

# Gabela

## General information

The Municipality of Čapljina is situated in the southwest part of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), by the border with the Republic of Croatia. According to the 1991 census of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), the Čapljina population was composed of 53.7 per cent Croats, 27.5 per cent Muslims and 13.5 Serbs.<sup>1</sup>

At a meeting in Grude on 18 November 1991, the main political party of BiH Croats, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ BiH) set up the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna (HZ-HB), which consisted of 30 municipalities including Čapljina. Mostar was the seat of the Community. The Presidency of HZ-HB was composed of the Presidents of the HDZ municipal boards. Mate Boban was the President, Božo Rajić and Dario Kordić, Vice-Presidents and Ignac Koštroman, Secretary.

In April 1992, HZ-HB created the Croatian Defence Council (HVO), which was to be the supreme executive and defence authority of the HZ-HB. Local municipal HVO units were subsequently established in 1992 as the executive and military power in the municipalities.<sup>2</sup>

The HDZ BiH, whose Chairman was Pero Marković and Vice-Chairman Krunoslav Kordić, won the elections in Čapljina in 1990. Marković was then elected Mayor of the municipality and, as Chairman of the municipal HDZ and mayor of the municipality, Marković was also the president of the municipal HVO, which was seated in Široki Brijeg.

Before mid-1992 and before the Army of RBiH (ARBiH) was formed, members of the Territorial Defence (TO) fought alongside the HVO against the Serbian forces, and their cooperation continued after the formation of ARBiH, until April 1993. The HVO controlled Čapljina from 26 June 1992, and arrests of Muslims started in April 1993. The captives included intellectuals, members of the SDA and of ARBiH, who were mostly detained in the Grabovina barracks and Dretelj prison, while some captives were taken to Gabela.

Between 30 June and mid-July 1993, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Brigade of the HVO and the 1<sup>st</sup> *Knez Domagoj* Brigade, in cooperation with the Čapljina Ministry of the Interior (MUP), conducted a campaign of arrests of Muslim men in the localities of Bivolje Brdo, Višići, Domanovići and Lokve. The arrested men were taken to prisons in Dretelj, Gabela and the Heliodrom.<sup>3</sup> From 1

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<sup>1</sup> State Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Census of population, households, dwellings and farms of 1991, Ethnic composition of population – Results for the Republic by municipalities, populated places for 1991, Sarajevo, December 1993, Statistical bulletin no. 234.

<sup>2</sup> ICTY, Case *Kordić and Čerkez* (IT-95-14/2), Judgement, pp. 9 and 141.

<sup>3</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, pp. 563-564.

July 1993, massive arrests of Muslims from the localities of Dubrave, Hodbina and Grabovica started.<sup>4</sup>

According to the detainee Džemal Topić, after his arrest on 3 June 1993 he was taken to and detained in the Barracks in Čapljina together with 71 more captives; ten days later, they were driven in two buses to the camp in Gabela, and detained in the basement rooms of the administration building, which used to be a horse-stable during the time of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA). They were the first detainees at the Gabela camp.<sup>5</sup>

Detainees from other detention facilities were also taken to Gabela. Consequently, many detainees arrived from Dretelj in late September 1993 and early October 1993, when the prison there closed. In early October 1993, the HVO brought Muslim men from the Koštana Hospital in Stolac to Gabela. On 6 November 1993, two detainees arrived at Gabela from the Heliodrom.

Due to the lack of space in the detention facilities in Prozor, 105 detainees were transferred to Gabela from these sites on 14 November 1993. On 15 December 1993, 13 detainees from Ljubuški were brought there as well.<sup>6</sup>

## Management

The detention facility in Gabela was formed pursuant to the Decision of the HZ-HB Government on the establishment of the District Military Prison in Gabela of 8 June 1993. This decision was annulled on 22 December 1993; from that time on, the prison was registered as a "transit point".<sup>7</sup> On the basis of two decisions signed by Jadranko Prlić in his capacity of President of the HVO, on 8 June 1993, the HVO HZ-HB appointed Boško Previšić the prison warden.

However, the prison in Gabela started receiving detainees from April 1993, i.e. before its official establishment, while Boško Previšić served as the prison warden from May 1993, i.e. before the date of his official appointment.

Nikola Andrun was Previšić's deputy; both of them were members of the 1<sup>st</sup> *Knez Domagoj* Brigade of HVO. They were in charge of "administration affairs" and "insurance control". Boško Previšić reported directly to Nedjeljko Obradović, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> *Knez Domagoj* Brigade.

From 22 July to 25 December 1993, Tomislav Šakota served as the Coordinator of Detention Centres and, in this capacity, participated in managing the Gabela Prison - at least, this was the case in September 1993.

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<sup>4</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Nikola Andrun* (S1 1 K 014269 13 KŽK), Judgement, p. 14.

<sup>5</sup> TPOS, Dž. T.'s deposition to the Association, 26.9.2013.

<sup>6</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, p. 53.

<sup>7</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Nikola Andrun* (S1 1 K 014269 13 KŽK), Judgement, p. 13.

Although the command of the 1<sup>st</sup> *Knez Domagoj* Brigade was not physically present in the prison compound, it was to a large extent involved in all aspects of prison management, particularly in giving permits to third persons for access to the prison. For instance, on 17 June 1993 Nedjeljko Obradović ordered the warden of the Gabela Prison to allow the head of the Military Intelligence Service (VOS) of the brigade and his advisor to enter the prison and interrogate the detainees. In addition, according to a report from the security sector of the HVO Department of Defence of 20 September 1993, persons not working at the Gabela prison could enter if they had a written authorisation from the Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> *Knez Domagoj* Brigade of the HVO and from the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS) of the brigade.

The 1<sup>st</sup> *Knez Domagoj* Brigade was responsible for the supply of food and water to detainees at Gabela prison. They were also in charge of providing medical care.

Security for the detainees in Gabela prison was ensured by a *Domobrani* unit under the 1<sup>st</sup> *Knez Domagoj* Brigade. Initially, it was a unit of “Konjic men”, who were replaced by members of the “Klis Battalion” on 18 August 1993.

The Military Police Administration, headed by Valentin Ćorić, was in charge of giving orders for the transfer of detainees from Gabela Prison to other detention facilities. Berislav Pušić, the h/Head of the Service for E/exchange of P/prisoners, was also authorised to order the transfer of detainees from Gabela prison to Ljubuški prison, to prepare for their departure to a third country.<sup>8</sup>

## Conditions

The prison was located in the former JNA barracks in the village of Gabela, to the south of Čapljina.

In the compound of the prison there were 12 hangars, of which three, and later, four – after the arrival of detainees following the closure of Dretelj prison in the first few days of October 1993 – were used to house detainees. There were also a former stable and a sports field in the compound of Gabela prison.<sup>9</sup>

The prison was fenced off with the barbed wire. It was surrounded by a few observation posts. There was a guard-post at the entrance gate, and further inside, within the barracks compound, there was the administration building (as it was called by the detainees), with the administration offices on the upper floor, together with a room where the arrested members of the HVO were detained on suspicion of committing criminal offences. On the ground floor there was a room where prominent Muslims and members of the ARBiH were detained.

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<sup>8</sup> ICTY, *Case Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, Volume 3, pp. 47-51.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 45.

The barracks compound also housed four hangars labelled 0, 1, 2 and 3, each of which measured approximately 400-500 square metres. Some 500-600 Muslims were detained in each of them.<sup>10</sup>

Three detainees speak of a solitary cell, which was located in the administration building, where they were detained together with other detainees for a few days.

Muslims – members of the HVO, ARBiH and other Muslim men – were detained in Gabela from early April 1993. From April to May 1993, about 1500 Muslim men aged from 16 to 60 were detained in Gabela. Between August and December 1993, about 1000 prisoners on average were being detained in Gabela without interruption.

A few detainees testified that there was not enough space or air in the hangars. A report from an international organization dated 5 December 1993 notes that a certain number of detainees could not lie on the floor because the hangar was overcrowded.

Detainees were given two meals a day in the form of stew, though in small quantities, and a thin slice of bread. A loaf of bread was divided into between 14 and 20 slices. They were given insufficient quantities of water, which was a great problem due to the high temperatures in Herzegovina during summer. There was not enough fresh air in the hangars.

For a while, detainees used galvanized buckets in the hangar as latrines. In mid-July 1993, during the combat between the ARBiH and HVO on the Dubrava plateau, food and water were withheld from the detainees, and they also did not have enough air. Consequently, many of them fainted.

Detainee C.M. was unable to wash at any time during his detention at Gabela from 27 September to 15 December 1993. Moreover, he stated that during his detention, the facilities were neither cleaned nor disinfected, and that detainees were therefore covered in lice. He said that food was not only in scarce supply, limited in quantity and mixed with water, but also that it was served in dirty dishes.<sup>11</sup>

Detainee Džemal Topić states that detainees “lacked air, water, food, right to life ... You only had your number, nobody had their name ...”<sup>12</sup>

Detainees received no medical assistance and they suffered from all kinds of ailments. About 40 detained men who were in very bad health because of their previous detention in an isolation cell at Dretelj Prison did not receive any medical treatment when they arrived at Gabela Prison.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Nikola Andrun* (S1 1 K 014269 13 KŽK), Judgement, p. 18.

<sup>11</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, Volume 3, pp. 58-61.

<sup>12</sup> TPOS, Dž. T.'s deposition to the Association, 26.9.2013.

<sup>13</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, Volume 3, p. 63.

## Abuse

Special HVO units that came to the Gabela Prison, as well as those that were supposed to watch detainees, i.e. the *Ludvig Pavlović* and *Božen Šimović* units, were violent towards the detainees, and in some cases the violence resulted in the death of detainees.<sup>14</sup>

In late July 1993, a few Gabela detainees, including Džemal Topić, were taken to the barracks in Čapljina to collect pine-tree needles and acorns. On this occasion, Topić was taken to a bathroom and beaten with the hose of a fire extinguisher a number of times; as a result, he lost consciousness.<sup>15</sup> Detainee Topić says that he suffered clinical death that day, and that he was dumped into a refuse container, from which he managed to get out four days later. Detainee Topić: "I was saved by Doctor Kapić, Doctor Zikrija Veledar and Kemo Balavac. They reanimated me. For four days, my head was turned 'upside down', and my legs were in the air, and then blood returned to my brain and I started to function."<sup>16</sup>

While going to work in the Čapljina barracks, detainee Osman Eminović was brutally beaten by members of the *Ludvig Pavlović* special unit. They took him to the basement of the barracks, to the bathroom, and kicked him a few times on the chest, and hit him with truncheons on the back. His back was black as a result of the blows. Then they forced him to do push-ups, and when he could not do any more, they kicked him on the chest again, which made him lose consciousness three times. After they had hit him on the head with a gun, which made him bleed, they stopped beating him, because they were afraid they had killed him. Detainee Eminović: "Every time when I talk about those bad moments, I get upset, I feel like ..."<sup>17</sup>

Mirsad Osmanović was taken to Gabela on 3 August 1993. Nikola Andrun took him for interrogation a few times, and asked for money he had allegedly hidden. Osmanović: "When they let me go the first night, they said that I had to give the money over the next day or I would be killed. When I said that I had no money, they made me take my clothes off. Then they beat me with their fists, boots and nightsticks. Andrun shoved a gun into my mouth and later fired a shot above my head."<sup>18</sup>

In mid-July 1993, 15 or 16 detainees from Hangar 1 were taken to clean a hill within the Gabela camp compound, and to clear grass and brushwood with their bare hands. It took seven trucks to take away all the grass and brushwood that the detainees had cleared with their bare hands in a couple of hours only. Moreover, they beat and abuse them while they worked, and the 15 or 16 of them were given only a bottle of water, although it was mid-July and very hot.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Nikola Andrun* (S1 1 K 014269 13 KŽK), Judgement, p. 19.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 32

<sup>16</sup> TPOS, Dž. T.'s deposition to the Association, 26.9.2013.

<sup>17</sup> TPOS, O.E.'s deposition to the Association, 27.9.2013.

<sup>18</sup> BIRN BiH, Justice Report, *Andrun, Detainee begged for death*, 26.9.2006.

<sup>19</sup> TPOS, O.E.'s deposition to the Association, 27.9.2013.

Detainee CQ said that, although he was in very bad shape and unable to move as a result of the beatings he had received at Koštana Hospital, where he had been held earlier, Marinko Marić, a member of the SIS, ordered detainees to drag him to a wall, where he beat him all over his body, and especially on the head. As a consequence of the beatings he received at Koštana Hospital and at Gabela prison, the detainee had three fractured ribs.

“Interrogations” were carried out at Gabela prison by members of the VOS of the *Knez Domagoj* Brigade and the SIS. According to detainees E.D. and E.C., the “interrogations” were particularly bad moments for the detainees. E.D. explained that Boško Previšić and his deputy Nikola Andrun allowed the “so-called HVO interrogators” dressed in civilian clothes to enter the prison at night, take the detainees outside behind the hangar and beat them. Detainee E.C. was himself interrogated for several hours in the first days of his detention, when Marinko Marić, Almir Kudra and Nikola Andrun twice attempted to hand him with a belt that they tightened until he was in a semi-comatose state. Then they forced E.C. to stand under a tap, which they then turned on; the water entered his mouth and lungs.

Detainee Sejfo Kajmović saw, at the beginning of his detention at Gabela in mid-July 1993, that “both military and civilians from outside the camp” could enter and beat the detainees as they wished. This was confirmed by Huso Marić, who stated that he and four other detainees were beaten by a group of people from outside - “Ustashas”, who wore the “U” insignia and metal badges displaying the face of Ante Pavelić. Marić was beaten until he lost consciousness and did not wake up until four or five days later inside the hangar, with his body covered in bruises.

Sejfo Kajmović was present when a group of several men from outside the prison, including a man wearing the uniform of the HVO Military Police and a civilian from Split, arrived at hangar number 3 and brutally kicked and beat several prisoners in the face with a truncheon. Kajmović also said that members of the Military Police took detainees out of the hangars; and that the detainees sometimes never returned.

Sejfo Kajmović and Hasan Hasić mentioned a particularly violent guard from Konjic nicknamed “Is that fair?”, because he would always ask detainees if what happened was fair. This man was in the habit of making the detainees lie down on the concrete floor and pretend they were swimming. Another guard, called Marko, who was very brutal, forced the detainees to lie on their stomach for a long time and threatened to shoot them if they raised their heads.<sup>20</sup>

Ekrem Pekaz, together with a group of detainees, was lined up by four or five HVO soldiers. Pekaz: “I was ordered to hit a cistern head first. I covered my head with hands. “That’s not good. Do it again!” they kept ordering. I was utterly numbed. They also ordered me to jump from a meter-and-a-half or two-meter high platform head first. While I was falling down, I tried to protect myself with my hands. While I was lying on the ground, they kicked me on the body with military boots,

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<sup>20</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, Volume 3, pp. 65-67.



and beat me with a baseball bat on the head, until it broke. After having been hit a few times I fainted.”<sup>21</sup>

Ramiz Hasić, a former policeman in Čapljina, was beaten up by four HVO soldiers in Gabela. He saw Ekrem Pekat, Huso Marić and a person nicknamed “Peco”. Detainee Hasić: “Peco, whose name I do not know, had bruises on his head. His head was almost black. He had an irregular cross on his forehead. He said that he got the cross when jumping headfirst from a platform onto a concrete floor. I also saw Huso Marić, who looked horrible. He was swollen. I recognised him by his eyes.”<sup>22</sup>

## Killing

Between July and October 1993, Enver Šabanović was taken to the sports area of the Gabela Prison, brutally beaten and left for dead. His spine was broken. Šabanović died a little later.<sup>23</sup>

With many detainees watching, Boško Previšić fired a shot from a gun and killed Mustafa Obradović, who had tried to take bread into the camp.<sup>24</sup>

Mirsad Žujo, known as “Šile”, was taken away one night by Nikola Andrun and a *Domobrani* called “Mali” (The Little One) and never seen again. His mortal remains were found in 1997.<sup>25</sup>

Himzija Dizdar disappeared from Gabela. Detainee Hasan Tucaković remembers: “We were in the storage shed. Someone called Himzija. He wanted to take his shirt before he left. The same voice said that he would not be needing his shirt any more.”<sup>26</sup>

Alija Čolaković was also killed at Gabela.<sup>27</sup>

## Releases and transfers

In late October 1993, detainees at Gabela had to state where they wanted to go to be exchanged: to Jablanica or to Mostar. Those who chose Jablanica were soon exchanged by being transported on ICRD trucks, while those who chose Mostar stayed in the camp for a long time.<sup>28</sup>

In the summer of 1993, detainees at Gabela were taken to the Ljubuški prison and then released in August 1993, in order to go to third countries with their families. In the same way, on 19 October

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<sup>21</sup> BIRN BiH, Justice Report, *Forced to jump head first*, 15.7.2013.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., *Bruises caused by beating in Gabela*, 16.9.2013.

<sup>23</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, Volume 3, p. 69.

<sup>24</sup> TPOS, Dž.T. and O.E.'s depositions to the Association, 26.9.2013 and 27.9.2013.

<sup>25</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, Volume 3, p. 71.

<sup>26</sup> BIRN BiH, Justice Report, *Andrun: Witness speaks of Dizdar's disappearance*, 10.10.2006.

<sup>27</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Nikola Andrun* (S1 1 K 014269 13 KŽK), Judgement, p. 2.

<sup>28</sup> TPOS, Dž.T.'s deposition to the Association, 26.9.2013.

1993, 174 detainees who were to go to Denmark were transferred from Gabela Prison to the Heliodrom.

Pursuant to Mate Boban's decision of 10 December 1993 to close down all the detention facilities on the territory of HZ-HB as of 17 December 1993 at the latest, the Head of the Service for the Exchange of Prisoners, Berislav Pušić, issued a series of orders on the release of detainees, and reports in which he kept the government of the HZ-HB, the Minister of Defence and the Military Police Administration informed about the release of detainees from Gabela Prison between 13 and 17 December 1993. A report by the Service for the Exchange of Prisoners and other persons dated 18 December 1993 indicated that, pursuant to Mate Boban's decision, 1,040 people had been released from the Gabela Prison by that date, and 406 remained in detention.

From 13 December 1993, Gabela Prison was also used as a transit facility to house detainees from other detention centres such as Ljubuški and the Heliodrom, who were destined to leave for third countries.

On 15 December 1993, pursuant to an order from the acting Head of the Military Police Administration, Radoslav Lavrić, to move the "prisoners of war" from Gabela Prison to the Heliodrom, about 400 detainees were taken to the Heliodrom.<sup>29</sup>

Detainee Osman Eminović, who was arrested around 17 April 1993, was transferred to the Grabovina barracks in Čapljina, then to Gabela Prison and then, in late August 1993, driven to the Čapljina Silos together with several other detainees. While there, they were joined by a group of detainees from the Heliodrom in Mostar. After seven days they were all driven again to Gabela camp/Prison, where they stayed until 27 October 1993, when they were transported to Ljubuški Prison, where they remained until 19 March 1994. Osman Eminović spent 339 days detained in Herzegovina camps.<sup>30</sup>

### **Visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross**

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) registered detainees at Gabela in August 1993. Gabela warden Boško Previšić and his deputy Nikola Andrun, intending to prevent ICRC representatives from making a list of all the detainees and thus enabling their exchange, departure for third countries and contact with their families, moved a group of detained Muslims, whom they kept detained in a building directly near the entrance gate to the Silos camp near Čapljina. In this way, they prevented the employees of the ICRC from registering them.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, Volume 3, pp. 73-76.

<sup>30</sup> TPOS, O.E.'s deposition to the Association, 27.9.2013.

<sup>31</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Nikola Andrun* (S1 1 K 014269 13 KŽK), Judgement, p. 4.



Representatives of the ICRC visited Gabela at least two more times, in September 1993 and around 10 October 1993.<sup>32</sup> During these visits, members of the HVO hid men older than 60 and minors and took them to the “Silos” in Čapljina and to Ljubuški.<sup>33</sup>

## Processing the persons responsible for war crimes

For crimes committed at Gabela Prison in Čapljina, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) sentenced, on the ground of superior responsibility, the wartime President of the HVO and President of the Government of HZ-HB Jadranko Prlić to 25 years’ imprisonment, the head of the Department of Defence in the Government of HZ-HB Bruno Stojić to 20 years’ imprisonment, the commander of the HVO Main Staff Slobodan Praljak to 20 years’ imprisonment, Chief of the Main Staff of the HVO and Deputy of the supreme commander of HVO forces Milivoj Petković to 16 years’ imprisonment, and Head of the Service for the exchange of prisoners Berislav Pušić to 10 years’ imprisonment.<sup>34</sup>

The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina found Nikola Andrun guilty because, during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and during the armed conflict between the HVO and the Army of RBiH, in his capacity of Deputy Commander of the Gabela Camp/Prison, he tortured and participated in torturing detained civilians, treated them inhumanely and used measures of fear and terror. He was sentenced to 18 years’ imprisonment.<sup>35</sup> In January 2014, his sentence was reduced to 14 years’ imprisonment, after the Criminal Law of the former Yugoslavia was applied.<sup>36</sup>

On 14 November 2005, proceedings against Boško Previšić, warden of Gabela Prison, were scheduled to start before the Mostar Cantonal Court. The indictment charged him with committing a war crime against prisoners of war and civilians in 1993, in that he kept over a thousand detainees in poor conditions in hangars, that he killed Mustafa Obradović on 2 October 1993, and that he did not prevent the abuse of dozens of detainees, some of whom succumbed. Boško Previšić fled BiH to the Republic of Croatia, using his dual citizenship.<sup>37</sup>

On 26 December 2006, the Court of BiH upheld the indictment against Marinko Marić, a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> *Knez Domagoj* HVO Brigade, who participated in the murder of detained civilians, tortured and participated in the torture of detainees, inflicted severe physical pain on them, and used measures of fear and terror. The accused Marić is beyond the reach of the judicial authorities.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement, Volume 3, p. 73.

<sup>33</sup> TPOS, DŽ.T.'s deposition to the Association, 26.9.2013.

<sup>34</sup> ICTY, Case *Jadranko Prlić et al.* (IT-04-74), Judgement.

<sup>35</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Nikola Andrun* (S1 1 K 014269 13 KŽK), Second-instance judgement

<sup>36</sup> BIRN BiH, Justice Report, *Andrun's sentence reduced by four years*, 30.1.2014.

<sup>37</sup> Radio Slobodna Evropa, *Stolac: Učesnici zločina slobodno hodaju gradom*, 28.11.2010.

<sup>38</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Marinko Marić* (S1 1 K 002730 06 KRO), Indictment.

On 8 September 1995, the Higher Court in Mostar sentenced Jackie Arklov,<sup>39</sup> a member of the Čapljina *Knez Domagoj* HVO Brigade *Ludvig Pavlović* special unit, to 13 years' imprisonment, on the grounds of crimes committed at Gabela Prison, and ordered his expulsion from BiH after the end of his prison sentence. In February 1996, the Supreme Court of the Federation of BiH reduced the sentence to eight years' imprisonment. Arklov was sent to the Zenica Prison. At the same time, Sweden requested his extradition as a Swedish citizen, and BiH consequently extradited Arklov to his country after only seven weeks' imprisonment. However, a Swedish court soon released him due to a lack of evidence. It was only on 18 December 2006 that the Stockholm District Court found Arklov guilty of grave violations of the international law, in particular of ethnic cleansing, plundering, unlawful detention and the torture of 11 Bosniak civilians. However, a sentence has not yet been passed on him, since he is already serving life imprisonment for having killed two policemen in Sweden in a bank robbery in 1999.

On 29 March, the Court of BiH confirmed the indictment against Željko Rodin who, in the capacity of investigator for the SIS of the *Knez Domagoj* HVO Brigade, in the prisons known as Dretelj, Gabela and Silos in the territory of Čapljina municipality, participated in interrogations and physical abuse, murders, intentional infliction of grave physical and psychological pain and suffering on imprisoned civilians, as well as in acts against bodily integrity and personal dignity, insulting and humiliating acts, and inhumane treatment of a population and looting of their property. Rodin is beyond the reach of the judicial authorities.<sup>40</sup>

On 14 October 2013, Mostar Cantonal Court sentenced Luka Perić, a member of the HVO, to two years' imprisonment for having committed war crimes against a civilian population and war crimes against prisoners of war at Gabela Prison in July 1993.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> A member of neo-Nazi movement Jackie Arklov joined the Croatian army forces in 1993.

<sup>40</sup> Court of BiH, Case *Željko Rodin* (S1 K 009125 12 KRO), Indictment.

<sup>41</sup> BIRN BiH, Justice Report, *Defence requests acquittal of Luka Perić*, 23.1.2014.