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[handwritten: 21 August 1995 -] [handwritten and circled number: 21] [handwritten, circled, and crossed out number: 24]

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OFFICIAL NOTE

Compiled on 21 August 1995 about a conducted informational interview with the Chief of Srebrenica Security Station Hakija Meholfjić and the Police Station in Srebrenica employee Fahrudin Alić (currently employed at CSB²).

The informative interviews were conducted in the premises of the CSB Tuzla with the Chief on 3 August, and with the police officer on 12 August this year, and they concerned the circumstances surrounding the situation and the state present in Srebrenica before its fall that was [brought on] by the Serb aggressor.

According to Hakija Meholfjić [sic], he was appointed Chief of Station on 26 April 1993 and since then he had been trying to, with the help of the civilian [?power] structures, constitute any sort of civilian authority within the occupied town and its surroundings. Together with the municipal structures, a court, and soon a prison were also formed.

According to him, from then until Srebrenica's fall, there were 23 murders, 21 of which were resolved by the Station, and the suspects in the murders were under investigation, but nothing more than that could have been done (they did not stand trial).

Concerning the two unresolved murders, there are the following findings:

The murder of the citizen Bilal, father of three underage children, from Srebrenica, who complained about the distribution of the humanitarian aid (allegedly because he organised a rally of women), was committed by Amir Salihović, known as Arkan, from Potočari. At the moment, Amir Salihović is assigned as the Commander of the Military Police Company within the Division. The murder took place in the settlement of Klis, and the above-stated murder victim was a refugee from Vlasenica.

Azem Muljkanović from Karačići, the current Commander of the 272nd Brigade, knows a man called Muzafer, a reserve police officer, who knows a lot about this event.

The murder of Hamed Salihović, former Chief of the Srebrenica SUP³, which happened on 19 May 1995 in Potočari, was not resolved either. According to the above-named, the murder was committed in the evening of the above-stated date, when unknown perpetrators ambushed the Srebrenica SDA⁴ party's President, Hamed Efendić, who was at the time accompanied by Ibran Mustafić, who was an MP in the R BiH⁵ Assembly in Srebrenica, and the Chief of Srebrenica SJB⁶ Muhamed Salihović.

On that occasion, Salihović was killed, and Mustafić seriously wounded. The above-stated ambush was in in the village of Potočari in a place called Poligon⁷. It was determined that they had shot from automatic rifle and that those involved in it were most likely uniformed persons. Concerning the above-stated murder and murder attempt, Hekija Meholfjić and Fahrudin Alić suspect that they had been organised by the military leaders of Srebrenica [underlined in original text]. Refik Mehmedović, a man called Ekrem from the village of Pale, and a man called Čelo from the village of Hranče in Bratunac SO⁸ know the most about that. It is suspected that the perpetrator is Ibrahim Mandić, [known

¹ Translator's note: Operative Investigation

² t/n: Security Services Centre

³ t/n: Secretariat of the Interior

⁴ t/n: Party of Democratic Action

⁵ t/n: Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

⁶ t/n: Public Security Station

⁷ t/n: training ground

⁸ t/n: Municipal Assembly

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as] Mrki, the Commandant of the 280th Brigade, and a man called Izo, known as Šupljara [parts of the sentence underlined in translation were also underlined in original text].

As for the other security-relevant events and the situation that was in Srebrenica, as the conversation moved along, Mehlijić and Alić further stated that they are familiar with the fact that Mujo Mandić from Potočari is a co-owner of three coffee shops together with Naser Orić, and that all those three coffee shops were opened during the entire time of the occupation, that the goods for the coffee shops were supplied from the Chetniks⁹, and that he did the smuggling with them at the Srebrenica-Bratunac demarcation point, the so-called Žuti Most¹⁰.

They are familiar with the fact that a man called Kemo (Mustafa) Mehmedović, born in 1960 or 1961, who has been suspected of three murders, fled to Austria and he is there currently. That Naser Orić enabled him to escape.¹¹ The above stated murders happened at the end of 1995 in Military Police custody [unit]. A soldier [called] Malić was killed, and another soldier whose surname was also Malić was wounded on that occasion (he subsequently died). The murder was committed by throwing a hand grenade (kašikara¹²). Motive for these murders was the murder of Dževad Mehmedović from the village of Pale that had been committed before the war by Dilaver Malić. Due to that, Kemo Mehmedović and Samir Šehić killed one of the Malić brothers, who afterwards killed Samir Šehić, which was the reason why they were in military custody. Naser Orić organised for Mehmedović to commit the above-stated murders of Malić brothers in prison, and then he arranged for him to escape to Austria. Commander of the Station Taib Mustafić, a man called Azem Ajkunović, and the Commandant of the 281st Brigade Zulfo Tursunović know a lot about that.

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The murder of Nurif Riznavović, a former JNA Major, was also committed in 1992. That murder was committed by Zulfo Tursunović after Major Rizvanović was arrested by the TO¹³ in Konjević Polje. According to Alić, at the beginning of the aggression against our country, Rizvanović crossed from Tuzla to Konjević Polje with 550 soldiers with the intention to place himself under the TO command. Former Chief of SJB Hamid Salihović and Assistant Commandant of the 28th Division Nedžad Bektić, former security officer of the brigade, knew about the murder of Rizvanović. On the occasion when Major Rizvanović was murdered, [a woman] Fuada Omerović from the village of Sikirići in Bratunac SO was also murdered. Major Rizvanović was murdered in a cruel manner on the Konjević Polje-Srebrenica road, and Naser Orić knows of that murder.

As for the distribution of the humanitarian aid, the above-named persons state that a large quantity of the humanitarian aid was set aside for the army, only for Naser Orić's soldiers to sell those same goods to the people at the market. The above-stated goods (sugar, salt, flour) were sold for Naser Orić at the market by Fahrudin Salihović, Hamdija Fejzić, Suljo Konaković, and other civilians and military personnel. They also know that on one occasion, Naser Orić gave 600 kg of flour to a man called Bajazit from the village of Sase, allegedly for an intervention platoon that Bajazit commanded, and everyone knew that Bajazit was not even a member of the RBiH Army. [Parts of the paragraph underlined in translation were also underlined in original text.]

In June 1992, the then War Presidency of Srebrenica municipality banned the President of SDA in Srebrenica Hamed Efendić and the party's secretary Hamed Salihović from being politically active, and the work of the party was banned in May 1993 through a decision of the President of the Srebrenica RP¹⁴ Hajrudin Avdić and the secretary Esad Nukić.

⁹ t/n: derogatory term for Serbs - members of Yugoslav royalist and Serbian nationalist movement in World War II in Yugoslavia

¹⁰ t/n: Yellow Bridge

¹¹ t/n: the sentence is not complete, thus it was translated literally

¹² t/n: the M75 grenade – Yugoslav hand grenade consisting of a body, an explosive charge and "mouse trap" style fuse mechanism, all contained in a plastic transportation can

¹³ t/n: Territorial Defence

¹⁴ t/n: War Presidency

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They also know that in 1994, at a session of the SDA IO¹⁵ held in DOMOVIA hotel, teargas poison gas was thrown at the members of that committee by a man called Mujkanović and Velid Delić.

Sometime in September 1994, Naser Orić took 2000 litres of oil¹⁶ for the needs of the army, 600 litres of which he gave to Zulfo Tursunović, the Commandant of the 281st Brigade, while he left 1400 litres for himself in a house in Potočari. The people were talking about how he was planning to make a hippodrome for horse racing, but that Zulfo Tursunović talked him out of that.

From the storehouse of the logistical security, which was guarded by about 50 Naser's soldiers, those who could take the food out were Ibrahim Mandžić, Smajo Mandžić, Mujo Mandžić, and the Orić family, and they could take anything they wanted anytime they wanted, while the rest of the soldiers and the civilians had nothing to eat.

According to Alić, the people in Srebrenica were saying that Naser, together with his closest leadership during the occupation, raped girls, but there is no evidence to support that.

They also know that at the beginning of the war, Naser Orić and Municipality Mayor Fahrudin Salihović took about 28 kg of gold from the 11 Mart factory and that they do not know where that gold is now. Behajija Ajkanović, Naser Orić's advisor, knows about that.

As for the DEM¹⁷ 100,000 that the Government of RBiH gave to Naser Orić in 1993, allegedly nothing is known about on what the above-stated money was spent. The refugees from Srebrenica who fled towards Tuzla talked about how the wife of Ramiz Bečirević, Chief of Staff of the 28th Division, allegedly while running away from the Chetniks, threw all the foreign money (between DEM 30,000 and 100,000), which was to be distributed to the soldiers, into a dumpster.

The above-named also know that the Director of the RO¹⁸ 11 Mart within Energoinvest SOUR¹⁹ left for Austria at the beginning of the war and opened his own private company there, and the Director's name is Muhamed Hrustambegović, known as Mušan.

Assistant Commandant for Morale Mašić, and Zulfo Tursunović, and a man called Ramo, also known as Hljebara²⁰, know about these and other irregularities and illegalities in the occupied Srebrenica.

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OFFICIAL NOTE COMPILED BY

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Hajrudin Alispahić

¹⁵ t/n: Executive Committee

¹⁶ t/n: petroleum

¹⁷ t/n: Deutsche Mark – German Mark, a currency

¹⁸ t/n: Work Organisation

¹⁹ t/n: Complex Organisation of Associated Labour

²⁰ t/n: literal translation of the nickname is *bread-maker*