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No. [handwritten: 1341]

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TUZLA SDB¹ SECTOR CSB²

Date: 23 August 1995

GUBER OI³

RBiH MUP, 02 SDB DEPARTMENT

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Re: Our dispatch No.1333, dated 22 August 1995

On 21 August 1995, together with the OSVB⁴ of the 2nd Corps of the RBiH⁵ Army, we conducted an interview with Huso Salihović, son of Šemso, born on 8 August 1963 in the village of Močevići in Srebrenica municipality, a mechanical technician, who was employed as a warehouse worker in the chair factory in Z. Jadar⁶, and who is currently as an exile in G. Jasenica⁷ in Srebrenik municipality, a member of ARBiH⁸, now deployed in the 1st Muslim Brigade, regarding the circumstances surrounding his observations about the events in Srebrenica, with a focus on those circumstances that significantly worsened the situation as well as the occupation of the protected area of Srebrenica.

During the first part of the interview, Salihović acquainted us with the events and organising of resistance in the area of Srebrenica immediately after the breakout of the aggression, the significant successes, and also the "indiscipline of the command staff led by Naser Orić, when it came to making important decisions and timely deployment of units to serve assistance [units] with the aim of preventing the Chetniks from further penetrating". As one of the numerous examples, Salihović mentioned March 1993 when there was an "intense aggressor offensive and on that occasion there was a danger of the entire Skenderović Battalion being encircled". Even though Orić personally was informed of it, it was not until couple of days later that he organised the aid he had promised, and yet, before the very beginning of the action a dispute broke out between the then Commandant of the 3rd May Brigade Nedžad Bektić and the Commandant of the Potočari Brigade Ibrahim Mandžić, known as Mrki, thus those units remained on their initial positions, and the members of the Skenderović Battalion managed to ward off the attacks and with great sacrifice withdrew into the rear [area]. This for the reason because there was another aggressor counter-attack in which the larger part of the strategically important territory was occupied⁹. Given that the Chetniks were penetrating towards

¹ Translator's note: State Security Service

² t/n: Security Services Centre

³ t/n: Operative Investigation

⁴ t/n: Military Security Service Department

⁵ t/n: Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

⁶ t/n: Zeleni Jadar

⁷ t/n: Gornja Jasenica

⁸ t/n: Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

⁹ t/n: the beginning of the sentence does not make sense in the original text, thus it was translated literally

Skenderovići, Ljubisavići, Bukova Glava, and so on, Salihović had a conversation at the Staff with Orić's Deputy Zulfo Tursunović with the aim of trying to organise defence, to which Zulfo said that "Naser lost control when it came to commanding because he started drinking and whoring around since he came from Konjević Polje". Even though [certain] people from the civilian authority bodies (Fejzić, Meholjić, Dr. Nedret, and others) were acquainted with the above-stated, "no one was allowed to say anything to Naser or to criticise him".

With the proclamation of the demilitarised zone of Srebrenica "one part of the territory remained not demilitarised, and that was the area of Jasenova, Ljiljen Do, Ljeskovik, and Kotljevac, which stretches to the Perućac lake. These areas were also a connection with Žepa. The formed platoons, in accordance with Naser's order, kept guards and patrolled but did not execute their tasks well, so after 1.5 month Salihović was given a verbal order by the Chief of Staff Ramiz Bećirović to abolish the guards and patrols in that area. Later on that axis towards Žepa a lot of locals died or were captured since the Chetniks¹⁰ set ambushes there."

With the demilitarisation of Srebrenica, a delivery of humanitarian aid by the UNHCR was also established. According to Salihović's findings, "of the total of arrived goods, about 20% was separated for the army to continuously have food, and that amount of food was transported to the Staff storehouse which was in one building connected to the Court building. Much of those goods were sold for Naser and the closest circle of his allies. Furthermore, Naser could allocate on a single piece of paper significant quantities of the humanitarian goods from the storehouse in the Department Store to individuals as he wished." Salihović, as he says, heard that "in June 1993, Naser gave a piece of paper on which he allocated the quantity of 600 kg of flour and 24 kg of powdered juice to Bajazit, known as Basko, from Sase, and the price of those goods was vertiginously high". Salihović was "told personally by Ahmo Tihić, one of the wealthier people, that he talked to Bajazit on multiple occasions and that "Basko" confessed to him that he was selling the humanitarian aid goods for Naser in replacement for DMs¹¹ and gold".

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It is also "well known that people from Naser's security personnel, Ćelo, Barak, Bekir, and others, for example, on 3 May 1993 took away private

¹⁰ t/n: derogatory term for Serbs - members of Yugoslav royalist and Serbian nationalist movement in World War II in Yugoslavia

¹¹ t/n: Deutsche Mark

goods from people at the market in Srebrenica. Even though Naser was familiar with that, the taking away of the goods continued. He heard countless times from Zulfo Tursunović, in the presence of the Commandant of the 282nd Brigade Ibro Dudić, that one woman and some Gypsy man from Potočari were buying larger quantities of goods from the Chetniks for Naser and the Commandant of the 280th Brigade Ibrahim Mandžić. Zulfo also mentioned one detail about it, saying that the two men on one occasion bought 10,000 razors for DM 3000, and in Srebrenica they were selling 1 piece for DM 1. From an active police officer called Čude, who broke through to Žepa and whose arrival to the free territory is expected, Salihović found out that some Naser's men were supposed to sell the Chetniks a luxury Mercedes that was the property of Ibrahim Golub from Potočari and which Naser mobilised for his needs. They were selling the car for DM 15,000, and the Chetniks allegedly offered DM 10,000, and the car was not sold in the end, but it can be seen from that that they were communicating and cooperating with the Chetniks.

In the period between September 1993, when the delegation from Srebrenica was staying in Sarajevo, and January 1994, there were organisational changes and activities on the forming of the 8th OG¹². Units in which there was order and discipline were a rarity, while in other units there was complete negligence. There were no working hours, except for the commands of the units, even in the Operative Group, and usually a few men would come to the Command of the OG, stay there for an hour or two, eat there, and go away. He spent a lot of time at various parties and dealt with politics, i.e. appointing his men [to posts] within municipal structures. Given that on multiple occasions Salihović was forward towards Naser, indicating at everything negative things that had a negative effect on the homogeneity of the units, "on 9 February 1995, Naser and Bećirović scheduled a meeting of the Command Staff of the Brigade, Commandant of which is Salihović, during which Naser and others spoke against Salihović, and they had arranged for a few company commanders to speak in support of their claims. In the meanwhile, a lot of army walked into the meeting and supported Salihović

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and openly and loudly attacked Naser by saying that he was a thief". On 13 February 1995, a consensus arrived from the Command of the 2nd Corps about Salihović's dismissal, and the handover was done on 20 February 1995 without the presence of the newly-appointed Commandant Smajo Mandžić, because he was afraid he would be booed by the soldiers."

As the conversation moved along, Salihović stressed that Naser was also familiar with the actions of certain people from the Command of the 28th Division. Among those that he mentioned was the PK¹³ for security Nedžad Bektić "who alongside Meho from Osat sold wheat, which was war booty or was the part that was taken from the people for the army, to persons in Žepa during the time when Nedžad was the Commandant of the 3rd May Brigade in 1992/1993". That was confirmed both by the Chief of Srebrenica SJB¹⁴ Hakija Mehuljić and Velid Delić. At that time, the value of wheat was DM 2000 per

¹² t/n: Operations Group

¹³ t/n: Assistant Commandant

¹⁴ t/n: Public Security Station

100 kg. Also, during that same period [of time] while people were coming from Žepa, Nedžad would wait for them with his military police officers and take away their rifles and guns only to sell those weapons later in Žepa. Salihović knows that the PK for Security within the 282nd Brigade Smajlović Suad, known as Šošon, upon returning from Žepa met Naser and Ramiz Bećirević in the presence of Fahrudin Alić, that in 1993 Nedžad Bektić before he got married sold an M-84 PM¹⁵ in Žepa.¹⁶

In the context of conversation about "mysterious murders" committed in the area of Srebrenica, next to the murder of a man called Bilal from Konjević Polje who allegedly possessed information about the machinations of the people from the Command of the 28th Division connected to the 108 kg of tobacco delivered by a helicopter at the beginning of 1993 and which was never distributed to the army, Salihović also mentioned some things about the murder of Nurif Rizvanović. "As a matter of fact, according to yet unconfirmed findings, Nurif was murdered by a man called Bekir, known as Barak, from Usmulići in Srebrenica municipality. At the beginning, that man was in Zulfo Tursunović's military police, and later on he was a so-called 'naserovac'¹⁷ [sic] in a mountain battalion. Salihović was told by Bego Begić, known as Hajro, from Srebrenica that some cousin of his from Sućeska had been bragging to him that he was wearing Nurif Rizvanović's boots." Furthermore, in connection to the murder of the former Chief of SJB and

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the wounding of an MP in the RBiH Assembly Ibran Mustafić on 19 May 1995, Salihović emphasised that while Efendić was being transported home from the hospital, "he recognised the killer in the street and then he pointed his finger at a man called Šaćir from Konjević Polje, a well known "naserovac" [sic]. Šaćir was anonymous among "naserovci" [sic], and after the tragic event he rose to the forefront among them and they consulted him about many things. On that critical night, sometime around 0200 hours, Šaćir's cousin Refko was also noticed in town, carrying an M-72 PM on him. He was met by a storehouse worker Jahić from Klisa, originally from the village of Stožerska, and on that occasion Refko warned Jahić by saying: "Watch out, you never saw me." Salihović also emphasised that the Chief of SJB Hakiija Meholjić "told him that in SJB there are a lot of registered charges [submitted] by parents [claiming] that Naser and his men raped or forcibly took girls away, i.e. their children. Fahrudin Alić, former President of the War

¹⁵ t/n: machine gun

¹⁶ t/n: the end of the sentence does not make sense in the original text, thus it was translated literally

¹⁷ t/n: Naserovac (pl. Naserovci) - *Naser's men* or *Naser's lads*

Presidency for Srebrenica municipality, said that a woman called Behara, daughter of his brother-in-law¹⁸ Rifet, complained to him that Naser forcibly took her away too and raped her in an unfamiliar place in a car.

Bearing in mind that Salihović indicated to multiple persons that could confirm some of the statements, and who managed to get to the free territory, after identifying them and determining their places of residence, we shall conduct interviews with them regarding the above-stated circumstances, which you shall be informed of in a timely manner.

JK258,JI131/JD078

Pašaga Mešić
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¹⁸ t/n: husband of his wife's sister