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REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
STATE SECURITY DEPARTMENT
SREMSKA MITROVICA STATE SECURITY DEPARTMENT CENTRE
4 June 1992

PHOTOCOPY

OFFICIAL NOTE

We have reported several times that Serbian refugees from the Republic of Croatia are exerting various forms of pressure in our area and that this is most noticeable in the areas of Hrtkovci, Nikinci and Platičevo (Ruma municipality), Beška and Novi Slankamen (Indija municipality), Vojka and Golubinci (Stara Pazova municipality) and Kukujevci (Šid municipality).

Pressure is being exerted in various ways, including anonymous telephone threats, open threats, even of physical elimination, forced entry into and occupation of Croats' houses, throwing hand grenades and other explosive devices at their homes and other kinds of attack on their property.

There have been cases of armed members of the TO /Territorial Defence/ coming from Slovenia /as printed/, Baranja and Western Srem and of other paramilitary forces illegally taking away people from our area, searching their homes, showing an interest in people who have sought refuge in our area – supposedly members of the ZNG /National Guard Corps/, and taking various items from them by producing various kinds of identity cards, arrest warrants and the like. In some cases, individuals present themselves as members of DB /State Security/.

Citizens do not oppose or report such acts either out of fear or out of the conviction that those are members of legitimate authorities or members of the military police, the JA /Yugoslav Army/ or special units of the MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ of the Republic of Serbia.

On 21 January 1992, Vesna KRČELIĆ, from Laćarak, Sremska Mitrovica municipality, came to the Civil Defence Staff in Sremska Mitrovica presenting herself as a security officer from the Vukovar TO Staff. She said she was searching for fugitive ZNG members and was allowed access to the records of the Civil Defence Staff. She showed a list containing the names of 50 people, supposedly members of the ZNG who had escaped from Vukovar using false certificates, and said she was looking for Stevan HORNUNG from Sremska Mitrovica, resident of Petrovci near Vukovar since 1980. She also showed several photocopied files on ID cards issued by the SUP /Secretariat of the Interior/ in Sremska Mitrovica, but we do not know how she obtained them. In addition to searches, she also said she was working on arresting those people, producing a warrant for the arrest of one person, authenticated by the seal of the Vukovar TO Staff. She wore a JNA /Yugoslav People's Army/ camouflage uniform with Vukovar TO insignia and was accompanied by a person armed with an automatic rifle.

On 15 April 1992, Slobodan UROŠEVIĆ and Nikola MIROSAVLJEVIĆ, members of the TO from Gaboš, now Mirkovci municipality, came to Laćarak, Sremska Mitrovica municipality, and took Zdenko and Miroslav VUKOLIĆ, refugees from Jarmina, Vinkovci municipality, to Gaboš. They explained to their parents that they were taking them because they needed to provide information on the positions of Croatian military forces in that area. They were questioned in Gaboš in the presence of representatives of the SUP from Markušica and a JNA lieutenant. Two days later Zdenko and Miroslav were returned to Laćarak.

On 15 May 1992, Zvezdan JOVANOVIĆ from Ilok, Slobodan LEŠIĆ from Mirkovci and Miodrag BRAŠIĆ from Ruma came to Hrtkovci, Ruma municipality, and entered the house of Marko FUMIĆ from Hrtkovci, in our estimate in order to kill him. The men were wearing camouflage uniforms and were armed with two pistols, a *Škorpion* pistol and an automatic rifle. Since they were seen by citizens, the men were arrested and a detention order was issued by the SJB /Public Security Station/. However, after their term of detention expired and they were heard by an investigating judge from the Municipal Court in Ruma, they were released. Since two of the men do not live in the Republic of Serbia, it is an illusion to expect them to appear at their trial in Ruma since criminal charges have been brought against them. Ostoja SIBINČIĆ from Hrtkovci (one of the leaders of the MO SPO /local board of the Serbian Renewal Movement/) was in collusion with them and gave them information on Croatian "extremists" in Hrtkovci. He was found in possession of a sniper rifle, but no order for his detention was issued, apparently for fear of reactions from the refugees from Croatia in Hrtkovci.

On 11 May 1992, a group of armed and uniformed persons kidnapped Jasmin, Đus and Huriya KARIĆ, refugees from Zvornik, in Nikinci, Ruma municipality, and took them away. They were most probably kidnapped by members of the SDG /Serbian Volunteer Guard/.

Serbian refugees from the Republic of Croatia do not respect the decisions of the state authorities, not even those of relevant courts, to leave forcibly occupied facilities, but oppose their enforcement. On 1 June 1992, refugees, with the support of SRS /Serbian Radical Party/ members, put up a roadblock on the regional road in Indija to prevent the enforcement of an Indija Municipal Court ruling on the eviction of Sava PJEVALO, a refugee from Croatia who had forcibly occupied the home of Marko KURTOVIĆ from Indija. These people did not obey a police order to remove the roadblock until the arrival of the president of the Indija Municipal Court and the judge sitting on the case. Only after the judge delayed the enforcement of the ruling did the citizens disperse. The wife of Sava SPJEVALO was found in possession of a hand grenade, which she probably would have used if the police had used force.

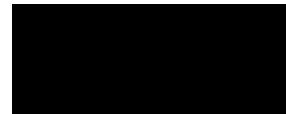
In addition, several court cases are being conducted in connection with the eviction of refugees from forcibly occupied houses. We estimate that the refugees will resist the enforcement of court rulings and that they will gather in large numbers in order to stop officials from performing their duties. Refugees have a tactic of pushing to the front the children of parents killed in war zones in Croatia, women and elderly people, so any use of force may have negative effects. On the other hand, tolerance of illegal

acts causes public distrust in the functioning of the rule of law and in the authorities. Arrivals of foreign reporters showing an interest in specific persons who are under pressure to move away have already been registered and their articles may cause reactions from the world public and new forms of pressure on the Republic of Serbia.

Also, arrivals of members of various paramilitary forces in the area, members of the TO of the SRK /Serbian Republic of Krajina/, their storming into Croats' houses, searches and forcible arrests cause insecurity among citizens and distrust in the authorities of the Republic of Serbia. We therefore believe that the relevant state and military authorities of the RSK /Republic of Serbian Krajina/ should be warned that such acts would not be tolerated in the Republic of Serbia. We also believe that the judicial authorities should be more effective in dealing with cases of people being pressured to leave their homes, forcible occupation of houses, possession of firearms and the like. Such efficacy could be achieved by issuing detention orders in drastic cases where pressure is exerted.

Institutions caring for refugees should take more effective measures in dealing with their problems according to law, which would reduce the existing tensions among the refugees and their illegal actions.

A special problem is presented by the behaviour of SDG members, who do not respect legal regulations and police orders but demonstrate their arrogance, impudence and even readiness to resist by the use of firearms. Our impression is that the police in this area believe that the SDG enjoys the protection of the MUP of the Republic of Serbia, in support of which they even cited specific cases of intervention. We cite the case of behaviour of SDG members during their passage through Šid at the end of May 1992. They travelled in a Mercedes vehicle, registration plate no. RU 580-97, and a bus, registration plate no. MK-00-04. The SDG commander rode in the Mercedes and conducted himself arrogantly during an attempted check.



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