

TAB 28A

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 Novi Beograd
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Statement on unit's activities
 on 27/28 April 1999

TO THE COMMISSION FOR
 COOPERATION WITH THE ICTY
 - To the Expert Team -

At the request of the Commission for Cooperation with the ICTY, and regarding alleged atrocities committed against the civilian population in the village of Meja, Đakovica municipality, I hereby give the following statement:

STATEMENT

Between 15 July 1998 and 11 June 1999 I held the post of Commander of the 52nd arbr PVO /Anti-Aircraft Defence Artillery Rocket Brigade/, which was located in Đakovica. In late April 1999 terrorist activities intensified throughout the general sector of Pacaj-Serement-Racaj, which were aimed at taking control of the roads leading towards the border and cutting off our units that were fighting at *Košare* against the raids of the *Šiptar* /Albanian/ terrorist forces launched from the Republic of Albania. This would have allowed the *ŠTS* /Šiptar terrorist forces/ to secure a suitable reception zone for NATO ground forces if the aggression progressed to a land phase. In the aforesaid towns and surrounding villages, in addition to the constant attacks on VJ /Yugoslav Army/ and MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ members, the terrorists also carried out a crackdown against the *Šiptar* population who had ignored their call to leave these places in order to make it look like the *Šiptars* were being expelled. In order to prevent these activities of the *ŠTS* and thwart their intentions, VJ and police forces took measures to drive the terrorists out of the area, free the roads, and ensure freedom of movement. Sections of the 52nd arbr PVO were engaged in that operation.

During that period, the brigade under my command was deployed in KIM /Kosovo and Metohija/ in the following general sectors: Gnjilane, Priština, Kijevo, Bëc, and Đakovica. The following non-combat sections of the unit were deployed in the town of Đakovica: the command and logistics battalion in the town of Đakovica, and some of the command battalion in the Čabrat sector.

The brigade's primary task, from the start of the aggression against the FRY /Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/ and including the period in question, was to defend units and territory from NATO airstrikes, to protect our units from the actions of *Šiptar* terrorist forces operating on the ground, and to provide logistical support to the PrK /Priština Corps/ IKM /Forward Command Post/ and sections of other units located in the general sector of Đakovica. To that end, an intervention company was formed as part of the logistics battalion, which was composed of soldiers, reserve

soldiers, and PVLs /professional servicemen/. The company comprised a command, communications section, and three infantry platoons armed with infantry weapons.

Concerning the alleged atrocity carried out by "forces of the FRY and Serbia" as referred to in the book in question, I can state the following:

On 27 and 28 April 1999, part of my unit, the intervention company, which comprised sections of the logistics battalion and command battalion, participated in an operation to seal off the designated territory in the Čabrat sector from k. /elevation/ 478 to k. 442 (overlooking the poultry farm), with the task of preventing KLA terrorists from breaking through from the Trava valley and transferring the fighting to the town, thereby endangering our units and the civilian population. To that end, the intervention company was engaged and deployed on the said seal-off line. The unit was under the command of the commander of the logistics battalion, Major Zlatko ODAK.

Between 1300 and 1400 hours on 27 April 1999, I personally inspected the unit on the seal-off line and ensured that they had taken the correct position. As I did so, I pointed out some minor things they had failed to do while fortifying and camouflaging the position, because NATO aircraft were flying over the area the whole time. The commanding officer of the unit informed me that they had had no contact with the terrorists, and had neither seen nor heard any of the activities occurring in the Trava valley. I spoke with others participating in the seal-off operation, and they confirmed this report.

From the place where we were located, we saw intensive activities by NATO aircraft along the border with Albania in the sector of Košare and Streč?o/čke Planine /the Streoc mountains/, and also in the town of Đakovica and its environs.

The seal-off operation continued through the night of 27/28 April 1999, when intermittent infantry weapon fire was heard to be coming from the neighbouring unit on the left flank (2nd Battalion of the 549th Mbr /Motorised Brigade/), and the operation was completed at around 1600 hours on 28 April 1999.

The members of my unit did not have any contact with the terrorists, and accordingly we sustained no losses. I state categorically that neither I nor any of the members of my unit committed any atrocity during that time. Neither do I have any knowledge that such a thing was done by any other unit.

I heard about these alleged atrocities in late 2001 from the book "Kosovo as Seen, as Told", published by the Humanitarian Law Fund.

Following my conversations with participants in the operation, and on the basis of my own personal knowledge, all of which corroborated earlier statements, I hereby declare that neither I nor any members of my unit participated in any kind of alleged atrocities, nor do I have any knowledge that such a thing was done by any other unit.

Major General (Retired)
Miloš DOSAN
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