Radovan Karadzic: Wartime Leader's Years on Trial
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A collection of all the articles published by BIRN about Radovan Karadzic’s trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the UN’s International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. This e-book contains news stories, analysis pieces, interviews and other articles on the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader for crimes including genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Produced by the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network.
Introduction

Radovan Karadzic was the president of Bosnia's Serb-dominated Republika Srpska during wartime, when some of the most horrific crimes were committed on European soil since World War II.

On March 20, 2019, the 73-year-old Karadzic faces his final verdict after being initially convicted in the court's first-instance judgment in March 2016, and then appealing.

The first-instance verdict found him guilty of the Srebrenica genocide, the persecution and extermination of Croats and Bosniaks from 20 municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina, and being a part of a joint criminal enterprise to terrorise the civilian population of Sarajevo during the siege of the city. He was also found guilty of taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic was initially indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in 1995. He then spent 12 years on the run, and was finally arrested in Belgrade in 2008 and extradited to the UN tribunal.

As the former president of the Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, he was one of the highest political figures indicted by the Hague court.

BIRN closely monitored Karadzic's trial and has so far produced over 370 news stories, analysis and opinion pieces, interviews and other articles. Ahead of the final verdict in this historic case, we decided to compile and share our archive with all those who are interested in Karadzic's trial, but also in criminal justice after the wars in the former Yugoslavia and in the development of transitional justice processes.
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Karadzic Verdict: Mastermind of Violence or Victim of Injustice?

Prosecutors want the UN court to give former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic a life sentence for genocide and other crimes this week - but his defence insists the trial was unfair and the final verdict should acquit him.

DENIS DZIDIC

More than ten years after his arrest in Belgrade, the final verdict in Radovan Karadzic's trial for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in between 1992 and 1995 is due to be handed down in The Hague on Wednesday.

Under the first-instance verdict handed down by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY in March 2016, Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

He was found guilty of genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the civilian population of Sarajevo citizens with a long-running campaign of shelling and sniper fire, as well as taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

However, the wartime president of Republika Srpska was acquitted of genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

When reaching their final judgement, the judges at the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague will remain within the parameters of the appeals filed by the prosecutors and Karadzic's defence.

The prosecutors’ appeal consists of four parts. The first part refers to the duration of the sentence and suggests that Karadzic should get a life sentence for each of the three joint criminal enterprises in which he participated – the Srebrenica genocide, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and persecution in 20 municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“Considered together, they form the gravest set of crimes ever attributed to a single person at the ICTY and require the highest available sentence—a life sentence,” the prosecutors said.
Detention camp conditions ‘indicated genocidal intent’

The prosecutors also argued that the first-instance verdict erred in finding that Bosnian Serb forces were responsible for forced displacement in Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik in 1992, while other crimes, such as murders, destruction and sexual violence, were just foreseeable consequences, not separate planned crimes within an overall genocidal plan.

The verdict’s view that it was possible that Karadzic did not want the other crimes to happen, but did not care enough to stop them, was incorrect, the prosecutors insisted.

The prosecutors went on to say that the plan for the commission of the crimes was exactly what indicated Karadzic and other members of the joint criminal enterprise’s genocidal intent in 1992.

“It is self-evident that a common criminal purpose encompassing murder, extermination and cruel or inhumane treatment – corresponding to genocidal acts – is more reflective of JCE [joint criminal enterprise] members’ genocidal intent than a common purpose where genocidal acts are unleashed not as an integral part of its execution, but merely as foreseeable consequences,” the prosecutors said in their appeal.

The second part of the prosecutors’ appeal refers to detention locations. Although Karadzic was found guilty of responsibility for numerous crimes committed in detention camps run by the Bosnian Serbs, the first-instance verdict said that there was not sufficient evidence to prove that the detention conditions were “created for the purpose of physically destroying Croats and Bosniaks”.

But according to the prosecutors, the verdict ignored a series of pieces of evidence that suggested that mass murders were committed in detention camps throughout Republika Srpska and that grave abuses were part of the daily routine.

The prosecutors listed the Foca, Keraterm and Omarska detention camps in the Prijedor area, the Susica detention facility in Vlasenica, as well as school buildings in Karakaj and Bratunac in which prisoners were held as examples of detention camps where, in their opinion, crimes were committed on a scale that indicated an intention to “destroy” Bosniaks and Croats “as a group”.

“The Chambers findings regarding conditions in detention sites significantly impacts the genocidal intent analysis. Thousands of Muslims and
Croats whom the Chamber categorised as merely 'displaced' were in fact subjected to conditions of life aimed at their physical destruction,” the prosecutors alleged.

In the third part of the appeal, the prosecutors pointed out that the first-instance judging panel “was guided by a too narrow definition of genocide”, and only considered how many Bosniaks and Croats were destroyed numerically, without taking into consideration the long-term consequences of all the crimes committed and whether they were aimed at preventing those groups from rebuilding themselves.

The prosecutors specifically complained that the first-instance judges failed to consider whether genocide was committed in 1992 in Prijedor, where they insisted that “the extent of the crimes indicated a clear intention to destroy a group of people”.

**Karadzic objects to ‘absolutely unfair trial’**

The former Republika Srpska president and his legal counsellor Peter Robinson filed an appeal on six separate grounds, and are calling for a complete acquittal.

Presenting the appeal, Karadzic himself voiced confidence that the first-instance verdict, under which he was sentenced to 40 years in prison, would “fall absolutely and immediately”.

The appeal began with claims that the proceedings at the UN court were “unfair”.

Karadzic noted that he was not allowed to testify in narrative form, but that instead the judge ordered his legal adviser to ask him questions. He also complained about the indictment being imprecise and that a visit to massacre sites in Sarajevo was conducted in his absence.

He complained that the court admitted a number of adjudicated facts from other trials, that prosecutors were not penalised for failing to provide him with evidence on time, that unlawfully intercepted conversations were used as evidence, and that he was not granted immunity for political speeches he made at the Republika Srpska Assembly during his mandate as president.

He also appealed because the first-instance court failed to compel Ratko Mladic, the former commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, who is also on trial in The Hague for the same crimes as Karadzic, to testify.

“The Trial Chamber’s sparse reasoning appears to indicate that it considered General Mladic’s rights as an accused whose trial was pending to
outweigh President Karadzic’s right to General Mladic’s evidence. However, by compelling General Mladic’s testimony, the Trial Chamber could have accommodated both rights. President Karadzic could have had the benefit of General Mladic’s evidence, and no detriment could have inured to General Mladic’s case because his answers could not be used against him, directly or indirectly,” Karadzic’s appeal said.

The second part of the appeal refers to the count on which Karadzic was found guilty of responsibility for a campaign aimed at persecuting Bosniaks and Croats in 20 Bosnian municipalities. The appeal argued that the verdict erred when saying he wanted the “forced removal” of the Bosniaks and Croats, when it was equally possible that he only wanted “political autonomy” for Serbs within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“The Trial Chamber acknowledged 65 separate speeches, conversations, or statements of President Karadzic that were inconsistent with the finding that he intended to accomplish physical separation from non-Serbs through forcible expulsions. Together, this forms a significant body of evidence that President Karadzic consistently envisioned and advocated that there would be minorities in each entity whose rights would be fully respected," the appeal said.

**Incriminating Srebrenica phone call ‘misinterpreted’**

The third and fourth parts of the appeal focus on the first-instance verdict’s findings that Karadzic was guilty of genocide in Srebrenica and of terrorising the residents of Sarajevo during the three-and-a-half-year siege of the city by Bosnian Serb forces.

On Srebrenica, the appeal insisted that Karadzic “did not read the details of Directive No. 7”, which he signed in March 1995, and which ordered the Bosnian Serb Army to “create an unbearable situation of total insecurity with no hope of further survival or life in the enclave” of Srebrenica.

The appeal rejected what the first-instance chamber considered key evidence about his participation in the crime – a telephone conversation that he had with Miroslav Deronjic, his Commissioner for Srebrenica, on the evening of July 13, 1995, after Bosnian Serb forces seized the enclave.

Karadzic asked “how many thousands” of captives were in nearby Bratunac at that moment, and Deronjic answered: “Two thousand, and more are expected.”
“All the goods must be placed inside the warehouses before 12 tomorrow... not in the warehouses over there, but somewhere else,” Karadzic responded.

The first-instance judges inferred that when Karadzic talked about the ‘goods’, he was referring to the captives, who were moved to several locations in the Zvornik area the following day and shot between July 14 and 17, 1995.

In his appeal, Karadzic said that the words “not over there, but somewhere else” referred to transfer to detention facilities, not to execution locations.

On the terror campaign against the civilian population of Sarajevo, Karadzic insisted that the judges erroneously determined that the Bosnian Serb Army was responsible for certain shelling incidents, such as the massacre at the Markale open-air market in 1994.

Karadzic said he regularly prohibited the Bosnian Serb Army from targeting civilians, and regularly received reports from the army saying that it only opened fire on “legitimate military targets”. He accused the court of ignoring testimony that supported this assertion.

“The Trial Chamber concluded that all 26 VRS [Bosnian Serb Army] witnesses, who gave sworn testimony that the VRS only fired when fired upon and only at legitimate military objectives, were lying. Even if this was the case, these were the very explanations that President Karadzic consistently received during the war from the VRS when he inquired in response to complaints from the international community or when he ordered investigations,” the appeal said.

As for the killings of civilians, Karadzic drew a comparison between the deaths in Sarajevo and the US Army’s use of drones for military attacks.

“Drones launched by the United States regularly kill civilians. President Obama, as the Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces, is undoubtedly assured that a legitimate military objective exists for these strikes. If it turns out later that this was incorrect, it does not mean that President Obama possessed the intent to terrorise the civilian population, or to murder civilians,” the appeal said. (It was filed in 2016, while Barack Obama was still US president.)

The fifth part of the Karadzic appeal argues that the first-instance judges erred in finding that the defendant was responsible for taking United Nations peacekeepers hostage in 1995.

“They were, according to President Karadzic’s view, legally detained prisoners of war,” the appeal said.
The final part of the appeal focused on the length of the sentence, with the defence arguing that if Karadzic is convicted, his sentence should be significantly reduced because the proceedings were unfair and he conducted himself well during the trial.
Mystery Persists Over Fugitive Karadzic’s Years in Hiding

As Radovan Karadzic’s final verdict approaches next week, many of the 12 years he spent evading arrest remain shrouded in secrets that the Serbian and Bosnian authorities seem reluctant to probe, and people who helped him remain unprosecuted.

HARIS ROVCANIN AND FILIP RUDIC

On a weekday afternoon in the Serbian capital Belgrade, a small watering hole called Luda Kuca – the Madhouse – is crammed with elderly but chatty regulars.

The walls are adorned with images of Bosnian Serb wartime leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, alongside those of overthrown Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and former Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

This was the bar that Karadzic used to visit in disguise before his arrest in 2008 and subsequent trial at the UN court in The Hague for crimes committed in the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Karadzic was sentenced in 2016 to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica, the first such crime on European soil since World War II, as well as the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

He has since appealed, and the final verdict is expected to be handed down on March 20 by the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals.

The Madhouse patrons become less talkative at the mention of Karadzic, but claim they did not recognise him in his disguise. While he was in hiding in Belgrade, he was pretending to be a long-bearded ‘spiritual healer’ called Dragan Dabic.

“The man came around, drank coffee... Nobody knew it was him,” one patron says.
The regulars recall an onslaught of journalists after Karadzic's arrest on July 21, 2008, claiming that some 350 news crews descended on the bar, which is the size of a single-room apartment.

Karadzic's capture in Belgrade came 12 years after an international warrant was issued for his arrest, sparking a long manhunt. But gaps in the timeline of Karadzic’s fugitive years may remain forever, as Serbia and Bosnia have not been doing much to uncover his network of helpers while he was in hiding.

In Bosnia, after an investigation that covered 58 people, only one was indicted for assisting Karadzic in hiding, and the process ended with an acquittal in January 2012. Nobody was ever indicted for helping Karadzic hide in Serbia.

**Flight from Bosnia**

In 1995, the last year of the Bosnian war, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia filed an indictment charging Karadzic. In July 1996, he resigned as the president of Bosnia's Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska and the Serb Democratic Party, both of which he was involved in founding before the war broke out.

Off-the-record information circulated suggesting that Karadzic spent the first years as a fugitive in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while NATO’s Bosnian stabilisation force SFOR and foreign security services searched for him without success.

British journalist Julian Borger, author of a book called ‘The Butcher's Trail’ about how the perpetrators of Balkan war crimes were captured, said there are various reasons for the failure to capture Karadzic in Bosnia before he crossed over into Serbia at the end of 1999.

"Initially there was a lack of will power. The troops on the ground in 1996 and 1997 saw their job as peacekeeping and they didn’t want to risk casualties or reigniting the conflict. In 1998 and 1999, I think the skills of the hunters were outmatched by the cunning of the hunted," Borger told BIRN.

Karadzic himself said in a 2017 interview with the Serbian newspaper Vecernje novosti that after quitting the Republika Srpska presidency, he “moved around freely” on Bosnian Serb territory, believing that he had a “secret agreement” with the US envoy for the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke.

The alleged agreement allowed Karadzic to avoid prosecution if he quit public life. Holbrooke denied ever giving such an assurance, however.
After going into hiding in 1997, rumours circulated that Karadzic was living in monasteries, or in a variety of countries like Montenegro, Greece, Russia or Belarus.

Borger said that he “would have loved to have got more detail on the 1998-1999 period”, as he has no information from Karadzic’s perspective.

“I believe he spent time on the Montenegrin border and may have stayed in monasteries. His legal team hinted at that,” Borger said.

**Spiritual healer, pub entertainer**

After entering Serbia at the end of 1999, Karadzic allegedly hid in the northern city of Novi Sad before moving to Belgrade, where he adopted the identity of Dragan Dabic, a self-styled spiritual healer.

After completing a parapsychology course, Karadzic started to give lectures and work as a consultant for private health companies.

According to Borger, he was able to hide the fact that had moved to Serbia because he had help from some officers of the Serbian Security and Information Agency, BIA, who also created the identity of Dabic for him.

He says the CIA suspected Karadzic was in Belgrade from about 2000, but didn’t have the local help it needed to track him down.

“Dabic was a successful disguise because it was so outlandish. No one in their right minds expected to see this war crimes fugitive as a New Age healer,” Borger said.

Karadzic set up a (now defunct) website, dragandabic.com. It contained a fake biography of Dabic, presenting him as having been born in a small town in central Serbia where, as a boy, he would “explore nearby forests and mountains, spending a lot of time on mount Kopaonik where he tended to pick the omnipresent, natural and potent medicinal herbs that grew in those green pastures”.

The website also listed his ten favourite “Chinese proverbs”, one of which said: “He who turns in his own shall dig two graves.”

Some of his clients had praise for ‘Dabic’ even after his true identity was revealed.

One of them, Danijela Balaban, told Kurir newspaper in 2008 that he helped her autistic son, Danilo. “I am sorry because I know he helped my son. I do believe that Danilo could speak if Dabic could have continued helping him,” she claimed.
It was while posing as Dabic that Karadzic, who lived in the New Belgrade district, started visiting the Madhouse bar in disguise, sometimes playing a Montenegrin single-string instrument, a gusle, to the accompaniment of which epic poems are sung.

Karadzic saw the political situation in Serbia change over the years. He was there when Milosevic was ousted after mass protests on October 5, 2000, and when the anti-Milosevic opposition leader Zoran Djindjic, who became prime minister, was assassinated in 2003.

But his time in hiding was finally up in 2008, when the leadership of the BIA changed under a Democratic Party-led government.

The BIA’s new head, a young former police chief called Sasa Vukadinovic, was not part of the wartime cadre in the security services and had previously worked on investigating organised crime.

Just days after Vukadinovic took office, the operation to arrest Karadzic was successfully implemented. On July 21, 2008, BIA agents followed Karadzic onto a public bus, then walked him off the vehicle and into custody without a struggle. He was then sent to The Hague to face trial.

Serbian security expert Aleksandar Radic said he believes the reason why Karadzic remained at large in Serbia for so long is a combination of his good disguise, a lack of will from the post-Milosevic authorities to arrest him, and the continuing influence of wartime cadres who stayed in power in agencies like the BIA.

“We had [political] powers that remained from the war who didn’t have the motive to allow Karadzic be extradited, and on the other hand we had powers who saw the issue as something they could trade for Western support,” Radic told BIRN.

He added however that Karadzic himself also invested a lot of effort to remain hidden.

Asked why Serbia never prosecuted those responsible for helping Karadzic hide, Radic suggested that the revelations that emerged from trial would have been unpleasant for many people in government at the time who “either directly, or indirectly by being passive, shared responsibility”.

“It’s the ‘dirty laundry’ from the past that, just like many other topics, we were trying to bury,” Radic said, adding that practically all senior Serbian political figures after the fall of Milosevic in 2000 were more or less involved with how the Karadzic situation unfolded.
Failure to reveal supporters' network

Dozens of people were either removed from public office or had their assets frozen by Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Office of the High Representative, the country’s international overseer, for helping to hide or finance fugitives from the Hague court, including Karadzic.

Among them were senior Bosnian Serb figures like former Bosnian Serb presidency member and Republika Srpska president Mirko Sarovic, former Bosnian Interior Minister and war crimes defendant Momcilo Mandic, former Serb Democratic Party official Milovan Bjelica, Serb Democratic Party co-founder and ex-mayor of Trebijevac, former Republika Srpska Interior Minister Zoran Djeric, and former head of the Bosnian Serb Army veterans' union Pantelija Curguz.

They also included former police officials like Tomislav Kovac, Dragomir Andan, Predrag Jovicic and Milomir Malis, plus several businessmen and Karadzic’s wife and son.

Momcilo Mandic was eventually sentenced to five years in prison for his involvement in corrupt practices at the Privredna Banka Srpsko Sarajevo, but acquitted of crimes related to assisting Karadzic due to lack of evidence.

Mandic told BIRN that the case was all about “Western propaganda” and the will of the international community and pro-Western Serbs. He insisted the charges were political and that he broke no laws.

“I was sentenced for the bank charges, because they thought that I gave loans to companies which helped Hague fugitives, including Karadzic,” Mandic said, although he insisted he did not loan money to the suspect companies.

A few years ago, the prosecution said that an investigation into 58 people for offering financial support to Karadzic had been discontinued because there was no proof of any crimes, and the people under investigation cooperated with the Hague Tribunal.

Serbia, on the other hand, never brought any charges and it is unknown if it ever investigated anyone for aiding Karadzic.

Bosnian lawyer Asim Crnalic said that it would now be hard to prove that someone assisted the former Bosnian Serb political leader while he was on the run.

“That is a rather difficult procedure, particularly after so much time. He could not have been hiding for so many years without helpers, but the
necessary efforts were not invested in determining who helped him,” Crnalic said.

“Not even today do we know the real truth about where he was and who he was staying with,” he added.
Radovan Karadzic: Psychiatrist-Poet Who Led Bosnian Serbs to War

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serbs’ wartime president, spent years on the run before he was caught and tried, and could now be jailed for the rest of his life when the Hague war crimes court delivers its final verdict next week.

DENIS DZIDIC

Radovan Karadzic was born in the village of Petnica near Savnik in Montenegro in June 1945, some 2,000 kilometres from in Scheveningen, near The Hague, where he is currently in custody at the United Nations Detention Unit while awaiting the final verdict in his trial for genocide and other wartime crimes.

Karadzic has had various different roles over the course of his life - psychiatrist, poet, political leader and ‘spiritual healer’ – but on March 20, he could be sentenced to spend the rest of it in jail.

The former Bosnian Serb president was found guilty by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in a first-instance verdict in March 2016 of some of the worst crimes in Europe since World War II, and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

The UN court convicted him of the genocide of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout the country, terrorising the civilian population of Sarajevo, and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

However he was acquitted of committing genocide in several other Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Karadzic appealed against the verdict, insisting that there was “no evidence for the accusations concerning the intention to implement ethnic cleansing”.

He also insisted that “very few civilians” were killed during the siege of Sarajevo. “Serbs were just defending themselves, while Muslims provoked incidents and accused Serbs in order to have international forces intervene,” he claimed.
The prosecution filed its own appeal, calling for Karadzic to be jailed for life.

Since the first-instance verdict, Karadzic, who is now 73, has complained to the Hague Tribunal several times about his health, and also repeatedly petitioned the court to allow him to use Skype in his cell.

There was also controversy when the presiding judge in the trial, Theodor Meron, voluntarily withdrew from the appeals procedure last September after the defence asked the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals to remove him for alleged bias against Karadzic.

The defence argued that judge Meron had delivered conclusions at previous trials held in The Hague that were related to Karadzic and crimes committed in Srebrenica, Sarajevo and other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina which indicated he was biased against the former Bosnian Serb political leader.

'A good neighbour'

Karadzic spent his childhood in Montenegro, going to school in the town of Niksic, before moving to the Bosnian capital Sarajevo to study at its medical high school. He continued his studies at Sarajevo Medical University and went on to specialise in psychiatry at the city’s Kosevo hospital.

Karadzic had two children with his doctor wife Ljiljana – a son, Sasa, whose post-war career is unknown, and a daughter, Sonja, who is now vice-president of the Bosnian Serb parliament, representing the Serb Democratic Party, the same party her father once led.

Karadzic said he was happy that his daughter had gone into politics “particularly because she is interested in improving the value of human lives”.

Just before the war, the Karadzic family lived in Sutjeska Street in Sarajevo, where one of their neighbours was Hajrija Smajic.

“They were good neighbours,” Smajic told BIRN. “His wife treated my mother. The only thing I am sorry about is that they did not tell me something was coming [before the war started], so I could leave Sarajevo too, because I had a ten-year old child at the time,” Smajic said.

She said the Karadzic family apartment is now uninhabited. “Nobody even comes here,” she said.

Along with his work as a psychiatrist, mostly with patients suffering from depression, first in Sarajevo and then for a while in Belgrade, Karadzic also wrote poetry.
He published several books of verse and achieved modest renown; during the war years, he was awarded a literary prize in Russia. He even published a volume of verse while he was on the run after the war ended. In one poem, entitled ‘Sarajevo’, he wrote: “The town burns like a piece of incense/In the smoke rumbles our consciousness.”

Karadzic’s supervisor while he worked at the Kosevo hospital in Sarajevo was Ismet Ceric, who told PBS in an interview that Karadzic always had an “incredibly high opinion of himself”.

“Sometimes it was absolutely unbelievable,” Ceric recalled. “He said, ‘I am an excellent poet, I am an excellent psychotherapist, I am an excellent businessman in the communist system.’ At the time, we thought it was his unique sense of humour.”

### Convicted in the 1980s

In the mid-1980s, Karadzic ran into his first legal problems. He was arrested on suspicion of embezzling public funds in order to finance the construction of his summer house in the town of Pale, above Sarajevo.

Karadzic was convicted, but because of the time he spent on remand before the trial, he did not go to prison.

He spent his months behind bars on remand with his acquaintance Momcilo Krajisnik, who was also being held on suspicion of also embezzling public funds while working at an energy firm.

Krajisnik, who would later become the speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament during wartime, told BIRN that the experience brought the two men closer.

“I think of him as a friend and good man. We went through that situation together and I do not wish to recall it. We remained close. I know he never hated anyone and never wanted bad things to happen to anyone,” said Krajisnik.

The nationalist Serb Democratic Party, the SDS, was founded in 1990 and Karadzic became its first president. The party was part of an anti-communist coalition, and initially campaigned for the country to remain part of Yugoslavia.

In an interview with Bosnian news agency SRNA, Karadzic insisted that he did not really want the job.
“I did not wish to be an active politician,” he said. “I did not want to lead Republika Srpska either, and I would not have done if it had not been for the events of the war.”

Calls for a ‘Greater Serbia’

The first multi-party elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina were held in November 1990. Together with Karadzic’s SDS, the biggest winners were two other nationalist parties – the Bosniak-led Party for Democratic Action and the Croatian Democratic Community.

Social Democratic Party politician Miro Lazovic recalled how he often spoke out against Karadzic’s aggressively pro-Serb political agenda at parliamentary sessions in the early 1990s.

“Karadzic proposed the creation of a Greater Serbia,” Lazovic told BIRN.

“Because of his politics and especially because of his claims that if Bosnia became independent, the Muslim people and the country would disappear, we in parliament had to call a referendum so citizens could say if they wanted an independent Bosnia and Herzegovina,” he said.

Karadzic warned Bosniaks about the dangers of an impending war in a speech in October 1991 in the Bosnian parliament, after Slovenia and Croatia had already declared independence from Yugoslavia. He said that leaving Yugoslavia would plunge Bosnia and Herzegovina into violence.

“They are choosing for Bosnia and Herzegovina is the same highway to hell and suffering that Slovenia and Croatia have already taken,” he told lawmakers.

It was a speech that seemed to predict the brutality of the coming conflict, and the massacres that would follow.

“Do not think that you will not take Bosnia and Herzegovina to hell and the Muslim people maybe into extinction, because if there is a war, the Muslim people will not be able to defend themselves,” Karadzic said.

Bosnia and Herzegovina became independent in 1992, after a vote that was opposed by Serbs who wanted to remain part of Yugoslavia, and then the war broke out.

Throughout the three-and-a-half-year conflict, Karadzic was the president of the Serb-dominated Republika Srpska entity and supreme commander of its armed forces.
During wartime, his most notorious statements were about Sarajevo, which was besieged by Serb forces.

Karadzic denied that units under his command were guilty of deadly mortar attacks on the city. After a massacre at the Markale market, in which dozens of civilians died in 1994, Karadzic told the newspaper Borba: “We have a disciplined army... no one can fire without an express order.”

He also insisted that “Serbs will never leave Sarajevo and the city will be the capital of the future Serb state”.

In several interviews, he opposed international intervention in Bosnia, saying it would be “a dangerous precedent which would make any country unsafe and would disrupt democracy”. He also publicly denied responsibility for the July 1995 Srebrenica massacres.

Speaking about that period, the wartime speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament, Momcilo Krajisnik, insisted that Karadzic “always fought against crimes”.

“He did not want crimes and if there is justice, he will be acquitted,” said Krajisnik, who was himself sentenced by the UN court in The Hague to 20 years in prison for war crimes.

Miro Lazovic said however that he was certain that Karadzic would be convicted.

“The Hague Tribunal has already shown what it thinks of the leadership of the Bosnian Serbs and has found that their plan was to commit crimes. I have no doubt that Karadzic, as the embodiment of these policies, will be convicted,” he said.

Karadzic goes underground

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was set up in The Hague after thousands of non-Serbs were detained in concentration camps and hundreds killed in Prijedor in 1992 and after the shelling of Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb forces.

The first indictment against Karadzic was raised in 1995, a few months after the Srebrenica genocide.

Three years ago, Karadzic admitted to BIRN that “a horrible crime” was committed in Srebrenica, although he did not describe it as genocide and downplayed the number of victims.
“As for Srebrenica, what happened in reality is bad enough, so no exag-geration will help us achieve understanding and peace between us. An unnecessary murder of one man is horrifying, let alone murder of at least several hundreds of people, which is, for instance, the undeniable number of victims with blindfolds. Those who did it are above all enemies to Serbs, and then also enemies to those families and the Muslim community,” he said.

An arrest warrant for Karadžić was issued in 1996, but by that time, he was already on the run.

British journalist Julian Borger, who wrote a book about the manhunt for Karadžić, told BIRN that the former Bosnian Serb president evaded capture for over a decade because initially “there was no political will” to arrest him, as the international community believed that it could threaten Bosnia’s fragile post-war peace.

In the beginning, Borger says that Karadžić was hiding openly in Pale, but later, as pressure mounted for him to be brought to justice, he fled to Serbia and went into hiding.

The US offered a reward of almost $5 million for information leading to his whereabouts, but despite a lengthy manhunt by international and local security forces, Karadžić was only arrested in the summer of 2008 in Belgrade, where he was living openly under the name of Dragan Dabic, disguising himself as a New Age healer.

Karadžić’s legal adviser, US attorney Peter Robinson, described the former Bosnian Serb president as “a charismatic, intelligent and empathic man devoted to his people”.

“During the trial, he considered it more important to defend the Serbian people than himself,” Robinson said.

Bosniak war victims’ associations have argued meanwhile that Karadžić was responsible for horrific, ethnically-motivated crimes and should be jailed for the rest of his life.

After a marathon trial during which more than 500 witnesses testified, the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals will hand down its own verdict on Karadžić on March 20.

The prosecution is demanding a life sentence, but Karadžić, who has continued to insist that he is not guilty, has said that he should be acquitted.

This article is an updated version of a profile initially published by BIRN in March 2016.
Radovan Karadzic’s Ex-Adviser Appeals Against Conviction

Jovan Tintor, a former adviser to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, appealed against his conviction for the unlawful detentions and abuse of Bosniak and Croat prisoners in the Vogosca area in 1992.

LAMIJA GREBO

The defence lawyer for Jovan Tintor, the former president of the wartime Crisis Committee in the municipality of Vogosca, lodged an appeal at the Bosnian state court on Friday against his 11-year prison sentence.

Tintor, who was also wartime Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic’s adviser and the head of Karadzic’s Serb Democratic Party in Vogosca, was found guilty last August on seven counts of having participated in a widespread and systematic attack on the non-Serb population in Vogosca from April 1992 to the end of July that year.

“I consider that the court sentenced me as a completely innocent person... I neither knew about nor ordered any criminal act,” Tintor told the court on Friday.

His lawyer Nina Kisic said that a large part of the appeal concerns what she described as numerous contradictions in the first-instance verdict.

She said that the verdict was flawed and “not explained with due diligence”, citing as an example the fact that it attributed certain words to someone who not only had not testified at the trial at all, but had actually died 20 years ago.

Last August’s verdict convicted Tintor of responsibility for unlawful detentions, torture, beatings and making people do forced labour. It said the crimes were committed against a large number of Bosniaks and Croat prisoners in several detention camps in Vogosca.

The judge in the trial that Tintor had knowledge of the plans to detain Bosniaks in Vogosca, and had described the territory as “Serb land”.

The verdict also said that Tintor set up the Bunker prison camp and had authority to decide who would be detained.
He was also responsible for the detention of prisoners in the Nakina Garage and Planjina Kuca detention facilities, and for the inhumane conditions there, the verdict found.

However he was acquitted on one count of the killings of 13 prisoners who were taken from the Bunker camp, and never seen again.

The prosecution on Friday appealed against this acquittal.
Radovan Karadzic Asks for Release Before Final Verdict

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic asked the UN court in The Hague to grant him a provisional release until the final verdict in his trial next year.

RADOVA MILUTINOVIC

Radovan Karadzic asked the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague on Tuesday for a provisional release until his second-instance verdict is handed down in 2019 because the ruling, originally due this month, was postponed.

The postponement was caused by changes to the judging panel after the presiding judge, Theodor Meron, removed himself from the proceedings after Karadzic’s defence accused him of bias.

Karadzic’s defence also asked for the court’s appeals chamber to start deliberating the verdict again because of the changes to the judging panel, although the proceedings had already reached their final stage when Meron stepped down.

Confirming that the verdict in the Karadzic trial will be pronounced next year, judge Vagn Joensen called on the defence lawyers to present their request in a written motion.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found Karadzic guilty in March 2016 of genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Karadzic appealed against the verdict, but the Hague prosecution also filed an appeal asking for him to be found guilty of genocide in six other Bosnian municipalities and imprisoned for life.
Karadzic Asks US for Srebrenica Wiretap Transcripts

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic’s defence asked the US government to provide any transcripts it has of intercepted conversations about the violence in Srebrenica in July 1995.

EMINA DIZDAREVIC

Karadzic’s defence lawyer Peter Robinson asked the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague on Wednesday to order the US government to hand over any transcripts it has of intercepted and recorded conversations about the violence in Srebrenica in July 1995.

Karadzic believes that the US has information which would enable the former Bosnian Serb political leader to prove that he was wrongly convicted of genocide.

“We are asking the appeals chamber to ask the USA to submit the information or say if it does not possess it,” the defence said in its request.

“This would make it possible for Karadzic to show that, in the relevant period of time, he actually did not know that the captives were in Srebrenica and that they were killed,” it added.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found Karadzic guilty in March 2016 of genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Karadzic appealed against the verdict, but the Hague prosecution also filed an appeal asking for him to be found guilty of genocide in six other Bosnian municipalities and imprisoned for life.

The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals planned to hand down its second-instance verdict in the trial in December, but it was postponed because presiding judge Theodor Meron removed himself from the judging panel after Karadzic’s defence accused him of bias, and a replacement was appointed.
Karadzic Demands Skype by End of Year

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic asked the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague to allow him to use an online video link to talk to his family by the end of the year.

RADOVA MILUTINOVIC

Radovan Karadzic's defence filed a motion on Tuesday to UN court president Theodor Meron, complaining that the court secretariat has not enabled the former Bosnian Serb political leader to make an online video call even though two years have passed since he first filed a request, and despite Meron’s own promises to help.

“Although it has had more than enough time, the secretariat has failed to apply the video communications technology at the Detention Unit of the United Nations, primarily due to the fact that this has become an issue of lower priority,” the motion said.

In response to Karadzic’s previous requests for Skype, the secretariat said that a “pilot project” to use video services had encountered security, technical and organisational problems.

In the motion, Karadzic’s defence lawyer Peter Robinson expressed concern that because judge Meron is stepping down as the court’s president in January, efforts to allow detainees at the UN Detention Unit to use video communications might come to nothing.

Defendants can currently see their relatives if they visit the UN Detention Centre in the Netherlands, or talk to them on the phone if they purchase phone cards, but both are expensive.

In its first-instance verdict in March 2016, the Hague court sentenced Karadzic to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic filed an appeal against the verdict. The Hague prosecution also appealed, calling on the court to also find him guilty of genocide in six other Bosnian municipalities and sentence him to life imprisonment.
It was planned that the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, as the legal successor to the Hague Tribunal, would hand down the second-instance verdict in the Karadzic trial in December.

But the verdict will probably be postponed because presiding judge Meron removed himself from the appeals procedure in September after the former Bosnian Serb political leader’s defence accused him of bias, and a replacement was appointed.
Karadzic Demands Removal of Another Trial Judge

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic asked the UN court to remove another judge from his appeal process for alleged bias, after the presiding judge stepped down from the case last month.

DENIS DZIDIC

Radovan Karadzic on Monday asked for judge William Sekule to be removed from the appeal process in his trial at the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague.

Karadzic’s defence argued that Sekule is biased because he was on previous judging panels at the UN court that convicted former Bosnian Serb Army officers Vujadin Popovic, Ljubisa Beara, Drago Nikolic, Vinko Pandurevic and Radivoje Miletic and former Bosnian Serb intelligence and security chief Zdravko Tolimir. All were found guilty of involvement in the Srebrenica genocide.

“In the verdicts against Popovic et al and Tolimir, judge Sekule rendered conclusions in relation to evidence and questions that are being brought up in the appellate procedure against Karadzic. Through those conclusions, judge Sekule confirmed verdicts of conviction against persons who were subordinate to Karadzic,” the defence’s motion said.

The move comes after Theodor Meron, the presiding judge in Karadzic’s appeal against his genocide and war crimes convictions, removed himself from the case last month after the former Bosnian Serb political leader’s defence accused him of bias.

Meron is also the president of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals.

Karadzic on Monday asked for Meron not to be allowed to appoint his own replacement or a replacement for judge Sekule.

“It cannot be fair for a judge, who has withdrawn or has been disqualified, to be able to continue to influence the case by appointing his own replacement,” the defence motion said.
Following his withdrawal, Meron appointed judge Ivo Nelson de Caires Batista Rosa to replace him.

Karadzic addressed his new motion to judge Jean-Claude Antonetti, who made the decision in September to remove three judges from the appeals procedure in the case against former Bosnian Serb Army commander Ratko Mladic, also over allegations of bias.

Antonetti said in his decision that the three judges - who included Meron - “appear biased” because they had previously rendered conclusions linked to Mladic in other cases at the Hague court.

Karadzic and Mladic are on trial in separate proceedings for genocide in Srebrenica and several other municipalities, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Under first-instance verdicts, Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years and Mladic to life imprisonment. Appeals procedures in both cases are currently underway.
Presiding Judge Withdraws from Radovan Karadzic’s Appeal

Theodor Meron, the presiding judge in Radovan Karadzic’s appeal against genocide and war crimes convictions, removed himself from the case after the former Bosnian Serb political leader’s defence accused him of bias.

LAMIA GREBO

Judge Theodor Meron voluntarily withdrew from the appeals procedure in the Radovan Karadzic case on Thursday after the defence asked the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals to remove him for alleged bias against the defendant.

“In order for my dismissal not to affect the progress of the appellate procedure, it is in the interest of justice that I withdraw from this case,” Meron said.

He said that the request filed by Karadzic’s defence was based on a previous decision by the UN court to remove him and two other judges from the appeal in Ratko Mladic’s case, also over allegations of bias.

He argued that this was contrary to the established legal practices and harmed the interests of the UN court.

Meron insisted that he would have acted impartially in the case. He will be replaced by judge Ivo Nelson de Caires Batista Rosa.

The defence argued on Wednesday that Meron has delivered conclusions at previous trials held in The Hague that were related to Karadzic and crimes committed in Srebrenica, Sarajevo and other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina which indicate he is biased against the former Bosnian Serb political leader.

“A reasonable observer who has all the information could accept that judge Meron is biased,” the motion said.

Defence lawyer Peter Robinson said that Meron should be removed for the sake of “the Mechanism itself, which endeavours to fight for promotion of truth and reconciliation”.

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Under a first-instance verdict in March 2016, Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

He was acquitted of genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities.

Both the defence and the prosecution are appealing against the verdict. The final judgment is due to be handed down at the end of this year.

Earlier this month, the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals accepted a request filed by Ratko Mladic’s defence to exempt three judges, including Meron, from his appeal due to alleged bias.

The UN court said that judges Meron, Daqun Liu and Carmel Agius had previously delivered certain legal conclusions related to Mladic so they were not impartial.

Mladic was also convicted of genocide and other wartime crimes. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, but is appealing against the conviction.

The final verdict on Mladic is due to be handed down next year.
Radovan Karadzic Demands Dismissal of Judge for ‘Bias’

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic asked the UN court in The Hague to exclude judge Theodor Meron from his appeal procedure due to alleged bias, after he was removed from Ratko Mladic’s trial.

Karadzic’s defence filed a motion to the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals on Wednesday arguing that Theodor Meron should not remain on the judging panel that is ruling on Karadzic’s appeal because he is biased against the defendant.

The defence motion argued that Meron has delivered conclusions at previous trials held in The Hague that are related to Karadzic and crimes committed in Srebrenica, Sarajevo and other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“A reasonable observer who has all the information could accept that judge Meron is biased... Karadzic, who is a psychiatrist, knows how our subconscious mind affects our decisions despite our best intentions,” the motion said.

Defence lawyer Peter Robinson said that Meron should be exempted for the sake of “the Mechanism itself, which endeavours to fight for promotion of truth and reconciliation”.

“Many people in the region will reconsider the legitimacy of the judgment if judge Meron remains a member of the [appeals] chamber,” the motion suggested.

Under a first-instance verdict, Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

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The final verdict on Mladic is due to be handed down next year.
Hague Court Approves Skype Links for Karadzic, Mladic

Bosnian Serb war crimes defendants Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic welcomed the UN court’s decision to allow them to make online video calls to their families while in detention.

EMINA DIZDAREVIC

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic’s lawyer Peter Robinson told BIRN that the UN-backed Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals’ decision this week to allow Hague detainees to make online video calls was “humane”.

“The ability of detainees such as Karadzic to see their families on a video call, instead of just speaking to them on the telephone, would be a great boost to their spirits while in detention. It is a humane and practical step to allow such calls, which can be done over the internet at no cost,” said Robinson.

Karadzic’s daughter Sonja Karadzic-Jovicevic, who is a lawmaker in the Bosnian Serb parliament, told BIRN that Skype will allow for better communication.

“The current communication is only by phone and only one-way. My father can only call me from the detention unit. The connection is poor and very expensive. Skype will allow for cheaper communication and in a controlled environment, which is OK, since they have to record all of the conversations,” said Karadzic-Jovicevic.

The president of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, Theodor Meron, said on Wednesday that Karadic’s defence’s request to enable defendants to communicate with their families via Skype will be approved soon.

Defendants can currently see their relatives if they visit the UN detention centre in the Netherlands, or talk to them on the phone if they purchase phone cards, but both are expensive.

“Enabling communication via Skype is a big thing that will help all the detainees, particularly when it comes to contacts with their families, be-
cause you know they are paying for those contacts and communications via telephone cards on the basis of market prices,” said lawyer Miodrag Stojanovic, a member of former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic’s defence team.

The spokeswoman for the Mechanism for International Tribunals, Helena Eggleston, said the options were still being considered.

“I think it is too early for me to be able to confirm the information on what type of Skype will be used. We do not know whether it will be Skype or some other type of video conferencing. We are certainly working on it, but we are not in the phase where we could offer more concrete information,” Eggleston said.

In March 2016, the UN court sentenced Karadzic to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

He has appealed and the court is planning to hand down its final verdict in December this year.

Mladic was sentenced to life imprisonment in November 2017 for the same crimes. He has also appealed and the final verdict in his case is expected in 2019.
Radovan Karadzic’s Final Verdict Expected in December

The UN court in The Hague said it plans to hand down the final verdict in December this year in the trial of former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, who is appealing against his initial conviction for genocide and other wartime crimes.

At a status conference in the Radovan Karadzic case at the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague on Wednesday, presiding judge Theodor Meron said the plan was that the final verdict will be handed down in December.

The first-instance verdict in 2016 – against which both Karadzic and the Hague prosecutors have appealed – sentenced the former Bosnian Serb political leader to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic was acquitted of committing genocide in 1992 in seven other Bosnian municipalities, however.

In his appeal, Karadzic requested a new trial, claiming procedural flaws in the first-instance trial and arguing that incorrect conclusions were made by the judges.

The prosecutors’ appeal asks for Karadzic to be sentenced to life in prison, and convicted of the 1992 genocide charges.

Karadzic’s lawyer Peter Robinson asked at Wednesday’s status conference if judge Meron could give a bit more information about the date of the final verdict, to which the judge replied that he could not, but said there was “a plan” for it to be handed down in December.

Karadzic told the status conference that he felt well and that his back was no longer causing him problems, and thanked judge Meron for the provision of a laptop which meant he no longer had to sit “uncomfortably, using a desktop computer”.

15.08.2018
Meron said that Karadzic’s request to use Skype to communicate with his family will soon be granted.

According to Meron, the UN detention centre in Scheveningen where Karadzic and other Hague defendants are held will also soon solve its problem with allowing “Balkan specialties”.

Karadzic said the food issue was problematic because “almost nobody in prison eats the main meal because of cultural differences”.

The former Bosnian Serb political leader was arrested in Serbia and transferred to The Hague in 2008.
Radovan Karadzic Verdict Due by End of 2018

The second-instance verdict in trial of former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic, who appealed against his conviction this week, is likely to be delivered by the end of the year.

RADOSA MILUTINOVIC

Theodor Meron, chairman of the appeals chamber of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague, said on Wednesday that it was “our intention, although it is not a definitive goal, to have the verdict ready by the end of 2018” in the Radovan Karadzic case.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found Karadzic guilty in March 2016 of genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

But at appeals hearings in The Hague earlier this week, Karadzic called for the verdict to be quashed because the facts were wrong, and for a retrial to be ordered.

Meanwhile the prosecutors asked the court to find Karadzic guilty of genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities as well as Srebrenica, and increase his sentence to life imprisonment.

During a hearing on the status of the proceedings on Wednesday, Karadzic told Meron in the courtroom that “my health has been fully taken care of” since previous complaints of illness were addressed.

He said said that his health is now “quite satisfactory”, and that he is “feeling much better”.

The former Bosnian Serb leader had complained in November 2016 that that his health, which he said was once “perfect”, had “deteriorated significantly” since he was taken to the UN detention unit.

Karadzic also said on Wednesday that in general, he had no complaints about the living conditions at the court’s detention unit.
He expressed satisfaction with the fact that his request for a laptop has been fulfilled, and asked the court again to consider the possibility of giving him limited internet access.

Meron said Karadzic’s request to be allowed to communicate via Skype was being considered as well.

Karadzic has been held in detention in The Hague since July 2008, when the Serbian authorities extradited him to the UN Tribunal.
Hague Prosecutors Demand Life Sentence for Karadzic

Prosecutors urged judges at the UN court to reject former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic’s appeal and increase his sentence to life imprisonment for genocide and other wartime crimes.

Prosecutors told the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals on the second day of appeals hearings in the Radovan Karadzic case on Tuesday that the former Bosnian Serb political leader’s sentence should be increased from 40 years to life.

Prosecutor Katrina Gustafson told the appeals judges that Karadzic had “abused his immense power to spill the blood of innocent civilians”.

“Justice requires that he receive the highest possible sentence, a life sentence,” she said.

Gustafson argued that Karadzic had threatened non-Serbs in Bosnia with “extinction and annihilation”.

“He set the stage for a criminal campaign of a genocidal nature,” she said.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found Karadzic guilty in March 2016 of genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

At the first day of the appeals hearings on Monday, Karadzic argued that his conviction should be overturned because his trial was unjust.

But the prosecutors said that his appeal should be rejected in its entirety.

The prosecution is also asking for him to be further convicted of genocide in seven more Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Prosecutor Laurel Baig told the court that it had been proved that Serb forces under Karadzic’s supreme command committed “the largest mass murder since World War Two” – the killings of thousands of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in July 1995.
Baig quoted the verdict, which said the Bosnian Serb Army and police shot “at least 5,115” Bosniaks after the fall of Srebrenica.

“Karadzic knew about that plan, he joined it and actively participated in its execution,” the prosecutor said.

A third prosecutor, Barbara Goy, said the Bosnian Serb Army under Karadzic’s supreme command targeted Sarajevo with a shelling and sniping campaign, unselectively and disproportionately for three and a half years, killing and injuring “10,000 civilians”.

Besides the division of the city, which was one of the strategic goals of the Bosnian leadership, Karadzic and his military chief Ratko Mladic used the attacks on Sarajevo as “means of exerting pressure on Muslims and the international community to accept Serb requests”, Goy insisted.

Baig said it was “irrelevant” whether or not the Bosnian Army “provoked” Serb forces to open fire at the city, arguing what was important was whether the response was in line with the international humanitarian law.

“And it was not, because it was either disproportionate or directly targeted against civilians,” Baig said.

Goy argued that despite what the defence claimed, Karadzic was correctly found guilty of responsibility for an explosion at Sarajevo’s Markale market place that killed 67 civilians and wounded more than 140 more on February 5, 1994.

She said it was determined in the verdict that the shell hit the market from the direction of a known Bosnian Serb Army position, from which “between 30,000 and 40,000 projectiles” were fired on the city during the war.

The prosecutors also rejected Karadzic’s claim that he did not receive a fair trial.

“Karadzic was rightfully sentenced as a protagonist of four joint criminal enterprises, he received a fair trial and failed to prove the existence of any legal irregularities or factual errors in the verdict,” Goy said.

The final judgment in the case is expected by December.
Radovan Karadzic Appeals Conviction, Calls Crimes a ‘Myth’

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic appealed against his conviction for genocide and other wartime crimes, denying he was part of a criminal enterprise to persecute Bosniaks and Croats and demanding a new trial.

Radovan Karadzic told the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague on Monday that his conviction and 40-year sentence should be overturned and a new trial ordered because “the facts were erroneously determined”.

Karadzic said the conviction verdict’s finding that he was a protagonist in a joint criminal enterprise aimed at permanently and forcibly removing Bosniaks and Croats from large parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the sake of achieving Serb domination was false.

“How could you remove them permanently, if the situation after the war is the same as it was before the war... That is the myth of permanent expulsion,” Karadzic told the UN court on the first of two days of appeal hearings.

“There is no way that the things written in the indictment are true,” he added.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found Karadzic guilty in March 2016 of genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the local population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

During Monday’s appeal hearing, Karadzic distanced himself from Serb volunteer fighters and paramilitary forces, which according to the verdict committed crimes throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“We arrested and tried them,” he insisted.

He also denied that the first strategic wartime goal of the Bosnian Serbs was separate themselves from Bosniaks and Croats.
He insisted that there was “no evidence for the accusations concerning the intention to implement ethnic cleansing”.

“It was not the peoples but the state units which were supposed to be separated... the homogenisation of territories, not the relocation of people,” he said.

Karadzic cited US peace mediator Cyrus Vance who said that “Karadzic wants to avoid the war at all costs”.

Rejecting his conviction for terrorising the population of Sarajevo, Karadzic said that, “during 1,400 days of street fighting and war in Sarajevo” there were not as many victims as there would have been had the city really been subjected to terror.

He insisted that “very few civilians” were killed during the siege of Sarajevo.

“Serbs were just defending themselves, while Muslims provoked incidents and accused Serbs in order to have international forces intervene,” he claimed.

Karadzic’s lawyer Peter Robinson insisted meanwhile that the defendant’s right to a fair trial had been breached.

“This was a huge mega-trial based on the assumption that Karadzic is guilty instead of innocent,” Robinson told the court.

The verdict’s conclusions about Karadzic’s participation in the Srebrenica genocide in July 1995 were “unstable, loose and untrue”, Robinson also said.

Karadzic’s defence insisted that he did not know about the shooting of thousands of Bosniak captives after the fall of Srebrenica to Bosnian Serb forces.

“Srebrenica is the most documented crime committed in the 20th century... Not a single one of those documents confirms that Radovan Karadzic ordered the shooting,” Robinson said.

“Radovan Karadzic was sentenced for an act of genocide which he did not commit,” he added.

The judges based their finding that Karadzic was guilty of the Srebrenica genocide upon “their own interpretation of a cryptic intercepted conversation” that the Bosnian Serb political leader conducted by telephone.
Karadzic had the conversation on July 13, 1995, two days after the fall of Srebrenica, with his special envoy in Srebrenica, Miroslav Deronjic, who informed him that around 2,000 Bosniak prisoners had arrived in nearby Bratunac and that “more are expected”.

According to the transcript of the conversation, of which no audio recording exists, Karadzic responded that “all the goods must be placed inside warehouses before twelve tomorrow … not in the warehouses there, but elsewhere”.

The judges inferred that Karadzic was ordering the transfer of thousands of prisoners to Zvornik, where the Bosnian Serb Army executed them in the days that followed.

But Robinson said there were no other pieces of evidence confirming this conclusion. The defence claims that Karadzic intended to transfer the prisoners to a detention camp.

The prosecution will present its own appeal against the Karadzic verdict on Tuesday.

It will ask the judges to increase Karadzic’s sentence to life imprisonment and convict him of a second charge of genocide against Bosniaks and Croats in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Under the initial verdict in March 2016, Karadzic was acquitted of committing genocide in these municipalities 1992.
Radovan Karadzic Appeals ‘Unjust’ Genocide Conviction

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic is starting his appeal against his conviction for genocide and other wartime crimes at the UN court in The Hague, claiming his trial was flawed.

In his 238-page appeal brief, Karadzic details what he claims are “48 substantive and procedural errors” that allegedly led to his wrongful conviction for genocide and war crimes against non-Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2016. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

The judgment should be reversed but if the appeals chamber upholds any part of the conviction, it should impose a lower sentence, Karadzic argues.

The prosecution is also appealing, asking the judges to increase Karadzic’s sentence to life imprisonment.

In March 2016, the three-judge panel at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia unanimously determined Karadzic was the mastermind behind four joint criminal enterprises designed to permanently and forcibly remove non-Serbs from large parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to establish Serb dominance.

The former president of Republika Srpska was found guilty of genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the persecution of Croat and Bosniak civilians throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, a campaign of shelling and sniper attacks campaign against the population of Sarajevo intended to spread terror, and of taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic was acquitted of a second charge of genocide against Bosniaks and Croats in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992 - Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik.
The judges’ conclusion that Karadzic did not possess the “genocidal intent” to destroy non-Serbs in these seven municipalities is the focus of the prosecution’s appeal against the first-instance judgment.

Most of Karadzic’s 50 grounds for appeal are procedural. He claims he “did not receive a fair trial” as a result of “the Trial Chamber’s failure to limit the scope of the amorphous indictment and to ensure that the prosecution complied with its disclosure obligations”.

The defence also alleged the court had “double standards” and favoured the prosecution.

While not directly challenging the judgment’s main factual findings about the crimes, the defence says that “the Trial Chamber’s reliance on debatable inferences, instead of solid evidence, to conclude that President Karadzic shared the common purpose of four separate JCEs [joint criminal enterprises], was an error that resulted in a miscarriage of justice”.

“Nowhere was this miscarriage of justice more apparent than when the Trial Chamber found him guilty of genocide by inferring that he shared the intent to kill the prisoners from Srebrenica based upon its own interpretation of a cryptic intercepted conversation. This inference is unsound and untrue and the verdict is unjust,” the defence says in its appeal.

The “cryptic intercepted conversation” referred to by the defence took place on July 13, 1995, when Karadzic was told by his envoy in Srebrenica, Miroslav Deronjic, that 2,000 prisoners from Srebrenica had arrived in nearby Bratunac and that more were expected.

According to Deronjic’s notes, Karadzic told him that “all the goods must be placed inside warehouses before 12 tomorrow... not in the warehouses over there, but elsewhere”.

In its judgment, the Trial Chamber inferred that the “goods” were actually Bosniak prisoners who the Bosnian Serb Army, under Karadzic’s supreme command, transported to Zvornik the next day and subsequently executed “at least 5,115” of them.

The defence appeal claims there is an alternative interpretation of this conversation – that Karadzic intended not to execute Bosniak men, but to send them to a military prison in Batkovic.

Karadzic “had no involvement in the execution of the men from Srebrenica”, so the trial chamber was wrong when it found that he “shared the common purpose of eliminating the Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica”, the appeal says.
According to the defence, this means that Karadzic did not possess genocidal intent in Srebrenica.

Addressing his conviction for persecution and other crimes in 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Karadzic alleges that the court “took his statements favouring political autonomy for Serbs out of context to erroneously conclude that he favoured a homogenous State from which Muslims and Croats should be expelled”.

In the appeal against his conviction for terrorising Sarajevo, Karadzic contends that judges “disregarded his many orders aimed at preventing fire against civilians, misapplied principles of ‘distinction’ and ‘proportionality’ by failing to assess the shelling from the perspective of a military commander, and ignored the United Nations’ own expert report on the Markale market shelling”.

Karadzic argues that the trial chamber wrongly concluded that a shell that hit Sarajevo’s Markale market on February 5, 1994, killing 66 civilians, was fired by the Bosnian Serb Army.

In response to Karadzic’s conviction of hostage taking, the defence argues that members of the UN protection force UNPROFOR were “lawfully detained” as they took part in combat-related activities against the Bosnian Serb Army.

The prosecution’s appeal meanwhile contends that the first-instance ruling wrongly failed to find that Karadzic and other members of the joint criminal enterprise possessed genocidal intent against Bosniaks and Croats in the seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Prosecutors argue that the judges applied “an overly narrow definition of genocidal intent” and made an error in concluding that “the objective of permanent removal [of non-Serbs]... precluded a finding of genocidal intent” to destroy Bosniaks and Croats as ethnic groups in the seven municipalities.

The final judgment in the Karadzic case is expected by December.
Computer Analysis ‘Could Show Karadzic’s Intent in Srebrenica’

Two UK-based professors have asked to present an analysis carried out with artificial intelligence-inspired software of Radovan Karadzic’s alleged intent to commit genocide in Srebrenica at the former Bosnian Serb leader’s appeals hearing in The Hague.

DENIS DZIDIC

Professors Yvonne McDermott Rees and Federico Cerutti have asked the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals to be allowed amicus curiae (friend of the court) status at former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic’s appeal against his conviction in order to present their analysis of his alleged intent to commit genocide.

Their request says that they have examined Karadzic’s first-instance verdict using a new computer program called CISpaces, analysing the argumentation used in the court’s decision.

The analysis relates to the conclusions and inferences of the court – which sentenced Karadzic to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica and other crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina – about Karadzic’s intent to eliminate Srebrenica’s Bosniaks in July 1995.

McDermott Rees told BIRN that Karadzic’s case was chosen because “it had received an unprecedented level of academic coverage at the time of the judgment”, in which several authors criticised the findings that inferred Karadzic’s intent.

“We wished to assist the appeals chamber in its determination of whether the trial chamber erred in making these findings by unpacking the precise evidentiary basis for them, and by pointing out the inferences apparently drawn by the trial chamber in reaching its conclusions,” said McDermott Rees.

The professors’ 27-page request lists the court’s key conclusions related to the events in Srebrenica, as well as a timeline, and the connections between the times when Karadzic had certain information and gave statements, and explains which inferences and conclusions were made from these facts.
Despite the fact that their analysis says that certain issues in the verdict are not addressed properly, McDermott Rees and Cerutti claim they only want to relay the conclusions made by the court’s trial chamber, while the appeals chamber will decide whether Karadzic’s verdict was reasonable.

“A common phrase we often see in judgments is that findings are based on ‘the totality of the evidence’ or a holistic approach. We believe that a more systematic approach, whereby findings are clearly and explicitly linked to the evidence presented, would benefit international criminal tribunals and the communities they serve,” said McDermott Rees.

“Writing and submitting our brief was a small step in encouraging that direction,” she added.

Cerutti told BIRN that the CISpaces program is a “straightforward tool which implements theories of argumentation in artificial intelligence”.

Hague prosecutor Laurel Baig asked the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals to reject McDermott Rees and Cerutti’s request.

Baig said that the submission should be rejected because ‘friend of the court’ submissions are generally limited to questions of law, while the professors want to “offer observations” on the court’s factual findings.

She also said the deliberate exclusion of “contextual findings on the role and conduct” of Karadzic also weighs in favour of rejecting the request.

“The applicants explain that when they identified purportedly conflicting pieces of information, they treated them as being equally probable. Their inability to take into account the judicial process of weighing conflicting evidence fatally skews their analysis. It makes their approach unsuitable as a tool for analysing the reasonableness of the chamber’s conclusions,” said Baig.

Baig also argued that McDermott Rees and Cerutti failed to explain the role of the computer software or “state-of-the-art algorithms for efficient reasoning” in their analysis.

The Hague Tribunal sentenced Karadzic to 40 years in prison in March 2016 for the genocide in Srebrenica, a campaign of persecution of non-Serbs across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.


Both Karadzic and the Hague prosecutors will appeal against the verdict at hearings scheduled for April 23 and 24.
Radovan Karadzic Genocide Appeal Hearings Set for April

Appeals in the case against Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, who was convicted of genocide and crimes against humanity under a first-instance verdict, will be heard in late April.

DENIS DZIDIC

The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals said on Tuesday that Karadzic and his defence team will present their appeal against his conviction for genocide and crimes and humanity on April 23.

The prosecutors at the UN court in The Hague will deliver their appeal the following day.

The Hague Tribunal sentenced Karadzic to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo with a shelling and sniping campaign and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

The same verdict acquitted Karadzic of genocide in several other Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

The prosecution’s appeal asks for Karadzic to be found guilty of the 1992 genocide and sentenced to life in prison, while the former Bosnian Serb political leader and his lawyers have said they will seek an acquittal.

The UN court’s president, Theodor Meron, has allowed a request from Karadzic to speak during the appeals hearing.
Hague Tribunal Tries Out Video Calls for Defendants

The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague is introducing a pilot project that will enable defendants held in the UN court’s detention centre to make video calls.

The secretariat at the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, which is the successor to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, announced on Friday that it will soon pilot a project enabling detainees to make video calls.

At the moment, detainees are only allowed to receive and send letters, make telephone calls and receive visitors.

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic has asked the court on several occasions to allow him to use Skype or other means of video communication.

Karadzic’s defence lawyer Peter Robinson told BIRN that people held in other prisons in the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe can already make video contact with family members.

“The secretariat’s decision to launch the pilot project, which would enable detainees to see their families via Skype or other similar technologies, is certainly a step forward in creating human conditions in detention,” Robinson said.

“This is very important when detainees are far away from their family members, such is the case of Radovan Karadzic,” he added.

During a status conference on October 10, Karadzic repeated his request to be allowed to access the internet and use Skype, which would make finding materials for his work and communicating with his family easier.

He also asked the Hague judges to allow him to use a laptop because he has back pain caused by sitting at a desktop for hours.

The court’s secretariat rejected his requests, explaining that it would soon launch a pilot project for video calls.
Karadzic has been held in the UN Detention Unit in Scheveningen since his arrest in 2008.

In March last year, Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison for his involvement in the Srebrenica genocide, crimes against humanity across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

However, he was acquitted of genocide in several Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Both Karadzic and the Hague prosecution have appealed against the verdict, with the former Bosnian Serb political leader asking to be acquitted of all charges and the prosecutors asking for his sentence to be increased to life in prison.
Karadzic Asks For a Laptop, Internet and Skype

Former Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic asked the judges at the Hague Tribunal to provide him with a laptop, saying that using a desktop computer has caused him back pain.

Radovan Karadzic urged the judges at the Mechanism for International Tribunals in The Hague during a status conference in his trial on Monday to allow him a laptop, claiming he has back pain from spending hours at a desktop computer.

He also asked to be allowed access to the internet and Skype so he can find material for his work and communicate with his family.

Judge Theodor Meron said that the Hague Tribunal’s secretariat will address Karadzic’s request soon.

Karadzic also said that he felt like he had been sentenced to death as a result of his isolation in prison.

Speaking about his health, Karadzic said he felt better and that he was satisfied with the treatment he was getting from the staff at the UN detention centre.

At earlier status conferences, Karadzic had complained about his deteriorating health, which he said was caused by the years he has spent in his cell.

He has been in the Hague detention unit since his arrest in 2008.

In March last year, Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison for his involvement in the Srebrenica genocide, crimes against humanity across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

However, he was acquitted of genocide in several Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Both Karadzic and the Hague prosecution have appealed against the verdict, with the former Bosnian Serb political leader asking to be acquitted of all charges and the prosecutors asking for his sentence to be increased to life in prison.
Bosnian Serbs Spend €10,000 on Mladic, Karadzic

The authorities in Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska have allocated more than 10,000 euros this year to support Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, who are on trial in The Hague.

ADMIR MUSLIMOVIC

The Republika Srpska government will make a one-off ‘social assistance’ payment of 20,000 Bosnian marks (10,220 euros) to the former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic and political leader Radovan Karadzic, the government’s press office said on Friday.

The verdict in Mladic’s trial at the Hague Tribunal for genocide and other wartime crimes is due in December; Karadzic was convicted in March last year but his case has now gone to appeal. Both deny the charges against them.

The press office said that the money will be paid out according to regulations laid down by Republika Srpska’s State Centre for Researching War, War Crimes and Tracking Missing Persons and approved by its justice minister.

This is not the first time that Republika Srpska has supported the defendants financially, noted Hajra Catic, president of the Women of Srebrenica association, who expressed anger at the support for the two men.

“This is nothing new. The Republika Srpska government has long been helping families of criminals and [the defendants] themselves,” Catic told BIRN.

Last year, Republika Srpska paid out 20,460 euros to support Mladic, Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb interior minister Mico Stanisic and former regional security services chief Stojan Zupljanin.

Mladic’s lawyer Miodrag Stojanovic said the money was intended to cover the defendants’ expenditures at the UN detention unit canteen, and for telephone bills, clothes and other essentials.
A BIRN investigation in 2013 revealed that by December that year, former Yugoslav countries had spent almost 40 million euro of public money supporting war crimes suspects on trial at the Hague Tribunal.

The two countries that lavished the most public money on suspects standing trial at the International Criminal for the Former Yugoslavia were Croatia, which spent over 28 million euro on three defendants, and Macedonia, which spent an estimated 9.5 million euro on just two men.

At that point, a total of 640,000 euro had been sent from Bosnia and Herzegovina to aid indictees, but all of this came from Republika Srpska, and went to help Serb suspects.

Money was also donated to families of Serb indictees through a fund called Pomoc (Help), although the fund published no accounts to indicate how much was raised and how the money was spent.

The chief prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal, Serge Brammertz, told BIRN at the time that providing funding for war crimes suspects was not illegal.

Brammertz said that it was “up to sovereign states to decide for themselves how they want to spend money”.

But he also noted that many victims of the wars, who often struggle to gain compensation, often feel a sense of injustice.
Karadzic Wants Skype Installed in Hague Detention

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal to install Skype so he can communicate with his family while he is in the UN court’s detention unit.

DENIS DZIDIC

Theodor Meron, the president of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, said on Tuesday that he has asked the UN court’s registrar to give him information about the establishment of a secure system for online video communication between people inside the detention unit and on the outside, after Radovan Karadzic asked for a Skype connection in custody.

Karadzic filed his first request to be allowed to communicate with his family via Skype in spring of this year, but the registrar rejected his request, saying that the video communication application was not secure enough.

The former Bosnian Serb president then appealed against the decision.

The Office of the Registrar said it was considering various options for a secure video communications system, and that it had organised meetings with the Norwegian government, which had a programme for the video broadcasting of trials, and the International Red Cross Committee, which had a system of communication for detainees.

Meron gave the registrar until August 12 to carry out the checks and provide him with information necessary to make a decision on Karadzic’s request.

Meron said however that in principle, he considers that “Skype should be available to detainees at The Hague”.

In March last year, the Hague Tribunal sentenced Karadzic to 40 years in prison after having found him guilty of genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Muslims and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

However, he was acquitted of genocide committed in several Bosnian municipalities in 1992.
Karadzic then filed an appeal with the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, which was established in order to complete the work of the Hague Tribunal after it closes at the end of 2017.

The Hague prosecution also filed an appeal, asking that Karadzic be pronounced guilty of genocide in 1992.

The second-instance verdict is expected to be handed down next year.
Radovan Karadzic Recalls Evading Capture in Belgrade

Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, who is awaiting an appeal against his conviction for genocide and other wartime crimes, told a Serbian newspaper how he disguised himself while on the run.

VANJA DJURIC

Radovan Karadzic said in a two-part interview with Serbian newspaper Vecernje Novosti that he lost weight so police would not recognise him from his Bosnian wartime photographs while he was in hiding in Belgrade before his arrest on war crimes charges.

Karadzic said that he lost more than 30 kilogrammes, which was his “most important camouflage”.

“Besides that, I wore wider shirts, turtlenecks and other clothes, which were so big that my appearance didn’t indicate that it’s me. I had to speak with a Serbian accent, which wasn’t difficult for me,” he added.

An international arrest warrant for Karadzic was issued by the UN-backed war crimes court in The Hague in 1996, but he was only put behind bars 12 years later when police managed to detain him in the Serbian capital, disguised as a spiritual ‘healer’.

Karadzic said in the interview that after leaving the Bosnian Serb presidency, he “moved around freely” on Bosnian Serb territory, believing that he had a “secret agreement” with the US envoy for the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke, which would allow him to avoid prosecution if he quit public life.

Holbrooke denied ever giving such an assurance, and as the manhunt intensified, Karadzic fled to Belgrade to avoid arrest.

After the Serbian government adopted a Law on Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, Karadzic said that he didn’t want to make trouble for the people who were sheltering him, so he decided to live alone.

“I used to go out late at night for a walk and to buy some food,” he recalled.
But when Belgrade police started to search for hideouts used by members of the Zemun Clan criminal gang, which was involved in the assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic in 2003, he said he decided to show himself in public more often, to demonstrate to his neighbours that he wasn’t in hiding.

“Then it happened that while I was searching for a healthy lifestyle, I found some lectures about that and suddenly I became a part of that,” Karadzic said.

He ran out of money and started to give lectures and work as a consultant for private health companies, completed parapsychology course and set himself up as a healer under the name Dr. David Dabic.

He was finally arrested in 2008 in Belgrade and transferred to The Hague, where he was convicted last year of the genocide of Bosniaks from Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

The Vecernje Novosti interview was the latest of several that Karadzic has given, which he has mostly used to protest his innocence, causing Bosniak war victims to accuse him of seeking to rewrite history.

Tamara Skrozza, a member of Serbia’s Press Council, said that the latest interview did not contain any comments that violated basic human rights, but was intended to portray Karadzic as an innocent man.

“The only idea is to raise circulation a little, because he always has his audience, and in some way to contribute to the public rehabilitation of Radovan Karadzic and to re-establish his character and work as something positive,” Skrozza told BIRN.
Karadzic Contests Prosecution Appeal for Tougher Sentence

Radovan Karadzic asked the UN court to reject a prosecution appeal to increase his sentence to life imprisonment and find him guilty of genocide in seven more Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

DENIS DZIDIC

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic filed a motion to the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals in The Hague on Thursday, asking the UN war crimes court to throw out the prosecutors’ appeal.

Karadzic said that although there were “significant mistakes” in last year’s first-instance verdict, the court should not reverse the part of the ruling that acquitted him of genocide in seven municipalities in 1992.

The Hague Tribunal sentenced Karadzic to 40 years in prison in March last year, pronouncing him guilty of the genocide of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Both the prosecution and Karadzic filed appeals against the verdict.

In his response to the prosecutors’ appeal, Karadzic noted that genocide in the municipalities in 1992 had not been proved during the trial.

The verdict said that although conditions in Bosnian Serb detention camps in the municipalities in 1992 were terrible, the court could not conclude that the camps were established with the aim of “destroying Bosnian Muslims as a group”.

Karadzic said in his appeal that although conditions in the Susica, Omar-ska, Keraterm, Trnopolje and Karakaj detention camps, as well as other detention camps set up by the Bosnian Serbs in Foca, were bad for individuals held there, they were not destructive for Bosniaks as an ethnic group.

“Bearing in mind that very few people died due to bad conditions in this case, it cannot be said that the conditions in the detention camps were created to ensure the disappearance of Bosnian Muslims,” Karadzic said.
He also insisted that the court had determined that “the acts of resettlement of people, even in case of forcible resettlement, were not equal to genocidal acts, considering the fact that they do not necessarily result in destruction of a group of people”.

Hearings for both appeals against the verdict will be scheduled at a later date.
Hague Tribunal Rejects Karadzic’s Cancer Claims

A medical report rejected former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic’s claims that there were abnormally high levels of cancer among war crimes defendants held at the UN court’s detention centre.

DENIS DZIDIC

The Mechanism for International Tribunals said on Tuesday that the medical report commissioned from Dutch specialists did not support Karadzic’s claims that there were abnormally high incidences of cancer among inmates at the UN detention centre in Scheveningen in the Netherlands, where war crimes defendants are held.

“There is no evidence for a cancer cluster or an increased risk of cancer,” the Mechanism for International Tribunals said in a statement.

The report, produced by the Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam, was commissioned after Karadzic said that he was worried by the number of grave illnesses reported among Hague Tribunal prisoners, and called for a medical inquiry.

The Mechanism for International Tribunals statement said that Karadzic was “concerned by the amount of cancer cases occurring among detainees at the detention centre and mentions that the plastic used to wrap the food of the prisoners could be a cause”.

The statement said that there have been approximately 10 cancer cases among 169 inmates at the detention centre over the past 12 years.

Former Croatian Serb leader Goran Hadzic died in July last year before the sentence in his war crimes trial after suffering from brain cancer, while another defendant, Serbian Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj, was given temporary release for cancer treatment in November 2014.

But after assessing the situation, the medical report said that “the probability that there is a cancer cluster [at the detention centre] is scientifically unlikely”.

Compared to people in the former Yugoslavia in the same age range, “there is no increased risk of cancer observed in the prisoners,” it said.
Former Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic was convicted in March 2016 of genocide and other crimes during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Karadzic’s defence team appealed against the verdict in December, calling for an acquittal.

The prosecution also appealed, asking for Karadzic to be found guilty of genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992 as well as in Srebrenica in 1995, and for his sentence to be raised to life imprisonment.

The appeals chamber of the Mechanism for International Tribunals, which is taking over the remaining work of the Hague Tribunal as it shuts down, will rule on the appeals.
Bosnia: Trials and Votes Deepen Divisions

Contrasting reactions to the conviction of Radovan Karadzic and to a Bosnian Serb referendum challenging the state’s authority contributed to a mood of political tension in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016.

ELEANOR ROSE

Ethnic and political divisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina deepened throughout the year, as the country struggled to cope with continued political deadlocks as well as a number of controversial events, such as the illegal referendum held in Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity of Republika Srpska, as well as several high-profile war-crimes trials and arrests.

Two major cases drew towards their end at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, with the conviction of former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic in March and the closing arguments in the case against former Bosnian Serb Army chief Ratko Mladic in December.

After seven years and more than 500 witness testimonies, the UN court found Karadzic guilty of some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II, and jailed him for 40 years.

Karadzic was convicted of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide, terrorising the population of Sarajevo, the persecution and extermination of Bosniaks and Croats in 20 municipalities across the country, and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

The verdict was followed anxiously across the country both by victims of Serb forces and Karadzic’s remaining supporters.

Selma Tanovic, head of research for the War Childhood Museum, told BIRN that she watched the verdict with her colleagues, “with frozen looks on our faces, all of us feeling a strange mixture of emotions. Sharp pain deeply buried years ago, disappointment and some kind of numbness, caused by waiting it to happen for too long.”

The ruling was swiftly politicised.
The Bosniak member of Bosnia’s tripartite presidency, Bakir Izetbegovic, provoked the ire of Serb politicians by calling the sentence a condemnation of Karadzic’s “politics and ideology”.

Mladen Bosic, the leader of the Serb Democratic Party, which was led by Karadzic during the war, responded that the verdict was proof that the Hague Tribunal was a “political institution whose goal is to demonise the Serbs”.

Karadzic, whose trial lasted seven years, has not rested quietly in jail since then.

He announced an appeal in July and gave two interviews in December insisting there had been no genocide in Srebrenica and decrying the Hague Tribunal as flawed and unjust.

Karadzic’s narrative in his interviews echoed parallel claims made by the defence of Ratko Mladic, whose lawyers said proceedings against the former Bosnian Serb Army commander were biased.

“Non-Serbian members of the public have already convicted our client,” said Mladic’s lawyer as he summed up the case in court.

Mladic was being held responsible for “all crimes ever committed by any Serb”, he insisted.

This statement reflected the fact that Bosnia, 20 years since the end of the war, remained politically and ethnically divided country, with equally divided media, in which all three ethnic groups have problems facing war crimes committed by their own members and see themselves as the biggest victims of the past war.

**Serb referendum challenges the state**

The single most destabilising event in 2016 was the referendum which Republika Srpska President Milorad Dodik held on September 25 in defiance of a ban by the state-level Constitutional Court.

The referendum was a reaction to an earlier decision by the same court, which ruled that holding the annual Day of Republika Srpska on January 9 was discriminatory against non-Serbs in the entity because it was also a Serbian Orthodox religious holiday.

January 9 was also the day in 1992 that Bosnia’s Serbs declared the foundation of Republika Srpska, which the country’s Bosniaks see as a precursor to the war that broke out soon afterwards.
Serb politicians insisted it was their right to celebrate their ‘statehood day’ when they wanted.

But the referendum was seen as a clear sign of the obsolescence of the protective mechanisms built into Bosnia’s Dayton peace accord, which ended the war, and suggested that the EU and US were no longer willing to protect the peace in Bosnia at any cost.

After the vote, when Bosnia’s state prosecution announced an investigation into Dodik’s violation of the Constitutional Court ruling, the Republika Srpska leader declined to come to Sarajevo for a hearing.

Along with the October election of the first Serb mayor of Srebrenica since the war – the fresh-faced Mladen Gruijicic, who had previously made comments saying the massacres in the town did not amount to genocide – the referendum ushered in a new era of heightened anxiety and even fears of another war.

Although nothing close to the taking up of arms has occurred, Western diplomats are worried that nonetheless the atmosphere has not been so fragile since the Nineties.

**Fears about ‘politicisation’ of justice**

As if the ratcheting up of rhetoric between Bosniak and Bosnian Serb officials was not enough, a row that broke out over the arrest of ten former Bosnian Croat fighters in the north-eastern town of Orasje on suspicion of war crimes rocked Bosnia-Croatia relations.

The Croatian foreign ministry and the local government of Posavina canton in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the alleged war crimes were committed, expressed serious concerns over the arrests.

The dispute further raised fears among experts about the politicisation of war crimes trials.

Senada Selo Sabic, a Zagreb-based analyst at the Institute for Development and International Relations, told BIRN that the fracas led to more open calls for a Bosnia and Herzegovina that would be further fractured along ethnic lines as some Croats argued that the country should have a third, Croat-led political entity.

“Many who have been calling for [a third entity], but not in a direct and straightforward manner, are now much more open because they think that this arrest ... is final proof that Croats are not protected, are unequal, and are discriminated against in Bosnia,” she said.
The 1995 Dayton agreement that ended the war provided for the creation of two sub-state entities – a Serb-led entity, Republika Srpska, which occupies about 49 per cent of Bosnian territory, and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which occupies the other 51 per cent and is primarily inhabited by Bosniaks and Croats.

But many Croats would prefer their own entity, and the Croat member of Bosnia’s tripartite presidency, Dragan Covic, has been calling for the formation of one for years.

However, despite the tense atmosphere in the country over the course of the year, there were a few bright spots.

The historic Ottoman-era Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka, restored after being demolished by Serb forces during wartime, was opened in May, albeit with tight security arrangements.

And despite funding setbacks and broken promises of support, the War Childhood Museum was set to open in Sarajevo by the end of 2016 to exhibit people’s personal mementoes of growing up during the conflict.
Radovan Karadzic has angered Srebrenica survivors by describing the 1995 massacres as “a horrible war crime against prisoners of war, not civilians” in an interview published on Banja Luka-based television station RTRS’s website on Thursday evening.

Karadzic, who was sentenced to 40 years in prison for genocide and other wartime crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in March, used the interview to protest his innocence of the crimes of which he was convicted.

He also repeated his claim that the Srebrenica massacres in July 1995, when more than 7,000 Bosniak men and boys were killed, were carried out by enemies of the Serbs.

“This is something our then enemies wanted to happen. No normal Serb would want something to be done like that on behalf of the Serb side,” he said in the interview.

But Nedzad Avdic, a survivor of the massacres, said Karadzic’s claims were false.

“The genocide was not committed by rogues and individuals as Karadzic said. It was well-organised and systematic killing,” Avdic told BIRN.

Avdic said that he saw Serb troops and police carrying out the atrocities, not just ‘individuals’ acting independently of the Bosnian Serb wartime authorities, as Karadzic alleged.

“Individuals could not find [a] place, organise deportations, shoot thousands of people and later engage all the machinery to load the dead bodies and bring them to mass graves. I saw all that with my own eyes,” he said.
In the interview, Karadzic also said that the UN-backed tribunal in The Hague was biased against him and had “shown and registered many unbelievable mistakes” during his trial.

He also appeared to compare the tribunal unfavourably to Nazi Germany, saying that “even Hitler didn’t destroy the honour of judges and courts”.

Karadzic said he filed an appeal against his conviction to the UN’s Mechanism for International Tribunals last week because he had “certainly not” had a fair trial.

He said he has also written to the UN Security Council demanding that it establish a commission to review every ruling the Hague Tribunal has ever made.

Waqar Azmi, the head of the British-based Remembering Srebrenica charity, which organises memorial events, argued that Karadzic’s interview was part of a pattern of genocide denial by Bosnian Serb officials.

“The claims by Radovan Karadzic this week are just a continuation of persistent genocide denial and attempts by the Bosnian Serb leaders from the time to re-write history,” Azmi told BIRN.

“Continued denial of the genocide must be condemned as it only serves to cause further hurt to the families of the victims and prevent Bosnia and Herzegovina from being able to look to the future and ways of promoting reconciliation,” he added.
Radovan Karadzic: ‘Serb Traitors’ Committed Srebrenica Crimes

In a rare interview, former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, who was convicted of genocide in Srebrenica, said that the crimes were actually committed by “traitors to the Serb people”.

MILIVOJE PANTOVIC

Karadzic told Serbian weekly newspaper Nedeljnik in an interview published on Thursday that the Srebrenica crimes were “idiotic” and damaged Serb interests in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“Whoever did it was a traitor to the Serbian people. That never happened in our history before and it should not have happened then in Srebrenica. It was idiotic and stupid, to commit a crime which could have been avoided,” Karadzic told Nedeljnik.

“For us, it was completely unexpected and unbelievable. Like it was done by some disturbed mind,” he added.

The UN war crimes court in The Hague convicted the former Bosnian Serb political leader of genocide and crimes against humanity and sentenced him to 40 years in prison in March this year.

Karadzic was found guilty of the genocide of Bosniaks from Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

More than 7,000 Bosniak men and boys were killed after Bosnian Serb forces overran Srebrenica in July 1995.

In the interview, Karadzic also said that the 1990s war was a “great sorrow” for him, and blamed Bosniak political leaders for declaring Bosnia and Herzegovina’s independence from Yugoslavia.

“War was a great sadness for me, even before it broke out, since I anticipated what would happen if the illegal unilateral proclamation of independence from Yugoslavia continued to be pushed,” said Karadzic.
“I anticipated the events, not only based on the past, historical events but also by watching what happened in Croatia in 1991 [when Zagreb declared independence],” he added.

He also hinted that he believed that Western countries were partly responsible for the break-up of Yugoslavia, which he suggested could have been brought about peacefully.

“If Yugoslavia had to disappear, it should have been done like in Scandinavia. I liked Croatia, a big part of my education was conducted there and I, personally, never had problems there. However, their feelings against Yugoslavia and Serbs were strong, which led to another [outbreak of] bloodshed,” he said.

Karadzic announced on Monday that he has filed an appeal to the UN’s Mechanism for International Tribunals against his conviction by the Hague-based war crimes court.

The 238-page appeal “details 48 substantive and procedural errors” that led to an incorrect verdict, according to a statement issued by Karadzic’s lawyer Peter Robinson.

“Unless corrected, flawed trials and unjust judgments like mine will only accelerate the flight of countries such as South Africa and Russia from an international legal system that is politicised and based on double standards,” Karadzic said in a statement when the appeal was filed.
Radovan Karadzic Files Appeal Against Conviction

Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic has filed an appeal challenging the Hague Tribunal’s verdict sentencing him to 40 years in prison for genocide and crimes against humanity.

Radovan Karadzic announced on Monday that he has filed an appeal to the UN’s Mechanism for International Tribunals against his conviction by the Hague-based war crimes court in March this year.

The 238-page appeal “details 48 substantive and procedural errors” that led to an incorrect verdict, according to a statement issued by Karadzic’s lawyer Peter Robinson.

“Unless corrected, flawed trials and unjust judgments like mine will only accelerate the flight of countries such as South Africa and Russia from an international legal system that is politicised and based on double standards,” Karadzic said in the statement.

“It will also ruin the chance for international justice to succeed in the long term by establishing legal precedents based on short-term political expediencies,” the former Bosnian Serb political leader added.

Karadzic was found guilty of genocide of Bosniaks from Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

According to the verdict, the crimes were committed as part of four joint criminal enterprises in which Karadzic was a protagonist.

Karadzic rejected the basis of the genocide judgment, saying that “never has a conviction for such a serious crime rested on such a shaky foundation”.

He also said that his convicted for terrorising the population of Sarajevo during the Bosnian Serb siege of the city from 1992–95 “disregarded his many orders aimed at preventing fire against civilians, misapplied principles of ‘distinction’ and ‘proportionality’ by failing to assess the shelling
from the perspective of a military commander, and ignored the United Nations’ own expert report on the Markale market shelling”.

Karadzic has also “submitted 26 separate grounds challenging the fairness of the trial”, according to the statement.

He accused the prosecution of “serial violations of its duty to disclose exculpatory evidence”, and the tribunal of treating him unfairly compared to the prosecution.

He accused the tribunal of “shifting the burden of proof to him to prove his innocence by taking of judicial notice of 2,379 adjudicated facts from other trials and admitting written testimony of 148 prosecution witnesses”.

He also said that the UN court refused to allow him to represent himself when testifying, to compel Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic to answer questions, and “to subpoena witnesses and produce written evidence in the same manner that the chamber had granted to the prosecution”.

The prosecution has also said it will appeal, asking for Karadzic to be found guilty of genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992, and for his sentence to be raised to life imprisonment.

The appeals chamber of the Mechanism for International Tribunals, which is taking over the remaining work of the Hague Tribunal as it shuts down, will rule on the appeals.
Bosnian Serb Honours for War Criminals Challenged

A rights group has filed criminal complaints to the state prosecutor over honours given by the Bosnian Serb authorities to convicted war criminals including Radovan Karadzic.

ELEANOR ROSE

The Tuzla-based Foundation for Truth, Justice, Reconciliation has filed a criminal complaint against Nedeljko Cubrilovic, president of the National Assembly in Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska, and members of the organising committee that recently gave awards to convicted war criminals including Radovan Karadzic.

“We’re waiting to see what concrete steps will be taken by the prosecution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, because this shameful act by the government of Republika Srpska mocks victims,” the president of the Foundation, Sinišan Alic, told BIRN on Tuesday.

The Republika Srpska National Assembly provoked strong reactions in October after choosing to honour Radovan Karadzic, who was convicted of genocide and other wartime crimes by the Hague Tribunal this year, as well as Momcilo Krajišnik and Biljana Plavsic – both also convicted war criminals.

Krajišnik and Plavsic have served their sentences but Karadzic is now appealing against his conviction.

The awards, called Charters of the RS National Assembly, were made to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Bosnian Serb entity’s parliament.

Alic said the awards had caused distress to victims and the relatives of victims who had suffered rape, torture and murder.

“One can only imagine how [the victims] feel... if the government of the entity of which they are now citizens reward individuals who the international tribunal convicted of committing war crimes, including the crime of genocide,” said Alic.
The complaint, filed on Monday, accuses Cubrilovic and the organising committee for the 25th anniversary celebrations of provoking racial, religious and national hatred and intolerance.

It says that the awards were given for involvement in the activities of the Bosnian Serb government in the period from 1991 to 1995, during which Karadzic, Krajisnik and Plavsic committed the crimes of which they were convicted.

It argues that giving them the Charter award shows “appreciation for what these individuals [were] doing” during the war.

The OSCE mission in Bosnia and the country’s international overseer, High Representative Valentin Inzko, as well as other foreign diplomats, condemned the awards in October.

“By glorifying war criminals, the RS authorities have missed an opportunity to present Republika Srpska as a politically mature, modern, progressive entity of all constituent peoples and citizens,” Inzko said at the time.

According to a statement published by Radio Free Europe’s Balkan service this week, Cubrilovic has sought to distance himself from the controversy.

“My suggestion was to look slightly different names and organisations that should receive the Charter, but the committee has decided what it decided. It was thought only to mark a particular historical moment,” Cubrilovic was quoted as saying.

“As you know, it was earlier, before the war, the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina that all those people and all those institutions that have received the Charter only as a token of appreciation for a moment that happened. That moment, as you know, was long before the war in this region. We certainly condemn all war crimes. Above all. Against Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs,” he added.
UN Court Probes Karadzic Cancer Allegations

The Hague Tribunal has launched a medical investigation after war crimes defendant Radovan Karadzic claimed that cancer and other malignant diseases were rife in the UN detention unit.

Judge Theodor Meron said on Tuesday that the Hague Tribunal has recruited two independent doctors to conduct an investigation after repeated allegations by former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that the incidence of cancer has increased among detainees at the UN secure unit in Scheveningen in the Netherlands.

“We expect their report to be filed by the end of November or beginning of December,” Meron said.

Karadzic said last September that he was worried by the number of grave illnesses reported among Hague Tribunal prisoners, and called for a medical inquiry.

“It is unusual for such a number of diseases to occur in such a small space,” he told court officials.

Former Croatian Serb leader Goran Hadzic died in July this year after suffering from brain cancer, while Serbian Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj was given temporary release for cancer treatment in November 2014.

Karadzic said on Tuesday that that his health, which used to be “perfect”, had “deteriorated significantly” since he was taken to the UN detention unit.

He said however that he had “no complaints against the medical service” at the unit.

But he did complain that he was not able to continue practicing “the religious way of life and Eastern and traditional medicine” while in the detention unit.

“Some strange rules prevented me from taking preventive steps towards preserving my health,” he said.
Karadžić was working as a self-proclaimed spiritual healer under a false name when he was arrested in Belgrade in 2008 after years on the run.

He also complained on Tuesday that he was not allowed to use Skype to maintain contacts with his family.

“The conditions in prisons do not follow the progress of humankind,” he said.

Judge Meron said he would ask the Tribunal Secretariat to respond to Karadžić’s complaints.

The former Bosnian Serb political leader was convicted in March of genocide and other crimes during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

His defence lawyer Peter Robinson said he would file an appeal by the Tribunal’s deadline of December 5.
UN Court Gives $508,797 for Karadzic’s Appeal

The UN war crimes court has granted $508,797 for the preparation of former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic’s appeal against his conviction for genocide and crimes against humanity.

JUSTICE REPORT

Radovan Karadzic’s lawyer told BIRN that the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals has allocated $508,797 to the defence team to prepare his appeal against his conviction earlier this year by the Hague-based war crimes court.

Lawyer Peter Robinson said that the amount was higher than the sum envisaged by the Tribunal’s rulebook, but explained that this was due to the complexity of the case, which covers Karadzic’s alleged responsibility for four separate joint criminal enterprises.

“There are a large number of grounds of appeal. Our notice of appeal is unique in that it concentrates on legal issues, rather than complaining about a plethora of factual findings,” the defence team said in its request to the court for a higher amount than usually granted.

Robinson said that the money would enable the defence to hire two legal counsellors, an attorney and a military expert who can give an opinion on the shelling of Sarajevo during the war, which was one of the crimes for which Karadzic was judged responsible. It will also pay legal apprentices hired by the Hague Tribunal.

The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals previously approved the payment of around $130,000 to cover the defence’s costs while filing a motion to the judges setting out which legal and factual issues the defence plans to highlight in the appeal.

A total of $33,000 is also to be paid to cover the defence’s costs while the appeal is being heard in court.

Karadzic was found guilty in March this year of committing genocide against Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995, terrorising the civilian popula-
tion of Sarajevo, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across the country and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

He was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

However he was acquitted committing genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals was set up to take over all remaining appeals after the Hague Tribunal closes and manage the UN court’s huge archive.
Radovan Karadzic Appeals Against Genocide Conviction

Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic is appealing against the Hague Tribunal’s verdict sentencing him to 40 years in prison for genocide and crimes against humanity.

RADOSA MILUTINOVIC

Radovan Karadzic announced on Friday that he is appealing against his conviction by the UN war crimes court in March this year, saying that the verdict should be annulled, he should be acquitted or a “new, fair trial” should be held.

Karadzic was found guilty of genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

According to the verdict, the crimes were committed as part of four joint criminal enterprises in which Karadzic was a protagonist.

Karadzic said his appeal will not focus on disputing the facts of the crimes but whether he got a fair trial, although he added that this does not mean that the judges did not make numerous mistakes when determining the facts.

In an accompanying statement, which was conveyed to journalists by his defence lawyer Peter Robinson, Karadzic said he “neither had a fair trial nor a fair verdict before the Hague Tribunal”.

“The trial chamber considered him guilty in advance and then constructed the verdict to justify its presumption,” Robinson added.

Karadzic insisted that the presumption of innocence was “violated” even before the beginning of his trial because the judges failed to “limit the amorphous indictment and make sure the prosecution would respect its obligation to disclose its evidence to the defence”.

All this meant that “a fair trial was not possible”, he claimed.
He said that during the course of the trial, the court “applied double standards, accepting the prosecution’s requests and declining the same requests by the defence”.

Karadzic said the injustice against him was most obvious in the part of the verdict convicting him of the Srebrenica genocide.

“The chamber concluded he had an intention to kill the captives from Srebrenica on the basis of its interpretation of a coded telephone conversation. Such a way of drawing conclusions is unfounded and incorrect, so the verdict is unfair,” Robinson said.

Commenting on the length of the sentence, the defence said that the judges did not take mitigating circumstances into consideration.

These include what Karadzic claim was his agreement with US envoy Richard Holbrooke in 1996 to withdraw from politics and public life. Karadzic insists that, in return, Holbrooke promised him he would not be tried in The Hague.

At the beginning of the trial, the Tribunal judges rejected the Holbrooke claim as irrelevant to the trial. Karadzic said he interpreted this as “the first sign that those who implement so-called international justice ignore laws and facts when it suits them”.

The defence also argued that the judges did not give sufficient credit to Karadzic’s behaviour during the war, when it said he “offered help to victims and detainees and prevented crimes”.

Karadzic also cooperated with the Tribunal instead of dismissing it as illegal, his defence team said.

“President Karadzic sincerely believed his trial would be an exemplary process in which the international community would determine the truth about the war in Bosnia. Instead of that, he was subjected to a political process, which was designed simply to confirm the demonisation of him as an individual and Bosnian Serbs as a people,” it said.

Karadzic’s statement concluded by insisting that “international justice is a failed project”.

“Judges, who know little about the region, its culture, its languages or its history, use procedures that are not familiar to those living in the region, conduct trials in foreign languages and come to conclusions that are unfamiliar to what people in the region know is true,” he insisted.
“It is not strange that countries like the USA, Russia or China refuse to allow such trials to be conducted against their citizens,” he added.

Meanwhile the Hague prosecution also announced on Friday that it will appeal, saying it will ask for Karadzic to be found guilty of the genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992, and for his sentence to be raised to life imprisonment.

The appeals chamber of the Mechanism for International Tribunals, which is taking over the remaining work of the Hague Tribunal as it shuts down, will rule on the appeals. There is no deadline for delivering the ruling.
Karadzic Lawyer May Face Contempt of Court

The Hague tribunal has opened an investigation into a member of the defence team of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, for alleged contempt of court.

JUSTICE REPORT

Theodor Meron, president of the UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, MICT, on the request of the Prosecutor’s Office, has launched an investigation into a member of the defence team of former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, for contempt of the court.

The prosecution said it suspects that the lawyer, whose name has not been given, revealed the contents of a confidential submission from April in which Karadzic sought brief release to attend a commemoration ceremony for his late brother, Ivan, in Serbia.

In the request sent to Judge Meron, prosecutors allege that “a member of Karadzic’s defence team submitted confidential information to the media, revealing that Karadzic requested a temporary release to attend a commemoration ceremony for his brother, and that the Government of Serbia gave the necessary guarantees.”

According to Meron, “this person may have committed the offence of contempt of court by publishing confidential information, including the fact that Karadzic requested a temporary release to attend a commemoration ceremony”.

Although the member of Karadzic’s defence team is not named in the submission, many believe the complaint relates to statements given by Goran Petronijevic, one of his lawyers, to the Belgrade newspaper Kurir.

Petronijevic told Kurir that Karadzic had requested “temporary residence” in Serbia to attend a commemoration ceremony in Obrenovac and said that the Belgrade authorities had given guarantees that he would return to The Hague.

Petronijevic also said the decision on the request would be made “next Tuesday”, that is, May 31, which duly happened. The Appeals Chamber that day rejected Karadzic’s request.
Petronijevic was the first to reveal the contents of the confidential request, submitted on 28 April.

Karadzic’s defence lawyer, Peter Robinson, has refused to comment on the allegations against the team.

“Considering that the investigation is ongoing, it would not be appropriate to publicly comment on the charges,” Robinson told BIRN. He also said: “Karadzic’s defence will cooperate fully with the investigation”.

Disclosure of confidential documents is punishable as “interfering knowingly and willfully with the enforcement of justice”.

Tribunal rules for contempt of court lay down fines of up to 100,000 euros, a prison sentence of up to seven years, or both.

Meron has entrusted the investigation to Judge Aydin Sefa Akay from Turkey. Akay can conduct the investigation by himself or appoint a prosecutor “friend of the court” outside the Hague Prosecution, which has been the practice so far.

The decision on whether the defence lawyer will be charged with contempt of court will be made after the investigation.

Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison in a first-instance ruling on March 24.

The Hague tribunal found him guilty of genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Muslims and Croats across Bosnia, terrorizing citizens in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic also requested provisional release to the Bosnian Serb entity Republika Srpska until the final judgment, but the judge refused that request, too.
UN Court Rejects Plea to Release Karadzic

The UN war crimes court in The Hague rejected a request from the defence of former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic to grant him temporary release.

Theodor Meron, the president of the Mechanism for International Tribunals – an institution set up to wrap up the work of the Hague Tribunal – rejected Karadzic’s proposal on Tuesday, saying that there was a chance he could abscond.

Meron said in his decision that Karadzic said he planned to live in the Bosnian Serb entity, Republika Srpska, but only Serbia had provided guarantees that Karadzic would return to The Hague, and both Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina had not done so.

“The risk of flight associated with granting a request for provisional release is higher where a conviction is entered and a sentence to a considerable period is imposed, than where the applicant is in phase of trial,” said Meron.

“Karadzic has been convicted and sentenced to 40 years in prison and a considerable portion of his sentence remains to be served, subject to outcome of any appeal,” he added.

He also noted that “Karadzic actively evaded justice for 13 years before he was arrested”.

Radovan Karadzic’s lawyer Goran Petronijevic told media last Thursday that Karadzic had requested temporary release to attend a commemoration ceremony for his brother’s death.

Petronijevic added that the Serbian government had provided guarantees that Karadzic would not abscond.

The verdict in Karadzic’s trial in March sentenced him to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica, terrorising the population of Sarajevo, the persecution of non-Serbs and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.
Bosnia War Victims Slate Call to Release Karadzic

Representatives of Bosnian victims’ associations have condemned reports that the Hague tribunal is considering temporarily releasing the former Bosnian Serb leader.

DZANA BRKANIC

Radovan Karadzic’s lawyer told the media on Thursday that Karadzic has requested temporary release to attend a commemoration ceremony of his brother’s death.

Petronijevic added that the Serbian government had provided guarantees that Karadzic will not flee justice.

Hatidza Mehmedovic, president of the “Srebrenica mothers” association, told BIRN that she was shocked the proposal was not immediately rejected.

“I am gutted. We believe in this court, but it has turned into a market. If this happens, that will be a stain on the international community. We hoped for justice, but without justice there is no better future,” Mehmedovic said.

Fikret Grabovica, president of the association of parents of children killed in the Bosnian Serb siege of Sarajevo, said that this would be another failure of the Hague court.

“[T]he Tribunal is making one mistake after another. This would be the biggest yet. It is surreal to release Karadzic for a minute, especially to [release him to] Serbia,” Grabovica whose daughter was killed by a Bosnian Serb sniper in Sarajevo, said.

Nihad Kljucanic, president of the association of former camp detainees in Sanski Most, also said that Karadzic should not be released.

“I am shocked this is being discussed. How can he be released to a commemoration for his brother’s death, when so many were killed and have no commemoration?” Kljucanic asked.

Petronijevic said that the decision on whether Karadzic will be released will be made by Tuesday.
Karadžić previously asked to be granted temporary release in April, pending a decision on his appeal to the verdict which sentenced him to 40 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica, crimes in Sarajevo, persecution of non-Serbs and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

A decision regarding this request has still not been made.
Radovan Karadzic Lawyer Paid $1,000 a Day

The UN war crimes court pays around $1,000 a day to US lawyer Peter Robinson while he is working on former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic’s appeal against his conviction.

In a motion filed to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on Friday asking for the Karadzic appeal application deadline to be extended for 90 days, defence lawyer Peter Robinson revealed that he was being paid around $1,000 a day.

The court’s appeals chamber has already extended the deadline once for 90 days because the verdict was so complex and ran to more than 2,500 pages.

Robinson said on Friday that the defence should get 90 more days because the Hague-based court has not allocated it enough funds.

“As a result the lawyer could not recruit, or hold anyone to help with the appeal. The amount the Registrar allocated for 90 days was $27,500, which covers 27.5 working days for one person,” Robinson said in his motion.

He explained that the allocation was $125 per working hour, or $1,000 per day.

Karadzic asked for a funding increase in March but did not receive a reply, Robinson added.

He suggested that this created an “inequality between defence and prosecution” because the prosecutors have a full team working on the appeal.

Karadzic was sentenced to 40 years in prison for crimes against humanity including genocide by the Tribunal in March.

The former Bosnian Serb leader said last month that the verdict was “monstrous” and stated his intention to appeal and prove his innocence.
Bosnia to Discipline Soldiers for Praising Karadzic

The defence ministry has started disciplinary proceedings against two soldiers who publicly praised wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on social media.

The Bosnian defence ministry told BIRN on Monday that it has launched disciplinary proceedings against the two soldiers for publishing comments on social media praising Karadzic, who was sentenced to 40 years in prison for crimes against humanity including genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in March.

Ministry spokesperson Uma Sinanovic said however that while an investigation was ongoing into the actions of the two soldiers, Goran Kovac and Vlado Vukovic, it was too early to say what kind of punishment they might face.

“Our code of conduct envisages different sanctions for major and small infractions of discipline,” Sinanovic said.

Kovac, a corporal serving in a demining battalion in the city of Capljina, a town at the southern border with Croatia, published a photo of Karadzic on his Facebook page the day before the international tribunal handed down its verdict with the message “Every Serb is Radovan”.

After some people commented on the picture, saying that a member of the Bosnian Army should not express such views, Vukovic replied to the comments with a message calling Bosnian Muslims ‘poturci’, a derogatory term for Slavs who converted to Islam, Bosnian news agency Patria reported.

Punishing the Kovac and Vukovic for their statements might prove to be difficult however, as there is no specific provision regulating the behaviour of Bosnian soldiers on social media, media reports noted.

Although there are rules dealing with the public appearance and conduct of members of the Bosnian Army, the defence ministry said that there is “no standard procedure” related to offences committed on social media, Sarajevo-based news website Klix reported.
Was the Karadzic Verdict a Just Reckoning?

Balkans expert Eric Gordy examines questions raised by the Radovan Karadzic verdict, asking why he was convicted of responsibility for genocide in 1995, but acquitted of the same crime in 1992.

There was no genocide before 1995, really?

The most discussed fact about the Karadzic case is that he was convicted at all. The second-most discussed fact is that he was acquitted on the first genocide count, for systematic killings in 1991 and 1992 in “the municipalities”. Some commentators are interpreting this acquittal as a denial of facts. This is untrue. The judges accepted the facts and described them in hundreds of pages of horrific detail. What they concluded is that the facts amount not to genocide, but to multiple crimes against humanity.

How did they do this? Let’s begin with the crimes against humanity. Karadzic was found guilty of six crimes against humanity in “the municipalities”: persecution, extermination, murder, deportation, forcible transfer, and “other inhumane acts” including rape and sexual violence. These crimes resulted from “intentional actions” (paragraph 2449) of the forces he controlled, and represented “a clear pattern of widespread intimidation, violence, killings, and expulsions targeted at the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats” (paragraph 2623). The crimes had major and lasting effects to the degree that “the scale and extent of the expulsions and movement of the civilians from the Municipalities, including the Count 1 Municipalities, resulted in the displacement of a vast number of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats and in drastic changes to the ethnic composition of towns with almost no Bosnian Muslim remaining there” (paragraph 2624). They were not incidental but, “Having regard to the clear systematic and organised pattern of crimes which were committed in each of the Municipalities by members of the Serb Forces, over a short time period, the Chamber finds that these crimes were not committed in a random manner, but were committed in a co-ordinated fashion” (paragraph 3445). Consequently, “the Chamber finds beyond reasonable doubt that between October 1991 and 30 November 1995 there existed a common plan to permanently remove Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats from Bosnian Serb claimed territory through the crimes” (paragraph 3447).
Sounds a lot like genocide, doesn’t it? Well, the judges gave two reasons for saying no. The first was that although some elements of crimes for genocide were demonstrated, including killing and causing serious bodily harm, one other was not. Despite affirming extensive evidence that showed levels of abuse, mistreatment, starvation, neglect and deliberate creation of high risk, the judges determined that the conditions in detention facilities did not reach the level that they could conclude that they were “calculated to bring about the physical destruction” of the group (paragraph 2587).

The second reason is probably the more important one. This involves the question of whether Karadzic had “specific intent” to commit genocide. Intent is the element that makes genocide most difficult to prove. For example, regarding the genocide in Srebrenica – on which there already exists a judicial record, and for which Karadzic was convicted in Count 2, the judges established his intent by following the timeline of events and his activities very closely, and determining that he only began to share the “specific intent” once the killing was already under way, based on a conversation with an operational commander that took place on 13 July 1995. Here is the text of the conversation:

: I’m waiting for a call to President Karadzic. Is he there?

B: Yes.

: Hello! Just a minute, the duty officer will answer now, Mr. President.

B: Hello! I have Deronjic on line.

: Deronjic, speak up.

D: Hello! Yes. I can hear you.

: Deronjic, the President is asking how many thousands?

D: About two for the time being.

: Two, Mr. President. (heard in the background)

D: But there’ll be more during the night.

[...]

D: Can you hear me, President?

: The President can’t hear you, Deronjic, this is the intermediary.

D: I have about two thousand here now by [...]

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: Deronjic, the President says: “All the goods must be placed inside the warehouses before twelve tomorrow.”

D: Right.

: Deronjic, not in the warehouses over there, but somewhere else.

D: Understood.

: Goodbye.

Ham-fisted coding aside, what Karadzic is asking Deronjic to do in this exchange is to take civilian prisoners from Bratunac, where they were being held, to Zvornik, where they would be murdered. In the judges’ opinion this exchange marks the emergence of agreement between Karadzic and the military commanders that the theme had changed to “where — not whether — the detainees were to be killed” (paragraph 5805), and consequently the beginning of his personal engagement in the action to commit genocide.

The marked specificity of the conversation derives from the high standard for conviction. To find genocidal intent the judges did not ask “does it make sense?” but rather “is it the only reasonable inference that can be made?” This is an indication of how very high the threshold for a conviction on charges of genocide is.

So what did they find on intent on Count 1? Paragraphs 2596 and 2597 affirm the character of the nationalist ideology that sought to create an ethnically homogeneous state. But they determine that the inference remains open that this goal could be achieved by methods other than killing. Similarly with inflammatory statements and threats to “exterminate,” “annihilate” and so forth: in paragraph 2599 the verdict determines that these threats might be hyperbolic figures of speech and that the judges are “not convinced that the only reasonable inference to draw from these statements is that the respective speakers intended to physically destroy” the groups.

Probably the key passage explaining the judges’ decisions that the crimes in “the municipalities” did not constitute genocide is in paragraph 3466, “The Chamber is of the view that another reasonable inference available on the evidence is that while the Accused did not intend for these other crimes to be committed, he did not care enough to stop pursuing the common plan to forcibly remove the non-Serb population from the Municipalities. While the Chamber considers that these other crimes resulted from the campaign to forcibly remove the non-Serb population from the
Municipalities, the Chamber does not find them to be an intended part of the common plan.”

That was the argument in legal context. Outside of the legal context, what the judges found was yes, the goal of RS was to create an ethnically homogeneous state by forcibly changing the population, but they thought that they could do it without killing. The fact that they did killing does not mean that they thought they had to do killing. Take the argument for what it is worth. It is probably worth most as an example of the difference between legal reasoning and every other kind of reasoning. It is most likely also an indication that, at least at this early stage, judges are very reluctant to make findings of genocide.

**Is the acquittal on Count 1 a victory for Karadzic?**

To a degree, yes, in the sense that he was acquitted. But the factual findings are extensive and point to a large scale series of crimes, planned and coordinated at the highest political level.

There are two groups of people who are likely to be interested in the distinction between a finding of crimes against humanity and a finding of genocide: 1) lawyers, and 2) politically active people seeking to build political capital out of the presence or absence of the latter label. Their motivations and interests are not the same, are probably not commensurable with one another, and are generally not helpful to people outside of the communities that bicker about them.

Crimes against humanity are not minor crimes, and not necessarily lesser crimes than genocide. It is meaningful that on the basis of facts established at trial that Karadzic was convicted of major crimes, even if the conviction was not for every count that was sought. Beyond this, though, in the end what will matter most about the verdicts of the Tribunal (the well reasoned and documented ones, that is) will not be the decisions that are described in them. Those decisions are artefacts of what a particular set of judges were prepared to do at a particular moment in social and political history, at a particular stage of the development of their profession. What will matter about the verdicts will be the documentary record that they establish and their contribution to affirming the existence of facts.

**Why did he not get a life sentence?**

The sentence given to Karadzic is the product of the judges trying to balance the “gravity of crimes” for which he was convicted against the “mitigating circumstances” they are obligated to consider.
Nothing was considered as an aggravating circumstance. This may be because some of the potential aggravating circumstances in this case are attributable not to Karadzic but to someone called Dr Dabic. Factors interpreted as mitigating circumstances included Karadzic’s resignation from public office under political pressure in 1996 (the judges remained agnostic as to whether this was a consequence of the so-called “Holbrooke Agreement,” and the much-loved actor Hal Holbrook appears to have been unwilling to testify), and the fact that “in a few instances, the Accused expressed his regret” (paragraph 6059). His age was also taken as a mitigating circumstance.

ICTY sentencing is also bound by the sentencing practices that prevailed in Yugoslavia, which for these crimes were vague – the judges note that “Article 141 of the SFRY Criminal Code prohibited genocide, Article 142 prohibited war crimes against the civilian population, Article 143 prohibited war crimes against the wounded and sick, and Article 144 prohibited war crimes against prisoners of war. The offences under Articles 141, 142, 143 and 144 of the SFRY Criminal Code were punishable by imprisonment for not less than five years or by the death penalty” (paragraph 6042). So “something between five years and death” gives a lot of leeway, particularly in the absence of previous experience.

We might add here that a 40-year sentence (minus credit for 8 years time served makes 32 years, minus the “Meron bonus” of automatic release after serving two thirds of the sentence makes 19 years) does not necessarily mean less prison time than a “life sentence.” A life sentence does not actually mean that the prisoner will be held until death. This is because unless you are a soldier in one of the units commanded by Karadzic, you do not know when other people will die. So the life sentence is generally interpreted as carrying an arbitrary maximum determined by such factors as life expectancy and, in the case of ICTY, the notoriously lenient sentencing procedures of SFRJ. So these factors could in fact make a “life sentence” considerably shorter than the 19 years anticipated for Karadzic.

In that sense it could be said that the fact that Karadzic did not receive a life sentence has mostly symbolic meaning. This is compounded by the fact that the likelihood that he will live another 19 years is statistically low. But – to say that something has a symbolic meaning is not the same as to say that it has no meaning. In the first place, there is an obvious disjunction between the extreme gravity of the offences and the limited sentence. In the second place, symbolic issues are the issues on which people (everywhere, but particularly in the region) are least willing to give ground.
Will there be appeals?

Will there be appeals? Is my dog comical? Where there is a right to appeal there will be an appeal.

Should people be satisfied?

So is the Tribunal, pro–Serbian, anti–Serbian, moderate on Klingons, or what? It is none of those things, and any of the – many – people who are saying that the verdict is a verdict on some abstractly conceived ethnonational group simply do not know what they are talking about. Ignore them with the contempt they deserve.

And permit me an observation about claims of bias, particularly ones based on identity: they might have a little bit of value in terms of anticipating something that could happen in the future (“Mary is coming for dinner on Friday, and she is Catholic, so maybe she will want fish”) but they have no value at all in explaining facts that have already happened (“Mary overcooked the fish because she is Catholic”). This applies to whatever extraneous nonsense people might use to explain away the verdict (“the presiding judge is Korean, and they are jealous of Serbs because their pickled cabbage is more tender”), and also to deliberately unrepresentative nonsense people might invoke to flatten out the complexity of responses (“I talked to somebody who has been closely associated with this kind of extremist politics for years, and therefore I know what everyone from this person’s ethnonational group thinks”). To explain actual occurrences you need to engage with the actual substance.

As to the concrete question of whether people should be satisfied, who am I to tell people what should satisfy them? Some people will be pleased or displeased with verdicts on particular counts or with the length or shortness of the sentence. Some people will be delighted that the Tribunal has finally brought a genuinely major trial to conclusion. Some people will see convictions on 10 of 11 counts as a partial victory, some will see a symbolic loss on the genocide question as a crushing defeat. Most people, sadly, at least in the short term, will see this or any other event as confirmation of what they have believed all along.

What I might be able to suggest to people who are not certain whether to be satisfied is this: the measure of success or failure of this verdict will not be in where Radovan Karadzic makes his residence between now and his death, or in what a gaggle of self–seeking politicians will do in the next week or month. It will be in whether, over the long term, facts that have been established by a combination of investigation and argument enter into understanding and begin to provide a ground for discussion and mutual recognition among people who are aggressively taught by a phalanx
of institutions that they need always to think of themselves as victims and of the people around them as their enemies. Whether this happens depends a lot less on anything the Tribunal does, and a lot more on the social and political environments in which people live.

Maybe it is worth adding another point: it is probably not a good idea to look for satisfaction in law.

**What does this do for history and reconciliation?**

Let’s start with history, because that is the easy part.

First, the verdict brings together documentary evidence regarding a very broad scale of crimes – although limited to Bosnia-Hercegovina, it effectively does what the verdict in the trial of Slobodan Milosevic should have done if the trial had not outlasted the defendant. In the end this substantive degree of detail is going to matter a lot more than decisions on whether or not to convict or whether a crime is of one type or another. The really valuable job here was done not by the lawyers who sat on the bench but by the researchers who gathered material for their use.

The verdict continues the narrative that has developed at the Tribunal that the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina was a civil war, finding that despite the extensive evidence of coordination, political representation, arming, training, financing and repeated instances of direct of exercise of political influence, that neither Slobodan Milosevic (paragraph 3460) nor his lieutenants Jovica Stanisic and Franko Simatovic (paragraph 3461) were part of the joint criminal enterprise (their employees Seselj and Arkan were, though, according to paragraph 3459).

As for reconciliation, we have seen two types of public statements. The first kind are platitudes from global politicians expressing a vague hope that the verdict will somehow contribute to reconciliation. These statements are worthless. The second kind are from politicians in the region who do nothing to promote reconciliation saying that the verdict will not promote reconciliation. These statements are less than worthless.

These sorts of statements indicate something that ought to be obvious: no verdict on any matter by any court is going to substitute for what a whole complex of institutions is failing to do about reconciliation. They could have begun in earnest before Karadzic was tried. They could still do it if the outcome of the trial were different. They could have done it if Karadzic were never tried. They can do it now.

Eric Gordy is a senior lecturer at University College London. This article was originally published on his website, East Ethnia.
Belgrade Warns Against Blaming Serbs for Karadzic

Justice minister Nikola Selakovic said on Friday that Serbs in both Serbia and Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska should not be blamed for the crimes attributed to Karadzic by the UN court’s verdict.

“Following the verdict of the Hague Tribunal on the first president of Republika Srpska, it is inadmissible to impose collective guilt on certain peoples for crimes committed by individuals,” Selakovic told a press conference after an extraordinary government session in Belgrade.

“We will not allow to anyone to use the verdict... as a reason to point fingers at us and our people, and we underline that this verdict cannot be used with the aim of undermining the freedom and survival of our people in Republika Srpska,” he said.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found former Bosnian Serb President Karadzic guilty on Thursday of some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II and jailed him for 40 years.

He was convicted of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide, terrorising the population of Sarajevo, the persecution and extermination of Bosniaks and Croats in 20 municipalities across the country, and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

But he was cleared of committing genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Selakovic said that “every crime needs to be punished” but added that the Serbian government doesn’t want to react to specific verdicts handed down by the UN court.

But he said that “after so many years of that court there is a bitter taste” because people who committed crimes against Serbs have not been punished.
Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic - who organised a protest rally in 2008 when Karadzic was sent to The Hague - also warned on Thursday prior to the verdict that he would not allow the UN court’s verdict to be used to undermine Republika Srpska.

“I warn those who think they can use today’s verdict against the former president of Republika Srpska for a political or any other kind of attack on Republika Srpska, that in line with Dayton agreement, Serbia cannot, should not and will not allow that,” Vucic said.

On Thursday, around a thousand people gathered in Belgrade at a rally organised by war crimes defendant Vojislav Seselj in support of Radovan Karadzic.

Commenting on the verdict, Seselj said that Karadzic was innocent and only convicted because he was a Serb leader.

“The verdict on Radovan Karadzic is a verdict on the entire Serbian people, history and nation. Only the Serbs are guilty of all the evils on the Balkans,” Seselj said.

Serbia denies any involvement in war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Belgrade government also denies that the massacres of more than 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica constituted genocide, despite rulings by international and local courts.

Marko Attila Hoare, a British historian at Kingston University, told BIRN that the Karadzic judgment “definitely established the criminal nature of the wartime Bosnian Serb rebel leadership”, but did not implicate Serbia.

“No official of Serbia has yet been convicted by the ICTY of war crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina, so the chain of judicaily established criminal responsibility still ends in [Karadzic’s wartime stronghold] Pale rather than Belgrade,” Hoare said.
Bosnia Leaders Trade Barbs over Karadzic Sentence

Bosnian politicians traded barbs over the verdict against Radovan Karadzic, with Bosniak officials claiming it was a 'condemnation of his politics', while Serb leaders emphasized that Republika Srpska was not on trial.

JUSTICE REPORT

The Bosniak member of Bosnia’s tripartite presidency, Bakir Izetbegovic, said on Thursday that the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia’s verdict was a condemnation of Karadzic’s “politics and ideology”.

“The crimes were planned in a systematic and organized manner and as a result hundreds of thousands of people were persecuted and all traces of their culture erased. This is the most important verdict since Nuremberg,” Izetbegovic said.

He added that the verdict should be used to build a common future with the Bosnian Serbs, but only one “based on the truth”.

The Bosnian Serb President, Milorad Dodik, however, said that the verdict had not been based on facts but on “political pressures”. He added that it should not be used to destabilize Republika Srpska.

“Republika Srpska has never been more aware of itself or more determined to defend its rights and no verdict, not even one on Karadzic, can reduce the power of Republika Srpska”, Dodik said.

Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb president and supreme commander of its armed forces was found guilty of genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats in 20 municipalities, terrorizing Sarajevo citizens and taking UN peacekeepers hostage. He was jailed for 40 years.

He was acquitted of the charge of committing genocide in seven municipalities in 1992, however.

The president of Karadzic’s old party, the Serbian Democratic Party, Mladen Bosic, said the verdict was proof that the Hague tribunal was a “political institution whose goal is to demonize the Serbs.”
“The goal is to prove the Serbs were guilty for the [1992-5] war,” he said.

Karadzic’s daughter Sonja, who is a lawmaker in the Bosnian Serb parliament, meanwhile said that she was satisfied the 1992 genocide charges did not pass and added that the lawyers’ team should “focus on the appeals.

“Republika Srpska should take an active role in these appeals proceedings,” Karadzic-Jovicevic said.

Lawyer Miodrag Stojanovic paid attention to the verdict as it relates to the same crimes he is defending in the Hague against Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic – whose verdict is expected next year.

Stojanovic said that the verdict was the same as several previously brought by the Hague judges.

“This is a matrix that we have seen in the verdicts against Radislav Krstic, Zdravko Tolimir and Vujadin Popovic et al. The only difference is that Karadzic’s name has been inserted,” Stojanovic said.

Karadzic’s sentence should have any bearing on Mladic’s case, however, Stojanovic said, because it is not a final verdict.

Many Bosniak victims of the war said the verdict convicting Karadzic of genocide and crimes against humanity wasn’t tough enough, while Serb veterans said the sentence was unjust.

However, Bosnian legal expert Vlado Adamovic said victims of the 1992-war should be satisfied with the verdict as Karadzic had been found guilty of the worst crimes. “We should not be happy or unhappy, just accept that these crimes happened,” Adamovic said.

The Chief Hague prosecutor Serge Brammertz told BIRN that he was satisfied with the verdict “in general” and would decide whether to appeal after carefully looking over the sentence. Karadzic’s lawyers said they will appeal the sentence.
Bosnian Media Split Over Karadzic Verdict

Media in the Serb-dominated entity and the rest of Bosnia reacted very differently to the ICTY verdict against Radovan Karadzic, highlighting the continuing divisions in the country.

RODOLFO TOE

Bosnia’s political and ethnic divisions were on display once again after the ICTY convicted former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of genocide and crimes against humanity and jailed him for 40 years on Thursday.

“The Bosnian media was already split when Karadzic was arrested in 2008 and their positions haven’t changed since then,” said Elvira Jukic, from the Sarajevo-based Mediacentar, a network dealing with freedom of press and promoting independent journalism.

“Having reported the news of the verdict, they have interpreted it in different ways, seeking commentaries exclusively from people and experts close to their own ethnic background,” she added.

Media in Republika Srpska combined news of the ruling with stories on the anniversary of NATO bombing of Serbia, mostly carrying opinions and comments from the entity authorities.

Banja Luka-based websites such as Glas Srpske or Nezavisne Novine linked the news with remarks by Milorad Dodik, President of the entity, who claimed the verdict that “was the result of the pressure of the international lobbies”.

Zeljka Cvijanovic, the entity Prime Minister, was quoted as maintaining that “political positions have taken the place of judicial arguments”.

Most newspapers from Republika Srpska also insisted the sentence would have no direct consequence for the stability of the entity.

Many reported the declaration of Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic, who told Serbian news agency Tanjug that the verdict “won’t impact on the fate of the people of RS”.

25.03.2016
On the other hand, media in Sarajevo focused on the reactions of associations of victims of the Bosnian war and Bosniak politicians.

The Sarajevo-based newspaper Dnevni Avaz covered its front page with declarations from members of the Women of Srebrenica [Zene Srebrenice], Mothers of the Enclaves of Srebrenica and Zepa [Majke Enklave Srebrenica i Zepa] and from Camil Durakovic, the Bosniak mayor of Srebrenica. All expressed dissatisfaction with the sentence, claiming that it should have been more severe.

The Sarajevo-based newspaper Faktor also dedicated most of its homepage to reactions from victims from Srebrenica – site of the 1995 massacre of about 8,000 Bosniaks – and from the Hague.

Sarajevo-based commentator Ivana Maric told BIRN that Bosnian society remained deeply divided by memories of what happened during the 1992-5 war.

“The fact that the war ended with Dayton [the 1995 deal to end the war] and no clear winners and losers reinforced the idea of being on the right side,” Maric said, adding that only few independent had given adequate representation to both sides.

“Unfortunately, in Bosnia few people wish to listen to the opinion of the opposing side,” Maric concluded.
Karadzic Verdict: Mixed
Reactions Reflect Divided
Bosnia

Bosniak war victims said the verdict convicting Radovan Karadzic of genocide and crimes against humanity wasn’t tough enough, while Serb veterans said it was unjust.

DENIS DZIDIC

Bosniak war survivors who came to The Hague to hear the verdict on Thursday offered muted reactions to the former Bosnian Serb leader’s sentence, arguing that he should have been convicted on every count in the indictment.

As they listened to the judge read the verdict in the hallway of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and outside the court building, there was no outburst of cheering, although some did shed tears.

Karadzic, the former president of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska, was convicted of responsibility for the 1995 Srebrenica genocide, terrorising the population of Sarajevo, the persecution and extermination of Bosniaks and Croats in 20 municipalities across the country, and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

But he was cleared of committing genocide in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Saja Coric, who came from the town of Mostar, said she was heartbroken that Karadzic was acquitted of committing genocide in 1992.

“The whole of Republika Srpska is like a mass grave... we are still searching for our kids... and they claim this is not genocide," she said.

She added that the UN with this verdict legitimized its problematic role in the Bosnian war, failing to prevent genocide in Srebrenica.

Murat Tahirovic, the president of the Association of Victims of Genocide in Bosnia, says was neither satisfied not unsatisfied because the verdict is not yet final until after the appeal.
“We are waiting for the appeal and we hope that the prosecution will manage to prove genocide in the other seven municipalities,” Tahirovic said.

But Bakir Izetbegovic, the Bosniak member of the tripartite Bosnian presidency, said that the verdict was important “first of all for the Serb people, so that this [guilt] is lifted from the people and put onto the individuals who led the people the wrong way”.

“Justice is slow but obtainable and everyone will sooner or later answer [for their crimes] and be punished. Better relations and a better future can only be built on truth and facts,” Izetbegovic told a press conference.

But in a reflection of the divisions that still affect Bosnian society over 20 years after the conflict, the president of the War Veterans Association of Republika Srpska, Milomir Savicic, said the verdict was unjust.

“I am disappointed with the justification of the verdict. That draconian punishment is based on very weak evidence,” Savicic said.

Karadzic’s lawyers said they would appeal against every point of the verdict.

“This is scandalous verdict based only on indications and not on the evidence,” his legal adviser Goran Petronijevic told BIRN.

“I am optimistic however about the success of our appeal,” he added.

Rights group Amnesty International meanwhile welcomed the verdict as a major step towards justice for the victims of the conflict.

“This judgment confirms Radovan Karadzic’s command responsibility for the most serious crimes under international law carried out on European soil since the Second World War,” said John Dalhuisen, Amnesty International’s director for Europe and Central Asia.
Justice Finally Catches Up with Karadzic

Twenty-one years after the Srebrenica massacres, Radovan Karadzic has been convicted of genocide - sending out a message that heinous crimes by political leaders can be punished.

EMMA DALY

It was just a bolt of pink cotton lying on the floor of a school gym but more than 20 years later, it haunts me still: soldiers tore off strips of that cloth, blindfolded dozens of men, trucked them to a nearby field, shot them, and buried all but a handful of survivors in mass graves.

Today, the man who presided over the Bosnian Serb republic as his troops committed mass killings at Srebrenica, was found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Radovan Karadzic lived in Sarajevo for years but ordered his troops to besiege the city for 44 months; more than 10,000 people were killed by sniper fire and shells.

One was Ibrahim Osmic, a 56-year-old shot dead as he shoveled snow near a front-line bridge during a ceasefire after the Markale market massacre in February 1994 prompted Nato to demand an end to the shelling.

I saw his body lying in the morgue at Kosevo Hospital, where Karadzic had worked as a psychiatrist.

Nine months after the Srebrenica massacre, when Karadzic's forces killed more than 7,000 people, I traveled through those killing fields, dazed and horrified to see the evidence all around.

Scraps of the same pink cloth tramped into the mud of a mass grave, human bones pushing through the seedling grass. Bullet holes, blood, brains scarring the walls of an agricultural warehouse, where a couple of guys were working, trampling over the labels placed around the site by war crimes investigators.

I remember thinking there was no point asking anyone, "What happened here?", because they would just say nothing.
But if we asked, “Where were you when they shot all those men?” it was different – then people would say, “Oh I wasn’t here that day, I was away when it happened.”

Karadžić, who defended himself, told the court in The Hague, “They’re trying to convict us for something we never did”, and described the siege of Sarajevo as a “myth”.

It took years for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to gather and present the evidence of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Karadžić, in hiding for more than a decade until his arrest in 2008, has been on trial since 2009.

His conviction brings some comfort to those who survived his many crimes – in Sarajevo, Srebrenica and beyond.

Above all, I hope that future warlords are taking note: justice will come one day.

Emma Daly is communications director for Human Rights Watch and covered the wars in Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia for The Independent.
Radovan Karadzic Convicted of Genocide

The UN war crimes court in The Hague convicted former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic of genocide and crimes against humanity and sentenced him to 40 years in prison.

DENIS DZIDIC

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found former Bosnian Serb President Karadzic guilty on Thursday of some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II and jailed him for 40 years.

He was convicted of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide, terrorising the population of Sarajevo, the persecution and extermination of Bosniaks and Croats in 20 municipalities across the country, and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

But he was cleared of committing genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Finding Karadzic guilty of the Srebrenica genocide, judge O-Gon Kwon said that after Bosnian Serb forces attacked and seized the UN-protected enclave in July 1995, a “plan to destroy the Muslim population” was implemented in an organised way.

The judge said Karadzic talked in code with his adviser for Srebrenica, Miroslav Deronjic, and said that the prisoners were “goods” to be detained.

“A day later, Deronjic spoke about killings of the men, which shows that by that time a decision had already been made. This pattern proves that Karadzic was in agreement with the plan of the killings,” he said.

Karadzic was also found guilty of being part of a joint criminal enterprise to terrorise the civilian population of Sarajevo during the siege of the city by Bosnian Serb forces from 1992-95.

As supreme commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, Karadzic approved military actions that prolonged the siege and the campaign of artillery and sniper attacks which resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries, said the judge.
“All civilians suffered fear and hardship,” he said.

“Karadzic intensified the campaign when the Bosnian side refused to make peace deal under his terms,” he added.

The court found that Bosniak forces sometimes opened fire on UN peacekeepers to blame the Serbs, but said such incidents were rare and did not undermine the fact that Bosnian Serb forces committed crimes against humanity in Sarajevo.

Karadzic was also found guilty of crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in 20 Bosnian municipalities during the conflict.

The Bosnian Serb political leader was indifferent to the possibility that crimes could take place, O-Gon Kwon said.

“The chamber finds that murder, extermination and persecution were foreseeable to Karadzic,” the judge said.

He was convicted of persecution, extermination, deportation, forcible transfer and two counts of murder in the 20 municipalities.

But the court cleared him of genocide against Bosniaks and Croats in the municipalities of Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik in 1992.

“Serb forces killed Bosnian Muslims and Croats during and after taking over. They were killed in mass executions, shot in detention, or taken from facilities and killed by Serb forces; in other cases, they died after severe beatings by Serb forces, or as a result of inhumane conditions,” the judge said.

But he said the court could not conclude that Karadzic had “genocidal intent to destroy a group” in the seven municipalities.

He was however found guilty of extermination in the municipalities.

He was also found guilty of taking UN peacekeepers hostage during the conflict.

The judge said that Karadzic was a “driving force behind the hostage-taking” of the peacekeepers, putting the captives in strategic places in order to deter NATO air strikes.

In deciding on the 40-year sentence, the judge said the court took into account the fact that these were some of the most heinous crimes, but
accepted as mitigating circumstances the fact that Karadzic removed himself from public life after the war in 1996.

The 70-year old former Bosnian Serb political chief had insisted he was innocent of responsibility for all the crimes in the indictment, arguing that he never ordered any of them.

His legal adviser Peter Robinson said that the defence will appeal against every point of the verdict.

“We have 30 days to do this work and it seems that there is a basis to appeal every point,” Robinson told media after the verdict.

Karadzic was arrested in 2008 in Belgrade while disguised as a spiritual healer, after spending 12 years on the run.

His trial started in October 2009 and more than 500 witness testimonies were heard during the marathon proceedings.
Bosniak War Victims Demand Karadzic Life Sentence

War victims who travelled to The Hague for the verdict in Radovan Karadzic’s trial for genocide and crimes against humanity said they wanted to see him jailed for the rest of his life.

DENIS DZIDIC

Some of around 250 representatives of Bosnian war victims’ associations who travelled to the UN court for Karadzic’s verdict told BIRN on Thursday that they wanted him to be punished.

They gathered in a semi-circle on the lawn in front of the Tribunal building, carrying Bosnian flags and banners with the names of Bosnian Serb troops and policemen convicted of war crimes as well as messages expressing the hope that Karadzic will be found guilty.

Hatidza Mehmoedovic from the Mothers of Srebrenica association said that she wants Karadzic to be told that he committed genocide.

“I want him to hear he committed those crimes. I want him to be sentenced. I don’t care how long he gets, just so long as he is guilty,” said Mehmedovic.

Another war victim, Camil Doric, said that he drove for hours to be at the court.

“I lost a brother in Rudo. It still hurts, but I came with my family to share this pain,” said Doric.

The victims will follow the verdict from the courtroom, the lobby at the Tribunal and in the nearby World Forum building.

“We are here to hear the words ‘Karadzic is convicted’, we don’t really care how long he gets,” said Ale Hosic, a representative of the veterans’ union from Bosnia’s Federation entity.

Bosniak politician Sadik Ahmetovic, a representative of the Srebrenica massacre memorial centre in Potocari, said that he came to The Hague to honour the victims.
“I expect he will be sentenced to life in prison for genocide in Srebrenica, but I doubt he will be convicted of the genocide in other municipalities,” said Ahmetovic.

The indictment accuses the former Bosnian Serb president of genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs in 20 municipalities, terrorising the population of Sarajevo during the siege of the city with a campaign of shelling and sniper attacks, and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

It also charges him with taking part in a joint criminal enterprise along with police and army officers, political leaders and paramilitary units, the aim of which was to persecute Bosniaks and Croats.

The 70-year old former Bosnian Serb political chief insists he is innocent of responsibility for the crimes.

A group of about 15 representatives of victims from Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska were also expected to attend the verdict, and local police told BIRN that they have made arrangements to make sure no incidents occur.
Radovan Karadzic Faces Historic War Crimes Verdict

The UN war crimes court in The Hague will deliver its most highly-anticipated verdict on Thursday in the case against former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic, accused of genocide and crimes against humanity.

DENIS DZIDIC

Karadzic faces judgment at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on Thursday over some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II, including genocide and a campaign of brutal persecution during the 1992-95 conflict.

As former Bosnian Serb president and supreme commander of its armed forces, he is accused of genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs in 20 municipalities, terrorising the population of Sarajevo during the siege with a campaign of shelling and sniper attacks, and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

The indictment charges him with taking part in a joint criminal enterprise along with police and army officers, political leaders and paramilitary units, the aim of which was to persecute Bosniaks and Croats.

The prosecutors have called for a life sentence.

The chief prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, told Britain’s Guardian newspaper that the verdict sends a symbolic message that senior politicians accused of mass crimes can no longer escape justice.

“This judgment demonstrates that justice for the most horrific atrocities is possible,” Brammertz said.

“Thirty years ago, men such as Karadzic would have remained in power or enjoyed a comfortable exile. Today, they have to stand before a court of justice and their victims and be judged for what they have done,” he added.

But in an interview with BIRN before the verdict, Karadzic insisted he was innocent of responsibility for the crimes.
“I know what I wanted, what I did, even what I dreamed of, and there is no reasonable court that would convict me, no matter how many high-ranking Bosnian Serb officials have been convicted,” Karadzic said.

Karadzic’s legal advisor Peter Robinson told AFP news agency however that “it would be a huge surprise to everyone if Karadzic was completely acquitted, so I’m not expecting that”.

The verdict will be followed live in The Hague by more than 500 people, over 150 of whom will be representatives of war victims’ associations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who expect him to be found guilty.

The head of the Association of Victims and Witnesses of Genocide, Murat Tahirovic, said that he expects Karadzic to be sentenced to life in prison.

“I hope that the court will make a decision which will represent a partial satisfaction for victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and any other verdict would be humiliating,” said Tahirovic.

Amir Ahmic, the Bosniak liaison officer at the Hague court, said that he also expects the former Bosnian Serb president to be found guilty and added it was especially important to determine the “character of the crimes”.

“We talk a lot about the 1992 genocide charges and they are important, but it is also very important to determine that Karadzic took part in several joint criminal enterprises whose goal was to permanently expel non-Serbs. That would clearly show what kind of war was waged in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” said Ahmic.

Karadzic was arrested in 2008, after spending 12 years on the run.

His trial started in October 2009 and more than 500 witness testimonies were heard during the marathon proceedings.

For regular updates throughout the day, follow BIRN’s live blog here.
Karadzic Trial: Competing Versions of the Truth

During Radovan Karadzic’s marathon trial, the prosecution brought witnesses to prove he was guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity, while testimony from the defence disputed the crimes or tried to show he wasn’t responsible.

ERNA MACKIC

Radovan Karadzic’s trial began in 2010 and heard testimonies from 585 witnesses – war victims, politicians, peacekeepers and experts – as both sides sought to prove their claims at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

The hearing of the evidence continued for around four-and-a-half years, and then the Hague judges took another year to consider their decision in advance of the verdict on Thursday.

The witnesses that the prosecution and defence put on the stand offered sometimes contradictory views of the crimes that were committed during the war and who was ultimately responsible for them.

The prosecution sought to prove that the political orchestrator was the Bosnian Serb president, Karadzic, while the defence tried to dispute the nature of the crimes or to suggest that he could not have been in control of the men who committed them.

According to the charges, Karadzic, as supreme commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, was guilty of responsibility for a campaign of sniper and artillery attacks on the population of Sarajevo which lasted for 1425 days.

In order to prove this, the Hague prosecutors called to the stand both victims and people involved in investigations at the sites of mortar blasts and sniper attacks.

Most of the witnesses testifying about the siege were former members of UN peacekeeping forces who were in the Bosnian capital during the war.

High-ranking officers or peacekeepers like Harry Konings, John Wilson and David Fraser said that Bosnian Serb forces, especially the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps, randomly attacked the city and targeted civilians.
Fatima Zaimovic, the former chief nurse at the child surgery department of the Kosevo hospital in Sarajevo – where Karadzic once worked as a psychiatrist before the war – also recalled that in 1992, more than 150 children were “wounded by sniper fire”.

But testifying on Karadzic’s behalf, the former president of the Bosnian Serb parliament Momcilo Krajsnik – who was himself convicted by the Hague Tribunal – said that the Republika Srpska military and its politicians were not guilty of crimes in the city because they only “returned fire when provoked”.

“No one supported the shelling of Sarajevo. On the contrary, the presidency of Republika Srpska in June 1992 decided to totally stop the artillery attacks,” said Krajsnik.

The former commander of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps, Stanislav Galic – who was also sentenced by the Hague Tribunal to life in prison – denied that units under his control killed civilians and halted water, gas, electricity and aid supplies to the city. He also testified that Karadzic told him to allow convoys of humanitarian aid to enter Sarajevo.

The Hague prosecution also presented evidence which it hoped would prove the allegations that genocide was committed in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992 and crimes against humanity in 20 Serb-controlled municipalities.

Experts Dorothea Hanson, Robert Donia, Richard Butler, Christian Nielsen and Reynaud Theunens said that Karadzic had control over the Serb military, police and crisis committees in the municipalities where the crimes were committed.

Military expert Theunens said that Karadzic gave directives to the Bosnian Serb Army’s Main Headquarters, while Hanson said that the Republika Srpska authorities expelled Muslims and Croats in an organised manner.

Bosniak war victims Ibro Osmanovic from Vlasenica and Ahmet Zulic from Sanski Most and British journalists Ed Vulliamy and Jeremy Bowen spoke about crimes committed by members of the Bosnian Serb military, police and paramilitary groups.

BBC journalist Bowen said that ethnic cleansing during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina “cannot be disputed” and that Bosnian Serb forces committed most of the crimes.

But testimony from one of Karadzic’s witnesses, former judge Jefto Jankovic, disputed this.
Speaking about a massacre at the Koricanske stijene cliffs on Mount Vlasic in 1992 when 150 Bosniaks from Prijedor were killed, Jankovic claimed that the crime was committed by Serb criminals under the orders of foreign intelligence services, “to show Serbs are animals”.

After the prosecution completed the presentation of its evidence in May 2012, Karadzic asked to be acquitted of all the charges. The trial chamber decided that the prosecutors had failed to prove Karadzic guilty of genocide in 1992 in Sanski Most, Kljuc, Vlasenica, Prijedor, Zvornik, Bratunac and Foca and acquitted him, but this decision was later overturned by the appeals chamber.

Testifying about the 1995 Srebrenica genocide, when more than 7,000 Bosniak men and boys were killed, expert Richard Butler said that the order to kill the captives must have come from the military commanders and that the supreme commander was Karadzic.

But wartime Bosnian Serb Army Main Headquarters intelligence officer Zdravko Tolimir testified that Karadzic had no knowledge about the executions of captives from Srebrenica in July 1995. Tolimir was sentenced to life in prison by the Hague judges, but died in prison after testifying in Karadzic defence.

The final part of Karadzic’s trial concerned the taking of UN peacekeeping forces as hostages in 1995.

The former commander of British UN forces in Gorazde, Jonathon Riley, told the court that Bosnian Serb forces took 33 of his soldiers captive in May 1995.

But Karadzic tried to prove that the UN peacekeepers were not neutral but active participants in the fight against the Bosnian Serbs.

Karadzic is also charged with being a member of a joint criminal enterprise aimed at persecuting non-Serbs, together with other high-ranking Republika Srpska police and army officials and political leaders in local communities, as well as leaders of paramilitary and volunteer fighting units.
Radovan Karadzic: ‘I Expect to be Acquitted’

In a defiant interview before his trial verdict, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic insists that ‘no reasonable court’ would convict him of genocide and war crimes, despite the evidence against him.

DENIS DZIDIC

“I know what I wanted, what I did, even what I dreamed of, and there is no reasonable court that would convict me, no matter how many high-ranking Bosnian Serb officials have been convicted,” Radovan Karadzic told BIRN in this interview before the verdict in his trial for genocide and war crimes is delivered on Thursday at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

In the interview, which was conducted via email, Karadzic seeks to portray himself as a peacemaker, not the orchestrator of mass murder which he is accused of being by the prosecution at his trial.

He says he does not approve of the unlawful killings during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but does not take responsibility for them, arguing that there was no official command ordering atrocities like the Srebrenica massacres.

He insists instead that his “permanent fight to preserve the peace, prevent the war and decrease the sufferings of everyone regardless of religion” should be praised, not prosecuted.

It is an argument that is likely to be met with contempt by Bosniak survivors of the 1992–95 war, but Karadzic insists that he was not responsible for the horrific crimes that were committed during the conflict.

The Karadzic judgement will be one of the most important war crimes verdicts ever delivered, and his responses to BIRN’s questions, however unacceptable they may be to Bosniak victims, offer an insight into the thinking of the former Bosnian Serb leader as he awaits the decision from the judges at the UN court which may put him behind bars for the rest of his life.
BIRN: What are your expectations for the judgement on Thursday, considering there have already been many verdicts convicting high-ranking Bosnian Serb officials of the crimes with which you are charged?

Karadzic: “My expectations are the same [as they always were]. I know what I wanted, what I did, even what I dreamed of, and there is no reasonable court that would convict me, no matter how many ‘high-ranking Bosnian Serb officials’ have been convicted. This did not just convict them, but also convicted the attempt to achieve international justice itself, sentencing chances for a shared, fruitful life for our communities. Many of those sentences are going to be discussed longer than Dreyfus’s sentence was commented upon. Apart from that, many of those high-ranking Serb officials were not used to this judicial system, and couldn’t prepare their defences properly.

“Why would their sentences influence my judgement? The chamber in my case will have only have evidence from my case in front of it, not from other cases. Or are you probably assuming that some factors from outside my case might be influential in my case? If the previous trials have any influence, let alone a decisive one, all the trials subsequent to them would have been unnecessary. And if politics has an influence, then the Goddess Justice is not blind at all.”

Some people have criticised the evidence you put forward, suggesting that some of the claims you made had already been heard and rejected during other trials in The Hague, especially about the deadly attacks on the Markale market in Sarajevo and about Srebrenica. How do you respond?

“The truth can be rejected as many times as one wants, it will still be the truth. Do you remember the 80,000 rapes, the 300,000 Muslims who were killed, cannibalism in the enclaves, the implantation of dog embryos in women’s uteruses and all of the crap brought up by our opponents’ highest officials during the war? Where did that all disappear to? Nobody dared to bring it before the court, but we sustained horrible damage because of those ‘truths’.

“Even so, a lot of mere war propaganda has been brought before the chambers here. To be fair towards those chambers, many of those accused couldn’t defend themselves because of many circumstances: insufficient time and resources, no investigating judge as in our previous system [the former Yugoslav criminal code] dependence on the prosecution’s investigation and its good will to disclose the exculpatory evidence in a timely manner, prejudices, demonisation in the media, the bias of all the Western powers, organisations and public and so on. And the likely opportunism of some chambers. For instance, had the Markale incidents been judged in
this UN court on the basis of UN documents, none of the Serbs would have been convicted of the Markale incidents.

"With Srebrenica, even what happened in reality is bad enough, so that no exaggeration can help us to reach understanding and peace among us. The unnecessary killing of a single man is horrifying, let alone certainly several hundred at least, who are undisputed victims with ligatures [Srebrenica victims executed with their hands tied behind their backs], for instance. Those who did it are the enemies of the Serbs first, then enemies of those families [of the victims], then of the Muslim community. The same with the 3,500 Serb victims in the same area.

"Now, we could compete to say who was more cruel, who killed more women, children and elderly people, who cut more throats, ears and genitals, but it shouldn’t be for the media, but for a consensus in a just and competent Serb-Muslim commission for truth, when the time comes. Anything else will only worsen the matter."

Do you honestly hold out much hope that you will be acquitted of the Srebrenica charges after so many verdicts convicting others have already been handed down by courts in The Hague and Bosnia and Herzegovina?

"It is not matter of hope, but of law and justice. The trial is not only about whether something happened at all, but also about possible liability of other people more or less remote from the direct perpetrators. For the very merit [of the charges], I denied many allegations of crimes throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in terms of several instances: one, whether it really happened in reality at all; two, in what circumstances something happened, who started it and how; three, was it avoidable?; four, was the outcome of it as alleged?; five, who did it, and on whose order?; and six, was it part of the wider policy and so on, and at the very end – whether or not the highest officials were liable.

"I strongly contest [the idea] that the police or the army committed some [crime] because it was committed by a member of the army or police. It has to be established whether someone committed a crime on his own, or was tasked to do so by his command. The direct perpetrators mainly hid their misdeeds from their immediate superiors at all costs, thus avoiding punishment, and in such cases it wasn’t perpetrated by the official force at all.

"With Srebrenica, unfortunately, I cannot deny everything that is alleged, but I have to contest the extent and background of what happened. Again, it wasn’t an army unit that was tasked to do the misdeed; rather it was a sort of patchwork, a random collection of guys summoned to do the killings, to their surprise, against their own will and interest, and it was so
clandestine that the perpetrators hid it from their most immediate com-
mander. But nobody is going to benefit from any exaggeration pertaining
to Srebrenica or any other battlefield in our – let’s hope –last civil war. Let
us establish the truth!”

Bosnian Serb police and military officials have been sentenced to more
than 1,000 years in prison. As supreme commander of these forces, how
do you rate your chances in your own verdict?

“Many of the officials mentioned shouldn’t have even been indicted. There
is a big misunderstanding and misconception about our armies and other
armed forces. In other military and judicial practices, known in the coun-
tries where the Tribunal judges come from, there wasn’t Tito’s doctrine
of the armed people [compulsory conscription], but instead there were
well-trained professional armies and police forces, easy to command and
control. Apart from that, this civil war was a continuum from our fratri-
cidal wars, with lot of vengeful feelings, resentments, old hatreds and new
ambitions to dominate neighbours.

“Whenever one party claims something it doesn’t have the right to claim,
the stage is set for disaster. Can you imagine how fellow Muslims would
react if Serbs demanded that the whole of Bosnia became a part of a uni-
tary Serbia, without even any autonomy? The Serbs wouldn’t have any
right to demand that, let alone to impose that by force. But what was de-
manded from the Serbs concerning the unitary Bosnia and Herzegovina
is of the same nature as the aforementioned hypothetic Serb demand to-
wards the Muslims. If we are not able to put ourselves in the shoes of the
other party, we will pay a horrible price.

“My chances in the verdict should be as the chances of any state president
in the modern world – no more, no less. The courts should be aware of all
presidential duties, abilities and limitations, and be devoted to the truth
and justice. It is very simple to see from all the evidence that the presi-
dent in such circumstances couldn’t do any more, and that my permanent
fight to preserve the peace, prevent the war and decrease the sufferings of
everyone regardless of religion were an exemplary effort deserving respect
rather than persecution.”

Some observers believe that at several points during your trial and in the
trial of Ratko Mladic, the defence teams have attempted to gain advantage
by shifting blame from the police to the army and vice versa. Is this true,
and do you expect your verdict to be detrimental for Mladic’s case?

“First, it was the prosecution’s duty to specify its charges and disclose
which unit of what formation committed some deeds. The prosecution
took a very comfortable position, generally naming any perpetrators as
phantom ‘Serb forces’, without any obligation to specify what force it meant.

“Various paramilitaries who I disowned at the beginning of the war, and persecuted throughout the entire war, cannot be considered ‘Serb forces’. There was no evidence and no complete and documented charges with the real perpetrators named by the prosecution. That was why the defence were ‘casting about in the dark’ in order to establish who did what.

“There were legitimate actions by the army and the police, and that all was well documented. It comprised the planning, organising, preparatory orders, executive orders and follow-up. There was no evidence that official Serb forces, acting in an official manner, committed any crime. But there was evidence that crimes were committed by some members of official formations, which is completely different from the actions of the units.

“I don’t think any defence tried to redirect liability or shift blame onto others. First of all, there was no use for it, and ultimately, I do not think that the judges would appreciate that kind of defence. I had many objections to General Mladic and other old-fashioned officers, but none of them could have been blamed for crimes. If I could, I would have removed some of them that I tried to do much more easily, because I would not cover for anyone. I do not believe that my judgment will have any impact on Mladic’s case. It was my obligation to summon everyone who could have known anything to testify, and it was their right to testify or not.”

Your verdict is likely to cause controversy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, whichever way it goes. How do you see your importance in the country now, after two decades of absence from its political life?

“If there had been no foreign interference in our crisis, I would have achieved a constructive and compromising solution with Mr. [Alija] Izetbegovic. We were on a very fruitful road. In my opinion, it would have been much better for the Muslims to stay inside Yugoslavia, where they would even have been a majority one day, but the Croats didn’t want it in any case. Mr. Izetbegovic was very ambivalent. Mr. Izetbegovic wanted a specific political and religious arrangement for his Muslim community, which couldn’t have been implemented for the Serbs and Croats, and I didn’t oppose it in any way.

“But Mr. Izetbegovic assumed he needed independence for the project. So Mr. Izetbegovic proposed what we have now, a division of Bosnia and Herzegovina into sort of cantons, or constituent units. Had it been the Lisbon agreement [proposed pre-war in 1992, suggesting ethnic power-sharing and devolution to local ethnic communities] instead of the Dayton agreement [which ended the war in 1995], we all would be much happier.
“As far as my importance for the country is concerned, I believe I am as important as the average citizen, except to my family and friends. The new generation, which is now as old as I was in 1990, is coming onto the stage, and what they would need me for? If someone needs any advice, it doesn’t cost much.

“As far as any possible commotion in the country is concerned, I think there shouldn’t be any, and I do hope that there won’t be any. No individual should be so important, and let us keep our feelings inside, rather than on the streets.

“Many protagonists of the changes in 1990 are not with us any longer. Many people much younger and much more handsome than us died on all sides. Let the new generations preserve the country and region from any trouble, and build their future without the burden of the past. But in the first place – forget about achieving any kind of domination over each other and keeping each other in a state arrangement that is unacceptable to one of the sides. Let us finally come to our senses. And there is more risk because of the actions of the Bosnian courts, than of this one. Such flagrant bias must be stopped immediately. It has never been the case that ‘bad delivered good’.

If you were cleared and released, what would you do? Go into politics again?

“I hope not into politics again, and even if I wanted to, the new generation would rightfully prevent it. I even didn’t want it then, in 1990, because I had a very pleasant life, family, profession, friends and literature. If there hadn’t been a war, I was going to withdraw from politics soon.

“While I was on ‘standby’ in the mountains [while evading arrest], I wrote a novel (The Miraculous Chronicle of the Night) and a comedy, Sitovaci-ja, and some verses for minors. Politics took me 25 years away from me, which means at least five to eight books. Why would I want to sustain more of these losses? I would spend my precious time with my family and my writing.”
For his relatives in his home village of Petnjica in Montenegro, Radovan Karadzic is not a war criminal but a local boy who made good and strived to protect the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

DUSICA TOMOVIC

“Radovan is a good man. He did what all of us would have done to defend our fellow Serbs,” Simeon Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader’s cousin, tells BIRN.

A 65-year-old pensioner, Simeon lives in the tiny Montenegrin village of Petnjica, where Radovan Karadzic was born, and where his relatives say that this week’s verdict at the Hague Tribunal will only tell them what they already know - that the UN court was set up to punish Serbs.

Petnjica is an isolated village in the western mountains of Montenegro, about 110 kilometres from the capital Podgorica. Here Karadzic is a local hero, a clever village boy who went to the city and made good.

The Hague Tribunal will rule on Thursday on whether Karadzic was responsible for masterminding the genocide of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs across the country, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Prosecutors have demanded a life sentence for what one of the Hague Tribunal judges called “scenes of unimaginable savagery... truly scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of history”.

But people in Petnjica don’t really want to talk about that; they agree with Karadzic, who insists that he is innocent.

“It’s very hurtful what they say,” Simeon complains, refusing to hear about the charges against the man he recalls playing with as a child.

‘Spies’ and bounty-hunters

Everyone in the village shares the surname Karadzic and none of them are happy to welcome reporters. Simeon says that locals are “sick of them”.
Dozens of journalists have visited the village, which only has a few houses - of which just three are permanently inhabited.

Most of the villagers refuse to talk about the former Bosnian Serb leader’s wartime history. Some said they weren’t sure if the visiting journalists were reporters or intelligence agents because of the many law enforcement officials who came to Petnjica while Karadzic was on the run for over 12 years.

For a lot of that time, rumours circulated that he was hiding in a cave in the mountains near the village, so Montenegrin police frequently visited the area until 2008, when he was arrested in Belgrade.

“Some of them were coming because they wanted the $5 million offered for his head [by the United States],” one villager says angrily, identifying himself as Karadzic’s cousin but refusing to give his name.

“I’m proud to call myself a Karadzic. This is a noble family: we have produced dukes and warriors, writers, heroes,” he insists.

Son of an absent father

Radovan Karadzic was born on June 19, 1945 in Petnjica, to Vuko and Jovanka Karadzic. His father was in prison during his early years, serving time for activities during World War II. His father had been a member of the Chetniks, Serb nationalist guerrillas who fought against both Nazi occupiers and Tito’s Communist partisans.

His father was in jail for much of his son’s early childhood. Locals in Petnjica say that Vuko only saw him for the first time when Radovan was five.

The young Radovan was intelligent, well-behaved and handsome, Simeon insists: “He was as pretty as an apple.”

His mother, Jovanka Karadzic, once described her son as loyal and a hard worker who used to help her at home and in the fields. She said he was a serious boy who was respectful towards the elderly and helped his school friends with their homework.

Jovanka died in 2005 and was buried in the town of Niksic, where the family moved in the 1950s and where Radovan and his two brothers went to primary school.

His brother Luka was a postman in Niksic, then moved to Belgrade in the early 1990s when Radovan, who had graduated in medicine and worked as a psychiatrist, went into politics with the nationalist Serb Democratic
Party in Sarajevo. His other brother Raco still lives in Montenegro, in the capital Podgorica.

His relatives in Petnjica point out the house where Karadžić was born is located. It is now a ruin, but next to it and still intact is his uncle’s house, where he spent his summers while he was a student.

Radovan wanted to restore the house, but the war interrupted his plans, says Simeon.

“I often visited him in Sarajevo, slept in his apartment. He helped everyone as much as he could. Especially while working at the hospital,” he says.

**Poet and psychiatrist**

On the wall of Simeon’s house hangs a family tree dating back to 1642, with hundreds of names.

He points out one central character to whom his cousin is directly related: Vuk Karadžić, a well-known 19th-century Serbian writer, who drew up a system of phonetics fundamental to the Serbo-Croatian language.

“Radovan inherited his literary talent,” Simeon says. As well as being a psychiatrist, Karadžić was a prolific poet. “That is why we built a venue here for a biennial international Karadžić literary festival,” he adds.

Simeon also shows off a small chapel built in the 13th century and the cemetery where only Karadžics are buried.

But he stops short of mentioning that Radovan Karadžić’s father was ostracised by his family after being accused of raping and killing a cousin, and that his grandfather murdered a neighbour in an argument over stolen oxen.

Perhaps to escape all this, Karadžić, a bright student, left Montenegro for Sarajevo.

He settled in the Bosnian capital in 1960, where he studied medicine and met Ljiljana Zelen, who he married three years later.

Karadžić also sought out artists, writers and intellectuals. In 1968, after graduating, when Europe was in griped by student revolt, he led a student demonstration in Sarajevo.

From the roof of the philosophy department, he gave an eloquent speech with Serbian nationalist overtones.
In 1974, he won a literary scholarship to Columbia University in New York, where he learned to speak English fluently. However, it is a language that he refuses to speak in court in The Hague. “I’m not going to defend myself in a NATO language,” he has said.

Simeon also believes that the court in The Hague is biased in its case against Karadzic.

“In his case, they cannot be objective. The court was invented because of Serbs. Why is it that only Serbs are blamed for what went on? There was killing on all sides,” he argues.

He says he believes that the decision to convict his cousin was made before the trial even started: “The verdict will be only read on March 24 - it was made 20 years ago.”
Bosnian Serb Chief Plays Nationalist Card in Elections

Milorad Dodik has shocked Bosniaks and Bosnian Serbs alike and fuelled new tensions in Bosnia by praising the genocide suspect Radovan Karadzic ahead of crucial local elections.

RODOLFO TOE, SRECKO LATAL

Months ahead of important local elections, Milorad Dodik, President of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity and leader of its main ruling Alliance of Independent Social Democrats, SNSD, has outraged Bosniaks [Bosnian Muslims] and Bosnian Serbs alike by naming a student dorm after the Bosnian Serb war-crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic.

On Sunday, Dodik attended the official opening of the dormitory in the town of Pale, east of Sarajevo, which was named after Karadzic, the wartime leader of the Bosnian Serbs who is on trial for genocide by the Hague war crimes tribunal. The court, the ICTY, is expected to deliver its ruling this week.

During his speech, Dodik brushed aside questions from FTV, the main TV station in Bosnia’s mainly Bosniak and Croat Federation entity, quizzing him about past statements in which he had accused Karadzic of corruption and war crimes.

“I respect Radovan Karadzic as a man with strength and character,” he said, and, provocatively turning to the FTV reporter, added: “I am talking to you.”

The highly controversial ceremony was seen as an important part of Dodik’s campaign to rally Bosnian Serb opinion in the Republika Srpska ahead of local elections due in October.

In fact, he had already opened the same dormitory ahead of the general elections in October 2014, but it had remained unfurnished.

Survivors of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, overseen by Karadzic’s forces, in which about 8,000 Bosniaks were slaughtered, said they felt disgusted.
“This situation should worry us all,” Hatidza Mehmedovic, president of the Mothers of Srebrenica association, which gathers survivors and relatives of victims of the mass killing, said.

“This is disgraceful, common sense cannot understand it. Dodik is shamelessly continuing Karadzic’s genocidal ideology,” she added.

Some Bosnian Serbs were equally critical of the decision to honour such an infamous character in Bosnia’s recent history.

“Dodik opens a student dormitory in Pale and names it ‘Radovan Karadzic,’ I am ashamed of being a Serb,” the Banja Luka–based analyst, Srdjan Puhalo, said in a post.

Another Banja Luka–based analyst, Slobodan Vaskovic, on a blog called Dodik’s moves a “desperate” attempt to avoid investigation for possible corruption and win the election on the back of Serb nationalist rhetoric.

“In only one day Dodik deliberately exposes the whole [Serbian] people to great danger twice, trying to force collective guilt on it and extending it as a live shield while defending its own family from investigations,” he wrote.

Some international officials said they feared that Dodik was preparing even more radical moves in a bid to outflank opposition parties in the mainly Serb entity.

One foreign diplomat referred to his announcements in which he said that the RS government was planning to create its own auxiliary police.

On Sunday, in another election rally in Serb–controlled East Sarajevo, Dodik added more fuel to the fire by suggesting that the Republika Srpska might also cease to cooperate with Bosnia’s State Investigation and Protection Agency, SIPA.

Dodik also said the RS could independently publish the disputed data from the 2013 census, even though the state and the country’s two entity–based statistical bureaux have not reached an agreement on a common methodology.

Then, he continued, using its own data, the RS might unilaterally change its constitution to adjust – which means weaken – Bosniak and Croat minority representation in key RS institutions.

Dodik announced that the Republika Srpska would establish its own auxiliary police “to better fight terrorism and organised crime” after meeting his coalition partners last Thursday.
Dealing with terrorism and organised crime so far has been SIPA’s exclusive competence.

Such a move would be seen as a sign that Dodik is forging ahead with plans to win the mainly Serb entity greater autonomy and perhaps total independence.

Dodik previously announced that the RS government would purchase additional long-barrel weapons to better equip its police forces.

In a written statement to BIRN on Friday, the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior said the project was still at an early stage and would have to be developed before details can be provided.

However, many Bosnian Serb opposition politicians and analysts say Dodik only wants the new police unit set up to prevent investigations and lawsuits against him and his family and friends for corruption.

“Creating a reserve police in Republika Srpska against organised crime and terrorism basically serves the purposes of Dodik who is trying to replicate state competences at entity level,” Kurt Bassuener, from the Democratization Policy Council think tank, told BIRN.

“Dodik is creating this police force only to reinforce his strength so as not to be arrested and interrogated,” Aleksandra Pandurevic, member of the opposition Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, told TV1 station.

“This unit would solely have a mandate to protect him [from justice],” she added.

Another key issue is the publication of the 2013 census results, which is of critical importance for Bosnia’s future EU path.

Publication of the results has been blocked for two years due to conflicting views about who should be included in the census as a resident.

If the census is not published by a July deadline, however, the EU has warned that it will not consider the results valid.

Without a published census, Bosnia cannot advance the EU accession process.

Last week, Dodik said the Republika Srpska was ready to publish the results of the census in the entity on its own if the three agencies cannot reach an agreement.
“We'll find a way to publish the data only for RS – we're not interested in what Bosnia does,” Dodik told the media.

Afterwards, he warned, the Republika Srpska might change its constitution to reflect the new ethnic reality, which is likely to mean weakening the representation of Bosniaks and Croats in Republika Srpska’s institutions.

According to Bassuener, Dodik’s statements call for “a clear reaction from the international community, especially the EU”.
Radovan Karadzic: Psychiatrist, Poet, Politician, Convict?

Radovan Karadzic has had various roles in his lifetime - psychiatrist, poet, political leader and fugitive - but this week he could be sentenced to spend the rest of it in jail.

DENIS DZIDIC

Radovan Karadzic was born in the village of Petnica near Savnik in Montenegro in June 1945 - some 2,000 kilometres from The Hague, where the UN court will hand down its verdict this week on whether he was guilty of genocide and war crimes.

He spent his childhood in Montenegro, going to school in Niksic, before moving to the Bosnian capital Sarajevo to study at its medical high school. He continued his studies at Sarajevo Medical University and went on to specialise in psychiatry at the city’s Kosevo hospital.

Karadzic had two children with his doctor wife Ljiljana – a son, Sasa, whose post-war career is unknown, and a daughter, Sonja, who is now vice-president of the Bosnian Serb parliament.

Along with his work as a psychiatrist, mostly with patients suffering from depression, first in Sarajevo and then for a while in Belgrade, Karadzic also wrote poetry.

He published four books of verse and achieved modest renown; during the war years, he was awarded a literary prize in Russia. He even published a volume of verse while he was on the run after the war ended. In one poem, ‘Sarajevo’, he wrote: “The town burns like a piece of incense/In the smoke rumbles our consciousness.”

Karadzic’s supervisor while he worked at the Kosevo hospital in Sarajevo was Ismet Ceric, who told PBS in an interview that Karadzic always had an “incredibly high opinion of himself”.

“Sometimes it was absolutely unbelievable,” Ceric recalled. “He said, ‘I am an excellent poet, I am an excellent psychotherapist, I am an excellent businessman in the communist system.’ At the time, we thought it was his unique sense of humour.”
**Convicted in the 1980s**

In the mid-1980s, Karadzic ran into his first legal problems. He was arrested on suspicion of embezzling public funds in order to finance the construction of his summer house in the town of Pale, above Sarajevo.

Karadzic was convicted, but because of the time he spent on remand before the trial, he did not go to prison.

He spent his months behind bars on remand with his acquaintance Momčilo Krajisnik, who was also being held on suspicion of also embezzling public funds while working at an energy firm.

Krajisnik, who would later become the speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament during wartime, told BIRN that the experience brought the two men closer.

“I think of him as a friend and good man. We went through that situation together and I do not wish to recall it. We remained close. I know he never hated anyone and never wanted bad things to happen to anyone,” said Krajisnik.

The nationalist Serb Democratic Party, SDS was founded in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1990 and Karadzic was named as its first president in July that year. The party was part of an anti-communist coalition, and initially fought for the country to remain part of Yugoslavia.

In an interview with Bosnian news agency SRNA, Karadzic insisted that he did not really want the job.

“I did not wish to be an active politician,” he said. “I did not want to lead Republika Srpska either, and I would not have done if it had not been for the events of the war.

He explained that he was just doing his duty: “My understanding of human destiny is such that I believe a man must honour his duties,” he said.

**Calls for a ‘Greater Serbia’**

The first multi-party elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina were held in November 1990. Together with Karadzic’s SDS, the biggest winners were two other nationalist parties – the Bosniak Party for Democratic Action and the Croatian Democratic Community. The three of them created a coalition.
Social Democratic Party politician Miro Lazovic recalled how he often spoke out against Karadzic’s aggressively pro-Serb political agenda at parliamentary sessions in the early 1990s.

“Karadzic proposed the creation of a Greater Serbia,” Lazovic told BIRN.

“Because of his politics and especially because of his claims that if Bosnia became independent, the Muslim people and the country would disappear, we in parliament had to call a referendum so citizens could say if they wanted an independent Bosnia and Herzegovina,” he said.

Karadzic warned Bosniaks about the dangers of an impending war in a speech in October 1991 in the Bosnian parliament, after Slovenia and Croatia had already declared independence from Yugoslavia. He said that leaving Yugoslavia would put Bosnia and Herzegovina on a “highway to hell”.

“I plead with you to fully understand that what you are doing is not good. The road that you are choosing for Bosnia and Herzegovina is the same highway to hell and suffering that Slovenia and Croatia have already taken,” he told lawmakers.

It was a speech that seemed to predict the brutality of the coming conflict, and the massacres that would follow.

“Do not think that you will not take Bosnia and Herzegovina to hell and the Muslim people maybe into extinction, because if there is a war, the Muslim people will not be able to defend themselves,” Karadzic said.

After Bosnia and Herzegovina became independent in 1992, after a vote that was opposed by Serbs who wanted to remain part of Yugoslavia, the war broke out.

Throughout the three-and-a-half year long conflict; Karadzic was the president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces.

During wartime, his most notorious statements were about Sarajevo, which was besieged by Serb forces for three-and-a-half years.

Karadzic denied that units under his command were guilty of deadly mortar attacks on the city. After the massacre at the Markale market, in which dozens of civilians died in 1994, Karadzic told the newspaper Borba: “We have a disciplined army... no one can fire without an express order.”

He also insisted that “Serbs will never leave Sarajevo and the city will be the capital of the future Serb state.”
In several interviews, he opposed international intervention in Bosnia, saying it would be “a dangerous precedent which would make any country unsafe and would disrupt democracy”. He also publically denied the responsibility for the Srebrenica massacres.

Speaking about that period, the wartime speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament, Momcilo Krajsnik, insisted that Karadzic “always fought against crimes”.

“He did not want crimes and if there is justice, he will be acquitted,” said Krajsnik, who was himself sentenced by the UN court in The Hague to 20 years in prison for war crimes.

Miro Lazovic said however that he was certain that Karadzic would be convicted.

“The Hague Tribunal has already shown what it thinks of the leadership of the Bosnian Serbs and has found that their plan was to commit crimes. I have no doubt that Karadzic, as the embodiment of these policies, will be convicted,” he said.

**Karadzic goes underground**

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was set up in The Hague after thousands of non-Serbs were detained in concentration camps and hundreds killed forces in Prijedor in 1992 and after the shelling of Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb forces.

The first indictment against Karadzic was raised in 1995, a few months after the Srebrenica genocide.

An arrest warrant for Karadzic was issued in 1996, but by that time, he was already on the run. According to British journalist Julian Borger, who wrote a book about Karadzic’s fugitive years and arrest, the former Bosnian Serb president evaded capture for over a decade because international forces and the Serbian authorities were initially unwilling to arrest him, believing it could threaten the fragile post-war peace.

In the beginning, Borger says that Karadzic was hiding openly in Pale, but later, as pressure mounted for him to be brought to justice, he fled to Serbia and went into hiding.

The US offered a reward of almost $5 million for information leading to his whereabouts, but despite a lengthy manhunt by international and local security forces, Karadzic was only arrested 12 years later in the summer of 2008 in Belgrade, where he was living under the name of Dragan Dabic, disguised as a New Age mystic.
After a marathon six-year trial, during which more than 500 witnesses testified, the verdict is expected on Thursday. The prosecution has called for a life sentence, while Karadzic, who has continued to insist that he is not guilty, has said he should be acquitted.
Karadzic Verdict: Legal Precedents and Unproven Allegations

The Hague Tribunal has legal precedents for some of the charges against Radovan Karadzic, but allegations that genocide was committed in 1992 and UN peacekeepers were taken hostage have never been proven by the court.

DENIS DZIDIC

The Hague Tribunal will hand down its verdict in the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb president and supreme commander of Republika Srpska’s armed forces, on March 24.

The crimes with which he is charged have been the subject of more than 20 cases already heard at the UN-backed International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

The charges include genocide against Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven other Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs in 20 municipalities and taking peacekeepers from the UN protection force UNPROFOR hostage.

He is charged as a member of a joint criminal enterprise – together with other high-ranking Republika Srpska police and army officials and political leaders in local communities, as well as leaders of paramilitary and volunteer units – with the aim of persecuting non-Serbs.

1995 Srebrenica genocide proven

In the 20 years since the biggest crime on European soil since World War II – the killings of over 7,000 Bosniak men and boys and the deportation of 25,000 women and children from the United Nations-designated ‘safe area’ of Srebrenica – the Hague Tribunal has convicted 14 people for these crimes.

Three of those convicted by the Hague Tribunal were given life sentences – two former officers at the Bosnian Serb Army’s Main Headquarters, Zdravko Tolimir and Ljubisa Beara, as well as former Bosnian Serb Army Drina Corps security officer Vujadin Popovic. The rest received a total of 189 years in prison.
Karadzic is mentioned in Beara’s and Popovic’s verdict in several places. It is stated that on July 9, 1995, Karadzic issued an order approving the seizure of the protected enclave of Srebrenica, and that he discussed the Bosniak captives with Miroslav Deronjic, a now-deceased Bosnian Serb official who was also convicted of war crimes.

The Srebrenica crimes were first labelled genocide in 2004 in the Hague Tribunal verdict convicting former Drina Corps chief of staff Radislav Krstic. This verdict also mentioned Karadzic in his role as the supreme commander of Bosnian Serb forces.

“VRS [Bosnian Serb Army] units were engaged in detention, transport and execution of Bosnian Muslims, including the members of the Drina Corps, the Bratunac and Zvornik Brigades and the 10th Sabotage Unit,” the verdict said.

“The participation of so many units shows the extent to which the process was planned, and the participation of the Sabotage Unit specifically shows that the VRS General Staff was directly involved in this operation,” it added.

Bosnian Serb Army Main Headquarters official Zdravko Tolimir’s verdict also mentions Karadzic as the “only one with the authority to command the VRS Main Headquarters”.

As with Srebrenica, Karadzic’s name is mentioned in two Hague Tribunal verdicts convicting Bosnian Serbs of terrorizing the population of Sarajevo during the three-and-a-half year long siege of the city. The Tribunal convicted Stanislav Galic and Dragomir Milosevic, who were both commanders of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps of the VRS at different times.

Both verdicts stated that the units under the command of Galic and Milosevic, fired on the city indiscriminately, causing numerous civilian casualties and terrorising its residents.

“For all military officials in the Sarajevo region, it is beyond doubt that general Galic was their commander as the commanding officer of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps, and that his superior was Bosnian Serb Army’s Main Headquarters commander Ratko Mladic and Supreme Commander Radovan Karadzic,” Galic’s verdict said.
1992 genocide not proven

The most highly-anticipated part of Karadzic’s verdict is the charges that he was responsible for genocide in the municipalities of Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik in 1992.

The Tribunal has handed down more than 15 verdicts for crimes against humanity, extermination and persecution in these municipalities, but not one for genocide.

High-ranking Bosnian Serb political officials Momcilo Krajisnik and Biljana Plavsic – who are listed in Karadzic’s indictment as members of the same joint criminal enterprise - were convicted of crimes in all these municipalities, except for Bratunac.

Karadzic is described in Krajisnik’s verdict as “the key figure in Republika Srpska”, and is mentioned in Plavsic’s plea deal as part of the Bosnian Serb leadership which was guilty of a “crime of utmost gravity, involving a campaign of ethnic separation which resulted in the death of thousands and the expulsion of thousands more in circumstances of great brutality”.

The Hague judges in Krajisnik’s case found that some of the crimes committed in Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik reached the scale of genocide, but did not find that the defendant had “intent to destroy in part or in whole the group of Bosnian Muslims or Croats”.

Many of the Hague Tribunal verdicts relate to mass crimes committed against non-Serbs in Prijedor, with Karadzic listed as a member of a joint criminal enterprise member in the verdict convicting the former head of the Prijedor Crisis Committee, Milomir Stakic, who was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Along with Stakic, the Tribunal convicted former guards and commanders of several Bosnian Serb-run detention camps in Prijedor.

Mass crimes in Foca were proven in the verdicts convicting Milorad Krnojelac, the commander of a Serb-run detention camp in Foca, and former VRS soldiers Dragoljub Kunarac, Radomir Kovac, Zoran Vukovic and Dragan Zelenovic.

Dragan Nikolic was convicted of crimes against Bosniaks from Vlasenica detained at the Susica camp, where he was the commander, and Karadzic was mentioned as part of the Serb leadership in the verdict convicting Radoslav Brdjanin, a senior political figure in the self-styled Serb Autonomous Region of Krajina.
Along with the 1992 genocide charges, Karadzic is also on trial for crimes against humanity in 20 municipalities – Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Bosanski Novi, Bratunac, Brcko, Foca, Hadzici, Ilidza, Kljuc, Novi Grad, Novo Sarajevo, Pale, Prijedor, Rogatica, Sanski Most, Sokolac, Visegrad, Vlasenica, Vogosca and Zvornik.

The verdicts convicting Brdjanin, Krajisnik and Plavsic deal with some of those municipalities, and the Tribunal has also convicted Milan and Sredoje Lukic and Mitar Vasiljevic for crimes in Visegrad and Ranko Cesic and Goran Jelisic for crimes in Brcko.

The final part of Karadzic’s verdict concerns his alleged responsibility for taking UN peacekeepers hostage, but these allegations have never been part of any previous indictment at the Tribunal.
Karadzic in Hiding: Manhunt for Europe’s Most Wanted

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic evaded capture for over a decade because international forces and the Serbian authorities were unwilling and then unable to arrest him, says British author Julian Borger.

MARIJA RISTIC

An international arrest warrant for Radovan Karadzic was issued by the UN-backed war crimes court in The Hague in 1996, but he was only put behind bars 12 years later when police managed to detain him in the Serbian capital Belgrade, where he was living undercover, disguised as a New Age mystic.

Next week the initial verdict in his trial will finally be announced, but from 1996 until 2008, he remained free - even though he was being hunted by various foreign intelligence services and by the Serbian and Bosnian authorities, while the US was offering a reward of almost $5 million for information leading to his whereabouts.

The details of the manhunt for the former Bosnian Serb president were fully revealed in the recently-published book The Butcher’s Trail, written by British journalist Julian Borger, the world affairs editor of The Guardian.

Based on more than 200 interviews with those directly involved, including state officials, intelligence officers and court employees, Borger managed to unravel the tangled story of the arrests of the most wanted men of their era in Europe – not just Karadzic, but also others who were indicted as suspected war criminals by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

In the chapter entitled ‘Radovan Karadzic: The Shaman in the Madhouse’, Borger details how “the former psychiatrist and poet who had brought death camps, mass executions, and genocide back to the heart of a continent” managed to fool the forces on the ground and evade capture for so long.

Borger writes how the pursuit of Karadzic was marked by “false starts, blunders, betrayals, and near misses”.

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There were failed negotiations over a possible surrender, he says, then “a series of would-be American ambushes that the fugitive always managed to avoid, either by blind luck, tip-offs, or a highly sensitive nose for danger”.

In an interview with BIRN, Borger said that constant interplay of justice and politics prevented Karadzic from being brought to court sooner, despite the fact that he was living in the open for years while an international warrant for his arrest was active.

**No political will to arrest**

Karadzic was initially indicted in 1995, the year that marked the end of Bosnian war with the signing of Dayton Agreement, which was considered at the time by the international community to be one of its biggest achievements in post–Cold War politics.

But despite the issuing of the arrest warrant and the presence of international forces on the ground in Bosnia, Karadzic and his entourage were driving around the de facto Bosnian Serb capital Pale for years before there was a consensus reached that he should be arrested.

According to Borger, bad timing was one of the key reasons why, by 2008, Radovan Karadzic was Europe’s most wanted man and its greatest embarrassment.

“The best time to get the top guys would be immediately after Dayton when they were defensive and vulnerable, but there was no political will then,” Borger told BIRN.

“When the political will arrived in the last years of the 20th century, it was no longer feasible. In case of Mladic, he fled into Serbia and by the end of the century so had Karadzic, which made them much less reachable. At the end they needed to wait for the political change to happen in Serbia to arrest them,” he said.

The UN had already set up the ICTY in The Hague in 1993 in anticipation of trying suspects like Karadzic, but some of its international backers were initially only supporting it rhetorically, Borger claims.

Their priority was trying to secure the long-awaited peace among the country’s three ethnicities – Serbs, Bosniaks and Croats.

“There was a great deal of hypocrisy in the original creation of the war crimes tribunal as some of the powers, Britain and France in particular, didn’t have the intention to allow it to function properly,” he said.
“Beneath the great announcements accompanying its creation was hypocrisy and there was also hypocrisy in the manhunt,” he adds.

Years passed before support on paper for the ICTY was turned into genuine backing in the manhunt for the 161 fugitives on the court’s most-wanted list.

“The realisation came for different people in different times. For some people it was immediately evident that you have to deliver on international law in order to safeguard the peace, but the military commanders that came with international forces saw peace and justice as alternatives and substitutes for each other,” Borger said.

“And it took them a year or so to release the Dayton peace process was not working as long as these guys are still around and in charge, they were stopping the refugees returning and they were stopping Dayton every time they could,” he added.

**Safe haven in Serbia**

But at the same time as international community, particularly Bill Clinton’s administration in the US, realised in the late 1990s that Karadzic and his military chief Ratko Mladic should be top arrest priorities, both men got the message that Bosnia was becoming risky territory for them and that they should look for a safer haven.

They found that haven right across River Drina, in Serbia, which many Bosnian Serbs, then as now, consider their motherland. And so it proved to be: the nationalists controlling the police and state security apparatus made Serbia safe for them, ignoring the demands from the international community to put them behind bars.

According to Borger, the arrest of Karadzic came only when the political landscape in Serbia changed and when pro-European President Boris Tadic took over the Serbian Security Information Agency, BIA, from his predecessor Vojislav Kostunica.

Borger said that Kostunica was “a nationalist opposed in principle to cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, particularly when it came to handing over Serb leaders”.

“Kostunica put in place in the BIA his man Rade Bulatovic, who was not in a hurry to catch top guys like Karadzic and Mladic. It was only few days after he was replaced that Karadzic was picked up, which was a clear sign that leadership in the intelligence agency mattered,” Borger explained.
“Beneath him in the agency there were people who were doing their job and it was a group of BIA guys who found Karadzic on a basis of the phone call made by his brother Luka,” he added.

The phone call led the BIA officers to a self-styled spiritual healer called Dragan David Dabic, who looked to them a lot like Karadzic.

‘Dabic’ had been living in the New Belgrade neighborhood, posing as what Borger describes as “a New Age mystic, offering spiritual cures for diseases and maladies”. He led an apparently open life and had even appeared in newspapers and on television, and it would have remained that way if he hadn’t made a phone call to Luka Karadzic.

“Dabic seemed an unlikely acquaintance for the hard-drinking, splenetic Luka Karadzic, who had hitherto shown little interest in healthy alternative lifestyles. So the BIA officers dug a little deeper, and the more they looked into the life of the white-haired shaman, the stranger he appeared,” wrote Borger.

If you cut off his topknot and shaved his beard, Dabic would be Karadzic, the BIA officers suspected.

After several security checks, they found that another Dragan David Dabic with the same personal details already existed, and so they put in hours of surveillance to make 100 per cent sure that their suspicion was correct – Dabic really was Karadzic.

But they decided not to take their suspicions to BIA chief Rade Bulatovic, who they believed might be opposed to arresting Karadzic, but to an aide of President Tadic, who wanted the job done in order to make progress towards EU accession.

They also only revealed their findings to Tadic’s office when they were sure they would be protected from a potential purge in the BIA if the arrest was ordered.

Tadic managed to reshuffle the leadership of the BIA, and few days afterwards, in July 2008, Karadzic was arrested while travelling on public transport in Belgrade. Despite street protests, he was soon transferred to The Hague, where he pleaded not guilty to all charged.

**An end to impunity?**

Karadzic’s initial verdict will be handed down on March 24 after the largest-ever case to be heard before the ICTY, which involved more than 500 witnesses over the course of eight years.
“We are waiting to see the verdict, but the trial was comprehensive and substantial. There was a lot of hypocrisy in the manhunt for him but the trial managed to stay focused on the actual mass killings and the immediate perpetrators,” Borger said.

Despite criticism of the work of the ICTY over the years, Borger believes there are some positive aspects to its legacy.

“If you ask people around the region what they think about the ICTY, each group will have a reason to complain either because of acquittals or time that it has taken to deliver justice, and also because justice by its nature for such huge crimes can never been completed and it can never measure the scale of the crime so there are some grounds to criticise the court or be unsatisfied with the court,” he said.

“But I think if you look at its achievements, all 161 people indicted were brought to trial or faced justice one way or another, and there were perpetrators of the main warring parties there on trial and it was very comprehensive,” he added.

The ICTY’s archives will be very important in providing proof to counteract those who would deny or play down the war crimes of the 1990s. But its major achievement was showing that senior political and military figures cannot escape justice, Borger suggested.

“The ICTY was a unique court that in broader terms ended the impunity of state and army leaders for the mass crimes they committed,” he said.

‘The Butcher’s Trail: How the Search for Balkan War Criminals Became the World’s Most Successful Manhunt’ by Julian Borger is published by Other Press.
Karadzic’s Courtroom Drama Will End in Disappointment

Next week’s verdict in the war crimes trial of former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic will be a judicial landmark but cannot heal the lasting divisions of wartime.

ERNA MACKIC

The UN war crimes court’s verdict, which will be delivered on March 24, will be historic.

Seventy-year-old Karadzic will be the highest-ranking political leader accused before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to hear the verdict on his alleged crimes delivered in court.

In 1995, the last year of the war, Karadzic was charged with genocide and other crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but after the conflict ended, he went on the run.

His assets were frozen and the NATO-led Stabilisation Force in Bosnia, SFOR, searched for him for several years, ordering periodic raids, but Karadzic remained hidden. The US offered up to $5 million as a reward to anyone with information leading to an arrest, but still he could not be found.

As hopes that he could be apprehended began to fade, Karadzic was arrested in 2008 in Belgrade, where he was hiding in plain sight, posing as a spiritual healer. He had a longer beard and hair and was wearing less formal clothes, but it was definitely him – Europe’s most wanted man, working openly in the Serbian capital under the assumed name Dragan Dabic.

In his first court appearance in The Hague, Karadzic was defiant: “I’ve been in worse places,” he told the judge.

He announced that he would prove that he had a deal with US diplomat Richard Holbrooke that he would not be prosecuted – but despite the headline-grabbing statement, Karadzic failed to produce the evidence during his marathon trial.

More than 500 witnesses – victims, UN peacekeeping troops, international and domestic experts – testified about genocide and other wartime crimes.
in Bosnia and Herzegovina or denied that they happened or that Karadzic was responsible for them.

War criminals Stanislav Galic, Milan Martic, Dragomir Milosevic and others testified in Karadzic’s defence, denying the crimes they were convicted of at their own trials.

Karadzic himself insisted that the Bosnian Serb leadership was made up of experts, writers, doctors, lawyers and professors. “God forbid that we had a different leadership, who knows what the war would have looked like?” he said.

In his final statement before the court in October 2014, he admitted that crimes were committed during what he called the “awful” war, but insisted that he never ordered them.

“I am of a clear conscience and a heavy heart, because the war wasn’t what I wanted,” he said.

**A courtroom circus?**

Some witness testimonies brought back memories of wartime, when Karadzic was in power in Bosnia’s Serb-led entity, Republika Srpska. Former Bosnian Serb justice minister Momcilo Mandic addressed him as ‘Mr. President’, while the defendant answered by calling Mandic ‘Mr. Minister’.

Victims of Bosnian Serb forces’ military campaigns described the trial as a ‘circus’ that glorified Karadzic by allowing his supporters to sing his praises.

The testimony of current Bosnian Serb president Milorad Dodik was watched keenly to see how far the Republika Srpska leadership had moved on from Karadzic’s ideals since the end of the war.

But Dodik, a defence witness, insisted that Karadzic never took part in war crimes, arguing that the defendant wanted a peaceful resolution to the conflict and for all war crimes to be prosecuted.

 Asked whether he accepted that massive crimes were committed against Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) and Croat civilians during the war, Dodik replied: “It was a civil war. Serbs, Muslims and Croats all had organised military formations. All three sides violated the law of war.”

A key issue in the Karadzic verdict promises to be the decision on whether genocide was committed by Bosnian Serb forces under his control in the
municipalities of Kljuc, Sanski Most, Prijedor, Vlasenica, Foca, Zvornik and Bratunac in 1992, as well as against Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995.

This is the most unpredictable part of the verdict, as there have already been final verdicts handed down by the UN court about the other crimes with which Karadzic is charged – the Srebrenica genocide, wartime crimes in Sarajevo and the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats by Bosnian Serb forces in many municipalities across the country.

In its attempts to prove that Karadzic was guilty of waging a campaign of terror against the population of besieged Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995, the Hague prosecution called more than 30 former UN peacekeepers to testify.

On the other side, Karadzic’s defence also called to the stand former members of international forces in its own attempts to prove that the mortar shells that killed dozens of people at the Sarajevo’s Markale market weren’t fired from Bosnian Serb positions.

Karadzic initially announced that he would take the stand and “disprove all the lies of the Tribunal”, but in the end he backed out, claiming that his witnesses had said everything that needed to be heard to confirm his innocence.

**Bad food and ‘false remorse’**

The former Bosnian Serb leader kept himself busy throughout the trial, filing motion upon motion. He asked the United Nations to look into the number of malign diseases in the Scheveningen detention centre, where Hague Tribunal defendants are held, suggesting that there was something sinister about the number of illnesses among the accused.

He also complained about the food, describing it as “frozen and reheated in a microwave oven”. He said it was bad quality, and added it “tasted funny for people from the Balkans”.

Karadzic also described the detention centre as more of a “retirement home” which housed “intellectuals”, but said it wasn’t the right environment for “fragile men in the final age of their lives”.

In its closing arguments, the Hague prosecution asked for a life sentence for the 70-year-old to ensure justice for the victims of Srebrenica, Sarajevo and all the other places where victims were persecuted during the Bosnian conflict.
According to the prosecutors, the terrorising of the capital, the mass executions, the use of UN officials as hostages and the brutality towards victims all had something in common - the role of Radovan Karadzic.

His false remorse, the prosecutors said, was salt in the wounds of all the victims now living without their loved ones and trying to deal with the horrors of the past.

The protracted saga of Karadzic’s flight from justice, his eventual arrest and his lengthy trial has left many victims with feelings of deep disappointment.

They were exasperated that he evaded capture for so long and outraged by the glowing testimonies that his admirers gave him in the courtroom while simultaneously denying the crimes from which they suffered.

Most are unsure whether the tribunal will find the courage to rule that genocide was committed in 1992, and are already expecting to be disappointed again.

Bosnian Serb politicians and victims’ groups meanwhile have long been disappointed by what they see as unfair, politically-motivated and anti-Serb prosecutions by the Hague court. Whatever the ruling in the Karadzic case, this view is unlikely to change.

So while the verdict that will be announced by South Korean judge O-Gon Kwon in The Hague next week will certainly be historic, it is almost certain to be met by yet more disappointment.
Radovan Karadzic Verdict Set for March 24

The UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague will hand down its verdict in the case against former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic in five weeks' time.

DENIS DZIDIC

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia announced on Thursday that it will deliver its first-instance verdict in the case against Karadzic on March 24.

The 69-year-old former Bosnian Serb president is charged with masterminding the genocide of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs across the country, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Prosecutors have demanded a life sentence.

But in Karadzic’s final statement before the court in October 2014, he admitted that crimes were committed during what he called the “awful” 1992-95 war, but insisted that he never ordered them.

“I am of a clear conscience and a heavy heart, because the war wasn’t what I wanted,” he said.

The prosecution however argued that he was responsible for masterminding genocide, forced expulsions and persecution on a massive scale during the 1992-95 conflict, with the aim of destroying the entire Bosniak community.

“When thousands are killed and thousands are traumatised and detained, most of their homes and places of prayer are destroyed and the rest are displaced across the world, one can clearly define the intention to destroy the community from those acts,” said prosecutor Alan Tieger in his closing arguments.

The trial began in 2009 after Karadzic was arrested in Serbia and handed over to the Hague court following more than a decade on the run.

Since then, nearly 600 witnesses have given testimony, and the judges will also have to consider over 11,000 exhibits and tens of thousands of pages of written evidence.
Karadzic’s Daughter Gets Senior Bosnian Serb Job

The daughter of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who is currently on trial for war crimes, was elected as National Assembly deputy speaker in Bosnia’s Serb-dominated Republika Srpska.

Sonja Karadzic-Jovicevic was elected the deputy speaker of the Republika Srpska National Assembly on Monday with 77 of the 82 MPs voting in favour and five abstentions.

Karadzic-Jovicevic is an MP in the Republika Srpska entity parliament, representing the opposition Serb Democratic Party, SDS, which was founded by her father.

However Milos Solaja, a political analyst from Banja Luka, said her election had limited significance.

“The appointment of Karadzic’s daughter as deputy speaker of the RS National Assembly is more a symbolic act and will not change much because the position of deputy speaker does not have great power,” Solaja told BIRN.

Radovan Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska, is on trial in The Hague for genocide in Srebrenica and several other municipalities, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across the country, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

The verdict in his trial is expected next year.

Karadzic-Jovicevic replaces Nenad Stevandic as the deputy speaker.

Stevandic, a former SDS member, is part of new political group called the Free Democratic Serbian Club.

His refusal to quit as deputy speaker when he left the SDS caused the opposition parties in the Alliance for Change coalition to boycott assembly sessions.

But with the election of Karadzic-Jovicevic, the boycott is ending.
Karadzic Demands Probe Into UN Prisoners’ Health

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has asked the UN to investigate an alleged increase in the number of malignant diseases among defendants in the Hague tribunal.

Justice Report

Radovan Karadzic has told a status conference on his health that he is worried by the number of grave illnesses reported among Hague prisoners.

“I ask you to examine what [it] is... It is unusual for such a number of diseases to occur in such a small space,” he said.

Karadzic told the status conference that he had an operation due to gall bladder inflammation last month, just after he complained to the trial chamber about his health condition.

“Thanks to your intervention, I was sent to the ultrasound [scan] the same day, where they saw my gall bladder was in the final stage... I would have gone yellow the next day... The same day, I had urgent surgery,” Karadzic said.

Details of the surgery were not made public. He said during the open hearing that his blood sugar level was high, but was now stable.

Karadzic believes the cause of his illness lies in the “system”, meaning the conditions in the Hague tribunal detention unit in Scheveningen.

He argues that he “came into custody in exemplary good health”, which he preserved with “Christian tradition and Eastern medicine”.

Before his health deteriorated in August, Karadzic said that “eight teeth broke with no reason”, which was “an indicator something in the body was disrupted”.

He also complained about the food in custody, saying it was frozen and heated in the microwave, was of “bad quality and [had an] unusual taste for the people from the Balkans”.

Given that the custody is “more [like] a retirement home” where there are “intellectuals”, “barely anyone gets accustomed to different tastes and barely anyone eats their meal,” Karadzic said.

Karadzic’s request for the investigation into how detention affects prisoners’ health is based on a claim that 11 detainees suffered from malignant diseases since they came into custody in the summer of 2008. The detention system in The Netherlands is not designed for “fragile people in their third age”, he said.

Detention staff are “excellent”, but “the rules are pointless”, Karadzic said.

Asked by the judges whether he was involved in physical activity, Karadzic replied: “I regularly engage physically, I go for a walk, I play tennis and so on...”

Preceding Judge O-Gon Kwon said the trial chamber could conclude “with relief” that Karadzic had recovered from the surgery and that he pays “major significance” to his health. Regarding the detention system, the judge said he noticed it “functions” and told Karadzic that trial chamber is not in charge of it, so that he should refer to the detention administration and court registry.

Karadzic, the former president of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and several other municipalities, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across the country, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

The first-instance verdict in his case is expected in December.
Radovan Karadzic Has Surgery in The Netherlands

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, whose war crimes verdict will be delivered in December, had a successful operation to have his gall bladder removed.

DENIS DZIDIC

The UN-backed war crimes tribunal in The Hague announced on Friday that Karadzic had problems with his stomach last week and had an operation in the Netherlands to have his gall bladder removed on Thursday August 27.

“He stayed at the civilian hospital overnight and was transferred back to the Judicial Centre for Somatic Care since he experienced no complications after surgery,” the Hague Tribunal’s medical officer Paulus Falke said in a report to the judges.

Karadzic asked the trial chamber in his case last week to hold a status conference at the end of September in order to discuss his health condition, amongst other things.

“Karadzic has been ill since August 18, suffering pain, loss of balance, and exhaustion from a condition that has not yet been identified,” he wrote to the judges last week, referring to himself in the third person.

“He has also requested to undergo a complete battery of medical tests to determine the functioning of his various organs - tests which have not been conducted since he arrived at the Detention Unit seven years ago. Karadzic also had a recent periodic blood test to measure his blood sugar levels, which have been higher than normal,” he added.

Karadzic, the former president of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and several other municipalities, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across the country, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

His trial started in 2009, and the first instance verdict is expected in December.
Karadzic Seeks Meeting on His Worsening Health

The former Bosnian Serb president has asked the tribunal to hold a status conference in June to discuss his health, prison detention conditions and other objections.

DENIS DZIDIC

Radovan Karadzic has written to the judges of the International Criminal tribunal of the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, asking for a status conference between June 1 and 9 to discuss his health, as he has high blood sugar levels.

Karadzic wrote on Thursday that he also felt “alarmed by the deteriorating health conditions of other detainees in The Hague” and wanted to discuss overall conditions in the Scheveningen prison.

The former Bosnian Serb political chief stated further that he has yet to receive all exculpatory evidence from the Hague prosecutors – and would soon file his 98th motion objecting to disclosure violations by Hague prosecutors.

“Karadzic believes the trial chamber should take a proactive role in ensuring that all exculpatory material is disclosed to him prior to the judgment,” Karadzic said in his motion.

Finally, Karadzic said holding a status conference would be a “convenient forum to update the parties on the anticipated date of the judgment before the parties and the public”.

The former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces is on trial for genocide in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica and several other municipalities, for persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, for terrorizing the city of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage. The verdict is expected in October.
Hague Tribunal Warns Karadzic for ‘Frivolous Motions’

The Hague tribunal has warned Bosnian Serb ex-president Radovan Karadzic and his legal adviser to stop delaying his trial with “frivolous” motions that do not help his case.

DENIS DZIDIC

The trial chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on Wednesday rejected Karadzic’s request to reopen his defence case in order to present a single written statement, saying that it was a waste of the court’s time.

“The chamber has observed that following the closing arguments in this case, the accused and his legal adviser have not paid regard to its repeated instruction to avoid filing frivolous motions which simply delay the expeditious nature of the trial and do not promote the interests of justice or advance his own case,” the decision signed by judge O-Gon Kwon said.

“The chamber reminds the accused’s legal adviser that the filing of motions should not be viewed as a numerical exercise to keep the chamber and the parties occupied and will consider what measures it can take if this warning is not taken seriously,” it added.

Karadzic had asked the judges to admit into evidence a written document in order to prove the alleged bias of prosecution witness Mirsada Malagic.

The statement was from a conference in Sarajevo held in November 2013 in which, according to the motion, Malagic calls for Karadzic to be subject to the “highest punishment for the crimes in Srebrenica”.

The UN-backed war crimes court rejected Karadzic’s motion finding that, although the statement does represent new evidence, it “has no probative value in evaluating the credibility of Malagic’s testimony”.

Judge Kwon said that he had also taken into account “the very advanced stage of proceedings”. The closing arguments in the five-year-long trial were heard last year and the verdict is expected in October.

Malagic told Karadzic’s trial in January 2012 that she saw her husband and two sons for the last time on the road towards the village of Potocari on the day of the fall of Srebrenica in July 1995.
Her husband and older son joined other men who were walking through the woods towards Tuzla, while the witness, her father-in-law and younger son went to the UN protection force's compound in Potocari. “The place was crowded with people. I did not even say goodbye to my family properly. We parted ways while grenades were falling around us,” Malagic said.

Malagic never saw her husband Salko again, or her sons Admir, 15, and Elvir, 20. Before loading them onto buses in Potocari on July 13, 1995, Serb soldiers separated the witness from her 70-year old father-in-law. She has never seen him again either.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against about 7,000 Bosniak men from Srebrenica and persecution of their female relatives and children in July 1995. He is also on trial for genocide in several other municipalities, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.
Karadzic Demands Internet Access in Detention

Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic asked the Hague Tribunal to allow him to access the internet while he is in detention so he can pursue his career as a writer.

JUSTICE REPORT

Karadzic told a hearing on Wednesday that he was a writer as well as a medical doctor, so he needed the internet and an audio recording device in the Hague detention centre because he wanted to work on the correct pronunciation of the Serbian language.

“If I spend 12 years here, like [recently-released Serbian war crimes defendant Vojislav] Seselj did, without the possibility of being professionally alive, that would impose egregious punitive measures that should not be applied in the civilised world,” Karadzic said.

Karadzic, who is accused of genocide and other wartime crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is currently awaiting his verdict, which is expected to be delivered in October this year. He has been in custody since July 2008, following his arrest in Belgrade.

A psychiatrist by profession, Karadzic has published several volumes of poetry from the 1960s onwards, some of them during the war years and others while he was on the run.

Karadzic also warned the court that his health had deteriorated. He complained of “an increase in blood glucose levels” but said that so far the problem was not worsening.

He claimed that “the UN’s detention system produces illness in many people”, alleging “an explosion of malignant diseases” that could possibly be caused by construction material used in the Tribunal buildings, and called for an investigation.

Presiding judge O-gon Kwon instructed Karadzic to address all his questions to the management of the Hague Tribunal’s detention unit in Scheveningen, adding that the trial chamber would deal with them if it was proved that his rights had been violated.
30.10.2014

Radovan Karadzic Demands
Secret Diplomatic Cables

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic wants the Hague Tribunal to reopen his defence case to admit confidential cables from Western ambassadors he believes will help prove his innocence.

DENIS DZIDIC

Karadzic filed a motion on Thursday to the judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, where he’s on trial for war crimes, requesting the admission of one of the confidential diplomatic cables as evidence, and asked the United States to provide him with the other.

The first cable, from Ivor Roberts, a former British ambassador to Serbia, dates from 1996 and concerns “Dr. Karadzic’s involvement and knowledge of the executions after the fall of Srebrenica”, the motion said.

Britain has asked for details of the confidential document not to be made public, it added.

Karadzic explained in the motion that he only received the document for the first time in August this year, after the defence closed its case, because the prosecution failed to disclose it.

“Therefore, the fact that re-opening of the case is required to admit the cable at this stage cannot be held against Dr. Karadzic,” the motion said.

Karadzic also asked Washington to give him a confidential cable from the US ambassador to Yugoslavia Warren Zimmerman, dating from May 1992.

Karadzic said that the cable could help him convince the court “that I was not part of any joint criminal enterprise to destroy Bosnian Muslims as a group or to expel them”.

Karadzic said that he learned about this cable only this month, after he read about it in a new biography by Robert Donia, ‘Radovan Karadzic: Architect of the Bosnian Genocide’.

Karadzic is accused of genocide in Srebrenica and several other Bosnian municipalities, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout the country, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

His defence finished presenting its case at the beginning of the year, and the verdict is expected in the second half of 2015.
Exploring the Mind of Radovan Karadzic

A new biography says the former Bosnian Serb leader was no madman but a calculating killer who knew exactly what he was doing.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

“A bully with a brilliant mind, a sharp tongue, and great dexterity in exercising his impressive skills of persuasion.”

This is Radovan Karadzic as seen by Professor Robert Donia, whose new book “Radovan Karadzic: Architect of the Bosnian Genocide” was published at the end of September, days before the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader in The Hague closed.

Donia - who testified against Karadzic - believes the wartime leader of Republika Srpska, the Bosnian Serb entity established after war erupted in 1992, was not a lunatic, as some claim, but an “aggressive leader”, and a “callous manipulator”.

His bases his assertion on almost two decades of research into the 1992-5 war in Bosnia, on documents made available to him by Hague prosecutors, including intercepted conversations of wartime leaders in Bosnia before and during the conflict, as well as on media reports.

He finds additional proof for his claim in his research into Karadzic’s life from childhood in a village in Montenegro to his student years.

Donia maintains that the documents show that the Bosnian Serb leadership headed by Karadzic had a clear intention to commit genocide.

The big question is whether the Hague judges will see things the same way as the author. The answer to that will only be known in about a year’s time when the judgment is due to be delivered.

Donia pays close attention to the complicated relationship between Karadzic and his military sidekick, General Ratko Mladic - now also on trial in The Hague.
He says the two of them bragged about their “success” in Srebrenica in 1995, when Bosnian Serb forces executed more than 8,000 people after conquering the Bosniak town in eastern Bosnia.

Donia’s book warns of the consequences of the actions of people like Karadžić, as well as pointing out the lack of a timely international response to the war crimes that he and his followers committed.

He says it is very important to deconstruct the myths surrounding Radovan Karadžić and prevent the possibility of anyone describing him as a madman as an excuse for his wrongdoing.

The nationalism that Karadžić was infused with was the premier force behind the evil that occurred in Bosnia, he writes.

“Karadžić, the undisputed principal actor among the leaders, began his journey with an iron-clad, irrevocable commitment to the cause of Bosnian Serb nationalism. He loved his people too much and cared for the rest of humanity not at all,” Donia says.

“A man of great ability and immense promise, he turned himself into the architect of the worst atrocities in Europe since the Second World War by unequivocally embracing the twisted values of exclusive nationalism.

“His life thus stands as a stark reminder to every leader and every citizen, that however much we value our own nation, we must also value those of other nations and humanity as a whole.”

The book makes some uncomfortable points about democracy as well as nationalism.

Donia describes Karadžić as a man who “believed and practiced democracy,” noting how representative democracy “was central to the Bosnian Serb movement” and adding that the mass atrocities were “facilitated directly by representative democratic practices.”

He sees this as a disturbing example of the capacity of democracy to “facilitate and accelerate mass atrocities.

“In this case, democracy helped bring about mass murder and genocide, while those countries claiming to champion democracy did too little to prevent or halt those atrocities.”

This book is thus not important only for the region, but it has a broader perspective containing important lessons about how evil can develop under the cover of democracy, before the very eyes of the international community.
Much more than a Karadzic biography, this book is at the same time a detailed and precise description of the events that led to war in Bosnia and the underlying causes of the war.

Karadzic Judges Consider Verdict After Marathon Trial

Judges in Radovan Karadzic’s trial have retired to consider their verdict after the former Bosnian Serb leader told the Hague Tribunal he had a “clear conscience” and expected acquittal.

The three-judge panel at the UN-backed war crimes court in The Hague has begun to consider its verdict after the end of the five-year trial of Karadzic for some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II.

The 69-year-old former Bosnian Serb president is charged with masterminding genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

The verdict is expected to be delivered in the summer of 2015.

Prosecutors have demanded a life sentence. But in Karadzic’s final statement before the court on Tuesday, he admitted that crimes were committed during the “awful” 1992-95 war, but insisted that he never ordered them.

“I am of a clear conscience and a heavy heart, because the war wasn’t what I wanted,” he said.

The prosecution however argued that he was responsible for masterminding genocide, forced expulsions and persecution on a massive scale during the 1992-95 conflict, with the aim of destroying the entire Bosniak community.

“When thousands are killed and thousands are traumatised and detained, most of their homes and places of prayer are destroyed and the rest are displaced across the world, one can clearly define the intention to destroy the community from those acts,” said prosecutor Alan Tieger.

The trial began in 2009 after Karadzic was arrested in Serbia and handed over to the Hague court following more than a decade on the run.
Since then, nearly 600 witnesses have given testimony, and the judges will also have to consider over 11,000 exhibits and tens of thousands of pages of written evidence.

"The size of this case has been unprecedented," said presiding judge O-Gon Kwon.

The president of the Association of Former Camp Detainees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jasmin Meskovic, said that he expects that Karadzic will be found guilty and sentenced to life in prison because that is the “absolute minimum adequate sentence for his leading role in planning and organising crimes”.

"The other thing we expect and what we truly live for is that we will finally hear the truth about all those mass horrific crimes when the verdict is read out. We will finally, publicly hear the truth about the camps, the suffering and the crimes against detainees,” Meskovic told BIRN.
Radovan Karadzic ‘Wanted to Destroy Bosniaks’

As Karadzic’s war crimes trial nears its end, the prosecutor argued that the former Bosnian Serb leader masterminded a campaign of murder and ethnic cleansing aimed at eradicating Bosniaks.

DENIS DZIDIC

Prosecutor Alan Tieger told the Hague Tribunal on Tuesday that Karadzic was guilty of overseeing combined acts of murders, forced displacement and other crimes with the aim of destroying the entire Bosniak community during the 1992–95 conflict.

“When thousands are killed and thousands are traumatised and detained, most of their homes and places of prayer are destroyed and the rest are displaced across the world, one can clearly define the intention to destroy the community from those acts,” said Tieger.

The prosecutor was responding to Karadzic’s closing arguments in the case, during which the 69-year-old former Bosnian Serb president denied the charges against him and called for an acquittal.

Tieger also argued that Karadzic worked tirelessly to make sure that the forced displacement of Bosniaks and Croats from territories under Serb control would be made permanent after a peace agreement was signed.

Karadzic wanted “a permanent and clear division of Serbs from Bosniaks and Croats”, he told the UN-backed court.

“Karadzic was in favour of creating internal borders which would separate Serbs from the Bosniaks and Croats. Those borders would stop Bosniaks and Croats entering and changing the newly-created demographic situation,” Tieger said.

The prosecutor argued that Karadzic had tried to manufacture a false narrative made up of “unclear generalisations and lies” about the massacres of 7,000 Bosniak men and boys from Srebrenica in 1995 in order to prove that he wasn’t guilty of genocide.

“These are not the failed attempts of an uneducated man, but of a man trying to hide the truth,” Tieger said.
In his response to the prosecution’s closing arguments, Karadzic told the
court that he was always in favour of a peaceful resolution to the Bosnian
conflict, during the war and before it started in 1992.

“The prosecution has 95 intercepted [telephone] discussions I had before
the war. I gave thousands of interviews, I spoke hundreds of thousands
of sentences and millions of words. I babbled the whole time and yet they
cannot find a single whole, unchanged word to use against me. All they
can find is that I fought for peace,” he said.

He admitted that individual crimes were committed during the war, but
said that he was not responsible for instigating them.

“There are countless orders that I gave, some of them confidential, and in
all those documents, there is not one in which I order, enable or tolerate
crimes,” he said.

He also insisted that the Bosnian Serb wartime leadership ensured that
casualties remained at a minimum.

“I am of a clear conscience and a heavy heart, because the war wasn’t
what I wanted. It was awful and I hope it is the last one ever,” he said.

The former Bosnian Serb leader is charged with masterminding genocide
in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the
persecution of non-Serbs, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo
and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Prosecutors have demanded a life sentence.

The trial began in 2009 after Karadzic was arrested in Serbia and handed
over to the Hague court following more than a decade on the run.

The verdict is expected to be delivered in the summer of 2015.
Karadzic ‘Knew Nothing’ About Srebrenica Massacres

In closing arguments at Radovan Karadzic’s trial, his lawyer said the Bosnian Serb ex-leader didn’t order or know anything about the killings of 7,000 Muslims so wasn’t guilty of genocide.

ERNA MACKIC

“There is not a single piece of evidence that Dr Karadzic planned or ordered the execution of prisoners [from Srebrenica], or that he knew about it,” Karadzic’s legal adviser Peter Robinson told the Hague Tribunal as closing arguments in the former Bosnian Serb president’s war crimes trial continued on Thursday.

“In fact it was concealed from him. All the witnesses testified that Karadzic was not informed and that he had no role [in the killings],” Robinson added.

Robinson said that the massacres of thousands of men and boys by Bosnian Serb forces in July 1995 were “an unthinkable crime”, but it would be “unjust” to convict Karadzic of genocide.

“The prosecution failed to prove that the killings and the living conditions of prisoners were [conducted] with the aim of destroying a group and thus achieving genocidal intent... The evidence against Karadzic is such a thin theory which falls apart when the facts are separated from the conclusions,” he said.

The 69-year-old is charged with masterminding genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Prosecutors at the UN-backed court have demanded a life sentence for the former Bosnian Serb leader.

Karadzic meanwhile told the court on Thursday that it should recognise the truth and acquit him of responsibility for the atrocities of which he is accused.
“I care only for the truth, and the truth will set me free of all responsibility, except the moral responsibility, because I feel sad for everyone,” he said.

He also said that the number of war victims in Srebrenica and Sarajevo was “false and blown out of proportion”, and said that fighters had been registered as civilian victims.

“During 1,200 days of war in Sarajevo, where are the victims? There are 6,000 registered victims, but they are fighters,” he said, accusing Bosniak forces of being responsible for most fatalities by shelling their own people.

“God will not forgive the lies about the victims,” he added.

Karadzic insisted that the Bosnian Serbs never targeted civilians in Sarajevo, but only returned fire when attacked by the other side.

“Fire was never opened unless it was a response to Muslim fire. We had to take measures to avoid victims,” he said.

Karadzic also told the Hague Tribunal on Wednesday that there was no evidence to support the prosecution’s claims that he masterminded genocide, ethnic cleansing and military terror, and that the court had put the entire Serb people on trial.

The prosecution claimed however in its own closing arguments earlier this week that Karadzic was liar and a criminal with genocidal intent who was the driving force behind the ethnic cleansing of the non-Serb population in Bosnia during wartime.

His trial began in 2009 after he was arrested in Serbia and handed over to the Hague court following more than a decade on the run.

After the closing arguments, the verdict is expected to be delivered in the summer of 2015.
Karadzic Proclaims Innocence in Trial’s Closing Arguments

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic began his closing arguments at his war crimes trial in The Hague by insisting he was not guilty of masterminding atrocities including genocide.

ERNA MACKIC

Karadzic told the Hague Tribunal on Wednesday that there was no evidence to support the prosecution’s claims that he masterminded genocide, ethnic cleansing and military terror, and that the court had put the entire Serb people on trial.

“The prosecution characterised me as a thief and a criminal. I will not use that kind of language, and I am certain that it was difficult for the prosecutor Alan Tieger to do that, since he has no single piece of evidence,” Karadzic told the UN-backed court.

The 69-year-old is charged with masterminding genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Prosecutors have demanded a life sentence for the former Bosnian Serb leader.

But Karadzic said the prosecution had based its case on allusions, chit-chat and statements from its own employees.

He argued that the allegation that he was part of a Serb-led ‘joint criminal enterprise’ to commit war crimes was a fabrication.

“The joint criminal enterprise is an invention of this prosecution. If it wasn’t for that, there would be no indictment. Apart from the joint criminal enterprise, why should I be guilty, because I only did good for the Serbs and the other two peoples [Bosniaks and Croats],” said Karadzic.

Karadzic said that Bosnia’s Serbs sought only to protect what they already had and they didn’t intend to impose their will on anyone else.
“My defence is not to accuse anyone, but to establish what happened. Civil war happened,” he said.

Media have reported that the wartime Bosnian Serb president is also expected to argue during his summing-up that he should be found not guilty of genocide in Srebrenica because he did not personally order the killings of some 7,000 Bosniak men and boys, and did not know that civilians were being massacred.

The prosecution claimed however in its own closing arguments earlier this week that Karadzic was liar and a criminal with genocidal intent who was the driving force behind the ethnic cleansing of the non-Serb population in Bosnia during wartime.

It also accused him of being responsible for terrorising the population of Sarajevo during the 1992-95 siege of the city.

His trial began in 2009 after he was arrested in Serbia and handed over to the Hague court following more than a decade on the run.

After the closing arguments, the verdict is expected to be delivered in the summer of 2015.
30.09.2014

Radovan Karadzic
‘Masterminded Terror’ in Sarajevo

On the second day of closing arguments at Karadzic's trial, the former Bosnian Serb leader was accused of leading a reign of terror over Sarajevo's besieged population during wartime.

ERNÁ MACKIC

Karadzic was responsible for terrorising the population of the Bosnian capital during the 1992–95 siege, the Hague Tribunal prosecution said as it continued its summing-up on Tuesday in the final stages of the Bosnian Serb ex-president’s war crimes trial.

“The campaign was like you were not safe anywhere. Terror, in other words. Karadzic was overseeing this terror, along with others,” prosecutor Katarina Gustafson told the UN–backed court.

“They could have improved the situation, with the flow of gas, or by opening the airport, but they did not. They used those necessary conditions for advantage in negotiations,” Gustafson added.

Civilians living in Sarajevo were dependent on Karadzic’s mercy, but he did not show any, the prosecutor continued.

“Karadzic once said that he was not able to stop the shelling, saying that it was about inexperienced military forces,” she said, accusing the former Bosnian Serb political leader of lying.

Karadzic is on trial for masterminding genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Gustafson said that defence assertions that the Bosnian Army “attacked its own civilians” in Sarajevo were false.

“The claim that the Bosnian Army's members were constantly firing at their own civilians contradicts the actual evidence,” she insisted.
The claims were intended to deflect blame from the Bosnian Serb Army, of which Karadzic was supreme commander, she said.

The prosecution also argued that Karadzic’s insistence that he was not well-informed about the army’s actions through the chain of command was false.

“A large number of pieces of evidence show that attacks on Sarajevo were routine and accepted at every level of the chain [of command],” said Gustafson.

Karadzic has denied the charges and expressed hope that he will be found not guilty and released.

After the closing arguments, the verdict is expected to be handed down in the summer of 2015.
Radovan Karadzic Trial Enters Final Phase

Prosecutors demanded a life sentence for Karadzic as closing arguments began in the war crimes trial of the former Bosnian Serb political leader at the Hague Tribunal.

ERNAMACKIC

Closing arguments began at the UN-backed court in the Netherlands on Monday in the trial of Karadzic, who is accused of being responsible for some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II.

At the beginning of his closing statement, prosecutor Alan Tieger called Karadzic a liar and a criminal with genocidal intent who was responsible for the ethnic cleansing of the non-Serb population in Bosnia.

“Hundreds of witnesses and pieces of evidence confirmed the policy of ethnic cleansing, in which Karadzic was driving force,” Tieger told the court.

He described individual examples of suffering, talking about people who were shot by snipers in Sarajevo, executed in Srebrenica and killed in Bosnian Serb detention camps in Prijedor, saying these were examples of the joint criminal enterprise in which Karadzic was involved, which intended “to eliminate Bosniaks with the aim of creating a Serbian state”.

Karadzic is charged with masterminding genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

“Under his command and oversight, Karadzic’s subordinates and those cooperating with them expelled, killed, tortured and otherwise mistreated hundreds of thousands of Muslims and Croats,” the prosecution said on Friday.

It said it was demanding a life sentence because the scale and scope of the “criminal campaigns” led by Karadzic was “vast”.

But Karadzic’s legal adviser, Peter Robinson, told BIRN that the wartime Bosnian Serb president remained hopeful of a not-guilty verdict.
“What he expects, he’s optimistic, he says if this is a real court, he’ll be acquitted, however, he’s not sure this is a real court under his definition so he might not be that optimistic about the outcome,” Robinson said.

Karadžić, who worked as a psychiatrist and wrote several volumes of poetry before he went into politics in the 1980s, is keen to return to writing after the trial is over, Robinson added.

“He’s looking forward to having some literature-related activity instead of legal-related activity. He told me that the legal process sucked all the creativity out of him, he’s looking forward to doing creative writing,” he said.

After the closing arguments, the verdict is expected to be handed down in the summer of 2015.
Radovan Karadzic ‘Optimistic’ as Trial Nears End

Closing arguments begin next week at Karadzic’s war crimes trial, and his legal adviser told BIRN that the former Bosnian Serb leader believes he’ll be acquitted if the court is fair.

DENIS DZIDIC

Six years after fugitive war crimes suspect Karadzic was finally detained in Serbia and sent to stand trial in one of the Hague Tribunal’s most high-profile cases, closing arguments will begin at the UN-backed court on Monday with the prosecution laying out its justification for a conviction.

The wartime Bosnian Serb president’s legal adviser, Peter Robinson, told BIRN that Karadzic remained hopeful of a not-guilty verdict.

“What he expects, he’s optimistic, he says if this is a real court, he’ll be acquitted, however, he’s not sure this is a real court under his definition so he might not be that optimistic about the outcome,” he said.

Karadzic is charged with masterminding genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 and in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992, the persecution of non-Serbs, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Robinson said that preparing for the closing briefs after the five years of the trial was a daunting task which both he and Karadzic were looking forward to finishing.

“Karadzic has been working very hard during these last five years. Frankly, I think he’s ready to have the trial over,” Robinson said.

The former Bosnian Serb leader, who worked as a psychiatrist and wrote several volumes of poetry before he went into politics in the 1980s, is keen to return to writing after the trial is over, his legal adviser explained.

“He’s looking forward to having some literature-related activity instead of legal-related activity. He told me that the legal process sucked all the creativity out of him, he’s looking forward to doing creative writing,” Robinson said.
Despite the fact that many people in Bosnia and Herzegovina are eagerly awaiting the court’s decision about the charges that Karadzic was responsible for genocide in 1992 as well as in Srebrenica in 1995, Robinson does not think that these counts in the indictment will take up much of the closing arguments.

“This issue has been extensively discussed at the end of the prosecution case, when we asked for a judgment of acquittal; we got it, and then it was removed by the appeals chamber, so it will not be especially discussed, and now the only thing left to debate what was the effect of the appeals chamber decision and what additional evidence came out of the defence case,” he said.

Bosnian war victims’ groups will follow the closing arguments closely.

Sudbin Music, the secretary of the Union of Former Camp Detainees ‘Prijedor 92’, which represents prisoners held in the Prijedor municipality, where Karadic is charged with genocide in 1992, said that no verdict could relieve the suffering of the victims.

“Even if Karadzic is found guilty beyond all reasonable doubt of genocide in Prijedor, that word would be the only satisfaction for the victims,” said Music.

“I hope that [a guilty verdict for genocide in Prijedor] could encourage and speed up the memorialisation processes, so that at least some of us, the survivors, can live to see some of the places of terror become places of remembrance for the horrors we endured in the summer of 1992,” he added.

Sinan Alic, the president of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation association, said meanwhile that it was vital for the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina to have access to objective and comprehensive reports about the closing arguments in the Karadzic case – but judging by the coverage of the trial so far, this was unlikely to happen.

“Continual reporting about each hearing, each count of the indictment and each municipality do not exist. I suspect this will also be true of the closing arguments. We will only see segments reported, some small spicy details,” Alic said.

According to Robinson, both the Hague prosecutors and Karadzic have been given ten hours for their closing arguments, during which time they will discuss all the counts in the indictment.

After the closing arguments, the fate of the man who led the Bosnian Serbs during the war years will finally be decided when the verdict is handed down in the summer of 2015.
Karadzic Requests US General’s ‘Muslim Attack’ Evidence

Former Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal to accept new evidence from a US Army cable alleging that only Bosniak troops attacked UN peacekeepers.

DENIS DZIDIC

Karadzic filed a motion to the UN-backed court on Wednesday asking it to reopen the evidence presentation process in his trial to include the US Army cable which he believes will aid his defence by showing Bosniaks were the aggressors.

Karadzic’s motion said that the cable from US Brigadier General James Jones in 1993 alleges that “Muslims were responsible” for all casualties among UNPROFOR (UN peacekeeping troops) in Bosnia.

“This piece of evidence is relevant for the defence, because it shows that Bosnian Muslims are responsible for sniper and shelling incidents, which are described in the indictment. This document fits into the defence’s strategy, because it offers evidence by an independent third party, which confirms the [defence] witnesses’ allegations,” the motion said.

The presentation of evidence in Karadzic’s trial has already ended and closing statements are scheduled for the end of September.

Also on Wednesday, the Hague prosecution asked the Tribunal to allow it to reopen its evidence presentation process in Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic’s trial, so it can present the judges with forensic evidence from a mass grave at Tomasica near Prijedor, which was discovered last year.

The prosecutors said they wanted to introduce evidence about the 275 whole bodies and and more than 100 body parts found in the mass grave.

“These new pieces of evidence are very relevant for the accusations related to a joint criminal enterprise aimed at removing the non-Serb population from municipalities under Serb control by committing crimes and genocide,” the prosecution’s motion alleged.
“These pieces of evidence confirm the [Bosnian Serb Army’s] important role in murders, burial and concealing of murders of non-Serb civilians in Prijedor,” it said.

The prosecution has already finished setting out its case in Mladic’s trial, and the presentation of defence evidence is currently underway.

Mladic and Karadzic are on trial in separate cases for genocide in Srebrenica and seven other towns, the persecution of non-Serbs, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.
31.07.2014

Radovan Karadzic Demands New War Crimes Trial

Former Bosnian Serb political leader and war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal for a new trial, claiming unfair treatment and prosecution errors.

MARIJA RISTIC

Karadzic filed a motion on Wednesday asking the UN-backed court in The Hague, where he is on trial for war crimes and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to grant him a completely new trial, alleging a series of legal errors.

“He contends that the numerous violations by the prosecution of its disclosure obligations... has resulted in unfair trial,” the motion said.

“Starting the trial over, and getting it right this time, is the only remedy that can ensure that the trial of Dr Karadzic is a fair one,” it added.

According to Karadzic, the Tribunal made a number of legal errors during the trial, including failing to disclose 424 witnesses and their statements in timely manner.

Karadzic also complained that the prosecutor didn’t disclose more than 211 documents related to the trial, which it was obliged to do.

“The trial chamber, as a guardian of the rights of the accused to a fair trial, should not simply look the other way in embarrassment. When disclosure is a failure, the trial is a failure. The trial chamber should order, a new, fair trial,” he said.

Karadzic is accused of genocide in Srebrenica and seven other Bosnian municipalities, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout the country, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

His trial started in 2009 and the prosecution finished presenting its case in May 2012. Karadzic's defence called its last witness in February this year, and closing arguments in the trial are expected to begin in late September.
Radovan Karadzic’s Daughter Enters Bosnian Politics

Sonja Karadzic-Jovicevic, the daughter of the former Bosnian Serb president who is on trial for war crimes, has been chosen as a parliamentary candidate for upcoming elections.

DENIS DZIDIC

The Serb Democratic Party announced on Wednesday that the daughter of the man on trial for some of the worst atrocities of the Bosnian conflict would be its candidate for the Serb-led Republika Srpska entity’s parliament at elections in October.

Sonja Karadzic-Jovicevic will run for the SDS party, which was once led by her father, in the town of Pale, which was his wartime stronghold.

She said that it was a special honour to be nominated by the SDS party in Pale, because that was “where the foundations of Republika Srpska were laid”.

“The function of a People’s Assembly delegate is to listen to the people and to answer to them, depending on what issues they are faced with. Issues related to family, youth and healthcare are going to be my priority, since they are close to my professional career,” she said in a statement on the party’s website.

Karadzic-Jovicevic added that she was sure that the SDS would do well at the upcoming polls, would continue to maintain Serb solidarity and to “think Serb”.

Miodrag Kovacevic, the president of the SDS’s municipal council in Pale, said that Karadzic’s daughter had been chosen because of her devotion to “protecting the interests of her people”.

Her candidacy would “connect the links from the 1990s to today”, he said.

Radovan Karadzic is on trial at the Hague Tribunal for genocide in Srebrenica and seven other Bosnian municipalities, the persecution of the non-Serb population across the country, terrorising the besieged population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.
The indictment against him alleges that as the president of the SDS, he took part in a joint criminal enterprise aimed at removing Bosniaks and Croats from territory under Serb control.

His daughter has criticised the UN-backed court in The Hague for representing Western political interests.

“It seems to me that there is no chance, or there is just a little chance for one Serb man to have a fair trial,” she told the Russia Today television channel in 2009.

“She Hague Tribunal is not a court of justice, but just some kind of disciplinary commission of NATO,” she said.
Hague Tribunal Rejects New Karadzic Prosecution Witnesses

The Hague Tribunal rejected a prosecution request to reopen its case and call 14 more witnesses to deny claims made by former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic.

DENIS DZIDIC

Presiding judge O-Gon Kwon said in his decision on Wednesday that he would not allow the prosecution to call new witnesses because they would testify about issues that should have already been addressed by the prosecution when it was setting out its evidence against Karadzic.

The prosecution said it wanted to call the witnesses to contest claims made by Karadzic, who “tried to prove that attacks of Bosnian Serb forces on civilians were actually conflicts between armed forces and that the killings either didn’t happen or were unplanned”.

But the judge said that the prosecution should have expected Karadzic to mount such a vigorous defence.

“Although the prosecution claims that it could not anticipate some of the defence’s objections to the adjudicated facts, the chamber notes that the defendant said before the trial that he will question every single fact. Therefore the prosecution should have expected at least some of the objections and should have dealt with it while presenting its evidence,” the judge’s decision said.

The prosecution wanted to call war photographer Ron Haviv to testify about events in Bijeljina in 1992 and victims Rama Hodzic, Saho Arifovic, Azim Medanovic and Safet Taci to testify about events in Bratunac and Krajina, as well as several protected witnesses.

The Tribunal also recently rejected a prosecution request to introduce evidence of about a recently-discovered mass grave Tomasica near Prijedor, where several hundred victims’ remains have been found, saying that it would prolong the trial unnecessarily.
Karadzic is accused of genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities including Prijedor, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising the residents of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

His trial started in 2009 and the prosecution finished presenting its case in May 2012.

Karadzic's defence called its last witness last month and closing arguments in the trial are expected to begin in late September.
Tribunal Rejects Tomasica Evidence Against Karadzic

The Hague Tribunal trial chamber rejected a prosecution request to reopen its evidence hearing against Radovan Karadzic - to present evidence of a mass grave near Prijedor - saying it would prolong the trial unnecessarily.

DENIS DZIDIC

Presiding Judge O-Gon Kwon said the court turned down the request “given the very late stage of the trial and the delay it would cause to the overall completion of the proceedings”.

The prosecution at the trial of Radovan Karadzic finished its evidence hearing in May 2012. It asked to reopen its evidence hearing in order to present forensic evidence about 275 complete and 118 incomplete bodies found in the Tomasica mass grave near Prijedor last year.

The prosecution said this extra evidence would be significant in proving the Bosnian Serb authorities’ “planning and intentions related to attacks on villages in Prijedor municipality and the operation of the camps”.

Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb president, opposed the proposal. As not all the forensic evidence was complete, its introduction as evidence should not be allowed, he said.

Judge Kwon decided that the value of the proposed evidence was indeed “speculative”, as the forensic evidence from Tomasica had not been completed.

He also added that re-opening the case would prompt a request from Karadzic to present other evidence in rejoinder, meaning additional time needed for his preparations, which would result in more than “a minimal amount of additional time to the trial”.

Karadzic is on trial for genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities, one of which is Prijedor, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorizing Sarajevo citizens and taking UN peacekeepers hostage. His trial started in 2009.
Hague Urged to Confront Karadzic With Mass Grave

The Hague Tribunal prosecution asked to reopen its case against Bosnian Serb ex-leader Radovan Karadzic to offer new evidence about a recently-discovered mass grave containing hundreds of victims.

DENIS DZIDIC

The prosecution filed a motion on Wednesday asking to call five new witnesses and present freshly-discovered evidence about the mass grave at the Tomasica mine near Prijedor – the largest so far uncovered in Bosnia – after resting its case against Karadzic two years ago.

“The new evidence is relevant to the charges of a joint criminal enterprise through killings, extermination and persecution of the non-Serb population. The evidence demonstrates the planned, systematic and widespread nature of the killings in Prijedor,” said the motion.

The remains of hundreds of bodies of Bosniaks and Croats killed by Bosnian Serb forces during their ethnic cleansing campaign in 1992 have been found at the Tomasica grave, which was only discovered last summer after a tip-off from a former Bosnian Serb fighter.

If allowed, the Hague prosecution plans to call as witnesses Amor Masovic of the Bosnian Institute for Missing Persons Amor Masovic, Ian Hanson and Thomas Parsons of the International Commission on Missing Persons, and two forensic pathologists.

Karadzic is on trial for genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities, one of which is Prijedor. He is also charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the people of Sarajevo through a shelling and sniping campaign and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

His trial started in 2009 and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence in 2012, while Karadzic called his final defence witnesses last month.

In a separate motion, the Hague prosecution also proposed calling 10 rebuttal witnesses and introducing four written statements into evidence.
“The prosecution plans to call ten witnesses who would deny defence claims about previously determined facts regarding five municipalities. During his evidence hearing relating to municipalities, Karadžić tried to prove that attacks of Bosnian Serb forces on civilians were actually conflicts between armed forces and that the killings either didn’t happen or were unplanned. The prosecution will prove the defence evidence is not credible,” said the motion.
Karadzic Demands a Year to Prepare Closing Statement

Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic asked the Hague Tribunal to order a one-year break in his war crimes trial because of the complexity of the allegations against him.

DENIS DZIDIC

Ahead of the resumption of Karadzic’s trial next week, when the last defence witness will testify, the former Bosnian Serb leader asked for an extended break because of the huge amount of evidence and testimony that he will have to sift through and sum up.

Karadzic argued that, in the only case of “similar complexity” at the Hague Tribunal, the defence teams for the former leaders of the unrecognised wartime Bosnian Croat statelet of Herzeg-Bosna were given nine months to prepare their closing statements.

“In the case against [the Bosnian Croat leaders], the volume of work could be divided among six indictees, their defence attorneys and assistants. In the case against Dr. Karadzic, he is the only one bearing the burden of preparing a closing statement,” his motion to the court said.

Karadzic said that, in order to prepare his closing statement, he would have to go through 48,000 pages of transcripts from hearings, 11,000 pieces of evidence and 2,300 determined facts, as well as testimonies from 600 witnesses.

“After that he has to analyse the complex accusations against him, which include 11 counts, four different joint criminal enterprises, 259 incidents and numerous cases of murder, causing of pain, destruction of property and forced resettlement. Finally, he has to prepare a clear final motion containing a limited number of words,” the motion said.

Karadzic is on trial for genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout the country, terrorising the citizens of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.
Karadzic Declines to Testify in Own Defence

Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, on trial at the Hague Tribunal for alleged genocide against Bosniaks and Croats, has changed his mind about taking the stand.

JUSTICE REPORT

Karadzic unexpectedly announced on Thursday that he would not testify at his trial, after previously asking for 16 hours on the witness stand.

“I believe that we have preserved the integrity of the process over the course of these 500 trial days. I have done everything to make it that way... Now I can tell you that it is perfectly clear to me that we shall save time. I have decided not to testify,” he said.

Karadzic’s testimony was originally scheduled for March 3, but now a Croatian government official will testify on that day instead. When asked if the official would be Karadzic’s last witness, his legal counsel Peter Robinson left open the possibility that the defence would call more people to the stand.

The indictment charges Karadzic with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, which reached the scale of genocide in seven municipalities, genocide in Srebrenica, terrorising against in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic also called to the stand this week two men who have been convicted by the Bosnian state court of wartime crimes in the area around the town of Prijedor, Momcilo Gruban and Dusan Jankovic.

Gruban, the former chief of a guard shift at the Bosnian Serbs’ Omarska detention camp, testified that he and policemen who were under his command tried to help the hundreds of Bosniaks detained there “as much as we could within the frame of our authority”.

“In some cases certain armed groups, which were not within the authority system, managed to enter Omarska and abuse detainees, but policemen were not able to confront those paramilitary soldiers,” said Gruban.

Gruban was jailed for seven years in 2008 for crimes against detainees in Omarska.
Jankovic, a former police officer from Prijedor, said that Bosniak detainees were not abused in what he described as the “Omarska and Keraterm reception centres” in 1992.

He said that after an attack by Bosniak paramilitary forces on Serb soldiers, prisoners who were held in Omarska and Keraterm, were subjected to “criminal processing, not crimes”. Those who were guilty of involvement in the attack were punished while those who were innocent were released, he said.

Jankovic was jailed for 21 years in 2013 over the killing of 150 Bosniaks from Prijedor in the Koricanske Stijene massacre.
Bosnian Serb Ex-PM: Ethnic Cleansing ‘Never Planned’

Former Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Gojko Klickovic told Radovan Karadzic’s war crimes trial at the Hague Tribunal that there was never any plan to drive non-Serbs out of Bosnia.

Klickovic testified this week that no members of Karadzic’s Serbian Democratic Party ever “advocated an ethnically clean Serb state”.

Commenting on an instruction issued by the party’s top leaders in 1991 to establish Serb authorities in municipalities where Serbs were the majority, but also in those where they were the minority, Klickovic said that this was “neither a binding nor an important document" and that it “did not have any legal power whatsoever”.

The prosecution alleges that the document was the basis of a plan for taking control of municipalities throughout Bosnia, which was implemented in the spring of 1992.

The Bosnian state court acquitted Klickovic last year of war crimes in the Bosanska Krupa municipality in 1992. But while cross-examining Klickovic, the prosecution claimed that he ordered “the displacement” of Bosniaks from the area.

Klickovic, then head of the municipal wartime presidency, did not deny issuing the order, but said that it was a voluntary “evacuation” of Bosniaks from combat zones.

Former Bosnian Serb President Karadzic is charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities, terrorising the residents of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

This week Karadzic also called to the stand Mitar Rasevic, former chief of security in the Foca prison, who said that no prisoners were killed in the jail during the war and that guards did not beat or abuse them.
Rasevic, who was jailed for seven years by the Bosnian state court for war crimes at the Foca jail, didn’t deny that crimes were committed against prisoners and “military prisoners of war” held there.

But he suggested that military policemen and Bosnian Serb soldiers, over whom he did not have control, were responsible for those crimes.

When asked by the prosecutor if he denied the findings from the verdict against him, Rasevic responded: “I will always deny that the guards did it. I never received any information from prisoners, saying that they were mistreated by members of the security guard service... or that they did it in an organised and systematic manner.”

Karadžić’s trial will resume on Monday.
Police Chief Blames Serb Paramilitaries for Bosnia Atrocities

Wartime Bosnian Serb interior minister Mico Stanisic told Radovan Karadzic’s trial that paramilitaries from Serbia, not local police, persecuted and murdered Bosniaks in the east of the country in 1992.

Stanisic, who the Hague Tribunal compelled to testify at Karadzic’s trial this week, said that Bosnian Serb interior ministry “didn’t have the capacities to deal with those groups” of Serbian fighters in 1992.

He said that in an attempt to deal with the paramilitaries, he invited, via Karadzic, a Serbian police unit to help them in July 1992.

“I issued a clear and unambiguous order – all paramilitary formations should be eliminated and arrested,” Stanisic said, adding that the order was carried out in Brcko, Bijeljina and Zvornik, then also in Visegrad.

The arrested perpetrators were “handed over to Serbia”, from where they had originally come, said Stanisic, who was jailed for 22 years by the Hague Tribunal in 2013 for persecution and other crimes against the non-Serb population in 1992.

The indictment charges Karadzic, then president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Zvornik is one of the seven municipalities in which, according to the charges, the persecution reached the scale of genocide.

Stanisic said that the paramilitary forces were invited by Biljana Plavsic, then a member of the Republika Srpska presidency, who in 2003 admitted that she was guilty of the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

When asked by Karadzic whether anybody asked him not to prosecute the perpetrators of crimes against non-Serbs, Stanisic said: “No, nobody made such request to me.”
“Did we have a joint plan or agreement to deport Muslims and Croats,” Karadžić asked.

“No,” Stanisic responded, adding that, as interior minister, he “worked within the framework of the law” and asked for the punishment of war crimes perpetrators irrespective of their ethnicity.

Stanisic also said that detention camps for Bosniaks and Croats were not under police control, but were run by the Bosnian Serb Army and municipal crisis committees in the summer of 1992.

When asked why he had never ordered the disbanding of the detention camps, he replied: “Because I did not issue a decision for the establishment of any of them... Those who set them up should have disbanded them.”

Stanisic also said that the murder of more than 150 Bosniaks on Mount Vlasic on August 21, 1992 was committed by members of the Intervention Squad of the Bosnian Serb Army’s military police, not the regular police, as Karadžić’s indictment alleges.

Confirming that he found out about the killings “two or three days after” it had happened, Stanisic said that police did all they could to investigate.

He said that police conducted a crime scene inspection and safeguarded surviving witnesses, while an investigative judge and prosecutor were put in charge of proceeding with the investigation.

The trial of Karadžić is due to continue on Tuesday.
Karadzic’s Witnesses Blame ‘Muslim Extremists’ for War

The Bosnian Serbs were not responsible for the outbreak of war in the Krajina region of northern Bosnia, three witnesses at Radovan Karadzic’s trial testified.

Former Bosnian Serb soldier Jovan Kevac testified at the Hague Tribunal this week that the start of the conflict in the western municipality of Kljuc was provoked by “Muslim extremists”, who “started a war against Serbs” by killing six Yugoslav People’s Army servicemen in the spring of 1992.

Kevac said that after a Serb administration was established in Kljuc, many Bosniaks stayed, although others had already left because of “the chaos”.

Neither the authorities nor Karadzic’s Serbian Democratic Party “ever ordered the ethnic cleansing” of Bosniaks, said Kevac, adding that “all those, who had not participated in combat, could stay”.

He admitted that a number of Bosniaks were killed in the village of Biljani on July 10, 1992, but said that “individuals and groups who were beyond control committed the brutal crime”. He said that the perpetrators were arrested immediately.

During cross-examination, Hague prosecutor Caroline Edgerton said that the crime in Biljani was committed by members of a Bosnian Serb Army battalion headed by Kevac, and that the witness failed to mention that he was a commander of that unit in order to avoid responsibility.

“No, that is not true,” Kevac replied.

When Edgerton presented him with a Bosnian Serb Army document, according to which he led the “cleansing” operation in Biljani in which “more than 100 Muslim men” were killed, Kevac denied this as well. He said that the prosecution’s evidence was just “insinuations, which I do not accept”.

A former investigative judge from Banja Luka, Jefto Jankovic, also testified at Karadzic’s trial this week, saying that a massacre committed at Kricske Stijene on Mount Vlasic in 1992 was ordered by foreign intelligence
services that commissioned local criminals to carry out the killings “in order to present Serbs as animals”.

The witness said that he started a “crime scene inspection” at Koricanske Stijene on August 22, 1992, but did not complete it, adding that he neither knew who the perpetrators were nor had the authority to order their arrest.

“It was a shame for Serbs. We did not need that... All reasonable people condemned it,” Jankovic said.

According to the charges against Karadzic, on August 21, 1992, Serb policemen from Prijedor killed about 200 captured Bosniaks at Koricanske Stijene.

Karadzic is on trial for genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities, including Prijedor, terrorising the inhabitants of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Witness Jankovic said that he suspected that the perpetrators of the Koricanske Stijene murders were “disguised” as policemen.

“Somebody needed it in order to present Serbs as criminals... The leadership certainly did not need it,” Jankovic said.

Karadzic also called to the stand Bosnian Serb serviceman Ratko Mladić who described an incident in the village of Hambarine, near Prijedor, on May 22, 1992, which, according to Karadzic’s defence, marked the beginning of conflict in that municipality.

Mladić said that, while he was on leave from the army, he and five friends were passing through Hambarine by car when Bosniak forces stopped them at a checkpoint.

He said that after a brief conversation about handing their weapons over, the Bosniaks opened fire on the Serbs in the car. Three of them were killed, while the others, including the witness, were severely wounded.

Former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladić also took the stand at the trial this week, but refused to answer Karadzic’s questions, condemning the Hague Tribunal as the “devil’s court”.

Karadzic’s trial resumes next week.
No Winners in Mladic-Karadzic Courtroom Face-Off

Radovan Karadzic gained nothing when Ratko Mladic refused to answer questions at his trial, while anyone seeking the truth about either man’s wartime role was left none the wiser.

DENIS DZIDIC

The two men who led the Bosnian Serbs politically and militarily during the war years appeared in a courtroom together for the first time on Tuesday, but the outcome added little to anyone’s understanding of what really happened during the 1990s conflict.

Ordered by the court to testify in Karadzic’s defence despite protestations of ill health, Mladic took his oath but then refused to answer Karadzic’s questions, apart from to explain that he was 71 years old and a military man, which was not exactly secret information.

Karadzic’s legal adviser Peter Robinson told BIRN that the former Republika Srpska president was disappointed with the fact that he had not managed to coax Mladic into testifying in his defence.

“We were hoping that he would listen to our request for testimony, but we understand that he should listen to his attorneys’ advice. We, of course, understand his defence,” Robinson said.

Karadzic asked Mladic all the six questions that he had announced in advance – which were presumably aimed at getting support for his position that he neither committed genocide or terrorised Sarajevo – but Mladic simply repeated again and again that he would not answer because of his health problems and because of his own case at the Tribunal.

Mladic’s attorney Miodrag Stojanovic said Karadzic had gained nothing by coercing his former military chief to take the stand.

“What has he achieved? It does not go anywhere. It does not lead to anything good,” Stojanovic told BIRN.

He said if Mladic had testified, it could have harmed his defence strategy and also damaged the Bosnian Serb cause in general.
“We are afraid of scoring a sort of an own-goal, not only in terms of the defence of General Mladic, but also in the entire context of the Serbian people and the events that happened there [in Bosnia during wartime],” he said.

‘A devil’s court’

Vasvija Vidovic, a lawyer with a lot of experience working at the Tribunal, said that Mladic’s defence had assessed that his testimony would be detrimental to his own case.

“This means that Mladic’s defence is very concerned about protecting his own interests, so it did not allow him to be subjected to cross-examinations, which would disclose the strategy of his defence on the basis of his responses,” Vidovic said.

In the courtroom, Mladic became angry and opened fire verbally at the Tribunal, calling it a “devil’s court” which was created only to prosecute Serbs – an outburst that made his legal team nervous.

“Honestly, I got scared that he would testify simply because I know that none of the members of his defence team can control General Mladic, and when he undertakes to do something, it is difficult to control whether he would do it in the way that was previously agreed with us,” Stojanovic said.

At the beginning of the hearing, Mladic asked the Tribunal to let him read a seven-page statement, but was refused. The document, his attorney said, explained why his rights are being violated by the court.

“As far as the motion which Mladic wanted to read is concerned, it speaks about a long-lasting theory of conspiracy against the Serbian people and the way the Hague Tribunal behaves when depriving him of his elementary rights related to his health condition,” Stojanovic said.

“It further says that, in that sense, he still considers that he cannot be an objective witness of events about which his memory does not provide enough certainty,” he added.

Faida Rahmanovic, a journalist for SENSE Agency who follows trials at the Tribunal, said she did not understand why the court allowed Mladic to refuse to answer questions after issuing him a subpoena to testify.

By doing so, Mladic “deserted from the front lines” of Karadzic’s defence, she said.
“Mladic’s desertion is, of course, a disappointment to Karadzic’s defence. It is, however, not surprising, considering the fact that Karadzic, although supreme commander of the Bosnian Serb military forces, has often said he was not responsible for crimes which according to the indictment were committed by Mladic’s forces,” said Rahmanovic.

Silence as a strategy?

Wartime victims were not impressed either by Mladic’s performance or the few words that he did utter in the courtroom on Tuesday.

Kada Hotic of the Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa Enclaves association said that even if he had testified for Karadzic, he would not have told the truth.

“They are both in the same stew. They cooperated with each other. Mladic is now using his bad health condition as an excuse... They are in the same trap. They would most gladly keep silent,” Hotic said.

“I have a feeling that the Tribunal is playing with us, because how can one expect him to be a normal and objective witness, knowing that he is on trial as well. Had he spoken, the Tribunal is aware that he would have told lies,” she said.

Fikret Grabovica, president of the Association of Killed Children in Sarajevo, said that the meeting of Karadzic and Mladic in the courtroom was a “farce”.

“With these games in the courtroom, both of them are humiliating [the concept of] justice and the Hague Tribunal, and offending victims,” said Grabovica.

Karadzic and Mladic are on trial, in separate cases, for genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.
Mladic Snubs Karadzic in Hague Courtroom

Former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic refused to answer questions about the war at Radovan Karadzic’s trial, condemning the Hague Tribunal as the “devil’s court.”

DENIS DZIDIC

Mladic refused to reply to his former political leader Karadzic’s questions on Tuesday, despite being ordered to appear as a defence witness by the international court, claiming poor health and fears that he could damage his own war crimes defence at the Hague Tribunal.

“I cannot stand this court and I do not recognise it, so I cannot testify or make an oath, because you are pressuring me and my people,” Mladic began by saying.

After finally taking the oath and requesting a break because he had forgotten his false teeth, Mladic only replied in detail to the first question that he was asked by Karadzic, about his personal and military background.

“I am 71 years old and I have had many military positions... This is the only question I will answer. I am refusing to answer the rest of the questions because of my poor health and because I have the right as a defendant,” he said.

Karadzic went on to ask Mladic whether the former Bosnian Serb commander had ever informed him that captives from Srebrenica had been or would be killed, and whether he knew that people in Sarajevo were being subjected to a sniping and shelling campaign.

He also asked about the reasons for the attacks on Sarajevo, whether those reasons were conveyed to him and whether Karadzic and Mladic ever had an agreement to expel Bosniaks and Croats from territories controlled by Serb forces.

But Mladic repeatedly responded that he could not give an answer because of his poor health and his defence in his own trial.

Mladic had prepared a seven-page document that he wanted to read in the courtroom, but the Hague Tribunal judges refused to allow him to do so.
In response to this, the ex-general said the Tribunal was a “devil’s court”, a “NATO court”, and a court created only to prosecute Serbs.

Karadzic and Mladic were appearing together in the Hague courtroom for the first time on Tuesday.

Standing a few metres apart, the two men spoke to each other with respect. Karadzic addressed Mladic as “Mr. General”, while Mladic called Karadzic “Mr. President”.

Mladic said that he and Karadzic were “not defending ourselves, but the Serb people”, and adding that he thought highly of his former political leader’s “efforts to save our people”.

They are both on trial, in separate cases, for genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities, persecution of the Bosniak and Croat population throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising the citizens of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

In December last year the Tribunal issued a warrant obliging Mladic to testify after he had previously refused Karadzic’s invitation to do so.

Mladic’s defence attorney Branko Lukic again told the Tribunal on Tuesday morning that his client was not capable of testifying for health reasons. However, presiding judge O-Gon Kwon said that the court believed he was well enough to appear.
RADOVAN KARADZIC
WARTIME LEADER’S YEARS ON TRIAL

24.01.2014

Bosnian Serb Police ‘Guilty of Srebrenica Massacres’

A former Bosnian Serb colonel, jailed for life for the Srebrenica genocide, told Radovan Karadzic’s trial that the Bosnian Serb police, not the army, were guilty of the mass murders.

JUSTICE REPORT

Ex-colonel Ljubisa Beara, the former chief of security with the Bosnian Serb Army’s Main Headquarters, who was jailed for genocide in 2010 by the Hague Tribunal, told Karadzic’s trial this week that he was not guilty of the crime he was convicted of committing.

After being reminded by Tribunal prosecutor Melissa Pak that, according to the verdict, he “gave a direct order” for and “orchestrated” the implementation of the mass-murder plan after the fall of Srebrenica in July 1995, Beara blamed the Bosnian Serb police for the killings.

“I remember very well that a cable sent by Dragomir Vasic, chief of the Public Safety Centre in Zvornik, was presented [at Beara’s trial]. In that cable he said that the MUP [Ministry of Internal Affairs, which controls the police] had taken over the tasks from the army and that it had surrounded and disposed of 8,000 Muslims,” he said.

Beara said that the cable was included in the case file but that it “got lost in a mysterious way” so that he was identified as having given the order, not Vasic.

He denied having known anything about the crimes against Srebrenica Bosniaks in July 1995, saying that he was in Belgrade on July 13 and 14.

When asked by Pak if he denied that thousands of men were systematically killed after the fall of Srebrenica, Beara said: “How can I deny the horrible things that happened in the civil, religious war?”

Karadzic, who was president of the Bosnian Serb entity Republika Srpska in wartime and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with the genocide. He is also on trial for terrorising the residents of Sarajevo, taking UN peacekeepers hostage and the persecution of non-Serbs across the country.
Miroslav Kvocka, a former police guard at the Omarska detention camp near Prijedor, also testified this week in Karadzic’s defence, saying that Serb policemen did not endanger thousands of Bosniaks and Croats who were detained there in the summer of 1992.

Kvocka said that security chief Zeljko Mejakic, whose deputy he was, ordered policemen not to abuse detainees and to reduce their contacts with them to a minimal level.

In 2001, the Tribunal sentenced Kvocka to seven years in prison for having committed crimes in Omarska, while Mejakic was sentenced by the Bosnian state court to 20 years in prison for persecution, murder, torture and other crimes.

Kvocka said that as soon as he arrived in Omarska, he saw three or four bodies of Bosniaks who had attempted to flee. He said that he was also present when a member of Serb forces shot at detainees out of revenge and killed a few of them.

Karadzic’s trial will resume next week, when Ratko Mladic is expected to testify for the defence.

Karadzic has already told the court that he intends to ask Mladic six questions only.
Karadzic Reveals His Six Questions for Mladic

Radovan Karadzic will quiz Ratko Mladic about the Srebrenica massacres, the Sarajevo siege and ethnic expulsions when the Bosnian Serb ex-commander testifies at his trial next week.

DENIS DZIDIC

Karadzic told the Hague Tribunal that when Mladic testifies at his war crimes trial next Tuesday, he will only ask him six questions.

“In order to assist the chamber in safeguarding General Mladic’s rights, Dr. Karadzic will limit his questions to General Mladic to only those essential to his case,” he said.

Karadzic will ask Mladic whether the Bosnian Serb military commander ever informed him that captives from Srebrenica had been or would be killed and whether he knew that the inhabitants of Sarajevo were subjected to a shelling and sniping campaign.

The former Bosnian Serb president also intends to ask Mladic about the reasons for the shelling and sniping campaign and whether those reasons were ever communicated to him.

“Did we have any agreement or understanding that the citizens of Sarajevo should be subjected to terror by shelling and sniping?” Karadzic’s proposed question to Mladic says.

The final question will ask whether Karadzic and Mladic had an agreement to expel “Muslims and Croats” who lived in territories controlled by Serb forces.

Mladic will testify in Karadzic’s defence after the Tribunal refuses to allow him to appeal against a decision ordering him to do so.

The former Bosnian Serb commander had claimed that he was too ill to take the stand.

But trial chamber chairman O-Gon Kwon said that there were no reasons for reconsidering the decision ordering Mladic to testify.
“In its original decision the chamber undertook to protect Mladic’s rights. It reminds that it will reserve the right to force him to answer certain questions or not, taking the fact that he is currently on trial under consideration. Also, the chamber reminds that it will take care of Mladic’s health, so it is not necessary to reconsider the decision in order to preclude injustice,” judge Kwon said.

Karadzic and Mladic are on trial, in separate cases, for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.
Bosnian Serbs ‘Did Not Attack Sarajevo Market’

A defence witness at Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial testified that Bosnian Serb leaders privately insisted they did not fire the mortar that killed dozens of civilians in Sarajevo in August 1995.

Defence witness Prvoslav Davinic, former chief of the UN’s Global Disarmament Section, said he had a private meeting with Karadzic in his stronghold of Pale in June 1996 and was assured that the Bosnian Serb Army was not responsible for the attack that killed 43 people and wounded 75 citizens in front of the Markale market in Sarajevo on August 28, 1995.

Davinic testified that Karadzic told him that he had been convinced by Bosnian Serb Army commander Ratko Mladic that his forces did not fire the mortar at the market.

He also said that a Greek colleague at the UN’s headquarters told him that, “due to political reasons”, the UN Protection Force investigation was seeking to prove that the Bosnian Serb Army was responsible for the attack.

Karadzic, the wartime president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial for genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage. Mladic is also on trial, in a separate case, for the same alleged crimes.

The indictment against Karadzic claims that a mortar fired from Bosnian Serb positions caused the deaths at the Markale market.

Responding to questions during cross-examination, Davinic confirmed that he held another meeting with Karadzic in Pale in September 1996, but did not want to announce it publicly because Karadzic was a fugitive from international justice from 1995 onwards, when he was indicted for alleged war crimes.
The witness said that he called on Karadzic to surrender, adding that the former Bosnian Serb leader said that he “was considering all the possibilities”. Davinic said he informed his superiors at the UN about the meeting.

When asked if he knew that the grenade which fell in front of Markale was produced at the Krusik factory in Valjevo in Serbia, Davinic said he did not.

After working for the UN, Davinic served as defence minister of Serbia and Montenegro between 2004 and 2005.

He went on to testify that, after a request by the Hague Tribunal’s then chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte, an operation aimed at arresting Mladic was conducted in Serbia in September 1994, but the bid to detain him failed.

“Del Ponte informed the authorities that Mladic would cross the border between Republika Srpska and Serbia and meet his family in a monastery near the border. Although we did all we could, the arrest attempt was unsuccessful,” Davinic said.

Karadzic’s trial continues next week.
Mladic to Testify in Karadzic’s Defence

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic said that his wartime military commander Ratko Mladic will start testifying at his Hague Tribunal trial on January 28.

DENIS DZIDIC

Mladic will begin to testify as a defence witness in Karadzic’s war crimes trial later this month after his objection that he was too ill to do so was rejected by the international court.

Karadzic suggested in his motion to the court that “because of his bad medical condition”, Mladic, who is also on trial at the Tribunal, should only testify from 9am till 10.30am, for as many days as is necessary.

Karadzic and Mladic are charged in separate cases with genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which reached the scale of genocide in seven municipalities, terrorising the inhabitants of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

After the trial chamber ordered Karadzic to file any evidence which could be relevant when determining his sentence before he finishes presenting his case, his defence requested that the head of the Tribunal’s custody unit should write a report about his behaviour in detention.

“This report is required to support Karadzic’s opinion that his good behaviour in custody should be considered as a mitigating circumstance in case he is convicted,” it said.

For the assessment of mitigating circumstances, the former Bosnian Serb leader has also proposed to put forward as evidence the written statements of 12 witnesses, including his wife and daughter, about an alleged agreement he made with US diplomat Richard Holbrooke which Karadzic insists said that he would not be put on trial if he left politics completely.

“These witnesses speak about the alleged agreement between Holbrooke and Karadzic, according to which he would not be prosecuted if he with- draws from public life,” said the defence motion.

Karadzic’s trial will resume next week with statements from new defence witnesses.
Radovan Karadzic ‘Can’t Wait to Testify’

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic told the Hague Tribunal that he was looking forward to testifying in his own defence next year.

JUSTICE REPORT

“I can hardly wait to testify, believe me,” Karadzic told his war crimes trial in The Hague this week.

His legal counsellor Peter Robinson said that Karadzic wanted to testify as the last witness in the defence case in late February or at the beginning of March.

Karadzic made the statement while examining defence witness Simo Miskovic, who was president of his Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, in Prijedor in 1992.

Miskovic testified that he did not know about any plan for the permanent removal of Bosniaks and Croats and that he “had never heard about it in the SDS”.

According to Miskovic’s testimony, it was necessary for Serbs to take over authority in Prijedor in late April 1992 in order to prevent crimes against Serbs. The breakout of the war, which happened a month later, was a consequence of attacks by Muslim paramilitaries, he insisted.

Miskovic claimed that the notorious Bosnian Serb detention camp at Omarska was actually “an investigation centre”, but accepted the prosecution’s assertion that it was “surprising” that none of its numerous detainees was charged with anything.

When asked if he knew about the murder of 200 detainees at the Keratern detention camp in the summer of 1992, Miskovic answered: “I do not know even now. This is the first time I am hearing about it.”

Karadzic is charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, which reached the scale of genocide in seven municipalities, one of which was Prijedor. He is also on trial for genocide in Srebrenica, persecuting the residents of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.
This week, Karadzic also called to the stand former Bosnian Serb Army intelligence officer Radomir Radinkovic, who said that Bosniaks and Croats who were held in a detention camp at Manjaca in 1992 were treated in line with regulations.

Radinkovic said that “nobody ever issued an order to violate the rights of prisoners of war” and that “everything was done in order to protect those rights”. The Bosnian Serb leadership did not order “mistreatment or killings” of detainees, the witness added.

Commenting on the murder of two detainees from Kljuc at the Manjaca detention camp, Radinkovic said that military policemen did it “on their own”.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Caroline Edgerton presented Radinkovic with the findings of the International Red Cross, indicating that there was “absolutely not enough” food at the Manjaca detention camp and that the general living conditions were bad.

“I would not agree. I am claiming that most of the detainees were given the best possible conditions under the circumstances,” Radinkovic responded.

Radinkovic denied the prosecutor’s allegation that civilians from the Kljuc, Prijedor and Sanski Most municipalities were arrested “randomly” and transferred to Manjaca “only because they were not Serbs”.

He said that “nobody was arrested only because he was not a Serb”.

Karadzic’s trial will resume in mid-January after a break.
Bosnian Army ‘Shelled Children in Srebrenica’

A former Bosniak soldier told the trial of Radovan Karadzic this week that the Bosnian Army opened fire on Bosniak children who were playing football in Srebrenica in 1995.

JUSTICE REPORT

The former Bosniak soldier, a protected defence witness codenamed KW–12, told Karadzic’s trial at the Hague Tribunal this week that the attack took place in 1995 after a letter had been received from the Sarajevo authorities telling the Bosnian Army to “do something” in order to convince NATO to take the Bosniak side against the Serbs.

Testifying with his face hidden and voice electronically altered, KW–12 said that the shelling, which happened “two or three months before the fall of Srebrenica [in July 1995]”, was immediately blamed on Serb forces.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Melissa Pak suggested that KW–12 was simply repeating “conspiracy theories which could be found in newspapers”.

The witness retorted that the prosecutor should ask Bosniak politicians and the Mothers of Srebrenica victims’ organisation “how come that they know better than us what happened in that area, despite the fact that we were present there”.

KW–12 said that the authorities in Sarajevo had threatened to kill him after the war because he had told the truth about the events in Srebrenica, but the prosecutor described these claims as “pure fantasy”.

The prosecutor also posed a series of questions which intimated that KW–12 had closely followed war crimes trials in The Hague and Sarajevo because he was desperate to appear at any of them as a witness.

Former Bosnian Serb President Karadzic is charged with genocide against about 7,000 Bosniaks in Srebrenica, persecuting Muslims and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic also called to the stand Vladimir Matovic, a former media advisor to the Yugoslav president Dobrica Cosic. Matovic said that he met the
former Bosnian Serb political leader in his stronghold of Pale in July 1995, and that the Karadzic had told him that he only got information about events in Srebrenica from CNN television.

This week the Hague Tribunal also accepted Karadzic’s request to subpoena Ratko Mladic and make him testify on his behalf, which the former Bosnian Serb Army commander had previously refused to do.

Karadzic’s trial will resume on Monday.
Hague Tribunal Orders Mladic to Testify for Karadzic

The international court has decided to subpoena Bosnian Serb ex-military chief Ratko Mladic and make him testify on behalf of his former political leader Radovan Karadzic.

DENIS DZIDIC

Despite objections from Mladic’s lawyers, who said he was not well enough to testify on behalf of Karadzic and did not want to potentially incriminate himself on the stand, the Tribunal ordered him to give evidence for the defence of the former Bosnian Serb president in January next year.

“Mladic is in a unique position to testify about the information he carried on to Karadzic regarding many incidents in the indictment. This is why the preconditions for his subpoena have been met,” said presiding judge O-Gon Kwon in his decision on Wednesday.

Karadzic asked for Mladic to be called so he could tell the judges that there was never “a plan to expel the non-Serb population” from territories under Serb control during the Bosnian war and that the political leader was not aware of the 1995 Srebrenica massacres.

“As commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, Mladic is expected to testify that the joint criminal enterprise alleged in the indictment never existed and that I was never informed about the killings of Srebrenica prisoners,” said Karadzic.

In May this year, Mladic said his health was not good enough for him to testify and added that his right of protection against self-incrimination would be violated if he were forced to take the stand.

The Hague’s trial chamber rejected these allegations, arguing that Mladic’s rights could not be violated since Karadzic’s trial would not “deal with the incriminations against Mladic”.

In separate cases before the Tribunal, Karadzic as the top Bosnian Serb political official and Mladic as the top military officer are being tried for genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, which reached the scale of genocide in seven municipalities, terrorising the citizens of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Both men deny the charges.
Bosnian Serb Security Boss ‘Didn’t Know’ About Srebrenica

The wartime Bosnian Serb security service chief testified at his former political leader Radovan Karadzic’s trial that he knew nothing about the massacres of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995.

Testifying in Karadzic’s defence at the Hague Tribunal this week, ex-security chief Dragan Kijac said that he had no information about the Srebrenica massacres when they happened in July 1995 and only found out about the murders of thousands of Bosniaks in more detail when he read a report by a Tribunal expert in 2003 or 2004.

In his written statement, Kijac said that he was in Montenegro from July 14 to 18, 1995, when the killings happened.

He then returned to the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale, but despite meeting Karadzic on July 19, he said that he neither found out about the executions or saw any reports about them.

Kijac said that Karadzic did not give any indication that he knew about the massacres and insisted that if the Bosnian Serb leader had known, he would have taken action to prevent the crimes and punish the perpetrators.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against about 7,000 Muslims from Srebrenica in the days that followed the occupation of the UN-protected enclave by Bosnian Serb forces on July 11, 1995. He is also on trial for crimes in Sarajevo and other municipalities.

This week Karadzic also called two defence witnesses who denied that Serb forces deported the Bosniak and Croat populations from the Kljuc and Sanski Most municipalities.

The two witnesses said that the Bosniaks and Croats left of their own accord due to fear of the war and difficult living conditions.

Marko Adamovic, then assistant commander of the Bosnian Serb Army’s Kljuc Battalion, said that everyone was able decide whether to leave or stay.
While not denying that Serb forces killed more than 100 Bosniaks in the villages of Prhovo and Velagici villages in June 1992, Adamovic said that the murders happened after an attack on military convoys by “extremists”.

Mikan Davidovic testified meanwhile that he was a member of what he called the Bosnian Serbs’ “commission for the unobstructed departure” of Bosniaks and Croats, which offered them help by organising transport, among other things, he said.

“Nobody forced non-Serbs to leave,” Davidovic told the court.

Karadzic’s trial continues on Monday.
No Plan To Expel Non-Serbs, Karadzic Trial Told

Three wartime Bosnian Serb local officials told Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that there was no plan to persecute and expel Bosniaks and Croats from the Krajina region of Bosnia.

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic’s trial this week heard from three wartime local officials from the town of Banja Luka, Andjelko Grahovac, Novak Kondic and Nikola Erceg, who said that no expulsion plan existed in 1992.

Grahovac, a former member of the crisis committee in the wartime Serb-led Krajina Autonomous Region, said that it had never received instructions to carry out persecution and ethnic cleansing of non-Serbs.

Grahovac said that he visited a Bosnian Serb Army detention camp for prisoners of war at Manjaca and made sure that “detainees were safe” and that “rules were respected”.

But under cross-examination, Grahovac confirmed that “hundreds of business premises” in Banja Luka which were owned by non-Serbs were blown up and that Bosniaks and Croats were expelled.

“Yes, I did not agree with that,” the witness said.

“The crisis committee could have ordered the Bosnian Serb army to prevent that,” he added.

The indictment charges Karadzic with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, which reached the scale of genocide in seven municipalities. He is also on trial for genocide in Srebrenica and other crimes.

Nikola Erceg, another former member of the crisis committee and president of the Krajina Autonomous Region (ARK) government, said that the committee did not have any authority over police and could not issue orders to the Bosnian Serb Army.
“Violence and persecution of non-Serbs were not parts of the ARK author-
ities’ policy. The Banja Luka authorities disposed of the property owned by
Muslims and Croats who had left, but only temporarily,” Erceg said.

The third witness, Novak Kondic, also said that it was not the Bosnian
Serbs’ political policy to “permanently remove the non-Serb population
through genocide, extermination and forced relocation”.

Karadzic’s trial will resume on Monday.
Bosnian Serbs ‘Never Plotted to Expel Bosniaks and Croats’

The leader of the wartime Bosnian Serb enclave of Bosanska Krajina told Radovan Karadzic’s trial at the Hague Tribunal that there was no strategic plan to drive out non-Serbs.

JUSTICE REPORT

The wartime leader of Serbs in Bosanska Krajina, Radoslav Brdjanin, testified at Karadzic’s trial last week that there was no strategic plan to expel Bosniaks and Croats in 1992.

Brdjanin, who was president of the crisis committee of the Bosnian Serbs’ Krajina Autonomous Region in 1992, insisted that his organisation did not receive orders from Karadzic and that the defendant was not superior to municipal crisis committees, which “made their decisions independently”.

According to the charges against wartime Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic, crisis committees were an instrument used by the authorities for rounding up people for expulsion from territories they considered theirs.

But Brdjanin said the crisis committees never called for the forced resettlement of Bosniaks and Croats. He insisted that this could be proved by the fact that, in order to leave the area voluntarily, non-Serbs had to submit a certificate about property they left behind so the local authorities could “secure it temporarily”.

Brdjanin is currently serving a 30-year sentence for the persecution, deportation, forced resettlement and torture of the Bosniak and Croat population.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Alan Tieger presented parts of the verdict in the Brdjanin trial, in which it said the crisis committees “coordinated the permanent deportation of non-Serbs” from 13 municipalities “as per a strategic plan”.

Brdjanin responded: “No strategic plan on resettlement existed... The situation was such that it was better to relocate people than let them be killed...”
and suffer. The resettlement of people happened on all sides. I am not justifying it, but it was inevitable.”

Karadzic is accused of the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, which reached the scale of genocide in seven municipalities. He is also on trial for the Srebrenica genocide, terrorising Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.
Bosnian Serb Politicians ‘Never Advocated Expelling Bosniaks’

A former Serbian Democratic Party official told the Hague trial of Radovan Karadzic that the Bosnian Serb parliament did not demand that Bosniaks or Croats should be driven out.

JUSTICE REPORT

“The top political leaders of Republika Srpska didn’t advocate the expulsion of non-Serbs,” Vojislav Kupresanin, a former member of the Karadzic’s Serbian Democratic Party leadership, told the Bosnian Serb political leader’s war crimes trial last week.

However, Kupresanin accepted the possibility that people were forced out of municipalities which, he suggested, were not under the control of the central authorities.

Speaking about the crisis committees which were formed in 1991 and 1992 in predominantly Serbian municipalities and took over control of the authorities, Kupresanin said that they were set up due to tensions just before the outbreak of the war, not to deport the non-Serb population.

He insisted that neither the committees nor municipal leaders received instructions from Karadzic, because they “didn’t respect him” or the Serbian Democratic Party.

The witness said that relations between Karadzic and Bosnian Serb Army commander Ratko Mladic, who is also on trial in The Hague, were “tense”, adding that Mladic “put himself above” political leaders.

Karadzic is charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, which reached the scale of genocide in seven municipalities, as well as genocide in Srebrenica, terrorising residents of Sarajevo and taking UN peackeepers hostage.

This week, the former speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament Momcilo Krajisik finished his testimony in defence of Karadzic, denying allegations that both of them were part of a joint criminal enterprise.

“Did I intend to destroy Muslims and Croats?” Karadzic asked Krajisik in court.
“I can say with certainty and support it with evidence that Karadzic was far from such thoughts and intentions. Such a plan did not exist,” Krajisnik responded.

Karadzic’s trial continues this week.
High-ranking former Bosnian Serb politicians and military officials testified in defence of their ex-leader Radovan Karadzic at the Hague Tribunal, insisting that he is not a war criminal.

08.11.2013

Bosnian Serb Officials Testify for ‘Innocent’ Karadzic

The former president of the Bosnian Serb parliament, Momcilo Krajisnik, told Karadzic’s trial in The Hague this week that the war in Bosnia was caused by “a Muslim-Croatian coalition” pushing through an anti-constitutional secession from Yugoslavia, despite objections by the Serbian people.

“The Muslim and Croat sides advocated for separation from Yugoslavia in an unconstitutional way, while the Serb side advocated for respect of the constitution and finding a compromise,” Krajisnik said.

The witness said that in January 1991, Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic, the president of the Party for Democratic Action, made “a shocking statement” at a parliament session, saying that he would “sacrifice peace in order to get a sovereign Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

According to Krajisnik, during the summer that followed, the SDA set up paramilitary forces, the Patriotic League and Green Berets.

Krajisnik, who was jailed for persecuting and deporting Muslims and Croats during wartime, was released from prison in September after having served two-thirds of his 20-year sentence, then welcomed home as a hero in Bosnia’s Serb-dominated Republika Srpska.

At the beginning of his testimony, Krajisnik said that he was preparing a request for his conviction to be reviewed, saying that he “lives for the day when I will hear ‘not guilty’”.

Karadzic is being tried for genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking international peacekeepers hostage.

Republika Srpska’s former interior minister Tomislav Kovac also testified for Karadzic’s defence this week, blaming the massacre in Srebrenica on
“dangerous people from the [Bosnian Serb] Military Security Service” led by Ljubisa Beara, who has already been convicted of genocide by the Tribunal.

Kovac said that Karadzic knew nothing about the shooting of Bosniaks in Srebrenica. He said that Beara “had a criminal mindset since the murders on the Dubrovnik battlefield in 1991”.

Another high-profile defence witness, Mile Dmicic, who was chief of Karadzic’s cabinet for ‘civil affairs’ in July 1995, testified that during his meetings with Karadzic on July 10 and 17 that year – around the time the massacres took place – they did not discuss crimes in Srebrenica because they did not have information about them.

“Karadzic never said anything that would indicate that he knew about the shooting of captives. Karadzic would have never been in favour of shooting (prisoners), under any circumstances,” Dmicic said.

Karadzic also called Vujadin Popovic, former security chief of the Bosnian Serb Army’s Drina Corps, who testified that his former leader did not know that Bosniaks would be killed after Srebrenica fell to Serb forces in July 1995.

Popovic said that he had never informed Karadzic about the shootings and that he had never seen a written report about them.

“Nobody suggested that Karadzic knew about or approved the shooting of prisoners,” Popovic said.

Popovic was convicted of genocide in Srebrenica at the same time as Beara. Karadzic’s trial will resume next week.
Karadzic ‘Had No Idea’ About Srebrenica Executions

Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic knew nothing about the murder of Muslim prisoners from Srebrenica, witnesses insisted as his war crimes trial resumed after a two-month break.

JUSTICE REPORT

Former Bosnian Serb interior minister Tomislav Kovac told the Hague Tribunal this week that he had a series of meetings with Karadzic before and after the fall of Srebrenica and said he was convinced that his political leader was not involved in the massacres.

“I am sure Karadzic had no idea prisoners would be executed,”’ defence witness Kovac told the court.

He called the Srebrenica crime “the worst thing that could happen to the Serb people” and its perpetrators “the greatest enemies of the Serbs”.

Another defence witness, Milenko Zivanovic, who as commander of the Drina Corps of the Bosnian Serb Army led the offensive against Srebrenica in July 1995, denied there was a plan to kill imprisoned Muslims.

Zivanovic said that the aim of the attack on Srebrenica, which began on July 6, was to separate Srebrenica from Bosnia’s other UN-protected ‘safe zone’, Zepa.

“He talked to Karadzic twice, but insisted there was never a plan to expel Bosniaks or kill them.

Karadzic’s former adviser Jovan ‘John’ Zametica also testified this week, and told the defendant in court that he was a “weak president”.

“You were a weak president whose power did not reach far. Other factors were more powerful, for example the army, which often did not submit to you. I believed you did not have control over the police either, MPs, even your own wife and daughter. You had very little control over the chaos called Republika Srpska,” said Zametica.
Karadzic is being tried for genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking international peacekeepers hostage.

His trial resumed this week after a two-month break which he was given in order to prepare to face further genocide charges dating from 1992, which were reinstated earlier this year.

Meanwhile at the trial of Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic at the Hague Tribunal this week, a former UN military observer said that Serb forces held him hostage in the spring of 1995 and used him and two other UN troops as human shields against NATO air strikes.

“We considered we were illegally imprisoned hostages and a human shield,” said Canadian officer Patrick Rechner, the chief of the unarmed UN military monitors in the Bosnian Serb stronghold town of Pale.

He said he was detained on May 25, 1995, the day NATO began air strikes against the Bosnian Serb Army.

The next day, the UN observers were handcuffed and taken to nearby Jahorinski Potok, where Serb soldiers tied them to posts near an ammunition store.

“The bombardment was still underway... We were taken to the ammunition depots which would be bombed... They tied me to a post in front of the storage... two of which NATO already destroyed that morning,” said Rechner.

Mladic is charged with taking over 200 UN peacekeepers and observers hostage, as well as genocide in Srebrenica and other crimes.

Both men’s trials resume next week.
Hague Prosecutor Denies Del Ponte Contempt Claim

The Hague Tribunal prosecutor’s office has said there is no reason to believe Radovan Karadzic’s allegation that ex-chief prosecutor Carla Del Ponte was guilty of contempt of court.

DENIS DZIDIC

Responding to the Tribunal’s decision to appoint a chamber to investigate if its former chief prosecutor was in contempt of court during the trial of late Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, the prosecutor’s office said there was no evidence that Del Ponte broke any rules.

The chamber was appointed after former Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic had claimed that Del Ponte disclosed confidential information about Milosevic’s case to US officials – an assertion he made based on a confidential US diplomatic cable that was published by WikiLeaks.

Karadzic argued that this suggested that confidential information about his own case could also potentially be disclosed to others.

But the Hague prosecution rejected this.

“The leaked diplomatic cable describes a meeting with US embassy officials at which Del Ponte purportedly identified a number of senior US officials listed on Milosevic’s witness list, which the cable notes was filed confidentially. From this, Karadzic jumps to the conclusion that there is ‘reason to believe that Del Ponte violated an order of the [trial] chamber’. There is no proper basis for this conclusion,” the prosecution said in a statement.

The prosecutors said that while Milosevic filed his witness list confidentially, it was not made confidential by any court order.

“The mere filing by a party of a document on a confidential basis does not by itself either reflect that the document is protected by a court or transform it into such. This is not only obvious; it is reflected by Karadzic’s own practice. Karadzic filed his witness list confidentially, yet regularly publicly discloses the names of non-protected witnesses from that list without seeking permission from the trial chamber,” the prosecution said.
If the court decides to continue with the Del Ponte investigation, the prosecution argued that it should also look into the actions of Karadzic and his defence team.

Karadzic is being tried for genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking international peacekeepers hostage.

His trial will resume on October 28 after a two-month break which he was given in order to prepare to face further genocide charges dating from 1992, which were reinstated earlier this year.
Hague Probes Karadzic’s Del Ponte ‘Contempt’ Claim

The Hague Tribunal accepted former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic’s request for it to examine contempt of court claims against its former chief prosecutor Carla Del Ponte.

MARIJA RISTIC

The president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Theodor Meron, accepted Karadzic’s motion on Tuesday and ordered that a “specially appointed chamber should be composed”.

He said that the chamber would decide if a prosecutor should be appointed to investigate whether or not ex-chief prosecutor Del Ponte was in contempt of court during the trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Karadzic’s motion was based upon a US diplomatic cable published by WikiLeaks, written by US legal officers in the Netherlands, which said that Del Ponte disclosed confidential information about Milosevic’s case to US officials.

The former Bosnian Serb leader argued that this suggests that confidential information about his own case could also potentially be disclosed to others.

Karadzic said he had a “personal interest in ensuring that mechanisms are in place to hold prosecutors accountable for disclosing confidential information about defence witnesses”, bearing in mind that he has been ordered to file a confidential revised witness list later this month.

In the cable published by WikiLeaks, the US legal officers described a meeting they had with Del Ponte in 2004 about Milosevic’s case, after the defendant filed a confidential witness list to the Hague Tribunal.

“Reading directly from the list drawn from the filing, she said that the filing included former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of Defence William Cohen, ambassador Christopher Hill, General Wesley Clark and former ambassador Richard Holbrooke,” said the document released by WikiLeaks.
It also said that that Del Ponte assured the US legal personnel that she would continue “to keep us informed about developments with respect to Milosevic’s witness request”.

Karadžić is being tried for genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking international peacekeepers hostage.

His trial will resume on October 28 after a two-month break which he was given in order to prepare to face further genocide charges dating from 1992, which were reinstated earlier this year.
Karadzic Says Mladic Can Prove His Innocence

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic wants to call his wartime military chief Ratko Mladic to testify at his Hague Tribunal trial that he never ordered the Srebrenica massacres.

Karadzic has submitted a list of witnesses he wants to call in his defence at his war crimes trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, including Mladic and former Bosnian Serb parliament speaker Momcilo Krajišnik.

In the request, his defence said it expected Mladic to confirm that “he has never informed Karadzic, be it orally or in writing, that captives from Srebrenica would be shot, that they were being shot or that they had been shot, as well as that Karadzic had never issued an order, planned or intended to execute the captives”.

Karadzic and Mladic are on trial before the Hague Tribunal for the same charges, including genocide in Srebrenica and seven other Bosnian municipalities, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising the population of Sarajevo and UN peacekeepers hostage.

In April this year, Karadzic asked the Tribunal to issue a special subpoena obliging Mladic to testify because he has refused to do so voluntarily, but the court has yet to make a decision about this.

Krajišnik was released from a British prison on August 31 this year after having served two thirds of his 20-year war crimes sentence.

Karadzic wants Krajišnik to testify in November and Mladic in December.

The list of Karadzic’s proposed defence witnesses also includes Bosnian Serb Army general Zdravko Tolimir, as well as colonels Ljubisa Beara and Vujadin Popovic, who the Tribunal sentenced, under a first instance verdict, to life imprisonment for genocide in Srebrenica.

The Tribunal previously ruled that Tolimir and Beara must testify at Karadzic’s trial, but Tolimir filed an appeal against the decision which has yet to be decided on.
Karadžić’s trial is due to resume on October 29 after a two-month break granted by the court so he could prepare his defence against reinstated charges of genocide against Bosniaks and Croats in the Bosnian municipalities of Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik.
Karadzic Appeal Over Revived Genocide Charge Rejected

The Hague Tribunal has dismissed Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic’s appeal against the reinstatement of a charge of genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

DENIS DZIDIC

The Tribunal’s appeals chamber decided on Thursday to reject Karadzic’s appeal, with presiding judge Theodor Meron saying that the court must hear all the evidence and consider the possibility of his guilt.

In June 2012, the trial chamber ruled that the prosecution had not presented sufficient evidence to find Karadzic guilty of genocide in seven municipalities – Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik – in 1992.

But in July this year, the international court’s appeals chamber decided that the overturning of the genocide charge was mistaken, and ordered it to be reinstated.

As the wartime president of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its army, Karadzic is on trial for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war.

He is being tried for genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking international peacekeepers hostage.

His trial will resume on October 28 after a two-month break which he was given to get ready to face the reinstated 1992 genocide charges.
Karadzic Given Time to Prepare Genocide Defence

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic’s trial has been suspended for two more months so he can prepare his defence against charges of genocide in 1992.

JUSTICE REPORT

The Hague Tribunal announced on Monday that Karadzic’s trial would resume after the summer break on October 28, instead of on August 28, so he can get ready to face the 1992 genocide charges which were reinstated last month.

The Tribunal’s appeals chamber in July quashed his acquittal of genocide against Muslims and Croats in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Karadzic had requested an extra four to six months to prepare, or for the reinstated charges to be separated and heard in a completely new trial.

However the international court decided that two months’ preparation time was adequate.

As well as the reinstated 1992 genocide charges, Karadzic is accused of genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the expulsion of Muslims and Croats across Bosnia, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking international peacekeepers hostage.
Karadzic ‘Furious’ About Serbs’ Srebrenica Offensive

A witness at Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial said the former Bosnian Serb political leader was “tearing his hair out” with fury because of the attack on Srebrenica in July 1995.

**JUSTICE REPORT**

Dragan Kapetina, a secretary at the Bosnian Serb defence ministry during wartime, said that Karadzic was “furious” because he was not able to get in touch his army’s commander Ratko Mladic during the offensive so “he didn’t know what was happening in Srebrenica”.

Testifying in Karadzic’s defence at the Hague Tribunal last week, Kapetina said that the Bosnian Serb president invited him to an urgent meeting during the attack on the UN-protected ‘safe zone’ of Srebrenica between July 5 and 10, 1995.

Kapetina testified that Karadzic angrily kicked over some chairs. “He was tearing his hair out, asking himself loudly: ‘Who needs this at this moment? Who ordered this now?’” the witness said.

According to Kapetina, Karadzic continued by saying: “Haven’t I told you a hundred times that the status of Srebrenica should be solved within the overall solutions for Bosnia and Herzegovina and that no offensive activities targeting protected zones should be undertaken?”

Karadzic is charged with genocide against about 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica, persecuting Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Caroline Edgerton suggested that the meeting did not actually take place at all because it was not noted down in the itinerary kept by Karadzic’s secretary.

But the witness rejected this, insisting that Karadzic had called him urgently and that “such things were not written down”.

Karadzic also called military expert Radovan Radinovic last week, who claimed that the Bosnian Serb Army used a defensive strategy during the war with the aim of defending territories in which Serbs were the majority.
“Preserving Bosnia and Herzegovina as an integral country was the goal of the Muslim side, but that could not be done without defeating the two other sides in military terms... By definition, that is an offensive strategy,” said retired Yugoslav Army general Radinovic.

Radinovic said that Bosnian Army’s offensive strategy was too ambitious, bearing in mind its military strength, so it kept calling for an international intervention, which “happened in the end”.

Speaking about Sarajevo, Radinovic claimed that between 50,000 and 70,000 Bosnian Army troops were in the city, saying that “this was a huge density in such a small area”.

He said that the Bosnian Serb blockade of Sarajevo was fully legal, and that all civilian buildings which were used for military purposes represented legitimate military targets.

Karadzic’s trial continues this week.
Radovan Karadzic ‘Always Wanted Peaceful Solutions’

A military expert told Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that Bosnian Serb forces did not carry out the ethnic cleansing in the northern Bosanska Krajina region in 1992.

Testifying in Karadzic’s defence, military expert Dragomir Keserovic told the Hague Tribunal this week that the Bosnian Serb Army did not force thousands of non-Serbs out of Bosanska Krajina in the spring and summer of 1992.

“I believe that the population mostly moved out because war broke out in Bosnia, there was great insecurity, and everyone tried to leave and save themselves, their families and possessions... The general conditions were the key cause for their moving out,” said Keserovic.

Karadzic, the former president of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska, is charged with the expulsion of the Bosniak and Croat population from 20 Bosnian municipalities, as well as other war crimes.

Keserovic also denied that at the start of the war in Bosnia, the Serb Democratic Party and the Yugoslav People’s Army worked together to create the conditions for the separating Serbs from other ethnic groups.

He accused the Bosniak leadership of “setting Sarajevo on fire” with attacks on the Yugoslav People’s Army at Skenderija and Dobrovoljacka Street in the capital in May 1992, thus virtually causing the war in Bosnia.

“I say they were triggers for later responses from the Yugoslav People’s Army. Incidents and later clashes were initiated by Bosniak actions against the Yugoslav People’s Army,” said Keserovic.

A former member of the main board of the Serbian Democratic Party, Savo Ceklic, also testified this week, telling the Tribunal that Karadzic never wanted to remove Bosniaks and Croats from Serb territories in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He added that Karadzic always advocated cohabitation and finding a peaceful solution to the crisis through negotiations.
“Karadzic used to say: It is better to negotiate with Muslims and Croats for a hundred years than spill even one drop of blood,” Ceklic said.

Karadzic also called to the stand this week the wartime president of the northern municipality of Bosanski Novi, Radomir Pasic, who also contested allegations that Serbs expelled Bosniaks and Croats from this territory.

Pasic testified that Bosniaks from Bosanski Novi left voluntarily in the spring and summer of 1992 “not only for political and safety reasons, but for economic and social ones too”.

Finally, Karadzic called to the stand a retired Bosnian Army soldier, Zvonko Bajagic, who said that when he met the defendant in his stronghold of Pale three days after the fall of Srebrenica in July 1995, Karadzic did not know that Bosniak captives were being killed or would be killed.

According to Bajagic, who testified with a Serbian national hat on his head, Karadzic would never agree to the killing of captives.

The trial will resume next week.
Karadzic Genocide Decision Divides Bosnians

Some experts believe that the Hague Tribunal’s decision to reinstate a genocide charge against Radovan Karadzic was just, while others claim it was politically motivated.

Experts in Bosnia and Herzegovina were divided over the Hague Tribunal appeals chamber’s decision on Thursday to reinstate charges accusing former Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic of genocide in seven municipalities in the country in 1992.

While some Bosnian experts believe that the decision was based on sound evidence regarding Karadzic’s genocidal intent, one of his Serbian lawyers claimed that the ruling was intended to win favour from Bosniaks on the day when commemorations of the 18th anniversary of the 1995 Srebrenica genocide were taking place.

Lawyer Vasvija Vidovic, who has been part of the defence team for several war crimes suspects at the Tribunal, said that the decision was grounded in facts.

“I have expected this decision, because I know of documents, especially those of the Bosnian Serb leadership from the spring of 1992, which deal with Bosnian Serb strategic goals during the war. The strategic goals were, removing the border from the Drina River [between Bosnia and Serbia]. Such goals could not have been implemented without genocidal intent,” said Vidovic.

Refik Hodzic, from the International Centre for Transitional Justice, said it was very important for Bosnia’s divided society to face the fact that systematic crimes were committed aimed at fully removing entire ethnic groups from certain territories.

“Genocide and its consequences are one of the fundamental reasons why our society is paralysed, why such hatred is present, why we are still at war fought by different means. This decision gives us a glimmer of hope that we will start facing the facts and working for the recovery of society,” said Hodzic.

12.07.2013
But he stressed that Bosnians themselves, rather than international courts, must take this step forward.

“We have invested too much hope that the Tribunal would give us truth, justice and catharsis, so let us not make this same mistake. This can help us, but the responsibility for facing up to the consequences of genocide is on us. This decision can only help us a little bit,” he said.

Subin Music, from the association of former prison camp detainees, expressed hopes that Karadzic would be convicted of genocide in Prijedor and the other six municipalities.

“This news comes at a time when representatives of victims’ associations from Prijedor are exposed to harassment and humiliation just because they claim that what happened in Prijedor cannot be qualified differently than genocide. While listening to the verdict today [Thursday], I had the impression he was finally convicted. Justice was on our side today,” said Music.

However Goran Petronijevic, a Serbian member of Karadzic’s defence team, said that the decision to reinstate the genocide charge was clearly politically motivated.

“The fact that the decision was brought on July 11, which is dedicated to Srebrenica victims, is a symbolic gift or compensation for Bosniaks [for other acquittals of alleged war criminals by the Hague Tribunal],” said Petronijevic.
Karadzic Genocide Charge Reinstated on Srebrenica Anniversary

The Hague Tribunal reinstated a genocide charge against former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on the day the anniversary of the Srebrenica massacres was commemorated.

DENIS DZIDIC

The appeals chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, ruled on Thursday that the overturning of a charge accusing Karadzic of genocide in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina was mistaken, and ordered the reinstatement of the charge.

Theodor Meron, the president of the ICTY and the appeals chamber, ruled that the first-instance verdict was wrong in determining that the systematic detention of Bosniaks and Croats in Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik did not demonstrate that the Bosnian Serbs intended to partially destroy these ethnic groups.

Meron also said that the evidence presented by the prosecution, if viewed in the most favourable light, could lead to the conclusion that Karadzic had a genocidal intention to eliminate some of the Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats.

“The evidence shows that Bosnian Muslims and Croats were faced with conditions aimed at their destruction in detention facilities,” Meron said.

“Massive abuse, sexual harassment, lack of space and medical aid all demonstrate the wilful creation of living facilities aimed at the destruction of parts of these ethnic groups,” he said.

Meron highlighted the fact that dozens of prosecution witnesses had described how Bosniaks and Croats were seriously assaulted over a long period of time, sometimes leaving them with permanent physical deformities.

He also said that “there is evidence that Karadzic took part in meetings in which it was decided that one third of Muslims would be killed, another third forcibly converted to Christianity and the final third would leave of their own choice, which would remove all Muslims from Bosnia”.

The Hague prosecution appealed after Karadzic was acquitted of the genocide charge last year.

In June 2012, the Hague’s trial chamber ruled that the prosecution did not present sufficient evidence to find the former Bosnian Serb political leader guilty on charges of genocide in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The trial chamber concluded that although there was evidence of crimes systematically carried out against Bosniaks and Croats in Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik, the nature, scale and context of these crimes did not point to genocidal intent on Karadzic’s part.

In the appeal, chief prosecutor Serge Brammertz argued that several legal and factual mistakes were made in the decision to acquit Karadzic and that those mistakes represented a “miscarriage of justice”.

He explained that the murders of Bosniaks and Croats in the seven municipalities in 1992 reached a level that showed that a significant part of a group was marked for destruction.

“The trial chamber made a mistake when applying the law and failed to assess whether the evidence, including the indictee’s threats of disappearance and elimination of Bosniaks prior to the war and in 1992, was sufficient to convince a reasonable trial chamber of the existence of genocidal intent on the part of the indictee,” the appeal said.

Meanwhile, Karadzic asked for the Hague Tribunal to reject the prosecution’s appeal, arguing that it was important “to settle once and for all what the International Court of Justice and four other trial chambers have already concluded – that the events in the municipalities of Bosnia in 1992 did not constitute genocide”.

“This does not mean that the victims did not suffer just as much, or that the crimes committed against them were not as serious,” emphasised Karadzic.

Karadzic, the former president of Bosnia’s Serb-led entity Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, denies charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Representatives of Bosniak victims’ associations had expressed fears that Karadzic might be acquitted of the genocide charges on the same day as the commemorations of the anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, when the remains of more than 400 victims were buried at the memorial to the massacres in Bosnia.
Bosnian Serb Policeman ‘Never Shot Srebrenica Detainees’

Defence witnesses told the Hague trial of former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic that evidence suggesting that a Serb policeman shot Srebrenica detainees was false.

JUSTICE REPORT

Former policeman Nenad Deronjic told Karadzic’s trial at the Hague Tribunal last week that he was on duty at Zvornik police station from July 12 to 21, 1995, did not leave the city area and did not participate in the shooting of Bosniaks from Srebrenica, as a prosecution witness had claimed earlier in the trial.

The protected prosecution witness codenamed KDZ-065 had accused Deronjic with of killing 15 Bosniak captives on the banks of the River Jadar on July 13, 1995.

During cross-examination, the prosecutor presented Deronjic with several documents issued by Zvornik police, indicating that he was deployed to Srebrenica in July 1995 and that he had participated in “combat activities” prior to that.

While not denying the authenticity of the documents, Deronjic insisted that he had not left Zvornik.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against about 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica in July 1995, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Two other defence witnesses also testified that Deronjic did not participate in the shooting of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in Konjevic Polje, near Bratunac, in mid-July 1995.

A protected defence witness codenamed KW-558, who was in Konjevic Polje on July 13, 1995 as a police communications officer, said that he did not see there.
Commenting on the allegation by witness KDZ-065 that prisoners were taken to the Jadark riverbanks and shot, Karadzic’s witness said that he had not heard about any killings there.

Former policeman Mirko Peric also said that he had “not heard” about the riverbank shootings and insisted that he did not see Deronjic in Konjevic Polje on July 13.

Karadzic’s trial continues this week.
Karadzic Demands Dismissal of War Crimes Case

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic issued a motion to dismiss the indictment against him because he said the shutdown of the Hague Tribunal will cancel his right to appeal.

In his motion to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, Karadzic claimed that the UN Security Council did not have the powers to establish the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, the body which will continue the Hague court’s work after it closes in 2016.

After the ICTY closes, the Mechanism will complete any outstanding appeals and manage the international court’s huge archive.

Karadzic said if he is convicted, the fact that his appeal would be handled by the Mechanism would deprive him of his “basic right to the review of a conviction”, which is why the indictment against him should be dismissed.

Karadzic explained that the UN Security Council founded the Mechanism in 2010 using powers which “ensure peace” but, he said, there was no continuing threat to peace and security in former Yugoslavia at that time.

“Would it be reasonable to bomb Banja Luka in 2010 because of the events that occurred in 1992-1995? Would it be reasonable to impose an economic blockade of Republika Srpska at this time as a result of the 1992-1995 events? How then can it be reasonable to employ the security council’s Chapter VII powers to create a new Tribunal to adjudicate crimes from 1992-95?” asked Karadzic in his motion.

Karadzic stated in his motion that he would have no objection to the dismissal of the indictment being suspended for 60 days to give the security council time to decide whether it wanted to restore his right to appeal before the ICTY or to allow his case to be adjudicated in the courts of the former Yugoslavia.

The former Bosnian Serb leader is on trial for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war.
Karadzic ‘Stunned’ By Marauding Serbian Paramilitaries

A witness told Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that the Bosnian Serb leader was shocked by atrocities committed by Serbian paramilitaries in the town of Zvornik and arrested some of them.

The former president of the Zvornik crisis committee, Branko Grujic, told Karadzic’s trial at the Hague Tribunal this week that paramilitary units rather than Bosnian Serb soldiers were responsible for crimes against Bosniaks in the town in 1992.

Grujic, who was sentenced in Serbia to six years in prison for crimes against Bosniaks in Zvornik, testified on behalf of Karadzic’s defence that paramilitaries from Serbia – including fighters led by the notorious Zeljko Raznatovic, alias Arkan – took control in Zvornik in 1992.

According to Grujic, “Arkan and his major Peja took over control”, leaving local Serb leaders “without any powers”.

Grujic said that both Serbs and Bosniaks were “hostages and victims” of the Serbian paramilitaries.

He said that he informed Karadzic about their crimes in July 1992 and that the Bosnian Serb president was “surprised and stunned”.

Acting on Karadzic’s warrant, a special police unit then arrested members of the paramilitary units, Grujic said.

Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica, terror against civilians in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage. He is also accused of persecuting Bosniaks and Croats in 20 municipalities, including Zvornik.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Catrina Gustafsson presented Grujic with evidence indicating that Arkan’s forces were invited by Zvornik police commander Dragan Spasojevic. Grujic did not deny this.
Grujic also did not deny having welcomed Vojin Vuckovic, known as Zuca, former leader of the paramilitary ‘Yellow Wasps’, whose members committed serious crimes against Bosniaks later in April 1992.

“Each hand and each man was welcome, as far as we were concerned... It is true that I did not ask them who they were or where they had come from,” Grujic said.

When Grujic said that Bosniaks left the village of Kozluk near Zvornik on their own initiative in 1992, the Hague prosecutor presented him with the verdict in his Belgrade trial, which said that the Kozluk residents were deported after Grujic and others gave them an ultimatum.

“That is not true... The Court wanted to sentence me at all costs,” Grujic responded.

“The traitorous regime of [then Serbian President] Boris Tadic needed it, so he could visit Brussels and Bosnia and apologise... I was sentenced without one single piece of evidence,” he said.

This week Karadzic also called to the stand two former Bosnian Serb politicians and a top army officer as he sought to distance himself from the massacres in Srebrenica.

Former Bosnian Serb assistant interior minister Milenko Karisik told the court that nobody informed him in July 1995 that crimes had been committed in Srebrenica and so he could not tell Karadzic about them.

Milan Ninkovic, who was Bosnian Serb defence minister in 1995, said meanwhile that Karadzic was against the military operation in Srebrenica. He also stated that “Karadzic did not have any role or responsibility in approving military operations”.

Retired Bosnian Serb lieutenant-colonel Mirko Trivic said that Karadzic never thought that the Srebrenica enclave should disappear and that no plan for the elimination of Bosniaks existed either.

According to Trivic’s testimony, Karadzic only wanted to “prevent further terrorist attacks” from the enclave and “reinforce the Serbian positions surrounding it”.

Karadzic’s trial continues.
Serb General: Mladic ‘Intolerant and Self-Obsessed’

A retired Bosnian Serb general told Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that his commander Ratko Mladic was a “narrow-minded” military chief who wanted to continue the war.

He said that Karadzic wanted peace while Mladic wanted to keep on fighting.

“Mladic and his soldiers wanted military victory, while Karadzic and political leaders wanted an end to the war and results achieved through negotiations,” Subotic said.

“From the military angle, Karadzic made mistakes many times for the sake of peace and the survival of both Muslims and Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but from the human angle, he did an excellent thing,” he said.

Testifying in Karadzic’s defence, he said that the genocide charges against his former political leader were false.

“I cannot say whether it is a complete deceit, but it is a deceit of more than 50 per cent... Sadly, I cannot prove that,” said Subotic, who was Karadzic’s advisor in July 1995.

He insisted that the mass killings after Srebrenica fell were not sanctioned by Bosnian Serb political leaders, who only wanted Mladic to put the enclave under their control.

“I do not know who allowed the commission of crimes. It was not the supreme command. It is not known and has not been determined whether Mladic allowed it or mercenaries did it on their own,” he said.
Karadžić, former Bosnian Serb president and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide against about 7,000 Bosniaks in Srebrenica.

He is also charged with persecuting Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Subotic also testified that Karadžić would have never signed a directive ordering his army to create “an unbearable situation of insecurity without hope of life and survival” in Srebrenica.

“I do not believe that he would have accepted it, had he read it... I consider that the president did not read it,” he said.

Karadžić’s trial will resume next week.
Karadzic ‘Did Not Control’
Bosnian Serb Army

A witness at the trial of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said that he did not control the army and that most Srebrenica massacre victims were not peaceful civilians.

JUSTICE REPORT

Defence witness Gordan Milinic, Karadzic’s former security advisor, testified at the Hague Tribunal last week that Bosnian Serb generals openly said during the war that “Karadzic is not their supreme commander”.

“The civilian authorities did not control the military structures. The army chief headquarters commanded independently as a separate body, and they needed the president [Karadzic] as their cover,” said Milinic.

Emphasising that in July 1995 he was seeing Bosnian Serb security reports, Milinic claimed that he didn’t know about the murder of prisoners from Srebrenica and that he believed “Karadzic didn’t know either”.

Milinic said that “Srebrenica was a big set-up” because most of the “several thousand Muslims” were actually killed in combat when they attempted to break through to the town of Tuzla in July 1995.

He said that the accusation that the Bosnian Serb Army shot about 7,000 Muslim men was “Muslim propaganda”.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against 7,000 Muslim men from Srebrenica in the days after the Bosnian Serb Army seized the UN-protected zone on July 11, 1995.

He is also charged with terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with lengthy sniping and shelling campaigns, expelling Bosniaks and Croat and taking international peacekeepers hostage.

Another witness at the trial last week, Dusan Kovacevic, who was the Bosnian Serb defence minister in 1993, also said he was “not aware that Karadzic ever spoke with anyone about Srebrenica”.

“I haven’t heard a single word about it from him, or any data on victims in Srebrenica,” said Kovacevic.
He testified that he heard from Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic in late 1995 that there were “uncontrolled killings of a small number of prisoners” from Srebrenica in retaliation for Serbs killed in previous years around the enclave.

The trial continues this week.
At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, ex-Serbian Radical Party leader Seselj confirmed his wartime goal was a ‘Greater Serbia’ including “Serbian Bosnia, Serbian Herzegovina, Serbian Macedonia, Serbian Croatia”.

Seselj testified at Karadzic’s trial at the Hague Tribunal on Monday that he wanted and still wants to create a much larger Serbian state, incorporating territory from neighbouring countries.

“It was and still is my general goal, but not the general goal of Serbia and Serbian leadership... It is the goal of the Serbian Radical Party, but no other party,” said Seselj, who was testifying for the defence.

He added that his vision of Serbia was one with no ethnic minorities, but “ethnic unity and harmony among Orthodox Serbs, Catholic Serbs, Muslim Serbs and atheist Serbs”.

He called Bosniaks “Serbs who converted to Islam” and said that “no one can permanently keep the Serbian people divided”.

Seselj is also on trial at the Hague Tribunal for war crimes in Croatia, Serbia’s Vojvodina region and Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1991 and 1993.

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic is being tried for genocide in Srebrenica, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking international peace-keepers hostage.

According to Seselj, late Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic provided crucial assistance to local Serbs during the wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“Without help from Serbia, neither Republika Srpska nor Republika Srpska Krajina could have survived,” said Seselj.

Prosecutor Alan Tieger confronted Seselj with his own statement in the BBC documentary series ‘The Death of Yugoslavia’ that Milosevic directly
asked him in 1992 to send volunteer fighters to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that an attack on Zvornik in April that year was “planned in Belgrade”.

Seselj said that that statement was “exaggerated” and that he said it because of his then conflict with Milosevic.

Prosecutor Tieger reminded Seselj that, before the war, he had threatened Bosniaks with expulsion all the way to Anatolia, but the witness replied that he meant “pan-Islamists, not all Muslims”.

“I was calling on Muslims not to go to war with Serbs, that they would suffer the most. And they did – of 100,000 victims, 50,000 to 60,000 were Muslims... The aim of my threats was to prevent war,” said Seselj.

The trial of Karadzic continues on Tuesday.
Radovan Karadzic ‘Wouldn’t Have Agreed Srebrenica Killings’

Former Bosnian Serb police commander Ljubomir Borovcanin told Karadzic’s war crimes trial that he knew of no plan for mass executions of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in 1995.

JUSTICE REPORT

Borovcanin told Karadzic’s trial at the Hague Tribunal this week that after the fall of Srebrenica in July 1995 he did not know about a plan for the execution of Bosniaks and that he did not believe that Radovan Karadzic consented to the murder of captives.

Borovcanin, who was sentenced to 17 years in prison in April 2010 for having assisted the extermination and persecution of Bosniaks from Srebrenica, said that he commanded a brigade of the Bosnian Serb special police in July 1995.

In his written statement, Borovcanin confirmed that on July 13, 1995 he saw 20 or 30 dead Bosniaks in front of the co-operative warehouse in the village of Kravica.

He added that policemen under his command, who were guarding the warehouse, told him that the captives were killed after an incident in which a Bosniak seized a rifle from a guard and killed him.

Borovcanin said he informed the Bratunac brigade of the Bosnian Serb Army and Karadzic’s envoy for Srebrenica, Miroslav Deronjic, about the deaths.

Borovcanin said that prior to arriving in Kravica, he saw Bosnian Serb Commander Ratko Mladic promising a group of Bosniak captives in Sandici that “they would be transferred to Kladanj by bus and that they would be reunited with their families”.

He said that he thought that “Mladic was honest”, adding that, at that moment he “did not know about any plans for killing the captives”.

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He said that while he was at the Zvornik brigade command HQ two days later, he heard that Bosniaks were being brought to the area, but “there were no indications that they would be killed.”

Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb President and supreme commander of its army, is charged with genocide against around 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica who were killed by the Bosnian Serb Army after it occupied the enclave on July 11, 1995.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Peter McCloskey asked Borovcanin if he accepted that Mladic lied to the Bosniaks and that they were killed.

“I believe that they were taken away and that, most probably, many of those people were executed,” Borovcanin replied.

When asked whether he was claiming that the policemen who were under his command did not commit any crimes, Borovcanin said no.

The prosecutor asked him to explain “what crimes you committed” and “how many people you killed”.

Borovcanin said: “The verdict pronounced against me is the best answer to your questions... It was determined that a certain number of my men participated in the murders.”

Responding to a prosecutor’s allegation that he was responsible for protecting the captives and that he failed to do so, Borovcanin said that he was “certainly one of the culprits”.

“That is why they sentenced me,” he said.

The trial continues next week.
Bosnian Serb Snipers ‘Did Not Target Civilians’

At the Hague trial of former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic, a ballistics expert testified that Serbs were not responsible for a series of sniper shootings in Sarajevo.

JUSTICE REPORT

Testifying in Karadzic’s defence, ballistics expert Mile Poparic told the Hague Tribunal last week that Bosnian Serb forces did not carry out 17 sniper attacks against civilians in Sarajevo during the conflict.

According to the charges against Karadzic, those attacks, as well as constant shelling, were a part of a campaign aimed at terrorising the local population in besieged Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995.

After having analysed the results of Sarajevo police investigations and other evidence, Poparic prepared a report about sniper incidents, in which he said that the bullets could not have come from the Serb side and civilians could not have been intentionally hit in “the crossfire” between the Bosnians Serbs and the Bosnian Army.

Poparic said that bullets which hit trams in Sarajevo in 1994 and 1995 were fired from downtown Sarajevo territories controlled by the Bosnian Army and not from Serb positions in the city surroundings.

During cross-examination, Hague prosecutor Fergal Gaynor tried to undermine Poparic’s credibility by saying that he was not an expert on the subject of snipers and that he had not been trained to conduct criminal investigations. Poparic confirmed this.

Another witness who testified at Karadzic’s trial last week, former Bosnian politician Nenad Kecmanovic said that the multi-ethnic leadership of Bosnia was a “facade for the world” which President Alija Izetbegovic used to “camouflage” his policy of “Muslim domination”.

“Instead of through the presidency and the government, Izetbegovic ruled through his Party of Democratic Action, through a narrow religious and ethnic group of convicts,” said Kecmanovic, who was a member of the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the summer of 1992.
He said that Izetbegovic’s expectation that NATO would intervene on behalf of Muslims negatively affected his readiness to compromise during the summer of 1992.

The trial of Karadzic, who is charged with genocide in Srebrenica, the expulsion of Muslims and Croats across Bosnia, terrorising the citizens of Sarajevo and taking international peacekeepers hostage, continues this week.
Bosnian Serb Intelligence ‘Not Told About Srebrenica’

A former Bosnian Serb Army intelligence officer told the Hague trial of Radovan Karadzic that he knew nothing about the mass murders of Muslim prisoners from Srebrenica in 1995.

Lieutenant colonel Svetozar Kosoric testified at the Hague Tribunal this week, as Karadzic attempted to prove that Bosnian Serb forces had no information or instructions that Muslim prisoners would be killed.

Former intelligence officer Kosoric said that the first he heard about the murders was in October 1995 from representatives of the international community.

Although he was with Bosnian Serb Army commander Ratko Mladic in Potocari near Srebrenica in July 1995, Kosoric claimed that “in those 10 to 15 minutes”, he did not see Serb forces take Muslim men away from their families.

He also denied he was in charge of transporting Bosniaks out of the enclave.

During cross-examination, Kosoric admitted that his duty had been to interrogate the prisoners.

Reiterating that he did not know about the mass executions in the days after the fall of Srebrenica, he said that he believed “such an order did not exist” and that “no one could carry it out”.

However, Kosoric admitted that “it was possible” that the decision to execute Muslim prisoners was “made behind closed doors”.

Karadzic is on trial as the supreme commander of the Bosnian Serb army, accused of taking part in the genocide of 7,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica. He is also charged with the expulsion of Muslims and Croats, terrorising civilians and taking international peacekeepers hostage.

During the past week, the former mayor of Skelani municipality Dane Katanic also testified that, at their two meetings after the massacres in July
1995, Radovan Karadzic did not mention the murders of Bosniaks from Srebrenica to him.

“There was no discussion about the murders of captives from Srebrenica,” Katanic said.

Katanic also said he saw buses transporting Bosniaks from Srebrenica when he was at a meeting in Bratunac on July 13, 1995.

“I did not see how many people were present. I did not have a need to look at them. I saw a crowd of people... I am not so curious to look at things I should not look at,” Katanic said.

When the prosecutor suggested that on that same day he had heard about “the shooting of more than 1,000 Bosniaks” in the nearby village of Kravica, Katanic denied it.

Karadzic’s trial will resume on Tuesday.
Vojislav Seselj to Testify in Karadzic’s Defence

Seselj, leader of the Serbian Radical Party, is expected to testify at the Hague Tribunal for the defence of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic next month.

JUSTICE REPORT

Karadzic’s defence team has announced that Seselj, who is also on trial for war crimes in The Hague, will testify in June.

Seselj is charged with crimes against Croats and Muslims in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia from 1991–93 and is currently in detention, awaiting his verdict which has been scheduled for October 30.

Karadzic is charged with persecuting Muslims and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, committing genocide in Srebrenica, terrorising the population of Sarajevo with artillery and sniper attacks and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

According to the charges against them, Karadzic and Seselj both participated in a joint criminal enterprise aimed at permanently removing the non-Serb population from large territories in Bosnia and Herzegovina and integrating those territories into a unified Serbian state.

Seselj, who has been held in the Tribunal’s detention unit for a decade after he voluntarily surrendered, has also testified in defence of former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic who, according to the charges pressed against him before he died, led the joint criminal enterprise.

Karadzic also announced that retired Bosnian Serb general Zdravko Tolimir and lieutenant colonel Ljubisa Beara would testify in his defence in June.

Tolimir and Beara have already been sentenced by the Tribunal to life imprisonment for genocide in Srebrenica.
Bosnian Serbs ‘Didn’t Shell Sarajevo Civilians’

Testifying in Radovan Karadzic’s defence at the Hague Tribunal, a ballistics expert said the Bosnian Serb Army didn’t carry out a series of mortar attacks that killed many civilians.

Ballistics expert Zorica Subotic rejected the findings of several investigations conducted by Sarajevo police and UN peacekeepers who determined that mortar grenades that exploded in a series of bloody incidents in Sarajevo were fired from Bosnian Serb positions.

Subotic said that her own analysis suggested that the mortars were fired from the direction of positions held by the Bosnian Army.

Karadzic, then president of the Serb-led Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with long-running artillery and sniper attacks.

According to Subotic’s findings, the mortar grenades which killed six children and wounded five adults in the Alipasino Polje neighbourhood of Sarajevo on January 22, 1994, were fired from the direction of the UPI Institute building, where Bosnian Army forces were situated.

Subotic came to a similar conclusion in the case of explosions which killed eight people in the Dobrinja neighbourhood on February 4, 1994.

She said that Sarajevo investigators wrongly determined the direction from which the projectiles came. She also said she noticed Latin alphabet letters on the explosive remnants, pointing out that Bosnian Serb bombs were marked with Cyrillic alphabet letters only.

Subotic also said that the murder of civilians at the Markale market in February 1994 was not caused by a mortar grenade but by a “statically activated” explosive which had been planted there. She said that a mortar grenade could not have exploded in the second major blast at the market in August 1995 without it being registered by UN peacekeepers’ radars.

During the cross-examination, which was dedicated to technical details, prosecutors Catrina Gustafsson and Feargal Gaynor tried to prove that
Subotic based her findings on an incorrect interpretation of investigations into the explosions in Sarajevo conducted by the UN and local police.

However the ballistics expert insisted that she was right.

The trial of Karadzic, who is also charged with genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN peacekeepers hostage, is due to continue on May 21.
Bosnian Serb Army ‘Did Not Target Sarajevo Civilians’

Testifying at the trial of the wartime Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, a former Serb military officer said he did not have adequate information on civilian victims in Sarajevo.

JUSTICE REPORT

Stanislav Galic, commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps with the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, testifying in defence of Karadzic, said his units only attacked military targets in Sarajevo but accepted that there might have been “casual civilian victims” in the city.

In 2006 the Hague Tribunal pronounced a second-instance verdict against Galic, sentencing him to life imprisonment for terrorizing the population in Sarajevo by conducting a campaign of artillery and sniper attacks.

The indictment against Karadzic, the wartime president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its army, charges him with terrorizing civilians in Sarajevo, as well as genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN personal hostage.

During the cross-examination, Prosecutor Edgerton presented Galic with a series of protest letters submitted to him by UNPROFOR following mortar and sniper attacks on Sarajevo in which civilians were killed and wounded. Galic responded by saying that he checked the information with subordinate commands, who informed him that they either “responded to fire” from the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina or did not shoot at all.

The witness denied that his forces took revenge on civilians following Bosnian Army attacks in other areas, claiming that “the fire was directed towards sources of fire” in the city.

“When opening fire at a military target, we knew that it might cause civilian victims. There may have been civilian victims,” Galic said.

Commenting on Galic’s allegation that Bosnian Army units were present in the Cengic Vila neighbourhood, Sarajevo, where a 13-year-old boy was wounded in July 1994, the prosecutor confronted the witness with a statement given by his officer, Blagoje Kovacevic, who previously said in his
defence testimony at the Karadzic trial that no enemy soldiers were present in that neighbourhood and that no military conflicts happened there.

“I found out about these things later on. At that time I did not have that information. I am sorry about that guy. He was a child…I am saying again that I feel sorry for each victim,” Galic said.

Despite his allegations that the VRS did not have any sniper units, Galic said it was “possible” that individual snipers gathered in groups in order to carry out specific tasks.

When asked about a grenade explosion at the Markale open air market on February 5, 1994, which killed 66 and wounded 75 citizens, Galic stuck to his statement that his Corps did not fire the projectile. He said “it was nearly impossible” to hit the marketplace “with just one grenade”.

Karadzic’s trial also heard this week from the wartime leader of the Croatian Serbs, Milan Martic, who denied there was a plan to deport Bosniaks and Croats from Bosnia and Croatia. “I am absolutely saying that no joint criminal enterprise existed. It is just a construction created by this Tribunal,” Martic said.

In a written statement which the defence included as evidence, Martic said that Karadzic’s goal was to “preserve Yugoslavia” in a peaceful manner. Martic said that Karadzic, whom he described as “extremely tolerant”, did not want to create “an exclusively Serb territory” and that he did not have a plan “for the persecution of Muslims and Croats”.

In 2008, the Hague Tribunal pronounced a second-instance verdict against Martic, sentencing him to 35 years in prison for crimes in the Kninska Krajina area of Croatia and for the shelling of the capital, Zagreb.

The Hague prosecution is due to continue cross-examining Martic on Monday.
UN Peace Envoy Testifies for Karadzic Defence

Former UN peace envoy Jasushi Akashi testified at Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that it was impossible to prove that Bosnian Serb forces were responsible for a market massacre in Sarajevo.

JUSTICE REPORT

Japanese diplomat Akashi, who was the UN secretary general’s special envoy for the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s conflict, testified that an expert commission which he assigned to investigate the February 1994 massacre that killed 66 people could not level blame at either Serb or Bosnian forces.

“The grenade [that killed the civilians at the Markale open-air market] could have come both from the Serb and Bosnian government’s side,” Akashi told the Hague Tribunal as he testified in Karadzic’s defence on Wednesday.

The day after the explosion, Akashi said, Karadzic insisted that the Bosnian Serb Army did not fire the mortar shell and that the Bosnian Army was responsible.

Akashi said that after the Markale attack, Karadzic agreed to a ceasefire but the Bosnian government “considered it not enough and wanted the Bosnian Serb artillery around Sarajevo withdrawn”.

Former Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic is charged with conducting a shelling and sniping campaign against civilians in Sarajevo, including the attack on the Markale market on February 5, 1994. He is also charged with genocide, the expulsion of Muslims and Croats and taking international peacekeepers hostages.

On Karadzic’s suggestion, Akashi told the Tribunal that in 1994 and 1995, the authorities in Sarajevo, encouraged by the US, did not want a lasting peace agreement because that would, in their belief, allow Serbs to keep large portions of territories they had seized.

“The balance of power constantly shifted. In the beginning, the [Bosnian Serb] Army of Republika Srpska was very dominant and, at one point, con-
trolled around 70 per cent of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina,” he testified.

“By the end of war, in 1994-95, the military balance shifted to the advantage of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatian forces. That is why the Bosnian Serbs wanted a more permanent ceasefire and the stabilisation of the situation, while the Bosnian government was against any kind of freezing of the military situation,” he said.

As an example, Akashi mentioned that Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic refused to extend a four-month truce in late 1994.

Addressing Karadzic, he said: “You and the Croats agreed to the extension of the truce, but the Bosnian side was against it, which made the agreement impossible”, adding that the Bosnian Serbs were ready to return the seized territories as a part of a more permanent solution.

Asked by Karadzic who was most responsible for violating the truces, Akashi replied: “All sides, especially yours and the Bosnian government’s side.”

He said that the balance of power shifted by military aid to the Bosnian Army provided by the US, Germany, and some Asian countries despite a UN embargo.

The witness said it that Karadzic had assured him he did not want the division of Sarajevo but the creation of a “twin city” with some of its territory controlled by the Serbs.
Bosnian Serb Commander ‘Didn’t Target Sarajevo Civilians’

Former commander and convicted war criminal Stanislav Galic told Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that he never gave orders to use snipers against civilians in besieged Sarajevo.

JUSTICE REPORT

“My orders said that nobody had the right to chose civilians as targets,” defence witness Galic told the Hague Tribunal trial of former Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic on Monday.

Galic, the former commander of the Bosnian Serb Army’s Sarajevo-Romanija Corps who was jailed for life by the Tribunal in 2006 for terrorising the population of the capital, was responding to Karadzic’s question about whether he ordered the shooting of civilians or received reports about such attacks.

He denied that the forces he led in Sarajevo from 1992-94 had a sniper unit, explaining that only individual snipers were deployed against enemy snipers and “important targets” such as Bosnian Army officers.

Karadzic is charged with terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with a systematic shelling and sniping campaign, as well as genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

When asked whether he gave an order to open fire at three-year-old Anisa Pita, a girl who was injured by a bullet injured while playing on the balcony of her house in the Sirokaca neighbourhood of Sarajevo on December 13, 1992, Galic said that he was “sure” that neither he nor any other members of his corps ordered anybody “to open fire at a child”.

However, he suggested that positions held by the Bosnian Army were close to where the girl was hit.

Galic gave almost identical answers when Karadzic presented him with about ten other attacks listed in the indictment in which, as he put it, civilians were “allegedly” wounded.
When asked about the wounding of two women in a bus full of passengers in the Dobrinja neighbourhood on May 25, 1994, Galic said: “It was prohibited to open fire at means of transportation, but if vehicles transported military units, they were considered legitimate targets.”

Presiding judge O-Gon Kwon asked him whether “on the basis of what you know today, you are excluding the possibility that the victims mentioned in the indictment were killed by Serb soldiers?”

Galic responded that he could not say something like that.

“Concerning the victims whose names are mentioned, I cannot say that none of those things happened. The current evidence shows that some incidents undoubtedly happened. However, I am repeating again that I did not have those pieces of evidence in that period of time,” he said.

Karadzic continues examining Galic on Tuesday.
Karadzic: No Genocide in Seven Municipalities

The Hague prosecution has asked the Appeals Chamber to annul the first-instance decision that acquitted Radovan Karadzic at the trial's halfway stage of charges of genocide, except for Srebrenica.

Justice report

Karadzic’s defence said there is no evidence that Bosnian Serb forces under Karadzic’s command committed genocide against the non-Serb population in seven mentioned municipalities in 1992.

The Trial Chamber of the Hague Tribunal last June 28 acquitted Karadzic of charges of genocide against Muslims and Croats in the municipalities of Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik.

According to that decision, the prosecutors failed to prove that the crimes by Serb forces, including expulsion and extermination, were committed with “genocidal intent” to fully or partially wipe out Muslims and Croats as ethnic groups.

In discussion of the appeal, prosecutors said the decision was wrong and that they had presented enough evidence, not only of serious crimes committed in the said municipalities but also that the crimes were a result of Karadzic’s “genocidal intent”.

The prosecutor, Alan Tieger, said it had been proven that Serbian forces committed all elements of genocide in 1992 in the municipalities – mass murder, infliction of grievous bodily and mental harm and creation of un-bearable conditions for the survival of a whole ethnic group or its parts.

Tieger recalled the grave crimes committed in the detention camps of Omarska and Keraterm and the expulsion of almost the whole Muslim population from the municipality of Prijedor.

He said that “the bodies of 5,000 Muslims were thrown into a mine shaft”, after which Serb officials “considered whether to grind them up or burn them”. As a result, the pre-war representation of Muslims in the overall population, of 42 per cent, was reduced after the war to 1 per cent.
The prosecutor illustrated Karadzic’s “genocidal intent” by quoting his statement uttered in the parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 1991: “Do not think you will not push Bosnia into hell and maybe the Bosniak people into extinction, because the Muslim people cannot defend themselves if a war breaks out.”

Allowing that some of Karadzic’s statements could be seen as an expression of “genocidal intent”, his legal councillor, Peter Robinson, suggested it was not important because no genocide took place on the ground in the seven municipalities, as had been established.

“There is no proof that anyone acted upon those statements,” said Robinson, emphasising that Serbian forces had the “opportunity and means to destroy tens of thousands of non-Serbs but they didn’t”.

Recalling that the prosecution’s expert had established that in the war in Bosnia 2 per cent of Muslims population were killed, Robinson wondered: “If Karadzic and Mladic had genocidal intent, how did 98 per cent of Muslims escape it?”

Robinson also noted that genocide – outside Srebrenica – was not established by the International Criminal Court’s verdict in the case Bosnia and Herzegovina versus Serbia, nor in earlier verdicts by the Tribunal on Bosnian Serb officials, including Momcilo Krajisnik, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2009.

Karadzic said that not only was he not guilty of genocide, “but nobody is, because there was no genocide”. He claimed that prosecutors “could not find a genocidal intent” in “thousands of his speeches and interviews and orders.

“Even if they did, there was no genocide on the ground... There’s been no genocide anywhere, there were crimes, but the state prosecuted them and forbade them,” Karadzic said, claiming that in percentage terms, more Serbs were killed in the war than Muslims – 2.8 per cent of the overall number.

The remaining 10 counts charge Karadzic with genocide in Srebrenica, expulsion of Muslims and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with campaigns of shelling and sniping and taking international peacekeepers hostages.

Whether Karadzic will again be charged with genocide in seven municipalities, the Appeals Chamber will decide at a later date.
‘No Conspiracy Against Non-Serbs’, Karadzic’s Trial Told

Ex-prime minister of Republika Srpska Dusan Kozic told Radovan Karadzic’s Hague Tribunal trial that the Bosnian Serbs’ former political leader never ordered or supported war crimes.

Kozic testified at the trial last week that Karadzic never “committed, ordered, supported or influenced the commission of war crimes against non-Serbs”.

He said Karadzic “expressed support” for the Bosnian Serb government’s decision to collect information about all crimes irrespective of the ethnicity of the perpetrators and victims.

Kozic, who was the Bosnian Serb-led entity’s prime minister in 1994 and 1995, also said that the Bosniaks voluntarily left Srebrenica after the Republika Srpska Army had occupied the enclave in July 1995.

The witness said that a government delegation visited Srebrenica in July 1995 and that every possible form of transport was “mobilised”, on the request of the Bosnian Serb Army, in order to “evacuate Muslims at their own request”.

According to Kozic, the government did not have any plans prepared for the evacuation. He said the Bosnian Serb government received no reports mentioning the shooting of captives.

The indictment charges Karadzic with genocide against about 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica. He is also charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with long-term shelling and sniping campaigns, and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Current Bosnian Serb President Milorad Dodik also testified in Karadzic’s defence last week, telling the Tribunal that there was no criminal plot to expel Bosniaks and create a mono-ethnic state.

A further defence witness last week was the former manager of Kula prison near Sarajevo, Soniboj Skiljevic, who said that prisoners of war and
other inmates were not abused, tortured or humiliated at the jail from 1992 to 1995.

Skiljevic, who was appointed in December 1992, said that he did not know anything about the legal grounds for the detention of Bosniaks, because that was “the exclusive responsibility of the Army” which brought them to the prison.

He confirmed that the Bosnian Serb army used to take prisoners to other locations in order to perform forced labour, but he said the prisoners did not complain about it but, on the contrary, volunteered to go.

According to Skiljevic’s testimony, Muslim civilians were held in Kula as well as prisoners of war. He said that they were held separately from the prisoners of war, while waiting to be “exchanged” and go to parts of Sarajevo that were controlled by the Bosnian Army.

In July 2011, the court of Bosnia and Herzegovina acquitted Skiljevic of charges that he committed war crimes at the jail.

Karadzic’s trial continues this week.
Karadzic Was Innocent, Dodik Tells Hague Tribunal

Bosnian Serb President Milorad Dodik told the Hague trial of his predecessor Radovan Karadzic that there was no criminal plot to expel Muslims and create a mono-ethnic state.

JUSTICE REPORT

Dodik, the president of Bosnia’s Serb-run entity Republika Srpska, testified at Karadzic’s trial at the Hague Tribunal on Tuesday that there was no joint criminal enterprise by the Serb leadership to forcibly and permanently remove Muslims and Croats from Bosnian territory that had been designated for a new Serb-dominated state.

Addressing Karadzic directly in the courtroom, Dodik said: “I have never heard anyone, not at a single meeting or assembly session, promote such goals, nor did I hear you say that at any time, nor did I hear you request it, nor were you in the position to issue orders for such enterprises, especially not criminal ones”.

Dodik said that he never heard his former leader ask anyone “to commit any crime”.

“Karadzic never insisted that any crimes be committed, nor have I witnessed him participating in them,” said Dodik.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Alan Tieger reminded Dodik that in 2001, he had accused the Serbian Democratic Party, which Karadzic led, of organising crimes and participating in them.

The prosecutor quoted Dodik’s statement to the regional parliament in Banja Luka in which he said that “it should be openly said that the crimes were orchestrated under the leadership of the Serbian Democratic Party” and that the perpetrators “must answer for them before the Hague Tribunal”.

Dodik agreed he said made the statement but said he had only done it for political reasons, and that it was not true.
“That was a political struggle between myself and the Serbian Democratic Party. It was a political speech which does not necessarily have to be based on facts, but I do not deny I said that,” Dodik responded.

Asked whether he “accepts or denies that mass crimes were committed against Muslims and Croats”, Dodik replied: “A civil war was going on. Serbs, Croats and Muslims all had organised military power. There were violations of the rules of war and crimes on all three sides.”

Dodik also claimed that “where they were not armed and did not support military factions, Muslims were left alone and there were no proof of crimes”.

He said that Karadzic persistently sought a peaceful resolution to the conflict and demanded that paramilitaries who committed crimes face justice.

Karadzic, who led Republika Srpska and the Serbian Democratic Party during the war, is being tried for the expulsion of Muslims and Croats across Bosnia, genocide in Srebrenica, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo during the siege of the city, as well as taking UN peacekeepers hostages between 1992 and 1995.

In his testimony, Dodik said the Bosnian war was caused by the “unilateral secession” from Yugoslavia in 1991 and 1992 by the Party of Democratic Action led by Alija Izetbegovic. Izetbegovic, who was the first president of Bosnia and Herzegovina, died in October 2003.

Dodik said that at the time, Izetbegovic was promoting the introduction of a society based on Islamic values and sharia.

“I could see, day in day out, the operative development of these political goals from Izetbegovic’s declaration which clearly stated that wherever Muslims establish authority, they have to organise an Islamic state,” he said.

He said that the Party of Democratic Action, as a “pronouncedly nationalist party”, was “consistently trying to violate the carefully balanced structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina based on the fact that there were three peoples living there.

He said that Izetbegovic’s aim of creating unified Bosnia and Herzegovina under his party’s control was intended to lead to “Muslim domination”.

The witness emphasised he was not a member of the Serbian Democratic Party, but that he believed Izetbegovic’s policy had dangerous intentions and laid the groundwork for the conflict.
Prosecutor Tieger reminded Dodik of a previous statement he had made, in which he alleged that Karadzic took 36 million Deutschmarks out of Republika Srpska in 1997.

Dodik replied that he later learned that the money was “invested into materials for rebuilding Republika Srpska” and deposited with companies in Serbia.

The trial continues.
Bosnian Serbs ‘Didn’t Block Aid to Srebrenica’

A former Bosnian Serb Army officer told Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that Serb forces did not stop humanitarian aid reaching civilians in the besieged Srebrenica enclave in 1995.

DENIS DZIDIC

Testifying in Karadzic’s defence at the Hague Tribunal this week, Slavko Kralj, who served as an officer with the Bosnian Serb Army’s main headquarters, said the former political leader had argued for the uninterrupted access of humanitarian convoys to Srebrenica.

The army headquarters’ policy was to allow the passage of convoys “whenever it was really necessary”, he said.

“The army did not allow resources and equipment that could have been used by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina into Srebrenica,” Kralj explained.

Karadzic is charged with the genocide of around 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica in July 1995.

The indictment alleges that he participated in the planned manipulation of humanitarian aid to Srebrenica, using it as a tool for achieving his political and military aims.

The Hague prosecution also charges Karadzic with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

During cross-examination, Prosecutor Caroline Edgerton presented the witness with documents from the UN refugee agency outlining insufficient deliveries of food to Srebrenica.

Kralj replied that “the problem lay in the fact that a part of the food was given to the Muslim army”.

When asked by the prosecutor whether he thought it was the people of Srebrenica’s fault that the humanitarian supplies didn’t go through, the witness said: “It was their fault to a significant extent.”
Kralj also alleged that he had information indicating that the UN Protection Force was sharing supplies and fuel with the Bosnian Army in Srebrenica.

Karadzic this week also called former detention camp commander Gojko Cekic, who said that prisoners of war held in the Batkovic ‘collection centre’ near the town of Bijeljina were treated in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

Cekic, who was the commander of the camp from August 1994, said that most of the prisoners of war were former members of the Bosnian Army. He insisted that living conditions at Batkovic were good and that he never allowed the abuse of prisoners.

“No, it is not known to me that people were beaten up. I was not present in Batkovic at that time. As far as I know, nobody mentioned it,” Cekic said.

The former leader of the Serb authorities in the town of Foca, Radojica Mladjenovic, and the wartime leader of the Serbian Democratic Party in the town of Sokolac, Milovan Bjelica, also testified this week in Karadzic’s defence, claiming that crimes against Bosniaks and Croats were never authorised from above.

Mladjenovic said that such crimes were “individual, isolated cases” and that paramilitary groups were responsible for them.

Bjelica accused “Muslim extremists” for the start of the conflict, adding that they committed “sabotage and terrorist [acts]” at the beginning of 1992.

The trial continues next week with testimony from current Bosnian Serb president Milorad Dodik, who praised his predecessor Karadzic on Thursday for what he had done for Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity, Republika Srpska.

“Karadzic sacrificed himself and the well-being of his family for the interests of Republika Srpska,” Dodik told reporters in Banja Luka.
Karadzic ‘Sacrificed Himself for Serbs’, Says Dodik

Current Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik praised his predecessor Radovan Karadzic ahead of testifying in his defence at his Hague Tribunal war crimes trial.

DENIS DZIDIC

The president of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik, said that Karadzic had given everything for his people, which was why he would testify in his defence next week at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

“Karadzic sacrificed himself and the well-being of his family for the interests of Republika Srpska,” he told reporters in Banja Luka on Thursday.

Dodik, who was a lawmaker in Republika Srpska during the 1990s war, said he had never seen any of the atrocities that Karadzic is accused of committing while he was the Bosnian Serbs’ political leader.

“As an MP, I met Karadzic during the war, but I was never a witness to crimes,” he said.

Dodik also announced he would testify that the Bosnian secession from Yugoslavia was illegal, since Serbs boycotted the independence referendum on March 1, 1992 and so late president Alija Izetbegovic was not a legitimate representative of all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“Serb representatives did not take part in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the time. This is why I am continuing to repeat today that Bosnia cannot last as a common state, because it is a country on life support, a diseased country held together by the international community,” said Dodik.

This week the ICTY also denied for the second time a request from Karadzic to subpoena former Bosnian Army commander Naser Oric to testify in his defence.

Karadzic first asked the Tribunal to subpoena Oric in November last year, in order to testify about attacks on Serb villages launched from Srebrenica and the surrounding areas by the Bosnian Army. However, this request
was denied because Karadzic had failed to “exhaust reasonable efforts to ensure Oric’s voluntary cooperation”.

Karadzic again contacted Oric and asked him to testify but Oric’s defence lawyer responded by saying that Karadzic had failed to show that issuing a subpoena was necessary and that his client’s testimony would not assist his defence.

“It appears likely that the sole purpose of the proposed subpoena is for the propaganda coup that it would hand Karadzic to be seen to be ‘cross-examining’ Oric,” claimed his lawyer.

Oric further argued that he did not command the Bosnian Army troops in the Srebrenica enclave during the Bosnian war and was unable to testify to the alleged “sacrificing of Srebrenica by the Bosnian government” or about attacks on Bosnian Serb villages prior to the fall of Srebrenica in July 1995.

The ICTY trial chamber decided that although Karadzic had made reasonable efforts to obtain Oric’s voluntary cooperation, a subpoena would not be issued because the information Oric might give could be obtained through other witnesses.

“Some of the information that Karadzic is seeking from Oric is generally similar to testimonial or documentary evidence that is already on the record,” the trial chamber said in its decision statement.

Oric, a former senior commander of Bosnian Army units in the east of the country, was acquitted by the Hague Tribunal of crimes in Srebrenica in July 2008.

Karadzic’s trial – for genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorizing Sarajevo citizens and taking UN peacekeepers hostage between 1992 and 1995 – is continuing this week.

In a separate development on Thursday, former Bosnian Serb general Radislav Krstic pleaded not guilty to contempt of court charges for failing to comply with a subpoena to testify in Karadzic’s defence.
Karadzic Ally Blames Bosniak Paramilitaries for War

A former Bosnian Serb deputy interior minister told the Hague Tribunal trial of Radovan Karadzic that armed Bosniak criminals created chaos and disorder.

JUSTICE REPORT

Testifying at Karadzic’s war crimes trial in The Hague, defence witness Dobrislav Planojevic said that at the beginning of the conflict in Bosnia in 1992, when he was the Bosnian Serb deputy interior minister, there was “widespread plunder” and “criminal groups were everywhere”.

Planojevic blamed Bosniak paramilitary groups for starting the war, claiming that 95 per cent of reservist police officers armed from 1991 onwards were Bosniaks, some of whom were notorious criminals. Weapons were even hidden in mosques, the witness told the Hague Tribunal last week.

He claimed that all crimes were documented and that he never received written reports about war crimes against non-Serbs.

Karadzic is charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia, genocide in Srebrenica, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic last week also called as defence witnesses two officials from the town of Bratunac, Rodoljub Djukanovic and Dusan Micic, who implied that in April 1992, Bosniaks volunteered to leave the town and were not expelled by Serbs.

Djukanovic said that in April 1992, the former president of the Bratunac municipal assembly told him that he intended to take all Bosniaks out of the town who wished to go, asking the municipal authorities to provide security.

Djukanovic, a member of the Bratunac Crisis Staff, said Karadzic never ordered the municipal authorities to do anything. He stood by this statement during the cross-examination when prosecutor Caroline Edgerton presented him with documents from a Crisis Staff meeting where “Karadzic’s order” was discussed.
Meanwhile Dusan Micic, a former member of the Bratunac Territorial Defence Military Police, testified that he saw unknown individuals who were taking away Bosniaks from the town’s primary school, but said he had been ordered not to intervene.

The witness stated that his unit had nothing to do with the Bosniaks detained at the school.

Karadzic’s trial also heard last week from Bozidar Vucurevic, a former president of the municipal assembly in the town of Trebinje.

He stated that Bosniaks left Trebinje voluntarily after they received an invitation to leave from the headquarters of the Party of Democratic Action in Sarajevo. According to Vucurevic, the Serb authorities only secured the convoys to provide safety for the Muslims who were leaving.

“Everything was done to enable the safe departure of Muslim people from eastern Herzegovina and prevent conflicts in Trebinje,” Vucurevic said.

The trial continues.
Karadzic Allies Blame Bosniaks for Sparking Clashes

Defence witnesses testifying at former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial said Bosniak forces started the conflict in the northern town of Bijeljina in 1992.

DENIS DZIDIC

Four defence witnesses called by Karadzic at his Hague Tribunal trial this week accused Bosniaks of provoking the outbreak of fighting in Bijeljina by deploying paramilitary fighters and setting up roadblocks.

The former president of the Bijeljina municipal assembly Cvijetin Simic testified that in March 1992, Bosniak paramilitaries started an “armed riot” which caused the conflict.

He said that paramilitary units formed and armed by the Bosniak-led Party of Democratic Action, SDA, “blockaded” Bijeljina in late March 1992.

By April 1, street fights had escalated, Simic said, and at a crisis management meeting, the SDA refused to lift roadblocks and disarm the paramilitaries until United Nations observers arrived in the town.

Simic concluded that Bosniak leaders wanted the conflict to continue, adding that on April 2, Bosniak paramilitaries occupied the local hospital and prevented civilians from being treated.

Simic described reports about Serbs being the first to attack the town and kill thousands of Muslims as “the lies of the media”.

Karadzic was indicted for the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats in 20 of the country’s municipalities, including Bijeljina. He is also being tried for the Srebrenica genocide, terrorising Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

According to the indictment, Serb paramilitaries killed 48 people in Bijeljina during a forced takeover of the town in late March and early April 1992.

Defence witness Svetozar Mihajlovic also blamed the SDA for the conflicts in Bijeljina in the spring of 1992.
Mihajlovic, the municipal government president, testified that in late March 1992, the town was attacked by Muslim forces organised and armed by the SDA.

He said that the SDA leadership set up roadblocks and positioned snipers on rooftops.

The witness stated that he never received or issued an order to deport the non-Serb population and that the local authorities did everything to prevent crimes.

He confirmed that in September 1992, three Muslim families were killed in Bijeljina, but said that this “gruesome event was condemned by everyone in Bijeljina” and denied that the murders by “paramilitary units” had been premeditated.

Two other witnesses, the deputy commander of the Bijeljina territorial defence force Zivan Filipovic and former police inspector Dusan Spasojevic, testified in Karadzic’s defence this week, also claiming that “Muslim extremists” blockaded Bijeljina on March 31, 1992, blocking roads and putting gunmen on rooftops.

Karadzic’s trial will resume next week.
Srebrenica Mass Killings
‘Motivated by Revenge’

At Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial, a witness said that Bosnian Serb forces killed some of the 7,000 who died at Srebrenica in 1995 because Bosniak prisoners had rebelled.

DENIS DZIDIC

Defence witness Jovan Nikolic testified at former Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic’s trial this week that the mass killings of Bosniaks from Srebrenica in the Kravica village near Bratunac in eastern Bosnia were provoked by an uprising by prisoners who killed a police officer.

Nikolic was the manager of the Kravica farming co-operative, where around 1,000 Bosniaks were killed July 13 and 14, 1995, in the first of several massacres of Srebrenica prisoners, according to Karadzic’s indictment.

The witness said that on July 14, 1995, he came across a “horrific scene”.

“Masked soldiers forced a dozen or 15 prisoners to lie down facing the ground and shot them in the back,” Nikolic recalled, saying that he did not recognise the killers.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against more than 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica in the days following the capture of the eastern Bosnian enclave by the Bosnian Serb army.

He is also standing trial for taking part in the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage.

During cross-examination, prosecutor Julian Nicholls reminded witness Nikolic that in 2001 he had stated that he “had seen genocide” in Kravica. Nikolic replied that he did not remember using that word, but that what he had seen “was horrific”.

When the prosecutor suggested that the murders of 1,000 men could not have been a spontaneous reaction, Nikolic said that “there weren’t 1,000 people there”.
“It was the uncontrolled response of people that are either suffering from a mental disorder or are outlaws or seeking revenge. No normal person could have done that,” he said.

Another defence witness at Karadzic’s trial this week, Aleksandar Tesic, former municipal secretary for national defence in Bratunac, said that in July 1995, while driving recruits to Zvornik by bus, he saw corpses in front of the warehouse in Kravica.

“When I passed by, many corpses were lying next to the co-operative building. Indeed, even when I think about it now, it was a real shock for me and those young guys,” he said.

“I think that there were between 200 and 300 corpses and that the pile was a metre and a half high, so as I was passing by, I got an impression that it was a stack of logs. When we approached them, I realised that those were people... We passed by them slowly. It was horrible,” Tesic continued.

Former Bosnian Serb assistant justice minister Slobodan Avlijas meanwhile testified that local crisis committees disregarded Karadzic’s instructions about the humane treatment of prisoners of war and the unconditional release of civilians.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with members of local crisis committees, with the aim of persecuting the non-Serb population.

Karadzic this week also called demographic expert Stevo Pasalic, who refuted the Hague prosecution’s demographic experts’ evidence about ethnic cleansing in Bosnia.

Pasalic said that they were “tendentious” and based on incorrect samples, adding that the experts failed to consider all the significant causes of changes in the composition of the population.

Karadzic’s trial will resume on Monday.
Bosniaks ‘Left Homes Voluntarily’ During Wartime

Defence witnesses told the Hague trial of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that his forces didn’t expel civilians or intern them in prison camps during the conflict.

JUSTICE REPORT

Mane Djuric, former police chief in the town of Vlasenica, testified at the Hague Tribunal this week that Bosniaks were responsible for conflict that erupted there in 1992 because they were being illegally armed.

He said the Bosnian Serb Army “did not occupy anything” in Vlasenica, “it just liberated what Muslims had occupied”.

In late April 1992, the local Serbian Crisis Committee, of which he was a member, defined procedures for “enabling citizens to leave Vlasenica in case they wanted to”.

“The civilians, who wanted to leave, and that included Muslims, Croats and Serbs, were sent to a reception centre in Susica, which was not a detention camp for Muslims, as alleged by the prosecutors,” Djuric said.

In 2004, Susica’s commander Dragan Nikolic was sentenced to 20 years in jail by the Hague Tribunal after admitting the persecution, murder and torture of Bosniak detainees.

Former Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic is on trial for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war, and part of his indictment alleges that he persecuted the Muslim population in Vlasenica.

Witness Djuric said that, during his meetings with Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader said laws should be applied equally to all citizens, irrespective of their ethnicity.

Karadzic this week also called a doctor from Bijeljina, Milivoje Kicanovic, who denied allegations that Serb forces deported Bosnikas from the town, claiming that actually they “helped” them leave.
Kicanovic described the conflict in Bijeljina as a consequence of actions by “Muslim extremists” who “blocked the streets and shoot at people randomly”.

According to Kicanovic, who met Karadzic on several occasions, the Bosnian Serb leader called for the easing of tensions in Bijeljina and “sincerely wanted to prevent the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

Savo Bojanovic, a former judge at the military court in Bijeljina, also testified in Karadzic’s defence and claimed that he tried Serbs who committed crimes including the murder of two prisoners and the rape of two Bosniak women.

Another defence witness Obren Markovic, denied that Bosniak and Croat civilians were deported from the town of Brcko. He blamed Bosniak and Croat forces for the outbreak of the war there.

Karadzic’s trial will resume next week.
Karadzic ‘Did Not Want a Greater Serbia’

Former Serbian and Montenegrin politicians testified at Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that the Bosnian Serb ex-leader didn’t want to create a larger Serbian state.

JUSTICE REPORT

Vladislav Jovanovic, a former Yugoslav ambassador and foreign minister, denied that Serb leaders in Karadzic’s Bosnian stronghold town of Pale and in Belgrade wanted to establish a unified Serbian state or ‘Greater Serbia’.

Testifying as a defence witness for Karadzic at the Hague Tribunal this week, Jovanovic said that Serbia did not have any territorial ambitions towards any of the former Yugoslav republics, “particularly not towards Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

According to the witness, “the maximum goal” of Karadzic and the Bosnian Serb leaders was to “remain in a joint state”, Yugoslavia.

“You never expressed a wish to separate [Bosnian Serb region] Republika Srpska from Bosnia and Herzegovina and annex it to Yugoslavia,” Jovanovic said, responding to Karadzic’s questions.

During his testimony, Jovanovic suggested that the Bosniaks were responsible for the death of hundreds of civilians in Sarajevo, which was besieged by Bosnian Serb forces for more than three years during the 1990s conflict.

As well as Bosniak and Croatian leaders, Jovanovic blamed the war in the former Yugoslavia on the international community.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, a terror campaign against civilians in Sarajevo and taking international peacekeepers hostage.

The indictment alleges that the crimes were committed as part of a joint criminal enterprise, whose members included late Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, which aimed to forcibly and permanently remove the non-Serb population from Bosnian territories which would then become parts of a new, larger Serbian state.
Former Montenegrin president Momir Bulatovic also testified in Karadzic’s defence this week, claiming that the Serb leaders’ goal was not the separation of ethnic groups in Bosnia, but “political autonomy”.

Bulatovic claimed that Karadzic never said anything to him which would make him believe that the Bosnian Serb leader was in favour of expelling Bosniaks and Croats. He added that he was never aware of a joint criminal enterprise aimed at committing crimes against other ethnicities.

While accepting that war crimes and ethnic cleansing took place, Bulatovic said this was not the result of Karadzic’s policies but “the collective mentalities of people who acted instinctively” because of the great suffering of Serbs during World War II.

Karadzic’s trial resumes on Monday.
Bosniaks ‘Could Have Stopped Years of Bloodshed’

A former international mediator told Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial that a proposed 1992 peace deal, rejected by the Bosniaks, could have prevented the war.

**JUSTICE REPORT**

Former peace mediator in Bosnia Jose Cutileiro told Radovan Karadzic’s trial this week that in 1992, the Bosniaks initially accepted and then refused a plan for the reorganisation of the country into three entities, which could have prevented further conflict.

Portuguese diplomat Cutileiro, who was compelled to testify under a subpoena by the Tribunal after a request from Karadzic’s defence, said that the failure of the proposed ‘Lisbon Agreement’ was “a true tragedy”.

Cutileiro said that the Dayton peace agreement that ended the war three years later was “nearly the same”, which meant that “numerous lives could have been saved”.

The witness specified that the lost lives were “predominantly Muslim”.

The Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs initially signed the agreement, which was created by Cutileiro and Britain’s Lord Carrington, but the Bosniaks changed their position a few days later, saying they would not accept the division of Bosnia on ethnic grounds.

Cutileiro said that “[late Bosnian president Alija] Izetbegovic’s refusal to accept that the real Bosnia was different from the one he wanted, contributed to the prolongation of the war as much as the dreams about ‘Greater Serbia’ and Croatian hegemony”.

According to the witness, the Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs in Bosnia all lied during negotiations, but “the Bosnian Serbs lied the least”.

While being cross-examined by Prosecutor Alan Tieger, Cutileiro said that when the agreement failed, the Bosnian Serbs “continued conducting a brutal offensive”.

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**22.02.2013**
Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorising the citizens of Sarajevo and taking UN peacekeepers hostage during the 1992-95 conflict.

Karadzic's defence also called to the stand this week the former president of the Bosnian Serbs' supreme military court, Novak Todorovic, who claimed that Bosnian Serb soldiers were indicted and tried for serious crimes during the war.

In his statement, Todorovic said that Karadzic insisted on the “independence” and “objectivity” of the Bosnian Serb military judiciary.

Todorovic further said that he was totally independent in his work and that the civilian and military authorities never tried to influence him.

According to the witness, “a certain number of Serbs were tried for grave crimes, including rape and murders”.

The trial this week also heard from ex-police Zoran Durmic, ex-member of Karadzic's party Slavko Veselinovic and former prison camp guard Momir Deuric, who all accused Bosniaks of causing the breakout of the war in the eastern towns of Rogatica and Vlasenica.

All three witnesses claimed that the Bosniaks began arming their forces and preparing for the war in 1991.

Durmic and Veselinovic told the court that in May 1992, Bosniak forces attacked Serb villages in the Rogatica area and the town itself, killing and deporting civilians.

Karadzic’s trial continues next week.
Karadzic Demands One-Month Hague Trial Suspension

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic asked the Hague Tribunal to suspend his trial for a month due to “serial violations” of evidence procedures.

DENIS DZIDIC

In his motion to the Hague Tribunal judges, Karadzic said that his defence team had established that the prosecution failed to disclose a statement from former Yugoslav intelligence officer Aleksandar Vasiljevic which would have been “beneficial for the defence”.

According to Karadzic, Vasiljevic’s statement described how in 1991 he became aware of the existence of “Bosnian Muslim paramilitary groups” which committed crimes against the Yugoslav Army.

Karadzic also claimed that the statement revealed that the Bosnian Serbs did not request assistance from the Serb paramilitaries and that they did not commit war crimes in the Bosnian city of Bijeljina, which saw heavy fighting and expulsions of non-Serbs in 1992.

In the motion, Karadzic said that “serial violations” of the disclosure of evidence to the defence showed that the Hague prosecution’s methods were “unreliable and unsafe”.

“I believe that at this stage the only solution would be for the trial chamber to order the prosecution to make its database available to my defence team in full, so that the defence team can locate exculpatory information,” he said in the motion.

Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and other crimes against Bosniaks and Croats committed during the war in Bosnia. He is also charged with long campaigns of shelling and sniper attacks on Sarajevo, as well as taking international peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic’s trial has been suspended several times after the Hague judges determined that his defence required time to review evidence which the prosecution disclosed late.
Karadzic ‘Never Wanted to Expel Bosniaks and Croats’

A defence witness at Radovan Karadzic’s Hague trial said the Bosnian Serb leader wanted “political and cultural” separation but not physical deportations.

DENIS DZIDIC

Testifying in Karadzic’s defence, former Bosnian deputy interior minister Vitomir Zepinic said that, on the eve of the 1992–95 war, Karadzic advocated the separation of Serbs from Bosniaks and Croats.

But Zepinic said that he never thought that Karadzic was advocating the deportation of Bosniaks and Croats. He said that, knowing Karadzic’s personality, he did not believe that the Bosnian Serb leader wanted forced expulsions.

Zepinic said that while working as deputy interior minister, he had multiple problems with the late Alija Izetbegovic, then Bosnia’s leader, who was surrounded by “extreme nationalists”.

According to the witness, because of his presidential role, Izetbegovic held “the biggest responsibility” for the breakout of the war.

Karadzic is being tried for persecuting Bosniaks and Croats as part of a joint criminal enterprise aimed at forcibly and permanently removing them from territories claimed by Bosnian Serb leaders. He is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

According to Zepinic, Karadzic had nothing to do with the arrival of paramilitary units led by Zeljko Raznatovic, the notorious Serb fighter known as Arkan, in the north-eastern Bosnian town of Bijeljina in late March 1992, or the war crimes that were then committed in that area.

While being cross-examined by prosecutor Alan Tieger, Zepinic said that he objected to the division of the Bosnian interior ministry on ethnic grounds, which was advocated by Karadzic and other Bosnian Serb political leaders.

“The division of the police on ethnic grounds was a barrel of gunpowder or a trigger for the war in my country,” Zepinic said.
At his Hague trial this week, Karadzic also called witnesses who denied that Bosnian Serb forces forcibly detained the non-Serb population in improvised detention camps and abused them before committing mass deportations from Rogatica in eastern Bosnia and the Sarajevo suburb of Hadzici.

Vidomir Banduka, a former municipal official in Hadzici, said that Bosniaks left his area in May 1992 and that their departure was followed by “an attack by Muslim forces”. He added that Bosnian Serb territorial defence troops had only one goal – “to defend their houses and families”.

According to his testimony, hundreds of Bosniak civilians voluntarily came to the local sports centre in Hadzici in order to be “protected”.

Karadzic’s trial will resume on Monday.
Bosnian Serb General Refuses to Testify for Karadzic

Former Bosnian Serb general Radislav Krstic, jailed for genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, said he wasn’t well enough to testify at his former leader’s trial.

DENIS DZIDIC

At Karadzic’s request, the Hague Tribunal issued a warrant ordering Krstic to testify after he had refused to do so voluntarily.

Krstic, who had been serving his war crimes sentence in Britain but was returned to the Netherlands after his neck was slashed in a revenge attack by three Muslim inmates at a high-security prison in 2010, appeared in court this week but wouldn’t the oath.

“Regardless of the fact that the request is legally grounded, I consider it irrational and inhuman and it represents an act of violence,” Krstic said.

“With due esteem and respect to the Tribunal’s decision, I stick to my stand that I am not capable of testifying at this trial due to health reasons only,” he said.

The Hague Tribunal sentenced Krstic, the wartime commander of the Bosnian Army’s Drina Corps, to 35 years in prison in 2004 for his role in the Srebrenica massacres.

Former Bosnian Serb leader and supreme commander Karadzic is being tried for crimes against civilians during the siege of Sarajevo, genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN soldiers hostage during the 1990s conflict.

Saying that he respected what Krstic had lived through, Karadzic insisted however that he still needed to ask him “just a few questions” about Srebrenica because he did not have a replacement witness.

The judges ordered that Krstic should undergo examinations by March 8 in order to determine whether he was capable of testifying.

An American publicist of Serbian origin, Srdja Trifkovic, testified in Karadzic’s defence this week, saying that he found it “hard for me to believe that Karadzic could approve the shooting of captives”.

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Trifkovic said that he visited Karadzic in his Bosnian stronghold of Pale in July 1995 and overheard a phone call during which Karadzic was “informed about Srebrenica”. According to the witness, Karadzic “insisted that civilians should not be mistreated”.

During cross-examination, Hague prosecutor Kweku Vanderpuye claimed that Trifkovic was the Bosnian Serb leadership’s “spokesperson” but the witness denied that, saying that he appeared in international media as “an analyst of the situation in the Balkans with close connections with Bosnian Serb leaders”.

The prosecutor questioned the credibility of the witness by suggesting that he was publicly accused of “denying genocide” in Srebrenica. Trifkovic confirmed the allegation.

Karadzic’s trial also heard from former member of the Bosnian state security service Edin Garaplija, who claimed that the Bosnian government committed crimes that were blamed on the Serb side during the war.

Testifying under warrant after initially refusing to speak in Karadzic’s defence, Garaplija said that a French soldier serving with the UN protection force in Bosnia who was allegedly murdered by Serbs in 1995 had actually been killed by the Seve unit, which was part of the state security service.

According to Garaplija’s testimony, Seve members committed also attempted to assassinate Bosnian general Sefer Halilovic, murdered Serb civilians in the Sarajevo district of Grbavica and shot captured Serb soldiers in a park in the Bosnian capital.

Karadzic’s trial will resume next week.
Karadzic's Trial Hears of Conflict with Mladic

Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic wanted to be in total control and did not respect the authorities led by Karadzic, the Hague Tribunal was told.

DENIS DZIDIC

Mladic “wanted to dominate” Bosnian Serb political leaders, the Tribunal was told by Dragomir Milosevic, former commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps of the Bosnian Serb Army and a convicted war criminal.

“Mladic did not want to have any superiors above him. He did not respect the civilian authorities,” Milosevic said as he testified in Karadzic’s defence this week.

He said that Karadzic tried to replace Mladic in August 1995, but all the other generals apart from him took Mladic’s side.

“I never told Mladic: ‘General, God has sent you to command and reign’... I respected his orders, but I did not show the enthusiasm he expected,” he said.

When asked whether it meant that Mladic “did not listen” to Karadzic, Milosevic said that he “cannot say that”.

Mladic is also currently on trial for crimes committed during the Bosnian war.

The Tribunal sentenced Milosevic to 29 years in prison in 2009 for terrorising civilians during the siege of Sarajevo. He was brought to testify from Estonia, where he is serving his sentence.

The indictment against Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb leader and supreme commander, charges him with crimes against civilians in Sarajevo, genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN soldiers hostage.

While being examined by Karadzic, Milosevic also denied that his unit obstructed the delivery of humanitarian aid and electricity, water and gas supplies to Sarajevo citizens.
He added that snipers from his unit never opened fire on civilians in the city.

While confirming that Bosnian Serb forces had trained snipers, Milosevic said that their task was exclusively to act against enemy sharpshooters.

Milosevic accused the Bosnian Army of using deception in order to blame his forces for civilian victims, saying that its soldiers opened fire from civilian buildings such as hospitals in the city.

Karadzic’s trial will resume on February 3.
Hague Refuses Karadzic More Time for Defence

The Hague Tribunal turned down Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic’s appeal against the decision to allow him only 300 hours to defend himself at his war crimes trial.

DENIS DZIDIC

The Tribunal’s appeals chamber ruled that Karadzic had not demonstrated that 300 hours was an inadequate amount of time for his defence.

It also stressed that while the trial chamber is required to allocate sufficient time for the accused to present his defence, it also has an obligation to ensure that proceedings do not suffer unnecessary delays.

Karadzic’s appeal against the 300-hour ruling claimed he was not granted enough time to try to challenge 2,300 facts that were established at earlier trials before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and are being used as evidence against him.

He said in his appeal that during the presentation of the prosecution’s evidence he spent 700 hours cross-examining witnesses, and demanded an extra 300 hours for his defence.

The prosecution spent nearly 300 working hours presenting its evidence from April 2010 to May 2012, examining a total of 196 witnesses.

Former Bosnian Serb leader and supreme commander Karadzic is being tried for crimes against civilians during the siege of Sarajevo, genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN soldiers hostage during the 1990s conflict.
Serb Forces ‘Never Deliberately Shelled Sarajevo Civilians’

A Bosnian Serb commander convicted of war crimes testified at the Hague trial of his political leader Radovan Karadzic that his forces never intended to kill civilians.

DENIS DZIDIC

The former Commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps of the Bosnian Serb Army, Dragomir Milosevic, said his unit only defended itself from attacks by the Bosnian Army, whose forces were trying to break out of Sarajevo.

“They called it the unblocking of Sarajevo, but it was an attempt to destroy our forces,” Milosevic said.

Milosevic said there were “a total of 275 command locations” of Bosnian Army units in the city, which he said were situated in civilian buildings.

In 2009, the Hague Tribunal sentenced Milosevic to 29 years in prison for terrorising civilians in Sarajevo. Milosevic was brought to testify in Karadzic’s defence from Estonia, where he is serving his sentence.

The indictment charges Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb leader and supreme commander, with crimes against civilians during the siege of Sarajevo, genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN soldiers hostage.

When asked by Karadzic if there were “any exclusively civilian zones” in the besieged Bosnian capital, Milosevic replied that “there were no such areas in Sarajevo”.

Karadzic also called another former Bosnian Serb army officer as a defence witness this week – Milenko Indjic, who worked as a communications officer with UN forces during the war, and said that the Serb side wanted to end the war from the very beginning.

According to Indjic, the Bosnian Serbs supported an anti-sniper agreement because “Muslims used snipers to kill members of their own people”.

He said that Bosnian Serb forces only defended their positions around Sarajevo and allowed passage of humanitarian convoys.

Indjic said that “Serb forces committed” the mass murders of Bosniaks in Srebrenica in July 1995 but insisted that “Muslims organised and provoked” the killings. He said that constant attacks on the surrounding Serb villages from the UN-protected zone of Srebrenica triggered the massacres.

Karadzic this week also called two defence witnesses to back up his denial of allegations that he persecuted Bosniaks from the towns of Foca and Ilidza.

“Nobody was deported. I feel bad when someone claims to have been deported from Foca,” said Trifko Pljevaljic, a former territorial defence serviceman.

Pljevaljic said that Bosniak civilians were only transferred to several “shelters” in Foca so they could be “protected” from Serb paramilitaries.

The other witness, Slavko Mijanovic, who was in charge of housing issues in the Serb municipality of Ilidza, told the trial that Serb refugees were allowed to use empty apartments of Bosniaks, but that no one was expelled.
Radovan Karadzic ‘Wanted Peace’, Witnesses Insist

Defence witnesses at Karadzic’s war crimes trial in The Hague said the Bosnian Serb leader did not want to launch attacks that would kill thousands.

DENIS DZIDIC

Testifying for the defence, US professor Ronald Hatchett said that during his visit to Karadzic’s stronghold town of Pale in 1994, he was “astonished” by the defendant’s determination to stop the war and save lives.

“I am not going to start a big military attack on a city full with people, which would kill thousands of people on both sides, knowing that a peace solution would not allow us to keep the city under our control,” Karadzic said, according to Hatchett’s testimony.

Karadzic continued his defence this week by calling half a dozen witnesses to the Hague Tribunal.

Protected witness KW-554, former intelligence officer at the UN protection forces, UNPROFOR command centre in Zagreb, said that there was “a prevalent belief that Muslims were responsible for some of the most notorious incidents” in which civilians were killed in Sarajevo.

“There was a belief that Muslim forces were shelling their own people in order to blame Serbs and provoke an international intervention to their advantage,” said the Canadian officer.

He specified that, according to the information available to him, Bosniaks were responsible for “at least one” of two explosions at Sarajevo’s Markale market in 1994 and 1995 that killed dozens of civilians.

Karadzic also called Sarajevo citizens Janko Ivanovic and Ilija Miscevic, who said that they saw that Bosniak forces open fire from mobile mortars from urban areas on Serb positions around the besieged city.

Karadzic is charged with committing genocide in Srebrenica, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo through a long-term shelling and sniping campaign, persecuting Bosniaks and Croats, and taking UN members hostage.
Hague Refuses to Subpoena Key Karadzic Witness

The Hague Tribunal has turned down a request by Bosnian Serb ex-leader Radovan Karadzic to order wartime Bosnian Army commander Naser Oric to testify in his defence.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia determined that Karadzic had not used all the possibilities he had to secure the voluntary cooperation of Oric, the former Bosnian Army commander in Srebrenica.

The judges based their conclusion on the fact that Oric has refused, via his attorney, to speak to Karadzic’s legal team about crimes committed against Serbs in Srebrenica and its surroundings while the authorities in Bosnia’s Republika Srpska entity were still conducting an investigation against him concerning those crimes.

Oric’s testimony is important for the defence of Karadzic, who is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and other crimes, because of the central role he played in military operations in Srebrenica from 1992 to 1995 while he was the Commander of the 28th Division of the Bosnian Army.

According to the defence, Oric can testify that the Bosnian Army “never demilitarised Srebrenica in line with an agreement with the UN and that, after Srebrenica had been declared a UN’s protected zone, his units possessed and brought heavy and infantry arms, hiding them from [United Nations peacekeeping force] UNPROFOR”.

The defence says that Oric might also testify about attacks on Serb villages from Srebrenica.

Karadzic is charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina and taking UN peacekeepers as hostages during the war between 1992 and 1995.

Oric was convicted of war crimes but the verdict was later overturned at the Hague in 2008.
At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, defence witness Mihajlo Vujasin claims the Bosnian Serb Army, VRS, saved Bosniaks from the village of Ahatovici near Sarajevo in 1992.

JUSTICE REPORT

Mihajlo Vujasin, who started to testify on Wednesday, claimed that the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, positioned around Sarajevo, only defended itself.

In the cross examination, prosecutor Kimberly West presented the witness with documents indicating that he led the attack of the VRS’s Rajlovac Brigade on the village of Ahatovici in May 1992.

Vujasin, who was deputy commander of the Rajlovac Brigade, denied this, claiming that on the day of the attack he was in a meeting with the Army commander, Ratko Mladic, who is currently on trial before the Hague tribunal.

Responding to the prosecutor, the witness confirmed that after the attack, “several hundred” Bosniaks from Ahatovici were “put into custody” in the Army barracks in Rajlovac.

He maintained that he and Mirko Krajisnik “barely survived” while trying to protect these Bosniaks from Serb refugees who had been expelled from the Sarajevo settlement of Pofalici and had sought shelter in the barracks.

Krajisnik is the brother of the former senior Republika Srpska official Momcilo Krajisnik, sentenced by the Hague Tribunal to 20 years of prison for expelling non-Serbs across Bosnia and Herzegovina. “Muslims fled, we saved them and put them there,” Vujasin said.

Karadzic is charged with terrorising civilians in Sarajevo through protracted shelling and sniper campaigns and is charged with expelling Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia. He is also charged with genocide and violation of the laws and customs of war.
Asked whether he knew that only one Bosniak family remained in Ahato-vici by the end of war, the witness said he did not. “I know only that the population fled to Rajlovac, then into the city, wherever they wanted to go... Whoever wanted, could have returned,” he said.

Asked by West whether he knew that Bosniaks held in Rajlovac barracks were “abused, beaten and held in inhumane conditions”, Vujasin replied positively, explaining that “individuals” attacked Bosniaks and it “created enormous problems for him.”

Karadzic, defending himself, asked the witness whether Bosniak civilians in Rajlovac were considered prisoners. Vujasin replied that they weren’t and that the Bosnian Serb Army made efforts to have them “released” as soon as possible.

The trial of Karadzic will resume on January 15, 2013.
Karadzic’s Witnesses on Role of Crisis Headquarters

With the testimonies of Dragan Sojic and Mihajlo Vujasin, the former president of Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadzic, tried to contest the counts in the indictment which charge him with terrorizing civilians in Sarajevo and with the expulsion of non-Serbs.

The witness, Dragan Sojic, an ex official of the Serb municipality Novo Sarajevo and a member of the Serb Democratic Party, said that he “never heard” that the party had the intention to expel Bosniaks and Croats.

According to Sojic, the party’s crisis headquarters were formed in Serb municipalities because Bosniaks and Croats were preparing for war, and their aim was to maintain normal life under the threat of war. The municipal war presidencies, he said, did not have the intention of “expelling or destroying” non-Serb communities.

The witness confirmed that, at the beginning of war, “in the chaos” at Grbavica, there was “plunder and murder”, but that the authorities managed to stop it.

He also said that he heard about Veselin “Batko” Vlahovic, who “represented an equal threat to all citizens of Grabiva, regardless of their ethnic background.”

Vlahovic is currently on trial before the State Court in Sarajevo for crimes committed against non-Serbs at Grabivica.

Karadzic is charged with the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats, terrorizing civilians in Sarajevo, genocide in Srebrenica and taking international peacekeepers as hostages between 1992 and 1995.

Sojic, who was between June 1992 and December 1993 a member of the company under the command of Slavko Alekic – whom he described as a “person of exceptional human and above all military qualities” – at the Sarajevo Jewish cemetery, denied it was a unit of the Serb Chetnik Movement.
The only thing that made this company special, the witness said, is that it managed to defend its positions during the war.

During the cross-examination, the prosecutor, Katrina Gustafsson, asked whether the long hair and beard that Aleksic wore and the title of “Duke” which he insisted on, were not characteristic of the Chetniks, Sojic replied that “on the contrary, Aleksic had an enlightened face” and “in some moments resembled Moses”. He added that he never heard Aleksic calling himself “Duke”.

After Sojic, the Hague Tribunal heard the testimony of Mihajlo Vujasin, the former deputy commander of the Rajlovac Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska, and the head of the engineer units at the headquarters of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps.

Vujasin said that the Corps’ aim was not to “enter Sarajevo”, but to defend the Serb territories and population, and prevent the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina from breaking through from the city.

The defence activity and fire from the Serb positions the witness “did not consider a systematic and wide-spread attacks on civilian population.”

Vujasin said that the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps was under strict orders to open fire only at enemy positions, in order to avoid civilian casualties. He said that he never knew the snipers had the assignment to target civilians and he never got such orders.

The Hague prosecution is due to cross-examine Vujasin on Thursday, December 20.
Karadzic’s Witness Says Serbs Felt Threatened

A defence witness said at the trial of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, that the forming of the municipal crisis headquarters in Vogosca in the spring of 1992 was in accordance with the law, denying that Bosnian Serbs took over power by force.

Svetozar Stanic, who was the president of the Serb municipality of Vogosca and a member of the crisis headquarters until the autumn of 1992, testified that he never got the order nor suggestion to expel non-Serbs.

“Everyone who wanted to leave was allowed to do so, regardless of being a Muslim or Croat, while Serb conscripts were forbidden from doing it due to the mobilisation,” said the witness.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its army, is charged with the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats from 20 municipalities in Bosnia. He is also charged with terrorising civilians in Sarajevo, genocide in Srebrenica and taking international peacekeepers as hostages.

In his testimony, Stanic suggested that the municipal crisis headquarters in Vogosca was dedicated to communal problems such as regular supply during war conflict.

The creation of the Serb municipality of Vogosca, Stanic interpreted, was in accordance with the decision on regionalisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Stanic confirmed that he knew about people being held in custody in the Vogosca motel Kontiki where the prisoners were questioned before being transferred to the Kula prison.

During the cross-examination, the prosecutor, Alan Tieger, claimed that the crisis headquarters were formed after the leadership of the Serb Democratic Party headed by Karadzic issued an instruction on taking power over in municipalities in December 1991.
Reiterating that the establishment of the headquarters was in accordance with the law, Stanic confirmed that this was also envisaged by the party document, which he took as a “warning” for the Serbs how to behave under the threat of “secession” of Bosnia and Herzegovina advocated by Bosniaks and Croats.

Tieger presented the witness with the fact that, by implementing the document, Bosnian Serbs established firm control in the municipalities in which they had the majority, and “secret governments” and armed units where they had the minority.

Stanic denied this, emphasising that Bosniaks formed municipalities and crisis headquarters before Serbs, who “felt threatened” by it.

To the suggestion by the prosecutor that the president of the crisis headquarters in Vogosca, Jovan Tintor, also formed Serb armed units in the ther municipalities as well, the witness responded that it was not true, saying that the brigades were formed on decision of the legal Secretariat for National Defence.

Stanic also denied the prosecutor’s suggestion that Tintor was “heading an illegal brigade in Vogosca”, after which Tieger told the witness it was something Karadzic himself said in his assembly speech in 1995.

The prosecutor then asked whether it was true that the Bosnian Serb leadership issued an order that Vogosca “must be taken because of its industry”, including the Pretis military factory, to which the witness replied “it was only partially true”, since that the primary reason was the fact that the “urban settlement of Vogosca had predominantly Serb population.”

“We have not been seizing anything, on the contrary, we have defended company facilities and the industry,” said Stanic.

Stanic denied that Serb forces in Vogosca had the intention of seizing community centres with Bosniak majority.

The prosecutor showed him the minutiae from the session on November 15, 1992, held in the headquarters of the Sarajevo–Romania Corps of the Army of Republika Srpska, according to which Stanic spoke of a plan to take over the Bosniak village of Kobilja Glava.

“I don’t recognise those words as mine... I responsibly claim I was not at that meeting... On the day before I resigned at a session and refrained from any activities,” said Stanic.

Karadzic will call his next witness on Wednesday, December 19.
Karadzic’s Witnesses Say They Were Acting in Defence

The former president of Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadzic, has examined three more witnesses who denied accusations that the Bosnian Serb army terrorized civilians in Sarajevo and persecuted non Serbs.

JUSTICE REPORT

Two former members of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps of the Bosnian Serb army, Izo Golic and Ratomir Maksimovic, repeated previous statements by Karadzic’s witnesses that, during the Bosnian war the Corps exclusively defended itself from the Bosnian army attacks and that it did not open fire at civilians.

Lieutenant Golic, former Commander of the Mortar Squad with the First Romanija Brigade, said that “enemy infantry forces” were targeted and that some of them were situated in the civilian buildings in the city.

“We never targeted civilians. We did not have an intention to terrorize them,” the witness said, adding that “all normal people” would remove civilians from the frontlines.

During the cross examination by the prosecutor, Carline Edgerton, Golic said that he was on the Sarajevo battlefield until October 1992 only. He confirmed that two Bosnian Army tanks, which were entrenched in the neighbourhood of Kosevo, did not open fire during that time.

Retired colonel Maksimovic, former Morale Officer with the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps Command, said that the Corps was “a defensive unit” with “only 15 or 20 professional officers”.

As he said, the Corps prevented the breakthrough of the Bosnian army from Sarajevo and protected Serb civilians.

The witness indicated that he did not know about the claims that the division of Sarajevo was the goal of the Bosnian Serb military and political leaders, adding that he knew that Serb leaders advocated for “demilitarization” of Sarajevo, but Bosniaks refused to do it.
Maksimovic too repeated that strict orders were given to the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps to only target the enemy’s military positions when responding to fire.

According to the witness, international journalists in Sarajevo did not pay attention to Serb victims at that time.

He added that Karadzic’s orders were to be maximally restrained, so soldiers commented that “the President does not allow us to defend ourselves”.

Karadzic is charged with terrorizing Sarajevo citizens, genocide in Srebrenica, taking UN peacekeepers as hostages and the persecution of non-Serbs throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Zdravko Salipur, an official with the wartime Serb Municipality of Novo Sarajevo said that, contrary to what the indictment alleges, the municipal crisis committee and wartime presidency in Grbavica “were not the instruments for deportation of non-Serb population,” but they worked on establishing normal living conditions.

Karadzic’s trial will continue on December 18.
Grbavica Crimes Stopped in 1993, Says Karadzic’s Witness

The trial of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, has continued with the testimony of the former president of the Serb Municipality of Novo Sarajevo, Milorad Katic.

DENIS DZIDIC

Testifying on Thursday, Katic said that there were no expulsions of non-Serbs from the Sarajevo neighbourhood of Grbavica from March 1993.

Katic said that around 1,500 non-Serbs remained in Grbavica until the end of the war, adding that they had been receiving their pensions and humanitarian aid just like Serbs.

Karadzic is charged with the expulsion of non-Serbs throughout Bosnia, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo through a prolonged shelling and sniper attacks, genocide and taking UN peacekeepers as hostages.

According to the witness, “the political system in Bosnia and Herzegovina broke down” in the summer of 1992.

He added that with the formation of the Serb authorities in Novo Sarajevo “crimes were reduced to minimum” thanks to Karadzic, among others.

The witness denied that Karadzic had ever ordered cutting off water and electricity supplies to Sarajevo.

Katic said that the leadership of the Serb Municipality of Novo Sarajevo was dismissed in March 1993 because they failed “to do enough to prevent irregularities in the distribution of humanitarian aid and pensions”.

“I heard many times that non-Serbs were not treated in the same manner as Serbs, that they left Grbavica and that they were persecuted,” he said.

Responding to a question on whether the former authorities committed crimes, Katic said that he had “not heard” about such things.

Luka Dragicevic, the former Assistant Commander for Morale and Religious Issues of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps of the Bosnian Serb army from November 1994, also testified on Thursday.
Dragicevic said that he “does not know of any crimes committed in the zone of responsibility of the Corps” in that period of time.

He said that, acting on the orders from the Command, the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps opened fire only on visible enemy positions in order to minimise civilian casualties.

According to Dragicevic, during the course of the war the Corps defended the Serb neighbourhoods from attacks by the Bosnia army, which used civilian buildings to launch those attacks.

The witness said that the siege of Sarajevo was “existed naturally and that nobody created it”, because Serb neighbourhoods were located around the city center area. He added that the Corps had never deprived Sarajevo citizens of electricity, gas and water.

Dragicevic said that the Muslim side rejected the Army of Republika Srpska’s offers to conduct joint investigations of the incidents in Sarajevo, blaming the Serb side for them.

The witness confirmed that UN peacekeepers were captured as per an order issued by a higher command in order to protect the Bosnian Serb army from the NATO air strikes.

The prosecutor, Jullian Nicholls, dedicated the most part of the cross-examination to attack the credibility of the witness on the basis of orders he issued.

The prosecutor presented Dragicevic with his order to burn down a village in the vicinity of Visegrad in 1992. The witness responded that it was “a hamlet consisting of three houses” and that no civilians lived there at the time, but that the Bosnian army used it as it was near the frontline.

Karadzic’s trial is due to continue on Friday.
Witnesses at Karadzic’s Trial Deny Civilians Were Targets

The trial of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, has continued on Tuesday with testimonies of two ex officers of the Army of Republika Srpska who denied that their units attacked civilians in Sarajevo deliberately.

JUSTICE REPORT

Svetozar Guzina, who commanded over a battalion of the Ilidza Brigade and the brigade commander, Vladimir Radojcic, said that, while defending their positions and neighbourhoods, they attacked solely military targets and undertook measures to prevent collateral damage.

They both said that the Bosnian army misused civilian facilities in Sarajevo to launch attacks on the Bosnian Serb army.

Karadzic is charged with terrorising the population of the Bosnian capital through shelling and sniper attacks.

The witnesses denied responsibility for several sniper attacks against civilians in the zone of operations of the Ilidza Brigade, as specified in the indictment, claiming that the units did not use sniper rifles in the populated areas.

Guzina described a claim from the indictment that a Serb sniper wounded a 16 year old girl on June 26, 1994, in the Djure Jaksica street, as a “pure set-up by the Muslims”. He said that there was fierce fighting there on that day and that civilians had no place to be there.

He maintained his stance during the cross examination by the prosecutor, Kimberly West, who presented him with documents including the deposition from the wounded girl, that there was no fighting going at the time of the incident.

“It’s your choice to trust Muslim over Serb reports. I don’t believe it went down like that,” replied Guzina.

The prosecutor also showed the witness his own deposition from 2003 in which he said that he “considered a potential target any men or women close to the demarcation line.”
Not denying it, Guzina added that “the civilian had no place to be there”, because “there were no civilian buildings around.”

Guzina denied the claims from the report by the UN military observers that in July 1994 he “admitted” that his snipers fired on civilians and that he “promised it would stop.”

“We have never fired on civilians with intent to kill. It is possible that there were some mistakes, but it was not intentional,” said the witness.

The commander of the Ilidza Brigade, retired Colonel Radojcic, confirmed during the cross-examination that his unit opened fire at least once in 1994 on the UNPROFOR convoy crossing the mount Igman.

He, however, claimed that it was a “mixed convoy of the UN and Muslims forces”, offering as proof the fact that the artillery of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Igman immediately responded with fire.

“Muslim forces often used illegal war trickery, hiding behind UNPROFOR and Red Cross,” said Radojcic.

The prosecutor, Caroline Edgerton, presented to the witness the order which he was issued with on April 6, 1994, to attack “targets which would cause most human casualties” in the Sarajevo neighbourhood of Hrasnica.

Radojcic replied that the order referred to enemy combatants and not civilians and he carried it out as such.

To the remark by the prosecutor that the order does not specify military targets anywhere, but human casualties, the witness responded that he already had a list of military targets and that he targeted the headquarters of the Bosnian army in order to cause as much damage to the enemy as possible.

After prosecutor Edgerton confronted him with the fact that on April 6, 1995, the bomb he fired hit a “civilian house and not the military target, Radojcic replied:

“I beg your pardon, but the house was 20 to 30 metres from the headquarters and it was not civilian, but it housed the headquarters’ guards. A soldier was killed, which was confirmed to me by an UNPROFOR officer who saw him in the uniform. So, we were precise after all.”

Karadzic’s trial will resume on Wednesday, December 12.
Karadzic’s Appeal on Hostage Taking Rejected

The Hague Tribunal, ICTY, has rejected Radovan Karadzic’s appeal against decision not to acquit him of charges of taking the UN peacekeepers as hostages in 1995.

DENIS DZIDIC

The Appellate Chamber in its decision, signed by the president of the Hague Tribunal, Theodor Meron, says that in his appeal Karadzic failed to explain why he had considered it legal to take UN protection forces, UNPROFOR, soldiers as hostages.

In July, Karadzic appealed the ICTY’s decision to decline his request to be acquitted of hostage taking charges.

In his appeal, Karadzic argued that the UN peacekeepers were not members of “a protected group” considering the fact that they “actively participated in the conflict.”

Karadzic pointed out that the UN soldiers, whom the Republika Srpska Army captured on May 25 and 26 in 1995, were not hostages, but prisoners of war, because, as he said, they “entered the military conflict and took the Muslims’ side”.

However, the Appellate Chamber rejected Karadzic’s explanation.

“Karadzic’s speculations about alleged activities undertaken by UN forces are neither relevant for his individual criminal responsibility nor do they demonstrate that the Chamber’s analysis contained any kind of mistake in relation to the status of the UN members at the moment of their capture,” the decision states.

According to the indictment, Karadzic ordered and planned taking of the UNPROFOR soldiers as hostages in order to prevent military strikes by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, on positions held by Serbs.

Karadzic is charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, having terrorized civilians in Sarajevo through indiscriminate shelling and sniping, and taking the UN peacekeepers as hostages.
After the prosecution’s evidence hearing ended in May this year, he attempted to have all 11 charges against him dismissed.

The Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts in the indictment, but it acquitted Karadzic of charges of genocide in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.

The prosecution is currently appealing the genocide acquittal.
Karadzic’s Trial Hears About Crimes in Grbavica

The witness for Radovan Karadzic’s defence denied that Bosniaks and Croats were expelled from the Sarajevo neighbourhood of Grbavica in the autumn of 1992.

JUSTICE REPORT

Branko Radan, the former president of the Serb municipality of Novo Sarajevo, said that around 300 non-Serb citizens left Grbavica in September 1992 and moved to the city.

While examined by Karadzic, the witness said that a group of “people who came from the outside” and who “gave non-Serbs grief” created “enormous problems” for the authorities at Grbavica.

“The biggest problem was Veselin Vlahovic a.k.a. Batko. We did not support that group, we wanted to remove them from our territory any way we could and eventually we did,” said Radan.

Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, is charged with the Srebrenica genocide, the expulsion of non Serbs across Bosnia, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with artillery and sniper attacks and taking UN peacekeepers as hostages.

The witness said that one of Vlahovic’s men shot at his car. He was arrested, but was released soon afterwards.

After he left the duty of the president of the municipal government, Radan was replaced, he said, by Budo Obradovic, “who sought to impose even stricter discipline but was he was murdered after a month”.

Describing the departure of non Serbs in September 1992, Radan said that they did it so that “they could be safer”, since at Grbavica they lived on the frontline.

During the cross-examination, the prosecutor, Katrina Gustafson, confronted the witness with the claim that Vlahovic and his men had protection from the authorities and that they committed mass crimes at Grbavica.
Having confirmed that he heard from the citizens about “sporadic, but not constant” crimes, Radan, however, denied that the Serb leadership, among whom he considered himself, protected Vlahovic’s group.

Trying to prove the link between Vlahovic’s group and the authorities in Republika Srpska, Gustafson used the book by Biljana Plavsic, in which she wrote that in July 1992 Serbs stopped her at Grbavica and complained of the crimes committed by “Monster Batko”.

Soon afterwards, Plavsic related everything she heard, in Karadzic’s presence, to the then Minister of Justice, Momcilo Mandic, and the Minister of the Interior, Mica Stanisic. She expected them to be appalled, but Mandic only said: “Ah, Batko.” “They knew him well, and they did not hide it... They were his protectors and they gave him orders,” wrote Plavsic, as quoted in the courtroom by Gustafson.

Plavsic pointed out in her book that she asked Karadzic to dismiss and arrest Mandic and Stanisic over this, but he told her: “You are asking me to cut off my right hand.”

Radan suggested that Plavic’s book was not an authentic source.

Biljana Plavsic pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 11 years of prison by the Hague Tribunal. Mica Stanisic is currently on trial at the Hague, while Veselin Vlahovic is tried at the Bosnian State Court.

The trial of Karadzic will resume on Tuesday, December 11.
The trial of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, has continued with the testimony of the former president of the Pale Crisis Committee, Zdravko Cvoro.

**Bosniaks Left Pale Voluntarily, Says Karadzic’s Witness**

Testifying as a defence witness, Cvoro said that Bosniaks left Pale, the Bosnian Serb wartime capital, voluntarily in the spring of 1992.

“I can guarantee you that there was no forcible deportation of Muslims from Pale…The initiative came from Muslims themselves, who visited us, either individually or in groups,” Cvoro said.

He said that Bosniaks “felt insecure” in Pale, because they were “afraid of revenge for crimes” committed by Bosniak forces against Serbs in other places hence a large number of requests to move out which they filed with the municipal authorities.

Cvoro said that he visited those individuals who filed the requests, in order to persuade them not to leave and to give them guarantees for their safety.

Despite that, Bosniaks stuck to their original intention. In mid-June 1992 the Pale Municipal Assembly “admitted their right to freedom of movement”.

During the cross-examination, the prosecutor, Alan Tieger, presented evidence indicating that Bosniaks left Pale due to pressure being put by Serb police, whose members “disturbed and threatened them”, and that Cvoro himself protested at a meeting of the Pale Municipal Assembly, because “police was trying to organize expulsion of Muslims”.

The witness confirmed that the municipal authorities were “not satisfied with the work of police”.

Radovan Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska, is charged with persecution of Bosniaks and Croats in municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is also charged with genocide in Srebrenica, terrorizing Sarajevo citizens and taking international soldiers as hostages.
Three other witnesses, who testified before Cvoro, denied the allegations that civilians in Sarajevo were intentionally targeted by snipers and mortars.

Blasko Rasevic, who was commander of one of the companies with the Romanija Brigade of the Bosnian Serb Army, Vlade Lucic, former commander of a battalion with the same brigade and Dragan Maletic, his deputy, all said that their units did not open artillery or sniper fire at civilians in the city.

Karadzic’s trial is due to continue on December 5.
US Won’t Allow Wesley Clark to Testify for Karadzic

The US government has refused to allow General Wesley Clark to testify in the defence of Radovan Karadzic, claiming his testimony “would not corroborate the defendant’s assertions.”

DENIS DZIDIC

The former president of Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadzic, asked the US government to allow him to call Clark to testify about two meetings he had during the Bosnian war, one with the fellow Hague defendant, Ratko Mladic, and the other with the deceased Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic.

Karadzic believes that Mladic, former chief of Bosnian Serb army, told General Clark in August 1994 that he was ready to sign a cease-fire and was “anxious to end the war”.

Karadzic also believes that a year later, in 1995, Clark promised Izetbegovic that the US would militarily intervene on the side of the Bosniak–Croat Federation if Serbs did not end the war.

Karadzic explained he believes this promise by the US was the “motive for the Bosnian Muslims to stage the Markale II massacre on August 28, 1995”.

However, in a letter signed by the deputy legal counsellor of the US government, Paul Veidenheimer, it is explained that Clark recalls meeting both Mladic and Izetbegovic in 1994 and 1995 respectively.

Clark explains, though, that he specifically asked Mladic to sign a peace agreement, but that the former commander of the Bosnian Serb army refused.

He also said that no promises were given to Izetbegovic, because he was “not authorized to make promises, only ask questions and gather facts and impressions”.

“In light of the information provided by General Clark concerning the two meetings above, his testimony would not corroborate the assertions made by Karadzic, nor would it support his argument regarding relevance.”
Accordingly, the US government will not authorize testimony by General Clark at this time”, says the letter.

Karadzić faces charges of genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Bosnian war, including the Srebrenica genocide and the siege of Sarajevo.

The indictment alleges that a mortar shell that killed 43 and wounded 75 citizens at the Markale market on August 28, 1995, was fired from Bosnian Serb positions around the city.
Civilians Were not Targeted, Says Karadzic’s Witness

At the trial of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, a defence witness testified that the Bosnian Serb army never intentionally shot at civilians in Sarajevo.

The Deputy Commander of the Ilidza Brigade of the Bosnian Serb army, Nikola Mijatovic, said that he had not been issued order to terrorise Sarajevo citizens nor that he had intent to terrorise.

Mijatovic said that there were clear orders to protect civilians and respect Geneva conventions.

Karadzic is charged with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Bosnian war, including terrorizing Sarajevo citizens with a campaign of shelling and sniping from 1992 to 1995.

Mijatovic confirmed that, due to lack of adequate ammunition, the Bosnian Serb army used modified air-bombs. He denied, however, claims by the Hague prosecution that the bombs were imprecise adding they were used only against military targets.

The Bosnian army, according to the witness, used to fire from the vicinity of the buildings where the UN protection forces were situated, such as the main post office building, in order to provoke Serbs into firing at international forces.

During the cross-examination, the prosecutor, Caroline Edgerton, insisted that the military targets which Mijatovic’s brigade was firing upon, were placed within “densely populated areas” and that “it was reasonable to expect” that the risk of civilian casualties would be high.

“It would have been even more reasonable to expect that the other side would have stayed away from civilians... We answered to fire with fire,” replied Mijatovic.

He added that his brigade fired at military targets only after its reconnaissance squad told them “there were no civilians near the target” and that their intention to scare the enemy into submission.
“But, you knew there were civilians there”, suggested the prosecutor, to which the witness replied affirmatively.

Karadžić’s trial heard on Thursday from the witnesses, Radojka Pandurevic and Angelina Pikulic, who talked about the lives of Serbs in Sarajevo during the war.

Pandurevic, an MP of the Serb Democratic Party in the Hadzici assembly, said that she was taken to the Silos camp in Tarcin on May 26, 1992 and released only in 1996.

Asked by Karadžić what were the grounds for her imprisonment Pandurevic replied: “Being a member of the Serb Democratic Party, and being a Serb.”

Describing the life of Serbs who remained in the Sarajevo neighbourhood of Pofalici, Angelina Pikulic, said that “she was like a hostage in her own home”, because she could not go anywhere without a permit from policemen.

The trial continues on December 3.
Karadzic's Witness Says Serb Army Only Defended

At the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, two witnesses denied allegations that the Bosnian Serb army terrorized civilians in Sarajevo by widespread shelling between 1992 and 1995.

Testifying of the defence at the Hague Tribunal, Karadzic entered into written evidence two almost identical statements from the former officers in the Bosnian Serb army, Mile Sladoje and Zoran Kovacevic.

Both witnesses said that their units with the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps only defended Serb neighbourhoods and that they did not attack civilians in Sarajevo.

As they said, the Corps Command issued an order, saying that civilians should not be used as targets. However, the two witnesses allowed for the possibility that civilians in Sarajevo were “collateral damage” when Bosnian Serb army responded to the Bosnian army attacks from civilian areas in the city.

According to Sladoje and Kovacevic, the Serb side aimed at preventing the breakthrough of the 1st Corps of the Bosnian Army from Sarajevo and its advancement to other battlefields in Bosnia.

While being cross-examined by the prosecutor Caroline Edgerton, Sladoje, former Commander of a battalion with the First Sarajevo Brigade in Nedzarici, confirmed that fire was opened at civilian quarters from the battalion’s positions in response to enemy fire, despite the high risk of causing civilian victims.

However, he said that “no exclusively civilian neighbourhoods” existed in that part of Sarajevo and that there was “a unity of civilians and the Army”.

“How can you expect us not to respond to fire endangering us...It was not possible to open fire at military targets without endangering civilians, because they were there...This is why there were collateral victims,” Sladoje said.
He expressed a suspicion that the Bosnian army opened fire at its own population in several incidents, which resulted in death of Sarajevo citizens, in order to blame the Serbs.

The other witness, Kovacevic, a former artilleryman with the Vogosca and 1st Sarajevo Brigade, who was deployed to battlefields near Zuc, said that the Bosnian mortars were located in the vicinity of civilian buildings, including the obstetrics clinic.

As he said, the Bosnian Serbs therefore undertook measures to prevent civil victims and decided not to respond to fire in several cases.

On Tuesday, Karadzic also called Velimir Dunjic, former Commander of the Igman Brigade with the Bosnian Serb Army who said that his forces did not commit crimes on the Sarajevo battlefield in 1992 and 1993.

Dunjic said that his Brigade exclusively defended “the six North-Western” Sarajevo municipalities, where “tens of thousands” of Serbs lived, during offensives by the Bosnian Army.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, faces ten charges of genocide and crimes against humanity during the Bosnian war, including the Srebrenica genocide and the siege of Sarajevo.

Karadzic’s trial is due to continue on Thursday.
Karadzic’s Trial: Witness Testifies About the Sarajevo Siege

At the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, a defence witness had denied that the Army of Republika Srpska was responsible for two attacks on civilians in Sarajevo in 1993 and 1994.

Dusan Zurovac, the former commander of a company with the 1st Sarajevo Brigade of the Bosnian Serb army which was positioned in the Sarajevo neighbourhood of Vraca, said that from his unit’s positions it was not even possible to see the locations where civilians were attacked because some hills obstructed the view.

According to the indictment, the Bosnian Serb army was responsible for injuries sustained by 35-year old Nadja Taric and her eight-year old daughter Elma on September 3, 1993 and by 13-years old Seid Solak who was hit in his stomach on July 22, 1994.

Zurovac said that the Bosnian Serb army’s trenches were more than a kilometre away, too far to able to shoot at the civilians.

“It was not possible, because the enemy front line was in front of us. One would have to have been crazy to climb on a roof and shoot at a woman walking with her child,” Zurovac explained.

Karadzic entered into evidence the photographs taken by the prosecution’s investigators as a proof that the locations of the incidents cited in the indictment could not have been seen from the positions of Zurovac’s unit.

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, is charged with terror against civilians in Sarajevo, with the genocide in Srebrenica, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN peacekeepers as hostages.

Zurovac echoed previous defence witnesses saying that his unit defended their own houses and families and did not undertake offensive actions against citizens of Sarajevo.
The witness said that, on the other hand, the Bosnian army constantly attacked and provoked the Bosnian Serb forces with an intention to move its lines.

During the cross-examination the prosecutor, Kimberly West, told the witness that the Serb side held Sarajevo under the siege, so the Bosnian army tried to break through the lines.

Zurovac denied her allegations, saying that “criminals, who overnight became senior officers in the enemy army, closed Sarajevo from the inside in order to rob” its citizens.

Replying to the prosecutor’s suggestion that keeping a town under siege is an act of aggression, Zurovac asked her “how can a man be an aggressor against his own home?”

He also wondered how can the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, consisting of 15,000 people, keep, according to his estimates, 65,000 Bosnian army soldiers besieged.

Karadžić’s trial will continue on November 15.
Karadzic’s Trial: People of Vrace Defended Themselves

Testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a former Bosnian Serb army officer denied that in 1992 the army expelled Bosniaks from the Sarajevo neighbourhood of Vrace, where his unit was stationed.

**JUSTICE REPORT**

Bozo Tomic, an officer in the 1st Sarajevo Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska – said that the army did not attack civilians from Vrace. He emphasised that he never received or issued such an order.

The former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, is charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, the expulsion of non-Serbs from across Bosnia and Herzegovina and with terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with artillery and sniping campaigns.

Tomic said that his unit, which consisted mainly of local people, only defended their neighbourhood and “never opened fire deep into Sarajevo”, but only “at military targets at the demarcation line.”

He confirmed that once a group of Bosniak prisoners from the prison in Kula, sent by the higher command, was used for digging trenches at his unit’s positions in the Ozrenska street. Asked whether using prisoners of war for digging trenches was against the Geneva Convention, Tomic replied that their work was “completely safe”, and that only “arriving to the demarcation line was unsafe” due to the position’s exposure to nearby skyscrapers held by the Bosnian army.

During the cross-examination, the prosecutor, Katrina Gustafsson, confronted the witness with the claim that the Bosniaks were expelled from the Serb-run Sarajevo settlements. Tomic denied there were expulsions from his street, adding that he “assumed” that “somewhere else it did happen”, just like Serbs were expelled from parts controlled by the Bosniak forces.

However, he confirmed that his Bosniak and Croat “neighbours and friends”, who were “disturbed and scared”, left their homes in the Ozrenska street and crossed the river Miljacka into the city under Bosniaks’ control, suggesting that they did so in order to flee from the war efforts.
The witness denied the prosecutor’s claim that at the end of war in 1995 he demanded that the return of Bosniaks to Grbavica be prevented. Gustafsson then quoted Tomic’s words from the notes of the commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, Ratko Mladic, that “people want to stay at Grbavica only if it is guaranteed that the Muslims and their police and authorities won’t return.”

Tomic explained that he asked that “Muslim police and authorities, who would want to arrest us and abuse us, do not come,” not the “Muslims who had the right to return to their homes.”

Tomic denied that anyone from his unit shot at the city quarters across the front line, despite being shown documents to contrary by the prosecution. “There is no point in firing shells deep across while your frontline is threatened. No one in their right mind would do it,” said the witness.

The trial will resume on Wednesday, November 14.
Karadzic Wants to Subpoena Naser Oric

The former president of Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadzic, wants to subpoena the former war commander of the Bosnian army in Srebrenica, Naser Oric, to testify at his trial.

Karadzic has requested that the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, compels Oric to testify with a subpoena, because he refused to cooperate with Karadzic's defence voluntarily.

According to Karadzic’s motion, Oric invoked his right not to incriminate himself in a connection to a pending investigation against him in Republika Srpska.

Karadzic wants Oric to testify about the attacks on the Serb villages launched from Srebrenica and the surrounding areas by the Bosnian army and positioning of the Bosniak forces near UN peacekeepers’ observation posts.

Karadzic is charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina and taking UN peacekeepers as hostages between 1992 and 1995.

According to the defence Oric’s testimony is important in order to prove that there were legitimate military reasons to attack Srebrenica.

“There is no more central person concerning the military activities in Srebrenica from 1992 to 1995 than Naser Oric, who commanded the troops in the enclave during this period,” says in the motion.

The Hague Tribunal sentenced Oric to two years in prison for war crimes against Serbs in Srebrenica but that verdict was quashed on appeal and he was released in 2008.

The Trail Chamber, presided over by Judge O-Gon Kwon, would decide on Karadzic’s motion at a later date.
Karadzic’s Witness Claims
Bosnian Army Attacked its Own People

At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, an ex UN military observer claims that in 1992 the Sarajevo authorities “killed their own people for the sake of media” in order to trigger international military intervention against Serbs.

Testifying at the Hague Tribunal as a defence witness for the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, Colonel Richard Gray from New Zealand, an ex UN military observer, claimed that attacks on its own civilians was a part of a “full scale strategy” by the predominantly Bosniak government and its army.

Gray stated that the Bosnian army fired mortars from locations near civilian buildings and the UN protection forces, UNPROFOR, headquarters in order to provoke Bosnian Serb forces to open fire.

The witness said that the predominantly Bosniak forces “had a custom” of shelling the area in front of the Bosnian Presidency during visits by international diplomats and peace mediators.

“A grenade would usually explode while a foreign official spoke to Alija Izetbegovic in the Presidency building,” Gray said.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, is charged with terrorizing civilians in Sarajevo by artillery and sniper attacks.

He is also charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniak and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and taking UN peacekeepers as hostages.

Gray said that the Bosnian army was most probably responsible for a mortar attack which killed a girl and wounded several teenagers as UNPROFOR soldiers were giving handing out candies in front their headquarters on July 13, 1992.
The witness added that the UNPROFOR Command was targeted by snipers from the surrounding buildings.

According to Gray, due to all these activities aimed at provoking a response fire from Serb positions on civilian buildings and UNPROFOR and the murders of “blue helmets” from Ukraine and France, the UN’s Command severely protested to the Presidency.

During the cross-examination the prosecutor suggested to the witness that UN military observers were not able to determine who opened fire first and who responded to fire.

“We were not 100 per cent sure, but we could determine it with 85 per cent certainty,” Gray responded.

He confirmed that the response of the Bosnian Serb army to fire from Sarajevo was non-proportional, saying that they would fire “30, 40 or 50” grenades in response to six grenades fired from Sarajevo.

Karadzic’s trial is due to continue on Monday, November 11.
Karadzic’s Trial: Soldiers Deny Opening Fire on Sarajevo

Testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic two ex Bosnian Serbs soldiers denied that their units opened fire on civilians from positions around Sarajevo.

JUSTICE REPORT

Predrag Trapara, the commander of one of the companies of the 1st Sarajevo Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska, and Slobodan Tusevljak, who commanded a platoon in the same brigade, reiterated claims of previous Karadzic’s witnesses that they only defended their positions from the attacks by Bosniak forces from Sarajevo.

According to the summary of their written statements, which Karadzic read out, Trapara and Tusevljak testified that they never received the order, nor they had the intention, to terrorise the population of Sarajevo, or cause civilian casualties.

Just like the previous defence witnesses, Trapara and Tusevljak claimed that their units did not have trained snipers, and that they could not have been responsible for deaths of civilians, which, according to the indictment, were targeted by the Army of Republika Srpska snipers.

The prosecutor, Feargal Gaynor, questioned the authenticity Trapara’s statement by pointing out that the witness was arrested in October 1991 while transporting huge amounts of weaponry and ammunition in a truck.

“I did not know it was that much, I did not load the ammunition,” replied the witness.

Karadzic, former president of the Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, is charged with the Srebrenica genocide, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats from territories under Bosnian Serb control, taking UN peacekeepers as hostages and terrorizing Sarajevo citizens.

Trapara denied that his brigade had a “considerable amount of sniper rifles” until the prosecutor presented him with a whole list of rifles from a document belonging to the Army of Republika Srpska.

In his statement, Tusevljak denied the responsibility of his unit for two sniper attacks on civilians specified in the indictment, claiming that from
its position you could not see the locations at which those civilians were shot.

The indictment specified that a single shot wounded 35-year old Nadja Taric and her eight year old daughter Elma on September 3, 1993 in downtown Sarajevo. Seid Solak, who was 13 at the time, was wounded in the stomach on July 22, 1994, in the neighbourhood of Cengic Vila.

After the prosecutor Caroline Edgerton showed him the picture of these places, Tusevljak conceded that they could have been seen from other Bosnian Serb army positions.

Karadzic’s trial also heard this week a testimony from Slavko Gengo, the former commander of one of the battalions with the 1st Romanija Brigade of the Bosnian Serb army who testified about the massacre at Sarajevo’s Markale market on February 5, 1994 where a grenade killed 66 and wounded 140 people.

In his testimony Gengo concurred with the previous testimonies of defence witnesses who said that the Bosnian Serb forces positioned around Sarajevo exclusively defended themselves and that Bosnian Serbs they did not have any intention to terrorize civilians.

Although he said that he got information about the Markale explosion from the media, Gengo suggested that the crime was staged by the Sarajevo authorities.

“I can assure you that the Republika Srpska Army did not fire the grenade at the Markale market,” the witness said.

Karadzic’s trial will continue on Thursday, November 8.
Karadzic’s Trial: Witness Claims Serbs Only Acted in Defence

As the trial of Radovan Karadzic continues, the witness Momir Garic says that Serb forces did not have an intention to terrorize civilians in Sarajevo in 1992, but just to defend Serb villages.

Garic, former officer of the Territorial Defence in Novo Sarajevo, said that the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps of the Republika Srpska Army, acted only to prevent the breakthrough by the Bosnian Army from Sarajevo to Serb territories.

The witness said that Bosnian Serb forces respected the international law provisions, while Bosniak forces misused civilian buildings and smuggled weapons in humanitarian aid convoys.

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, is charged with terrorizing civilians in Sarajevo by artillery and sniper attacks. He is on trial for genocide, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats and taking UN peacekeepers as hostages.

According to Garic, when the war began, the Yugoslav National Army, JNA, dissolved while the headquarters of Territorial Defence forces, including the one in Novo Sarajevo where the witness worked, “organized themselves”.

“An organized group of citizens set a defence line in front of houses and neighborhoods inhabited by Serbs. There was not a single attack by Serbs on neighbourhoods where Muslims were the majority. The division lines remained unchanged until the end of the war,” Garic said.

According to Garic’s testimony, at the beginning of May 1992 a JNA brigade arrived in Novo Sarajevo and appended a local Territorial Defence unit to it. In mid-May the brigade took control over Grbavica “in order to protect the Serb population, which was the majority”.

At the same time, many Serb civilians were killed in a heavy attack by “Muslim forces” on Sarajevo neighbourhood of Pofalici, Garic said, adding
that he assumed a function with the Ministry of Defence of RS in December 1992.

During the cross examinations by the prosecution, Garic denied having been “commander of a Republika Srpska army battalion”, although this was mentioned in one of his statements. He said that he was a TO officer in the Novo Sarajevo municipality.

The prosecution presented the witness with a series of intercepted conversations, in which a person identified as Momo Garic asked for urgent help in manpower and armour on April 21, 1992, after his soldiers “went down to River Miljacka” and became surrounded.

The witness insisted that he was not Momo Garic who conducted those conversations.

“This does not sound like me. The voice sounds like a child’s voice,” Garic said.

When asked by Judge Kwon whether Momo was his nickname, Garic answered negatively, adding that people called him “Moka or Moco”.

After that Garic was presented with a list of Karadzic’s defence witnesses, where he was mentioned as Momo Garic. “I did not know that. I sign myself as Momir,” the witness said.

The trial is due to continue on Tuesday, November 6.
Karadzic Requests Final Genocide Acquittal

Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal to reject the prosecution’s appeal of a decision by which he was acquitted of genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities.

DENIS DZIDIC

In his brief, Karadzic argues that it is important “to settle once and for all what the International Court of Justice and four other Trial Chambers have already concluded – that the events in the municipalities of Bosnia in 1992 did not constitute genocide.”

“This does not mean that the victims did not suffer just as much, or that the crimes committed against them were not as serious,” emphasised Karadzic.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina, having terrorized civilians in Sarajevo through indiscriminate shelling and sniping, and taking the UN peacekeepers as hostages.

After the prosecution’s evidence hearing ended in May this year, Karadzic attempted to have all 11 charges against him dismissed.

The Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts in the indictment, but it acquitted Karadzic of charges of genocide in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.

The Trial Chamber concluded that although there are evidence of crimes systematically carried out against Bosniaks and Croats in Bratunac, Foca, Kijuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik, the nature, scale and context of these crimes do not point to genocidal intent.

Karadzic claims in his brief that even if the Appeals Chamber finds that the erroneous judgment was made, reverse of the acquittal would not be “in the interest of justice in this case”.

“The United Nations can feed two children in Africa for an entire month for 75 Euros cost of one hour of a lawyer’s time on this case. When mul-
tipplying that with a significant number of hours it would take to present
defence evidence on Count One, and brief and decide the issue as part
of a final judgment, the Appeals Chamber should consider that it would
not be a responsible use of public funds to reverse the acquittal,” claimed
Karadzic.

Karadzic also asked to hold two hearings in Bosnia and Herzegovina - in
Sarajevo and Banja Luka - because it would bring the work of the Hague
Tribunal directly to the people, fostering a greater understanding of its
work and advancing the goal of reconciliation and peace in Bosnia.
01.11.2012

Ex Major Says Serb Army Did Not Fire on Markale

At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a former UN peacekeeper testified that a Russian officer told him that the 1994 Markale massacre in Sarajevo was not caused by a mortar fired from Serb positions.

Testifying at the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, at the Hague Tribunal, Sergej Moroz, who was an engineering officer with the UN protection forces, UNPROFOR, in 1994, said that the lieutenant-colonel Nikolaj Rumjancev told him that “a special explosive device”, which was activated on the ground, exploded at Markale.

According to the indictment the grenade, which killed 66 and wounded 140 people at Sarajevo’s Markale market on February 4, 1994, was fired from a position held by the Republika Srpska Army.

Karadzic is charged with having terrorized civilians in Sarajevo through indiscriminate shelling and sniping. He is also charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina and taking the UN peacekeepers as hostages.

Moroz said that, after having visited Markale sometime after the explosion, he determined that a mortar attack on the market place would have been “a strange” scenario due to “an unusual projectile pathway”.

During the cross-examination, the prosecution presented the witness with an UNPROFOR’s report on the explosion at Markale, which was signed, among others, by the Russian officer Rumjancev, which stated that “the mortar shell detonated upon hitting the ground”. The report determined the possible projectile pathway as well.

Moroz responded by saying that he had never seen that report and that Rumjancev, who died in the meantime, “said what he said”.

Milorad Dzida, who was a former Security and Intelligence Officer with the 1st Romanija Brigade of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps of the Bosnian Serb army in 1994, also testified during Thursday’s hearing and denied the Republika Srpska Army’s responsibility for the Markale massacre crime.
Dzida said that the UN peacekeepers checked the mortar positions of his unit at Debelo Brdo and Mrkovici one day after the massacre and they determined that those weapons were not used.

“I am categorically saying that no mortar fire was opened from the positions held by my battalion,” Dzida said.

He stuck to his claims after the prosecutor Kimberly West had presented him with UNPROFOR’s reports about shelling of Sarajevo from the Bosnian Serb positions, including an incident in the neighbourhood of Dobrinja one day prior to the explosion at Markale, which killed eight civilians.

The trial will continue on Friday, November 2.
Karadzic’s Witnesses Cast Doubt on Markale Investigation

At the trial of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karazic, three ex UNPROFOR officers testified that it is not clear which warring side fired the shell responsible for the 1994 Markale massacre in Sarajevo.

Testifying for the defence, three former senior officers of the Canadian UN protection forces, UNPROFOR, said that is not clear whether the mortar shell that fell on Sarajevo’s Markale market on February 5, 1994, killing 66 people and wounding 140, came from the Bosnian Serb positions.

Retired Canadian colonel Stephen Joudry, major John Ruchel and general Michael Gaultier said that, on the basis of an investigation conducted by UNPROFOR, it was not possible to determine the exact location from which the grenade was fired or which of the conflicting parties was responsible for firing it.

Joudry and Ruchel suggested that the grenade could have been fired from positions held by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina or dropped at Markale from the roof of a nearby building.

Ruchel, who conducted an investigation at the Markale market on the day of the massacre, said that he was “personally of the opinion” that Bosniak forces “targeted themselves”, but the investigation results could not confirm that.

They could just confirm that either side in the conflict could have fired the grenade.

Joudry, who was based in Zagreb, Croatia, in 1993 and 1994, said that, after having analyzed the results of the Markale massacre investigation, he “expressed serious dilemmas about the methods and results” to his superiors, although he personally did not visit the crime scene.

He said that the remnants of the grenade were removed from the crater before the investigation was completed, so neither the fall angle nor the direction could have been reliably determined.
Joudry said that even the deficient results of the investigation indicated that the grenade had come from the territories, which were 95 percent under the control of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“If Markale was the target, it was not possible to hit it with one single grenade,” without any previous mortar activity on that day, said Joudry, adding that “the most efficient way for hitting the market would be to manually launch the grenade from the roof of a nearby building”.

While being cross-examined by the prosecutor, Alan Tieger, Joudry confirmed that he did not conduct the investigation himself, adding that he neither examined physical evidence nor spoken to witnesses.

He accepted the suggestion that there were no grounds for him to deny the eye-witness statements.

Tieger said that witness’ allegation that most parts of the territories from which the grenade could have been fired were controlled by the Bosnian army was based on incomplete data.

Another witness, Major John Ruchel said that, after having examined the crater on the day of the explosion, he determined that the grenade must have come from a very close location due to the big angle under which it hit the ground.

He said that he determined that the projectile came from East-Northeast direction from a distance of between 300 and 5,500 metres.

During the cross-examination Ruchel confirmed that he did not have much experience in analysing craters prior to the Markale investigation.

General Gaultier, who conducted an investigation at Markale six days after the explosion, said that the integrity of the crater was undermined by removing the grenade remnants and that three investigators separately concluded that it was therefore not possible to reliably determine the grenade fall angle, on the basis of which the exact distance from which the grenade had been fired could have been determined.

While being cross-examined by the prosecutor, Caroline Edgerton, Gaultier confirmed that no permanent mortar positions held by the Bosnian army were located in the possible firing zone, as far as he knew.

Karadzic faces 10 charges of genocide and crimes against humanity during the Bosnian war, including the Srebrenica massacre and the siege of Sarajevo.

The trial continues on October 31.
Karadzic’s Defence Witness Claims Markale Hit Impossible

At the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, four defence witnesses testified that Sarajevo was not subjected to a shelling and sniping campaign.

JUSTICE REPORT

Stevan Veljovic, a former operative officer for the 1st Romanija Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, denied that the Bosnian Serb army fired a shell which killed and wounded scores of people in August 1995 at Sarajevo’s Markale market.

Veljovic said it would have been an “impossible hit” from the Bosnian Serb positions around the city.

“I can bet my life on it, I am willing to stand on that spot and let anyone try to hit me,” said Veljovic.

He added that a 120 millimetre mortar battery from his brigade was not even positioned near Sarajevo, but in the vicinity of Trebinje.

According to the indictment which charges Karadzic with terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with a campaign of artillery and sniping attacks, the grenade which killed 43 people and wounded 45 on August 28, 1995 at Markale was fired from the Bosnian Serb position. Karadzic is also charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

Veljovic said he believed that the grenade at Markale was planted and activated from a distance by the “Muslim side” in order to provoke the international military intervention against Serbs.

After Veljovic, Karadzic called the former officer of the Igman Brigade of the VRS Sinisa Maksimovic, who stated that his unit opened fire only at military targets in Sarajevo.

Claiming that his unit did not have any trained snipers, Maksimovic denied responsibility for several sniper incidents in the Sarajevo neighbourhood of Sedrenik, which are included in the indictment.
On Monday, Karadzic called Milos Skrba, former commander of the 2nd Company of the Sarajevo Brigade of VRS, who said the Bosnian Serb army had no mortars or other artillery weapons which could be used for killing civilians near Sarajevo.

“We had no automatic rifles with telescopes, nor any other optical equipment for shooting people,” said Milos Skrba.

This week Karadzic’s defence also finished the examination of Dusan Skrba, former artillery commander of the VRS Sarajevo Brigade, who said that they did not open fire at various places in Sarajevo where larger groups of citizens gathered such as hospitals, schools and mosques.

“We would not open fire if we assessed that civilians would be endangered. We did preparations by taking exact coordinates of the target,” said Dusan Skrba.

The trial will resume on October 29.
Brammertz: ICTY Made Mistake in Karadzic’s Case

The ICTY Chief Prosecutor says that the ICTY judges made a mistake when they acquitted the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, of the charge of genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities.

DENIS DZIDIC

During his latest visit to Sarajevo, Serge Brammertz, the Chief Prosecutor for the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, told the Bosnian media that the ICTY judges had failed to take into consideration Karadzic’s “genocidal” statements.

“I feel that the Trial Chamber failed to grant the necessary weight to the evidence of Karadzic’s genocidal statements. I believe that those statements, when viewed appropriately, can prove that he had a genocidal intent”, Brammertz told Dani, a Sarajevo based weekly magazine.

Brammertz added that the prosecution presented – during their two year evidence hearing – multiple pieces of evidence that Karadzic, and other Bosnian Serb leaders, had threatened the Bosniaks with annihilation.

In June this year Karadzic attempted to have all 11 charges against him dismissed.

The Hague Tribunal’s Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts in the indictment, but it acquitted Karadzic of charges of genocide in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.

It ruled that the evidence presented did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the Bosnian Serbs wanted to “destroy part or in whole other ethnic groups”.

The Hague prosecution is appealing the decision, claiming that the Trial Chamber was incorrect in its application of legal standards and practices.

The prosecution argues that the murders of Bosniaks and Croats in Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik in 1992 reached the level that shows that a significant part of a group was destined for destruction.
Karadzić, the former president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, denies charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

His trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence last month.

The defence started presenting its evidence this week and the trial is expected to continue on Monday, October 22.
Karadzic’s Trial: Sarajevo Targets Were Legitimate, Says Witness

Testifying at the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, a defence witness said that the Bosnian Serb army only fired at legitimate military targets in Sarajevo.

JUSTICE REPORT

Blagoje Kovacevic, the former commander of the Infantry Battalion of the Army of Republika Srpska at Grbavica, said that neither he nor other Bosnian Serb officers had the intention or orders to terrorise the population of Sarajevo.

He said that the Bosnian Serb army only defended its positions and prevented the Bosnian Army from breaking through from the city, and that it opened fire only when the lives of soldiers and civilians were threatened.

On the other hand, he said, in order to bring about international intervention, the Bosnian army opened fire from the vicinity of the protected civilian facilities in Sarajevo, provoking the Serb side to respond and cause civilian casualties.

Kovacevic claimed that in his units he did not have trained snipers.

The Hague prosecution charges Karadzic with having terrorized civilians in Sarajevo through indiscriminate shelling and sniping. He is also charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia and Herzegovina and taking the UN peacekeepers as hostages.

During the cross-examination by the prosecutor, Caroline Edgerton, Kovacevic confirmed that there were civilian casualties in Sarajevo. He said that he did not have information about the effects of the Bosnian Serb army attacks on the targets in the city, except for what he was on television.

“Civilians lived near the demarcation lines and on the lines themselves. Each military action in the city would naturally cause civilians casualties. I cannot say precisely what was going on in Sarajevo, because I could not get through. I would see it on television – I could choose to believe it or
not, and a lot of it was staged. What I saw on television I knew was exaggerated,” said the witness, after being presented with evidence of civilian casualties.

Having claimed that his battalion or brigade did not open fire on civilians, Kovacevic pointed out that he did not want to “comment on what others did”.

He insisted, however that “each facility from which fire was opened is a legitimate military target according to the international law, even if civilians lived inside.”

Giving an example that the Bosnian Army fired from portable mortars in the vicinity of a hospital and other civilian facilities in Sarajevo, the witness claimed that “it was done deliberately to cause the death of civilians and present it as terrorising of civilians.”

According to the witness, the Army of Republika Srpska – in order to avoid civilian casualties – responded to the fire from portable mortars only on orders from an officer and by “shooting at the specified target and not the whole area” and that “it was pointless responding if you did not respond immediately.”

When asked what, in his opinion, would be an “indiscriminate fire” Kovacevic replied that it would be “pointless shooting at people in order to terrorise them... without a clear goal, randomly.”

Another witness for Karadzic’s defence on Thursday was Dusan Skrba, former artillery commander of the Sarajevo Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska.

Skrba said that in August 1995 his unit could not have fired a mortar grenade on the Markale market, which killed and wounded dozens of citizens, because at the time all 120 millimetre mortars were under the control of UNPROFOR.

Karadzic’s trial will resume on Monday, October 22.
Karadzic Says Markale Could Have Been Hit by Bosnian Army

On the second day of presentation of his defence, Karadzic suggests that a mortar shell which killed and wounded scores at a Sarajevo market in 1995, could have been fired by the Bosnian army.

JUSTICE REPORT

The trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, continued on Wednesday with the testimony of Paul Conway, an Irish officer who was a UN military observer in Bosnia in 1995, about the 1995 Markale market massacre.

Karadzic faces 10 charges of genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Bosnian war, including the Srebrenica genocide and the siege of Sarajevo.

The indictment alleges that a mortar shell that killed 43 and wounded 75 citizens at the Markale market on August 28, 1995, was fired from Bosnian Serb positions around the city.

Conway testified that in December 1995 he found a Bosnian Army location, about three kilometres south of Markale, where four well-fortified mortars were turned towards the city. He said that it seemed that they had been there for a long time.

Karadzic asked the witness whether the UN protection forces, UNPROFOR, could have discovered the Bosnian army position sooner, but Conway answered negatively.

“It was not possible for us to go there, because check-points were set on both sides of the road leading there. We had never been allowed to visit the place until then,” the witness replied.

Summarizing Conway’s written statement, which was included as evidence, Karadzic said that the witness confirmed that the position of the Bosnian army mortars was “in line with the direction from which the grenade allegedly was fired” at Markale, according to the UNPROFOR’s findings.
Conway said that at the time of the explosion at Markale he was at a UN’s checkpoint on the south slopes above Sarajevo.

He said that at around 11 a.m. he had heard few muffled explosions and he soon saw smoke above the Markale market.

He then ascertained that the city area “was hit”, given that he had not been able to tell whether the projectile was fired from the city or at the city.

During the cross-examination the prosecutor, Kimberley West, said that Conway had not mentioned before that the Bosnian army’s mortar position south of Sarajevo was “in the direction from which the grenade allegedly was fired” at Markale.

Conway responded that he was not accusing anyone.

The witness marked on a map the two possible directions from which the grenade that hit Markale could have come, according to the UNPROFOR’s findings.

The Bosnian army mortars, which the Irish officer mentioned during his testimony, were outside those lines.

The prosecutor suggested that the witness would not have heard “muffled”, but much louder detonations had the Bosnian Army 120mm mortars opened fire on Markale, as alleged by Karadzic.

Conway confirmed that fire opened from such weapons was not “muffled”.

The trial is due to continue on Thursday, October 18, with a testimony by Blagoje Kovacevic, a general of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who used to be a colonel in the Bosnian Serb army.
Karadzic Calls His First Witness

Former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, has called his first defence witness in his long-running trial for crimes committed during the 1992–95 Bosnian war.

**JUSTICE REPORT**

Radovan Karadzic’s defence began with the testimony of a Russian officer, Colonel Andrei Demurenko, who was in charge of the UN protection forces, UNPROFOR, headquarters in Sarajevo in 1995.

Demurenko testified that the Republika Srpska Army could not have fired a projectile that killed 43 and wounded 75 people at the Markale open market in Sarajevo in August 1995.

“Markale were not hit by a mortar grenade. It was a terrorist act on the streets of Sarajevo,” said Demurenko.

He suggested that a mine exploded at Markale and made a crater that looked like a mortar shell crater.

According to the indictment, which charges Karadzic with having terrorized civilians in Sarajevo through indiscriminate shelling and sniping, the projectile that killed 43 and wounded 75 persons at Markale on August 28, 1995, was fired from the Bosnian Serb positions surrounding the city.

Karadzic is also charged with the genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of non-Serbs and taking the UN peacekeepers as hostages.

“The chance that a mortar shell hits a small street is one in a million, particularly if it had hit the same small street a year ago. This is completely impossible,” Demurenko said, referring to the first explosion at Markale in February 1994, when 66 people were killed and 140 wounded.

Demurenko said that he arrived at the market two hours after the explosion. Upon his return to the Headquarters, he was surprised to hear that a representative of international forces issued a statement accusing Bosnian Serbs, although the investigation was still underway.

Demurenko said that the results of the UNPROFOR’s investigation were correct, but it was wrongly concluded, on the basis of those results, that the projectile was fired from the Serb positions.
“Through the investigation they only determined the angle under which the grenade hit the ground and the direction from which it came. On the basis of that they immediately pointed their fingers at so-called aggressors,” said Demurenko, who conducted his own investigation.

He said that he calculated that the projectile could have been fired from three Bosnian Serb positions around the city or from as many positions held by the Bosnian army, which were closer to the city.

Demurenko then visited the three Bosnian Serb positions and determined that it was not possible to use a mortar at all. Those positions were located “on cliffs, on slopes or in the forest”, the witness said, mentioning that he did not find any traces of projectile firing at any of those locations.

During the cross-examination the prosecutor, Alan Tieger, said that Demurenko wrongly understood the direction determined by UNPROFOR’s experts from France due to different measurement units.

The witness responded by saying that it “was not important” and that he used a geographical map, containing the firing directions marked by the French investigators. He said that he examined all possible positions of mortars.

Before calling his first defence witness, Karadzic addressed the Trial Chamber and said that he should have been awarded for his actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war, instead of being indicted.

The prosecution is due to continue cross-examining Demurenko on Wednesday, October 17.
Karadzic Says He Should be Rewarded, not Indicted

Before calling his first witness at his war crimes trial, the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, told the judges he should have been rewarded instead of indicted for his actions during the Bosnian war.

JUSTICE REPORT

At the start of the presentation of his defence, Karadzic went on to tell the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, that the Bosnian Serb army did not shell the Markale market in Sarajevo, and that he had no knowledge at the time that Bosniaks were being killed in Srebrenica in the summer of 1995.

“Sarajevo is my city and this whole story that we bombed Sarajevo for no reason is unfounded... Each shell that fell on Sarajevo hurt me as well”, said Karadzic adding there were over 2,000 legitimate military targets in the city.

Karadzic explained that his role during the Bosnian war was to “humanize the conflict”.

“Instead of being indicted for crimes in our civil war, I should have been rewarded for doing everything I could to make sure it did not come to war. I have minimized the sufferings of civilians, made sure that the number of casualties was three or four times smaller, and signed many treaties to stop the war,” said Karadzic.

After Karadzic finishes his opening statement, the first witness for the defence will be called, the Russian general Andrei Demurenko. Demurenko will testify that – even if a grenade did explode in the Markale market in Sarajevo on August 28, 1995 and killed over 40 people – it could not have come from the Bosnian Serb positions.

Karadzic’s trial started in October 2009. The prosecution took two years to present its evidence and about 200 witnesses were called.

Taking into consideration the fact that the prosecution spent about 300 working hours to present its case, the ICTY allocated the same amount of time for Karadzic’s evidence. Karadzic is appealing this decision.
Karadžić is charged, as the former President of Republika Srpska and the former supreme commander of its armed forces, with the genocide in Srebrenica, the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats across Bosnia, taking international soldiers as hostages, and with terrorizing Sarajevo citizens with a shelling and sniping campaign.

He has announced plans to call 600 witnesses in his defence, and said that he may testify as the final witness.
Karadzic to Start his Defence on Tuesday

The former President of Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadzic, will begin presenting evidence in his defence at the trial for genocide and other crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Tuesday, October 16.

DENIS DZIDIC

While Karadzic’s defence has announced calling at least 300 witnesses and complains about insufficient time, experts doubt they will hear new evidence, although many of the proposed witnesses have not appeared at the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, before.

Goran Petronijevic, a member of Karadzic’s defence team, in a statement to BIRN claims that the former Bosnian Serb leader will “prove that most of the allegations against him are a falsification”.

The defence, according to Petronijevic, will present its evidence following the same pattern as the Hague prosecution, which means that it will start with evidence about crimes in Sarajevo, then from the municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and finally “disputing the allegations about taking international soldiers as hostages and the crimes in Srebrenica.”

“The first defence witness will be the famous officer of the Russian forces in Sarajevo, Andrej Demurenko, who was an eye witness and participant of the events at the Markale market. Demurenko was the first man to find that – even if a grenade did explode in the market – it could not have come from the Bosnian Serb positions,” states Petronijevic.

After Demurenko’s testimony, Petronijevic says the defence will present findings of a team of ballistic experts which will try to dispute the allegations of ten sniping and nine shelling incidents – including the attacks on the Markale market in 1994 and 1995 which killed more than 100 people.

Mirko Klarin, the director and editor of the SENSE news agency which specialises in covering the ICTY war crimes trials, claims that even though Karadzic’s list of proposed witnesses contains names of people that will testify before the court for the first time, their statements briefs reveal that many arguments used by defences in previous trials will be heard again.
“The statements show that we will again hear theories that Bosniak forces shelled Sarajevo citizens, that the massacres were framed and other known conspiracy theories.”

“The first witness, Demurenko, had previously testified at the trial of Dragomir Milosevic and said that the shells that hit Markale were fired from the territory of the Bosnian Army. However, the Trial Chamber did not accept his statement. We will see if he will fare better in Karadzic’s case,” says Klarin.

Dragomir Milosevic, former commander of the Sarajevo Romanija Corps of the Bosnian Serb army was sentenced in 2009 to 29 years in prison for crimes in Sarajevo.

Defence Wants More Time

Karadzic’s trial started in October 2009. The prosecution took two years to present its evidence and about 200 witnesses were called.

Taking into consideration that the prosecution spent about 300 working hours to present its case, the ICTY allocated the same amount of time for Karadzic’s evidence.

Karadzic is appealing this decision and his lawyer Petronijevic hopes that the appeal will be accepted, adding that 300 hours is not enough time to dispute the prosecution’s evidence.

“We are in a situation where we are searching for the truth after 17 years, because the prosecution managed to rush all trials so far so the defence teams did not dispute the bases of the crimes the way we intended to,” says Petronijevic.

On the other hand, Klarin thinks it is not very likely that Karadzic’s appeal will be accepted, and adds that part of the reason why the defence feels it does not have sufficient time lies in the fact that Karadzic is defending himself.

“During the prosecution’s case he used more than 70 per cent of the time. The prosecution used 300 hours and Karadzic used more than 700 hours for cross-examination. The fact that he is defending himself is certainly making the trial go slower. We can see in the case of Ratko Mladic, who has lawyers, that the proceedings are very efficient,” said Klarin.

The former commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, Ratko Mladic, is also on trial before the Hague Tribunal for genocide and other crimes during the Bosnian war.
The slow nature of the proceedings is a big issue for Hatidza Mehmedovic, the president of the “Mothers of Srebrenica” association, who is offended by the denial of the crimes committed in 1995.

“How is it possible that defendants are not scared, when they say genocide did not take place in Srebrenica? How is it possible they are not ashamed of the sea of white tomb stones in the Memorial centre in Potocari,” asks Mehmedovic.
Karadzic Allowed to Appeal Decision on Defence Hours

The Hague Tribunal has allowed Radovan Karadzic to appeal a decision giving him 300 working hours for his defence rather than 600 hundred hours that he originally requested.

DENIS DZIDIC

Karadzic, wartime political leader of Bosnian Serbs, originally asked for 600 work hours for his defence, in order to challenge facts established in earlier trials which were entered into evidence against him.

However, the Trial Chamber granted Karadzic the same amount of time used by the Hague Prosecution – which is 300 hours.

The Trial Chamber, presided over by O-Gon Kwon, has granted Karadzic’s application to appeal the decision, emphasising that the decision would “significantly affect the fair and expeditious conduct of the proceedings in this case.”

“Considering that an immediate resolution by the Appeals Chamber may materially advance the proceedings as it may have an impact on the evidence that is to be presented during the defence case and is therefore in the interests of judicial economy, we hereby grant Karadzic’s Application,” said Judge Kwon.

The defence of Karadzic – who is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of laws and rules of war – is due to start presenting its case on October 15.

Karadzic previously announced that he planned to call around 600 witnesses for the defence, and did not rule out the possibility of testifying on his own behalf at the end of the evidence hearing.

The presiding judge of the Trial Chamber ruled out a number of witnesses, assessing that many of proposed testimonies are redundant and thus not relevant for the case.

In June, Karadzic had attempted to have all charges against him dismissed. The Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts of the indictment.
However, the Trial Chamber acquitted Karadzic of the charges that he committed genocide against Bosniaks and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992, saying that the prosecutors had not proved the existence of an intention to completely or partially destroy the non-Serbian population in seven municipalities.
Victims’ Motion in Karadzic Case Rejected

The Hague Tribunal has rejected a motion filed by victims to be allowed to appeal against the decision to acquit former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, of the charge of genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities.

DENIS DZIDIC

Judge Theodor Meron, the ICTY president, rejected the motion, which was signed by US attorney Aaron Marcu on behalf of the Association of Witnesses and Genocide Survivors and supported by over 200 individuals and associations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

In their motion filed on August 31, the representatives of victims have asked the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, to be allowed to appeal the Trial Chamber’s decision to acquit Karadzic of genocide in Prijedor, Kljuc, Zvornik, Sanski Most, Bratunac, Foca and Vlasenica in 1992.

The victims argued that in this case “it cannot be said that evidence is lacking” that Karadzic is responsible for genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities.

In the explanation of his decision, Judge Meron, said that appellate procedures mainly serve to solve legal issues and that, even if the motion has been approved, the victims’ representative would not be able to present evidence.

“Although the victims of Karadzic’s alleged crimes may have a valuable human and historical perspective to offer and have a special interest in seeing that history accurately records their suffering, the proposed appeal by victims’ representatives, which would pertain to application of the law to the facts of the case and the allegedly wrong conclusion by the Trial Chamber, would not be helpful,” Meron said.

In June, Karadzic had attempted to have 11 charges against him dismissed. The Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts of the indictment.

However it acquitted Karadzic of charges of genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992.
The Hague prosecution appealed the decision.

Karadžić, former President of Republika Srpska, and the supreme Commander of its armed forces, is indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 to 1995.
Karadzic Given 300 Hours for Defence

The Hague Tribunal has approved 300 working hours for Radovan Karadzic’s defence at the trial for war crimes against non-Serbs committed during the Bosnian war.

Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb leader, is due to start presenting his evidence on October 16.

He originally asked to be allowed additional working hours, on top of the 300 hundred hours, which is the time the prosecution took to present its case.

He asked for additional 300 hours in order to challenge the facts determined at earlier trials, which have been included in the case file as evidence against him. However, the Trial Chamber, chaired by Judge O-Gon Kwon, refused the request.

In an earlier motion Karadzic indicated that he wanted to examine 600 defence witnesses, but the judges asked for that number to be significantly reduced, saying that many of the proposed testimonies are either irrelevant to the case or they represent a repetition.

During the presentation of its evidence the prosecution examined a total of 195 witnesses and included as many testimonies in writing in the case file.

Karadzic will invite witnesses according to the chronological order set out in the indictment, just as the prosecution did.

He plans to address first the charges related to crimes in Sarajevo, followed by the allegations that he persecuted non-Serbs throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, taking international personnel hostage and finally the Srebrenica genocide.

Karadzic did not exclude the possibility of personally testifying in his defence at the end of the evidence presentation process.

In June, Karadzic had attempted to have all charges against him dismissed. The Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts of the indictment.
However, the Trial Chamber acquitted Karadzic of the charges that he
committed genocide against Bosniaks and Croats in Bosnia and Herzego-
vina in 1992, saying that the prosecutors had not proved the existence of
an intention to completely or partially destroy the non-Serbian population
in seven municipalities.

Karadzic is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation
of the laws and customs of war.
Bosnia Victims Appeal
Karadzic’s Genocide Acquittal

Representatives of victims of crimes committed in seven municipalities have asked the Appeals Chamber of the Hague Tribunal to appeal against the decision to acquit Radovan Karadzic of genocide charges committed in 1992.

DENIS DZIDIC

The brief, filed on behalf of Satko Mujagic and Fikret Alic, victims from Prijedor and the Association of Witness and Genocide Survivors, is supported by over 70 individuals and associations from Bosnia and the region.

They have asked the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, to oppose the Trial Chamber decision to acquit Karadzic of genocide in 1992 in Prijedor, Klijuc, Zvornik, Sanski Most, Bratunac, Foca and Vlasenica.

“Victims of this crime have a human and historical appreciation and understanding of consequences of this ruling like that of no other party before the court,” the brief says.

“Their perspective of the historical consequences notes the lasting impact that the decision will have on Bosnian Muslims and Croats and the people of Bosnia,” the brief adds.

The brief says the Tribunal’s application of the law of genocide to the facts presented about the violence they experienced and witnessed in 1992 will provide sufficient explanation and assign responsibility for the terror inflicted on them.

“As victims of Karadzic’s alleged crimes, the Applicants are uniquely qualified to submit a brief on behalf of themselves and other victims of genocidal violence, including those who no longer have a voice to raise to this Tribunal.

“They were there and know what they experienced. This Tribunal, sitting in judgment of alleged crimes in former Yugoslavia, may be the last forum before which they can be heard,” the brief continues.

According to Hague Tribunal rules, the Trial Chamber, after the prosecution has presented its evidence, can acquit the accused of one or all counts of the indictment.
But the victims’ brief says that in this case it cannot be said that reasonable evidence is lacking that Karadzic is not guilty of genocide in the seven municipalities.

After the prosecution’s presentation of evidence, which lasted two years, the Trial Chamber acquitted Karadzic of charges of genocide in the seven municipalities in June. The Hague prosecution appealed the decision.

Karadzic, former president and supreme commander of armed forces of Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of laws and customs of war, in Bosnia between 1992 and 1995.

The prosecution completed presenting its evidence in May. The defence is to start presenting evidence in October.

At a status conference on September 3, the Trial Chamber rejected Karadzic’s motion, requesting a new trial due to problems related to disclosure of evidence to the defence.

Trial Chamber Chairman O-Gon Kwon said Karadzic had failed to demonstrate that he had suffered damage because the prosecution was late in disclosing evidence to the defence.

“Although the number of violations of the rule to disclose evidence in this case has put the Prosecution in a bad light, particularly in relation to knowledge of the content of the volumes of evidence and its approach to disclosure, the Trial Chamber has not determined that the indictee has suffered any damage due to these violations,” the Trial Chamber said.

At the status conference the Trial Chamber commented on the list of 600 potential defence witnesses, which Karadzic filed previously, saying it was too long.

Judge O-Gon Kwon said many of the witnesses proposed by Karadzic were irrelevant, while statements by many others were repetitive.

Hence, the Tribunal said that, by September 14 Karadzic should reconsider the list of witnesses and submit a shortened list.

The judge recommended Karadzic be “careful” and “humbler” when selecting his witnesses.

Commenting on the indictee’s allusion that he might personally testify at the end of the defence’s presentation of evidence, the judge said that such a statement would have “more evidential value” at the beginning of the Defence’s presentation of evidence.

The trial of Karadzic began in 2009.
29.08.2012

Karadzic Wants to Call Hundreds of Witnesses

The former Bosnian Serb leader and ICTY defendant, Radovan Karadzic, intends to invite 600 witnesses to testify in his defence.

**JUSTICE REPORT**

Karadzic has filed a confidential list of about 600 witnesses, whom he wants to invite during the presentation of evidence by the defence, which is due to begin on October 16.

In his motion, Karadzic said that the list was confidential, because “he has still not been able to contact some of the people on the list and some of them may request identity protection measures”. He did not exclude the possibility of testifying himself.

Karadzic requested that the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, allows him to spend 600 hours presenting evidence in his defence which is twice as long as the prosecution took to present evidence against him.

The Hague Prosecution completed the presentation of evidence against Karadzic in May this year, with 300 working hours, i.e. two calendar years.

Karadzic explained that he needs twice as much time to deny the statements given by the prosecution witnesses and facts determined by other ICTY’s verdicts. He announced that he would present his evidence “at a very fast pace” and that he would introduce one witness per day.

Karadzic is charged, as president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of rules and customs of war in the period between 1992 and 1995.
Prosecution Challenges
Karadzic’s Request for New Trial

The prosecution has asked the Hague Tribunal to reject Radovan Karadzic’s proposal to restart his trial following continual problems regarding the disclosure of evidence by the prosecution.

DENIS DZIDIC

The prosecution of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has said that Karadzic’s request is “unwarranted”.

The former Bosnian Serb leader and ICTY defendant stated on August 13, that the prosecution was supposed to disclose all evidence before the beginning of trial in 2009, but it has since been revealed that it failed to disclose the statements and testimony of 406 witnesses.

Furthermore, the Trial Chamber had ruled that the prosecution had violated its disclosure obligations on no less than 58 occasions during the trial itself.

The prosecution responded by saying that the trial had been “fair” from the beginning and should be allowed to go on.

“In his motion, the accused does not show that a new trial is warranted, either as a remedy or as a sanction. Since he acknowledges that the Chamber has already found that he was not prejudiced by the prosecution’s discrete failures to disclose material in a timely manner,”

“His argument that he should be granted a new trial as a remedy for so-called ‘cumulative prejudice’ must fail,” argued the ICTY prosecutors.

Karadzic is charged, as president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of rules and customs of war in the period between 1992 and 1995.

His trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence in May this year.

Karadzic is due to start presenting his evidence in October.
ICTY Refuses Karadzic’s Motion to Subpoena Clinton

The Hague Tribunal, ICTY, has refused the motion of the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to question the former US president Bill Clinton.

MARIJA RISTIC

The ICTY’s Trial Chamber decided that Karadzic could not prove in his motion that Clinton’s testimony would be necessary to the case, or that the information Karadzic wished to obtain from the former US president could not be obtained from any other sources.

Karadzic had previously asked the ICTY to subpoena the former US president Bill Clinton to testify about illegal arm shipments to Bosnia.

He had proposed sending his lawyer to examine Clinton in the US State Department on September 10.

According to Karadzic, Clinton knew about the illegal transportation of arms from Iran to the Bosniaks, through Croatia.

Karadzic said that Clinton had sent a delegation to the Balkans in 1995, the aim of which was to tell the Bosniaks that if peace negotiations failed, the US would directly supply arms to the Bosniaks and Croats in Bosnia.

He claims that this move encouraged the Bosniaks to shell Sarajevo’s Merkale market in August 28, 1995, one of the actions for which Karadzic has been indicted.

Karadzic sent his first interview request to Clinton’s office in May, but the request was quickly turned down by the office.

Karadzic is charged, as president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of rules and customs of war in the period between 1992 and 1995.

His trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence in May this year. Karadzic is due to start presenting his evidence in October.

He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.
Karadzic proposed that the President of Greece Carlos Papoulias testify on March 26 next year in front the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

“There are reasonable grounds to believe that President Papoulias has information which can materially assist” reads the brief of Karadzic submitted to the ICTY.

Papoulias was a Greek foreign minister between 1993 and 1996 and according to Karadzic “held a unique position among the various international interlocutors”.

“Because of the religious and historical ties between Greece and the Serbs, President Papoulias was one of the few international interlocutors whom the Bosnian Serbs trusted and with whom they could speak confidentially and candidly,” Karadzic explained in his brief.

According to Karadzic, the Greek president’s testimony can be crucial in establishing his innocence for the shelling of Sarajevo’s Markale market on February 5, 1994.

Karadzic explained that he sent several letters to the Greek government, including the latest one, sent on March 21 this year, asking Papoulias to testify voluntarily, but he has not received any response.

Karadzic is charged, as president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of rules and customs of war in the period between 1992 and 1995.

His trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence in May this year. Karadzic is due to start presenting his evidence in October.

He pleaded not guilty to all charges.
13.08.2012

**Karadzic Requests New Trial**

*Citing continual problems regarding the disclosure of evidence by the prosecution, Former President of Republika Srpska Radovan Karadzic has filed a motion for a new trial to the Hague Tribunal. Karadzic contends that the numerous violations by the prosecution of its disclosure obligations and the cumulative prejudice from those violations to the defence has resulted in an unfair trial. Starting the trial over, and getting it right this time, is the only remedy which can ensure that the trial is a fair one,* reads the motion filed to the Hague Tribunal judges.

Karadzic stated that the Hague Prosecution was supposed to disclose all evidence before the beginning of trial in 2009, but it has since been revealed that the prosecution failed to disclose 406 witness statements and testimonies, which means that the prosecution failed to release 25 per cent of its evidence.

On 58 occasions throughout the trial, the Trial Chamber made an express finding that the prosecution violated its disclosure obligations.

“The extent of disclosure violations in Dr. Karadzic’s case is unprecedented in international criminal justice,” the motion states.

Karadzic is charged, as president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of rules and customs of war in the period between 1992 and 1995.

His trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence in May this year. Karadzic is due to start presenting his evidence in October.
**19.07.2012**

**Karadzic Allowed to Appeal Hostage Taking Charge**

Radovan Karadzic has been given permission to appeal the Hague Tribunal’s decision to reject his request to be acquitted of charges for taking UN peacekeepers hostage in 1995.

**JUSTICE REPORT**

The Trial Chamber of the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, allowed Karadzic’s appeal saying that the issue of the status of captured UN peacekeepers has a considerable effect on the fair and efficient proceedings or outcome of the trial.

On July 5 Karadzic, wartime Bosnian Serb leader, asked for permission to file an appeal on the grounds that the UN soldiers, whom the Republika Srpska Army took hostage, were combatants and participants in combat activities.

“The indictee wants to deny the allegation that, by being detained, the combatants became members of a protected group. It is illogical that a perpetrator is allowed to kill a combatant, while threatening him with death or detention is considered a crime,” Karadzic said in his motion.

In June, Karadzic had attempted to have 11 charges against him dismissed. The Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts of the indictment, including the one referring to taking international soldiers hostages.

“The Trial Chamber has determined that, even though the UN members were combatants immediately before being captured, they were outside the fight and had the right to minimal protection,” states the Chamber’s ruling.

However the Chamber, which is presided by Judge O-Gon Kwon, decided that the Appellate Chamber’s stance regarding the question of whether the captured combatants had the right to protection would influence the further course of the trial, which is why they accepted Karadzic’s request to appeal.
Karadžić, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, denies charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

Previously, the prosecution had filed an appeal against the Trial Chamber’s ruling that the prosecutors had failed to present sufficient evidence for the first count of indictment, which charged Karadžić with genocide in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.

The defence is due to begin presenting its evidence in October.
Karadzic Asks Izetbegovic to be Defence Witness

War crimes defendant Radovan Karadzic has written to Bakir Izetbegovic, a member of the Bosnian presidency, asking him to testify for the defence at the Hague Tribunal.

DENIS DZIDIC

The former president of Republika Srpska has asked Bakir Izetbegovic, son of the late Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic, to testify in order to allow the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, to understand the full context of the events during the war.

Karadzic said he would ask Izetbegovic about the wartime activities of the Bosnian Presidency in obtaining arms in violation of the United Nations arms embargo, as well as allegations that the Bosnian government staged shelling incidents in Sarajevo as a means of expediting international intervention.

Karadzic also thanked Izetbegovic for his interest in his court case, as evidenced by his letter to the ICTY Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz last month.

In the letter Izetbegovic encouraged Brammertz to appeal the recent decision of the Trial Chamber to acquit Karadzic of the charge of genocide in seven municipalities of Bosnia during 1992.

“Frankly, I was surprised by your public expression of dissatisfaction with that decision. It doesn’t seem like a productive way to assist in the reconciliation of our people.”

“Your government spent millions to persuade the International Court of Justice that genocide had been committed in the municipalities and you lost. That court decided in 2007 that the events did not constitute genocide. I don’t understand why you would expect the ICTY to decide any differently,” wrote Karadzic.

Karadzic added that he hoped that Izetbegovic had the agreement of other members of the Presidency to write such a letter.

“I also hope that you do not interject yourself that way in cases pending before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Playing that kind of role...
which mixes politics and law makes bad law and even worse politics,” added Karadzic.

In his letter, Karadzic explains that he is writing to Izetbegovic in English as a “diplomatic solution” since he speaks Serbian and Izetbegovic Bosnian.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, denies charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In June, Karadzic had attempted to have 11 charges against him dismissed. The ICTY ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts of the indictment but it acquitted him on charges for genocide in seven municipalities in Bosnia. The prosecution has filed an appeal against this decision.

Karadzic’s trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence last month. The defence is due to begin presenting its evidence in October.
Prosecution Appeals Karadzic’s Genocide Acquittal

The Hague Prosecution has appealed the decision to acquit former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of one of two counts of genocide.

DENIS DZIDIC

In the appeal Serge Brammertz, the Hague Tribunal Chief Prosecutor, said that several legal and factual mistakes were made when clearing Karadzic of charges for genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992 and that those mistakes represent a “miscarriage of justice”. He asked for all the charges to be reinstated.

In its appeal, the prosecution said that the Trial Chamber wrongly applied legal standards and the Hague Tribunal practices. The prosecution argues that the murders of Bosniaks and Croats in Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik in 1992 reached the level that shows that a significant part of a group was destined for destruction.

In the opinion of the Hague prosecutors, the Trial Chamber failed to apply the elements of a joint criminal enterprise in relation to the charges for genocide in 1992.

As stated in the appeal, the Trial Chamber did not assess whether Karadzic and other members of the joint criminal enterprise had genocidal intention.

“The Trial Chamber made a mistake when applying the law and failed to assess whether the evidence, including the indictee’s threats of disappearance and elimination of Bosniaks prior to the war and in 1992, was sufficient to convince a reasonable trial chamber of existence of genocidal intention on the part of the indictee,” the appeal says.

In June Karadzic had attempted to have 11 charges against him dismissed. The Hague Tribunal’s Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts of the indictment but it acquitted him on charges for genocide in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Karadžić, former president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, denies charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

His trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence last month. The defence is due to begin presenting its evidence in October.
Karadzic Wants Hostage Taking Charge Removed

Former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, has asked for permission to appeal the decision of there being sufficient evidence to determine his guilt for taking UN peacekeepers hostage in 1995.

DENIS DZIDIC

In June Karadzic had attempted to have 11 charges against him dismissed. The Hague Tribunal’s Trial Chamber ruled that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence for ten out of the 11 counts of the indictment, including the one referring to taking international soldiers hostages.

In his motion Karadzic argues that he should be allowed to appeal against the Trial Chamber’s decision, on the grounds that the UN peacekeepers were combatants.

“The indictee wants to deny the allegation that, by being detained, combatants become members of a protected group. It is illogical that a perpetrator is allowed to kill a combatant, while threatening him with death or detaining him is considered a crime,” Karadzic said in his motion.

Karadzic pointed out that a quick decision by the Appellate Chamber concerning his motion would “contribute to better efficiency of the proceedings”.

Previously, the Trial Chamber had also ruled that the prosecutors had failed to provide sufficient evidence relating to the first count of the indictment, which charged Karadzic with genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

On July 3, the prosecution has made a request to be allowed to appeal this decision.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, denies charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

His trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence last month. The defence is due to begin presenting its evidence in October.
Karadzic’s Bid for Sessions in Balkans Rejected

The Hague Tribunal has rejected a request by former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to hold three weeks of court sessions in Bosnia and Serbia, once his defence case starts in October.

DENIS DZIDIC

Karadzic asked in May for court sessions to be held in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Belgrade explaining that it would make it easier for the witnesses he intends to call.

In his request he also said that holding sessions in Bosnia and Serbia would “bring the work of the Tribunal closer to the peoples that are most interested in its work and incite greater understanding of the Tribunal’s work.”

The prosecution was opposed, claiming that Karadzic’s presence at any trial hearing in the former Yugoslavia would pose a significant security risk.

The Hague Tribunal, ICTY, rejected Karadzic’s request by saying that he did not establish that it would be in the interests of justice to conduct hearings away from the seat of the Tribunal.

"The Chamber is not satisfied that mere convenience is a reason warranting that hearings be held away from the seat of the Tribunal."

“With regard to the argument that granting the motion would bring ‘the work of the Tribunal directly to the people for whom it is intended to benefit’, the Chamber notes that while this consideration is an important one, it does not warrant the application of this rule in the interests of justice,” states the ICTY decision.

Since the ICTY started its work more than 15 years ago, the Tribunal only held sessions outside of The Hague headquarters once, in the case of Rasim Delic, former commander the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Delic was found guilty of crimes in Central Bosnia and sentenced to three years in prison in September 2008. He died two years later.
Karadžić, former president of Republika Srpska, denies charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war during the Bosnian war.

The Hague’s prosecution ended a two-year long evidence hearing in May, while Karadžić’s defence will begin presenting evidence in October this year.
Prosecution Wants Karadzic Charge Reinstated

In the motion sent to the Trial Chamber of the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, the prosecution argues that the decision to acquit Karadzic on the count of genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992 constitutes a judgment and should therefore be open to appeal.

"Unless the prosecution is permitted to appeal, this judgment will be the final outcome of the trial in relation to the genocide charge under count 1. Therefore, it necessarily affects the outcome of the trial", says the motion by the Hague prosecution.

When it considered Karadzic’s request for acquittal, the Hague Trial Chamber established that the prosecution had presented enough evidence that could convict Karadzic on ten other counts of the indictment.

However, the Trial Chamber also ruled that the prosecutors had failed to provide sufficient evidence relating the first count of the indictment, which charged Karadzic with genocide in the municipalities of Bratunac, Foca, Klijuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik in 1992.

The prosecution argues that the Trial Chamber made “errors of law and fact” by dropping the count 1 charge of genocide.

In its motion, the prosecution asked the Appeals Chamber to decide as quickly as possible on its request, since the “immediate resolution by the Appeals Chamber would materially advance the proceedings”.

“If the Prosecution is correct that the Trial Chamber has erred in dismissing the genocide charge in count 1, the error should be corrected now. The trial on count 1 could then proceed together with the trial on the remaining counts in the indictment, thereby avoiding a lengthy and costly retrial on count 1 at the end of the proceedings in this case,” says the motion.
Karadžić, the former president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its army, denies charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

His trial started in October 2009, and the prosecution finished presenting its evidence last month. The defence will call its first witnesses in October this year.
ICTY Ruling on Karadzic Divides Opinions

The decision taken by the Hague Tribunal to clear former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of one count out of two of genocide has disappointed the victims.

DENIS DZIDIC

While considering Karadzic’s request for acquittal in the middle of the trial, the Trial Chamber determined that the prosecutors had presented sufficient evidence against him on ten counts of the indictment, including the one referring to the genocide in Srebrenica, but it dismissed the charges for genocide committed in seven municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.

Some legal experts consider that such decision was expected, considering previous stands of the ICTY Trial Chambers, while others told BIRN that the gravest crimes, such as genocide, should not be considered “partially” and that the prosecution should have prepared itself better.

According to the indictment, between March and December 1992, the Bosnian Serb forces under the command of Karadzic seized control of towns and villages in the areas of Kljuc, Zvornik, Bratunac, Vlasenica, Prijedor, Foca and Sanski Most and expelled hundreds of thousands of non-Serbs. Thousands of men were held for months in detention camps. Many were murdered.

The ICTY decision

The judges determined that the prosecutors had not presented sufficient evidence on the first count, charging Karadzic with genocide against Bosniaks and Croats in Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik municipalities.

“Although we have heard sufficient evidence that Serbian forces committed persecution, mass murders and extermination in those municipalities, it has not been proven that they had genocidal intention and that they tried to destroy, completely or partially, Muslims and Croats as ethnic groups, which is a precondition for the criminal act of genocide,” said judge O-Gon Kwon, Chairman of the Trial Chamber.
The decision of the ICTY does not mean that these crimes did not take place, but that they did not, judging on the available evidence, constitute genocide.

The crimes of 1992 are still, despite the acquittal, in the indictment against Karadzic. They are now described not as genocide but as murder, extermination, torture, terror and forced deportation.

Karadzic had applied for acquittal on these charges too, but his request was rejected.

Lawyer Miodrag Stojanovic – member of the defence team of former Bosnian Serb army commander Ratko Mladic, who is charged with the same crimes as Karadzic – says the same decision will be made in the case against his client once the prosecution has completed the presentation of its evidence.

“To put it mildly, the prosecution embarked on the indictments against Karadzic and Mladic in a megalomaniac way. It charges them with two genocides – one in Srebrenica and another one in some municipalities, although it was aware of the fact that genocide in any of those towns had not been confirmed in any verdict rendered so far,” Stojanovic said.

As he said, in the case against Karadzic the Trial Chamber deemed that what happened in Srebrenica was genocide, while what happened in Sarajevo or Eastern Bosnia was not.

Zarije Seizovic, professor of international law from Sarajevo, considers that each case is individualized and that mosaics are assembled separately for each case.

“In my opinion, it is illogical to make a decision about such a serious matter as genocide successively and in stages. I do not think that the Tribunal has malicious intentions or that it can be considered biased.”

“However, when we speak about grave crimes, gravest crimes, such as genocide, we should take the complexity of the crime into consideration. Proving genocidal intention is the most difficult thing. This is why it is hard to prove genocide,” Seizovic says.

Vasvija Vidovic, who has represented indictees before the Hague Tribunal, considers that evidence of genocide in other municipalities, not only for Srebrenica, do exist.

“Given the fact that the prosecution has been involved in other cases related to those municipalities, they should have completed the evidence
in order to make sure that a verdict of conviction would be pronounced,” Vidovic said.

Natasa Kandic, Director of the Fund for Humanitarian Law from Serbia, shares her opinion, adding that she was surprised by such a decision.

“This decision came unexpectedly. It makes us think about whether the prosecution presented all the available evidence about the crimes committed in Prijedor or Zvornik for instance, as we know what happened in those municipalities,” said Kandic.

“When you look at that, you cannot but conclude that an intention to partially destroy a group of people existed in those municipalities. This is really a description of genocide,” Kandic explained.

Victims think that acquitting Karadzic of the charges for genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities, is sad and shocking.

Hazim Mujcinovic from Vlasenica said that the decision sent him back to the days when murders were committed in that town, adding that “court genocide” was committed by such decisions.

“We were nobody. We were smaller than a pebble, because anybody could come, take us out of our homes, slaughter or kill us. The court processes and all the decisions that have been rendered so far indicate that some sort of court genocide, if we can call it that way, is conducted against the victims, who have now become victims again,” Mujcinovic said.

Magbula Mesanovic of the Association of the Missing People from the municipality of Kljuc finds it hard to understand the Hague Tribunal’s decision.

“The justice of God is all I have. Nothing else. I have been disappointed by courts over the past 15 years. I really cannot talk about it any more,” she said.

Members of Karadzic’s defence team Peter Robinson and Goran Petronijevic expressed satisfaction with the Hague Tribunal’s decision.

Robinson said that the decision was “brave” and that it showed “the independence of judges”.

Petronijevic pointed out that the Trial Chamber could have acquitted Karadzic of the other charges too had it had “a little more courage”.

“We are convinced that, by the end of the trial ahead of us, through the presentation of our testimonies, materials, experts and written evidence,
we shall unmask the stereotype and lies about Srebrenica and Sarajevo, as the key occurrences in the miserable and bloody happenings during the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” Petronijevic said.

According to Petronijevic, the Trial Chamber’s decision, saying that the other allegations in the indictment had been proven, does not mean that the defence will have problems with refuting them during the presentation of its evidence.
Karadzic’s Request for Acquittal Rejected

The Hague Tribunal has rejected Radovan Karadzic’s request to be freed of all charges contained in the indictment, save for one count.

JUSTICE REPORT

The judges of the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, say that the prosecution has presented enough evidence to find Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb leader, guilty of ten out of total 11 counts of indictment, including the Srebrenica genocide.

However, the ICTY judges have decided to acquit Karadzic on the count of genocide in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992.

Reading the decision, the presiding judge, O-gon Kwon, said that the evidence presented by the prosecution – in regard to an alleged genocide in the municipalities of Bratunac, Foca, Kljuc, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Vlasenica and Zvornik – do not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the Bosnian Serbs wanted to “destroy part or in whole other ethnic groups”.

The ICTY judges said, however, that the prosecution had presented enough evidence in regard to other counts of the indictment, including the Srebrenica genocide and the siege of Sarajevo.

Karadzic and his lawyer Peter Robinson presented on June 11 an oral request to the ICTY Trial Chamber to be freed of all charges contained in the indictment.

The former Bosnian Serb leader has asked to be acquitted on the basis that prosecutors had failed to provide enough evidence.

Originally, Karadzic was charged with genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats in much of Bosnia, terror against civilians in Sarajevo, and taking members of UN peace forces as hostages, in the period between 1992 and 1995.

The presiding judge Kwon said that the Trial Chamber found that Karadzic, as supreme commander of the Bosnian Serb army, was guilty of crimes
committed in Srebrenica, Sarajevo and other Bosnian municipalities, except the genocide in 1992.

According to this ICTY decision, the prosecution proved there was a joint criminal enterprise, headed by Karadzic, whose goal was to forcibly remove non-Serb population from large portions of Bosnia, under the control of the Bosnian Serbs.

“The Chamber decided that based on this evidence, an objective judge could find that Bosnian Serb forces committed genocide in Srebrenica,” said Judge Kwon.

Kwon also added that Karadzic’s view that Sarajevo was not under siege was rejected, because the evidence shows that civilians in the city were subject to a campaign of terror by the Bosnian Serbs.

The judges also accepted there was sufficient evidence to find Karadzic guilty of crimes in 20 municipalities in Bosnia, where Bosnian Serb forces expelled and terrorized non-Serbs, and the taking of international soldiers as hostages in 1995.

Karadzic’s trial started in October 2009, and the Hague prosecution has finished presenting its evidence last month. The defence will call its first witnesses in October this year.
Serbia Exposes Accomplices of ICTY Defendants

The Serbian Prosecution Office announced on Friday that it has started criminal proceedings against 13 people suspected of helping Ratko Mladic and Stojan Zupljanin.

MARIJA RISTIC

Six people are suspected of helping Ratko Mladic, former Bosnian Serb army commander, who managed to evade capture for 16 years before being handed over to the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, in 2011.

One of those being investigated is known to be a retired high-ranking officer in the Serbian Army.

Stojan Zupljanin, the ex Chief of the Regional Police station in Banja Luka and current ICTY defendant, is said to have had the best organised network of helpers, as well as the long standing support of a number of high ranking politicians. Seven people are currently being prosecuted for helping him hide.

The Chief Prosecutor for War Crimes Vladimir Vukcevic refused to reveal names of those involved in hiding the ICTY defendants since they are protected by the presumption of innocence.

Mladic enjoyed the support of the Serbian Army until 2002, when Serbia adopted the Law on Cooperation with the ICTY. According to Vukcevic, after 2002, Mladic created a network of people, mainly from the Army of Republika Srpska, which allowed him to hide at eleven locations in Belgrade.

The majority of Mladic’s accomplices were arrested in 2006 and are currently being tried by a Belgrade court.

At one point during the investigation, Mladic was within the reach of the authorities but they failed to arrest him, a failure which the Chief Prosecutor described as both unprofessional and amateurish. He added that this incident would be investigated further.

According to the prosecutor, the network of people who helped Radovan Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb president and ICTY defendant, cannot be prosecuted since they are all members of his close family.
Goran Hadzic, former president of the self-proclaimed Serbian autonomous regions in Croatia, was told about his indictment by someone close to the ICTY prosecution team, and left the house just before his arrest.

“The news that he had been indicted came from the Hague Tribunal when one very well-known person close to former prosecutor Carla Del Ponte informed a lawyer from Belgrade. The lawyer than called Hadzic and offered him his services,” said Vukcevic.

The prosecution also has information that Hadzic was hiding in monasteries across Serbia, though none of the clergy knew who he was.

The prosecutor claims that Rade Bulatovic, the former director of Belgrade Security Information Agency, knew of eleven addresses where Mladic was hiding in Serbia. He arrested his helpers, but failed to arrest Mladic himself.

Vukcevic said there is not enough evidence against Bulatovic to file charges, but that he would be interrogated.

Vukcevic stressed that the Serbian prosecution is carrying out the investigation, not because of pressure from the ICTY or the EU, but because every citizen that breaks the law must be punished.

The ICTY Chief Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, in his biannual report to the UN Security Council presented at the beginning of June, expressed his concern at Serbia’s delay in identifying all those who had helped Karadzic and Mladic stay on the run for so long.
Prosecution Claims it Proved Karadzic’s Guilt

The Hague Prosecution has requested that Radovan Karadzic’s motion for acquittal is dismissed, saying that it had proved all counts of the indictment against him.

Prosecutor Alan Tieger said that Karadzic, as undisputed political leader of Bosnian Serbs and supreme commander of the army, wanted to create an “ethnically clean state” by expelling hundreds of thousands of Bosniaks and Croats from 70 per cent of the Bosnian territory which he considered to belong to Serbs.

Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats, terror against civilians in Sarajevo, and taking members of UN peace forces as hostages, in the period between 1992 and 1995.

On June 11, Karadzic and his lawyer Peter Robinson presented an oral request to the Hague Tribunal Trial Chamber to be freed of all the charges contained in the indictment.

“It has been proven that genocide was committed in Srebrenica and that the defendant took part in it as supreme commander of Serb armed forces, with the intent of destroying Muslims as an ethnic group,” emphasised the prosecutor.

Tieger called Karadzic’s order to seize Srebrenica a “culmination of his attempts to ethnically clean eastern Bosnia,” which had begun in autumn 1992.

Dismissing as a lie Karadzic’s claim that he had not been informed about the events in Srebrenica, the prosecutor pointed out evidence that Karadzic received regular military reports on the operation.

“Karadzic knew about the first massacre of 1,000 Bosniaks in the Kravica cooperative, on July 13, 1995, because his civilian envoy, Miroslav Deronjic, whom he met the following day, ordered that the bodies of the murdered people be buried in a mass grave in the village of Glogova,” said Tieger.
On the same evening, thousands of imprisoned Bosniak men were transferred, the prosecutor said, on Karadzic’s orders, from Potocari to Bratunac, from which they were taken to execution grounds in the region of Zvornik on July 14.

He said that numerous evidence deny Karadzic’s claims that Bosniaks left Srebrenica voluntarily. He reminded that Karadzic issued an order in March 1995 that the Army of Republika Srpska should create in Srebrenica “impossible conditions of total insecurity without hope for life and survival in the enclave.”

The prosecutor claimed that there was enough evidence to prove that Karadzic, who Tieger called “genocide-obsessed”, was responsible for the genocide against Bosniaks and Croats in another seven Bosnian municipalities.

Tieger cited examples of Zvornik, where around 2,000 Muslim men were systematically murdered, and camps near Prijedor, such as Omarska, in which “murder was routine”, and the Trnopolje camp from which 200 prisoners were taken to the Vlasic mountain and murdered in August 1992.

The prosecutor said there is plenty of evidence that the Bosnian Serb army, under Karadzic’s command, subjected the civilians of Sarajevo to a “campaign of terror” for over three years through unselective shelling and sniper fire.

“The evidence show that Karadzic ran a campaign aimed at carrying out his goals, knowing about its consequences,” emphasised Tieger and added that the attacks did not have any military goal.

The ICTY Trial Chamber will make a decision on Karadzic’s motion on June 28.
Karadzic Asks for Acquittal

Former president of Republika Srpska Radovan Karadzic asked the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, to acquit him of all charges, claiming that prosecutors failed to prove he was guilty.

Justice Report

Karadzic and his lawyer Peter Robinson presented on Monday an oral request to the ICTY Trial Chamber to be freed of all charges contained in the indictment.

“My fingerprints are nowhere to be found in these crimes. Everywhere I interfered, it was for the sake of humanity and to ease the pain of civilians of any ethnicity,” emphasised Karadzic.

Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats in much of Bosnia, terror against civilians in Sarajevo, and taking members of UN peace forces as hostages, in the period between 1992 and 1995.

He claims it has not been proven that the forces of Republika Srpska committed genocide in Srebrenica.

“Prosecution failed to prove my responsibility for the events in Srebrenica or that it was genocide... It’s up to the prosecution to prove who did the killing and what was the motive,” said Karadzic, claiming “there were killings for personal reasons, out of revenge.”

According to the indictment and earlier verdicts of the Tribunal, the Bosnian Serb army, under Karadzic’s supreme command, executed more than 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica in the days after it seized the enclave in eastern Bosnia on July 11, 1995.

Claiming that the prosecution failed to establish the exact number of victims, Karadzic said that the number cited in the indictment is part of a “Muslim propaganda”, which “the prosecution succumbed to” and “part of the game which makes people miserable and sets groundwork for future hostilities.”

“The prosecution failed to present evidence that I prepared, planned and ordered a genocide,” said the defendant and added that Bosniak women,
children and elderly from Srebrenica were not deported, but evacuated with support from the UN after they themselves asked for it.

The defence asked that Karadzic be acquitted of charges of genocide against Bosniak and Croats in seven other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on the fact that neither Hague Tribunal, nor International Court of Justice in their verdict established that genocide was committed there.

According to Karadzic, the Hague prosecution failed to prove he committed a single incident in Sarajevo, adding that the city was not under siege of his army. Sarajevo, in his opinion, “highly militarised” and the “army was mixed with civilians”.

He added that Serb soldiers only defended their homes and suburbs and that their leadership did not lay claim or intended to take over Bosniak territories in Sarajevo.

Karadzic also denied the existence of the joint criminal enterprise aimed at permanent and forceful removal of non-Serbs from larger parts of the Bosnian territory. Moving of population from war zones, in his words, was a legal obligation, with the guaranteed right to return.

He dismissed accusations of crimes committed in detention camps across Bosnia as unproven, claiming those were merely investigation centres which detained only “participants in armed rebellion”, while others, “arrested by error” were regularly released.

“Crimes were committed by individuals, and the prosecution failed to prove it was a part of the state system,” said the defendant.

The prosecutors will respond to Karadzic’s request for acquittal on Wednesday, while the Trial Chamber would make a decision on it at a later date.
Karadzic’s Judges Visiting Srebrenica

The ICTY judges in the case against Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, are visiting locations in Srebrenica which are relevant to the genocide charges in the indictment.

As announced by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, the Trial Chamber’s visit to Srebrenica and its surroundings, which started on June 4, will last five days.

The Trial Chamber consists of the presiding judge Ogon Kwon from South Korea, judges Howard Morisson from Great Britain and Melvill Baird from Trinidad and Tobago and Judge Flavia Lattanzzi from Italy, who is a reserve judge. They are accompanied by representatives of the prosecution and the defence.

Visits to locations where crimes described in indictments were committed, are common in the Hague Tribunal’s practice, but they are not mandatory.

This is the second time during Karadzic’s trial that the Trial Chamber has visited Bosnia. In May 2011, the judges visited crime scenes in the Sarajevo region.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against more than 7,000 Muslim men from Srebrenica, who were shot by the forces under his command after the fall of the UN protected enclave on July 11, 1995.

In addition, the indictment charges Karadzic with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorizing the local population in Sarajevo by long-lasting artillery and sniping attacks and taking UN peacekeepers as hostages during the war in Bosnia.

The trial began in late October 2009. Prosecutors completed the presentation of evidence against Karadzic in late May this year.

Karadzic, who is representing himself at this trial, is due to begin presenting defence’s evidence on October 16.
Karadzic Trial: Motion to Remove Incidents Dismissed

The Hague Tribunal dismissed a motion by Radovan Karadzic’s defence to have the prosecution remove from the indictment all incidents for which it failed to present “sufficient evidence”.

DENIS DZIDIC

The presiding judge of the Trial Chamber, O-Gon Kwon, explained the decision by saying that the motion by the defence of the former president of Republika Srpska was rejected because, according to the Hague Tribunal’s rules, there is a possibility of dismissing “only counts of the indictment, not individual incidents.”

“There may be instances in which even though the evidence is not necessarily sufficient in respect to some allegations set out in the Indictment in respect of a count, this evidence is capable of supporting a conviction on a particular count,” reads the explanation of the Trial Chamber.

Karadzic announced he would file a motion on June 11 to the Hague Tribunal in order to be released from the charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and the violation of rules and customs of war, after the Hague Prosecution finished its evidence hearing.

According to the ICTY, Karadzic claims that the prosecutors failed to prove he was guilty in the two-year long evidence hearing which ended on May 4.

It is expected that the prosecution will respond to this request on June 13, and the Trial Chamber will make a decision at a later date.

Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats in much of Bosnia, terror against civilians in Sarajevo, and taking members of UN peace forces as hostages, in the period between 1992 and 1995.

The beginning of the defence’s evidence hearing is scheduled for October 16. The trial began in late 2009, and the first witness for the Hague prosecution was examined in April of the following year.
Karadzic to File Request for Release on June 11

Former president of Republika Srpska Radovan Karadzic will file a request to the Hague Tribunal on June 11 asking to be acquitted of charges for genocide and other crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

JUSTICE REPORT

In his request Karadzic claims that the prosecutors failed to prove he was guilty in the two-year long evidence hearing which ended on May 4.

It is expected that the prosecution will respond to this request on June 13, and in their motion they will specify that they presented enough evidence for all 11 counts of the indictment against Karadzic.

The decision on Karadzic’s request will be made by the Trial Chamber presided over by Judge O-Gon Kwon after the prosecution gives its response.

Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and seven other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats in much of Bosnia and Herzegovina, terror against civilians in Sarajevo, and taking members of UN peace forces as hostages, in the period between 1992 and 1995.

The beginning of the defence’s evidence hearing is scheduled for October 16.
Hague Prosecutors Wrap Up Case Against Karadzic

In the next stage of the trial, which begins in autumn, the defence aims to call hundreds of witnesses 'to help Karadzic tell his side of the story'.

DENIS DZIDIC

During the two years of the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska, the prosecution of The Hague Tribunal has attempted to prove his role in genocide and other crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While the prosecution estimate that they “presented the case well” and say everything now is in the hands of the judges, Peter Robinson, legal counsel for Karadzic, said that they have done a good job in challenging the prosecution evidence.

“We believe the prosecution failed to prove all the allegations in the indictment and after the conclusion of the evidence procedure, we will ask the Trial Chamber to assist in shortening the trial by dismissing the charges that were not proven,” Robinson told BIRN.

In nearly 300 working days, the prosecution interrogated 195 witnesses and experts, mostly ex-members of the UN staff in Bosnia and ex-members of UNPROFOR, the UN protection force.

In the past two years, the prosecution has divided the evidence procedure into the following parts: the campaign of sniping and shelling of Sarajevo, genocide and other crimes committed in 28 municipalities under the control of the Bosnian Serb army, VRS, and taking international troops as hostages.

The trial of Karadzic, former supreme commander of the Bosnian Serb army, who is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of laws and customs of war, began in October 2009.

Karadzic has pleaded not guilty. On several occasions he has requested that the proceedings should be dismissed, saying he had an agreement with international officials by which he would not be prosecuted if he abandoned political and public life.
Karadzic was in hiding for 12 years until his arrest in July 2008. The first witnesses were interrogated almost two years later.

**City shelled to spread terror:**

To prove his command responsibility for activities of the Bosnian Serb forces in Sarajevo, several victims, experts and persons who have worked on the investigations related to shelling and sniping during the siege were interrogated in court. Most were former United Nations and UNPROFOR staffers in Sarajevo.

Harry Konings, Anthony Banbury, David Fraser, Adrianus van Baal, Thorbjorn Overgard, David Harland and John Hamill, all ranking officers or observers of the UN during the siege, confirmed that during nearly four years they saw how the VRS forces, in particular the Sarajevo - Romanija Corps, randomly shelled the city and sniped at civilians.

“I saw random fire on civilians in Sarajevo and it was found out that most of the gunfire was coming from Serb territory. We saw shells falling randomly on the city. The attacks provoked fear, which was the purpose,” Konings said.

David Harland, former member of the UNPROFOR Command, agreed, saying the Bosnian Serb army carried out “targeted attacks on Sarajevo”, whose purpose was to spread terror.

Anthony Banbury described attacks on civilians in Sarajevo, and pointed out that Serb forces had every opportunity to influence the intensity of the shelling and sniping.

“In my opinion and that of my colleagues, Karadzic had complete control over Sarajevo and was the bearer of leadership in the political and also in the military domain,” he said.

The prosecution sought to prove Karadzic’s control over the VRS through the findings of Richard Phillips, a military expert, who said that the units of the VRS had “an effective chain of command”.

Another piece of evidence in relation to the crimes in Sarajevo was shelling, of which the shelling of the city’s Markale market place in 1994 and 1995 were the best known, killing about a hundred civilians.

John Hamill, a former UN observer, said he was involved in the investigation of the shelling of the Markale market in February 1994. According to him, the grenades came from the Bosnian Serb positions, from where more than 3,000 missiles were fired on Sarajevo on a daily basis.
The massacre at Markale was described also by a witness, Sulejman Crn-cal, whose wife was killed in the vicinity of the marketplace.

“My wife went to buy milk and we agreed that she would not stay too long. When she did not arrive, I went to the market to look for her,” he recalled.

“On my way, I met people who said a grenade had struck. Near the market, I saw the scene of a massacre. There was blood over the whole street, bits of human flesh were scattered around and pieces of clothing were torn asunder,” he added.

Dragan Miokovic, a former investigator of the Security Services Centre, CSB, in Sarajevo, said that he had participated in investigations of dozens of incidents related to shelling and sniping.

“According to the CSB estimations, between 10,000 and 11,000 civilians were killed in Sarajevo [in the war]. From this distance in time, those estimations have proved accurate,” he said.

“Our estimations are that between 1,300 and 1,400 children younger than 15 were among them. Sarajevo was under siege, and the army, which were under your command, shot at it,” Miokovic added, addressing Karadzic.

**Karadzic had complete control:**

Over nine months, the prosecution also introduced evidence regarding the indictment of genocide allegedly committed in seven municipalities in Bosnia in 1992, and other crimes committed in 20 municipalities.

The experts Dorothea Hanson, Robert Donia, Richard Butler, Christian Nielsen and Reynaud Theunens all emphasized that Karadzic, through the authorities of the Republika Srpska, had control over the army, police and Crisis Staffs in the municipalities.

Theunens, an expert on military issues, concluded that Karadzic issued directives and instructions to the General Staff Headquarters of the VRS, while Hanson noted that the Bosnian Serb municipal governments were resettling the non-Serb population in an organized manner.

Ibro Osmanovic from Vlasenica, Ahmet Zulic from Sanski Most, both victims, as well as Hussein Ali Abdel Razek, Michael Rose, Herbert Okun, Rupert Smith, representatives of international forces, and Ed Vulliamy and Jeremy Bowen, two British journalists, spoke about a series of crimes committed by the Bosnian Serb army, police and paramilitary formations.
Bowen, who reported from Bosnia in the war for the BBC, said that ethnic cleansing was an “undisputable fact” and that “the Serbian forces blazed the trail”.

Milorad Davidovic, former chief inspector of the Yugoslav Federal Secretariat of Internal Affairs, recalled that the Crisis Staff in Bijeljina had “lists for the expulsion of the Muslim population”.

Petko Panic, former Assistant Commander of the Zvornik Reserve Police, testified that Bosniak civilians in that city were killed and deported by the Serb forces in spring and summer of 1992.

However, Momcilo Mandic, former Justice Minister in Republika Srpska, who was acquitted of committing crimes in Foca and Sarajevo by the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, said that Karadzic did not plead for the creation of a Serb state and that he was not responsible for inviting in paramilitary formations.

Witness from Srebrenica:

Last November, prosecutors began presenting the evidences regarding the genocide in Srebrenica, drawing on a statement by a Bosniak who survived the mass shooting in the village of Orahovac, in eastern Bosnia in July 1995.

Protected witness KDZ-39 said that he was detained after the fall of the protected enclave and then transferred to the school in Orahovac on July 14, 1995, from where members of the VRS took him, together with other Bosniaks, to a nearby pasture and opened fire on them.

Richard Butler, a military expert, testified that the order for thousands of Bosniaks from Srebrenica to be executed must have come from the top of the chain of command of the Bosnian Serb army, headed by Karadzic.

The same expert estimated that the order descended through the chain of command, despite the fact that it was “illegal”.

A similar stand was repeated by Manojlo Milovanovic, former Chief of Staff of the VRS, who confirmed that Karadzic was supreme commander of the armed forces of the Republika Srpska, and therefore was “indirectly responsible for all operations of the VRS”.

**The hostage issue:**

The fourth element of the Hague prosecution’s case concerns the taking of international soldiers as hostages during 1995 and a number of ex-members of UNPROFOR testified regarding this.
Jonathon Riley, former commander of British UN peacekeepers, said that the Bosnian Serb forces in that city “took 33 British peacekeepers” hostage in May 1995.

This statement is confirmed by a number of members of these units, including Janusz Kalbarczyk, former UN military observer, who recalled that he heard “the airplanes shelling the area of Pale” [Bosnian Serb HQ] on May 26, 1995, shortly after which he was captured by the VRS.

Although juridically perhaps the weakest indictment against Karadzic, Robinson estimates that taking international hostages would be “the most serious indictment to challenge”.

The defence will begin presenting its evidence after a court break which lasts up to October 16. Robinson says that “several hundred witnesses who will help Karadzic tell his side of the story” will be invited to take part in the evidentiary procedure.
Karadzic Asks For Court Sessions in Balkans

Radovan Karadzic has asked the Trial Chamber of the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, to hold three weeks of court sessions in Bosnia and Serbia, once his defence case starts in October.

DENIS DZIDIC

In a letter to the ICTY President, Theodor Meron, Karadzic explained that holding sessions in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Belgrade would “bring the work of the Tribunal closer to the peoples that are most interested in its work and incite greater understanding of the Tribunal’s work.”

According to Karadzic it would also make life easier for the witnesses he intends to call who “live or are serving jail time” in those cities.

Since the ICTY started its work more than 15 years ago, the Tribunal only held sessions outside of The Hague headquarters once, in the case of Rasim Delic, former commander the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Delic was found guilty of crimes in Central Bosnia and sentenced to three years in prison in September 2008. He died during his appeals case two years later and the verdict became final.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war during the Bosnian war.

The Hague’s prosecution ended a two-year long evidence hearing last week, while Karadzic’s defence will begin presenting evidence in October this year.
Karadzic Claims Srebrenica Not Genocide

During the final week of the prosecution’s case against Radovan Karadzic, the defendant claimed that the number of those killed in the Bosnian war is too low for it to be described as genocide.

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Ewa Tabeau, a demographic expert, testified about the number of casualties during the Bosnian war, and stated that the estimated number of Bosniaks missing from Srebrenica in July 1995 is 7,905.

During cross examination, Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, said that there was no genocide in Srebrenica or Bosnia, given that the percentage of Bosniaks who were killed, was smaller than the percentage of the Tutsis killed in Rwanda or the number of Jews murdered during World War Two.

Tabeau confirmed Karadzic’s assertion that, out of 1,902,956 Bosniaks, 49,111 or 2.6 percent of them were killed in the Bosnian war.

Karadzic went on to explain that if such a small percentage was killed, then there could have been no “intention to destroy the group”.

Karadzic is charged with the genocide of more than 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica in the days that followed the occupation of the UN protected enclave by Republika Srpska forces on July 11, 1995.

Tabeau also said that a total of 2,082 persons, including 1,811 Bosniaks, were killed in Sarajevo from April to September 1992 and civilians were the victims more often than soldiers.

The indictment charges Karadzic with terrorizing civilians in Sarajevo with systematic shelling and sniping during the war.

The Chamber of the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, also heard from former journalist Zoran Petrovic Pirocanac, who was in the Srebrenica region in July 1995 and made a documentary about it.

Petrovic, whose documentary was introduced as evidence at the trial of Karadzic, said that the Bosnian Serb leadership “did not have any nega-
tive reactions” about the documentary, but he received death threats from Bosnian Serb soldiers.

During the cross examination by Karadzic, Petrovic confirmed that he sent a copy of his documentary to Pale, because he was told that Bosnian Serb leaders wanted to see it.

With these testimonies the prosecution has finished presenting its evidence. The defence case is scheduled to start on October 16, 2012.
Karadzic Failed to Deal With War Crimes

The former Prime Minister of Republika Srpska testified at The Hague that in 1992, Radovan Karadzic did not want to address the war crimes being committed by Serbian forces.

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Branko Djerić, Prime Minister of the Bosnian Serb government from March to December 1992, said that the Republika Srpska was “one party state led by Karadzic” under his capacity as leader of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS.

He said that Karadzic “considered himself to be the government” and that along with his closest associates, designed future politics and decided which ministers would implement them.

According to Djerić, the government, which he chaired, was just “a technical appendage.”

Djerić said that he “was concerned” by crimes committed by the Serb forces and that he wanted the problem to be solved, but Karadzic disagreed, saying that it could as well be done later.

Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb President, is charged with persecuting Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, genocide in Srebrenica, terror against civilians in Sarajevo and holding UN peacekeepers hostage.

During his testimony, Djerić confirmed that Biljana Plavšić and other officials of the Presidency of Republika Srpska, “requested and approved” the arrival of paramilitary forces.

In 2003, The Hague Tribunal sentenced Plavšić to 11 years in prison after she pleaded guilty to persecuting the non-Serb population in 1992. She has since been released after having served two-thirds of her sentence in a prison in Sweden.

During the cross-examination, Djerić said that he wanted to raise the issue of war crimes, but Karadzic objected to it.
“Mr. Karadzic, had you allowed us to punish those who should have been punished from day one, many worse things could not have happened later on. I tried to convince you. I told you. In the end I left, but the problems remained,” the witness said.

This week the Trial Chamber also heard from Ewa Tabeau, a prosecution demographic expert. She testified that according to her research, in the first few months of the war in 1992, more than 280,000 Bosniaks were displaced from 27 municipalities in Bosnia.

Karadzic’s trial is due to continue on Tuesday, May 1.
Karadzic’s Letter to Milorad Dodik

Radovan Karadzic has written a letter to Milorad Dodik, the President of Republika Srpska, asking him to meet his defence team.

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Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb President, asked Dodik to meet his legal advisor Peter Robinson, so that the lawyer could invite him to testify in Karadzic’s defence at the trial before the Hague Tribunal.

“I would like you to help me establish that there was no joint criminal enterprise between 1991 and 1995 to expel Muslims from parts of the territory under the control of Republika Srpska, as specified in the indictment.”

“Your particular role as a member of the Parliamentary opposition would enable you to provide evidence concerning your understanding of the goals of our authorities in that period,” Karadzic’s letter to Dodik stated.

Karadzic is being tried before the Hague Tribunal for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war between 1992 and 1995.

The indictment specifies that Karadzic took part in a joint criminal enterprise with state officials from Republika Srpska, members of the Yugoslav People’s Army and paramilitaries, aimed at the expulsion of the non-Serb population from the territory of 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Karadzic was arrested in July 2008 and his trial started in October the following year. The Hague Prosecution, in the period between April 2010 and 2012, examined almost 200 witnesses, and announced it would finish its evidence hearing in the first week of May.

Dodik, the leader of the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats, in the period between 1992 and 1995, was a representative of the Union of Reform Forces, and an elected MP in the Parliament of Republika Srpska.
Military Expert: Karadzic Was Responsible for Srebrenica

As the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the military expert Richard Butler said that, in his capacity as supreme commander, the indictee had the overall responsibility for the attack on Srebrenica in July 1995.

Butler, who prepared a report about the chain of command within the Bosnian Serb army, said that Karadzic was “on the top” of that chain, as “supreme commander of the Republika Srpska’s armed forces” and as such he had detailed knowledge of the events in Srebrenica.

In March 1995, Butler said, Karadzic sent a directive to the Army, ordering it “to create an unbearable situation of complete uncertainty” for the Bosniaks in Srebrenica, depriving them of any hope of survival in the enclave.

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide against more than 7,000 Bosniaks, shot by the Bosnian Serb army in the days that followed the occupation of Srebrenica on July 11, 1995.

He is also charged with persecuting Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia, terrorizing civilians in Sarajevo and taking international soldiers hostage in the period from 1992 to 1995.

“As supreme commander, Karadzic did not confine himself to receiving information about the activities of the army. He also had and used the possibility to call the commanders in the field in order to obtain new information and issue direct instructions to them. He was an active participant in this process,” said Butler, a former US army officer.

Butler said that the order to shoot thousands of Bosniaks Srebrenica following the fall of Srebrenica in July 1995 must have come from the top of the command chain for the Republika Srpska Army.

Butler said that the order came from Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army Commander, and that it must have been conveyed down the command chain, just like any other order, despite the fact that it was “obviously illegal”.

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“Personnel did not question it. The order was executed. If we exclude the unlawfulness, the military command chain functioned the way it should have,” Butler said.

Mladic is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His trial before The Hague Tribunal is due to begin on May 14.

During cross examination, Butler accepted Karadzic’s allegation that in the spring of 1993, before the events at Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde had been declared United Nations protected zones, and that Bosniak forces had attacked the surrounding Serb villages and killed civilians in Podrinje.

Karadzic’s trial will continue on Monday, April 23.
13.04.2012

Karadzic Asks for his Defence to Start in 2013

The wartime Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal to allow him to start his defence next year.

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After the prosecution announced that it would complete the presentation of its evidence in the next few weeks, Karadzic requested that the Tribunal allow him to start his defence in March 2013.

Karadzic said that he had not had enough time to prepare his case, unlike, as he said, the prosecution which had had 14 months in which to prepare, from the point of his arrest in July 2008 until the beginning of the trial in October 2009.

The judges will make a decision about his request at a later date.

During the week, the Trial Chamber heard testimony from Tomislav Premovic, a US citizen of Serb origin, who said that he had overheard Mladic’s combat report on the speakerphone while visiting Karadzic in his office.

Premovic recalled that Mladic submitted a report that was “full of facts” about Srebrenica, two days after the UN protected enclave was overran by Bosnian Serb forces on July 11, 1995.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against more than 7,000 Bosnians from Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosnians and Croats throughout the country, with terror against civilians in Sarajevo and with taking international soldiers hostage.

Ratko Mladic, a former commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, is awaiting his turn in front of the Hague Tribunal.

The Trial Chamber also heard from Amor Masovic, director of the Bosnian Institute for Missing Persons who said that, following the fall of Srebrenica, Bosnian Serb forces had killed over 8,000 Bosniaks.

Masovic said that the International Commission for the Missing Persons, ICMP, has identified more than 6,600 remains exhumed from mass graves in Eastern Bosnia.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on Tuesday, April 17.
Karadzic: Srebrenica Executions Not Planned

During the hearings in the last week of March, Radovan Karadzic claims that the number of killed in Srebrenica is exaggerated while prosecution witness recalled scared civilians.

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This week Radovan Karadzic’s trial heard from Dusan Janc, an investigator in the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICTY, who talked about the exhumations of the Srebrenica massacre victims.

During the cross examination, Karadzic said that the number of Bosniaks killed by Bosnian Serb forces in Kravica village on July 13, 1995 was “multiplied by ten”, suggesting that there could have been 150 victims only, and not 1,000 as specified under the indictment.

Karadzic added that there were “no planned or prepared executions” in Kravica, and that the captives were killed after an incident in which a Bosniak grabbed a rifle from a Serb guard and killed him.

Janc responded by saying that the investigation determined that the killing began after the incident he mentioned.

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska and the Supreme Commander of its army, is charged with genocide, after more than 7,000 Bosniaks were killed when the Bosnian Serb army took control of Srebrenica on July 11, 1995. He is also charged with the persecution of tens of thousands of women, children and the elderly.

Prosecution witness Christine Schmitz recalled how, a day after the occupation of Srebrenica in July 1995, the Republika Srpska Army separated able bodied Bosniak men from the rest. Afterwards 40,000 women, children and the elderly were “deported” to Tuzla.

Schmitz, who was working as a nurse with Doctors without Borders in Srebrenica at the time, confirmed that the wounded and sick from the hospital were evacuated from Potocari on July 17, 1995.
"Following the fall of Srebrenica, there was not enough food and water for civilians in Potocari. They were scared and resigned to their fate," the witness said.

During the cross-examination Karadzic, who represents himself at the trial, asked Schmitz if she knew that he gave permission for local members of Doctors without Borders to leave Potocari together with its international members.

"Yes, they left with us, but I did not know that you gave your permission," the witness said.

Karadzic's trial will resume on April 10th, after Easter break.
Witness Speaks of Srebrenica Exhumations

A prosecution witness at the trial of Radovan Karadzic explained that a total of 6,606 victims have been identified so far from mass graves found in Srebrenica.

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Thomas Parsons, Forensic Director of the International Commission on Missing Persons, ICMP, told the Hague Tribunal that apart from the 6,606 identified victims, the remains of another 166 people could not be identified due to the lack of samples for comparison.

The total number of victims from Srebrenica mass graves amounts to 6,772 people, explained Parsons.

The list of identified victims was introduced into the evidence against Karadzic.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its army, is charged with genocide against more than 7,000 Bosniaks killed after the Bosnian Serb army took control of Srebrenica on July 11, 1995.

According to the indictment, Karadzic is accused of the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout the country, terror against civilians in Sarajevo by prolonged artillery and sniper attacks and taking international soldiers hostage.

At the start of cross-examination, Karadzic suggested that the US authorities control ICMP. However the witness denied this, saying that the Commission has a board of directors.

When asked who funded the Commission, Parsons replied that the money comes from more than 20 governments dedicated to maintaining peace and reconciliation in the Balkans and private foundations.

Karadzic also claimed that people who are still alive but whose “amputated limbs were put into mass graves” are also identified as victims from Srebrenica. Parsons rejected this claim as “extremely unlikely to be true”.
After Parsons had finished his testimony, psychotherapist Teufika Ibrahimefendic testified about the trauma of civilians, especially women and children, due to losses in Srebrenica during the war.

She testified that, while helping families, she had found that they suffer from “emotional damage and behavioral disorders”.

“Traumatic losses during the war are extremely stressful, because they come suddenly and violently”, the witness said, indicating that the consequences are “nightmares, depression and learning disorders”.

Karadzic’s trial will resume Monday, March 25.
Witness Recalls Meeting with Karadzic

At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a witness said that she overheard a conversation between Karadzic and Mladic that “Srebrenica was finished”.

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Slavica Ristic, a businesswoman from the United States, said that she was in Karadzic’s office on July 13, 1995, while he was on the phone to his general, Ratko Mladic.

Karadzic turned the speaker on and although the line was bad, Ristic said she heard one of the men say “Srebrenica was finished”.

While being questioned by Karadzic, Ristic answered she “did not know who said that”, but that she understood it to mean that military operations had been completed.

When asked “if there was any discussion about the prisoners of war or possible executions”, the witness replied: “Not in my presence”.

The witness recalled that Karadzic received her again at his office on July 14, 1995. Ristic said that he “carefully followed coverage by television stations of the events in Srebrenica”.

Karadzic, then the President of Republika Srpska and the Supreme Commander of its army, is charged with the genocide of more than 7,000 Bosniaks and the persecution of tens of thousands of women and children following the occupation of Srebrenica on July 11, 1995.

He is also charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats, terror against civilians in Sarajevo, and with taking UNPROFOR soldiers hostage in the period between 1992 and 1995.

Ratko Mladic, a former commander of the Republika Srpska Army, is awaiting his turn in front of the Hague tribunal.

During this week, the court also heard the testimony of two protected prosecution witnesses, who talked about the methods used by the Bosnian army to intercept conversations between the political and military leaders of the Bosnian Serbs, including Karadzic.
Witnesses KDZ-245 and KDZ-126, both former members of a communication interception unit with the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, were called to verify the transcripts of intercepted conversations between the Republika Srpska Army and their political leaders during and after the attack on Srebrenica in July 1995.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on Tuesday, March 20.
**Croatian ex-Minister Told to Meet Karadzic Lawyer**

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has subpoenaed Croatia’s jailed former assistant defence minister, Vladimir Zagorec, to submit to an interview with Radovan Karadzic’s legal advisor.

Karadzic, former president of the Republika Srpska during the 1992–5 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is on trial for genocide at the ICTY.

The trial chamber ordered Zagorec to submit to an interview with the accused’s legal counsel at a time and place to be notified by the latter but no later than April 30, 2012. If not, he must show good cause why he cannot comply.

Karadzic submitted a motion for a subpoena to interview Zagorec on March 12, 2012, asking that the interview be held in the prison where Zagorec is serving his sentence.

Zagorec is serving a seven-year prison term for abuse of office. The decorated general was stripped of his medals and rank after the verdict against him became final.

Karadzic has requested that Croatia provide him with several categories of documents relating to: arms smuggling to Tuzla and onwards to Srebrenica in February and March 1995; arms smuggling to the army of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995; and the involvement of UN personnel in providing arms to Bosnian Muslims.

Karadzic claims there are reasonable grounds to believe that Zagorec has information that can materially assist his case, as he would be “the person in the Croatian government with the most knowledge of the shipment of arms to the Bosnian Muslims” because he was in charge of procuring weapons for Croatia from 1993 to 1996.

The information that Karadzic seeks from Zagorec pertains to alleged agreements between Croatia and Iran to ship arms to Bosnian Muslims; the nature, method, and the quantity of the arms smuggled into Bosnia.
from 1994 to 1995 and the use of humanitarian convoys to smuggle in these weapons.

Karadzic claims he has attempted to obtain the voluntary co-operation of Zagorec but that Zagorec refused to submit to an interview with his legal counsel.
Witness Says Srebrenica Victims Were Shot and Bound

09.03.2012

Testifying at the trial of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, witness Dean Manning said Muslim victims found buried in mass graves associated with Srebrenica had been shot and in many cases blindfolded.

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Dean Manning, a former Hague Prosecution investigator, said that during investigations and exhumations of mass graves from 1996 to 2000 in which he took part, more than 400 blindfolds and bands for tying hands were found in graves discovered near Zvornik, eastern Bosnia.

Investigators found religious objects in the graves, such as prayer beads and small Korans, which indicated that the victims belonged to the Islamic faith, not to any other religion, Manning added.

The witness said that evidence linking the victims to certain execution sites were found in some graves. For instance, parts of the door of the warehouse in the village of Kravica, which lies eight kilometres away, were found in “Glogova I” and “Glogova II” mass graves.

According to the charges against Karadzic, on July 13, 1995 Serb forces killed more than 1,000 Bosnian [Muslim] men from Srebrenica in the Kravica warehouse.

Karadzic, former President of the Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with the genocidal killing of more than 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica following the occupation of the enclave by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS on July 11, 1995.

In addition, Karadzic is charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo with artillery and sniping attacks and taking hostage members of the UN mission in Bosnia, UNPROFOR.

During the past week, the Hague tribunal also heard testimony of Robert Djurdjevic who said that Karadzic told him in mid-July 1995 that the Republika Srpska Army had attacked and occupied Srebrenica on his orders.

Djurdjevic, a Serb emigrant to the United States, said Karadzic told him this during a meeting in his office in Pale on July 14, 1995.

Karadzic’s trial will resume on March 12.
Karadzic Wanted “Unbearable Situation” in Srebrenica

Testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic during the last week of February, witness said Karadzic was the supreme commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, and as such, he issued orders to make situation in Srebrenica “unbearable”.

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Manojlo Milovanovic, second in command of the Army of Republika Srpska, said that in the period from 1992 to 1995, Radovan Karadzic was higher in rank than Ratko Mladic, former Chief of the Bosnian Serb army.

The witness explained that in his capacity as supreme commander, Karadzic was responsible for planning the attack on Srebrenica in July 1995.

Karadzic issued a Directive under which he ordered the army of Republika Srpska to create “an unbearable situation without hope for survival” in Srebrenica.

According to Milovanovic, Karadzic’s Directive was “unusually detailed” for a document signed by a supreme commander.

Milovanovic testified that Mladic removed the sentence related to the creation of an unbearable situation for civilians from his combat order, which was prepared on the basis of Karadzic’s Directive.

Mladic thought that the mentioned sentence should not be in the Directive, because the army’s activities “were not targeted against civilians”.

Radovan Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terror against civilians in Sarajevo and taking members of international peace forces as hostages.

Karadzic is due to finish cross-examining Milovanovic on Monday, March 5.
OSCE Survey: Mladic and Karadzic are Heroes

More than 50 per cent of Serbs believe that war crime defendants Mladic and Karadzic are national heroes, OSCE survey says.

MARIJA RISTIC

A survey on attitudes towards the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, and war crime prosecutions in Serbia says that around 50 per cent of population think that Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic are not responsible for the war crimes for which they are charged.

According to the survey conducted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, 70 per cent of Serbians have negative attitudes towards the ICTY.

Survey sample included 1,407 people over the age of 16 who were questioned in face-to-face interviews conducted in September and October 2011.

“This has been one of the most serious surveys related to transitional justice conducted in the whole word,” said Ivan Jovanovic, the Head of the War Crimes Unit at the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

“Based on the results, we concluded that people generally have a negative attitude on these issues, but unfortunately they do not have much information on which they base their opinions,” he added.

Morgijana Breding, representative of the ICTY agrees that there is a lack of media coverage related to war crimes issues and that if there are any, that they are usually biased.

“Journalists are usually covering crimes when the defendant is from their country. For example, during the Gotovina trial there were no journalists from Serbia present,” said Breding adding that the ICTY started its outreach programme quite late.

Dusan Ignjatovic, Director of Serbian Government office for Cooperation with the ICTY, said that the survey shows that the Serbian public is not following enough ICTY trials, but they have a very strong negative opinion on its work.
“It is easier to believe that the ICTY is an anti Serbian court rather than that Serbs committed some serious crimes in the conflicts in 90s,” Ignatovic said.

According to the survey, 40 per cents of Serbs believe that Croats carry the greatest responsibility for the conflicts, followed by Albanians at 17 per cent, while Bosniaks come third with 10 percent.

Bruno Vekaric, Serbian Deputy Prosecutor for War Crimes said that the problem lies in the fact that war crime prosecutions are often politicised.
Bosnia Suspends Probe Into ‘Karadzic Helpers’

Bosnia’s state prosecution has suspended an investigation into 58 people suspected of assisting Hague indictee Radovan Karadzic while he was in hiding.

Boris Grubesic, spokesperson of the Bosnian State Prosecutor’s Office, confirmed to Balkan Insight on Tuesday that the probe had been suspended.

Karadzic, who is currently on trial at the Hague Tribunal accused of crimes against humanity and genocide in Bosnia, was in hiding in Bosnia and Serbia from 1996 until 2008, when he was captured in Belgrade and transferred to the Hague to face trial.

The case against the 58 people suspected of assisting Karadzic financially was suspended due to lack of evidence.

Some local media in Bosnia had suggested there was a link between the decision to suspend the Karadzic helpers case with another recent decision to drop an investigation into the Dobrovoljacka Street case.

However, Grubesic said that the decision to drop the Karadzic probe had been taken several days before the prosecutor’s office decided to terminate the Dobrovoljacka case.

Bosnia’s state prosecution on January 17 ended its investigation into 14 individuals suspected of involvement in the Dobrovoljacka Street killings in May 1992 in Sarajevo, when a Yugoslav National Army convoy was pulling out of the city at the beginning of the 1992–95 war in Bosnia.

The decision to drop the case was met by protest from Bosnian Serb leaders, who accused the state prosecutor of “humiliating Serb victims” and said they would move to abolish the state level court and prosecutor.
Karadzic: Witness Describes Mass Shooting

A witness at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic describes the scene of a mass shooting in July 1995.

Protected witness KDZ-045 said that after forces from the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, had entered Srebrenica in July 1995, he joined "between 12,000 and 15,000" other Bosniaks, “one third of whom were armed”, who tried to get through to Tuzla.

The witness said that he, along with other Bosniaks, surrendered to VRS members on July 13, 1995 because Serb soldiers addressed Bosniaks over megaphones and promised that they would be exchanged. According to the witness, more than 2,000 captured men were then transferred to Nova Kasaba and then onto Bratunac in overloaded trucks.

KDZ-045 said that on July 14 he was transported to Petkovci, along with other Bosniaks, and detained in a school building. As he said, about 300 captives were held in a single classroom.

In the early evening, Serb soldiers started to take those people out. He said that shooting could be heard after that. When he was taken out to the corridor, he saw piles of documents and other things that belonged to the people who had been taken away. His hands were then tied.

“They loaded us onto a truck. Following a ten-minute drive, we stopped in a field. I saw piles of corpses in that field. A soldier told us to get off the truck and lie down. After that they shot at us from a close distance,” witness KDZ-045 said, explaining that one bullet wounded him, so he fell down and hid among the dead people.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against more than 7,000 Bosniaks from Srebrenica who were shot by VRS forces in the days that followed the fall of Srebrenica on July 11, 1995. According to the charges, about 1,000 Bosniaks were killed in the vicinity of a dam in Petkovci on July 14, 1995.

The former President of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its forces is charged with the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, terror against civilians in Sarajevo and taking members of peace forces hostage in the period from 1992 to 1995.
Witness KDZ-045 said that once the Serb soldiers had left, he and another survivor went to a nearby waterway in the morning on July 15, adding that they managed to get through to the Bosniak territories three days later.

Indictee Karadzic spent most of the cross-examination questioning the witness about his membership in the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Witness KDZ-045 confirmed that he was a member of the Territorial Defence until June 1992 and that the Army recruited him in mid June 1995, but he stressed that he did not take part in battles.

Karadzic said that the Srebrenica victims were “unfortunately a result of the civil war”. The witness responded by saying that “it was not a civil war, but an attack against the Muslim population”.

The indictee asked the witness to specify how long the shooting in Petkovci lasted, but the witness was not able to do so. “I was wounded, unconscious. I cannot specify how long it lasted. I would be ashamed to ask such a question, knowing that I saw a thousand of dead people,” KDZ-045 said.

John Clark, court pathologist, also testified for the Hague Prosecution at this hearing. He said that he determined, in 1999, that bullets fired at the heads and backs of the victims from a close distance killed most of the few hundred people who were exhumed from mass graves in Kozluk, Nova Kasaba, Konjevic Polje and Glogova.

“There were no indications that those victims were killed in combat,” Clark said, adding that some of the victims were tied and blindfolded.
Karadzic: Trial Postponed Due to Illness

The trial of Radovan Karadzic at The Hague Tribunal did not continue due to the illness of indictee, but the presiding Judge O-Gon Kwon has scheduled a new session for December, 6, 2011.

In the short session, Judge Kwon said that the Trial Chamber was informed that Karadzic is not feeling well, but he did not disclose any details. Karadzic’s legal adviser Peter Robinson, and Prosecutor Alan Tieger, also did not disclose any details.

The Judges, Defense counsels and the Prosecution will gather again in courtroom on Tuesday, December 6, in order to continue the trial if Karadzic would be in better condition, or they will discuss the next steps, if the indictee is not able to come to the courtroom.

Since the beginning of the trial on the end of October 2009, it has never before been interrupted due to Karadzic’s illness. At the beginning of the process, the Trial Chamber appointed British lawyer Richard Harvey as stand-by counsel to Karadzic. Harvey’s task is to take over the defence, if Karadzic is seen as obstructing the trial.

For this trial, it was envisaged that the prosecutors continue presenting evidence of genocide against Bosniaks in Srebrenica in July 1995, by the testimony of Andras Riedlmayer, the expert for destroyed Bosnian religious and cultural heritage.

The Trial Chamber has so far examined six witnesses from Srebrenica – one survivor of mass execution of Bosniaks, three officers of the Dutch Battalion of UNPROFOR and two experts who worked on the excavation of mass graves.

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska is also indicted for persecution of Bosniaks and Croats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as for terror against civilians by long-lasting shelling and sniper in Sarajevo and taking UN soldiers hostage in the period from 1992 to 1995.
Karadzic Trial: Witness Recalls Expulsions From North Bosnia

The trial of Radovan Karadzic before the Hague Tribunal has continued with the testimony of a protected witness who recalled the expulsion of Bosniaks and Croats from Bosanski Novi in the spring and summer of 1992.

The witness, named as KDZ-011, said that Serb forces shelled Suhaca village, near Bosanski Novi, where he lived, for “seven days” in April 1992, although the non-Serb local residents had previously handed over their weapons.

The same witness said that on May 24, 1992 members of the Yugoslav National Army, JNA, told local residents they had to leave. About 1,200 Bosniaks left Suhaca after that.

According to this witness, the same happened to the non-Serb population in the surrounding villages, so between 8,000 and 10,000 people joined a convoy. As KDZ-011 said, the convoy was stopped by JNA members in the vicinity of Blagaj-Japra village.

Witness KDZ-011 said that after they had spent some time in the village, Serb soldiers forced Bosniaks to get on “cattle wagons” and transported them to Doboj, where all men aged 15 to 60 were separated from women, children and the elderly, who were transported to Croatia.

The protected witness said that about 750 men were transported back in those wagons to Bosanski Novi, where they were detained at the Mlakve football stadium as of June 11, 1992.

“We used to get little food and water. Serb guards treated us in a rough manner,” the witness said, adding that he lost 11 kilograms during his 46-day detention at the Mlakve stadium.

The witness said that, prior to being allowed to go to Croatia, the Bosniak captives had to sign statements waiving their property and leaving it to the Serb authorities.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is charged with having participated in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with JNA members and local Serb authorities, with the aim of persecuting the
non-Serb population in 20 Bosnian municipalities, including Bosanski Novi.

Besides that, Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica and seven other Bosnian municipalities, terrorising civilians in Sarajevo and taking United Nations soldiers hostages.

During the cross-examination Karadzic said that Bosniaks in Bosanski Novi were armed and organized themselves into formations under the leadership of the Party for Democratic Action, SDA, as of the autumn of 1991. Witness KDZ–011 denied this allegation.

Witness Charles Kirudja, a former Kenyan diplomat, testifying at this hearing, said that while working as a UN official in the Knin region of Croatia, he witnessed the forcible resettlement of Bosniaks from northern Bosnia in the spring and summer of 1992. Kirudja was due to continue testifying on Friday, November 11.
Karadzic Witness Testifies Behind Closed Doors

Witness due to speak about persecution of Bosniaks and Croats during course of Bosnian war in 1992.

The trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic before the Hague Tribunal has continued with the examination of a protected prosecution witness behind closed doors.

Testimonies given at closed sessions represent the highest level of protection of witnesses appearing before the Hague Tribunal.

According to an earlier announcement by the Prosecution, witness KDZ-492 was due to speak about the persecution of Bosniaks [Muslims] and Croats from one of 20 Bosnian municipalities during the course of 1992.

Peter Robinson, Karadzic’s legal counselor, said at the beginning of the hearing that the Defence objected to the closure of the hearing during the testimony of this witness, but the witness himself wanted the public to be excluded.

The indictment against Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, includes among other crimes unlawful detention, torture and murder and genocide.

Karadzic is charged with genocide against Bosniaks in the eastern town of Srebrenica, terrorizing Sarajevo citizens through long–lasting artillery and sniper attacks and taking international forces officers hostage, all in the period from 1992 to 1995.

KDZ-492 is the 119th Prosecution witness at Karadzic’s trial. The Court has held sessions during 215 working days since the beginning of the trial in late October 2009.

The trial is due to continue on October 19.
Egrlic, former President of the municipal Government and leader of the Party for Democratic Action, SDA in Kljuc, was the 118th witness examined since the beginning of Karadzic’s trial in late October 2009.

During the course of his testimony Egrlic said that the Serbian Democratic Party, SDA forcibly took over the authority in Kljuc municipality in May 1992, adding that Bosniak and Croat men were then unlawfully dismissed, detained, tortured and killed, while their families were forcibly resettled.

Karadzic, former leader of SDS and President of Republika Srpska, said during the cross-examination that bodies of Bosniak civilians were buried in mass graves, near Kljuc, in accordance with regulations related to “the terrain cleaning”.

“Should the terrain cleansing have been conducted in that way? Caves were full of bodies of killed people. The bodies were collected in the field and dumped into the caves in the vicinity of Kljuc and Sanski most,” said Egrlic, who attended an exhumation of bodies from a grave and pit in Laniste in 1996.

Karadzic is charged with genocide in Srebrenica, persecution of Bosniaks and Croats in 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, terror against civilians in Sarajevo by conducting long-lasting artillery and sniper attacks and taking international officials hostages. Kljuc is one of the seven Bosnian municipalities, where, according to the indictment against Karadzic, the persecution of Bosniaks and Croats reached the scale of genocide in 1992.

Responding to Karadzic’s allegation that “300 members of the 17th Kljuc Serbian Brigade were killed and more than a thousand wounded”, witness Egrlic said that he did not know about it, but he did see the bodies of killed civilians, which had been exhumed and buried properly.
“I do not know if you had a chance to see that, Mr. Karadzic, that horrible scene. Bosnia is full of those graves. I do not deny that Serbs and Croats were killed too, but Bosniaks were taken out of their homes and shot,” Egrlic said.

The witness specified that 600 Kljuc residents were killed and 3,500 houses and 17 mosques destroyed.

“This was an attempt to exterminate the culture and tradition. There is no excuse for so many crimes, no matter how many papers you present here,” Egrlic said.

Indictee Karadzic said that Egrlic had not personally seen any murder. The witness confirmed this, but he repeated that he had seen bodies in mass graves.

At the end of the examination Karadzic told Egrlic: “We share the same stand towards war. We could have done everything in a better way – you had such a possibility”.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on October 26 this year, as per a previously set schedule.
Karadzic Trial: Non-Serbs ‘Pressured’ to Leave

Testifying at Radovan Karadzic’s trial, an expert witness says that Bosnian Serb authorities organised the removal of the non-Serb population from areas under their control.

DENIS DZIDIC

Dorothea Hanson, an expert witness who drafted a report on the establishment and functioning of Serb crisis committees and wartime presidencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, said that municipal authorities confiscated property from the non-Serb population, creating conditions in which “the stay of non-Serbs was unimaginable”.

“As far as the moving of people is concerned, the point was not just to relocate people during the course of the war. They worked on substantially changing the composition of a municipality’s population.

“Wartime presidencies in municipalities said that property was only temporarily confiscated, but I think this is not a fair way of putting it, because their intention was to make those people leave for good,” Hanson said.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is indicted before the Hague Tribunal for having participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of permanently moving the non-Serb population from the parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina claimed by Bosnian Serbs, by committing genocide, persecution, extermination, murder and deportation.

Among the participants in the joint criminal enterprise were members of the Bosnian Serb leadership; members of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, and bodies at the republic, regional and local level, including crisis committees and wartime presidencies.

During cross-examination, indictee Karadzic said that Serb authorities did not persecute people, but “enabled those who wanted to leave to do so voluntarily”. Expert witness Hanson rejected this claim.

“I believe that the Trial Chamber has heard witnesses who said that they did not leave voluntarily. I have not followed this trial, but I know that the general atmosphere was such that people said they wanted to go because the only other options for them were to be killed or imprisoned.
“I do not see that municipalities wanted to relocate people to a safer place, but move them out. We know that those who left did not come back later on,” Hanson said.

The expert witness explained that in many RS municipalities, non-Serb civilians were forced to sign a document prior to leaving stating that they were going voluntarily and letting the municipal authorities use their homes.

“Before leaving, people were allowed to take a maximum of 300 German marks, so they left a fairly big property behind. The wartime presidencies then sealed and seized this,” Hanson said.

Karadzic said that municipal authorities in RS acted “in accordance with the law”, adding that expert witness Hanson was “accusing the authorities of deporting all non-Serbs without evidence”.

“I have a problem with the word ‘accusing’. I just presented what I saw being done. I have never said that the authorities deported each and every non-Serb. It is possible to see that the authorities wanted to move enough non-Serbs out to allow Serbs to take full control over the territories they wanted, but it is not my job to accuse anyone,” the expert witness said in response.

Cross-examination of expert witness Hanson is due to continue on Wednesday, June 15.
Joining Mladic and Karadzic Indictments ‘Will Delay Justice’

Despite suggestions from Hague prosecutors that the indictments against Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic may be merged, there are worries that the main result would be delays to Karadzic’s trial.

DENIS DZIDIC

The arrest of Ratko Mladic, former commander of the Main Staff of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, after more than 15 years on the run, has prompted numerous questions about how his trial before the ICTY could be conducted.

The Prosecutor’s Office at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has already raised the possibility that the trial of Mladic could be joined in some way with the proceedings against Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, RS, and supreme commander of the armed forces.

This is largely because both men are charged with the same crimes during the 1992-5 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor of the Hague tribunal, said after the arrest of Mladic that he was still considering proposing to merge the indictments against Mladic and Karadzic.

“When Karadzic was arrested, we hoped the arrest of Mladic would follow soon. We had hoped that both [indictees] could face the judges in The Hague together,” he said.

“It is still possible to go for a partial joinder. That’s a theoretical possibility but I would not say it is a very likely thing today, though we are still looking into a number of options,” Brammertz told BIRN Justice Report.

But legal experts say this solution would be far from ideal, given that Karadzic was arrested almost three years ago and his trial is ongoing now for about 20 months.

If a request for joinder is filed, it could cause new delays in the case against Karadzic, which would greatly dissatisfy victims of the war in Bosnia.
The tribunal says a request for joining indictments can be filed after a trial starts, and if both sides agree on the proposal, the Trial Chamber will decide whether a joint trial is in the interest of justice.

Peter Robinson, legal adviser to Karadzic, told BIRN-Justice Report that he did not know whether he would oppose the motion for a joinder of the charges.

“Karadzic and I have talked about it and we agreed it would be best to wait and talk with General Mladic and his legal team before deciding what our position will be,” Robinson said.

**One indictment or two?**

The Hague prosecution in 1995 originally indicted Mladic and Karadzic together for genocide and other grave crimes committed on the territory of the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After that both men went on the run, until Karadzic was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade.

Mladic continued his flight from justice until May, when Serbian police arrested him in the village of Lazarevo in northern Serbia. In the meantime, his indictment was separated from Karadzic’s and amended several times.

Last May, the Hague prosecution suggested that Mladic’s indictment be aligned with Karadzic’s, as the two were key participants in a Joint Criminal Enterprise, JCE. The Hague Tribunal accepted the amended indictment in May.

“The proposed indictment would allow the joining of these cases and given that Karadzic and Mladic are the main members of the JCE in the two indictments, they would be very suitable for merger,” the Hague prosecution said in May 2010.

Mladic and Karadzic are charged with 11 counts of genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war, referring to “ethnic cleansing” campaigns in Bosnia between 1992 and 1995, as well as for their participation in terrorizing the citizens of Sarajevo during the three-year siege of the Bosnian capital.

The ICTY media office emphasized that either party, defence or prosecution, can file a proposal to connect the indictments, while “all other parties to the proceedings have the right to comment on the proposal.”
“The Trial Chamber shall decide whether it is in the interest of justice to merge or split a trial and whether joining indictments can have a negative impact on the fairness of the trial for any of the defendants,” Nerma Jelacic, ICTY spokeswoman, explained.

Peter Robinson, legal adviser to Karadzic, said that joining indictments with Mladic’s was “possible” and would depend on the Trial Chamber.

“The prosecution will have a major role in a possible merger but we will be allowed to present our view. Now it is too early to assess whether it will happen,” Robinson said.

According to Robinson, Karadzic was “saddened” by Mladic’s arrest, but was looking forward “to close and cooperative work with him and his defence team”.

Karadzic is defending himself during the trial with the help of legal advisers and associates, while Mladic has not declared whether he will defend himself or through counsel. The ICTY has named Aleksandar Aleksic, a Serbian defence lawyer, as Mladic’s duty counsel.

Mladic said during his initial appearance before Hague Tribunal judges that his plan was to have “a sound defence, which will not consist of one man only”.

Fears of fresh delays:

Alexander Knoops, legal expert and professor of International criminal law at the University of Utrecht, told BIRNJustice Report that it was “impossible to merge two legal proceedings, unless both accused agree.

“A prosecution request to join these two cases would mean the Karadzic trial have would have to be postponed until the Mladic case started and reached the same stage as the Karadzic trial,” he explained.

“This could cause a delay in the Karadzic trial”, Knoops added.

Murat Tahirovic, president of the Association of Detainees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, said he hoped the merger would not occur, given that the case against Karadzic was already at “an advanced stage.

“What we hope for is a common presentation of evidence in Mladic’s and Karadzic’s trial in respect to crimes in Srebrenica, because this part of the indictment hasn’t been presented in Karadzic’s case,” he said.

“This will ultimately depend on the Court, but I see that even the Hague prosecutors are skeptical,” Tahirovic added.
So far, Karadzic’s trial has heard evidence relating to the sniping at and shelling of Sarajevo between 1992 and 1995, as a result of which several thousand civilians were killed.

Karadzic and Mladic are both accused of involvement in the genocide committed in July 1995 in Srebrenica, eastern Bosnia, during which over 7,000 Bosniak [Muslim] men and boys were killed.

On the question of whether there is a possibility of a partial merger of the Mladic and Karadzic cases in relation to some counts of the indictments, Brammertz noted the indictment against Mladic was complete.

“The current indictment is operative, but of course we are looking at a number of possibilities to make sure a manageable trial can take place as soon as possible,” he said, «but it is much too early to say in what direction we are going”.

Karadzic Trial: Serb Crisis Committees ‘Financed Paramilitaries’

At the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, court expert Dorothea Hanson says that central Serb authorities used local crisis committees to implement their policy.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

Presenting her report, Hague Prosecution witness Henson said that the transformation of municipal bodies of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, into municipal crisis committees was “a pattern of transforming party bodies into state bodies”, whose aim was to create an ethnically clean state.

The SDS, led by Karadzic, was the ruling party in the Serb entity Republika Srpska during the war.

Henson mentioned that the transformation was based on “instructions for the organisation and functioning of Serb bodies in Bosnia under extraordinary circumstances”, which was issued by the Main Board of SDS on December 19, 1991.

“According to the instructions, representatives of SDS, the Army, police, but also other municipal bodies, took part in the work of those crisis committees. Decisions were made collectively. As of April 1992, the crisis committees played an important role in taking over the power in municipalities all over Bosnia and Herzegovina,” Henson explained.

Karadzic, former President of SDS and Republika Srpska, RS, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY for genocide, violation of the laws and customs of war and crimes against humanity committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise aimed at permanently removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“Crisis committees and wartime presidencies were civilian authorities which ordered the arrests and detention of the non-Serb population, as
well as the deportation and mass moving out of those people. In that way, they first divided the ethnic groups and stressed that the Serbian Republic could belong to Serbs only,” Hanson said.

Speaking about regional crisis committees, expert witness Henson explained that they forwarded the instructions that came from the republic level to the regional and municipal level, thus implementing the central authority’s policy, which was binding for all local committees.

“Some crisis committees directly participated in inviting people to join paramilitary formations and paying them. We have such an example in Zvornik, where 10 million Dinars was paid, as per an decision made by the municipal government, to the commander of ‘Zute ose’ paramilitary formation, whose members were volunteers from Zvornik,” Henson said.

At the beginning of cross-examination, indictee Karadzic asked the witness to explain how she became an analyst with the Hague Prosecution, saying that her report on the establishment and functioning of crisis committees was irrelevant.

“Your entire report is characterised by a selectivity in the interpretation of the documents. I think that you were very selective in interpreting all of the documents. The Court should not take your report into consideration,” Karadzic said.

Cross-examination of witness Henson is due to be continued on June 14.
Karadzic, Witness Spar Over Origin of War

At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the indictee says that Bosniak and Croat leaders began arming themselves before Serbs, and therefore bear responsibility for the start of the war.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

During cross-examination, Karadzic said that Prosecution witness Patrick Treanor failed to consider many things when he made his conclusions, adding that his statement that the actions and directives of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, led to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina was not correct.

"The Croat and Bosniak political leadership bears the responsibility for the war, because they started arming themselves first," Karadzic said during cross-examination on Wednesday.

He added: "In the first half of 1991, the presidents of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a joint agreement against the Yugoslav National Army, JNA."

Treanor rebutted the statements made by Karadzic, saying that they were "arbitrary conclusions, which are not based on evidence".

Court expert Treanor, who began his testimony at the beginning of June, made three reports for the Karadzic trial. Those reports refer to Bosnian Serb leadership in the period from 1990, when the first multi-party elections were scheduled, to the end of the Bosnian war in late 1995.

One of the reports specifically deals with Karadzic’s role as SDS leader and then Republika Srpska President and Supreme Commander of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS.

"As President of RS, Karadzic was the supreme Commander of VRS. In that capacity, he very actively used his competencies. He was a strong party leader, who was so powerful that no one could oppose him," Treanor explained.

Karadzic, former President of SDS and Republika Srpska, RS, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.
for genocide, violation of the laws and customs of war and crimes against humanity committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of permanently removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the cross-examination of witness Treanor, Karadzic presented his conversations held at the beginning of the Bosnian war, which, as he said, demonstrate his positive attitude towards other ethnic communities and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the fact that he looked forward to joint co-existence.

“The basic stand of the SDS was a wish that Bosnia and Herzegovina stay in Yugoslavia. We were not the ones who wanted a new state. We had no problems with Muslims. Never! We could live with them. Saying that I had any kind of antipathy towards them is nonsense,” Karadzic said.

The trial is due to continue on June 9.
Karadzic Trial: Authorities ‘Knew Of Paramilitary Crimes’

At his trial before the Hague Tribunal, Radovan Karadzic rebuts a prosecution witness’ claims, saying that crimes may have been committed in Grbavica, Sarajevo but they were properly processed.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

On the second day of his testimony, Radomir Neskovic, former vice-president of the Executive Board with the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, repeated his earlier statement that the non-Serb population was deported from Grbavica in 1992 and 1993, adding that members of paramilitary formations committed crimes.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic rebutted the witness’ claims, saying that it was not true that there was no will to prevent or process the crimes committed in Grbavica.

“During the war justice was slow, but still attainable,” Karadzic said, adding that law-enforcement bodies functioned in Grbavica and processed all those who were reported to have committed crimes.

Witness Neskovic disagreed with this statement, mentioning Veselin ‘Batko’ Vlahovic as an example. He said that as a member of paramilitary formations, Batko “terrorized” all local residents in Grbavica.

“Batko was an armed monster, a really morbid person. Serbs were afraid of him too. Bosniaks and Croats dreaded his name every day,” Neskovic explained, adding that he did not know to which unit Batko belonged, but he believed that all members of the Serbian Democratic Party management knew of him.

Karadzic, former President of SDS and Republika Srpska, RS, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic took part in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of permanently removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Veselin ‘Batko’ Vlahovic is currently on trial before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for crimes committed in Grbavica, Vraca and Kovacici, Sarajevo in 1992. Vlahovic is charged with the murder of more than 30 people, which he allegedly committed on his own or in collaboration with other armed persons. In addition, he is charged with abuse, beating and confiscation of money and valuables from Bosniak and Croat citizens.

As he continued his testimony, Neskovic said that, as a member of SDS, he asked the military authorities several times to arrest Batko and remove him from Grbavica, but this never happened.

“This is the main reason that makes me believe that he was ‘looked after’ by a member of the authorities or someone from the top,” Neskovic explained.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic questioned Neskovic about a document known as Plan A and B, which, as alleged by the Hague Prosecution, shows the intention to carry out ethnic cleansing against the non–Serb population, because it mentioned resettlement and establishment of Serb authorities in many Bosnian municipalities.

Karadzic repeated his earlier statement that the document did not constitute an ethnic cleansing plan, but a defence plan in case of an attack by other ethnic communities against the Serb people.

Patrick Treanor continued his testimony at this hearing as well. He said that Karadzic had full control over the SDS, while the indictee said the opposite.

“In the war chaos I could not control the local Serb chiefs,” Karadzic said.

Treanor began his testimony before the Hague Tribunal on June 1, and his examination is due to continue on June 8.
Karadzic Says Grbavica Crimes ‘Not Organised’

At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a witness says that Bosniak civilians were deported from Grbavica, Sarajevo in 1992, while Karadzic maintains that the crimes committed there were not organised.

Prosecution witness Radomir Neskovic, former Vice President of the Executive Board with the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, explained that members of paramilitary formations, including Veselin “Batko” Vlahovic, committed crimes in Grbavica in the summer of 1992.

“Vlahovic’s crimes were known to everybody, including the army and civil and military police. I even reported him to the military police once,” Neskovic said, explaining that Vlahovic was frequently arrested, but he would always be released to liberty a short time later, as per orders given by authorities.

Commenting on the witness’ statements, indictee Karadzic said that the deportation of the non-Serb population from Grbavica was not organised, but rather was carried out by “individuals and certain groups” that he did not know about.

Karadzic, former President of SDS and Republika Srpska, RS, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of permanently removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Veselin ‘Batko’ Vlahovic is currently on trial before the state war crimes court in Bosnia for crimes committed in Grbavica, Vraca and Kovacici, Sarajevo in 1992. The indictment alleges that Vlahovic is charged with the murder of more than 30 people, which he committed alone or in cooperation with other armed persons, and abusing, beating and stealing from Bosniak and Croat citizens.
Continuing his testimony, Neskovic confirmed that Karadzic was the only leader of the Serbian Democratic Party, adding that he always received information on what exactly was happening in municipalities all over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Neskovic confirmed that, at a meeting with SDS municipal leaders held in Sarajevo in December 1991, Karadzic presented “a very important document”, also known as Plan A and Plan B.

“As per the mentioned document, Serbs were not only expected to take over the authority in municipalities in which they had majority of votes, but also in other municipalities,” Neskovic said, explaining that the document’s author was not known, but Karadzic promoted it and made decisions concerning its implementation.

During the course of cross-examination Karadzic, who is representing himself at this trial, said that the document was neither prepared by the SDS, nor was an agreement about it reached.

The trial of Karadzic before the Hague Tribunal is due to continue on June 7, when the examination of witness Neskovic will continue.

Once his examination has been completed, the examination of political expert Patrick Treanor will continue, so he can complete the presentation of his analysis of the SDS’ functioning in the leadup to the war and during the conflict itself.
Karadzic: Witness Shows Only ‘One Boxer in the Ring’

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says that a prosecution witness’ report shows only a partial image of events in Bosnia before and during the war, and is “biased” against Serbs.

“From the defence’s point of view, you have omitted the second fighter in the ring. Viewers can see one fighter only. It is not clear to them what he is doing, as the other fighter is not visible,” Karadzic said during cross-examination, commenting on expert witness Patrick Treanor’s findings.

During his initial testimony, Treanor presented his analysis of the policy of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, and the indictee’s activities. The SDS was the governing Bosnian Serb party during the war, and Karadzic served as party leader.

In the report, the expert witness said that the Serbs’ policy was to have all Serbs live in one state, originally in Yugoslavia and then in the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He said the indictee was “an active leader” of his party, adding that, by law, in his capacity as president, he was Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Republika Srpska, the Bosnian Serb army.

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska, is on trial before the Hague Tribunal for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

The indictee asked Treanor why he failed to include, in his report, a statement given by Alija Izetbegovic, the then Chairman of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, RBiH, at an Assembly session in February 1991, when he said that he would “sacrifice peace for Bosnia’s sovereignty, but he would not sacrifice sovereignty for anything”.

“Yes, it could have been included, but I think I mentioned his subsequent statement from March 1991,” the expert witness said, confirming that Izetbegovic said in Split that the declaration of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s sovereignty would be adopted with or without Serb delegates.
Izetbegovic went on to become the president of Bosnia during the war in the country.

In an effort to prove that the referendum decision on the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina was illegal, Karadzic quoted provisions from the Constitution and laws of the former RBiH and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, SFRJ, which stipulate that “SFRJ borders cannot be changed unless all republics and provinces agree with it” and the referendum voting by Bosnia’s citizens must have “been supported by at least two thirds of delegates”.

Treanor confirmed that the indictee correctly quoted the constitutional provisions, but he mainly refrained from giving comments because, as he said, he was neither a lawyer nor an expert in constitutional issues.

The expert witness agreed with the indictee when he said that those who advocated for the idea of staying in Yugoslavia did not need forces, because “they had the law on their side”. Treanor added, however, that the former “Yugoslav National Army, JNA, used force in order to prevent those who did not want to stay in Yugoslavia from using force”.

The expert witness said that on the eve of the plebiscite of the Serb people in November 1991, the indictee called on SDS local officials to get rid of managers deemed unsuitable, and appoint reliable people instead.

In response, the indictee asked Treanor if he thought that the division of Yugoslavia set the scene for conflict or if the preservation of municipal borders was more important than that. The expert witness agreed that the division of Yugoslavia prepared the scene for conflict.
Karadzic Trial: Examination of Expert Witness Interrupted

Prior to the cross-examination of expert prosecution witness Patrick Treanor, Karadzic’s legal counsel Peter Robinson said that on Thursday, June 2, the Defence received Jovan Cizmovic’s statement given to the Hague Tribunal.

“During his testimony, Treanor said that Karadzic was particularly active, adding that he used Jovan Cizmovic for implementing the instructions contained in plan A and plan B. On the basis of that, they say that there was a plan for the persecution of the Muslim population in 1991. However, Cizmovic has denied having had any relation to the instructions,” Robinson explained.

Expert witness Treanor said that the instructions were issued by the main board of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS. He said that the plan was to implement actions specified under plan A in municipalities where SDS had a majority of votes, while actions specified under plan B were to be implemented in the remaining municipalities.

Robinson said that the interview with Cizmovic lasted seven hours, adding that the Defence needed extra time to listen to it. He said that Cizmovic’s testimony would completely change the Defence’s approach to Treanor’s examination.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

While Karadzic is serving as his own attorney at the trial, American attorney Peter Robinson is assisting with his defence.

Prosecutor Alan Tiger objected to the postponement of the court expert’s examination, proposing that the Court allow the indictee to pose additional questions on Monday, June 6, after he has heard the recordings.
“Mr. Robinson spoke about the impact of the alleged acquittal evidence. He has raised it to the level of closing arguments. I consider that the indictee can proceed with cross-examination and ask additional questions on the basis of the mentioned material on Monday,” Tiger said.

The Defence did not find the Prosecutor’s proposal acceptable, because the new pieces of “acquittal evidence”, i.e., evidence the defence believes could acquit Karadzic of certain charges, would change the approach to the examination of the expert witness in terms of his credibility.

“If I had a chance to examine Mr. Treanor now, I would grind him like a hamburger,” Robinson said.

Following a break, the Trial Chamber announced that the examination of the expert witness would be interrupted. It will make a decision concerning other proposals made by the Defence at a later stage. The proposals included appointment of a person to supervise the disclosure of Prosecution evidence and other general objections related to the proceedings.

“Mr. Robinson presented a range of questions, which are significant by all means. To say that the Trial Chamber is worried, would be a euphemism,” Trial Chamber Chairman Howard Morrison said.

The trial is due to continue on Monday, June 6, when Radomir Neskovic will testify, while the continuation of Treanor’s examination will be scheduled at a later stage.
Karadzic’s Role as an ‘Active Leader’

A Hague Tribunal expert witness at Radovan Karadzic’s trial analyses the policy of the Serbian Democratic Party on the eve of the Bosnian war, and the indictee’s role as “an active leader”.

PATRICK TREANER

Patrick Treaner, who prepared a report entitled “Bosnian Serb Leadership from 1990 to 1992”, commented on a number of documents issued by bodies of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, including meeting reports, intercepted phone conversations and public statements made by Karadzic and many other senior party officials.

He said that Karadzic advocated the idea of all Serbs living in one state. In the beginning this was supposed to be Yugoslavia, but when that turned out to be an impossible thing to achieve, Treaner said that the Bosnian Serbs “took another path – the Serbian Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

“This comment reflects that they had to change their strategy. (...) Serbs wanted to group certain municipalities. They formed regions on an ethnic basis. The process was initiated as early as in January 1991, when they referred to them as associations of municipalities,” Treaner said.

In one of the intercepted telephone conversations, Jovan Tintor of the SDS says that the Party made a decision that “Bosnia can stay”, but it will be divided into “Serb, Muslim and Croat parts”.

The Prosecution presented, as evidence, a conversation between Karadzic and Slobodan Milosevic, former President of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, who died in 2006 while his war crimes trial before the Hague Tribunal was still underway.

“Muslims have to see that we are a tough nut. There is no way we can live together. Tell them that Serbs will go on and you cannot put pressure on us,” Karadzic says in the transcript of the conversation.

Treaner further said that following the establishment of its Assembly on October 24, 1991, and the proclamation of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on January 9, 1992, the SDS Main Board prepared a set of
instructions for municipal party boards and later on defined its strategic goals, including the division of Sarajevo.

“It seems that Karadzic was an active leader. He communicated with SDS management at a local level and the highest Serb officials, as well as Slobodan Milosevic and others in Belgrade,” Treaner said.

The witness said that in parallel, the indictee performed his functions in official bodies of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, SRBiH, first as President of the National Council for Security and then as a member of the Presidency, as well as President of Republika Srpska.

“He was the Army Commander in times of peace and war. He sanctioned and appointed officers. By law, the Commander of the Main Headquarters with the Republika Srpska Army had competencies assigned to him by the President, as the Chief Commander of the Army. The President was chief,” the Hague Prosecution expert said.

At the beginning of cross-examination, Karadzic asked Treaner how he began working with the Hague Prosecution, when he became a court expert and why he hadn’t made a report on the goals and dealings of all conflicted parties.

“You mentioned the Serb leaders’ goals. Hence, I wonder if it is possible to see the general picture in that way. Don’t you agree that it would be ridiculous if we could see only one fighter in a boxing match?” Karadzic asked. The expert witness said he agreed, but “the Trial Chamber was in charge of the general picture”.

The trial is due to continue on Thursday, June 2.
Witness Describes SDS Party Policy at Karadzic Trial

As Radovan Karadzic’s trial restarts after a break, a prosecution witness describes the role of the leadership of the ruling Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, in 1992.

DENIS DZIDIC

Following a break of over two months, the examination of witness Radomir Kezunovic marked the restart of the Karadzic trial.

Testifying in front of the Hague Tribunal on Tuesday, Kezunovic said that members of the Serbian Democratic Party at the municipal level received orders from the Party’s Main Board in 1992.

Kezunovic, who was President of the Executive Board of Ilidza municipality from 1990 to April 1992, said that Radovan Karadzic and Momcilo Krajisnik were “leaders of the SDS party”, who “defined the Party’s policy” at the municipal level.

“Instruction were conveyed orally inside the Party and between its various levels, from top to lower levels. The Party management shared information through Nedjeljko Prstojevic and others who attended meetings with Karadzic. Prstojevic would then come to Ilidza and inform us about planned activities at formal or informal meetings,” Kezunovic said.

Karadzic, former President of SDS and Republika Srpska, RS, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of permanently removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from 20 Bosnian municipalities, including Ilidza.

Krajisnik, a former member of the SDS Main Board who is mentioned in the indictment against Karadzic as a member of the joint criminal enterprise, was sentenced before the Hague Tribunal in 2009 to 20 years in prison. Prstojevic, former President of the Serbian municipality of Ilidza, testified at the Karadzic trial in March this year.
Kezunovic said that the Main Board of the SDS “defined the policy and realised the Party’s intentions”, but, in most cases it did not become involved in “personnel issues at the municipal level”.

“At my request, non-members of the Party were included in the Ilidza Executive Board. They used to perform those same activities as members of previous Boards. I retained those men due to their competencies. I was supported by the SDS in that sense,” said Kezunovic, adding that he was not a member of the SDS in 1992.

Kezunovic said that the situation in Ilidza municipality “was chaotic” at the beginning of 1992, because of the presence of many refugees and members of paramilitary formations.

“I used to see various uniforms until the Republika Srpska police and Army, VRS, began working at full intensity. From then on, there were fewer and fewer paramilitary forces. In the end, they disappeared completely,” the witness said.

Kezunovic said that “Muslim forces” conducted an attack on Ilidza municipality on April 22, 1992, when 11 people were killed.

“Compared to the situation in Sarajevo, which was under the siege, the situation in Ilidza was almost the same, because citizens were exposed to sniping and shelling...I was exposed to that too. The fact that about one thousand of children and civilians were killed indicates that the overall situation was identical to the situation in Sarajevo, which was under siege,” Kezunovic said.
Karadzic Trial: Witness Denies ‘Resettlement’ of Muslims

As he continued his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the former president of the Serb municipality of Ilidza says that the municipal authorities did not undertake an organised resettlement of the Muslim population.

Denis Dzidic

Responding to indictee Karadzic’s cross-examination questions, witness Nedjeljko Prstojevic said that the Serb authorities in Ilidza allowed “Muslims to have freedom of movement” during the entire war.

“On the other hand, Bosniak authorities kept Serbs like hostages in Sarajevo. As far as I know, the international conventions allow for the removal of people from areas affected by military activities because buildings are destroyed.

“Ilidza authorities did not resettle people in an organised manner. We just temporarily evacuated people. However, as far as Serbs living in Sarajevo are concerned, leaving the city meant becoming free,” Prstojevic said.

Prstojevic, who began testifying on March 3 this year, said that “some Muslims voluntarily stayed” in the Serbian municipality of Ilidza “during the entire war”.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, RS, is on trial before the Hague Tribunal on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

He is also charged with participating in the persecution of the non-Serb population in 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Ilidza.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with members of Bosnian Serb official bodies at the municipal and local level, including crisis committees, with the aim of removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from the parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina claimed by Serbs.
Prstojevic said that during the course of 1992 “a large number of Serb refugees from Central Bosnia” arrived in Ilidza municipality, which led to “a complicated situation”.

“During that period everybody possessed weapons at some stage. There were no guarantees or regulations. People thought they had the right to do something. Whoever opposed them was killed, irrespective of whether he was a president, brigade or police commander – his function did not matter,” Prstojevic said.

The witness said that due to “big combat offensives, the population— all ethnic groups— ran away from certain areas”.

“In the area we controlled, the population grew from 20 to 45 thousand. President, you do not know this, but I locked the municipality building a number of times and all officials took guns and went to defensive war. I participated in combat, as an infantry member, together with other officials for six days in a row. We did not sit in our offices, but each official had to go to a trench,” Prstojevic said.

When asked by Karadzic if “the establishment of a legal state and authorities” in Republika Srpska was a task that lasted for a long time, Prstojevic answered affirmatively, adding that local authorities often did not have a chance to communicate with the RS leadership.

“If someone wanted to replace me for the position of assembly president, he had to convince and lobby with assembly delegates in order for them to vote for that. There was no other way to replace me. Not even the RS President could do it,” the witness said.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue in May this year, following an eight-week break which the Trial Chamber approved in order for the indictee to familiarise himself with documents submitted by the Hague Prosecution.
Karadzic, Witness Agree Serbs Wanted ‘Peaceful Solution’

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and a prosecution witness say Serbs were not responsible for starting the war in Bosnia, but rather “Muslim paramilitary extremist formations” from Sandzak.

According to Karadzic, the Serb people were armed at the beginning of the Bosnian war, though not because they wanted to “create a greater Serbia”, but because they were afraid of being attacked by “extremist militant groups”, whose members lived in local communities in Ilidza, on the outskirts of Sarajevo.

Prosecution witness Nedjeljko Prstojevic, former President of the Crisis Committee in Ilidza municipality, agreed with Karadzic.

Prstojevic said that the groups came from Serbia’s Sandzak region, a largely Bosniak area. He explained that they represented the biggest problem, adding that the groups went to central Bosnia and local communities near Ilidza.

“Sokolovic Kolonija, Ilidza, was the base for Muslims who came from Sandzak. Those people formed paramilitary formations. They represented a danger to all of us. Muslims who had lived with us for years were not like that. Extreme nationalists and fundamentalists came from Sandzak,” the witness said.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, RS, and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with members of the Bosnian Serb leadership and paramilitary formations, with the aim of persecuting the non-Serb population in 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the course of cross-examination, indictee Karadzic spoke about attacks conducted by Muslims from Sandzak against the Serb population,
and denied having had command responsibility for the events on the eve of the start of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Witness Prstojevic agreed with Karadzic’s statements.

“President, you should remember what happened on March 25 and 26, 1992, on the eve of war, when Muslim paramilitary formations went to Bosanski Brod and slaughtered people in Sijekovac village, where Serbs had lived for ages.

“For instance, this attack is known to all Bosnian citizens, but very few speak about it today. It was a grave crime committed against Serbs on territories which had belonged to us for ages,” the witness explained.

Karadzic tried to demonstrate that crimes were committed during the war because of “the chaotic situation and out of revenge”, and not because someone wanted to force the non-Serb population to leave. The witness confirmed these allegations.

“Serbs oped for an agreement to be made. We always stressed that a peaceful solution should be the priority. This means that we respected the agreements reached by leaders at the level of the Republic. All our efforts were targeted towards preserving the peace and security of all citizens,” Prstojevic said in conclusion.

The cross-examination of witness Prstojevic is due to be completed on Monday, March 21. A two-month break will then begin.
Karadzic Trial: Witness Defends Talks on Sarajevo Division

At the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, the Hague Prosecution continues examining Nedjeljko Prstojevic, who defends discussions about dividing Sarajevo.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

As he continued his testimony, Nedjeljko Prstojevic, wartime President of the Crisis Committee in Ilidza municipality, on the outskirts of Sarajevo, expressed distrust in transcripts of intercepted conversations.

He said the conversations were “partially wrongly translated and incomplete”, asking the Court to replay the conversations in the courtroom in order to give him a chance to point to “disputable details”.

Hague Prosecutor Alan Tiger replayed an intercepted conversation from January 1995, in which Prstojevic, Karadzic and officials from the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, discussed the division of Sarajevo.

Prstojevic confirmed the authenticity of the conversation, telling the Court that an option for division of the city was considered during the war, adding that Serbs wanted to keep the territories where they “had lived for ages”.

“Every Serb who lived in Srpsko Sarajevo or Ilidza during the course of the war wanted those territories to remain under Serb control. Those people had lived there for ages and those were their ethnic territories.

“I do not see any disputable matters here,” the witness explained, adding that Serbs moved en masse to Ilidza at the beginning of the war because they were “discriminated against and feared for their lives” while living in Sarajevo.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.
The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with other Bosnian Serb leaders and members of paramilitary formations, with the aim of persecuting the non-Serb population in 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Indictee Karadzic began his cross-examination of Prstovec by asking him to give the date on which the SDS was formed in Ilidza.

Prstovec said that the “SDS was formed with a delay”, considering the fact that other parties, like the Party of Democratic Action, SDA, and Croatian Democratic Union, HDZ, had already been formed.

“I must say that we had good working relations with Muslim and Croat officials in Ilidza municipality. Our relations were friendly and we did not have any problems with each other. The biggest problems were caused by Muslim extremists and fundamentalists, who appeared during the course of the war,” the witness said.

Antony Banbury, former assistant to the UN’s Special Envoy in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war, completed his testimony at the hearing held on Thursday.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic read minutes of meetings of senior UNPROFOR officers in an attempt to show that UNPROFOR, NATO and the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperated in attacks on positions held by the Republika Srpska Army in the second half of 1995.

Nedjeljko Prstovec’s cross-examination is due to continue on Thursday, March 18.
Karadzic, Witness Discuss UN’s Freedom of Movement

On the second day of his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, Prosecution witness Anthony Banbury speaks about the situation in Gorazde enclave, saying that Bosnian Serb forces prevented UNPROFOR from moving about freely.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

During the course of cross-examination, Banbury, a UNPROFOR officer during the war, said that Serb forces limited the freedom of movement of members of the United Nations and other humanitarian organisations in the Gorazde area, preventing them from helping civilians.

Banbury said that the Bosnian Serbs sometimes allowed greater freedom of movement, but they did so “in order to create the impression that they were the reasonable party in the conflict”.

“Members of the Serb side allowed UNPROFOR to help civilians in Gorazde enclave only to the extent that they were able to survive, thus sending them a message that they were subjected to restrictions because of certain actions undertaken by the Bosnian government,” Banbury explained.

He began testifying at the trial on March 15, 2011.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, RS, and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment charges him with conducting a sniping and shelling campaign in Sarajevo, aimed at spreading fear among civilians, that left thousands of civilians dead or wounded.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic mentioned the killing of civilians in Sarajevo, asking the witness to confirm that, in most cases, citizens were killed by wandering bullets and not by snipers, as alleged under the indictment.

“Mr. Karadzic, the fact is that Bosnian Serb forces targeted innocent civilians in Sarajevo. This fact has been established. Civilians were victims of
direct sniper fire. In most cases, they were killed in that way. Many more were killed in that way than by wandering bullets, so I cannot agree with your claim,” Banbury said.

As he continued with his testimony, Banbury said that Karadzic had “effective control” over the Serb armed forces, adding that he publicly demonstrated his power in front of members of the UN peacekeeping bodies.

“I do not remember when exactly it happened, but I remember very well that Karadzic personally closed the Sarajevo airport over the weekend in order to show the world that he was controlling it,” the witness explained.

Banbury said that Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic had “the ability to set the level of terror” in Sarajevo, which enabled them to control the actions undertaken not only by the enemy forces, but also by UNPROFOR and the entire international community.

Ratko Mladic, Commander of the Main Headquarters with the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, is on the run. He is indicted, before the Hague Tribunal, for crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including genocide.

The next hearing is due to be held on March 17, when cross-examination of witness Anthony Banbury will continue.
Witness Describes Karadzic ‘Control’ Over Sarajevo Events

A former UN officer, testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, says the indictee had control over events in Sarajevo and parts of Bosnia, where Serbs formed a majority.

During the course of his testimony, Prosecution witness Anthony Banbury, a former member of the UN force in Bosnia, UNPROFOR, described sniper and artillery attacks against civilians in Sarajevo, where he spent nearly three years during the war, adding that “any citizen, regardless of where he lived, could be killed as soon as he stepped into the street”.

“Bosnian Serb forces were able to influence the intensity of shelling and sniping activities targeting civilians in Sarajevo. In my and my colleagues’ opinion, Karadzic had full control over Sarajevo and he held the leadership, both in the political and military field,” said Banbury, who worked as a Civil Affairs Officer with UNPROFOR from April 1994 to May 1995.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, RS, and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

He is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

The indictment charges Karadzic with a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among the civilian population. Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded in the campaign. In addition, he is charged with having participated in the persecution of non-Serb civilians in 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Witness Banbury said that Karadzic was “familiar with all crimes” committed by Bosnian Serbs, adding that multi-ethnic Sarajevo was in contradiction with the aims of the Serb Army.
Banbury said that during the course of the conflict, Serbs wanted to “take full political and territorial control” over the places where Serbs formed a majority.

“During the war Serbs definitely wanted to live separately from Croats and Muslims. The problem was that Serbs claimed the territories on which they had lived before the war, but they forgot that other peoples lived there as well. Nevertheless, with Karadzic as their leader, they wanted to have full political and military control over so-called Serb parts of the country,” the witness said.

He said that during the course of his stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnian Serb forces prevented UNPROFOR from delivering aid to the population, adding that the humanitarian situation was most critical in Sarajevo, Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica.

“At any moment VRS members could block UNPROFOR’s movement on the territories they controlled. They were constantly doing this. I must say that we, as UNPROFOR, were in a difficult position and we could barely help civilians at all. They would stop us at check points and take whatever we had – food, fuel and other things,” Banbury said.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic drew the witness’ attention to various wartime warnings issued by Serb forces, in which, he said, they indicated that the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina was using UNPROFOR’s presence for its military operations, adding that such actions resulted in the restriction of movement of the peace mission.

The next hearing is due to be held on March 16, 2011, when cross-examination of witness Banbury will continue.
French Court Orders Karadzic to Compensate War Victims

A French court has ordered former Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Biljana Plavsic to pay €200,000 to a Bosnian family for wartime abuses in a potentially precedent-setting case.

Eldin Hadzovic

The Tribunal de Grande Instance of Paris on Monday ordered Karadzic and Plavsic to compensate Adil and Zuhra Kovac and their children for the humiliation they suffered and costs incurred from Adil’s injuries sustained after being attacked in the eastern Bosnian town of Foca during the 1992-1995 war.

The court found sufficient evidence that Karadzic and Plavsic were personally responsible for the harm suffered by the Kovacs, especially Adil Kovac, who was left disabled.

This decision is unprecedented in Europe because it was imposed before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has issued a verdict in its trial against wartime Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic.

Radovan Karadzic faces 11 war crimes charges before the ICTY, including counts of genocide and murder. His trial is expected to last through 2012.

Biljana Plavsic was released in October 2009 from a Swedish prison after having served two-thirds of her 11-year prison sentence for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

“This sentence can not compensate the suffering that we have survived, but it’s a big win for us anyway,” Zuhra Kovac said after the court’s verdict.

During the attack on their home, Zuhra’s husband Adil was beaten, and the family was locked in their gasoline-drenched house, news agencies reported.

The family then fled to the woods, where their grandmother was murdered and Kovac’s son was shot in the leg.
After the incident, the Kovacs left Bosnia and acquired French citizenship. In 2005 they launched their civil suit against Karadzic and Plavsic, asking for €1,000,000. The suit also named top Bosnian Serb wartime official Momcilo Krajišnik, a convicted war criminal currently serving a 20-year sentence, and former Bosnian Serb army general Ratko Mladić.

Ratko Mladić, who faces charges of genocide and crimes against humanity before the ICTY, is currently at large.

In its decision on Monday, the court requested additional evidence to determine Mladić’s responsibility and declared itself incompetent to hear the case against Krajišnik.

The decision must now be accepted by Bosnia and Herzegovina and communicated to Karadzic and Plavsic.

Nikola Sladoje, Bosnia’s deputy minister of justice told Balkan Insight that the French court’s verdict would have to be accepted by a Bosnian court at the request of the Kovacs.

Since this is a legal precedent, Sladoje said, the Ministry of Justice still cannot say with certainty who will pay the damages if Karadzic and Plavsic do not have sufficient funds.

The court’s ruling may pave the way for victims of war crimes to obtain civil compensation from war criminals before criminal trials are completed or held.

Kovac family lawyer Ivan Jurasinovic expressed satisfaction with the verdict and what it may mean for other victims.

“This means that citizens will no longer have to wait for the criminal trial of war criminals in order to obtain civil redress,” he said.
Karadzic Trial: Goal of Dividing Bosnia

Testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, a prosecution witness says that Serbs wanted parts of Sarajevo to remain in Serb possession.

DENIS DZIDIC

At this hearing the Hague Prosecution continued the examination of Nedjeljko Prstojevic, former mayor of Ilidza municipality, who said that the Serb population in Sarajevo wanted to make sure that their homes would stay “in Serb possession” in 1992.

“I did not think about the strategic goals of the Serb people, but every Serb who lived in ethnic areas in Sarajevo, where Serbs had lived for ages, wanted those areas to remain Serb,” Prstojevic said.

When asked if the division of Bosnia and Herzegovina was the goal of the Republika Srpska authorities, Prstojevic said that “at certain moments it was, but at other moments it was not”.

“It was certainly not its goal in the pre-war period, but, as the war continued, it could be noticed that there were many fundamentalists and extremists among Muslims. It was difficult for native Muslims to live with them, let alone for Serbs and Croats,” Prstojevic said.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is on trial before the Hague Tribunal for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

Protected witness KDZ 354 completed her second day of testimony at this hearing, telling the court that the abuse she suffered in Grbavica in 1992 meant the “end of my normal life”.

She recalled that Veselin Vlahovic “Batko” took her and her mother out of their home in Grbavica in the summer of 1992 and took them to an apartment in Vraca, where he “hit, tortured and then raped them”, while threatening them by saying that he would kill them or “send us to a brothel”.

“He took my mother out, using force, hitting and threatening her. He took her to another room. I could hear her calling for help. She begged him not
to tie her down, as it hurt her. She even said: ‘I am old enough to be your mother’. He came back later on...This lasted the whole night,” witness KDZ 354 said.

Vlahovic, former member of paramilitary formations, is awaiting the opening of his trial before the State Court in Sarajevo. He is charged with murders, rape and abuse of civilians in Grbavica.

As part of the indictment against Karadzic, he is charged with participation in the persecution of non-Serb civilians in 20 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Novo Sarajevo, where Grbavica is located.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise in collaboration with Bosnian Serb leaders and members of paramilitary formations.

The protected witness said she saw Bosnian Serb forces “plundering apartments and cars” in 1992, adding that she was forced, just like other non-Serbs, to work on military farms as a member of a working squad.

At the beginning and end of her examination, Karadzic told the witness he “sympathized with her due to the horrors she survived”. Witness KDZ 354 thanked him for that.

“Thank you honourable court too for allowing me to say what I experienced, because this meant the end of my normal life. Thank you on behalf of my mother too, because she is not capable of testifying. I have done this on behalf of all those people who were killed in Grbavica,” the witness said.

The examination of witness Prstojevic is due to continue on Tuesday, March 15.
Witness Recounts Grbavica Crimes at Karadzic Trial

Testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, a protected Prosecution witness says that she was “mistreated and forced to leave her home” in Grbavica, Sarajevo in 1992.

DENIS DZIDIC

Witness KDZ 354, who testified under voice and face alteration measures, said that Veselin ‘Batko’ Vlahovic took her and her mother from their apartment in Grbavica in June 1992, “while pointing his gun at our foreheads”, and “mistreated, hit and robbed” them.

“I reported the incident by Batko. Although he had threatened me, I went to the Serb military hospital, which was situated in the shopping centre in Grbavica during the war. I told them what happened in a few words. I said that my mother and I had been savagely tortured by a man, who also insulted us and called us names,” witness KDZ 354 said, adding that military policemen told her “there was nothing they could do”.

The witness said that, judging by his uniform, she thought that Vlahovic was a “member of an organised Serb army”.

Vlahovic, former member of Serb paramilitary formations, is awaiting the beginning of his trial before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a series of war crimes committed in Grbavica and Vraca.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and supreme Commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the Hague Tribunal on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war and a sniping and shelling campaign against civilians in Sarajevo.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with other Bosnian Serb leaders and members of paramilitary formations, with the aim of persecuting the non-Serb population in 20 municipalities, including Novo Sarajevo, where Grbavica is located.
The protected witness said that in 1992 she saw Bosnian Serb forces undertaking “arbitrary arrests and searches of Bosniak houses”, which was followed by deportation of the non-Serb population.

“I saw some unsightly people in the shopping centre, where the military command was based. Those people were fully armed. I saw mine-throwers and tanks in the vicinity all the time. As of May 1992, I heard mine-thrower and tank fire and I saw snipers going inside a building in 58 Lenjinova Street, from where they opened fire,” she said.

Cross-examination of protected witness KDZ 182, a former UNPROFOR member, was completed at this hearing. The witness spoke about the shelling of Sarajevo during the course of 1994 and 1995. He began his testimony on March 9.

Answering Karadzic’s questions, witness KDZ 182 explained that he knew that Serb forces, which he said were situated at the Jewish cemetery in Sarajevo, shelled the building that housed the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but he was not able to say if this was “a legitimate target”.

The cross-examination of witness KDZ 354 is due to take place on Friday, March 11.
Witness at Karadzic Trial on ‘Strategy of Terror’

A protected prosecution witness, testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, says that Serb forces intentionally targeted civilians in their sniping and shelling attacks in order to generate “fear and terror”.

Protected witness KDZ 182, a former member of UN forces in Bosnia, UNPROFOR, who was in Sarajevo in 1994 and 1995, said that victims of the shelling of the city were civilians.

“I did not know of Serbs’ intention to precisely target military buildings held by the opposite party. It was obvious that no military buildings were located in some of the areas. Civilians were exposed to shelling in those areas. The global strategy of Serb forces was to hit people and generate fear and terror,” the protected witness said.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, RS, and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 to 1995. He is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

The indictment charges him with a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among the civilian population. Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded in the campaign.

The witness said that UNPROFOR conducted investigations into sniping incidents targeting civilians in Sarajevo, adding that it managed to determine that most of the bullets came from “the Serb sector”.

The Prosecutor read aloud a part of the witness statement, in which he said that all incidents in Sarajevo were “thought out and orchestrated” by Ratko Mladic, commander of the Main Headquarters with the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, who has been indicted by the Hague Tribunal and is on the run.

“Bosnian Serbs conducted their operations from the highest level. (...) General Mladic was a global strategist, while Milosevic was a technician
for Sarajevo,” said the witness in his statement, referring to Dragomir
Milosevic, Commander of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps of VRS, who was
sentenced, under a second instance verdict pronounced by the Hague Tri-
bunal, to 29 years in prison for terrorising and killing civilians during the
siege of Sarajevo.

At this hearing, Karadzic said that the Serb side had no interest in initiat-
ing operations in Sarajevo, adding that Serbs “simply reacted to Muslim
operations”. During cross-examination, the protected witness said that
Bosniaks initiated some of the incidents, but most of them were initiated
by Serbs.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on March 10 this year.
Karadzic Trial: Forming the Crisis Committee

Hague Prosecution witness Nedjeljko Prstojevic tells the Karadzic trial that in January 1992 the Crisis Committee and assembly of the Serbian municipality of Ilidza were established on instructions from the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS.

“On establishing the Crisis Committee and the assembly... we undertook no further actions until war broke out on April 3, 1992,” said the witness, who began testifying at the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader on March 3.

Prstojevic said he was appointed Commander of the Crisis Committee, adding that after April 10, 1992, a meeting was held at which participants discussed the security and political situation in the municipality.

The witness said participants included representatives of the municipal authorities and leaders of Republika Srpska, RS, including Karadzic.

“The participants discussed the future seat of the RS government but no conclusions were reached,” he said.

“We spoke about the security situation and we wanted the government located in the Serbian municipality of Ilidza, but some people said the security situation [there] was bad,” he added.

No agreement was made,” the witness continued. They were informed later that the RS government would sit in Pale.

During the examination, the Prosecutor reminded the witness of a meeting of SDS leaders from Sarajevo area held in late March 1992, adding that some “threatening words” had been used at the meeting.

“I heard about the meeting from two of our men who attended it. They used some threatening words if someone undertook aggressive actions against us,” the witness responded.

“I am conveying the words that I heard from others: ‘If we do not agree on the division of Bosnia and Herzegovina and if they attack us, we shall.... their mothers,”’ Prstojevic said.
The Prosecutor reminded Prstojevic of a session held in July 1992 and read the words he had used at that meeting: “When Serbs organised an uprising in Sarajevo and occupied part of the territory, there was no government and we did not know if Karadzic was alive.

“When we found out that he was alive, we expelled Muslims from those places where they’d formed the majority.”

This provoked a vehement reaction from the witness, who said he did not use the word “expelled”, but the military term “overpowered”.

Karadzic, former President of the Republika Srpska, RS, and of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, is charged, among other things, with persecution of the non-Serb population and other crimes committed in 20 Bosnian municipalities, including Ilidza and Hadzici.

He is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in the Hague.

The witness said that upon the establishment of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, Territorial Defence units were then joined to it. Bosnia’s police forces were divided at the beginning of April 1992, he said.

He said that, as of that date, the Bosnian Serb police were subordinate to the RS government.

Prstojevic said that Serbian paramilitary formations were only briefly present on the territory of the Serbian municipality of Ilidza.

“I met a small group of [Seljko Raznatovic] Arkan’s men at the Crisis Committee premises,” he said.

“They participated in fierce combat actions on May 14, but left the territory a short time later,” he said, adding: “Vojislav Seselj visited the Serbian municipality of Ilidza twice. He paid a visit to the Unit. Moral support was the only thing we got from him.”

Seselj is currently on trial for war crimes before the Hague Tribunal. Zeljko Raznatovic “Arkan”, former leader of the “Serbian Voluntary Guard”, known as “Arkan’s Tigers”, a paramilitary formation, was killed in 2000.

The Prosecutor then asked the witness if he had not been one of Karadzic’s most vociferous admirers for a long time and if he had not praised him at an election gathering held in Dobrinja, Sarajevo in 1996.
The witness responded by saying: “I always supported Serb leaders when I considered it correct. Otherwise, I confronted them. Karadzic often criticised me,” he said.

The examination of this witness is due to continue at the next hearing, scheduled for March 9.
Witness Describes Detention Camps at Karadzic Trial

In his testimony at Radovan Karadzic’s trial, Mehmed Music says he spent five months in various detention centres controlled by Serb authorities in Hadzici in 1992, while Karadzic calls him a “favourite prosecution witness”.

In his testimony, Music said that Serb forces attacked Musici village, near Hadzici in May 1992, explaining that he was captured in the attack. He said he spent the next five and a half months in detention centers, where he was “mistreated and humiliated”.

Music said he was first detained in the municipality building and sports and cultural centre in Hadzici and later in a military barracks in Lukavica, in the Planjina Kuca detention camp and Kula Penal and Correctional Facility.

“We spent three nights in Lukavica. We were beaten and mistreated. They forced us to make the sign of a cross and sing various songs, while they cursed us. They forced people to lie down, facing the ground, and hit them with rifles. They did all sorts of things,” Music recalled.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and head of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, is charged, among other things, with the persecution of the non-Serb population and other crimes committed in 20 Bosnian municipalities, including Ilidza and Hadzici.

Karadzic is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in the period from 1992 to 1995.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic told Music that his house in Musici village was used for “the organisation and headquarters of Muslims forces which fought against the Serb authorities”, but the witness denied the accusations.

“The house did not have any special purpose. My task was to evacuate women and children in case of an incident. Women and children used to hide in my house if there was shelling. Nobody guarded the house. Believe me, had it been guarded and had I been armed, nobody would have been able to enter,” Music said.
Karadzic told Music that he was “a favourite Hague Prosecution witness”, adding that, in all of his statements he “refreshes his memory with data that go against indictees”.

“You are not liked by my people because you were the worst aggressor to appear since Adolf Hitler,” Music said in response to his allegations.

The examination of Nedjeljko Prstojevic, who was President of the SDS municipal board in Ilidza in 1991 and 1992, began at this hearing. Prior to the beginning of his testimony, Prstojevic asked the Court to let him make “numerous changes” to the statement he previously gave to the Hague Prosecution.

The Trial Chamber decided that the Prosecution would examine Prstojevic in the courtroom, while his written statement would not be accepted as evidence because there was suspicion that the witness’s answers to the same questions would be different.

At the beginning of his testimony, Prstojevic said that he joined the SDS in 1990, adding that he was appointed President of the Serb municipality of Ilidza in April 1992.

“Although I was the President of the municipality, I was also a member of the Ilidza Brigade as a soldier during the course of the war. In critical situations I would lock the municipality building, take my rifle and fight like any other ordinary soldier. I often put away my gun, still smelling of gunpowder, and made phone calls related to my municipality tasks,” Prstojevic said.

The witness said that he knew that the Prosecution wanted to prove that Bosniaks were persecuted and deported from Ilidza area between 1992 and 1995, but he said that these allegations “are not true”.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on March 8, when the examination of witness Prstojevic will continue.
Karadzic Trial: ‘Unofficial Census Takers’

On the second day of his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a former official in Svrake, Vogosca municipality, says that “the Serb authorities” deported more than a thousand Bosniaks from that village in 1992.

DENIS DIZDZIC

Hague Prosecution witness Eset Muracevic, who began his testimony on March 1, said that according to the 1991 census, 1,036 Bosniaks lived in Svrake village, adding that “an unofficial census conducted by new Serb authorities” two years later determined that no Bosniaks lived in the village.

“A similar thing happened in Tihovici village, where 367 Muslims lived in 1991. However, your census takers did not find any Muslims in the village in 1993. It was not possible to find them because the Serb army attacked the village in July 1992 and killed more than 30 local residents, forcing the others to leave. Those indicators refer to the parts of the village that were under your control,” Muracevic said in response to indictee Karadzic’s questions.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in the period from 1992 to 1995, as well as participation in the persecution of the non-Serb population in 20 Bosnian municipalities, including Vogosca.

Muracevic recalled having been captured by Serb forces in May 1992, adding that he was detained in Semizovac military barracks and Bunker and Planjina Kuca detention camps in Vogosca for a few months. He said he was taken to other locations to perform forced labour and he was used as a human shield.

“People were subjected to various types of torture when they performed forced labour. When they worked outside the detention camp, they got meals regularly, but those who stayed in the camp were often deprived of food.”
“I was once taken, together with a group of prisoners, to a hill near Semizovac. The sun was shining. We had to carry some half-burned trees. Soldiers forced us to continue working although we did not have enough food or water,” the witness said.

Under the indictment, Karadzic is charged with the unlawful detention of the non-Serb population from the Vogosca area in Bunker and Planjina Kuca detention camps in 1992, the use of prisoners as “human shields” and forcing detainees to perform forced labour, such as digging trenches on front lines.

Muracevic said that the local Serb population in Vogosca “cooperated with the Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA,” in 1992 and “had access to its resources”.

“The local Serbs had the support of the JNA based in Semizovac military barracks. The military barracks were gradually transferred to the Serb authorities starting in 1991. The barracks served as a base for the distribution of arms and the training of local Serbs on how to use weapons. When barricades were set up, JNA offered their armored vehicles as logistic support,” Muracevic said.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of permanently removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from the territories claimed by Serbs. He allegedly did this in collaboration with members of the JNA and the official Bosnian Serb bodies at the republic, municipal and local levels, among others.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on Thursday, March 3.
Karadzic Trial: ‘Pamphlet Propaganda’

A Prosecution witness at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says that Serb forces forcibly removed more than 13,000 Bosniaks and Croats from Vogosca municipality in 1992.

Eset Muracevic, former Secretary of the Svrake local community in Vogosca municipality, said that “paramilitary forces of the Serb Democratic Party, SDS,” attacked the village of Svrake in May 1992, when he was captured.

“During the attack on Svrake, aircraft from the Yugoslav People's Army, JNA, was used, and eight bombs fell near my house but did not explode. However, after Serb forces took the village, they forced several prisoners to take the air bombs into my house and the Mosque in Svrake, and then they activated them,” added Muracevic.

According to the witness, from the beginning of May until the middle of June 1992, Serb forces forcibly removed over 13,000 non-Serb persons from Vogosca. Among these, more than 11,000 were Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims).

Radovan Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and head of the SDS party, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, where he is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment charges him, among other things, with participation in the persecution of the non-Serb population in 20 municipalities in Bosnia, including Vogosca, as well as arrests, murders, and the destruction of homes and cultural and religious monuments of Bosnian Muslims and Croats in those municipalities.

Around 400 Bosniak civilians from Svrake, Muracevic said, were detained in the Bunker and Planjina Kuca camps, where they were “abused and forced to work”.

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“The detainees were forced to do different work, mainly in the front lines, such as digging trenches. The work was mostly done at separation points between the armies, so they were exposed to fire from both sides,” added Muracevic.

Karadzic also completed the cross-examination of protected witness KDZ 020 during this hearing. The protected witness testified about the situation in Vogosca in 1992.

During cross-examination, Karadzic said that the Serb Crisis Committee in Vogosca municipality took over control “only after Zelene Beretke [Green Berets] attacked” the Pretis factory in April 1992 and took weapons held there.

The Green Berets were a mainly Bosniak military force.

“That is Serb pamphlet propaganda. The truth is that a special unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs took weapons needed to defend the city, but it was not an attack, and those were legitimate forces. It is a good thing they did this because they saved hundreds of thousands of people from your bombs,” said KDZ 020.

Karadzic told the protected witness he is mentioned in several documents of the Serb crisis committee as a “dangerous extremist”.

“I am a Muslim and I always will be, but you are not a relevant person – especially given your current situation – to determine if I am an extremist. I am speaking the truth and I will not be offended. The fact that I am Muslim is my own business, and the fact that you hate Muslims is your own problem,” KDZ 020 said.

The trial will resume on Wednesday, March 2.
Karadzic, Witness Spar Over War Responsibility

During the course of cross-examination, indictee Radovan Karadzic and a protected Prosecution witness spar over who is responsible for starting the war in Bosnia and who committed more crimes during the conflict.

Protected witness KDZ-020, who began testifying about the situation in Vogosca municipality, Sarajevo, on February 25, said that the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, formed a crisis committee in September 1991, adding it was impossible that the indictee did not know about this.

“Serbs told me about it. It was a public secret. They were not hiding it. You did not hide that you were arming your forces. You considered yourself strong enough not to hide it. You openly threatened us, you caused incidents...” KDZ-020 said.

This witness’ testimony was closed to the public for most of the session.

KDZ-020 said he knew that the Patriotic League, a mainly Bosniak military unit, had been formed as well, but he said he did not know the exact date of its establishment.

Karadzic said: “According to my thesis, the army was secretly created in an accelerated manner, under the leadership of the Party for Democratic Action, SDA, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The army was supposed to consist of the Patriotic League, Green Berets, Territorial Defence and the Muslim part of police forces. What do you say about that?”

In response, the witness said that this was “an absolute lie”.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The indictee asked the witness if he led the group whose members committed crimes against Serbs in Kobilja Glava, Sarajevo, and Grahoviste village, near Vogosca. He asked him why his name was included in all of the documents about those events.
“Every person was targeted by your propaganda machinery. I do not know anything about that and I was not involved in it in any way. I am ready to be tried before any court for those events.

“Your men included all Muslims who were important in those lists. So, they included me as well. (...) I knew that my name was listed, but I had no need to deny the allegations. To whom should I have apologised?” the witness said.

The indictee then examined the witness about the murder of Serbs during the Second World War, but the witness said that neither he nor any of his “contemporaries” had anything to do with those crimes.

“The Serbs from Grahoviste, who were killed by you and your friends, would not agree with you. They would say their death was a continuity of the things that happened in 1941,” Karadzic said.

The witness answered: “1,600 children were killed in Sarajevo, and their parents would not agree that you are innocent. How many Bosniaks did you kill in Bijeljina, eastern Bosnia, Prijedor...”. Karadzic then continued talking about “the massacre of Serbs in Sijekovac”.

The indictee discussed the separation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Yugoslavia with the witness, asking him: “Who gave you the right to drive our destiny?”. The witness responded by saying that a referendum was held on March 1, 1992 and two-thirds of the population voted for separation, adding that Independence Day would be celebrated tomorrow.

“That is not true. You did not have the right to do it. Neither Serbs nor Croats will celebrate tomorrow. Only Muslims will. You want Bosnia to be yours. This led to the war,” Karadzic said.

“Bosnia and Herzegovina belongs to all citizens who live in it – Serbs and Muslims and Croats. You can laugh, but I wish you a happy day tomorrow, a happy Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, because you are still the citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, unfortunately,” the witness said.

The examination of witness KDZ-020 is due to continue on Tuesday, March 1.
Karadzic, Witness Discuss ‘Evacuations’

During cross-examination, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and a prosecution witness disagree over whether citizens were “evacuated” from Ahatovici in 1992.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Ramiz Mujkic did not agree with Karadzic’s allegations that Serb forces conducted an attack on Ahatovici village near Sarajevo on May 30, 1992 in response to an attack conducted, the indictee said, by Muslims forces on Serb villages on the previous day.

“Had I not known you as a bloodthirsty lion back in 1992, I would say you were a little lamb...I see you as the murderer of my son,” said Mujkic, who did not agree with Karadzic when he said that civilians were “evacuated” from Ahatovici.

At the beginning of his testimony on February 17, Mujkic explained that he was captured and taken to military barracks in Rajlovac, where he was subjected to brutal physical abuse, and then transferred to the so-called Planjina kuca in Vogosca, where he said detainees were treated in a cruel manner.

Karadzic, the wartime president of Republika Srpska, RS, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in the period from 1992 to 1995.

Presenting five statements given by Mujkic prior to his testimony before the Hague Tribunal in 2004, Karadzic said that the witness “suddenly remembered” certain events.

“Who suggested you say, 12 years later, that Mirko Krajisnik and Nikola Poplasen visited you in Rajlovac?... Why did not you mention them in the first, second and other statements, but only did so at the trial of Momcilo Krajisnik?” Karadzic asked the witness.

Mujkic responded by saying that he did not mention Krajisnik’s and Poplasen’s visit at first because at that time he did not know the reason for their visit, but he “saw the whole picture” later on.
He said that while he was at the Hague Prosecution, he heard intercepted telephone conversations between Bakir Alispahic and Mirko Krajisnik and those between Mirko and Momcilo Krajisnik about the exchange of prisoners.

Mirko Krajisnik is the brother of Momcilo Krajisnik, former president of the Republika Srpska Assembly. The Hague Tribunal sentenced Momcilo Krajisnik to 20 years in prison. Bakir Alispahic was the wartime Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At this hearing the Prosecution also began examining protected witness KDZ-020, who has testified at trials held before the Tribunal on two previous occasions.

According to his written statement, which has been included in the case file, KDZ-020 witnessed the deterioration of the security situation in Vogosca municipality, incidents based on ethnic affiliation and divisions in police forces.

The trial is due to continue on Monday, February 28, when the indictee will cross-examine the witness.
Karadzic Trial: Witness Recounts Markale Findings

Court expert Berko Zecevic says that an order for his murder was issued after he said that the projectile that hit Markale marketplace in February 1994 could have been fired from a position held by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the ballistics expert mentioned the death threat in an effort to refute the indictee’s allegations that he undertook additional measurements in order to prove that the projectile “was not fired from Muslim positions but from positions held by Serbs”.

“I did not do that in order to eliminate one of the positions. I shall tell you something now. An order for my murder was issued because I wrote that. We know who issued it,” the court expert said, adding that the person died two years ago.

The indictment alleges that the projectile, which hit the Markale open-air market on February 5, 1994 and killed 66 people, was launched from positions held by the Republika Srpska Army.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is charged with the Markale massacre. He also faces allegations of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Zecevic was chairman of a commission whose members conducted an investigation at the marketplace one day after the explosion and made a report saying that the projectile could have been launched from six positions, including five positions held by Serbs and one held by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Zecevic then eliminated three of the six positions on the basis of analysis he conducted later.

“I told you I had limited time to prepare the report. The situation was very complex at the time and no additional investigation was possible,” Zecevic said, adding that he conducted an additional analysis in 2003, at the request of the Hague Tribunal.
The indictee suggested several times that Zecevic was involved in a number of cases in order to “fix the things with which the prosecution was not satisfied”, but the court expert denied his allegation.

Answering the indictee’s questions, the court expert explained how it was possible for the projectile to murder and injure so many people at Markale and why it could not possibly “have exploded in a market stall or been launched from a nearby building, or why its stabilizer could not have been installed subsequently”.

“In the military industry it is forbidden to perform any interventions on igniters, but if you want to be a terrorist and kill your fellow citizens, you will launch a projectile from a building,” Zecevic said.

When the indictee said that the method he used to determine the incoming angle of the projectile was not scientifically verified, Zecevic said the method was not standardised at the time, but it could now be considered that it had been adopted for “terrorist activities in cities”.

“You have the right to say that I am not competent or objective, but the fact that the stabilizer penetrated into the ground is of key importance and you cannot deny it,” Zecevic said, responding to one of Karadzic’s questions.

Expressing his dissatisfaction over the fact that he was only allowed to cross-examine the court expert for six hours, instead of the 25 he had requested, Karadzic announced that the Defence might call the court expert to testify. Following the completion of Zecevic’s examination, the Trial Chamber said the indictment against him, which was filed due to his refusal to testify, would be cancelled.

The examination of Ramiz Mujkic, which began on February 17, continued at this hearing. It will continue on Friday, February 25.
Karadzic Challenges Ballistics Conclusions

As his trial continues, Radovan Karadzic challenges court expert Berko Zecevic’s ability to determine the direction from which projectiles were fired and his conclusions about the use of modified air bombs.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Ballistics expert Berko Zecevic drafted a report on the explosion at Markale marketplace in Sarajevo on February 5, 1994, when 66 people were killed and more than 140 wounded. The indictment alleges that the projectile was fired from positions held by the Republika Srpska Army, but Karadzic denies the allegation.

“I had worked in the military industry for 17 years. I considered it possible to determine the direction from which the projectile had come,” Zecevic said, responding to Karadzic’s question about why he thought he could make a better analysis than police and UNPROFOR.

When asked by Karadzic if the crime scene had already been “cleaned and changed significantly” when he arrived on the day after the explosion, Zecevic answered affirmatively.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. He is charged with spreading terror among the civilian population in Sarajevo through a shelling and sniping campaign.

During the cross-examination, the indictee asked Zecevic if he was an expert in determining the direction and distance from which projectiles were fired and how many expert analyses of that kind he had conducted prior to the Markale incident.

“Prior to the incident, I had dealt with a thousand rockets and warheads fired on a training ground. There is no need to examine such things in a time of peace,” said Zecevic, who worked in the Pretis factory before the war. He is now head of the Defence Technologies Department at the Mechanical Engineering Faculty in Sarajevo.
In addition to his report on Markale, Zecevic drafted a report on the use of modified air bombs with aerosol charges, which the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, allegedly used in Sarajevo in 1994 and 1995. Karadzic questioned him about the subject in detail in relation to two specific incidents.

Zecevic’s conclusion is that the modified air bomb with aerosol charge that was fired on the Sarajevo Television building ricocheted twice and exploded on the TV studio’s wall. Karadzic tried to refute the conclusion, claiming that, as described by the court expert, the projectile moved like “a dry leaf”.

“In your report you said that two men who were three metres away from the explosion point survived by hiding behind a pole. However, yesterday you said that poles cannot protect people from aerosol charges,” Karadzic said. The court expert responded by saying that he simply conveyed what eyewitnesses had told him upon his arrival at the crime scene.

Zecevic also said that he witnessed some other cases in Sarajevo which seemed “unrealistic” to him as a scientist. Zecevic mentioned the case of a 12-year old girl who survived the explosion of a grenade, which, he said, fell seven metres from her.

The trial is due to continue on Thursday, February 24.
Karadzic Trial: Ballistics Expert On Markale Market Blast

Ballistics expert Berko Zecevic testifies at the trial of Radovan Karadzic and says that a mine-thrower projectile was fired at the Markale market place in Sarajevo in February 1994 from positions which were allegedly held by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Zecevic said that on that day a 120mm projectile was fired from a position located in the north, between 4,900 and 6,000 metres away from the open air market.

“I worked with three colleagues one day after the incident. I volunteered to do that because I thought the earlier statements that it was not possible to determine the direction from which the projectile had come were not true,” court expert Zecevic said.

Zecevic explained that whether or not a stabilizer stays in the ground and whether it is found in the vicinity of the explosion point or far from it give an indication about the zone from which the projectile was fired.

“These are the laws of God, the laws of mechanics,” Zecevic said, explaining how he reached his conclusions.

The Hague Prosecution charges Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 to 1995.

In addition, Karadzic is considered responsible for a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among the civilian population.

The indictment mentions several specific incidents, including one on February 5, 1994, when a 120mm mine-thrower grenade was fired at the Markale open air market in Sarajevo, killing 66 and wounding more than 120 people. According to the charges, the projectile was fired from territories approximately located in the north-northeast direction, which were held by the VRS.
When the Prosecutor posed a hypothetical question about whether the projectile could have been fired at Markale from a building near the marketplace, Zecevic said this was “an unrealistic scenario” that could only happen in “science-fiction movies”.

“In order for a detonation to take place, it is necessary to perform an intervention on the igniter...If someone is crazy or brave enough to do that, he has to make sure the projectile does not roll over and that the top of the igniter hits the ground. The person throwing it can be wounded or killed,” Zecevic explained.

During the course of his testimony, Zecevic also spoke about the use of modified air bombs with aerosol charge in Sarajevo in 1994 and 1995.

“If human targets are in an open area, it is more likely that the fragmentation effect will cause the destruction of civilians. However, if they are under the ground level or in residential buildings, the aerosol system would be more effective,” Zecevic said.

Zecevic stood during most of the course of his testimony due to spine-related health problems. The Trial Chamber made frequent breaks because of his health condition.

Court expert Zecevic was transferred to the Hague last week, after he was arrested in Sarajevo on a warrant issued by the Tribunal for refusing to testify at Karadzic’s trial. The indictment for contempt of court, which was filed against him, was suspended after he said he would testify at the trial.
Karadzic Trial: Witness ‘Survived Massacre’ Near Sarajevo

A Prosecution witness testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic says that he survived a massacre in Srednje, near Sarajevo, when at least 47 men were killed in a bus.

AIDA ALIC

Testifying via video link from Sarajevo, protected witness KDZ041 said he managed to survive the shooting in Srednje in June 1992, adding he was brought to Srednje with other men, with the understanding that they would be exchanged.

“I know that a massacre, the unexplainable murder of innocent people, was committed. (…) When we arrived at the location and after the massacre had been committed, I smelled gunpowder, blood…I felt that the vehicle had started burning.

“We told the people who were moaning to be quiet or else they would get on the bus and kill us,” the witness said, adding that he and a few other people managed to jump through the windows, run to the forest and save themselves.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic asked the witness if Serbs would shell and shoot at their own bus in order to damage it and kill some of the 55 persons they transported.

“The bus did not belong to Serbs, but to the city traffic company. Serbs confiscated it. It was not a military but civil vehicle. The bus was confiscated and we were loaded into it in order to be killed. That is what they did,” the witness said.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, RS, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Among the incidents for which he is charged is the murder of at least 47 men near Srednje on or around June 14, 1992. The Prosecution alleges that the men had been detained in a detention camp in Rajlovac prior to their murder.
The second Prosecution witness at this hearing, Ramiz Mujkic, said he was captured on August 6, 1992, after hiding in the woods in the vicinity of Ahmici village, near Sarajevo, for two months.

In his earlier statement given to the Prosecution, he said that he left Ahativici on May 31, 1992, and returned to the village on June 3. He said that the village was empty and he saw soldiers burying killed civilians.

Mujkic said that, after having been captured, he was taken to the military barracks in Rajlovac, where he was brutally tortured and then taken to hospital for treatment. He was then taken to the Planjina Kuca detention centre in Vogosca, he explained.

The indictment alleges that non-Serbs who were detained in various detention centres, including Planjina Kuca, were subject to cruel and inhumane treatment, which included torture, rape, and physical and mental abuse.

The Prosecution alleges that Bosnian Muslims and Croats were detained in Planjina Kuca starting in August 1992.

The trial is due to continue on February 22.
Crimes Committed By Paramilitaries in Bosnia, Witness Says

As he continues his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the former chief of police in Hadzici says he saw “paramilitary formations”, whose members committed crimes against the Muslim population in 1992.

DENIS DZIDIC

Tihomir Glavas, former chief of the Public Safety Station in Hadzici and a member of the Crisis Committee of that municipality, said he entered into conflict with various “paramilitary groups and formations”, whose members committed crimes against the Muslim population in Hadzici and Ilidza municipalities in the spring of 1992.

“They said they would take those people out and mistreat them, but I told them not to do it. We even pulled our guns out and pointed them towards each other. Eventually, they got scared and left,” said Glavas, who testified on February 14 and 15 this year as well.

The witness said that paramilitary formations were never subordinated to the Republika Srpska, RS, police or Army, adding that municipal authorities always “opposed those groups”.

Radovan Karadzic is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war, as well as participation in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with members of the Bosnian Serb army and police and paramilitary and voluntary units, which resulted in persecution, extermination and murders committed on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.
The indictment alleges that Karadzic, wartime president of RS and supreme Commander of its armed forces, participated in crimes against Bosnian Muslims and Croats in 20 Bosnian municipalities, including Ilidza and Hadzici.

Responding to Karadzic’s questions during the course of cross-examination, Glavas said that the local municipal authorities in Hadzici and Ilidza “did not receive any support” from the central Republika Srpska government during the course of the first half of 1992, adding that this led to “a state of chaos”.

“In the mentioned period of time, the republic organisation was not active in Hadzici. I cannot believe that someone can think that there was such an organisation and that it functioned from the top to our local level.

“I do not deny that the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, was extremely well organised and had an infrastructure, but when the conflict broke out, there was no communication or organisation. Local councils were left to the people,” Glavas said.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic was one of the founders and president of the SDS.

The witness said that “the state of fear and chaos” led to the recruitment of “persons whose moral qualities were questionable” for police structures in Hadzici and Ilidza municipalities at the beginning of 1992.

“At the beginning of the war, the police was weak, so it applied poor recruiting criteria. In that period some engrained criminals joined it, so we had to clean up the force in the second half of 1992 or else we would not have been able to carry out our services. Later on, any policeman who had committed a crime was excluded from the service,” Glavas explained.

The Trial chamber also rendered a decision today that the trial will be postponed for a six-week period between March 21st and May 5th, in order for the accused to have enough time to review evidence which the Hague prosecution delivered to him at the beginning of the year.

The next hearing is due to take place on Thursday, February 17, when two new Prosecution witnesses will be examined.
The transfer of Berko Zecevic to the Hague Tribunal, where prosecutors want him to testify at Radovan Karadzic’s trial, took place on Thursday as planned, his Defence attorney told BIRN-Justice Report.

**MARIJA TAUSAN**

Dusko Tomic said that Zecevic was sent off at around 10 a.m. on Thursday.

“"I saw him off this morning. He went in an appropriate manner. His hands were not handcuffed and will not be. The professor has taken his medical documentation with him. I am convinced the Prosecution will withdraw the indictment once it has seen the documents.

“"He will testify if the number of hours is reduced. He is not able to testify for five days in a row. He will testify for as long as his medical needs allow,” Tomic said.

Zecevic, a university professor and court expert in ballistics, was arrested on February 11 on a warrant issued by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for contempt of court.

The Tribunal filed an indictment against Zecevic because he refused to testify as a prosecution witness at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who is charged with genocide and crimes against humanity.

According to standard procedure, once Zecevic has been transferred to the Hague, a hearing will be held at which he will enter his plea, but it is also possible that the indictment will be annulled.

“"Of course, there is still a possibility that Zecevic will change his mind and agree to testify. In that case, the Court can annul the indictment,” said Nerma Jelacic, spokesperson for the ICTY at The Hague.

Dusko Tomic stressed that Zecevic had simply asked the Tribunal to reduce the duration of his testimony due to health problems caused by a spine surgery he underwent.
“The professor never said he would not testify, but he said he was incapable of testifying for more than five hours. If the Hague Tribunal agrees that he can to testify for five hours, he will do it. Otherwise, they will have to try him,” Tomic said, saying that the Tribunal originally planned for Zecevic’s testimony to last for five days in a row.

However, the Hague Tribunal says that these claims are not true because in his response to the court summons, Zecevic mentioned three other reasons before the health-related issue for not accepting to testify.

“The witness says he does not want to testify because he has been at the Hague five times already and testified at four trials, the cooperation with the Tribunal has had a negative effect on his career, the Prosecution did not treat him well and he underwent a spine surgery so he cannot sit for long,” says the order for the opening of a criminal investigation against Zecevic, issued by the Trial Chamber of the Hague Tribunal.

The Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Netherlands says that it hopes a solution will be found and Zecevic will testify after all.

“We hope that Professor Zecevic’s status of a witness before the Tribunal will be restored and a solution will be found to organise the testimony in a way that will not further deteriorate the health condition of the 62-year old professor at the Mechanical Engineering Faculty in Sarajevo,” said Miranda Sidran-Kamisali, Bosnian ambassador in the Netherlands.
Karadzic Trial: Witness Recounts ‘Tension’ Between Army, Politicians

Responding to Radovan Karadzic’s cross-examination questions, British General Rupert Smith says that he was aware of “tensions” between the Army and the Bosnian Serb political leadership in 1995.

DENIS DZIDIC

Smith, a former UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who has now completed his five-day testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, said at Tuesday’s hearing that he tried to “find out who was speaking on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs” in the summer of 1995.

“I remember I always wanted to figure out who was speaking on their behalf, because there was a certain conflict between General Mladic and Karadzic. I tried to figure this out and discover who actually spoke on behalf of the people and under what circumstances,” Smith said.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in the period from 1992 to 1995.

Ratko Mladic, former commander of the Main Headquarters of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, is charged with a series of crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995, including genocide. He has been on the run since he was indicted by the ICTY.

Mladic was originally charged under the same indictment as Karadzic.

During the course of his cross-examination of Smith, Karadzic said that UN forces tried to “turn the VRS against the political leadership in Pale” in 1995, adding that UN members “proved themselves to be enemies of Bosnian Serbs by initiating a shelling campaign” in May 1995.

Smith said that he had never been aware of “conspiracies aimed at creating discord between the Bosnian Serb Army and politicians”, adding that...
the shelling of VRS forces in May 1995 was done with the aim of “protecting the demilitarized enclaves in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

“Bosnian Serb forces took weapons out of the collection points and used them to shell civilians. By doing that, they did not respect the decisions pertaining to protected zones. We therefore carried out shelling in order to ensure that those decisions would be respected again,” Smith explained.

The indictment against Karadzic alleges that NATO forces conducted air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets in May 1995 in response to “the shelling of Sarajevo and other areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina”. It further alleges that, following the attacks, VRS members captured more than two hundred peacekeepers and UN military observers, whom they then held hostage.

Karadzic said that the captured UN members were not hostages but “prisoners of war”.

“A certain number of people were taken hostage. They were not prisoners of war. I do not think a person who is chained to a gate or something similar and threatened and told his throat will be cut unless the shelling stops could be considered a prisoner of war,” Smith said.

The cross-examination of Tihomir Glavas, former chief of the Public Safety Station in Hadzici and member of the Crisis Committee in that municipality, continued at this hearing. Glavas said that forces from “the Bosniak authorities” conducted an attack on Hadzici in May 1992.

“Prior to the attack, they arrested all able-bodied Serbs, detained them and took their weapons away. I consider this was a part of their military strategy, which they used to secure the background area,” Glavas said. He began testifying at the trial on February 14 this year.

The cross-examination of witness Glavas is due to continue on Wednesday, February 16.
Karadzic Trial: Paramilitaries ‘Of Little Use’

At the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, a former police chief in Hadzici and Ilidza says it was “generally known” that paramilitary formations came to those two towns.

Tihomir Glavas, who was chief of the Public Safety Station in Ilidza as of October 1992, told the Court that policemen often conflicted with members of Serb paramilitary units, adding the police “soon realised that those people were of little use to us”.

“Most of them were involved in criminal actions. They mostly wanted to go to inhabited areas to pillage them. They used force and, at times we were not able to oppose them,” Glavas said.

The Prosecution presented the witness with a document dated July 9, 1992, approving the use of certain buildings near Rakovica for the needs of “the Serb voluntary unit with the MUP (the Ministry of Internal Affairs) of the Serb municipality of Ilidza”. Glavas said that this happened “before he came to Ilidza”.

“I do not deny the credibility and authenticity of the documents, but its content will never be clear to me, because I know for sure that no paramilitary units were ever part of the Public Safety Station,” Glavas said.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and supreme Commander of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, is charged before the ICTY with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 to 1995.

Prior to his arrival in Ilidza, Glavas was chief of the Public Safety Station in Hadzici and member of the Crisis Committee of the Serb municipality of Hadzici, which, he said, was established in April 1992, following “a general Serb assembly”.

The witness said that the Crisis Committee was the supreme authority which issued a warrant for the arrest of men from Musici village in May
1992. The men were then detained in the Cultural and Sports Centre in Hadzici.

“We had got reliable information that they possessed weapons. Following their arrest, regular police forces had informative interviews with them. They were then transferred to the Cultural and Sports Centre, which was under the patronage of the Army.

“After that, the men were transferred to Kula. I think there were between 180 to 200 of them,” Glavas said, adding that, prior to being taken to informative interviews, the Bosniaks were held in garages under the municipality building.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic with having participated, in collaboration with Bosnian Serb leaders, including members of crisis committees, wartime presidencies and other political, military and police bodies, in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of permanently removing the non-Serb population from the parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina “claimed by Serbs”.

The Prosecution asked the witness if Ratko Radic, President of the Crisis Committee in Hadzici, was subordinated to anyone. Glavas responded by saying that each municipal crisis committee functioned “independently”.

“Radic used to tell us that he had been in contact with President Karadzic. When he wanted to implement an idea of his own, he would refer to him. I had a feeling that he misinformed us and he was often not able to get in touch with Karadzic. The man was inclined to manipulation,” the witness said.

During the course of cross-examination, Glavas said “it was known to him” even before the conflict that “mass arming of Bosniaks was under way”. He said this was done, among other ways, by appropriating police arms, breaking the central ammunition depot open and increasing the number of reserve policemen.

Sanija Dzevlan also testified at this hearing. She said that she was hit by a sniper bullet fired “from positions controlled by the VRS” on January 6, 1994, while she was riding a bicycle across a bridge in Dobrinja, Sarajevo. This incident is mentioned as one of 16 sniper incidents in the indictment against Radovan Karadzic. Sanija Dzevlan

“I was hit and then I saw bullets around me, three or four ricochets. At that moment I realised they were shooting at me. I continued riding my bicycle, because, had I fallen down, I would have probably been killed,” Dzevlan said.
The indictee asked the witness if she could remember that he declared “a unilateral Christmas truce” at that time. She said she did not know that.

The trial is due to continue on February 15, when cross-examination of witness Rupert Smith, which began last week, and cross-examination of Tihomir Glavas will be continued.
Karadzic: We Shelled Only Military Targets

Rupert Smith, former Commander of UN peace forces in Sarajevo, UNPROFOR, has repeated his assessment that the projectile fired at the Markale market came from a Republika Srpska Army position.

On the third day of his testimony at Radovan Karadzic trial, Smith said that UNPROFOR investigation teams determined “beyond reasonable doubt” that the mine-thrower projectile, which killed 43 and wounded more than 70 people at Markale on August 28, 1995, was fired from positions held by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS.

He added that, following this incident, he asked NATO to conduct air strikes on Bosnian Serbs military targets.

“It is true, Mr Karadzic, that I made a decision to start air strikes on VRS positions in late evening hours on August 28. After the shelling of Markale, I think this was the only decision we could make. The Serbian side was warned about it,” Smith explained during cross examination.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and supreme Commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment further charges Karadzic with a sniping and shelling campaign implemented in Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among the civilian population. Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded in the campaign.

During the hearing, Karadzic presented a series of documents, including, among others, a report made by an American ballistic expert about the shelling of Markale. He refused to mention the name and last name of the person who made the report.

“Mr Smith, what I have here is a report made by an American investigator. The report is totally opposite to your report. It says that the projectile, which hit Markale, could not have come from positions held by Serbs, because our forces were based at a location so high that we could not even see that part of the town,” Karadzic said.
Smith declined to comment on the report, saying that, in his opinion, UNPROFOR had performed well.

During the course of the cross-examination, Karadzic said that NATO did not conduct air strikes on VRS military positions alone, but also targeted road communications, as well as surrounding villages, where civilians were wounded and one child was killed in August 1995.

Responding to the allegation, General Smith said this was the first time he had heard these accusations, adding that NATO only targeted military targets and weapons warehouses, which may have been situated close to inhabited areas.

“Exactly, General. All this time I have been trying to say the same thing about Sarajevo. We targeted the military targets only, but we are accused of killing thousands of civilians,” Karadzic said. Smith began his testimony on February 8. The cross-examination is due to continue on February 11, 2011.
Court Suspends Karadzic Trial for Six Weeks

The UN war crimes tribunal has decided to postpone the trial of Radovan Karadzic for six weeks to give the indictee enough time to familiarise himself with evidence submitted by the prosecution.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

The trial chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, announced the decision on Wednesday following a request for postponement filed by Karadzic.

On February 2, Karadzic asked the Court to postpone the trial for three months – from February 15 to May 15 – because the Hague Prosecution submitted voluminous evidence material to the Defence on January 31.

“As per the motion, the Prosecution submitted 1,725 documents and about 200 hours of video recordings. The indictee will need some time to review them. The Trial Chamber has therefore found that the trial should be temporarily discontinued in order to determine the priorities.

“This measure is necessary because the Prosecution keeps submitting materials with delay. We are concerned about that. It does not understand the seriousness of the proceedings,” Trial Chamber Chairman O-Gon Kwon said.

As explained in the courtroom, the break will probably begin in the first week of March, but the Chamber will render a written decision about the exact date later on.

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska and supreme Commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 to 1995.

His trial began in late October 2009. It has already been interrupted several times – for two weeks in August 2010; one week in September; and one month in November – because the indictee needed additional time to review the documents submitted to him by the Prosecution.

When Wednesday’s hearing continues, Karadzic will cross-examine witness Rupert Smith, former Commander of the UN forces in Sarajevo.
UN Forces ‘Prevented From Entering Srebrenica’

A former commander of UN forces in Sarajevo testifies at the trial of Radovan Karadzic and says that UNPROFOR was not able to see what was happening in Srebrenica for days after the Serb forces had occupied the enclave.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Witness Rupert Smith confirmed that at a number of meetings held with Ratko Mladic, former commander of the Main Headquarters with the Republika Srpska Army who is also charged with war crimes, he insisted that members of the Red Cross be given permission to access prisoners in Srebrenica.

“Mladic tried to argue that the Srebrenica issue had been completed in a correct fashion... At that time we still did not know what had happened to about 2,000 men. We heard that they had been transferred to the stadium in Bratunac.

“He promised he would let the Red Cross see the prisoners, but he did not implement this in practice. I think that the Red Cross arrived in Bratunac at the end of July. They were shown empty buildings. Nobody saw any prisoners,” Smith said.

He confirmed that he remembered Mladic telling him at a meeting: “I am a war criminal, but you must talk to me...”.

The witness said that UN forces approached Karadzic in August 1995, asking him to allow them to visit the area and try to find the missing persons.

The Prosecutor presented a document which indicates that Karadzic responded to the request about ten days later, saying he was “preoccupied with the crisis in Banja Luka and he will deal with the issue”.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

He is further charged with crimes committed with the aim of permanently removing Bosniak Muslims and Croats from territories controlled
by Serbs, spreading terror among the civilian population in Sarajevo and eliminating Muslims from Srebrenica.

Testifying about the allegation that Serb forces blocked UNHCR convoys that brought humanitarian aid to Sarajevo citizens, Smith said that in his opinion, Mladic was “the right person” with whom those issues should have been negotiated.

In addition, Smith spoke about the shelling of the Markale marketplace in August 1995, one of the counts in the indictment against Karadzic. Smith said that he “concluded” that the projectile had come from positions held by VRS.

“The examination of the crater indicated that the projectile had come from the south, but it did not reveal the exact location from which it was fired... The fact that nobody heard the sound of the grenade being fired was helpful for the analysis, because it meant it had been fired from a position outside the defended zone of Sarajevo,” Smith said.

Karadzic began cross-examining the witness at this hearing, and will continue on February 10.
Karadzic Trial: Witness Says Political, Military Structures Linked

Prosecution witness Rupert Smith, former commander of the UN forces in Bosnia, testifies at the trial of Radovan Karadzic and says that the Bosnian Serb political and military structures were closely linked during the course of the war.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

During the course of his examination, General Smith confirmed that he was tasked with making sure the ceasefire agreement signed by the two warring parties would be respected in the Sarajevo area in 1995.

He said he met Hague indictees Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the commander of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, who is on the run, several dozen times that year.

“The meetings were mostly held on Jahorina or in Pale – near Sarajevo. My conclusion at that time, and I still think the same, was that the Bosnian Serbs’ political and military structures were ‘on the same front’ during the course of the war, which means that the VRS actions were coordinated by top Bosnian Serb authorities,” Smith explained.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

He is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in the Hague.

General Smith said that at their joint meetings, Karadzic never denied the shelling or killing of civilians in Sarajevo by snipers, but he never accepted the possibility that VRS members could stop their actions targeted at civilian positions.

“Karadzic always responded by saying: ‘We are doing it to them because they are doing it to us...Since you, as UNPROFOR, are not doing anything to prevent it, I have to do it instead,’” Smith said, adding that in 1995 mem-
bers of the UN force felt like shields and hostages at the same time because they found themselves caught between the warring parties.

Karadzic is charged with a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among the civilian population. Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded in the campaign.

Smith also recalled the period when UN observers were captured. Serb forces took them to potential targets of NATO strikes and chained them to those targets in May and June 1995, he explained. The witness said that he was once threatened over the phone by someone who said that the captured UN members would be slaughtered unless the NATO strikes were "stopped immediately".

The indictment alleges that in May and June 1995, Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of taking UN staff hostage in order to force NATO to restrain from conducting air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets.

General Smith said that following the NATO strikes on strategic VRS positions, Serb forces responded by attacking all protected enclaves, which resulted in a large number of victims.

In an attempt to show the commanding link between Karadzic and the VRS, Prosecutor Alan Tieger read a directive, addressed to VRS members, issued by the indictee in March 1995.

Tieger said that the document mentioned that it was necessary to "create an unbearable situation of total insecurity and show Srebrenica and Zepa residents that there was no hope for their survival or future life in that area".

The trial is due to continue on February 9.
UN Observer Describes Hostage-Taking in Bosnia

A former UN observer in Bosnia, testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, says that Bosnian Serb soldiers captured him and a few of his colleagues and used them as “human shields.”

Hague Prosecution witness Patrick Rechner said that he was captured on May 26, 1995, because NATO forces had conducted air strikes on military targets, including an ammunition warehouse in Pale where he worked as liaison officer, a day earlier.

The witness said that members of the Republika Srpska Army came to his office and said: “If you care about your lives, you will stop the attacks”. He said he was then captured and chained in front of the warehouse.

“A lieutenant colonel approached me and showed me his revolver. He said that if the air strikes did not kill us, he would do so,” the witness said.

Radovan Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska, is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, where he is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment alleges that during the course of May and June 1995, Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of taking UN personnel hostage in order to force NATO to halt air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets.

Rechner said that he was taken, along with the other hostages, to a bunker which had previously been bombarded by NATO forces, and they were told they would be taken to “the exact locations hit by bombs”.

“They chained me and another observer to a lightning rod in front of a bunker full of ammunition, which had not been hit by bombs. They chained the third observer to the bunker door.

“After that, military officers and government officials came. Jovan Zametica, Karadzic’s advisor, was among them. I asked him what was happening and he said: ‘Times have changed’,” the witness recalled.
At this hearing the participants saw a video recording in which someone told the UN observers: ‘If you die, it will be NATO bombs that killed you”. Among other things, the recording shows two UN members chained to a bridge.

Rechner said he was held prisoner until June 18, 1995.

The trial is due to continue on Thursday, February 3.
Karadzic, Witness Discuss Snipers, Shelling

As he continued his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, protected witness KDZ 477 said that the sniper bullet which killed a woman in Dobrinja, Sarajevo in May 1995 “came from positions held by Serbs”.

AMER JAHIC

The protected Hague Prosecution witness, a former crime technician with the Safety Services Centre in Sarajevo, said that he participated in a crime scene inspection following the incident.

“We examined the crime location. The woman had been hit in her bedroom. The bullet could have come from one direction only, not from several directions. I cannot say from which floor of the building the sniper fired. I exposed myself to the risk of being shot. We worked in abnormal conditions,” the protected witness said.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, RS and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in the period from 1992 to 1995.

The Prosecution alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of initiating a sniping and shelling campaign targeted against the civilian population in Sarajevo.

KDZ 477 began testifying on January 31 this year, when he said that a mine-thrower projectile killed several children in Alipasino polje, Sarajevo in January 1994. He repeated the same statement at today’s hearing.

When asked by Karadzic about the caliber of the projectile and from which direction it had come, the witness said that the 120mm grenades had come from the west, where, as alleged in the indictment, positions held by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, were located.

The indictment against Radovan Karadzic alleges that, on January 22, 1994, three mine-thrower projectiles were fired on Alipasino polje from territory controlled by the VRS and located in the west, killing six children.
The protected witness said he also participated in an investigation into a shelling incident in Pavle Goranin settlement, Svrakino selo in Sarajevo, adding he saw a projectile fly overhead while he was in the police station in that settlement.

“It made a lot of noise. It sounded like an accelerating car. I looked through the window facing the west and I saw the bomb flying over the police station,” the witness said, adding that, following an investigation, he determined this was an air-bomb.

The indictment alleges that one of the five modified air-bombs that were fired at the Bosnian capital hit a building in Safeta Hadzica Street in Svrakino selo, Sarajevo, destroying the top three floors. The bomb was allegedly fired from territories controlled by the VRS.

The trial is due to continue on February 2 this year.
Karadzic Trial: Investigations Into Shelling in Sarajevo

A protected witness at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says that a projectile which killed several children in January 1994 was fired from positions held by the Republika Srpska Army.

DENIS DZIDIC

The protected Hague Prosecution witness, who testified under the pseudonym KDZ 477, was a crime technician with the Safety Services Centre in Sarajevo during the war.

He said that he was “member of a team of people” who investigated a shelling incident that happened in Alipasino polje, Sarajevo on January 22, 1994.

The witness explained that his task was to photograph the crime scene and make drawings, as well as collect evidence. He said that the investigation team concluded that “the projectiles came from the west”.

“On that day a few projectiles exploded in Alipasino polje about 200 metres from each other. I remember that one of them killed three children who were playing in the snow,” the witness recalled.

The indictment against Radovan Karadzic alleges that, on January 22, 1994, three mine-thrower grenades were fired on Alipasino polje from territory controlled by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, located in the west, killing six children.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, where he is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

The Prosecution alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of initiating a sniping and shelling campaign targeted against the civilian population in Sarajevo.

The protected witness said that Alipasino polje was “exclusively a residential area inhabited by thousands of civilians”.

“No heavy weapons were placed in the area. Apart from civilian buildings or the police building, there were no other specific things to be selected as targets, except for those who were affected by the shelling – the people. As far as I know, no artillery or Bosnian Army base was ever located in that settlement,” witness KDZ 477 said.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic asked the witness if he was a ballistic technician who was able to “determine the direction from which the projectile had been fired with certainty”. The protected witness said he was not.

“I underwent trainings. My instructors, ballistic experts, taught me how to investigate crime scenes. As there were more and more shelling incidents, I mastered the investigation of explosion scenes as well. I was able to determine the direction from which projectiles were fired. However, my primary task was to photograph and make drawings of crime scenes,” the witness said.

Witness KDZ 477 said that, when he participated in shelling incidents investigations, he saw a few cases of shelling with modified air-bombs, adding those bombs had “greater destructive power” than other projectiles.

“After having seen projectiles which burst into thousands of pieces, we saw modified air-bombs for the first time. There were not so many shrapnel pieces, but those bombs could destroy concrete walls,” he said.

The indictment charges Karadzic with five incidents of shelling in Sarajevo using modified air-bombs.

The cross-examination of witness KDZ 477 is due to continue on Tuesday, February 1.
Karadzic Trial: Hostages Used as ‘Human Shields’

Testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a former UN observer says that members of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, held him in detention for 18 days in 1995.

DENIS DZIDIC

Hague Prosecution witness Janusz Kalbarczyk, a former United Nations military observer, recalled having heard “airplanes shelling the Pale area” on May 26, 1995, adding he was captured by VRS members a short time later.

“Ten minutes later three military policemen arrived by car at our command post in the vicinity of Pale. They ordered us to put our hands up and told us we were arrested. They then threatened us by saying they would shoot us if NATO conducted new air strikes,” Kalbarczyk said.

The witness said that ten minutes later more “Bosnian Serb soldiers” came and drove him and a few other UN military observers towards the centre of Pale.

“They gave us two minutes to pack up our things before they handcuffed us, two by two.”

“Upon our arrival in the centre of Pale, we found ourselves in a marketplace, where we saw many civilians and some soldiers, who looked very excited. They mocked us and treated us in an aggressive way. One of the civilians even approached me and spit in my face. It was a very dangerous time,” Kalbarczyk said.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is charged with taking part in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of capturing UN peacekeepers and forcing NATO to restrain from conducting air strikes on military and strategic targets held by Bosnian Serbs.

Karadzic is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war, as well as the capture of more than two hundred UN staff in the period from May 26 to June 19, 1995.
Kalbarczyk said that he was taken, together with other UN observers, from the centre of Pale to “a location which had been targeted in air strikes conducted earlier that day”.

“We arrived at the only building that was still standing in that area. I was chained to it with handcuffs. It was easy for me to see that Serbs expected new attacks to take place and they were using us as human shields to protect the places of strategic interest to them,” Kalbarczyk explained, adding he was taken to a VRS military barracks four and a half hours later.

Kalbarczyk said that VRS members held him and “a large group of UN observers” in the military barracks, near Pale, and they were not allowed to leave the building until June 13, 1995.

“We were told that our status would not change unless the parties managed to reach an agreement or, in other words, until NATO stopped conducting air strikes. In that way, any further air strikes conducted by NATO would result in a tragedy,” Kalbarczyk explained.

During the course of his testimony Kalbarczyk said he would never forget the 18 days he had spent in detention, adding he “would not wish it on anyone”.
Karadzic Trial: Top Officials ‘Ordered’ UN Hostage-Taking

Testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a former commander of an UNPROFOR unit based in Gorazde says that an operation conducted by Bosnian Serbs to take UN staff hostage was “ordered and coordinated by high level officials”.

DENIS DJIDIC

Jonathon Riley, former commander of the First Battalion of British military units with UNPROFOR, which was based in Gorazde in 1995, testified for the Hague Prosecution and said that Bosnian Serb forces “took 33 British peace-keeping officers” hostage in that town in May 1995.

Riley said that Bosnian Serbs attacked the UNPROFOR forces with “heavy weapons”, adding that, after having been captured, the UN members were transferred to “locations all over the Podrinje area” with the aim of preventing NATO strikes on Serb positions.

“By analysing the statements given by the hostages, it is clear that the action was ordered and coordinated by high level officials, because we can see that the hostages were distributed to locations controlled by three or four different corps.

“Considering the fact that corps commanders did not give orders to each other, it becomes clear that the whole thing was ordered by the Main Headquarters of the Bosnian Serbs,” Riley said.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

The Hague Prosecution alleges that Karadzic participated, in May and June 1995, in the capture of more than two hundred UN members at various locations which had strategic or military importance, including Gorazde, with the aim of preventing NATO air strikes on those locations.
During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic asked Riley if members of the British UNPROFOR forces were captured as “prisoners of war or hostages”. The witness responded by saying they were “classic hostages”.

“A prisoner of war is a person captured by the opposite party, an enemy. Considering the fact that we were members of international forces, I do not believe that members of my Battalion could have been captured as prisoners of war,” Riley explained.

Prosecution witness Marcus Helgers, a former member of the Dutch forces with UNPROFOR, also testified at this hearing. He said that Bosnian Serbs captured him in the vicinity of Kasindol hospital on May 26, 1995 and took him to a sentry point in Grbavica, Sarajevo.

Helgers said that during the course of his 20–day detention he “received death threats” and was used as a human shield against strikes by NATO air forces.

“Serb soldiers took us, two by two, to the roof of the sentry box, telling us we would be used as human shields. They said that if NATO continued its air strikes anywhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they would kill one of us and if a projectile hit the location, all of us would be killed even if we survived the projectile explosion,” Helgers recalled.

Helgers said that because he was held in detention, he suffered from post–traumatic stress disorder and occasionally had “sleeping problems and episodes”.

The next hearing is due to take place on Friday, January 28.
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Former UN Hostages Testify at Karadzic Trial

Former members of the United Nations force in Bosnia and Herzegovina testify at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, and say that Bosnian Serb forces captured them in May 1995.

DENIS DZIDIC

Hague Prosecution witness Aleksandr Vishnevski, former engineer with the Ukrainian UNPROFOR Battalion in Sarajevo, said that he and other members of his unit were captured by “local Serb police forces” on May 26, 1995.

“When we started handing over our automatic guns, as they asked us to do, we saw on TV that Serb soldiers had taken French soldiers hostages, so we refused to surrender. They forced us to surrender. They first took us to Bijeljina and then to an airport near Banja Luka,” Vishnevski recalled.

The witness said that, upon their arrival in Banja Luka, members of the Serb forces wanted to divide them into smaller groups and take them to different locations, but the UNPROFOR members did not want to be separated.

“After that some younger soldiers brought German shepherds and allowed them to get as close as 10 or 15 cm from us. The dogs did not have muzzles. This is how they forced us to go,” Vishnevski said, adding that he was released on June 6, 1995.

The prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has charged Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise in May and June 1995 with the aim of taking UN staff hostage in order to force NATO to restrain from conducting air attacks on Bosnian Serb military targets.

The second witness, who testified under the pseudonym of KDZ 196 and under protective measures, said that he was a member of a French UNPROFOR Battalion in 1995, adding that the Serb Army captured him in the vicinity of Sarajevo on May 26, 1995.
“After having captured us, they did not take our documents and belongings away. However, Serbs took our personal belongings from the base and the check-point. We were never able to go back and get them,” witness KDZ 196 recalled.

The witness said that members of the Serb forces “mistreated” him during the course of the capture and they transferred him to Kasindol hospital.

“We stayed there for a short period of time before being transferred to a house in Doboj. I realized it was a weapons warehouse, as I saw many boxes. We stayed there until June 6, when they took us to the Serb forces garrison in Bijeljina. We were then finally released to liberty,” KDZ 196 said.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic asked the witnesses if the UN staff were captured in an effort to protect them from the “possible shelling of UN forces”. Both Vishnievski and KDZ 196 answered negatively.

The trial is due to continue on Wednesday, January 26, when the Hague Prosecution will examine a new witness.
‘All Sides’ Violated Sarajevo Cease Fire Agreements

As he continues his testimony at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, protected Prosecution witness KDZ-450 says all warring parties breached the cease fire agreements in Sarajevo.

MARIJA TAUSAN

“When we were able to determine the location from which fire came, we would send letters of protest to that party. But it was difficult to determine the locations... It seems to me that we sent more letters of protest to the Bosnian Serbs than to the others,” said the witness, who was a member of the UN force UNPROFOR in Sarajevo from October 1993 to September 1994.

Karadzic presented the witness with several documents, including reports about the attack conducted by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina on September 18, 1994.

“It is true that Bosnian Muslims initiated the attack on that day and they did this from an inhabited area. This represented a violation of the cease fire agreement. Serbs reacted because they forcibly took arms from a collection point in Poljine. NATO did not undertake an operation for these reasons,” the witness said.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme Commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment charges him with a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among civilians. Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded in the campaign.

Karadzic insisted several times that the witness show him evidence that Serbs were the first to open fire, arguing that, according to data available to the UN, “out of 13 major violations, the Muslim Army was responsible for 12”.

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The witness said that he was not just talking about offensives, but that there were some operations targeting civilians for which Serbs were responsible.

Karadzic said that the ABiH was responsible for all major incidents, asking the witness if he had evidence that Serbs intentionally shot civilians.

“Snipers did not hesitate to target civilians or UNPROFOR members. I have got evidence showing that civilians were regularly endangered and the fire came from sectors controlled by Serbs. Serbs never admitted to having done this and the Muslims never admitted it either,” KDZ-450 said.

KDZ-450’s testimony was closed to the public on several occasions, including the moment when he began to respond to Karadzic’s question about why Serbs thought of him as anti-Serb and biased.

The trial is due to continue on Tuesday, January 25. The Prosecution announced that Zaim Kosaric would be its next witness.
Karadzic Trial: Sniper Fire ‘Tactical Tool’

At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a protected Prosecution witness says that Serb forces conducted attacks on Sarajevo in response to military operations conducted by Muslim forces in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Witness KDZ-450, a former member of the UN force UNPROFOR in Sarajevo, said that the orders for shelling and sniping in Sarajevo were given by “a high ranking military officer”, adding that Karadzic could order the attacks “just to prove something”.

The witness said that the commander of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps, SRC, was likely not responsible for initiating reactions to events that took place on other battlefields in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“I think that that was done by the authorities. General Mladic would probably say: ‘We shall open fire on Sarajevo because they conducted a military operation in some other part of Bosnia’,“ the witness said.

Hague indictee Ratko Mladic, who is on the run, was Commander of the Main Headquarters with the Republika Srpska Army during the war in Bosnia.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war. He is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

He is charged him with a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among the civilian population. Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded in the campaign.

The witness said that during the course of his stay in Sarajevo in 1993 and 1994, he noticed that the local population was constantly exposed to individual fire, adding this was done with the “aim of creating an atmosphere of uncertainty and terror”.

“That was a tactical tool deployed by Bosnian Serbs. They wanted to stop the offensives conducted by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also,
their goals were strategic. By doing this they wanted to force Muslims to accept the division of Bosnia,” he said.

The witness said the situation in Sarajevo during the course of his stay in the city could be divided into three phases. He said the period from October 1993 to February 5, 1994 was very difficult for the population.

“They were exposed to artillery attacks and sniper fire. It was difficult to get humanitarian aid. It was the second winter and people were already exhausted,” witness KDZ-450 said.

He said that this phase was followed by a relatively stable period which began on February 5, when a ban on the use of heavy arms was agreed upon. He said that another period of uncertainty and numerous diplomatic activities began at the end of July 1994.

At the beginning of cross-examination the indictee asked the witness to draw a line between his personal impressions and reliable information he had got, asking him if he had evidence to prove his earlier statement that “Karadzic could order the attacks just to prove something”.

“I said that we, as a work group, drew certain conclusions. The siege of Sarajevo had a goal – putting pressure on Bosnian Muslim leaders,” the witness explained.

Karadzic is due to continue examining witness KDZ-450, whose testimony has largely been closed to the public, at the next hearing, scheduled for January 20.
Karadzic, Witness Discuss Increase in Casualties in 1995

At the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, a former member of the UN force in Bosnia says he saw that civilian areas were regularly shelled with improvised projectiles in Sarajevo in the summer of 1995.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Protected Hague Prosecution witness KDZ-304 was deployed to Sarajevo as a UNPROFOR member in 1995.

"Those projectiles were very powerful, but they were not precise at all because they were ballistic projectiles which could not be directed.

"We personally saw this and we also received information from members of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, SRC, who used to call those projectiles 'creams'," the witness said. His testimony was interrupted several times in order to ensure that his identity was not revealed.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and practices of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

He is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, where he is charged with having planned and implemented a sniping and shelling campaign in Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among the civilian population. Thousands of civilians were killed and wounded in the campaign.

The witness said that from March to the end of June 1995 the number of civilian victims increased, and UNPROFOR was informed about three civilians killed in March and 27 killed in June.

"We did not have the complete data about civilian victims because the city authorities did not provide them to us and they prevented our observers from collecting the data. (...) This happened in the downtown area and it could certainly not be associated with military activities undertaken by Bosnian Muslims," KDZ-304 said.
Karadzic said that the allegation of terror against civilians in Sarajevo was “an issue that defence strongly disagrees with”.

KDZ-304 agreed with the indictee’s suggestion that the increase in the number of victims from March to June coincided with a big offensive undertaken by the First Corps of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina in mid-May.

Karadzic presented the witness with maps showing the distribution of brigades and artillery of the 12th Division with the First Corps of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, including its positions on Hum, Grđonj and Trebevic mountains. The witness concurred that the First Corps units were situated at those locations.

“The Brigade had between five and ten 82mm howitzers. This is a mid-caliber weapon with limited shooting range, up to 20 kilometres. It did not have good artillery arms,” the witness said in response to a question about one of the brigades.

Karadzic then questioned the witness about “Muslim sniper nests”, mentioning the wounding of one civilian in the city.

“We knew that Bosnian Muslims had positions on the frontlines. We saw that, but we did not see them opening fire on civilians or UNPROFOR members,” the witness said.

The indictee was allowed an additional 30 minutes to question the witness at the next hearing, scheduled for January 19, but Karadzic complained, saying that half an hour was “not even close to being enough”.

“We asked for 18 hours for your examination. We would be happy if we could get 15. However, I have only been given three hours, so I have to do everything in a rush,” Karadzic said.
Karadzic Trial: No Angels or Devils

On the second day of his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a Hague Prosecution witness says that Bosnian Serb forces conducted “an organised shelling campaign against Sarajevo”.

DENIS DZIDIC

Responding to Radovan Karadzic’s questions, Jeremy Bowen, a BBC correspondent who reported from Bosnia and Herzegovina on several occasions between 1992 and 1995, said that civilians in Sarajevo were exposed to a “siege which resulted in the death of thousands of people”.

“The sniping and shelling campaign conducted by Bosnian Serbs was done in an organised manner. It targeted the territory of Sarajevo. It was used to put pressure on the Bosnian government and international community, and to spread terror among the people and intimidate them.

“I remember seeing people being killed in their homes and dead children,” Bowen recalled.

Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in making plans for and carrying out a sniping and shelling campaign targeted against Sarajevo with the aim of spreading fear among the civilian population. The campaign resulted in the death and wounding of thousands of civilians, including children and the elderly.

When asked by Radovan Karadzic how Serb civilians lived in Sarajevo, Bowen said they “faced difficulties and they undoubtedly suffered”.

“At no point did I suggest that the angels were on the one side and devils on the other. I was trying to say that a war was going on and civilians suffered the most in this war,” Bowen said.
Indictee Karadzic objected to the witness’ remarks that “Serb forces kept Sarajevo citizens under siege”, explaining that “the Serb forces’ strategy was just to keep the First Corps of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina inside the city”.

Responding to questions pertaining to ethnic cleansing, Bowen explained that he saw “all conflicting parties forcibly resettling civilians belonging to other ethnic groups”.

“However, the fact is that Serbs used ethnic cleansing more than the other parties,” the witness said.

Indictee Karadzic argued that Bowen’s statement and war reports were “full of unacceptable and arbitrary statements”.

“I hope my reporting was reliable in every sense. I tried very hard to make correct reports. Of course, there were mistakes because we worked under pressure and within tight deadlines. All stories from the former Yugoslavia spoke about life and death. We tried very hard to make them reliable,” Bowen responded.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on Monday, January 17.
BBC Journalist Testifies at Karadzic Trial

A BBC war correspondent testifies at the trial of Radovan Karadzic and says he witnessed ethnic cleansing during the war in Bosnia, much of it carried out by Serb forces.

DENIS DZIDIC

Hague Prosecution witness Jeremy Bowen, a BBC journalist who reported from Bosnia and Herzegovina on several occasions between 1992 and 1995, recalled during the course of his testimony that ethnic cleansing was “an undeniable fact” during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adding that “Serb forces led the way” in the process.

“I witnessed ethnic cleansing during the course of the entire war, but the nature of the process changed over time.

“I remember seeing it in Bijeljina in 1994; I saw that they no longer forced non-Serbs to leave their houses at night, giving them a brief warning, like they did in Prijedor in 1992, but that process had become institutionalized and was carried out by Bosnian Serb officials in an open manner,” the witness said.

Bowen testified at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, who is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic is charged, among other things, with crimes against humanity committed in the Prijedor and Bijeljina areas, as well as 18 other Bosnian municipalities and a shelling and sniping campaign conducted in Sarajevo with the aim of “terrorizing civilians”.

Bowen said he reported from Sarajevo several times from 1992 to 1995, adding he saw Bosnian Serb forces “keeping the city under siege” in this period.

“I believed the siege was used as a weapon in the war, just like bullets and grenades. It was used for keeping citizens loyal to the Bosnian Government under pressure and exerting political pressure by using it as a
lever in relations with the international community. It was simply a loop around the neck of common citizens in the city,” Bowen explained.

The witness said that civilians “were often the targets of sniping and shelling attacks” on the city.

“At some stage people in Sarajevo stopped caring about how they looked. I was surprised because the conditions deteriorated over time even though more humanitarian aid was coming, but people’s despair was much bigger. In fact, in the beginning people believed the war would be over quickly but following the first winter, they struggled to survive in horrible conditions,” Bowen said.

Bowen told the Court he personally saw “dead bodies and victims of sniper bullets”, adding that foreign cameramen recorded Sarajevo citizens “running across crossroads in order to avoid being hit by snipers, which became the iconography of wartime Sarajevo”.

“Serbs used to say this was a set up, that the Bosnian Government set up the shelling and sniping incidents because it knew that foreign cameramen would be there and journalists would want to write about those crimes, but I do not believe that.

“The city was targeted all the time. There was shooting when journalists were not around, so I do not believe that those events were set up for us,” the witness said.

The next hearing is due to take place on Friday, January 14, when Karadzic will continue the cross-examination of witness Bowen.
Interview - Radovan Karadzic: Vehicle for establishment of truth

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says his trial is a “vehicle for the establishment of truth” and if it is fair and uncovers the truth, will serve as a step towards reconciliation.

In an interview given to BIRN-Justice Report, Radovan Karadzic speaks about war crimes suspect and Hague fugitive Ratko Mladic, as well as his refusal to accept verdicts of American courts rendered between 1996 and 2005 which found him guilty for crimes against civilians.

Karadzic is on trial in The Hague on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war between 1992 and 1995.

The Karadzic trial started more than a year ago, and the Prosecution is currently presenting its case. Karadzic was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade, after being on the run for more than a decade.

JR: Do you feel you have adequate time to prepare for witnesses, considering you often ask the Trial chamber for additional time?

I am grateful to my Trial Chamber for giving me a month to study the new material we recently received. The fairness of my trial has been impaired by the lack of time I have had to even look at the two million pages of material which have been disclosed to me by the prosecution. The imbalance between the preparation time and resources that the prosecution has and the time and resources allocated to the defence is immense. As for the time I take for cross examination, I apologize that the Judges have to listen to an amateur when they expect to hear a big orchestra, but I am doing my best to bring out the truth about what happened in Bosnia, and the form is suffering a bit.

JR: Are you satisfied with the resources at your disposal, such as investigators, legal assistants, etc?

I estimate that the resources provided to my defence are about 10 per cent of what the prosecution has in my case. How can I be satisfied with such
conditions? However, I am grateful to the many law professors and law students who have volunteered to work on my case on a pro bono basis and without whose help I could not survive. My investigators in the Balkans are helped by many friends on a pro bono basis too.

JR: Often during your cross examination of witnesses you go beyond the scope of the Prosecution’s direct examination. What is the purpose of this?

I am proving my case through the testimony of the prosecution’s own witnesses. The rules specifically provide for this, since it would be wasteful and inconvenient to require a witness to come back again during the defense case.

JR: Do you feel that the evidence found recently in apartments in Belgrade will be important in the trial?

It is too early to say; we are still studying the material. However, our preliminary analysis shows that there are many useful documents among those seized.

JR: During the pretrial period, you often talked about an agreement with Richard Holbrooke. However, there has been no talk about this issue recently. Does that mean you have abandoned this line of defence, or will you raise this issue again during the Defense evidence phase?

I have not at all abandoned my insistence that I was guaranteed by Ambassador Holbrooke that I would not be prosecuted. The Trial Chamber ruled that this was relevant to the case and I may ask them to invite Mr. Holbrooke and some of his chiefs to give their versions of those events during my defence case. This is a big case about a big event, and many very prominent people must appear and testify so that we can close this page of history.

[Author’s note: this interview was conducted prior to the death of Richard Holbrooke, one of the drafters of the Dayton peace agreement, which was signed in December 1995 and ended the war in Bosnia.]

JR: Your family has only visited you a few times. Are they facing financial problems, and do they receive help from the Republika Srpska government?

My family receives no financial support from Republika Srpska. They do not come often to The Hague because it is expensive.

JR: Do you believe Ratko Mladic will be arrested before long? Can you comment on Mladic’s prolonged flight from justice?
I do not know where General Mladic is, so I cannot know if he will be arrested. I suppose he is acting different than me and is more cautious and less hazardous than me.

JR: How do you feel about the Prosecution recently aligning your indictment with that of Mladic? Is there a chance the trials will be connected if Mladic is arrested?

It appears that my process has now advanced too far for it to be joined with that of General Mladic should he be arrested.

JR: You often speak of truth and reconciliation of peoples, yet many claim if that were your motive you would not have hidden from the Tribunal for so long. Can you comment on this?

I was ready to come to The Hague in 1997, but I saw that the prosecution had no intention of fairly investigating my case and I estimated that I would not receive a fair trial. My trial is now a vehicle for the establishment of the truth and if I can have a fair trial and bring out the truth, it will be a step towards reconciliation. I don’t see how there can be reconciliation while the Muslims suspect us of acts for which we were not the perpetrators. On the other hand, nobody is dealing with the Serb victims and massive sufferings— as if there were not a single case.

The rhetoric is the same as if we hadn’t made peace. But the main question of the truth and reconciliation is: why did we fight? For what did we fight? The Muslim politicians are further humiliating their own victims and their families by paying tribute to them as if they “defended Bosnia”. Against whom did they defend Bosnia? This kind of Bosnia, the Lisbon or Dayton kind of Bosnia was never contested by the Serbs. That was our minimum, a bottom line if we leave Yugoslavia, and it was proposed by the European Community, and finally in Dayton.

From our standpoint our fight was not in vain, although it would have been possible to avoid the war. From the standpoint of the ‘defenders’ of Bosnia, all of it was completely in vain, unnecessary and criminal of the greatest proportions. Instead of blaming the Serbs, the creators of our tragedy, at least those from Bosnia and Herzegovina, should explain to the victims’ families why their dearest died, while we could have had what we have now without any victims.

That is the essence of the truth, and after that reconciliation could be possible, particularly since the Serbs and Muslims are the most similar among the South Slavs, if one would not like to hear that they are the same people, i.e. Serbs, as I believe.
JR: Between 1996 and 2005 US courts rendered several verdicts which find you guilty of crimes against civilians, and there have been several attempts to launch lawsuits to provide compensation to the victims. Can you comment on this?

I don’t accept those verdicts because they were not the product of trials in jurisdictions where I could participate in the process. Those are a civil litigations and no conclusion on my liability could be drawn. I have no money, so such lawsuits are a waste of time.

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Former UN Observer Testifies at Karadzic Trial

A former UN military observer who was deployed to Hrasnica, near Sarajevo, testifies before the Hague Tribunal and says that members of the Republika Srpska Army were responsible for the shelling and sniping of civilian districts in that part of the city.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

Thorbjorn Overgard, who testified via video link for the prosecution at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, said that from the end of 1994 to May 1, 1995, he worked as United Nations military observer in Hrasnica, where he was involved in investigations into sniping and shelling incidents in the area.

“There were new victims every day. Civilians were shot by snipers from Serb positions on Mount Igman, while the projectiles were fired from Ilidza, which was also held by Serbs. Investigations determined that no military buildings were located in the Hrasnica area, so houses were hit by grenades and civilians were killed,” Overgard explained.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

The indictment alleges that from April 1992 to November 1995, Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of initiating and carrying out a sniping and shelling campaign targeted against the civilian population in Sarajevo.

Witness Overgard spoke about the shelling of a civilian area in Hrasnica on April 7, 1995, when one person was killed and several were wounded. The investigation conducted by the witness showed that the fire came from a truck parked in Ilidza, where members of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, were located.

“We arrived at the crime scene 30 minutes after the projectile had been fired. The windows on all the houses in that part of the street had been damaged starting in the direction of grenade explosion.
“The local residents told us they heard the projectile prior to its explosion, adding they thought a big plane was approaching the area,” Overgard recalled, adding that he determined based on an analysis of the crater and damage to the houses, that the projectile had been fired from the truck.

During the course of cross-examination, Overgard said that the investigation into this incident was not completed on that same day because the “technical conditions” were not suitable, but he considered that UN members did everything in an appropriate manner, considering the situation.

Cross-examination of witness Amir Begic, whose father Camil was killed in the Markale massacre on February 5, 1994, was also completed at this hearing.

During the course of cross-examination indictee Karadzic claimed that the prosthetic limb which Camil used did not belong to him, but rather served the purpose of “setting up the massacre”.

The Hague Prosecution considers Karadzic responsible for the shelling of the Markale open-air market in Sarajevo on February 5, 1994, when 66 civilians were killed and 140 were wounded.

“Have you noticed that the prosthetic limb can be seen in several locations in the video recording of the Markale incident: in the passage, underneath a table in one position, underneath a table in a different position, then they throw it, someone then carries it?

“Don’t you, Mr. Begic, find this strange?” Karadzic asked the witness, who said it was true that the prosthesis could be seen at different locations, but there was a logical explanation for that.

“The prosthetic limb could be seen lying on the ground in one location after the massacre. I think that my father died at exactly that location. Later on, one can see the prosthesis underneath a table half a metre away.

“It is logical that the situation was chaotic at that moment as people were passing by, carrying the dead. Somebody pushed the prosthesis underneath the table for sure. I do not see what the problem is. Do you, Mr. Karadzic, know what massacre is or what it looks like?” the witness asked the indictee.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue after the winter break, on January 13, 2011, when the Hague Prosecution will start presenting evidence about genocide committed in several municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Karadzic Questions Witnesses about Massacre ‘Setup’

Testifying before the Hague Tribunal at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a Prosecution witness recalls the massacre at Sarajevo’s Markale marketplace in February 1994, when he lost his father.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

Prosecution witness Almir Begic, son of Camil Begic, who was killed by pieces of shrapnel from a grenade at the Markale open-air market in Sarajevo on February 5, 1994, told the Hague Tribunal about the day he last saw his father alive.

“This was the last time I saw my father alive. I heard about the shelling of the marketplace on that day, but I did not even assume that my father was there. A neighbour of ours told me in the afternoon that my father had been severely wounded at Markale, adding they recognised him by his prosthetic limb,” Begic said.

The witness said that Sarajevo residents often visited the marketplace during the course of the war, because it was the only place where they could buy or trade things they needed.

Radovan Karadzic, wartime president of Republika Srpska, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed between 1992 and 1995.

Karadzic is charged with participating in a sniping and shelling campaign in Sarajevo during the war. The Hague Prosecution considers him responsible for the shelling of the Markale marketplace in Sarajevo on February 5, 1994 and August 28, 1995, when dozens of civilians were killed and more than one hundred were wounded.

Begic told the Tribunal he identified his father in the city morgue on that same night, adding he noticed his prosthetic limb was missing.

“The prosthesis that can be seen on recordings of the Markale marketplace shelling belonged to my father. Some parts of his clothes were found
at the same place. It is therefore believed that he was killed at exactly that place.

“I must say that I am offended by the indictee’s allegation that the prosthetic limb was intentionally brought to the market place and it represents proof that the shelling of Markale was a setup. That is not true,” the witness said.

The examination of witness Martin Bell, a former BBC journalist who reported from Sarajevo during the war, was also completed at this hearing.

During the course of cross-examination, Karadzic asked the witness what he thought about “the setting up” of the Markale massacre, claiming that both incidents had been “staged” by bringing old corpses to the location and “setting up of horrible scenes”.

“Mr. Karadzic, you and I have known each other for years. You know very well that I reported from areas caught up in war for decades. I saw all kinds of massacres, but I refuse to confirm that something like that can be prearranged. It is not possible to do it and I do not even want to comment on it,” Bell said.

The cross-examination of witness Begic is due to continue at the next hearing, scheduled for December 16.
Karadzic Trial: Former BBC Reporter on ‘Endless War’

A former BBC reporter testifies at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and says that civilians were the target of attacks during the siege of Sarajevo.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

Martin Bell, a former BBC journalist who reported from Sarajevo during the nearly four years of war in Bosnia, told the Hague Tribunal that the population was exposed to danger on a daily basis during the course of the siege, adding that shelling incidents happened every five minutes on average.

“In most cases the citizens of Sarajevo were exposed to the conflict activities. Civilians were killed non-selectively as they struggled to survive in the city. Most of the recordings I made show people being wounded by sniper bullets and shrapnel from grenades while queuing for water or humanitarian aid. They exclusively killed civilians, women and children,” Bell said.

The witness repeated his earlier statement that the population lived in “unbearable conditions” during the course of the siege because they were hungry and lived in great fear for several years.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with genocide and other crimes committed on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Among other things, the Prosecution charges Karadzic with the shelling and sniping of Sarajevo with the purpose of “killing, mutilating, wounding and terrorizing civilians”. The indictment alleges that thousands of civilians were killed or wounded in the shelling and sniping campaign.

“In my career I reported from 15 countries caught in armed conflicts. I never witnessed such a great amount of fear among people as in Sarajevo. They constantly lost weight because of the fear. They had no way to escape. They were trapped in a war that seemed endless,” the witness said.
During the course of cross-examination Bell repeated that the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina was different from any other war in the areas he had visited in terms of its “violence” and non-selectivity in the killing of soldiers and civilians, as well as violations of the Geneva Convention and customs of war.

Although the indictee asked him to do so, Bell was not able to define the character of the conflict during the course of his testimony.

“The history of the peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina is rather complex. The conflict did look like a civil war, but I cannot characterize it as such.

“I was trained to report fairly. When I wrote about Serbs, I kept saying that you lived your truth as no other people in the world, even calling upon the Kosovo battle that took place in 1389. However, there is no excuse for killing civilians,” the witness said.

During the course of his testimony Bell said that, as a reporter, he often went to the Serb base in Pale and spoke to Serb soldiers.

He also conducted an interview with Karadzic during the course of the war. Bell explained that Karadzic had proper relations with foreign reporters until August 1994.

But Bell said after that date no foreign reporters were allowed to go to Pale.

The cross-examination of this witness is due to continue on Wednesday, December 15.
14.12.2010

Witness Says 3,000 Grenades Hit Sarajevo In One Day

A prosecution witness testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says that as many as three thousand grenades hit Sarajevo in a single day during the war in Bosnia.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

Irish Lieutenant-Colonel John Hamill, who was a UN observer and liason between the UN and the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps, SRC, of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, during the course of the war, said he was involved in an investigation into the shelling of the Markale open-air market in February 1994.

The witness said that the projectiles that hit the marketplace were fired from SRC positions, adding that as many as three thousand projectiles were fired on Sarajevo daily from those positions.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

The indictment alleges that from April 1992 to November 1995, Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of initiating and executing a sniping and shelling campaign targeted against the civilian population of Sarajevo with the primary goal of spreading terror.

The indictment charges him with 15 shelling incidents that took place in Sarajevo, including the shelling of the Markale market place on February 5, 1994, when 66 people were killed and more than 140 were wounded, and August 28, 1995, when 43 people were killed and 75 were wounded.

During the course of cross-examination witness Hamill said that UN members conducted the investigation into the Markale shelling incident, adding he did not know whether any other party conducted a parallel investigation into the incident.

“I know there was no joint investigation. I think that members of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted an investigation as well, but I
am not sure whether the Serbs did the same. I do not remember any such investigations,” Hamill said.

The examination of witness Ismet Svraka was also completed at this hearing. Svraka said that he was wounded on both his legs and stomach in the Markale shelling incident on August 28, 1995.

“The detonation made me hit the wall with my head and fall down. When I opened my eyes, I realised I could not see anything. I touched my face with my hands and I said to myself – ‘good, my head is in one piece’.

“The next thing I remember was waking up at the hospital,” Svraka said, adding that both of his legs were partially amputated, a shrapnel penetrated through his groin and stomach and he still has shrapnel in his head.

The court announced that Martin Bell, who was hit with a sniper bullet while reporting from the city, and Almir Begic, whose father Camil was killed in the first shelling incident at Markale in February 1994, would testify about the murder of civilians in Sarajevo.

Following the examination of these witnesses, the prosecution will complete the presentation of evidence about the artillery and sniper fire in Sarajevo and move on to the presentation of evidence about Karadzic’s alleged command responsibility for genocide committed in several Bosnian municipalities and taking international observers hostage.

The trial is due to continue on Tuesday, December 14.
Karadzic, Witness Spar Over ‘Prearranged’ Explosion Scenes

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and a prosecution witness at his trial spar over “prearranged” scenes at the sites of shelling explosions in Sarajevo.

DENIS DZIDIC

During cross-examination, Karadzic questioned Sead Besic, who investigated shelling incidents at the Markale open-air market in Sarajevo in 1994 and 1995.

Responding to indictee Karadzic’s questions, Besic said that the investigations at Markale were conducted “without any pressure or setups”, adding the area was “secured and guarded”.

Karadzic showed a recording made at Markale shortly after the explosion of the projectile on August 28, 1995. While showing the recording in the courtroom, he said one could see that “the situation was prearranged”.

In response, Besic said: “As of the moment the shelling happened and people were wounded, no one was allowed to enter the place, because police forces had arrived and secured the area. I stick to my statement.

“You can see that people took roofs from the vendors’ stands in order to carry the corpses on them. We even saw this happening at the morgue. The scope of destruction was big and many people were killed,” said Besic, a former Crime Technician with the Safety Services Center in Sarajevo who began his testimony on December 8.

Radovan Karadzic is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal, ICTY, at the Hague on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic, as former President of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, participated in the planning and execution of a sniping and shelling campaign in Sarajevo, with the aim of spreading fear among civilians.

Karadzic is charged with the shelling of the Markale market place in Sarajevo with a mine-thrower grenade on February 5, 1994, when 66 people
were killed and more than 140 were wounded, and on August 28, 1995, when 43 people were killed and 75 were wounded.

A former police investigator from Sarajevo also testified at today’s hearing, and recalled being wounded in 1993 when a projectile was fired, he said, from territory controlled by Bosnian Serbs.

Nedzib Djozo, former investigator with the Stari grad Police Station in Sarajevo, said he was “guarding the Station” in the summer of 1993, when he was wounded by a projectile fired “from Mount Lapisnica, which was controlled by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS”.

“The projectile hit the adjacent building. The explosion threw me into the Police Station. I was confused and I went downstairs to the basement. Then I noticed my arm and leg were injured.

“After that, I was transported to Kosevo hospital along with a few other wounded colleagues and we received medical assistance,” Djozo said.

According to the witness, no “military buildings” were located in the vicinity of the Stari grad Police Station in Sarajevo. He also said that military activities had not been conducted in that area.

“I do not remember any military activities taking place on that day. This was the most dangerous situation for us in the city, as peaceful periods were followed by sudden shelling. Mass murder and wounding of Sarajevo citizens would then take place,” the witness said.

The trial is due to continue on December 10, when witness Djozo will be examined.
Witness Describes Scene at Markale Massacres

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, on trial before the UN war crimes tribunal, asks a prosecution witness if the bodies found after shelling incidents at the Markale market in Sarajevo could have been soldiers brought from the frontlines.

DENIS DZIDIC

During the course of his cross-examination of Sead Besic, indictee Karadzic asked the witness if it was possible that the bodies of people killed in the Markale incidents were actually “bodies of soldiers who had previously been killed on frontlines”, but the witness denied this possibility.

“The Markale incidents bodies were fresh bodies, with no soil or dirt on them. They were not old. On the other hand, bodies brought from the frontlines were in very bad shape,” Besic said.

Besic is a former Crime Technician with the Safety Services Center in Sarajevo; he testified as a prosecution witness.

He said he was involved in investigations into shelling and sniping incidents in the period from 1992 to 1995, adding his task was to “prepare sketches and diagrams and photograph the locations”.

Besic said that on February 5, 1994, he was asked to photograph the Markale marketplace in Sarajevo, where a mine-thrower grenade had exploded, adding he noticed upon his arrival “a pile of destroyed material, tissue and blood”.

“The explosion location was being cleaned in order to determine the direction from which the mine-thrower grenade had been fired. Ballistic experts placed rods in order to determine the direction from which the projectile had been fired.

“They said the projectile hit the ground at an angle of 18 degrees and it came from the northeast,” Besic recalled, testifying under face alteration measures.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Crim-
inal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war, as well as a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment charges him with the shelling of the Markale open-air market in Sarajevo with a mine-thrower grenade on February 5, 1994, when 66 people were killed and more than 140 were wounded. The Hague Prosecution considers that the projectile was fired from the territory controlled by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, located in a north-northeast direction.

Witness Besic was not able to confirm how many people were killed at Markale in February 1994, but he said he saw “many corpses”.

“I saw corpses on metal sheets. Those sheets had been used for covering market stalls, but people used them to carry the corpses on them. I saw many corpses placed on parts of roofs. People used all kinds of things to transport those people to hospitals or morgues,” Besic said.

The witness told the Court he also photographed the explosion location in front of the Markale marketplace entrance on August 28, 1995, adding he saw “many dead people and many blood stains” on that day as well.

The indictment alleges that a projectile fired from the territory controlled by VRS exploded in the vicinity of Markale on August 28, 1995, killing 43 and wounding 75 people.

Cross-examination of this witness is due to continue on Thursday, December 9.

During the course of cross-examination, indictee Karadzic asked the witness if it was possible that the bodies of people killed in the Markale incidents were actually “bodies of soldiers who had previously been killed on frontlines”, but Besic denied this possibility.

“The Markale incidents bodies were fresh bodies, with no soil or dirt on them. They were not old. On the other hand, bodies brought from the frontlines were in very bad shape,” Besic said.
Karadzic Accuses Witness of “Imprecise and Easy Conclusions”

A former United Nations military observer in Sarajevo, testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, says that Serb forces “randomly shot at civilians” in the city in 1995 in order to generate fear.

DENIS DZIDIC

Harry Konings, who testified for the Prosecution, said that he worked as a United Nations military observer in Sarajevo from April to October 1995, adding he participated in “investigations into about 100 sniping and shelling incidents”.

“Over the course of the six months I witnessed random shooting at civilians in Sarajevo. It was determined that the shooting came from the territories controlled by Serbs in most cases.

“I personally saw, just like my men, grenades randomly exploding all over the city. They were not fired in the way they are normally fired when fighting military targets. The attacks generated fear and this was certainly their purpose,” Konings explained.

The witness said that the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina forces “had fewer troops” in Sarajevo, adding that “mostly civilians and a few military structures” were located in the city itself.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and supreme Commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

The indictment alleges that from April 1992 to November 1995, Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of initiating and conducting a sniping and shelling campaign targeted against the civilian population in Sarajevo, with the primary goal of spreading terror. Harry Konings

Witness Konings spoke about the shelling of the Markale open air market in Sarajevo on August 28, 1995, when 43 persons were killed and 75 were
wounded. He said he arrived at the crime scene “about 40 minutes after
the projectile's explosion”.

“When we arrived, all bodies had already been removed, but we saw body
parts at the location of the explosion.

“Many people were there. The situation was quiet and tense, very tense.
Many of the civilians were very hostile towards us and all people who had
blue berets and helmets,” Konings recalled.

The witness said that after having “analysed the crater”, he determined
that the shelling was done with a mine-thrower projectile fired “from the
south”.

“The firing position, which we identified, was close to our observing point.
It was a clear day and there was no shelling or gunfire. My observers had
an excellent view, so they could notice any possible action on the territo-
ries controlled by the Bosnian Army.

“As they did not see any happenings on that side, the projectile that hit
Markale must have been fired from the other side. We therefore concluded
the projectile had been fired from the Bosnian Serb side,” Konings said.

The indictment against Karadzic alleges that the projectile that exploded
near Markale marketplace on August 28, 1995 was fired from the territory
controlled by the Republika Srpska Army on Mount Trebevic.

During the course of cross-examination Karadzic accused the witness of
presenting “imprecise and easy conclusions”.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on Wednesday, December 8.
30.11.2010

**Former Bosnian Serb Soldier Testifies Against Karadzic**

Testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, a witness says that members of Serb forces robbed and deported non-Serb civilians from the Sarajevo district of Grbavica during the war.

DENIS DZIDIC

The protected prosecution witness, who testified under the pseudonym KDZ310, told the Court he was a member of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps with the Republika Srpska Army, SRC VRS, starting in May 1992.

He testified that members of the Corps committed crimes against Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats in Grbavica, Sarajevo.

“Mass robberies happened. This was done by military and civil policemen, as well as members of the Army. Of course, not all soldiers committed robberies. Not all of them had to do it, but it was bad enough when one man did it,” witness KDZ310 recalled.

The protected witness said that non-Serb civilians who lived in Grbavica were subject to “restrictive measures”, adding that many of them were “deported from the area”.

“Judging by their faces, I could see that the resettlement of those civilians was forced, not voluntary. If you see a woman crying, it means she is leaving against her own will. Otherwise, she would not have cried or left her property behind so anyone could pillage it.

“Another thing I noticed was Croat and Muslim civilians being hit by Serb soldiers. They pushed them on the back, hit them and cursed their Croat and Muslim mothers. This means I saw people deported forcibly,” the witness said.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

He is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in the Hague.
The indictment alleges, among other things, that Karadzic participated, in collaboration with SRC VRS members, in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of carrying out a sniping and shelling campaign targeted against the civilian population of Sarajevo.

The witness said that members of the SRC VRS “opened non-selective fire” from Grbavica “on civilians in the city using snipers, artillery and mine throwers”.

“...The frontline was so close that I could clearly see them shooting at areas located behind the frontlines, where there were no soldiers.

“I could determine, on the basis of the mine-throwers’ shots, the locations hit by grenades. I saw tanks firing projectiles and I could see they did not target the frontlines but the area behind the frontlines inhabited by civilians,” the witness said.

The Hague Prosecution considers that the sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo consisted of non-selective and excessive attacks on civilians, who did not directly participate in hostilities.

The witness said that certain members of the SRC VRS who participated in crimes have not been brought to court nor have they been punished for their actions.

The trial of Radovan Karadzic is due to continue on December 7, 2010.
Karadzic Trial Suspended for Documents Review

Prior to suspending the trial, Trial Chamber Chairman O-Gon Kwon warned the indictee by saying he might be deprived of the right to represent himself at the trial.

"Considering the fact that you are not a lawyer and you have no experience in cross-examination, we gave you much freedom and extended the time set aside for your examinations, but, despite all this, you did not manage the examinations in an efficient manner.

“You are losing much time on unnecessary things. The Chamber expects you to respect the deadlines or else we shall limit your right to self-defence,” Kwon said.

Radovan Karadzic responded by saying he would not let anyone else manage his defence, adding he would fight using all means, because “nobody knows the facts I know”.

Karadzic is charged before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The Trial Chamber has warned Karadzic on several occasions that he must use the time allocated for cross-examination in a more efficient manner.

The cross-examination of Emir Turkusic, former member of the Counter-reconnaissance Protection with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, MUP, of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who began his testimony on November 4, continued at Friday's hearing.

Turkusic said that when determining the directions from which projectiles had been fired on Sarajevo, they used military compasses of extremely good quality, adding there was no way a mistake could have been made.
in determining the cardinal points of the positions from which projectiles were fired.

Among other charges, Karadzic is charged with having designed and implemented a shelling and sniping campaign in Sarajevo during the war.

During the course of cross-examination he argued, using as an example the shelling of the Skender Kulenovic school building in Sarajevo, which is not included in the indictment, that the direction of that particular projectile and other projectiles fired on the city were wrongly determined.

“We can prove that everything was incorrectly determined, including the firing direction and distribution of fragments. The Safety Services Center of Bosnia and Herzegovina simply followed the pattern at the time.

“There was not one single intentional shelling of civilians. All those incidents were caused by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina,” Karadzic said.

Witness Turkusic disagreed with Karadzic’s claims, saying they were unacceptable and adding that what happened was the opposite of what the indictee said.

“It turns out that a million and a half of projectiles hit Sarajevo for military targets only. According to your theory, Sarajevo must have been stronger than NATO at the time,” Turkusic said.

Karadzic’s trial will continue on a date to be determined at a later stage.
Markale Market Incident ‘Prearranged’, Karadzic Says

A prosecution witness and Radovan Karadzic spar over the origin of a projectile that hit a market in Sarajevo in August 1995, as the trial of the wartime Bosnian Serb leader continues.

DENIS DZIDIC

Witness Emir Turkusic spoke about the incident at Markale open-air market in Sarajevo on August 28, 1995, when, as alleged in the indictment, 43 people were killed and 74 were wounded.

“This was one of many massacres, which, I am deeply convinced, were done on purpose. This was intentional terror aimed at intimidating and putting pressure on our authorities so they would become more conciliatory in negotiations and to discourage the population as a whole,” Turkusic said.

The witness is a former member of the Counter-reconnaissance Protection Unit with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, MUP, of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and participated in investigations into shelling incidents in Sarajevo during the war in Bosnia.

During the course of cross-examination the indictee said the Defence’s stance was that “the Markale shelling incident was prearranged for the purpose of having NATO conduct air strikes”, adding that “corpses, which were treated in a totally disrespectful manner, were brought from front-lines” for this purpose.

“I disagree,” the witness said in response. “The fact that people were thrown on cars can be explained by the monstrous nature of this war. We would do all kinds of things that worked under the circumstances. We loaded people into cars because we did not have other vehicles. We could have loaded them into minivans had we had them, but they were threatened by sniper fire as well,” the witness said.

The Prosecution considers that the projectile that hit Markale was fired from Trebevic, which it says was controlled by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS.
The witness said that many facts suggested the projectile had been fired from a distance of more than 2,500 meters, adding that, in order to be as correct and objective as possible, all members of the team determined the firing direction independently from each other.

“I was sure about it at that time and I am even more sure now, 15 years later, after having seen reports made by various experts. The angle we determined at the time was afterwards confirmed through a very precise analysis. (...) This is a definitive proof that the projectile was fired from the territories controlled by Bosnian Serbs,” Turkusic said.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

He is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The Prosecution charges Karadzic with 15 shelling incidents in Sarajevo, alleging that one third of them were conducted using modified air bombs fired from VRS positions. Turkusic said that air bombs were fired on the most densely inhabited part of the city in order to “spread fear and panic”.

“In a certain period of time they conducted many attacks using modified air bombs. We regularly collected the remains and analysed them. Air bombs were aimed at killing, destroying and scaring people,” Turkusic said, adding he had never come across information on air bombs used by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Cross-examination of witness KDZ 485, former Homicide Inspector with the Safety Services Center in Sarajevo, was also completed at this hearing.

The next hearing is due to take place on Friday, November 5, when cross-examination of witness Turkusic will continue.
Karadzic Questions Investigations into Shelling Incidents

During the course of his cross-examination of a protected prosecution witness, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic pointed to alleged omissions in an investigation into the shelling of a marketplace in Bascarsija, Sarajevo in 1994.

KARADZIC

Karadzic said that changes were made at the location of the explosion in Bascarsija that tampered with the investigation, but the witness, a former homicide inspector with the Safety Services Center in Sarajevo, disagreed.

“I think that the activities undertaken by my crew at the crime scene were in line with the law. No one has said we did anything contrary to the standards. The only change made to the crime scene was the removal of injured people and dead bodies. Everything else remained the same,” witness KDZ 485 said.

He added that people who were near explosion locations always tried to help injured people by taking them to hospitals without waiting for investigation teams to arrive.

The witness described the investigation into the explosion at a flea market in Bascarsija on December 22, 1994. Two projectiles were fired one after the other from Mount Trebevic, which was, the Prosecution alleges, controlled by Bosnian Serb forces.

The indictment against Karadzic alleges that two people were killed and seven were wounded on that day.

Radovan Karadzic, former Republika Srpska President and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for genocide and other crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The Prosecution considers Karadzic responsible for the shelling and sniping campaign against Sarajevo with the aim of “killing, mutilating, wounding and terrorising the civilian population”. The indictment further
alleges that the campaign resulted in the death and wounding of thousands of civilians.

The witness then spoke about his participation in an investigation into an incident that happened at Markale open-air market in Sarajevo on August 28, 1995, saying that bodies of injured and killed people were also taken to hospital right after the explosion.

“We arrived at 12:15. I could see that policemen had secured the location by making sure nobody could access the explosion point from any direction.

“Upon our arrival to the main street, we could see many victims’ personal things scattered around, a lot of blood, pieces of glass, rubble. We noticed immediately that there were no bodies of dead people or injured people at the crime scene,” the witness explained.

The indictment alleges that a mine-thrower grenade exploded in front of the entrance to the Markale market in Mula-Mustafe Baseskije Street in Sarajevo on August 28, 1995. 43 people were killed and 75 were wounded. The Prosecution alleges that this grenade was fired from Trebevic as well.

The witness said that civilians in Sarajevo were not victims of military activities, adding they did not go to the areas in which they feared they could be killed or wounded.

“Most victims of the incidents which I investigated were not killed in military operations. Sarajevo is not a big city, so whenever big battles were taking place, people knew about them. They learnt how to live in such conditions. Whenever they noticed military activities of any kind, they did not go out or visit the places where they could be exposed to fire.

“As far as the investigations [into shelling incidents] in which I was involved, they were not collateral damage, but victims,” KDZ 485 said.

During the course of cross-examination the Trial Chamber warned the indictee several times, telling him not to examine the witness about the directions from which the projectiles had come, because, as explained by KDZ 485, he was not involved in those things.

At this hearing the Trial Chamber announced that the trial would be suspended for one month, starting from mid November, in order to enable the defence to “review the evidence and prepare itself”.

The Chamber said that, when making its decision about the duration of the suspension period, it considered “the significant number of violations by the prosecution” related to the disclosure of documents, adding that, nevertheless, the indictee “has not suffered any damage” as a result.

The trial is due to continue on November 4.
03.11.2010

Karadzic, Witness, Spar Over Shelling Targets

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, on trial in the Hague, sparred with witness Youssef Hajir over allegations that Serb forces targeted civilians queuing for water and humanitarian aid in Dobrinja, Sarajevo during the Bosnian war.

AIDA ALIC

“I do not know if there were seven, eight or ten incidents which resulted in a large number of victims, but they deliberately targeted groups of people queuing for water or humanitarian aid...

“Isn’t this an indicator showing what was happening there, Mr. Karadzic? It does not matter whether it happened once or ten times, as you never condemned those acts,” the witness said.

Youssef Hajir, who served as director of the war hospital in Dobrinja, said residents of the district were exposed to fire on a daily basis, adding that many were wounded or killed.

Karadzic told the witness that he had condemned such acts, asking the witness if he believed that Serb forces would mistreat Serbs who had stayed in Sarajevo just to cause harm to Muslims and Croats.

“That is what happened in practice. Do you know how many Serbs were killed by shooting or shelling? My soul hurts. Many Serb families were killed, not only Muslims. They were wonderful people,” said Hajir, who began his testimony on November 1.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with genocide and other crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The Prosecution in the Hague charges Karadzic with the shelling and sniping of Sarajevo with the aim of “killing, mutilating, wounding and terrorising civilians”. The indictment alleges that thousands of civilians were wounded or killed due to the campaign.
The indictee asked the witness if he knew that the Green Berets misused ambulance vehicles for transporting soldiers in Ilidza. The witness said he “did not know”.

“I do not approve of it nor did I ever participate in it. I do not know if this happened. Our ambulances were never misused. They were marked, but they were under fire all the time. We never misused them,” the witness explained.

During the course of cross-examination the witness was not able to confirm Karadzic’s allegations that Serbs were detained and mistreated in a building in Dobrinja or that they were endangered in Sarajevo during the course of the war.
Witness Details Shelling Incidents at Karadzic Trial

Youssef Hajir testified at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic about a June 1993 shelling incident in Dobrinja, Sarajevo when more than 100 people were wounded.

Hajir, who was director of the war hospital in Dobrinja, testified from the Bosnian capital via video link on November 1. He said that he admitted more than 100 wounded people in the space of just a few minutes on June 1, 1993.

“I think it was Eid. The morning was quiet. All of a sudden two or three grenades exploded. A large number of wounded people came to the hospital. We put those people in doctors’ offices and infirmaries, on the floor...”

“It was impossible to walk through. The hospital was full of patients. The morgue was full. People were lying on top of each other. (...) We conducted surgeries for nearly three days. We sent about 40 people to the city to be treated by other physicians,” Hajir recalled.

Radovan Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague.

The indictment against him, which includes a shelling and sniping campaign conducted in Sarajevo, lists the incident that took place in Dobrinja on June 1, 1993.

According to the Prosecution, on that day two grenades were fired from territories controlled by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, at a group of about 200 people who were at a football game in a parking lot in Dobrinja. The indictment alleges that more than ten people were killed and about 100 were wounded in the incident.

During the course of his testimony Hajir said that Dobrinja was isolated from the rest of the city, so it was necessary to have a hospital which could offer assistance to all patients.
“Dobrinja was surrounded on all sides. I had to make decisions about the evacuation of those people...

“At the beginning, one could not say this was a full-fledged hospital. We had almost nothing. I performed the first surgeries using dentistry instruments,” the witness explained.

The witness said that many people were killed in Dobrinja during the course of the war and they had to be buried in parks as there were no cemeteries.

“This was a sad story for the entire population and for all those people. We did not have cemeteries in Dobrinja where we could bury the dead. People buried their relatives in parks in front of their houses and at other places where they thought they could not be seen by snipers or hit by other things. After the war, those people were exhumed and buried at regular city cemeteries,” Hajir explained.

Prosecution witness Fahra Mujanovic was also examined via video link at this hearing. She said she was wounded during a shelling attack on Barice, near Sarajevo, where she lived, on June 8, 1992.

During the course of cross-examination Karadzic asked the witness if “Muslim forces” opened fire from the Barice area in June 1992. The witness said she “did not know”.

“Mr. Karadzic, I would like to ask you not to ask such questions. I am a civilian. I was not involved in those things. I was sitting in my house when I was wounded. I am not interested in that. I do not know anything about the attacks. I have no answer to those questions. I was not a soldier and I do not know,” the witness said.

Mujanovic said that local residents in that area only had hunting guns, adding they did not attack anyone but “protected their homes”.

Karadzic denied the witness’ claims, saying that Barice was “full of soldiers” and “Serb settlements were attacked” from that area.

After having completed the examination of this witness, the indictee said he was “overwhelmed with documents” sent to him by the Prosecution, calling on the Trial Chamber to “order it to reconsider its strategy”.

The Trial Chamber warned Karadzic on several occasions for presenting witnesses with papers with which they were unfamiliar, adding he should bear in mind the timing set for individual examinations.
Karadzic Trial: Young Victims of Siege of Sarajevo

A former policeman from Sarajevo testifies at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and says that more than 1,000 children were killed in the city during the course of the war.

**MERIMA HUSEJNOVIC**

“According to Safety Services Centre’s estimates, between 10 and eleven thousand civilians were killed in Sarajevo. So many years have passed and our estimates have proved correct. (...) We estimated that there were between 1,300 and 1,400 children under the age of 15 among the victims. (...) Sarajevo was under siege.”

Dragan Miokovic, the former leader of a team of investigators with the Safety Services Centre, SSC, in Sarajevo, testified for the Prosecution at today’s hearing.

Miokovic said he participated in investigations into dozens of shelling and sniping incidents in the city.

“Soldiers, who were under your command, shot at the city,” Miokovic said, answering the indictee’s questions during the course of cross-examination.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, RS, and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide and other crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the course of the 1992-95 war.

The indictment alleges that he participated in the design and implementation of a shelling and sniping campaign in Sarajevo. The campaign resulted in the wounding and murder of thousands of civilians.

The examination of Adrianus Van Baal, former Chief of Headquarters of the UN’s UNPROFOR Command, was completed at this hearing. Van Baal began his testimony on October 27. The indictee questioned the witness about incidents which led to NATO airstrikes against Republika Srpska Army, VRS, positions in August 1994.
Van Baal said the NATO air strikes were prompted by the fact that Serbs had violated the heavy weapons exclusion agreement in Sarajevo, while Karadzic tried to determine whether the VRS had legitimate reasons for using the weapons.

The indictee presented a series of reports made by the VRS Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, SRC, pertaining to the constant violation of cease fire agreements in the Sarajevo region by “Muslim extremists”, who “continuously provoke us”.

“We would lose six soldiers in one day. This means we lost more people when cease fire agreements were in force. (...) Do you agree that we had a legitimate right to self-defence?” Karadzic asked the witness, adding that “Muslim forces” painted their helicopters in white in order to “confuse” them.

Van Baal said that often one party would file reports saying the other party had violated cease fire agreements. He said he heard about most of the incidents, but he was never able to get an official confirmation about them.

“The fact that we had freedom of movement was of great help as it enabled us to verify those incidents. However, the main question remains whether many of these reports were true,” the witness said, adding the VRS took its weapons back, but “UNPROFOR was not able to determine whether the Muslim forces did the same”.

At this hearing the Defence informed the Trial Chamber it had filed a motion for the “immediate cessation of work and suspension of the trial”. The Prosecution will express its opinion about the proposal at a later stage.
The witness testified that Karadzic had control over the army. Van Baal, a former UN general, said that the frequency of sniping incidents in Sarajevo, particularly those targeting trams, increased during the ceasefire period, adding they were attributed to Serbs.

General Van Baal said that Karadzic had effective control over the army, offering several examples to support his statement. The witness recalled a situation when 600 Serb soldiers surrounded the Canadian Peace Forces, but then withdrew 20 minutes after the indictee had signaled to them to withdraw.
“There were some situations which made me believe that when something had to be decided upon, the decisions were made in Pale. These decisions were then implemented in the field,” the witness explained.

Pale was the seat of the RS Government during the course of the war.

Van Baal also said that Serbs imposed a series of restrictions on humanitarian convoys bringing supplies to Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde enclaves after June 1994.

“Convoys were forced to go back or blocked more often than before. These decisions were motivated, as we were told, by the fact that the convoys were late, there was no reason for them to pass or requests for their passage were not submitted in time...

“Many accusations were heard, saying the convoys were used for smuggling goods to the enclaves, transport of weapons for Muslims, illegal trade... They were very imaginative in finding new excuses to send convoys back to their departure points,” the witness recalled.

The witness said that the effects of the blocking of convoys became obvious in the autumn and winter that year. He said that “the situation became more and more dramatic and desperate” in those enclaves, leading to the fall of Srebrenica in July 1995.

The Hague Prosecution considers Karadzic responsible for blocking humanitarian convoys travelling to Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde enclaves in an attempt to create unbearable living conditions for their inhabitants.

During the course of cross-examination Karadzic asked the witness if UNPROFOR was always given an explanation as to why convoys were stopped or sent back. Van Baal answered affirmatively, adding that the reasons were “not valid”.

Karadzic said that Serbs were suspicious about additional quantities of ammunition being imported to the enclaves by UNPROFOR, adding they had the impression that each time a convoy entered one of the enclaves, military activities by Muslim forces would increase in that particular area.

“Serbs worried about the possibility of being defeated. They did not want to contribute to the defeat by approving the passage of convoys.

“Did the Serbian Army search the convoys because it was evil or because it was concerned about the goods that were transported to its enemy? Were Serbs evil or worried?” the indictee asked the witness, who said he “could not guess what was on their mind”.

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Van Baal said that humanitarian convoys were aimed only at helping civilians and had nothing to do with strengthening military capacities.

“Humanitarian convoys never carried military goods. (...) Manifest sheets contained lists of all goods that were transported by convoys.

“Personal belongings were not mentioned in those sheets. They should not have been subjected to search, they should have been left alone. This is what the UN’s rules say. All parties undertook to respect them. However, they were not respected in reality,” Van Baal said.

The cross-examination of Van Baal is due to continue on October 28.
Investigator Details Dangers of Sarajevo Shelling Probes

A former crime technician with the Sarajevo police, testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, says his life was "constantly in danger" when he performed investigations into shelling incidents.

Protected witness KDZ 166, who began testifying for the Hague prosecution on October 20, told the court he performed investigations into shelling incidents in Sarajevo under difficult conditions.

“We performed the investigations quickly and under huge pressure. My job was to photograph the place, make a sketch and pray to God that I wouldn’t be killed,” KDZ 166 said, adding his crew sometimes had to wait for ten days before it could visit a crime scene due to “heavy shelling”.

The witness said that this was the case with an incident that happened on June 16, 1995, when a projectile exploded at Trg međunarodnog prijateljstva in Alipasino polje, which was “a residential area” of Sarajevo.

“Our lives were in danger while we conducted the investigation. The place is located near the frontlines. It could be seen from the hills held by the aggressor,” the witness said.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Among other things, the prosecution considers him responsible for a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo. The indictment mentions 15 shelling incidents which resulted in the murder and wounding of dozens of people.

Among the incidents was one that took place on June 16, 1995, when a modified air bomb, “fired from the territories controlled by the VRS in Lukavica”, exploded at Trg međunarodnog prijateljstva, wounding seven people.
Looking at a photograph he made during the course of the investigation into this shelling, the witness said one could see how people look “small in comparison to the size of the projectile crater”.

“Had the projectile hit a building, it would have probably destroyed it. This is a residential building. Four or five families live on each floor. You can imagine how many people would have been killed,” witness KDZ 166 said.

During the course of cross-examination Karadzic asked the witness why the crime scene photographs and sketches, which he made, did not show the victims themselves. KDZ 166 explained that, in most cases, “survivors acted automatically and fought for survival”, so they transported the killed and wounded people to hospitals and morgues.

“One could see splashes of blood and body parts, clothes, shoes... It was obvious that you had come to a horrifying place. In these situations you see people lying in their own blood and screaming.

“This is a life or death situation. The key thing is to offer medical assistance to the wounded. It is a fight for life. Whether someone lives or dies is a matter of seconds. It is as simple as that. You are a physician, you should know this,” the witness explained.

The indictee said he had studied medicine at Sarajevo University, adding he could not understand why someone would drag dead and wounded people. He said that “Sarajevo medicine does not deserve such an embarrassment”, because it “was good medicine”.

Karadzic questioned the witness on other incidents mentioned in the indictment, particularly those involving modified air bombs. Witness KDZ 166 said the air bombs made much bigger craters than other grenades, adding the difference between them was “enormous and visible”.

Karadzic Trial: Air Bomb Lifted Roofs off Houses

A prosecution witness testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic says windows and doorframes were broken and roofs lifted off 11 houses when a projectile exploded in a Sarajevo suburb in April 1995.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Witness KDZ 133, who testified under face and identity protection measures, worked as a crime technician with the Sarajevo police at the time. He participated in the crime scene inspection following the bomb explosion in Hrasnica on April 7, 1995.

“In that big house which was hit by the projectile, we found a multiple rocket thrower motor, air bomb fragments and metal sheeting connecting the air bomb to the rockets that carried it,” the witness said.

He added that the projectile exploded in a part of Hrasnica where only family residences were located.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, is indicted for genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian municipalities, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Among other things, the Prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia charges him with responsibility for a shelling and sniping campaign conducted in Sarajevo.

The indictment alleges that, on April 7, 1995, a modified air bomb exploded in a residential part of Hrasnica, killing one and wounding three persons and damaging twelve houses.

The Prosecution alleges that the bomb was fired from Ilidza, which was controlled by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS.

A crime scene sketch made by the witness was presented in the courtroom. It indicated that the projectile had come from the Ilidza area located in the northwest.
“I drew the line on the basis of information given to me by the inspector. He obtained the information from an eye-witness who saw the flight and explosion of the projectile,” the witness said.

At the next hearing, scheduled for October 26, witness KDZ 133 will testify about five other shelling incidents in Sarajevo.

Karadzic also completed the cross-examination of witness Bogdan Vidovic at this hearing. The witness worked as a crime technician with the Sarajevo police in 1994 and 1995.

“Through the testimony of this witness, the Prosecution included a few incidents which were not originally covered by the indictment. I am thankful for that, because I will use those incidents to show what Muslims did in order to put us into a compromising situation.

“They do not have one single clear sniper incident targeted against civilians,” Karadzic said, responding to the Trial Chamber’s claims that his examination of the witness was too detailed and that he did not carefully use the time allocated for the examination.

He said that the bullet penetration angles and firing directions were falsified in Sarajevo police reports.
Karadzic and Witness Discuss ‘Sniper Alley’

A Canadian general testifying at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says that Bosniak authorities “probably could have gained some political benefits” from shootings in the so-called “sniper alley” in Sarajevo.

MARIJA TAUSAN

Karadzic asked General David Fraser why commanders with the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps, SRC, of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, would have allowed Bosniaks to benefit from those incidents, causing harm to Serbs.

In response, Fraser said that commanders from both sides “demonstrated a certain level of professionalism and control”, adding they were not stupid, but “stupid things were happening”.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

He is charged with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. Among other things, the Hague Prosecution has charged him with the shelling and sniping campaign in Sarajevo.

The Hague Tribunal previously rendered second instance verdicts and sentenced former SRC Commanders Stanislav Galic to life imprisonment and Dragomir Milosevic to 29 years in prison for the shelling of Sarajevo.

Fraser, who was Assistant Commander of the UN force, UNPROFOR, in Sarajevo from April 1994 to May 1995, said that he confirmed, on the basis of reports from UN forces, that the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted an attack on Serb positions near Sarajevo in September 1994, a few days prior to the NATO strikes on the positions held by Serbs.

He said that the response by VRS forces was “fairly proportionate” in this case.

The witness said that a protest letter was filed with the First Corps of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina due to violation of the heavy weapons
exclusion zone, while it was suggested to the Serb side not to respond to the attack.

He disagreed with the indictee’s statement that, according to the agreement, Serbs had the right to use heavy weapons in response to the attack, despite the fact that the attack was conducted using mine-throwers.

Following Fraser’s examination, Karadzic began cross-examining Bogdan Vidovic, former Crime Technician with the Safety Services Center, SSC, in Sarajevo, who performed crime scene inspections after sniper incidents in 1994 and 1995.

When asked by Karadzic about the wounding of three people in a tram on June 19, 1994, the witness, showing marks he made on a map, said that those people were shot from Serb positions located across the Vrbanja bridge.

Responding to Karadzic’s questions, Vidovic said that the crime scene could have also been hit from the Assembly building located nearby, a chapel at the Jewish cemetery or a hill on the east side of the city, where, as Karadzic said, the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina held positions.
Former UN General Testifies about Siege of Sarajevo

During the course of cross-examination at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, Canadian General David Fraser says he was informed about sniping and shelling incidents in Sarajevo for which members of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina were responsible.

MARIJA TAUSAN

David Fraser, who was Assistant Commander of UNPROFOR in Sarajevo from April 1994 to May 1995, said he heard about a recording showing “Muslims shooting at their people”, but he did not personally see it.

He said that members of the United Nation’s UNPROFOR force conducted an investigation into a shelling incident in the Sarajevo downtown area for which “Muslim forces” were responsible.

“A civilian area was attacked from positions held by Serbs. After that, Muslim forces attacked it as well. (...) It seems to me that their intention was to cause more casualties and blame Serbs for it,” Fraser said.

The Prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia considers Karadzic responsible for a shelling and sniping campaign conducted in Sarajevo during the war. He is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Fraser said that UNPROFOR members had difficulties locating Serb snipers, as they were highly specialised.

“Snipers followed a certain pattern. We thought their actions were coordinated by higher level structures and commanded by the Corps,” Fraser said, adding that meetings held between UNPROFOR representatives and the Corps Command staff with the aim of reducing sniper attacks against civilians “yielded temporary results” in most cases.

The Hague Tribunal has rendered second instance verdicts against two former Commanders of the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps, SRC, of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, which surrounded Sarajevo during the siege.
Stanislav Galic was sentenced to life imprisonment and Dragomir Milosevic to 29 years in prison for the shelling of Sarajevo.

Radovan Karadzic was president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces during the course of the war.

The witness told the Court that, besides the shelling and sniping, “the feeling of horror” in Sarajevo was caused by the blocking of humanitarian aid convoys.

Karadzic tried to prove that Serb forces had several reasons for being careful to approve the passage of convoys through Sarajevo, mentioning the participation of UN members in “black market” deals as one of them.

The witness confirmed that the UN opened an investigation into the issue, but he disagreed that the freedom of movement of UN forces should have been restricted.

The cross-examination of the Canadian general is due to continue on Tuesday, October 19.
Karadzic Requests Military Documents from Bosnia

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal to issue a binding order requesting that the Bosnian government submit a number of documents relevant to his defence.

The indictee said the military documents were necessary for the trial, which is being held before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Explaining his request, Karadzic said that the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina had been asked several times to provide copies of military documents pertaining to the illegal trade and import of weapons by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ABiH, in Tuzla in February and March 1995, as well as documents about the Laste and Bosna special combat units with the ABiH.

“Members of the Laste Unit killed Serbs, Muslims and Croats in Sarajevo during the course of the war. Data available to us suggest that members of the combat unit opened fire and carried bombs in Sarajevo, but Serbs were blamed for the crimes the Unit committed,” Karadzic said.

He added that he believed the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina was hiding the documents as it did not want to submit them to his Defence.

Miranda Sidran Kamidaliv, the ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Hague, who attended the status conference, said that it was in Bosnia’s interest to cooperate with the Tribunal, adding it would submit all documents which had been found so far, as it had done in the past.

“There is no reason why Bosnia and Herzegovina would not cooperate with the Tribunal. We consider that we have done everything in our power to submit the documents we have found so far.

“I would like to stress that Karadzic’s Defence should provide as many specific details as possible when asking for documents, thus speeding up the process of locating the required documents,” Sidran Kamisalic said.
The Trial Chamber will render its decision on the request for a binding order at a later stage.

The Hague Prosecution has charged Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska, with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian municipalities, as well as the campaign of “sniping and shelling of Sarajevo” committed from 1992 to 1995, among other crimes.

The examination of Bogdan Vidovic, former crime technician with the Safety Services Center in Sarajevo, began at this hearing.

The witness testified under face alteration measures. He said he was involved in investigations into sniping and shelling incidents that took place in Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995.

“Most of my experiences refer to the investigations into the sniping of trams in 1994 and 1995. We undertook classical crime scene inspections in order to determine the direction from where each bullet came. I consider that I performed my tasks in a professional manner. I think the reports do not contain any disputable allegations,” Vidovic said.

The trial is due to continue on October 18, while the cross-examination of this witness will begin on October 20.
Karadzic Trial: ‘A Total Massacre’ at Open-Air Market

A ballistics expert continued his witness testimony at the war crimes trial of Radovan Karadzic on Thursday, recalling the “chaotic situation” following the shelling of the crowded open-air market in Sarajevo in February 1994.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

During the course of cross-examination, prosecution witness Mirza Sabljica, a former ballistics expert with the Safety Services Center in Sarajevo, spoke about ballistics investigations into the shelling of the crowded open-air market, one of the most prominent incidents of the Bosnian war.

The witness said that, upon their arrival at the marketplace, investigators noticed “a chaotic situation and a lot of blood”.

“This was a total massacre. They were loading bodies onto trucks. Body parts could be seen all over the place, there was a lot of blood... During the course of our investigation we found a projectile stabilizer stuck in the asphalt,” Sabljica explained, adding the projectile could have exploded at that particular location only.

Sabljica has given testimony for four days at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb leader who is indicted before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic is charged with having participated in a sniping and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo during the war.

The prosecution considers him responsible for the shelling of the Markale marketplace in Sarajevo on February 5, 1994 and August 28, 1995, when dozens of civilians were killed and more than a hundred were wounded.

During the course of additional examination the witness spoke about the investigations conducted in the Grbavica district of Sarajevo in 1996, when fortified sniper nests were found in four skyscrapers in Lenjinova Street and the so-called “Metalka” building.
“According to this report, VRS [Republika Srpska Army] snipers covered Zmaja od Bosne Street, where the tramway was located. As the street was exposed to snipers placed in the four skyscrapers during the course of the war, people called it ‘the sniper alley’,” the witness explained.

The testimony of this witness was completed with Thursday’s cross-examination. As Karadzic did not feel well, the hearing was brought to a close earlier than planned.

The trial is due to continue on October 15.
Karadzic: Witness Testifies About Sniping Incidents in Sarajevo

In his testimony at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, a prosecution witness spars with the defendant over the locations from where sniper bullets were fired in Sarajevo during the war.

DRAGANA ERIJAVEC

As his cross-examination continued for a third day on Wednesday, Mirza Sabljica, former ballistics expert with the Safety Services Center, SSC, in Sarajevo, said the ballistic investigations of individual tram sniping incidents in November 1994 showed that the bullets had probably been fired from a white skyscraper in the Grbavica district of Sarajevo, which was controlled by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS.

“The ballistic investigations conducted during the course of the war cannot be considered a hundred percent correct. We worked in very difficult conditions. Our equipment was outdated. However, given the fact that ‘sniper nests’ were found in the white building, I am convinced the sniper fire was opened from that particular building,” Sabljic explained.

Radovan Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska, RS, and supreme commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Among other things, the indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of spreading terror among the civilian population in Sarajevo by conducting a sniping and shelling campaign.

He is charged with 15 sniper incidents that took place in Sarajevo between 1992 to 1995, killing two and wounding more than 20 people.

At this hearing the indictee presented the witness with a report on an incident that happened in November 1994. The report, which was prepared by French UNPROFOR soldiers, alleges that the sniper bullet came from the territories controlled by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ABiH, between the Serb positions and the tramway.
“Mr. Karadzic, this would mean that the ABiH was situated in the Wilson Boulevard. You know very well that there was nothing but a division line in that boulevard at the time. There were not even any birds flying over it during the course of the war,” the witness said.

He added that this was the first time he had heard about the UNPROFOR investigation results, so he could not comment on them.

This witness participated, in 1994 and 1995, in investigations into several sniping and shelling incidents mentioned in the indictment against Karadzic, including about ten investigations of attacks on trams in Sarajevo.

At the indictee’s request, the witness again explained the methodology applied by investigative team members when inspecting the locations of artillery and sniper incidents.

The trial is due to continue on October 14, when the indictee will complete his cross-examination of this witness.
On the second day of his testimony at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, ballistics expert Mirza Sabljica spoke about investigations into several sniper and artillery incidents in Sarajevo in 1994.

During the course of cross-examination Mirza Sabljica, a former ballistics expert with the Safety Services Center in Sarajevo, spoke about an incident that took place in Dobrinja on February 4, 1994, when three artillery projectiles hit a children’s playground and surrounding area.

“The first two grenades exploded simultaneously. They destroyed a ground floor apartment in a residential building. According to the report I made in collaboration with my colleagues, the third projectile fell on a nearby children’s playground. One child was wounded,” the witness said, adding that the three projectiles were of a highly-destructive caliber.

Sabljica, who testified for the Prosecution with his face obscured for protection, said that, judging by the power of the projectile, the Dobrinja incident was among the most severe incidents that took place in Sarajevo during the course of the war.

The prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has charged Radovan Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska, with responsibility for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment against Karadzic lists 16 sniper incidents that took place in Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995, as a result of which more than 20 adults and children were wounded.

When asked by Karadzic if he could determine in what order the projectiles had been fired in the February 1994 incident, Sabljica said it was not possible to determine the order.

“It is not possible to determine the order in which the projectiles had been fired. Only the person who had fired them knows this or perhaps the wit-
nesses can recall it. We did not try to determine this at the time, as it was not important,” Sabljica said.

While the indictee insisted on having Sabljica determine the direction from which the three projectiles had been fired using a sketch he made at the hearing at Karadzic’s request, Sabljica did not want to do so, saying it would be “unserious and unprofessional”.

“I do not make conclusions on the basis of sketches. If we stuck to this sketch, we could say the projectile had come from any direction. However, my work is based on actual traces,” the witness explained.

Responding to Karadzic’s request to have 30 hours for examination of this witness, the Trial Chamber rendered a decision today, saying the cross-examination of the witness could last for up to seven hours, explaining that seven hours was “sufficient time” for examining this particular witness.

“It would be better to focus on concrete questions instead of the unnecessary reading of documents. Mr. Karadzic, you have to focus on important things. In law, cross-examination is an art. It may be good for you to seek advice from your team of attorneys,” a Trial Chamber member told the indictee.

The cross-examination of witness Sabljica is due to continue on October 13.
Karadzic: Witness Recalls Fortified Sniper Nests

Testifying for the prosecution at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, Sarajevo resident Alen Gicevic recalled having been shot in his leg while he was riding in a tram in the city in 1995.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC

Alen Gicevic, a witness at the trial of the former president of Republika Srpska, told the Court he spent the war in Sarajevo, adding he was shot in his right lower leg while in a tram near the Holiday Inn Hotel during the course of a ceasefire at the beginning of 1995.

“I was shot in my right upper leg and I bled a lot. Moments before being wounded I heard two or three gunshots. It all happened in the blink of an eye. I remember the tram was full of people, some of whom were also wounded,” the witness said.

Gicevic said that on that day the gunfire had come from the right bank of the Miljacka river, where, he said, members of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, were situated.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is charged by the Prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 to 1995.

The charges against him include, among other things, the shelling and sniping campaign conducted in Sarajevo.

The indictment lists 16 sniper incidents that took place in the city from 1992 to 1995, in which more than 20 adults and children were wounded and two were killed.

During the course of his testimony, Gicevic said that during the course of the war Sarajevans were exposed to constant sniping, adding the living conditions were difficult in many ways.

“People were fighting for survival. The fact that they never had sufficient food or electricity while being exposed to sniping and shelling during the course of each day made Sarajevo residents live in uncertainty about
their own survival. It was simply a fight for survival that lasted for several years,” Gicevic said.

During the course of cross-examination the witness repeated that he considered the bullets that hit the tram could not have been fired from positions controlled by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina because Serbs targeted the entire tram line in Sarajevo city from their positions in the Grbavica district.

Mirza Sabljica, a forensic ballistics analyst, also testified at Monday’s hearing. He said he took part in ballistic investigations of sniper fire in Sarajevo during the course of the war.

The witness said an investigation determined that the tram mentioned by witness Gicevic was attacked from Serb positions in Grbavica, or more precisely from one of four skyscrapers where fortified sniper nests were located.

As he told the Hague Tribunal, following the reintegration of Grbavica after the war, “sniper nests” were found in each of the four skyscrapers in the former Lenjinova Street in Grbavica.

“I had never seen anything like that before. We found a few apartments above the tenth floor which were used for nothing else but sniping. Sniper holes had been made in apartment walls. In each apartment we found sand bags and parapets on which sniper guns were placed,” the witness said.

At the beginning of cross-examination indictee Karadzic asked the Hague Tribunal to allow him to examine the witness for 30 hours.

The Hague Tribunal will respond to Karadzic’s request on Tuesday, when the cross-examination of this witness is due to continue.
Serb Forces ‘Blocked’ Aid Convoys

As he continues his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, General Michael Rose says that NATO bombed Serb positions in part because Serb forces blocked humanitarian convoys.

DALIO SIJAH

Rose, who served as a UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war there, said NATO also carried out bombings in response to attacks conducted by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, against civilians in protected zones.

According to his testimony, the United Nations advocated for “minimal use of force” to enable the passage of humanitarian aid convoys, which, in most cases, were blocked by “the Serb side”.

“I remember an incident that happened in January 1994, when a convoy coming from Kiseljak was blocked. We invited NATO aviation to conduct an attack, and Serbs lifted the convoy blockade even before the attack.

“We had to do such things in order to ensure the passage of convoys,” General Rose said, adding the agreement on uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid, signed by “the three parties”, was in force at the time.

The Hague Prosecution has charged Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment alleges that he participated in blocking the passage of humanitarian convoys to Bosniak and Croat enclaves in territories controlled by Bosnian Serbs with the aim of creating unbearable living conditions for the enclave residents.

The witness denied Karadzic’s allegations that “the convoys and UNPROFOR soldiers delivered weapons to the enemy”, repeating his earlier statement that convoys were “systematically and frequently” blocked even prior to NATO air strikes on Serb positions.
According to Rose, following the air strikes, the convoys were totally blocked.

In his testimony General Rose repeated his statement that the UN was aware of the fact that the protected zones had not been fully demilitarized, but he said that Bosnian authorities had “a sovereign right to have armed forces on [the country’s] territory”.

Cross-examination of General Rose is due to be completed on Friday, October 8.
Karadzic: Former UN Commander Continues Testimony

In his continuing testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, General Michael Rose said he believes the projectile that hit the Markale marketplace in Sarajevo on February 5, 1994, was fired from Bosnian Serb positions in the vicinity of Sarajevo.

DALIO SIJAH

“Originally, it was considered that the projectile came from Bosnian [Army] positions. I informed the Bosnian authorities accordingly. However, it turned out later on that it was more likely that the projectile came from Serb positions. Nevertheless, the analysis of the crater was rather imprecise,” General Rose said in his testimony before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Rose served as a UN commander during the war in Bosnia.

Karadzic asked the witness several times what had led him to conclude that the grenade had been fired from Serb positions. Rose said his conclusion was based on other attacks against civilians conducted at that time.

“It is true that the other report determined that the projectile could have been fired from any side, but, on the basis of the shelling of civilians who were queuing for bread in Dobrinja a few days before, I made the conclusion that this was probably done by Serbs. This was my stance at the time and it has not changed since then,” Rose said.

Radovan Karadzic, former Republika Srpska President and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Among other things, the indictment alleges that Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of spreading terror among the civilian population in Sarajevo by conducting a sniping and shelling campaign.

The Hague Prosecution considers him responsible for the shelling of the Markale marketplace in Sarajevo on February 5, 1994 and August 28, 1995,
when several dozen civilians were killed and more than a hundred wounded.

During the course of cross-examination the witness said that during his time in Bosnia and Herzegovina he got the impression that the views of Ejup Ganic, former member of the wartime Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, were “rather extreme” and he represented a threat to the establishment of peace.

Rose wrote these comments in his book, which Karadzic cited in the courtroom.

Rose also said he “believed” at the time that Ganic organized “a secret police service” with the aim of shooting at trams and blaming the attacks on Serbs.

Questioned about the Gorazde protected zone, General Rose said that the UN forces “formed an opinion” that the Bosnian authorities in the town “tried to drag NATO into the conflict”.

“We noticed they were withdrawing and leaving our forces exposed. I do not know whether this was deliberate and planned beforehand, but we certainly got the impression that they wanted to drag NATO into their war,” Rose said.

He added that he personally noticed that Bosniaks “exaggerated the data about people killed and the situation in the town in order to provoke a NATO intervention”.
A former commander of UN forces in Bosnia, giving testimony for the prosecution at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, has said that the Bosnian Serb political elite had effective control over its military forces in the field.

General Rose told the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, that he got the impression while in the field that the operations of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, including the sniping and shelling of Sarajevo and the obstruction of the passage of UNHCR convoys to protected zones, were aimed at “forcing peace on their terms”.

“There was an extraordinary coordination between the frontlines and the top political and military personnel. The decisions made at the top were carried out in the field. (...)”

“Beginning in March 1994 Serbs became weaker and weaker compared to the Federation, which had already been formed by then. The balance changed in favour of the Federation and the Serbs were desperately trying to force peace on their terms,” Rose said.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The witness said that, despite having signed an agreement on the free movement of convoys, Bosnian Serbs forces tried to find ways to block the convoys and prevent them from delivering humanitarian aid.

He explained that all parties to the conflict blocked aid convoys, but Bosnian Serbs forces were more dominant in terms of the territory they covered.

“They often used military attacks, but sometimes they used time consuming bureaucratic procedures, so they searched convoys looking for goods that were not included in the cargo reports. The convoys would then be...
sent back or stopped. This was a routine procedure that functioned until 1994,” Rose said.

During his testimony General Rose was presented with a document dated July 23, 1994, in which the VRS Headquarters, acting on an oral order by the then President Karadzic, asked the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps Command to prepare its forces for preventing transit through the airport.

Responding to the document, General Rose said he believed this order had a major influence on the closing of the airport.

“This confirms the allegation that there was close collaboration between the top Bosnian Serb military and civil authorities,” Rose said.

During the course of cross-examination the witness confirmed that the investigations could not determine unequivocally where sniper fire had been launched in Sarajevo and that the Bosnian government had been against the demilitarization of Sarajevo.

The witness could not confirm Radovan Karadzic’s allegations that “the Muslim forces deliberately chose their own civilian targets in order to provoke media attention” at the time.

He did say, however, that Bosnian forces “opened fire in some politically important times in order to provoke reactions from Serbs so the Bosnian authorities could show that its people were suffering”.

The cross-examination of General Rose, for which Karadzic requested 30 hours, is due to continue on Wednesday, October 6.
Karadzic: Engineer Witnessed Air-Bomb Launch

A prosecution witness testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic said he witnessed the firing of modified air-bombs on Sarajevo from Serb positions in the summer of 1995.

MERIMA HUSEJNOVIC

Electrical engineer Milomir Soja told the court in The Hague, Netherlands, on Thursday that he went to an ammunitions factory in Vogosca in the spring of 1995 to work on air-bomb firing systems and launchers, in compliance with an order issued by the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS.

Soja said in a statement he was asked in the summer to attend the launch of an air-bomb targeting a refrigerator warehouse in the Stup district of Sarajevo, from where Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina forces had opened fire on VRS positions.

“The air bomb did not reach the warehouse, but rather exploded prematurely on the territory controlled by the VRS,” the witness said.

He added that “fire was often opened on Ilidza”, an area under VRS control, from the direction in which the warehouse was located.

Radovan Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has charged him with participating in a sniper and shelling campaign conducted in Sarajevo during the war.

The indictment lists five incidents in the period from April to June 1995, when “modified air-bombs were fired from the territories controlled by the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps”, hitting inhabited areas and killing and wounding dozens of people.

During the course of cross-examination, the witness agreed with Karadzic when he said there were no residential buildings in the part of Sarajevo towards which the air bomb was fired, just “some factory buildings”, adding that “Serb and Muslim military forts” were located there.
When asked whether he heard that the modified bomb was used against civilians, Soja said he did not know anything about the targets.

Karadzic later told the court he did not feel well and the Trial Chamber decided hearings would continue on October 5 with the examination of a new prosecution witness.
Karadzic: Sniper Victims ‘Not Caught in Crossfire’

An arms expert has denied suggestions at the trial of Radovan Karadzic that some victims of alleged Serb sniper fire in the 1995 conflict in Sarajevo could simply have been caught in crossfire.

Prosecution witness Patrick Van Der Weijden told the court at The Hague in the Netherlands he had visited locations in the city in 2006 and 2009 to identify the direction from which people had been shot, as part of a UN investigation.

War crimes charges list 16 sniping incidents allegedly involving Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska.

Van Der Weijden was questioned under cross-examination by Karadzic on Wednesday over two incidents in Sarajevo’s Dobrinja district – one in July 1993 in which a woman was killed while fetching water from the Dobrinja river and another in January 1994 when a woman was wounded while riding a bicycle over the bridge.

The witness said that both victims were hit after a burst of bullets were fired by what he determined to be a “shooter probably situated” in an Orthodox church, where Serb forces were allegedly based.

Karadzic asked whether “the Muslim and Serb armies” had exchanged fire at the location and whether it was possible civilians had not been targeted, but just “entered the zone of gunfire”.

“I would not draw such a conclusion,” Van Der Weijden replied.

He continued: “There was no mention of any fire exchanged, but rather mention of sniper fire in that street.

“In order for an exchange of fire to take place, Muslim forces would have had to be located in the water.

“It is unlikely that this was the case because they would have been unprotected. Civilians were hiding underneath the bridge, so they could not have been in the gunfire zone.”
The defendant asked him to explain why a sniper shot into the water and what his target was, given that he could not see the civilians.

“I think they targeted the people who were hiding underneath the bridge. The bullets hit the water,” the witness explained.

Karadzic is charged by the Prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995, including a sniper and shelling campaign in Sarajevo during which thousands of people were killed and wounded.

The indictment against him lists sniping incidents in which more than 20 people, including children, were wounded and two people killed.

Van Der Weijden also answered questions about shootings in the Vojnicko Polje district, where a 16-year old girl was wounded on June 26, 1994.

A Prosecution document used by the witness during his investigations alleged snipers were based in a school for the blind, where Serb forces were situated.

Karadzic asked Van Der Weijden whether he was asked to “confirm the prosecution’s allegations”.

“No, my task was to go to the incident locations and check the possibilities,” Van Der Weijden said.

“I was supposed to check the locations from which the [victims] could be seen and determine the potential locations at which the shooter could have been situated.

“In my opinion, the bullet was indeed fired from the school for the blind. After having eliminated various other possibilities, I reached this conclusion,” the witness said.

The trial of Radovan Karadzic is due to continue on September 30 with the examination of a new prosecution witness.
Karadzic: Arms Expert Denies UN Sniping Probe ‘Rigged’

An arms expert has denied suggestions by war crimes indictee Radovan Karadzic that an investigation into sniper fire during the 1990s conflict in Sarajevo was rigged in order to blame Serb forces.

Under cross-examination at the Hague Tribunal in the Netherlands on Tuesday, prosecution witness Patrick Van Der Weijden denied a suggestion by Karadzic that “things were fixed” so UN investigators would link sniping attacks to positions held by Serb forces.

He said: “My method consisted of preparing a brief description of the situation, visiting the location, examining it and determining the positions from which the bullets were fired.

“In my reports I only mentioned the general areas where the shooting could have been launched, I did not determine the specific buildings from which the sniper fire came.”

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska, is charged with participating in a sniper and shelling campaign against Sarajevo in 1992-95, during which thousands of people, including children and the elderly, were killed and wounded.

The charges against Karadzic list 16 sniping incidents in Sarajevo.

Van Der Weijden, an expert on sniper fire, said he visited the locations in 2006 and 2009 in order to identify from which area sniper fire came in each incident.

Karadzic drew attention to a shooting in which two people were wounded while riding in a bus in Dobrinja, a district of Sarajevo, on May 25, 1994.

He asked the witness how he could determine the position from which the bullets came, given he did not know the angle at which the bullet hit the bus and “its trajectory inside”.

Van Der Weijden said: “A prosecution investigator showed me where the bus had been and the co-ordinates.”
“He showed me the seats in question and the direction of the bus. On the basis of this and witness statements, I determined the bullet came from that street.”

Karadzic also pointed out what he said were other “inconsistencies” in the investigator’s reports.

He said the wounding of a 13-year-old boy listed in the report as happening in Miljenka Cvitkovic street on July 22, 1994, had actually happened in Dzemala Bijedica street, a different location.

The Trial Chamber said it would consider a request from Karadzic for permission to visit the locations of the sniper incidents included in the indictment.

Karadzic is due to continue examining Van Der Weijden on September 29.

Karadzic asked the Court to allow him to examine the witness for the entirety of the next hearing, arguing that it would be “of huge benefit to the Chamber and the dignity of the trial”, but the Chamber rejected his request.

Trial Chamber Chairman O-Gon Kwon said: “You have had about six-and-a-half hours for examination of this witness, which is two-and-a-half hours more than originally approved.

“You now have an additional half-an-hour and it is up to you to plan how you will examine the witness,” he said.

Karadzic is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. He denies the charges.
Karadzic: Wounding of a Three-Year-Old Girl

Testifying at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, a former member of the Dutch Armed Forces spoke about several sniper fire incidents in Sarajevo during the war, saying he believed the bullets were fired from territories that were controlled by Bosnian Serbs.

DENIS DZIDIC

Hague Prosecution witness Patrick Van Der Weijden, an expert in sniper fire, told the Court that in 2006 and 2009 he visited 17 locations that had seen sniper fire and that are mentioned in the indictment against Radovan Karadzic in order to determine “the positions from which the sniper fire could have been launched”.

“Investigators would bring me to the incident locations. I would then check the locations for which I had coordinates. After that I tried to check the spot where the victims had been hit. This included the height at which the bullet hit the victim, the surroundings, the possible existence of clear lines of visibility... Then I tried to determine the location from which the bullet had been fired and whether it was technically possible for it to land there,” Van Der Weijden said.

Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at the Hague for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed between 1992 and 1995, as well as participation in a sniper and shelling campaign in Sarajevo in the same period.

The indictment alleges that the shelling and sniper fire by forces commanded by the indictee killed and wounded thousands of civilians, including children and the elderly, through unselective and excessive attacks against civilians who were performing their daily activities.
Speaking about the wounding of a three-year old girl in Sirokaca in Sarajevo in 1993, which is one of the incidents for which Karadzic is charged, witness Van Der Weijden said he determined the bullet that had hit the girl could “only have been fired from Baba rock”, which, as explained to him later, was controlled by Bosnian Serbs.

The indictment alleges that, on December 13, 1992, Anisa Pita was hit by a sniper bullet in her right leg in front of her house in Sirokaca in Sarajevo.

“I went to the place at which I assumed the bullet hit the victim. As this was a three-year old kid, I knelt down and looked for open spaces from which the bullet could have come. Given the fact that the house was surrounded by a fence, the only area from which the place could be seen was in the mountains. So, I concluded that the bullet had been fired from Baba rock,” the witness said.

Indictee Karadzic objected to the witness statement, arguing that the Hague Prosecution wanted to use his testimony in order to “include, in the case file, a large number of facts that the Defence will not have a chance to deny or examine”.

During the course of cross-examination Van Der Weijden said he “had never determined, beyond reasonable doubt, the positions from which sniper bullets had been fired”, but his task was to identify “potential locations from which fire had been opened”.

The cross-examination of this witness is due to continue on Tuesday, September 28.
Karadzic Trial: ‘Sarajevo Not Shelled by Bosnia Forces’

United Nations observers did not record any cases of Bosnian forces opening artillery fire in 1993 and 1994 during the conflict in Sarajevo, a prosecution witness has told the court trying Radovan Karadzic.

Major Francis Roy Thomas said under cross-examination at The Hague Serb forces never complained to UN observers about tanks from Bosnian forces opening fire on them.

He said: “If artillery weapons are used for sustaining defence, it is considered a legitimate target, but if civilians are harmed, it is not legitimate.

“If a military document makes no mention of civilians, it does not mean we did not get a report on the number of killed civilians,” he said, explaining several documents presented to him by Karadzic, the former President and Supreme Commander of Republika Srpska’s armed forces.

Karadzic faces charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and helping spread terror among the civilian population of Sarajevo through a sniper and shelling campaign conducted in the city from 1992 to 1995.

Thomas disagreed with a statement by Karadzic that between 50,000 and 80,000 members of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who Karadzic said were able to open fire on positions held by Bosnian Serbs, were based in Sarajevo.

“I think they exaggerated when they spoke about the numbers. We had some estimates, but I believe they did not correspond to the actual numbers,” Thomas said.

He confirmed that 42 kilometres of frontlines held by Bosnian Serbs and Muslims in Sarajevo adjoined each other and later increased to 62 kilometres.

Thomas confirmed members of the Croatian Defence Council, HVO, shelled the city for a certain period of time.
The witness explained he often used this fact as an anecdote to describe the nature of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, explaining that Croats from Kiseljak opened fire on Croats living in Sarajevo.

Speaking about the sniper fire, the witness said an elderly man was hit near the airport on a road leading towards the Dobrinja settlement, as a crew from US broadcaster CNN was passing by.

Thomas said they were not able to identify the position from which the man had been wounded.

He said he used the example of the incident, which was filmed by the crew and later broadcast in the news, in an effort to show the situation in Sarajevo at that time.

The trial is due to continue on September 27.
Karadzic Trial: Shelling ‘Turned Hospital into a Swiss Cheese’

More than 200 projectiles fired by Bosnian Serb forces into a hospital during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina turned it into a piece of “swiss cheese”, a witness has testified at the trial of Radovan Karadzic.

Dr Bakir Nakas, a former Director of the Military Hospital in Sarajevo, told judges at Karadzic’s war crimes trial at The Hague on Tuesday: “As I was in the hospital every day, I had an opportunity to personally judge from which direction ... projectiles were fired and determine their possible path.

He said he was “absolutely convinced” that the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, was responsible for shelling the hospital.

The hospital’s south wing was “facing the territories controlled by Bosnian Serbs, was damaged much more than the other parts” in the period from 1992 to 1995, he told the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Nakas explained: “From the upper floors, one could see smoke coming from the places from which the projectiles were fired ... the hospital was called ‘the Swiss-cheese hospital’ because its south side which was hit so many times.

“Honourable court, all those who lived in the surrounded city of Sarajevo at the time knew which parts of our city were targeted by the VRS forces and from which positions they opened sniper fire and shelled the citizens.

“The citizens were not the only ones who knew this. The international community and observers, as well as people who spent some time in Sarajevo, during the course of the aggression, knew this,” Nakas said.

As the former Supreme Commander of the VRS, Karadzic is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and participating in a sniper and shelling campaign targeting civilians in Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995.

The Hague Prosecution maintains the campaign was aimed at killing, wounding and terrorising civilians through indiscriminate and excessive attacks against them as they tried to go about their daily lives.
Nakas said RS forces targeted “the operational block” and other logistical parts of the hospital with an aim of “reducing its capacities”.

“In that case, citizens would feel less safe and health workers would be less capable of performing their jobs,” he explained.

Another witness, Alma Cehajic–Mulaosmanovic, began her testimony at the hearing on Tuesday, saying she was wounded by a sniper bullet while driving in a tram on February 27, 1995.

The witness explained she was in the back of the vehicle when she heard the sound of a sniper shooting “from Grbavica or Vraca areas, which were controlled by Serbian forces”.

The Hague Prosecution’s indictment against Karadzic alleges that Alma Cehajic, Senad Kesmer and Alija Holjan were wounded in a tram in Zmaja od Bosne street in Sarajevo on February 27, 1995.

The cross-examination of Cehajic–Mulaosmanovic is due to continue on Wednesday.
Karadzic: Timetable Proposal ‘a Health Threat’

Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal not to implement a proposal to increase his trial to five days a week, saying the move would pose a threat to his health.

Karadzic said the current pace of court procedures, with hearings taking place four times a week, should be continued in order to ensure “a fair trial”.

The former Republika Srpska President said in a statement: “Karadzic calls on the Trial Chamber not to accept the proposed schedule by which hearings would be held five days a week. Such a pace would be impractical and harmful to the indictee’s health.

“At the same time it would violate the indictee’s right to have sufficient time and space to prepare his defence, the equality of all parties and the right to a fair trial.”

Karadzic, whose trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, began last October, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and the violation of laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The Hague Prosecution has so far examined about 20 witnesses.

The examination of a protected witness, KDZ088, began at a closed hearing earlier this week.

The ICTY’s Trial Chamber has scheduled a status conference for October 15 this year in order to discuss documents the defendant has requested from authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As stated in the Court’s decision, the co-operation of Bosnian authorities with the Tribunal was “problematic and delayed” in this case, and request was made for a representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to be present at the status conference.
Karadzic Trial: Sarajevo
Missiles ‘All From Serb Forces’

All missiles that hit Sarajevo during the course of the 1992-95 siege of the city were fired from positions held by Serbs, a prosecution witness has told the court in the Hague trial of Radovan Karadzic.

Ekrem Suljevic, a former member of the Counter Sabotage Protection Department with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, MUP, of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, gave evidence on Tuesday on his experiences while working to collect unexploded projectiles in Sarajevo during the conflict.

He told the court trying Karadzic, the former Supreme Commander of the Republika Srpska armed forces, that he considered the Serbian forces responsible for all attacks on the city.

Under cross-examination by Karadzic, who is on trial at the Hague Tribunal for genocide and crimes against humanity, Suljevic said: “All of us living in the city were victims, irrespective of whether we were at the market, at work or in the streets.

“In any of those cases, we could say that the projectiles had been fired from enemy positions ... held by the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, because Sarajevo was surrounded by VRS forces during the course of the war.”

Karadzic is accused of spreading terror among the civilian population of Sarajevo through a sniper and shelling campaign during the siege, which he denies.

He had earlier said he wanted to prove that Sarajevo was not “a helpless victim of Serbian fire, but a camp full of military targets”.

Suljevic said: “I do not know what is considered a legitimate target or where the division lines and military commands were located, but Sarajevo was a target the whole time.

“Whoever lived in the city was a victim of the attacks and fire from the hills.”
Karadzic suggested a report by the MUP’s Counter Sabotage Protection Department may have been made with the aim of “spreading propaganda and putting blame on Serbs”.

Suljevic denied the allegation.

“When I prepared my expert reports, I never wrote down anything I had not personally seen or was not sure about,” he said.

“I was never instructed by anyone to write down something that could not be supported by evidence.”

The defendant said all the reports were based on a presumption that “Serbs were the only ones who opened fire on Sarajevo”.

But Suljevic responded that there was no doubt that the projectiles which hit the city had been fired from the positions held by the VRS, which were under Karadzic’s supreme command.

During the course of the examination the Trial Chamber warned Karadzic he was wasting the court’s time, asking him to “limit his questions to those that can be answered by the witness”.

The next hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7.
Names of Karadzic Trial Witnesses Disclosed

Journalists and former UN officials are among witnesses set to be called to the Hague trial of former Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic.

BBC journalists Martin Bell and Jeremy Bowen and former commanders of the UN Protection Force, UNPROFOR, in Bosnia, Michael Rose and Rupert Smith, are expected to give evidence regarding the 1992–96 siege of Sarajevo after the trial resumes on 6 September.

In previous testimony, Bell has described the aftermath of the shelling and gun attacks on Sarajevo and its residents, saying he was under the impression civilians had been deliberately targeted by snipers.

Former British general Michael Rose has previously testified during the trial of Stanislav Galic, the commander of the Sarajevo Romanija Corp of VRS until 1994, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2006.

Rose is also the author of the book Fighting for Peace, that Karadzic has quoted several times during the trial.

Prosecutors will also call Rupert Smith, who succeeded him as a UNPROFOR commander in 1995.

The trial chamber is also expected to hear from a number of protected witnesses and some civilians who survived the siege of Sarajevo that lasted from April 1992 to February 1996.

Alen Gicevic, who was wounded twice during the siege, will be called. He was also a witness in the trial of Dragomir Milosevic, who was in charge of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corp after Galic. He was jailed for 29 years in 2009.

Alma Mulaosmanovic Cehajic, who was wounded in 1995, will talk about the life of civilians during the siege.

Hospital doctors will also give evidence and a number of witnesses will talk about sniper fire from VRS positions.
One will be Adrianus Van Baal, a former UNPROFOR chief of staff, who previously testified that sniping was authorised by highest officials in Republika Srpska.

Patrick Van Der Weijden, a former Dutch colonel, is scheduled to provide expert reports on the Sarajevo sniper incidents, identifying the positions from which sniper fire had been coming.

Milomir Soja, a former VRS member, will testify about how he modified the electronic system on air bomb launchers in the Ilidza Brigade and how the munitions were fired on several occasions in 1995.

The prosecution is to call about 400 witnesses in the trial.

Most have already testified in different cases at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

A status conference will be held on 3 September on the request of the trial chamber which has expressed “concern” about the estimated length of the case based on current progress.

The presiding judge said at the last hearing the chamber would like to “find a way to make the trial length bearable”.

The trial of Karadzic, the wartime president of Republika Srpska, was last week adjourned until 6th September, to give him time to go through audio and video records from the tapes seized in two raids in the Belgrade apartment of Ratko Mladic.

Mladic, the wartime commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, is reported to have secretly recorded his meetings with Serbian and Republika Srpska officials.

Mladic and Karadzic are indicted for war crimes, including genocide, committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic is indicted, among other things, for the attack on Sarajevo, the longest-running siege in the modern history.
Karadzic Confirms Mladic Notebooks Authentic

Radovan Karadzic has confirmed that notebooks seized in Belgrade and presented by prosecutors at his war crimes trial at The Hague were written by Ratko Mladic.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

Prosecutors and the defence have both said the handwritten notebooks, with about 3,500 pages covering the period from 1991 to 1995, could provide crucial evidence.

Video and audio tapes shown to the court on Friday showed Mladic carrying the books, dark red with the Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA insignia, while holding meetings with UN officials, civilians and other officers during the Bosnia conflict.

Karadzic objected to the books being given in evidence in their entirety, saying only parts authenticated by witnesses or other documents should be considered.

But the trial chamber refused the objection, saying that since Karadzic expressed no doubts they were authentic, it was up to the chamber to judge if what was read was confirmed by other evidence “at the end of the trial”.

Tomasz Blaszczyk, an investigator for the prosecution, testified that General Manojlo Milovanovic, Mladic’s wartime deputy, has confirmed in April the handwriting was that of his former commander.

Milovanovic told the prosecution that Mladic used to write down notes from every meeting he attended during the war.

Seventeen notebooks were seized during raids by Serbian police in December 2008 and February 2009 in the Mladic family house in Belgrade, and handed to the prosecution last May.

Karadzic, the war time president of Republika Srpska, is indicted for crimes committed from 1992 to 1995 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mladic, the commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, was indicted in 1995 for crimes against humanity and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but remains on the run.
According to the indictment, he and Radovan Karadzic were part of a joint criminal enterprise against Bosnian Muslims and Croats from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic’s trial is to be halted for the next two weeks to give him additional time to study audio and video materials that were also seized in Belgrade.
Karadzic Trial Suspended for Two Weeks

The trial of Radovan Karadzic has been suspended for two weeks while he examines video and audio recordings seized from the Belgrade home of Republika Srpska wartime commander, Ratko Mladic.

The chamber concluded that a suspension of proceedings was “in the interests of justice”.

Karadzic previously asked for three weeks, but the trial chamber decided two was sufficient for him to review the material.

Mladic is reported to have secretly recorded his meetings with high-ranking Bosnian Serb and Serbian politicians during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Serbian police found approximately 120 hours of recordings during searches in Mladic’s house, which were given to the prosecution, along with 18 notebooks, in May.

Mladic was indicted in 1995 for crimes, including genocide, committed during the three-and-a-half years war in Bosnia. He remains on the run.

During the same period, Karadzic was president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of the army. He was arrested in summer 2008 in Belgrade.
18.08.2010

Karadzic Asks for Contact with Journalist

Radovan Karadzic has called on the president of the Hague Tribunal to reverse decision to deny him contact with an Austrian journalist.

Karadzic filed a motion on August 17 claiming the registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in The Hague had denied him contact with Robert Treichler, a journalist for the Austrian newspaper Profile.

According to Karadzic, who is allowed restricted contact with the media, the registrar refused to forward his written answers to the journalist because of his criticisms of the prosecution.

Karadzic, who is accused of crimes against humanity and genocide committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is the first and only detainee from the ICTY who has been in contact with journalists.

Although not allowed to have direct contact, he can answer questions in written form, with the approval of the Tribunal’s Registry.

In his motion, Karadzic said he had answered questions from Profile in May, but his answers were not sent to the journalist.

On August 13, the deputy registrar, according to the motion, informed Karadzic that his communication with the media was denied as his proposed answers “unfairly and incorrectly” reflected on the work of the Office of the Prosecution.

He called the Registry decision “unreasonable” and said he had been “censored” over a question asking him why he had been in hiding for so many years before his arrest.

He asked the President to reverse the Registry decision and forward his full answers to the journalist.

A decision is pending.

Karadzic was arrested in July 2008 while he was living under a false identity in Belgrade.
Sarajevo a ‘City of Fear’
Karadzic Trial Hears

Sarajevo was a city “living in fear” during its 1992 siege, a former United Nations observer has told the trial of Radovan Karadzic in The Hague.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

Richard Mole, the first prosecution witness to be called to the Tribunal after a three-week summer break, said on Tuesday: “Wherever you went inside of the city, you were exposed to the fear and had to think, in a way, that it can be your last moment.

“That fear was enormous and part of everything.”

Approximately 14 or 15 people were killed in the city on a daily basis said Mole, a former British soldier and commander of the UN Military Observer, UNMO, for Sarajevo from September 16 to December 26 1992.

According to his testimony, UNMO’s aim was to register heavy artillery fire in the city that was, according to Mole, encircled by the Sarajevo Romanija Corp of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS.

The 64km–long line surrounded the city’s urban area.

UNMO registered about 100 shells being fired toward the city on “a quiet day”, between 400 and 500 on other days and up to 600 on very intense days.

“But I am talking only about heavy artillery, and not all of it we managed to register,” Mole said, adding that rocket launchers and anti-aircraft ammunition were also used.

Radovan Karadzic, the war time president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of VRS, is indicted among others, for the siege of Sarajevo and the constant terror imposed over the citizens of the city.

Cross-examining Mole, Karadzic made comparisons between Northern Ireland and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The witness said that although some similarities could be found, the intensity of the hostilities was not comparable.
Asked for his opinion on foreign media reporting about the war in Bosnia, Mole said he felt some media did not have valid proof for what they reported.

“"There was an anti-Serb approach in some of the media, and I have to say that I noticed the same with some of the politicians who I met in Sarajevo,"" Mole said.

Mole's cross-examination will continue on 18 August.
Karadzic Trial Set for New Witnesses

Three new prosecution witnesses are expected to appear at the trial of Radovan Karadzic in The Hague which is set to continue after a three-week break.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

The prosecution is set to call Richard Mole, Richard Higgs and Tomasz Blaszczzyk when the trial restarts on Tuesday.

Mole, the United Nations Senior Military Observer for Sarajevo from September 16 to December 26 1992, is expected to give evidence about a “shelling and sniping campaign conducted by Bosnian Serb forces, as well as the command and control of the Sarajevo Romanija Corps of Army of Republika Srpska, VRS”.

Richard Mole testified in 2002 during the trial of Stanislav Galic, who was sentenced to life in 2006.

Galic was Sarajevo Romanija Corps commander from 1992 to 1994, and was found guilty for “acts of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population … murder and inhumane acts”, as well as for conducting “a campaign of sniping and shelling attacks on the city of Sarajevo” with the primary aim to spread terror among the city’s civilian population.

More than 10,000 people were killed during the Sarajevo siege – the longest siege in modern history, lasting from April 1992 to February 1996.

As a supreme commander of VRS, Radovan Karadzic is indicted for the same crimes as Galic.

In his previous testimony, Mole described the shellings as “terror” and said the destruction was not limited to the frontlines but affected the whole city.

The prosecution will also call Richard Higgs, a senior technical mortar advisor for the British army, who should give evidence relating to reports made by the Sarajevo police, UNPROFOR and UN military observers who conducted the on-site investigations of shelling incidents during the siege.
The prosecution will also call Tomasz Blaszczyk who works for the prosecution as an investigator, to provide testimony on diaries found in a search of the Belgrade home of Ratko Mladic, the war time commander of Army of Republika Srpska, VRS.

Prosecutors believe about 3,500 pages from the notebooks will provide crucial evidence in the trial of Karadzic.

Mladic is indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the war. He remains on the run and prosecutors believe he is hiding in Serbia.

Karadzic is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He was arrested in summer 2008 and his trial opened in October 2009 with the first prosecution witness being called in April.
Audio tapes found in General Ratko Mladic’s Belgrade home reportedly contain secret recordings made by him of conversations with other officials, in a development that may affect ongoing trials at the Hague Tribunal.

News agency BETA reported on Thursday, quoting unnamed sources, that Mladic, the war time Army of Republika Srpska commander, used to secretly record some of his meetings and phone conversations, including those with late Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic and war time president of Republika Srpska, Radovan Karadzic, currently on trial in The Hague.

However, Ljiljana Pitesa from the office of the prosecution in The Hague, told Balkan Insight the content of the audio and video recordings had not been publicly disclosed.

Rasim Ljajic, the president of the National Council for Co-operation with the tribunal, told Serbian state broadcaster RTS the recordings will be used “in the trials against Radovan Karadzic, Momcilo Perisic, Jovica Stanisic, Zdravko Tolimir, Stojan Zupljanin, Mica Stanisic ... and if the Prosecutor’s Office evaluates so, the material will also be used against other indictees before the Hague tribunal”.

At the same time, Dusan Ignjatovic, director of a government office for co-operation with The Hague in Serbia, confirmed to Tanjug news agency that recordings were seized during the February search of Mladic’s family house, but he could not give more details about the contents.

The prosecution requested last May to submit additional evidence in a number of trials, including that of Karadzic.

The evidence reportedly includes notebooks and other materials, including “approximately 120 audio/video recordings, a computer memory stick, medical records, mobile phone SIM cards and miscellaneous papers”.

12.08.2010

Hague Prosecutors To Use Mladic ‘Secret Recordings’

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC
Materials were found during searches in December last year and February and March this year in the Mladic home by local police and given to the prosecution last May.

After going through the notebooks, the trial chamber in the Karadzic case on July 22 allowed the prosecution to add 15 notebooks.

The decision read: “At the same time, the chamber notes ... there has been other material found by Serbia and handed over to it [the prosecution] at the same time as the notebooks, which it is currently analysing,” adding the chamber “encourages the prosecution” to make a motion submitting that the materials be considered.

Karadžić on August 11 requested the Hague tribunal to postpone his trial for three weeks in order for his counseling team to have enough time to go through “Mladić’s recordings.”

According to the motion, they received “approximately 133 hours” of materials from the prosecution. Those materials consist of 93 audio casts, 10 video, two CDs and eight DVDs.

The prosecution will next week call as a witness Tomasz Blaszcky, who works for the prosecution as an investigator, to testify about the authenticity of the notebooks and other materials.

Mladic, the war time commander of Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, is indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He remains on the run and prosecutors believe he is hiding in Serbia.

Karadzic, who was president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of the army during the war, was arrested in summer 2008. His trial will continue on August 17th.
Karadzic Seeks Trial Postponement

Radovan Karadzic has asked for his trial be postponed for three weeks to allow him to review audio and video recordings found in the apartment of Ratko Mladic’s wife.

The “Mladic tapes”, an assortment of meeting notes, 93 audio and 10 video tapes, two CDs and eight DVDs, were found during a search of the Belgrade apartment of Mladic’s wife in March and given to Karadzic’s defence on August 4.

In his request for a delay, Karadzic said in a statement he had spent the entire judicial recess reviewing “Mladic’s notebooks”.

The motion stated: “The notes reviewed so far indicate that many of them go in favour of Karadzic’s defence, confirming his statements and stands. He expects the review of tapes to yield significant acquitting evidence.

“However, it ... will take about 113 hours to review the materials. Unless the trial is postponed, Karadzic will not have enough time to do it before the next summer break.

“Although the prosecution is not to be blamed for disclosing Mladic’s materials in the middle of the trial, the fact that the chamber insists on proceeding with the trial at the same pace ... deprives the indictee of the right to a fair trial,” it read.

Karadzic said prosecution witnesses has attended meetings mentioned in Mladic’s notes, which could mean the defence needed to recall them.

Prior to the beginning of the trial, Karadzic filed several motions, asking for postponement in order for him to adequately prepare for his defence. The court rejected his requests.

Karadzic is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

His trial began in October 2009 and is scheduled to continue on August 17 after a one-month summer break.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has been searching for Mladic, the former commander of the Main Headquarters of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, for more than 10 years.
Karadzic Trial To Hear New Witness

A witness is set to testify in The Hague trial of Radovan Karadzic that diaries written by war crimes suspect Ratko Mladic, seen as key evidence in the case, are authentic, ICTY prosecutors have said.

Tomasz Blaszczky, who works for the prosecution as an investigator, is set to provide testimony that the diaries are real after the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, reconvenes after the summer recess, according to a statement sent to the court by prosecutors on Tuesday.

Prosecutors believe about 3,500 pages from the notebooks found in two searches of Mladic’s family house, one last December and one in March, will provide crucial evidence in the trial of Karadzic, who stands accused of carrying out genocide and war crimes during the 1990s Bosnian war.

Mladic, the war time commander of Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, is indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the war. He remains on the run and prosecutors believe he is hiding in Serbia.

Karadzic, who was president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of the army during the war, was arrested in summer 2008.

The trial chamber accepted a prosecution motion to introduce the notebooks as new evidence in Karadzic’s trial On July 22, warning that special attention should be given in establishing authenticity before notebooks are accepted as evidence.

The prosecution has previously introduced notebooks at the trial of two former Serbian secret services high ranking officials during testimony of Manojlo Milovanovic, Mladic’s deputy during the war in Bosnia.

Milovanovic told the courtroom that Mladic used to keep diaries of all his activities, and he recognised his handwriting in one of the books.

Karadzic had opposed the introduction of the new evidence.
During his cross-examination today, Radovan Karadžić insisted on a connection between two wartime incidents involving aircraft modified bombs, denying the weapons were used by the Army of Republika Srpska against civilians.

Prosecution witness Ekrem Suljević, a former employee in the counter-sabotage department of the Bosnian Interior Ministry, testified that the aircraft bombs weighed around 250 kg and were made “to destroy”.

Karadžić, the wartime president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its armed forces, pointed out that people used to call these types of bombs sows “since they were big, fat and could leave a huge mess where they fell”.

Part of the indictment against Karadžić at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, alleges the use of modified aircraft bombs by the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS. Bombs were made by the VRS and used in more than one incident in Sarajevo during spring and summer 1995.

One of the incidents, which is not described in the indictment, involved a bomb that fell on the building of Radio Television Bosnia and Herzegovina. Karadžić insisted on asking questions about this incident for more than an hour, ignoring warnings by the chamber and explaining that the queries would lead to his final questions about another incident involving a bomb fired at a building in Safeta Hadzica Street in Sarajevo.

According to the indictment, “a modified airbomb struck a building on 26 May 1995 near Safeta Hadzica Street, destroying the top three floors of an apartment building. This explosion was followed by several artillery rounds. Serious damage was caused to a number of buildings. Two persons were seriously injured and 15 persons were slightly injured. It was determined that the fire came from VRS/SRK-held territory in the west-south-west.”

The witness insisted that he have never been to Safeta Hadzica Street and never had a chance to see the damage the bomb had left.
Karadzic also claimed that various military objects were placed in the areas around both buildings, including ammunition produced by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He did not clarify claims about a connection between the two incidents.

Karadzic also asked Suljevic to describe and draw the marks at the place where the rocket launcher shell fell and where the artillery fell. Suljevic complied with Karadzic’s request.

According to Suljevic, these marks could show the direction from where the shell was fired.

“...The rocket launcher leaves a very characteristic mark in a shape of rose or animal foot... But it is hard to explain in words,” Suljevic said, pointing out that he was not called as an expert and that he could only give his personal opinion.

Before the cross-examination began, the prosecution submitted a number of documents, including one in which the command of the Sarajevo Romanija Corps of the VRS asks for additional ammunition, including air-craft bombs.

The Tribunal will recess from July 26 to August 13; the next hearing in the Karadzic trial is scheduled for August 17.
Witnes Testifies About VRS Ammunition

The prosecution has called a new witness in the trial of Radovan Karadzic who will testify about different types of ammunition used by the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, during the war in Sarajevo.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

Ekrem Suljevic is a former employee in the counter-sabotage department of the Bosnian Interior Ministry who previously testified at the trial of General Stanislav Galic, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the siege of Sarajevo.

Galic was the commander of the Sarajevo Romanija Corps of the VRS.

The prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, submitted Suljevic’s previous statement, and through direct examination introduced into evidence a number of new documents mostly related to different types of bombs used by the VRS.

The squad for which Suljevic worked during the war used to collect unexploded bombs and analyse their source, including when and where they were produced, and how. Suljevic said that many of the projectiles he saw were produced in Valjevo, Serbia.

He also talked about modified aircraft bombs used by the VRS in Sarajevo.

According to the indictment against Karadzic, the wartime president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its armed forces, on more than one occasion these bombs were used against civilian targets.

One of the incidents described is from April 1995, when “a modified aircraft bomb hit a residential area in Hrasnica at the foot of Mount Igman destroying one dwelling, severely damaging eleven other dwellings, and inflicting civilian casualties of 1 killed and 3 injured. The origin of fire was Ilidza, VRS/SRK–held territory”.

The same type of bomb was used several times in May and June the same year, each time causing civilian casualties.

Suljevic's testimony will continue on July 22.

On Wednesday, Karadzic also finished his cross-examination of a former commander of the Sarajevo sector of UN forces in Bosnia, Egyptian general Hussein Ali Abdel Razek.
Karadzic Cross-Examination Method Criticised

Despite numerous warnings from the ICTY trial chamber about his method of cross-examination, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic continues to comment, ask questions not directly related to the case and make jokes in the courtroom, as his trial enters its 15th week.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

The trial chamber has given Karadzic a number of oral warnings about his conduct, and has even limited the time he is given to cross-examine witnesses.

However, Egyptian General Hussein Ali Abdel Rezak, who headed UN forces (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo for six months in 1992 and 1993, and is the 14th prosecution witness to take the stand at Karadzic’s trial, was faced with a number of statements and questions which he could not answer.

Karadzic insisted on claims that Sarajevo was not under siege and that all the shots fired from Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, positions were fired in response to “provocation from the Muslim side”.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment against Karadzic alleges that from April 1992 to November 1995 he participated in a sniper and shelling campaign targeted against the civilian population in Sarajevo with the primary goal of spreading terror.

The witness and the accused did manage to agree on one thing: that the war in Sarajevo was a civil war and that the two men cooperated well in the past.

“Yes, our meetings were good, but not much of that was implemented in the field. I heard a lot of good words, but did not see actions,” the witness stated.
Hussein Ali Abdel-Razek described the war in Sarajevo as a civil war between neighbours, in which the UN was in between the warring sides.

““It was a war of neighbour against neighbour, civilians against armies... and we could not identify one side. Our mission was humanitarian, and the conflict was political,” the general explained.

Previously, while answering the prosecution questions, the witness said that Sarajevo was in a very bad state when he arrived in the fall of 1992.

“It was very difficult; people lived in very harsh conditions, with a sudden drop in living standards, a lack of everything that is necessary for life... fear that could be seen on people’s faces... Life was very bad and citizens were targets. They were totally desperate.”

Karadzic reiterated his claims that Bosnian Serbs were victims of propaganda and the international media who were, according to him, biased and presented them as the “bad guys”. The witness could not answer this claim, but he said that he had advised international media in Sarajevo to talk with both sides in the war.

“I advised CNN, Christiane Amanpour, to go and talk with you. I told her that everything looks like that man is the bad guy, but go and ask him and listen to what he says,” the general explained, adding that no one can influence the way the media reports.

Karadzic confirmed that he gave more than one interview to CNN reporter Amanpour on the recommendation of General Rezak.

Karadzic’s cross-examination of this witness will continue on Wednesday, June 21.
Former UN General Testifies at Karadzic Trial

The prosecution in the Hague has called a new witness, a former UN general in Bosnia, to the stand at the trial of Radovan Karadzic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Hussein Ali Abdel-Razek, a former general in Egyptian army, was head of the Sarajevo sector of UN forces (UNPROFOR) from August 1992 to February 1993. During his time in Sarajevo, he met several times with the Bosnian Serb political and military leadership, including Karadzic and Ratko Mladic.

Karadzic was the wartime president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, VRS. Mladic was the chief commander of the VRS during the war. Both are accused of crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995, including genocide.

Mladic is still on the run.

Abdel Razek previously testified at the trial of Stanislav Galic, the commander of the Sarajevo Romanija Corp of VRS, who was sentenced in November 2006 to life imprisonment. The testimony Abdel Razek gave at the Galic trial was partially read in the courtroom and submitted as evidence on Monday.

The witness testified that Karadzic was the decision maker during the war, and that, at the meeting he attended, he got the feeling that the Bosnian Serb political and military goals were the same.

“I can confirm that with certainty,” Abdel Rezak said.

According to the witness, the city of Sarajevo was often exposed to heavy bombardment and shelling, as well as to sniper fire. He and other UNPROFOR officials tried to negotiate with Bosnian Serbs about the situation, including by sending them letters of concern.

“In most cases, they claimed no responsibility for the attacks. They used to repeat that the only thing they do is answer fire from Bosnian forces,” Abdul Rezak claimed.
His testimony will continue on July 20.

Before Abdel Rezak began his testimony on Monday, Karadzic finished his cross-examination of witness Milan Mandilovic, a doctor from Sarajevo whose testimony began on Friday, July 17.

Mladinovic categorically rejected Karadzic’s claims that Serb doctors from the hospital where he worked left the city because they were victims of maltreatment by Bosnian government forces.

“We were united. It was a multinational hospital where all of us were antifascists,” Mladinovic said. Karadzic asked who he considered to be a fascist in the Bosnian war.

“We were fighting against a horrible aggressor who kept us under siege for 44 months,” the witness replied.
Witness Describes Months Under Sarajevo Siege

A prosecution witness told the trial of Radovan Karadzic that the military hospital where he worked in Sarajevo “was hit by all types of projectiles and bullets” during the 44-month siege of the city.

Milan Mandilovic, a physician who worked at the hospital from 1992 to 1995, said it was kept under artillery and sniper fire from the hills surrounding the city where Bosnian Serb forces were situated during the war.

“We did not have any doubts as to who was shooting at us. Those were the Serbian forces. We knew that because we observed the locations from which the firing came. (…) I do not believe the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ABiH, shelled the military hospital. It neither had the arms nor interest for that,” Mandilovic said.

Mandilovic told the court that the hospital was frequently deprived of water, gas, heating and electricity over the course of “the 44 frightful months while Sarajevo was under the siege”.

“The conditions were difficult. We lacked medications almost all the time while we also had to constantly reduce our expenditures although the number of patients was not reduced. Nevertheless, the hospital worked on the frontline for 24 hours a day during the course of 44 months. It never stopped working and it was always able to provide assistance to those who needed it,” he said.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment alleges that from April 1992 to November 1995 Karadzic participated in a sniper and shelling campaign targeted against the civilian population in Sarajevo with the primary goal of spreading terror.
Mandilovic said the Sarajevo citizens were exposed to “daily intensive terror spread by artillery and other weapons surrounding the city”. He believes the consequences of the siege can still be seen among the citizens.

“It is reflected in the constant anxiety and haste, in traffic for instance. You also notice frequent minor conflicts between people and you will realise it is not normal behaviour. The long siege has had its repercussions, not only physical but mental,” he said.

The examination of witness Momcilo Mandic, which lasted for more than 25 hours, was also completed at this hearing. The former minister of justice of Republika Srpska repeated his earlier statement that the RS judicial institutions prosecuted Serbs, during the course of the war, for crimes committed against Bosniaks and Croats.

“I know that one person was on trial and sentenced for war crimes committed in Zvornik. The person in question was the head of the Yellow Wasps paramilitary group. This was one of the first activities undertaken by the legal authorities against the paramilitary formations whose members did not want to be controlled by the authorities,” he said.

In February this year the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina pronounced a second instance verdict acquitting Mandic of crimes in Sarajevo and the Foca area.

The trial will continue on July 19.
Karadzic Witness Downplays Role of Central Govt

Momcilo Mandic told the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, that paramilitary formations were not controlled by the Serbian army or politicians in 1992, adding that the central government of Republika Srpska was not in charge of municipal crisis committees.

DENIS DZIDIC

On the ninth day of his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, Mandic said the Republika Srpska (RS) government tried to establish central authorities, not because it wanted to “legalise crimes”, but because it wanted to stop them.

“The government invested efforts in centralising the power, because a wide range of unlawful actions, particularly those related to the non-Serb population, were undertaken in the field. A proposal was made for abolishing crisis committees and autonomous regions in order to prevent those little dukes from forming their little armies, police forces and administrations,” Mandic explained.

Karadzic is on trial for genocide committed in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992 and in Srebrenica in 1995, as well as crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic, as president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, participated in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with members of Bosnian Serb state bodies at the regional, municipal and local level, with the aim of forcing Bosniaks and Croats to leave those territories.

Mandic, who is a former RS justice minister, said the RS government appointed a republic inspector in 1992 and tasked the person with “visiting the local authorities and checking the lawfulness of the work of local administrations in RS”.

After having been presented with a number of documents related to the work of “temporary collection centres” in Trnopolje, Keraterm and Omaraska, near Prijedor, Mandic said he knew that Karadzic sent an official note
Karadzic asked Mandic to confirm his allegations that the reception centre in Trnopolje was “of an open type”, but the witness was not able to answer the question.

“I do not know if it was an open or closed centre. This is the first time I have seen the document. Mr. President, these are military and police documents prepared back in 1993, so I do not know anything about them. However, if you have got any documents involving me as a participant or witness, I would like you to ask me about them. I have never seen these documents before. I feel useless,” Mandic said.

The Hague tribunal previously determined that Omarska, Keraterm and Trnopolje were detentions camps in which thousands of non-Serb civilians were detained, brutally mistreated, beaten, raped and tortured in 1992.

Judges approved an additional two hours for Karadzic to question Mandic, who will continue his testimony on July 16.
Karadzic: Mistakes Made in Organisation of SAOs

Republika Srpska’s former minister of justice testified at the trial of Radovan Karadzic that the Bosnian Serb government fought against the detention of civilians in Serbian autonomous regions, SAOs, in 1992.

DENIS DZIDIC

Momcilo Mandic blamed the SAOs, not the RS central government, for the arrests of civilians and said that is why they were abolished.

SAOs were established in the early stages of the war in Bosnia by Bosnian Serbs as self-governing districts.

“In my opinion, the SAOs came about as a result of mistakes in the organisation of the Serb republic, because we actually made small states with separate powers – executive, legislative and judicial. Naturally, well-oriented staff members made inappropriate decisions and had inappropriate positions, especially at the beginning of the war,” Mandic said.

He began his testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on June 30 this year.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska, RS, is charged with participating in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with members of the political and military leadership of the Bosnian Serbs, with the aim of deporting Bosniaks and Croats, as well as genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

The indictment alleges that starting in March 1992, Bosniaks and Croats living in municipalities controlled by Serbs were exposed to restrictive and discriminatory measures, groundless arrests, harassment, torture, rape, murder as well as the destruction of houses, cultural monuments and sacred buildings.

Karadzic, who was cross-examining Mandic, presented the witness with an order issued in July 1992 by which the indictee ordered the RS Ministry of Internal Affairs, MUP, to open investigations into war crimes committed by “paramilitary group members and criminals”.
“The police conducted investigations on the entire territory of the republic. After having completed the criminal procedure, they referred certain crimes to competent prosecutions for further processing. We are talking about investigations related to paramilitary formations, whose members, who were armed, came to Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the war, but, instead of participating in combat, they robbed people,” Mandic said.

Mandic said that the RS Justice Ministry proposed to the RS government in November 1992 to temporarily transfer war crimes cases from the military to the civilian judiciary, considering the fact that the military judiciary “was not properly organised or efficient”.

“Had they listened to my proposal there would have been far fewer crimes and offences. Had this happened, we would now be able to present to the honourable court the names of people who were on trial and the criminal sanctions pronounced against them,” he said.

Karadzic objected to Mandic’s statement, adding the Serbian military judicial authorities pronounced several hundred years of prison sentences against Serbs who were found guilty of crimes against Muslims and Croats, while the other side did not pronounce similar verdicts.

“I am not saying that no verdicts were pronounced, but I am talking about being self-critical. Had we started doing it earlier, fewer crimes would have happened. I am just talking about preventive activities. As far as the Muslim side is concerned, I really do not know about someone having been processed for crimes committed against Serbs,” Mandic said.

Mandic continues his testimony on July 15.
ICTY Witness: RS Govt Had No ‘Criminal Intentions’

The Republika Srpska government tried to employ members of all ethnic groups during the war, witness Momcilo Mandic said in his third week of testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

DENIS DZIDIC

Mandic, the former minister of justice in Republika Srpska, RS, said the government did everything in its power to prevent events that were detrimental to Serbs as well as Muslims and Croats, “in those difficult times when it was starting from scratch”.

“The government undertook measures in order to prevent violations of human rights and international norms, but this not being enough, you undertook some measures within your level of authority. (...) You issued an order on the way prisoners of war were to be treated. I consider this was a necessary step as the coordination with the field staff was poor at the time,” Mandic said, responding to Karadzic’s questions.

Karadzic, the former RS president and supreme commander of its armed forces, is on trial before the ICTY for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

He is charged with participation in a joint criminal enterprise, in collaboration with other Bosnian Serb leaders, with the aim of forcing Bosnian Muslims and Croats to leave the territories claimed by Serbs.

Mandic began his testimony on June 30.

He said the Serb government never had “criminal intentions”, adding that the local municipal authorities and crisis committees sometimes detained non-Serb women and children, but the RS government put an end to that practice by establishing the Central Commission for Exchange of Prisoners of War.

Mandic said the Justice Ministry made attempts to employ judges and prosecutors belonging to different ethnic groups for three months after the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
“The idea was resisted in some parts of the republic and even in the assembly, as some delegates expressed their dissatisfaction with my proposals and your endorsement of non-Serb officials. Certain appointments were even prolonged until we discussed the issue with those who objected to them and convinced them this was the way it should be done,” Mandic said.

Karadzic continues his cross-examination of Mandic on July 14.
Srebrenica: Genocide Reconstructed

In July 1995 Srebrenica was shelled and occupied by the Army of Republic of Srpska, VRS, despite being declared a protected area by the United Nations. More than 7,000 people were killed, the victims of genocide.

BY BIRN’S JUSTICE REPORT TEAM

Fifteen years later many of those accused of crimes at Srebrenica have appeared before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

BIRN Justice Report writers have gone through the verdicts and reconstructed the events of those days in 1995.

It began in March that year when the Supreme Command of the VRS issued a directive for further action – directive 7 – which developed the strategy regarding protected areas and the complete physical separation of Srebrenica and Zepa.

According to the directive, “planned and well thought out combat operations should create conditions of total insecurity, intolerance and lack of perspective for further survival and life for the inhabitants of Srebrenica and Zepa.”

Three months later, on July 6, the VRS attacked Srebrenica and intensive shelling followed. The target of the attack was the city itself, as well as the observation stations of the Dutch battalion of UNPROFOR.

On July 9, VRS Drina Corps penetrated four kilometers into the enclave, stopping only a mile from the town of Srebrenica. Later that day, Radovan Karadžić, President of the Republika Srpska (RS), encouraged by the military successes and the surprising lack of resistance of the Muslims and lack of significant reaction from the international community, issued an order granting the green light to the Drina Corps to capture Srebrenica.

Thousands of Muslims from Srebrenica began to flee to the Dutch battalion base in Potocari on July 10, desperately seeking protection. While the majority of women, children and old men fled to Potocari, men gathered in the surrounding villages later that night formed the column that moved in
the direction of Tuzla, which was under the control of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The column contained 10,000–15,000 men, some soldiers and some civilians. Only third were armed.

NATO forces began to bomb the VRS tanks advancing toward the city but stopped following threats that the VRS would kill Dutch troops and shell the base in Potocari.

**Destiny’s Decision**

The VRS took the protected enclave, including the town of Srebrenica, on July 11. Ratko Mladic, along with other generals, walked triumphantly through the empty streets celebrating the “victory”.

About 20,000–25,000 refugees were gathered in Potocari by the evening of July 11. About 300 men were inside the UN base while 600–900 others were crowded outside. The conditions were terrible with little food and water and searing July heat.

As the humanitarian crisis escalated in Potocari, Mladic and other VRS officers held meetings at the Hotel Fontana with members of the Dutch battalion and Muslim refugees to discuss the fate of Srebrenica.

On July 12, at the final meeting, Mladic promised that he would provide buses to transport refugees, and that Srebrenica inhabitants could choose whether they would go or stay. On the same day, the decision is made to separate Muslim men in Potocari and to kill them.

“You can survive or disappear. ... For your survival, I demand the following: that all of your men who attacked with weapons and committed crimes, and many did so, against our nation, hand over their weapons to the VRS ... after the surrender of weapons you can ... choose to stay on the territory ... or if that is appropriate, to go where you want. The desire of each of you will be respected,” said Mladic.

The fears of many Srebrenica inhabitants that they would not survive the next day came true.

Approximately 50 buses arrived in Potocari and members the VRS and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP RS) of RS started to separate men aged 15–65 from women, children and the elderly.

The men were taken to a building called “The White House” in Potocari. Before entering, they were forced to hand over personal documents which were then destroyed. Some were detained and then executed and
killed. Others were transferred by buses to different detention facilities in Bratunac.

The segregation of men continued throughout the night of July 12 by members of the Bosnian Serb forces. Some men were killed and women were raped.

On July 12 and 13, some of the men and boys who had gone through the woods to territory controlled by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina were detained in different locations. Some surrendered.

About 6,000 men were captured in the late afternoon of the July 13. The largest group was captured on the road between Bratunac and Konjevic Polje, where the forces of the MUP RS were deployed.

In the evening, MUP RS and the VRS, acting on the orders of Mladic, took the prisoners to a meadow at Sandic and a football pitch in Nova Kasaba. When the UN troops visited Srebrenica the next day they did not find a single Muslim alive.

On July 13, units of the Drina Corps were deployed in the area between Zvornik and Vlasenica and participated in the capture of Muslims who had surrendered. They took them – along with men from the Potocari – to temporary detention sites in Bratunac, Cerska and a warehouse in Kravica.

Muslim detainees were forced to surrender their property, including documents, wallets, watches and food. They were kept in cramped conditions, given just a little water and almost no food.

**The Killings**

The first major execution occurred in the afternoon of July 13 when about 150 Muslims were shot dead in the valley of Cerska, near the main road between Konjevic Polje and Nova Kasaba. On the same day, executions also started in the Sandici meadow and near the “Vuk Karadzic” school in Bratunac.

One of the biggest massacres of the Srebrenica genocide was committed in the late afternoon at the Farming Cooperative Kravica where earlier that day 1,000–1,500 Bosniaks were transferred from the Sandici meadow. In the evening, when the warehouse got crowded, the soldiers of the VRS and MUP RS dropped hand grenades inside and start firing at people.

The executions of prisoners in the warehouse continued in the early morning hours of July 14.
At the same time a meeting was held between members of the civil authorities and the VRS, where they discussed the unstable situation in Bratunac caused by the large number of prisoners. They also openly talked about the killing operation.

In the morning of July 14, the majority of Muslim men from Bratunac were transported by buses and trucks to Zvornik. The column was longer than a kilometre and a half. The men were detained at various locations. The largest concentration camps were in schools in Grbavci and Petkovci.

Prisoners in these areas underwent a brief but scary period of detention in an atmosphere of terror that was maintained by sporadic killings and beatings. With their spirit broken, men were taken to be shot in a field in Orahovac, at a dam in Petkovci and in a gravel pit in Kozluk.

On the early morning of July 14, a convoy of 30 buses arrived at a school in Grbavci near Orahovac where about 1,000 Bosniaks were located in the school gym. In the afternoon, the prisoners were transferred in groups from schools in Grbavci to nearby locations in Orahovac by a small truck. They were then taken to execution sites where they were lined up and shot in the back.

On the same afternoon, members of the VRS brought another large group of 1,500–2,000 prisoners from Bratunac to the school in Petkovci. Conditions were miserable. It was very hot and overcrowded, people were not given any food or water, and some prisoners were so thirsty that they drank their own urine.

Later that day, prisoners were put into smaller groups. They were told to take off their shirts and shoes, and their hands were tied behind their backs. The detained men were taken first to a nearby meadow to be shot, and then to the dam in Petkovci where about 1,000 were killed.

Members of the Zvornik Brigade of the VRS transferred about 1,000 men in schools in Rocevic near Zvornik. On the morning of July 15, several dead bodies lay around the school, and later that day most detainees were taken out and executed on the bank of the Drina River, near Kozluk. No one survived.

Members of the column of Bosniaks from Srebrenica – who had not surrendered or been captured – continued to move towards the territory controlled by the Army of BiH. When they came to the area controlled by the Zvornik Brigade there was heavy fighting.

On July 16, the men who were detained two days earlier at the school in the village of Pilica, north of Zvornik, were loaded onto buses with their
hands tied behind their backs. They were taken to the Branjevo Military Economy Farm where members of the VRS lined them up in groups of 10 and shot them. Between 1,000 and 1,200 people were killed. The members of the 10th Sabotage Detachment of the VRS were involved in the murders as well as members of the Bratunac Brigade, who arrived at the Economy Farm in the afternoon.

While the killings were carried out at Branjevo, a group of 500 men from Srebrenica detained in the House of Culture in Pištica tried to escape but failed. They were immediately executed with automatic weapons and hand grenades.

According to witnesses who were nearby, the noise caused by gunfire and grenade explosions lasted for 15-20 minutes. Members of the Bratunac Brigade of the VRS participated in these killings.

On July 16, while executions were still being performed in Pištica, a corridor several hundred meters wide was opened on the defensive positions of the VRS near Zvornik, allowing a significant part of the column of Bosniaks to move into territory controlled by the BiH Army.

After July 16, the murder of a small group of Bosniak men in the area of Kozluk and Nezuk continued. On that day, the burials began of murdered Bosniaks in mass graves.

A month and a half later, members of the VRS and MUP RS participated in an organised effort to hide the killings in the zones of responsibility of the Zvornik and Bratunac Brigades. They exhumed and re-buried the bodies from the original mass graves.

Fifteen years later, about 7,000 people from Srebrenica have been exhumed and identified. Some of the missing have never been found.
Karadzic Questions Witness on Paramilitary Formations

The former minister of justice of Republika Srpska, RS, told the trial of Radovan Karadzic that Bosnian Muslims began creating “paramilitary formations” as early as in 1991, adding they were armed by Croatia and Arab countries.

DENIS DZIDIC

Momcilo Mandic, in his fifth day of testimony at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, said he knew that Bosnian Muslims had more than 150,000 soldiers in “various paramilitary formations like the Green Berets or the Patriotic League” prior to the general mobilisation that took place in April 1992.

“The police knew about the activities related to the establishment of paramilitary units. Through the mobilisation process, the police forces were put under the command of the Territorial Defence. All military forces, including reserve and military forces and paramilitary formations became united,” said Mandic.

When asked by Karadzic whether arms were brought to Bosnia and Herzegovina with the help of people living in Arab countries in 1992, Mandic said he knew that arming and training of Bosnian Muslim reserve forces was organised with the help of the Zagreb Islamic Community in Croatia.

Hague prosecutors have charged Karadzic, the former RS president, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war, as well as participation in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of removing Bosnian Croats and Muslims from the territories claimed by Serbs.

During his cross-examination, Karadzic asked Mandic if the RS government had intended to remove Muslims and Croats from the territories claimed by Serbs. Mandic said he had never seen a document that would support the allegation, adding “there were no such attitudes”.

Mandic said the decision made by the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on complete mobilisation to be undertaken on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina on April 6, 1992, was proof of the “total failure of the republic”. 
“It clearly proves that the pressure applied by political parties caused the failure. By recruiting residents of other countries, members of the Party of Democratic Action divided the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The division was not caused by my letter of April 1, 1992 pertaining to the establishment of a Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs, although some people implied this was the reason,” Mandic said.

Mandic said that, “due to the decision on establishment of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, he was accused of war crimes in Sarajevo. The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina rendered a second instance verdict in February acquitting him of charges of crimes against humanity and crimes against civilians committed in Sarajevo and Foca during 1992.

“I am sure that the verdict of acquittal was passed down only because of the foreign members of the chamber,” Karadzic said, adding: “Serbs are dissatisfied with the work of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

Trial Chamber chairman O-Gon Kwon told Karadzic his comment was “totally inappropriate”.

Mandic will continue his testimony on July 13.
Karadzic Witness Says SDA Aimed to Create Armed Forces

Momcilo Mandic said the Party of Democratic Action, SDA, functioned in an unconstitutional and unlawful manner in 1992, adding it worked towards creating Muslim armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Responding to questions from Radovan Karadzic, Mandic, the former assistant minister for internal affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and later minister of justice of Republika Srpska, said the SDA did not respect the agreement concluded with the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS.

“As far as I know, president, you asked for the agreed concept for forming the government and governmental bodies, administration bodies, to be respected on several occasions. You are a rather quick-tempered man and your reactions can be boisterous, but no pressure was put on anyone to do anything beyond the inter-party agreement or law,” Mandic explained.

He began his testimony on June 30.

Karadzic, the former president of the SDS and Republika Srpska, is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on charges of genocide committed in seven Bosnian municipalities in 1992 and Srebrenica in 1995, as well as crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

Mandic said that he noticed at the end of 1991 and the beginning of 1992 that a huge number of Muslim and Croat military deserters who did not want to serve in the Yugoslav National Army were employed with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, MUP, of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He added that even some “volunteers, who could hardly speak the Serbian-Croatian language” were employed at the time.

“We met some people who did not know the language very well and they could not move around Bosnia and Herzegovina, but they were employed as reserve policemen. This generated fear and distrust among the MUP staff,” Mandic said.
The witness blamed the selective recruitment of staff upon Avdo Hebib, the then assistant minister of internal affairs for uniformed police forces, saying he worked “as per orders from the SDA party” and “against the systematization and law”.

“Hebib was creating parallel armed police forces. He activated reserve policemen and he armed Muslims and Croats who were reserve soldiers,” Mandic said.

Mandic said the behaviour of the Muslim population, under the leadership of the SDA, generated fear among the Serbian people, which resulted in the establishment of the Serbian People’s Assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbian municipalities and a Serbian board with the MUP of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Judge O-Gon Kwon admonished Karadzic, saying he had used about six out of the 20 hours approved for the cross-examination of Mandic and told him he should “concentrate on more relevant questions”.

“I am charged with a joint criminal enterprise. I do agree it existed, but it was not implemented by Serbs. We must prove what the challenges were and what threats Serbs faced. We must complete the mosaic showing who controlled the situation and wanted the war. Muslims and Croats created an illegal army,” Karadzic responded.

The next hearing will take place on July 8.
06.07.2010

Karadzic Witness: No Ethnic Cleansing by Bosnian Serb Govt

Momcilo Mandic testified at the trial of Radovan Karadzic that some individuals carried out ethnic cleansing of the non-Serbian population in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war, but that they did not do it on behalf of the Bosnian Serb government.

DENIS DZIDIC

Mandic, the former minister of justice of the RS, was continuing his testimony before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Mandic said the government of Republika Srpska, RS, was informed in the summer of 1992 that “ethnic cleansing of the Serb part of the Ilidza municipality was underway”.

“The government was informed that Nedeljko Prstojevic, president of the Serb municipality of Ilidza, fired some Muslim workers and did not guarantee their safety. I was tasked with talking to him. I told him to stop, because the legal state should not be blocked and people should not be fired just because they were not Serbs.

“I explained to him this was the government’s attitude and he could not ask for an ethnically clean state,” said Mandic on his fourth day of testifying at the ICTY.

Karadzic, the former RS president, is on trial for participation in a joint criminal enterprise with the aim of permanently removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from the parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina claimed by Serbs by committing genocide and crimes against humanity.

The indictment alleges that members of the Bosnian Serb leadership, the RS Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Republika Srpska Army and paramilitary units from Serbia took part in the joint criminal enterprise.

Mandic repeated an earlier statement that many members of Serbian paramilitary groups arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992. He added that Biljana Plavsic, former member of the RS Presidency who was sentenced
by the Hague tribunal to 11 years in prison, was responsible for their presence.

“Plavsic was not capable of performing her job. She performed it in an exhibitionist way. She wanted to become the people’s leader and become popular during the course of the war. She was like a bridge between Bosnian Serbs who participated in the war in Bosnia and those coming from other countries,” he said.

Prosecutors showed two recordings of meetings held between Karadzic and Plavsic on one side and Zeljko Raznatovic, known as Arkan, on the other. But Mandic said he could not comment on whether the recordings proved the support of Bosnian Serb leaders for paramilitary units.

Raznatovic, the former leader of the “Serbian volunteer guard” or the “Arkan’s Tigers” paramilitary unit, is mentioned in the indictment against Karadzic as a member of the joint criminal enterprise. He was indicted before the tribunal for murder, rape and other inhumane acts, but was killed in Belgrade in 2000.
Karadzic Trial: Witness Points to Biljana Plavsic

Momcilo Mandic has testified at the trial of Radovan Karadzic that Biljana Plavsic, a top wartime Bosnian Serb leader, had in some respects greater authority than the former Bosnian Serb president Karadzic.

Mandic, the former justice minister of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, said Plavsic was responsible for inviting paramilitary groups from Serbia to come to Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said they came to help “the Serbian people in their historic fight in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

“When there was nothing more to take away from non-Serbs, the group would rob Serbs. Police Minister Mico Stanisic wanted to put an end to this. I wanted the same,” Mandic said.

Radovan Karadzic is charged before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with participation in a joint criminal enterprise in collaboration with Bosnian Serb leaders and leaders of Serbian paramilitary forces and volunteer units from Serbia.

Prosecutors allege they shared a joint goal of permanently removing Bosnian Muslims and Croats from the parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina claimed by Bosnian Serbs.

Plavsic, the former president of Republika Srpska, was sentenced by the ICTY in 2003 to 11 years in prison for participation in the persecution of the non-Serbian population. Stanisic is currently on trial for participating in persecutions based on political, racial and religious affiliation. Both are mentioned in the indictment against Karadzic as participants in the joint criminal enterprise.

Mandic said that most paramilitary members were criminals, adding he therefore thought that by inviting those units Plavsic “violated justice and Republika Srpska legislation”.

“Biljana should have been dismissed and arrested. Had this been done, there would have been fewer people at The Hague now. Legalists should have been given an opportunity, instead of giving it to those who advocat–
ed for Serbs’ unity. (...) Plavsic is not a nationalist but an evil person who did that for personal reasons,” Mandic said.

Mandic also testified that the RS government received information about a large number of captured civilians and prisoners of war who were “not treated in line with the Geneva Convention on Human Rights Protection” in 1992.

“We received information from the field about individual cases of inhuman treatment of prisoners, both civilians and prisoners of war. In an attempt to establish a legal state, the government decided to form a commission. Its goal was to send some people to the field. Those people were supposed to check what was going on and inform the government and presidency so the situation could be improved and further violations of human rights avoided,” he said.

Karadzic is charged with the detention of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Croats in various buildings in which living conditions were such that they led to the physical destruction of those detained. This was done by cruel and inhumane treatment, which included torture and physical and mental abuse.

Mandic is to continue his testimony on July 6.
Witness: Effort to Stop Nationalists ‘Wishful Thinking’

The prosecution at the ICTY presented witness Momcilo Mandic with a number of recordings of intercepted conversations from 1991 in an attempt to show that Radovan Karadzic interfered in the placement of employees in the police forces.

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In most of the recordings Mandic recognised the voices of the people who were talking, including himself and Karadzic. The trial chamber agreed to consider the recordings as evidence despite the fact that the defence objected, arguing that the conversations were recorded illegally.

The intercepted recordings were also presented in some of the previous trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY. They were made by the secret police in Sarajevo in 1991.

While it could be heard from the recordings that Karadzic asked about certain people and positions, Mandic denied that Karadzic interfered, but noted that he did ask for certain people to be placed at certain positions inside the Bosnian Ministry of Interior.

Mandic claims that the reason for this was to make sure there was equal representation of Serbs in the police.

Mandic confirmed that he talked with Karadzic often at the beginning of the war. In one of the intercepted conversations one can hear Karadzic telling Mandic that they should talk daily.

In 1991, Mandic was elected deputy minister of interior of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Serb Democratic Party, SDS, (though he was not a member of the party). The interior minister at that time was Alija Delimustafic.

Mandic said that during one meeting, Delimistafic said police should make sure that all nationalist leaders were arrested, “including Radovan Karadzic, Alija Izetbegovic and Mate Boban”.

From 1991 until 1997, when he officially pulled out of public life under pressure from the international community in Bosnia, Radovan Karadzic
RADOVAN KARADZIC
WARTIME LEADER'S YEARS ON TRIAL

was president of the SDS. For most of that period, he was also the president of Republika Srpska, RS.

Alija Izetbegovic was the president of the predominantly Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) Party of Democratic Action, SDA, until his death in 2003, and the president of Bosnia during the war. Mate Boban was the wartime leader of the Bosnian Croats.

“We could not do that, for sure. Especially in the case of Izetbegovic who was legally elected president of the country. But we felt huge pressure from all of them in the Ministry. So, it was more like wishful thinking,” Mandic explained.

On March 31, 1992 Mandic signed and distributed a directive about the formation of the Serb Ministry of Interior inside of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mandic said that it was a decision made by the Assembly of Serb People that had been constituted three days earlier.

According to the indictment against Radovan Karadzic, from March 1992 until at least July 1996, Karadzic was “the highest civilian and military authority” in RS. According to the prosecution, Mandic was a member of the joint criminal enterprise, with Karadzic and other Bosnian Serb leaders, with the intention to permanently remove non-Serbs from part of Bosnia.

Mandic’s testimony, which started on June 30, will continue on Monday, July 5.
Karadzic’s Minister of Justice Takes the Stand

The minister of justice in Radovan Karadzic’s wartime government, Momcilo Mandic, began his testimony today at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and asked not to be called the prosecution witness but rather the court witness.

Mandic asked the trial chamber to give him the status of the court witness.

None of the sides complained, and the chamber accepted the witness’ request, reminding him that he must tell the truth.

The reason for this formal request by Mandic, as he explained upon entering the courtroom, was that he was considered by the prosecution as a person who helped wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic remain in hiding until 2008, when he was finally arrested.

Because of the prosecution’s suspicion that Mandic was aiding Karadzic, the EU and the US put Mandic’s name on a “black list” in 2003, restricting his ability to travel. Mandic is still on the list.

“My family and I, we went through years of suffering because of this... Even on my way to The Hague, I was stopped by the border police and held for over one hour,” Mandic said. “And as such, I have to give a testimony for the prosecution?!”

The Appellate Chamber of the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina acquitted Mandic on all charges for war crimes against civilians and crimes against humanity in February this year.

The trial chamber at the ICTY reminded Mandic that he had been subpoenaed by the court and is required to testify.

After Mandic was ordered to come to The Hague, the chamber issued an order for his safe travel during the period he is to testify at the trial of Radovan Karadzic.

In 1991 Mandic was appointed deputy minister of the interior of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1992 for a brief time Mandic was deputy to Mico Stanisic, the interior minister of the Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which later became Republika Srpska, RS.
On May 12, 1992, he was appointed minister of justice of RS and he served until November 1992, when he was appointed chief of the RS office in Belgrade.

The prosecution submitted Mandic’s earlier testimony, which was given in 2004 during the trial of Momcilo Krajsnik, the former speaker of the Republika Srpska Assembly who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for war crimes.

In the statement, which was partially read out in the courtroom, Mandic talked about ethnic division inside the police before the war, the arming of Serb officers and the opening of “collective centres or camps” for prisoners.

He said that Karadzic knew about the centres and that in at least one, women and children, as well as civilians were kept.

Mandic testified that in some cases prisoners were sent for forced labour.

He also said that one of the goals of the Serb government was the separation of Sarajevo along ethnic lines and that the way to achieve this was with war.

According to Mandic, Karadzic was “absolutely number one” in the RS, followed by Krajsnik.

Answering the questions of the prosecution, Mandic said that he met Karadzic for the first time in 1991 at the Sarajevo headquarters of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, when he was considered for a position in the Ministry of Interior.

The SDS was headed by Karadzic.

He also said that before the war, the Bosnian police had “about 2,000 more Serbs” than Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Croats, or any other group, explaining that the situation was due to the “lack of interest” for the job among other groups.

“There is a saying – a Serb goes gladly into the army (Rado ide Srbin u vojnik) – and police I have to add. It was like that back in 60s and 70s since many Serbs were living in a remote areas, working in the fields, and they used to go to the police or army to have a better life,” Mandic explained.

His testimony will continue on July 1.

Before Mandic was called into the courtroom, Karadzic submitted a motion asking for an “additional 3 to 4 days” to prepare for the cross-examination. The chamber has yet to decide on his request.
Karadzic Granted Additional Time for Protected Witness

After promising that he will make the rest of his cross-examination interesting even for the trial chamber, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was given an additional two hours with protected witness 185.

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The trial chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, originally limited Karadzic’s time for the cross-examination of a former member of the French Battalion with UNPROFOR in Sarajevo to five hours, but since he was not able to finish, they gave him additional time.

Previously the trial chamber criticised Karadzic for wasting his time with witnesses by asking irrelevant questions and giving open statements in the courtroom. Consequently, they decided to limit his time for cross-examination on a case to case basis.

The testimony of KDZ 185 is being conducted mainly in closed sessions. When the session is open, the witness’s voice and face are obscured.

For the second day in row, Karadzic’s line of questioning aimed at attempting to prove that Bosnian government forces attacked the civilian population in Sarajevo in order to achieve certain political or military goals.

As an example of one such incident, Karadzic described the massacre of June 1, 1993 in the Sarajevo neighbourhood of Dobrinja.

According to the indictment against Karadzic, on that day two shells were fired on a crowd of approximately 200 people who were watching and participating in a football game in a parking lot in Dobrinja. More than 10 people were killed and approximately 100 were wounded.

The prosecution claims that the origin of the shells was Army of Republika Srpska (VRS) “held territory approximately to the east-south-east”.

Karadzic claims that those who were wounded or killed on that day were soldiers.
He asked KDZ 185 to confirm his claims that the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ABiH, used to “from time to time” bomb “their own citizens and units”.

“Yes, indeed I can say that we did notice in a couple of cases suspicious sniper fire inside of the city, and maybe even from some other ammunition, the fire we suspected where it came from,” the witness answered.

Karadzic claimed that this kind of fire was used mostly during peace negotiations if they needed to be stopped or interrupted for any reason.

According to Karadzic, on the day when the massacre at Dobrinja was committed, the late Alija Izetbegovic, then President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was in New York where negotiations were being held.

“Serbs were ready for negotiations since we did not have any kind of interest in continuing with the war, we did not have any more ambition for more territory,” Karadzic said in the courtroom, but the witness could not comment on the claim.

Previously witness KDZ 185 said that Sarajevo was under constant fire from VRS positions.

The trial chamber announced the possibility that in the future hearings could be held from the morning until late afternoon but Karadzic objected, saying that his “biorhythm” is more effective in the afternoon.

Currently, hearings are held four times a week, with one week in the morning and the following week in the afternoon.

The cross-examination of witness KDZ 185 will continue on June 30.
Witness Testifies About Siege of Sarajevo

The prosecution at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has called a protected witness, a former member of the French Battalion with UNPROFOR in Sarajevo, whose testimony was conducted in large part in a closed session.

During the open part of the testimony the prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, read the statement given previously by the same witness and submitted it into the evidence. This was followed by a short period of questioning.

Witness KDZ 185 was in Sarajevo in 1993 where he witnessed the constant shelling of the city. According to his statement, about 1,200 shells were fired toward the city on a daily basis, often not targeting military targets.

The witness said that in this way the city was in a constant “state of terror”.

He also said that the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, held the city under siege.

According to the indictment, between April 1992 and November 1995, Karadzic “established and implemented a strategy that used sniping and shelling to kill, maim, wound and terrorize” the civilians of Sarajevo. Thousands were killed and wounded.

Karadzic, whose cross-examination of the protected witness also started today, complained about the measures given to protect the witness’ identity, saying that only victims should be given protection. He also said that he is afraid that the trial chamber will not get the right picture about Sarajevo.

“Most of the witnesses who have been in the courtroom up to now did not know what was going on in Sarajevo. Now we have here a witness whose job was to know what was going on and who was doing what,” Karadzic said.

He asked for five hours with this witness, and his cross-examination should end on June 29.
The prosecution asked that this witness be given protective measures and be examined in partly closed sessions. They also asked that he be cross-examined only on issues directly mentioned in his statement, and that a representative of the French government be present in the courtroom “in order to intervene should matters of national security arise”.

The witness previously testified at the trials of generals Momcilo Perisic, whose trial is ongoing and Stanislav Galic, who was sentenced to 30 years’ imprisonment for the siege of Sarajevo.
Mladic Diaries May Sway Several Hague Trials

If accepted as evidence, the notebooks will have a bearing on seven of the nine trials ongoing before the ICTY, starting with that of Mladic’s wartime colleague, Radovan Karadzic.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

The discovery of General Ratko Mladic’s wartime notebooks could have a potential impact on seven of the nine trials currently taking place before the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, Hague prosecutors say.

They have said they believe the 18 notebooks found in the apartment of Mladic’s wife, Bosiljka, in Belgrade, contain highly valuable information.

Source close to the ICTY prosecution told Balkan Insight that while the information discovered in the notebooks is not entirely novel, it is valuable because it offers further proof of certain claims that have been widely accepted in the past but not proven.

The prosecution believes the notes will have a bearing on the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and on those of the Serbian Radical Party leader, Vojislav Seselj, the former Serbian secret service chiefs Jovica Stanisic and Franko Simatovic, and the former Bosnian Serb police officials, Mico Stanisic and Stojan Zupljanin.

Prosecutors will also try to reopen the case against six former Bosnian Croats leaders that finished in May on the basis of Mladic’s written recordings of conversations with them.

The prosecution says the notebooks were among 169 items found last December and February in Mladic’s wife apartment. Beside the notes, audiotapes, video recordings, a computer memory stick, medical records and mobile phone SIM cards were sized and handed over to The Hague.

Dusan Ignjatovic, from the Serbian government’s National Council for Cooperation with the ICTY, told Balkan Insight that “whatever was found there was given to the Tribunal”.

He said the defence teams would probably query the authenticity of the notebooks. “I believe some defence teams will even deny it. But that’s only
what I suppose... our obligation was to deliver what we found and we’ve done that," he said.

Olga Kavran, Hague prosecution spokesperson, told Balkan Insight they had no doubts about the diaries’ authenticity. “The prosecution believes the notebooks are contemporaneous notes taken by General Ratko Mladic,” she said in a statement.

“Theyir authenticity has also been corroborated by General Manojlo Milovanovic, the former chief-of-staff and deputy commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, Main Staff, and a close associate of General Ratko Mladic... He has recognized the handwriting to be that of Ratko Mladic,” the statement added.

While some media and NGOs are sceptical about the notebooks, mainly because they say nothing about the mass killings that Mladic directed in Srebrenica, eastern Bosnia, in 1995, others say there is no doubt of their authenticity.

Faida Rahmanovic, reporter for the news agency SENSE, which covers the ICTY trials, dismisses the allegations made about them. “There is no room for doubts,” she said. “Firstly their authenticity was confirmed in Milovanovic’s testimony; he knew Mladic for more than three decades and who had more than one chance to see his handwriting.”

Further proof is to be found in the audio recordings, also available to the prosecution, she added; these also confirmed the authenticity of the notebooks.

Milovanovic testified before the ICTY on April 23 after being subpoenaed in the case against Stanisic and Simatovic. On being shown the notebooks in court, he said he recognized both the covers and Mladic’s handwriting.

The prosecution asked Milovanovic if VRS officers were required to keep diaries or journals during the war. “Such a thing was not ordered specifically but this is the training we received in military schools, that we were supposed to keep notes in notebooks,” he said.

“We did what basically anyone else would have in terms of keeping notes,” he added. “Each officer was issued with one notebook. When you opened it, on the front page you would probably find... the officer’s first and last name, and a registry number.

“When the notebook was used up you were supposed to return it to the office that issued it.”
He went to say that Mladic used to take notes during every meeting he attended. “When he was not speaking, he was constantly writing down what the others were saying.”

The prosecution is still translating the notebooks. However, parts of the material have been made public and published in Serbia in the last couple of weeks.

The prosecution has said that the materials they obtained includes notes from October 1992 on Mladic’s meeting in Hungary “with the delegation of Croatia and Herceg Bosnia”. The Bosnian Croatian delegation consisted of Jadranko Prlic, Bruno Stojic and Slobodan Praljak.

Mladic attributed to Praljak the statement that their goal was “the Banovina of 1939; if not we will continue the war”.

The Banovina was the autonomous Croatian entity inside Yugoslavia, created in 1939, which included most of present-day Croatia, a small slice of the northern Serbian province of Vojvodina and a significant portion of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to Mladic, Praljak also said: “The Muslims do not have any ammunition, and we are not going to give them any”.

At the end of October 1992, Mladic again met with Prlic, Petkovic, Prljak and Stojic and discussed worsening “Croat-Muslim tensions”, quoting Praljak as saying: “We are on the road to compelling [President of Bosnia and Herzegovina during war] Alija [Izetbegovic] to divide Bosnia”.

Mladic’s note from July 1993 is from a meeting with Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic. According to the note, Karadzic said: “Help the Croats in order to force the Muslims on division of Bosnia”.

During a meeting in February 1994, according to the Mladic notes, Prlic said: “The Muslims are our common enemies”.

Mladic made notes also about a meeting on 7 May 1992 with Momcilo Krajisnik, the former Bosnian Serb assembly speaker, sentenced in 2009 to 20 years’ prison, at which the strategic objectives of the Bosnian Serbs were discussed.

A note from 9 May 1992 from the meeting of the command of the 2nd Military District of the Yugoslav National Army, JNA, is found in which participants acknowledged that General Momcilo Perisic is “destroying Mostar”.

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A note from 13 and 14 December 1993 is about a meeting between a group of high military and civil officials on the implementation of strategic objectives where the importance of Sarajevo as a key to the war was discussed along with plans for its division.

Judge Patrick Robertson, in his latest report about completion strategy of the ICTY, delivered last week in the front of the UN security Council, stated that if they were accepted as evidence, the notebooks could affect ongoing trials.

“The possible impact of this development on the length of the affected trials cannot yet be assessed and the current assessments of the length of trials must be read with this factor in mind,” Robinson said, referring to the notebooks.

Under current plans, the ICTY is expected to finish work by 2014.

Defence teams involved in those cases in which the notebooks could be taken into evidence are reluctant to comment in this moment. As well as the prosecution, they are still in a process of reviewing the “new evidence”.

The final decision on the notebooks, and on whether the court will accept them as evidence, will be made by the Tribunal judges.
Karadzic Questions Credibility of Witness

On the last day of his cross-examination of General John Wilson, Radovan Karadzic questioned the credibility of the prosecution witness.

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Karadzic, the wartime leader of the Bosnian Serbs who is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, posed a number of questions that the witness could not answer.

General Wilson was not certain who the minister of defence in Bosnia and Herzegovina was in 1992, and he was unsure about some parts of Sarajevo and about the way the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina was organised in the city.

“Mr Karadzic, from my position I was not obliged to know everything, but to know how to find information that was needed, and that was my job. I did not know everything about every incident that happened, and it is true that many things were unclear, in gray areas in that conflict and it was impossible to attribute everything that was going on,” the witness said.

General John Wilson was a liaison officer in the UN monitoring peace-keeping mission in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina from for 10 months during 1991 and 1992. Later on, in 1993, he worked as a military adviser in the negotiating team headed by special envoys of the international community Cyrus Vance, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

After seven hours of questioning over a three day period the cross-examination of General Wilson is over.

During his cross-examination Karadzic was warned by the trial chamber several times about the way he asked questions and made statements. He has also been warned about his cross-examination method during previous cross-examinations.

The prosecution will call a protected witness for the next hearing on June 28.

After that, the next witness will be Momcilo Mandic, a former close associate of Karadzic and the minister of justice in his government in 1992 and
chief of the Office of Republika Srpska in Belgrade. Before the war Mandic was assistant minister of the interior of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While Karadzic was in hiding after the war, Mandic was suspected to be a part of the ring that was helping him and as a result in 2003 he was banned from travelling to the EU. Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade in 2008, while the ban on Mandic is still valid.

However, the Tribunal issued an order for safe conduct for Mandic during the period he will be in The Hague as a witness. The statute of the ICTY asks for cooperation from all the states “in the investigation and prosecution of the persons accused of committing serious violations of international humanitarian law” and to comply with orders issued by the Tribunal.

According to the order, safe conduct for Mandic is guaranteed from June 25 to July 3 on his travel from Serbia, where he now lives, to the Netherlands, meaning that “he cannot be arrested, detained, prosecuted or subject to any other restriction, whether physical or legal, of his personal liberty”.

Karadzic demanded that the ICTY order the lifting of the ban for Mandic completely, but the request was denied with the explanation that the Tribunal does not have the power to interfere in questions of EU policy.

In 2010, Mandic was acquitted of war crimes charges by the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Karadzic Discusses Mladic Threats with Witness

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, accused the prosecution witness of being biased when assessing the situation in Sarajevo in 1992.

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Apparently unsatisfied with the answers General John Wilson gave him during cross-examination, Karadzic asked the witness if he considers himself to be objective, claiming that Wilson has “prejudices” against Serbs.

“No. I have lot of sympathies toward all the people in the region and I believe that they are generally very good people. Unfortunately, some bad politics is what happened there,” Wilson replied.

Australian General John Wilson began his testimony on June 21.

Wilson held several different positions with the UN during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was responsible for the UN monitoring mission at the very beginning of the war in Sarajevo, where he was based until the end of June 1992.

He participated in different negotiations with military and civilian officials in Bosnia, including with Karadzic himself, as well as with General Ratko Mladic.

Both Karadzic and Mladic are indicted for crimes committed during the war in Bosnia, including crimes against humanity and genocide. Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade in 2008, while Mladic is still on the run. The ICTY prosecution believes he is hiding in Serbia.

General Wilson met Mladic on May 25, 1992 at the Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA, barracks in Lukavica on the outskirts of Sarajevo, during negotiations about the withdrawal of the JNA from the city. The witness testified that Mladic gave an ultimatum to the government in Sarajevo that he would “burn the city down” if any JNA soldiers were hurt or if anyone fired at the JNA.
The government in Sarajevo demanded that the JNA leave its heavy ammunition in Sarajevo.

Wilson said that he delivered Mladic’s ultimatum to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Karadzic claimed that Mladic made the statements only as a threat, but that he did not intend to bomb civilian targets in the city.

“He was very clear when he told me this,” Wilson replied firmly. “And I believe that three days later he made his words into actions.”

On May 28, 1992, Sarajevo was heavily bombed from the hills around where the Bosnian Serb army held positions. According to the Karadzic indictment, a number of people were killed and wounded due to bombardment. Some buildings in the city were burned down and others heavily damaged.

“My experience with Mladic is that he carried out his threats,” the witness said.

Karadzic will have two more hours with this witness, which are scheduled for June 23.
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Karadzic Cross-Examination
Time Limited

The trial chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has decided to limit the time Radovan Karadzic has for cross-examination of prosecution witnesses.

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The chamber will decide on the time Karadzic can spend on cross-examination “from case to case” and inform him in advance of the decision.

Karadzic objected, saying that his problems were witnesses who acted in the name of the prosecution.

“Donia is one of them who created the misconception that the prosecution has a case against me. They don’t. But he was fighting with all his power to prove that,” Karadzic said, referring to the witness Robert Donia, an American historian who testified about the strategic goals of some of the Bosnian Serb forces during the war.

The prosecution indicted Karadzic, the wartime leader of the Bosnian Serbs, for his role in the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. He is accused of a number of crimes committed against the Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) and Bosnian Croat population, including genocide.

Among other things, Karadzic is accused for the siege of Sarajevo, which started in April 1992 and saw the constant shelling and sniping of civilians in the city.

Australian General John Wilson, a prosecution witness who began his testimony today, was a liaison officer in the UN monitoring peace-keeping mission in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina in early 1992. He was responsible for 300 – 400 monitors. In the first year of war he took part in the negotiations to open the Sarajevo airport, lift the siege and evacuate the JNA barracks.

Until December 1993, General Wilson worked as a military adviser in the negotiating team headed by special envoys of the international community Cyrus Vance, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.
Wilson said that the UN monitoring team was given the task to observe the situation and report about it to the UN headquarters. He was based in Sarajevo from March–June 1992. That period, Wilson said, was a time of heavy fighting and shelling of civilian targets in the city.

“The city was exposed to almost constant artillery fire that lasted sometimes over 16 hours...The fire was targeted toward the city and almost exclusively was coming from Serb positions around the city,” Wilson said. He added that he had previous experience as a soldier in wars in Vietnam and Lebanon, but had never witnessed anything like the siege of Sarajevo.

“Not even one of those previous experiences could be compared to the intensity of fire in Sarajevo back in 1992,” Wilson said.

According to the general, UN monitoring teams could go through the city but only in armoured vehicles, which were often under fire “coming from all sides”.

He testified about heavy artillery that was used against civilian targets, “without selection”. According to Wilson, “presidency forces” in the city were not strong enough to resist this fire. He defined the “presidency forces” as “joint Muslim and Croat forces that fought inside the city”.

“I have to say that back at that time many Serbs were also part of the presidency forces,” Wilson explained. According to the general, Serb forces from the hills around Sarajevo had “more than 200” pieces of heavy artillery while the “presidency forces” had about 10.

His definition of “Serb forces”, given in cross-examination, is that they were led by General Ratko Mladic and recognised Karadzic as their leader.

In May 1992, Wilson met with General Mladic on several occasions while negotiations about the evacuation of the Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA, from the city were ongoing. Mladic later became the chief commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS.

Mladic demanded the free passage of all the JNA forces without any conditions, while the Bosnian Presidency demanded that they leave part of their weapons before leaving the barracks. Mladic give an ultimatum on May 25, saying that if the JNA were not entirely evacuated from the city, his forces would start heavy attacks. After this ultimatum, on May 28, the city of Sarajevo was once again attacked.

“The attack started around 5 pm and lasted until about 1 am. It was severely heavy shelling, targeted mostly toward the city centre,” General Wilson said.
According to the indictment against Karadzic, on May 28, 1992, the city of Sarajevo was heavily shelled, “damaging and destroying civilian targets, causing the deaths of several civilians and injuring others”.

Karadzic asked the witness to confirm that the army in Sarajevo provoked fire from the Bosnian Serb positions around the city. Wilson said that he was aware of these kinds of incidents when he was visiting the house of Presidency.

“It was successful provocation since every time it resulted in strong fire from the other side,” Wilson said.

Karadzic claimed that there were “more than 300 legitimate targets” in the city in 1992, but the witness said that he was not aware of this.

Karadzic also asked the witness if he was aware of the difference between the JNA and VRS forces.

“I was never convinced that the JNA pulled out... The level of organisation and capabilities of VRS was very high and it showed a presence of some organised force... It was a military machine,” said Wilson.

According to Karadzic, JNA pulled out from Bosnia by May 20, 1992, and VRS was formed on May 12 the same year.

Karadzic also asked if Wilson was aware that he had done his best to take care of civilians in a war, but the witness replied that he was not aware of this.

“Many times when we were talking with you about war and civilians, you were telling us that your forces were provoked or that you are fighting for the Serb people... You have never denied targeting civilians...,” Wilson said.

Karadzic also asked Wilson if he was aware that the VRS was fighting only to protect the Serb population in Sarajevo, while the “Muslim side” wanted to have all of Sarajevo. The witness answered that the Bosnian Government in Sarajevo wanted to keep Bosnia together and that they clearly stated that goal.

The trial chamber limited Karadzic to seven hours for the cross-examination of this witness.

General Wilson’s testimony will continue on June 22.
Military Expert Concludes Testimony at Karadzic Trial

On the second day of the cross-examination of military expert Richard Philips, Radovan Karadzic again presented various documents in an effort to prove that the Sarajevo Romanija Corps was not as strong as described in Philips’ report.

Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader who is indicted for war crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during three and half years of war, aimed to show that the Sarajevo Romanija Corps, SRC, part of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, was not an “armed military force”, but “just people who defended themselves”.

“It was only people from the neighbourhood who were called to the army. It was not a corps that functioned perfectly, but it had lots of issues to deal with,” Karadzic said.

Karadzic is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Philips is a military expert who worked for the prosecution and who analysed the structure of the SRC, which kept Sarajevo under the siege. Philips claimed that the Corps was well organised and that the chain of command functioned very well.

He made diagrams showing the structure of the SRC which were entered as evidence by the prosecution on June 15, the first day of his testimony.

The cross-examination of Richard Philips was concluded today. On June 21 the prosecution will call a new witness, John Wilson, who served as a senior military liaison for different organisation during 1992, and was based in Sarajevo. He will testify about events in Sarajevo in May and June 1992 and his meetings with the accused and others during that period.
Prosecution Calls New Witness at Karadzic Trial

The prosecution has called its next witness at the trial of Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic, military analyst Richard Philips, to testify about the Sarajevo Romanija Corps of the Army of Republika Srpska.

Sarajevo Romanija Corps, SRC, held the Bosnian capital under siege from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic, who is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, is indicted, among other things, with the siege of Sarajevo during which the civilian population was exposed to a constant sniping and bombing campaign.

Philips was an intelligence officer with the British Army, and served as well as in the NATO-led Stabilisation Force, SFOR, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the war, he worked for the prosecution in The Hague for whom he analysed, as it was explained in the courtroom, about 50 documents related to the SRC in order to explain the structure of the Corps.

Previously, Philips testified at the trial of Stanislav Galic, a former commander of the SRC, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2006.

Philips explained that the documents he analysed were mostly orders and manuals used by the Corps, adding that he avoided analysing documents on the fighting itself, concentrating only on the command chain and structure in the SRC.

According to his analysis, the Corps was formed based on principles used by the Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA.

He also said that he concluded, based on documents and analysis, that SRC had a stable command chain, and that activity reports were submitted regularly to command and well as to the Main Staff of the VRS.

“The chain of command was effective and reports about activities, as well as orders that were issued, were regular,” he said.
The prosecution spent less than an hour with the witness and Karadzic then began his cross-examination. For this witness, Karadzic requested the assistance of Radovan Radinovic, whom he introduced as a “retired general who will help me with the military questions”.

Karadzic started with questions about Philips’ education and why he decided to work for military intelligence. He asked who is today considered to be the enemy of the British Army, and if Karadzic himself is seen as an enemy.

“I really cannot answer that question,” Philips said, adding that he retired in 2006.

During the cross-examination, Karadzic attempted to get confirmation from the witness on claims that the SRC was not well organised, that soldiers were underequipped, not trained, that they did not have proper facilities and that the VRS was made of “armed people” who organised themselves “in neighborhoods” as defence against Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina attacks.

“I do not believe I have ever claimed that everything went smoothly in SRC. But, the chain of command did exist and functioned well... They had capacity to issue orders and to control the situation, and to solve problems they had so conditions for the soldiers improved with time. In my opinion, it was a well managed organisation,” Philips replied.

Radovan Karadzic asked for 20 hours with this witness. The trial chamber found his request “not realistic” and they limited his cross-examination to five hours.
Karadzic Completes Donia Cross-Examination

After more than twenty hours, Radovan Karadzic has completed the cross-examination of American historian Robert Donia.

Karadzic characterised Donia’s testimony as unprofessional, biased and political, and at the end of the hearing he asked the Trial Chamber for another 19 hours to cross-examine Donia or to “fully discard” his testimony “as generalized”.

The Court rejected this request.

“You would like me to say that Serbs are as pure as snow and victims of aggressive behavior of others. I certainly did not speak in the way you want me to. At this moment I do not have the intention to change my report,” Donia said.

Upon the request of the prosecution, Donia compiled three reports for the trial analysing Radovan Karadzic’s activities and those of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, which he led during the war in Bosnia.

Karadzic was the wartime leader of the Bosnian Serbs. In 1995 he was charged for crimes committed during the war, including genocide in 8 municipalities, as well as crimes against humanity, violation of the laws and customs of war, the shelling and sniping campaign of Sarajevo and holding UN personnel hostage.

Donia, a prosecution witness, began his testimony on May 31.

Responding to the indictee’s questions on the activities of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ABiH, in Sarajevo, Donia said he knew that operational ABiH staff “were hiding gunpowder in oxygen containers taken from the hospital for months” and that soldiers were armed with guns sent from Islamic countries.

“Many Serbs left Sarajevo with the increase of shelling and sniper fire, while some Serbs were killed by paramilitary groups in Sarajevo. For instance, paramilitary groups captured and killed a certain number of Serb civilians in Pofalicka Street,” Donia said.
When asked by Karadzic whether “the Patriotic League” had 120,000 armed members prior to April 1992, Donia could not give an answer, but he said that “the number of paramilitary soldiers was inflated over time”.

Questioning the witness about the beginning of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Karadzic said that armed forces came from Croatia to Bosanski Brod on March 25 and 26, 1992 and killed a number of Serb civilians in the town of Sijekovac.

“I am not sure if this was a unit or a column of people, but I certainly know about the events that took place in Sijekovac. You are absolutely right. It was a brutal massacre. The event disturbed the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to a large extent,” Donia said.

Donia said that members of the Serbian Democratic Party “stopped participating in the work of joint institutions of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina” at the beginning of 1992.

“You asked me whether you worked together and cooperated with the others in January 1992. According to my interpretation, although the SDS members mainly stayed in the government bodies – the Presidency and the Bosnia Assembly, they did not continue to work together and cooperate with members of other ethnic groups,” the witness said.

The next hearing is due to take place on June 15, when military expert Richard Phillips will begin his testimony and speak about the structure and organisation of the Romanija Corps of the Republika Srpska Army.
Karadzic Cross-Examination of Historian Continues

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, again today showed documents he considers relevant to prove that his intention was to avoid war.

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Karadzic asked Robert Donia, an American historian with expertise in Bosnia, to identify and comment on a document entitled “What is the Serb proposal?”, which Karadzic considers to be very important.

Donia, who drafted an expert report for the prosecution about the activities of Karadzic and the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, before and during the war, said that he had not seen the document before but did not find it relevant.

“This is an official platform for the resolution of the crisis,” Karadzic insisted.

“I do not know if SDS achieved any kind of agreement with anybody on this document,” Donia said.

Karadzic replied that the document was “put aside” after the Muslim Bosniak Organisation, MBO, a party formed in 1990 in Sarajevo by Adil Zulfikarpasic and Muhamed Filipovic, came out with the proposal for an “historic agreement”.

Karadzic called the “historic agreement” the one that was reached in fall of 1991 by MBO and SDS, under the patronage of Belgrade, according to which Bosnia was to remain part of Yugoslavia.

Again today Karadzic read aloud his own words from intercepted conversations and transcripts from meetings held before the war, with the apparent aim of proving his peaceful intentions.

He once more addressed the sessions of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliament in October 1991, when the decision was made by the majority of MPs to proclaim sovereignty. Some of the Serb majority parties, led by the SDS, objected and soon formed their own assembly of Serb People.
While the trial chamber said yesterday that Karadzic had to finish his cross-examination of Donia by the end of today, he has been given one more day in the courtroom with this witness.

The accused said that he has finished his questions covering the period before New Year’s Day 1992, and that he has a whole set of questions on what happened before the war started in March 1992.

Karadzic is indicted for a number of crimes committed in Bosnia during the war, including genocide and crimes against humanity against Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

His cross-examination of Donia started on May 31.

The next hearing is scheduled for June 10.
ICTY To Limit Karadzic Cross-Examination of Donia

After six days of cross-examination, the trial chamber at the ICTY has decided to limit Radovan Karadzic’s time for questioning American historian Robert Donia.

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The trial chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, said that Karadzic did not use his time effectively, claiming that he asked open-ended questions too often, gave comments and read unnecessary parts of documents.

“You have to finish with this witness tomorrow at which point you will have had more than 18 hours of cross-examination time,” the chamber told Karadzic, who had asked for 40 hours with Donia, a prosecution witness.

Karadzic objected, saying that the chamber’s decision would put his case in jeopardy because he would not have enough time to examine the witness, who is “avoiding my answers and who is obviously biased”. Karadzic said that he considers Donia to be one of the most important witnesses in the trial.

The chamber has warned Karadzic over the same issue previously, telling him that the judges might limit his time with future witnesses if he does not start using his time in a more effective way.

Radovan Karadzic was the wartime leader of the Bosnian Serbs and founder of the Serbian Democratic Party. He is indicted for a number of crimes committed in Bosnia during the war, including genocide and crimes against humanity against Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

As part of the sixth day of cross-examination, Karadzic reflected on his speech to the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 1991. The speech was previously presented as evidence by the prosecution. Karadzic read parts of the text, stressing that it was a peaceful document.

In the speech, given after the majority of MPs accepted Bosnia’s declaration of sovereignty, Karadzic talked about the existing threat of war, saying that it could take all of the people of Bosnia, but mostly Muslims, on a road to hell.
“I beg you to take seriously the will of Serbian people. What you are doing is not good... Muslim people will not be able to defend themselves if it comes to war here,” Karadzic read parts of the speech.

“I find this speech to be passionate and a form of war mongering... I can feel the same passion today as you read this speech,” Donia said. “There is no doubt that you believed and that you still believe what you said.”

Later in the day Karadzic read several transcripts of intercepted conversations between him and his friends and colleagues in an apparent attempt to prove that his intentions were to keep Yugoslavia together and peaceful, and that Muslims, led by Alija Izetbegovic, were those who provoked the war.

One of the transcripts was from his conversation with Serbian writer and a personal friend of Karadzic, Gojko Djogo, in which Karadzic said: “They are preparing for the war.”

Donia refused to interpret the transcripts as proof of Karadzic’s intentions to maintain peace, saying that some of the things he said while talking to Djogo were predictions of apocalyptic war.

“It is true that I predicted the war and that I said if there will be the war, it will be the hardest for Muslims. And that is how it was. They had to fight with Serbs, with Croats and with Abdic forces,” Karadzic replied.

Fikret Abdic was the leader of anti-government forces in the north of Bosnia who fought alongside the Bosnian Serb army.

“This intercepted conversation shows that you spoke as a man who has everything in his hands. You are saying that you will let Muslims try to find the exit, and if they don’t they will face destruction. You hold the questions of peace and war in your hands,” Donia said.

Karadzic insisted that his claims were that Serbs were in danger because of the decision to declare independence, which was made mostly by Muslim and Croat representatives in the Bosnian parliament in 1991.

He described the move as an attempt to put Serbs back in the time of the Ottoman Empire, adding that he was not powerful enough to control 2.5 million Serbs.

Donia disagreed, saying: “Yes, I do believe you were powerful enough within the Serbian Democratic Party and between those who followed you and the party.”

Karadzic’s cross-examination of Donia will continue on June 9.
Karadzic Continues to Discuss Pre-War Period

On the fifth day of cross-examination of American historian Robert Donia, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic talked about his party’s goal of keeping Bosnia and Herzegovina within Yugoslavia.

Karadzic claimed that all that his Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, wanted for Bosnia and Herzegovina was for it to remain part of the Yugoslav federation. According to him, they wanted “only” to change the borders of the municipalities within the country itself.

Donia, a prosecution witness, did not agree with this claim, and said that the SDS goal of changing municipality borders was based on ethnic premises and did not have any support in terms of economic development.

Radovan Karadzic is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, where he is indicted for war crimes, including genocide, committed from 1992 to 1995 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the war, about 100,000 people were killed and some 2 million became refugees and displaced persons.

Karadzic again tried to discuss the distant past, asking Donia to confirm that “Serbs considered Yugoslavia to be home from 1918” and posing related questions about the history of the region.

The accused asked Donia to confirm his claims about the impact that the war in Croatia had on Bosnian Serbs in particular, making them feel insecure and threatened. The witness did not entirely agree, saying that it had an effect on all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Serbs.

At the beginning of the fifth day, Karadzic asked the witness to go through a number of papers he gave him, with the intention “to agree on the facts”. Donia looked at the papers in the courtroom, but said that most of the information was related to specific documents and adopted decisions, and that he could not give his opinion if the original documents were not presented to him.
Karadžić persisted, claiming that agreeing upon these facts would help the witness and himself go back home “as soon as possible”.

The prosecution will consider the documents presented in the courtroom today.

Cross-examination of Robert Donia will continue on Tuesday and Wednesday.
Judges Warn Karadzic Again on Use of Time

The trial chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia warned Radovan Karadzic yet again about “wasting court time”, as his cross-examination of an American historian continues.

The chamber similarly warned Karadzic on 28 May, saying that he must examine witnesses and not give statements and speeches. Judges told Karadzic that if he is not careful enough about how he runs his cross-examination in this respect, they will be forced to limit his time with the witnesses.

Radovan Karadzic is accused of crimes, including genocide, committed during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the war he was the political leader of the Bosnian Serbs and supreme commander of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS.

Karadzic is indicted on charges that he, together with a group of other people, constructed a joint criminal enterprise with the intention to destroy Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat communities.

The current prosecution witness Robert Donia, whose testimony began on 31 May, at the request of the prosecution made a report analysing the six strategic goals upon which he says the Bosnian Serbs acted during the war.

Donia called one of the methods used to implement these goals “the municipality strategy”, which included a “regionalisation programme”. This, he explained, meant the separation of the existing municipalities and the formation of associations of municipalities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina before the war had 109 municipalities that were defined, according to Donia, mostly on an economic basis.

Karadzic tried to dismiss Donia’s theory. He claimed that some regions, which he called Serb regions, were intentionally less developed than others, and that the Serbian Democratic Party, which he founded and led, intended to make them equal.
Donia repeated several times that no national key was used to make municipality borders and that the claims about some regions being less developed than others was not entirely accurate.

“But, what you did at the beginning of the nineties, pushed economic development of the whole country 50 years back, destroying the economy almost completely,” Donia said.

At the beginning of the fourth day of cross-examination of the witness, Karadzic posed a number of questions about his own biography. He asked the witness if he knew about his past in Montenegro, where he was born, and about his and his family’s friends and personal connections.

“Did you know, Professor Donia, that my father had a best friend who was an Albanian Muslim... that our first neighbour in Niksic was Muslim...that all of my personal contacts in Sarajevo were with Muslims. My dentist, my lawyers, my professors, my mentors... all were Muslims. As a matter of fact, the last time I got a haircut in Sarajevo was at Meho’s in 1992,” Karadzic said.

Donia replied that he had no reason not to believe those claims, adding that before the war questions of nationality were not important in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that Karadzic probably did not look for the Muslims, but that it was just by chance that most of the people who surrounded him were Muslims.

Karadzic’s cross-examination of Robert Donia will continue next week, from Monday to Thursday.

The prosecution started presenting evidence on 13 April and has thus far called eight witnesses to the stand. The prosecution has announced that it will call 400 witnesses total.
Karadzic Questions Witness on Causes of War

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, on trial at the UN war crimes court, today in cross-examination questioned prosecution witness Robert Donia about the causes of the Bosnian war.

Karadzic addressed topics dating back to WWII and the period of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, SFRY. He discussed the way SFRY was created and later on, deconstructed. He claimed that the questions were relevant as they helped establish the causes of the war.

Karadzic is indicted for war crimes committed in Bosnia, including genocide and crimes against humanity, during the country’s war in the 1990s. He allegedly formed a joint criminal enterprise in order to “permanently remove Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats from the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

Donia, an American historian, agreed with Karadzic’s statement that nationalist parties were formed before the war, or before the elections in 1990, though not officially since such a practice was forbidden by law.

Karadzic also claimed that the results of the first democratic elections in Croatia, won by the Croatian Democratic Union, HDZ, were a reason for Serbs in both Bosnia and Croatia to fear for their survival. Donia did not agree fully with Karadzic’s claims.

Karadzic told the witness that before becoming a leader of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, he was an active supporter of the ecological movement in Bosnia.

Asking about the situation before the war in Bosnia, Karadzic, who founded the SDS, claimed that most of the Serbs in 1990 voted for the party. Donia disagreed.

“Many Serbs did vote for other parties, socialist, reformist, and you complained about that before the war in your interviews,” Donia said.

Out of 240 seats in the Bosnian Parliament for that election, 86 were won by predominantly Serb parties, including 83 by the SDS.
Led by the SDS, the Bosnian Serbs formed the Bosnian Serb assembly in October 1991, then established a separate entity which was later named Republika Srpska. At approximately the same time, Bosnia's multiethnic parliament adopted a declaration on independence, a move which was not supported by many Bosnian Serbs.

In the courtroom, Karadzic claimed that the declaration of independence violated the Constitution, but Donia said he could not comment on that.

“I told you that I am not a constitutional expert. What I can say is that the argument about something being against the constitution was often used back then by all the parties. The same argument was used by Bosnian Croats and Muslims against mobilisation in September 1991, during the war in Croatia.

However, they said this without consulting the constitutional court or any expert in the field. You are trying to do the same with me and I do not want that,” Donia said to Karadzic.

Cross-examination will continue on 3 June. Hearings will now be held four days a week.
Prosecution Witness Testifies on Bosnian Serb Strategy

On the second day of Robert Donia's testimony at the trial of Radovan Karadzic before the UN war crimes tribunal, the historian and prosecution witness gave more details about the strategy employed by Bosnian Serb politicians in order to achieve their wartime goals.

The prosecution’s expert witness, American historian Robert Donia, said that based on research he has conducted, Bosnian Serb politicians had a strategy they followed in order to achieve six strategic goals related to the division of Bosnia and Herzegovina along ethnic lines.

This strategy, according to Donia, was expressed in different speeches and statements by Bosnian Serb politicians, including their wartime leader Radovan Karadzic, who is indicted for crimes committed in Bosnia between 1992 and 1995, including genocide.

Donia testified about the six strategic goals on his first day in the courtroom, 31 May.

Donia said that the strategy had two elements, one a public component related to state-building that began in October 1991 and involved the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, led by Karadzic, the other what Donia called “the municipality strategy”, which started in January 1991.

The first phase of the second element was a “regionalisation programme”, which considered the separation of the existing municipalities and the formation of associations of municipalities.

“The borders were not changed at that moment, but municipalities were joined together in one body,” Donia explained.

The revision of existing municipality borders began in mid October 1991 after the elected multinational Bosnian Parliamentary Assembly adopted a declaration on the proclamation of independence, which most Bosnian Serbs rejected.

“From that moment on, the SDS started making plans for their future steps, a phase that lasted until April 1992,” Donia testified.
The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina started between the end of March and the beginning of April 1992.

The prosecution showed a speech by Radovan Karadzic given in October 1991 at the Bosnian Parliament, during which he expressed his rejection of the proclamation of independence.

“Partly in this speech he is not threatening, but rather asking, but in the second part he expressed some declarations and used some phrases that were seen as a threat by some,” Donia testified.

After the session in October, the SDS called other Serb majority parties represented in the Parliament to create a Bosnian Serb Assembly, which was followed by the proclamation of a separate Serb state and finally the adoption of a constitution.

According to Donia, from 19 December “the municipality strategy” had new instructions which Bosnian Serb leaders distributed to municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. One of the directions was to transfer all the municipality powers to local SDS leaders who were later given civil and military functions.

Donia testified that SDS leaders mentioned the use of violence as one of the methods to achieve their goals, even in the preelection period in 1990, but that those threats became more widespread from September 1991. His conclusions are based on intercepted conversations between leaders, which Donia has seen, but also on media reports he read during his research.

After two days of prosecution examination, Radovan Karadzic began to cross-examine Donia on Tuesday, noting that he is one of the “favourite prosecution witnesses”. Karadzic asked him how much money he received for his testimony and the report he prepared, but the trial chamber found the question irrelevant for the case.

Karadzic continued with a number of historical questions going back to 1915 and 1918, as well as questions about the language spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The cross-examination will continue on 2 June.
Robert Donia, an American historian, has begun testifying in the ninth week of the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader.

Two years ago, Donia, a specialist in the history of South East Europe, with expertise in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslavia, submitted a report at the request of the Prosecution, on the Strategic Goals of Bosnian Serbs during the war.

Radovan Karadzic, who was the Bosnian Serb leader during the war, is indicted for war crimes, including genocide, committed from 1992 to 1995.

According to the Prosecution, Strategic Goals were adopted by the Parliament of the Serb people in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12 May, 1992 to define the aims they would fight for.

The goals included: separation of ethnic communities in the country, establishment of the borders of “the Serb people’s territories”, between the Drina, Una and Neretva rivers, erasing the Drina river as the border between the Serb part of Bosnia and neighboring Serbia.

One of the goals was the division of Sarajevo.

Donia argues that the Bosnian Serbs stated these goals even before they were officially adopted by the Parliament, in speeches given by Karadzic and other Bosnian Serb officials.

The witness also explained that Bosnia and Herzegovina before the war was divided in 109 municipalities, and that these divisions were not made along ethnic lines.

“Mostly, divisions were done according to economic units,” Donia said.

However, in the summer 1990 election campaign, Serb and Croat nationalists used these divisions to claim the inequality of one group over another, he said.

“For Serb nationalists, these claims were becoming part of their nationalist program,” Donia said, adding that it is almost impossible to say which ethnic group was in a majority in any part of Bosnia “especially Sarajevo”.
Radovan Karadzic requested 30 hours to question this witness. If this is granted by the trial chamber, Donia’s testimony may last two weeks.

Before the start of Donia’s testimony, Karadzic finished cross-examining Sky News war correspondent Arnout Van Lynden, during which Karadzic repeated accusations about biased reporting by international media during the war in Bosnia.

At the end of his questioning, Karadzic asked Van Lynden for his opinion on the claim that the international media portrayed Serbs in a more negative context than they deserved during the war.

“You are asking for my impression, Mr Karadzic, even though you previously said that you do not want to hear that? I think that Serbs are the only ones to be considered responsible for the image they got in western media who reported about Bosnia,” Van Lynden said.

At the end of his testimony, Van Lynden expressed concern for witness rights in war-crimes cases, saying that he knows that some witnesses at this trial have come and have been sent back home more than once before giving testimony and that this can be viewed as unjust, bearing in mind the pressures to which witnesses are exposed.

The next hearing is scheduled for 1 June.
Karadzic Warned on Cross-Examination Method

The trial chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has warned Radovan Karadzic that he should use his time for cross-examination in a more effective way or the judges will intervene.

Presiding judge O-Gon Kwon told Radovan Karadzic that his method of witness examination is unlikely to be effective, as he wastes too much time reading various documents, giving statements and asking witnesses questions they cannot answer.

“The chamber is worried about how you use your time,” the judge said, warning Karadzic that if he does not take this into consideration the trial chamber will have to impose certain measures, including limiting his time for cross-examination.

Karadzic, wartime Bosnian Serb leader indicted for crimes committed from 1992 to 1995, including genocide, today finished four days of cross-examination of prosecution witness Colm Doyle.

Doyle, head of the European Community monitoring mission in 1991 and 1992 in Bosnia, answered a number of questions today with “I do not know” or “I have no knowledge of the issue”.

Karadzic posed various queries about peace negotiations at the beginning of the war, as well as questions about events in Zvornik and the Foca area in 1992. Doyle said that he was not in either of the cities, but that he had information about crimes that were committed there.

In the course of the cross-examination Karadzic claimed that the EC monitoring mission was biased and that they avoided meeting with Bosnian Serbs. He read parts of Doyle’s diary from March 1992 where a number of meetings are mentioned, including those with high ranking officials in the Bosnian government and military officials of the Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA.

Doyle denied Karadzic’s claims that the mission was biased.
“I was available for any one who was willing to speak with me,” Doyle said.

At the end of the hearing, the trial chamber informed Karadzic that after May 31 hearings will be held four times a week.

Karadzic previously objected to this proposal, but his motion was rejected by the trial chamber. He has the right to appeal.

The chamber also refused his motion for the temporary cancellation of the trial in order to read additional evidence presented by the prosecution.

In a motion from May 27, Karadzic asked for one month of additional time to read the diaries of Bosnian Serb general Ratko Mladic, which the prosecution wants to introduce into evidence.

Mladic’s diaries were found in February this year in his wife’s apartment in Belgrade, and delivered to the ICTY in May. The prosecution considers the documents to be key evidence in several ongoing cases.

The next hearing is scheduled for Monday, when prosecution witness Ar‐


Van Lynden, a former SKY news correspondent based in Bosnia during the war, testified on 19, 20 and 21 May. After Lynden’s cross-examination is completed, the prosecution will call historian Robert Donia.
Witness: Peace Deals Signed with “Monotone Regularity”

The former head of the European Community’s monitoring mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina said in cross-examination that peace agreements signed at the beginning of the war in Bosnia were largely meaningless.

Answering the questions of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic for a third day, Colm Doyle said that peace negotiators in 1992 were aware that agreements that were reached would not be implemented.

“Peace agreements were signed with monotone regularity,” Doyle, the head of the European Community’s monitoring mission in Sarajevo between October 1991 and March 1992, said in the courtroom.

The prosecution witness began his testimony last Friday at the trial of Karadzic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, and should finish tomorrow.

He said that on 11 and 12 May he and the other members of the monitoring team were evacuated from Sarajevo, where they were based, out of fear for their lives as tensions escalated.

Karadzic repeated claims that Serbs did not plan an armed conflict in Bosnia, but that they were provoked by the actions of Bosnian Croats and Muslims. He also claimed that, unlike “the other side”, Serbs in Bosnia did not have paramilitary units in 1992, but rather that those who did have arms were part of the reserve Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA, units and police.

However, Doyle repeated that the Bosnian Serbs were the most heavily armed side in Bosnia during the first year of the war.

Karadzic read parts of Doyle’s diaries from May 2, 1992 where he mentioned the detention of the president of Bosnia and Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic by JNA, claiming that there was no intention to kill him.

“I can assure you that Serbs never wanted to kill Izetbegovic...We do not cherish a tradition of terrorism, and we are against any killings,” Karadzic said in the courtroom.
“I cannot accept that claim, at least not based on what I witnessed... I was the person who was shot at while driving in an official car, in my uniform, and that is a fact,” Doyle answered.

Alija Izetbegovic was detained by the JNA on his return from peace negotiations in Lisbon. He was released in exchange for the safe passage of the remaining JNA soldiers from Sarajevo.

While asking questions about 2 May in Sarajevo, the day that is considered to be the official beginning of the war, Karadzic stated that the “Bosnian Muslim army” blocked the JNA barracks in the city, preventing the movement of people. Doyle explained that he was aware of that.

“The reason for the blocking was that the Bosnian Muslims did not have arms and they did want to have it. At the same time, they wanted to prevent the JNA from arming Bosnian Serbs. That is my assumption,” Doyle said.

“They signed a peace agreement on 12 April and on 23 April they gave the order to start the war... and on 2 May they killed some JNA soldiers on the streets of Sarajevo, and on 3 May they stopped the JNA column in Dobrovoljaca street. Isn’t it obvious they wanted the war?” Karadzic stated.

“I do not agree with your judgment. At the time when all this was happening, we already had information about ethnic cleansing in Bijeljina and Zvornik,” Doyle replied, saying that this was proof that the Bosnian Serbs were also not for peace.

Ethnic cleansing in northern Bosnian cities Bijeljina and Zvornik began in March 1992, when armed units from Serbia crossed the border and started killing civilians and expelling them from their homes.

The cross-examination of Doyle will continue tomorrow. The next witness is Robert Donia, an American historian and expert on the Balkans.
Karadzic, Witness Address
Formation of Army

During the cross-examination of Colm Doyle at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, the witness for the prosecution said that the Bosnian Serbs had their own army even before the formal decision was made to form a military force.

Colm Doyle, who was head of the European community’s monitoring mission in Sarajevo between October 1991 and March 1992, said he knew the city was shelled from weapons located “on the hillsides around the city”, but that he did not know who held the position.

“It was a well-known fact that it was mostly Bosnian Serbs, because they had already formed their army, they had weapons they brought to the hillsides. I think there is no doubt whatsoever and that it is not disputable that most of the weapons at the time belonged to Bosnian Serbs and that they used them on Sarajevo,” said Doyle.

After Doyle said that Bosnian Serbs had their army in early 1992, Karadzic replied, claiming that everyone knows that the army was formed on May 20, 1992, because the Yugoslav People’s Army had withdrawn from Bosnia the day before.

“I am aware of that, but you cannot make an army overnight. We saw evidence of convoys of tanks going towards Pale. There is no doubt at all what was going on there,” Doyle responded.

According to the counts of the indictment, as president of the Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces in the period between April 1992 and November 1995, Karadzic ordered the campaign of sniper activity and shelling which was part of the goal of spreading terror among the civilian population.

The witness said he did not know anything about Karadzic’s claims that in early 1991 a decision was made to form the Patriotic League as the secret army of the Party of Democratic Action, and that in early 1992 there were “over 100,000 armed Muslims.”
“I want to say that Doyle found himself in the situation he did not know much about and I am certain he would look at it differently had he known about this,” the defendant said.

During cross-examination Karadzic quoted a report by the 17th Partisan Brigade of the Yugoslav People’s Army which says that in April 1992 a large number of armed paramilitaries were present in the building of Television Sarajevo.

“We saw the report by the police of Republika Srpska, it said that the Television had been seized by Green Berets and that there were between 50 and 70 of them. Is this the proof that the building was used as a military target?” Karadzic asked the witness.

Doyle reiterated on several occasions that he did not know about any paramilitaries being present in the Television’s building, and that he had heard about it for the first time at this trial.

“I wouldn’t see Television as a target of military action. I never saw any army in the television and neither side told me anything about these allegations,” Doyle said.

The indictment against Karadzic specifies that Sarajevo was exposed to intensive shelling, and that civilian targets were damaged and destroyed.

Karadzic asked the witness if he was biased and why he had avoided meeting and “posing for pictures” with the Serb side during the war.

“In that phase, the international community did not recognise Republika Srpska and it could have been interpreted as my acceptance of the entity of Republika Srpska, and I wanted to avoid that. (...) The only thing no one can say about me is that I am biased. I never declined to mediate and cooperate with the leadership of the Bosnian Serbs,” Doyle replied.

To this, Karadzic said that Serbs did not want the international community to recognise their republic, but only to “respect the Serb side without which there could be no negotiations whatsoever.”

The cross-examination of this witness will continue on Thursday, May 27.
Karadzic Trial: ‘Disorganised’ Cross-Examination

At the trial of Radovan Karadzic, witness Aernout Van Lynden reiterated that, as far as he knows, the Military Hospital in Sarajevo was not used for conducting attacks by Bosnian forces against the Serb Army.

“During the course of my entire stay, I did not see any soldiers, except when they were brought to the hospital wounded. As far as I know this place was not used for opening sniper fire, at least not while I was there,” the British Sky News journalist said. He stayed in the Military Hospital in Sarajevo in the spring and summer of 1992.

The Hague Prosecution charges Radovan Karadzic, wartime Bosnian Serb leader, with having participated in a campaign of shelling and sniper fire in Sarajevo, with the aim of spreading terror, from April 1992 to November 1995.

Aernout Van Lynden began his testimony at the hearing held on May 19. During cross-examination the indictee spoke about the division lines in the city, saying that foreign journalists were accommodated in the Holiday Inn hotel.

The witness said he did not know whether foreign journalists stayed at the hotel, adding the street in which the hotel is placed was exposed to sniper fire most of the time.

“So you think we are stupid enough to constantly do things against our own interests by forcing a patter in front of the eyes of all those journalists in that small part of the street?” Karadzic asked the witness, but Van Lynden did not want to comment.

Karadzic said he would need “two or three more hours” to finish the examination of Van Lynden, but the witness had to leave the hearing. His examination will be completed at a later stage.

The witness commented on the course of the cross-examination, saying he had never been examined in such a “disorganized and confusing manner”.
The examination of witness Colm Doyle began at this hearing. He was Chief of the European Commission Monitoring Mission in Sarajevo from October 1991 to March 1992.

During the examination the Prosecution quoted some reports prepared by the Monitoring Mission, stating that the city of Sarajevo “was exposed to extensive shelling and sniper fire”. Doyle said he personally witnessed this. As stated by the witness, apart from military activities, the Sarajevo citizens lived in very difficult conditions.

“There was no food in the city due to the ongoing conflict. This applied to some parts of Serb areas, such as Ilidza. All citizens of Sarajevo city suffered because of that,” Doyle said.

The witness said that the events that took place at the beginning of the war were “coordinated efforts by Serbs to create ethnically clean regions”.

A part of a recording showing a session of the Bosnian Serb Assembly held in October 1992 was shown in the courtroom. At the session Karadzic said that “a dog and a cat can live in one box together only if they lose their natural attributes and stop being a dog and a cat”.

“I think that Serbs said most of the time they simply could not live together with Muslims. I cannot remember any of them saying they were their enemies, but there was no doubt that they did not wish to live in the same place with Muslims. They kept coming back to the issue all the time,” Doyle said.

During cross-examination the indictee said he did not think that Serbs could not live with Muslims, but they could not live “under Muslims’ authority”.

The examination of this witness is due to continue on Wednesday, May 26.
Karadzic Allegations of Biased War Reporting

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic accused prosecution witness Arnout Van Lynden of producing biased and unprofessional reports from Sarajevo during the war.

“Because of that type of reporting, people in this courtroom got the wrong picture that Serbs were attacking Muslims in Bosnia,” Karadzic said during cross-examination at his trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Karadzic also said that Serbs during the war did not have the same opportunities to reach foreign media as the Bosnian government in Sarajevo, and that their propaganda was not as powerful.

After he repeated the accusations, Lynden said that he and other media in Sarajevo worked in extremely difficult circumstances and that they reported the best way they could, staying firm that most of the shelling in Sarajevo during the war came from the hills around the city where Serb positions were based.

“If I tell you that foreign correspondents did not want to hear the Serb side, what can you say?” Karadzic asked Lynden.

“I would say that you are talking nonsense,” Lynden replied, saying that in April 1994 he was banned, without explanation, from reporting from Republika Srpska.

During his cross-examination of this witness Karadzic, as he did with previous witnesses, expressed his opinions on certain questions or read long documents that the witness could not identify or comment on. The trial chamber warned him several times that his statements were not relevant for the court, but rather the evidence and the responses of the witnesses.

However, Karadzic continued with the same line of questioning.

Karadzic today referred to the Bosnian Army more than once as the green berets or the Muslim side.

Lynden said that he did not meet any members of the green berets, noting that he did not see anyone with green berets on the streets of Sarajevo or...
in any other city in Bosnia, calling Karadzic's claims the “product of Serb imagination”.

“But I met Serb soldiers in Pale who called members of the other Bosnian Army green berets,” Lynden said.

Karadzic’s cross-examination of Lynden, a wartime Bosnian correspondent for British Sky News, started on May 19 and will continue on May 21.

After Karadzic finishes his cross-examination of Lynden, the prosecution will call its next witness, Colm Doyle. Doyle was head of the European Commission Monitoring Mission for Bosnia from March to August 1992, and the personal representative of Lord Carrington, the peace negotiator at the beginning of the war.
Witness On Karadzic Plans for Wall in Sarajevo

Arnout Van Lynden, a former British Sky News journalist who reported from Bosnia during the war, said in his testimony today that Radovan Karadzic wanted to build a wall of separation in Sarajevo.

Lynden, a prosecution witness at the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic trial before the UN war crimes tribunal, talked about his informal meetings with Karadzic in Pale in September 1992 in a pre-trial statement to the Prosecution, which was submitted into evidence today.

He also said that Karadzic was obsessed with capturing Sarajevo, and that he considered Bosnian Muslims to be Turks.

During his cross-examination, Karadzic, who is indicted for war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, denied that he ever talked with Lynden about the wall in Sarajevo, adding that he did not consider Bosnian Muslim Turks but Serbs. He asked the witness why he never reported about this in his stories, but only told it to the Prosecution before the trial.

“You mentioned this in informal meetings with me, when I did not have a camera or anything, and I did not use that for any of my reports. But I do remember vividly when you told me about construction of the wall in Sarajevo,” Lynden said.

He also replied to Karadzic’s statement that he did not consider Bosnian Muslims to be Turks asking: “If you considered them to be Serbs, then why did you have a war among Serbs?”

“It was a civil war and they usually happen between people of one nationality,” Karadzic answered.

While answering the Prosecution questions before cross-examination, Arnout Van Lynden said that Sarajevo at the end of May 1992 was a ghost town, with almost no one in the streets.

“If you could see people on the streets, apart from elderly people, they were running... I have never been in that kind of the city, where people had to run to cross the street. I lived in Beirut, but something like that I had never seen before,” Lynden said.
Before coming to Bosnia, Lynden reported from Croatia, Lebanon, Iraq, and Afghanistan, among other countries.

The Prosecution projected some of Lynden’s reports from Sarajevo which showed the shelling of the city, buildings burned down, civilians running across the streets, and killed and wounded people.

He was also in Sarajevo when the Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA unit left the Marsal Tito barracks in the city centre. According to his testimony, after that, the barracks were bombed “systematically” from Serb positions and finally part of it burned down.

During his stay in Bosnia, Lynden said that he met Karadzic on several occasions, adding that he also managed to interview Bosnian Serb military leader General Ratko Mladić, who took him to the front lines around Sarajevo.

Lynden will testify for two days this week. Karadzic told the trial chamber that the seven hours that he was given for the witness were insufficient, and that he intended to call him to the stand once again.
Mladic Diaries Offer Key New Evidence at ICTY

The Prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, made public today that it had received the diaries from Serbia in May.

The Prosecution recently filed motions asking for permission to use the diaries in the trials of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic; wartime high-ranking Republika Srpska police officers Stojan Zupljanin and Mico Stanisic; and top officials from the Serbian state security Jovica Stanisic and Frenki Simatovic.

Ratko Mladic, who has been on the run since an indictment against him was confirmed in 1995, was the commander of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Authorities in Serbia, where he is believed to be hiding, found 18 diaries, containing in total about 3,500 pages, in the apartment of his wife, Bosiljka Mladic. The diaries were found in February this year and handed over to the ICTY Prosecution in May.

Copies of parts of the diaries were previously presented to General Manojlo Milovanovic, who was Mladic’s deputy and close friend, at the trial against Frenki Simatovic and Jovica Stanisic. He identified them as having been written by Mladic, saying that the general took notes during every meeting he attended.

According to the Prosecution, the diaries “constitute a significant volume of new evidence”, covering the period from 29 June 1991 to 28 November 1996.

“The prosecution is still examining the material that has arrived,” Olga Kavran, the Prosecution spokesperson, told the media in The Hague.
In its motions to the judges, the Prosecution explained that the diaries contain notes about Mladic’s meetings with a number of wartime Bosnian Serb leaders including Momcilo Krajisnik, sentenced by the ICTY to 20 years’ imprisonment, and Velibor Ostojic and Nikola Koljevic. They also include notes from his meetings with Serbian leaders, including Slobodan Milosevic, when they discussed the situation in Bosnia.

Milosevic, who died in a detention unit in The Hague in 2006, had claimed that Serbia had nothing to do with the war in Bosnia.

Among others topics, the diaries contain notes from the meeting of the Supreme Command of the VRS from 15 August 1993 regarding sanctions being threatened by the international community in relation to the situation in Sarajevo; notes about military plans in Sarajevo and Gorazde; and notes about Mladic’s meeting with senior international peacekeepers concerning the treatment of Srebrenica’s population.

Copies of parts of the diaries were published last year by Belgrade daily Blic and Sarajevo weekly Slobodna Bosna. They showed that Mladic often met Serbian officials and that he arranged military shipments from the former Soviet Union via Serbia during the war in Bosnia.

In the apartment of Mladic’s wife, Serbian authorities also seized a number of audio and video recordings, a computer memory stick, medical records, mobile phone SIM cards and miscellaneous papers.

“The Prosecution is in the process of inventorying these items and may make additional motions with respect to them in the future,” the Prosecution’s press statement read.
Amended Indictment Against Mladic Proposed

The prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, filed a motion to amend the indictment against Ratko Mladic and called once again for his arrest.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

The amended indictment adjusts the charges to more closely mirror the indictment against wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, whose trial is ongoing.

In a press statement, the prosecution explained that new indictment, if accepted by the judges, would “facilitate the possible joinder of this case, either in whole or in part, with the Karadzic case, in the event that the accused is arrested within a reasonable period of time”.

The prosecution considers that Karadzic and Mladic were part of a joint criminal enterprise with the aim to permanently remove Bosnian Muslims and Croats from the part of the country that Bosnian Serbs claimed for themselves.

The motion was filed on Monday, May 10, but the public was informed on Thursday, May 13, during the visit of the ICTY chief prosecutor to Belgrade.

The amended indictment charges general Ratko Mladic, former Commander of the Main Staff of the Bosnian Serb Army, VRS, with 11 accounts of genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

He is also charged with the terror campaign against civilians during the siege of Sarajevo, the taking of UN personnel as hostages in May and June 1995, and the genocide in Srebrenica in July 1995.

The prosecution claims that amendments “are done in order to bring the indictments in line with the Tribunal’s jurisprudence and to include new evidence that has come to light since 2002”.

It also said that the indictment has been updated and that more details are listed about “the legal and factual allegations relating to Mladic’s individual responsibility”.

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The amended indictment is related to the crimes committed in the same number of municipalities as in the existing one. Six have been removed, but another six have been added.

Srebrenica has been treated separately, while in the first indictment it was one of the municipalities. The amended indictment relates to Hadzici, Ilidza, Novo Sarajevo, Pale, Sokolac and Trnovo, while Bihac – Ripac, Bosanska Gradiska, Doboj, Gacko, Nevesinje and Teslic have been removed.

According to the prosecution, crimes committed in those municipalities are already established in other cases, and “could therefore be presented by way of adjudicated facts, or adduced without the need for extensive viva voce testimony.”

With the amended indictment, the prosecution reduced the number of crimes from 15 to 11.

“The prosecution has restructured the genocide counts to remove the charge of complicity in genocide and to divide the single count of genocide into two counts, one for each of the distinct time periods and locations in which genocide is alleged.”

The first indictment against Mladic was confirmed in July 1995, after the fall of Srebrenica. Mladic has been on the run since the end of the war in Bosnia; it is believed that he is hiding somewhere in Serbia.

In addition to Mladic, the ICTY is still looking for Goran Hadzic, the wartime political leader of the Croatian Serbs, who is indicted for war crimes committed in Croatia.
Karadzic Claims of ‘Staged Markale Massacre’

Radovan Karadzic once again questioned facts established previously by the ICTY regarding the massacre at the Markale market during the Bosnian war, in an apparent effort to get confirmation from the prosecution witness that the incident was staged by the Bosnian government.

In order to prove his claim, Karadzic presented a video from the Markale market in Sarajevo on 5 February 1994, which showed empty tables in one part, and dead bodies in another. He said that some of the bodies were dummies and some were corpses of soldiers who were killed earlier and brought to the market.

The prosecution asked for the authenticity of the video, and Karadzic replied that the video was recorded by “Muslim television” in Sarajevo and shown only once “by mistake”. After that, according to Karadzic, only the edited version of the same video was shown on television.

In February 1994, 67 people were killed and 142 wounded in an artillery attack on the Markale marketplace. General Stanislav Galic, who was head of the Sarajevo Romanija Corp of the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, based around Sarajevo from 1992 to 1996, has been sentenced to life for the massacre and other crimes after being convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb leader, has been indicted by the ICTY for the same crime. He was supreme commander of the VRS during the war and the political leader of Bosnian Serbs during the war.

The Trial Chamber did not immediately accept the video Karadzic presented today as evidence, saying that it was necessary to check the tape’s authenticity.

David Harland, a former UN official in Bosnia whose 14 hours of cross-examination ended today, said that parts of the video shown in the courtroom he had never seen before.

“This is very weird,” Harland said. “I would like to see the original recording, too. I have never seen this video. What I know about the massacre
is from people who survived it and from those who came to Markale immedi-
dately after the massacre was committed.”

Karadzic asked Harland what UNPROFOR had concluded in its investiga-
tion after the massacre, claiming that two reports were issued, one blam-
ing the Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) government for the attack and another blaming the Bosnian Serb forces.

Harland answered that UNPROFOR had never had any doubts about the number of people wounded and killed, and that their investigation in-
dicated that Bosnian Serb forces were the culprits, but that “empirical proof” was never obtained.

Harland also told Karadzic that he was contradictory in his claims about Markale.

“At the same time you are saying that the massacres never happen and that it was staged? It is very contradictory to me,” Harland said

Karadzic did not reply to the comment.

During the cross-examination, Karadzic repeated claims that people in Sarajevo under the siege were heavily armed, and often opened fire at Bos-
nian Serb positions. He asked the witness how many shells were generally fired during one day in Sarajevo.

“It varied from day to day, from month to month. But, approximately, several hundred a day,” Harland replied, adding that most of the shells came from Bosnian Serb positions around the city.

He also said that UNPROFOR identified three types of targets for Bosnian Serbs: tactical targets close to the front lines; military targets; and civil-
ian targets. Harland said that the UN was worried because civilian targets were more often exposed to shelling than military targets.

The next hearing in Karadzic’s trial is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19.
Karadzic: Armed Groups Operated in Sarajevo

During cross-examination, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic attempted to convince the Trial Chamber and the witness that Bosnian Serb troops were forced to protect themselves from attacks and propaganda coming from Sarajevo.

During his third day of cross-examination of David Harland, a former UN official who worked in Bosnia, Karadzic read different documents and newspapers articles about the activities of several armed groups in Sarajevo during the siege.

He asked Harland if the UN was aware of the Musan Toplavic Caco unit and claims about their criminal activities, including murders of civilians. He read aloud an internal military document drafted by a high ranking official of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina which said that Caco’s unit tortured and killed Serbs in Sarajevo.

“We were aware of it. He was killed by Bosnian government forces in October 1993. That document shows how the Bosnian government was trying to find a solution for the problem. He was a criminal,” Harland replied, adding that Caco’s victims were not only Serbs in Sarajevo but also other civilians.

“He was one of the commanders in a very chaotic defence of Sarajevo,” Harland concluded.

“Mr Harland, the Bosnian government will kiss you for what you are saying,” Karadzic commented and continued with the same line of questioning.

Musan Topalovic Caco was the commander of one of the units of the First Corps of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In October 1993, Topalovic was killed after he tried to escape from police. Members of his unit were put on trial for a number of crimes, including the killing of civilians in Sarajevo.

Radovan Karadzic is indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for crimes committed during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
The Trial Chamber tried to intervene, calling on Karadzic to ask “relevant questions” and to move away from stories about Caco and “historical context”, but he continued, saying that Caco’s activities were not the exception but rather the rule, and that his unit, as well as others similar to his, were part of the system.

“We were waiting for a political solution at the same time that a huge campaign was being led against us, a campaign helped from the outside, from the international community... We are being accused of attacks on a peaceful city, but it was a stronghold led by criminals.”

The cross-examination will continue on Tuesday, May 11.
Several thousand people gathered in Sarajevo on Sunday for the unveiling of a memorial to children killed during the 1992-95 siege of the city by Bosnian Serb forces.

Parents of victims, local officials and other residents of the Bosnian capital laid flowers in front of several small columns erected in a park in the center of Sarajevo and engraved with the names of 521 children who were killed during the siege.

“That day five children were murdered while playing,” Zejneba Basic, mother of 12-year-old Emir, who was killed by a Serb mortar in Nahoreska street, near the Sarajevo Zoo (Pionirska dolina) during the siege, told journalists.

Basic came to the park with her husband Kemal to witness the unveiling of the memorial which includes the name of her son.

The commemoration columns unveiled on Sunday were erected next to a glass monument and a water fountain built earlier in the memory of children killed during the Sarajevo siege.

The president of an association of parents whose children were killed during the siege, Fikret Grabovica, said that about 800 more names are expected to be engraved after all relevant information and documents are gathered and their cases are verified.

Some 10,000 civilians, including 1,500 children, were killed in Sarajevo during the 44-month-long siege, mostly by snipers and mortars fired from mountains surrounding the city.

The United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague tried and sentenced two former Bosnian Serb generals for overseeing the siege of Sarajevo. Former generals Stanislav Galic and Dragomir Milosevic were found guilty of terrorizing civilians in Sarajevo and sentenced to life imprisonment and 29 years’ imprisonment, respectively.

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic is currently on trial before the UN war crimes tribunal on charges of genocide and other war crimes, notably over the siege of Sarajevo and July 1995 killing of over 8,000 Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) men and boys in the eastern town of Srebrenica.
Karadzic “Lessons in Geography” for Witness

On the second day of his cross-examination of a former UN official, Radovan Karadzic attempted to prove that Bosnian Serbs were in an “inferior” position to Bosnian Army forces in Sarajevo.

Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb leader currently on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, asked prosecution witness David Harland to identify on the map the front lines around the Sarajevo.

He asked Harland if the two armies were close, and the witness confirmed his question, calling his line of questioning “a geography lesson”.

“In some places, yes, they were very close to each other,” said Harland, who worked for the UN in Bosnia from 1993 to 1998.

Karadzic, who is accused of war crimes, including the siege of Sarajevo, pushed Harland to answer his question as to whether Bosnian Serbs were in an “inferior” position to the Bosnian Army and exposed to shelling and sniper fire.

“Can you agree that they were on the hills and we in valleys, exposed to fire?” Karadzic asked.

“Speaking in a broader sense, yes,” Harland replied, explaining after related questions from Karadzic that he felt like Karadzic’s bottom line is to prove that Bosnian Serbs were “tactically more exposed” to fire.

“But that is the inversion of the reality which was a hundred thousand civilians in Sarajevo exposed to constant fire from Bosnian Serb positions,” he said.

In his opening statement in March, Karadzic said that Sarajevo was not under the siege.

According to the indictment, between April 1992 and November 1995, Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise to “establish and carry
out a campaign of sniping and shelling against the civilian population of Sarajevo”.

Other members of the joint criminal enterprise listed in the indictment were members of the Bosnian Serb government, the Serb Democratic Party, SDS, members of the army and local officials in Bosnian Serb controlled territory from 1992 to 1995.

Karadžić’s cross-examination of Harland will continue on Monday, May 10.
Former UN Official Testifies About Terror in Sarajevo

David John Harland, who held various positions at the UN during and after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, claimed that the citizens of Sarajevo were exposed to constant terror and lived in fear because of the military activities of Bosnian Serb forces.

In his testimony, Harland said that the terror and fear were the result of constant shelling and sniping, but also of restrictions on water, electricity and gas supplies, as well as on humanitarian aid, all carried out by Bosnian Serb forces who were under the supreme command of Radovan Karadzic.

The terror decreased when the threat of foreign military intervention was high, he claimed.

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic is indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, among other things, for the siege of Sarajevo, which lasted more than 3.5 years.

Harland said that the topography of the city affected the nature of the war and the siege itself, describing the city as a valley surrounded by high mountains.

“It is deep and narrow, but not too long, a valley... and where ever you are, you feel like you are at the bottom of a bowl... Historically in Bosnia, Muslims used to live in the urban centres, densely populated areas, and Serbs in higher areas, like it was in Sarajevo,” Harland explained.

He also said that the UN had concluded that the shelling and sniping of the city were executed according to certain patterns and controlled from a specific centre.

Testifying about the sniping campaign, Harland said that it was constantly present except during one short period in the fall of 1994.

“People were afraid to go out. If somebody came to the city at that time, it would been hard for that person to believe that between 200 and 300,000 people were living in Sarajevo... The streets were empty,” he said.
Harland explained that at meetings with Bosnian Serb leaders, he never noticed the accused giving orders to anybody, but from the way he spoke and acted it was clear that he was the one making the decisions.

The former UN official also testified about the massacre at the Markale market in February 1994, saying that there was no doubt the bomb came from Bosnian Serb positions.

According to official records, 67 people were killed and 142 wounded in the incident.

Karadzic has claimed that the massacre was staged by the government in Sarajevo in order to provoke foreign military intervention.

Harland called the claims, which he said he had heard during the war, “bizzare”.

He said that the UN did not have any doubts about the origin of the mortar shell which landed in Markale, adding that he was present at the meeting when General Rupert Smith, head of UN military forces in Bosnia, ordered an investigation into the crime, and several days later when the reports of the probe were presented.

According to Harland, even though the facts had been clearly established, General Smith told the press that there were some doubts about who was to blame. Harland testified that this was the general’s intentional strategy in order to divert the attention of the Bosnian Serbs from the plan for military intervention.

“The intervention could not be deployed if all international personnel were not pulled out from the territory controlled by Bosnian Serbs,” Harland said, adding that the intention was to pull all of them out in order to avoid the possibility of the taking of hostages. General Smith give this statement in order not to warn the Serbs about the intervention and to gain time to pull out personnel,” Harland explained.

“I believe that that statement added to all the different interpretations of the whole event over the years,” Harland said.

In the second massacre at the Markale marketplace in August 1995, 37 people were killed and 90 wounded.

Karadzic has claimed that this incident was staged as well.

The foreign military intervention was deployed several days after the second Markale massacre.
Harland will be cross-examined by Karadzic on Friday, 7 May, and Monday 10 May.

Harland was a civil affairs officer and political advisor to the UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia, Sarajevo and nearby Kiseljak from June 1993 to December 1995; political advisor for the UN Mission in Bosnia from January 1996 to May 1997; and head of UN Civil Affairs in Bosnia from May 1997 to October 1999.

Before Harland was called to the stand, Karadzic finished the second day of his cross-examination of Fatima Zaimovic, former head nurse at the children’s surgery department in Kosevo hospital in Sarajevo.

During his cross-examination of Zaimovic, Karadzic repeated claims about alleged attacks on Serbs in Sarajevo and about the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina inside of the city. The witness refused to respond to the line of questioning, saying that she do not know enough about it to testify.
Witness Calls on Karadzic to Repent

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Wednesday cross-examined prosecution witness Fatima Zaimovic, chief nurse for the children’s surgery department at Sarajevo’s main hospital during the war.

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During the siege of Sarajevo, which lasted from 1992 to 1995, Zaimovic noted in her personal diary the names of 331 children who admitted to the hospital with injuries.

The children’s surgery at Kosevo hospital in the city center was one of five hospitals where wounded children were admitted during the war.

“Those injuries were shocking for us, some of them wounds of the like we had never even seen before,” she said during her testimony at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Karadzic is indicted by the ICTY, among other things, for the siege of Sarajevo, the longest siege in modern history. Over a period of more then three and a half years, Sarajevans were exposed to constant shelling and sniping from the surrounding hills where Bosnian Serb forces were positioned.

During the war Zaimovic noted in her personal diary the names of the children who were treated at the hospital, where they had been wounded, and the type and duration of the treatment. She said during cross-examination that 31 children were taken outside of Sarajevo during the siege because it was not possible to treat them in the Kosevo hospital.

According to her diary, many children were brought to the hospital after the massacre at the Markale market in February 1994.

At the beginning of the cross-examination, Karadzic greeted the witness and she replied by saying that she was happy to see him in the courtroom. He began with questions about her personal life, reminding her that he and her husband had been “buddies” before the war, and asking about her son, who was a soldier during the war.
“Yes, he was. He was recruited and he had to go. But he went to defend his country,” Zaimovic replied to his question.

Karadzic repeatedly asked about the military positions of the unit her son belonged to, about how many people were in the unit, and where they were placed. Zaimovic replied that she could not talk about military issues because she worked in the hospital.

After Karadzic posed questions concerning her son several times, she answered angrily that she wanted him to stop.

“Do you have any conscience? You were destroying Serb, Bosniak and Croat kids. I want to talk about that and that is why I came here and not to talk about military strategy,” she said.

Following the first hour of cross-examination, the Trial Chamber noted that Karadzic had not asked a single question related to Zaimovic’s testimony.

He replied that his intention was to prove that the area around the hospital, including the hospital building itself, was “everything but a hospital”, alleging that there were armed units inside of the facility.

He added that Serbs did not receive the same treatment at the hospital, and that they were tortured inside of the building.

Karadzic showed the witness a number of maps and “classified” wartime documents from the military and police of Republika Srpska, but Zaimovic repeated that she could not speak about such documents but rather only about what was happening with children in the hospital.

The Trial Chamber warned Karadzic that there was no point in continuing with his line of questioning, but he nevertheless continued with related questions.

After more than two hours of cross-examination, during which Karadzic alleged several times that Serbs were tortured inside the Kosevo hospital, the witness became visibly upset.

“Mr Karadzic, you should repent in this courtroom. Admit that you were killing us... You did horrible things to all the people in Sarajevo. You destroyed the lives of thousands... Repent Mr Karadzic. Admit that you were the one who killed innocent people,” Zaimovic said.

Karadzic tried to pursue this line of discussion with the witness, but the Trial Chamber stopped it, telling the indictee that he had one more day for cross-examination.

The trial will continue on May 6.
Okun Testimony Ends in Karadzic Trial

After four days, including three of cross-examination, the testimony of US Ambassador Herbert Okun in the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has come to an end.

Despite a number of warnings today, Karadzic continued to give statements and look for confirmation from the witness, who generally refused to oblige.

Karadzic read aloud from different documents he or members of his government had signed during the war, in an apparent attempt to try and prove that human rights for all the people who were living in the area under Bosnian Serb control were respected. He claimed that it was a “state with the rule of law and humanity”.

Okun noted that the documents read in the courtroom should be acknowledged, but that what was written was not what was implemented.

Karadzic, who was the founder and the president of Republika Srpska, which he considers a state, is indicted for war crimes on 11 counts and is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

The third prosecution witness, US Ambassador Herbert S Okun, served from 1991 to 1997 as special advisor and deputy to the personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General in Yugoslavia, and from September 1992 to May 1993 as deputy co-chairman of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, ICFY.

Karadzic attempted to convince the witness that the Bosnian Muslim government in Sarajevo provoked attacks and in some cases harmed their own people. He claimed that they purposefully stopped supplies of water and electricity to Sarajevo during the war, but Okun did not want to confirm the claim.

However, Okun did confirm that come “criminal elements” existed on all sides, and those elements profited from the war.
Karadzic continued: “It is broadly accepted by different people, even some Muslim intellectuals, that the West had the intention of neutralising Muslims in Bosnia, and that they used Serbs and Croats to achieve this. Do you agree with that?.”

“It is nonsense. The West did mostly sympathise with the Muslims and that is clear. But to say that, it is not only incredible, but also ridiculous,” Okun replied.

Ambassador Okun, who participated in a number of peace negotiations at the beginning of the war, wrote a diary during that time that has been submitted as part of the prosecution evidence.

During cross-examination, Karadzic repeated several times that the Okun diaries were a valuable resource, but also that what is written in the diaries does not correspond to what the witness said in the courtroom.

Okun denied this, saying that the way in which Karadzic read the notes is random and not systematic.

According to the witness schedule previously delivered by the prosecution, the next witness, set to take the stand on May 5, will be Fatima Zaimovic.

Zaimovic was head nurse in the children’s surgery department of Kosevo hospital in Sarajevo during the war. She testified earlier in the case of Stanislav Galic, a former Army of Republika Srpska official who was sentenced to life for the siege of Sarajevo. She testified about children who were injured and threatened in the hospital, and about the effect of sniping and shelling of the hospital.

David Harland will testify after Zaimovic. Harland was Civil Affairs Officer and Political Advisor to the UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia, Sarajevo and nearby Kiseljak from June 1993 to December 1995; Political Advisor for the UN Mission in Bosnia from January 1996 to May 1997; and Head of UN Civil Affairs in Bosnia from May 1997 to October 1999.

Harland previously testified during the trials of Slobodan Milosevic and Dragomir Milosevic at the ICTY about the situation in Bosnia and meetings with local leaders during the war.

Slobodan Milosevic, the former Serbian president, died in 2006 in detention at the Hague before a judgment was delivered in his trial.

Dragomir Milosevic was commander of the Drina Romanija Corp of the Army of Republika Srpska and in 2009 was found responsible for the siege of Sarajevo and sentenced to 29 years in prison.
27.04.2010

Karadzic Questions Witness About Arms Embargo

While the prosecution objected several times, and the Trial Chamber reminded the accused to ask questions and not make statements, Radovan Karadzic in cross-examination continued to express his opinion and to seek confirmation from the witness.

Ambassador Herbert Okun, a former US diplomat who has so far been on the witness stand for over nine hours total, tried several times to stress that he has answered the same questions over and over again, and has repeated the same answers in response.

Okun is the third prosecution witness to take the stand in the trial against wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY. Karadzic is indicted on 11 counts of war crimes, including genocide.

Karadzic spent most of the third day of his cross-examination of Okun on claims of violations of the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s. Okun repeated several times that the breaching of the embargo was kind of a “public secret”.

“People considered that the embargo was not a moral act, taking in consideration that it was imposed over one helpless country,” the ambassador said.

Karadzic read aloud records on a 1994 investigation conducted by Austrian and German police on Senad Sahinpasic, who was suspected of breaking the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia and Herzegovina, in an apparent effort to prove that Bosnian Muslims attempted to buy components for nuclear weapons under the arms embargo.

Okun denied that he was familiar with the alleged attempts to purchase the components. The ambassador said that the investigation on Sahinpasic was dismissed since it was based on the intercepted telephone conversations “of one criminal” and not enough evidence was found to charge him.

Karadzic expressed his opinion, and tried to get confirmation from the witness, on “staged” massacres in Sarajevo in 1994 and 1995.
In February 1994, dozens of people were killed in an artillery attack on the Markale market in Sarajevo. The second such attack, in August 1995, provoked NATO reaction. More than 100 people were killed in the two massacres.

The ICTY established in two previous judgments that both massacres were committed by the Bosnian Serb army, which besieged Sarajevo for more than three and a half years, from 1992 to 1996.

Karadzic is, among other things, indicted for the siege of Sarajevo.

According to the accused, some investigations have found enough evidence to indicate that both massacres were committed by Bosnian Muslim forces in order to provoke an international reaction. He read a document saying that Bosnian Muslims forces fired a grenade from a nearby building at the people who were at the market buying food.

Okun acknowledged that he was aware of the controversies related to both massacres, but that it does not change his opinion about the nature of the war.

“I just want to repeat what I have said before. All the sides acted in one ugly manner, but Bosnian Serbs were the worst since they had more weapons than the others and they had opportunity to do more harm,” the witness said.

Ambassador Okun also said that the international community asked Karadzic on more than one occasion to stop bombing Sarajevo, but that he still today cannot understand why Karadzic refused to give that order.

Cross-examination of this witness will continue on April 28.
Karadzic Talks Izetbegovic in Cross-Examination

After not getting the answers that he seemed to expect from prosecution witness Ambassador Herbert Okun, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told Okun that he was stuck in his ways and that he was an "Izetbegovic lawyer". The trial of Karadzic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia continued with cross-examination today.

On the second day of his cross-examination of the prosecution witness, Karadzic concentrated on the writings of Alija Izetbegovic, the first president of Bosnia and Herzegovina and leader of Party of Democratic Action, SDA, relating them to the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Karadzic accused Izetbegovic of collaboration with the Nazis in World War II and described his 1970 book The Islamic Declaration as a continuation of these kinds of activities. According to Karadzic, in the book Izetbegovic admitted his aspirations to create an Islamic republic with Islamic laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Alija Izetbegovic, who was born in 1925 and died in 2003, was the president of Bosnia and Herzegovina during and after the war. In his book The Islamic Declaration, which was banned in the 1970s, he expressed his views on religion and the state.

Okun, who met both Karadzic and Izetbegovic on several occasions during peace negotiations at the beginning of the war in his capacity as special advisor and deputy to the personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General in Yugoslavia, did not want to confirm these allegations.

“He never said something like that or any of people from his government. Most of them acted secular...,” Okun said, repeating several times that the Izetbegovic government promoted Bosnia as a united country, unlike Karadzic and Mate Boban, who was leader of Bosnian Croat community during the war.

“One state was a fundamental base for Bosnian Muslims in all negotiations... You intention was to divide the country,” the witness told Karadzic.

Radovan Karadzic is indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for war crimes committed in Bosnia during the war, including crimes against humanity and genocide.
Karadzic asked Okun if he, and others in the international community, were aware of the Izetbegovic plan to “eliminate Serbs” in Bosnia.

“We were aware indeed that in some areas Serbs were maltreated, mostly by Croats,” Okun replied. He explained that he and others were at the same time aware of what was going on in Bosnia and what Serb forces were doing.

“We knew attitudes and policies, but we were also aware of who is doing what. And what is done is more important from what is said,” he told Karadzic. The defendant replied that Okun has the same attitude as the prosecution and that it looks like “according to you, this whole trial is not needed”.

Karadzic pressed Okun for an answer about his questions regarding Izetbegovic’s intentions to create an Islamic republic.

“We considered that what Bosnian Muslims wanted was a united state and no proof, at least during the war, existed that they wanted an Islamic state,” Okun said.

Karadzic also tried to get a confirmation of his claims that during the war Izetbegovic misused the suffering of civilians in Bosnia in order achieve a goal of military intervention and to provoke international sympathy.

“The Bosnian government hoped for international intervention because they were losing the war. Ethnic cleansing was going on; you were bombing Sarajevo every day for years. And you ask me if they expected it. No, they did not since they were realistic. Neither the European Community nor the US in that moment wanted to intervene,” Okun said.

“Did they want to get sympathy? Yes, and you helped them while bombing Sarajevo,” the witness continued.

Karadzic insisted on the same question, asking Ambassador Okun if the Bosnian government abused the suffering of the people. He said that their background was in the Islamic Declaration, which according to Karadzic says that people have to suffer in order to come back to Islam.

“You, Mr Karadzic, are implying that the Muslim side in the war suffered because their government wanted them to suffer. It is not true. They did suffer but because Serbs were expelling them, detaining them, and in the end killing them,” Okun answered the question.

Cross-examination will continue tomorrow.

Although the Prosecution planned to bring two witnesses to testify this week, that has been postponed and time is left for cross-examination.
Okun Continues Testimony in Karadzic Trial

The third prosecution witness to take the stand in the trial of Radovan Karadzic at the ICTY, US Ambassador Herbert S Okun, told the court that the Bosnian Serb wartime leader claimed that people of different nationalities in Bosnia cannot live together because of too much hatred.

According to Ambassador Okun, who met Bosnian Serb leaders on several occasions during the war, this idea was supported by people close to Karadzic during the war.

Okun served from 1991 to 1997 as special advisor and deputy to the personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General in Yugoslavia, and from September 1992 to May 1993 as deputy co-chairman of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, ICFY.

In his testimony, he recalled that he had asked Karadzic if he could imagine himself living with Muslims in the future.

"With time, perhaps we will become closer, or perhaps even more alienated," Karadzic replied, according to Okun.

The Prosecution submitted 13 notebooks with notes taken by Okun during meetings with politicians in the Balkans during the war.

In one of the notebooks Okun remarks that Karadzic is obsessed with genocide committed against Serbs in the past.

"Once I told him that if he continued talking about genocide all the time, in the end Serbs would be those who would commit this crime," Okun recalled, pointing out a note he had written at one of the meetings that read: "Karadzic did not mention the word genocide for 3 minutes."

Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is indicted on 11 counts for war crimes, including genocide.

The testimony by Ambassador Okun is set to continue next week.
Karadzic Trial Continues As Third Witness Testifies

As the trial of Radovan Karadzic continues at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, US Ambassador Herbert S Okun took the stand today as a prosecution witness.

The prosecution called its third witness today, US Ambassador Herbert S Okun, who served from 1991 to 1997 as special advisor and deputy to the personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General in Yugoslavia, and from September 1992 to May 1993 as deputy co-chairman of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, ICFY.

Okun met with officials from Bosnia and Serbia on several occasions during the war, including wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

He testified previously in the Momcilo Krajisnik trial, where he spoke about meeting with Bosnian Serb leaders.

Okun testified that the goals of the Bosnian Serbs and Karadzic in the war included: to have a united “Serb territory”, or a Serb state inside of Bosnia named Republika Srpska; to ensure a border with Serbia; to have ethnically ‘clean’ territory; to have special relations with Serbia; to divide Sarajevo; and to ensure that the Bosnian Serbs had a right to veto should a central government be established in Bosnia.

The prosecution proposed that the cross-examination of this witness take place next week because Karadzic, who is defending himself, did not receive some of the documents that will be used for the witness. The Trial Chamber will make its decision on April 23, after the prosecution finishes its examination of the witness.

Before Okun presented his testimony, Karadzic finished his cross-examination of the second prosecution witness.

The indictee accused the protected witness of lying about surviving a mass execution after the fall of Srebrenica.

“I believe that you are, for some reason, the favourite witness and that you were never executed, you were never at the places you are talking
about, you were never saved... and anything you said is just not the truth,” Karadzic said during his cross-examination of the witness.

The first protected prosecution witness survived the genocide in Srebrenica in July 1995. He claims that he survived execution in Orahovac, where he was taken with other civilians who were detained.

In two days of cross-examination, Karadzic tried to intimidate the witness and question his credibility, claiming that at different times he has given different statements about what happened in Srebrenica.

The same witness testified in five ICTY cases before the Karadzic trial, including that of Slobodan Milosevic, the former Serbian president who died in his cell in 2006.

The trial of Radovan Karadzic began in October last year with the prosecution’s opening statement. The accused give his opening statement on March 1 and 2 this year, and the trial resumed with the first prosecution witnesses on April 13.

The prosecution claims that Karadzic is responsible for war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including genocide. He was arrested in July 2008 after more than 12 years on the run.
Karadzic Dismisses Witness as Soldier, not Victim

The first protected prosecution witness to take the stand in the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic clashed in the courtroom with the indictee, refusing to answer some of the questions and openly accusing Karadzic for his loss.

Witness KDZ064 lived near Srebrenica and in July 1995 was part of the column of men and boys that left the city in order to reach Tuzla.

He was captured by Bosnian Serb soldiers on July 13 and detained in Bratunac near Zvornik, taken to the school in Orahovci where he survived a mass execution by hiding under dead bodies, after which he managed to run to the woods and escape to free territory.

Radovan Karadzic faces 11 charges before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for crimes committed in Bosnia during the war, including the genocide in Srebrenica committed by Bosnian Serb forces in July 1995. More than 8,000 people were killed and thousands expelled.

Karadzic’ intention appeared to be to prove that KDZ064 was not a victim of war.

“This witness is not a victim. This witness was a Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina soldier,” Karadzic said.

“Who is not a victim?” the witness protested loudly in response, but was stopped by the presiding judge, who warned Karadzic that he is not permitted to comment on protective measures given to any of the witnesses.

The presiding judge had to intervene several times during the cross-examination. He calmed down the witness, who at times became very emotional, and occasionally raised his voice when addressing Karadzic.

He also interjected in response to the type of questions the accused asked when they were not related to the case or concerned facts not known to the witness.
Karadzic tried to ask the witness to look at a map of Bosnia made during negotiations during the war, but the witness refused to look.

“Do not show maps to me! Do not ask me where my place is! My place is Bosnia.... I have only one map and that is of Bosnia with internationally recognised borders where all people can live, Muslims, Croats and Serbs... You made maps. I do not need them...,” the witness replied.

Cross-examination of this witness will continue on April 22.
Karadzic Questions Witness
Account of Speech

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic today finished his cross-examination of the second prosecution witness, a refugee from Pale whose wife was killed in Sarajevo in August 1995.

Sulejman Crncalo testified that he heard Karadzic speak in 1992 in Pale, a town near Sarajevo that later became Karadzic’s headquarters. Crncalo testified that Karadzic said that every Muslim house should be attacked in order to protect Serb houses.

“Those were terrible words to our ears,” said the witness, whose testimony started on the second day of the presentation of the prosecution evidence at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in the Hague.

Karadzic used his cross-examination time not only to question the witness but also to express his agreement or disagreement, and comments, and he was warned by the Trial Chamber several times for that reason.

The indictee told Crncalo that no media had reported on the speech that Crncalo testified he had heard.

Karadzic claimed that public speeches by him or any politician in Bosnia at that time were closely followed. He even asked the witness if politicians were “boring” to him back then, because their every step was closely followed by the media.

“If people could have done something, you and others would never have had access to any media... Whatever any of you have done was wrong... You made war and there is nothing as bad for the people as war. The media did cover you all the time, but people did not want you,” Crncalo replied.

Karadzic then asked: “If we were that present in the media, how it is possible that my speech was never reported?”

Crncalo could not answer this question, nor many others. He complained to the Chamber as a result, saying that he could talk only about what he had survived and nothing else.
Karadžić also confronted Crnaclo’s claims that he was expelled from Pale in summer 1992 with other Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), and that he was forced to sign a document stating that he was leaving his property to a Serb family.

According to Karadžić, Crnaclo left Pale and his property voluntarily.

Crnaclo replied: “You cannot convince me that we left by our own will and became poor refugees. We had to leave.”

Next week the Prosecution will call a protected witness who survived the Srebrenica massacre in July 1995.

Radovan Karadžić was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade, Serbia, after spending more than a decade on the run. He faces more than 11 charges for crimes allegedly committed in Bosnia during the war, including genocide, murder and forced deportation.
Witness Describes Markale Massacre at Karadzic Trial

The second prosecution witness has taken the stand as the trial of Radovan Karadzic continues at the UN court in the Hague, delivering an emotional testimony and facing cross-examination by the indicted wartime Bosnian Serb leader.

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During his testimony, Sulejman Crncalo remembered the day when his wife was killed in Sarajevo.

“Mr Karadzic, I was walking through a street covered with blood,” the witness replied to Karadzic’s question about how close he was to the place where the massacre was committed on August 28, 1995 in Sarajevo.

Breathing deeply, with tears in his eyes, Crncalo recounted memories of that day.

“My wife and I heard that we could find powdered milk at Markale. We needed it for our kids... She decided to go... We agreed she would come back by 11 and she left around 8.30... At 11 I realised something must be wrong because she had not come back and I went to the city to find her... On the way to Markale I met somebody who told me something horrible had happened...”

At the scene, Crncalo said that he was not able to find his wife.

“I arrived and saw blood all over the street, pieces of bodies, clothes, shoes...The balustrade on the side was covered with blood, like somebody painted it in red. But I did not see corpses because they had already been taken away.”

He explained that he ran to the hospital in the city centre.

“I did not want to believe she was dead and I went to see if her name was on one of the lists of wounded people. I looked through the list more than once but could not find her name... A doctor told me to go to the mortuary... And I found her. She had been killed.”

After his wife’s death, Crncalo remained alone with his two children. He told the court that it was difficult to raise them by himself.
“I had to be both father and mother for them. To cook for them, dress them, take care of their school... I could find a way to talk to my son. But it was so hard with my daughter. But, I had to. There was no other way. And they listen to me.”

Sulejman Crncalo was the prosecution’s second witness. Before coming to Sarajevo in the fall of 1992, he and his family were expelled from Pale, a nearby village that became the headquarters for Karadzic during the war.

The indictee, who is serving as his own defence lawyer, began his cross examination of Crncalo by expressing his condolences for his loss and saying that he will establish who is to be blame for the massacre.

Karadzic has been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for the massacre committed by Bosnian Serbs in Sarajevo in August 1995, in which 43 people were killed and 75 injured. He faces a total of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including two counts of genocide.

The wartime Bosnian Serb leader claims that killings at the market were not committed by Bosnian Serb forces. The ICTY established that the Bosnian Serbs were responsible for the market massacre in its ruling in the case of Dragomir Milosevic.

Karadzic asked the witness about the number of bodies he saw in the mortuary where his wife was, where he found wounds on his wife’s body, how much blood was on the street at the market place when he arrived, how long it took for him to arrive at the market, and who ordered that the bodies be removed from the scene.

“Nobody ordered. People were compassionate in Sarajevo that time. They used to run to help if they could. That day, as I was told, they first collected the wounded, those that could be helped, and then the killed. They did it by themselves. Nobody waited for any kind of order from anybody,” Crncalo explained.

Crncalo’s testimony came after the prosecution’s first witness, Ahmet Zulic, took the stand on April 13 and 14. Karadzic’s cross examination of Crncalo is to continue tomorrow.
Karadzic Moves to Discredit First Prosecution Witness

In a cross examination that lasted several hours, Radovan Karadzic tried to discredit the prosecution’s first witness, Ahmet Zulic, who testified about his detention in Betonirka and the Manjaca camp in the north of Bosnia.

Speaking in the courtroom before the witness was called in, Karadzic said that Zulic is “well trained by the prosecution”, and that he is biased and dishonest.

During the first day of his testimony Zulic explained that he was detained from June to October 1992 in several locations, including Betonirka and the Manjaca camp, and that he was the victim of torture.

He recalled how detainees from Betonirka were transferred to Manjaca on a hot summer day in a truck covered with heavy tarpaulin. Zulic said that the trip was long and the roads were bad and people died without air and water.

He said that he had to drink his own urine from a small bottle of cologne that he had with him.

“How did you manage to urinate in the small bottle in that truck?” Karadzic asked, adding that the bottle can be examined in the courtroom if needed.

He also put into question Zulic’s claim that he had a notebook in Manjaca in which he wrote the names of people who were detained together with him.

The prosecution admitted Zulic’s diary from Manjaca as evidence.

He explained that he would dig a hole in the ground and hide the notebook, adding that he managed to bring it with him when he was released and he wrote down, based on notes from Manjaca, everything he remembered about the detention.

Manjaca was a notorious camp run by Serb forces where around 4,000 people, mostly Bosniaks and Croats, were detained in 1992.

During his cross examination of the first witness, Karadzic spent much of his time on questions about “Muslims” who were organising to attack Serbs during the war. He also tried to show that Zulic had been arrested
because he had a gun and participated in the organisation of a “rebellion” in the area of Sanski Most.

In arguing his point Karadzic used the fact that two of Zulic’s brothers left the city, while one remained and survived the war.

“The only difference was that they did not have a machine gun and you did,” Karadzic concluded.

“They left in a convoy with others, and the convoy was organised by Serbs... And the brother who survived the war, it was just by chance,” Zulic tried to explain.
**First Prosecution Witness Testifies Against Karadzic**

Ahmet Zulic, a former inmate of the Manjaca detention camp in Bosnia, was the first prosecution witness to testify against Radovan Karadzic, as the trial of the wartime Bosnian Serb leader resumed today.

Karadzic appeared in the courtroom with Marko Sladojevic, a member of the defense team.

Shown a video from Manjaca camp by the prosecution, Zulic recognised himself among the inmates.

“That is me, there, under that cross in a white t-shirt, second on the right side,” Zulic explained, while watching a video of a group of inmates sitting on the floor in one big room.

As Zulic explained, he was captured in the area of Sanski Most in June 1992. He was first detained and tortured in garages in Betonirka. From there he was transferred, along with a group of inmates, to the Manjaca camp. They were transferred in the back of a truck covered by heavy tarpaulin. Some of them died on the way to Manjaca, he said.

“It was hot and we could not breathe... I have to drink my own urine since I was thirsty,” Zulic said.

At Manjaca he was kept until October when he left in a convoy organised by the International Red Cross. While at the camp, he was severely beaten, and said that he continues to suffer today as a result.

“I am physically invalid. But I also suffer in a different way. I know that I will feel even this from today when I come home. Every time I told about it, I am going through it again, and again and again.”

Ahmet Zulic was the first witness to face Karadzic in the courtroom. Before he was questioned, Judge O Kwon apologised to him for the fact that he had to come to the Hague three times before finally taking the stand due to postponements.
Karadzic addressed him as “Respected Mr Witness” as he stood to cross-examine.

“There are many questions we will agree easily upon so that you do not have to come again here... What the defence wants is only the truth and nothing but the truth. You have given your testimony in many cases before this court. I would not say that you are the favourite witness for the other side, but I see they invite you a lot,” Karadzic started, but was stopped by the Prosecution and Chamber who instructed him not to comment on witnesses but to ask questions.

The Chamber had to warn him several times during cross-examination regarding the relevance of his questions and the way in which he asked them.

Most of the defendant’s questions were general and concerned the war and “Muslim” involvement in the preparations for the war. There were some that the witness could not answer and he objected several times to the Chamber.

The trial will continue tomorrow morning.

Karadzic was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade, Serbia, after spending years on the run. He is charged with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war in the country, including genocide committed in 11 municipalities from 1992 to 1995.

The Prosecution delivered its opening statement in October last year, and Karadzic delivered the defence opening statements in March this year.
Karadzic Trial Resumes Today at the ICTY

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is scheduled to appear today before the Trial Chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, as his trial resumes with the examination of the first prosecution witnesses.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

The Prosecution will open its case with witness Ahmed Zulic from Sanski Most, northwest Bosnia, who was detained in the Manjaca camp run by the Bosnian Serb forces.

Zulic will testify, among other things, about the killings of about 20 men who had been forced to dig their own graves in Manjaca. It is estimated that at least 3,000 people, mostly men, were held in detention in the camp.

This witness already testified in cases against former Bosnian Serb leaders Radoslav Brdjanin, sentenced to 30 years’ imprisonment and Momcilo Krajisnik, sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment. He also testified against the late Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic, who died in his cell in the Hague in 2006.

Marko Sladojevic, a member of the defence team, told AFP that Karadzic’s team was not “completely ready” but that the indictee will be in the courtroom “because we have no choice in the matter”.

The former Bosnian Serb leader has pleaded not guilty to charges including war crimes and genocide, boycotted the opening of his trial last October, when the Prosecution presented its opening arguments.

Karadzic presented his opening statement on March 1 and 2, but then asked for a postponement of the trial, a request that was rejected by the Trial Chamber and the Appeals Chamber of the ICTY. Karadzic subsequently requested a ‘stay of proceedings’, which was also rejected by the Trial Chamber.

The Trial Chamber announced earlier that hearings will be held three times a week.
In the first week the prosecution will call more witnesses. The second witness will likely be Sulejman Crncalo from Pale, a village near Sarajevo that was home to Karadzic’s headquarters during the war.

Crncalo was expelled with his family in July 1992 and fled to Sarajevo, where his wife was killed in the Markale market massacre in 1995.

The third witness this week will give his testimony under protective measures, including protected identity. He is identified only as KDZ064.

This witness lived near Srebrenica and in July 1995 he was part of the column of men and boys that left the city in order to reach Tuzla.

He was captured by Bosnian Serb soldiers on July 13 and detained in Bratunac near Zvornik where he survived a mass execution, after which he managed to run to the woods and escape to free territory.

The prosecution will call also three international officials who served in the region, along with Dr Robert Donia, a historian who will testify as an expert.

US Ambassador Herbert S Okun served from 1991 to 1997 as special advisor and deputy to the personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General in Yugoslavia. From September 1992 to May 1993, he served as deputy co-chairman of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, ICFY.

From 1991 to 1993, the Witness maintained a diary containing notes on approximately 50 to 60 meetings that he attended with Bosnian Serb leaders and Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

In the first week the Prosecution is also expected to call David Harland, who between 1993 and 1995 served with the United Nations Protection Force, UNPROFOR, based in Sarajevo. He was the principal political draftsman for UNPROFOR and responsible for the drafting of special reports and weekly political assessments, as well as the texts of certain agreements.

He will testify about conditions in Sarajevo during his period of duty which, according to the Prosecution, saw an average of 1000 shells landing daily across the densely populated civilian areas.

In the first group of witnesses is also Colm Doyle, who between October 1991 and March 1992 served as a member of the European Community Monitoring Mission, ECMM, in Bosnia, initially stationed in Banja Luka and later in Sarajevo.

Every witness can be cross-examined by Karadzic and the judges.
Dodik Wants Review of Srebrenica Numbers

Milorad Dodik, the prime minister of Republika Srpska, RS, has asked for an investigation to establish the number of victims of the Srebrenica massacre.

Dodik, the prime minister of the Serb dominated entity in Bosnia, has asked the War Crimes Investigation Centre, a body set up by the RS, to submit a “report on the report” made by the Srebrenica Commission, a body also established by Republika Srpska, from 2004.

According to the commission’s report, more than 7,800 people were killed in July 1995 in Srebrenica.

After the report was made public, Dragan Cavic, former prime minister of RS, publicly apologised for the crime.

The deadline for the new report is April 15. The report will be reviewed at the next government session.

In explaining his reasoning behind the request, Dodik referred to remarks made by Mirsad Tokaca, the director of the Sarajevo-based Research and Documentation Center. Tokaca said recently that in the course of the Centre’s research they had come across information on about 70 persons who had been buried in the Potocari Memorial Centre who were not killed in Srebrenica on July 1995.

The director of the Potocari Memorial Centre told Sarajevo-x portal that it is true that about 50 persons who were buried in Potocari were not killed in July 1995, but rather earlier. The practice was stopped 4 years ago.

“These burials were done with the permission of the Centre, but we plan to relocate those bodies to a separate cemetery,” Mersed Smajlovic said, adding that they took in consideration requests by mothers who did not want to separate family members, in such cases when they lost one son in 1992 or 1993, and another in 1995.

It was also noted that this was not done in secret and that the year when each person was killed was clearly marked on each grave.
On March 31 this year, the Centre and relatives of those killed marked seven years since the first burial in Potocari, during which a total of 3,749 people were laid to rest.

The Memorial Centre was built at the request of families of those who were killed in the days after the Bosnian Serb army overran the city in July 1995, killing more than 8,000 and expelling more than 25,000 people.

Srebrenica was declared a UN safe haven in 1993. The city was under siege, and around 40,000 were living inside it, most of them refugees from neighbouring villages and cities from where they had been expelled at the beginning of the war.

Radovan Karadzic, who is charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with genocide committed in 11 municipalities in Bosnia, including Srebrenica, has also questioned the number of people killed in July 1995 in the city.

In his opening statement before the ICTY he said that he believes that remains were relocated from different cemeteries around the country and buried in Potocari in order to increase the number of victims. He also asked to conduct a review of the number of people killed in Srebrenica.
ICTY Rejects Karadzic ‘Stay of Proceedings’

The Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has refused wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic’s request to issue “a stay of proceedings” in his case.

Karadzic filed the motion on April 6, and the Prosecution objected to his request in its motion from April 7.

With its latest decision, the Trial Chamber rejected Karadzic’s claims about violations of his rights or abuse of the process.

In his motion, Karadzic requested an indefinite stay of proceedings.

In it’s rejection of his request, the Trial Chamber wrote: “The right to a fair trial is a fundamental one and it is the duty of the Trial Chamber to ensure that it is protected. However, the Prosecution correctly observes that the jurisprudence on indefinite stays of proceedings is that there must be found to have been a serious violation of human rights justifying such an extreme measure.”

The first prosecution witness is scheduled to be called on April 13. According to the latest filing from the prosecution, the first witness will be Ahmed Zulic, a survivor of Manjaca, a Bosnian Serb-run prison camp in the north of Bosnia.

Prosecutors have a total of 300 hours to present their case against Karadzic. Hearings are scheduled to be held three days a week.

The prosecution delivered its opening statements on October 27, 2009, but Karadzic claimed that he was not ready and boycotted the hearing. He was given permission for more time and he delivered his opening statements on March 1 and 2 this year, after which he appealed for an additional postponement for defence preparation.

Karadzic was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade and subsequently transferred to the Hague for his trial. He faces a total of 11 charges of crimes against humanity, genocide and violating the laws and customs of war. He has denied all charges.
Karadzic Files for ‘Stay of Proceedings’ at ICTY

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic has filed a motion asking the Trial Chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, to issue “a stay of proceedings” in his case.

Karadzic contended that the trial is “impossible” and that if continued will “violate the fundamental rights of the accused”.

This motion comes only a week after the Appellate Chamber refused his request for an additional postponement of the trial, and after the decision was made that the first prosecution witness should be called on April 13.

His legal advisor, American lawyer Peter Robinson, told media last week that Karadzic would come to the court.

In his latest motion, Karadzic argued that the proceedings in his case “have been rendered fundamentally unfair by the taking of judicial notice of an unprecedented number of adjudicated facts” and of “the admission of the unprecedented number of prior statements and testimonies”.

According to his motion, the Trial Chamber accepted 1500 facts recognised in other cases that were held before the ICTY. Others have also been proposed by the Prosecution and decisions have still not been made on those proposals.

Karadzic also wrote that the written testimonies of 141 witnesses have been admitted “without opportunity for cross examination” by the Defence.

According to Karadzic, this can all put him in an unfair position during the trial.

The prosecution delivered its opening statements on October 27, 2009, but Karadzic claimed that he was not ready and he boycotted the hearing. He was given permission for more time and he delivered his opening statements on March 1 and 2 this year, after which he appealed for an additional postponement for defence preparation.

Karadzic was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade and subsequently transferred to the Hague for his trial. He faces a total of 11 charges of crimes
against humanity, genocide and violating the laws and customs of war. He has denied all charges.

Following the Appellate Chamber’s decision, the Trial Chamber announced that the trial would resume on April 13 with the presentation of the prosecution’s evidence, and that hearings would be held three days a week for the remainder of April and are set to continue in that manner.

The Trial Chamber also ordered that Richard Harvey, the court appointed defence counsel, be present in the courtroom on April 13, adding that his further role in the proceedings shall be clarified at that stage.

According to the Appellate Chamber’s ruling today: “The Trial Chamber correctly determined that any further delay of the presentation of evidence was unnecessary.”

The trial of the wartime Bosnian Serb leader began in October 2009 with the presentation of the Prosecution’s introductory arguments. Karadzic faces a total of 11 charges of crimes against humanity, genocide and violating the laws and customs of war. He has denied all the charges.

Karadzic presented his introductory arguments in March this year, but he asked that the examination of the first Prosecution witnesses be postponed until June 17. He claimed that the Trial Chamber “unreasonably determined that the presentation of evidence could begin”, considering the fact that the Defence had still not reviewed about 400,000 documents.

In addition, the indictee complained about “the insufficient funding of his Defence team”. For this reason, ICTY President Patrick Robinson issued a decision on February 22, 2010, approving additional resources for his defence.

After the Trial Chamber in February rejected Karadzic’s request for postponement of the trial, the indictee filed an appeal with the Appellate Chamber at the beginning of March.

Karadzic argued that his Defence team was not able to “prepare for the beginning of the presentation of evidence with full capacity”, adding that, by rejecting his trial postponement motion, the Trial Chamber “made the implementation of the Tribunal President’s decision impossible”.

However, in today’s ruling, the ICTY’s Appellate Chamber claimed it did “not see any mistakes in the Trial Chamber’s assessment of the situation”.

Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade in July 2008 and transferred to UN detention unit in The Hague.
ICTY Rejects Karadzic Appeal for Trial Delay

The Appellate Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, rejected on Thursday Radovan Karadzic’s request to delay his trial until June 2010.

Following the Appellate Chamber’s decision, the Trial Chamber announced that the trial would resume on April 13 with the presentation of the prosecution’s evidence, and that hearings would be held three days a week for the remainder of April and are set to continue in that manner.

The Trial Chamber also ordered that Richard Harvey, the court appointed defence counsel, be present in the courtroom on April 13, adding that his further role in the proceedings shall be clarified at that stage.

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Karadžić was arrested in Belgrade in July 2008 and transferred to UN detention unit in The Hague.
Karadzic Lawyer Visits Canada for Defence Case

Peter Robinson, legal advisor for Radovan Karadzic, visited Canada and met with people who he reportedly believes could be of use for the defence case.

Robinson met with former Canadian Major General Lewis MacKenzie, who led a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Bosnia in 1992, and James Bissett, the former Canadian ambassador to Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania from 1990 to 1992, according to The Montreal Gazette.

Robinson believes that the two men can help the defence’s case and potentially say something that will “not please a lot of people, particularly those who blame the Serbs and, in particular, Karadzic for the horrors of that time and place”.

Radovan Karadzic is accused of war crimes, including genocide, committed in 11 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After he was arrested in Belgrade in July 2008, he was transferred to the UN detention unit at The Hague, where he is currently on trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

“Gen. MacKenzie was probably the most outspoken United Nations official about the fact that the Muslims were shelling their own people in order to get international opinion on their side,” The Montreal Gazette quotes Robinson as saying.

“He really disputes the scale of the killings in Srebrenica,” said Robinson. “And there are about 20 incidents of shelling (of Sarajevo) that are charged against Karadzic. If we can show that some of them were committed by Muslims, that will bring the credibility of other charges into question.”

According to Robinson, General MacKenzie told him that there is good reason to believe that Bosnian Serbs are not responsible for the massacre that was committed on May 27, 1992 in a breadline in the city centre.

After serving for the UN in Bosnia, MacKenzie wrote the book “Peacekeeper: The Road to Sarajevo”, in which he expressed his opinion that Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) provoked shelling in Sarajevo under the siege on many occasions.
MacKenzie also expressed his disagreement with some of the ICTY decisions and argued that genocide was not committed in Srebrenica, pointing out that most of the women and children survived.

“It’s a distasteful point, but it has to be said that, if you’re committing genocide, you don’t let the women go since they are key to perpetuating the very group you are trying to eliminate,” MacKenzie said in an interview in 2005.

While in Canada, Robinson commented on the US attitude toward the war in Bosnia, saying that the government “took the position that the Bosnian Muslims were the good guys and the Serbs were the bad guys”.

“It was a huge miscalculation by the United States. They should have put their support behind Karadzic. He was an anti-communist dissident, democratic and the Serbs had a long history of supporting the (western) allies and fighting against fascism. They basically backed the wrong horse. We’re paying the price for it now. We see some of the same people now in Afghanistan and Pakistan were in Bosnia.”

Peter Robinson is an American lawyer US and former state prosecutor in California.

Karadzic’s trial was postponed on March 2 until the appellate chamber makes its final decision on his request for a postponement of the trial until mid July. The Prosecution gave its opening statement in October last year, and Karadzic delivered his opening arguments in March of this year.
ICTY Tells Karadzic to Move DNA Analysis Forward

The Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has ordered Radovan Karadzic to “immediately” complete his selection of cases that he would like to submit for further DNA analysis.

In July last year, Karadzic said that he wanted to have access to DNA from remains in mass graves found around Srebrenica in order to prove the death toll from the 1995 massacre had been exaggerated.

Asked about this phase of preparation for the trial, Marko Sladojevic, a member of the defence team, told Balkan Insight that he cannot speak about it as it is “confidential”.

In his opening statement delivered earlier this month, Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serb republic during the Bosnian war, said that he is in a “phase” of establishing “the truth about Srebrenica”.

He said that Bosniaks made “some kind of pilgrimage” to Potocari, and put a gravestone, on which it was engraved that more than 8,000 people were killed in Srebrenica in July 1995.

“But they barely gathered 2,000 remains to bury there... and you can see that all over Bosnia graves are being dug up and bones moved to Srebrenica just to increase that number,” Karadzic argued.

Radovan Karadzic is indicted, among other crimes, for genocide committed in Srebrenica in July 1995 when, the Prosecution claims, more than 8,000 men and boys were killed in seven days after Bosnian Serb forces entered the city, and more than 30,000 people expelled.

Karadzic plans to question the identification of remains found in mass graves around Srebrenica done by the International Commission on Missing Persons, ICMP. He will have the possibility to examine 5 per cent of the data that has been found.

The ICMP agreed to contact 1,200 family members in order to get their permission to give 300 DNA samples to Karadzic’s defence team and experts.
The accused asked for all the DNA samples in ICMP’s possession, claiming that the Commission is biased and that the 300 samples they agreed to give will not represent the truth.

Karadžić presented his opening statement on March 1 and 2 this year. Although the Prosecution was scheduled to start its presentation of evidence the following day, this was postponed until the Appellate Chamber makes its final decision on Karadžić’s request for a further postponement of the trial.

The accused asked that the Prosecution start its presentation of evidence on June 17 this year, but the first instance chamber of the ICTY rejected his request. He then appealed the ruling. The Prosecution objected to his appeal, and he now has the right to respond to this objection.

Radovan Karadžić was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade after being on the run for more than 12 years.
Ganic Released on Bail

The High Court in London has decided to release Ejup Ganic on £300,000 bail. Lord Justice Laws granted the wartime member of Bosnia’s presidency bail on “stringent” conditions.

Stephen Gentle, a member of the defence team, told Balkan Insight on Wednesday that the defence lawyers would “make the point that there can be no concern that Dr Ganic will flee as the case against him is so weak, he will stay to fight it,” Gentle said.

The main defence argument is that “this is a case where the crimes of which Dr Ganic is accused have already been fully investigated by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, and he has been exonerated.”

“Indeed it appears from the ICTY investigation that the incident in question did not give rise to a crime at all. On that basis, we say that the Serbian request is not made in good faith as there is no evidence to support it,” Gentle added.

Serbia suspects Ganic, who was a member of the wartime presidency of Bosnia, of war crimes related to his alleged involvement in an attack on a convoy of the Yugoslav People’s Army as it was leaving Sarajevo in May 1992.

The Defence claims that the extradition is an “abuse of process” and they refer to “mistakes on the warrant of arrest, including the way in which the allegation of murder has been framed and how the court should deal with the allegation of a breach of the Geneva Convention.”

Referring to what the defence calls one of the mistakes in the warrant, Clair Montgomery, one of Ganic’s attorneys, mentioned in the Magistrate Court hearing on March 9 that the warrant said that the crime was committed in Serbia in the first paragraph, while in the second paragraph says that the crime was committed in Sarajevo.

Haris Silajdzic, Bosniak member of the tripartite Bosnian Presidency, is in London and is planning to meet with Ganic. He announced that he would hold a press conference to discuss the case today at 16:00 GMT.
Silajdzic met with former High Representative to Bosnia Paddy Ashdown today and plans to meet with British Foreign Secretary David Milband as well.

Gentle also told Balkan Insight that Ganic is alone in his cell, he is able to see his lawyers “although access is difficult due to pressures on the prison system”, and his daughter Emina and son Emir are allowed to see him.

Dr Robin Harris, a friend of Ganic’s and former advisor to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said that the whole case has political connotations.

“Let me emphasise that the arrest itself is not the result of political manipulation in Britain... The real politics involved is to be found in Serbia (and the Republika Srpska),” he said.

Harris argued that the purpose of the whole extradition process is to “collaborate with Radovan Karadzic’s defence in the Hague”.

Ganic was arrested in London on March 1, the same day that Karadzic gave his opening statement in The Hague, where he is accused for crimes committed in Bosnia from 1992 to 1995.

“Please note – not just to distract from the terrible reality which will be exposed in that trial but actually to justify Karadzic’s preposterous claim that the JNA and the Serbs were merely acting in self defence when they proceeded to kill some 10,000 Sarajevan citizens and, of course, many more elsewhere in Bosnia. Moreover, the fact that the Serbian courts have gone along with this cynical political gambit demonstrates clearly that they are not judicial institutions in the proper sense but political ones”.

Ganic will now have to appear before the Magistrates Court in Westminster on March 25, at which time his defence team will present its arguments. At the same hearing, the prosecution representing the Serbian case is scheduled to present its evidence.

According to officials in Belgrade, 800 pages of evidence have been sent to London.
Karadzic Files Appeal For Trial Postponement

Radovan Karadzic has called on the Appellate Chamber of the Hague Tribunal to postpone the presentation of evidence against him until June 17 this year.

“The Trial Chamber’s decision to start the presentation of evidence will result in depriving me of adequate time and conditions for defence preparation, as determined by the Tribunal President. As such, the decision is unacceptable, because the Trial Chamber was not authorized to render it,” Radovan Karadzic said in his appeal.

Karadzic is appealing the Trial Chamber’s decision not to postpone the start of the Prosecution’s presentation of evidence.

He argued that “the Defence team may be able to acquaint itself with the documents” by June 17 this year.

The trial of Karadzic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, began in October last year with the presentation of the Prosecution’s introductory arguments. The indictee did not attend the hearing, asking for an additional ten months for defence preparation.

The Trial Chamber rejected Karadzic’s request and appointed a reserve defence attorney who they said would take over Karadzic’s defence if he continued “interrupting the trial”.

Karadzic, the wartime president of Republika Srpska, is charged by the Hague Prosecution with a number of war crimes allegedly committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic presented his introductory arguments at the hearings held on March 1 and 2 this year, but made a request for the postponement of the examination of the first Prosecution witnesses until June 17 this year. The first instance Chamber of the ICTY rejected his request.

However, Karadzic was allowed to file an appeal with the Appellate Chamber, which he has now submitted. The examination of the first witnesses has been postponed until the Appellate Chamber’s decision on the trial start date is rendered.
Karadzic’s Holy War Oration Causes Little Stir in Bosnia

Although it had been expected for a long time, the opening statement of Radovan Karadzic on March 1 which extended over two days and lasted more than six hours, was overshadowed in Bosnia and Herzegovina by events elsewhere.

This was the arrest in London that same day of the former wartime member of the Bosnian Presidency, Ejup Ganic, by British police acting on a request of prosecutors in Serbia. Ganic remains in detention, while British courts decide whether to accede to Serbia’s demand for his extradition.

Even in Bosnia, where the crimes of which Karadzic is accused were committed and where majority of victims still live, the media gave little attention to what was going on in the courtroom in The Hague.

The Trial Chamber decision to postpone the beginning of the prosecution evidence presentation until the Appellation Chamber has decided on Karadzic’s appeal for a postponement of the trial went almost unnoticed.

Over his two days in court, on March 1 and 2, Karadzic talked about the reasons for war in Bosnia, and accused the international community, in the first place Germany but also some other countries, of conspiring against Yugoslavia.

He disputed the alleged number of war victims, guilt for the crimes committed in Srebrenica, Sarajevo, Prijedor and elsewhere, and charged the international media with fabricating lies about the war.

There was no siege of Sarajevo, he maintained. “Sarajevo was not a city under siege but was rather separated into two parts with a demarcation line,” he said. “There was no such thing as a siege.”

The various massacres mentioned in his indictment were mostly “staged” by the mainly Bosniak (Muslim) government in Sarajevo to provoke international military intervention.
The Prosecution has indicted Karadzic for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide in 11 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Part of the indictment contains allegations of responsibility for the killing of over 200 people in the shelling of Sarajevo’s Markale market place on two occasions, one in 1994 and the other in 1995.

“There was no deliberate bombing of targets in Sarajevo. Street battles were going on,” Karadzic said. “It was not military war, but war between the people who lived there.”

Part of the indictment concerns the crimes committed by the Bosnian Serb army in the eastern town of Srebrenica in 1995, where some 7,000 men and boys were executed after the enclave fell to Serbian forces led by General Ratko Mladic, who is still at large.

Karadzic said the Serbs had been forced to “demilitarize” the town because UN forces in charge of the UN-protected enclave had shown they couldn’t do it.

The UN proclaimed Srebrenica a safe haven and demilitarized zone in 1993 along with two other eastern enclaves, Zepa and Cerska, which were also overrun in July 1995.

Karadzic disputed the use of the term “boys” when talking of the victims executed in Srebrenica in July 1995. “The Prosecution does not specify whom they consider boys,” he said. “If they talk about 16 or 17-year-old fellows, they were armed. Using term like boys, they just want to provoke emotions.”

Karadzic claimed his army was defending itself from armed men in Srebrenica who were “shooting in their backs”.

Munira Subasic, a survivor from Srebrenica who lost her son in 1995, told Germany’s Die Welt daily that Karadzic was a “liar”.

“He is humiliating me today just as he did 15 years ago,” said Subasic, whose son disappeared after the fall of Srebrenica. She doubted he would tell anything truthful during the trial.

Another part of the indictment concerns the UN peacekeepers taken hostage by the Bosnian Serbs in 1995, when NATO bombed Serbian positions to bring an end to the three-year conflict.

The Prosecution says the Serbs held several hundred UN soldiers at different locations in the Republika Srpska, as the Bosnian Serb entity is named.
“They were soldiers... they participated in the war, taking sides,” Karadzic said in answer to that.

“I will defend that nation of ours and a cause that is just and holy,” Karadzic said, adding that the aim of the Bosnian “Muslim plotters” was to take “100 per cent power, as it was in the time of the Ottoman Empire.”

(Bosnia was conquered by the Ottomans in the 15th century and remained part of the empire until occupation by Austria in 1878, which annexed the province in 1908.)

“This is reminiscent of those days,” said Nick Robertson, who reported from the Bosnian capital during the war for the US cable network CNN. “These were the exact same justifications: ‘We’re the ones under attack; we’re the ones being wronged.’”

Karadzic said the British journalists who first reported on the appalling Serb-run detention camps in the Prijedor area in August 1992 had invented the whole story.

Ed Vulliamy, of the Guardian, and Penny Marshall of ITN news were part of a group of journalists who managed to see the camp at Trnopolje, one of a series of camps where Bosnians and Croats were being held, tortured and killed, subsequent ICTY verdicts have confirmed. Their eyewitness reports from the camp, and photographs of emaciated prisoners standing behind barbed wire fences, caused an outcry round the world.

“Karadzic’s argument may be old, tired and serially unsuccessful but it is nonetheless heartless and poisonous,” Vulliamy told the Guardian the day after Karadzic accused him of conspiracy.

“What most concerns me is the searing pain that the denial of the camps causes to the survivors of the bloodletting and to the bereaved, with many of whom I have remained in touch since 1992,” he added.

“It is one thing to suffer these horrors – quite another to be told they were a media conspiracy. Karadzic, however, is hardly likely to care about them,” he continued.

In Bosnia, Balkan Insight talked with some of the survivors of the war in Sarajevo. Svetozar Pudaric, who was badly wounded in the city centre, did not even watch the live transmission from The Hague. “I knew he would repeat the same old story, which we've already heard a million times,” he said.

However, Gojko Beric, columnist for the daily paper Oslobodjenje whose building was largely destroyed in the war, did follow Karadzic’s statement.
“Karadzic’s defence in The Hague showed how little we’ve moved on from the horrors of the past,” he told Balkan Insight.

Beric said he feared the impoverished people of Bosnia were still easily manipulated by nationalist rhetoric, and swayed by the “false patriotism” of their bickering ethnic leaders.

Karadzic’s trial began on October 27, 2009 with the presentation of the prosecution’s introductory arguments.

He asked for a postponement until June 17, in order to give him time to prepare his defence. The Trial Chamber rejected this request on February 26. On March 2, Karadzic was given seven days to appeal against the Chamber’s decision not to allow further postponement of the trial.

Nidzara Ahmetasevic is BIRN Transitional Justice editor. Balkan Insight is weekly BIRN online publication.
‘I would love to judge the Karadzic case’

Judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, one of the Tribunal’s most important presidents from the 1990s, recalls setting up the outreach programme and explains why the court must play a key role in regional reconciliation.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

“I like to use law as mechanism for bringing some good,” says Judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, one of the first judges appointed to the ICTY in 1993, and president of the Tribunal from 1997 to 1999.

“The law is not a sterile instrument. It is about how we can affect society. The law is not just to write judgments; it is about judgments coming to effect.”

More than 10 years after she left Tribunal, due to health issues, she is still remembered as one of its most active presidents, criticising the United Nations when it was slow to arrest indicted war criminals and establishing outreach programmes in order to bring the Tribunal closer to the region. Those were just some of her achievements.

She believes the role of the ICTY is not only judicial; it should also contribute to the process of reconciliation in the region. “When I say reconciliation, I mean coming together,” she says.

“I don’t think reconciliation means that you forget the past or even that you forgive persons or groups that did you wrong. But it can be coming together, recognising that you’re better off working together than separately.”

The ICTY role came to McDonald towards the end of her long and prominent career. She started as a civil rights attorney in the US, before becoming a law professor and federal judge in Texas. As a civil rights attorney, something she today recalls as the most important job in her life, she won major cases in the 1960s and 1970s as a result of which US president Jimmy Carter named her as a first African American woman to the US District Court in Houston.
For her work as judge and president at the ICTY, McDonald was honoured several times. In the US, she was elected to the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame and the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. After she left the ICTY in 1999 she was honoured at the US Supreme Court.

Her work at the ICTY can be said to have changed the history of international law. Together with other 10 judges who came to The Hague in 1993, she worked on drafting the rules and legal framework for this ad hoc tribunal, the first of its kind since the Second World War.

During her mandate, she was the presiding judge in the case of Dusko Tadic who was sentenced by the first instance chamber in 1997 to 20 years' imprisonment for crimes in the Prijedor area. In 2000, the verdict was confirmed by Appellate Chamber. McDonald signed the first ever verdict for the crime of ethnic cleansing. She still remembers details of the trial, moments from the courtroom and even the names of witnesses and stories about victims. "I remember one story about a victim who was hanged with the rope until he died," she says.

She also did something that has rarely happened at the Tribunal, asking one of the perpetrators, Tadic, why he had committed atrocities. "I remember being at home and asking myself, 'What am I going to say to Mr Tadic?' In the US, when you sentence someone and pronounce them guilty of a crime, you can speak to them and tell them something. And then I asked him - 'Why?'

"People asked me whether I expected him to answer. No, I did not. But why had he done it? Because he believed in the establishment of Greater Serbia? And that was very sad to me. For some political purpose you commit these kinds of atrocities against non-combatants, with people you’d grown up with; he attended school with those people. So, it saddens me and I guess I felt I was somewhere down close to evil. What does that say about the future of our world?"

Many who well know the work of the ICTY are critical of its legacy, questioning the degree to which its decisions have had an impact on the peoples of the Yugoslav successor states. They complain of the lack of an overall strategy towards the region. Judge McDonald was the first one to try to remedy that, establishing the outreach office.

She remembers an interview she gave after the Tadic verdict, when she was told that in Prijedor no one knew anything about either the trial or the verdict. "I was flabbergasted and disappointed," she says. "At the time I was travelling in the US and I was concerned that people did not know or even care about what we were doing."
McDonald says she fears that all the work that has been done will be wasted if it is not understood and if people do not have confidence in the judgments being handed down.

“Believing in the Tribunal does not mean [believing] it is 100 per cent rosy but that it’s relevant to recovering from the past. You can call it reconciliation, or whatever. But we had the mandate and with the outreach programme established in 1999 we began to take that mandate seriously.”

However, more than 10 years after the outreach programme was set up, critics note that ICTY decisions are still not always accepted, or even known, by the people at large. Examples of this are provided by politicians that are ignoring facts established by judgments.

McDonald is aware of this problem. “There are entrenched attitudes that aren’t easily relinquished, because to do so means admitting something horrendous,” McDonald says.

She believes the media had a major role in shaping these attitudes. Indeed, the Tadic verdict recognised the role of the media.

“During the Tadic case I recall one journalist who testified ... saying that something like that could even have happened in US if one person had taken over the media, television and radio, and constantly preached war,” she says.

“You have to get the facts out there and once you get them out there, if you believe in the legitimacy of the court that puts those facts out... you have to acknowledge that you did these things.

“And once you acknowledge what happened, then the process of healing both of you as perpetrator, and the victim, will begin. That is why the outreach programme is important.”

Today, as one of three American judges/arbitrators on the Iran-US Claims Tribunal in The Hague, she does not have time to follow the ICTY closely, though she is aware of most of what is going on.

“ If I were younger”, she admits, she would love to be a judge in the Radovan Karadzic case. “When I was here there were rumours that he was going to turn himself in,” she recalls.

Even though she does not comment directly on the work of the present Tribunal judges, she describes the decision to allow Karadzic to contact the media as a surprise. “I don’t know what factors were taken into consideration in affording him that right. Coming from my system, that would not have happened,” she says.
During her career, McDonald also played a part in the establishment of International Criminal Court, ICC and she is still promoter of international courts and system of justice.

“Until the ICTY, people did not believe international courts could be established because judicial systems operate around the world in different ways... but we were able to put together those systems and establish an international court. And people looked at it and said, oh, I guess it can be done.

“The ICTY made the establishment of the ICC feasible,” she concludes. “It proved it was possible.”

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02.03.2010

Sarajevo is not your city, Mr Karadzic, but mine

Radovan Karadzic, Sarajevo is not your city, and you have no right to say that it is, just as you do not have the right to say in public, even if it’s in court, that someone has dug up bones around Bosnia and brought them to Srebrenica to make a fake graveyard. This is insulting.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

Maybe Karadzic lived there for any number of years, as he says. But he also did everything he could to kill off the city and the people that lived there. He wrote “poetry”, admitting he hated the city. Well, I give myself the right to tell him he is wrong. Mr Karadzic, it is not your city. Not one bit of it belongs to you.

He was saying much the same things in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996, until somebody finally thought “enough” and the international community decided to remove him from the public arena. They should have arrested him at the same time – but that is a different story.

And so, many years on, the Tribunal of which we expected so much is letting him spread his hate speech and propaganda, saying that it is in accordance with the rules of the court and his human rights.

I agree that his rights should be respected, like anybody else’s, but I have learned that one’s person rights end where other person’s rights start. Of course, I believe in human rights, generally, and in freedom of speech even more. But I also maintain that there should be limitations, of the type usually imposed in any democracy to prevent people from using hate speech to inflame or endanger others.

One respected international judge recently told me that if somebody in his country, meaning the US, talked in such a way in court, he or she would be sent back to the cells, since such behaviour is considered disrespectful to the court and an insult to the victims.

The ICTY does not appear to accept that. Instead, Karadzic has been given unprecedented permission to talk to the media and describe the war in Bosnia as a war “between Serbs” since everybody in that country is apparently Serbian.
He has been allowed to insult his victims in different ways in a number of interviews given since he was arrested. And the sensationalist media are running to talk to him, just as they were running around Sarajevo during the war, taking pictures of us Sarajevans dying in the streets.

In his opening statement, although Karadzic continued with these insults, none of the judges reacted. And the media were thrilled, which is equally hurtful. What about the fact that the freedom he has been given interferes with my freedoms, and with my rights? Once more, he has been left to do and say whatever he wishes.

It all reminds me of the trial of Slobodan Milosevic when, once again, the court let him speak and use the courtroom as a platform for his own propaganda. The result? His popularity in Serbia only increased. There is a lesson to be learned from this.

None of this means that I am not pleased that this trial is taking place. I guess it is, although it is not very clear, what with all the postponements. But where are the judges in the courtroom, and why don’t they take more control of the situation? Is this how the trial is to go on?

My fear is that too many people in the region remain highly susceptible to this kind of propaganda, and letting him talk on and on like this could awaken many old fears and hatreds.
Karadzic’s ‘Holy War’

Karadzic’s talk of ‘holy war’ is no rhetorical exaggeration for the court. He and his supporters believed God was on their side.

BY MARCUS TANNER

Listening to Radovan Karadzic describe his war against the Bosnian Muslims as “holy”, it’s tempting to think he is making a bad joke, or fooling the judges. This would be to mistake both the man and his supporters. Most of the Bosnian Serb fighters serving under him that I met in the early 1990s talked the same crusading talk, jumbling up ethnic, economic and religious grievances against their Muslim neighbours, and claiming to be avenging the Turkish conquest of Bosnia in the 15th and 16th century.

Their strident confessional animosity explained their obsession with blowing up religious monuments – whatever their historic value. That’s why Bosnia lost the lovely 16th-century “painted” mosque in Foca in eastern Bosnia, and the soaring Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka, in the north-west, which disappeared along with every other mosque (and Catholic church) they could get hold of.

Religious identity and economic status were inextricably mixed in pre-war Bosnia. One young fighter I met in the eastern Drina valley, scene of some of the worst ethnic cleansing, told me that now they’d kicked out the local Muslims, the Serbs up on the moors could at last come down and get hold of the low, fertile land on the riverbank to which they were entitled, but which the Muslims had “stolen” long ago. “The Turks gave them [the Muslims] all the best land, pushed us up onto higher ground,” he said. So there we were; justice had been delayed but not, in the end, denied.

The Serb grievances went back a long way. Bosnia’s big landowners, the so-called “begs”, were Muslims, descendants of the ancient Christian gentry who converted under the Ottomans. Most old families in the towns were also Muslim. That lent the Bosnian war its peasants-versus-townsfolk as well as a Christian-versus-Muslim angle. Westerners often couldn’t figure out why Karadzic’s fighters seemed so indifferent to, or even satisfied by, the destruction of “their” old libraries and old towns. In reality, though the Serbs had migrated en masse into the towns after the communist takeover in 1945, many felt little ownership of this still alien landscape of mosques and minarets.
The Serbs of Karadzic’s stamp were on a mission to change that urban landscape for good, and found in the Orthodox church an unswerving supporter. The hierarchy blew incense over every Serbian offensive, however bloody. When the paramilitary group known as the Tigers stormed the northeast town of Bijeljina in 1992 and butchered a good number of the local Muslims, “pour encourager les autres”, (an assault memorably captured by a Time magazine photographer) their leader, nicknamed Arkan, sought – and received – the public blessing of one of the leading bishops.

From the start, Karadzic’s ethnically cleansed statelet, the Republika Srpska, had an ecclesiastical stamp of approval. People in Belgrade might laugh at the idea of bishops blessing tanks, or even new petrol stations, but there they took it seriously. The bosses of each of the two new “mini-Serbias” – the other being in Croatia (but which the Croats crushed) – saw themselves as creating purified, re-Christianised versions of the old.

The Orthodox hierarchy in Serbia maintained its uncritical alliance with Karadzic to the end of the war, and beyond (as did the Croatian Catholic bishops with their own holy warriors). The Orthodox churches of Greece and Russia were equally fulsome. In Athens in 1993, the Greek bishops feted Karadzic, proclaiming him a Christian hero. So, when Karadzic says his war was “holy”, he’s not acting. He believes precisely what he says. And throughout the Balkans, and beyond, the Orthodox church has taken him at his word.

Marcus Tanner is Balkan Insight editor. Balkan Insight is BIRN’s online publication. This article was originally published in the Guardian.
Karadzic Trial Postponed Again

The Trial Chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, today decided to postpone the trial of Radovan Karadzic without specifying the date when the case will resume. Karadzic delivered his opening statements for the second day today.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

“In the interest of justice”, presiding judge O-Gon Kwon said, the trial against Radovan Karadzic is postponed until the Appellate Chamber makes its decision on the defendant’s appeal of a previous decision by the Trial Chamber to reject his request for postponement.

Witnesses who came for the second time to testify at The Hague will once again be turned away and have to come again at a later date, and the Chamber expressed its regret for that.

Karadzic finished delivering his opening statement today, March 2, after beginning on Monday, March 1. He dedicated most of his time in the courtroom to the part of the indictment concerning Sarajevo and Srebrenica.

He repeated that actions by Bosnian Serb forces, which were led by him as commander-in-chief, were a reaction to what the “Muslim side” was doing.

Throughout his speech he did not use the term ‘Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina’, but rather referred to the “Muslim side” or “SDA army”.

The SDA, or Party of Democratic Action, a Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) party, was led by the late former President Alija Izetbegovic and was the ruling party in the Bosniak part of the country during the war.

“Sarajevo was not a city under siege, but rather it was separated into two parts with a demarcation line. There was no such thing as a siege,” Radosvan Karadzic said. Karadzic is accused, among other things, for his role in leading the siege of Sarajevo, which lasted from April 1992 to November 1995, according to the ICTY indictment.

The prosecution will try to prove that he participated in a joint criminal enterprise, JCE, with the intention to “establish and implement a military
strategy that used sniping and shelling to kill, maim, wound and terrorise the civilian inhabitants of Sarajevo.”

In today’s hearing the accused said that in April 1992 his flat in downtown Sarajevo was “gun machined” and that somebody was waiting to kill him and his family, but, “luckily, we were in the hotel Holiday Inn, where the SDS headquarters were located.”

Karadzic said that on the night of April 5, 1992, it was “horrible to be a Serb in Sarajevo”, after “Green Berets units occupied every single building with snipers” who were shooting at the Serbs.

The Green Berets were, according to Karadzic, the armed forces formed by the “Muslim side” in Bosnia. On April 5, 1992, the war began in Sarajevo.

During his opening statement, Karadzic claimed that Bosnian Serbs were attacked in different parts of the country, and that they could not protect themselves.

“Police did not protect us, moreover, they worked against us. And the JNA [Yugoslav National Army] was too busy,” he said, at the same time explaining that if some Serbs were armed it was because it was part of the “Tito doctrine” of self defence.

Karadzic also said that Bosnia was separated by demarcation lines that were made up by citizens. “People came out to the borders of their territories to prevent slaughter,” he claimed, showing a map which, according to him, describes the situation in Bosnia showing “ethnical territories”.

“The idea was to divide Bosnia in three units using a Swiss model,” he further explained, adding that all the warring sides agreed to this model. For Sarajevo, he suggested a “Brussels model, where there are 17 municipalities, and not even one is mixed... So people in the Balkans only have to pretend to live in a so-called melting pot.”

While standing in the front of the map of Sarajevo in the courtroom, he said: “this is my city where I lived for over 50 years,” explaining that it was a “Serb city” and that when the war started Serbs managed to protect only those parts “where the population was predominantly Serb.” According to Karadzic this was the area in the center of the city called Grbavica.

“We did not manage to keep Pofalici, one other Serb part, and over 250 people were killed. Mladic’s house was there. Luckily his family escaped, but his house was completely ruined.”

Former Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic has also been indicted by the ICTY for genocide and war crimes, but he is still on the run.
Karadzic claimed that Serbs were protecting the city and their targets were only military targets, because “forces three times stronger than ours were inside.”

According to the indictment, Karadzic was part of a JCE which aimed to persecute “on political and/or religious grounds against Bosnian Muslims and/or Bosnian Croats” in Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Bosanski Novi, Bratunac, Brcko, Foca, Hadzici, Ilidza, Klijuc, Novi Grad, Novo Sarajevo, Pale, Prijedor, Rogatica, Sanski Most, Sokolac, Visegrad, Vlasenica, Vogosca and Zvornik, “as well as persecuting Bosnian Muslims of Srebrenica.”

“He is responsible for the acts of extermination and murder that formed part of the objective to permanently remove Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats from Bosnian–Serb claimed territory,” the indictment says.

In his defence Karadzic argues that no plans for expulsions or “removal of people” were made.

“If Muslims were living in the part that belonged to Serbs, or Croats, like in the Prijedor area, the plan was to form cantons.”

He talked about other cities that are mentioned in his indictment and accusations about killings of non-Serbs, saying that the difference between a Muslim who was killed and one who was not was that the first had a gun.

He expressed regret that Visegrad was not part of his indictment.

“Unfortunately, for an entire year in that city Serbs were terrorised and women and girls raped only because of their ethnicity,” Karadzic said.

According to some ICTY verdicts, Visegrad was the city in eastern Bosnia from which most of the Bosniak residents were expelled in the first couple of months of the war.

Witnesses in the trial of Milan and Sredoje Lukic, warlords from Visegrad, talked about the rape of Bosniak girls and women, but the Prosecution never put those accusations in the indictments. However the Trial Chamber in the Lukic case noted that they did hear many testimonies about incidents of rape in the town.

Karadzic dismissed accusations about forceful deportations, saying that people asked to leave, and were free to go.

“Serbs were running away, while for the Muslims we organised transportation on their request.”
The Prosecution has accused Karadzic of genocide committed in 11 municipalities, including Srebrenica. According to the indictment, from July 11 to November 1, 1995, Karadzic participated in a JCE aimed at “eliminating the Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica by killing the men and boys of Srebrenica and forcibly removing the women, young children and some elderly men.”

He rejected this accusation, saying that Serb forces had to react to constant attacks coming from the city over the years, but that they never even had any intention of entering it.

“But, when our soldiers arrived, we found nobody,” Karadzic said in his opening statement.

Taking about Srebrenica, Karadzic ironically noticed that today in Potocari Bosniaks make a “kind of pilgrimage” and construct graves and a stone in which it is engraved that more than 8,000 people were killed in July 1995.

“But they barely gathered 2,000 remains to bury there... and you can see that all over Bosnia graves are being dug up and bones moved to Srebrenica just to increase that number.”

“We were surprised that when we found people in Potocari nobody wanted to go back to Srebrenica... And we had to organise in a hurry for them to leave in order to prevent some kind of revenge. No incident happened before July 14, 1995. Or just one, in Kravica, but that was provoked by one Muslim.”

According to verdicts issued by the ICTY, on July 13, 1995, around 1,000 men and boys were killed in a warehouse in Kravica.

“I am now in the phase of establishing the truth about Srebrenica,” he said.

“I am not afraid of this trial and I am getting ready with much enthusiasm,” Karadzic closed his opening statement, complaining that he is putting his health in danger working through the night in order to prepare his defence.
ICTY Asks Bosnia to Reply to Karadzic Request

Judge O-Gon Kwon, who presides over the Trial Chamber in the Radovan Karadzic case, has invited the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to reply to the accused’s request for documents.

The invitation and four questions were sent to the government via the Bosnian embassy in The Hague and deadline for reply is March 22.

The Trial Chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, decided to use this method after no representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina came to the status hearing on February 15. The Bosnian government was invited to the hearing together with five other countries to come and explain why it had not given Karadzic documents he had requested as relevant for his defence.

The Bosnian embassy informed the Tribunal that no one from the government would attend the hearing due to technical obstacles “in regard to the short notice given”, but the Chamber expressed its disappointment.

Bosnian media reported that the real reason for the government no-show was that the three members of the Bosnian presidency could not agree on how to respond to the request.

Since the end of the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina has had a three member presidency, made up of one Serb, one Croat and one Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim). The members hold their positions for four years, rotating as the chairman of the presidency at intervals.

Karadzic requested a number of documents from the Bosnian government, but only a limited number were delivered to him. The documents which were not delivered concern the number of dead during the war, particularly in the area of Srebrenica, and information on the actions of the Seva unit, a paramilitary unit fighting in Sarajevo, among others.

In his letter Judge Kwon wrote that it was not clear why there was no Bosnian government representative at the hearing. He asked the government to explain the reason for that, as well as to say if they were still searching for documents and what has been done until now in order to find the requested material.

The presiding judge also asked if the Bosnian government could say anything about the requested documents and if the government had “any other relevant observations”.
Bosnians React to Karadzic
Opening Statements

As Radovan Karadzic stood in the dock in The Hague on Monday, finally breaking the boycott of his war crimes trial to defend what he described as a “just and holy” war, many in Bosnia noted with resignation that their country was still years away from recovering from the crimes for which he stands accused.

By a strange twist of fate, Karadzic opened his defense before the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague exactly eighteen years from the day Bosnia organised a referendum on independence from the former Yugoslavia - a day which only half of the post-war country celebrates as the day of independence.

“I did not even care to watch his opening statement on Independence Day because I knew he would repeat the same old story which we’ve already heard a million times and I did not want it to spoil March 1, 2010, which will not repeat ever again,” Svetozar Pudaric told Balkan Insight.

The Bosnian conflict erupted in April 1992 only weeks after the independence referendum.

While the turnout in the referendum was 64 per cent and 98 per cent of those who cast ballots voted for independence, it was largely boycotted by Bosnian Serbs, who accounted for one third of the population.

Before the war was ended by the 1995 Dayton peace agreement that split the country into largely autonomous ethnic entities – a Serb majority Republika Srpska and a federation made up predominantly of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats - 100,000 people had been killed and 2.2 million had been displaced from their homes.

Pudaric said that Karadzic’s defense was likely to be a testament to the same nationalist policies which transformed Bosnia into a “divided society”, but he expressed confidence that time would heal the wounds and bring his country back to its “natural state as an ethnically mixed open culture”.

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However, Pudaric insisted that it was important that Karadzic be brought to account for the crimes committed during Bosnia’s war, including Pudaric’s own injury by mortar fire in Sarajevo in 1992.

A child from a mixed Serb–Croat marriage, Pudaric moved on with his life following the war, marrying his Serb girlfriend Sanda, who was injured in the same 1992 mortar attack and had her left leg amputated at the hip. He resolutely rejects Karadzic’s claim that the Bosnian war was the product of eternal, age-old ethnic hatreds.

“"It is true that the country in which we live today makes everyone feel betrayed and robbed of his life, and it is true that this is a divided society, but time will heal the wounds," he said.

“The real question is not whether this country will recover, but rather when that will happen. Probably not in our lifetime, but in time for our children or at least for our grandchildren to stop living in misery,” he added.

However, not everyone was so confident that Bosnia should hope for better days to come.

“"Both the way in which this date is marked in Bosnia today and Karadzic’s defence in The Hague show how little we have moved away from the horrors of the past," political analyst Gojko Beric told Balkan Insight.

Beric said that the impoverished Bosnian people are still easily manipulated by nationalist rhetoric and the “false patriotism” of their bickering ethnic leaders.

“"Half of this country’s people do not recognise it as their homeland and its Independence Day, abused by false patriots, feels more like a commemoration then like a celebration,” he said.

Some in Bosnia expressed fears that Karadzic’s trial would only add fuel to an already tense political situation.

“"I am afraid that everything, including war crimes trials, is being abused by politicians to reinforce their separate ethnic agendas," 26-year-old economist Mirza Polic told Balkan Insight.

“We are living in a society where even primary school children are aware of ethnic differences and I am afraid that such a situation will continue for a long time to come,” he added.
However, 18-year-old student Senadin Mesic said in Sarajevo that it was of “huge importance for our future that all those responsible for war crimes be brought to justice.”

“The situation ahead of [Bosnia’s general] elections [in October] is already tense and Karadzic’s trial is likely to inflame it further by dividing people according to who supports and who rejects his arguments,” he said.

“But it is important that Karadzic and all others responsible for war crimes stand trial so that my generation... can finally force politicians to move on and start answering questions about what they are doing to provide us with proper education and jobs,” he said.
Radovan Karadzic has claimed that Serbs did not want a war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but rather that their goal was to keep Yugoslavia together, or if that was not possible, to keep Bosnian Serbs and their territory inside of Yugoslavia.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

Radovan Karadzic made the claims in his opening statement in the front of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Karadzic began by saying that he was in the courtroom not with the intention of defending himself, but rather with the intention of defending a nation that has suffered for hundreds of years, referencing the Ottoman period and World War II several times during his speech.

The Prosecution has accused Karadzic of crimes committed in Bosnia during the war, including the mass expulsion of non-Serbs, killings, destruction and genocide committed in 11 municipalities from 1992 to 1995.

According to Karadzic, the cause of the war was “the Islamist goal” of harming the “Christian majority” through secession and the establishment of a state. He said that the Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) Party of Democratic Action, SDA, wanted to have 100 per cent of the power in Bosnia, a goal that the Serbs could not accept.

“Some demonic powers pushed Izetbegovic [Alija Izetbegovic, SDA leader and first president of Bosnia and Herzegovina] toward this goal...More than one solution was offered, but only one would lead to war and that was the declaration of the independence and sovereignty of Bosnia.

“That is something they want even today and they will push in that direction as long as entity borders are not codified and until we separate, in a peaceful way,” Karadzic said. He later added that Muslims in Bosnia are driven by some “dark powers”, a subject he promised to “elaborate further on”.

On March 1, 1992, a referendum on independence was held in Bosnia and Herzegovina and more than 63 per cent of those who cast ballots voted
for independence. Most Bosnian Serbs boycotted the referendum. The war started in April the same year and lasted until December 1995 when the Dayton Peace Agreement, which divided the country into two entities, was signed.

According to Karadzic, the responsibility of western countries for the war, in particular Germany and the US, will be proven with different quotations from politicians and public figures. Western countries, he claims, predicted everything that would happen in Bosnia a long time ago.

As proof of the west’s responsibility for the war in Bosnia, Karadzic quoted Richard Holbrooke, who he claims said that the US had fought and won wars in Bosnia and Kosovo, and that it would do the same in Afghanistan.

“I am more than grateful to Mr Holbrooke for this acknowledgment,” Karadzic said in the courtroom.

Holbrooke was the US special envoy to the Balkans during the 1990s, and today he holds the same position in Afghanistan.

He even thanked Franjo Tudjman, the late wartime president of Croatia, and Alija Izetbegovic, the late wartime president of Bosnia, for statements that Karadzic say prove his innocence.

“Tudjman said that the war would not happen if Croatia did not want it to happen, and I am grateful to him for those words,” said Karadzic.

“I want to thank Izetbegovic for his openness and honesty since what he said took away any responsibility from me. He said “we made our choice and the price was high... We could have avoided conflict and stayed in Yugoslavia, but we wanted to have independence.”

Karadzic also talked about massacres in Sarajevo, particularly two that were committed in marketplaces, one in 1994 and second in 1995. He rejected the Prosecution’s accusation, as well as rulings by some previous trial chambers, that the Bosnian Serb Army is guilty for those crimes. According to Karadzic, the whole massacre was staged.

He blamed international media for inciting the conflict and taking sides. He mentioned British journalists who visited camp Trnopolje, which the Prosecution calls a detention centre and which Karadzic referred to as an “accommodation centre for people who were running away from the war”.

“They staged what they showed from Trnopolje... The journalists entered a storage area which was enclosed in barbed wire, and then filmed people outside, free people.... We suffered a lot because of that,” said Karadzic.
A team of British journalists entered Trnopolje in August 1992 and discovered a detention centre where thousands of Bosnians were being held against their will. Verdicts delivered in previous trials at the ICTY established that in the area of Prijedor, where Trnopolje is located, Croats and Bosniaks were detained, tortured and killed in detention centres. These crimes are part of the Karadzic indictment as well.

Presenting his case, Karadzic blamed the Prosecution and claimed that they were one of the parties to the war. He said that their need to paint him as a monster came from the fact that they do not have any evidence against him.

He even proposed “a game” to turn the indictment upside down in order to get what he called the real culprits for the war. “It will even be fun,” he said, presenting parts of the indictment in a way that put Tudjman and Izetbegovic’s names in place of his [see photo at right].

The trial resumed today after being adjourned in November last year; the court on Friday rejected a new request for a further postponement. Karadzic filed another complaint this morning, claiming he is not ready for the cross-examination of the first Prosecution witnesses, which is scheduled for March 3.

The delivery of Karadzic’s opening statements will continue tomorrow.
Karadzic, the former President of Republika Srpska, is indicted for crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995, including genocide. He will represent himself during the trial.

However, the Trial Chamber ordered that Richard Harvey, who was earlier appointed by the Chamber as defence counsel, be present in the courtroom during Karadzic’s opening statements. Two members of Karadzic’s defence team will also be in attendance.

Marko Sladojevic, a member of the defence team, told Balkan Insight that Karadzic will concentrate on accusations about his participation in four joint criminal enterprises. He will also present video and audio material in the courtroom.

On Friday, February 26, the Chamber refused Karadzic’s latest request to postpone the trial until mid-June, ordering the Prosecution to call its first witness on Wednesday, March 3.

As was announced earlier, the first witness will testify under protective measures using the pseudonym KDZ 263. Following his testimony, Sulejman Crncalo, who previously testified in the Momcilo Krajisnik trial, will be called.

Krajisnik was the Assembly speaker in Republika Srpska during the war. In 2009 he was sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment, but he recently requested early release after serving more than two-thirds of his sentence.

In the Krajisnik trial Crncalo spoke about his deportation from Pale, the town near Sarajevo that was used as Karadzic’s headquarters during the war.

“Karadzic addressed the people gathered in Pale...In his address Karadzic told the gathered people that the best way to protect Serb homes was to attack Muslim houses,” Crncalo’s statement says.
Crnalo said that before leaving his home he was forced to sign a document stating that he was leaving all of his belongings, including his house and car, to Serb authorities.

After his deportation Crnalo lived in Sarajevo, where his wife was killed in August 1995 during the Markale market massacre, in which 37 people were killed and more than 90 wounded.

The Prosecution will admit into evidence previous testimonies by KDZ 263 and Crnalo, and briefly examine them, after which they are due to be cross-examined by Karadzic.

Last week the accused told the Chamber that he is not ready for cross-examination.
Karadzic Trial Will Not be Postponed

The Hague Tribunal Chamber has rejected Radovan Karadzic’s request to postpone his trial, stating that the indictee is due to present his introductory arguments on March 1 and 2 and the presentation of evidence is due to begin the following day.

The Trial Chamber also decided that Richard Harvey, Karadzic’s court-appointed Defence attorney, will be present in court during the presentation of introductory arguments by the indictee. It also said that two members of his defence team could be present in court.

“Following the presentation of introductory arguments, a decision will be made concerning the role Mr. Harvey will play during the further course of this trial,” the Trial Chamber said.

The trial of Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, who is charged before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war, began in October 2009, when the Prosecution presented its introductory arguments in the absence of the indictee.

In November 2009, acting on a warrant issued by the Trial Chamber, the Registrar’s Office appointed Richard Harvey as an attorney, indicating that he would represent Karadzic at the trial if he continued “interrupting the proceedings”.

The indictee was not present in court at the beginning of the trial, claiming that he was not ready for his defence. On several occasions he has asked for the trial to be postponed.

Karadzic filed his last motion on February 22. In this motion he asked the Court to postpone the trial for three and a half months in order to enable him to prepare for the presentation of evidence and, among other things, review more than 400,000 pages submitted to him by the Prosecution.

“The Trial Chamber is not convinced that the volume of the additional material justifies yet another postponement of this trial, particularly since the indictee has had 18 months to prepare for it. (...) Postponing the trial further would be a drastic measure, which would, at the same time, have
serious repercussions on the right of the parties to a fair and expeditious trial,” the Trial Chamber said in its decision, adding that it was determined in September 2009 that this case “was ready for trial”.

The Court’s decision notes there are other ways of making sure that Karadzic’s rights are not violated, such as giving the indictee additional time to prepare for cross-examination of certain witnesses or reviewing certain pieces of evidence submitted to him over a short period of time.

“The Trial Chamber stresses that the Prosecution will continue providing the indictee with materials. He cannot be expected to review all the material prior to the beginning of the evidence presentation process. The volume of the material and the time-span in which it was submitted to the indictee did not come as a result of some mistake made by the Prosecution. Under the circumstances, the trial cannot be postponed on the basis of unreasonable submission of material by the Prosecution,” the Court said.

Karadzic was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008, after having been on the run for many years. The Hague Prosecution has charged him with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian municipalities as well as crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.
Karadzic Defence Team: Sarajevo Was a Legitimate Military Target

Radovan Karadzic is ready to deliver his opening statement on Monday and Tuesday next week, but not ready for his trial to continue. Balkan Insight obtained an exclusive interview with two members of Karadzic’s defence team and they revealed some of the elements of his opening argument.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

According to Marko Sladojevic, a member of Radovan Karadzic’s defence team, the arguments that Sarajevo and Srebrenica were regular military targets, while UN soldiers belonged to one of the warring parties will be two main elements in Karadzic’s opening arguments on March 1 and 2.

The Chamber announced Friday afternoon that Karadzic’s request for a postponement of the trial until June had been denied, and that the trial would continue on March 3.

“It was hard for us to prepare for the opening statements, keeping in mind the Registrar’s decision to decrease funds for Mr Karadzic’s defence team, but we made it thanks to the latest decision of the ICTY President, and the opening statement will definitely be delivered on Monday and Tuesday”, said Sladojevic in an exclusive interview for Balkan Insight.

Peter Robinson, a legal advisor for the Karadzic team, also confirmed that the opening statements would be given as scheduled.

“He is getting there and he will be ready by Monday. He is writing his opening speech by himself, and he is currently going through the draft,” said Robinson.

The trial of the former President of Republika Srpska, who has been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, began in October 2009. The indictee refused to attend the presentation of the prosecution’s introductory arguments, and asked for a postponement of the trial.
On February 22, the Tribunal President approved additional resources for Karadzic to prepare his defence, “due to the high complexity of the case”. This decision enables eight advisors to work on preparations for the trial.

According to Sladojevic, Karadzic’s decision to deliver his opening statement next week is intended to prove that the defence does not intend to boycott the entire trial, but rather that the team simply needs more time to prepare.

Karadzic agreed to deliver his opening statement and at the same time he asked that his trial be delayed further, claiming that he need more time to go through all the documents he received in the last several months. The Prosecution objected to this request, and today the chamber announced that Karadzic’s request was denied and that the trial would continue on March 3.

According to Sladojevic, who has been helping Karadzic from the very beginning, in his opening statement the defendant will concentrate mostly on accusations about his participation in a joint criminal enterprise.

“There are four counts for this in the indictment. I must say this is a very complex case,” Sladojevic added.

The Prosecution will try to prove that Karadzic, “from at least October 1991 until November 30, 1995”, participated in “an overarching joint criminal enterprise, JCE, to permanently remove Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats” from part of Bosnia.

According to the indictment, also part of this JCE were Ratko Mladic, who is still at large, Momcilo Krajsnik, who is serving his sentence in the UK after being sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment, Slobodan Milosevic, who died in 2006 in his cell in ICTY detention, and Biljana Plavsic, who was convicted for war crimes and released last fall after she served two-thirds of her sentence.

The other alleged members of this JCE included Nikola Koljevic, who committed suicide after the war, Momcilo Mandic, who was found not guilty for war crimes by State Court in Sarajevo, Jovica Stanisic, Mico Stanisic, Franko Simatovic and Vojislav Seselj whose trials are ongoing, and Zeljko Raznjatovic Arkan, who was killed 10 years ago in Belgrade.

The alleged joint criminal enterprise included the siege of Sarajevo, which lasted from April 1992 to November 1995. Participants in the siege allegedly included Krajsnik, Mladic, Plavsic, Koljevic, and Seselj, as well as Stanislav Galic, sentenced to life imprisonment, and Dragomir Milosevic, sentenced to 29 years’ imprisonment.
Genocide in Srebrenica was also allegedly committed as part of the JCE by local political, military and police officials, some of whom are currently on trial in the Hague.

Karadžić, who will present video material, documents, maps and intercepted conversations, collected from different sources, wants to prove that Sarajevo was a divided city, a battlefield for two armies.

The chamber also announced on Friday that Richard Harvey, the defence lawyer appointed to Karadžić by the ICTY, would be present in the courtroom for Karadžić’s opening remarks. Karadžić has refused to have any contact with Harvey.
War Victims Condemn Further Delays to Karadzic Trial

While some believe the former Bosnian Serb leader deserves extra time to prepare his defence – owing to the case’s complexity – others believe he is ‘playing games’ with the tribunal.

BY DENIS DZIDIC

Twenty months after the arrest of Radovan Karadzic it is still uncertain when evidentiary proceedings will begin and legal experts differ over whether he should be granted additional time to prepare his defence.

According to the Hague Tribunal, Karadzic is due to make his opening statement on March 1 and 2 – but he has asked for the first witness hearings to be postponed by another three-and-a-half months.

While a Tribunal decision on a possible delay is pending, some international and local experts say the former Bosnian Serb leader should be granted more time to prepare his defence because of the exceptional complexity of the case and the amount of evidence.

Others insist it is high time the trial started, while victims of the Bosnian Serbs in the war fear that more delays could mean they never get justice.

Serbian police arrested the former president of the Republika Srpska in Belgrade in July 2008, after 13 years on the run. The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, charges him with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws or customs of war in the period of 1992–1995.

His trial before the ICTY began on October 27, 2009, but the indictee did not attend the hearings, maintaining he needed an additional ten months to prepare.

The trial was postponed to the beginning of March 2010 and in the meantime the Tribunal Council appointed a British lawyer, Richard Harvey, as Karadzic’s standby defender, to represent him if he continues to interfere with the trial.
At the beginning of February 2010, Karadzic demanded that the trial be postponed again, citing “the improper appointment” of Harvey as his defence lawyer and “insufficient reimbursement for the defence team”.

He said he would not take part in the trial if the appeal was denied. The court refused to dismiss Harvey but the President of the Tribunal granted Karadzic’s defence team additional funds to prepare.

Gert Jan Alexander Knoops, professor of international criminal law at the University of Utrecht, has some sympathy with Karadzic’s complaints. The Tribunal has given Karadzic too little time, he said.

“The time limited to March 1 is very short to prepare his defence, especially considering the Office of the Prosecutor handed in a new amended indictment in February 2009,” he said.

“It needs to be emphasized that the investigation against Karadzic began in 1995, which means there is a lot of evidence,” added Knoops.

Zarije Seizovic, humanitarian law professor at the Political Sciences faculty in Sarajevo, has a similar opinion. From the legal aspect, delaying the trial was “justified and in accordance with the rules of the Hague Tribunal, given the gravity of the offence for which Karadzic is charged,” he said.

“Some of the cases before the Tribunal run for tens of thousands of pages,” he added. “I’ve attended some trials for which... there were 40 or 50 crates of documents. Imagine needing to read and prepare a quality defence [when] each of these papers is potential evidence”, Seizovic added.

Speaking of the possibility of continuing the trial without Karadzic’s presence, legal experts note that the Tribunal may approve of such an action “only in exceptional cases”, such as when the defendant intentionally and continuously interferes with the process.

“In the case of Karadzic, we have not had the opportunity to see that type of behaviour and from the legal point of view it would not be proper for the Tribunal to decide to continue the trial in the absence of the accused,” Knoops said.

However, representatives of the Institute for Research of War Crimes in Sarajevo say Karadzic has had more than enough time to prepare his defence.

Edina Residovic, a longtime defence attorney, says the Tribunal has so far always secured the rights of all defendants, “and defendants absolutely have not had unfair trials.”
“When the defence team seeks more time for preparations, it must be taken into consideration whether they are using it for irrelevant things,” she said.

Becir Macic, of the Institute for Research of War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and International Humanitarian Law of the University of Sarajevo, believes two-and-a-half years was enough time for Karadzic and his team to prepare for the trial.

Macic explains that during the trial, Karadzic can still prepare specific documentation, as other Hague indictees have done.

“The Hague Tribunal must be resolute, because up to now Karadzic has made use of the hesitancy of the Tribunal and to some extent its lenience towards his actions.

“The public, and especially the victims, expect Karadzic's trial to provide many answers to questions related to the crimes and aggression committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” Macic added.

Representatives of war victims' groups also believe that Karadzic has been given enough time and rights.

“He has rights to everything. But in 1995, our children did not have any rights to anything,” Munira Subasic, head of the Association of Mothers of the Enclaves of Srebrenica and Zepa, said.

“This is playing games with the victims. The trial must begin on March 1, and if it doesn't, they should feel free to close the Tribunal and let him walk free,” she added.

Dzenana Sokolovic, one of the first witnesses due to testify, says that victims of the war will “suffer great injustice” if the trial is delayed. “I don’t understand why they should postpone the trial,” she said.

Sokolovic, who lost her seven-year-old son, Nermin, to a sniper’s bullet in 1994, will testify about the Bosnian Serb campaign of sniper shooting and shelling Sarajevo, for which Karadzic is charged.
Karadzic Wants His Trial to Continue in June

Radovan Karadzic said he is willing to present his introductory arguments on the first and second of March, but has asked the Tribunal to postpone his trial until 17 June, 2010.

In his trial postponement motion, dated 1 February, 2010, Karadzic asked to file an additional motion, once the Appellate Chamber and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, make decisions concerning his appeals on the appointment of a defence attorney and the reduction of the budget for his defence.

The trial of the former President of Republika Srpska, who is charged with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, began in October 2009, when the indictee refused to attend the presentation of the prosecution’s introductory arguments, asking for a postponement of the trial.

In November 2009 the Registrar’s office, acting on a warrant issued by the Trial Chamber, appointed Richard Harvey as defence attorney, to represent Karadzic at the trial if he continues “interrupting the proceedings”. The indictee has appealed the decision several times.

In mid February the Appellate Chamber rejected Karadzic’s appeal for the appointment of a reserve attorney, while Patrick Robinson, the Tribunal’s President, approved additional resources for the defence in a decision rendered on 22 February, 2010.

“Radovan Karadzic is willing to present his introductory arguments on March 1 and 2, 2010, as requested by the Trial Chamber. However, he asks for a postponement of three and a half months in order to prepare for the presentation of evidence,” Karadzic said in his motion.

Karadzic argues that, in the mentioned period of time, his defence team can prepare for the trial and, among other things, review the prosecution’s material, which now consists of more than 400,000 pages. The indictee considers that the additional time will enable the Trial Chamber to render decisions concerning a small number of pending motions, which will help both parties prepare for the trial and enable the defence to reduce the scope of its preparations.
“Dr Karadzic therefore calls on the Court to postpone the presentation of evidence until June 17, 2010. This will enable uninterrupted progress, without bitterness and further delays,” the indictee's motion says.

Karadzic was arrested in Serbia on 21 July, 2008, after having been on the run for years. The Hague prosecution charges him with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.
Karadzic: New Resources Approved for Defence

The Hague Tribunal President has approved additional resources for Radovan Karadzic to prepare his defence.

“In my opinion, the large amount of work related to the review of materials, accompanied by additional tasks that Karadzic has had to perform recently, makes the situation an extraordinary one. In such a situation we can approve more resources in addition to what was previously approved by the Registrar,”

Patrick Robinson, the president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, said in a statement.

Robinson approved the refunding of a total of 1,200 hours per month to eight defence team members. According to this decision, Karadzic’s advisor, Peter Robinson, will be paid “72 Euro per hour, which is the usual fee for an additional attorney.”

The Tribunal President approved the request “due to the high complexity of the case”, and the decision will enable all eight advisors to work on preparations for the trial. However, he said that the refunding will be reduced to 750 hours per month once the trial begins, as the preparations will have been completed by then.

Karadzic, who is awaiting the continuation of his trial before the ICTY for crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992-1995, filed an appeal in December last year complaining about the amount of resources approved by the Registrar’s Office for the preparation of his defence.

Originally the Defence was given a total of 7,500 hours for preparations. This included the funding for the entire defence team. The indictee appealed this decision, claiming that the resources were sufficient to pay just “one eighth” of his team.

“I consider that this disputed decision is unreasonable as it excluded the possibility of a fair trial,” the indictee said at the time.

The trial of Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, began in October last year. It is scheduled to continue on March 1, 2010.
In February Karadzic filed an appeal requesting the postponement of the trial, but a final decision concerning his appeal has still not been made.

The Hague Prosecution has charged Karadzic with, among other things, genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian municipalities, a campaign of shelling and sniping against Sarajevo and violations of the laws and customs of war.
Bosnia Government No-Show at Karadzic Hearing

Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina did not come for a hearing at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, after they were invited by the Trial Chamber to attend a status conference in the trial of Radovan Karadzic.

The Bosnian Embassy in the Netherlands informed the Tribunal on February 12 that “due to the technical obstacles in regard to the short notice given, both for the procedure for the visa application as well as the time needed for the official translation of needed documents” no representative would come for the hearing on February 15.

The Trial Chamber expressed its “disappointment” with the decision by the government, emphasising that the hearing was organised “for the benefit of the states rather than any other party”.

A representative from Bosnia was invited by the Tribunal, together with representatives from Croatia, Germany, Iran and France, to discuss Radovan Karadzic’s requests for documents related to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Karadzic, who has been indicted by the ICTY for a number of crimes committed during the war between 1992 and 1995, including genocide, requested documents he considers relevant for his defence from different countries.

Karadzic explained in the courtroom that he believes that certain countries, including members of UN, violated the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia in 1992, and that they were not neutral during the war “but in some cases they were on one of the warring sides”.

Thomas Laufer, the German ambassador to the Netherlands, said that his government did deliver some of the requested documents, but that the material it did not hand over is not considered relevant or cannot be delivered for other reasons.

Ambassador Laufer protested some of the requests made by the indictee, saying that he should not be permitted to politicise the trial.
During the hearing Karadzic claimed that different intelligence agencies were involved in the war in Bosnia, “contributing to the prolongation of the war, which could have been over in 1992 with peace negotiations”.

Karadzic also said that some foreign intelligence agencies predicted the entire war scenario in Bosnia “30 years before they had ever heard of the name Karadzic” and that they even predicted the number of deaths that would occur later.

“Not only did they predict it, but some of those countries were actively involved in inciting the war,” Karadzic claimed.

The French representative said that his government had already delivered all the documents it was able to deliver, and added that some of the requested materials are considered to be protected.

Karadzic insisted that more documents be handed over, saying that he is aware that the French government, although “friendly with Serbia and Serb people”, can be of greater help in the case because they held one of the crucial roles during the war.

He argued that documents that were not given to him by France could contain proof about “the Muslim government killing its own people in order to blame Serbs”.

Karadzic also wanted more documents from Croatia, mostly those related to alleged arms shipments to the Bosnian Army.

The Iranian government has not handed over any of the requested documents and Iranian Ambassador Ali Mokhberolsafa said in the courtroom that his government searched through the archives but most of the material Karadzic had demanded was not found, and other material is not considered relevant “for this case and this indictee”.

The Trial Chamber is expected to take a decision in the near future based on what was said in the courtroom today. Karadzic’s trial is scheduled to continue on March 1.
Karadzic Appeal of Defence Attorney Rejected

The Appellate Chamber of the Hague Tribunal has rejected Radovan Karadzic's appeal against the appointment of Richard Harvey as reserve defence attorney.

"Considering the flexibility demonstrated by the Registrar's Office when it appointed a reserve attorney to Karadzic, the Appellate Chamber does not see the basis for giving Karadzic an additional opportunity to select his reserve attorneys," the decision issued by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, says.

Karadzic, the former president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces, asked the Hague Tribunal in January this year to let him personally select his reserve defence attorney.

The Hague Prosecution has charged Karadzic with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic's trial began in October last year with the Prosecution's opening arguments, but the indictee refused to attend the hearings, claiming that he needed "additional time to prepare his defence".

In November last year the Registrar's Office, acting on a decision issued by the Trial Chamber, appointed Richard Harvey as Karadzic's defence attorney. This did not prejudice the indictee's right to represent himself if he stopped "boycotting the trial". Karadzic filed several objections to the attorney appointment decision, claiming that the Office of the Registrar had offered him a list containing only five attorneys.

The Trial Chamber rejected Karadzic's appeal, but Karadzic filed an appeal with the Appellate Chamber.

"Not one reason mentioned by Karadzic proves that the Trial Chamber misused its position. We conclude that the Registrar performed his task in a correct manner. The Appellate Chamber is satisfied with the fact that the Trial Chamber’s actions were within the range of its competencies. We determine that the criteria applied in this case did not lead to any legal issues," the Appellate Chamber ruled.

The trial of Radovan Karadzic is scheduled to continue on March 1, 2010.
ICTY Backup Plan If Hague Fugitives Not Arrested

The UN Security Council is working on a backup plan in the event that war crimes fugitives Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic are not arrested before the end of the ICTY mandate, the tribunal’s chief prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, told German media.

“We are cautiously optimistic – believing that they could be arrested before the end of ICTY mandate. The Security Council is working on a mechanism for the worst case scenario – meaning if they are not arrested. In that case one part of the Tribunal would remain active.

“The international community is determined to have both of them prosecuted, whenever and where ever they are arrested,” Brammertz said to Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, according to Deutche Welle.

Last December, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, until the end of 2012. Originally, its mandate was scheduled to end in 2010.

Asked how he felt about the fact that the trial against Radovan Karadzic is still in the beginning stages, the chief prosecutor said that he was sorry for that.

“But what is most important is the fact that Karadzic, who was for so long on the run, has been arrested. That was something many considered impossible... The judges should clarify remaining procedural issues so that the trial can resume on March 1,” Brammertz replied.

Karadzic, the president of the Bosnian Serb republic during the Bosnian war, was indicted in 1995 for crimes against humanity and genocide. He was arrested on a bus in Belgrade after more than 12 years on the run.

His trial began in October last year with the Prosecution’s opening remarks. Karadzic refused to come to the courtroom, claiming he was not ready. Since then, the Tribunal has appointed a defence lawyer, but Karadzic has refused to use the counsel.

This week Karadzic asked the court for more time to prepare, but the Prosecution objected.
Brammertz commented on the possibility of the trial being canceled if Karadžić’s claims of an immunity agreement reached with Richard Holbrooke during the war prove to be true, saying that the issue was no longer relevant.

“According to what we know today, no proof of such an agreement exists. However, the Tribunal made a clear decision that even if it existed, it could not impact this case. Only the Security Council, which established the Tribunal, can grant any kind of immunity.”
Prosecution in Karadzic Case Opposes Delay

The Prosecution in The Hague objected once again to Radovan Karadzic’s motion to postpone the resumption of his trial, currently scheduled to continue on March 1.

In the new motion, the Prosecution says that Karadzic’s argument that he has not had enough time to read all the documents that have been delivered to him since last October does not have grounds.

In the motion, the Prosecution says that most of the documents, which were given to Karadzic upon his request, are not relevant for the case.

“The Trial Chamber had previously instructed Karadzic to focus on the specific allegations of the Prosecution’s case,” the motion says.

According to the last motion filed, at Karadzic’s request last October the Prosecution gave the defendant 3,562 documents totaling 252,244 pages.

The Prosecution claims that a majority of “more than 90” Karadzic requests are concerned with material “only remotely relevant” to the case. As an example, the Prosecution mentioned in the motion that “56 per cent of items disclosed in this period” are related to Bosnian Muslim paramilitary groups.

Other requested documents are related to contacts between the Bosnian government and the Iranian government during the war, material connected to alleged arms smuggling into Bosnia in early 1995, material that may suggest Bosnian politicians’ responsibility for crimes committed from 1991 to 1995, and documents on “shelling incidents” in Sarajevo “that are not included in the indictment, such as the Vase Miskina massacre”.

The trial against Karadzic started last October, but it was subsequently postponed until March 1. On February 15, a status conference will be held, to which representatives of seven countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, have been invited.

Karadzic has requested a number of documents from different governments around the world. Those countries which did not respond in full to his requests are invited next week to the status conference at the Hague.
Sarajevo Embittered by Courts’ Silence Over Markale Massacre

Only one person has ever faced justice for the horrific bombardment of the Markale market place 16 years ago – and many people want to know why.

BY DALIO SIJAH

Sixteen years have passed since the first shelling of the Markale market place in Sarajevo and today another anniversary of the deaths of the dozens of victims is being marked.

Many people in the Bosnian capital remain deeply dissatisfied with criminal processing of the responsible individuals, and say they should face justice as soon as possible.

Only one person has been sentenced for the crime before the Hague Tribunal, ICTY, to date.

Critics say they cannot understand why other perpetrators of the crime, as well as those then at the top of the Bosnian Serb military hierarchy, have not been tried.

Above all, they have in mind the former Bosnian Serb commander, Ratko Mladic, who has been indicted before the Tribunal for the Markale crime, among other things, but who is still on the run.

While people in Sarajevo resent the slow pace of justice, judicial institutions maintain they have already passed the relevant documents about the 1994 massacre to the ICTY and are waiting for the crime to be processed before the Tribunal.

Markale remains a controversial political issue in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as officials in the Bosnian entity, the Republika Srpska, routinely deny Serb responsibility for the massacre.

They claim it was the work of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which they say carried out the bombing to bring about NATO intervention.

Sarajevo was held under siege and shelled for 1,425 days by the Yugoslav National Army, JNA, and the Republika Srpska Army, VRS. During the siege the Markale market place was shelled twice.
The first time was on February 5, 1994, when a mine-thrower projectile hit the market place, killing 67 and wounding more than 140. After the second shelling, in late August 1995, NATO bombed VRS positions, which led to the end of the siege a short time later.

“It happened during the rush hour at about noon [when] many people were at the market place,” said Esad Pozder, known as Dedo, recalling the first shelling in 1994.

“It exploded up there at the corner. I bent down and when I looked up I saw dead people lying around me,” he added. “Blood was pouring out. People’s arms and legs were cut off.”

Among the dead was his own sister. He still works at the market place.

Hakija Topic, then a cameraman for Bosnian state television, was also present at Markale that day. Shaken to the core by the horrific scenes he witnessed, Topic says he was barely aware of what he was filming. It was only after he watched the recording that he realized some of his friends and neighbours had been killed.

Unforgettable horror:

Years later, many Sarajevo citizens who shop at Markale every day vividly remember the horror of the shellings. “Despite the war and the siege, it is still hard to comprehend that such things could happen,” said Zlatan Hrelja.

Sanja Hadzic agreed. “All the perpetrators should have been brought in front of the courts a long time ago”, she said.

“This was not the work of an individual. The politicians must have approved the shelling,” she added. Concerning the failure to bring more people to trial, she felt “really disappointed”.

In November 2006, the Hague Tribunal sentenced Stanislav Galic, Commander of Sarajevo–Romanija Corp of the VRS, to life imprisonment for crimes committed in the siege of Sarajevo, including the Markale massacre.

Zlatan Hrelja said the trial of one person was not enough. “Many people must have been responsible for this,” he said. “There must have been someone higher up than Galic in the command hierarchy. That person must be tried.”

In the military hierarchy, Ratko Mladic was superior to Galic. The Tribunal charges Mladic with having “supported the long-lasting military cam—
paign during which Bosnian Serb forces under his control, and particularly the Sarajevo–Romanija Corp, attacked civilians in Sarajevo using artillery, snipers and mine-throwers”.

People in Sarajevo expect Mladic’s political superior, Radovan Karadzic, former President and Supreme Commander of the Republika Srpska, to be sentenced for the Markale crime and for the shelling of other buildings in the city. His trial is due to continue in March.

The indictment alleges that Karadzic, in collaboration with other members of a joint criminal enterprise, formulated and executed a military strategy of shelling and sniping, aimed at mutilating, wounding, killing and terrorizing the population of Sarajevo.

Prosecutions in Bosnia have still not filed any indictments pertaining to the shelling of the market place, however. They say the Markale crime scene inspection report and other available evidence have been submitted to the Hague Tribunal, which has the duty of trying those responsible.

“The shelling of Markale is a stumbling block and an subject of accusations at a political level in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” the Chief State Prosecutor, Milorad Barasin, has said.

“It is considered a war crime because there is a certain number of victims and injured parties. It is, therefore, logical that it [the justice process] has to be completed,” he added.

Barasin did not want to comment in greater detail on the issue, however, describing the Markale massacre as a matter for the Hague Tribunal.

The Cantonal Prosecution in Sarajevo is not conducting any investigation to the crime, on the grounds that it has already submitted all the relevant documents to the Tribunal for use at the upcoming trial of Karadzic.

“When Radovan Karadzic was deprived of his liberty, this Office consigned to the Tribunal a report on the Markale crime scene inspection,” Jasmina Iftic, the Cantonal Prosecution spokesperson, noted.

The UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia, UNPROFOR, also conducted a crime scene inspection after the shelling, but it did not precisely determine the location from which the mine-thrower projectile was fired. This omission fed speculation that the projectile was fired from positions held by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

However, on the basis of ballistic expertise conducted by Professor Berko Zecevic, the Hague Tribunal determined in 2004 that the projectile was
fired from the area of the village of Mrkovici, north-east of the old part of Sarajevo, which the VRS controlled at the time.

“In terms of the projectile’s course, there is absolutely no doubt about the location from which it came,” Zecevic said.

People in Sarajevo are especially disappointed that doubts remain about the location from which the projectile was fired, saying they well know who was holding the city under siege at that time.

“I was in the city during the war,” Ibrahim Sahacic recalled. “It is important to say who fired the projectile. This person has to be tried.”

Despite such wishes, judicial institutions in Bosnia say it is unlikely that any indictment will be filed for Markale case until the existing cases before the Hague Tribunal are completed.

For more on this story, see Episode 2: Sixteen Years After the Shelling of the Markale Market in Sarajevo

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Karadzic Justice Minister Acquitted of War Crimes

The Appellate Chamber of the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has acquitted Momcilo Mandic on all charges for war crimes against civilians and crimes against humanity.

Mandic was a justice minister in the government of the so-called Serb-ian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Bosnian war. Radovan Karadzic, currently on trial for war crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, was the president of the republic during the war.

Confirming the 2007 first-instance verdict, the court in Sarajevo acquitted Mandic today of responsibility for the attack by Serbian forces on the Staff Training Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Sarajevo and of responsibility for the functioning of the penal and correctional facilities in Sarajevo and Foca.

The Appellate Chamber concluded that substantial proof was not provided that Mandic was responsible for the events that took place in the Foca, Butmir and Planjina Kuca facilities in the period when he was justice minister.

All three locations served as a detention centers for Bosniak and Croat civilians in 1992.

“The Appellate Chamber considers that it was logical for the First Instance Chamber to conclude that the Ministry of Justice and the Administration of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina did not specifically express its responsibility for detainees, and therefore there is no reliable conclusion suggesting that indictee Momcilo Mandic, in his capacity as justice minister, had effective control over events and actions pertaining to the capture, detention and treatment of prisoners,” the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina said.

Considering the count charging Mandic with the attack on the Vraca School Center, the Appellate Chamber ruled that this incident “does not fulfill the conditions of an armed conflict.”
The first-instance verdict ruled that because the attack on the Vraca Center happened on April 5, 1992, prior to the beginning of the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it “could not be characterized as an armed conflict but as part of an inter-ethnic conflict.”

“It cannot be determined, beyond reasonable doubt, that the indictee came to the Vraca Center in his capacity as Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with authority to issue orders to police forces,” the decision states.

The court considered it was necessary to present “convincing evidence pertaining to real command or control” of a group of people who committed the crimes described in the indictment in order to prove Mandic’s responsibility.

The Appellate Chamber ruled that “it is important and necessary to differentiate between various groups of people or chains of command if the activities of these groups or chains of command partially, but not fully, overlap.”

Mandic is the most senior former Bosnian Serb official against whom an indictment has been raised by the local prosecutor’s office for crimes against humanity and war crimes against civilians.

In front of the same court in 2007, in the Chamber for Organised Crime, he was sentenced to five years’ imprisonment for abuse of power during the time he was director and president of the managing board of Privredna Banka in Sarajevo, after the war.

Mandic is also mentioned in the indictment of Radovan Karadzic issued by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The former Bosnian Serb president is indicted for war crimes committed during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to the Karadzic indictment, Mandic was a member of a joint criminal enterprise in cooperation with Karadzic and other military and political leaders of Republika Srpska.

These allegations were not part of the indictment against Mandic filed before the court in Sarajevo. The Hague Prosecution has invited him to testify against Karadzic as one of the first 30 witnesses.
In its motion, the prosecution recalls previous decisions, made last September by the Trial and Appeals Chamber, regarding Karadzic’s level of preparedness for the trial.

“The adjournment of the trial until March 1, 2010 was unrelated to any need for Karadzic to further prepare, but was rather granted to permit appointed counsel adequate time to prepare to appear at trial should Karadzic choose to again absent himself from the proceedings,” the prosecution’s motion read.

Radovan Karadzic was arrested in summer 2008 and transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY. He is indicted for war crimes, including genocide, committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The trial started last fall with two days of opening remarks by the prosecution, but Karadzic did not appear in the courtroom, claiming that he was not ready. The Trial Chamber decided to postpone the trial until March, and appointed a counsel for Karadzic, but he did not accept the appointed lawyer.

This week he filed another motion for postponement, again claiming that he is not ready.

The prosecution also claimed that motions filed by its office recently do not affect Karadzic’s ability to continue the trial. Since September last fall about 300,000 documents have been submitted.

One of the reasons for the prosecution’s objection to Karadzic’s motion for postponement is its concern for witnesses. As it said, prior to the beginning of the trial, the prosecution “must schedule its trial witnesses and liaise with the Victims and Witnesses Unit to arrange the logistics of bringing witnesses to The Hague.”
“To avoid needlessly inconveniencing witnesses, and to avoid the costly exercise of bringing witnesses to The Hague unnecessarily, any decision on postponement should be made as soon as possible.”

The prosecution has already submitted a schedule for the first 30 witnesses that it will call upon. A number of them are victims of war, while others are war-time Republika Srpska leaders, as well as international officials.
Karadzic Demands Documents from Bosnia

Radovan Karadzic has asked the Bosnian government to hand over documents related to the existence of the secret police unit Seva and its members, while he has reiterated his requests for documents from other countries.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

“I am the former president of the Bosnian Serb Republic. I am presently preparing my defense to charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.”

So begins almost every letter Radovan Karadzic has written to different states (more than 30) and organizations asking for documents for his defence. Since he was arrested in July 2008 Karadzic has asked for hundreds of documents from countries such as Bangladesh, Jordan, Egypt, Malaysia, Turkey, Malta but also the US, the UK, Italy, Austria, Germany, as well as NATO, the EU and the UN.

Karadzic, who complained previously that the prosecution intended to turn the trial “into a paper trail”, has asked for hundreds of documents.

He estimates he has so far received about five per cent of the documents he requested, and that he needs to be given more time in order to be sent all the information he asked for.

Some of the countries handed him documents voluntarily, like Russia and Canada. Some, like Germany, objected to giving the documents.

Bosnia and Herzegovina handed over part of what Karadzic asked for.

The indictee wants to have documents from Bosnia that are related to the existence of the unit “Seva”, described by some as a secret parapolice unit. Seva operated during the war in the territory controlled by government in Sarajevo.

Media reports from the second half of the 90s claim that the existence of the Seva unit was the subject of an ICTY investigation in connection to the murders of mostly non-Bosniaks committed during the war in Sarajevo.
RADOVAN KARADZIC
WARTIME LEADER’S YEARS ON TRIAL

Karadzic asked for documents on Nedjad Herenda, a member of Seva and, according to some reports, the leader of the group. He also asked for documents concerning Nedzad Ugljen, a member of an intelligence unit in Sarajevo who was killed in 1996, and Edin Garaplija, also a former member of the intelligence unit.

He also wants access to reports on investigations “done by civilian judiciary, or military personnel” on these three individuals and the Seva unit.

Seva activities, as well as those of Ugljen, Herenda and Garaplija, have been the subject of different investigations for more than a decade and are consistently under the media spotlight in Bosnia.

The Trial Chamber decided to organise a status conference on February 15 and invited seven countries to send their representatives to talk about the requested documents. Representatives from Bosnia, Germany, France, Croatia, Italy, Iran and the Netherlands should appear in the courtroom.

Karadzic asked the Chamber to also invite officials from the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia, OHR. According to the indictee, the OHR can make the Bosnian government hand over what he is requesting, but it appears the Chamber has denied this request.

Karadzic also asked Bosnia to hand over “all of BiH federal judicial (court) decisions regarding all missing people and people declared to be dead” from January 1992 to December 1995.

He also asks for all death certificates for the municipalities of Srebrenica, Bratunac, Vlasenica, Zvornik, Visegrad, Kladanj and Olovo.

Previously, in July 2009, Karadzic announced that he was planning to prove that Srebrenica was a myth and that the number of people killed was not more than a few hundred.

The prosecution has charged Karadzic with genocide in Srebrenica, where about 8,000 people were killed in July 1995.

At the same time, Karadzic considers as relevant for his defence copies of “any list of all soldiers killed for whom gravestones were made by two municipalities’ funeral companies – Gradska Groblja Visoko and Sokolica, Tuzla”.

Documents which Karadzic has requested from Croatia are mostly related to meetings between US and Croatian officials in 1994. He wants to have notes from meetings where, he believes, officials discussed the transfer of arms and ammunition from Iran, via Croatia, with the approval of the US.
He asked for similar documents from Iran, and in most of their correspondence Iranian officials asked for more time in order to search for these documents.

Karadžić said that he believes that Iran possesses documents proving “violations of (UN) Security Council resolutions... that kept the war going and put off a political solution”.

He had asked for related documents from the US government, but most of his requests were not met.

During the status conference on January 28, Karadžić said that he believed that France also had important documents.

“I am convinced France has crucial documents and knowledge about the essence of the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

Karadžić on Monday filed a motion seeking a further postponement of his trial, which opened in his absence in October.

He insists on conducting his own defence and claims that he has not been given enough time to prepare.
Karadzic Files Motion to Postpone

Radovan Karadzic has filed a written motion for the postponement of his trial at the ICTY, which is currently scheduled to continue on March 1.

In his latest motion to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, Karadzic claims that his “rights to adequate facilities and to choose his standby counsel have been violated by the Registrar” and because of that it was impossible for him to prepare for the trial.

Karadzic asked for a postponement during the status conference last week, but the Trial Chamber ordered him to file a written motion.

Presiding judge O-Gon Kwon said that the Trial Chamber is determined to see the trial continue on the scheduled day.

In his motion, Karadzic writes that on November 5, 2009, the Trial Chamber appointed Richard Harvey as his standby counsel, a counsel that Karadzic maintains he “cannot trust”.

Karadzic claims that since November he has been preparing his own defense because funding for his team was suspended.

“Meanwhile, the prosecution furnished an additional 300,000 pages of disclosure and filed motions for admission of almost 2000 documents and adjudicated facts. Dr. Karadzic has fallen even further behind in his trial preparation, having no case managers to review, process, and organize these documents and no investigators to help him refute the prosecution’s case,” the motion reads.

Karadzic, who is indicted for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from 1992 to 1995 in Bosnia, was arrested in July 2008 and since then has managed to postpone aspects of his trial. However, the trial did begin last fall with the prosecution’s opening statements, but Karadzic did not appear in the courtroom, claiming he was not ready.

After the prosecution gave its opening arguments, the Trial Chamber decided to give Karadzic more time to prepare and appointed a counsel for him. He appealed this decision twice, and the final decision on the court-appointed counsel is still pending.
At the last status conference on January 28, Richard Harvey watched from the public gallery since, as the Chamber said, he is still waiting for the final decision on his appointment.

The Trial Chamber scheduled one more status conference for February 15 when representatives from different countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, will be called into the courtroom to talk about the status of documents Karadzic has requested from them.

Since his arrest, Karadzic has asked some 30 countries to hand over documents he considers relevant for his defence. About twenty countries have done so, but a few still haven’t complied with all the requests.
Karadzic Calls for OHR to Help Locate Documents

Radovan Karadzic has asked the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, to call on the OHR to help him get documents from Bosnia and Herzegovina which he considers relevant for his defence.

The Chamber proposed a February 15 hearing to discuss documents the indictee has requested since he was arrested that have still not been delivered to him. Representatives from different countries should be present at the hearing.

“I received six documents from Bosnia, some quite useful. But I need many more... I suggest that an official from the Office of the High Representative, OHR, along with a government representative, be invited to the hearing since the OHR has the power to make any state institution comply,” Karadzic said.

Karadzic has requested documents from different countries, including the US, France, Germany, Italy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. For some of these requests, he has received replies or decided to withdraw the request. Some are still pending.

The Chamber will invite, among others, a representative from Germany since, as was stated in the courtroom, Germany has refused to hand over most of the documents Karadzic requested. German officials have claimed that they belong to a category they do not consider relevant for this case.

Radovan Karadzic, who was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade, was the president of Republika Srpska and the supreme commander of its armed forces from 1992 to 1995. He has been charged by the ICTY with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has also been charged with crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war during the course of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Radovan Karadzic appeared once again alone in the courtroom, saying that he is never alone but that “somebody is always here in spirit”. He announced that he continues to act as his own defence counsel.
Richard Harvey, who was appointed by the court as Karadzic’s defence attorney, followed the status conference from the public galleries. He refused to be in the courtroom without either the approval of Karadzic or a final decision by the Tribunal.

Harvey was appointed in November last year, but Karadzic appealed the decision twice. The Tribunal is still considering his appeal.

Karadzic’s trial officially began in October 2009, but he refused to attend, claiming he was not ready. The Chamber allowed the prosecution to give its introductory arguments without the defendant in the courtroom. However, after Karadzic appealed, the Trial Chamber decided in November to continue with the trial on March 1 with the defence’s introductory arguments, which should last two days.

Karadzic said today that he would ask for a new date to continue the trial, and the Chamber decided to allow him to submit a written motion making the request.

In the first month, the trial should be held three times a week, the Chamber announced today.
Mothers of Srebrenica Appeal Heard Today

The Court of Appeals at The Hague held a public hearing today in the case of the Mothers of Srebrenica against the UN and The Netherlands.

The hearing concerned the appeal made by the association “Mothers of Srebrenica” of a July 2008 ruling preventing them from suing the UN for failing to protect the UN safe area in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war.

The “Mothers of Srebrenica” is an organisation acting on behalf of 6,000 relatives of the victims of the genocide in Srebrenica.

In a statement released following the hearing, the Van Diepen Van Der Kroef Law Office, which is representing Mothers of Srebrenica, said that the initial ruling was based on political, not legal, grounds.

“As long as the UN does not guarantee legal remedies, an absolute immunity of the UN is in conflict with European community law, the fundamental right of effective legal remedies and access to court,” the statement continued, adding that its counsel asked that the European Court of Justice be involved in deciding the case.

A delegation of the Mothers of Srebrenica attended the hearing.

An earlier statement from the law office made clear that today’s hearing only concerned the question of “whether the UN enjoys absolute immunity and may therefore never be brought before a court, and therefore is an entity operating above the law”.

The Hague District Court ruled in 2008 that victims cannot file a suit against The Netherlands or the UN on the grounds that “in international law practice the absolute immunity of the UN is the norm and is respected”.

Lawyers representing the Mothers of Srebrenica appealed, calling upon the judgement of the European Court of Justice of September 3, 2008, in which it ruled that the UN does not have absolute immunity.

The Mothers of Srebrenica originally submitted a suit in June 2007 asking for the trial against the UN and the State of The Netherlands over the peacekeeping troop’s failure to protect the enclave. They also want...
compensation. A team of 14 attorneys in the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina are working on the case.

Genocide in Srebrenica was committed by Serb forces in July 1995. More than 8,000 men, boys and women were killed in a period of seven days. Citizens of Srebrenica tried to find safety at the UN Dutch battalion base in Potocari on July 11.

The lawsuit alleges that although the UN was aware of the Bosnian Serb offensive at least two weeks before it began, neither the Dutch battalion nor the UN took steps to help the local population of some 40,000.

A Dutch battalion, as a part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, was deployed to the city in 1993 after the French General Philippe Morillon arrived in Srebrenica promising that the town would become a UN protected demilitarized safe area.

The Dutch battalion consisted of only a few hundred lightly armed soldiers who were ill equipped to defend the town.

The entire Dutch government resigned in 2002 after the Dutch Institute for War Documentation released a report blaming the country’s political and military leaders for giving their peacekeepers an “impossible” mission to protect the enclave.

However, in December 2006, the Dutch government awarded its soldiers serving in Srebrenica with medals of bravery, though some soldiers refused to accept the award.

In 1995, the ICTY indicted Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic for this crime, among other crimes.

Karadzic was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade and his trial is set to begin on March 1, 2010. Today, January 28, a status conference will be held in the front of the Tribunal.

Ratko Mladic is still at large. According to the latest report by ICTY prosecutor Serge Brammertz to the European Parliament, Mladic is hiding in Serbia.
Karadzic Appeals Defence Attorney Appointment

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, awaiting the continuation of his trial in The Hague, has filed another appeal against the decision to appoint a defence attorney.

“The Trial Chamber made a mistake (...) when it supported the decision rendered by the Registrar’s Office, which was deficient, non-precise and discriminatory in terms of selection of lawyers who can be appointed in this case. We are calling on the Appellate Chamber to revoke the decision and order a list of attorneys to be submitted to the indictee, so he could select a reserve defence attorney,” the appeal filed by Karadzic with the Second Instance Chamber of the Hague Tribunal reads.

In November last year, the Registrar’s Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, appointed Richard Harvey as Karadzic’s defence attorney, after the indictee had refused to attend the trial on several occasions.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on March 1, 2010. The indictee will retain the right to self-representation; however, if he still refuses to appear at the trial, the appointed defence attorney will represent him.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic with genocide committed in Srebrenica and 10 other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia between 1992–1995.

Karadzic previously appealed the decision on the defence attorney’s appointment, claiming he did not choose an attorney because the Registrar had offered him a list containing only five names.

The Trial Chamber rejected Karadzic’s appeal, accepting the Registrar’s Office reasoning that the other attorneys were not suitable for various reasons, such as conflict of interest, insufficient experience and unavailability.

In his latest appeal, Karadzic repeated his view that the Office of the Registrar had failed to offer him a possibility to choose his attorney.
“The Registrar and the Trial Chamber determined it was in the interest of justice not to give Dr. Karadzic a possibility to choose. Had Dr. Karadzic selected a person who was not available, the Registrar would have had the right to disentitle the indictee from his right to select an attorney. However, the Registrar has never allowed Dr. Karadzic to see the list from which he could select a defence attorney,” the indictee argued.
Karadzic: Status Conference to be Held in January

The Hague Tribunal Chamber will hold a status conference on 28 January, 2010 to “more efficiently prepare” for the continuation of the trial of Radovan Karadzic.

Karadzic’s began on 26 October, 2009, when the Prosecution presented introductory arguments. The Trial Chamber then decided to postpone the trial until 1 March, 2010, when the indictee is due to present his introductory arguments.

The former President of Republika Srpska, RS, and Supreme Commander of the RS armed forces is charged by the Hague Prosecution with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the conflict of the early 90s.

The indictee refused to appear in court at the beginning of the trial, claiming that he would not appear until he “is ready” for his defence. For this reason he called on the Court to let him have ten additional months to prepare his defence, but the Trial Chamber rejected this request.

In November 2009, acting on a decision made by the Trial Chamber, the Registrar’s Office with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, appointed Richard Harvey as Karadzic’s Defence attorney. Harvey will represent the indictee as of 1 March, 2010 if he still refuses to appear in court.

Karadzic has appealed the decision several times, and the Trial Chamber rejected his appeals. However, Karadzic will not lose his right to self-representation when the trial continues, as Harvey will represent him only if he continues to “obstruct the trial”.

Karadzic has appealed the decision several times, and the Trial Chamber rejected his appeals. However, Karadzic will not lose his right to self-representation when the trial continues, as Harvey will represent him only if he continues to “obstruct the trial”.
Karadzic Should Have Had Counsel From Start

Antonio Cassese, the first president of the ICTY, in an interview for International Justice Tribune, said it would have been better from the outset to appoint a legal counsel for Karadzic.

“In many European countries, in criminal cases any defendant must be assisted by a defence counsel. This is a huge, extremely complex case where [Karadzic] is accused of tremendous crimes – genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity. The Court would have been able to allow Karadzic to step in any time he wanted to take the floor on his own behalf but also be assisted by the defence counsel,” said Cassese for IJT, who is now head of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, STL.

Radovan Karadzic’s trial should start on 1 March, 2010. In November 2009, after Karadzic refused to show up for his trial, acting on a warrant issued by the Trial Chamber, the Office of the Registrar of the ICTY appointed Richard Harvey as his Defence attorney.

Karadzic appealed twice against this decision arguing, among other things, that he did not have an opportunity to choose an attorney and that Harvey is currently representing, in an appellate procedure, Lahij Brahimaj, a former member of the Kosovo Liberation Army, who was sentenced to six years in prison for crimes committed against Serb civilians.

The Trial Chamber dismissed Karadzic’s arguments.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war during the course of the 1992–95 war.

The former ICTY president talked about the international justice system, saying that the existence of international criminal tribunals “shows that the international community is given the right to respond to so many crimes committed in the world”.

“Namely a response that is not based on revenge, on simply execution or punishment, but on a proper trial,” he said. He said these developments in
international law represent the emergence of a core of fundamental values with universal scope.

“Also I think that in a way we should not underestimate the positive effect of what is now regarded by so many people as a negative development, namely the globalisation of the international community. Probably sooner or later sharing global interests will push states to set up true international institutions that are there only to protect collective values and this would be a very healthy development,” he said.
Richard Harvey Will be Karadzic’s Attorney

The Hague Tribunal rejects the appeal filed by Radovan Karadzic concerning the decision appointing Richard Harvey as his Defence attorney.

“The indictee has not persuaded the Chamber that the Registrar made a mistake or acted in an unreasonable manner when he decided to select Richard Harvey to prepare for this trial,” the Trial Chamber said.

Acting on a warrant issued by the Trial Chamber, the Office of the Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, appointed Richard Harvey as Karadzic’s Defence attorney in November this year. The appointment was made after the indictee had refused to appear in court at the beginning of his trial.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is charged with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war during the course of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Karadzic twice appealed the decision on the appointment of a Defence attorney, arguing, among other things, that he did not have an opportunity to choose an attorney because the Registrar had offered him a list containing only five pre-selected attorneys. The Registrar’s Office responded to the appeal, saying that the other attorneys were unsuitable for various reasons, such as conflict of interest, insufficient experience or unavailability.

Among other things, Karadzic appealed because the list contained attorneys coming from the NATO states only, saying that these countries “conducted air attacks on Republika Srpska”, and because of the fact that Harvey is currently representing, in an appellate procedure, Lahij Brahimaj, a former member of the Kosovo Liberation Army, who was sentenced to six years in prison for crimes committed against Serb civilians.

The Chamber considers this argument to be “unsustainable”.

“The Chamber has no doubts that Harvey will provide the indictee with effective and professional legal assistance. In addition, the indictee’s state-
ment that he should select an attorney from a non-NATO country, is, at best, suspicious. His legal advisor Peter Robinson comes from the USA, which is widely known as the leading NATO force. In addition, a number of his pro bono advisors come from NATO countries," the Chamber concluded.

The trial of Karadzic is due to continue on March 1, 2010. Karadzic will still have the right to self-representation, but, if he continues refusing to appear in court, the appointed attorney will represent him.
Karadzic: Disqualification of Serbian Attorneys

Indictee Radovan Karadzic claims that the Hague Tribunal Registrar prevented him from choosing an attorney by imposing “fictive obstacles”.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, who is charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, filed a motion saying that the Registrar had made a number of mistakes when he invited the indictee to choose from a list containing five selected attorneys.

“By creating unauthorized and inappropriate obstacles, the Registrar violated the Rules of Procedure and his own order, but he ignored all those obstacles when he qualified his own favourites. (...) The Registrar’s decision on choosing which parts of the order he would respect and which ones he would not, in order to manipulate the trial, is simply inexplicable,” Karadzic said.

The Registrar’s Office said the indictee was offered a shortlist of Defence attorneys, because a number of attorneys, in fact 108 of them, were eliminated due to “previous problems”, such as conflict of interest, lack of experience or non-availability.

“Had the Tribunal considered it was appropriate for the Registrar to make his own special list by eliminating some names from the list of attorneys, it would have said so and made a decision as part of a separate procedure,” Karadzic said, adding that the Registrar wrongly interpreted and applied the Rules of Procedure.

“The Registrar disqualified all Serbian attorneys, because they, at some stage, represented people who were charged with crimes included in the indictment against Karadzic. This is a wrong interpretation of the Rules of Procedure, which allege that such representation is prohibited only in case the two clients are materially opposite,” Karadzic said.

Among other things, the indictee mentioned the fact that the list proposed by the Registrar contained the name of Coleen Rohan, an attorney from the US, who represented an indictee charged with crimes committed in Srebrenica, but, at the same time, he deprived him of the right to se-
lect a Serbian attorney, who represented indictees who were charged with crimes included in his indictment.

“The Registrar has gone one step further by appointing Ms. Rohan as Richard Harvey’s legal advisor, ignoring, once again, the same conflict of interest, which he used for disqualification of the Serbian attorneys,” the indictee said in his motion.

After the indictee refused to appear in court at the beginning of the trial, in November 2009 the Registrar appointed Harvey as his Defence attorney. Harvey will represent him at the trial, when it continues on March 1, 2010, if he continues “interfering with the course of the trial”.

Despite the fact that the Tribunal previously rejected Karadzic’s appeal to the attorney appointment decision, claiming that it was “deficient”, the indictee filed another motion in December, calling on the Court to revoke its decision on Richard Harvey’s appointment.
RADOVAN KARADZIC
WARTIME LEADER'S YEARS ON TRIAL


Karadzic: 108 Unsuitable Attorneys

The Hague Tribunal’s Registrar Office says Radovan Karadzic has been offered a short list of defence attorneys, because many attorneys were removed from the original list due to “previous problems”.

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As stated by the Registrar, 31 attorneys whose names were included in the list, were removed from the list due to a “conflict of interest”, 38 attorneys did not have sufficient experience for such a complex case, 23 had previously arranged commitments and their place of residence was far from the Tribunal, which would “make the trial preparations more difficult”, and 16 more attorneys were unsuitable for other reasons.

“It could be expected that the registrar’s office would limit the list of candidates to those who are really ready to take over the job of Defence attorney and do not have any other obstacles to perform the job,” the Registrar said in his response to Karadzic’s appeal pertaining to the appointment of Richard Harvey as his Defence attorney.

On December 7, 2009 Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, filed an appeal against the decision to appoint Harvey, claiming that he had not been allowed to select his own attorney and that he had been given “some list containing five of the Registrar’s favourite attorneys” to select from.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic, as former Supreme Commander of the RS armed forces, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war, committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995.

Karadzic was arrested in July 2008. His trial began in October this year.

After the indictee refused to appear in court at the beginning of the hearing, in November 2009 the Registrar appointed Harvey as his defence attorney. Harvey will represent Karadzic as of March 1, 2010 if the indictee continues to “interrupt the further course of the trial”.

Despite the fact that the Tribunal previously rejected Karadzic’s against Harvey’s appointment, claiming it was “deficient”, he filed another appeal in December calling on the Court to annul the decision appointing Harvey as his attorney.
Karadzic: Moral Reasons for Appeal

The Hague Tribunal’s Trial Chamber rejected Radovan Karadzic’s motion challenging the Tribunal’s legitimacy.

“The Trial Chamber would like to point out, once again, that the indictee should better invest his efforts in preparing for the continuation of the trial than submitting motions for ‘moral reasons’, despite the fact that he knows in advance these motions will not be accepted,” the decision rendered by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, says.

On 30 November Karadzic filed a motion in which he stated that it was his “moral obligation to the general public and history” to dispute the legitimacy of the ICTY due to the fact that the Tribunal was formed by an act passed by the United Nations Security Council, which “did not have authority to establish it”. See: Moral obligation to the public

The ICTY was formed by a Resolution passed by the UN Security Council on 25 May, 1993 in order to try war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Karadzic, the first President of Republika Srpska, RS, and the Supreme Commander of the RS armed forces, is charged with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian towns and a number of crimes committed in 27 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as “the shelling and sniper campaign” in Sarajevo.

The trial of Karadzic began on 26 October this year, when the Prosecution presented its introductory arguments. It is due to continue on 1 March, 2010.

The ICTY’s Trial Chamber considers that the issue of legitimacy of the Hague Tribunal was resolved in the case of Dusko Tadic in 1995, when the Appellate Chamber rendered a decision stating that the establishment of the Tribunal “was fully within the competencies of the UN Security Council”.

Tadic, former President of a local board of the Serb Democratic Party, SDS, in Kozarac, in Prijedor Municipality, was sentenced, in 2000, to 20 years in prison for crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs
of war in the territory of Prijedor. He is currently serving his sentence in Germany.

“In the Tadic case, the Appellate Chamber rejected the argument according to which the UN Security Council, which did not represent a judicial authority, could not form a subsidiary body which had such authority. On the contrary, the Chamber determined that the UN Security Council established the Tribunal in line with its principles for securing international peace and security,” the Tribunal’s decision says.
07.12.2009

Karadzic Refuses Attorney From NATO State

The former President of Republika Srpska filed a motion with The Hague Tribunal Monday asking it to annul its decision to appoint Richard Harvey as his defence attorney.

Radovan Karadzic asked the Court to allow him to choose an attorney from the list, which meets the norms set by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

"The Registrar has refused to provide Karadzic with a list of attorneys from which he could choose one. Instead, he was offered five names selected from that list. All of them come from the countries which participated in the air attacks on Republika Srpska. Four of them previously represented the leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army before the ICTY. However, no attorneys from Bosnia or Serbia were among them," the indictee's request says.

Karadzic considers that the Statute of the Tribunal was breached because the indictee was not allowed to select an attorney to represent him.

"It is clear that a person to whom an attorney is appointed should have the right to select the attorney from a regular list and not from some list containing five favourite attorneys of the Registrar," Karadzic stated in his motion.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, RS, and Supreme Commander of the RS armed forces, among other things, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

In November 2009 the ICTY Registrar’s Office appointed Harvey as Karadzic’s defence attorney, because the indictee refused to appear in court at the beginning of the trial. By the Court’s decision, as the trial continues on 1 March, 2010, Karadzic will retain the right to represent himself. However, if he continues to be absent from the trial, the appointed attorney will represent him.

As stated in the decision by which the defence attorney was appointed, representatives of the Registrar’s Office met Karadzic in order for him to
“pronounce himself concerning the preferred attorney on the list made by the Registrar”, but he failed to do so even after having met the attorneys whose names were included in the list.

Karadžić mentioned the fact that Harvey is representing Lahij Brahimaj, a former member of the Kosovo Liberation Army, who is charged, together with Ramush Haradinaj and Idriz Balaj, with a joint criminal enterprise aimed at eliminating Serb civilians from Kosovo.

In his motion, Karadžić argues that an attorney cannot prosecute Serbs in one case and defend them in another one. On these grounds, he said he did not agree with the same attorney representing him and the other person at the same time. He said this would be a breach of the rule in the Tribunal’s Statute stipulating that one defence attorney cannot be simultaneously appointed in two cases unless both indictees agree to the appointment.

“The Registrar deprived Karadžić of his right to select an attorney with whom he shares the same heritage, language and trust and who is familiar with the conflict in Bosnia. Instead, the Registrar selected an attorney, who comes from a NATO country, who previously represented, before this Tribunal, only those who fought against Serbs,” Karadžić said.

Haradinaj and Balaj were acquitted, by a first-instance verdict, of all charges, while Brahimaj was sentenced to six years in prison. The appellate procedure is currently underway in that case.
Karadzic: Moral Obligation to Public

Radovan Karadzic has once again challenged the validity of the UN War Crimes Tribunal, claiming there was no “legal grounds for its establishment”

“Regardless of the decision the Trial Chamber will render in response to this motion, Dr. Radovan Karadzic considers it his moral obligation to deny, in front of the general public and history, the legal validity and legitimacy of this Court,” Karadzic’s motion says.

The UN Security Council adopted a resolution on May 25, 1993 establishing the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to try war crimes committed on that territory. However, Karadzic says the Security Council “did not have the authority to establish the Tribunal” because there were no legal grounds for this.

“Legal grounds were ‘found’ in a broad interpretation of the provision contained in Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which says that the Security Council can undertake measures aimed at maintaining or establishing peace and security after having determined that a threat to peace or an aggression existed. In other words, the term ‘court’, referring to an appropriate institution, actually meant ‘measure’. This has never been done before,” the motion says.

Karadzic added that the Security Council, as per its mandate, can only form “subsidiary bodies for performing its affairs”.

“A court, as an institution, and particularly a valid and independent one, can in no way be considered as a subsidiary body of some other body, including an executive one. Therefore, using the term ‘court’ instead of ‘subsidiary body’ or ‘measure’, with the aim of creating legal grounds for establishing the ICTY, represents a wrong interpretation of the purpose and scale of the determined competencies of the Security Council,” the motion argues.

The motion argues that in this case, “some conflicts are forcibly and wrongly qualified as a threat to world peace”, and cites examples such as the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which it argued “was obviously a civil war”.
Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and supreme Commander of the Bosnian Serb armed forces, is charged with a number of crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the genocide in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian cities and crimes committed in 27 municipalities, with particular mention of the siege of Sarajevo.

His trial began on 26 October this year, when the Prosecution presented its introductory arguments. The trial is due to continue on 1 March, 2010.


“The international court has the task to apply existing humanitarian laws. However, this is not true. By executing its non-existing legislative authority, the Security Council suspended the implementation of the Conventions ..., which give local courts the competency for trials, by entrusting the competency for crimes committed on the territory of the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia to the ICTY,” Karadzic argues.

Karadzic maintains that the fact that the Hague Tribunal passed the Regulations for Proceedings and Evidence by itself means that the Tribunal is “its own legislator”.

“Once it usurped the right to pass laws, the Security Council presumed another step: it transferred its non-existing legislative competencies to its creation - the International Criminal Tribunal at the Hague,” the indictee says.

The motion argues that the Hague Tribunal accepted the authority to pass its own laws on 11 February, 1994, setting out rules that had been “changed 42 times” by February 2008.

“Worst of all is the fact that the Tribunal has changed the rules which are supposed to be used at trials, bearing in mind some practical problems that appeared during the course of their application in ongoing cases. Unfortunately, it did so despite its own rule saying that amendments cannot be applied to the detriment of the indictee’s rights,” Karadzic says.

Karadzic was arrested in Serbia on 21 July, 2008, after having been on the run for more than a decade.
Karadzic: Right to Appeal Denied

The Hague Tribunal Trial Chamber rejects Karadzic’s request to be allowed to appeal the Tribunal’s decision appointing counsel to represent him.

“The Chamber considers that the indictee failed to show why he should be allowed to appeal the decision. The indictee wrongly described the issue as ‘imposing’ or ‘assigning’ a counsel. (…) However, in the case, the Chamber has still not imposed a counsel,” the Chamber said, adding that Karadzic would have the right to represent his interest at this trial if “he does not continue obstructing the trial”.

Acting on an order issued by the Trial Chamber, the Registrar’s Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, appointed, on November 20 this year, Richard Harvey, a British attorney, as Radovan Karadzic’s counsel.

The appointment decision was made after Karadzic had refused to attend the hearings held on October 27 and November 2, at which the Hague Prosecution presented its introductory arguments. As per the Tribunal’s decision, Harvey was given three and a half months to prepare for the trial.

The indictee asked the Tribunal to allow him to appeal the decision, claiming it was “deficient”. However, the Trial Chamber determined that the right to appeal would, at this stage, be “premature, having in mind the status of the counsel, who is still just preparing for the trial”.

“The Chamber considers the indictee’s motion to be unclear, because it is not clear which aspects of the decision he wants to appeal. (…) In any case, it should be stated that it is not the indictee’s role to question how much time will be given to the counsel to prepare for the trial,” the Trial Chamber’s decision says.

The Trial Chamber scheduled the resumption of the Karadzic trial for March 1, 2010, saying that the indictee would still have the right to “self-representation, unless he continued obstructing the proceedings”.

Prior to the beginning of the trial, Karadzic asked the Tribunal to give him additional time to prepare his defence due to “the extreme complexity of the case”, but the request was rejected.
Karadžić, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of the RS armed forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. He was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008. His trial began in October this year.
Future of Genocide Trials Hangs on Karadzic Verdict

Bosnian prosecutors still hesitate at filing indictments for genocide but some rights activists believe this may change once the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader is over.

ERNA MACKIC

Bosnia’s judicial institutions have completed only one case pertaining to genocide till now, the genocide in 1995 in Srebrenica.

Data available to the OSCE show that not one indictment for genocide has been filed before local courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2003. Before this year, only one verdict for genocide was pronounced before the Court in Sarajevo, referring to the crime committed in the Vogosca area during 1992.

Unlike Bosnia’s own judicial institutions, the German judiciary has determined in one of its verdicts in 1997 that genocide was committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.

Bosnia’s decision in 1993 to sue the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia before the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for committing genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina is in contradiction with the doings of local prosecutors’ offices.

Many human rights organizations and some local and international academics maintain that a genocide occurred Bosnia from 1992 onwards – but the State Prosecution of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not entirely support those claims.

From the State prosecution office, BIRN’s Justice Report was told that “investigations have not shown elements of genocide for any other areas [than Srebrenica].”

Hasan Balic, a Sarajevo university professor and former judge of Bosnia’s Supreme Court disagrees. “What about Foca, Visegrad, Prijedor, Rogatica... the whole of eastern Bosnia and the Drina valley?” he asks.

Mirsad Tokaca, president of the Research and Documentation Center, IDC, is of the same mind. Reducing the scale of the genocide in Bosnia to Srebrenica in 1995 “represents a huge forgery”, he says.
IDC data suggest that most cases of murder, deportation, the destruction of cultural and historical monuments, the establishment of detention camps and mass rapes in Bosnia happened in 1992.

The IDC considers that this points to the existence of an intention in 1992 to destroy an entire community of people, which is a prerequisite for proving genocide.

Edina Becirevic, a Sarajevo university professor who researches war crimes and court practices is the author of a book called the “Drina River Genocide”, in which she says that genocide was committed throughout the entire country from 1992.

Geoffrey Nice, prosecutor in the trial of former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, says genocide cannot be determined or defined solely by the number of victims. What he calls “the purpose of the killing” is the key factor.

He uses this argument to rebut arguments that the number of victims of the Bosnian war, estimated at about 100,000, is not large enough to amount to genocide.

Experts say many things in relation to genocide indictments in Bosnia may change as a result of the completion of the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who is indicted for genocide in Srebrenica and ten other municipalities from 1992 to 1995.

The trial verdict may help solve the issue of whether other indictments can be filed for genocide committed in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Only one so far:**

Bosnia’s criminal code stipulates that genocide is committed when an individual commits or orders others to commit murders and other grave crimes with a view to totally or partially exterminating a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

Over nearly five years since it was established the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has passed down only one-second instance verdict for genocide.

This was pronounced against six former members of the Bosnian Serb Second Special Police Squad from Sekovici, who were found guilty of “abetting the commitment” of genocide, rather than committing genocide themselves.
Milenko Trifunovic was sentenced to 33 years in prison, Brane Dzinic and Aleksandar Radovanovic to 32, and Petar Mitrovic, Branislav Medan and Slobodan Jakovljevic to 28 years for participating in the shooting of more than 1,000 Bosniaks from the Bosniak enclave of Srebrenica in the Kravica Agricultural Cooperative in July 1995.

A first-instance verdict sentenced Milorad Trbic, former assistant commander for security with the Bosnian Serb army’s Zvornik Brigade, to 30 years in prison for genocide in Srebrenica.

Trials are ongoing against Momir Pelemis, Slavko Peric, Radomir Vukovic, Zoran Tomic and Zeljko Ivanovic, who are charged with crimes committed in Srebrenica.

In most cases the grave crimes committed in other eastern Bosnian towns, such as Foca and Visegrad, in Doboj in northern Bosnia and in Prijedor, in the northwest, have been characterized as crimes against humanity.

The OSCE, which monitors war-crime trials, notes that no indictments for genocide have been filed before the Bosnian courts in the past seven years.

Local prosecutors’ offices filed such indictments during the course of the war and in the late 1990s.

In 1996, for example, the former Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Sarajevo filed three such charges. These cases were completed before the Supreme Court of the Federation.

Borislav Herak was the only indictee found guilty of genocide. A verdict in 1999 sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

In 2005 the Supreme Court sentenced Sretko Damjanovic, charged under the same indictment as Herak, to nine years’ jail for war crimes against civilians, having been originally charged with genocide in the Vogosca area.

The Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Sarajevo also charged Veselin Cancar with genocide in 1996. However, the Supreme Court of the Federation did not find him guilty of genocide but sentenced him to nine years’ imprisonment for committing crimes against civilians in the Foca area.

The Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Sarajevo also indicted Teso Tesic and Dusan Borovic for genocide, this time in Vlasenica. However, a second-instance verdict acquitted them of all charges.

The ICTY in 2004 pronounced Radislav Krstic and Vidoje Blagojevic guilty of abetting and supporting the commitment of genocide in Srebrenica, sentencing them to 35 and 15 years in prison respectively.
Indictments for genocide committed in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been filed before the Hague Tribunal, but not proved.

The indictment filed against the former President of the Bosnian Serb assembly Momcilo Krajisnik, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison this year, was one such.

The verdict summary in 2009 said that “although the committed crimes represent an act of genocide”, the presented evidence did “not prove that the genocide was committed as part of joint goals of the joint criminal enterprise, in which, according to evidence, Krajisnik participated, or the existence of specific intentions, which is necessary for commitment of genocide”.

The former Bosnian Serb president Biljana Plavsic was charged in 2001 with genocide and complicity in genocide. But those counts were dismissed after she struck a guilt admission agreement in 2002 as a result of which both the charges and the length of her prison term were substantially reduced.

Plavsic was sentenced to 11 years in prison and released last month after having served two-thirds of her sentence.

The ICTY charged Goran Jelisic in 1995 with genocide in the northern Bosnian town of Brcko but the allegations were dismissed by the first-instance verdict. He then reached a guilt admission agreement in 2001 and was sentenced to 40 years’ imprisonment.

In the Karadzic trial, the ICTY Prosecution will try once more to prove that genocide was committed in the broader area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, starting in 1992, not 1995, and maintaining that the Srebrenica massacre was only a culmination of those crimes.

**Milosevic’s half-time verdict:**

The ICTY Trial Chamber made “a half-time” decision at the trial of Slobodan Milosevic, saying that the Prosecution “had presented sufficient evidence to pronounce the indictee guilty of all charges contained in the indictment, unless the indictee manages to rebut the evidence during the course of his own evidence presenting”. However, Milosevic died before the end of the trial.

According to the decision of the Trial Chamber in June 2004, the evidence presented to date showed that “the joint criminal enterprise participants, including Slobodan Milosevic, indeed committed genocide in Brcko, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Srebrenica, Bijeljina, Kljuc and Bosanski Novi”.

Geoffrey Nice, who on behalf of the ICTY Prosecution proved Milosevic’s participation in genocide, explained to Justice Report that genocide “is the matter of purpose and forethought by individuals who are linked with each other in a certain criminal way”.

With reference to the number of victims, he added that in postwar Germany the thesis had been accepted that “said that one individual, even if he or she killed only one person, can be held responsible for genocide if he or she had the necessary forethought”.

Edina Becirevic notes that the German courts in 1997 sentenced Nikola Jorgic to life imprisonment for genocide in 1992 in the village of Grapska in the Doboj area. She regrets that the Bosnian courts have not reached similar conclusions.

“I think the Prosecution of Bosnia and Herzegovina lacks courage and is perhaps waiting for the verdict against Karadzic to be pronounced so that it can use it as a guide when filing indictments for genocide committed in other parts of Bosnia apart from Srebrenica,” she told Justice Report.

“The Hague Tribunal’s practice would then be the basis for actions that would not generate political controversies [in Bosnia],” she added.

The Prosecution of Bosnia and Herzegovina insists it is necessary to prove an intention for full or partial extermination of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group for genocide to be proven.

It emphasizes that the investigations conducted to date “have not proved the existence of such intentions in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, except Srebrenica”.

Sonja Biserko, head of Serbia’s Helsinki Human Rights Committee, considers it is clear that genocide occurred in Bosnia in 1992 and was only completed by the attack on Srebrenica in 1995.

“It was clearly proved at The Hague that the genocide was not a single event,” she said. “It certainly involved logistics and preparations and it… is obvious that this could not have been done without the help from the Serbian State.”

Smail Cekic, director of the Institute for Research into Crimes against Humanity and International Humanitarian Law, from Sarajevo, considers that the fact that the Prosecution of Bosnia has not filed indictments for genocide committed in any other areas except Srebrenica “a cardinal mistake”.

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He says: “Documents confirm that genocide was committed in all occupied areas and towns that were under the siege in line with the definition of the gravest crime in the UN Convention on Preventing and Sanctioning Genocide, bearing in mind the five criminal acts defined in the Convention.”

Biserko states that the trial of Karadzic will very important with reference to future indictments for genocide, as it will encompass other locations, besides Srebrenica.

For this reason, “Belgrade is nervous, because it does not know what unpredictable things may happen”, Biserko said.

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Karadzic: Richard Harvey
Appointed as Defence Attorney

The Registrar’s Office of the Hague Tribunal appoints British attorney Richard Harvey as Radovan Karadzic’s Defence attorney.

The decision on his appointment states that representatives of the Registrar’s Office met Karadzic in order for him “to express his preference concerning the list of attorneys made by the Registrar”.

“Although the indictee asked the Registrar to let him have an opportunity to meet the attorneys whose names are included in the list, in order for him to be able to say which of them he prefers, (...) after he had met them, the indictee did not say what his preference would be,” the Registrar’s decision says.

The Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, rendered a decision, on November 5, ordering the appointment of a Defence attorney who would represent Karadzic and granting the appointed attorney three and a half months to prepare for the trial.

The decision was made because the indictee failed to appear at the hearings at which the Hague Prosecution presented its introductory arguments. The Tribunal ruled this to be “a substantial and persistent” disturbance of the trial.

As per the Tribunal’s decision, Karadzic will still have the right to represent himself before the Tribunal when the trial continues, on March 1, 2010. However, this right will be revoked if he continues to refuse to attend the trial or interrupt it in any way. The Trial Chamber said that the appointed defence attorney would represent him in that case.

Prior to the beginning of the trial, Karadzic called on the Tribunal to let him have additional time to prepare for his defence due to “the extreme complexity of the case and large amount of material”. However, the Tribunal rejected the request. The indictee asked the Tribunal to permit him to appeal the decision concerning the appointment of a defence attorney, claiming the decision was “deficient”.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic, as former President of Republika Srpska, RS, and Supreme Commander of the RS armed forces, with,
among other things, genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

He was arrested in Serbia in July 2008. His trial began on October 26 this year.

Defence attorney Richard Harvey represents Lahi Brahimaj, who is charged before the Hague Tribunal, together with Ramush Haradinaj and Idriz Balaj, with a joint criminal enterprise whose aim was to remove Serb civilians from Kosovo.

The indictment alleges that Brahimaj was a member of the General Headquarters of the Kosovo Liberation Army and subordinate to Haradinaj. Haradinaj and Balaj were acquitted of all charges by a first-instance verdict. Brahimaj was sentenced to six years in prison. An appellate procedure is currently underway.
Karadzic: Without Legal Advisors

Legal advisors to Radovan Karadzic do not want to participate in his defence in the future, because the Hague Tribunal has refused to pay them for the work undertaken so far.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, RS, asked the Hague Tribunal to grant him additional time for the preparation of his defence, after his legal advisors' request for payment of their previous work was rejected.

In September and October 2009 Radovan Karadzic's legal team asked the Tribunal to authorize financial resources for the preparation of his defence, and allow additional 7,500 hours for preparations of the "complex case".

At the time it was said that the additional time was needed because the Prosecution wanted to examine 480 witnesses, which was, as he said, “the largest number of witnesses proposed to be examined before the Tribunal”, and because a large amount of evidence had to be analyzed.

On 5 November the Hague Tribunal rendered a decision, rejecting his request for financial resources. Therefore, starting from 10 November, they stopped working. This includes the leader of the team, US attorney Peter Robinson.

The Hague Tribunal Secretariat previously approved payment for eight members of his legal team, determining they would be paid between 15 and 35 Euro per hour.

Karadzic is charged with genocide committed in Srebrenica and 10 other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the sniper and shelling campaign in Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995.

After Karadzic had refused to appear in the courtroom during the course of presentation of the Prosecution’s introductory arguments, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, rendered a decision by which the trial would begin on March 1, 2010.

The indictee insists on defending himself, saying, during the course of his first appearance before the Tribunal, that he had “an invisible ally”. A group of experienced international legal experts and experts from the former Yugoslavia assist him in preparation of his defence.
Karadzic: Flawed Tribunal Decision

Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal to grant him the right to appeal the Tribunal’s decision ordering the appointment of a defence attorney to represent him.

In a motion filed with the Tribunal, Karadzic said that the decision imposing a defence attorney on him was “of extreme importance” for a fair and expeditious trial, but it was “flawed”.

On 5 November this year the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, rendered a decision by which the Tribunal’s Registrar would appoint a defence attorney to represent Karadzic. The defence attorney would be granted three and a half months to prepare for the trial.

Karadzic asked the Court to give him the right to appeal the decision due to the fact that it did not order the Registrar to provide him with a list of defence attorneys from which he could choose one to represent him.

“Dr Karadzic cannot but notice that the Trial Chamber’s decision is flawed in many ways. This, among other things, refers the lack of arguments to support its conclusion that the period of three and a half months, which was probably determined with no particular reason, would be sufficient for the defence attorney to prepare for such a difficult and complex trial,” Karadzic’s motion states.

The Trial Chamber decided that the trial would continue on 1 March, 2010, when the appointed defence attorney would take over “the management of the indictee’s defence” in case Karadzic still continued to refuse to appear in court.

The Chamber rendered this decision after Karadzic had refused to attend the beginning of the trial on 26 October this year and the two subsequent hearings, held on 27 October and 2 November, at which the Prosecution presented its introductory arguments.

Karadzic then appeared at the status conference held on 3 November this year, when he said that he would continue to refuse to appear at the trial until he was ready for his defence. The Hague Tribunal’s Chamber judged his statement to be “vital and persistent interference with the trial”.

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Prior to the beginning of the trial, the indictee insisted on managing his own defence, asking the Tribunal to grant him an additional 10 months for preparation. The Tribunal rejected his request.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, with genocide committed in Srebrenica and 10 other Bosnian municipalities, as well as “the shelling and sniper campaign in Sarajevo” from 1992 to 1995.

He was arrested in Serbia in July 2008, after having been on the run for more than a decade.
Karadzic Trial Part of Belgrade Strategy to Obstruct

In an interview for BIRN’s Justice Report, Sonja Biserko said that she believes that Radovan Karadzic’s tactic to prolong his trial is part of a strategy from Belgrade to obstruct the War Crime Tribunal’s work.

Sonja Biserko, director of the Helsinki Committee in Serbia, believes that the work of the Hague Tribunal has had almost no effect on Serbian society.

“I don’t think whether Ratko Mladic goes or does not go to The Hague will have any major effect on the process of (Serbia) facing up to the past,” she said in an interview for Justice Report.

According to Biserko, it’s obvious the state knew where Karadzic was hiding, “because his arrest was done in a picturesque way, while much pomp accompanied the revelation of his identity – the Serbian media broadcast stories about how he held the whole world up to ridicule, paying more attention to his secret life and his ‘powers and capabilities’ than to the indictment and the crimes for which he was held responsible”.

Radovan Karadzic was arrested on 21 July, 2008, on a bus in Belgrade after a search for him that lasted for more than a decade. According to Serbian police, he had the false identity of Dragan Dabic.

Biserko also believes that the international community “has failed to create mechanisms” to force Serbia to present war crimes verdicts to the public in a way that adequately presents the terrible suffering these crimes have caused.

“This goes to show that the Serbian authorities have never distanced themselves from the politics of Slobodan Milosevic and have continued implementing his politics using different means!” she said.

“We now have the example of Radovan Karadzic’s trial, which is being obstructed and prolonged... Using all available means, he is trying to act like [the indicted Serbian Radical Party leader] Vojislav Seselj or Slobodan Milosevic. He is doing this himself or being dragged into it by his defence
team. This is Belgrade’s strategy: obstruct the Tribunal, not give away the archives and pressurize witnesses.

“Nevertheless, I think the Karadzic case is different. The tribunal has more experience now and I think it has sufficient material to enable it to easily prove all the allegations in the indictment,” concludes Biserko.
Biserko: Serbia Still ‘At War’, Using Other Means

Head of Serbia’s Helsinki Committee says Serbia still ‘relativizes’ its crimes and has failed to tell young people the truth of what happened in the 1990s.

DRAGANA ERJAVEC, BIRN JUSTICE REPORT

Q How is Serbia working on the process of facing the past?

A: It has not even been possible to start the process, despite the fact that many groups and individuals have worked on it... through conferences, panels, printing publications, making documentary movies, which are certainly very important.

But the process has not even started at the state level because the fall of Yugoslavia, so to say, lasted until last year, and because Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been consolidated and because Belgrade continues ‘the war’ using other means.

Serbia continues obstructing the consolidation of Bosnia as a state, because it wants to keep its wartime trophy, namely Republika Srpska, and eventually get part of northern Kosovo.

As long as this goes on Serbia will not want to participate in such a process because all it does today at the level of reprocessing the past is relativize and transfer responsibility to what it calls, ‘the conspiracy by Western countries and the separatist republics of Slovenia and Croatia’.

All activities undertaken in Serbia by publishing and educational institutions, or by the Academy of Sciences and Arts, by all institutions relevant in terms of organizing remembrance... are heading in the opposite direction!

As a state and as a society, Serbia has not been engaged in the process at all, particularly since the verdict was rendered by the International Court of Justice at The Hague in 2007.

This has been the strategy of this state. It is not related to this or that government. All those who took part in defining the [nationalist] project, who helped the project and justified it in their scientific or quasi-scientific publications and researches take part in this.
Q: Could the regional process of facing up to the past be conducted faster and better?

A: In my opinion a regional process is not possible because we have seven new states involved. Each has a different historical context and chronology of events and in each of these cases Serbia was the leading actor.

We first need national commissions in all countries formed after the fall of the former Yugoslavia. Each has a complex problem... we have Serbs and Croats in Croatia, three peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo... it actually determines the character of those commissions.

A regional commission may be necessary at the end of the whole process but it isn’t possible to make a proper framework for facing up to past processes without respecting what Yugoslavia was and what it represented or without taking into consideration the war preparation process.

It is not sufficient to mention the people killed or the victims only. We should examine the war context: how did the war happen and what happened during and after the war? These are important approaches to understanding what happened. They can clearly tell us what Belgrade’s policies were, for instance, in relation to Bosnia.

Q: How much has the failure to arrest Ratko Mladic affected the process of facing the past in the region?

A: The work of the Hague Tribunal has had almost no effect on Serbian society. I don’t think whether Ratko Mladic goes or does not go to The Hague will have any major effect on the process of facing up to the past.

Last year, when Radovan Karadzic was arrested – and it’s obvious the state knew where he was hiding, because his arrest was done in a picturesque way, while much pomp accompanied the revelation of his identity – the Serbian media broadcast stories about how he held the whole world up to ridicule, paying more attention to his secret life and his ‘powers and capabilities’ than to the indictment and the crimes for which he was held responsible. This was a cleverly placed storyline, irrespective of the fact that he went to The Hague....

The international community has failed to create mechanisms to force Serbia into presenting the verdicts rendered by the Hague Tribunal, complete or not, to its public in the right way, making it easier for the public to find out what happened and why Serbia has found itself in this situation. This goes to show that the Serbian authorities have never distanced
themselves from the politics of Slobodan Milosevic and have continued implementing his politics using different means!

We now have the example of Radovan Karadzic’s trial, which is being obstructed and prolonged... Using all available means, he is trying to act like [the indicted Serbian Radical Party leader] Vojislav Seselj or Slobodan Milosevic. He is doing this himself or being dragged into it by his defence team. This is Belgrade’s strategy: obstruct the Tribunal, not give away the archives and pressurize witnesses. Nevertheless, I think the Karadzic case is different. The tribunal has more experience now and I think it has sufficient material to enable it to easily prove all the allegations in the indictment.

Q: Is the survival of such attitudes towards the past dangerous for the young in the region?

A: The danger is greatest for the generation born after the wars. They, for sure, are not responsible for them, but they have not been acquainted with the facts, either. The majority is frustrated because they lack perspectives. Their reactions are marked by violence and dissatisfaction. Another thing not good for the young generation in the region is that they have never been in a situation to reflect on regional issues together because the political elites keep them separated.

We must not forget that the region has its joint regional story, which began before Yugoslavia was created and existed at the time of Yugoslavia and after its fall. We must understand that we live in the same region, can understand each other’s languages and, above all, have a common culture. People in the region, especially young people, need to communicate. Such communication exists at some levels.

But communication has got to include speaking about the truth, because the recent past will appear in some situations when we least expect it. A long-term engagement in the project to determine the truth about what happened in the former Yugoslavia in the Nineties, therefore, remains important.

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Karadzic: Trial postponed until March 2010

The Hague Tribunal Chamber rules that the trial of Radovan Karadzic will continue on March 1, 2010 and a Defence attorney will be appointed to represent the indictee if he continues to refuse to appear in court.

The trial will continue with the presentation of introductory arguments by the indictee. The Chamber has decided that the Registrar will, in the meantime, appoint a Defence attorney, who will have three and a half months to prepare for the trial.

“No defence attorney, even the most experienced and efficient, can be reasonably expected to assist an indictee and the court proceedings without having enough time for preparation. For this reason it will be necessary to postpone the continuation of the trial for a few months. (...) This case is clearly a voluminous one. The defence attorney will have to read several thousand documents in order to be able properly to examine Prosecution witnesses,” the Trial Chamber stated.

The Trial Chamber’s decision to appoint a defence attorney is based on the conclusion that Karadzic has “substantially and persistently” obstructed the sequential and expeditious conduct of the trial by refusing to attend hearings until he “considered himself ready”.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of its armed forces, is charged, before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

He was arrested in Serbia in July 2008. His trial began on October 26 this year.

At the two hearings held so far the Prosecution presented introductory arguments. The indictee did not attend the hearings, stating that he would not attend the trial until he is ready to defend himself. In a motion filed with the Tribunal prior to the beginning of the trial, which was subse-
quently rejected by the Tribunal, Karadzic asked the Court to allow him ten more months to prepare his defence.

Following the presentation of the Prosecution’s introductory arguments, a status conference was held on November 3, at which the Prosecution presented possible options for the further course of the trial if Karadzic continued “boycotting it”. Some of the proposed options included appointment of a defence attorney or continuation of the trial in the absence of the indictee.

Since his first appearance before the Tribunal, Karadzic has insisted on representing himself, because, he says, he is the only person who can understand “the complicated facts” that existed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the course of the war.

“Considering the basic right to self-representation, the indictee will continue defending himself by dealing with daily issues that come up, such as filing motions and responses, as well as by continuing his preparations for the trial,” the Chamber’s decision reads.

However, as stated by the Chamber, Karadzic will lose his right to self-representation if he continues to refuse to attend the trial as of March 2010 or disturbs the trial in any other way. In that case, the appointed defence attorney will represent him before the Tribunal.

“The Trial Chamber encourages the indictee to discuss his defence and cooperate fully with the designated defence attorney in order to use the time available for preparation in the best possible manner,” the decision says.
Karadzic Asks for More Time to Prepare

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Tuesday once again asked the UN War Crimes Tribunal for more time to prepare his defence.

BIRN JUSTICE REPORT

Appearing before the tribunal for the first time since the start of his trial, Karadzic told a hearing it would be “criminal” if he had stand a trial for which he was not prepared.

“I do not want to boycott these proceedings but I cannot take part in something that has been bad from the start and where my fundamental rights have been violated,” Karadzic said.

Karadzic, who is defending himself, boycotted the start of the trial last week, claiming he has not had enough time to prepare his defence.

The former leaders said prosecutors had weighted him down with 1.3 million pages of evidence, and he has only been able to work on his defence since May, when he received the documents.

Judge O-Gon Kwon told Karadzic it was the court, not the defendant, who decides when a case is ready for trial. He said Karadzic should take part in order to get a fair trial.

The hearing was adjourned so the judges can decide how to proceed.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. He was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008.

On Monday the Prosecution said Radovan Karadzic knew about crimes committed in Srebrenica and had direct contact with Ratko Mladic in July 1995.

Continuing its presentation of introductory arguments the prosecution said: “Karadzic is responsible for one of the black episodes of eliminating Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica and cleaning eastern Bosnia. He was informed by various sources, he had direct contact with Mladic, he knew
the population was resettled and people were murdered... He smothered the crimes. He has been doing that until today. The only thing he regretted was the fact that some Muslims managed to escape," Prosecutor Alan Tiger said.

Presenting his introductory arguments, Tiger said that the entire Muslim population was deported from Srebrenica in July 1995, more than 7,000 men were killed and more than 5,000 people had been exhumed from mass graves to date.

In the first half of July 1995, organised murder was committed in Kravica, Prahovac, Petkovici, Kozluk, Pilica, at Branjevo farm and in the areas around Srebrenica. In the second half of July sporadic murders were committed at those locations.

The Prosecutor said that at the time Karadzic denied the crimes committed in Srebrenica and the allegations that people had been killed in the town. He said that this was “yet another step in his denial of what happened there”.

“The murder of those people and the mass deportations did not come out of nowhere. They were the result of a firm decision made by the indictee to clean the areas and ensure the subsistence of the Serb state as he imagined it,” the Prosecutor said.

The Hague Prosecution considers Karadzic responsible for the seven directives, “signed by Ratko Mladic with his support”. The fourth of the seven directives orders the Drina Corps to “inflict as much loss to the enemy as possible in order to implement the cleansing”.

The Hague Tribunal charges Ratko Mladic, former Commander of the General Headquarters of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has now been on the run for 13 years.

The Prosecution touched upon the count charging Karadzic with taking international personnel hostage in response to NATO air strikes on VRS positions in 1995.

As stated by the Prosecutors, those were “unarmed military observers, who were responsible for establishing communication between the parties to the conflict”.

“More than 200 people were taken hostage between May 26 and June 19, 1995. They were tied to radar antenna, forcibly put on those antenna, physically abused... A few were used as human shields,” the Prosecutor said.
At the beginning of his introductory arguments the Prosecutor spoke about the shelling of Sarajevo, claiming that “the indictee was aware” of it, because international representatives warned him about it and the world media reported it.

“Nightfall in Sarajevo. Shells are falling on the city. Another night of shelling. One has to run very fast. Sarajevo is burning – both the city centre and the suburbs...Each projectile hits in a deadly and random manner. There is artillery and mortar fire...” said the narration of one of the recordings shown in court.
Inzko, Brammertz Criticise Bosnian Decision

The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Hague Tribunal Chief Prosecutor have expressed concern over the Bosnian decision not to extend the mandates of international judges and prosecutors.

““The extension of mandates of international judges and prosecutors at the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its Prosecution is in the interest of the fight against impunity and [in] upholding international justice,” Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz said during a meeting with High Representative Valentin Inzko.

Inzko and Brammertz expressed their concern over the fact that the Bosnian parliament has rejected legal regulations pertaining to the extension of the mandates of international judges and prosecutors, saying that this issue was of crucial importance for the country in its efforts to deal effectively with high-profile cases.

The prosecutors’ and justices’ mandate expires at the end of this year. Proposed amendments to the Law on the Court and Prosecution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which would have seen the mandates of international personnel at Bosnia’s War Crimes Chamber and second-instance Trial Chambers extended, did not receive support in the Bosnian state legislature.

Brammertz and Inzko also discussed the beginning of Radovan Karadzic’s trial. A statement from the Office of the High Representative said that “it is important that the trial has started and that Radovan Karadzic is facing justice at last”.

Karadzic is charged before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with genocide and crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His trial began on October 27, 15 months after his arrest.

“It is impossible to build a healthy democratic society without justice. As long as convicted war criminals are treated as war heroes by political leaders, the courts remain the only means of bringing to light the truth of what happened in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” Inzko said.
Brammertz and Inzko also expressed concern that issues which they raised in the past have not been addressed, noting that Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic remain at large, while war criminal Radovan Stankovic is still on the run.

Mladic and Hadzic, who have been indicted by the ICTY, have been on the run for more than ten years.

Stankovic was sentenced by the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina to 20 years in prison for crimes committed in Foca. He escaped from prison in May 2007. Ten people have been brought before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for allegedly helping him escape. Their trial is underway.

Inzko said that the “full cooperation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Hague Tribunal is a priority for my Office and I am ready to use the full powers of my Office to assure this, if needed.”

The visit of the Chief ICTY Prosecutor to Sarajevo comes ahead of his presentation of a biannual report to the UN Security Council, UNSC, in December. Brammertz will update the UNSC on the level of cooperation the ICTY is receiving from Bosnia and other regional states and on the Tribunal’s exit strategy.
Tribunal Denies Karadzic’s Interview Appeal

The Hague Tribunal has rejected Radovan Karadzic’s appeal of the Tribunal’s decision to forbid the publishing of one of his responses in a written interview with Le Monde.

After the Registrar’s Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, reviewed a copy of the interview Karadzic wanted to pass to a Le Monde journalist, it returned the transcript to the former Republika Srpska president, asking him to “work on it some more and reformulate it”.

This, due to a contentious question pertaining to the alleged involvement of UNPROFOR in arming individuals during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“The Registrar has determined that Karadzic’s proposed answer is detrimental to UNPROFOR and the United Nations and it can also do harm to the mandate of the Hague Tribunal,” the Court’s decision reads.

In his appeal to the initial decision, submitted on September 10, 2009, Karadzic said that there was nothing in his answers that “could do harm to the Tribunal’s reputation,” adding that “the Registrar’s decision is therefore illogical”.

“Karadzic considers that the Registrar’s decision annuls his basic right to freedom of speech. Karadzic considers that freedom of speech is the basis of a democratic society. As such, it refers to shocking, offensive and disturbing pieces of information and not only to the ones considered non-offensive,” Karadzic wrote in his appeal.

The Hague Prosecution has charged the former Bosnian Serb leader with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

He was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008, after having been on the run for more than a decade. His trial began on October 28 with the Prosecution beginning its introductory arguments.
In the Tribunal’s decision rejecting Karadzic's appeal, Judge Mehmet Guney said that Karadzic's answer to a question pertaining to the alleged participation of UNPROFOR in arming individuals in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war contained “grave accusations, which might do serious harm to the reputation of the UN”.

“Karadzic's accusations, which are undefined and unclear in the interview itself, will probably become one of the contentious issues during the course of the trial. I consider that courtrooms should, as a rule, be the only place where we can discuss contentious issues pertaining to the trial in order to ensure that all parties have a chance to confute the allegations made by the opposing parties,” Judge Guney said.

The decision adds that Karadzic's right to freedom of speech is not undermined “considering the fact that the Registrar has refused to allow publication of one minor and insignificant part of the entire interview”.

Karadzic’s trial is due to continue on November 2, 2009, when the Prosecution will continue presenting its introductory arguments.
Court May be Wise to Grant Karadzic More Time

If the accused is granted a limited extra period to prepare his defence, he will have no excuse to boycott the proceedings.

BY BOGDAN IVANISEVIC

The initial impasse in the trial of Radovan Karadzic has no doubt been a cause for celebration among the Hague tribunal’s many opponents in Serbia and the Republika Srpska.

Among supporters of the tribunal, failure to start the trial on time this week raised fears that it could turn into another high-profile case determined by the defendant’s whims at the expense of the feelings of the victims.

Hopefully, it’s possible some months from now that the trial will have taken its proper course – the defendant’s cries of injustice having been dismissed as a bid to stop justice from taking its course.

The court faces two challenges. One concerns the substance: Karadzic must be given a fair trial. The other challenge is the perception of fairness. It is important that justice is seen to be done, including in relation to the defendant.

The tribunal should consider appointing a “standby counsel”, as important step to ensure the trial remains on track.

Everyone accused before the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, is entitled to “defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing”.

This phrase from the tribunal’s statute comes verbatim from the key international human rights convention, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

“To defend oneself in person” is not an absolute right, however, and must be balanced against the interests of justice, which include the need to conduct an expeditious and orderly trial.
If Karadzic boycotts the proceedings unless he is granted significantly more time to prepare his defence, would appointment of a counsel to represent him be in the interests of justice, or would it violate his right to self-representation?

In some European states, including Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the appointment of a counsel to a defendant charged with particularly grave crimes, such as war crimes, is mandatory.

But the ICTY has adopted the position that even those accused of the gravest crimes may opt to defend themselves. According to tribunal case law, this right may be curtailed only in exceptional circumstances.

In an oft-quoted decision in the case of Slobodan Milosevic, the Appeals Chamber in November 2004 said the court had the right to curtail self-representation if it “substantially and persistently obstructs the proper and expeditious conduct of his trial”.

Some reputable international lawyers think the tribunal went too far here. Critics say decisions of the tribunal appear to have been motivated by a need to ensure the accused is present in court by any means possible.

For example, twice during the trial of the Serbian Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj, in August and October 2006, the trial chamber assigned a counsel to represent the accused.

Both times the Appeals Chamber then reversed the decisions, the second time in response to Seselj’s hunger strike and refusal to appear in the courtroom.

In the second of these two decisions, the Appeals Chamber argued that the defendant deserved an opportunity to show he was willing to comply with the tribunal’s rules of procedure.

The explanation did not convince trial observers and legal experts, because they felt that Seselj had already given abundant proof of obstructionist and disruptive behaviour.

So, the tribunal does have a standard – the precedent from the Milosevic trial – that it can apply in the Karadzic case – “substantial and persistent obstruction of the proper and expeditious conduct of trial”.

The question is whether Karadzic’s actions to date can be classified as substantial and persistent obstruction to the proper and expeditious conduct of his trial.
The difficulty facing those arguing in favour of the court’s appointment of counsel is that even if Karadzic’s actions do constitute obstruction, that might not be obvious to every reasonable observer. In other words, the perception of fairness is at risk.

It is not obvious, for example, that Karadzic is being obstructive when he argues that he has not been given enough time to prepare for his trial.

Arguably, Karadzic and his legal advisors used up much of the time they were given for a largely irrelevant issue – the so-called “Holbrooke agreement”.

This refers to the claim, strongly denied by Holbrooke, that the former US Balkan mediator promised Karadzic immunity from trial if he agreed to withdraw from political life.

The numerous submissions filed by Karadzic and the team also suggest that he has a strong legal team working for him.

Yet, the material that he and his legal advisors have received from the prosecution is voluminous, whether or not it comprises more than a million pages, as the accused claims. Karadzic also insists most of it has been submitted since May.

The trial chamber is best placed to determine the merit of these claims. If the chamber decides they lack any merit, they will have to discard them and assign him a counsel.

After a period of preparation, this counsel would cross-examine the prosecution witnesses and make submissions. If Karadzic remained a participant in the proceedings, he would also be allowed to cross-examine, after the counsel.

But he may boycott the trial instead. A sense of incompleteness would be the price that the court would have to pay for this course of action.

If the trial chamber now decides Karadzic’s claims have some weight, they will feel justified in giving Karadzic more time to extend time for Karadzic’s preparation and will not assign a counsel.

They would be wise meanwhile to simultaneously name a “stand-by counsel” who can take over from the accused if his right to self-representation is terminated eventually.

This scenario would require some creativity on the part of the judges in terms of explaining why they had ignored Karadzic’s claims a few weeks earlier.
Any time extension should be modest, so as to satisfy the requirement that the trial should be expeditious. A limited time frame would also make it a less of all-out propaganda victory for Karadzic, assuming this was one of his goals.

At the same time, the allocated time frame should be generous enough to assure reasonable observers that the accused was given sufficient time to prepare.

If Karadzic does not appear in the courtroom after this additional time, the court should change the status of the stand-by counsel into that of a court assigned counsel and let him represent the defence.

What if Karadzic and his witnesses then boycott the trial in protest against the assigned counsel? Milosevic and Seselj did that, in similar situations during their trials.

This is where the perception of the fairness comes in again. Following an extension to the time limit for Karadzic's preparation, few observers would take his claims of unfair treatment seriously.

Importantly, the example of self-representation in the Milosevic and Seselj trials may now turn against the accused. Most observers feel the tribunal was too magnanimous in handling those cases – to its own detriment and that of the victims.

Few would sympathise with Karadzic if he took the same path as Milosevic and Seselj, and if he decided after being given more time for preparation, to boycott the trial altogether.

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Timeline: Radovan Karadzic

Here is a timeline of key events in the Bosnian war involving former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, now standing trial for war crimes at the Hague:

1945

On June 25, Radovan Karadzic is born in the village of Petnjica, in the municipality of Savnik, Montenegro. He completes elementary school there and then moves to Sarajevo, in Bosnia. There he finishes medical high school and university and becomes a specialist in neuropsychiatric medicine. He works in several Sarajevo hospitals and clinics and for a period in Belgrade.

1990

Karadzic first becomes active in the Green Party, and only after that joins the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS. Soon, July 12, he becomes its first president. For the first time since the Second World War, multy-party elections are held in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1991

Slovenia and Croatia declare their independence in June. The next day, the Yugoslav People’s Army, JNA, engages in armed conflict in Slovenia. War spreads to Croatia. The UN Security Council passes resolution 713, which imposes an embargo on the sales of arms to all of former Yugoslavia.

Bosnia organizes a referendum on independence from Yugoslavia. The JNA begins to withdraw from Croatia into Bosnia. Working in tandem with the JNA, the SDS in Bosnia starts arming the Bosnian Serb population.

In October, the Bosnian Serb Assembly, dominated by the SDS, is founded and proclaimed the supreme legislative organ of the Serbs in Bosnia. Karadzic delivers a speech to Bosnia’s parliament, warning Muslims that they face annihilation if they secede from Yugoslavia. “Do not think that you will not take Bosnia and Herzegovina to hell, and the Muslim population towards disappearance, because the Muslim people cannot defend themselves if war happens here,” he says.

In November, the Bosnian Serb assembly endorses the proclamation of “Serbian autonomous districts” in Bosnia.
1992

On January 9, after declaring the independence of the Bosnian Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, later renamed Republika Srpska, Karadzic is named its first president.

On February 29 and March 1, the Bosnian independence referendum is held. The Bosnian Serb assembly urges Serbs to boycott the poll. Turnout is 67 per cent of whom 99.43 per cent favour independence. On March 5, Bosnia declares independence. The Bosnian Serb leadership starts roadblocks in protest.

The constitution of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina declares in Article 2 that its territory consists of “Serbian autonomous regions, municipalities and other Serbian ethnic entities, including the regions in which genocide was committed against the Serbian population in World War Two.”

In April, Serbian forces attack parts of northern Bosnia. Bosnia is internationally recognized as an independent state. The 44-month siege of Sarajevo starts.

In May, Karadzic outlines “six strategic objectives” of the Serbs in Bosnia: establishing borders separating the Serbian people from the other ethnic communities: establishing a corridor between Semberija in the north and the north-west Krajina region: establishing a corridor to the eastern Drina river valley: establishing a border on the Una and Neretva rivers: the division of Sarajevo into Serbian and Muslim parts: ensuring access to the sea. The Bosnian Serb assembly votes to create the Army of Republika Srpska, VRS, and appoints Ratko Mladic commander.

In summer, the international media reports a new phenomenon – “ethnic cleansing”. Reports spread of death camps and mass rapes. Hundreds of thousands are forced from their homes and large portions of Bosnia “cleansed” of non-Serbs. The Serbs establish camps in the northwest Prijedor area, where more than 7,000 non-Serbs are detained, tortured or killed.

1993

In January Cyrus Vance of the US and David Owen of Britain present a peace plan. Under pressure from Serbia’s leader, Slobodan Milosevic, Karadzic signs but after the Bosnian Serb assembly votes against it, he withdraws assent.

In May, the UN votes to set up a war crimes tribunal for Yugoslavia to try “persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian
law in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991”. The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, is born.

1994

Bosnia Serbs shell the Sarajevo marketplace, killing 67. NATO rules that heavy weapons must be removed from a 20-mile exclusion zone around Sarajevo or turned over to UN control. NATO downs four Serbian planes in the no-fly zone.

NATO bombs Serb positions as the Serbs advance on a UN proclaimed “safe haven”, Gorazde, in eastern Bosnia.

1995

In May 25, Bosnian Serbs shell the northern town of Tuzla, killing 70 and wounding more than 150. In July 11, the VRS overrun Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia, killing more than 7,500 men and boys in Europe’s worst single atrocity since the end of the Second World War.

In August 28, Serb forces bomb the market hall in Sarajevo, killing 43.

In November and December, Dayton peace accord is ratified and then signed, ending the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The ICTY prosecution raises first indictment against the Bosnian Serb leader in July 1995, which is expanded in November 1995 to include charges of genocide over the events in Srebrenica.

1996

Karadzic withdraws from political and public life on June 30. The ICTY issued an international warrant for his and Ratko Mladic arrest on July 11.

2000

In April, the tribunal’s chief prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, merges the two indictments against Karadzic, which have a total of 36 points, into one with 11 points.

In September, Karadzic is allegedly spotted in a bar in a Serb suburb of Sarajevo.

2001

Karadzic published a book in Serbia titled Od Ludog koplja do Crne bajke.
2002

International military forces in Bosnia undertake several raids in Republika Srpska, searching for Karadzic. In February, there is an unsuccessful raid in Celibici, near Foca in eastern Bosnia. German and British newspapers report that a French officer tipped Karadzic off about the plan. France denies the report.

2003

In August, NATO-led peacekeepers conduct a two-day operation in Pale, searching for information about Karadzic. A month later, Bosnian Serb police conduct their first raid in a search of Karadzic in Bijeljina. The internationally appointed High Representative to Bosnia freezes the bank accounts and other assets of Karadzic’s close relatives who are suspected of helping him.

2004

NATO-led troops raid the Karadzic home in Pale several times this year. His wife, Ljiljana, insists she has not seen her husband for four years. Later, she announces that she is suing NATO for $15,000 for damages caused during the operations. Later, she publicly appeals for him to surrender “for the sake of your family”.

Karadzic published one more book in Serbia titled Čudesna hronika noći.

2005


2008

In January, the Republika Srpska Interior Ministry interviews the Karadzic family. Their personal documents are handed over to local authorities after the High Representative orders their seizure.

On July 21, Karadzic is arrested in Belgrade, Serbia. It is then revealed that for some years he has lived in the city practicing alternative medicine under the assumed name of Dragan Dabic.

Posters in support of Karadzic and Ratko Mladic appear in the eastern towns of Visegrad and Zvornik and in Bijeljina, north–east Bosnia.
More than 40 people are injured after Serbian riot police fire tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse a rally held in Belgrade to protest against the arrest of Karadžić.

On September 22, the ICTY prosecution modifies the Karadžić indictment, adding genocide charges in connection with Srebrenica and events in ten other municipalities in Bosnia. He is charged with various crimes in a total of 27 municipalities, as well as for terror and murder of civilians during the siege of Sarajevo.

Karadžić appears in an ICTY courtroom ten days after his arrest.

The Hague prosecution amends the Karadžić indictment, adding certain counts and removing others.

2009

On October 27, trial starts without Karadžić being present, as he says he has not had time to prepare his defence.
Karadzic Trial Continues on November 2

On the first day of the presentation of introductory arguments, which took place in the absence of the indictee, the Hague Prosecution said it would show that Radovan Karadzic had full control over the Republika Srpska Army and was the architect of the shelling and sniper campaign in Sarajevo.

Speaking about the count in the indictment charging Karadzic with “the sniper and shelling campaign in Sarajevo”, the Prosecution announced that it will seek to prove that “Karadzic controlled the forces which participated in the siege and fashioned the shelling and sniper fire with the aim of terrorizing the city residents”.

“Fear was the only constant of the life in this city,” Prosecutor Alan Tiger said. On the first day of the trial the Hague Prosecution presented its introductory arguments for nearly six hours. It will continue presenting them on Monday, November 2.

The Hague Prosecution will seek to prove that the Serb Democratic Party, SDS, led by Karadzic, worked on establishing “the police and army of the Serb people” from the very beginning of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, “with the aim of ensuring the existence of two strong forces”.

“The police managed many detention camps, such as Omarska detention camp in Prijedor and Kula in Sarajevo. It committed crimes, such as the massacre on Mount Vlasic, when more than 200 civilians were killed... There was a big detention center in nearly all municipalities. Bosnian Croats and Muslims were detained in them. The detention camps were humiliating and brutal, while detainees were exposed to murder, rape, terror and death,” Tiger said.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. He was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008. Tiger said that the establishment of the Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina Army was enabled by the re-
form of the Yugoslav National Army, JNA, which had withdrawn its forces from Bosnia and Herzegovina earlier, “leaving tens of commanders and officers, which were under the command of the Bosnian Serbs’ leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

“During the course of the war the JNA and Slobodan Milosevic offered support in terms of personnel, as well as military and financial support for the war conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Back door staff centers of the JNA were formed, which paid salaries to officers,” the Hague Prosecution argued.

Milosevic, former President of Serbia and Supreme Commander of the Yugoslav Army, was arrested in Belgrade in 2001. He was transferred to The Hague, where he was tried, among other things, for crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He died on March 11, 2006, before his trial was completed.

In his introductory arguments Prosecutor Tiger paid special attention to the Strategic Goals of the Serb People, which were adopted by the Parliament of the Serb people in Bosnia and Herzegovina on May 12, 1992.

The six strategic goals defined the aims of Serb people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first strategic goal was to separate themselves from the two other ethnic communities, namely Croats and Muslims. There was also the goal of establishing borders of “the Serb people’s territories”, between the Drina, Una and Neretva rivers. The last two goals regulate the division of Sarajevo city into a Serb and Muslim part as well as ensuring access to the sea for the Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“The Republika Srpska Army started implementing the goals almost right away. The operation was conducted initially by shelling villages, followed by infantry attacks. As a rule, very little resistance was offered. After that they captured Muslims and Bosnian Croats and transferred them to detention centers and camps,” Tiger said.

He further stated that the exchanges of prisoners from these detention camps were conducted “with the knowledge of higher-instance authorities and the leadership of the SDS”, but the Serb authorities exchanged non-Serb civilians for captured VRS soldiers.

The Prosecution presented a number of VRS documents proving the existence of “coordinated military operations aimed at fulfilling the strategic goals".
“Karadzic was the de jure and de facto military leader and supreme Commander of the Serb people in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” the Prosecutor said.

The Trial Chamber said that if Karadzic fails to appear at the next hearing, a status conference will be held on Tuesday, November 3, at which the further course of the trial “in the absence of the indictee” will be considered.
Karadzic Trial Finally Starts

Fifteen months after his arrest in Belgrade, and almost 14 years after the issuance of an indictment at the Tribunal in Hague, the trial against Radovan Karadzic has started.

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Karadzic is indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity, committed from 1992 to 1995 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Keeping to an earlier pledge, Karadzic refused to appear before the court, claiming he is not ready for the trial. Justice O’Gon Kwon said that this is the defendant’s decision and that Karadzic was voluntarily refusing to be in the courtroom during the Prosecution’s opening.

Kwon said that the next trial hearing will be held on Monday, adding that the Court is considering imposing counsel on Karadzic if he maintains his refusal to appear.

Karadzic is insisting that he defend himself.

Transcripts from the Prosecution’s opening remarks will be delivered to Karadzic and his defence advisors.

The Prosecution started by outlining the evidence that will be presented and its schedule for doing so. It referred to the circa 300 witnesses that will be called, and the evidence they will present.

Prosecutor Alan Tiger said the Court will hear testimony from Sarajevo residents who lived under siege for more than 4,000 days.

“They will talk about life in the city [during the conflict] where even doing the simplest thing was life-threatening, and that there was not a safe place to hide,” said Tiger.

He added that the prosecution will call witnesses from Srebrenica, including a “mother who will talk about how they tried to protect their boys after the fall of Srebrenica”.

Prosecution evidence will show that Karadzic intended to divide Bosnia and, as he said, to “cleanse” the country. This cleansing was to be done by his “soldiers”.

“The ultimate goal was to unite with Serbia,” Tiger alleged.

While the Prosecution gave its opening remarks, hundreds of victims who came from Bosnia to The Hague, were protesting in front of the Tribunal building.

Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, 2008, and was transferred 10 days later to The Hague. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.
Karadzic: Buying Time

**War crime victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina see the postponement of the Radovan Karadzic trial, due to his failure to appear in court, as playing with the feelings of the survivors and as his way of “buying time” and presenting himself as “a martyr.”**

We think that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has mechanisms to ensure an efficient trial even in case he fails to appear in the courtroom. The whole process will probably be deficient and it will not have the effect we expect the trial of the century, and the most important one conducted before the ICTY, to have,” says Edin Ramulic of the Izvor Association of Prijedor women.

The former president of Republika Srpska faces charges before the ICTY of genocide, crimes against humanity and the violation of laws and practices of warfare, committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, 2008, after having been on the run for years.

The beginning of his trial was scheduled for October 26, but it has now been postponed until October 27 because he failed to appear in the courtroom.

Last week, Karadzic informed the ICTY Trial Chamber that he did not intend to turn up on Monday because he “is not ready for the trial”.

“After he had said he would not appear in the courtroom, I knew some chicanery was coming, because they always play some games and get away with it. [...] I have the feeling that there is no justice for us, victims, at all. Believe me when I say that this is very hard for us. We feel as if they are committing the crime against us again, but this time it is even more horrible, because it is the world that is committing it,” says Nisveta Zametica, president of Zene Kasindolske 92 (“The Women of Kasindolska Street, 1992”) Association.

“It is obvious that this is an attempt to buy some more time, while waiting for the UN, to reconsider the existence of the Tribunal and its future work. What is the only option left to Karadzic? His only option is to create the
image of a martyr and be remembered by the Serbian people as the victim
of a conspiracy by the international community,” Ramulic says.

Saja Coric, a former detainee in Vojno detention camp, near Mostar, be-
lieves that all war crimes victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been
hurt by Karadzic’s failure to appear for the beginning of the trial.

“It is sad that even today, in 2009, the international community plays on
the feelings of Bosnian victims. At this moment, this refers not only to the
women of Srebrenica, but also to other victims,” Coric considers.

Karadzic is not the person charged by the ICTY to refuse to appear in court
in an attempt to delay the beginning of their trial. In November 2006,
Vojislav Seselj, the former president of the Serbian Radical Party of the
Republic of Serbian and Montenegro, refused to leave his prison cell when
his trial was scheduled to commence.

Seselj, who is charged with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina
and the Republic of Croatia, has subsequently appeared at his trial, which
began in November 2007 and is still underway. Jovica Stanisic, the former
chief of the State Safety Service and Internal Affairs Ministry of the Re-
public of Serbia, also boycotted the beginning of his trial, claiming he was
severely ill. The trial was due to begin in March 2008. The trial of Stanisic,
who is charged with alleged crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina
and Croatia, began in June 2009.

Karadzic has also refused to appoint a defence attorney. Because of this,
the Prosecution has asked the Tribunal to appoint an ex-officio lawyer to
represent him. This would enable the trial to be conducted in a normal
way.
Grieving Bosnian Mother Waits to Confront Karadzic

Dzenana Sokolovic who lost her son, aged seven, to a sniper in 1994 will be among the first witnesses to appear at the genocide trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader.

BY AIDA ALIC

Dzenana Sokolovic from Sarajevo is waiting for the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, to begin on October 26.

The trial, before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, will start with the presentation of introductory arguments by the Prosecution. After two days in which the Prosecution presents introductory arguments the examination of the 30 witnesses will begin.

Although she does not know the exact date when she will face Karadzic in court Sokolovic knows it might happen on the anniversary of her son’s death on November 18, 15 years ago.

Nermin was only seven when a Bosnian Serb sniper shot him dead. Dzenana was wounded at the same time.

Death beside the hotel:

Karadzic, former President of the Republika Srpska, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of laws and practices of warfare committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

The indictment alleges that from April 1992 to November 1995 Karadzic participated in a joint criminal enterprise with an aim of initiating and implementing the sniper campaign and shelling of civilians living in Sarajevo.

It further alleges that the shelling and sniper fire was conducted with an aim of “killing, mutilating, wounding and terrorizing the civilian population in Sarajevo”.

Sokolovic has already spoken about the day that changed her life forever when she testified at the trial of Dragomir Milosevic.
The former commander of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps with the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, was sentenced in January 2007 by a first-instance verdict to 33 years in prison for his role in the siege of Sarajevo. A second-instance verdict is due soon.

Dzenana Sokolovic says she testified at that trial, and will testify at the forthcoming trial, to honour her son’s memory. “I have never been afraid of the truth and I said if they invited me I would go,” she said.

“It means a lot to me to say what happened about my son because, as people say, you feel relieved in some way when you let it all come out.”

Sokolovic remembers the Sunday he died in 1994. “I told Nermin to come with me to the school building to fetch firewood but he was reluctant and said: ‘No, mummy, I want to go to granny’s.’ I somehow persuaded him to come, so he joined us,” she said.

There was not much shooting until they reached the Holiday Inn hotel and passed the transporter of the UN peacekeeping force, UNPROFOR. She was carrying some firewood.

“My boy was on my left-hand side. I didn’t feel anything when a bullet penetrated my body from my right side and hit him straight on the cheek,” she said. “I remember watching him falling down.” She still has the sweater that Nermin wore on the day he died.

During the siege of Sarajevo, many civilians were killed in the vicinity of the Holiday Inn, which was located near the centre of town but within reach of the Serbian snipers positioned in the tower blocks in the adjacent Serb–held suburb of Grbavica. Most victims were killed by sniper bullets.

Dzenana remembers that some UNPROFOR soldiers who were in transporters at a nearby checkpoint tried to help her and her son. “I had lost a lot of blood but I remained conscious until the ambulance vehicle arrived and took me to hospital,” she said.

“My husband visited me on the second or third day. I asked him about Nermin. It never even crossed my mind that he had been killed.”

Sokolovic has told her story before and will say it again in court in The Hague. “It was not Karadzic who shot [my son] but he gave the orders,” she said. “Nobody claims he or [Serbian leader Slobodan] Milosevic shot at us, but they gave the orders to the [Bosnian Serb] Army.

“He skipped me but got my child.”
Sokolovic says the passage of the years has dimmed neither the pain nor the memory. “He is always on my mind, no matter whether I am awake or asleep,” she said.

“He was only seven when he died. He was a clever boy and would sit with me and ask: ‘So, mummy, how are we going to do this? What shall we do?’”

Sokolovic said that even if she had had many other children the ache caused by his loss would still remain. “It was just a child... with blond curly hair and big green eyes. Nobody can replace him.”

**One of many dead children:**

After the death of her son Dzenana had him buried in the city’s Humka cemetery because there was space there when all the other cemeteries were full.

“I didn’t have the money for a tombstone so I got a donation from some charity for the purpose,” she said. “I still visit his grave although when I come back from the cemetery I feel half dead for a week.”

Today she lives with her two sons and husband in a small apartment in Bistrik, in Sarajevo. After Nermin’s death in 1994, she gave birth to another son and named him Nermin.

Near where her son died a plaque has been put up, listing the names of all people killed there during the war. For some reason, Nermin’s name is not among them.

“I’m surprised they did not include his name because he was killed there,” Sokolovic said. “So much for our state! Do they think those other people are better than him?”

Although she is ready to speak at Karadzic’s trial, Dzenana Sokolovic has spent much of the past 15 years in virtual silence. “I feel best when I am alone because silence suits me,” she said. “Back then I did not have electricity or water. Now we have got everything – but not a life!”

The Hague Prosecution considers Sokolovic’s testimony will help to prove their claims regarding the 1,425-day siege of Sarajevo.

The siege was the longest of its kind in modern history and civilians were exposed to sniper fire and shelling throughout. Most of the time there was no electricity or water.
There are no precise data concerning the number of victims but recent estimates suggest at least 10,000 people were killed. The figure includes about 1,000 children. Nermin was one of many.

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Karadzic Refuses to Appear

Radovan Karadzic informs the Trial Chamber of the Hague Tribunal that he will not appear in court at the beginning of the trial on October 26.

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As the indictee stated in his motion, the reason for this is that his Defence is not ready for the trial, while being “forced and hurried” into it.

“Excellencies, my participation in the trial under the current obvious circumstances would be my only crime, for which I would deserve to be disdained by war victims and cursed by future generations,” Karadzic said in his motion filed with the Tribunal.

“By this motion I regret to inform you, with continuing respect for you as individuals, and a belief that a solution can be found for any problem, that my defence is not ready for the trial against me, which is due to begin, as decided, on October 26. I and my entire team will continue with our preparations at the most intensive pace [...] As soon as we are ready, we shall gladly inform the Chamber and the Prosecution several weeks in advance,” Karadzic said.

There are no indications from the Tribunal, at the present moment, suggesting that the trial will not go on as previously announced.

“Judges of the International Court have full control over the trials. Trial Chambers are the only competent bodies that can render decisions concerning readiness for the beginning of trials,” said Nerma Jelacic, spokesman for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian municipalities, as well as crimes committed in 27 municipalities and “the sniper and shelling campaign in Sarajevo”.

The former President of Republika Srpska, RS, and the Supreme Commander of the RS armed forces was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, 2008, after having been on the run for more than a decade.

He made his first appearance before the Hague Tribunal ten days later. Following numerous status conferences held during the course of last
year, it has been decided that his trial will begin on Monday, October 26, when the Prosecution will present its introductory arguments.

Prior to the beginning of the trial, the indictee asked the Court to let him have an additional ten months for preparation of his defence. However, the Appeals Chamber rejected his requested, judging his reasons to be “unconvincing”.

“I repeatedly assure your excellencies that no representative in the world would be able to prepare the defence over such a short period of time. The biggest case should be given at least an approximate time for preparation, which is nearly two years. Good preparation would save us time during the course of the trial itself, so the total time spent would eventually be the same,” Karadzic argued.

Since his first appearance before the Tribunal, the former president of Republika Srpska has insisted on defending himself.

“My decision to represent myself was not an easy one to make. It does not reflect a lack of confidence in attorneys, but my certainty that the facts are so complicated that only a person who has participated from the very beginning can fully understand and present them,” Karadzic said in his motion.
Karadzic: Prosecution Whittles Down Evidence

The Hague Prosecution has submitted its plan for the presentation of evidence in the trial of Radovan Karadzic, from which certain crimes have been removed.

As per an order of the Hague Tribunal Chamber, the Prosecution has filed “a revised indictment” against Radovan Karadzic, which contains the counts that will be covered during the course of the 300 working hours allocated for the presentation of evidence.

The former president of Republika Srpska is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and the violation of the laws and customs of war; crimes allegedly committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Karadzic was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008. His trial is due to begin on October 26.

In the evidence presentation plan, which accompanies the revised indictment, the Prosecution has eliminated events for which it will not present evidence during the course of the trial. In the section pertaining to murders committed outside detention centres, the Prosecution has decided to present evidence pertaining to 30 of 44 purported events.

There will be no reference in the trial to the murder of tens of civilians committed in the municipalities of Bosanski novi, Brcko, Kotor Varos, Rogatica and Iljas, near Sarajevo, during 1992.

Among other things, the Prosecution will not present evidence pertaining to the murder of around 70 civilians, incinerated in a house in Pionirskaya Street in Visegrad in June 1992, or on the murder of a number of civilians at Visegrad Bridge.

The Prosecution has also reduced the number of pieces of evidence pertaining to crimes committed in various detention centres throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Evidence will not be presented on murders in a sports hall; the Laser Bus Company and Public Safety Station in Brcko; the murder of detainees in the hunters’ club in Cajnice; or the murder of men who were taken from the Barutni Magacin detention camp in Klinovik and killed in a barn in the village of Ratine, in Foca municipality, in August 1992.
In addition to eliminating the evidence with regard to these murders, the Prosecution will not present evidence on numerous other crimes committed in detention centres, including the Safety Services Centre; Mali Logor and Tujnice prison in Banja Luka; the fire-brigade and police stations in Bosanski Novi; and the police station in Bosanska Kostajnica.

The Prosecution has removed, from the evidence presentation plan on detention centres, the municipalities of Bosanska Krupa (Petar Kocic school building and school building in Jasenica), Bosanski Petrovac, Ca- jnice, Donji Vakuf, Iljas, Kalinovik (Miladin Radojevic school building and Barutni Magacin), and Kotor Varos and Visegrad (Vilina Vlas hotel, Hasan Veletovac school building and police station).

As far as the murders in Srebrenica and the shelling and sniping campaign in Sarajevo are concerned, the Prosecution will present most of the evidence foreseen in the indictment.

Evidence on the destruction of the National Library in Sarajevo in August 1992 will not be presented. Neither will evidence on the shelling of 50 and 70 civilians queueing for water in Dobrinja in June 1995, in which seven people were killed and 12 were wounded.
I am impatient to see that day and hear the introduction by the Prosecu-
tion – but I also constantly ask myself how will it influence my life, past, 
present and future, and my country? Will it bring us back a little bit of 
what we lost? Will the country be a better place to live in?

Karadzic was indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity commit-
ted from 1992 to 1995 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the Re-
search and Documentation Centre, an NGO from Sarajevo, around 100,000
people died in the war in total. People were tortured in concentration

camps, women brutally raped, and more than 2 million forced to leave 
their homes in a search for safety. That is our past.

It is scary to look back at that past, although we have to in order to be able
to face a future that is no less alarming.

Bosnia today is a semi-protectorate. The international community effec-
tively governs the country. They still have the power to change laws, im-
pose decisions, remove politicians and pretend that they will lead us to 
the EU. What they have done in the past, according to many international
academics, was preside over failure after failure. I will not even go into 
that. It is also scary.

What people from the country itself have done is even less successful.

Bosnia has to face the past, learn from history, and punish those respon-
sible for all these evils. The same has to be done on the part of the inter-
national community. They were always too late, both in the war and after, 
with no clear vision or strategy.

Nevertheless, WE have to look ahead of us and see where are we and where
do we want to go. I don't want to live in a semi-protectorate, like most
people in the country. It is not very popular to say this loud, but I believe 
the international community is over and done with in Bosnia. There is 
nothing left for them to fix, or spoil, after such a long time.

The politicians leading the country are obviously not capable of doing 
much. What was their biggest achievement lately? Some of them want
us to think they achieved a lot now that Bosnia, together with five other countries, has been elected to temporary membership of UN Security Council. Hardly any international media pay any attention to it.

The domestic politicians are pretending it is something they achieved, forgetting to mention that the decision was in fact made with or without them, and with the intention, as the British ambassador to the UN said, to give Bosnia “the experience of being on the council” in order to help the country “strengthen its national government systems to enable it to take decisions on international issues”.

The civil sector in the country is weak, or is not loud enough. They have tried a couple of times to call people onto the streets to protest, with no clear idea or strategy. It is absurd that the football fan club known as “Horde zla” (Hordes of evil) were better organised in calling people out to protest after one fan died in a riot than any NGO has been.

So what now? I hope and pray that somebody will be brave enough to look the future in the face. I hope and pray that more than one person will do that. If that means a revolution, fine, though if it means political evolution, that’s even better. But we have to build a country and a future for ourselves. No international official can know what is good for me.

We have to leave Karadzic to the judges, the international law system, and then put him in our books as a parable about a type of evil that must never return. Now it is time for a new Bosnia, and we have to invent it, whatever it takes. We must get rid of the entire old burden on our shoulders and start, if needed, from the very beginning.
Former Karadzic Minister to Testify

The Hague Prosecution has submitted to the Court the names of its first 30 witnesses in the trial of Radovan Karadzic, which is due to begin on October 26.

NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

Among the first Prosecution witnesses is Momcilo Mandic, a former justice minister in the Karadzic government. Mandic is on trial before the War Crimes Chamber in Sarajevo for his role in establishing detention centres in the Bosnian capital and its surrounds in 1992, and for participating in an attack on the Staff Training Centre of the former Interior Ministry of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mandic was acquitted of all charges by a first-instance verdict, but the Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecution has filed an appeal.

The first witnesses to appear at the trial will testify under aliases. They will be followed by Sulejman Crncalo, who has already testified at the trial of Momcilo Krajisnik.

Crncalo, who lived in Pale before the war, explained during the Krajisnik trial why he and other Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) fled Pale in 1992. He testified that, once the seat of the Bosnian Serbs’ government was established in Pale in the spring of that year, the local Serb population was armed and Bosniaks were arrested.

Crncalo left Pale with the last convoy at the end of the summer of 1992. He said that “the Serb authorities in Pale” organised the transportation of Bosniaks in convoys of buses and offered them the option of exchanging their property with Serbs from Sarajevo.

Another witness will be Herbert Okun, who served as deputy to Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy for the Balkans, at the beginning of the conflict. Okun, a US diplomat, attended numerous meetings in which the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was discussed. Among other things, he was told of meetings between Karadzic and the late Bosnian Croat leader, Mate Boban, held in Graz, Austria in 1991, in which the pair discussed the division of Bosnia. Okun now lectures at several prestigious US universities on events in eastern Europe after the fall of communism.
Arnaut van Lynden, a former journalist with Sky News, who testified in the Mrksic case before the Hague Tribunal, will also appear as a witness.

The former chief of the EU Monitoring Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colm Doyle, US professors Robert Donia and John Wilson, and retired British general Michael Rose, who served as UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, will also testify.

Among the first witnesses will be Milan Mandilovic, a doctor from Sarajevo, who testified at the trial of Dragomir Milosevic about the shelling of the city when it was under siege. Dzenana Sokolovic, who was wounded in Sarajevo during the siege, will also appear. Sokolovic, whose son was also wounded in the siege, appeared as a witness in the trial of Slobodan Milosevic.

The first 30 witnesses are due to be examined by the end of December this year.

Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade in July last year, after having been on the run for more than a decade. The Hague Tribunal is still looking for Ratko Mladic, who is charged with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Goran Hadzic, indicted for crimes committed in Croatia.
Karadzic Trial Postponed

The Appellate Chamber of the Hague Tribunal has postponed the beginning of Radovan Karadzic’s trial by seven days to allow him to study the revised indictment.

In the same decision, the Chamber refused Karadzic’s request to have an additional ten months to prepare his defence.

The former president of Republika Srpska is charged with crimes and genocide committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. He was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008. Ten days later he made his first appearance before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

At a status conference, held on October 6, the decision was made that Karadzic’s trial would commence on October 21, when the Prosecution was due to present its introductory arguments.

The Chamber said the Prosecution would have 300 hours to present its case, ordering it to provide the Court and Karadzic with “the revised indictment”, containing all counts, by October 19.

“The Trial Chamber was obliged to make sure that Karadzic would have sufficient time to read the revised indictment prior to the beginning of the trial,” the Appellate Chamber’s decision reads, postponing the beginning of the trial by a week.

The Appellate Chamber rejected Karadzic’s request to have an extra ten months to prepare his defence. Karadzic filed the postponement motion in September, citing, among other things, the scope of the trial and the fact that he is defending himself.

“Karadzic failed to present any convincing reasons showing that the Trial Chamber’s estimate of the time needed for trial preparations was wrong. The mere mentioning of the number of counts contained in the indictment and reminding us of the scope of the documents does not imply that the Chamber’s estimation was wrong,” the decision reads.

The Appellate Chamber found that the Trial Chamber’s conclusion that Karadzic is surrounded by a relatively large group of paid and unpaid advisors, who “provide him with considerable support”, was justified, despite
the fact that Karadzic had said that these advisors had not been able to work with him for the whole time he has spent in custody.

“Their limitations are connected to Karadzic’s choice to defend himself,” the Appellate Chamber argued.

Through this decision, the Chamber dismissed, as “unconvincing”, the indictee’s allegations that the Trial Chamber did not take into consideration the complexity of the case, the number of counts in the indictment and the gravity of the crime when it made its decision about the beginning of the trial.

The ICTY has found that any immunity agreement Karadzic may have made is not binding on the Tribunal, allowing his trial to go ahead as planned.
Karadzic Immunity Agreement Not Binding

The Hague Tribunal has determined that Radovan Karadzic can be tried for war crimes, including genocide, irrespective of whether an immunity agreement was reached.

Since his arrest in Belgrade in July last year, Karadzic has argued that he cannot be tried because former US envoy to the Balkans Richard Holbrooke promised that he would not face charges. According to Karadzic, this promise was given to him in 1996, after he agreed to withdraw from public and political life. This enabled him to avoid arrest for more than a decade after an indictment was filed.

The Hague Prosecution considers Karadzic responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. When Karadzic declined to enter a plea, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, recorded a plea of not guilty on his behalf.

Holbrooke has, on several occasions, denied that any agreement was made with Karadzic.

“Even if the allegations about the existence of an agreement are proved, the agreement would not limit the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, it would not be binding on the Tribunal and it would not bring the trial into question,” the ICTY decision reads.

Nevertheless, the judges have decided to allow Karadzic to provide, during the presentation of evidence, what he says is proof of the existence of an amnesty agreement.

Karadzic’s trial is scheduled to begin on October 21 – a decision he has also objected to.
Hague Tribunal’s Prestige Fades as Closure Looms

Recent controversial decisions have contributed to a growing loss of faith in the court, even on part of once ardent supporters.

BY MERIMA HUSEJNOVIC

Now in its final stage, the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, appears to have less support from the public than ever before.

Even individuals and organizations that once unconditionally supported its work are now critical, saying they fear the tribunal has lost its way, and that some of its recent decisions are not rendered “in spirit of justice and justness”.

“In the final stage of its work, the Tribunal is seriously shaken – I’m saying this even though I support the Tribunal so much and work with it,” Fadila Memisevic, president of the Association of Endangered Peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina, says.

“We need the Tribunal but we can’t close our eyes and our reasoning has to be critical. It can not be honoured for the work it has done in recent years,” she adds.

Many people still agree that the Tribunal was important for the former Yugoslav countries, and that its existence made it possible for local judicial institutions to start addressing war crimes.

Zagreb philosophy professor Zarko Puhovski – who says the standard of some war crime trials now conducted in Belgrade and Zagreb is higher than those at The Hague – maintains that “this could not have been achieved without the Hague Tribunal. Therein lies the paradox.”

However, critics bitterly condemn the Tribunal for several high-profile decisions it has rendered lately. These include the cases of former ICTY prosecution spokesperson Florence Hartmann, the wartime Bosnian Serb leader Biljana Plavsic and the so-called “Vukovar Three”.

They object to handling of the ongoing trial of Serbian Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj, the abortive trial of Serbia’s former leader Slobodan Mi-
losevic and the pre-trial process of the former Bosnian Serb president, Radovan Karadzic.

On September 16 representatives of Bosniak victims of the 1992-5 war held a protest in Sarajevo against the decision to grant Biljana Plavsic early release from prison.

Angered also over the recommendation of the Tribunal to reduce the indictment against Karadzic, they organized a demonstration in front of the Tribunal office in Sarajevo.

**Wrong perceptions:**

The Hague Tribunal was established in May 1993 to try those responsible for the worst war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

To date, 120 cases conducted before the Tribunal have been completed. Under the ICTY’s agreed “exit strategy”, all trials, including first and second-instance ones, must end by 2013.

Ever since it was established the Tribunal has encountered negative reactions from politicians and the public in the region, ranging from distrust to complete denial of its authority.

“From the moment the Tribunal was established, the stereotype was created of the court as anti-Serbian and later, particularly during the Milosevic trial, attempts were made to discredit the Tribunal,” Sonja Biserko, President of the Helsinki Human Rights Committee in Serbia, says.

“The perception remains among people [in Serbia] that the Tribunal works against Serbia,” she adds.

The trial of Milosevic, indicted for war crimes committed in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, began in 2002 but never concluded, as the indictee died in the Hague Detention Unit four years later.

Branko Todorovic, head of the Helsinki Rights Committee in the Republika Srpska, says the ICTY has contributed to the current “wrongful interpretation” of its work by “having been rather closed to the public” for years.

“It ignored the need to present to the local communities in which the crimes were committed its activities its way of work and the basis for its work,” he said. “There have been attempts to change that, starting in 2003, but it was rather late.”
Katarina Kruhonja, of the Peace Center in Croatia, said the court’s reputation in Croatia always suffered from the fact that it was “perceived as a political court that wanted to equalize victims and aggressors”.

Human rights activists, meanwhile, have attacked certain decisions rendered by the ICTY in recent years.

“The reputation of the Hague Tribunal is declining. We can no longer speak about criticisms not supported by arguments. We’re talking about some odd decisions made by the Tribunal and verdicts that have fuelled mistrust,” Todorovic says.

This week’s decision, ordering the former spokesperson of the Hague Prosecution, Florence Hartmann, to pay a fine of 7,000 euros for contempt of court, prompted particularly strong criticism.

“I was one of the greatest supporters of the Tribunal. I cooperated with it and I helped it... but now I have serious worries about what is happening there,” Natasa Kandic, director of the Belgrade Humanitarian Law Fund, says.

Hartmann was convicted for publishing confidential data from the appellate process of the Milosevic trial in her book, “Peace and Punishment”.

Kandic – and many others – maintain that the information that Hartmann publicised was already in the public domain. She says numerous human rights organizations had spoken in public “about the essence of the question covered by this indictment” long before Hartman published her book.

Kandic said the verdict only encouraged a culture of official secrecy and sent a message that the former Yugoslav states “should always hide evidence and documents pertaining to institutional responsibility”.

Puhovski agrees. The Hartmann verdict “shows that the Tribunal is more involved in its internal affairs than in the people for whom it was created”.

The public is not “losing confidence” in the Tribunal now; they never have much confidence in it in the first place, Puhovski adds. The difference between then and now lies in the fact that while there was less justification for such negativity before, justifications “are more and more obvious” these days.

“Over the past few years things have become so tense that it is not just nationalists who are against the Tribunal – there are serious expert objections to its work,” Puhovski told Justice Report.
Always a tough assignment:
Kruhonja considers that the Croatian public’s attitude towards the Tribunal changed for the worse after the pronouncement of the verdict in the “Vukovar Three” case.

This was the trial of the three men held most responsible for the mass murder of more than 250 Croats in the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar, after it fell to the Yugoslav Army in 1991.

The victims were taken to a nearby farm at Ovcar, executed and thrown into a mass grave.

The relatively mild sentences dealt out to the three indictees, all senior Yugoslav Army officers, appalled and alienated many Croats.

In May 2009 Mile Mrksic and Veselin Slijivancanin were sentenced to 20 and 17 years’ imprisonment, while Miroslav Radic was acquitted of all charges in September 2007.

“The Hague Tribunal received bitter criticism over this. It was a huge failure, which significantly damaged the Tribunal’s reputation,” Kruhonja said.

Bosniak public opinion, meanwhile, has been disturbed by the recent decision to release Biljana Plavsic, former President of Republika Srpska, after she had served two-thirds of her 11-year sentence for crimes committed in the 1992-5 war in Bosnia.

Evaluating Plavsic’s eligibility for early release, the Tribunal stated that she has exhibited good behaviour during the course of her incarceration, “she has participated in the institution’s walks, and she also occupies herself by cooking and baking”.

As part of the criteria for early release, the Tribunal said it considered the advanced age (she is 79) and health of Biljana Plavsic relevant to the exercise of their discretion.

However, Fadila Memisevic says such a decision only supports allegations that the ICTY has lost credibility. “This has become a farce,” she said.

Whatever people’s opinions about the recent role of the Tribunal, many wish to record that it has played a very significant role in prompting states in the region to face up to their own recent past.

“The international community demonstrated its ability to establish a court at international level to try perpetrators of the gravest human rights violations,” Todorovic says.
Victims Protest Hague Tribunal’s Work

Several hundred members of victims’ associations have protested in front of the Hague Tribunal and Prosecution building in Sarajevo, setting photos of judges, prosecutors and indictees on fire.

The protest was organised by the Association of Detainees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Association of Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa Enclaves, and the Women, Victims of War group.

Organisers said the protest was intended to express dissatisfaction with a proposal from the Trial Chamber, sitting in the case of Radovan Karadzic, that the Prosecution reduce the indictment against the former Bosnian Serb president and not present evidence pertaining to certain crimes.

Protestors burned photos of Patrick Robinson, the president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz and O-Gon Kwon, the judge chairing the Trial Chamber that will hear the Karadzic case. They also set photos of Karadzic on fire.

Association representatives asked for an urgent meeting with senior Tribunal officials, saying that if the indictment is reduced they will refuse to cooperate with the ICTY. BIRN-Justice Report has learned that a group representing victims will travel to The Hague today.

“The victims will no longer appear as witnesses at trials. We will ignore them. We will not take part in the work of the Tribunal. They know they cannot go on without our help. So, they should then release Karadzic,” Munira Subasic from the Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa Enclaves association told reporters.

Karadzic’s trial is due to begin on October 19. He has been in custody since July 2008.

In order to make the trial more efficient, the Prosecution announced that it would “reduce the number of witnesses and the time needed for their examination” in presenting its case.
“The Chamber considers that the Prosecution should complete its evidence presenting within one year. The Defence is given the same amount of time. The case is due to be completed within the next 30 months. In the worst-case scenario, the trial should not last for more than three years,” Judge Kwon said at a status conference held on September 8.

In order to ensure “the speed and fairness of the trial”, the Chamber proposed that the Prosecution further reduce the indictment, in part, by reducing the time needed to demonstrate that “ethnic cleansing” took place through reference “to 10 or 12 municipalities”, instead of incidences in 27 municipalities covered by the original indictment.

The Prosecution has charged Karadzic with genocide committed in Srebrenica and 10 other Bosnian municipalities; of crimes committed in 27 municipalities; and in connection with the “sniper and shelling campaign in Sarajevo”.
Karadzic Trial Will Start on October 19

The trial of Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, who is charged, among other things, with genocide committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is due to begin in mid October and, "in the worst case scenario", it will last for three years.

More than one year after the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, the Hague Tribunal Chamber has set a date for the beginning of the trial for genocide and other crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The trial will begin on October 19, 2009, despite the indictee’s claims that he “is not ready”.

“The Chamber has set October 19, 2009, as an appropriate date for the beginning of the trial, but we shall render a final decision concerning the precise date at a later stage. We have decided to hold a pre-trial conference on October 6,” Judge O-Gon Kwon said.

Radovan Karadzic was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008. Ten days later he made his first appearance before the Tribunal.

“I cannot be ready for the beginning of the trial. This is not an average case. This is the most complex and voluminous case conducted before the Tribunal. There is no way I can defend myself. I am asking you to reconsider the trial start date and render a new decision,” Karadzic said.

Karadzic filed a motion, in early September 2009, asking for additional time to prepare for the trial, claiming he needed ten more months due to the “size of the trial”.

“This is not just about me, but the entire region and three acrimonious peoples, who cannot reconcile and need to know the truth. I cannot see how somebody can be happy to see an innocent person convicted. My first crime would be to let this case be huddled and crumpled,” Karadzic said after the Chamber had announced its decision on the start of the trial.

In order to make the trial as efficient as possible, the Prosecution has announced that it will reduce the time and number of witnesses needed to prove the allegations in the indictment. The Chamber said that, “in the worst case scenario”, the trial could last for three years.
“The Prosecution will reduce the time for examination of witnesses from 490 to 293 hours, by designating some witnesses as reserve ones and changing the status and time needed for the examination of some witnesses,” Judge Kwon said.

“The Chamber considers that the Prosecution should complete its evidence presentation within one year. The Defence is given the same amount of time. The whole case should be completed within the next 30 months. It must not be extended, even in the worst case scenario, beyond three years,” Kwon said.

In order to ensure “the promptness and fairness of the trial”, the Chamber proposed that the Prosecution additionally reduce the indictment, adding that it is necessary to present evidence concerning the Markale shelling in Sarajevo due to the “existence of controversial opinions on which party was responsible for the shelling”.

During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina two massacres were committed at Markale marketplace in Sarajevo. The first took place on February 5, 1994, when 67 people were killed and 142 were wounded. The second one, in August 1995, killed 37 and wounded 90 people.

The Chamber also proposed that the Prosecution limit the evidence presentation pertaining to ethnic cleansing “to between 10 and 12 municipalities” in comparison to 27 originally mentioned in the indictment.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian municipalities, as well as with other crimes committed in 27 municipalities and “the sniper and shelling campaign in Sarajevo”.

Karadzic is the highest civilian official of Republika Srpska to be tried at The Hague.
Karadzic Case Ready for Trial

The judge indicates that the Radovan Karadzic case is "ready for trial", though he declines to set a date for the trial to begin.

At a status conference, Judge Iain Bonomy said that the Radovan Karadzic case is “ready for trial” and that he will inform the Court President of this.

However, a date has not been set for the beginning of the trial of the former president of Republika Srpska, who is charged with genocide and a number of other crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Prosecution has indicated that once the date is set it will need about four weeks to undertake preparatory steps.

“Once the date is set for this trial to begin, we need to inform the witnesses and undertake all necessary preparatory steps. On the basis of previous experience, we can say that this may last for four to six weeks. In this case the Prosecution would need about four weeks,” Prosecutor Alan Tieger said.

After having been on the run for years, Karadzic was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008. Ten days later he made his first appearance before the Hague Tribunal. He denied the allegations in the indictment charging him with genocide committed in Srebrenica and ten other Bosnian municipalities, as well as numerous other crimes committed on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the three-and-a-half year siege of Sarajevo.

Karadzic used a large part of this status conference to complain about “technical problems” in preparing his defence, such as the reading of the voluminous material, contacts with legal advisors, using technical tools in the Detention Unit and other “issues related to this shaggy, unattended, engorged case of huge importance”.

“You do not have control over your case. You have shown us that you are not using in a correct manner the resources assigned to you by this Court. You have a special liaison officer who conveys your problems to the Trial Chamber. Now, you are mentioning a number of issues that have never been conveyed to me before,” Judge Bonomy told Karadzic.

The Prosecution announced that by the end of this week, or the beginning of next week, it will file the fourth motion requesting acceptance of already determined facts based on the second-instance verdict against
Momcilo Krajisnik. A former speaker of the Republika Srpska Assembly, Krajisnik was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

“As part of preparations for this trial, we are making two groups of witnesses. The first group consists of people we have to invite by all means, while the other is a reserve group. At this moment we are transferring the witnesses, whose statements were determined in the mentioned verdicts, to the reserve list. This list is becoming bigger and bigger every day,” Prosecutor Alan Tieger said.

The Prosecutor mentioned that the motion referred to 900 facts determined in the mentioned verdict. The Trial Chamber allowed the Prosecution to file the motion, adding that it hoped that this motion would help reduce the list of witnesses to be invited to testify.

“At some stage one has to say that all preparations for the trial have been completed and the trial will begin on the basis of what has been included in the case file to date. You now have the Prosecution’s allegations covering the 900 determined facts, although the facts have been presented in a different manner. At some stage one has to draw the line though,” the judge said.

The status conference participants also discussed the indictee's request to talk to one Prosecution witness, who is “very important” for the count pertaining to the Markale massacre.

“I do not want to meet him as an indictee, but as the head of my defence. This witness is important for the Markale case. Markale is important for everything else. We do not want the lie, saying that Serbs did that, to run on,” Karadzic said.

Two massacres were committed at Markale marketplace in Sarajevo during the course of the war. On February 5, 1994, 67 residents of Sarajevo were killed, and 142 were wounded. In the second massacre, in August 1995, 37 people were killed and 90 were wounded.
Let Karadzic’s Trial be Fair \ But also Quick

The sooner the former Bosnian Serb leader I know so well is sentenced, the sooner the war he began will finally be over.

BY EMIR SULJAGIC

I dare say hardly anyone is as familiar with Radovan Karadzic as I am. Over the past few years, I spent countless hours pouring over hundreds, perhaps thousands, of pages of orders and instructions that he issued, speeches he made and transcripts of telephone conversations he had with various other members of the Serbian political and military leadership from the early and mid-1990s.

Some left me speechless, most of all Directive No 7, dated March 1995, which outlines the ultimate goal of the attack on Srebrenica as ensuring the impossibility of the survival of Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica and Zepa.

I found him bloodthirsty at times, such as when, during a conversation with his friend the poet Gojko Djogo, he enthusiastically referred to Sarajevo as “black cauldron” in which “three hundred thousand people will die”.

A testimony of his conversation with a Bosnian Muslim from western Bosnia has him describing the future Serbian state in Bosnia as one in which “Serbs would make war and Muslims would work”.

At the end of the day, however, I found Karadzic to be first and foremost a dilettante. I had some exclusive insights into the mind of one of the greatest villains of the second half of the 20th century, but there was a problem: I did not want to know.

Then they arrested him. Now I had to find out much more: about his not-so-secret secret life in downtown Belgrade, his alternative lifestyle and the lover he kept, his strained relationship with his wife as a result, until I reached the point when someone whose humanity had been irrevocably lost to me – at some point in the small hours of reading the testimony of prison-camp inmates in Luka in Brcko or Omarska or Batkovic or perhaps long before it – began to resemble a human being again.
With his public appearances limited to status conferences in the ICTY courtroom, Karadzic has crept back into my, into our, lives in the year that has passed since his arrest. Everyone has had to say something about him, or about something he had said or done, so if the first year is anything to go by his trial will be much like that of Slobodan Milosevic: long, grueling and traumatic.

Of course, this is a matter of perspective: mine is the perspective of someone who has been held hostage to what Karadzic did during the war, and to the consequences of what he did after the end of the war, and who in some ways remains hostage to the end result of his lifework. Therefore, I want to see him dealt with fairly, but swiftly and without undue procrastination.

I was not in Bosnia when he was arrested, but I remember the exhilaration I felt when talking to my friends. We were all confident that with his arrest the war was over, in fact. There are many other reasons to do away with Karadzic, such as avoiding any further re-traumatization of individuals and groups already traumatized, but most important is the following: the sooner he is sentenced and sent away to prison, the sooner the war which still rages in peoples' souls will be over; the sooner the barriers that he erected in peoples’ minds will come down.

This is not to say that there should not be a trial and that victims should not have an opportunity for their voices to be heard; or, for those who can stomach it, to face him in court. He should have the right to cross-examine them within the limits of good taste (the kind of latitude Milosevic had was simply too much), but that is where it ends.

No names of individuals who defend him, no grievances about the so-called immunity deal, no letters to this or that, and please, but please, no information regarding conjugal visits. I am not asking this for myself: I will always find a way to either avoid finding out about it – by not reading the Belgrade-based dailies run by the Security and Intelligence Agency, formerly known as State Security Branch, is a good start; I can shut it out of my life.

But for the sake of so many who either cannot or who don’t know how to do so, please let us exercise some responsibility over what is divulged about Radovan Karadzic. He cannot, at any cost, become a human again. He has lost the privilege.

Emir Suljagic is a journalist, author of the book Postcards from the Grave and Srebrenica survivor. Balkan Insight is BIRN’s online publication.
Karadzic: One Year On

A year after the wartime president of Republika Srpska was arrested, war victims and legal analysts in Bosnia say it is high time for his trial to begin.

Exactly one year since the arrest of Radovan Karadzic in Belgrade, it is still unknown when his trial, considered by many as the most important war-crimes case in recent history, will begin.

Until recently the trial was expected to start in late August. However, at a status conference held at the beginning of July, an International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, justice, Judge Iain Bonomy, said it would be more realistic to schedule the commencement of the trial for some time in September.

Sarajevo legal expert Dr. Dennis Gratz says the fact that the Karadzic trial has still not begun suggests “that the ICTY may not have been sufficiently prepared for his arrest”.

“The fact is that Karadzic is using the statute, which simply gives him an opportunity to extend and delay the beginning of the trial. It is clear that this is a problem facing the court. The fact that preparations have been ongoing for one year is down to him. This must be stopped,” Gratz said.

The first indictment against Karadzic was filed in July 1995. It was amended in November of that year and further changes were introduced in 2000 and 2008. The latest version was filed by the ICTY Prosecution on May 22, 2009.

The Hague Prosecution considers Karadzic responsible for genocide committed in 10 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Srebrenica; a joint criminal enterprise; and crimes committed in 27 municipalities, with the siege of Sarajevo a particular focus.

Senida Karovic, of the Association of Civil Victims of War of Sarajevo Canton, told BIRN Justice Report that members of her association are “totally disappointed” by the fact that the start date of Karadzic's trial has still not been set.

“I think that he currently feels as if he is in some kind of hotel at The Hague. He gets whatever he asks for. This is too much. It seems as if he won a prize and was sent to The Hague. The situation has been reversed,
because it appears that we are the executioners and the criminals are vic-
tims. They committed crimes which cannot be paid for or calculated. The 
human mind cannot comprehend such crimes. Now they enjoy company 
and they are allowed to waste time,” Karovic said.

Karadzic has refused to enter a plea to the charges contained in the indict-
ment on several occasions, claiming that the Tribunal has “no right” to 
try him, because of an agreement he says he concluded in 1996.

“I must say that Richard Holbrooke and the USA gave me and my asso-
ciates an offer, back in 1996, asking me to undertake some actions and 
withdraw from public life, while he was supposed to fulfill his commit-
ments in turn. This was done in the name of the USA and not in the name 
of Holbrooke as an individual. My obligation was to withdraw from public 
life and even from literary circles,” Karadzic said at the status conference, 
held on July 31, 2008.

Richard Holbrooke was an envoy to the Balkans during the term of US 
President Bill Clinton. The US State Department and Holbrooke himself 
have repeatedly denied that any immunity deal was reached with Karadzic.

In the end, the Trial Chamber rendered a decision, saying that “the pos-
sible existence” of an agreement will not affect the course of the trial, 
because such an agreement was “not binding for the Hague Tribunal”. 
Karadzic objected to the decision and a final ruling is still pending.

Gratz believes that “any agreement with a US envoy would be considered 
irrelevant to this indictment”.

“Under international law, not one count contained in this indictment can 
be disputed as a result of some agreement with Holbrooke. Even if there 
was an agreement, its provisions are totally irrelevant to the course of this 
trial,” Gratz said.

At one status conference, Prosecutor Alan Tiger announced that the Hague 
Prosecution would need around 490 hours to present its evidence and to 
call more than 150 witnesses.

Karadzic has said that he will deny all allegations contained in the indict-
ment, claiming that he did not “plan, order or in any way motivate the 
crimes charged upon him”.

“Dr. Karadzic intends to defend himself with respect and dignity. If the 
law is applied in a fair manner and the truth on the events that took place 
in Bosnia is revealed, he is sure that the Trial Chamber will find him not 
guilty,” the motion filed by the indictee with the tribunal in late June this 
year, reads.
Gratz believes that the Karadzic trial will be the most important for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"His trial, being the trial of a political leader and supreme military commander, will determine the character of the war conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina," he said.
Powerful Team Backs Up Karadzic’s ‘Invisible Ally’

When he first appeared before the ICTY, Radovan Karadzic claimed an invisible high power would be there to help him. Today, however, he has a team of almost 40 all too visible associates helping him prepare for his trial.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

More than 30 attorneys, legal experts and trainees make up the legal support team for Radovan Karadzic as he faces the grave charges put forward by the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY. All but seven, paid for by the ICTY, are involved pro bono, and claim they receive nothing for their work.

Asked why he involved himself in the case, Peter Robinson, legal advisor with remarkable biography, said his job was to “make sure that the indictees have a fair trial… The more an indictee is criticized and unpopular, the more help he needs,” Robinson told BIRN’s Justice Report.

Other members of the international team, mostly international law experts, give the same reasons. Australian professor Kevin Jon Heller opened a blog in which he shares observations on the trial preparations. He also published an ad inviting young legal experts to apply to join the team. According to him, they would be engaged in an “historic trial, the biggest since the end of World War Two”. More than one hundred applied, only a few of whom were selected.

Besides the international lawyers, a team of attorneys from Bosnia and Serbia is also helping Karadzic.

Together, they have been very active over the past year that Karadzic has spent in the ICTY detention unit in Scheveningen. They have filed numerous motions, besides sending requests to international organizations and governments, primarily for witnesses who would be able to testify about an alleged immunity agreement Karadzic struck with the US Balkan mediator Richard Holbrooke.

More than 400 different motions have been filed with the Tribunal alone. Most were apparently rejected. However, the team still sees their actions...
as a success, because by delaying the start of trial, they have won more
time.

Observers say one reason why they want to postpone the trial for as long
as possible is out of a hope that the UN Security Council might refuse to
extend the Tribunal’s mandate in the meantime. As matters stand, as per
the latest decisions of the Security Council, the mandate of ICTY judges
lasts until the end of 2010 “or the completion date of the remaining tri-
als”.

According to current estimates, the trial may begin some time in Septem-
ber.

Not invisible for long:

Karadzic, then styling himself Dragan Dabic, was arrested on a bus in Bel-
grade on July 21, 2008. Ten days later he was transferred to the ICTY de-
tention unit and he soon appeared before a judge. At the start, he said he
intended to defend himself, adding that a higher force stood behind him.

“I have an invisible ally,” Karadzic said. “I consider the Hague Tribunal
as a natural disaster from which I shall defend myself on my own”. The
judges advised him to make use of a team of experts. He refused, on sev-
eral occasions, but now has one of the biggest teams taking part in a trial
before the Tribunal.

According to Peter Robinson, the Tribunal Secretariat allowed Karadzic
to recruit eight people, including Goran Petronijevic, coordinator of the
defence team, Marko Sladojevic, trial preparations coordinator, and five
others, including three investigators. Their hourly fees range from 15 to
35 euros.

“The Tribunal pays for Dr Karadzic’s defence. The cost is much less than
the usual cost, because he represents himself and the Tribunal does not
have to pay anyone 97 euros per hour, which is the usual fee,” Robinson
said.

Prior to becoming involved in Karadzic case, Robinson was engaged in
the trial of Dragoljub Ojdanic, who was sentenced in 2009 to 15 years for
crimes in Kosovo. Besides that, he was an Assistant Chief Prosecutor in
the US Robinson has also authored a thriller, Tribunal, about a fictional
attorney who comes to The Hague to defend a Serb indicted for war crimes
in Bosnia.

Besides him, the team includes several well established law professors,
such as Kevin Jon Heller, Goran Sluiter, Alexander Zahar, Gideo Boas, Kate
Gibson, as well as Andreas O’Shea. Other team members include Stefan Kirsch, from Germany, whose task is to request documents from governments. Emmanuel Altit comes from France and Diana Ellis from Britain.

Zahar has been working in The Hague as a legal counselor for a long time. Sluiter is a law professor at university in Amsterdam and judge of a district court in Utrecht. He has written several books on international law. Boas, a law professor who has worked as legal counselor with the ICTY for a long time, was engaged as legal advisor to the Trial Chamber in the Slobodan Milošević trial. He has been active in the field of human rights as well. Andreas O’Shea is engaged in the team helping the indicted leader of the Serbian Radical Party, Vojislav Seselj. He worked with the International Criminal Court, ICC, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Court for Rwanda and elsewhere.

“There are other people working on a pro bono basis, determining the facts under the leadership of Goran Petronijevic. They work in Belgrade and Bosnia,” Robinson explained.

“People can become members of this team in various ways. For instance, Goran Petronijevic contacted me after Dr Karadzic decided to have me as member of his team, considering that I was familiar with the way the Tribunal functioned. Prior to becoming involved in this case, I was involved in another case conducted before this Tribunal and another one before the Rwanda Tribunal,” Robinson added.

Kevin Jon Heller has been working on a book on “International prosecutors from Nurnberg to the Hague” for years. As previously mentioned, Heller has opened a blog on preparations for the Karadzic trial. In one post, he described his first meeting with his new client. “I must admit I was not sure what to expect, considering all those media reports about this man. However, as soon as I met him I felt relieved, when I saw his simple clothes, warm smile and blue plastic bag with drinks, snacks and documents.

“We shook hands. I introduced myself. He said he was happy to have me on his team, adding that he appreciated my work. He then gave Peter (Robinson) a Fanta, his favourite drink, offering me a choice between an orange soda and a Coke.”

Professor Heller continued that Karadzic seemed calm, adding that he was impressed by his intelligence, good knowledge of English and international politics.

Last November, Professor Heller published an ad, inviting young lawyers to join “a trial that may become the biggest war crime trial since the Nurn-
berg and Tokyo processes”. In his blog, Heller explained that he himself joined the team because he believed each indictee deserved a good defence. “The graver the charges, the more needed the good defence is,” he said.

“I am honored to be involved in such an important case. Indeed, given the stakes, I think “how could you defend Radovan Karadzic?” is the wrong question. The better question, I believe, is how could I not?” he wrote.

The 1996 legal team:

Karadzic’s first legal team at The Hague appeared back in 1996, years before his actual arrest. Its composition was different from today.

According to a New York Times article, in June 1996, attorney Igor Pantelic arrived in The Hague “to check whether the Tribunal did everything in line with the rules”. After that, US attorneys Edward Medvene and Thomas Hanley also arrived.

In his interview with the New York Times, Medvene said Karadzic wanted “Western countries to know that he was eager to prove his innocence”, adding that he was ready to be tried, but only after the Tribunal’s rules were changed. “At present (the Tribunal) is biased and unfair,” Medvene said. Karadzic was not arrested and extradited for another 12 years.

Since then there have been media reports that William Ramsey Clark, from the US, and Jacques Vergès from France had joined Karadzic’s team. Both were members of Milosevic’s legal team. Their names are not mentioned in the official list of Karadzic team. However, their biographies, which can be found on the Internet, indicate that they act as Karadzic’s advisors.

Clark, a former US State Prosecutor, won the Gandhi prize for peace. Besides Milosevic, the two men advised former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein while Vergès represented Klaus Barbie, who was charged with war crimes committed the Second World War, as well as Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, known as The Jackal.

Christopher Black, an attorney and political activist from Toronto, is another member of the old team. He was member of Milosevic’s team as well. Like the two previously mentioned advisors, he was engaged in preparing the Serbian law suit against NATO for the bombing campaign of 1999. He is an assistant in Seselj’s team.

Robinson said the legal team was preparing intensively. “The scope of the case is enormous, including events over a 4 year period in 27 municipalities, and separate charges for Sarajevo, Srebrenica, and the taking of UN personnel hostage. The prosecution has provided the defence with over 1
million pages of material to study and has 530 witnesses on its witness list and 23000 pages of exhibits on its exhibit list."

“We are still familiarizing ourselves with the case. It is premature to speak about our witnesses,” he added.

Robinson declined any questions pertaining to Karadzic personally, because, he said, “the Tribunal strictly forbids us from doing that.

“It is a pity that they do not allow Dr Karadzic to establish direct communication with journalists, because I am sure that his answers would be more interesting than mine,” Robinson concluded.

Nidzara Ahmetasevic is BIRN Justice Report editor. Justice Report and Balkan Insight are BIRN’s online publications.
Karadzic Indictment Will Not Be Changed

The Hague Prosecution says it has no intention of reducing the number of counts in the indictment against Radovan Karadzic.

Hague Prosecution Spokesperson Olga Kavran says there are currently no new changes to the Karadzic indictment.

“The Prosecution is not intending to withdraw any particular count of the indictment, contrary to what has been suggested in some media,” she said at a press conference at the ICTY. “In the process of amending the indictment, the Prosecution already took the initiative to streamline the case and reduced the number of municipalities. Of course, it will be up to the judges to determine whether there will be any further discussion on the reduction of the case.”

On July 1, at the latest status conference in the pre-trial procedure, Judge Iain Bonomy asked the parties to identify areas “in which there might be scope for reducing the size of the trial”.

“I understand your point that Srebrenica might be seen as a discrete element, Sarajevo, and ethnic cleansing; but if you take the ethnic cleansing on its own, it’s not immediately obvious why there must be 27 municipalities dealt with individually. It may be that the fourth element which you haven’t mentioned in the indictment, that of the hostage taking, perhaps is an element that we just don’t have the luxury of the necessary time to deal with. It may be we don’t have time to do both Srebrenica and Sarajevo. I don’t know”, Bonomy said. He indicated that the topic would likely come under intensive debate, “but probably in September”.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska and chief commander of its army, is charged by 11 counts of crimes, including genocide, committed in Bosnia from 1992 to 1995.

He is also charged with crimes against humanity in 27 Bosnian municipalities, as well as with the sniper and shelling campaign against Sarajevo.

The Prosecution considers Karadzic responsible for the taking of more than 200 UNPROFOR members as hostages to be used as human shields in
May and June 1995, which it says constituted a violation of the laws and customs of war.

Karadzic was arrested in Serbia on July 21, 2008 and first appeared before the Hague Tribunal 10 days later.

On July 1, the Prosecution announced that it will need more then a year to present its case, and will call more than 230 witnesses.

The indictee argued that it would be “more correct” for the Prosecutor to dismiss some of the counts and witnesses.

The next status conference should be held in September, and the trial is expected to begin soon after that.
Karadzic Demands Norwegian Documents

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader and war crimes indictee Radovan Karadzic has asked the Hague Tribunal to demand that the government of Norway provide documents for his defence.

Those documents, Karadzic’s defence team claims, confirm that in the spring of 1995, the United States armed the Bosnian Army.

Karadzic’s defence claims that in early 1995, Norwegian soldiers from the UN Protection Forces, UNPROFOR, witnessed deliveries of weapons to the Bosnian Army at the airport in Tuzla in a process monitored by Americans in civilian clothes. At that time, there was a ban on weapons to Bosnia in place as well as a ban on flights to Bosnia.

According Karadzic’s defence team, the Norwegians informed their government about the weapons deliveries, which were brought to the attention of the UN. They claim that the US then intervened, warning the Norwegians to back off, and Washington denied the weapons deliveries, the defence team claims.

Karadzic is also demanding documents from the Norwegian government that he insists will support his claims that the Bosnian government caused two explosions in the Sarajevo market Markale on February 1994 and August 1995, which killed more than 100 and injured some 300 more Sarajevo civilians.

Norway will not hand over any documents unless ordered to do so by the Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.
Karadzic Motion To Drop Charges Denied

The Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, yesterday rejected a motion from former Bosnian Serb leader and war crimes indictee Radovan Karadzic to drop war crimes charges against him.

The Tribunal determined that regardless whether there was an agreement for immunity from prosecution for Radovan Karadzic, such an agreement cannot be binding, because it was not concluded on the instructions of the UN Security Council.

Karadzic filed the motion on May 25 this year, when he also asked that a hearing be held at which witnesses would confirm the existence of the agreement.

The Hague Prosecution objected to the motion and asked for the hearing not to be held until the Court had determined whether the existence of such an agreement would affect the competencies of the Tribunal in the indictee’s case. The Prosecution argued that even if such an agreement had been reached, it could in no way be legally binding for the Tribunal.

“The Chamber rejects the indictee’s motion, in which he alleged that failure to hold the hearing would represent a disservice to history. The purpose of this Chamber is not to serve the needs of the academic study of history. After we have considered the law, if it is determined that there is a need for hearing some pieces of evidence, we will proceed with holding the hearing,” the Tribunal’s decision states.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska and General Commander of its Armed Forces, is charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war, committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the course of the 1992-1995 war.

After having reviewed the motions filed by Karadzic up until now, and the Prosecution’s responses, the Tribunal has determined that, even if an agreement was reached between Karadzic and Holbrooke, it cannot affect the trial currently underway at The Hague, because Holbrooke was not authorized by the UN Security Council to conclude such an agreement.
The indictee has said that at the time when the alleged agreement was made, Holbrooke was authorized by the Hague Tribunal to give immunity and he acted as “an agent of the Security Council”. In this case the agreement would be binding for the Tribunal, which is a UN body.

The Court determined that the evidence presented by the indictee “does not show” that the Prosecution or the Security Council were in any way directly involved in concluding or implementing such an agreement.

“When the alleged agreement was reached, the indictment had already been confirmed. There are no indications that the Prosecution took any steps in order to abort the indictment or cancel the case against the indictee,” the decision reads.

Karadzic claims that he reached the agreement with Holbrooke on July 18, 1996. The first indictment against him was filed on July 24, 1995. An international arrest warrant was issued on July 12, 1996.

“The Chamber considers that now is an appropriate time to make its position clear concerning this motion on the basis of the material presented by the indictee. The Chamber’s duty is to make sure that the indictee will have a fair and expeditious trial. He cannot expect the Chamber to wait forever for him to collect evidence he considers necessary and then make its decision on whether the agreement can affect the competency of the Tribunal in his case. In any case, the indictee has not demonstrated efficiency in trying to find the relevant material pertaining to the issues raised in his motion,” the Chamber said.
Karadzic: Letter to Milosevic

The US government has made available to the Hague Tribunal a 1996 letter from Richard Holbrooke to Slobodan Milosevic in which Holbrooke says that Radovan Karadzic must leave Pale and go “to a monastery or elsewhere”.

In order to dismiss Radovan Karadzic’s claim that he reached an agreement on immunity from prosecution in 1996, the US government has decided to publish a series of documents about the negotiations held in Belgrade in July that year.

The negotiations were held on July 18 and 19 and, the US government claims, resulted in an obligation for Karadzic to withdraw from public life and politics, but did not guarantee immunity from prosecution.

Karadzic claims that he signed an immunity agreement and that, as he said in his first appearance in The Hague, this was why he went into hiding under a false identity in Belgrade, where he was arrested in July last year.

Karadzic submitted on May 25 a motion to the Tribunal requesting that the indictment against him be dismissed because of the existence of this agreement.

The negotiations in Belgrade were held between Milosevic, then President of Serbia, Holbrooke, the US Special Envoy, accompanied by several US civil and military officials, as well as Momcilo Krajsnik, then President of the Republika Srpska Assembly, and RS Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha.

Karadzic was not present and he, allegedly, signed the agreement by fax.

On his return to the US on July 21, 1996, Holbrooke wrote the letter to Milosevic, citing a meeting in a “villa”, but not specifying where.

The letter describes the agreement signed by Karadzic as “a step forward”, but “as the world press has noted, much remains to be done.”

Holbrooke goes on to explain that compliance with the terms of the agreement from July 18 and 19, 1996, is “the first test that must be passed by the Republika Srpska and the SDS.” He adds that Pale, at that time Karadzic’s headquarters, must understand that the US, “NATO, and Ambassador
Frowick will be prepared to take whatever action is required to get Pale on course."

Rober Frowick was the OSCE Ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the time.

Holbrooke mentions “an oral assurance” given by Krajisnik (subsequently sentenced by the Hague Tribunal to 20 years in prison) and Buha stressing that their assurances are important. These “unpublished and unpublicized assurances”, the letter says, cover the “use of posters of Karadzic and his private (i.e. secret or unpublicized) participation in the affairs of the RS and the SDS.”

In a section of the letter titled “The future of Dr. Karadzic,” Holbrooke writes that the US’ final goal is to see Karadzic and Mladic in The Hague.

“As I predicted to you, we have been criticized publicly for failing to obtain agreement that Karadzic and General Mladic present themselves at The Hague. I recognize, of course, that this was not realistic during our short trip, although it remains my government’s goal,” he writes.

“The next step is the permanent departure of Karadzic from Pale. I do not care at the outset where he goes – to a monastery or elsewhere. But we consider his departure from the town which he dominated essential. Even if he fulfills the exact terms of our agreement, his continued presence in Pale will carry with it the wrong message, not only to the world but to Bosnian Serbs. If Krajisnik and his colleagues wish to end their total isolation, they must get him out of Pale, as the next step, after which he will move on,” Holbrooke concludes.

Holbrooke at the end suggests that Karadzic leave Pale “ostensibly of his own free will, immediately.”

“Even if his first stop is somewhere else in Bosnia, this would be a major step forward.”

Holbrooke ends by expressing his satisfaction that Milosevic is “willing to try to assist the process at a critical time.”

“And I was especially pleased that you served a fine lamb and sausages at the villa,” he notes.
Karadzic: No Trial Date

The Trial Chamber could not set a date for the beginning of the trial of Radovan Karadzic almost a year after his arrest.

It is still not known when the trial of Radovan Karadzic in The Hague will begin.

Judge Iain Bonomy, speaking at yet another status conference before the Hague Tribunal, concluded that “it is not likely” the trial will begin before September.

“Even the pre-trial conference cannot be organized before September,” Judge Bonomy said.

Earlier, it was announced that the long-awaited trial might begin in late August or early September.

“Did you mean September this year? The materials that I have demand months and months of preparation. I would like to know the year in which the trial would begin,” Karadzic commented in court.

Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb leader, was arrested in July 2008 after years spent in hiding. The Hague Prosecution has charged him with a series of crimes, including genocide, ethnic cleansing and participation in a joint criminal enterprise.

In late May this year, Karadzic requested that the Tribunal abandon its effort to try him, citing an agreement on immunity from prosecution that Karadzic says he signed with former US envoy to the Balkans Richard Holbrooke.

The defendant has also complained on several occasions that the indictment against him is too broad, suggesting that the Trial Chamber order the Prosecution to drop some parts of it.

“I am surprised to see the Prosecution delve into such an extensive work... The fact is that this is such a huge process that it would last for years,” said Karadzic, adding that he is “certain” the Prosecution does not have “sufficient” evidence against him.

Prosecutor Alan Tiger announced he would need around 490 hours to present all the planned evidence and examine more than 150 planned wit-
nesses. The court suggested that the Prosecution think about streamlining the presentation of evidence, but this will be discussed at a later date.

Another status conference will be held before September, and the date will be made public in due course.

Another two persons are wanted by the Hague Tribunal – Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic. If Mladic, charged with similar acts as Karadzic, is arrested soon, there is a possibility, it was indicated, of the two indictments being merged and of the two indictees being tried together.
Karadzic Expects to be Acquitted

Radovan Karadzic intends to deny all counts of the indictment during his trial and says he expects to be acquitted.

Radovan Karadzic has submitted to the Hague Trial Chamber a pre-trial statement in which he explains the terms on which he will base his defence.

Karadzic intends to deny all the counts in the indictment, claiming that he never “planned, instigated, ordered, or otherwise aided and abetted any of the crimes charged.”

He also claims not to been a member of a joint criminal enterprise and that as a superior he is not responsible for any of the crimes charged in indictment.

“He is not guilty of each and every charge alleged in the indictment,” the statement says.

It also notes that Karadzic wants the basis of his trial to be such that the Prosecution must prove its claims “beyond any reasonable doubt”.

“Doctor Karadzic intends to defend himself with respect and dignity. If the law is applied fairly and the truth about the events in Bosnia is allowed to come out, he is confident that the Trial Chamber will find him not guilty,” the statement concludes.

The trial of Radovan Karadzic is expected to begin in late August or early September. Under the indictment, Karadzic is charged with genocide committed in 10 municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Srebrenica, a joint criminal enterprise and crimes committed in 27 municipalities, with special attention to the siege of Sarajevo.

On Wednesday, July 1, another status conference will be held before the Hague Tribunal.
BIRN's Justice Report has learnt that the posters, featuring Radovan Karadzic's picture and “Happy birthday, President!”, appeared in Bosanski Novi, Prijedor, Gradiska, Banja Luka, Doboj, Brcko, Bijeljina, Vlasenica and Pale.

Members of the Serbian National Movement Izbor je Nas (The Choice is Ours), are behind the campaign.

Justice Report has discovered that the posters in Banja Luka and Bijeljina downtown area have already been removed. The ones in Brcko are expected to be removed soon.

Halid Emkic, spokesperson of the Brcko district police, said: “The team has taken the measures and actions in order to document the incident. The prosecutor has been informed about it. Measures will be taken to remove the posters.”

Tijana Savic, spokesperson for the RS Police, said police had received a report on some posters having been put up in Bijeljina only.

“The prosecution claims that there is no evidence of a criminal act and the posters have been removed,” Savic said.

Dane Cankovic, the movement’s president, told Justice Report: “In this way we are showing that we have not forgotten the person who deserves the credit for establishment of Republika Srpska and defence of the Serbian people. We have undertaken this action in order to show that we have not forgotten him. We wished him a happy birthday, which is a civilised act. We are hoping that Radovan Karadzic will be glad to see this.”

Karadzic, the first President of Republika Srpska and Supreme Commander of the RS Armed Forces, has been charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of laws and practices of warfare. After having been
on the run for years, he was arrested in Belgrade in July 2008. His trial is expected to begin at The Hague in the coming months.

“Radovan Karadzic is a political visionary, humanist and peacemaker. He fights for the truth. So, help us God, the Hague Tribunal will render a verdict of not guilty after it sees the evidence he presents,” Cankovic said.

Karadzic was born on June 19, 1945, in the village of Petnjica, in Montenegro.
The Hague Prosecution has filed a motion asking the Trial Chamber to invite Lord David Owen as a “court witness” at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader.

Lord Owen was a court witness during the trial of Slobodan Milosevic.

He was one of the international community's principal peace negotiators in the former Yugoslavia from August 1992 to May 1995. The Prosecution contends that Owen gained “in-depth knowledge of events on the ground and of the leaders that shaped them.”

“He spent many hours with those leaders discussing peace plans and cease-fires to ease the suffering of the civilian population. In 1995 he published a book, Balkan Odyssey, about his experiences in the former Yugoslavia,” the Prosecution explains in its motion.

The Prosecution notes that Owen met Karadzic several times during the war. “According to his book, he had face-to-face meetings with the Accused well over twenty-five times, in addition to communication by telephone and written correspondence.”

The Prosecution believes that Owen can testify about crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina by Bosnian Serb forces in 1992; about the siege of Sarajevo; the encirclement of Srebrenica in March 1993; the positions of the parties in the various negotiations, including the Vance-Owen Plan in 1993; the hostage crisis in May 1995; the hierarchy of the power within the Bosnian Serb leadership and the objectives and positions of the Bosnian Serb leadership.

In early January 1993, UN Special Envoy Cyrus Vance and EC representative Owen began negotiating a peace proposal which became known as the “Vance-Owen Peace Plan”. The plan involved the division of Bosnia into ten semi-autonomous regions and received the backing of the UN.

On May 5, 1993, however, the Bosnian Serb assembly rejected the Vance-Owen Plan and on June 18, Owen declared that the plan was “dead.”
During the Milosevic trial, Owen appeared as a court witness explaining that he did not wish to be associated too closely with the Prosecution, in order to avoid giving the impression that he was taking sides in the trial. The Prosecution claims that he expressed the same type of concern this time and they asked the Tribunal to call him as a court witness.

The Tribunal will render a decision later.
Bildt Declines Karadzic Witness Invitation

A former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina has declined an invitation from Radovan Karadzic to appear as a witness in regard to an alleged immunity agreement between Karadzic and former US envoy Richard Holbrooke.

Carl Bildt, the first High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and current Swedish foreign minister, has declined to appear at the Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, as a witness in regard to the immunity agreement that was allegedly reached between Richard Holbrooke and Radovan Karadzic.

Bildt said that he did not have “relevant information on the alleged immunity agreement.”

“There are no legal obstacles to Mr Carl Bildt giving testimony in the case or to being interviewed by a representative of the accused. However, the tribunal should be informed that Mr Bildt is of the view that, to the best of his knowledge, he has no relevant information on the alleged immunity agreement to convey, and he therefore considers that his testimony and an interview with him serve no purpose,” the Swedish Justice Ministry wrote in a letter to the ICTY.

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic, indicted by the ICTY on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, and violation of the laws and customs of war, filed a motion before the Tribunal last month asking for the withdrawal of the indictment against him on the grounds that he had an agreement with the former US special envoy to the Balkans.

Karadzic said the agreement, allegedly reached in 1996, guaranteed that he would not be prosecuted if he withdrew from public and political life.

In his motion, Karadzic said that he was willing to testify about the agreement, and to call other witnesses who would confirm his statements. One of the witnesses Karadzic proposed was Bildt.

The current Swedish foreign minister, and former prime minister and EU special negotiator, was High Representative for Bosnia from December 1995 to June 1997.
In his motion, Karadzic presented evidence to support his claim, including excerpts from a book by the Scholars’ Initiative, headed by Professor Charles Ingrao, where it is stated that the agreement was reached though it was not put in writing.

The motion states that Bildt can confirm that after the Holbrooke-Karadzic agreement, Karadzic promised to withdraw from public life.

The letter from the Swedish Justice Ministry questions the purpose of looking for confirmation that the agreement existed, since it will not influence the indictment or the trial itself.

“Even if the assertion of the immunity agreement were correct, it would have no relevance to the question of the accused’s guilt or innocence of the charges against him . . . Should the Trial Chamber consider otherwise, Mr Bildt would of course readily make himself available for interview,” the Ministry letter concludes.
Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, has filed a motion seeking the withdrawal of the indictment against him due to "lack of jurisdiction".

Karadzic’s legal advisor Peter Robinson presented the motion to journalists who gathered in front of the Tribunal building, claiming that the wartime President of Republika Srpska was not allowed to communicate with the media, while the ICTY “refuses to let his defence use its premises”.

Robinson presented the Tribunal with 140 pages of documentation through which he has sought to prove the existence of a non-arrest agreement he says was concluded between Karadzic and the former US Special Envoy for the Balkans Richard Holbrooke in 1996.

According to the agreement, which was not signed by Holbrooke, Karadzic was supposed to withdraw from public and political life until the Dayton Peace Accords were fully implemented. In turn he was promised that he would not be tried before the Hague Tribunal.

“Dr Karadzic is willing to testify and to be cross-examined. He is willing to bring witnesses who will confirm the existence of this agreement,” Karadzic’s motion reads.

Karadzic proposed that the following people be examined as witnesses of the agreement: Momcilo Krajsnik, former President of the Republika Srpska Assembly, who was sentenced by the Hague Tribunal to 20 years’ imprisonment for crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Aleksa Buha, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the RS, who allegedly “could confirm that Holbrooke clearly stated that Karadzic would not be tried by the Hague, but he did not want to put this in writing for political reasons”.

Among other things, Karadzic referred to a report made by an academics’ initiative, led by Professor Charles Ingrao, who claim that there was an unsigned agreement. See Pentagon Behind Karadzic Immunity Deal
“What we have learned from three high-ranking officials of the State Department who had direct information about Holbrooke’s activities was that the Ambassador had assured Karadzic that he would not be arrested,” a book published this year reads. The book contains a number of academic articles concerning the fall of Yugoslavia.

The motion mentions the testimony of Gojko Klickovic, who is charged before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina with war crimes committed in Bosanska Krupa during the course of 1992.

“I was involved in the negotiations concerning the agreement on Karadzic’s withdrawal from political life. At that time there was an implied agreement not to speak about it in public,” Klickovic said in April this year. See Klickovic: Present During Consultations

Klickovic was the Prime Minister of Republika Srpska and wartime Commander of the Crisis Committee and President of the Presidency of the Serbian municipality of Bosanska Krupa.

The Tribunal’s Chamber rendered a decision that any immunity for genocide and war crimes would be irrelevant, from the point of view of international law.

Karadzic alleges that he does not require immunity on the basis of his function as the RS President, but rather on the basis of “a special cooperation agreement”.

“Dr Karadzic considers that the Trial Chamber arrived at a wrong conclusion. According to real or alleged authority doctrine, the agreement with Holbrooke is binding for the UN Security Council and its bodies, including the ICTY,” Karadzic’s motion argues.

Attached to the motion was Karadzic’s statement and statements given by the proposed witnesses, including Krajsnik and Buha, as well as correspondence with Biljana Plavsic, former RS President. Plavsic was sentenced to eleven years’ imprisonment. She has refused to meet Karadzic’s advisor.

There is also written confirmation of the existence of the agreement provided by his wife Ljiljana and daughter Sonja.

Karadzic is indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. After having been on the run for more than ten years, he was arrested in Serbia in July 2008.
Karadzic Doesn’t Want Reporters as Witnesses

Radovan Karadzic filed a motion to the International War Crimes Tribunal, calling on it not to allow the prosecution to invite wartime reporters as witnesses during his trial.

Among other witnesses, the prosecution plans to invite some reporters who were correspondents from Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war.

Karadzic argues that such reporters should not be allowed to give evidence at the Tribunal unless the party calling them demonstrates that they could provide “evidence that is direct and important to the core issue of the case” or that the evidence they can provide cannot be obtained from any other sources.

Karadzic referred to a decision rendered by the Appellate Chamber in the trial of Radoslav Brdjanin at the Hague Tribunal, which stated that reporters “must be perceived as independent observers rather then as potential prosecution witnesses”, if they want to perform their job in an efficient manner.

Brdjanin was sentenced to 30 years’ imprisonment in April 2007. He is currently serving his sentence in Denmark. During the war he was a leading political official in the Krajina Autonomous Region. For a period of time he was the acting Vice President of the Republika Srpska Government.

“The Appellate Chamber pointed out that if war correspondents were to be perceived as potential witnesses for the prosecution, two consequences may follow. First, they may have difficulties in gathering significant information because the interviewed person, particularly those committing human rights violations, may talk less freely with them and may deny access to conflict zones. Second, war correspondents may shift from being observers of those committing human right violations to being their targets, thereby putting their own lives at risk,” Karadzic’s motion reads.

Karadzic notes that wartime reporters’ work is dangerous in itself. He refers to data published by the International Press Institute stating that 66 reporters were killed in the course of 2008.
“Dr Karadzic urges the Trial Chamber not to further exacerbate this danger by allowing an individual war correspondent to waive the privilege that exist for the protection of other correspondents,” the motion reads.

The wartime President of Republika Srpska was arrested in Belgrade in July 2008 after having been on the run for more than a decade. He is currently being held in a detention unit in Schwenningen, where he is awaiting the start of his trial before the Hague Tribunal.
Editor Rapped for Publishing Karadzic Poem

The editor of Slovakian literary magazine Dotyki has been disciplined for publishing a poem by Radovan Karadzic, Hague prisoner, former Bosnian Serb leader and poet.

The Slovakian PEN Centre, a writers’ organisation, has disciplined editor Boris Brendza after he published the poem without any comment.

The group criticised the magazine for printing the verse while “its author is suspected and indicted for crimes against humanity and genocide”.

Dotyki is published by The Slovakian Writers’ Society with financial support from The Ministry of Culture. The ministry announced earlier that it does not approve of publishing Karadzic’s poems.

Slovakian Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak, until recently High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, also criticised the move, saying that the publication of Karadzic’s poem does not reflect the attitude of the Slovakian government towards the war-crimes suspect.

During a visit to Slovakia by Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic, Lajcak said that those who are responsible for publishing the poem will be disciplined. Jeremic added that the state cannot interfere with private publishers, but if a state-sponsored publication printed one of Karadzic’s poems in Serbia, it would also be disciplined.
Gojko Klickovic, who is indicted for war crimes, said he was present when an agreement was made and signed by Radovan Karadzic and Richard Holbrooke in 1996, he told the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

Giving testimony as a defence witness at his own trial, Klickovic, who is charged with crimes committed in Bosanska Krupa, said the deal was signed sometime in July 1996.

“I was involved in negotiations pertaining to the agreement on Karadzic’s withdrawal from the political scene. At that time, the gentlemen agreed that they would not speak about it in public,” Klickovic said.

From 1996 to 1998, Klickovic was Prime Minister of Republika Srpska. During the war he was commander of the Crisis Committee and leader of the Serb municipality of Bosanska Krupa.

Radovan Karadzic, former president of Republika Srpska, is charged, before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with genocide and other crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war. Richard Holbrooke was special US envoy to the Balkans in the 1990s.

Klickovic is charged, together with Mladen Drljaca and Jovan Ostoic, with murder, forcible resettlement, physical and mental abuse, rape, and detention and torture of non-Serb population of Bosanska Krupa in 1992. They are also charged with taking part in a joint criminal enterprise along with Vojislav Maksimovic and Radovan Karadzic.

Klickovic’s trial started in May 2008 in the front of the state War Crimes Chamber.
‘1 Million Lawsuit Filed Against Karadzic

After several attempts over six months, Ivan Jurasinovic, attorney for the Kovac family, has managed to send a one million euro lawsuit to Radovan Karadzic at The Hague Tribunal detention unit.

BY DENIS DZIDIC

ICTY indictee Radovan Karadzic, wartime President of Republika Srpska, who is held at the Detention Unit of the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, accepted the suit, filed by the Kovac family, requesting compensation to the amount of one million euros for having been deported from their home in Foca in 1992, said Ivan Jurasinovic.

“After having found out that Karadzic was arrested in August last year, I sent him a copy of my lawsuit right away. Then I received a letter from the Registrars Office at the Hague, informing me that this Office would not hand over the suit. I was taken by surprise. I received an explanation, stating that this would not be in line with the Office’s usual procedures, while it would also be contrary to the Hague Tribunal policies,” Justice Report was told by Ivan Jurasinovic, the attorney of the Kovac family, who currently live in France.

As indicated by Jurasinovic, this family, as well as two other families represented by him, are not willing to give media statements concerning the suits.

Besides Karadzic, the Kovac family sues Biljana Plavsic, Momcilo Krajisnik and Ratko Mladic, requesting compensation for the damage caused by the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Hague Prosecution is charging Karadzic with a number of crimes committed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, including genocide in Srebrenica and ten other municipalities. The indictment mentions Momcilo Krajisnik and Biljana Plavsic as his closest associates, who were all members of the General Command of the armed forces of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as of 1992.

After having admitted guilt, Biljana Plavsic was sentenced to 11 years’ imprisonment for participating in the persecution based on political, racial
and religious grounds, while Krajisnik was sentenced, by a second instance verdict, to 20 years’ imprisonment for crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Former leader of Republika Srpska Ratko Mladic is still on the run.

Jurasinovic told Justice Report that he personally forwarded the suit to Biljana Plavsic in the prison in Sweden in 2005 and Momcilo Krajisnik, who was in the detention unit of the Hague Tribunal at that time, adding that “there were no problems as far as delivery of the indictment is concerned”.

Jurasinovic said that, after having filed “the suit against the Hague Tribunal” with a French court, the Hague Tribunal was ordered to deliver the suit to Karadzic. The suit was delivered earlier this week.

Jurasinovic said that, now that the suits have been delivered, the case would now “enter a complex phase,” because the French court was supposed to render a decision concerning its competency in the case. According to the attorney, Momcilo Krajisnik has already engaged an attorney, who will represent him in this case.

“Krajisnik has already employed an attorney in France. I consider that a hearing will be held during the course of this year, at which a final decision pertaining to the court’s competency will be pronounced,” Jurasinovic explained, adding that Krajisnik disputes the competency of the French court.

“However, it is important at this stage that the Court declares itself competent in this case. My efforts are going in that direction. In this way, I shall be able to prevent the limitation of the legal proceedings and we shall be able to go proceed with it,” the Kovac family attorney said.

The Kovac family case is the first civil suit, requesting reparations from war damage, to be filed with a European court. In his earlier statements to the media, Jurasinovic explained that the suit was based on the fact that the Hague Tribunal relinquished compensation requests, filed by victims, to national courts.

The attorney considers that each person, who legally resides in Europe or a European Union country, can apply to their respective national court. Given the fact that the Kovac family has French citizenship, this suit was filed with the French court.

This article was produced by BIRN’s Justice Report. Visit the Justice Report website here.
Karadzic: New Status Conference on April 2

A new pre-trial status conference in the case of Radovan Karadzic is due to take place on April 2, 2009.

The Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has announced that another pre-trial status conference in the case of Radovan Karadzic will take place on April 2, 2009. It also said that “a private meeting, to be attended by the indictee, the Prosecution and three Trial Chamber members” would be held on March 24.

“At this meeting we will discuss several issues pertaining to the trial preparations,” the Hague Tribunal’s decision reads.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, RS, and General Commander of the RS Armed Forces, with a number of crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including genocide in Srebrenica and ten other municipalities.

Karadzic’s Defence has complained about the holding of this meeting, arguing that “all trial-related activities should be discussed at public sessions”.

“The indictee thinks that all pieces of correspondence between the Trial Chamber and the parties need to be public, not private,” Karadzic’s complaint says.

The Trial Chamber rejected Karadzic’s complaint, and decided to hold the meeting, adding that “this type of meeting will be useful to all parties to the proceedings” because it will enable them to discuss freely “outstanding problems and possible solutions”.

“In addition, if there are still some issues that the parties would like to discuss at a public session, they are free to raise them at one of the future status conferences. The Trial Chamber considers that status conferences will be much more productive if they are scheduled after these meetings,” the Court’s decision reads.
Karadzic: “This Court Has No Right To Try Me”

Refusing to recognise the authority of the Hague Tribunal to try him, Radovan Karadzic, who is charged with genocide and war crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1992-95 war, once again declined to enter a plea.

“This Court has no right to try me,” Karadzic said, again invoking an agreement he says he reached with “the international community, represented by Richard Holbrook” after the war.

He rejected the indictment on the grounds that according to this agreement he would be exempt from criminal proceedings if he withdrew from public and political life.

The Trial Chamber recorded his refusal as a not guilty plea.

Karadzic had twice previously refused to enter a plea. The indictment charges him with genocide in Srebrenica and ten other cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is further charged with taking part in a joint criminal enterprise and with crimes committed in 27 municipalities, with particular mention of the siege of Sarajevo.

Karadzic was arrested on July 21. He has been held in the Detention Unit in Scheveningen since July 31, awaiting the start of his trial.
New Status Conference In Karadzic Case

"Due to the fact that the Defence team has not been formed", Radovan Karadzic said he cannot respond to the Hague Prosecution’s proposal to reinstate the Susica incident into the indictment.

At a status conference the Hague Tribunal Chamber ordered Radovan Karadzic to respond to the Hague Prosecution’s motion requesting to reinstate into the indictment the incident which refers to the murder of 140 people in the Susica detention camp in Vlasenica, by Wednesday, February 25.

Karadzic said that over the past days he has “received many documents”, which he had not been able to review “due to lack of capacity”, adding that he is not sure whether “the revised indictment is now in force and whether I should enter my plea to it”.

Judge Iain Bonomy explained to Karadzic that he was “not expected to enter his plea, but to respond to the Prosecution’s motion, requesting revision of the indictment”.

Bonomy said that he would try to schedule another status conference “in about two weeks’ time” in order to discuss and resolve this issue.

Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, RS, and General Commander of the RS Armed Forces, is charged with genocide committed in 10 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Srebrenica, as well as many other crimes committed in 27 municipalities.

After the Court rendered a decision on February 17, partially accepting the indictment against Karadzic and ordering removal of certain “incidents”, including one involving the murder of 140 detainees in Susica detention camp, due to lack of evidence, the Prosecution asked for more time to provide the necessary evidence, because there had been “a clerical mistake”.

At the status conference Karadzic responded by saying that “there is no way I will accommodate the Prosecution’s mistakes”, adding that he...
would submit his response by the set deadline, also expressing “dissatisfac-
tion due to the tight deadline”.

At this status conference the Hague Court ordered the Prosecution to pre-
pare a pre-trial submission, containing “an index that will be followed
during the course of the trial thus helping the Chamber in reviewing the
large quantity of materials”.
Difference Between Tabloids and Serious Media Erased

Most analysts considered Serbian media reports on the arrest on July 21, 2008 of the Hague tribunal’s most wanted indictee, Radovan Karadzic, as written in a sensational, uncritical and unobjective way.

BY ALEKSANDAR ROKNIC, BELGRADE

The goal of such reporting was, in the case of most tabloid media, to make fun of the assumed identity of Radovan Karadzic, Dragan Dabic, to present him as a victim, and to push the crimes that happened during the 1991-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for which he is charged as former president of Republika Srpska, into the background.

From the moment Karadzic was arrested, a veritable flood of unconfirmed information, mostly based on unofficial sources about his secret life, hit the print media.

Karadzic was officially arrested on July 21, although his attorneys claimed he was arrested three days before, on July 18. The exact place and circumstances of his arrest were never fully disclosed. This lack of available facts formed fertile ground for speculation.

On July 21, at about 22:30, when the Council for National Security and Office of the President of Serbia published a statement that Karadzic had been arrested by security forces, the media raced to publish often incredible items of information related to the circumstances and place in which it happened.

This initial period was marked by a lack of firm information, starting with the first reports that Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade’s central Vracar district, and then in a residential building in the suburb of Rakovica, to information that he was in fact arrested on a bus going from New Belgrade to Batajnica.

Such guesses were updated with information related to his physical appearance – that he now had grey hair, a beard and moustache, was wearing glasses and was totally unrecognisable.
Officials later provided information about his arrest, but little else was available until a press conference held the next day by the coordinator of the Serbian government’s Action Team for Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, Rasim Ljajic, and Serbia’s special war crimes prosecutor, Vladimir Vukcevic.

At this conference, Karadzic’s assumed identity was disclosed, as were his occupation and personal appearance before the arrest. Following this announcement, an avalanche of speculation related to Karadzic’s secret life began.

Of interest were issues such as whether or not he had a lover, how he had hidden himself, which types of diseases he cured as a doctor, which café he visited, which brandy he liked, what his favorite songs were when he played the gusle [traditional Serbian stringed instrument], whether he sang about himself, what he was writing about in medical magazines, who his friends were and the impressions he left on his neighbours.

The Luda Kuca [Crazy House] café in New Belgrade, which Karadzic often visited, was written about, along with statements from its owner and staff. Soon, tourist agencies even began to offer bus tours of Karadzic’s haunts, including this café.

This kind of reporting helped to turn the overall story about the indictee’s notorious war crimes, including the mass murder of over 7,800 Bosniaks [Bosnian Muslims] in Srebrenica, into a story about Karadzic’s “secret life”.

The disappearance of a laptop containing data about his clients and his work, and its discovery some time later in a police station in Batajnica, as well as doubts about which security forces made the arrest, helped fuel an air of mystery and raise numerous doubts about the event among the public.

Further speculation that Karadzic was arrested on a city bus with a bag holding a towel, swimming trunks, toothpaste and toothbrush, on his way to take a vacation on the Croatian coast, contributed to this.

Hari Stainer from the Belgrade Media Center said the arrest of Karadzic was a big event for all the media, which focused at first on doubts as to the timing of his arrest and speculation as to where it occurred. “The official version of his arrest was chaotic,” he said. “That made journalists forget basic rules, but it was very hard to stick to such rules.”

Stainer said the media “totally forgot who and what Radovan Karadzic is, and what he is being charged with before the Hague tribunal. These facts
were rarely mentioned in media reports. Karadzic was not just a psychi-
-atrist.”

In addition, Stainer said it was very hard to see much difference between
reporting in the serious newspapers and the tabloids, as even the serious
newspapers adopted a tabloid approach, although he again attributed this
to the chaotic circumstances and official statements.

Any distinction between tabloids and serious media was almost erased, as
newspapers raced to publish often incredible items of information related
to Karadzic’s secret life in Belgrade.

The goal of the so-called “patriotic” tabloids was to take the whole story
about Karadzic in one direction: that he was a master of disguise, the man
who had fooled all the world’s security agencies. The idea was to make the
public resist the idea that Karadzic would end up in The Hague, now that
he was under arrest.

Srecko Mihajlovic, a researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences, said this
“tabloid” manner of reporting adopted by the majority of the media when
it came to the arrest and transfer of Karadzic should be understood as an
example of “media kitsch”.

The substance of this media campaign served to change the image of a
man who left his people to suffer for more than one decade. Rather than
talking about a man who participated in mass murder, “We got a story
about a heroic genius hiding from domestic head-hunters and from the
whole world,” Mihajlovic said.

Few mentioned that Karadzic’s deception was carefully assisted by nu-
merous helpers in the police and secret services, or that his copy of the
identification papers of a farmer from Ruma was issued to him at a police
station. The media again turned this into a story about his success in hid-
ing from the police.

This was also the case with the fact that Karadzic was found to be “hiding”
in a New Belgrade residential building at 267 Jurij Gagarin Street. Ratko
Mladic, the other top Hague fugitive, was rumoured to have hidden at one
time at number 118 in the same street.

Rade Veljanovski from Belgrade’s University of Political Sciences said that
the basic divisions in the media, created in the Nineties, remained strong
to this day.

“Then, some of the media supported the politics and regime of Slobodan
Milosevic and some media were against,” he said. “But not only does it
[the division] still exist, it has decreased by only a very small margin since the Nineties.

“Within the intellectual elite, there is no real reconciliation, and in politics there is only an apparent reconciliation between Democrats and Socialists,” he added. “But the foundations of those who supported everything that was done ‘in the name of Serbia and in Serbia’s interest’ still exists.

“Even today, intellectual circles and media make heroes of those who organised such politics and carried out crimes and try to have such people remembered as men who fought for the patriotic interest of the Serbian people,” Veljanovski stated.

According to him, some of the media are aware of the lack of objectivity in such an approach and attempt to form a true picture of events, “but even today we have media that are ready to justify everything that Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic or Slobodan Milosevic and Vojislav Seselj did, and to describe them as patriotic acts.

“We almost have a kind of balance between the ‘quasi-patriotic’ approach and an objective, professional and ethically correct form of journalism.

“In the case of the arrest of Karadzic, there was more sensational than objective reporting. Even the media which normally take an objective approach..., the moment the news about Karadzic’s arrest broke, adopted a sensational tone, stressing how he looked, how he was described by people as a great man, how people visited him for therapy,” Veljanovski stated.

“It should been recalled who Karadzic really was during the Nineties and why he was hiding from the public eye. That is the substance of the story, not the fact that he was a favourite among his neighbors or that he provided them nice therapy treatments,” Veljanovski concluded.

Until Karadzic’s delivery to The Hague on July 30, the most fantastic headlines appeared in the media, such as “Serbian beasts arrested Karadzic”, from the daily Pravda. Defence of the Hague tribunal indictee soon started in the same newspaper, with the headline, “Karadzic is not guilty”, based on a statement supplied by his brother Luka Karadzic.

Zvonimir Trajkovic, a former adviser to Karadzic, expressed doubt about the identity of Dr Dabic and that Karadzic would have a fair trial at the Hague tribunal. Pravda duly published an article entitled “Court Martial for Radovan”.

The tabloid Kurir meanwhile rushed to expose an agreement allegedly made in 1996 between Karadzic and the former US envoy to the Balkans,
Richard Holbrooke, whereby Karadzic would withdraw from political and public life in exchange for his freedom from arrest.

Soon after, the same newspaper attempted to determine who was responsible for the arrest of Karadzic, with articles entitled “Who sold Radovan?” and, in answer the next day, “They who supported him sold him too”.

The tabloids soon decided that those most responsible for the arrest of Karadzic were Serbia’s president, Boris Tadic, and war crimes prosecutor, Vladimir Vukcevic.

Pravda explicitly stated that “Vukcevic has sold Radovan”, and published statements given by relatives of Tadic in which they renounced him because of the arrest.

One consequence of this was that the president, the war crimes prosecutor and his spokesperson, Bruno Vekaric, were frequently threatened. Vekaric was told that an explosive device had been set up under his car, while other staff at the special court for war crimes and organised crime also received threats.

Threats directed at President Tadic were even more aggressive, accusing him of having “sold the whole Serbian population” and vowing that “He signed his own death warrant with the delivery of Radovan” and “He will end up like [assassinated premier Zoran] Djindjic”.

As many of these threats and aspersions came from the direction of the Serbian Radical Party, the state prosecutor announced that he would examine some of the statements made by one of its deputies, Vjerica Radeta.

For almost ten days, the media provided “adjusted” information related to the days that Karadzic spent in detention in the building of Belgrade’s special war crimes court.

The focus of the print media was Karadzic’s religiosity, inspiring Kurir to publish a story that “Karadzic received communion on the holy day of the Assumption of Mary” and “will start to eat normally after an extended fast”, but “will not start with meat”.

Karadzic’s cousin Dragan Karadzic told that tabloid that for years Karadzic had not eaten any meat, except fish, but also that he ate “everything else – milk and milk products, cereals, vegetables, fruits”.

Vecernje novosti dealt with similar subjects and discovered that Karadzic “drinks only water and reads Bishop Nikolaj” in detention, and that he does not starve, “but that he fasts”. Kurir published that “Radovan only reads Kurir and the Bible”.

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Glas Javnosti, under the headline “Radovan sleeps peacefully and is not under any therapy”, also wrote about Karadzic’s detention and about his meetings with an investigative judge, saying that “he did not show fear, but respect” before the latter.

Politika wrote about the family members in Karadzic’s village of Petnjica who were proud of him, including Julka Karadzic, who reportedly stated that he “defended Serbs, and he got arrested by Serbs”.

The Karadzic mystery deepened with the alleged existence of the non-arrest agreement with Holbrooke, as well as rumours that an award of 5 million US dollars had been paid to an unknown person for information about Karadzic’s identity and residence.

Karadzic’s past life as a doctor of alternative medicine provided the tabloids with more incredible articles concerning the healing powers of “Doctor Dabic”.

“Sexologist from Vienna”, Dr Dabic “made babies”, “Radovan was seen with a beautiful woman”, “Yesterday Radovan had a 45-minute hair cut”, “Two lives are not enough for Radovan” and “Karadzic: Forgive me for Dabic” were typical headlines in the print media.

Along with this, Blic devoted more attention to Karadzic’s love life and rumoured relationship with Mila Cicak, who was allegedly “mysterious Radovan’s companion”. She, however, denied all such allegations and threatened lawsuits against any media that placed her in an emotional relationship with Karadzic.

Stories also appeared, claiming that Karadzic had been traveling in various countries in the region, including Croatia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Austria, and even Italy, where, according to Kurir, he “watched football matches between Lazio and Inter” since he is a huge football fan.

The Karadzic story moved up a gear when photos from his detention cell in the special court were published. It was alleged in the media that the war crimes prosecutor’s office sold Karadzic’s photograph for 10,000 euros. The prosecutor’s office denied those reports.

The stories on Karadzic’s double life were silenced around the time of his extradition to the Hague tribunal when, for a few days, the mystery of his disappearing laptop took centre stage.

Again, the print media read this story in two ways – the tabloids as further support for the thesis that everything was unclear regarding Karadzic’s arrest, while the serious media did not accord it much significance.
As from the outset, the tabloids tried to fuel suspicion that somebody had been changing and adding data to the computer after Karadzic’s arrest. Thus, for Kurir, it became the “Mystery of the laptop”. An expert was also engaged by Kurir in order to determine whether and when the laptop was last used.

Karadzic’s first appearance in front of the judges of the Hague tribunal, his “new” look and claims that he was in fear for his life completely overshadowed all the earlier guesswork regarding his hideaway during the past 13 years.
Although many Croatian citizens and media were happy to see Radovan Karadzic, one of the most wanted war crimes fugitives, arrested in late July 2008, most coverage of the event consisted of reporting on his transformation into a pseudo-doctor, his holidays in Croatia and his alleged affair with a woman who accompanied him during his lectures on alternative treatments.

BY GORAN JUNGVIRTH, ZAGREB

Reporting on the genesis of his crimes, the background to his installation as head of the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia, the indictment against him and strategy of the prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, as well as the feelings of people who suffered as a result of his policies, was largely absent.

Political analysts, as well as those who follow war crimes, said this reflected a trivialisation of the media in general, as well as the influence of political interests.

On one of the leading online forums in Croatia, www.forum.hr, Croatian readers commented that most of the media relished stories about Karadzic’s holidays on Ciovo island in Croatia.

“Drinking brandy and listening to Serbian traditional instrumental music, giving lectures on bio–energy and healthy living, and having sex with the mysterious Mila, the evil–doer appears such a hero," one forum user, “Cordon”, wrote in late July 2008.

The media reported little about the crimes committed in Bosnia in the first half of the Nineties, preferring details and speculation about Karadzic’s time in hiding, which lasted for more than a decade.

In other words, they wrote more about his alter ego, the healer Dr Dabic, than about the wartime Karadzic, described in his ICTY indictment as one of the masters of the most brutal experiment in ethnic cleansing in post–war Europe and charged with grave crimes, including genocide (the gravest crime in international law), participation in genocide, extermination, murder, premeditated murder, persecution, deportation, inhumane acts and other crimes against Bosnian Muslims, Croats and other non–Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
According to that charge-sheet, Karadzic participated in, and was one of the leaders of, a joint criminal enterprise to obtain control over those areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina proclaimed as Republika Srpska [the Serbian Republic], and significantly reduce the non-Serbian population there.

To achieve this goal, which is illegal under international law, Karadzic and others committed grave crimes to make the non-Serbian population leave these areas. Those not willing to leave were deported while others were killed.

In online discussions, conflicting opinions were expressed by Serbian forum users who supported Karadzic, and Croatians who saw him as a criminal.

One pro–Karadzic blogger, “Alimpije”, commented: “You would have liked him to have been hiding in a cave, eating roots. He even dared to drink brandy and play the gusle [traditional Serbian stringed instrument], while holding lectures on life. And sex. It is strictly forbidden for indictees to practice it. But, you know, he is much more capable than you think.

“I congratulate him for having led such a life. In other words, how dare he have fun when everybody is looking for him? It is awful he even had a lover. So who is the fool now?” Alimpije wrote in July.

Croatian forum user Kristina commented on the media excitement that accompanied the story. “I am sick of this. I am sick of listening to ‘thrills related to Karadzic’ as the top news every morning,” she said.

“I am sick of the fact that ...cover pages will be dedicated to him over the next 10 days. The only dilemma is what the title of today’s episode will be.”

She added: “Today's title is: ‘He played the gusle in bars’, and tomorrow it may be: ‘He planned on moving to Split’. The day after tomorrow: ‘He cured 17 people.’”

“Karadzic is number one everywhere now. But this is understandable because the media use him to sell more copies.”

Four months on from the arrest of Karadzic, many Croatian citizens, interviewed by Balkan Insight, expressed dissatisfaction with the way the media reported on his arrest.

“The media reporting on his arrest looked as if they were trying to promote a pop star and not report on the arrest of a war criminal. It was as if he was a celebrity,” complained Aleksandar from Makarska.
“They wrote about this instead of writing about war crimes and his responsibility for the course of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

Aleksandar recalled how the media had concentrated on Karadzic’s favourite places, his alleged foreign travels, his favourite restaurants and so on, “creating unnecessary fame, instead of writing about more important things. They wrote about him as if it were about Andy Warhol and not a war criminal”.

Amar, from Zagreb, who reads the Bosnian media as well, said even outlets there had reported about Karadzic’s arrest in a strange manner, “because they wrote about people celebrating in the streets and not about how he managed to hide for 13 years and evade justice.

“In Croatia, they reported about the subject in a humorous way... Nobody wrote much about the fact that Serbia was doing this [the arrest] because of the EU and not because of a real need and wish to have war criminals tried.”

Vesna Terselic, director of Documenta, a non-profit centre that monitors, analyses and reports on war crimes justice said that the media paid little attention to the crimes with which Karadzic was charged, or to the victims, focusing instead on the notorious indictee’s life and speculation about what he had done each day of his years on the run.

“What we have here is a wrong editorial and journalistic diagnosis. They think that us readers want to read this gossip and that we are more interested in that than in the crimes with which Karadzic is charged,” she said.

“After his arrest, the media should have focused its attention on reminding people of his crimes and the victims. And I think that, as readers, we should ask ourselves whether we want to read all this ‘gossip’ presented by the media now. Editors should check what we are interested in.

“As a person dealing with wartime events, I think readers want to read about facts and not about alleged things. I always mention this to editors during the course of our interviews,” Terselic said, adding that this was backed up by research undertaken among Croatian citizens by Documenta in 2006.

“If the arrest of a criminal charged with genocide motivates journalists and editors to write primarily about frivolous details from his time in hiding, it shows us that the authors are no longer aware of what the media should do, because they want to amuse readers with frivolous details instead of presenting us with facts about the crime,” she continued.
“In my opinion, the media base their actions on the wrong perception that readers do not want to read about crimes any more. I am one of many readers who appreciate investigative reporting, and want more, respecting the suffering of the victims,” Documenta’s chief said.

Independent media analyst Davor Gjenero said the media had acted in this way for several reasons. “On one hand, all the media are trivialised in general, and deal with all issues in such a way,” he said.

“Another reason is the fact that the Croatian public want, in some way, to leave behind the war in the former Yugoslavia, so there is no serious reporting on any process related to war crimes. A bit more attention is paid to the trial [at The Hague] of [Croatian generals] Gotovina, Cermak and Markac [charged with crimes committed during a 1995 military operation against the Croatian Serbs], but this is also superficial.

“The trials of criminals who committed crimes in Croatia were even more marginalised. The reason for this is an unreadiness to face the past and a wish to maintain established national stereotypes.”

According to Gjenero, the media’s attitude towards Karadzic’s arrest was directed partly by intelligence groups from Serbia, who have an interest in preventing any real process of facing up to the past – something which was gladly accepted in Croatia.

“The same thing happened with [general] Gotovina's arrest, which the media treated in a similar way,” he said.

“The Croatian public mentions Srebrenica as genocide but there is no full awareness of the frightening character of the crime or of the sophisticated level of organisation accompanying it.

“An awareness of those facts would put the things that happened to Karadzic from 1995 until now in some context,” Gjenero concluded.
16.02.2009

The Two Last Cards

The Kosovo media gave the arrest on July 21, 2008 of war crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic an important place in the news schedules. While the arrest itself made the front cover in most media, the follow-up to this event also produced many surprises for Kosovo’s media scene.

By Krenar Gashi, Pristina

Newspaper front pages and radio and television continuously carried full reports on the arrest and its aftermath, the fugitive’s false identity, and his life in hiding.

Kosovo media managers said the news was of great importance to their audiences. Although Karadzic was not involved in the Kosovo conflict of 1998-99, many there saw him as a key part of a regime that committed grave crimes in their country.

Karadzic was arrested a short time after Kosovo’s constitution entered into force, and as the new EU law-and-order mission, EULEX, was planning to establish itself in the newborn state.

Coverage of the development, overall, was comparable to that of a very important international story, editors from Kosovo media said, recalling a high level of objectivity in most reports.

The more or less continuous television coverage was followed by debates in the broadcast media. Print media news reporting also triggered many comments and opinions.

While newspapers contained longer feature stories and more original background information on Karadzic, broadcast reports were largely driven by the supply of wire agency news from outlets such as Associated Press and Reuters.

“Bosnia’s butcher caught in the middle of Belgrade” was the headline on the front page of Koha Ditore, Kosovo’s most respected daily newspaper, a day after the arrest.

“We had no doubts about whether to run it on the front page or not,” said Agron Bajrami, the editor-in-chief. “It was certainly a cover story. We were just waiting for some more information,” he added, recalling the events of late Monday night, July 21, when the office of Serbia’s president, Boris Tadic, announced the arrest.
Sylejman Shaqiri, the editor-in-chief of the public broadcaster, RTK, agreed. According to Shaqiri, Karadzic’s arrest was not only a top story in Kosovo because he was a fugitive for such a long time and people were curious to hear about his capture:

“[W]e have seen Serbia use Karadzic and [former general Ratko] Mladic as the last two cards it holds against Europe in its opposition to Kosovo’s independence,” he said.

Shaqiri explained that Brussel’s insistence that Serbia cooperate with the Hague tribunal as a precondition to its European integration was perceived in Kosovo as directly related to its own fate.

“In the context of Kosovo, Karadzic’s arrest was an act from which Serbia benefited,” agreed Bajrami, who, although happy with the overall coverage of the event, would have liked to have a correspondent in Belgrade at the time in order to have more exclusive insights.

However, news about Karadzic’s arrest was seen as good news by most ordinary Kosovars, Mentor Shala, a journalist, said: “Although he did not directly affect our audience, as he waged no wars here, he was still [seen as] a part of the structures that waged war against Kosovo Albanians later on.”

Mufail Limani, the editor of RTKlive, the wire service of RTK, said the service published the news on Karadzic’s arrest immediately after it was released, and that it remained a top story for the rest of the day.

Limani recalled that this was the only story about the arrest of a non-Kosovar for war crimes that had ever made the front pages, except for that of Serbia’s former president, Slobodan Milosevic.

“The story was followed up by many reports regarding Karadzic’s life in hiding,” said Limani.

The broader public was greatly interested to know more about how Karadzic had lived under the name of Dragan Dabic in a residential district in Belgrade.

“I was really curious to know. I checked all the sources on the Internet and read a lot of stories revealing his second life,” said Shqipe, a student at Pristina University.

The media followed the audience’s preferences. Photographs of Karadzic from the early Nineties were shown next to photographs of him as Dragan Dabic. The Santa Claus–like figure, with his long white beard and long hair, could only be identified as Karadzic by his eyes.
Journalists were also interested to know facts about Karadzic’s false identity, and many stories were aired and printed on this matter.

Enthusiasm to cover the legal process against Karadzic in The Hague fell, however. Media professionals said the level of interest in Kosovo in this trial was very low.

“Besides,” said Mufail Limani, “the ongoing hearings require legal expertise in order to be properly covered. We don’t have that expertise and the topic is not worth it.”
The two most influential daily newspapers in Montenegro reported on the arrest in July 2008 of Radovan Karadzic from very different angles, underlining the stark divisions and continued strength of pro-Serbian sentiment there.

BY NEDJELJKO RUDOVIC, PODGORICA

While the daily newspaper, Vijesti, treated the arrest of Karadzic, who was born in Montenegro, as the start of a process to bring satisfaction to the victims of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, its counterpart, Dan, all but glorified Karadzic, accusing the government of Serbia of betrayal after local police arrested him in Belgrade, and criticising the Hague tribunal where he will be tried.

Reports in Vijesti viewed Karadzic’s arrest as a sign that justice might be achieved, while Dan’s articles evinced a spirit of resignation with regard to the arrest.

These two best-selling Montenegrin dailies followed the events after Karadzic’s arrest closely, informing the public of everything, from details and assumptions regarding his arrest to all available information, even unconfirmed reports, regarding his private life while in hiding.

Bearing in mind that the media’s focus was first and foremost on the intriguing details of Karadzic’s life as a fugitive with a false name, it would be fair to conclude that, in the first few days following his arrest, the actual indictment against the former leader of the Bosnian Serbs, and the crimes listed therein, were more or less ignored.

Instead, a sensationalistic approach towards information was present in both newspapers. At the same time, it should be noted that hate-speech concerning or directed towards Bosnian Muslims – against whom the crimes for which Karadzic was indicted were committed – was nowhere to be seen. This could be regarded as progress, since hate-speech towards Muslims and Croats in the Montenegrin media was very much present in the 1990s.

On this occasion, those media seen as closest to Serbian nationalist politics directed their cutting remarks and heavy qualifications more towards the Serbian government for having arrested and dispatched to The Hague a Serbian “patriot”.
Vijesti journalists seemed convinced that they had followed the events that came after Karadzic’s arrest in a professional manner. Dan journalists, on the other hand, claimed they had listened to the “pulse” of the common people. Many representatives of the media community in Montenegro considered that emotion had overbalanced facts in much of the latter’s reporting.

Vijesti and Dan are the two most influential daily newspapers in Montenegro, covering more than 80 per cent of the daily news audience, while reflecting two very different currents in society. Vijesti supported independence for Montenegro and its separation from the former loose State Union with Serbia. Dan, on the other hand, lobbied for the survival of the union, remaining the main promoter of Serbian national sentiment in Montenegro in the media.

Since Montenegro’s proclamation of independence, following a referendum in May 2006, Dan has profited itself as a newspaper representing the interests of those opposition parties that represent the Serbian community in Montenegro. According to the last census, conducted in 2003, Serbs make up 32 per cent of the country’s population.

While Dan shows an obvious inclination towards the Serbs, Vijesti articles show a clear critical distance from these people, as well as from all actors in Serbian nationalistic politics.

Monitoring of Vijesti articles revealed that the newspaper provided mainly agency news. Besides writing about the facts related to the arrest of Karadzic and the crimes with which he was charged, it also paid close attention to details related to his life on the run.

In one of its articles, for example, Vijesti called him a “Bosnian butcher” and wrote about the compensation that Karadzic ought to pay to victims of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a Vijesti supplement, a comment article by Balsa Brkovic described the crimes with which Karadzic was charged, referring to him as the “war criminal murderer of Sarajevo”.

Vijesti reported on the protests held in various towns of Republika Srpska in support of Karadzic, under the headline: “Walking for Srpska and the Power of Prayer”.

Dan, on the other hand, noted that, while he was in hiding, Karadzic “wrote articles for specialised magazines, as a prestigious expert”. Dan entitled one of its articles: “The Hague servants embarrass themselves”.

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This newspaper conveyed numerous reactions by officials expressing disapproval of the arrest of Karadzic and criticism of the work of the Hague tribunal.

Dan dedicated much space to a piece of reportage from Karadzic’s native village of Petnjica, entitled: “Serbs Proclaim Tadic a Renegade”. In this article, the author reported statements made by various cousins and neighbours of the war crimes indictee who resented the arrest and placed the blame for it chiefly on the Serbian president, Boris Tadic.

Dan also published a commentary entitled “Victim of Conspiracy”, in which the author claimed that “the Western powers” had joined forces against the Serbs with a view to “transferring responsibility [for the war] onto the victim”.

Another article, written on the initiative of a group of citizens from Piva, the home town of President Tadic’s family, was entitled: “Piva Residents Forsake Tadic”. It claimed many people in Piva wanted Tadic officially expelled from his clan, owing to “the dishonour caused by the arrest of Karadzic”.

The same newspaper wrote that Karadzic regularly read Dan while in custody, news that was confirmed by his nephew, Dragan Karadzic.

“I visited him yesterday, just like every other day. He spent a good deal of time reading your newspaper. He is interested in what is going on in Montenegro and what Dan writes about him,” Dragan Karadzic told the newspaper.

In the foreign politics column in Vijesti, Nada Vujovic claimed that her newspaper had reported on the arrest in a balanced and objective manner.

“The public was very much interested in the data on Karadzic’s life on the run, as well as in the arrest itself,” she wrote.

“For this reason, we focused on the ‘daily’ aspects of the story, but we did not forget the crimes with which he is charged. Considering that the articles published in Vijesti contained information taken from several foreign media outlets and agencies, including Serbia, I consider the reporting on Karadzic was well balanced and that our readers thereby obtained objective information.”

Mitar Rakcevic, a Dan journalist who covered the arrest of Karadzic most of the time, said that his newspaper had simply “fulfilled the expectations of 80 per cent of Montenegro’s citizens”.

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“I think most people in Montenegro resented the arrest of the former Republika Srpska president, in particular because he was born in Montenegro. Dan was just conveying the voice of the common people, which the media should do in any case,” Rakcevic said.

The reporter said this did not mean a person should not be held responsible or tried for crimes of which he was suspected.

“However,” he went on, “almost all the media in the former Yugoslav countries convicted him even before he appeared in court for the first time.

“One might logically expect that people in Montenegro would feel acrimonious about this, considering that the Hague tribunal earlier acquitted of all charges [the former Bosniak military commander in Srebrenica] Nasir Oric and some Kosovo leaders suspected of having committed crimes against Serbian people.”

Evaluating the coverage overall, the head of Montenegro’s Media Institute said there was a fine line between emotions and facts in journalism.

“While a reader is [often] emotional, journalists should present facts,” said Radojica Bulatovic, director of the institute.

“I consider that emotions prevailed in Dan’s articles. Only a cold, professional processing of information can result in avoidance of the misuse [of information] for political or nationalistic purposes,” she added.
Karadzic: War Criminal or Poet?

To the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, was a true sensation, and one to be exploited day after day.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC IN SARAJEVO

It is also clear that, owing to the lack of firm information about the arrest and “secret life” of the alternative medical practitioner, “Dr Dabic”, the media resorted to publishing speculative and unconfirmed information, which was quite often almost impossible to believe or to take seriously.

At the same time, the victims on whose account Karadzic was indicted in the first place tended to be left behind. In some cases, their stories were reported solely to fill empty space on pages dedicated to other, more sensational, news items.

As far as Bosnia and Herzegovina is concerned, analysis of media reporting in its two entities, Republika Srpska and the Federation, shows that they focused on different issues, depending on the ethnic character of their readers.

In their reports published in this period, the media did not refrain from using the language of hatred either, motivating animosity and intolerance, mainly on national, but also on a religious basis. Once again, the media became a means of political propaganda and subject to manipulation by leading politicians, whose statements, regularly conveyed by the media, helped distract public attention from truly important issues related to this arrest.

It seems, following analysis of around 500 texts published between July 22–31 in five daily and three weekly newspapers, that professionalism once again stepped back, leaving sensationalism to fill the vacuum.

However, it is worth noting that in this respect the Bosnian media were not much different from the rest of the region’s media.

What made reports on the arrest and Karadzic himself different from those published in other countries was the fact that somewhat more attention was paid to what he had said or done before the 1992–5 war in Bosnia.
One day after the arrest, Oslobodjenje, the daily newspaper with the longest tradition in Bosnia, reminded its readers of what Karadzic had said at various public gatherings and assemblies before the war broke out.

Almost all newspapers cited the words he pronounced before the Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1991, when he warned Bosniaks [Bosnian Muslims] that they faced annihilation if warfare came to Bosnia.

The magazine Dani took such an approach, dedicating an entire issue to Karadzic and publishing articles about his arrest and reactions to it. The result was a chronology of his crimes as seen by journalists and columnists of this magazine.

Comparing the media in the Federation and Republika Srpska, the main difference was that the former wrote about Karadzic as a war criminal, even calling him a “monster” (Dnevni avaz), while the Bosnian Serb media, such as Nezavisne novine, mentioned in almost every article that he was “the first president of Republika Srpska”.

Another difference was that Republika Srpska media concentrated more on the political disputes between the two entities’ leaders that were sparked by the arrest than on the actual arrest and indictment.

One night after the arrest, some Federation leaders addressed the public, not only welcoming the arrest but also calling for the abolition of Republika Srpska.

The politicians in the Serb-dominated entity reacted almost immediately, condemning the statements. A political dispute was thus begun, one which has outlasted the period covered by this monitoring.

Indeed, it increased tensions so much that it led to a marked deterioration in the situation in the country, prompting representatives of the international community to express concern.

Much attention was paid to allegations concerning the existence of an agreement between Radovan Karadzic and the former US envoy to the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke. Karadzic and his associates, as well as some foreign and local diplomats, claim this agreement was concluded in 1996, as a result of which he withdrew from public and political life. The US authorities and the ambassador himself strongly denied these allegations.

The Bosnian media published many speculative articles concerning the arrest, pertaining to its place and time, as well as to the authorities that performed it and their reasons for doing so.
Columnists in the Federation media mostly claimed it was a political action undertaken by the new authorities in Serbia to further the country’s integration into the European Union.

On the other hand, journalists in Republika Srpska praised the democratic outlook and progress of Serbia, claiming that the fact that Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade proved that Republika Srpska had not been involved in concealing the ICTY fugitive over the past 13 years.

The peak of sensationalism in the Bosnian media was certainly an article published by Dnevni avaz, alleging that police had found pornographic videotapes in the apartment in which Karadzic had been hiding, showing him with various partners. To Dnevni avaz, this meant that he was “bisexual”. Day after day, Dnevni avaz described Karadzic thus and with other abusive words.

Indeed, its journalists and editors sometimes seemed to be competing with one another in attaching new nicknames to him, using “monster”, “butcher” and so on. On the day of his arrest, the front page of the newspaper contained a headline about Karadzic’s capture and a photograph showing him holding a knife.

Readers of the daily newspapers in the two entities were thus overwhelmed with words of hatred.

Within its coverage of the event, Oslobodjenje published the first interview with victims of the war, quoting a woman who allegedly said:

“Republika Srpska is full of killers.” The same newspaper published a photograph of Milorad Dodik, the Serbian entity’s prime minister, next to one of Karadzic, accompanied by the headline: “Continuity”.

It also published an article whose author concluded that “the Serbian people should not forget that most of them excitedly followed Karadzic’s criminal appeal”.

Nezavisne novine wrote that the Bosnian Serb prime minister’s cabinet had received many telephone calls from people “using inappropriate and vulgar language and offences, based on ethnic and religious affiliation”, adding that the calls came mainly “from abroad and from the Federation”.

At the same time, the Republika Srpska media claimed it had tried to inform the public about events “in an objective manner”, noting in their articles that “Dr Dabic” was a professional figure, as well as a writer and poet who had received awards for his work.
Glas Srpske carried a statement by Tanja Jovanovic, published in Zdrav zivot [Healthy Life] magazine, who was allegedly an associate of “Dr Dabic”. “We are shocked. Our Dr Dabic was a fine man, with good manners. He was a true professional,” it read.

An article on a father and son, Orthodox priests Jeremije and Aleksandar Starovlah, who were “beaten up” and accused of helping Karadzic hide in the course of an international military operation in Pale, was also published in Glas Srpske. It seemed like political propaganda. “Not even four years after the brutal Sfor [the former NATO military deployment to Bosnia] operation in Pale have the beaten Orthodox priests received any compensation,” it said.

Overall, reporting on this event of such great importance to Bosnia and Herzegovina showed how much the country remained divided. The fact that some media presented Karadzic mainly as a poet, while others depicted him purely as a monster, only goes to show how well the divisions created during the war have survived.

However, the media were almost entirely in agreement when it came to victims: they all treated them as marginal. Over the ten days of this monitoring, some newspapers did not even give the victims of the war a mention.

It may be appropriate to conclude with a statement made by the Oslobodenje guest columnist, Emir Suljagic, who did focus his attention on the victims.

Suljagic wrote that they were “now facing a years-long distressing and difficult trial, which will make these people suffer their traumas all over again. However, the wounds which will be reopened by this trial were never healed in any case”.

Dr Karadzic Cured Me, Says Macedonia Folk Star

While visiting her husband in the Hague war crimes detention facility, Macedonian folk singer Sonja Tarculovska had her toothache cured with a simple touch from genocide suspect Radovan Karadzic, she told a Macedonian daily.

Tarculovska’s husband Johan is a Macedonian police commander sentenced for his role in the brutal killings of civilians during the 2001 ethnic Albanian insurgency in Macedonia. When during the visit she complained of toothache, Johan suggested she try Karadzic, the former wartime leader of the Bosnian Serbs, telling her he was regularly treating other detainees in the prison.

Karadzic spent more than a decade on the run from The Hague, the last few years in Belgrade disguised as a faith healer specialising in ‘bio energy’.

“Doctor Karadzic put his hand where I felt pain and held it there for five minutes,” Tarculovska told local Vest newspaper on Tuesday. “It’s not a joke. In five minutes all the pain disappeared.”

After healing her, Karadzic allegedly told Tarculovska to put her hand on the same place if the pain reoccurs, and he would send her his energy. The interview did not make clear how she got to meet and interact with Karadzic in the high-security detention unit.

As his alter ego of health guru Dragan Dabic, Karadzic sported a long beard, long hair and thick glasses and was able to make a living from his healing until his arrest last July.

He is charged with the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) men and boys in the town of Srebrenica and with the 43-month siege of Sarajevo, which resulted in 11,000 deaths.
Bosnia Capital Remembers
Markale Massacre

Sarajevans gathered on Thursday to commemorate the Feb 5, 1994 Markale market massacre that killed 67 people and wounded 142, one of the bloodiest incidents of civilian death of the 1992-95 Bosnia war.

REPORT DONE BY JUSTICE REPORT WWW.BIM.BA

The shelling attack by the Bosnian Serb Republika Srpska Army, VRS, came at noon, wreaking havoc in the crowded marketplace in downtown Sarajevo.

“We must not forget this day and not to forget the people who died here, ever,” Zeljko Komsic, member of Bosnia’s tri-partite presidency said at the memorial ceremony.

“The pictures after the massacre shocked the whole world – bodies lying everywhere, people crying, begging for help, and the people of Sarajevo helping them. I remember that day vividly.”

Scenes of the carnage were broadcast around the world, galvanizing public opinion against Bosnian Serb forces for attacking a crowded market place at lunchtime, when it was full of civilians and traders trying to eke out the daily necessities in the besieged city.

Bosnian Serb forces vehemently denied responsibility, accusing Bosnia’s government of shelling and killing its own people in a conspiracy to win sympathy abroad, while a report by United Nations peacekeepers at the time was inconclusive. The controversy fed on the mutual mistrust between the former rivals and was only partially put to rest with the 2004 conviction of Stanislav Galic, so far the only person to have been convicted for the massacre.

Major General Galic, commander of the Sarajevo–Romanija Corps of the Republika Srpska Army from November 1992 to August 1994, was originally sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment.
The verdict against Galic cites the massacre at Markale, among other things.

“The Trial Chamber heard detailed testimony on this incident. We examined the results of an investigation conducted by the United Nations staff and local investigators after the incident. We also studied the analyses made by experts who were invited by the parties to the trial. A number of pieces of new data were presented. Most Trial Chamber members determined that the mortar shell which caused the explosion had been fired from the territory controlled by the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps. This was a destructive attack on a civilian target,” the verdict states.

The same decision determined that the citizens of Sarajevo “were directly and unselectively attacked from the positions held by the Sarajevo-Romanija Corps... What we know is that hundreds of civilians were killed and thousands were wounded in sniper incidents and shelling that happened in the course of the two-year period covered by this indictment. An insignificant number of those incidents, only an insignificant number, could have been caused by accident”.

Following an appeal, Galic’ sentence was revised to lifetime imprisonment, in November 2006. On January 15 this year he was transferred from the Detention Unit at The Hague to Germany to serve his sentence.

Besides Galic, Radovan Karadzic is also charged with the shelling of Sarajevo. He is currently at The Hague awaiting trial, after having been arrested in Belgrade in 2008, following 13 years on the run.
Karadzic Says NATO Attacked His Family

War crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic said NATO forces conducted a “Gestapo-like attack against his home and family” in December last year as part of the search for the two remaining fugitives, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic.

Karadzic, indicted on two counts of genocide for his role in the 1992-95 Bosnia war, was arrested in Belgrade in July last year. Appearing at a status conference before the pre-trial chamber of the Hague tribunal, he said that on December 2, 2008 NATO forces searched his family’s house in Pale, acting “on a warrant issued by the Hague Court”, on what he said was “an attack against his family.”

“During the course of the search they spoke to my wife about the two indictees’ mental health, although they had never been her patients,” he said of his wife Ljiljana, a psychiatrist.

“Due to a wrongful explanation, my defence team contacted the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which claimed not to have ordered the search. It appears that somebody did that at his own initiative. Those were Gestapo-like methods,” Karadzic said.

Judge Iain Bonomy interrupted Karadzic to say that his discussion had nothing to do with the trial or the tribunal. He advised Karadzic to contact the Central Office of NATO forces in Brussels, “because the Hague Tribunal does not have competencies for making any decisions” concerning this issue at this stage.

Karadzic also again accused the prosecution of “refusing to submit a transcript” of a discussion among General Wesley Clark, former RS President Biljana Plavsic and Special US Envoy for the Balkans Richard Holbrooke, who allegedly discussed Karadzic’s immunity from prosecution. Karadzic has insisted for years that Holbrooke cut him a deal in return for him leaving politics, something the former US envoy denies.

“I think that the Chamber underestimates the value of those transcripts, because they certainly do exist. They are very important because they can confirm what I am saying here,” Karadzic said.
The next status conference on the case will be held around February 19, by which date Karadzic is supposed to respond to the prosecution’s motion pertaining to the changes in the indictment.

The Hague Prosecution amended the indictment, originally issued in 1995, in September last year. The amended indictment charges Karadzic on two counts of genocide committed in 10 municipalities and over the Srebrenica massacre, and on the charge of joint criminal enterprise, which was not mentioned in the earlier versions of the indictment.

At the same time he is charged with other crimes committed in municipalities in the course of the war. The indictment provides a detailed description of the destruction of Sarajevo and certain detention centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as individual murders and the demolition of religious and cultural buildings.

A date for the start of the trial was not discussed at the session.
EU Assembly Seeks Srebrenica Commemoration

The European Parliament adopted a resolution calling all European Union member states to recognize July 11, the date of the start of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, as "a day of commemoration throughout the EU".

On July 11 1995, Bosnian Serb forces led by Ratko Mladic killed more than 8,000 Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) men, hunting them down as they fled the ‘safe haven’ town of Srebrenica in the worst atrocity in Europe after World War II. The name of the town has become a byword of genocide and a symbol of the horror of Bosnia’s 1992–95 war.

“Urging all countries, including those of the western Balkans, to do the same, the Parliament commemorates and honors all the victims of the atrocities during the wars in the former Yugoslavia and expresses its condolences to and solidarity with the families of the victims, many of whom are living without final confirmation of the fate of their fathers, sons, husbands or brothers”, the European Parliament said in a statement.

The victims’ bodies were first buried in mass graves, then dug out with bulldozers and moved to smaller graves. Remains can be scattered in several locations, and are not released for burial until two-thirds of the body have been recovered.

“The EP stresses that reconciliation is an important part of the European integration process, a process in which the religious communities, the media and the education system play a significant role”, the Parliament added, noting that bringing to justice those responsible for the massacres is an important step towards peace and stability in the region.

Mladic, who is indicted by the Hague war crimes court on two counts of genocide for Srebrenica and the siege of Sarajevo, is still at large. The tribunal believes he is hiding in Serbia aided by hardliners in the army and police, and Belgrade’s future progress towards EU membership depends on his arrest. Mladic’s political boss, former Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic, is currently held in the Hague tribunal detention unit, awaiting the start of his trial on the same charges.

The resolution was adopted with 556 votes for, 9 against and 22 abstentions.
Amir Kulagic, a survivor of the Srebrenica genocide, expressed concern that the resolution may end up being implemented by Western European countries only, while countries in the region, “and in particular Serbia, will not honour the commemoration day”.

“I think that the European Parliament’s decision means a lot in terms of moral satisfaction. However, this is just one small drop in a large ocean, because there are so many things that Europe should do for the victims of the Srebrenica genocide,” Kulagic told BIRN - Justice Report.

European Parliament Spokesperson Thomas Dudrap told BIRN - Justice Report that the resolution had been placed on the agenda of the first Parliament session of the year because the mandate of the Parliament in its current composition is due to expire in June 2009.

He said the resolution was drafted following a meeting between European Parliament President Diana Wallis, who is from the liberal and democratic grouping, and members of the Association of Mothers from Srebrenica and Zepa. Wallis and Jelko Kacin, a Slovenian delegate and the rapporteur on Serbia, attended the commemoration organized in Srebrenica last year.

Explaining the draft Resolution, Kacin said that “we must build Srebrenica in our common historical memory”. He said the resolution was not intended for the past, “although it speaks about the dead”, but is relevant to “the living and their better future”.

“This Resolution is not sufficient. We must speed up the trials system in order to make sure that all participants in the genocide will appear before the court of justice,” Kulagic said.

Kulagic said Bosnia should have adopted a resolution on genocide before the European Parliament, though he acknowledged that “knowing how the political forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina act, I am sure that the Srebrenica genocide will be politicized.”

Miroslav Lajcak, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, reacted to the resolution noting that Mladic is still at large.

“Without truth, there can be no justice, without justice there can be no reconciliation, and without reconciliation, there is no future,” he said.

(Reporting by Gjeraqina Tuhina and Denis Dzidic)
My Soda with Radovan

I met my client yesterday for the first time. For obvious reasons, I cannot recount the substance of what he, I, and his legal associate, Peter Robinson, discussed.

BY KEVIN JON HELLER

But I thought readers might be interested in my impressions of the visit and my sense of Dr. Karadzic, which bears little resemblance to the image portrayed in the media.

First, the UN Detention Unit itself. The prison is located in a very nice part of The Hague; indeed, it is abutted by a series of pretty little row houses. As an American, that was a bit of a shock — we hide our prisons in the middle of nowhere, especially those that house inmates convicted of the very worst crimes. (Compare the supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, which housed Timothy McVeigh and continues to house Omar Abdel Rahman, Jose Padilla, the Unabomber, and Eric Rudolph.)

Once inside, the Detention Unit resembles most any prison: lockers for your stuff, a badge identifying you as a visitor (which I wished I could have kept), a metal detector. Peter and I made it into the first waiting area, where we chatted with the Orthodox priest who was scheduled to hold a Christmas mass for Dr. Karadzic and the other Serbian detainees until the guards came to escort us to the visitation area. We passed through two more controlled doors, then walked to the cell block that houses the ICTY detainees. The cell block itself was barren and overgrown with weeds on the outside and rather dingy inside — very much 70s institutional style, all beige and plastic. Having seen it first-hand, I am more than a little bemused by the ICTY website, which tries to convey the impression that the Detention Unit is almost Club Med. The photos on the website were obviously taken for the media’s consumption after a thorough spring cleaning.

Once inside the cell block, the guard showed us into one of the small meeting rooms. We sat down and chatted for a few minutes until Dr. Karadzic arrived. (Peter told me an amazing, and more than a little surreal, story about sitting with Dr. Karadzic in the same room and watching Charles Taylor shoot baskets in the exercise yard.) I have to confess that I wasn’t at all sure what to expect, given everything the media has said about him. But I felt at ease the moment I met him — a reaction facilitated, no doubt, by his casual clothes, warm smile, and the blue plastic box full of drinks, snacks, and documents that he was carrying. He shook my hand, intro-
duced himself, and told me how happy he was that I was in The Hague and how much he appreciated everything I was doing for him. He then gave Peter a Fanta grape soda — his favorite, Dr. Karadzic told me — and asked me to choose between that, an orange soda, and a Coke. Following in Peter’s footsteps, as I often do, I went grape. We then all sat down, and I spent the next five minutes or so telling Dr. Karadzic, at his request, a little about myself and about how I came to be involved in the case. The conversation then veered into more substantive matters that I am not at liberty to discuss.

That said, I can offer a few comments about what Dr. Karadzic is like. None of the following is spin, although readers are certainly entitled to be skeptical.

The first thing I noticed was how at peace he seemed to be. I’ve sat across the table from enough accused criminals to know when someone is putting on a show for me. Dr. Karadzic wasn’t. He has no illusions about his situation, but he emphasized again and again that he wants the trial to be about the facts and the law — not about him. He has obviously accepted the possibility — indeed, the overwhelming likelihood — that he will never again be a free man. That cannot be a happy prospect, but he genuinely seems okay with it. As he said to us, he can read and write and think anywhere.

I was also struck by Dr. Karadzic’s evident intelligence. He speaks very good English, is extremely well-read and articulate, and has a keen interest in world politics. Indeed, we spent as much time discussing the situation in Gaza as we did the situation in the former FRY. (We also discussed Monty Python’s Life of Brian, but that is definitely a protected conversation.)

Finally, I came away from our meeting feeling very comfortable with Dr. Karadzic’s decision to represent himself. I would, of course, prefer that he hire Peter as his legal counsel. But nothing he said to me indicates that his behavior in the courtroom will bear any resemblance to Milosevic, much less to Seselj. I don’t know whether he believes that the ICTY is legitimate; I didn’t ask him. I do know, though, that he views his trial as an opportunity to challenge the ICTY’s often problematic jurisprudence and to ensure that the Tribunal’s official narrative of the events in the former FRY does not exclude the Serbian view. Moreover, I know that he recognizes his limitations and appreciates the legal advice that he is receiving from Peter, from me, and from the many academics and law students we have brought into the case.

I understand why the media simply assumes that Dr. Karadzic is guilty, although I wish they would wait to convict him until after they have seen
the evidence and heard the legal arguments. What I don’t understand is why they insist upon portraying him as a crazed lunatic who lives only to follow in Seselj’s footsteps. (See, for example, this article from the normally excellent Institute for War & Peace Reporting.) Such armchair psychologizing has absolutely no basis in fact, accomplishes nothing, and runs the risk of becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Then again, the media is only part of the problem. The Registry has taken the indefensible position that Dr. Karadzic is not entitled to give interviews, because media contact would undermine the security of the Detention Unit by exposing its inner workings to the public (despite the fact that you can take a video tour of the Unit on the ICTY website) and would run the risk of “sensational reporting” (unlike Serge Brammertz’s public insistence that he will “unequivocally prove” Dr. Karadzic’s guilt). With such draconian restrictions imposed on Dr. Karadzic — even though, at this point, he has not been convicted of anything — it is impossible to counter the negative images of him that circulate endlessly in the media.

Anyway, so it goes. No one ever said that advising the world’s most notorious criminal defendant would be easy. Regardless of the difficulties that lie ahead, meeting Dr. Karadzic was a remarkable experience — one that I won’t soon forget.
UN Judges: Karadzic Has No Legal Immunity

UN judges say an immunity deal Radovan Karadzic claims he made with a US envoy would not prevent the former Bosnian Serb leader’s trial on charges including genocide.

Karadzic claims he cut a deal with Richard Holbrooke in 1996 to relinquish power in return for immunity from prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

But in a resounding legal setback, tribunal judges say in a ruling published on Thursday that such a deal “would be invalid under international law.”

Holbrooke denies he ever made such a deal with Karadzic and prosecutors say that even if the pact existed it would have no legal weight at the court.

Karadzic, the wartime President of the Republika Srpska is accused of masterminding Serb atrocities in the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of up to 8,000 Bosniak (also known as Bosnian Muslim) men and boys.

He was arrested in July in Serbia and handed over to authorities at The Hague-based tribunal.
Karadzic Wants Charges Merged with Ally’s

Radovan Karadzic agrees with the proposal made by Stojan Zupljanin to merge his indictment with the one against Zupljanin and Mico Stanisic, while the Hague Prosecution objects the proposal.

In his motion, filed with the Hague Tribunal, Radovan Karadzic expressed his agreement with the proposal made by Stojan Zupljanin on December 3, 2008, who asked the Court to merge the two indictments. The Hague Prosecution considers the proposal to be “unfounded”.

“Dr Karadzic considers that the merging of the two indictments will improve the capability of the Defence teams to deny the allegations, because the work will be divided among them, which will not be possible if the cases remain separated. In addition, the joining would facilitate bringing joint Defence witnesses, because they would not have to be invited to appear two times in order to testify at two different trials,” said Radovan Karadzic in his motion.

On the other hand, the Hague Prosecution responded to Zupljanin’s proposal and said that the two cases were “not good candidates for merging.”

“The level of overlapping between the indictment against Mico Stanisic and Stojan Zupljanin and the one against Radovan Karadzic, as well as the fact that the trials are currently in different stages, go to show that these two cases are not appropriate for joinder,” the Hague Prosecution’s response alleged.

The Prosecution charges Zupljanin, who was Radovan Karadzic’s advisor for internal affairs for some time, and Stanisic, former Minister of Internal Affairs with the Republika Srpska Army, VRS, with crimes against humanity, violation of laws and practices of warfare committed in the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Radovan Karadzic, former RS president, is charged with genocide and a number of other crimes committed in Bosnia during the course of the war. The three indictees are at the Hague, awaiting the start of their trials.
The Hague Prosecution alleges that the Defence of Zupljanin “obviously overestimated the number of pieces of evidence”, which pertain to both cases.

“The indictment against Stanisic and Zupljanin deals with crimes committed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of RS, while the indictment against Karadzic is not focused on those forces, but on all political, civil and military institutions, which participated in the crimes against the non-Serb population from 1992 to 1995,” the Prosecution indicated in its motion.

The Hague Prosecution considers that the geographic scope of the two indictments would represent another obstacle to their merging, because the indictment against Stanisic and Zupljanin treats crimes in 13, out of the 27 municipalities, which are mentioned in Karadzic’s indictment.

This article was compiled by BIRN’s Justice Report. Visit the Justice Report website here.
Zupljanin Wants Trial Merged with Karadzic’s

Sarajevo _ Bosnian war crimes suspect at The Hague, Stojan Zupljanin has asked for his indictment to be merged with that of wartime Bosnian Serb President, Radovan Karadzic.

Stojan Zupljanin, who was charged, together with Mico Stanisic, before the Hague Tribunal, with crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, asked the Hague Prosecution and Court to merge his case with Radovan Karadzic’s case.

"The circumstances in his case are such that merging these indictments would benefit his right to a fair trial and interests of justice," Stojan Zupljanin’s motion indicates.

The Hague Prosecution charges Zupljanin, who was Radovan Karadzic’s advisor for internal affairs for some time, and Stanisic, former minister of internal affairs in the Government of Republika Srpska, RS, with crimes against humanity, violation of laws and practices of warfare committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and “murder, forcible resettlement and deportation” in the country during the 1992-1995 war.

Karadzic, former President of RS, is charged with genocide and a number of crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In his motion, Zupljanin explained that the merging of the two indictments would prevent “the duplication of evidence” and multiple examinations of witnesses, while ensuring cost-efficiency of the proceedings and “consistency in passing the verdicts”.

The three indictees are still awaiting the start of their trials at The Hague.

Zupljanin and Stanisic entered their pleas in November this year, while Karadzic has still not entered his plea to the new indictment, filed on September 23.

“Both indictments allege that the three men were accomplices in a joint criminal enterprise, together with other leaders of Bosnian Serbs, Serbian Democratic Party, Yugoslav National Army and Republika Srpska Army and Police,” the indictments merging motion alleges.
The Defence of Stojan Zupljanin considers that conducting two separate trials would make its work more difficult, in terms of obtaining evidence and witnesses.

“It is reasonable to expect that potential Defence witnesses would be more willing to cooperate if they are expected to appear before court only once,” the motion explanation alleges, among other things.
NATO Raids Karadzic House in Mladic Hunt

Sarajevo — NATO troops have again raided the house of the arrested top Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect, Radovan Karadzic, in their hunt for his wartime commander, Ratko Mladic.

The Italian carabinieri, who serve as a part of the NATO troops in Bosnia, entered Karadzic’s family house in the town of Pale, 18 kilometres east of Sarajevo on early morning Tuesday. The search and interrogation of Karadzic’s family members lasted from 0300-0630 local hours and no materials were seized on this occasion, NATO officials and Karadzic’s daughter, Sonja Jovicevic Karadzic, told media.

According to NATO officials, the raid was related to the efforts of NATO and the European Union peacekeeping force, EUFOR, to locate and eventually apprehend Ratko Mladic, the last Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect who still remains in hiding.

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Karadzic was arrested in July this year in Belgrade, where he was hiding disguised as an alternative healer. Karadzic’s army commander, Mladic, still remains in hiding full 13 years after the end of the war. It is believed that most of the time in the past few years he was living in Serbia. Both Karadzic and Mladic have been charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for multiple accounts of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

NATO officials said that they believe that the same network, which was supporting Karadzic in his hiding, is also involved in Mladic’s efforts to evade justice.

Karadzic’s family and Bosnian Serb officials criticised the raid as “unnecessary” and “harassment.”

“I don’t think that NATO or anybody else needed this action, because Karadzic is in The Hague, all relevant documentation has been seized and I don’t know what else they want from Karadzic’s family,” said Rajko Kuzmanovic, president of the Serb-dominated Bosnian entity of Republika Srpska.
“I don’t see why this pressure, where does it lead, what’s its purpose and when will it end, having in mind that they have fulfilled their purpose and that Karadzic is already in The Hague,” Sonja Jovicovic Karadzic, told journalists. She said that this raid was “rude” and represented “harassment.”
Karadzic Tries & Fails to Make
Media Contact

Sarajevo _ Top Bosnian war crimes suspect and former
Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic agrees to give an
interview to a Dutch newspaper but he is prevented by the
Hague Registrar.

Radovan Karadzic, who is currently being held in the Detention Unit of the
Hague Tribunal, complained about a decision made by the Hague Regis-
trar, which prohibited him from contacting a journalist of the Revu news-
paper from the Netherlands.

In his complaint, Karadzic referred to freedom of speech, guaranteed by
the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and European Convention on
Human Rights, as well as a number of decisions, allowing detainees and
prisoners to establish contacts with the media. Most of those decisions
were made in the United States.

Nerma Jelacic, spokesperson for the International Criminal Tribunal for
the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, told Justice Report that the Registry decision
was made in accordance with Tribunal rules.

"Under the rules it is forbidden for any journalist to enter the detention
unit, and we never ever had one inside, domestic or international. While
in detention indictees are forbidden to have contacts with the media", said
Jelacic.

In late October and then again on November 7, Karadzic asked the Tribunal
to let him get in touch with journalist Zvezdana Vukojevic, who asked for
an interview with him, to be published in the newspaper for which she
currently works.

As indicated in his letter, Karadzic agreed to give an interview, as this
would enable him to present his side of the truth. In his original request,
filed with the Registrar, he said that the media had “demonised” him for
years, claiming that this had actually been done by the Hague Prosecutor.

“I particularly noticed that the Prosecutor, the US State Department and
former Ambassador Richard Holbrooke often publicly denied the existence
of an agreement, by which I would not be processed before the ICTY. I
think it would be fair to let me respond in the same manner,” Karadzic said.

The Registrar rendered a decision on November 10, rejecting his request. The mentioned decision indicated that, one of the reasons for rejecting the request, was the fact that, if such contacts were allowed, there may be a possibility of “disclosing details on the Detention Unit and security mechanisms.”

The decision further alleged that this might constitute “a threat to the security and safety, in particular if a visiting journalist would discover those details.”

“In addition, there exists a possibility of a sensationalistic reporting, which, according to the Registrar’s opinion, can have negative after effects on you and interfere with the legal process conducted before the Tribunal,” the decision states.

Karadzic considers that those explanations were not “good enough”. He further considers that the official web page offers much more data on the Detention Unit than what a visiting journalist may personally see.

He also complained because the Registrar had not considered a possibility of organising a phone or written interview. In his complaint, Karadzic referred to the UN Convention of Civil and Political Rights, which alleges that “each person has the right to free expression, which includes the freedom to seek and receive information and ideas of all kinds.”

The decision will be rendered at a later stage.
Karadzic Arrest Boosts Mladic’s Vigilance

Belgrade _ The arrest of former Bosnian Serbs leader Radovan Karadzic created difficulties for the investigation into the whereabouts of fugitive Ratko Mladic, Serbian Labour Minister Rasim Ljajic said in an interview published today in Belgrade’s Politika newspaper.

He said that Mladic’s guards had become more careful but he insisted that the Serbian security agency is following every possible lead.

“We know for sure that not more than 10 people guard Ratko Mladic,” Ljajic revealed.

He said the work of the security agency in searching for Mladic confirms that all institutions in Serbia are truly dedicated to fulfilling the country’s obligations towards the ICTY.

“These actions are not connected with Serge Bramertz’ visit to Serbia and the region,” Ljajic said, adding that he expects the EU to respect Serbia’s effort to complete its cooperation with the ICTY.

Last week Serbian police and the security agency raided several private business enterprises in an apparent attempt to cut off financial support to war-crimes fugitives.

Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander during the 1992-95 war, has been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for war crimes and genocide, including the killing of as many as 8,000 Muslims from the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica.

In July, Serbian authorities arrested Mladic’s political leader Radovan Karadzic and handed him over to the Netherlands-based court.
Karadzic Testifies as Witness in Hague Trial

Sarajevo — Former Bosnian Serb political leader and top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic has testified as an additional witness for Momcilo Krajisnik’s Defence.

The additional evidence presentation in the case of Momcilo Krajisnik continued before the Appellate Chamber of the Hague Tribunal. Radovan Karadzic, who is charged, by the same Court, with genocide and crime against humanity, appeared in the courtroom as witness.

Krajisnik presented Karadzic’s statement before the examination. The Chamber then admitted the statement. After that the Prosecution cross-examined the witness.

In the mentioned statement Karadzic denied the allegation that Krajisnik was a member of the Wartime Presidency of Republika Srpska, as well as the allegations that he was his close associate and “the second ranking official in Republika Srpska.”

Karadzic claims that, besides him, the Presidency consisted of late Nikola Koljevic and Biljana Plavsic, who was convicted, by The Hague Tribunal, for her role in the course of the 1992-1995 Bosnian war.

“Nobody, except those three members, could participate in making decisions,” Karadzic’s statement indicates. He said the same in the courtroom.

The Prosecution alleged that Krajisnik’s name was written in a large number of Presidency meeting notes, asking Karadzic to give an explanation for that.

“The notes could not be considered as official Presidency acts. They were made by a person, who did not have any knowledge about high-level administration. I would not pay any attention to those notes,” Karadzic said.

The Appellate Chamber noted that the first instance Trial Chamber determined, in the first instance verdict, that Krajisnik was a member of the Presidency, because evidence showed that he had signed some documents on behalf of Karadzic on three occasions.

“This is irrelevant, as anyone could sign them, even my secretary. Those were not decisions, but confirmations of appointment of some persons to certain functions,” Karadzic claims.
Karadzic denied the fact, previously determined by the first instance Chamber, that Krajisnik played a role in the establishment of crisis committees, wartime commission, regional and municipal structures, establishment of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS and Territorial Defence.

He did say that, besides having been the Chairman of the National Assembly, Krajisnik was involved in peace negotiations.

“Krajisnik was not obsessed with ethnic separation from Muslims. This was not the policy of the Serb leadership,” Karadzic said.

When asked by the judges what influence Krajisnik had during the course of the war, Karadzic said that he did not have any responsibility, but he did have “reputation”.

The judges also wanted to hear Karadzic’s comment on the conclusion, made by the first instance Chamber, that Karadzic and Krajisnik were the ones who rendered a decision to appoint Ratko Mladic as the commander of the Republika Srpska Army, VRS.

“He did not play any role in that. The decision was mine. When I was appointed as Presidency member, I could have appointed Mladic, but I let the Parliament do it instead. Mr. Krajisnik had nothing to do with it. Mladic was recommended to me. I was told that he was a decent officer, strict, moral and tough... All delegates accepted my proposal,” Karadzic explained.

The Defence had a chance to additionally examine this witness. Momcilo Krajisnik and his special advisor for the issue of joint criminal enterprise, Alan Dershowitz, used this right.

Answering their questions, Karadzic said that Krajisnik was known as a man who “raised mutual understanding with Muslims”, adding that he persisted in his efforts to find a political solution to the conflict.

“Was he, in any way, involved in some military operations?” Dershowitz asked.

“Absolutely no,” Karadzic claims.

Krajisnik was sentenced, by a first instance verdict, to 27 years' imprisonment, but he filed an appeal, claiming that he did not have “a competent defence”. After having been arrested in Belgrade in July, Karadzic has been held in the Detention Unit in Schwenningen, awaiting the start of his trial.
Karadzic Status Conference to Go Ahead

Sarajevo – The Hague Tribunal Chamber has rejected Radovan Karadzic’s request to postpone the status conference because of his “preparations for the testimony at Momcilo Krajisnik’s trial.”

On Tuesday, October 28 the fourth status conference at the trial of Radovan Karadzic, will be held before the Hague Tribunal.

The conference will be held despite the fact that Karadzic expressed his dissatisfaction with tight deadlines and “forced running of the process,” asking for a postponement.

In his motion, filed with the Tribunal, Karadzic mentioned that, right after the status conference he is due to appear, as a witness, at the trial of Momcilo Krajisnik, claiming that this was an aggravating circumstance.

Commenting on his testimony at the trial of Momcilo Krajisnik, scheduled for November 3 and 5, 2008, Karadzic said that it was “the most important testimony since the establishment of the Tribunal”, adding that, due to the short time for preparation, his testimony would be “deprived of the full truth”.

Karadzic will be examined as an additional witness at the second instance trial of Momcilo Krajisnik.

Judge Iain Bonomy, presiding judge in this case, rejected Karadzic’s proposal, “due to the fact that it is not possible to find some other time” for the conference, adding that “the fact that a person is going to testify at some other trial does not constitute a sufficient reason for postponement of a hearing”.

On September 22 the Hague Prosecution filed a revised indictment against Karadzic, which charges him, under two counts, with genocide committed in 10 municipalities and Srebrenica. He is charged with a joint criminal enterprise and crimes committed in 27 municipalities. He is also charged with “terror, unlawful attacks against civilians and murder” committed in Sarajevo during the course of “a shelling and sniper campaign”.

Karadzic has still not entered his plea to the counts contained in the new indictment.
Karadzic to Appear as Defence Witness

Sarajevo — The Appeals Chamber of the Hague Tribunal has accepted a proposal from the defence of former Bosnian Serb Parliament Speaker Momcilo Krajsnik to hear the testimony of Radovan Karadzic.

The Hague Tribunal Appeals Chamber, has decided that the testimony of Radovan Karadzic could have “significant weight” in determining the guilt of the accused Krajsnik, and has scheduled his hearing as a defence witness on November 3 and 5.

Momcilo Krajsnik, the former President of the Republika Srpska Parliament, has been sentenced to 27 years imprisonment before the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Krajsnik was found guilty for crimes against humanity, persecution, extermination, murder, deportation and forced resettlement of the non-Serbian population during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while he was found not guilty for charges of genocide and accessory in genocide.

Krajsnik has already met Karadzic, who is currently in The Hague awaiting the start of his own trial, on September 12, in order to find the “scope of what Karadzic could offer as a witness.”

The Hague Prosecution has objected this proposal, stating that Krajsnik has failed to present evidence as to what Karadzic could offer, and that his statements have been “mere speculation”.

The decision of the Appeals Chamber states Karadzic as “the absolute number one ruler of Republika Srpska in this period”, could have key knowledge about certain facts, and has ordered Krajsnik to submit a “summary of facts” Karadzic will address in his testimony by October 27, 2008.

Karadzic was arrested this July in Belgrade, after 13 years of hiding.
Police Outnumber Protesters at Karadzic Rally

Banja Luka _ Journalists and police outnumbered the few hundred protesters who gathered for a rally in support of wartime Bosnian Serb leader and war crimes suspect, Radovan Karadzic.

Some local media outlets decided not to cover the event, which took place in the main square in the centre of Banja Luka on Monday afternoon.

The event was organised by a hardline Bosnian Serb association called “The choice was ours” but was ignored by most local politicians. The Serb Democratic Party and a few other opposition parties used the meeting – which was taking place just six days before Bosnia’s local elections – to promote their parties and distribute party pamphlets.

Karadzic has been charged for war crimes and genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, After being in hiding for 13 years after the war, Karadzic was arrested in June in Belgrade, where he was living and working as an alternative healer. He is currently awaiting his trial in his cell at The Hague.
New Karadzic Indictment ‘Will Speed Trial’

Oslo _ The Hague tribunal’s top prosecutor tells BIRN’s Justice Report that the new indictment against wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is designed to streamline his trial.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC IN OSLO

Earlier this week, prosecutors at The Hague filed a new revised indictment against Karadzic and they are waiting for confirmation from the court.

The amended indictment charges Karadzic, in two separate counts for Genocide in 10 municipalities and Srebrenica, and additionally charges him for a joint criminal enterprise, which was not part of the previous indictment.

At the same time, instead of crimes in 41 municipalities, he is charged with crimes committed in 27 municipalities during the war, but the indictment now describes in detail the destruction of Sarajevo, certain detention centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as destruction of cultural and religious objects.

“It is now really up to the judges to decide if it is and when it will be accepted,” Serge Brammertz, the top prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia told BIRN’s Justice Report.

“I think it is a general wish to make sure that all our cases, in general, are on time and with completed according to the strategy we have devised. But it is important that justice is done and we are doing our best,” he added.

Referring to differences between the Karadzic indictment of 2000 and the last one filed on September 21, 2008, Brammertz said that in the new motion they wanted to clarify the indictment.

“We have taken into consideration newly-established facts and we have tried to somehow include the investigations about what happened over those four years (of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina) into this indictment. This will reduce the number of evidence needed to be submitted.”

Asked if the expects to see at The Hague wartime Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic, the second most wanted fugitive by the tribu-
nal, indicted for crimes, including genocide, Brammertz was cautious in his reply.

“You know we are cooperating in every possible way with our Serbian colleagues. And we hope that progress will be achieved soon. I have to say that after the last visit to Belgrade I am cautiously optimistic that other results can be achieved but, we are working on that.”

“The United Nations Security Council has given a deadline. It is normal that we, as professionals, are trying as much as possible to meet that deadline. But we are speaking about justice, about a process. We speak about a significant number of victims waiting for justice to be done. So, we will try to work as fast as we can, in respect with international standards,” said Brammertz.

Brammertz is a guest speaker at a conference in the Norwegian capital looking at the prioritising cases in the criminal justice system. Besides Brammertz, guests are also attending from the United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Indonesia and Cambodia among others.
Second Genocide Charge for Karadzic

Sarajevo _ The Hague prosecution has amended the indictment against wartime leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, by adding certain counts, and removing others.

The amended indictment charges Radovan Karadzic, in two separate counts, for Genocide in 10 municipalities and Srebrenica, and additionally charges him for a joint criminal enterprise, which was not part of the previous indictment.

At the same time, instead of crimes in 41 municipalities, he is charged with crimes committed in 27 municipalities during the war, but the indictment now describes in detail the destruction of Sarajevo, certain detention centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as destruction of cultural and religious objects.

The Hague prosecution sent the amended indictment to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on September 23.

The prosecution has left out the part of the indictment which charges Karadzic for complicity in Genocide, while the Genocide count was divided into two separate counts – one for Genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, and a separate count for Genocide committed in ten municipalities during 1992.

The indictment lists the municipalities of Bratunac, Brcko, Foca, Kljuc, Kotor Varos, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Visegrad, Vlasenica and Zvornik as places where Genocide took place. Karadzic is also charged with “spreading terror, unlawful attacks on civilians and murders” in Sarajevo committed during a “campaign of sniping and shelling.”

“From October 1991 until November 1995, Radovan Karadzic took part in an overarching joint criminal enterprise aimed at the permanent removal of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats from territories in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” states the indictment.

As participants of the joint criminal enterprise, the indictment lists, among others Slobodan Milosevic (died in a detention cell in the Hague), Ratko Mladic (still at large), Momcilo Mandic (handed a first instance verdict which acquitted him of charges for crimes in Sarajevo and Foca by the
BiH State Court), Vojsilav Seselj (currently on trial at the Hague) as well as “leaders of Bosnian Serbs, Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs units, Yugoslav peoples Army units, Republika Srpska military forces and the Bosnian Serb Territorial Defence”.

The first indictment against Radovan Karadzic, along with Mladic, was raised by prosecutor Richard Goldstone first in July and then in November 1995, and it contains 36 counts. After that, in April 2000, prosecutor Carla Del Ponte connected these two indictments into one, which has 11 counts, and separated the indictments of the military and civil leadership of the Bosnian Serbs.

After these changes in the indictment Radovan Karadzic has the right to reenter his plea.
Court Lifts Property Ban on Karadzic Family

Sarajevo _ Following the recent arrest of top Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect, Radovan Karadzic, his family will now be able to fully access or sell their assets.

On November 23, 2007, the Bosnian state court issued a temporary ban on Karadzic’s family preventing them from using their family house and an apartment, both located in the town of Pale, 18 kilometres east of Sarajevo.

Karadzic’s daughter, Sonja Karadzic-Jovicevic, told media over the weekend that her family has received a court decision by which this ban has been lifted.

This ban was a part of the coordinated effort by the Bosnian and international authorities in hampering the network of those who were believed to be supporting Karadzic and other war crimes suspects in hiding.

As part of the same effort, Bosnia’s top international envoy froze the bank accounts of 35 individuals, while governments of most European countries and the United States of America, banned those individuals from travelling into their countries.

Following Karadzic’s arrest, Bosnia’s Office of the High Representative eased its own sanctions against the Karadzic family, allowing them and other individuals who are believed to have helped war crimes fugitives evade justice, to open one bank account per person. These bank accounts will be closely monitored by Bosnian enforcement and financial agencies.

After Bosnian Serb wartime political leader Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade and delivered to The Hague War Crimes Tribunal, his military commander, Ratko Mladic, remains the only Bosnian war crimes suspect who is still wanted a full 13 years after the end of the war.
Family ‘Tried to Declare Karadzic Dead’

Sarajevo _ Just months before top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic was arrested, his family tried to declare him dead claiming they had not heard from him in years.

Karadzic’s daughter Sonja Karadzic-Jovicevic told media over the weekend that in June this year she has met deputy High Representative, United States’ diplomat Raffi Gregorian, in a hotel in Pale, to inform him that earlier in the spring the family had launched a legal procedure to have Karadzic “declared dead.”

“We didn’t know anything about him for years,” she said.

Gregorian said that in his country this would be considered a “forgery,” claiming that the entire family of Radovan Karadzic was deeply involved in his activities during and after the war.

During the war, Karadzic’s wife pushed for ethnic cleansing as president of the Republika Srpska Red Cross, while his daughter was a part of the propaganda machine as Karadzic’s spokeswoman and owner of a radio station, Gregorian told media over the weekend.

After the war, his entire family was a part of the ring which was helping Karadzic in hiding, Gregorian argued and added that the family’s attempt to declare Karadzic dead, was aimed at easing pressure and unfreezing considerable financial resources, which Karadzic and his family are believed to hold in different bank accounts.

Karadzic has been charged for genocide and war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and had been in hiding ever since 1996. He was arrested on July 21 in Serbia, where he was living disguised as Dragan Dabic, a doctor of alternative medicine. His family claimed they had no contact with him throughout most of this period. Karadzic is currently awaiting the beginning of his trial in his cell at The Hague.

Also over the weekend, new posters were plastered across Republika Srpska towns calling on Bosnian Serbs to gather at a rally in support of Radovan Karadzic. The protest is being organised by a hardline nationalist association and is planned for September 29 in Banja Luka, media reported.
Karadzic Set for Pretrial UN Court Hearing

Belgrade _ Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is returning to court for a hearing to continue preparations for his genocide and crimes against humanity trial at The Hague.

Scottish judge Iain Bonomy set aside two hours for the hearing at which prosecutors will explain steps they have taken to pave the way for Karadzic’s long-awaited trial.

Karadzic, 63, faces 11 counts, including genocide, for allegedly masterminding atrocities, including the massacre of more than 8,000 Bosniaks (also known as Bosnian Muslims) in Srebrenica in July 1995, and the siege of Sarajevo, when he was president of the breakaway Bosnian Serb republic.

Bonomy registered not guilty pleas to all charges after Karadzic twice refused to enter pleas.

Karadzic was arrested on a Belgrade bus in July after 13 years on the run. At the time, he was disguised with flowing white hair and a bushy beard and working as a new age healer under the assumed name of Dr. Dragan Dabic.

Since his arrest, Karadzic has had a haircut and shave and now looks like an older version of the politician whose firebrand nationalist rhetoric helped plunge Bosnia into its bloody 1992-1995 war.

Karadzic intends to defend himself with the help of a team of legal advisers. He will likely use Wednesday’s hearing to repeat his claim that he was promised immunity from prosecution in return for disappearing from the public eye in a 1996 deal with United States envoy Richard Holbrooke, a claim Holbrooke has repeatedly denied.

Prosecutors are expected to tell Bonomy at Wednesday’s hearing about their progress in updating the indictment against Karadzic.

The indictment is currently 25 pages long and was last updated more than eight years ago. Prosecutors are in the process of updating it to take into account new evidence uncovered or presented in trials since 2000.
Bonomy has urged prosecutors to complete their review as soon as possible.

At an August 29 hearing, prosecutors said they hoped to be ready by the end of September. “I sincerely hope you are not serious about that date,” Bonomy told prosecutor Alan Tieger.

The court is under pressure from the Security Council to complete its cases and close its doors by 2010. Karadzic’s capture and looming trial mean the tribunal is sure to miss that deadline.

Prosecutors have indicted 161 suspects on war crimes charges and convicted 57. Only two indicted suspects remain on the run, Karadzic’s former military chief, Ratko Mladic, and one-time leader of Serbs in Croatia, Goran Hadzic.
Nice: Local War Crime Trials May Aid Reconciliation

Sir Geoffrey Nice, lead prosecutor of Slobodan Milosevic, applauds Bosnia’s new war crimes court, compares the Milosevic and Karadzic cases and is mystified by the Florence Hartmann’s indictment.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC IN SARAJEVO

Q: Recently you visited Sarajevo and visited the State Prosecution. What is the significance of the war-crimes trials now taking place in the region?

A: Enormous. The ICTY [The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia] was never intended to try every offender who might properly face a court. The trial by courts within the region of war crimes cases was envisaged from the start. Only by carrying on with these trials in Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia will the rule of law be seen to operate and the maximum returns from trial processes, including the returns of reconciliation, be achieved.

David Schwendiman [the chief prosecutor for war crimes at the State Prosecution] explained his indictment policy for the Bosnian court and it seemed entirely sensible and more comprehensive in approach than may have been the policy in The Hague. It seems unfortunate if, as I have read, some groups were disappointed. Maybe they had unrealistic expectations of the ability of the ICTY to try more people when its funding always was going to be limited. I only hope the local courts are able to press ahead with their work for as long as possible.

Q: Compared with the Prosecution at The Hague, what makes the work of local prosecutors more difficult or easier?

A: This is probably better answered by the local prosecutors. However, more difficult: Access to all the material held by ICTY is not necessarily guaranteed, and provision of that material in a useable form may have been subject to unhelpful limitation by the ICTY; power to force cooperation by other states may be less than at the ICTY; “big name” witnesses may be less willing to go to local courts than to the more prestigious Hague tribunal.
Easier: Access to local witnesses who may find the process of giving evidence in Sarajevo less daunting than a trip to The Hague. Immediate access to the local culture and history through people to whom the prosecutors can speak whenever they need to. In The Hague, everything is more remote. When I was prosecuting Milosevic, one of the most valuable exercises was to travel to the region and spend time with people who could set events into a historical and cultural context for me. There is an unattractive presumption in staffing a court with foreigners who do not speak the language of the people they try or know of their culture, as with pretty well all the ICTY lawyers.

Q: Is the prosecution at The Hague prepared for the trial of Radovan Karadzic?

A: I cannot know, however the Prosecution’s request for a month more to consider amending the indictment might suggest they would like more time!

Q: How strong is the indictment?

A: There are recordings of things said by Karadzic in Assembly Sessions and elsewhere that would appear to have made his intentions very clear. We did not necessarily have such evidence against Milosevic.

Q: Were you still part of the prosecution, what would you have changed in the indictment?

A: I would need to know all the prevailing circumstances and to have knowledge of the evidence to answer this properly. But, as I have said elsewhere, it seems vital that the connection to and from Belgrade should be dealt with. In this way, any involvement of the Western powers in encouraging the taking of Srebrenica through the agency of Milosevic could be explored. That really should happen in this trial, as it may be the last time the topic can be covered in a court of law.

Q: Can The Hague prosecution demand an investigation into those who helped Karadzic hide all these years?

A: I’m not sure this would be truly relevant for the trial itself. It may become relevant for the issues that Karadzic may raise in connection with the deal he says he had with [Richard] Holbrooke and for whether any such deal, if proved, should have an effect on the trial. If the issue became relevant, the role of international officials might be looked at. Whether their actions could ever bring them before the court – for contempt in hiding a fugitive – would only ever be theoretical. There is no way this tribunal will pursue such officials.
Q: It’s been said that during this trial we may expect to hear a lot about some international officials. What do you expect?

A: I was surprised Milosevic did not raise these issues more. I wondered whether, as was his custom, he focused on what he knew was important, when he felt there was something in it for him but avoided topics... when he knew he had nothing to gain! Karadzic may be less cunning and try to mention the international community as much as he can in any number of settings.

Q: Is there any risk of political pressures in the trial of Karadzic?

A: There is always such a risk in trials at courts like the ICTY. The question is whether any pressure will succeed - that depends on to whom it is applied, and how.

Q: Do you expect to see Ratko Mladic soon in The Hague?

A: I have no better idea than any informed reader of the newspapers. All of us think it more likely than it was. But will he actually allow himself to be surrendered live to the Tribunal?

Q: To what extent can earlier trials be useful in the Karadzic case?

A: Rules allow for evidence and even verdicts in other cases to have evidential value in a current case. Whether that will happen depends on the success or otherwise of arguments by the parties. I would not expect Karadzic to consent to much from previous trials being admitted into evidence, and this issue is almost certainly going to be contentious.

Q: Can the indictments and trials of Milosevic and Karadzic be compared?

A: This is too big a question except to say that the Milosevic case involved the top politician’s alleged involvement in war crimes committed in three wars over eight years, whereas the Karadzic trial concerns only one war and some three years. Further, Karadzic’s alleged involvement was at a slightly lower level, which might make him vulnerable to more direct evidence than was readily available in the Milosevic case. For these reasons, it could be hoped that the Karadzic indictment may be seen as less complicated than the Milosevic indictment.

Q: How important is the role of the ICTY for the countries of the former Yugoslavia?

A: This is not a question for a foreigner to answer. THE ICTY, and the UN, set out wide objectives for the work of the ICTY, far wider than any normal national justice system would claim. I have doubts as to whether
the broadest of these ICTY claims – reconciliation; end to impunity, etc. – are being delivered. However, the introduction through the ICTY of some aspect of the rule of law to the region might promote the rule of law more generally.

Q: Can this trial restore what some see as the Tribunal’s tarnished image?

A: I hope it does. Judge [Iain] Bonomy is widely regarded as a very good trial judge, arguably the Tribunal’s best, and is known for his determination to make best use of available time. It will be for the OTP [Office of The Prosecutor] to present their case in a realistic, open way and efficient way and not to feel the need to hide anything under the carpet.

Q: Have you read the book by the Tribunal’s former chief prosecutor, Carla del Ponte?

A: No! I read a summary of some of the allegations about the body parts but did not feel the need to spend time reading the book.

Q: An indictment has now been issued against Del Ponte’s former spokes-person, Florence Hartmann. Might they do the same to you because of what you have said in public?

A: I think it very odd of the Tribunal to prosecute Hartmann however strong the case. It will focus attention, again, on the documents of the Supreme Defence Council that the Tribunal protected from public view and on the decision-making process by which this protection was initially given and maintained – a process by which the Tribunal may be embarrassed. Hartmann may land up being afforded the publicity she seeks and become some form of martyr for free speech, however inappropriately.

The Milosevic case is over and it is hard to see what damage Hartmann has done by what she published and harder still to see why the Tribunal waited so long after publication of Hartmann’s book before acting. Many might think the money spent on prosecuting Hartmann might have been better spent. It is also curious that the Tribunal has gone against Hartmann when Ms del Ponte has been free to cover the same or similar topics. But no, I do not think the Tribunal can do the same to me.
Representatives of victims in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina want the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic tried by the State Court in Sarajevo. But while legal experts admit this could bring a sense of “closure” to victims, they fear it could pose an unacceptable security risk for the country.

Many victims of the 1992–5 conflict in the former Yugoslav republic recalled feelings of bitter disappointment with the trial of the former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic, which was lengthy and failed to deliver a verdict, as he died four years into the trial.

“We would like it if he came to Sarajevo because he committed his crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” Ema Cekic, of the Vogosca branch of the Association of Families of Missing Persons, said. “However, we know our court can’t handle it and I pray to God that the Tribunal can. We have already seen how he behaves and how the court treats him.”

But analysts and legal experts warn that trying Karadzic before the State Court War Crimes Department in Sarajevo could cause problems. “Considering the fragility of the peace and political processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it would make more sense to have the trial in The Hague,” Andre de Hoogh, a Dutch professor of international law, told BIRN’s Justice Report.

Bosnian judicial officials have declined to assess their capacities concerning a possible Karadzic trial in Bosnia and Herzegovina. “The position of the BiH Prosecutor’s Office is that senior officials should be tried in The Hague,” spokesperson Boris Grubisic said.

“We do not want to discuss in detail an assessment of our capacities to try indictees such as Radovan Karadzic.”

On the other hand, last year, the then head of the State Prosecutor’s Office, Marinko Jurcevic, said his office would be willing, “if necessary”, to take
over the indictments against Karadzic and the former Bosnian Serb army chief, Ratko Mladic. State Court President Medzida Kreso said the same, though she now does not wish to comment publicly on the possibility of a trial in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Tribunal’s ‘Historic’ Mission:**

When the State Court’s War Crimes Department was founded in 2003, Theodor Meron, the then president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, said Karadzic and Mladic had to be tried in the Hague “if the Tribunal wants to carry out its historic mission in full”.

Five years on, now Karadzic has been arrested, the question of where he should be tried has become urgent. One factor fuelling speculation over the location is the slow pace of The Hague Tribunal. Six weeks since Karadzic’s arrest, there is still no final version of the indictment. The prosecution has announced it will not be ready until late September.

Another issue is the fact that the ICTY’s mandate will soon end. The UN Security Council’s so-called exit strategy is for the Tribunal to finish by the close of 2010. This suggests all trials must wind up in little more than two years.

Along with Karadzic, two suspects awaiting trial in The Hague are Stojan Zupljanin and Zdravko Tolimir. There are no indications as to whether or when Mladic and former Croatian Serb leader Goran Hadzic will come to Scheveningen. Even if the latter two were handed over now and their trials began this year, past practice suggests their trials might take years.

The Serbian Radical Party leader, Vojislav Seselj, surrendered in 2003, but his trial began last year; the prosecution is still presenting evidence. Another example is Zdravko Tolimir, arrested and transferred to The Hague in June 2007. His trial has yet to start. There have been five status conferences so far, but the starting date and plan of the trial have not been determined.

On the other hand, the longest trial before the State Court lasted little more than two years. This concerned a total of 11 people, accused of genocide in Srebrenica. The trial of Radovan Stankovic, the first indictee whom the Tribunal handed over to the local judiciary, lasted 11 months. In March 2007, Stankovic was sentenced to 20 years’ jail for crimes against humanity committed in Foca, eastern Bosnia, in 1992. However, two months later on 25 May, he escaped from prison and his whereabouts remain unknown.
Although he is the only such escapee, his flight from justice raises the issue of security in Bosnia’s prisons, which are overcrowded. Research has suggested that prison facilities operate on average at 120 per cent capacity.

Should Karadzic be tried in Sarajevo, the process ought not to last longer than three years, as time limits are stipulated in the country’s Criminal Procedure Code. According to this, the court must start the trial within 90 days of the accused entering a plea.

The ICTY Rulebook stipulates, however, that a status conference must only be scheduled within 120 days of the defendant’s first appearance before the court, and subsequently in intervals of no more than 120 days after the most recent status conference, “in order to organise consultations among parties and ensure expeditious preparation of the trial”.

Former Hague Tribunal Judge Frank Hepfl recently predicted that the Karadzic trial might last two years because there was a long list of witnesses seeking protection.

On August 29, when Karadzic appeared before the court for the second time, Judge Iain Bonomy said that the start of trial would be scheduled “in due course”.

Hague Tribunal spokesperson Nerma Jelacic said it was not possible to speculate on the duration of the Karadzic trial. The Tribunal would “do its best to have another trial that is expeditious and in line with highest international standards”, she told BIRN’s Justice Report.

But Jelacic also said that the Tribunal has asked the UN not to allow for it to be shut down until all cases are completed. “In his most recent address to the UN, on June 4, President Fausto Pocar sent a message that the Tribunal would not close its doors before the remaining fugitives were put on trial,” she noted.

“He urged the Security Council to make it clear that the international community would bring these indictees to court and that this did not depend on the proposed deadlines in the strategy to end the Tribunal’s mandate.”

**Security concerns versus ‘closure’ for victims:**

Former Hague Tribunal Prosecutor Geoffrey Nice strongly supports trying Karadzic in Sarajevo, mainly because it would make things easier for witnesses and victims. “They could listen to the evidence in their own language and see Karadzic face to face. Besides, it would be easier for the witnesses in the region to testify in Sarajevo than go to The Hague,” Nice said. A Sarajevo trial would also not be “burdened” with deadlines.
Former US Ambassador to UN John Bolton agrees, pointing out that this was the only way that “people are going to assume political and legal responsibility for the crimes committed in their name”.

But many international legal experts disagree. Although in principle they believe that trials should be held as close to the victims and crime scenes as possible, they say Karadzic should be tried in The Hague.

“Karadzic’s trial would probably pose big problems for the court, the most important being security. For the sake of security during trials, especially for the witnesses, it is more practical to have the trials in The Hague. This could also help ensure a fair trial,” Param-Preet Singh of Human Rights Watch told BIRN’s Justice Report.

Singh said security-related matters could affect the fairness of a trial if, for example, the court could not provide protection for witnesses.

Andre de Hoogh also thought a trial in Sarajevo would cause tensions to rise among the communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that it would be “more sensible” to try Karadzic in The Hague.

“Although a trial in Bosnia might provide a better sense of justice to the victims... I think a trial in Bosnia would open old wounds”, De Hoogh said.

On the other hand, both Singh and De Hoogh admitted there were arguments in favour of a trial in Sarajevo when talking about the victims and their need “to see justice”. “A trial in Bosnia would help the victims tackle their various doubts about what actually happened here, especially about what happened to their families and friends,” De Hoogh said.

Hatidza Mehmedovic, chair of the Srebrenica Mothers Association, cited reasons both for and against a trial in Sarajevo. “If they [The Hague] failed to try Milosevic, I hope they would manage to finish the Karadzic trial,” she said. “But it would be good if he were tried here. For me, this court is very important and has its strength, and its verdicts are stronger than those of the Hague Tribunal.”

The State Court recently found seven former Special Police members guilty of genocide in Srebrenica and sentenced them to between 38 and 42 years in prison. These are the highest sentences pronounced for crimes committed in this war, with the exception of the life sentence that the Hague Tribunal pronounced on Stanislav Galic for the siege of Sarajevo.

Svetlana Broz, director of the Sarajevo-based Gariwo NGO, fears victims will not get much satisfaction from a trial held either in The Hague or Sarajevo, though she ultimately supports a trial before the Tribunal.
“Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not mature enough for such a trial; it might be subjected to political manipulation and I also fear it would show how unprepared our judiciary is for such a venture,” she said. “But I am not sure even the ICTY will be able to finish this trial within a reasonable time frame and in an adequate fashion.”

Countries in the region are already trying suspects whom The Hague prosecution has charged before transferring the proceedings to the local judiciary. Since September 2005, Bosnia’s State Court has received six such cases, involving 10 defendants, pursuant to this rule. All but one have been completed or are in the final stage.

However, Jelacic dismissed speculation that the Karadzic trial will be the next to be repatriated in this fashion. “At this point there is no case to suspect that the judges are considering sending back a trial to Bosnia and Herzegovina or Serbia, because the referral bench currently has received no such requests,” she said.

Andre de Hoogh agreed. “Considering that Karadzic was indicted and sent to The Hague, the trial will be held before the ICTY; any wish or request to transfer him back to Bosnia will be ignored,” he concluded.

Merima Husejnovic and Erna Mackic are Justice Report journalists in Sarajevo. Justice Report and Balkan Insight are BIRN’s online publications.
Serbia to Probe Death at Karadzic Protest

Belgrade _ Serbia’s Interior Minister has ordered an investigation into events during a protest in July over the arrest of top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic which left dozens injured, and one person dead.

Ivica Dacic said he has formed a working group to investigate “all the circumstances that led to incidents in which a number of citizens and policemen were injured during the protest organised by (the ultranationalist) Serbian Radical Party,” SRS.

Dacic reiterated that his orders to police at the time were “not to use force unless attacked”.

The SRS deputies to the Serbian parliament continued to demand a probe into the death of one of their ranks, Ranko Panic, who, according to them, died days after the rally due to police beatings.

The Radicals also blamed local media for not reporting on “Panic’s death and funeral”, accusing them of being instructed by President Boris Tadic and his pro-European allies to ignore the event.
Judge Enters Not Guilty Plea for Karadzic

The Hague _ Former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic has refused to enter a plea to the counts of war crimes and genocide, leading the judge at The Hague to enter a not guilty plea on his behalf.

Radovan Karadzic refused to enter his plea during the course of his second appearance before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY. Therefore, judge Ian Bonomy recorded a plea of not guilty to all 11 counts in the indictment.

“This is a court of NATO, which made a decision to execute me,” Karadzic said, denying once again the Tribunal’s competencies. “I no longer claim to be somebody else and I expect others to follow my example”.

For the same reason Karadzic said he did not want the indictment to be read to him. “I waive my right to have the indictment read to me. I am not interested in listening to it. Not only because of the fact that I am awaiting a new one, but also because I have not yet formed a team of my associates. I believe I shall have completed this process by the time I receive the new indictment,” Karadzic said.

The Hague Tribunal charges Radovan Karadzic, under eleven counts, with genocide, abetting genocide, crimes against humanity, violation of laws and practices of warfare and other crimes.

Judge Bonomy advised Karadzic to accept the offer to have someone appointed as his legal representatives, as this would simplify the upcoming process. Besides that, he told him that he could file any eventual motions, including the one contravening the jurisdictions of the Tribunal, only after he had received the new indictment and its attachments.

Prosecutor Alan Tiger announced that he might file the new indictment with the Court for confirmation, “by the end of the next month, i.e. in the last week of September”. He explained that the Prosecution wanted to thoroughly review the available documents and consider eventual amendments.

“I am very surprised to hear that, considering how much time has passed since the first indictment was filed. I am surprised by the fact that you are
undertaking all the work only now, when we know how important this case is. I hope that the date you mentioned is not the date when you are going to file your request,” preliminary hearing judge Ian Bonomy said, warning the Prosecution.

The first indictment against Radovan Karadžić was filed in 1995. It was last changed in 2000.

Karadžić was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, after having been on the run for 13 years. His next appearance before the Court is due on September 17, when a status conference will be held in order to discuss the further course of the trial.

As indicated by judge Bonomy, the trial will be scheduled “in due course”.
Karadzic refused to enter a plea at his first hearing a month ago and instead challenged the court’s legitimacy, which he is likely to do again judging from his filings with the tribunal.

In his latest submission, Karadzic called the tribunal a “bastardised judicial system”, saying it was biased towards finding him guilty and repeating his allegation that the United States was seeking to eliminate him.

On Thursday, one of Karadzic’s legal advisors, Goran Petronijevic said the wartime Bosnian Serb leader would not enter a plea because he is still awaiting the amended charges against him.

However the revised charges against Karadzic, 63, are little different from those made in 2000 which include two of genocide over the 43-month siege of Sarajevo and the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Bosniak (also known as Bosnian Muslims) men and boys at Srebrenica. He is also charged with crimes against humanity.

Arrested in July in Belgrade with a beard and long hair that disguised him while he worked as an alternative healer, Karadzic appeared for his first pre-trial hearing shorn of the beard and dressed sombrely in a dark suit.

If Karadzic, who has decided to represent himself, does not enter a plea, a not guilty plea will be entered on his behalf, according to the rules of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Preparations for the trial, expected to start next year, will begin after Friday’s hearing.

Prosecutors are expected to update the court on whether they will amend his 11-count indictment.

Karadzic has demanded that former US peace mediator Richard Holbrooke and ex-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright appear at the tribunal.
At the first hearing after he was extradited to The Hague, he argued that under a secret deal forged more than a decade ago Holbrooke offered him immunity from prosecution if he disappeared after the war.

Karadzic says Holbrooke reneged on the deal and now wants him dead, a claim that the former diplomat has denied repeatedly before and after Karadzic’s arrest last month.

Legal experts have drawn parallels between Karadzic’s behaviour and that of late Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic after he was brought to The Hague in 2001 to face war crimes and genocide charges.

United Nations prosecutors and judges will seek a speedy trial to avoid lengthy proceeding like the Milosevic trial, which lasted four years and had nearly 300 witnesses before the former Yugoslav leader died in jail in 2006 before the trial could end.
Karadzic ‘Won’t Enter Plea at The Hague’

Belgrade _ Top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic will again refuse to enter a plea before The Hague Tribunal on Friday, his lawyer has said.

Goran Petronijevic, one of Karadzic’s legal advisors, said that the reason behind such a decision was that his client was waiting for amended charges against him.

“Our joint opinion is that there is no point to enter plea since the existing indictment is to be amended,” Petronijevic said.

But, he added, Karadzic would enter a plea on charges which he would be tried on.

The Hague Tribunal Prosecution’s spokeswoman Olga Kavran said that if Karadzic refused to enter a plea, the trial chamber would take this as his denial of all charges brought against him in 2000.

The 27-page charge sheet holds Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb wartime political leader, accountable for 11 war crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, the violation of laws and customs of war and a grave breach of the Geneva Convention, during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Kavran could not specify the date when the amended indictment would be ready.

It was said that it would not include new crimes but would only specify the ones he had been charged with and that it would first have to be accepted by the trial chamber.

Karadzic, who Serbian authorities arrested and extradited last month 13 years after he was initially indicted in 1995, refused to enter a plea during his first appearance before the tribunal.
28.08.2008

Karadzic ‘Not Entitled to Financial Aid’

Belgrade _ The head of Serbia’s Office for Cooperation with The Hague Tribunal says top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic is not entitled to any legal help from Serbia.

Dusan Ignjatovic said Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb wartime political leader, indicted twice for genocide, has not met any condition as stipulated by Serbia’s law which would guarantee him financial support.

“He (Karadzic) is not a Serbian citizen and has not surrendered voluntarily. In addition, his family has not addressed the National Council for cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague to seek any assistance,” Ignjatovic told Belgrade media.

He added that financial backing could only be offered “in some extreme cases, even when the law provisions were not met,” but only if it was proved that a suspect was financially unsecure.

On Wednesday, Serbia’s envoy to Netherlands, said Belgrade would assist Karadzic if he asked for this.

“I can ask him only if he needs any help from the government of Serbia on the preparation of documents, maybe some financial support,” Radoslav Stojanovic told the Reuters news agency in an interview.

Serbia arrested and extradited Karadzic to The Hague last month.
Karadzic Calls on Hague to Drop Proceedings

Belgrade _ Top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic has asked The Hague Tribunal to drop proceedings against him, local media reported quoting his request to the court.

Karadzic claimed his rights had been denied because the United States and NATO were threatening him with physical and "judicial elimination" therefore making his trial "impossible."

He added that he could not get a fair trial because he has been "systematically, persistently and universally demonized."

Karadzic said he could not deny that because he respected "the agreement with the US."

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, at The Hague, indicted Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb wartime political leader, of genocide and other war crimes troops under his command committed in the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Belgrade authorities arrested and extradited him to The Hague Tribunal in July.

"Besides what was stated in an earlier submission, there are media reports on (former) US President Bill Clinton’s proposal to (former) French President Jacques Chirac to eliminate me, and these claims have never been denied," Karadzic wrote.

He added that “moreover, once I am permitted to receive evidence unhindered from my legal advisers, I will submit irrefutable proof of the NATO alliance’s firm intentions... to eliminate me. The proof comes from people with great credibility before this Tribunal.”

Florence Hartmann, the spokeswoman for the former ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte, charged in a book that the US, Britain and France routinely sabotaged attempts to arrest Karadzic.

Claiming she spoke “based on authentic statements and documents,” Hartmann said Karadzic’s testimony could well prove embarrassing to Western powers and statesmen.
Belgrade _ Serbia will offer legal help to top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic’s defence before The Hague Tribunal, Belgrade’s envoy to the Netherlands has said.

Radoslav Stojanovic told the Reuters news agency in Belgrade that he would seek the tribunal’s permission to visit Karadzic at The Hague detention unit on September 7, adding he would ask Belgrade to provide all the documents necessary for the trial, if Karadzic thought the Serbian government could facilitate his defence.

“I can ask him only if he needs any help from the government of Serbia on the preparation of documents, maybe some financial support,” Stojanovic told Reuters in an interview.

“I do not want to see him, I do not want to talk to him, but if he wants to see me, I will see him,” he added.

Serbia arrested and extradited Karadzic, indicted twice for genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, last month.
Karadzic Daughter in ‘Dragan Dabic Request’

Sarajevo – The daughter of top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, has invited all people who knew her father while he lived under disguise, to send her their impressions and thoughts.

Karadzic has been charged for genocide and war crimes by the International Crimes Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, and was in hiding since 1996. He was arrested on July 21 in Serbia, where he was living disguised as Dragan Dabic, a doctor of alternative medicine. His family claimed they had no contact with him throughout most of this period. Karadzic is currently awaiting the beginning of his trial in his cell at The Hague.

“My wish is to get to know that part of my father’s life, his personal and professional experiences. He has met thousands of people and their experiences from contact with him, for me privately, are very important as they fill in the gap from that period,” Sonja Karadzic Jovicevic told local media on Tuesday.

She even gave the media an address, Dobrosava Jevdjevica street in Pale, and asked all people who knew Dragan Dabic to send her letters with their experiences and thoughts about her father.

“Names are not important to me, messages and letters can be coded, because there is nothing speculative or evil hiding behind my wish, because this is just a personal, human wish to get to know this part of his life,” Sonja Karadzic Jovicevic said.

She stressed that many people who knew Karadzic as Dragan Dabic – alternative healer and practitioner of bio-energy who occasionally appeared on television and wrote for magazines – has told media that he was very kind, open and funny.
Bosnian Serb PM in Karadzic Family Pledge

Sarajevo — The Premier of the Serb-dominated Bosnian entity has promised to restore the "citizens' rights" of the family of the top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic.

Milorad Dodik’s pledge, the Prime Minister of Republika Srpska, came after he met the former Bosnian Serb President’s family.

“They do not ask for anything spectacular, they simply ask to have rights like all other free citizens,” Dodik told media after the meeting which took place in eastern Sarajevo on Saturday.

Over the past few years, family and friends of Karadzic who were suspected of helping the wartime Bosnian Serb leader to evade justice were blacklisted from travelling to European Union countries and the United States of America, and their bank accounts frozen.

Karadzic has been charged for genocide and war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and had been in hiding since 1996.

After Karadzic was arrested on July 21 in Serbia, where he was hiding disguised as a doctor of alternative medicine, diplomatic sources said the European Union would soon lift its travel ban on Karadzic’s family so that his wife, daughter, son and four grandchildren, can visit him at The Hague, where he is awaiting trial.

However, Karadzic’s family complained that with their bank accounts frozen, they lack the funds to travel to The Hague.

Dodik said that his government will look into ways on how to help Karadzic’s family “in accordance with the law.”

Karadzic’s daughter, Sonja Karadzic Jovicic, told media that the entire family hopes that Dodik will help them to “restore their normal lives.”

In the past, the international community has rebuffed any suggestions of releasing Karadzic’s family financial assets. Bosnia’s top international envoy, Miroslav Lajcak, has pointed out that even with frozen bank accounts and without any official jobs, Karadzic's family was living normally throughout the past few years.
International diplomats and local media claim that Karadzic has siphoned millions of euros from Republika Srpska’s Central Bank in years immediately after the 1992-1995 war. He is also said to have stashed away a fortune from the time when he was believed to have controlled the smuggling of cigarettes, fuel, drugs and other merchandise.
New Judges Appointed in Karadzic Trial

Sarajevo _ The judges that will be presiding in the trial against top war crimes suspect and former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, have been named.

Judge Ian Bonomy will preside over the pre-trial.

The trial will be moved to Trial III of which judge Patrick Robinson is in charge. Judge Michale Picard will also sit in the presiding trial.

An official decision was taken on August 22 for the changes after Tribunal president Fausto Pocar decided to reassigned the case from Chamber I to Chamber III.

Judge Robinson, from Jamaica, is presiding in the chamber at the trial of ex-chief of security Jovica Stanisic and Franki Simatovic, although this is now taking a break due to Stanisic’s bad health. He is also presiding in the case of Milan and Sredoje Lukic, that is set to start soon. Both of them are indicted for crimes in Visegrad.

The same judge presided in the trial of Dragomir Milosevic, the ex-commander of the Sarajevo Romaniija Corps, who was sentenced to 33 years for the siege of Sarajevo.

Radovan Karadzic was arrested after 12 years of hiding in July 21 in Belgrade. The first time he appeared in the front of the Tribunal was ten days after his arrest when he refused to enter a plea. His next appearance will be on August 29.
Karadzic Ready to Support Wartime Ally

Belgrade _ Top Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic will testify at a trial of his former wartime ally, his lawyer says.

Svetozar Vujacic said Karadzic, who is pending trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, at The Hague, is ready to testify in the defence of Momcilo Krajisnik.

Krajisnik was the Bosnian Serb parliamentary speaker during Karadzic’s presidency of the Serb entity in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was sentenced to 27 years imprisonment in a first instance verdict in 2006 for crimes against humanity, including persecution, extermination, murder, deportation and forced resettlement of the non-Serbian population during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His defence presented its appeal to the verdict yesterday.

“Karadzic will accept to testify and he will tell the truth,” Vujacic told the Banjaluka Alternative Television station. He added that the two were co-founders of Republika Srpska and “what Karadzic has to say will undoubtedly back Krajisnik in the case against him”.

Vujacic added that “the announced amended indictment against Karadzic has not yet been delivered” to his defence team, and “there is no information on when that is going to be”.

Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade in July and extradited to The Hague Tribunal, after 13 year in hiding, to face trial for genocide and other grave war crimes.

Bosnian Serb wartime military commander Ratko Mladic is still at large and his arrest, along with the apprehension of the Croatian Serb wartime leader Goran Hadzic remains a key condition for Serbia’s European integrations.

Belgrade hopes for a positive report on its dealing with the war crimes on the eve of the visit by the ICTY’s Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz early next month.
Judge Fausto Pocar, president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, reassigned Karadzic case from trial chamber I to trial chamber III.

The order says that Karadzic case was assigned to trail chamber I because the prosecution announced the earlier possibility of a request to join the case of Momcilo Perisic with Karadzic’s. Peric is under trial chamber one. Since the prosecution advised the chamber that they will not seek to join the two cases, Pocar made a decision to reassign Karadzic to the new trial chamber.

Perisic was a chief commander for Army of Yugoslavia and is indicted, among other things, for helping in the preparation and realisation of the siege of Sarajevo from 1993 to 1995. Perisic’s trial should start on October 1 this year.

The reassignment decision came a few days after Karadzic’s appeal asking from the President to disqualify Judge Alphons Orie, from trial chamber I, from his case. Orie was a presiding judge in the pre-trial chamber.

Karadzic asked for his removal considering he has “a personal interest in his case.”

He mentioned that Orie was the judge in the case against Momcilo Krajinsnik which gave him a “draconian sentence of 27 years”.

Karadzic mentioned that Orie was a judge in the case against Milan Babic “that ended tragically”. Milan Babic committed a suicide in his cell in Scheweningen in 2006.

Judge Orie was also involved in the case of Stanislaw Galic who was sentenced to a life sentence for the siege of Sarajevo.

He was or he is part of the chambers in the cases of Darko Mrdja, Vojsilav Seselj, Ranko Cesis as well as the Foca and Ramush Haradinaj cases.
Karadzics’ ‘Struck from EU Blacklist Soon’

Sarajevo _ The family of top Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, will soon be removed from the EU ‘blacklist’ so they can visit him at The Hague Tribunal.

In recent years, Karadzic’s family and other people who were suspected of helping Karadzic to evade justice, were blacklisted from travelling to European Union countries and the United States of America. Their bank accounts were also frozen.

Karadzic was arrested on July 21 in Serbia, where he was hiding disguised as a doctor of alternative medicine. He has been charged for genocide and war crimes by the International Crimes Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, and was in hiding ever since 1996.

Yet local media in Bosnia and Serbia, quoting anonymous diplomatic sources in Brussels, reported on Wednesday that EU authorities have already launched a procedure to lift the travel ban on Karadzic’s family. This was done for “humanitarian reasons” to allow Karadzic’s wife, daughter, son and four grandchildren, to visit Karadzic at The Hague.

According to Belgrade daily Vecernje Novosti, this visit will take place in September, only after Karadzic finishes reading the indictment and enters a plea.

Meanwhile the premier of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity of Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik, told media that he will get in touch with Karadzic’s family by the end of the week, to ascertain whether and what kind of support his government can provide to the family during Karadzic’s trial.

Dodik stressed that this support is “in line with the law” which enables entity governments to provide guarantees and financial support to war crimes suspects and their families during the trial.
Karadzic Asks for Judge to be Disqualified

Sarajevo — Top war crimes suspect and former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic has filed a motion with The Hague Tribunal, requesting the disqualification of judge Alphons Orie due to “conflict of interests.”

Radovan Karadzic, who is charged before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, filed a motion requesting President Fausto Pocar to disqualify judge Alphons Orie from all trial proceedings due to “private interests,” which would bring into question the existence of “an impartial trial.”

“Any involvement of Alphonse Orie in my case would certainly result in numerous irregularities and a hindrance of the defence, because Mr. Orie has an interest in the outcome of this case,” Karadzic stated in his motion.

Karadzic considers that the fact that judge Orie was involved in previous cases, such as the case against Momcilo Krajsnik and Milan Babic, would motivate the judge to act in a partial and non-objective manner in order to have “his earlier verdicts sustained and somehow confirmed.”

Karadzic said that the verdict against Krajsnik, sentencing him to 28 years’ imprisonment, was “draconian”. He further claims that the case against Stanislav Galic was “conducted in a way that was unfavourable for the accused”. Galic was sentenced to life imprisonment for the siege of Sarajevo.

Finally, Karadzic stated that he had already become a victim of Orie’s partiality when he made his initial appearance before the Hague Tribunal. He said that, on that occasion, the judge prevented him from presenting “persuasive arguments concerning my physical safety and related to the interest among some circles in the United States and NATO to have me physically liquidated.”

Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, 2008. Ten days later he was transferred to The Hague.
“West Protected Karadzic”, Hartmann

Florence Hartmann, spokeswoman for former Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte, spoke following the arrest and extradition of the former Bosnian Serb leader, one of three war crimes fugitives wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

“There was plentiful information about the fugitives’ whereabouts, but it would always turn out that one of the three countries: the US, Britain or France, would block the arrests,” Hartmann told Blic newspaper in an interview.

She said Karadzic’s testimony could well prove embarrassing to Western powers and Western statesmen. Claiming she spoke “based on authentic statements and documents”, Hartmann added: “Sometimes arrest operations were halted by (former French President Jacques) Chirac personally, other times by (former US President Bill) Clinton.”

She added that the former Bosnian secret police chief, Momir Munibabic, was sacked on the orders of the British High Representative to Bosnia, Paddy Ashdown, “for being efficient in a search for Karadzic, and for sending information to Del Ponte”.

Hartmann also said that in the summer of 2005, two CIA agents asked the Bosnian police to end surveillance of Karadzic’s family, previously ordered by Del Ponte and The Hague Tribunal.

On his arrest, Karadzic said he had been in hiding following a deal reached with the US diplomat Richard Holbrooke, who brokered the 1995 Dayton peace agreement.

Holbrooke and other officials have denied any deal with Karadzic, indicted twice for genocide, alongside with his military chief General Ratko Mladic, who is still at large. The third fugitive the ICTY seeks from Serbia is the former Croatian Serb leader Goran Hadzic, sought over war crimes in Croatia.

Hartmann said that “unless Mladic is arrested in the coming weeks or by the end of the year at the latest, he will never face trial before The Hague tribunal”. 
Karadzic Calls for Holbrooke to Testify

Belgrade _ The former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has asked The Hague Tribunal to call former US diplomat Richard Holbrooke to testify at his trial.

The war-crimes indictee, who refused to enter a plea during his first appearance before the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, based in The Hague, also asked the Tribunal to call its former Chief Prosecutor, Richard Goldstone, as a witness.

Serbia arrested Karadzic and extradited him to the ICTY last month, 13 years after he was indicted for genocide together with his military commander, General Ratko Mladic, who is still at large.

Karadzic, who is defending himself before the Tribunal, maintains that his going into hiding formed part of a deal with Holbrooke, which included his withdrawal from public life in exchange for not being arrested.

Holbrooke, who brokered the 1995 Dayton agreement which ended Bosnian 1992-1995 war, has repeatedly denied any such deal, while Goldstone has denied that he was asked to withdraw Karadzic’s indictment.

“ Neither the American nor any other government ever asked me to withdraw charges against Karadzic,” Goldstone told the BBC, commenting on Karadzic’s claim.

Goldstone added he would be surprised if the Tribunal called him and Holbrooke to testify.

During the trial of Serbia’s late strongman, Slobodan Milosevic, the Tribunal refused to call Holbrooke and several other Western leaders whom Milosevic wanted to question as witnesses.
Hague Prosecution To Ignore Karadzic Letter

Sarajevo_ The Hague Tribunal Prosecution have said they will not officially react to a letter sent by Radovan Karadzic to the court last week, unless the Trial Chamber orders them to do so.

The Prosecution said they considered the letter had not been submitted according to the court rules and asked the pre-trial chamber to “consider issuing instructions” to the accused on how to submit motions in future.

“The correspondence is not a motion grounded on any of the rules... and would require the Prosecution to speculate about its procedural and factual basis, as well as the relief sought. Accordingly, the Prosecution will not be responding,” the Prosecution said.

Karadzic submitted the letter on July 31, following his first appearance in the front of the tribunal. In his letter, Karadzic wrote about alleged irregularities occurring before his arrest in Belgrade on July 21.

Karadzic also mentioned an alleged agreement he made with the former US special envoy for the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke, about his non-arrest if he were to stay out of Bosnia’s political and public life. He said he had been arrested three day before the officially announced date, adding that he was kidnapped and held in an unknown place without basic rights, before being taken into the custody of the Special Court in Belgrade.

Karadzic is indicted by the tribunal, ICTY, for genocide, compliance in genocide and crimes against humanity. In the letter his expressed concerns about the fairness and regularity of his future trial. He was arrested last month in Belgrade holding false documents under the name Dragan Dabic.

The ICTY is still looking for two other top Serbian suspects, the former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic and the former Croatian Serb leader Goran Hadzic.
Five Serbs Detained over Karadzic Protest

Belgrade _ Five people, who last week took part in violent protests following the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, have been detained for 30 days, a court official said.

Ana Milosevic, spokeswoman for the First Municipal Court in Belgrade, said an investigation was launched on Sunday against the five, suspected of participating in a criminal act occurring during the street protest. If convicted, they face from three months to five years behind bars.

Serbia’s Public Prosecutor’s Office said on Saturday that so far nine people had been detained for taking part in violence on July 29 during a protest called by the ultra-nationalist Serbian Radical Party and that the identification of others who attacked police in Belgrade was under way.

Last Tuesday, up to 16,000 people poured into the Serbian capital to protest over Karadzic’s arrest. Some 80 people were reported injured, including dozens of policemen who used tear gas to disperse the protesters.

Bosnia Probes Karadzic Support Network

Sarajevo_Bosnia’s State Prosecutor’s Office will continue to investigate the networks of Hague fugitive supporters, local media report.

“Those investigations are ongoing even after the arrest of Radovan Karadzic. I have to add that no indictment has been raised against people who are suspected as a part of this network,” Selma Hecimovic, spokeswoman for State Prosecution told to daily Dnevni Avaz.

According to the newspaper, the prosecution is currently investigating 44 persons, including the family members of Karadzic, who was arrested in Belgrade on July 21 and delivered to the Hague on July 30.

Radovan Karadzic, indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, appeared for the first time in the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, on Thursday. He refused to have a defense counselor saying that he would like to represent himself during trial.

The day after his appearance in the ICTY, most Bosnia media outlets carry reactions to what he said in the Hague. Many have commented that he used his first appearance for propaganda purposes, talking about irregularities over his arrest and alleged agreements to keep him out of reach from the Tribunal.

Mirsad Tokaca, president of the NGO Research and Documentation Center from Sarajevo, believes that Karadzic will try to obstruct the trial.

“He will try to use all possible tactical manipulations, but evidence the prosecution has against him is so strong that that tactic can only work against him,” Tokaca believes.

Still, he said, the trial against Karadzic will be long and complicated, but hopefully successful in the end.

Fadila Memisevic, director of the local branch of Society for Threatened Peoples, also believes that the trial. “In the name of thousands of his victims, I have to say that I believe in the end the verdict will be just. I expect justice to win this battle,” Memisevic said.
Haris Silajdžić, the Bosniak member of the Bosnian Presidency, said in an official statement that Karadžić in the courtroom appeared in his true role: “as a bitter war criminal who, this time, looks as humble as it is possible looking in the face of justice, and looking powerless before all those who are his and his institution’s victims”.

The Croat member of the Bosnian presidency, Zeljko Komsic wrote on his blog that he expects that Karadžić “as Milosevic will try to endlessly extend the trial”.

“I hope that the judges have learned their lesson with Milosevic and will not allow the same to Karadžić,” he wrote.
Karadzic Protests to The Hague

Sarajevo_The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, has made public a letter written by Radovan Karadzic that was presented to the court at his first appearance on July 31, 2008.

In the letter, written in Serbian, Karadzic questioned the regularity of the trial and talked about an alleged deal he struck with the then US Special Envoy to the Balkans Richard Holbrooke.

Click here to see the letter.

Karadzic wrote that many subsequent irregularities came that made him doubt the regularity of the trial.

In the first place he points to an “agreement” he allegedly made with Holbrooke in 1996.

“The offer was as follows: I must withdraw not only from public, but also from party offices and completely disappear from the public life, not give interviews and not even publish literary works, in a word, become invisible long enough for the Dayton agreement to be implemented in full,” he wrote.

He said that the “media witch hunt” began after he did not obey the rules of this agreement and gave an interview to a Greek journalist.

“In the name of the US, Holbrooke promised that the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, will not be prohibited from taking part in the elections and that no more of our officials would be removed from the electoral list,” wrote Karadzic.

He said Holbrooke promised that he will not be processed before ICTY.

“There is evidence of this in the media, which contain proof that there was an agreement, although there are no details regarding the tribunal,” he wrote.

The story about the alleged agreement broke out in the Bosnian media a couple of years ago. The claims have been backed by Karadzic’s former Foreign Affairs Minister Aleksa Buha and some Serbian media even published parts of alleged agreement on August 1, 2008.
US officials, as well as Holbrooke himself, have dismissed these claims.

In his letter, Karadzic also said that the former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright made a proposal to the former president of Republika Srpska Biljana Plavsic that he should leave the country and go to Russia, Greece or Serbia or “at least to Bijeljina, just as long as I left Pale”.

He claims that aside from the interview with the Greek journalist he fulfilled his side of the agreement.

“This agreement which should have brought me peace and freedom, thus became a source of great danger to my life,” wrote Karadzic, adding that this situation left him with two alternatives: “Either to hide myself away as a free man, or to find some way to appear safely before the Tribunal. I decided to appear before the tribunal.”

The former Bosnian Serb leader has refused to enter a plea at his first appearance at the United Nations war crimes tribunal at The Hague. He is charged with genocide, complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity, violation of laws and practices of warfare and a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.

Karadzic, 63, was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, thirteen years after the tribunal first indicted him over atrocities committed during Bosnia’s war in which 100,000 people died. He was extradited to The Hague early on Wednesday morning.

“The next irregularity occurred in Belgrade,” wrote Karadzic referring to his arrest. He claims that unknown civilians showed him a badge and took him out of a public transport vehicle and held him in unknown place for 74 hours, and only then was he transferred to the Special Court building in Belgrade.

He complained also to Chief Prosecutor in The Hague, and in his letter said that “it will all go very quickly”.

“Justice is slow but sure,” wrote Karadzic adding that he doubts he can expect a regular trial when “no one on earth believes in the possibility of an acquittal”.

This piece was compiled by BIRN’s Justice Report.
Karadzic Delays Plea to War Crimes Charges

The Hague _ Former Bosnian Serb leader has refused to enter a plea at his first appearance at the United Nations war crimes tribunal at The Hague.

He appeared in court shorn of the bushy beard and long hair he used to disguise his identity and evade capture for almost 13 years.

Dressed in a dark suit and tie and with headphones over his newly cut white hair, Karadzic spoke first to confirm his identity.

“You are Mr Radovan Karadzic?” asked the Dutch judge, Alphons Orie.

“Yes I am,” came his reply, delivered in Serbian.

Karadzic went on to say he would like a new indictment and that he had waived his right to legal representation. Karadzic will defend himself although he said he had what he called an invisible adviser.

He was given 30 days to decide on a plea. The next hearing is scheduled for August 29.

The Prosecution confirmed that they are reviewing indictment and that they will inform the Chamber soon about possible changes.

The Prosecution was represented with The Hague tribunal’s chief prosecutor Serge Bremmertz and prosecutor Alan Tiger.

Asked about his most recent address, Karadzic said that his official place of residence was his family house in Pale, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“If you ask about my unofficial address, it is in Belgrade, Jurija Gagarina street 267,” he went on to say.

He said that he consider himself as a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, (Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity of) Republika Srpska, Serbia and Montenegro.

“I have had a chance to speak with a Serbian ambassador at the airport upon arrival, and to greet the Bosnian ambassador. Nobody from Montenegro was there as I am aware,” said Karadzic.
Karadzic tried to argue his arrest was not legal and that the court had false information about the circumstances of his arrest but was interrupted by the judge who told him he can file a complaint in a written form to the registry.

"I was kidnapped by a group of civilians and kept for three days in a place but I do not know where that was. After that, I was transferred to the custody in Belgrade court and there I was treated in a just manner," said Karadzic.

He also tried to detail an alleged agreement he had made with Richard Holbrooke, a former United States envoy for the Balkans, but was interrupted by the judge.

Karadzic said he met Holbrooke in 1996 agreeing to disappear from public life.

"We agreed that if I show certain gestures, he will fulfill his duties," claimed Karadzic.

News of this alleged ‘agreement’ between Holbrooke and Karadzic emerged in the Bosnian media in 2000 but has since been denied by US politicians and Holbrooke himself.

Judge Alfons Orie told Karadzic that in order for the court to consider his statement, he has to give it in written form with accompanied documents.

Karadzic said that without his agreement he had an intention to come to this court even earlier, “in 1996, 1997 or 1998.”

"The hunt for me was the hunt for my life,” said Karadzic adding that even today he is preoccupied with security concerns.

Judge Orie again interrupted Karadzic, asking him to submit a written motion that the court will consider.

Asked if he has any kind of complaints on the conditions in the detention unit, Karadzic replied that he can not complain.

"I can not complain since I have been even in worse places than this one. Everything is ok,” he said, also adding his health is “perfect.”

The first indictments against Karadzic, containing 36 counts, were filed by Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone in July and November 1995. Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte merged the two indictments into a single indictment, containing 11 counts, in 2000.
Karadžić is charged with genocide, complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity, violation of laws and practices of warfare and a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.

He is charged also with having “planned, abetted, ordered, committed and supported the destruction of national, ethnic, racial or religious groups of Bosniaks (also known as Bosnian Muslims) and Croats.”

Karadžić, 63, was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, thirteen years after the tribunal first indicted him over atrocities committed during Bosnia’s war in which 100,000 people died. He was extradited to The Hague early on Wednesday morning.

He arrived in a convoy of vehicles at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia just before 1600 CEST (1400 GMT).
31.07.2008

Karadzic Appears at UN War Crimes Tribunal

The Hague _ Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has appeared at United Nations war crimes tribunal at The Hague to be formally charged.

He appeared in court shorn of the bushy beard and long hair he used to disguise his identity and evade capture for almost 13 years.

Dressed in a dark suit and tie and with headphones over his newly cut white hair, Karadzic spoke first to confirm his identity.

“You are Mr Radovan Karadzic?” asked the Dutch judge, Alphons Orie.

“Yes I am,” came his reply, delivered in Serbian.

Karadzic confirmed he could follow the English-language proceedings properly via translation delivered through the headphones and that he had waived his right to legal representation. Karadzic will defend himself although he said he had what he called an invisible adviser.

Karadzic has been indicted on 11 counts of war crimes in connection with the 1992–1995 Bosnian war but the exact charges will only be revealed in court.

Once charged, he will have 30 days to enter a plea but he is under no obligation to do so.

Karadzic’s lawyer, Svetozar Vujacic, earlier said his client will postpone entering a formal plea for 30 days, the maximum allowed under court rules.

Karadzic, 63, was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, thirteen years after the tribunal first indicted him over atrocities committed during Bosnia’s war in which 100,000 people died. He was extradited to The Hague early on Wednesday morning.

He arrived in a convoy of vehicles at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia just before 1600 CEST (1400 GMT).

In the dock of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for the first time, Karadzic will also be given an opportunity to address the judge on such issues as his detention conditions and arrest.

More details to follow.
I never met Karadzic but know him so well.

I never met Radovan Karadzic and I don’t regret it.

BY NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC IN SARAJEVO

However, I do think my sufferings from 1992 to date have made me know more about him than I actually want to know. For sure, I know more about him than all those people who are now describing how and when they met him, what his handshake was like, what impression he made on them and what he told them.

When I heard the news of his arrest, I happened to be with people who were with me during the course of the war. We lived through so many things together, sleeping in a basement like sardines (five of us lying on two joined beds to keep ourselves warm), running away when the shooting started, sensing an enormous amount of fear, from the wounding, the killing of our friends and so on. It sounds as if though we were a hundred years old, but this is far from the truth.

We were teenagers when we first went to the basement and spent the following 24 hours in there.

This happened on May 2, 1992. When we finally came out of the basement, once the bombardment had stopped, we saw images that you rarely see even in movies. The windows were all broken, flats were demolished and cars were on fire.

Almost all pieces of furniture from Nedim’s, one of my neighbors, apartment were lying on the lawn in front of our building, as a grenade had hit his apartment, destroying everything. Among those things lying on the lawn was a big piano.

After this day, we spent an indefinite number of days and nights in that basement. It became nice, being down there and, what was most important, we felt safe.

On that day, May 2, I felt I met Radovan Karadzic. I saw his real face and got to know him better than all these people who are saying they met him during the war. Whatever happened after that day, including my own wounding (I shall tell this story when Ratko Mladic is arrested), was much worse than what happened to me on that first day.
When I heard the news about Karadzic’s apprehension I started crying. Then the wound on my leg started to ache severely. I don’t know whether it was my subconscious or the change in the weather that caused the pain to appear, but even now as I write this, I still feel that dull pain.

Since the day of his arrest, I have started dreaming about the war, too. I can hear the grenades and the shooting again and I have this strange feeling when I go out in the streets.

Had he been arrested 13 years ago, I might have become a totally different person. Had they prevented him from doing the things he did, maybe I would not have become a journalist, specialized in war crimes.

I would not have known what a multiple launcher rocket system was and my leg would not hurt me now because of the rain or sunshine.

This is why I am indifferent to all those tales of a grey old man involved in alternative medicine, his lover, the pancake shop in which he ate, or his drinking and sleeping habits. Instead, at this moment, more than ever, I wish to see the international court and prosecution in action.

I believe that justice exists. I am positive about that. And I want to see it, not only because of what I had lived through, but because of all of us, whose wartime stories I have been conveying. I want this to happen because of all those who did nothing to stop him.

I hope I shall be able to hear, during the trial, about the reasons of the war and why my best friends are those who I met in the war and not in peace. I hope that his arrest means the war is coming to its end and that peace may even come as well.
Karadzic to Appear at UN War Crimes Tribunal

The Hague – Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is to make his first appearance before the UN war crimes tribunal on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

His appearance is scheduled for 1600 CEST (1400 GMT).

Judge Alphons Orie will officially inform Karadzic of the 11 counts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity on the indictment, and give him an opportunity to plead.

Karadzic’s lawyer, Svetozar Vujacic, has said his client will postpone entering a formal plea for 30 days, the maximum allowed under court rules.

In the dock of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, for the first time, Karadzic will also be given an opportunity to address the judge on such issues as his detention conditions and arrest.

Karadzic, 63, was arrested in Belgrade on July 21, thirteen years after the tribunal first indicted him over atrocities committed during Bosnia’s 1992-1995 war in which 100,000 people died.

Since his arrest in the Serbian capital he has been shorn of the flowing beard and the long hair that helped disguise him as an alternative healer in the years following the war. He was flown to the Netherlands on Wednesday morning.

The behaviour of Karadzic, a flamboyant figure when Serb leader, will also offer an indication as to how he will conduct himself during his eventual trial and whether judges can expect a repeat of the forceful display by former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in the same court room.

The man accused of involvement in an “ethnic cleansing” campaign against Bosniaks and Croats has indicated his intention to conduct his own defence.

Karadzic is accused of orchestrating the 1995 massacre of up to 8,000 Bosniaks (also known as Bosnian Muslims) in Srebrenica, the deadly 44-month siege of Sarajevo and brutal ethnic-cleansing campaigns.
He faces life imprisonment if found guilty.

Speaking to reporters, prosecutor Serge Brammertz conceded the case would not be easy but said his team would draw on evidence already presented in other cases since Karadzic’s original 1995 indictment. They are expected to update the indictment before the trial begins.

“We will ensure that it reflects the current case law, facts already established by the court and evidence collected over the past eight years,” he said.

It will take months for both sides to prepare for the trial, he said.

Milosevic’s tortuous trial demonstrated how tricky it is to prove a political leader masterminded the crimes as part of a genocidal plot to carve out an ethnically pure Serb mini-state in Bosnia.

The late Serb strongman, however, may have helped prosecutors by blaming Karadzic for Bosnian atrocities. Milosevic had argued that as leader of Serbia, he was not in control of Karadzic and his Bosnian Serb forces who killed tens of thousands of Bosniaks and Croats in the 1992-1995 Bosnian war.

Milosevic, a one-time mentor to Karadzic, died in his cell in March 2006, bringing his four-year trial to an inconclusive end.
Hague Appoints Judges for Karadzic Trial

Sarajevo — The Hague Tribunal has appointed the Trial Chamber in the case of top war crimes suspect and former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

As per an announcement issued by the Hague Tribunal, the Trial Chamber in the case of Radovan Karadzic will be composed of presiding judge Alphons Orie, judge Christine Van den Wyngaert and judge Bakone Justice Moloto.

Karadzic, who is charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, with having committed genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the course of the 1992-1995 war, was apprehended in Belgrade on July 21.

The wartime President of Republika Srpska was transferred to the Detention Unit in Scheveningen in the morning hours on July 30. His initial appearance before the Court is due on July 31.

As announced by the Tribunal, Karadzic is due to enter his plea before judge Alphons Orie.

Orie was a judge at the trial of Stanislav Galic, who was sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment for the siege of Sarajevo. The Appellate Chamber revised the verdict, sentencing him to lifetime imprisonment.

Orie was also a presiding judge at the trials of Ranko Cesic and Darko Mrdja. After having admitted guilt, Cesic was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for crimes in Brcko, while Mrdja was sentenced to 17 years, after admitting guilt for crimes on mount Vlasic.

The Trial Chamber, sitting in the case of Radovan Karadzic, announced the verdict against Dragan Zelenovic, sentencing him to 15 years’ imprisonment, after he had admitted guilt for crimes in Foca.

Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz, who addressed the public after Karadzic’s extradition to the Tribunal, said that he could not specify when the trial would commence and how long it might last.
Travel Documents Returned to Karadzic Family

Sarajevo - The High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina has allowed the return of documents to Radovan Karadzic’s family.

Just hours after Radovan Karadzic was transferred to International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia custody, Miroslav Lajcak, High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, OHR, decided to return documents to his family.

Following “consultations with relevant international and domestic partners and institutions” Lajcak repealed his orders from January 9, this year, to seize documents from Ljiljana Zelen Karadzic, wife, son Sasa, daughter Sonja and son-in-law Branislav Jovicevic considering them a part of a network that allowed Radovan Karadzic to remain at large. They will have their identification and travel documents returned.

“The High Representative has concluded that the reasons for the seizure of the travel documents of the above mentioned four individuals no longer apply. This decision shall have immediate effect. This decision made by the High Representative today does not prejudice any ongoing or future investigation against these four individuals, or the right of the High Representative to take any future action against any individual should they again obstruct, or threaten to obstruct the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace,” states the official announcement from the OHR.

The same decision says that “restrictions against other persons remain in effect.”

OHR seized documents from 59 persons together with the Karadzic family. All of them are suspected of being connected to the network of supporters that allows Hague fugitives to stay at large. The State prosecution in Bosnia is currently checking 100 people suspected of being linked to this network.

Radovan Karadzic was transferred to the Hague in the early hours of July 30 after he was arrested in Belgrade on July 21.
After his arrest, and during the nine days he spent in detention in Belgrade, his family sent a request to the OHR to have back their documents in order to be able to visit him. Their request was supported by Milorad Dodik, the Prime Minister of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity, Republika Srpska.

Sonja Jovicic Karadzic told media that was the only chance for the family to see Radovan, since they cannot “afford” to go the Hague.

The European Union issued in 2003 a so-called “black list” of 44 people who are forbidden to enter any member countries. All the people from the list are considered to be part of the network that help Hague fugitives. On the list are the names of the whole Karadzic family.
Hague Prosecutor Hails Karadzic Transfer

“Serbia deserves all recommendations for the arrest and extradition of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. That event is the main proof of Belgrade’s cooperation with the ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia),” Brammertz told a press conference hours after Karadzic arrived at The Hague’s detention unit.

Brammertz said he would visit Belgrade “soon,” hoping that meetings with high-ranking Belgrade officials would open the way for the arrest of the two remaining war crimes fugitives, former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic and ex-president of the breakaway Serbian republic in Croatia, Goran Hadzic.

“Radovan Karadzic has arrived to The Hague detention, following 13 years in hiding...This event is extremely important for victims and international justice,” Brammertz said.

However, the chief prosecutor refused to speculate how long would the trial last, saying simply that prosecution faces a complex task to back the indictment which includes genocide, ethnic cleansing of non-Serbs, the massacre of up to 8,000 Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) men and boys in Srebrenica, the three year-long siege of Sarajevo and kidnapping of international peacekeepers.

Karadzic was extradited by Serbian authorities to The Hague early on Wednesday and will appear before the United Nations court on Thursday.

His extradition came just hours after a rally against Karadzic’s arrest descended into riots in the Serbian capital.
Karadzic to Appear at Tribunal on Thursday

The Hague _ The initial appearance of Radovan Karadzic before The Hague war crimes tribunal has been scheduled to take place on Thursday at 1600 CEST (1400 GMT).

The former Bosnian Serb leader will appear in Courtroom I before Judge Alphons Orie.

This will be the first time Karadzic will be seen before the world’s cameras since his arrest last week.

Serbian authorities extradited Karadzic to The Hague war crimes tribunal in a pre-dawn operation on Wednesday.

The Serbian government issued a statement on Wednesday saying that the Justice Ministry allowed Karadzic’s handover to the Netherlands-based court, just hours after a small group of hardliners rioted in downtown Belgrade against his arrest. Up to 80 people were injured.

Karadzic was flown to Rotterdam in a Serbian government jet, from where he was transferred by helicopter to the United Nations war crimes tribunal’s detention centre at The Hague.

The former Bosnian Serb leader spent some 13 years in hiding before the Serbian intelligence agency picked him up in Belgrade, where he was hiding as health guru Dragan Dabic, with a long beard and a humble appearance.

Karadzic is accused of the 1995 genocide of up to 8,000 Bosniak (also known as Bosnian Muslim) men and boys in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica and the three year-long siege of Sarajevo, which resulted with 11,000 deaths.

Under normal procedure, Karadzic will be read his rights, fingerprinted and photographed, and then undergo a medical examination.

He will be asked to enter a plea to each of the 11 charges he faces, including genocide and conspiracy to commit genocide.
He may postpone his plea by up to 30 days.

The 63-year-old had attempted to challenge the legality of his transfer.

An appeal, sent by post on Friday, had still not been received by the Serbian court on Tuesday, prompting Serbia’s Justice Minister to issue the final extradition order.
80 People Injured in Pro-Karadzic Riots

Belgrade _ Up to 80 people were treated for injuries in Belgrade hospitals following Tuesday’s protest against the arrest of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Various Belgrade hospitals were treating 51 police officers while 23 members of the civilians were also being seen to after sustaining injuries.

Reporters from Spanish television and Belgrade private news agency Beta, were among those hurt, hospitals said Wednesday.

The riots started as a group of protesters, identified as “football hooligans,” attacked police during a rally organised by right-wing Radical Party, triggering clashes which lasted for more than an hour.

“We are gathering information, we are identifying the rioters,” Serbia’s top prosecutor Slobodan Radovanovic said, adding that “arrests will follow.”

Serbian police fired tear gas at the stone-hurling and flare-throwing protesters, as some 16,000 people gathered in Belgrade’s main square Tuesday.

The protest was backed by the Democratic Party of Serbia – the party of former Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica as well as hardline nationalist movements including Obraz and Movement 1389.

Aleksandar Vucic, a Radical Party leader called for Tadic’s government to be overthrown. “Thank you for showing that Serbia is not dead, although it is being killed by Boris Tadic,” Vucic told the crowd. “Thieves and bandits are ruling Serbia.”

“We will fight for Serbia and Serbia will be free,” he added, to thunderous applause and chants of “Uprising, Uprising!”

Pro-European President Boris Tadic of Serbia warned the demonstrators to remain peaceful.

“Everyone has the right to demonstrate, but they should know that law and order will be respected,” Tadic said Tuesday.

Just hours later in a pre-dawn operation, Radovan Karadzic was transferred by Serbian authorities to the United Nations war crimes tribunal at The Hague.
Karadzic Extradited to The Hague Tribunal

Belgrade _ Serbian authorities have extradited former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to The Hague war crimes tribunal in a pre-dawn operation on Wednesday.

The Serbian government issued a statement on Wednesday saying that the Justice Ministry allowed Karadzic’s handover to the Netherlands-based court, just hours after a small group of hardliners rioted in downtown Belgrade against his arrest.

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The UN Tribunal confirmed his extradition, saying that the former Bosnian Serb leader will be summoned before a judge within the next 48 hours.

Under normal procedure, he would be read his rights, fingerprinted and photographed, and then undergo a medical examination.

He will be asked to enter a plea to each of the 11 charges he faces, including genocide and conspiracy to commit genocide.

He may postpone his plea by up to 30 days.

The 63-year-old had attempted to challenge the legality of his transfer.

An appeal, sent by post on Friday, had still not been received by the Serbian court on Tuesday, prompting Serbia’s Justice Minister to issue the final extradition order.

Nevertheless such a strategy delayed Karadzic’s extradition by two days, the top war crimes suspect’s lawyer, Svetozar Vujacic said Wednesday.
16 Hurt as Clashes Erupt at Karadzic Rally

Belgrade  16 people have been injured as Serbian riot police were firing tear gas and rubber bullets at the sidelines of a huge rally protesting the arrest of top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic in the capital.

The injured were nine police officers and seven demonstrators according to reports. Ambulances could be seen at the site.

Police are firing tear gas and rubber bullets at the stone-hurling and flare-throwing protesters. The protesters are smashing shop windows.

Up to 16,000 people are believed to have turned out for the rally and thousands of riot police were deployed in Belgrade as busloads of protesters poured into the capital.

The protest, being organised by the nationalist Radical Party, is also being backed by the Democratic Party of Serbia - the party of former Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica as well as hardline nationalist movements including Obraz and Movement 1389.

Aleksandar Vucic, a Radical Party leader called for Tadic’s government to be overthrown.

“Thank you for showing that Serbia is not dead, although it is being killed by Boris Tadic,” Vucic told the crowd. “Thieves and bandits are ruling Serbia.”

“We will fight for Serbia and Serbia will be free,” he added, to thunderous applause and chants of “Uprising, Uprising!”

Luka Karadzic told the crowd his brother should be tried in Serbia, and not at the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

“It is still not too late to prevent Karadzic’s extradition to The Hague,” he said.

A stage was set up in Republic Square emblazoned with the words ‘Freedom of Serbia’ and several party officials addressed crowds over what they see is the repression being led by the new government.
Pro-European President Boris Tadic of Serbia warned the demonstrators to remain peaceful.

“Everyone has the right to demonstrate, but they should know that law and order will be respected,” Tadic said Tuesday.

In February, the last time Serbian nationalists held a mass rally against Western countries, the US Embassy was partly burned and protesters looted and smashed shops and McDonald’s restaurants in Belgrade. Those protesters were angry that the United States had recognised Kosovo, formerly a Serbian province, as an independent country.

In many ways, the protest backing Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, is a test case for Tadic’s government, which is much more pro-Western than the one that controlled Serbia during the US Embassy attack.

Karadzic faces 11 charges at the war crimes tribunal, including genocide and conspiracy to commit genocide. He is accused of masterminding the 1995 slaughter of up to 8,000 Bosniak (also known as Bosnian Muslim) men and boys in Srebrenica and the more than three-year siege of Sarajevo, which left 10,000 people dead.

Karadzic is awaiting extradition the tribunal at The Hague although his lawyer claims he has sent an appeal by registered mail before a Friday evening deadline. But the postal service said it did not have it.

Under Serbian law, if the appeal is not filed, or if it is sent by mail but does not arrive, the court’s investigative judge can rule to extradite Karadzic to The Hague tribunal in the Netherlands without considering Karadzic’s objection.
Tear Gas Fired at Huge Karadzic Rally

Belgrade _ Serbian riot police were firing tear gas to clear thousands of nationalists who are protesting the arrest of top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic in the capital.

A Balkan Insight reporter said there were chaotic scenes at Belgrade’s downtown Republic Square as police tried to clear the area.

Protesters also threw flares at the riot police. Three ambulances could be seen rushing injured police officers away from the scene.

Up to 16,000 people are believed to have turned out for the rally and thousands of riot police were deployed in Belgrade as busloads of protesters poured into the capital.

The protest, being organised by the nationalist Radical Party, is also being backed by the Democratic Party of Serbia – the party of former Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica as well as hardline nationalist movements including Obraz and Movement 1389.

They denounced Serbia’s new pro-European government as traitors for pushing ahead with Karadzic’s extradition to the United Nations war crimes tribunal at The Hague.

A stage was set up in Republic Square emblazoned with the words ‘Freedom of Serbia’ and several party officials addressed crowds over what they see is the repression being led by the new government.

Protesters were set to march around the downtown area following a route that will take them to the buildings of major media houses, in a rally against an alleged ‘witch-hunt’ by the media on ‘free thought.’

It is not clear whether the protesters will march down Kneza Milosa Street, where the United States Embassy is located.

In February, the last time Serbian nationalists held a mass rally against Western countries, the US Embassy was partly burned and protesters looted and smashed shops and McDonald’s restaurants in Belgrade. Those protesters were angry that the United States had recognised Kosovo, formerly a Serbian province, as an independent country.
The US Embassy has already advised US citizens to avoid central Belgrade on Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile pro-European President Boris Tadic of Serbia warned the demonstrators to remain peaceful.

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Huge Karadzic Rally in Serbian Capital

Belgrade — Thousands of Serb nationalists have poured into the Serbian capital to protest the arrest of top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic.

Up to 16,000 people are believed to have turned out for the rally and thousands of riot police were deployed in Belgrade as busloads of protesters poured into the capital.

The protest, being organised by the nationalist Radical Party, is also being backed by the Democratic Party of Serbia — the party of former Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica as well as hardline nationalist movements including Obraz and Movement 1389.

They will denounce Serbia’s new pro-European government as traitors for pushing ahead with Karadzic’s extradition to the United Nations war crimes tribunal at The Hague.

A stage has been set up at Belgrade’s Republic Square emblazoned with the words ‘Freedom of Serbia’ and several party officials are addressing crowds over what they see is the repression being led by the new government.

Protesters will then go on a march around the downtown area following a route that will take them to the buildings of major media houses, in a rally against an alleged ‘witch-hunt’ by the media on ‘free thought.’

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Serb Police on Alert for Karadzic Rally

Belgrade _ Serbian hardliners plan to hold a massive rally in Belgrade protesting against the arrest and imminent extradition of former wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

“The protest is against the treacherous and dictatorial regime,” secretary-general of the Serbian Radical Party Aleksandar Vucic told a press conference ahead of a rally.

Demonstrations against last Monday’s arrest have been held in Belgrade for a straight week but the main force behind the protest, the nationalist Radical Party hope that the supporters of the former president of Republika Srpska will gather in their masses on Tuesday, showing both the party’s strength and opposition to Karadzic’s extradition.

Week-long protests have already stirred controversy, as all major media outlets in Serbia refused to report on the Radical Party on Sunday and Monday, following a brutal attack on a cameraman from Belgrade’s private B92 television network.

Buses from all over Serbia and Republika Srpska have been arriving in Belgrade as early as Monday night, with the Radicals backed in this protest by former conservative premier Vojislav Kostunica’s Democratic Party of Serbia.

Both parties are still seriously shaken after the power-sharing deal between pro-European President Boris Tadic and the nationalist parties’ former key ally, the Socialists.

Serbian police are on alert especially since the last massive protest in Belgrade against Kosovo’s unilateral declaration of independence in mid-February, turned violent and led to massive destruction of property and the death of a protester. In addition, the United states Embassy was attacked.

Karadzic, along with former Bosnian Serb military commander, General Ratko Mladic, is accused of genocide against Bosniaks (also known as Bosnian Muslims) in Bosnia, including the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 peo-
ple in Srebrenica and the three year-long siege of Sarajevo, which caused some 11,000 deaths.

Serbian officials said Karadzic had been arrested on July 21 in Belgrade, where he lived under a false identity of Dragan Dabic, an alternative medicine guru.

Karadzic’s brother, Luka and defence team, however, blamed the government for kidnapping the former Bosnian Serb leader in a bus three days before.
Karadzic Operation ‘Netted War Documents’

Belgrade — The operation that ended with the arrest of top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic also netted key wartime documents, a top Serbian security official says.

These include documents from the wartime Bosnian Serb republic’s General Staff, personal file and photographs which belong to the former Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic, Serbia’s Interior Minister, Ivica Dacic said on Monday.

“All those belongings were temporarily confiscated,” Dacic said at the session of the Serbian parliament’s committee for security.

In addition, Serbian police is set to launch an investigation into the circumstances which allowed Karadzic to have an identification card with the name of Dragan Dabic.

“Some facts from papers found in Karadzic’s apartment lead to the conclusion that his identification was a forgery.”

There are total of 61 people with that name in Serbia, Dacic said.

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic was arrested last week in Serbia, where he was hiding disguised as a doctor of alternative medicine. He has been charged for genocide and war crimes by the International Crimes Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, and was in hiding ever since 1996.

Karadzic is currently awaiting a decision on his appeal against extradition to The Hague.
The Hague Prepares for Karadzic’s Extradition

Sarajevo _ An attending judge will examine Radovan Karadzic, who is expected to be transferred from Belgrade to The Hague in the middle of this week.

The Hague Tribunal and Prosecution have still not announced the names of the judges and prosecutors, who will be involved in the Radovan Karadzic case. Additional data will be available only after his arrival at The Hague, when he is housed in the Detention Unit.

“The Court President has still not appointed a pre–trial judge in Karadzic’s case. He will not be able to do that until Karadzic has arrived at the Detention Unit. Trial Chamber One shall be responsible for the first instance trial, but it is still not known which three judges will constitute the Chamber,” Nerma Jelacic, the spokeswoman for the Tribunal, said.

Radovan Karadzic, former President of Republika Srpska, RS, who is charged with genocide committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is due to appear before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, by the end of this week. He was arrested in Belgrade on July 21 this year, after having been on the run for 13 years.

Under the ICTY regulations, Karadzic is due to enter his plea no later than 30 days after his first appearance before a competent judge or Trial Chamber.

Olga Kavran, The Hague Prosecution spokeswoman said the Prosecution has still not appointed the prosecutor, who will be in charge of the Radovan Karadzic case.

Kavran claims that the Prosecution has still not decided as to whether it would amend the existing indictment in order to align it with the evidence collected over the past few years.

The indictment against Radovan Karadzic was last amended in 2000. Among other things, the indictment charges the former member of the Supreme Command of the RS armed forces with genocide and crimes committed in all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in particular in Sarajevo and Srebrenica, in the period from 1992 to 1995.

The last prosecutor, who worked on Radovan Karadzic’s case, was former Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla del Ponte, whose term expired in 2007. She joined the two original indictments from 1995, which contained 36 counts, into a single 11-count indictment.
My Letter to Mr Karadzic

It was a nice Monday evening, and I had some friends over.

They left around 11pm and I switched on the TV to hear the news that we were all waiting to hear one day. I was not surprised, not happy... I was not even shocked!

Radovan Karadzic was arrested. Now, what am I supposed to say to that? Is there anything that can be said? It has been so long that we almost started thinking it would never happen. And then, it happened! He was arrested. And the TV stations in Bosnia-Herzegovina started showing images of war. I felt as if the shelling was about to start. I waited for the sirens. I felt the same old anxiety that I thought I would never feel again. It was coming back. The images I no longer wanted to have. So I played a movie instead!

I managed to stay out of most of the news for a few days. I knew what was going on, but was keeping busy thinking about the real stuff – the work! I knew I had to write this blog. Actually, I did not have to write it, but I wanted to write about how I felt. But, I did not know what to write. What to say. It is a mixture of pain, regret, revenge, satisfaction and then – again – none of that.

So, I went on the net to check out what people were saying. And I found a web page where the people were invited to write the longest letter to Mr Karadzic. Instantly, I knew I had to write. That could be my salvation from this mixture of feelings. People are leaving their “letters” anonymously, but I signed mine with my name. If he ever reads it, I want him to know my name. Here is what I wrote and let me end this entry with it.

***

Dear Mr Karadzic,

I address you as “mister”, using the polite form of the second person singular, but don’t misunderstand me and think it comes from any respect for you, your persona or your deeds. My parents taught me to salute certain people or groups of people in conventional ways, and one reason for this was to express a desire to distance oneself from them, or express a lack of sympathy or closeness.

Therefore, I do not like you Mr Karadzic; I do not respect you and I do not want to be in any relation with you. Fortunately, I could not even if
I wanted to. Still, to my misfortune, and to your shame, I will remember your name – and will remember it well.

I was born in Yugoslavia; the child of an Orthodox father and a Catholic mother, born in the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I grew up surrounded by all religions and nationalities and then I married a Jew and – by that – I rounded off formally what I had always felt deep inside me – I was, and still am, a cosmopolitan!

You see, Mr Karadzic, to me, all the Easters, Christmases, Bairams, Hanukahs and all other holidays have always been equally important. It has never been important to me how will I greet or congratulate a person, whether I will have a fruit cake or a baklava. Being surrounded with love was all that mattered.

I am sorry for you, Mr Karadzic and I am sorry that you have run next to Love, not being aware of it at all. Still, it might be the case that Love walked next to you – in fact – not wanting to touch you, seeing that you had not deserved Her. Maybe Love was wrong and maybe She should have at least tapped you on the shoulder and dilute the misery that perverted you.

No one was righteous in this war, which you and those like you imposed on us. There are only victims and the tears of mothers and fathers who lost their children. Do you at least think of the Serbian mothers (if none other) whose children you sent to death?

Can you, Mr Karadzic, perceive the scale of the tragedy (and of individual tragedies) you caused by your effort to become a Someone? How difficult was your suffering and your trauma to have caused you to seek love and self-verification through death? Oh, why did Love so brutally detour and mutilate you?

My pain can not be compared to the pain of a mother who lost her child. My pain is so small that it is not even worth mentioning. But, I will still tell you what you did to me with your selfishness, smugness, fear and insecurity.

You took my friends away from me, Mr Karadzic; you took my Enes, the one I loved going out with, but also my Milan, who I went to school with. You took my mom and dad; two wonderful people who were left jobless, got ill and died young. You took the education from my brother, because he could not go to school under the heavy shelling. You took my youth, Mr Karadzic; the years, when I was supposed to have been a careless student, you turned into avoiding shells and dreaming of chocolate. You took two
boxes of childhood memories and photographs that were left in our second home, which your soldiers shelled to the grounds.

But, there is something even more valuable that you took from me. You took away my neighbourhood and smiles from the faces of my neighbours. You took the 11th July; a date which no longer presents just a day, but it is a day when the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina cries.

But, no point in talking to you, is there?

Shame on you, Mr Karadzic! Shame on you!
28.07.2008

Bosnian Serbs March in Support of Karadzic

Sarajevo – Thousands of Bosnian Serbs held rallies across the country over the weekend in support of top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, who is awaiting extradition to The Hague.

Wartime Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic was arrested last week in Serbia, where he was hiding disguised as a doctor of alternative medicine. He has been charged for genocide and war crimes by the International Crimes Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, and was in hiding ever since 1996. Karadzic is currently awaiting a decision on his appeal against extradition to The Hague.

Meanwhile, the Serb Democratic Party – which was founded and led by Karadzic before and during the war – held a series of peaceful rallies in support of Karadzic and in protest against his arrest.

The biggest rally gathered some 1,500 people on Saturday in Pale, the wartime headquarters of Radovan Karadzic and where his family still resides. Similar protests were held in other towns across the Serb-dominated entity of Republika Srpska, including Banja Luka, Bijeljina and Trebinje.

Some local media and analysts viewed the Serb Democratic Party’s decision to call these rallies in an attempt to use Karadzic’s arrest as a part of the pre-election campaign ahead of the October local elections, yet stressed that the turnout was significantly lower than expected.
Bosnia ‘on the Edge’ over Karadzic

Sarajevo — Bosnia is ‘on the edge’, warns a former top envoy urging the international community to ‘wake up’ and act over widening divisions in the country amid Radovan Karadzic’s arrest.

“There is a terrible irony unfolding in Bosnia. Radovan Karadzic is at last on his way to The Hague. But the division of Bosnia that was his dream is now more likely than at any time since he became a fugitive,” said Paddy Ashdown in an article published by the British Observer and Sarajevo daily Dnevni Avaz on Sunday. Ashdown was the international High Representative for Bosnia between May 2002 and January 2006.

Premier of the Serb-dominated entity Milorad Dodik — whom Ashdown identifies as the main divisive force in Bosnia — dismissed Ashdown’s remarks as yet another attempt to prolong and reinforce the international presence in the country.

In the article, Ashdown warned that the international community — preoccupied with Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo and Serbia — is ignoring signs that Bosnia’s politics is “increasingly fractured.”

“After 10 years of progress which made Bosnia the world’s most successful exercise in post-conflict reconstruction, there is a real threat of Bosnia breaking up again,” Ashdown said.

“Now this is happening not because of aggression from outside, but because of weariness and misjudgment of the international community which is still supposed to be guiding Bosnia to its future. I think Washington sees the danger but am not at all sure Brussels does,” Ashdown said.

“They think Bosnia is done. Their policy now is ‘don’t rock the boat in Bosnia’ while we deal with Kosovo and Belgrade. This is not just tactically wrong, it is strategically disastrous,” he stressed.

Dodik is “aggressively reversing a decade of reforms” and is aiming at “complete autonomy and, probably, ultimate secession,” which he may launch as soon as the middle of next year when the closure of the Office of the High Representative is expected, Ashdown warned.
Meanwhile Bosnian Croats are standing on the side and watching how the situation develops, while Bosniaks (also known as Bosnian Muslims) are squabbling among themselves and hope the international community will keep the country together, he added.

“I’m sorry if this disturbs the comfortable slumber of some capitals, especially in Europe. But I know of no way to whisper a wake-up call and no words to describe the pain that will ensue if Europe, once again, misjudges or misunderstands what is happening in Bosnia,” Ashdown concluded.

“Ashdown is a bigger problem than me,” Dodik said in a statement for Sarajevo daily Dnevni Avaz, dismissing Ashdown’s comments as yet another attempt to keep the Office of the High Representative in the country even after its real mandate has expired.

Yet, Amir Zukic, general secretary of the leading Bosniak Party of Democratic Action, SDA, aid that Ashdown “is right” adding that all Bosnian politicians – including the Bosniak ones – are to blame for the current situation.

Zukic stressed that Dodik’s behaviour violates Bosnia’s constitution and the Dayton peace accord, and stressed that SDA will not allow the secession of any part of the country.

In an interview for Belgrade daily Politika, also published on Sunday, Dodik said that Bosniak politicians are “boiling in their desire for revenge” since the country created in and after the Dayton peace talks “is not a fulfillment of their war goal.”

“This desire for the revenge has led to the non-functioning of the country, and it could easily lead to its final breakup,” Dodik told Politika.
Karadzic Lawyer Confirms Extradition Appeal

Belgrade _ Radovan Karadzic’s defence team have filed an appeal against the top war crimes suspect’s extradition to The Hague Tribunal, it has been confirmed.

“We have appealed, the appeal was filed by Svetozar Vujacic,” Karadzic’s brother Luka told the state-run news agency Tanjug.

Karadzic’s lawyer Svetozar Vujacic, however, refused to provide any additional detail regarding the appeal, saying that more information would lead to the procedure being speeded up in the Belgrade special court and his faster extradition to the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal.

Karadzic, the former political leader of Bosnian Serbs during the bloody Bosnian 1992-1995 war, was arrested in Belgrade on Monday, after more than 10 years of hiding and massive speculation of his whereabouts.

Vujacic’s letter could be received by the special panel as early as Monday, which opens the way for his almost immediate extradition to The Hague.

Although the three-member panel could reject the extradition order, this is extremely unlikely, since his delivery unlocks Belgrade’s bid to join the European Union and strengthen its hand in opposing Kosovo’s independence at the United Nations.

Meanwhile Serbian hardliners have called for a massive protest at Karadzic’s arrest on Tuesday, blaming Serbian President Boris Tadic for treason.

In addition, death threats have been made against several politicians, including Tadic and key officials in charge of war crimes prosecution and cooperation with The Hague Tribunal.

The former leader of Bosnian Serbs, along with his military chief Ratko Mladic, have been indicted for genocide committed during the war in Bosnia, including the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 Bosniak (also known as Bosnian Muslim) boys and men in Srebrenica and the 43 month-long siege of Sarajevo, which led to some 11,000 deaths.
Prosecutors at The Hague are considering amending the indictment against Radovan Karadzic “in line with new court practice and evidence collected in the meantime,” Olga Kavran, a spokesperson, told BIRN’s Justice Report.

Although it has still not been decided which prosecutor will cover the case, Kavran said the prosecution was “prepared” for Karadzic’s trial, while adding that it was premature to mention potential witnesses.

“The team is scrutinizing the indictment and considering the need to harmonize it with the court practice adopted in the meantime and the collected evidence,” she said.

“The prosecution determines that the indictment needs to be changed it will be sent to judges for their confirmation and final decision. The indictment filed in 2000 remains valid until such time.”

The first indictments against Karadzic, containing 36 counts, were filed by Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone in July and November 1995. Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte joined the two indictments into a single indictment, containing 11 counts, in 2000.

Karadzic is charged with genocide, complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity, violation of laws and practices of warfare and grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.

He is charged also with having “planned, abetted, ordered, committed and supported the destruction of national, ethnic, racial or religious groups of Bosniaks and Croats”.

The indictment mentions Momcilo Krajsnik and Biljana Plavsic as his closest associates. The Hague Prosecution alleges that they were all members of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Serbian Republic as of 1992.
After admitting her own guilt, Plavsic, one of the principal Bosnian Serb wartime leaders, was sentenced to 11 years’ imprisonment, having been convicted of crimes against humanity.

Krajisnik, another wartime leader of Bosnian Serbs, was sentenced under a first instance verdict to 27 years. The verdict acquitted him of responsibility for genocide and complicity in genocide.

The Prosecution of Bosnia and Herzegovina has filed several indictments charging former senior officials of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, and the Republika Srpska, RS, with a joint criminal enterprise conducted in collaboration with Radovan Karadzic.

His name is mentioned in the indictment against Gojko Klickovic, Jovan Ostojic and Mladen Drljaca, charged over crimes committed in the Bosanska Krupa area.

The indictment alleges that members of the joint criminal enterprise aimed at creating “a separate state of Bosnian Serbs, from which most non-Serbian residents would be permanently evicted”.

During the war, Karadzic was president of Republika Srpska and member of the Supreme Command of the RS armed forces. The indictment alleges that Bosnian Serb forces, the SDS and other government authorities acted under his leadership and control.

The indictment further alleges that from 1991 to 1995, Karadzic planned and ordered a protracted campaign of shelling and sniping directed against civilians in Sarajevo, “inflicting terror upon its citizens”.

The siege of Sarajevo lasted 1,425 days in total. Data collected by the Research and Documentation Center in Sarajevo suggests more than 13,000 people died in Sarajevo in the course of the war, while 750 are still missing. These figures are not final.

“Because of the shelling and sniping against civilians, the life of every Sarajevo inhabitant became a daily struggle to survive. Without gas, electricity or running water, people were forced to venture outside to find basic living necessities. Each time they did, whether to collect wood, fetch water or buy some bread, they risked death,” the indictment says.

The Hague Tribunal considers the massacres of people at Sarajevo’s Markale market the gravest of all the crimes committed in Sarajevo. Dozens of shoppers were killed or wounded when the market place was bombed on August 28, 1995.
The Trial Chamber sentenced Dragomir Milosevic, former commander of Sarajevo–Romanija Corps, to 33 years' imprisonment for this atrocity.

On the basis of evidence presented during the main trial, the Chamber determined that the grenade that hit Markale was fired from Republika Srpska Army, VRS, positions, thus rejecting defence claims that the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina staged the massacre in a bid to trigger international intervention.

In 1994, Milosevic took over the command of the corps from General Stanislav Galic, who was sentenced by the Hague Tribunal to life imprisonment for the siege of Sarajevo.

The forces allegedly led by Karadzic undertook a series of actions aiming at “significant reduction of the number of Bosniaks, Croats and other non–Serb” in those areas declared as part of RS, the indictment alleges. It says Bosnian Serb forces managed to “secure physical control”, among others, 41 of Bosnia’s municipalities.

“The SDS and the local authorities established detention camps and prisons in those municipalities. Following the attacks on those municipalities, the Bosnian Serb forces gathered tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Croats, and forced them to walk to the concentration centres. From those centres they were transferred to detention camps and prisons,” the indictment alleges.

Some of these detention camps included the Vuk Karadzic school building in Bratunac, eastern Bosnia, Manjaca in Banja Luka, north–west Bosnia, Batkovic in Bijeljina, north–east Bosnia, Luka in Brcko, northern Bosnia, Percin disco in Doboj, northern Bosnia, the Correctional Facility in Foca, eastern Bosnia, Omarska, Keratern and Trnopolje in Prijedor, north–west Bosnia and Susica in Vlasenica, eastern Bosnia.

“Detainees lived in an atmosphere of constant fear, which was further incited by brutal treatment of randomly selected victims,” the indictment reads. “Detainees were constantly exposed to physical, mental and sexual abuse, as well as other forms of degrading and humiliating circumstances, which represented a fundamental attacks against their humanity.”

The prosecution insists that Karadzic exercised overall control and authority over the soldiers and police who worked in and managed the detention camps and prisons.

According to statements given by witnesses at the trial of Momcilo Mandic before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Karadzic personally visited some of the detention camps to “check what the conditions were like”.
In July 2007, a first instance verdict was pronounced against Mandic, a former justice minister in Karadzic’s government, acquitting him of the charges for crimes against humanity and civilians. Among other things, the State Prosecution had charged him with setting up and running the detention camps in the RS.

The Hague Prosecution charges Karadzic with genocide committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Srebrenica in particular, in July 1995, when this eastern Bosnian town was a protected zone, under a decision made by the UN Security Council.

“Radovan Karadzic, as supreme commander, ordered the Bosnian Serb forces to create impossible conditions of life, involving complete uncertainty, which did not give any hope for survival to citizens, in particular those living in Srebrenica,” the Prosecution considers.

One part of the indictment describes how the Bosnian Serb forces executed thousands of men in “an organized and systematic way” at various locations in Srebrenica and its vicinity from July 11 to July 18, 1995. One location mentioned in the indictment is the Agricultural Cooperative at Kravica, where more than 1,000 Bosniaks were killed on July 13, 1995.

11 former policemen and RS soldiers are charged with this crime before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“Radovan Karadzic knew or had the reason to know that the forces, which acted under his leadership and control, committed those crimes, and he failed to undertake the necessary and reasonable measures to punish the perpetrators of those crimes,” the indictment alleges.

Following his arrest in Belgrade on July 21, 2008, it is expected that Karadzic will be extradited shortly to the tribunal.

Merima Husejnovic is BIRN’s Justice Report journalist. Balkan Insight and Justice Report are BIRN’s online publications.
The Hague Awaits Karadzic’s Extradition

Belgrade _ After Karadzic’s attorney appeals the decision to extradite the top war crimes suspect to The Hague, the Belgrade court will announce a final decision within the next three days.

Friday is the legal deadline for appealing the decision made by the investigative judge related to the conditions for the extradition of Radovan Karadzic from Serbia to The Hague Tribunal. After this date, the District Court in Belgrade shall render a final decision concerning his extradition. The Serbian Government will then order his extradition.

Svetozar Vujacic, Karadzic’s attorney, announced that he would file an appeal. He told the media on several occasions that he would file the appeal “on Friday evening” so that the District Court in Belgrade would render a decision concerning the extradition of his client next week.

By the Law on Cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, the District Court in Belgrade is due to consider the appeal and render a decision, determining whether the conditions have been met to transfer Karadzic to The Hague, no later than three days after the appeal has been filed.

“When the Trial Chamber receives the appeal, it shall convene a session to decide upon that appeal,” Ivana Ramic, spokesperson of the District Court in Belgrade, said.

In case the Court rejects the appeal, the decision becomes legally-binding and, as such, it is submitted to the Justice Ministry, which issues a decision, ordering the transfer of the ICTY indictee to The Hague. This decision is to be executed by the Interior Ministry.

Radovan Karadzic, former top ICTY fugitive, was arrested in Belgrade on July 21 this year, after having been on the run for 13 years. The Hague Prosecution charges him with genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of international conventions in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995, while he was president of the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, and the first president of Republika Srpska, RS.
Mladen Bosic, current president of the SDS, visited Karadzic in the detention unit in Belgrade. Following the visit, he told the reporters that this was not a political meeting, adding that “Karadzic was feeling well, both physically and mentally” but he “regrets that so many people were persecuted during the search for him.”

“Our party will do all it can to help Karadzic in the course of the trial against him before the Hague Tribunal,” Bosic told the reporters, adding that SDS members are aware of the fact that “the trial of Karadzic will actually be a trial against the Republika Srpska.”

As indicated by Bosic, it is in the best interests of Republika Srpska to help Karadzic’s defence. He said that this should be a state and national priority, which should be placed before all other daily issues.

Karadzic’s name was removed from the list of SDS members in 2001. Bosic says that this came as a result of the pressure put up by the international community, which warned the party could be declared illegal.

Unlike Bosic, the Karadzic family members have not managed to pay him a visit in Belgrade, because they their travel documents were seized in January this year due to a suspicion that they were members of the ICTY fugitives’ support network.

Upon Karadzic’s arrival to The Hague Tribunal, which should take place next week, he is due to appear before the Trial Chamber, when his indictment will be read to him. As per the ICTY procedures, Karadzic is due to attend a plea hearing not later than 30 days after his first appearance before the judge or Trial Chamber.
Karadzic ‘Held Illegally for Three Days’

Belgrade _ Radovan Karadzic’s lawyer claims the former Bosnian Serb leader accused of war crimes was held in custody for three days illegally.

Svetozar Vujacic told journalists in front of the Special Court in Belgrade that Karadzic had described to the prosecutor his movements since July 18 and “the method of arrest and transfer” to an unknown place, as he put it.

He reiterated Karadzic’s claim that he was arrested on Friday, July 18, and not Monday when the news of his capture broke.

Vujacic yesterday lodged a criminal complaint against an unknown individual for unlawful deprivation of freedom between July 18 and 21 before the war crimes suspect was handed over to the investigative judge.

Recounting the details of his conversation with Karadzic, Vujacic said that Karadzic and fellow war crimes suspect Ratko Mladic had last seen each other when the former had handed over his duties as Republika Srpska President to Biljana Plavsic, and had not been in contact with Mladic since.

Karadzic is accused of genocide, complicity in genocide, execution, murder, punishment, deportation, inhumane acts and other crimes committed against Bosniaks (also known as Bosnian Muslims), Croats and other non-Serb civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war.

The deadline for filing an appeal over the conditions for Karadzic's extradition expires later on Friday and earlier Vujacic announced that he would be sending the appeal by mail today at 1955 CEST (1755 GMT), right before the deadline.

According to procedure, the War Crimes Chamber has three days in which to respond to the appeal.

An appeal cannot be filed against the war crimes chamber’s ruling afterwards, and the final decision for extradition is taken by the Justice Ministry.
Sarajevo — Radovan Karadzic had no outside support in hiding from The Hague Tribunal since 2002, a Bosnian Serb leader said after meeting the detained top war crimes suspect in Belgrade.

“Institutions of the (Serb-dominated entity of) Republika Srpska, especially its government, must get engaged in his defence,” said Mladen Bosic, current president of the nationalist Serb Democratic Party, SDS, told media after visiting Karadzic in detention on Friday.

Bosic said that Karadzic’s trial will be a trial of Republika Srpska, and stressed that it is the “vital interest” of both Republika Srpska and Serbia to partake in his defence efforts.

Karadzic, an SDS founder and the first president of Republika Srpska during and immediately after the war, was arrested on Monday in Serbia, where he was hiding disguised as an alternative medicine healer.

In 1995, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia indicted Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic, with responsibility for masterminding atrocities and genocide during the Bosnian war. Forced by international pressure to leave the political scene, Karadzic has been evading justice since 1995. He is now facing extradition to The Hague.

Bosic said he found Karadzic in good physical and mental condition, yet added that he was troubled by the constant pressure which his family and friends were facing over the past years.

Citing Karadzic, Bosic said this whole pursuit was for nothing because Karadzic had no outside assistance ever since April 2002 when the Serbian Parliament adopted the law on cooperation with the Hague Tribunal.

Bosic also pledged that the SDS will continue supporting Karadzic in any way possible, although the party was forced to strike Karadzic from its membership list in 2001, when the SDS was facing potential sanctions and even abolishment by international envoys in Bosnia.
Serb Hardliners Warn Tadic over Karadzic

Belgrade _ Serbia’s hardline Radical Party has threatened President Boris Tadic and certain media outlets over the arrest of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

“We warn Tadic that treason has never gone unpunished in Serbia. This is not a threat, but warning of the fate that followed traitors throughout Serbian history... I would remind the current rulers that they might not be as lucky as Zoran Djindjic. God punishes generations to come, and they should keep this in mind,” said Vjerica Radeka of the Radical Party.

Djindjic, a reformist Serbian premier famous for extraditing late Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic to The Hague war crimes tribunal, was assassinated in Belgrade in 2003.

In addition to verbal threats, several top ranking Belgrade officials have received written death threats in recent days, including the head of country’s Council for Cooperation with The Hague Tribunal Rasim Ljajic and chief war crimes prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic, Belgrade media reported.

Police have reacted to those threats, raising the level of security around all government officials.

Radeka, who is a high-ranking official of Radical Party, also called on the Serbian Orthodox Church to condemn the traitors.

The latest list of ‘traitors’, according to Radicals, includes the state-run television Radio Television Serbia, RTS, and independent B92, whose reporters had been attacked by the mob during the Thursday’s protest against Karadzic’s arrest.

“The Serbian Radical Party condemns the media crackdown against all free-thinking forces in Serbia, organised by the pro-regime media, above all RTS and B92,” Radicals said in a statement.

In addition, the deputy leader of Radical Party called his supporters for a boycott of RTS.
Karadzic ‘Robbed’ Millions from Bosnian Serbs

Sarajevo _ Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic robbed the Serb-dominated entity of Republika Srpska of at least €18 million in 1997, a US diplomat claims.

Back in 1997 at a time when Radovan Karadzic had already abandoned the political scene and was in hiding, he still managed to take on two occasions a total of €18 million from the Republika Srpska Central Bank in Banja Luka, United States diplomat and deputy top international envoy for Bosnia, Raffi Gregorian, said in a statement to Sarajevo daily Dnevni Avaz published on Friday.

The same accusation was made by Republika Srpska Premier Milorad Dodik in an interview he gave to the same newspaper in March 2005, shortly before he took up his current position.

Gregorian said this information should be held in mind by the Republika Srpska government, when they – as expected – debate whether to provide financial assistance to Karadzic and his family.

Soon after Karadzic’s arrest in Serbia on Monday, his family asked for assistance from the Republika Srpska government, saying they have neither money nor identification documents and cannot visit Karadzic, who is set to be extradited to The Hague from detention in Belgrade.

Karadzic has been hiding since 1995, evading a UN war-crimes trial where he was expected to answer charges over the killing of some 7,000 Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica in 1995, the siege of Sarajevo, the killing of civilians, the destruction of property and other war crimes committed during the three-year war.

In 1995, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia indicted Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic, with responsibility for masterminding atrocities and genocide during the Bosnian war.

As part of the hunt for Karadzic, the international community has blocked all bank accounts and recently seized identification documents from Karadzic’s family.
Gregorian said that Dodik’s motivation to offer financial support to Karadzic and his family is unclear, having in mind that Karadzic had “robbed millions and millions” from Republika Srpska citizens.

“Of course I would like to see an investigation which would reveal whatever happened to the tens of millions of Konvertible Marks, which have been stolen,” Gregorian said, adding that authorities should look into the ways how Karadzic’s family lived for years without any official income or jobs.

Back in the 1980s, Karadzic was accused and investigated of misusing his position and public funds to build a cottage in Pale, 19 kilometres east of Sarajevo. He was even detained and investigated for fraud in November 1984, but was released months later amid a lack of evidence. In 1985, the Sarajevo court sentenced him to three years in prison for embezzlement and deception but he never served his sentence.

During and immediately after the war, local and international officials alleged he had embezzled tens of millions by controlling the smuggling of cigarettes and fuel in Republika Srpska.
Karadzic’s Lawyer to file ‘Last-minute Appeal’

Belgrade _ The lawyer of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said he would appeal the extradition ruling minutes before the deadline later on Friday.

Attorney Svetozar Vujacic said he would mail the appeal at 1955 CEST (1755 GMT) in a post office outside Belgrade, minutes before closing time, in apparent attempt to buy some more time for Karadzic’s family to visit former leader in Belgrade prison.

However the international administrator for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Miroslav Lajcak has ignored the request of Karadzic’s family to return their documents ahead of his extradition, saying that this case does not present any kind of humanitarian crisis.

“The Karadzic family will have many opportunities to visit their father but many of Srebrenica people will never have that chance,” Lajcak told Sarajevo media, referring to the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 Muslim boys and man in that town in eastern Bosnia.

“Documents were confiscated on my order under the suspicion that the family was involved in the support network for war crimes suspects still at large. I do not see why this case turned into a humanitarian issue,” Lajcak said.

Meanwhile Serbian hardliners are preparing for the fourth straight day of protest against the arrest in Belgrade as the Radical Party and several minor nationalist groups have stormed the streets of capital, shouting pro-Karadzic slogans. Reporters have also been attacked during the rallies.

Peaceful protests throughout Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity of Republika Srpska will start on Saturday, Karadzic’s former party said.

Karadzic could be extradited to The Hague as soon as the panel of judges decides on the appeal. Earlier, Belgrade officials announced that could happen over the weekend or early next week.
Bosnia Leaders ‘Childish’ over Karadzic

Sarajevo — The arrest of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is being used by local politicians to inflate rather than deflate tensions, Bosnia’s top international envoy argues.

“I have expected that after the arrest (of Radovan Karadzic), nationalism in (the Serb-dominated entity of) Republika Srpska will be reduced but the opposite has happened and they all race to show who is ‘a bigger Serb’”, said the international community’s top envoy to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Miroslav Lajcak, in an interview with Sarajevo daily Dnevni Avaz published on Friday.

Lajcak added that in the other Bosnian entity of the Federation, local politicians used this occasion “to attack the very existence of Republika Srpska, although they know that it is a constitutional definition of the country.”

“I am disappointed by the behaviour of politicians on both sides,” Lajcak said.

Radovan Karadzic was arrested late on Monday. He had been hiding in Belgrade under a false identity of Dragan Dabic, a doctor of alternative medicine. Karadzic awaits extradition to The Hague, pending the outcome of his legal appeal, which is expected to be submitted later on Friday.

Ever since the arrest of the Bosnian Serb wartime political leader, nationalist tension has risen across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Top Bosniak (also known as Bosnian Muslim) leaders have openly expressed hopes that Karadzic’s arrest would lead to abolishment of Republika Srpska. This triggered strong criticism and similar radical rhetoric from some Bosnian Serb leaders.

Meanwhile, a part of Bosnian Serb population, especially in eastern Republika Srpska, expressed their support for Karadzic and criticised the Serbian government for arresting the person whom they perceive as their ‘hero’.

Photos of Karadzic and his military commander general Ratko Mladic, have been plastered in several towns in eastern Bosnia.
Lajčak stressed that Karadzic’s arrest is a “welcome” development in Bosnia but criticised local leaders for statements which violates the Dayton peace accord. This can also be seen in the context of politicians’ pre-election campaigns ahead of the October local elections.

“They behave like children. When they are in majority, they carry out their intentions without regard for the others, and when they are in minority, they cry and complain that they are being neglected,” Lajčak said.
Karadzic Owes ‘Billions of Dollars’ to Victims

Sarajevo _ Property belonging to Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic could be confiscated to cover the ‘billions of dollars’ a US court says he owes to his victims.

“Karadzic owes his victims several billion (US) dollars,” Sarajevo daily Dnevni Avaz on Friday quoted the deputy top international envoy, United States diplomat Raffi Gregorian, as saying.

Back in 1993, a group of Bosniak women who sought refuge from the Bosnian war in the United States, pressed civil charges against Radovan Karadzic, suing him for orchestrated rape campaigns carried out by Bosnian Serb forces during the war across Bosnia. In September 2000, the court ordered that Karadzic should pay his victims compensation to the amount of $4.5 billion (€2.8 billion).

Karadzic, who was arrested late on Monday, had been hiding in Belgrade under the false identity of Dragan Dabic, a doctor of alternative medicine. Karadzic is awaiting extradition to The Hague, pending the outcome of his legal appeal, which he is expected to file later on Friday.

He has been hiding since 1995, evading a United Nations war crimes trial where he was expected to answer charges over the killing of some 7,000 Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica in 1995, the siege of Sarajevo, the killing of civilians, the destruction of property and other war crimes committed during the three-year war.

In 1995, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia indicted Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic, with responsibility for masterminding atrocities and genocide during the Bosnian war.

According to Gregorian, because of the ruling of the US Court, the Office of the High Representative and the European Union peace implementation force, EUFOR, has been contemplating whether and how the house in the town of Pale and other property belonging to Karadzic and his family, can be confiscated to provide even “partial or symbolic” compensation to his victims.

Because of the US court ruling and this ‘debt’, Karadzic and his family has been banned from entering the US and EU countries, Gregorian said.
and indicated that until Karadzic is delivered to The Hague, identification documents will not be returned to his family.

Karadzic’s family and the government of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity of Republika Srpska has demanded the Office of the High Representative to return their identification documents so that they can visit Karadzic in Belgrade.
Belgrade _ Journalists in Serbia are demanding urgent action from the state after reporters were attacked by protesters during a demonstration against Radovan Karadzic’s arrest.

“As far as I’m concerned, professionally, as a person, morally – this is the straw that broke the camel’s back. We’re now speaking publicly, we’ve been doing this job a long time, we’ve gone through all kinds of things. It’s never reached the stage, not even in the darkest days under [Slobodan] Milosevic, that I’ve feared for the lives of people on Belgrade streets, and I’m on the verge of deciding, as editor-in-chief, to tell them not to film, we won’t report, we won’t film simply to avoid someone getting lynched,” the director of Serbia’s FoNet news agency, Zoran Sekulic, told Serbia’s B92 network.

A cameraman for B92 television, Bosko Brankovic suffered a fractured leg, when he was attacked during the protest near the Turkish Embassy.

Brankovic was attacked when he tried to film the mob assaulting a FoNet photographer, it has emerged.

The demonstrators, mostly coming from nationalist organisations and helped by the Serbian Radical Party, held their third protest in as many days against the arrest of former Bosnian Serb President and top war crimes fugitive, Radovan Karadzic.

Firecrackers were thrown outside the Turkish Embassy and in front of President Boris Tadic’s office, where they shouted insults.

It came as the Serbian Radical Party announced on its website that protests against the arrest of Radovan Karadzic will take place daily, but at the same time denying it is the organiser.

According to reports, journalists came under attack during Wednesday’s protests as well with reporters from a Bosnian news agency and a Sarajevo television crew attacked by demonstrators.

Karadzic has until later on Friday to appeal his extradition to The Hague War Crimes Tribunal.
Serbia Unmasks ‘Real Dragan Dabic’

Belgrade – A disguised Radovan Karadzic was using the identity of a man named ‘Dragan Dabic’ from the northern Serbian town of Ruma, it has emerged.

“The investigation has come up with information that showed Dragan Dabic to have the same data on his identification card as the one found on Karadzic, including the serial number and issue date. Those two identification cards only had different photos,” the head of Serbia’s Council for Cooperation with The Hague Tribunal Rasim Ljajic said.

The identification card was issued in Ruma on April 20 1999.

Meanwhile the brother of another man named Dragan Dabic, from Sarajevo, told BIRN’s Justice Report of his despair that top war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic had taken on another identity.

“He was 38 when he was killed. I cannot believe that Karadzic could use his identity,” Mladen Dabic, Dragan’s only brother, told BIRN’s Justice Report.

Dragan Dabic was born in Tuzla in 1954 but was shot dead in a sniper attack in Sarajevo in 1993. His then young daughters and wife left the besieged city during the war and moved to Canada.

Bruno Vekaric, the spokesman for the Serbian Prosecution, says that the local authorities are trying to find out who helped Karadzic to obtain the false identity, adding that an investigation of potential helpers was ongoing. Vekaric told the Serbian media that “very few people” knew his real identity.

Mladen Dabic, resents the fact that Radovan Karadzic used the name of his late sibling, who was killed while he was queuing for humanitarian aid.

“When I heard the news that war criminal Radovan Karadzic is using my brother’s name, I could not believe it. It was horrible. This was an act of dishonour to a person, who was killed by the army commanded by Karadzic,” Mladen Dabic told Justice Report.
Dabic says that, over the past two days, his family has been under “an unbearable amount of stress”, adding that they could not believe that some people do not let his brother “lie in peace” 15 years after his death.

Mladen claims that he still has not managed to get in touch with his sister-in-law Gordana and their daughters, who live in Canada. They all left Sarajevo in a convoy six months after Dragan’s death.

“I am trying, not to think about what is now happening to my brother’s name,” Mladen says, adding that “there are so many pieces of information floating around,” which, for sure, will “leave a huge scar.”

“There is nothing I can do about it. What I can do is to talk to media and lift this burden myself a little bit at least,” Dabic told Justice Report.

According to official data, 16 identifications cards have been issued in the name of Dragan Dabic in Bosnia and Herzegovina after the war. And now it seems that Karadzic had an identification card issued in Ruma, a northern Serbian town, which is under the jurisdiction of the Sremska Mitrovica police department.

“We have no information about the arrest of Radovan Karadzic and we have nothing to say about the forged identification card issued in Ruma,” local police chief Zorav Smajic told the media.

In his statement given to Belgrade’s Vecernji list daily, the spokesman of the Prosecution said Karadzic got his new identity from “certain structures,” close to his Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia which had connections with Serbian officials during the rule of Slobodan Milosevic.

“It is obvious that he started his parallel life a long time ago,” Vladimir Vukicevic, the prosecutor said.

This article was compiled by BIRN’s Justice Report.
24.07.2008

‘Mladic Betrayed Karadzic’ reports UK Daily

Belgrade _ Wartime Bosnian Serb army chief Ratko Mladic allegedly gave away Radovan Karadzic’s whereabouts in a bargain to delay his own capture, London’s Daily Telegraph reports.

The paper quotes an unnamed source close to the German foreign intelligence service, BND, who said Mladic was negotiating with those hunting him over the terms of his capture, and “gave information on [Karadzic’s whereabouts] to save himself.”

The source told the Telegraph that British intelligence officers had helped bring about Karadzic’s capture by Serb police in a collaborative effort by Western agencies including the United States Central Intelligence Agency, and the German and French secret services.

According to the paper, Mladic is determined to avoid going on trial at The Hague and wants to face proceedings in Belgrade, where he is still seen as a hero by some.

Local war crimes trials at the Special court in Belgrade began in 2004. Last year, four Serb paramilitaries who took part in the Srebrenica massacre were sentenced to a total of 58 years in jail.

“Mladic gave some information on Karadzic, probably several months ago, to save himself,” said the Telegraph source. “That means he knows there will be a trial.”

Serbian authorities have dismissed reports that Western intelligence agencies were involved in the operation to arrest Karadzic.

However, Serbian officials have said that Karadzic was arrested in an operation which initially targeted a group of aides to former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic but Serbian security forces seemed surprised when they stumbled across the other top fugitive.

Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic said that his office would prosecute the network of helpers to former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, adding that “very small group of people” knew his real identity.
“It’s a very small group of people,” Vukcevic told Belgrade daily Vecernje Novosti on Thursday.

Karadzic, who was arrested late on Monday, had been hiding in Belgrade under a false identity as a doctor, top Serbian officials said Tuesday.

Karadzic had been at large since 1995, evading a UN war-crimes trial where he was expected to answer charges over the killing of some 7,000 Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica in 1995, the siege of Sarajevo, the killing of civilians, the destruction of property and other war crimes committed during the three-year war.

In 1995, the ICTY indicted Karadzic and Mladic, with responsibility for masterminding atrocities and genocide during the Bosnian war.
Karadzic, Mladic Posters in Bosnian Town

Sarajevo _ New posters in support of top war crimes suspects Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic have appeared in Bosnia’s eastern town of Visegrad.

After the posters backing International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, indictee Radovan Karadzic were removed in Zvornik, new ones were put up in the Visegrad area on Wednesday night. The new posters show the photos of Ratko Mladic and Karadzic and slogans: “Our Serbian heroes”, “General, we won’t let them catch you” and “We are all your fellows”.

“In the morning hours a patrol noticed five or six posters, showing Karadzic and Mladic and some slogans, which had been put up on top bulletin boards, normally used for placing obituaries, in Visegrad. After having informed the prosecutor in Sarajevo, we had the communal services company remove the posters,” Vuceta Sipcic, Deputy Chief of the Public Safety Station in Visegrad, said.

Sipcic added that no incidents were registered in Visegrad after the removal of the posters.

At the same time, a session of the municipality assembly was stopped as a sign of protest because the Office of the High Representative, OHR, the international community’s top envoy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has not returned documents to the Karadzic family.

“This request does not have anything to do with politics. It is a pure humanitarian issue since there is no more need to keep their documents after his arrest,” said one of the members of the Serbian Democratic Party, Karadzic’s former party, in Visegrad.

Documents were taken away from the Karadzic family at the beginning of this year as one of the measures against people who were suspected of helping Karadzic dodge the law. His daughter Sonja appealed publicly on Wednesday asking the OHR to give the family back their documents in order to allow them to visit Karadzic in Belgrade before he is transferred to The Hague.
The Public Safety Stations in the Bosnian towns of Trebinje, Doboj and Banja Luka claim that no posters have been put up in other towns in Republika Srpska, adding that no incidents were registered.

“Nothing happened in the area covered by the Public Safety Station in Banja Luka. This region is peaceful,” says duty officer there.

Posters backing Radovan Karadzic sprung up in Zvornik on Wednesday. The posters showed the ICTY indictee and slogans: “We are all Karadzic” and “President, we adhere to you”, but they were removed later that day.
Serb Nationalists Plan Daily Karadzic Protests

Belgrade _ The Serbian Radical Party has announced on its website that protests against the arrest of Radovan Karadzic will take place daily, but at the same time denied it is the organiser.

Some 300 people gathered at Belgrade's central Republic Square again on Wednesday, most of them wearing t-shirts with images of Radovan Karadzic and his wartime Bosnian Serb wartime commander Ratko Mladic, who remains at large.

They burned a flag of the Socialist Party of Serbia, the party of former Serb strongman Slobodan Milosevic, which has now switched ranks and has joined the new pro-European government.

Karadzic’s brother Luka, Serbian Radical Party officials Bozidar Delic, Vjerica Radeta, Nemanja Sarovic, Momir Markovic, the leader of an extremist group calling itself the Tsar Lazar Guard, Hadzi Andrej Milic and Roma activist Dragoljub Ackovic were among those at the protest.

Six Russian nationals carrying Russian army unit flags have also reportedly been seen.

Radeta told journalists that the protest has been joined by Radical Party lawmakers and Belgrade assembly members.

“This is an introduction to a big rally that we will organise at the start of next week,” she revealed, and went on to brand Serbia’s President Boris Tadic and the new government as traitors.

Radeta added that the Democratic Party of Serbia of former Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and ally, the New Serbia party, will be asked to join the rally next week.

The area was once again swarming with police, including riot and elite police officers from Serbia’s Gendarmerie force.

Police also secured state institution and foreign embassies.
According to reports, journalists came under attack from some of the protesters including reporters from a Bosnian news agency and a Sarajevo television crew.

The protest came as it was announced Karadzic will appeal his extradition to The Hague.
Karadzic A ‘kindly Santa Who Cured Ailments’

Neighbours of the mysterious “Dr David” cherish fond memories of the bearded man who saved a swarm of bees, played the fiddle and cured headaches with a touch of his hand.

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC IN BELGRADE

To the children in buildings No 267 in the 45th Bloc, Yuri Gagarin Avenue, in Novi Belgrade’s drab Communist-era conglomerate of apartment buildings, the man was Santa Claus.

Dr Dragan David Dabic was a frequent visitor to the local café where he liked to play the gusle, Serbia’s traditional one-string violin. He used to stroll around the area with a handsome female companion, sometimes stopping over in a local grocery to buy a bottle of wine. “He loved children and he was such a pleasant guy,” said Dragan Graovac, a neighbour from the sixth floor.

Only after July 21, did the neighbourhood from the 45th Bloc discover that the man who once saved a swarm of bees from shopkeepers, urging them not to “destroy blessed creatures”, was Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader sought by the UN war crimes court for genocide and war crimes.

Karadzic went underground 13 years ago after the end of Bosnian war and after the Netherlands-based UN war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, indicted him and his military chief, General Ratko Mladic, for atrocities including the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys from Srebrenica and three-years-long shelling and siege of Bosnian capital.

Unrecognisable, with his long white hair and a long beard, Karadzic appears to have led a very different life from the one that might have been expected of one of the world’s most wanted fugitives, ranked together with Osama bin Laden.

“He was our regular patron. David would drink a glass of wine and talk about poetry and Serbian spirituality,” said Tomas-Misko Kovijanic, owner of the local Luda Kuca, meaning Madhouse, café.
Patrons of the café, whose walls are adorned with wartime photos of Karadzic and Mladic, claim they had no idea who the black-clad man with grey hair and beard was. One night when several men played gusle, Dr David asked if he could give it a try.

“The man who I now know was Karadzic was sitting right across his own portrait. He was a good gusle fiddler,” Kovijanic said.

On Monday night, Serbian authorities said they arrested Karadzic in a commuter bus just outside Belgrade. According to officials his transfer to the UN detention unit in the Scheveningen, just outside The Hague is likely to occur as early as this weekend.

Over the past year he lived in a flat in New Belgrade, and in front of photo and television cameras lectured as an expert on meditation and health at seminars. He also contributed articles for a magazine and sold charms and offered medical advice on his website.

He had a website http://www.psy-help-energy.com/Index.html which promoted his David Wellbeing Programme, based on the use of “human quantum energy”. His website said that people are “programmed” to live to between 120 and 130, an age that could be reached by those who used his treatments. He also gave lectures on lifestyle. His website advertises energy healing and beauty treatments and offers to cure conditions ranging from impotence and other sexual problems to diabetes, asthma, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis.

“Dr David had an aura of a healer, almost a saint, said Nebojsa Jevric, a freelance journalist who regularly visits the Luda Kuca café. “He had energy. With his hands alone he once cured a man who complained of severe shoulder pain,” Jevric, who writes for several Belgrade publications, said.

Karadzic lived on the third floor of a concrete 10-story building, No 267. He rented a one-bedroom apartment from a widower who moved elsewhere.

“I didn’t see him moving in with too many belongings. He lived a sort of monastic life,” Graovac said. “Because of his, looks kids called him Santa Claus.”

In the Belgrade neighbourhood of Cukarica, Maja Djelic, an acupuncture practitioner, said she was shocked after learning that the man with whom she traveled to several panels in northern and central Serbia about new age and healthy living, was a wanted war criminal.
“David was always composed and calm and knew psychiatry and alternative medicine inside out. Once he said that he practiced in the United States,” she said.

While on a trip to a panel discussion in the town of Smederevo last year, Karadzic, alias Dr David cured her headache, Djelic said.

“He told me to close my eyes, placed his hands close to my forehead and asked me whether I saw colours and felt warmth. My headache stopped there and then,” she said.

Last year, a swarm of bees moved on a tree near the Luda Kuca café. They started producing honeycomb and then the nest fell down. Fearing a bee attack, locals tried to remove the insects or kill them. Karadzic saved them, Kovijanic said.

“He told us we should not kill bees as they are blessed creatures.”

Patrons brought a box, gingerly moved bees inside and donated them to a farmer. “Karadzic stayed there until the very end and even picked individual insects putting them back in the swarm,” Kovijanic said.

Leposava Kron, a psychiatrist with Belgrade’s Institute for Criminology, said Karadzic was a skilled role player. “He was a politician, then a new-age guru and I am sure he will set himself another role at the trial in The Hague.”

Aleksandar Vasovic is Balkan Insight contributor. Balkan Insight is BIRN’s online publication.
Bosnian Town Removes Karadzic Posters

Sarajevo _ Two days after Radovan Karadzic’s arrest, police in the Bosnian town of Zvornik are going round removing posters that have sprung up in support of the war crimes fugitive.

Two days after news of the arrest of International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, ICTY, indictee Radovan Karadzic broke, posters were placed on residential buildings in the Zvornik downtown area. The posters show his photo and slogans: “We are all Karadzic” and “President, we adhere to you.” Justice Report has learnt that the posters have been removed in the course of the day.

“Those posters were put up on four residential buildings in downtown area last night. After having informed the Prosecutor about this case, we photographed the locations and we ordered the communal company to remove the posters,” Stanimir Vidovic, chief of the Public Safety Station in Zvornik, said.

Vidovic said that no incidents were registered in Zvornik after the posters had been put up.

The Interior Ministry of Republika Srpska does not have information concerning the posters or the persons who put them up in Zvornik.

“I am not authorized to provide media with this type of information,” says a staff member of the Duty Operational Service, who wanted to remain anonymous.

The Hague indictee, Radovan Karadzic, was arrested in Belgrade on Monday, July 21, after having been on the run for 13 years.

Karadzic is charged with having participated in crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including genocide, crime against humanity, violation of laws and practices of warfare and severe violations of the Geneva Convention of 1949. Those crimes were committed in the period from 1991 to 1995.

The indictment alleges, among other things, that Karadzic participated in the crimes committed in Zvornik area, which included an attack on
Zvornik municipality, murder, causing severe bodily injuries and detention of the population.

During the course of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina most non-Serbian residents were expatriated from Zvornik and many were killed within the scope of mass executions. After the war ended, several mass graves were found in Zvornik municipality, in which Srebrenica residents, who were killed after the fall of Srebrenica enclave in July 1995, were buried.

This article was compiled by BIRN’s Justice Report.
Radovan as Saddam? Get Real.

What a high drama there was at the BBC and at ITN when the news of Radovan Karadzic’s arrest broke.

BY MARCUS TANNER

At once, it was action stations and all the old Yugoslavia hands were despatched to their former stamping grounds. There they were, a collection of grey-heads, opening their reports with the lines: “There were snipers firing over my head the last time I was in Sarajevo”, or “It’s been 15 years since I last stood here in Belgrade.” They even sent John Simpson - BBC royalty if ever there was. I half expected to see the Queen herself, wandering around and giving us her “reactions”.

Because it obviously cost a fortune for the stations, the story was pitched at maximum level, covering every radio bulletin and almost every TV news programme as well. Presenters adopted their gravest tone, talking against a background of vast pictures of Karadzic’s head.

Again and again we saw the same slow-motion footage of people being sniped at in Sarajevo, head-scarved women preying before graves in Srebrenica, teens kneeling in the grass in the infamous Scorpion video, and all amid dramatic sounding announcements that Karadzic’s capture was the equivalent to the capture of Saddam Hussein or Osama Bin Laden.

You’d almost have thought they come across Hitler, as the presenters struggled to outdo one another in their choice of superlatives. Everything was the “worst”, the “biggest” and the “gravest”.

Of course, the story was over in Britain before it began, for attention spans here are brief, and where were the appropriate background scenes of “rejoicing” (in Sarajevo) and “fury” (in Belgrade) to give it all a bit of substance to the viewers? The reporters looked disappointed. Those in Sarajevo explained that bad weather must have driven the scenes of jubilation indoors, while poor old Mr Simpson in Belgrade had to make do with staring at half a dozen Serbian Chetniks in the centre of Belgrade slurring a desultory song; as most of them were grinning, one not very efficiently as he had no teeth (they were all obviously drunk) they were not very effective as a symbol of Serbia’s “nationalist fury”.

I couldn’t help feeling that, as ever, TV can only do black and white and is not much good at shades of grey. The capture of Radovan Karadzic is
certainly a major event, and it ought to have happened years ago. But the blanket comparisons drawn with Saddam or Osama, to me at any rate, seemed overblown.

The former Iraqi leader was a world player, for one thing. The iron-fisted ruler of one of the world’s largest petroleum states, his word was law in one of the most ancient lands in the world, the Mesopotamia of the Bible, with a population of tens of millions. As for Osama, he showed he was capable of blowing up large chunks of New York, while his network of supporters still strikes fear into the hearts of half the world’s governments.

I find it hard to place the Radovan that I remember, he of the rubbery face, floppy hair and weak smile, in the same league. As for the state of which he was once president, well, Pale is no Baghdad, and the Republika Srpska is no Iraq. A humble and unrecognised statelet, inhabiting much the same twilight zone as Transdniester, or Abkhazia, I doubt many people in Europe have even heard of it.

Likening Radovan to the steely, determined and fanatical Osama seems equally wide of the mark. I suppose it is just about possible that his supporters in London, concentrated in the Shepherds Bush area, could, if they really wanted to, just about get it together to attack one of the local Asian-owned sweet shops, or “storm” a newspaper kiosk. But more than that?

I only met Karadzic a few times, it has to be said, but I always felt he cut a faintly implausible figure, both as a leader of men and of a cause. It wasn’t just the nutty hairdo. It was more the wandering gaze, that fixed itself on the middle distance when he was speaking, and the limp, damp, handshake. There was a lack of conviction somewhere.

He always looked like someone who was trying out a role in an opportunistic fashion and who – if something better come along – would quite easily shrug off his present occupation and move on. Somehow it didn’t surprise me totally to learn that after slipping off the presidential sash that he had worn as head of state of his “entity” – word that in English evokes images of something conjured into life in a science lab – he had simply rebooted himself and emerged as a self-styled healer, treating credulous locals in flyblown towns in northern Serbia.

Somehow I would not have been surprised if he had been uncovered working as an archbishop in Greece, or as a car dealer in Chicago, or as a manager of an antiquarian bookshop in London, or as a circus hand in one of the remote “stans”. To each of those new roles I’m sure he would have brought the same fake, slightly fraudulent and unconvincing quality.
Of course I don’t blame our British TV stations for succumbing to hyperbole – or verbal inflation where Karadzic is concerned. July is a notoriously tricky month for the media. The Queen closes Parliament; she disappears into her Scottish castle and the MPs shuffle off on holiday. The media languishes, desperate for a little action. Karadzic arrived and hey presto, they seized the day. I just hope they don’t overdo it now, and so fall back into second gear if and when Ratko Mladic is handed over. Because if I were a Bosnian, that’s the event that would have me in the streets, for I still have a hunch that he, and not Karadzic was the really enthusiastic killer, the real psychopath.
Passport Return to Karadzic Family Reviewed

Sarajevo _ The top international envoy in Bosnia is considering whether to return travel documents to the Karadzic family, which would enable them to visit Radovan Karadzic.

Following a public call for the return of personal documents to the Karadzic family, the Office of the High Representative, OHR, opened negotiations with its “international and local partners”.

Ljiljana Radetic, PR of the OHR, confirmed this to Justice Report, adding that she could not provide any further details concerning lifting of measures imposed on the family of ICTY indictee Radovan Karadzic.

High Representative Miroslav Lajčak issued a decision on January 10 this year, ordering the seizure of travel documents from wife Ljiljana Zelen-Karadzic, son Aleksandar, daughter Sonja Karadzic-Jovic and son-in-law Branislav Jovic, on the basis of a suspicion that they were members of Radovan Karadzic’s support network.

Following the seizure, they were given so-called additional identity cards, which they can use within Bosnia only.

Following the arrest of Radovan Karadzic in Belgrade on July 21, 2008, his family members, who live in Pale, near Sarajevo, asked the High Representative to return their documents to them, so that they could visit him while he was still in Serbia.

“My mother’s health state is not so good. This is one of the reasons for which we asked for a permission to visit our dad in Belgrade. We cannot travel to The Hague, so we must visit him now, as I do not believe that we shall have any other opportunity to see him again,” Sonja Karadzic-Jovic said Justice Report.

About a month ago the High Representative issued a decision, ordering return of personal documents, travel documents and identification cards to Stojan Zupljanin’s family members. Zupljanin was arrested in Serbia on June 11, 2008, after having been on the run for nine years.
The Hague Tribunal charges Zupljanin with having committed crime against humanity and violation of laws and practices of warfare in Krajina area and planned the persecution, “which escalated into genocide”.

As per an announcement issued by the OHR on July 9, 2008, the decision was made on the basis of consultations with The Hague Tribunal and “other relevant international and local partners, involved in security and law enforcement activities”.

Besides the Karadzic family members, Milorad Dodik, Prime Minister of Republika Srpska, publicly asked the OHR to return the documents to the family members. He said that, now that Karadzic has been arrested, there is no more reason to prevent his family members from traveling outside Bosnia.

On this occasion Dodik publicly promised help to Karadzic’s family members, adding that this was “a priority for the Government of Republika Srpska”.

As per the Law on Cooperation of Republika Srpska with the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, the RS Government will pass a special provision, “which will regulate the issue of financial support to the RS citizens, who are held in detention in The Hague, as well as their family members.”

This article was compiled by BIRN’s Justice Report.
Belgrade _ Radovan Karadzic’s lawyer Svetozar Vujacic says that on Friday the former Bosnian Serb leader will appeal the decision by the Belgrade court to extradite him to The Hague.

Vujacic, speaking to reporters in front of the Special Court where he went to visit Karadzic on Wednesday, said since the appeal would be filed late on Friday, Karadzic can not be extradited before Monday.

This will allow him to extend his stay in Belgrade as long as possible and allow him to spend more time with his family.

Once the appeal is launched, the Serbian authorities have up to three days to rule on it. This means his extradition could take place over the weekend at the earliest or, at the latest, on Monday or Tuesday.

Like previous war crime suspects before him, Karadzic is likely to be taken to The Netherlands on a Serbian government plane, and straight to the United Nations detention unit in Scheveningen.

“Karadzic in Serbia will have a legal team to help him but before the Tribunal he will defend himself, as Vojislav Seselj does superbly,” Vujacic said, referring to the suspected paramilitary leader and chief of Serbia’s Radical Party who is facing trial at The Hague for war crimes during Bosnia’s 1992–1995 war.

Vujacic added that Karadzic, has shaved and had his hair cut, looking the same as he did 14 years ago but quite older.

Earlier the spokesman for Belgrade’s War Crimes Prosecutor’s Office, Bruno Vekaric he was confident Karadzic will be extradited in the coming days.

“Thereoretically, this could happen next week....or even earlier if the council comes up with decision faster,” Vekaric said.

Karadzic, who was arrested late on Monday, had been hiding in Belgrade under a false identity as a doctor, top Serbian officials said Tuesday.
Karadzic had been at large since 1995, evading a UN war-crimes trial where he was expected to answer charges over the killing of some 7,000 Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica in 1995, the siege of Sarajevo, the killing of civilians, the destruction of property and other war crimes committed during the three-year war.

In 1995, the ICTY indicted Karadzic and his top military commander, Ratko Mladic, with responsibility for masterminding atrocities and genocide during the Bosnian war.

“Radovan Karadzic is indicted by The Hague Tribunal and we expect Belgrade to fulfill its obligations to the Tribunal and transfer him under our jurisdiction,” said International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia spokeswoman Nerma Jelacic.

“As far as the tribunal is concerned the sooner that happens, the better. We are prepared,” she added.
Disguised Doctor Karadzic ‘Had Girlfriend’

Belgrade _While Radovan Karadzic awaits extradition to The Hague, more details have emerged in the local media about his bizarre way of life under a false identity.

“A guru in love” reads the front page of Serbian daily Blic on Wednesday featuring extraordinary details about Radovan Karadzic’s life in disguise as a doctor.

Unrecognisable, with long white hair and a long beard, Karadzic, under the name of Dragan or David Dabic appears to have led a much different life than one would have expected of one of the world’s most wanted fugitives ranked together with Osama bin Laden.

Over the past year he lived in a flat in New Belgrade, in front of photo and television cameras held lectures as an expert on meditation and health at seminars around the country, contributed articles for a magazine and sold charms and offered medical advice on his website.

Blic also reports he had a girlfriend, a “mysterious, attractive” dark-haired middle aged woman that he introduced as Mila, “the love of his life,” who was reportedly by his side at all times.

Radovan Karadzic is of course married, and his wife, together with his family, was subject to intense monitoring and restrictions by local authorities in Bosnia in case they made contact with the fugitive.

“She escorted him to every lecture and behaved like his wife. They held hands...when we would travel and there would be no room in the car for her, he [Karadzic] would say he is not going without her,” Tanja Jovanovic, one of the staff at the Zdrav zivot (Healthy Life) magazine, to which Karadzic contributed articles, told Blic.

Other staff at the magazine described Karadzic-Dabic as a charismatic nice man with a peculiar style of dress, resembling an Indian guru.

At lectures he was introduced as a neuro- psychiatrist who has traveled the world.

The editor in chief of the Zdrav zivot magazine had doubts over his credentials and he was described as a “spiritual healer.”
“He told me he worked at a clinic but would not tell me which one so I asked him for his degree. He said he could not provide it as it was with his wife, who he had divorced and who now lives in America,” Goran Kojic editor in chief of the magazine told Blic, adding Karadzic avoided talking about his life or family.

Some of Karadzic’s patients have also apparently come forward.

“No medicine just classic bio-energy, you know moving his hands over your body. I felt better, don’t know whether this was because he really had bio-energy,” said one unnamed Karadzic patient.

His website http://www.psy-help-energy.com/Index.html promoted his David Wellbeing Programme, based on the use of “human quantum energy”. His website says that people are “programmed” to live to between 120 and 130, an age that could be reached by those who had his treatments.

One of his lectures was called “The relationship between calmness and meditation.” He also gave lectures on healthy living. His website advertises energy healing and beauty treatments and offers to cure conditions ranging from impotence and other sexual problems to diabetes, asthma, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis.

On Tuesday, Balkan Insight revealed more details about Karadzic’s life under a false identity.
Karadzic Extradition ‘by Next Week’

Belgrade _ Radovan Karadzic could be extradited to The Hague over the weekend or next week at the latest, a spokesman for Belgrade’s War Crimes Prosecutor’s Office says.

Bruno Vekaric said the deadline for Karadzic lawyers to appeal the court decision to extradite the former wartime president of the Bosnian Serbs expires on Friday, and the procedure will depend on the court’s council, which has three days to make the final ruling.

“Theoretically, this could happen next week....or even earlier if the council comes up with decision faster,” Vekaric said.

Karadzic, who was arrested late on Monday, had been hiding in Belgrade under a false identity as a doctor, top Serbian officials said Tuesday.

Karadzic had been at large since 1995, evading a UN war-crimes trial where he was expected to answer charges over the killing of some 7,000 Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica in 1995, the siege of Sarajevo, the killing of civilians, the destruction of property and other war crimes committed during the three-year war.

In 1995, the ICTY indicted Karadzic and his top military commander, Ratko Mladic, with responsibility for masterminding atrocities and genocide during the Bosnian war.

Karadzic’s lawyer Svetozar Vujacic said earlier he would file a formal appeal by Friday.

“Radovan Karadzic is indicted by The Hague Tribunal and we expect Belgrade to fulfill its obligations to the Tribunal and transfer him under our jurisdiction,” said International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia spokeswoman Nerma Jelacic.

“As far as the tribunal is concerned the sooner that happens, the better. We are prepared,” she added.
Bosnian Serb PM ‘to Help’ Karadzic Family

Sarajevo _ Sonja Karadzic Jovicevic, Radovan Karadzic’s daughter, tells Balkan Insight she is grateful for the help the Premier of Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity is offering her and her family.

“I am grateful to him for understanding. I hope he will be able to help us to organise our lives and to resolve problems we have. I hope we will soon be in contact with Milorad Dodik,” Sonja Karadzic Jovicevic told Balkan Insight.

Speaking to local media, the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Serb-dominated entity of Republika Srpska, Dodik said that the Karadzic family has the right to financial help that were given to the families of people who are taken to The Hague.

Sonja also said she is hoping the whole family will be able to go to Belgrade and visit Radovan before he is transferred to The Hague and that they will send a request to the Office of the High Representative, the international envoy overseeing peace in Bosnia, to permit them to leave the country.

“We can not afford to travel to The Hague, and we hope that we will be able to go to Belgrade to see him,” said Sonja.

The Karadzic family assets have been frozen and their identification documents seized following a decision by Office of the High Representative in Bosnia, and warrants issued by the state court. Last November, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina temporarily prohibited Karadzic family members from disposing of their property.

The Court decision referred to the house owned by Karadzic’s wife Ljiljana Zelen Karadzic in Krivace village, the apartment owned by his daughter Sonja and her husband Branislav Jovicevic, as well as their business premises under construction, and an apartment belonging to Karadzic’s son Sasa. All the buildings and apartments are situated in the Pale municipality, outside Sarajevo.

This January their documents were taken away after the High Representative issued the order at the request of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague.
Speaking to Balkan insight, Sonja Karadzic said she believes Dodik would have helped the family earlier but it was not possible since the law forbids this since they are considered “Karadzic helpers.”

Sonja did not want to give any comments regarding her father’s arrest nor about his new identity. She said her mother Ljiljana is ill and this is one of the reasons why she will ask for permission to go and visit him.

Radovan Karadzic’s wife, daughter and son Sasa are living in Pale with their families. For a while during a war Sonja used to be in charge of Karadzic’s relations with international media. After the war she used to own the radio station St Jovan but this was shut down by the international community.

Son Sasa has a family with two kids, he does not officially work while his wife recently opened a kindergarten in Pale.

War crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic, who was arrested late on Monday, had been hiding in Belgrade under a false identity as a doctor.

Karadzic had been on the run since 1995, evading a UN war-crimes trial where he was expected to answer charges over the killing of up to 8,000 Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica in 1995, the siege of Sarajevo, the killing of civilians, the destruction of property and other war crimes committed during the three-year war.
Sarajevans Greet Arrest with Joy and Some Regret

Wonderful news - but what a pity it didn’t happen back in 1995. That’s the word on the streets of Sarajevo after news broke of the arrest.

BY MERIMA HUSEJNOVIC IN SARAJEVO

Most Sarajevans can barely believe that Radovan Karadzic has indeed been finally arrested, though they hope that if it’s true, it will lead to justice being done.

Although they greeted the news with euphoria, they remain skeptical about the outcome of a trial and want to know why it took so long.

“Why didn’t they arrest him in 1996 or 1997? He will die soon, just like some of the others who were extradited before him. He will die in a couple of months anyway,” said Rasim Kalac.

“They could have done it a long time ago, if they had they wanted to. But it is never too late. Even if he lives for one day only, he should tell what he is supposed to tell.”

Karadzic, former president of the Republika Srpska who was indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for genocide and other crimes, was arrested in Serbia after remaining in hiding for 13 years. He was arrested in an operation conducted by Serbian security forces on July 21.

Even though the first news of his arrest broke in the night, large number of people in Sarajevo wasted no time in taking to the streets and forming columns of cars, waving flags and shouting “This is Bosnia”.

Some Bosnian Serb politicians from the Republika Srpska, RS, expressed dismay at the reaction, saying they feared the popular mood might lead to “future attacks against Republika Srpska”, and suggesting the trial of Karadzic could develop into a trial of the entire RS.

Following the initial joy seen on the streets of the Bosnian capital in the evening hours, the morning proved somewhat quieter. “All the people are celebrating today. It is a holiday. Serbia has sold Karadzic,” Zulejha Hr-
lovic, who has been selling newspapers in the streets of Sarajevo for 15 years, said.

“The newspapers are selling better today than usual,” he added. “People are saying it’s good that this has finally happened, though they wish it happened sooner.

“No punishment can ease people’s suffering. I spent the entire war in Sarajevo. What my children and other citizens suffered was horrible. There is no satisfaction for that.”

Karadzic is charged, among other things, as leader of the Bosnian Serbs, with responsibility for the siege of Sarajevo from April 1, 1992 to November 30, 1995. During the siege of the city, which lasted for 1,425 days, a number of terrible massacres occurred. The most infamous included the bombing of the Markale city market in February 1994 and again on August 1995, which killed hundreds of civilians.

Many recall those terrible events. “I was not at work on that day, so I came there to buy something,” Sena Obarlija, who has worked at Markale since before the war, said.

“As soon as I arrived, the grenade hit the market. I could not see anything. People started shouting. You could hear thousands of cries. Everybody was on the ground. Everything was destroyed. The buyers and sellers were equally injured.”

Obarlija said, with a smile on her face, that everyone had now heard of Karadzic’s arrest, adding that “people are happy that he has been caught”. She maintained that the fugitive had “got what he deserved” and justice would be fulfilled if he never came out of jail.

Uma Lilic managed to escape the tragedy at Markale at the last moment in 1994. She was at work at the market only a day before the massacre.

“I brought some goods and at first I wanted to go back to the market to sell them the following morning,” she recalled. “Had it been that way I might have been killed. But I went there the day before and managed to sell all my goods.”

Lilic was excited when she heard that Karadzic had been arrested, though she also had misgivings. “It’s a shame. He was at liberty, and could go wherever he wanted, eating, drinking and enjoying life while poor mothers are still looking for their children,” she said.

“They search in holes, they find their bones... I could not do to an animal what he did to humans.”
Vahida Karic, a returnee to Kijevo, in eastern Sarajevo, in the RS, said the former leader of Bosnian Serbs was arrested too late and nothing useful could be done about it now.

“This does not mean anything to the victims and those people who died,” he said. “Innocent people and children were killed. I lost my entire family – nine members in seven days. This does not mean much to me now.” However, Karic noted it was “good that he is arrested”.

All our interlocutors agreed that Radovan Karadzic should have been arrested back in 1995.

“They should have done it much sooner. He should have been arrested right after the war,” said Salih Ljubuncic.

“Justice has not been fulfilled. As long as other criminals are free, it will never be fulfilled.”

Following the arrest of Karadzic, the list of top ICTY fugitives now comprises Ratko Mladic, commander of the Republika Srpska Army, and Goran Hadzic, charged with war crimes committed in Croatia.

Merima Husejnovic is BIRN’s Justice report correspondent. Balkan Insight and Justice report are BIRN’s online publications.
Karadzic Lawyer Denounces ‘Illegal’ Arrest

As bizarre details of suspect’s recent life as ‘healer’ emerge, lawyers cross swords over date of arrest and role of secret police.

BY RADE MAROEVIC AND ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC IN BELGRADE

Serbian judicial officials and Radovan Karadzic’s lawyer have crossed swords over the timing and nature of the arrest of the wanted war-crimes suspect and former Bosnian Serb leader, who appears to have been living a double life in recent years as a spiritual healer.

According to Radovan Karadzic’s lawyer, Svetozar Vujavic, he was arrested on Friday at around 9.30pm “on a bus” that was travelling between Belgrade’s Novi Beograd area and the outskirts of Batajnica.

However, the war crimes prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic has challenged Vujavic’s account, maintaining that Karadzic was not arrested on Friday but late on Monday, and in an operation that lasted several hours and was of a “low safety risk for the people involved.

“The arrest was made in a Belgrade suburb while he was moving to another hideout,” Vukcevic said. “We waited to strike until he moved there to minimize safety risks.”

Rasim Ljajic, Serbia’s minister in charge of cooperation with the Hague tribunal, the ICTY, said that the arrest had followed “surveillance of suspects involved in harbouring Karadzic”.

Vujacic maintained the arrest of his client was “illegal” and “a farce” because Serbian law did not allow police to detain suspects for more than 48 hours, and security agents had no right to arrest suspects but only to provide information to the Interior Ministry, which alone is authorized to apprehend suspects and hand them over to investigative judges.

Karadzic had been at large since 1995, evading a UN war-crimes trial where he was expected to answer charges over the killing of some 7,000 Muslim men and boys in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica in 1995, the 1992-1995 siege of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, the killing of civilians, the destruction of property and other war crimes committed during the three-year war.
In 1995, the ICTY indicted Karadzic and his top military commander, Ratko Mladic, with responsibility for masterminding atrocities and genocide during the Bosnian war.

Responding to his lawyer’s claims of undertaking an illegal action, the Interior Ministry maintained that Serbian secret service agents were not involved in Karadzic’s arrest.

The ministry is now headed by Ivica Dacic, leader of the Socialist Party of Serbia, which – ironically – was formerly led by another famous war-crimes suspect, Slobodan Milosevic. He died two years ago in the UN detention unit in The Hague while on trial.

According to Vujacic, Karadzic had “decided to remain silent” after his arrest and had “refused food” during questioning by Milan Dilparic, the duty investigative judge. The attorney said that according to a court physician, his client was in good health.

At a press conference, Vukcevic said Karadzic had been “moving freely” around in public under the assumed name of Dragan Dabic and had been practicing “alternative medicine at a private clinic”.

He produced a photograph that showed a bespectacled black-clad a man with a grey beard and long hair. “He was so good in this [disguise] that not even his employer and landlords knew who he really was,” Vukcevic said.

Balkan Insight has learnt that a Belgrade magazine, Healthy Life, ran a series of stories signed by one Dragan David Dabic, allegedly a doctor from Belgrade. A man with the same name lectured on healthy living in Belgrade’s Ada Ciganlija on May 23.

Employees of the magazine told Balkan Insight that the man shown in the most recently revealed photograph of Karadzic looked just like their contributor.

“He seemed like a very nice man who knows about spirituality... with his long beard and long hair he didn’t resemble Karadzic at all. I would have never guessed,” Goran Kojic, editor of the magazine, told Balkan Insight. “He wrote without a fee... as Dragan Dabic spiritual healer.”

Balkan Insight has also obtained a photograph (above) posted on http://www.sombor-cancer.org.yu/HTML/Zdrav_zivot.html, which describes him as “Dr Dragan Dabic”, a neuro-psychiatrist, who held a lecture in Novi Sad on April 12.

In a brief statement made shortly before midnight on Monday, Serbia’s National Security Council, headed by President Boris Tadic, announced
that Karadzic had been “handed over to the investigative judge of the Special War Crimes Court”.

This body is comprised of the President, the Prime Minister, the Interior Minister, and the chiefs of Security and Information Agency and the Military Security Agency.

Under law, after establishing his identity, which also includes DNA identification, Karadzic can expect to spend up to nine days in detention in Serbia, making appeals, before his extradition to the UN war crimes court for former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

At the press conference, Vukcevic said that Karadzic had already been presented with “a ruling on his extradition to the Hague tribunal”.

Belgrade, a city that has seen violent nationalist protests in the past, has so far remained calm, apart from a small rally held by a few dozen members of ultranationalist student groups. At least three people were arrested.

Rade Maroevic is online editor of Serbia’s public TV, RTS. Aleksandar Vasovic is Balkan Insight contributor. Slobodan Georgijev, Balkan Insight journalist, also contributed to this report. Balkan Insight is BIRN’s online publication.
22.07.2008

Bosnian Serb Hardliners ‘Angry’ at Arrest

Sarajevo _ Serbian Democratic Party members from Republika Srpska consider that the arrest of the former leader is shameful, adding that they do not believe that the Hague Tribunal is impartial.

The Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, which was led by Radovan Karadzic for many years, is surprised by his arrest. Its members do not believe that he will have a fair trial before the Hague Tribunal, which they consider as “an anti-Serbian court”.

“We are surprised. The arrest of Radovan Karadzic comes as a consequence of the establishment of new government in Serbia. In general, we do not trust the Hague Tribunal. We consider that it does not bring justice, and, as proven so many times up to now, this is a political court,” says Mladen Bosic, current SDS president.

After having been hiding for 13 years, Radovan Karadzic was arrested in the vicinity of Belgrade on July 21.

The Hague Tribunal indicted Karadzic for genocide, crime against humanity, violation of laws and practices of warfare committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, when he was president of Republika Srpska and supreme commander of its armed forces.

He was the president of Republika Srpska from December 1992 to July 1996. He was nominated to this position by the SDS, whose president he was since 1990, when the party was formed, following democratic changes and constitutional reforms in Bosnia.

Besides those who share Karadzic’s political ideas, members of the Serbian Radical Party of Republika Srpska and members of “Vojislav Seselj’s” Radical Party are disappointed by the arrest. Milanko Mihajlica, President of the Serbian Radical Party, told reporters that Karadzic’s arrest represents “the biggest Serbian dishonor, misery and orchestrated historical deception”.

“The fact that Radovan Karadzic will be extradited to the Hague Tribunal, which acquitted Ramush Haradinaj and Naser Oric of all charges, basically indicates that Karadzic will not be extradited to a court of justice, but
rather to an anti-Serbian court, which will do whatever Haris Silajdzic or Sulejman Tihic ask it to do. It will try Radovan Karadzic’s creations, and Republika Srpska is one of them,” Mihajlica said.

Haris Silajdzic is President of the Bosnian Presidency, while Sulejman Tihic is President of the Party for Democratic Action and former member of the Bosnian State Presidency. Silajdzic and Tihic welcomed Karadzic’s arrest, saying that it meant “justice to the victims and the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

Mirko Blagojevic, President of “Vojislav Seselj’s” Serbian Radical Party, says that he was “very upset” when he heard about the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, adding that he tried to hide “tears from his family”.

“I was up all night. This is very hard. One should not be ashamed of crying about a man like Radovan Karadzic, who will be handed over to a political, anti-Serbian court,” Blagojevic told Justice Report.

Blagojevic adding that the ICTY indictee Karadzic is innocent, adding that everybody was innocent until proven otherwise. He said that someone’s innocence could be proven during the course of a normal criminal proceeding, but this could not be done before a criminal court like the Hague Tribunal.

“I must say that I am unhappy. Those who feel happy today, do not have any reasons for that. Karadzic did so many things to preserve peace in Bosnia and to save the Serbian people, whose leader he once was,” Blagojevic said, adding that he “stands ready to help the Karadzic family in any way and to support Radovan’s legal Defence at the Hague Tribunal”.

Karadzic was one of the founders of a separate Serbian Assembly in Bosnia and Herzegovina on October 21, 1991. The Assembly claimed to have represented the Serbian people in Bosnia. At that time several “Serbian autonomous regions” were formed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In November 1991 a referendum was convened, at which majority of Bosnian Serbs voted for “remaining in a joint state, together with Serbia and Montenegro”.

On January 9, 1992 the Bosnian Serbs Assembly, controlled by the SDS, declared “The Republic of the Serbian People in Bosnia and Herzegovina”. On February 28, 1992 a constitution was passed, proclaiming that the Republic would comprise the Serbian Autonomous Regions, municipalities and other Serbian ethnic entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it would remain in the Yugoslav Federation.

Most Bosnian Serbs decided to boycott the independence referendum, organised by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
A short time after that, on May 13, 1992, Karadzic became the first president of Bosnian Serbs, based in Pale, a town near Sarajevo, in which the Karadzic family still lives.

This report was compiled by BIRN’s Justice Report.
Bosnia War Survivors Hail Karadzic Capture

Sarajevo _ While Bosnian victims welcome the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, they express hope that this will mark an end to a long and hard era.

According to police reports, no incidents have been recorded in Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the news of the arrest of ICTY indictee Radovan Karadzic.

Members of associations of war victims are delighted by the news about his arrest, adding that “justice has finally found its way through.”

Radovan Karadzic was arrested in Belgrade on Monday, July 21, 2008. This was 13 years after the Hague Tribunal filed an indictment against him, for his role in the crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and issued a warrant.

“I am glad that the justice has found its way through all this, as we have been awaiting this moment for so long. It has eventually come. This should have happened earlier. I consider that you can do anything if you want to,” says Esma Palic, the wife of Avdo Pali, former Bosnian Army Colonel, who disappeared in 1995.


Karadzic is charged with genocide, crime against humanity and violation of laws and practices of warfare, as well as severe violations of the Geneva Convention of 1949, committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from July 1, 1991 to November 30, 1995.

At first, the associations of victims were in disbelief when they heard the news on the arrest of the top ICTY fugitive, because, as they said, they “could not believe that this would ever happen”.

“There is some kind of a joy, but, on the other hand, when one thinks about what he did... However, we can say that this is a good thing and we can hardly wait to seeing him at The Hague. We hope that he will get the
most severe punishment and never come out of jail again,” says Nura Be-
gić, one of the survivors of the Srebrenica genocide.

Alija Feriz of the Bosnian Association of Detainees from Velika Kladusa, says that he could not believe the news on his arrest, adding that “justice was partially fulfilled” by his arrest.

“I think that the arrest comes at the right time, in terms of the political situation, because we have all started to believe that he would never be arrested. I am pleasantly surprised to hear that he is alive, as he was the leader of the crime. His arrest will lead to the extension of the ICTY’s mandate,” says Edin Ramulic of the “Izvor” Association from Prijedor.

Radominka Duvnjak of the Association for Search for Missing Soldiers and Civilians from Vlasenica, did not want to comment on Karadzic’s arrest. She did say, though, that, “as far as she knew”, there were no incidents in this town.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republika Srpska issued a statement, saying that the security situation in the entity was “stable” and “no incidents have been reported.”

“It was raining and nothing happened. There was no disorder. The situation is the same today. The streets are deserted. Some people believe that this is realistic, because they have been looking for him for so many years and, all of a sudden, they have now arrested him,” Mladen Kojic from Srebrenica said.

This report was compiled by BIRN’s Justice Report.
Macedonia Applauds Karadzic’s Capture

Skopje _ Macedonia on Tuesday greeted the arrest of the former wartime leader of Bosnian Serbs, and The Hague war crimes tribunal’s top fugitive Radovan Karadzic.

“This shows that the time has come to leave the tragic Balkan decade of the 1990s to the historians. The countries from the region should focus towards the common European future for the Balkans as a whole,” government spokesman Ivica Bocevski told media in Skopje.

After more than a decade of hiding, Karadzic was arrested late Monday in an operation by Serbian police on Serbian soil.

The charges against Karadzic in front of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, ICTY at The Hague include genocide, extermination, murder, deportation, inhumane acts, and other crimes committed against Bosnian Muslim, Bosnian Croats and other non-Serb civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1992-1995 civil war.

Karadzic’s arrest was welcomed by many world leaders and politicians. His transfer to the Hague is now believed to be imminent.
Kosovo PM: Karadzic Arrest ‘Good News’

Pristina _ Kosovo's government has hailed the arrest of top war crimes fugitives Radovan Karadzic.

Kosovo’s Prime Minister Hashim Thaci said Tuesday that the arrest of Karadzic proves the readiness of Serbia’s new government to cooperate with the West.

“This is good for peace and stability in the region,” Thaci told CNN.

However the Prime Minister emphasised that there is still a lot left to be done by the Belgrade government.

Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb wartime political leader disappeared in 1996 and was subsequently indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

He is accused of war crimes and genocide over the massacre of 8,000 Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica.
Disguised Karadzic ‘Gave Spirituality Lectures’

Belgrade _ Top war crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic had been hiding in Belgrade under a false identity as a doctor and gave lectures on spirituality, Balkan Insight has learnt.

“Karadzic was hiding in New Belgrade under a false identity...He was using name of Dragan Dabic,” Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic said, adding that the world’s most wanted war crimes fugitive “practiced alternative medicine in a private office in Belgrade.”

“Karadzic was moving freely in Belgrade. His false identity was so convincing that no one was able to identify him, including his landlord and employer,” Vukcevic said.

Balkan Insight has learnt that a Belgrade magazine “Healthy Life” ran a series of stories signed by Dragan David Dabic, a doctor from Belgrade.

The employees of the magazine told Balkan Insight that the man shown in the most recent photographed Karadzic as displayed by the Serbian prosecutor, looks absolutely like the contributor.

“I met him in September at a lecture about spirituality. A friend introduced us and he seemed like a very nice man who knows about spirituality... with his long beard and long hair he doesn’t resemble Karadzic at all. I would have never guessed,” Goran Kojic, the editor in chief of the magazine told Balkan Insight.

“He wrote without a fee... as Dragan Dabic spiritual healer.”

Balkan Insight has also obtained a photograph (above) posted on http://www.sombor-cancer.org.yu/HTML/Zdrav_zivot.html, which says ‘Dr. Dragan Dabic’, a neuro-psychiatrist held a lecture in Novi Sad on April 12.
Karadzic, who went under the name DD David, apparently had a website http://www.psy-help-energy.com/Index.html where he advertised his energy healing treatment for everything ranging from impotence, through to asthma, multiple sclerosis and autism. His method involved tempering with what he called Human Quantum Energy according to a practice he named the David Wellbeing Program.

Vukcevic said that security forces arrested the former Bosnian Serb leader in a carefully planned operation, and under minimal security risk for police and the fugitive.

The operation which eventually led to Karadzic’s arrest started in the afternoon.

Karadzic was arrested in a operation which initially targeted a group of aides to former Bosnian Serbs military chief Ratko Mladic but Serbian security forces seemed surprised when they stumbled across the other top fugitive.

However, Karadzic’s attorney, Sveta Vujacic, said his client had been arrested on Friday when he was on board a bus. “He just said that these people showed him a police badge and then he was taken to some place and kept in a room. And that is absolutely against the law what they did.”

The charges against Karadzic, last amended in May 2000, include genocide, extermination, murder, deportation, inhumane acts, and other crimes committed against Bosnian Muslim, Bosnian Croat and other non-Serb civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1992-1995 war.
Bosnian Serbs Pan Sarajevo over Karadzic

Banja Luka _ The Assembly in Bosnia’s Serb-dominated entity of Republika Srpska suspended sessions after condemning Sarajevo politicians who were celebrating the arrest of Radovan Karadzic.

After the Assembly halted sessions, Mladen Bosic, the chief of the Serb Democratic Party, that was formerly led by wartime Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, held a press conference arguing his party is not ready to continue with sessions “after the political orgy by politicians in (Bosnia’s other entity) the Federation because of Karadzic’s arrest.”

Bosic said that news from Sarajevo and political reaction showed that Karadzic’s trial will not be only his trial “but a trial against the whole of Republika Srpska.”

“Wartime leaders from the Federation are those who want more than a trial. They expect to announce their victory 13 years after the war is over,” claimed Bosic.

He demanded that Republika Srpska Parliament take a stand on “the ongoing crisis in Bosnia.”

Bosic commented on celebration from last night in Sarajevo and statements by Haris Silajdžić, the Bosniak member of the tripartite Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who said that it can not be allowed that “the two peoples project,” referring to Karadzic and his military commander, Ratko Mladić, should stay alive.

This was interpreted by Bosic as a threat against the very existence of Republika Srpska which was created as a homeland for Bosnian Serbs during the war.

After the assembly was brought to a halt, the Republika Srpska Prime Minister Milorad Dodik announced a press conference in Banja Luka for later on Tuesday.
RADOVAN KARADZIC
WARTIME LEADER'S YEARS ON TRIAL

22.07.2008

A Mountain of Evidence Pointing to Genocide

Unlike the careful and calculated Milosevic, Karadzic has left a mass of incriminating evidence, which will make it harder to fight the charge of genocide at his Hague trial.

BY ANA UZELAC IN THE HAGUE

Even before the trial of the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic begins, it is clear that the job of prosecuting him will be time-consuming but possibly relatively simple – in his years on power, the flamboyant Serb warlord has left an overwhelming amount of evidence against himself, much of which has already been heard in the many chambers of the Hague tribunal.

Maps, newspaper clippings, video-footages, minutes from late night sessions, official speeches and relaxed telephone chats – a veritable mountain of materials gathered by the tribunal prosecutors during ten years of their work creates a chilling, detailed picture of the way in which the Bosnian war was forged and fought and of Karadzic’s role in it.

Karadzic, who led the Bosnian Serbs from 1992 until after the signing of the Dayton peace accord in late 1995, is indicted for about every crime on the international criminal law books: genocide, crimes against humanity, violations of laws and customs of war and grave breaches of Geneva conventions.

After the first arrest warrants for Karadzic fell through, a 10-day hearing was held in his case in summer 1996, where the prosecution provided the summary of the evidence gathered at the time.

The trial was held under a rule that provided for an ex parte proceeding in case there was a failure to execute a warrant of arrest.

Numerous expert witnesses and prosecution investigators presented some of the evidence they possessed and outlined the way in which they would conduct the case that is now – eight years later – about to begin.

Based on the evidence gathered at the time, the prosecution painted a broad picture of the political events leading to the fall of former Yugoslavia, and specifically the war in Bosnia.
Later they went on to depict the way in which war was fought in its different phases and in different parts of the republic – building their argumentation from the events in the field up to levels of Bosnian Serb decision makers.

Special attention was given to the war in eastern and north-western Bosnia; to concentration camps run by Bosnian Serb police and army in the summer of 1992; to the shelling and sniping campaign in Sarajevo and to the most dramatic episode of the whole war – the massacre of some 7,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica in July 1995.

In all of these cases the prosecutors were trying to show that Karadzic either planned much of the ethnic cleansing campaigns or knew about the crimes committed and failed to react.

In the following years, the evidence that could be used in the Karadzic case has only grown, and much of it has already been admitted in many other trials that have wrapped up since.

Responding to a legal suit filed by Bosnia and Herzegovina against Serbia and Montenegro, the International Court of Justice at The Hague ruled that genocide was committed in Srebrenica in 1995.

The trial of Radoslav Brdjanin, the top Serb politician in north-western Bosnia and Karadzic’s ally at the time, provides abundant material on the large-scale ethnic cleansing campaign there and the on the functioning of the concentration camps, as well as a detailed picture of the chain of political, and military command structures leading up to Karadzic himself.

Brdjanin’s trial was completed in 2007 and he was sentenced to 30 years of prison for crimes committed in northern Bosnia.

Some of those testimonies were also repeated in the trial of Momcilo Krajsnik – Karadzic’s right hand man, who is set to appeal the Court’s first instance sentence to 27 years of prison, for crime against humanity, including persecution, extermination, murder, deportation and forced resettlement of the non-Serbian population during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

One of the particularly serious pieces of evidence was a 192-page report named “The Bosnian Serb Leadership 1990-1992,” written by the prosecution’s investigator, Patrick Traenor.

The report describes in painstaking details the structure and the decision-making within the ranks of the ruling Bosnian Serb party, the SDS, and its connections to the municipal and regional para-state structures.
The report was based on minutes from different party and assembly sessions, public as well as secret party documents, intercepts of telephone conversations, which according to tribunal insiders in electronic version fills about 3 gigabytes of disk space.

It shows the precise extent to which the top-party and state leaders, including Karadzic and Krajisnik, were informed – and in control of – the events in the field.

More damning evidence was produced during the various testimonies of Karadzic’s former political underling in the wider Srebrenica region, Miroslav Deronjic.

After striking a plea agreement with the prosecution last year, Deronjic testified about Karadzic’s alleged role in the mass executions of some 7,000 Muslim men and boys after the fall of the Srebrenica enclave in July 1995.

In his witness statement he claimed that just two days before the fall of the enclave Karadzic personally told him that the Srebrenica men would “all have to die”.

A separate body of evidence connecting Karadzic with the more than three-year siege of Sarajevo was brought up in the case of Stanislav Galic, the commander of the Romanija Corps, now sentenced for life in prison for conducting the sniping and shelling campaign in Sarajevo.

The load for Karadzic’s future defence team is growing with every new sentence delivered to high-ranking Bosnian functionaries.

During the initial hearings in 1996, Karadzic had officially empowered Belgrade lawyer, Igor Pantelic, to defend him. It is not clear whether Pantelic would take on his defence now.

Should he do that, the body of case law that he would have to fight is now incomparably bigger than when he first appeared in The Hague to represent his client eight years ago.

The landmark verdict in the case of Radislav Krstic, the Drina Corps commander who was sentenced to 35 years in prison for mass executions in Srebrenica, confirming Srebrenica was a case of genocide, may be just the last in the row of legal precedents that would make it hard for any lawyer to fight the gravest charge against Karadzic – of genocide.

Lot of evidence on this charge had also been presented in the trial of the late Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic when the judges had a whole
chapter describing the “evidence in the genocidal intent of Bosnian Serb leadership,” with which he collaborated.

Looking through the evidence presented so far, it is hard to resist the impression that Karadzic did more than his share to ease the job for this future prosecution.

Unlike the careful and calculated Milosevic, he was an oddly straightforward politician, who had no qualms about announcing his plans and ambitions, be it in private or in public.

“They [Muslims] will disappear, that people will disappear from the face of the Earth...,” he confided in a telephone conversation with poet Gojko Djogo already in October 1991, months before the outbreak of war in Bosnia, in an intercept recently admitted into evidence in the Milosevic case.

Two days later, on October 15 session of the Bosnian parliament, on which the Muslim and Croat parties decided to announce independence, he repeated this threat in public.

Taking the stand, he warned the deputies the independence would take them “down the same road of hell and suffering” that the neighbouring Croatia was already going. “Don’t think that you won’t take Bosnia and Herzegovina to hell and Muslim people in possible extinction.”

And after the war broke out, Karadzic had a very clear explanation of what had happened: “This conflict was incited so that the Muslims would not exist,” he explained on a Bosnian Serb Assembly Session in summer 1992, just a few months into the Bosnian war.

Sixteen years after these words, he is beginning to account for the deeds that followed.

Ana Uzelac is senior analyst with Impunity Watch, Netherlands-based research-for-policy group working on issues of post-conflict justice. This article does not reflect Impunity Watch official position. Balkan Insight is BIRN’s online publication.
Albania Hails Karadzic’s Arrest

Tirana _ The Albanian government praised on Tuesday the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader accused of war crimes and genocide by the Hague Tribunal.

“The arrest of one of the most brutal figures of Serbia’s ultranationalism and the main culprit for the massive and systematic genocide in Bosnia, it’s an act that must be greeted,” said a statement released by Prime Minister Sali Berisha.

“This arrest will alleviate the spirits of the thousand of victims seeking justice,” the statement adds.

Tirana urged Belgrade to make sure that Ratko Mladic and other war criminals hiding in Serbia, receive the same fate as Karadzic.
Russia: Karadzic Arrest ‘A Matter for Serbia’

Belgrade _ The arrest of Radovan Karadzic is an internal matter for Serbia and Belgrade should decide for itself whether Karadzic is to face an international tribunal, the Russian Foreign Ministry says.

“We regard this fact as Serbia’s domestic affair and the leadership of the Serbia Republic,” a source at the foreign ministry was quoted by Moscow’s Itar-Tass news agency as saying.

“The Serbian side should make a decision on its own concerning the further fate of Karadzic, including his extradition to the international tribunal,” the source said.

According to the office of Serbian President Boris Tadic, Karadzic was arrested on Monday night in Serbia. The 63-year-old top war crime suspect was indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for genocide during the 1992–1995 Bosnian war and had been hiding since 1998.
Karadzic Lived in Serbia with ‘False Identity’

Belgrade _ Top war crimes fugitives Radovan Karadzic, who was arrested late on Monday, had been hiding in Belgrade under a false identity, top Serbian officials said Tuesday.

Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic said that security forces arrested former Bosnian Serb leader in a carefully planned operation, and under minimal security risk for police and the fugitive.

“Karadzic was hiding in New Belgrade under a false identity...He was using name of Dragan Dabic,” Vukcevic said, adding that the world’s most wanted war crimes fugitive “practiced alternative medicine in a private office in Belgrade.”

The operation which eventually led to Karadzic’s arrest started in the afternoon.

“Karadzic was moving freely in Belgrade. His false identity was so convincing that no one was able to identify him, including his landlord and employer,” Vukcevic said.

Karadzic was arrested in an operation which initially targeted a group of aides to former Bosnian Serbs military chief Ratko Mladic but Serbian security forces seemed surprised when they stumbled across the other top fugitive.

Karadzic was arrested “in an action by the Serbian security services,” pro-European President Boris Tadic’s cabinet said in a statement late on Monday.

However, Karadzic’s attorney, Sveta Vujacic, said her client had been arrested on Friday when he was on board a bus. “He just said that these people showed him a police badge and than he was taken to some place and kept in a room. And that is absolutely against the law what they did.”

The charges against Karadzic, last amended in May 2000, include genocide, extermination, murder, deportation, inhumane acts, and other crimes committed against Bosnian Muslim, Bosnian Croat and other non-Serb civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1992-1995 war.
The Hague’s top war crimes prosecutor Serge Brammertz congratulated Serbia on “achieving this milestone in cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.”

“Yesterday’s operation showed that we do not pick a time nor the place to arrest war crimes fugitives,” head of Serbia’s Council for Cooperation with The Hague Tribunal Rasim Ljajic told reporters.

“Everybody expected Mladic to be arrested and very few people expected this to happened to Karadzic.”
EU Welcomes the Arrest of Karadzic

22.07.2008

Brussels _ The European Union has welcomed the arrest of top war crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic, noting this move will help Serbia move closer to the bloc.

“This is a very positive development that will contribute to bringing justice and lasting reconciliation in the Western Balkans,” said Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission.

“It proves the determination of the new Serbian government to achieve full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. It is also very important for Serbia’s European aspirations,” he added.

The French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner, whose country currently heads the EU’s rotating presidency also welcomed the news.

“Finally it happened. Today our thoughts are with the victims of Srebrenica and Sarajevo. The government that we have supported did this. Finally we have a pro-European government and not a nationalist one. This is certainly a good thing for the relations between EU and Serbia,” he said.

The EU’s Enlargement Commissioner added that tying Serbia’s European aspirations to the delivery of war crimes suspects from the 1990s Balkan wars works.

“This proves that new government of Serbia has determination to turn the page and leave nationalistic past and move towards European future. This also proves that European policy of conditionality works,” said Olli Rehn.

The EU and Serbia signed a pre-membership deal in April. But the bloc said the agreement would only take effect once Belgrade fully cooperates with the Hague war crimes tribunal – meaning Belgrade must hand over Karadzic and other wanted war suspects.

Prosecutors had suspected Bosnian Serb nationalists of helping a disguised Karadzic elude arrest. Belgrade officials, however, insisted its forces simply could not locate him.

Serbian Foreign Minister Vic Jeremic told reporters in Brussels that his country is “very serious” about EU membership.
“We demonstrated this yesterday. We want to be a member of the European Union (and) a regional player for regional stability.”

The EU’s foreign affairs chief Javier Solana expressed “immense satisfaction” with the arrest and praised Serb authorities for demonstrating their desire to cooperate fully with the tribunal.

But “there are still some people at large that should also be placed in front of the tribunal,” he said.
Karadzic: From Dissident Poet to Most Wanted

When Karadzic was selected as Bosnian Serb leader in 1989, no one then imagined he would end up presiding over sieges, concentration camps and the worst crime to occur in Europe since World War II.

By Gordana Katana in Banja Luka

No one who knew Radovan Karadzic before 1989 could ever have guessed that the Sarajevo psychiatrist and “reckless poet” would turn, in the space of just seven years, from a candidate for sainthood into the most wanted fugitive on the planet after the Saudi terrorist, Osama Bin Laden.

Radovan (Vuksan) Karadzic was born in the village of Pisce, in the Savnik municipality, in Montenegro. He received a medical degree and then underwent specialist training in psychiatry in Sarajevo. He is married and the father of two.

Karadzic started his political career in 1989 when the Serbian Democratic Party, SDS, was formed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and at that point he was given the role of a greyhound hare. This meant that in the first few months of the Serbs’ political organizing in pre-war Bosnia-Herzegovina, his role was to force the pace and then cede the post of party leader to some more prominent and politically more experienced Serb figure.

Many Yugoslav political analysts claim Dobrica Cosic and Jovan Raskovic, the late Croatian Serb leader, personally suggested to Karadzic that he take on this role.

In his first public appearances in 1989, Karadzic himself claimed that he was “at the helm of SDS only temporarily and that he would soon be replaced”. Names mentioned off the record included Nenad Kecmanovic and Dragan Kalinic.

However, only a few months later, it turned out that the assessments that Karadzic was only a short-track runner were wrong. He had turned into the supreme Bosnian Serb leader.

Explaining the beginning of his political career, Karadzic said in interview in 1993: “When the Party of Democratic Action was founded, based
on Muslim fundamentalist ideas, and when the Croatian extremists made their guest appearance, promising borders on the Drina, that was a sign alerting the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina”.

He went on to assert that “some twenty or so of us who were in the opposition for almost 30 years, dissidents, exiles who had accepted the fact that we would be second-class citizens, began looking at one another and thinking that the Serb people must be saved”.

Today, many pre-war Sarajevo residents wonder how and why the “Muslim secret service” managed to tap and organize the surveillance of a man who had published a few collections of poetry, had the reputation of a prominent doctor, and was a member of the Sarajevo Football team management.

Karadzic’s stance and attitude towards Bosniaks in Bosnia-Herzegovina changed at the same speed at which the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina took place at the beginning of the Nineties.

In the summer of 1990, on the bridge in Foca, Karadzic and the then SDA leader, Alija Izetbegovic, jointly paid tribute to the Muslim and Serbian victims of World War II and swore that blood would never again flow in the Drina.

That same year, the press and TV stations’ archives stored election campaign footage and reports in which Karadzic, Izetbegovic and the then Bosnian Croat leader, Stjepan Kljujic, sent out a message to the people, saying that: “The communists have set you against one another; we will reconcile you again”.

Soon after the elections, however, Karadzic replaced the idea of coexistence with the claim that “We simply cannot get along with Alija and the Muslims”, not forgetting to add also that “In the event of any clashes, the Serbs will always be stronger by one bullet”.

In July 1991, Karadzic emphasised that “if the Serbs are attacked, that would mean that Yugoslavia has also been attacked and all Serbs will volunteer, join the JNA (former Yugoslav People’s Army) and defend the country together with the JNA”.

In October 1991, when everyone stopped keeping count of the number of victims who had been killed in Vukovar, eastern Croatia, and when only the naïve still believed that that the war would not spread from Croatia to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Karadzic told the non-Serb deputies attending a session of the Bosnia-Herzegovina parliament: “If you decide in favour of the war, you will disappear off the face of the earth”.

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Encouraged by the famous Memorandum written by the members of the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences, based in Belgrade, and backed by the then Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, under the slogan “All Serbs in one state”, and by the Chetnik movement’s 1941 platform of a Serbian state whose borders spread to Karlovac and Karlobag, Karadzic took the helm of a warpath that left thousands of dead and crippled in Bosnia–Herzegovina and made half of the country’s pre-war population flee their homes.

In response to the referendum for Bosnia–Herzegovina’s independence held on March 1, 1992, the Serbian deputies quit the Bosnia–Herzegovina Assembly and formed the Republika Srpska of Bosnia–Herzegovina. On May 13, they elected Karadzic as their first president.

Based on their proclaimed constitution, Karadzic became the Republika Srpska’s Supreme Army Commander. In the years that followed, concentration camps were opened for the first time since the Second World War in more than half of Bosnia–Herzegovina’s territory, which the JNA, before it withdrew to rump Yugoslavia, placed under control of the Bosnian Serbs.

Almost all buildings of the Islamic community were wiped out, as well as many Catholic churches, while the non-Serb population was systematically persecuted and killed.

All this time Karadzic was still able to deceive people and publicly tell lies, posing as an honest man with great ease.

Asked to comment on the Trnopolje prison camp in which Bosniaks from the Prijedor region were being imprisoned, tortured and killed in 1992, he answered that Penny Marshal, the British ITN reporter who was there, broadcast “a false story about Trnopolje as a concentration camp. Trnopolsje was a camp formed by Muslim refugees.

They wanted to assemble in one place where our people could protect them. They could come and go as they wished. Our men protected them, gave them their food.”

He was no less capable of replying, within days, to the same question – “Why is your army bombing Sarajevo?” – with answers ranging from: “We are not doing it, but the Muslims”, to “We are not attacking Sarajevo but protecting our homes around Sarajevo; when you are catching a poisonous snake, you don’t catch it by the head, but by the tail, because it could bite.”
Still, the spring of 1993 was remembered mainly for Karadzic’s refusal to sign the so-called Vance –Owen plan and so end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Milosevic returned publicly humiliated to Belgrade from the Bosnian Serb Assembly in Pale, which said a categorical “no” to the peace plan.

Following this, Milosevic’s wife, Mira Markovic, stripped Karadzic of the right “to speak on behalf of the 12 million Serbs” who were, as he claimed, ready to go to war with the whole world in order to protect the interests of Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The letter that was sent to the Bosnian Serb Assembly in connection with this, which started with a warning that “now is not the time to compete in patriotism”, marked the first public conflict between Karadzic and Milosevic.

Karadzic’s lucky war star, helped by the international community’s inertia, followed him until the summer of 1995. Right after the operation Oluja (Storm) in which the Croatian Army took control of the self-proclaimed Republic of Serbia Krajina, which had been under the control of Croatian Serbs, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the ICTY, issued an indictment against Karadzic on July 25.

The Tribunal charged the Bosnian Serb leader with genocide, crimes against humanity, persecution of political leaders, intellectuals and professionals, shelling of places in which civilians were assembled, appropriation and plunder of property, deportation, destruction of property, destruction of places of worship, and unlawful confinement of civilians.

Karadzic is the only one who knows the answer to the question why he did not stop even after this, and why the Srebrenica massacre had to happen in the summer of 1995, which will forever be remembered as the gravest crime to take place in Europe since the end of the Second World War.

Speaking about the massacre in his book, Karadzic says: “Srebrenica was never a protected zone. And if you don’t believe me, ask Boutros Ghali, the former UN Secretary General.

He admitted it several times, and told me that Srebrenica was a Muslim military stronghold”.

According to Karadzic, “Izetbegovic surrendered Srebrenica so to transfer troops to Sarajevo and trigger international intervention”.

Karadzic further claimed that when the Serbs entered the city, “There wasn’t a single Muslim soldier there. We only found the civilian popula-
tion and Dutch soldiers comprising the UN units. The Serb military and ci-
vilian authorities did not commit a single offence in the Muslim enclave”.

As for how much anyone believed him, this is best illustrated by the fact that the Hague indictment against him was expanded to include the charge of genocide against the Srebrenica population.

The signing of the Dayton Peace Accord in November 1995 marked the end of Karadzic’s official political engagements.

The OSCE temporary election commission, in charge of organising the first post-war election in Bosnia-Herzegovina, banned political activities by all persons sought by The Hague Tribunal.

Karadzic withdrew from the post of RS president in June 1996 and let the then vice-president, Biljana Plavsic, take over. Still, he held the real power in the RS in his hands for another 12 months, if only backstage.

The SDS convincingly won the September 1996 elections, though it was none other than Plavsic who then put a stop to his supreme, unlimited power in July of the next year.

In a showdown inside the SDS, she named Karadzic one of the main culprits who had forced the RS into impoverishment, crime and international isolation.

Since 1997, the Hague Tribunal has repeatedly requested that Karadzic be brought to justice. Debates on who is responsible for his arrest went on, and while speaking about his “captivity in the RS”, Karadzic sent out messages saying: “I move around my country as I do around my home”.

Karadzic was repeatedly urged to voluntarily surrender but that gave no results. “They would be better off killing me than letting me go to The Hague, because they would have far more problems with me at The Hague,” he said.

Gordana Katana is Balkan Insight contributor. Balkan Insight is BIRN’s online publication.
Karadzic Set for The Hague

Belgrade, Serbia is set to extradite former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who was arrested in Serbia on Monday.

After his arrest, Karadzic was questioned for an hour by Belgrade investigative judge Milan Dilparic.

“It is all over,” Dilparic told reporters on Monday night in front of Belgrade’s main courthouse, ending the initial phase of an extradition procedure which is complicated but which appears to be moving swiftly.

Karadzic’s transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, ICTY at The Hague is now believed to be imminent.

In the meantime, Serbian authorities and police are prepared for possible reactions by hard-line nationalists and the underground network that sheltered Karadzic for 13 years.

No further details on Karadzic’s fate were immediately available, but two top war-crimes officials, head of Belgrade’s Council for Cooperation with The Hague Rasim Ljajic and senior prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic are expected to shed more light on the procedure later on Tuesday.

Karadzic was arrested “in an action by the Serbian security services,” pro-European President Boris Tadic’s cabinet said in a statement late on Monday.

However, Karadzic’s attorney, Sveta Vujacic, said her client had been arrested on Friday when he was on board a bus. “He just said that these people showed him a police badge and than he was taken to some place and kept in a room. And that is absolutely against the law what they did.”

Serbian police deployed anti-riot units around the courthouse, as a small number of Karadzic supporters gathered in nearby streets. Police units were also visible near the US Embassy and the main government building in Belgrade. Several people were arrested during a skirmish with police outside the courthouse.

The charges against Karadzic, last amended in May 2000, include genocide, extermination, murder, deportation, inhumane acts, and other
crimes committed against Bosnian Muslim, Bosnian Croat and other non-Serb civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1992-1995 war.

The Hague’s top war crimes prosecutor Serge Brammertz congratulated Serbia on “achieving this milestone in cooperation with the ICTY”.

Serbia Reacts to Karadzic’s Arrest

Belgrade _ Serbian political parties were divided in their reaction to the news about the arrest of Radovan Karadzic.

Aleksandar Vucic, the deputy head of Serbia’s hardline nationalist Serbian Radical Party told Balkan Insight said that Karadzic’s arrest “is horrible news for Serbia.”

“We will continue our resistance against the treacherous regime of (President Boris) Tadic,” he said by phone.

Meanwhile, the Socialist Party of Serbia formerly led by late President Slobodan Milosevic distanced itself from Karadzic’s arrest, while the Interior Ministry now led by Socialist leader Ivica Dacic said its “servicemen did not take part” in the operation.

Karadzic was the wartime President of the Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has been indicted by the UN’s war crimes tribunal for genocide.

Natasa Kandic, a human rights activist welcomed the arrest and Nenad Canak, the head of the pro-European Union of Vojvodina Social Democrats said that the authorities must “uncover those who harboured Karadzic all these years.”

The staunchly pro-Western Liberal democratic Party said that with the arrest the country is now “on the path of revealing the full truth” about the Balkan wars between 1991 and 1999 and “facing the truth.”

“People of Serbia were held hostages of Milosevic’s policies and war crimes fugitives,” the party said in a statement.

After Karadzic’s detention in the Special War Crimes Court, dozens of policemen in full riot gear cordoned off the court building in downtown Belgrade. They prevented tens of supporters of nationalist student organisations to stage a rally. According to eyewitnesses, at least 10 people were detained.

The rest of Belgrade remained quiet during the night.
Belgrade_ The United States on Monday congratulated the government of Serbia on the capture of accused war criminal Radovan Karadzic.

“We congratulate the government of Serbia, and thank the people who conducted this operation for their professionalism and courage,” a White House statement said calling his arrest a “tribute” to the victims of atrocities in Bosnia.

Karadzic, who is accused of war crimes and genocide over the massacre of thousands of Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica, was arrested on Serbian soil, after 13 years on the run.

He was jointly indicted in 1995 along with the Bosnian Serb military leader, Ratko Mladic, for alleged war crimes they committed during the 1992–1995 war.

“The timing of the arrest, only days after the commemoration of the massacre of over 7,000 Bosnians committed in Srebrenica, is particularly appropriate, as there is no better tribute to the victims of the war’s atrocities than bringing their perpetrators to justice.”

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino noted that the catalogue of alleged offences against Karadzic includes “a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing directed at non-Serbs, organised attacks on places of worship, the operation of concentration camps, and the mass murder of thousands of Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat civilians.”

The successful effort to finally track down and apprehend him “is an important demonstration of the Serbian Government’s determination to honor its commitment to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia,” the White House said.
Bosnian Serbs Cautious on Karadzic Arrest

Banja Luka _ Bosnian Serb politicians welcomed the arrest of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic but warned this could open old wounds from the 1992-1995 war.

Mladen Ivanić, the former prime minister of the Bosnian Serb-dominated Republika Srpska entity and former state Foreign Minister told local Hayat TV that he believes the arrest of Karadzic will open a new phase for the whole country and people who are living in Bosnia.

“"This also proves that Republika Srpska was telling the truth and that we have done everything possible but he was not here. This will open one new phase in our life but certainly it will open some war stories one more time. At the same time, I believe this arrest will close one huge era.""

Rajko Vasic, general secretary of the Party of Independent Social Democrats, which is led by current Republika Srpska Premier, the firebrand Milorad Dodik, told Balkan Insight that Karadzic’s arrest is very important and a positive step forward.

“"This arrest that happened in Serbia will finally let people of this entity live a normal life, not to be blamed for something they are not guilty of, and it gives the possibility to finally learn who is responsible for his hiding for so many years. If he is guilty, he should be in prison, and that is good for Serbia as well as for Republika Srpska. At the same time, I am sure that this is one political moment that will change a lot but will not bring the arrest of Mladic or even Hadzic. This is one big political game,"" he said.

If Karadzic’s arrest is confirmed, two fugitives from the 1990s Balkan Wars remain at large.

They are Bosnian Serb wartime military leader Ratko Mladic, who is also indicted for genocide, and Croatian Serb Goran Hadzic indicted for war crimes during the 1991-1995 Croatian War.

Uros Pena, the chief of the police in Republika Srpska, told the local SRNA news agency that a strong police presence is evident everywhere in this entity.
“Immediately after we found out about arrest, we sent police forces to provide stronger security around religious buildings and international community buildings in Republika Srpska,” said Pena adding that he does not expect any kind of incidents.

Pena also said that Republika Srpska police did not take part in locating or arresting Karadzic.

Karadzic’s wife has also reacted to news of his arrest.

“I am shocked with this news about Radovan. My daughter called me and told about his arrest. At least we know he is alive,” she was quoted by the Associated Press news agency as saying.

Balkan Insight tried to contacting the Karadzic family but they were not answering their phones.

Media in Republika Srpska acknowledged the news about Karadzic’s arrest soon after midnight. One sentence reading “Radovan Karadzic has been arrested in Serbia, Banja Luka” scrolled along the screen while a documentary about history and Serbian knights was broadcast.

At 0200 local time the first live news programme was aired starting with a report from Belgrade about the arrest.

“Unlike Belgrade, in Sarajevo there is celebration,” said the anchor while pictures of people singing in the streets of Sarajevo were shown.

RTRS, the Banja Luka-based television station, aired a report from Pale where the reporter said the town is quiet and that she is standing in the front of the house where the Karadzic family lives. She said that there is no police in front of the house and that the family have refused any contact with the media.
Top Bosnia Envoy, EU Praise Karadzic Arrest

Sarajevo — The international community’s top envoy to Bosnia has described news of Radovan Karadzic’s arrest as positive for the whole region.

“Today’s arrest proves that justice reaches everyone,” said Miroslav Lajčak, the High Representative and the European Union’s Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“The news that Radovan Karadzic has been arrested is very positive for Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the whole region,” he said.

“While two fugitives, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic, still remain at large, this is the beginning of the end of Bosnia’s most tragic chapter in history.”

The European Union said the arrest “illustrates the commitment of the new Belgrade government to contributing to peace and stability in the Balkans region.”

A statement from the EU presidency, currently held by France, said the arrest was “an important step on the path to the rapprochement of Serbia with the European Union.”

Serbia’s new government has been urged to cooperate with the tribunal so Belgrade can move closer to the European Union.

Brussels and Belgrade signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, seen as the first step towards full EU membership, at the end of April, but Serbia can only fully reap the benefits of the deal, such as access to millions of euros in funds, if Belgrade is deemed to be fully cooperating with The Hague.

“This is certainly a milestone in Serbia’s cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. It proves the determination of the new government to achieve full cooperation with the tribunal,” the EU’s Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn told the Reuters news agency.

He said he would discuss the next steps in ties with Belgrade at the EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels on Tuesday and with Serbia’s visiting foreign minister.
It’s Time to Test The Karadzic Myth

The man who believed he was more a myth than reality is about to be humbled by a very human court.

BY ALEKSANDAR HEMON

In Sarajevo, Radovan Karadzic lived in a building across from my high school. I only found that out recently, as I don’t remember ever seeing him in those days.

Granted, this was a while ago—I attended Gimnazija Ognjen Prica from 1979 to 1983, but now it seems to me that I should have noticed him: the huge head, the gray mane, the stern jaw, the deep dimple, the eyes that seemed incapable of producing a non-murderous gaze.

Not remembering him, however, is hardly surprising, as it is only with the after-knowledge of his crimes that I began thinking I might have been able to detect the karadzicness in Karadzic.

The fact of the matter is that Karadzic, at that time and right up until before the war, was just an inconspicuous denizen of the city he would set out to destroy—indistinguishable from his environment.

In his brilliant essay on Karadzic (“Stocking Hat” in Sarajevo Blues) Semzadin Mehmedinovic writes about thumbing through a 1991/1992 Sarajevo phone book and finding 21 entries under the family name Karadzic. In addition to Radovan, there were “10 Muslims, 9 Serbs and 1 Croat.”

The first time I heard Karadzic’s name was when he became the (huge) head of the SDS. As far as I was concerned, he came out of nowhere. Later, I learned that he was a psychiatrist and a poet, one of those who spent a lot of time in the kafana, drinking, gossiping and reciting Russian poets, thus reaffirming the alleged existence of the Slavic Soul.

I was familiar with some of the other Founding SDS Fathers: Nikola Koljevic, Slavko Leovac and Vojislav Maksimovic, all of whom were my ex-professors; Aleksa Buha, a philosophy professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, which I had graduated from; Momcilo Krajsnik, who had worked with my mother at one point; Velibor Ostojic, a speech coach at Radio-Sarajevo, where I had worked, to whom I had been sent in order to fix my mumbling.
But now they were planets in a different universe, all now revolving around Karadzic. In their public appearances they were in stark contrast with Karadzic and his mountain-esque crassness: the professors all looked like professors—intellectual and somewhat out of place in the limelight, while Karadzic reveled in the attention.

He was the star of Serbdom, making grand gestures while speaking, making grander pronouncements of the impending anti-Serb gloom and doom.

He projected the image of comfortable ruthlessness, of someone who does not care what others might think, which is always fascinating and frightening to Bosnians, ever mindful of what the people—svijet—might say.

I remember going to an SDS press conference in 1991. Karadzic was at the centre of the desk facing the journalists, his long arms spread like wings, his hands resting on the edges, as if he were ready to lift the desk and hurl it at the leery press.

Next to him was Koljevic: small, mousy, behind a large, goggle-like pair of glasses, clearly a supporting actor.

Karadzic spoke sternly, unflinchingly, uninterested in charming the press, as if he were doing us all a favour by talking to us at all—all but few chosen press members were in his mind proven enemies of the Serbian people.

As usual, he claimed that there was some kind of a threat to Serbdom, and if they didn't react with determination the Serbs would get “fucked.”

He did not apologize for using the profane word in public; indeed, he claimed that it was a legitimate word, often used by the Serbian people.

His stubborn crassness suggested his resolve not to mince words, not to participate in all that fuddy-duddying, because there was a job to be done, the job of saving Serbdom at all cost.

It was the same forceful, blatant determination that he projected early in 1992, in the infamous, chilling speech to the Bosnian parliament convened to legislate the independence referendum.

Exuding the same ruthless ease, he warned the parliament that the Muslim people risked extermination if they voted for independence.

He appeared ready to work on their perishing, and his demeanour hinted that he didn’t mind the work at all. He behaved as if he were issuing a fair warning; he was generously trying to help.
That was the first moment, I think, when he assumed the role of the mas-
ter of life and death of an entire people; it was the commencement of the
genocide.

He could forgo genocide, he was suggesting, despite all the preparations,
if the Muslims were willing to forgo independence, but he was none the
less prepared to declare, much like Njegos’s Vladika Danilo, “let it be what
cannot be” and unleash the holocaust.

It was visible that he enjoyed that power. No wonder the Interpol arrest
warrant listed “flamboyant behaviour” as his only distinguishing mark.

It is a mistake to look for psychological continuity in the mind of a war
criminal, to look for genocidal proclivities in his or her pre-war life.

War and genocide create identities—a war criminal is a different person
before and during wartime. Nevertheless, the identities of people like Mi-
losevic and Mladic had been determined by the structures they were part
of before the war.

The Party taught Milosevic to detect, recruit, use and dispose of allies—
one can imagine Milosevic, if the wars of Yugoslavia had not happened,
toiling at Party congresses to form useful alliances, quietly amassing
wealth and power.

Mladic would have continued to be a stern Army officer, finding outlets
for his murderous needs within the military structure (which is easy for
me to imagine for I had seen him soldiering as the commander of the Stip
garrison, where I suffered as a conscript from 1983–84).

Karadzic differed from them. He fully existed only when organising the
genocide, he was invisible and irrelevant before it, and has been invisible
ever since.

Karadzic’s star shone only against the dark skies of a vast crime. This is
why Karadzic is still popular among the Serbs in the Republika Srpska
and Serbia proper: like a mythological being, he came out of nowhere to
do what needed to be done—wipe out the “Turks” and create an eternal,
heavenly kingdom, completing the mythological job started hundreds of
years ago in the Battle of Kosovo.

He did not care what the world might say—for the world is but a minor
distraction in the eternal Serbian struggle to survive and live as the celes-
tial people; he was ever willing to sacrifice even his moral well being for
the people.
While Milosevic’s mythical aura waned because of his self-serving mis-handling of the Serbian National Project and while Mladic’s aura never got too excessive because of his perceived military demeanour, Karadzic’s aura was enhanced by his withdrawal into the woodsy, mountainous background after he abandoned all his political positions in 1996.

Like a hajduk, the mythological Serbian outlaw, he is a lone wolf preserving Serbdom from perishing, surviving in the face of a great enemy—the “Turks” and the world itself—willing to come again out of his heroic obscurity if necessary.

Karadzic in the The Hague is a remedy to the Serbian nationalist mythology—Scheveningen is not a mythological space, but a prison.

There, Karadzic would be in the limelight that would dispel the darkness of the nationalist mythology. He would be at the centre of a legal process, a trial based on documents and testimonies, which would demythologize his actions, and dismantle his criminal universe.

The man who thought he was bigger than the world, who believed he was entitled to dispensing divine retributions on behalf of his people, needs to be humbled by the human court of the world.

It is time the myth of Karadzic was replaced by the truth of his crimes.

Aleksandar Hemon is a Bosnian fiction writer living in the US. He is author of The Question of Bruno, Nowhere man and The Lazarus Project. Balkan Insight is BIRN’s online publication.
The Hague _ The UN’s war crimes tribunal in The Hague says it has been advised of Radovan Karadzic and is expecting his swift transfer.

The Hague Tribunal said it was told of the arrest by Serbian authorities and welcomed the development.

Officials say they look forward to Karadzic’s prompt transfer to the Tribunal in The Hague so he can stand trial.

“Aware of the serious charges brought against him by the prosecution, the Tribunal is mindful that Karadzic enjoys the presumption of innocence and is committed to do all within its competences to ensure a fair and public trial in accordance with the highest standards of international law.

This arrest may be considered another milestone in the development of international law and further fulfilment of the Tribunal’s mandate to bring to justice the most senior persons alleged to be most responsible for war crimes in the Yugoslav conflicts,” the Tribunal said in a statement.
Karadzic Arrest: Celebrations in Sarajevo

Sarajevo _ Crowds of people waving Bosnian flags and hundreds of cars honking at their horns poured onto the streets of Sarajevo as news emerged that Radovan Karadzic has been arrested in Serbia.

There is a high police presence on the main streets. “We have a strong police presence on the streets of Sarajevo. We have not even had one intervention, but we are ready to react if it is needed,” the city police told Balkan Insight.

Balkan Insight contacted one of the victims from the 1992-1995 war, Bakira Hasecic from Visegrad, who said she can not believe the news.

“If somebody asked me, I would say it will never happen, especially not in Serbia. I was sure that the next thing I will hear about him is that he is dead,” Hasecic told Balkan Insight.

Karadzic was the wartime President of the Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has been indicted by the UN’s war crimes tribunal for genocide.

The Bosnian Croat member of Bosnia’s tripartite Presidency Zeljko Komic told Balkan Insight that Karadzic’s arrest is one of the most important days in postwar Bosnia, for the state of Bosnia and all of the victims who suffered during the war.

Haris Silajdzic, the Bosniak member of the Bosnian Presidency, speaking to Balkan Insight also hailed the development.

“It is a big thing for Bosnia and Herzegovina, this arrest, we are eager to see him as soon as possible in The Hague. We hope that Mladic will follow him soon in order to finish the idea the three of them, Karadzic, (wartime Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko) Mladic and (late Serb strongman Slobodan) Milosevic started.”

Nura Begic, one of the survivors of the Srebrenica genocide told Balkan Insight that she is so excited about the news that she cannot sit, walk or sleep.
“I am one hundred percent sure that Mladic will come after him now,” she added.

“This happened at a moment when we lost any hope that he can be arrested. We are surprised, but pleasantly surprised. I am happy that I survived until this day to hear the news that Karadzic is arrested and that he will be taken to the Hague, alive.” Edin Ramulic, from victim’s association in Prijedor and a Omarska camp survivor told Balkan Insight.
Hague’s Top Prosecutor Hails Karadzic Arrest

The Hague - The Hague’s top war crimes prosecutor Serge Brammertz has welcomed news of Radovan Karadzic’s arrest.

“I was informed by our colleagues in Belgrade about the successful operation which resulted in the arrest of Radovan Karadzic. On behalf of the Office of the Prosecutor, I would like to congratulate the Serbian authorities, especially the National Security Council, Serbia’s Action Team in charge of tracking fugitives and the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor, on achieving this milestone in cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

This is a very important day for the victims who have waited for this arrest for over a decade. It is also an important day for international justice because it clearly demonstrates that nobody is beyond the reach of the law and that sooner or later all fugitives will be brought to justice.”

Karadzic, the war-time President of Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been on the run for almost 13 years. His indictment was confirmed on 24 July 1995.

He has been indicted for genocide among other charges.

The date of Karadzic’s transfer to the Tribunal’s custody will be determined in due course.
Serbia Arrests War Crimes Fugitive Karadzic

Belgrade _ Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic has been arrested in Serbia, presidential and government sources in Belgrade say.

Serbian agents apprehended Karadzic and handed him over to judicial authorities, a statement said.

A statement by the National Security Council headed by Serbian President Boris Tadic said Karadzic was arrested and handed over to the investigative judge of the Belgrade-based Special War Crimes Court.

The statement did not offer further details.

Karadzic was arrested on Serbian soil, a high-ranking police official who spoke on the condition of anonymity told Balkan Insight.

He did not elaborate further.

The Bosnian Serb wartime political leader disappeared in 1996 and was subsequently indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

He is accused of war crimes and genocide over the massacre of 8,000 Bosniak men and boys in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica.

Under the law, the authorities must first confirm Karadzic's identity beyond doubt and initiate proceedings for his handover to the Hague.

This could take between 72 hours or up to a week if he appeals on the court's decision.

The news comes as The Hague Tribunal's chief prosecutor Serge Brammertz's is to visit the Serbian capital.

Brammertz is set to arrive in Belgrade on Wednesday in the first visit to the Serbian capital since the change at the helm of government, as the new pro-European Premier Mirko Cvetkovic took over the cabinet previously run by nationalist Vojislav Kostunica, who had been blamed by the West for doing very little if nothing to bring top war crimes fugitives to justice.
Over the weekend Serbian officials both in Belgrade and the Serb entity of Bosnia denied having any knowledge of the whereabouts of the remaining war crimes fugitives.

If Karadzic’s arrest is confirmed, two fugitives from the 1990s Balkan Wars remain at large.

They are Bosnian Serb wartime military leader Ratko Mladic, who is also indicted for genocide, and Croatian Serb Goran Hadzic indicted for war crimes during the 1991-1995 Croatian War.

Serbia’s new government has been urged to cooperate with the tribunal so Belgrade can move closer to the European Union.

Brussels and Belgrade signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, seen as the first step towards full EU membership, at the end of April, but Serbia can only fully reap the benefits of the deal, such as access to millions of euros in funds, if Belgrade is deemed to be fully cooperating with The Hague.
Karadzic Bodyguards’ Homes Raided

Banja Luka – Bosnian police raided the apartments of two former bodyguards of top war crimes suspect, Radovan Karadzic, on Wednesday morning.

Police officials told Balkan Insight that the operations were carried out in the eastern towns of Pale and Sokolac, in the entity of Republika Srpska, RS, on orders from a top Bosnian Court.

Spokeswoman for the RS Interior Ministry, Tamara Maric, told Balkan Insight that the apartments belonged to Goran Kovacevic and Milomir Batic, who are suspected of being a part of a support network that have helped wartime Bosnian Serb leader, Karadzic evade justice for years.

She also confirmed that during the searches, police seized certain documentation and objects, which will be transferred to Bosnia’s Public Prosecutor.

Karadzic and his military commander, General Ratko Mladic, are among four remaining top war crimes suspects wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, 13 years after the end of the war.

They are said to be hiding either in Bosnia or Serbia.

Local police as well as European Union and NATO forces have frequently carried out raids on buildings believed to be used by the war crimes suspects or people accused of providing them shelter.
RS Police in Search for Karadzic

Banja Luka _ Police in the Republika Srpska, RS, the smaller of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s two entities, questioned 25 people suspected of aiding war-crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic.

A quarterly report issued by the RS police on Wednesday and sent to the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, said the police questioned the 25 suspects between July and September 2007. The report was also reviewed by the RS parliament.

“The goal of the effort was to exert pressure on Karadzic’s network of supporters” the report stated, adding that “a number of persons in the RS, Serbia and Montenegro from all social categories were identified as members of this network.”

The document says that former member of the BiH Presidency Mirko Sarovic was also questioned in September after international peacekeepers searched his apartment and other property in the capital Sarajevo.

Karadzic and his wartime commander Ratko Mladic have been indicted by the ICTY for war crimes and genocide during the 1991-95 Bosnian war. Both remain at large. According to ICTY prosecutors, Mladic is hiding in Serbia.

The RS police report did not mention Mladic.

RS police also questioned eight people suspected of aiding Stojan Zupljanin, a former Bosnian Serb security official also being sought for crimes committed during the 1992-95 war. RS police maintained surveillance of nine locations in the city of Banja Luka and the town of Kotor Varos in connection with the Zupljanin case, the report said.

Full cooperation with the ICTY is a key condition for faster integration of Serbia and BiH in Euro-Atlantic structures, including the European Union.
Karadzic Family Travel Papers Seized

Sarajevo – The family of Radovan Karadzic, one of the two most prominent war crimes suspects still at large, have handed in their travel documents to the Bosnian Serb authorities after they were summoned to the ministry of the interior on Thursday.

The wartime Bosnian Serb leader’s wife, Ljiljana Zelen-Karadzic, son Aleksandar Karadzic, daughter Sonja Karadzic-Jovicevic, and son-in-law Branislav Jovicevic, surrendered their travel documents after the international community’s High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, BiH, Miroslav Lajcak, had ordered these to be seized.

As the top international official in BiH, Lajcak has ultimate authority in the Balkan country under the provisions of the 1995 Dayton peace agreement.

“These four persons are in one way or another the subject of orders by the Court of BiH, a decision by the BiH Council of Ministers, international financial and travel sanctions, and ongoing criminal investigations for their role in the support network of Radovan Karadzic,” said a press statement issued by the Office of the High Representative on Thursday.

Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb separatists’ wartime leader, remains a fugitive from justice more than 12 years after his indictment by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

Lajcak’s statement added that the order was issued at the request of the Hague-based ICTY, and in close cooperation with relevant local law enforcement agencies.

“My decision complements measures undertaken by the local authorities and by other international actors,” the press statement quoted Lajcak as saying.

Also on Thursday the Bosnian government imposed a temporary freeze on the financial assets of the remaining four fugitives indicted by ICTY.

According to the official announcement, this measure refers to Radovan Karadzic, his wartime military commander, General Ratko Mladic, former
Croatian Serb separatist leader, Goran Hadzic, and former Bosnian Serb police commander, Stojan Zupljanin.

The decision will remain in force for 12 months.

Since his first day as High Representative, Miroslav Lajcak has put full cooperation with the ICTY at the top of his agenda.

Karadzic and Mladic face charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during the three-and-a-half-year Bosnian war, including the massacre of around 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica, eastern Bosnia, in 1995.
Sarajevo _ Soldiers from the EU’s peacekeeping force, EUFOR, have raided the homes of the wife and two children of the Bosnian Serb top war crimes suspect, Radovan Karadzic.

In the early hours of Friday morning EUFOR troops, supported by NATO soldiers, surrounded and searched three houses in the town of Pale belonging to Karadzic’s wife Ljiljana, his son Sasa and daughter Sonja, a EUFOR statement and local media reported.

The search operation involved looking for materials or information that could help locate Karadzic, EUFOR’s statement said.

The Karadzic family’s homes have been searched about a dozen times over the years, but the wartime Bosnian Serb leader, as well as his military commander, General Ratko Mladic, remain in hiding more than 12 years after they were indicted for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

EUFOR and NATO troops conducted a similar raid in Pale on Monday, searching the home of Dragan Sojic, who is also believed to be part of Karadzic’s support network.
Montenegro Police Search for Karadzic

Podgorica _ Montenegro’s police carried out a search for Bosnian Serb war crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic in the mountain of Zabljak during the weekend, police confirmed on Monday.

Montenegrin media reported that the raid started on Friday morning and finished on Saturday evening, without producing any results.

According to the media reports, special anti-terrorist police blocked all access roads to the mountain resort, checking vehicles, while regular police helped search the woods near the Black Lake.

The Hague war crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia said on Sunday that it believed Karadzic, the Bosnian Serbs' wartime leader, was hiding “somewhere in the border area between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia”.

“The steps we took did not confirm this information. We will continue paying attention to eventually locating and finding the Hague fugitives”, the Montenegrin Police Administration said on Monday.

Karadzic is one of the four remaining war crimes suspects still at large.

He is being sought for genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Bosnian war of 1992–95 war.