

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR - Serbian extremism-
STATE SECURITY DEPARTMENT
SREMSKA MITROVICA DB /State Security/ DEPARTMENT CENTRE
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CONTRIBUTION TO WORK ON THE TOPIC OF “ACTIVITIES OF MILITANT GROUPS INVOLVED IN SERBIAN EXTREMISM – SČO /Serbian Chetnik Organisation/, SERBIAN GUARD, *BELI ORLOVI* /White Eagles/, RAVNA GORA MOVEMENT AND OTHERS”

The secessionist policy pursued by certain federal units of the former SFRY /Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia/ and the outbreak of war which followed, especially in the Republic of Croatia and later in the former Republic of BH, gave rise, in Srem in particular and the Republic of Serbia more generally, to the formation of paramilitary and “volunteer” units, which in most cases were attached to units of the TO /Territorial Defence/ of Eastern Slavonia, Western Srem and Baranja.

The first such militant group was formed under the auspices of the political party SNO /Serbian National Renewal/, under the name *Dušan Silni*. It was later joined by a so-called youth organisation under the name *White Eagles*, which became an integral part of it. This militant formation had already become involved in combat operations by August 1991, when a group numbering between 50 and 70 men, organised in the Belgrade head office, was sent into the territory of the then Republic of Croatia, within the AVNOJ /Anti-Fascist Council of the People’s Liberation of Yugoslavia/ borders, where they armed themselves with infantry weapons belonging to the TO of these places (Tovarnik, Lovas, etc.).

In October 1991, in performing duties within their authority in the zone of responsibility of JNA /Yugoslav People’s Army/ units deployed in the territory of the RSK /Republic of Serbian Krajina/, JNA security organs gathered various intelligence and other information about serious crimes (murder, looting, abuse, rape, etc.) committed by volunteer units which, at the time these crimes were committed, were in most cases attached to the Eastern Slavonia TO. However, since the primary focus was on carrying out tasks in conditions of combat operations, and in the absence of any court jurisdiction, and given as well the fact that the perpetrators of these crimes usually left the units immediately (either in an organised manner or individually), these crimes were mainly just registered, and only partially documented.

In view of the above, and in order to take adequate measures to uncover the perpetrators, our Centre has forwarded to the DB Department of the MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ of the Republic of Serbia the available intelligence relating to these and other crimes, and particularly the crime committed on 18 October 1991 in the village of Lovas.

On that day, members of the *Dušan Silni* Detachment and members of the Valjevo detachment of the TO anti-sabotage company committed a crime against Croatian civilians. They first lined up some 50 or 60 captured villagers in order to clear the area of remaining ZNG /National Guard Corps/ members. The villagers were ordered to walk ahead of the TO and *Dušan Silni* members, to serve as a human shield against ZNG fire. During reconnaissance they reportedly came across a mined village road. The guide, a local man, advised them to go around it, but they then came across a minefield that had been laid by members of the Valjevo Brigade. One of the captive civilians threw himself on a mine, whose explosion wounded three members of the *Dušan Silni* Detachment and killed seven or eight villagers. Frightened by the explosion, several villagers started to run, thus activating a number of mines. Members of the TO and *Dušan Silni* Detachment responded with small-arms fire, the outcome of which was 17 villagers killed and a number of others wounded.

With regard to the above, our Centre has provided a list of names that might be used in criminal proceedings in connection with this crime, and identified persons from our area as possible perpetrators of the crime.

The following individuals from our Centre's area have been identified as chiefly responsible for criminal activities:

- **Slavko STUPAR, son of Petar**, born on 3 September 1963 in Zemun, residing in Nova Pazova, Stara Pazova municipality, at 80 Đure Đakovića Street;
- **Aleksandar SKOKO, aka Aca**, born on 24 April 1958 in Zemun, residing in Nova Pazova, Stara Pazova municipality, 12 Pionirska Street, since 1987 deregistered for Belgrade.
- **Milimir ĐURIČIĆ, son of Milivoj**, born on 26 April 1949 in Nova Pazova, where he also resides at 11 Lenjinova Street.
- **Milorad BASTA** of Pančevo, living in Nova Pazova in 1991, then appointed commander of the *White Eagles* after the Lovas crime.

Following this incident, the *Dušan Silni* Detachment was "disbanded", mainly for fear of reprisal, and so, as mentioned above, they left the JNA and TO units either in an organised manner or on their own initiative, and went into hiding in the FRY /Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/ or crossed over into the territory of Republika Srpska.

The two militant groups – *Dušan Silni* and the *White Eagles* – had no political platform in the true sense of the term. The initiator and creator of these groups was the SNO, which sought to score political points through the activities of these units, by playing the "patriotism" card. The initial euphoria among the people of the RSK and FRY throughout 1991 and until the end of 1992 played right into their hands. During this period they also received assistance from abroad, particularly from Western Europe and the USA. This foreign assistance was mainly provided by Serbian émigrés, with whom SNO extremists still maintain contact, and from whom they receive money, especially from those in Great Britain.

In monitoring the activity of these paramilitary formations in the area of the Sremska Mitrovica CRDB /State Security Department Centre/, it was noted that the Serbian Guard was also active in the period from 1991 to 1993. Drawing on the political platform of the SPO /Serbian Renewal Movement/ in this period, their goal was not only to become engaged in combat operations in the RSK and Republika Srpska, but also, if necessary, and working in conjunction with the SPO leadership, to bring down the constitutional order of the Republic of Serbia by force. (During this period, it was noted that members of the Serbian Guard took part in nearly all SPO rallies.) In Srem this militant group included several dozen individuals (mainly those seeking adventure, or whose motive was war profiteering), who were sent to war-affected areas by extremists from the headquarters in Belgrade, while their connection with SPO extremists was solely in the area of financial support.

During this period our Centre conducted initial processing, by means of which these activities were monitored.

Besides the above-mentioned militant groups, since 1993-1994 our Centre has been monitoring the activities of the SČO, which emerged from the political platform of the National Party. According to the available information, the number of individuals it brings together in the territory of our Centre is negligible. They are mainly oriented towards war profiteering, and these members act independently, mostly in war-affected areas in the former Republic of BH. The person chiefly responsible for extremist activities in this group from our area is currently being processed by the RDB /State Security Department/.

One characteristic of these militant organisations is that their activities have been focused on areas outside the Republic of Serbia and the FRY. Their extremist activities registered in the territory of the Centre have mainly been designed to instigate the ethnic cleansing of Srem and other areas by putting pressure on Croats and Muslims to move out. This method and mode of operation has found a strong base among Serbian refugees from the Republic of Croatia, and this reached its apex especially in mid-1992. At that time, certain places in Srem populated by Croats, particularly the municipalities of Ruma and others, were under continual pressure.

Pressure was applied in various ways, from anonymous telephone threats to physical liquidation. There are recorded incidents of armed members of the Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srem TO and paramilitary formations arriving to unlawfully remove persons of Croatian ethnicity from our area and search their houses, which gave rise to insecurity among citizens and distrust of the authorities of the Republic of Serbia.

All of this was done jointly by militants from the above-named organisations from the area of this Centre and their like-minded "fellow fighters" from the RSK and Republika Srpska.

Working to prevent such occurrences, our Centre undertook all measures and actions at the disposal of the RDB, in cooperation with the RJB /Public Security Department/ and OBJV /expansion unknown/. By means of assessments, it offered suggestions on how to overcome these occurrences. These suggestions referred to the Centre's

assessments that the judicial organs should proceed more efficiently in solving cases relating to pressure on people to leave their homes, and also referred to institutions involved in looking after refugees. All this was done with the aim of taking more effective measures to solve their problems by legal means.

In this period, our Centre was faced with one particular problem relating to the conduct of members of the SDG /Serbian Volunteer Guard/, who acted in contravention of legal provisions and the orders of the MUP of the Republic of Serbia. They exhibited arrogant and brazen behaviour, and were ready even to use firearms in defiance.

Considering these militant organisations in light of the current situation, we can state that there are no militant organisations (with the exception of the SČP /Serbian Chetnik Movement/, which has been the subject of a separate analysis) existing in an organised form in the territory of the CRDB. For the aforementioned groups in relation to Serbian extremism, the Sremska Mitrovica CRDB [REDACTED]

Although the situation in the ranks of paramilitary organisations in the period 1994-1995 can be described as latent, and is conditioned both by developments in war-affected areas and by the strategies of their creators (individual opposition parties such as the SNO, SPO and NS /?National Party/) in the domestic political arena, the focus of the Centre's involvement in the forthcoming period will be on monitoring, alongside the aforementioned organisations, the activities of the Serbian Guard, as it is anticipated that the activities of SPO extremists will "flourish", since their perfidious methods, especially during this year, are attracting a good number of extremist members of other opposition parties, as we have been duly reporting each month to the relevant Administration of the RDB of the MUP of the Republic of Serbia.

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Analyst

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