman in lying position on the cart and I presume that the Croatian soldiers slaughtered them since I heard no shooting in the vicinity.

We continued to move towards the Sava River. When we came near the village of Ladjevac, I saw some soldiers in camouflage uniforms getting out of a helicopter near railroad tracks and I heard them speaking some foreign language which I could not understand. I heard another helicopter coming and we continued to move towards the village of Rajic.

While we were trying to break out of the encirclement of the Croatian army towards Gradiska, I saw Croats burn the houses in the villages of Rajic, Radjanovci, Vrbovljani, Covac and Gredjani. When we passed these villages the houses were still on fire..."

The witnesses mentioned the following units of the Croatian army as being responsible for the killings of civilians and for other crimes committed during the aggression of the forces of the Croatian army:

1. Members of the helicopter landing unit of the Croatian army;
2. Part of the "Gromovi" second guard brigade of the Croatian army;
3. Part of the "Kune" guard brigade of the Croatian army;
4. Part of the "Orlovi" fifth brigade of the Croatian army;
5. Parts of the 125th guard regiment (Kutina) and others.

* For the purpose of the protection of witnesses, the statements contained in the documents of the Committee for the Collection of Information on the Crimes Committed against Humanity and International Law are herein given in codes.