



Humanitarian Law Center
Research, dokumentation and memory

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Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor
Prosecutor Vladimir Vukčević

Dear Prosecutor,

Based on documents¹ presented to the War Crimes Chamber of the Belgrade District Court and files published in certain media², we believe that the War Crimes Prosecutor's Office should launch an urgent investigation against former General of the Army of the Republic of Srpska Svetozar Andrić and former Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska Tomo Kovač. There is reasonable suspicion that they bear criminal responsibility for serious breaches of the Geneva Conventions during the armed conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the Humanitarian Law Center's findings, Svetozar Andrić resides in Belgrade, while Tomo Kovač is in Herceg Novi but frequently visits the Serbian capital.

From the document submitted by victim-witness Fadil Banjanović to the Court in the "Zvornik" case on January 31, 2006, it is evident that then-Major of the Army of the Republic of Srpska, Svetozar Andrić, commander of the Birac Brigade of the Autonomous Region, issued an order on May 28, 1992, for the "relocation of Muslim civilians," which "must be coordinated with the municipalities through which the relocation takes place. Women and children may be relocated, but men fit for combat should be left in camps for exchange," as stated in Andrić's order.

Three days later, on May 31, 1992, Svetozar Andrić ordered the establishment of the "Sušica" camp in Vlasenica, through which, according to witness testimony, thousands of Bosniaks and Croats passed. In "Sušica," murders, torture, and rape of women occurred, resulting in approximately 600 deaths. Prisoners in "Sušica" were subjected to physical and psychological abuse and inhumane living conditions, lacking adequate food, water, medical care, and sleeping facilities.

Furthermore, Svetozar Andrić was one of the Drina Corps operatives under the command of Radoslav Krstić, who was convicted of aiding and abetting genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

¹ Documents No. 04276215 i 04276217 Orders of the Birač Brigade from 28 May 1992 and 31 May 1992

² «Oslobođenje», Sarajevo, 2 February 2006

While Andrić conducted operations for the Drina Corps, Tomo Kovač, on July 10, 1995, just before the operations to capture Srebrenica, ordered the formation of a special police brigade of the Republic of Srpska (SBP), led by Ljubomir Borovčanin. During the attack on the Srebrenica enclave and the subsequent executions of 8,000 Bosniaks, the unit established by Kovač's order was present in areas including Bratunac, Potočari, Sandići, Kravica, Srebrenica, and Zvornik, participating in crimes against civilians. Kovač previously ordered that the Special Police Brigade include the "Second Special Police Unit from Šekovići, the First Company of CJB Zvornik, a mixed company of joint MUP forces from RSK, Serbia, and the Republic of Srpska, and a unit from the training camp on Jahorina," clearly indicating that Serbian state bodies were involved in the Srebrenica massacre.

Nataša Kandić

Executive Director