



Republic of Serbia
OFFICE OF THE WAR CRIMES
PROSECUTOR

Reference: **KTO No. 6/13**
Belgrade, 17 May 2013

HIGHER COURT IN BELGRADE
War Crimes Department

BELGRADE

Pursuant to my authority under articles: 43 (2.5); 331 (1) and 332 of the *Criminal Procedure Code*; I raise this

INDICTMENT

Against:

1. AA

Personal details:

Son of ... and ... née ...

Citizen identification no. ...

Place/date of birth: ...

Registered place of residence: ...

Citizen of ...

Educational background / occupation: ...

Criminal record: clean

Background and allegations:

In the period from early 1992 to late 1995, an armed conflict existed in the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Parties to the conflict were armed forces of the local Serb, Bosniak and Croat populations.

In the course of June, July and August 1992, the accused, AA, who was a member of the Bosniak/Croat armed force at the time serving as ... detention camp for Serb civilians in the area of Konjic, broke the rules of international law, as envisaged by the following acts and provisions:

- Article 3 (1.1..a) of the *Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva Convention IV)*, adopted on 12 August 1949 and ratified by the FPRY National Assembly (FPRY Official Gazette, no. 24/50); and
- Article 4 (2.a) of the *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)*.

Charges:

1. On 29 May 1992, a large group of Serb civilians – previously arrested by the Bosniak/Croat troops – was transferred on a bus to the Čelebići camp. Along with other camp guards, AA was present in the lines of soldiers through which the captured civilians – including AB, AV, AG, AD, AĐ, AE, AŽ, AZ, AI, AJ, AK and AL – were made to pass on their way to the structure known as Hangar 6. As they passed through the lines, the captives were beaten with rifle butts and other objects, as well as and kicked with army boots, sustaining multiple bodily injuries in the process.

2. In early June 1992, ALJ – at the time serving as deputy commander in the Čelebići camp – removed AB from Hangar 6 and ordered him to kneel down on the ground with his hands clasped behind his neck. As AB had done so, AA and other guards approached the victim and started beating him all over the body. AA used his rifle butt and army boots to hit and kick the victim. AA's fellow guards – AM a.k.a. ... with a length of electric cable with a knot tied in its end; AN a.k.a. ... with a baseball bat; and ANJ with his semi-automatic rifle butt – joined the campaign, which continued over the next 30 to 45 minutes. In the aftermath of the blows and physical injuries received, AB lost consciousness, whereupon the guards caught him by the legs and hands and threw him into Hangar 6.

3. On multiple occasions throughout June 1992, AA entered Hangar 6 accompanied by his fellow guard AN a.k.a. ..., who forced AB to do push-ups. As AB did so, AA and AN kicked him on the chest with their army boots, thereby causing him extensive physical injuries.

4. On an undetermined day around mid-June 1992, AA and several unidentified camp guards were present in front of the structure known as Tunnel 9. Equipped with various objects, they engaged in the beating of a number of Serb civilians

detained in that facility. In addition to other detainees, AA severely beat AO from ..., causing him multiple bodily injuries in the process.

5. On an undetermined day around mid-June 1992, a van with a group of Serb civilians including AP from Belgrade and AR from Bradina arrived in the Čelebići camp. ALJ, who was the camp deputy commander at the time, ordered the civilians to line up against a wall with their hands up and then ordered the camp guards to "strike the Chetniks". In compliance with ALJ's order, AA, aided and abetted by his fellow guards including AM a.k.a. ... and several others, hit the victims with his hands and a rifle butt, and also kicked them with his army boots. The beating campaign continued for an hour, causing the victims extensive bodily injuries with bruises and massive bleeding.

6. On repeated occasions throughout June and July 1992, further to orders issued by ALJ, the camp deputy commander at the time, Serb civilians detained in Tunnel 9 were held shut up in a manhole within the camp compound. On one such occasion, AA and several unidentified guards participated in the beating of a group of 16 civilians including AS from ..., AO from ..., AT from ..., AF, AH and others. As they beat their victims with various objects all over the body, AA and his accomplices forced them down the manhole and then fastened its opening with a metal cover. The victims remained inside for approximately 24 hours. Due to extremely harsh conditions including lack of fresh air, many lost consciousness.

7. On 13 August 1992, a day following the ICRC visit to the Serb civilians detained in the Čelebići camp, a group of 7 or 8 guards – including ALJ (the camp commander), AM a.k.a. ..., ANJ, AC a.k.a. ..., AN a.k.a. ... and the accused, AA – entered hangar 6, which at the time housed over 300 detained civilians including AB and AO. The guards ordered those inside to lean against the metal walls of the hangar with their hands raised and facing the walls. As they did so, the inmates were beaten and kicked with various objects including shovels, rifle handles and butts, as well as army boots. In the aftermath of the beating campaign which continued for several hours, all of the inmates sustained multiple bodily injuries.

Acting as a co-perpetrator in the above-described incidents, the accused, AA, committed the criminal offence under article 142 (1) (war crime against civilian population) in re article 22 of the *FRY Criminal Act*.

Milan Petrović
Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor

