



Republic Serbia  
OFFICE OF THE WAR CRIMES  
PROSECUTOR  
KTO no. 7/20  
Ustanička 29, Belgrade  
23 December 2020  
SM/BV

**HIGHER COURT IN BELGRADE**  
**War Crimes Department**

BELGRADE

With reference to article 47 (1) of the *Act on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters* and pursuant to my authority under articles 43 (2.5), 331 (1) and 332 of the *Code of Criminal Procedure*; and articles 3 and 4 (1) of the *Act on the Organisation and Competence of Government Authorities in War Crimes Proceedings*, I raise this

**INDICTMENT**

Against:

**AA**

Personal details:

Son of ... and ...

Place and date of birth: ...

Citizen Identification Number: ...

Residence: ...

Citizenship: ...

**BACKGROUND FACTS AND GENERAL ALLEGATIONS:**

In the period from 1992 to 1995, an internal (noninternational) armed conflict existed in the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina (BH) between armed formations of Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks. Parties to the conflict were the Army and Police of the BH Serbian Republic (later the Republic of Srpska) on one side, and the Army of the BH Republic on the other.

In his capacity as commander of the 17th Ključ Light Infantry Brigade and member of the Ključ Municipality War Presidency, **AA** committed grave breaches of international law as envisaged by the following documents:

- Article 3 (1) (a), (c) of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (*Geneva Convention IV*), adopted on 12 August 1949 and subsequently ratified by the FPRY National Assembly (*FPRY Official Gazette*, no. 24/50); and
- Articles 4 (1), (2.a), (2.e) and 13 (2), (3) of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions, Relative to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (*Protocol II*).

#### CHARGES:

On 26 June 1992, **in compliance with AA's orders** and with the participation of the Police Public Security force, an armed attack was launched on undefended Muslim villages in the Ključ municipality, namely Ramići, Krasulje, Hripavci and Ošljak. With no armed forces of the other party to the conflict present in the area, those villages were exclusively inhabited by the civilian population and as such did not represent a legitimate military target. The attack resulted in the deaths of a number of villagers including AB, AV, AG, AD, AĐ, AE and AI. The surviving men – at least 90 – were unlawfully deprived of their liberty and taken into custody in the *Nikola Mačkić* Elementary School building, where they were interrogated and subjected to inhumane treatment including intimidation, as well as physical and mental torture. Some of the captives – including AJ, AK, AL and ALj – died as a result of heavy beatings. Those who survived the inhumane treatment, torture and other abusive acts on the part of the police were transported to the Manjača prisoners-of-war camp, from where they got relocated to the territory with the Muslim majority population. In addition to human losses, the attack on the villages in the Ključ area resulted in the large-scale destruction of civilian property. As the commander of 17th Light Infantry Brigade, **AA** was aware of the conduct of his subordinates, who were immediate perpetrators of the aforementioned acts, yet – albeit obligated to do so – did nothing to prevent the commission of such acts or alternatively punish the perpetrators. Knowing that **AA** punished his men for minor disciplinary offences but never took action against those who committed crimes, his subordinates had reason to believe that **AA** was not going to take any action and that therefore they could continue engaging in their criminal activities.

On 10 July 1992, acting **in compliance with AA's orders** and in concert with members of the Police Public Security Centre, **AA's** troops launched an attack on undefended Muslim villages Donji Biljani, Botonjići, Domazeti, Brkići and Jabukovica in the Ključ area. With no armed forces of the other party to the conflict present in the area, those villages were exclusively inhabited by the civilian population and as such did not represent a legitimate military target. All male villagers were unlawfully deprived of their liberty and some were killed in

the process. Those who survived were transferred to the premises of Elementary School in Donji Biljani, where the police made a list of their names. Some of the captives were removed from the school premises and killed, whereas others were loaded on buses, driven to an unknown location and killed. The overall operation resulted in the deaths of at least 219 civilians including AM, AN, ANj, AO, AP, AR, AS, AT, AĆ, AU, AF, AH, AC, AČ, ADž, AŠ, BA, BV, BG, BD, BĐ, BE, BŽ, BZ, BI, BJ, BK, BL, BLj, BM, BN, BNj, BO, BP, BR, BS, BT, BĆ, BU, BF, BH, BC, BDž, BŠ, VA, VB, VG, VD, VĐ, VE, VŽ, VZ, VI, VJ, VK, VL, VLj, VM, VN, VNj, VO, VP, VR, VS, VT, VĆ, VU, VF, VH, VC, VČ, VDž, VŠ, GA, GB, GD, GĐ, GE, GŽ, GZ, GI, GJ, GK, GL, GLj, GM, GN, GNj, GO, GP, GR, GS, GT, GĆ, GU, GF, GH, GC, GČ, GDž, GŠ, DA, DB, DV, DG, DE, DŽ, DZ, DI, DJ, DĀ, DL, DLj, DM, DN, DNj, DO, DP, DR, DS, DT, DĆ, DU, DF, DH, DC, DČ, DDž, DŠ, ĐA, ĐB, ĐV, ĐG, ĐD, ĐE, ĐŽ, ĐZ, ĐI, ĐJ, ĐK, ĐL, ĐLj, ĐM, ĐN, ĐNj, ĐO, ĐP, ĐR, ĐS, ĐT, ĐĆ, ĐU, ČF, ČC, ČH, ČČ, ČDž, ČŠ, EA, EB, EV, EG, ED, EĐ and EŽ, whose bodies were identified upon exhumation from the mass graves at sites Lanište I and Crvena Zemlja, as well as from several mass graves in village Biljani.

**By engaging in the above-described conduct, the accused, AA, committed the criminal offence under article 142 (1.1) (war crime against civilian population) re article 24 of the *FRY Criminal Act*.**

**Dr Bruno Vekarić  
Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor**