



## HIGHER COURT IN BELGRADE War Crimes Department

#### <u>BELGRADE</u>

Pursuant to my authority under articles: 43 (2.5), 331 (1) and 332 of the *Code of Criminal Procedure*; and 3 and 4 (1) of the *Act on the Organisation and Competence of Government Authorities in War Crimes Proceedings*; and in line with artcle 47 (1) of the *Act on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters*, I raise this

# INDICTMENT

Against:

AA

<u>Personal details:</u> Son of ... and ... née ... Place and date of birth: ... Current address: ... Citizen identification number: ... Country of citizenship: ... Educational background: ... Occupation: ...

#### BACKGROUND FACTS AND GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

In the period from 1992 to 1995, an armed conflict existed in the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina (BH), involving groups of local Serbs, Bosniaks and Croats.

The incident relevant to this indictment occurred in village Prhovo, municipal area of Ključ, two days after a Serbian military operation in the area.

As a member of the village security guard – part of the Serbian party to the conflict, **AA** took the lives of two Bosniak civilians, thereby committing grave breaches of international law as recognised by the following acts:

- Article 3 (1.a) of the *Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War* (*Geneva Convention IV*) of 12 August 1949 (ratified by the FPRY National Assembly, *FPRY Official Gazette* no. 24/50); and
- Articles 4 (1 and 2.a) and 13 (2 and 3) of the *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions, Relative to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts* (Protocol II).

### CHARGES

In the afternoon of 3 June 1992, **AA**, VV, GG and other members of the Serbian armed force – dressed in military uniforms and equipped with automatic rifles – were patrolling the village. As they passed by BB's house, they heard female cries coming from inside. The group stopped in front of the house, and GG and VV entered the ground floor area. Having returned shortly afterwards, GG informed **AA** and the rest of their group that there were three injured women inside. In response to GG's suggestion that the women should be loaded onto a horse carriage and transported to hospital, **AA** used arms threat to prevent GG from helping the victims. Having fetched a canister with fuel from BB's garage, **AA** headed towards the front door and entered the house. Determined to take the injured womens' lives, **AA** spilled the fuel all over the ground floor area, as well as over the window of the room where the women were staying. Having done so, he set the house on fire. Two of the women were burnt alive, alongside the body of the third, who had died a short while earlier.

# By his above described conduct, AA committed the criminal offence under article 142 (1) (war crime against civilian population) of the *FRY Criminal Act*.

Svetislav Rabrenović Deputy War Crimes Prosecutor