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Will you answer questions even though you have been advised that you are under no obligation to do so? He said that he would answer the questions.

[signature in Cyrillic: Popović Nikola]

After this, the person giving the statement provided the following personal details:

Your first and last name: Nikola Popović

Father's name: Konstadin

Mother's name: Milojka

Your mother's maiden name: Krsmanović

Your date of birth: 19 December 1974

Place of birth: Ljubovija, Socialist Republic of Serbia

Your address: Kravica, Bratunac municipal assembly

Your occupation: [?unskilled] worker

Are you employed, and if so, where: No

Are you married: Yes

Do you have children: Two

Your ethnic affiliation: Serbian

Your citizenship: RS¹ BiH²

JMBG³:

STATEMENT

I was conscripted in 1992 and assigned to the Kravica Battalion of the Bratunac Brigade until 1993 when I was transferred to work in the kitchen, where I remained there until 1995, and I remember that in May or June 1995, I was transferred to the Bratunac military police station where I performed the duties of a military policeman. As a military policeman, I was assigned, in this period, to secure the Sase-Pribićevac road. We were tasked with checking persons and goods passing along that road and with providing security for high-ranking officers also passing along the road. I do not remember the exact date but I do know that it was early July and I was stationed at the Potočari checkpoint where we also checked persons and goods passing through

¹ Translator's note: Republic of Srpska

² t/n: Bosnia and Herzegovina

³ t/n: citizen's personal identification number

there and provided security for high-ranking officers. I remember that on 12 July 1995, I was at the Potočari checkpoint. That day, the citizens of Srebrenica came to the Dutch Battalion compound in huge numbers and I think that 4,000 to 5,000 Muslim citizens came to the checkpoint. At the Potočari checkpoint, we, the military police, were tasked with taking in and providing security for these people together with the members of the Dutch Battalion. Since at the time I was a new member of the military police, I didn't know my colleagues except by sight. There were ten or fifteen of us, members of the military police, on duty there. That same day, we were ordered to separate the women, children, and elderly who, according to plan, were supposed to be transferred by bus and freight vehicles from the checkpoint towards Kladanj, that is, to Muslim-controlled territory and we acted in accordance with that order. I do not know who exactly issued the order. I learned about it from my colleagues that were there. Several buses came to the checkpoint and I noticed, among them, buses from the Bratunac Vihor, the Zvornik Drina, and the Srebrenica-Prevoz transportation companies. There might have been 30 to 40 buses and a large number of freight vehicles. The persons who had been separated (women, children, and the elderly) got on the buses and trucks. After a convoy was formed, they were taken in the direction of Bratunac and further on towards Kladanj. That same afternoon, the rest of the people from the group who were primarily able-bodied men were transferred by buses and trucks from Potočari to Bratunac; I did not know the men except for some individuals whom I knew by sight. A convoy of around ten buses was formed then and we, the military policemen from that checkpoint, escorted the convoy to Bratunac. The Muslim citizens who were brought in were put up in what is today the Branko Radičević OŠ⁴, that is, in the sports hall and throughout the school. The other members of the military police and I — there were around ten

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of us — stayed to secure the OŠ or rather, the prisoners until the next day. Nothing happened during the period in which my colleagues and I were securing the prisoners in the Branko Radičević OŠ. We made it possible for the prisoners to get water and food from the supplies we had at our disposal. The following day I was summoned to report at the military police station and I went there early in the morning. At the station I reported to Commander Mirko Janković who gave orders to two of my colleagues and me to go to the Bratunac SŠC⁵ that same day at 1200 hours and secure the facility in which the members of the Dutch Battalion were located. I remember that we were told then that there were around 50 members of the Dutch Battalion who had fled from the area of Srebrenica municipality to Bratunac. Our task was to provide security for them and not to allow anyone to disturb them. I was securing the facility until around 2100 hours when we were ordered to go to the military police station, and I spent the night at the

⁴ t/n: Primary School

⁵ t/n: Secondary School Centre

station. As a matter of fact, we had been withdrawn from securing the SŠC because when we withdrew, the members of the Dutch battalion also left the area of Bratunac. The next morning, an officer on duty, whose name I do not remember, told me that I and another three or four military police members had been assigned to secure the OŠ where the prisoners had been put up on the day before. That same day at noon, the buses arrived and orders were given for the prisoners to be boarded on the buses so that they could be transferred in the direction of Zvornik. At that time, they summoned me to the police station. At that point, I was called to report to the public police station, or to be precise, it was Momir Nikolić who came to the school and ordered me to report to the military police commander, Janković, so I went with another colleague to the military police station. When I arrived there, I came across several military police members and I saw that Commander Janković was trying to start an armoured personnel carrier which the Dutch battalion had left behind. Janković told me that him, another military police member, and I were to escort, in an armoured personnel carrier, the convoy of buses which would transfer the prisoners from the OŠ towards Zvornik. We went in the armoured personnel carrier to the Elektro distribucija⁶ facility in Bratunac where they had begun to form a convoy and we occasionally moved ahead because of the length of the convoy. I cannot say how many buses there were. Judging by the length of the column, which was perhaps one to two kilometres long, it is my estimate that there were around twenty or more buses; according to my estimate, there were around 1,000 prisoners in the school. After the convoy was formed, we were told to set off and we escorted the convoy to Zvornik, or rather, we passed the town and turned on an asphalt road which led to the left but to which place I cannot remember. After we covered two kilometres, the convoy stopped by a school. When the buses and trucks parked outside the school, after a short while we went back to Bratunac in the armoured personnel carrier. When the convoy arrived at the school, I noticed that two to four soldiers who had been securing the buses were coming out of each bus. We handed over the prisoners to around 50 soldiers who were outside of the school when we had arrived there. Since we went back right away, I do not know whether the prisoners were transferred somewhere else or whether they stayed in the school. When I returned to the military police station in Bratunac, I spent the night, as far as I can remember, at the station and rested, and the next day I was ordered to go with around ten military police members to Potočari to the facilities of some company with the task of securing the facilities because UNPROFOR troops had previously been billeted there, and since they had left the facilities, large supplies of food and fuel remained behind, which we secured. I stayed at this checkpoint three or four days. I wish to point out that apart from the events I described, I was not present during other important events in the area of Bratunac municipality, and during this period I learned that there was a group of prisoners at the town stadium in Bratunac on the same day when we were transferring the prisoners from Potocari; there was a group of prisoners there as well, but since I did not go to the town stadium, I do not know what happened there but I heard that this group was also transferred in the same convoy in the direction of Zvornik. I also heard that there was a group of prisoners in the Oka cooperative facility in Kravica but I did not go

⁶ t/n: a power company

there so I am not familiar with the circumstances related to the event, but there were many rumours in town, which I do not wish to express an opinion on because I do not know the exact reason for the events. I wish to point out that I had an opportunity earlier to read Momir Nikolić's statement in the Blic newspaper and also on the Internet and I wish to say that the circumstances he cites in this statement are, for the most part, inaccurate or they are not familiar to me from that period, thus I wish to reiterate that in this statement I have given accurate and truthful information that I am familiar with.

[signature in Cyrillic: Popović Nikola]

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The citizen was advised pursuant to Article 65 of the RS ZKP⁷ that he had the right to read the record or request to have it read to him.

Do you want to read the record, or do you want us to read it to you? He said that he would read the record.

Do you have any objections to the record? He said he had no objections.

Is there anything else that you wish to state? He said he had nothing further to add.

Will you sign the record? He said yes.

An authorised official of the Bratunac PS⁸ took the statement.

Taking of the statement was concluded at 0930 hours.

Recording clerk:

Rajka Vegara

[signature: Vegara R.]

Citizen:

Nikola Popović

[signature in Cyrillic: Popović Nikola]

Authorised official:

Nenad Minić

[signature: illegible]

⁷ t/n: Criminal Procedure Code

⁸ t/n: Police Station