

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION
OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY
OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Last Name: **BOGUJEVCI**

First Name(s): **Saranda**

Father's First Name: **Safet**

Nickname:

Gender: **Female**

Date of Birth: **12/06/1985**

Place of Birth: **Podujevo, Kosovo**

Ethnic Origin: **Kosovo Albanian**

Religion: **Muslim**

Language(s) Spoken: **Albanian and English**

Language(s) Written (if different from spoken):

Language(s) Used in Interview: **English**

Current Occupation: **Student**


Former:

Date(s) of Interview(s): **7 October 2008, Manchester UK**

Interviewer: **Jonathan Sutch**

Interpreter: **None**

Names of all other persons present during interview(s): **Daniela Kravetz**

Signed: 

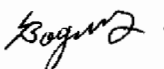
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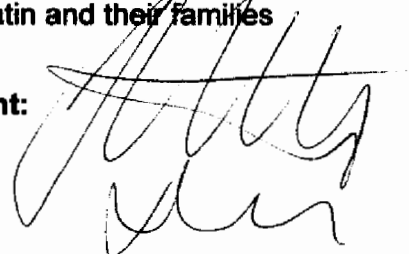
WITNESS STATEMENT:

1. I give this statement to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), voluntarily. I have not been subjected to pressure of any type to do so, nor have not been offered any incentives.
2. I understand that I am requested to describe things I know because I observed them and I will clearly indicate in my statement facts I learned from others.
3. I am the grand-daughter of Uke (who passed away in 1991) and Shehide BOGUJEVCI and the daughter of Safet (male, born 1960) and Sala (female, born 1960) BOGUJEVCI.
4. I am the sibling of Shpend (brother, born 1986) and Shpetim (brother, born 1989).
5. I am the niece of Selatin (my father's brother) and Shefkate (his wife) BOGUJEVCI and cousin to their children; Nora (female, born 1984), Fatos (male, born 1986), Jehona (female, born 1988), Lirie (female, born 1990) and Genc (male, born 1993).
6. I live in the city of Manchester, UK and have done since 1999.
7. On 22 May 2000, I participated in a witness interview with a representative of the ICTY Office of the Prosecutor (OTP), Mr. Simon Mathews. This interview was conducted in the UK and video recorded. I am informed the video has been assigned the Evidence Reference Number (ERN) V000-2471 and I have today had an opportunity to read through an eight page transcript of the interview. This transcript is attached to this statement as Annex A and I confirm – other than where corrected in this statement – that its contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
8. On 10 July 2003, I testified before the District Court in Belgrade, Serbia, in the trial of Saša CVJETAN. I have today been shown and read a copy of the transcript of my testimony on pages forty-five to fifty-three of a document bearing the ERN K054-7034-K054-7072. This transcript is attached to this statement as Annex B and I confirm – other than where corrected in this statement – that its contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
9. Within this statement I will describe the events that I witnessed on 28 March 1999, in Podujevo, Kosovo. At the time of the incident I was 13 years old and had lived there with my family all of my life.
10. Our house was located at what is now known as Skenderbeg Street 262, Podujevo but at the time was known as Kosancic Ivana. It was situated in a large family compound which contained a total of three family homes. These homes were owned and occupied by three brothers and their respective families; my grandfather and his two brothers. Safet (my father), Selatin and their families

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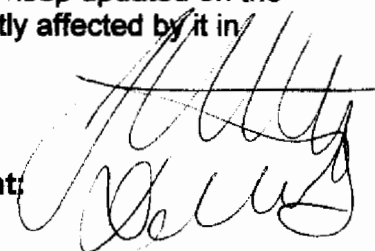
lived in one house. The second house was occupied by my father's cousins and the third house was unoccupied at the time.

11. The compound had a high wall on all four sides with gaps in places and a large gate providing access to the main street. Our compound was located in the centre of Podujevo town, in the vicinity of the police station.
12. Looking at our compound from the street there were two houses. The house on the right was our house and to the left was that of my father's cousin. Both of these houses had rear gardens, behind them and to the rear of these the third house was situated.
13. To the right of our compound is another family compound belonging to Selman GASHI (approximately 60 years) and his family. Both his and our family compounds backed onto a third compound, being separated by fences and low walls. Street access to this third compound was gained from the same street that the Podujevo police station – a three or four storey building – was located on. Parts of our compound were in fact overlooked by the police station.
14. To the left of our compound was another compound where my aunt Fahrije lived – although she was staying in Pristina.
15. Our neighbourhood was predominantly made up of Kosovo Albanian families and relationships between them and Kosovo Serb families were as far as I knew, very good.
16. A short time before the commencement of the NATO air campaign, the family of Enver DURIQI, a friend of my father, moved into the third house in our compound because they felt that their lives were threatened in their home village OBRANQA, in Podujevo Municipality, where fighting had broken out between the KLA and Serbian forces. The family included Enver's wife, mother and father, and four children.
17. On 24 March 1999, NATO commenced an air campaign in Serbia, involving the bombing of certain targets throughout the country, including Kosovo. In the previous weeks and months there had been significant developments regarding the status of Kosovo and increased numbers of police, as well as army soldiers, were now a regular sight in the streets of our town.
18. In the weeks building up to the NATO air campaign, many Kosovo Albanian families started to move into the town of Podujevo, having left their homes in the surrounding villages. My understanding was that they were coming to the town for their own safety, as Serbian forces had been burning houses and killing people in the villages. Like us with the DURIQI family, other families were accommodating families at their homes. Through the media I was able to keep updated on the progress of the air campaign although we were not directly affected by it in Podujevo town.

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19. In the previous days, they had been rumours that the Serb forces were targeting and killing men and so the decision was taken that my father and Selatin would hide, away from the house, visiting whenever it was safe to do so.
20. After the commencement of the NATO bombing, the electricity and water supply were cut off. This also marked the start of shootings in the town that could be heard at night – although our house was not hit. There were many children in our house and it was not felt safe for us to be outside playing, especially not in the street.
21. I recall that a short time after the NATO bombing commenced, the house of a neighbour opposite us, was visited by soldiers – or what I believe to be soldiers. I do not know what they did when they visited the house, I only saw them enter and then leave a short time later.
22. On the night of the 26 March 1999, I was at home with the following people; my mother, Sala, my two brothers, Shpend and Shpetim, my aunt Shefkate, my cousins Nora, Fatos, Jehona, Lirie and Genc, my grandmother, Shehide, my father's aunt, Nefise, and her daughter-in-law, Fezrije. We could have seen police and military activity on the streets and as a family we decided that we would be safer staying in the vacant house of my aunt Fahrije – which was not as exposed to the main street as our house was.
23. We collected some items – at least food as I recall – and left as a group, on foot and made our way to Fahrije's house through a gap in the dividing wall between the compounds, not via the street. We stayed at the house that night and were visited by my father and uncle, we cooked some food and then stayed there for most of the following day.
24. On the evening of 27 March, when it was dark, we were still in Fahrije's house when there was a ring on the doorbell. When answered, there was nobody at the door. This made us nervous and the decision was taken that we would return to our house next door, which we did that evening – again through the compound, not via the street.
25. We stayed in our house that night, and in the early morning of 28 March I was alerted to the fact that someone had seen a police vehicle pull up in front of our compound.
26. Fearing for our safety, we went to the house of my father's uncle at the rear of our compound. The family of my father's friend, the DURIQI'S, was there, his parents, his wife and their four children. Once we had arrived, the following people were now there:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|---------------|
| i. | Shehide BOGUJEVCI | (Grandmother) |
| ii. | Sala BOGUJEVCI | (Mother) |
| iii. | Shpend BOGUJEVCI | (brother) |
| iv. | Shpetim BOGUJEVCI | (brother) |


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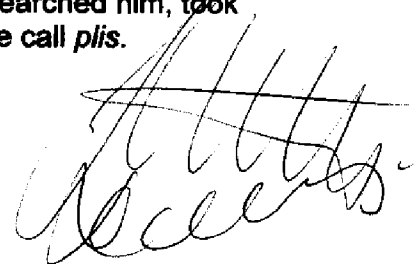
v.	Shefkate BOGUJEVCI	(Aunt)
vi.	Lirie BOGUJEVCI	(cousin)
vii.	Jehona BOGUJEVCI	(cousin)
viii.	Fatos BOGUJEVCI	(cousin)
ix.	Nora BOGUJEVCI	(cousin)
x.	Genc BOGUJEVCI	(cousin)
xi.	Nefise LIUGALIJU	(my uncle's Aunt)
xii.	Fezrije LIUGALIJU	(Nefise's daughter-in-law)
xiii.	Fitnete DURIQI	(Enver's wife)
xiv.	Esmat DURIQI	(Enver's mother)
xv.	Dafina DURIQI	(9 years)
xvi.	Arber DURIQI	(7 years)
xvii.	Mimoza DURIQI	(maybe 5 years old)
xviii.	Albjon DURIQI	(2 years)
xix.	Hamdi DURIQI	(Enver's father, approximately 70 years)

27. We had already packed some clothes and essential items into bags – mainly food. We had something to eat and that morning we were visited by the son of Selman GASHI, our neighbour. He informed us the soldiers were taking people out of their houses. He did not say what they were doing with the people but our assumption was that if we were removed from our houses we would be leaving the town.
28. Early in the morning, maybe around 0900, we noticed what I recognised to be soldiers in the compound in front of the house we were in. They had entered our compound through that of Selman GASHI, not from the street, and in doing so had demolished a dividing fence. There were approximately four or five of them with others moving around us.
29. We started leaving the house and once outside the soldiers told us to put our hands up in the air and to leave our bags on the ground. They then asked if anyone had stayed inside the house. I do not know who responded, but the soldiers went into the house to search. Then they ordered us to pass through our Selman's courtyard and through into the compound of the house at the rear of our compound.
30. It was a cold morning and I put my hands in my pockets. A soldier saw this and searched through my pockets and around my legs. The soldiers also searched the others.
31. There were two civilian trucks in the courtyard and one of the soldiers asked what was inside them. He was told that we did not know, as it was not our property.
32. The soldiers singled out Hamdi DURIQI, and took him from the column in which we were. They told him to put his hands against the wall, searched him, took everything out of his pockets and took off his cap, which we call *plis*.

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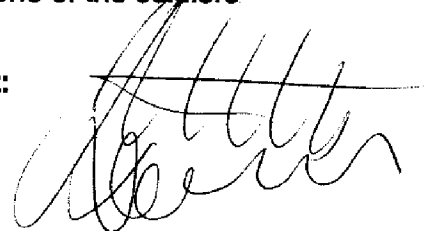


33. The soldiers then they told Hamdi to pick everything off the ground. They were shouting at him and he was trying to pick up his things as quickly as possible. They also singled out Enver's mother and the two elder children. They were saying something I could not understand and they sent them back into the column. Within one of the transcripts I have stated that it was Enver's wife and the younger children who were singled out, however, it was in fact his mother.
34. Next the soldiers went up to my brother Shpetim and took marbles from his pocket and threw them on the ground. They were shouting and my mother bent down and picked up as many marbles as she could.
35. They continued to search us, telling the older women who were wearing headscarves to take them off. I was standing in the rear of the column where my aunt Shefkate and cousin Genc were.
36. A soldier approached Shefkate, searched her and took some money from her. Other soldiers continued to shout – although I could not understand them – and while they remained with Shefkate, my grandmother Shehide and my cousin Nora came up to her and took Genc.
37. There was a shed or outbuilding behind us and they took my aunt inside – right after they had done this we were taken to the courtyard of our other neighbour – who I knew as Lim GASHI.
38. The soldiers were laughing and from the little Serbian I knew, I could make out that they were saying, "We took your mother away". One of the soldiers pulled out a tin from on top of a well in the courtyard, came up to me laughing and asked me if I wanted it. I did not respond and he left me and put the tin back on the well.
39. We were taken as a group from the courtyard out into the street, facing the police station. We were standing there in a column, there were many soldiers and policemen there, they were wearing different colour uniforms consisting of several different types, police, civilian and army.
40. Those that I describe as soldiers were wearing a green camouflage uniform. Before the conflict I had seen soldier's uniform as there was a military barracks on the main road close to Podujevo. However, the uniform that was being worn by the soldiers that I saw on this day was slightly different to that of what I was used to, it did not have brown making up the camouflage pattern, just different shades of green.
41. Those that I refer to as police were also wearing a camouflage uniform but it was blue. This blue police uniform had been worn before the conflict by the police.
42. The soldiers were laughing, shouting and cursing at us. They were breaking the shop windows on all the shops and coffee houses. Then one of the soldiers

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6

Others present:



approached Hamdi DURIQI, said something to him and then slapped him on the face.

43. Out in the street I saw my mother's uncle, Selman GASHI – who had not been in our group – and one of the soldiers was playing around with his cap. One soldier directed Selman into a coffee house on the street and I then saw Hamdi DURIQI being directed into the coffee house, by the soldier that slapped him, who then followed him inside. I heard two shots from a firearm come from within the coffee house. I have not seen either Selman or Hamdi alive since.
44. Almost immediately we were directed back into the courtyard from where we had come and as we walked the soldiers continued to shout. One soldier began speaking to us as a group. Fezrije LIUGALIJU spoke to him in Serbian, telling him that we did not understand the Serbian language. From his jacket pocket he produced a scalpel, such as that used in surgery. He was shouting something – which I was unable to understand, but from the few words that I knew was something about not having a heart – and he then he put the scalpel back into his jacket pocket from where he had taken it. He then continued to say something and hit Fezrije on the back of the neck.
45. As we walked past the house in the courtyard, I saw in one of the rooms that all of the furniture had been piled into the centre of the room.
46. I then I saw my aunt Shefkate, who had been separated from us earlier, further down in the courtyard. She was crying. She spoke Serbian and she was saying something in Serbian, but I only understood "They are only children". One of the soldiers then pushed her while she was walking along the path leading to the back of the house and then, with an AK47 type gun – he shot her once in the back. I turned to my cousins, Shefkate's children, who had started to cry. When I looked back at Shefkate, she was on the ground and the same soldier shot her again with one single shot to the upper body.
47. Having fired the second shot this soldier dropped his weapon on the ground and then approached another soldier, taking his weapon from him. In total there were approximately ten soldiers in the courtyard, with others coming in and out.
48. As a group we were standing against a wall and having now armed himself with a new weapon, the same soldier started to shoot at our group. This time it was rapid automatic fire from his weapon – still an AK47 type. I was in the middle of our group, and I leaned against the wall and then slid down to the ground and remained in a sitting position. As I slid the soldier was still shooting and bullets hit me twice in the leg. He continued to shoot and when he stopped I heard the heavy breathing of a person among our group. I don't know if it was because of the heavy breathing, but the shooting then started again. This time I was shot in the arm and in the back.
49. After a while the shooting stopped, I remained in my sitting position and listened for the soldiers. I could not hear anything so I lifted my head to look around. I

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Others present: 

could see my brother Shpetim, who was lying on the ground with his head close to my legs. He was lying face down but I could clearly see that he had been shot in the head. My cousin Fatos, who was lying on the ground, was in front of me. There was something coming from his back that indicated to me that he had been shot. At first I thought he was dead but then I saw that he was alive because he lifted his head. As it transpired he had been shot in the legs, not the back. I also saw Genc in front of me and we spoke.

50. I then saw Arber DURIQI, he had been shot in the face which was now disfigured. Then I saw my grandmother, Shehide, who was facing me. She was all yellow in the face but a dark blue around the mouth and her eyes were open. I saw Fezrije LIUGALIJU, I could not see her face, but I saw her body – she was lying down and she was a dark blue.
51. Genc was near to Fezrije and he lifted his head. He said, “Saranda, look what they did to Shpetim,” referring to my brother. Then I heard some voices and shouting and I told Genc to lie down, and I moved back into my sitting position. I closed my eyes, but I heard that someone was next to us. Then I heard one of my cousins moaning with pain very quietly. I did not know what was happening, but I decided to open my eyes because I assumed they thought I was dead.
52. When I moved, I think two men came and pulled me out and laid me on the ground I think they were checking where I was wounded. They were speaking Serbian, but they had different uniforms from those worn by the men who shot at us – the army uniform that I recognised from the military barracks. They administered first aid and as I lay there I could see that the bodies were being covered with blankets. The soldiers that had been there during the shooting were not in the courtyard as far as I could see.
53. I was carried to and put in what I thought was a military ambulance, I suppose because there were a lot of medicines and blankets in there.
54. At some point a young soldier came into the ambulance and said something to me in Albanian – he then left me. After some time the vehicle started moving and I believe that I fell asleep.
55. I was woken by shouting. At first I kept my eyes closed but when I opened them I saw that I was in a hospital. In the hospital, I was asked in Albanian – although by Serbian staff – what my name was and whether I was from Fushe Kosove. I told them I was from Podujevo. I recall seeing the young soldier here – the one who had spoken to me in the ambulance – but I never saw him again after that.
56. My clothes were removed and X-rays were taken. I then fell asleep – I assume they gave me a sedative.
57. I stayed in the hospital, which I discovered was Pristina hospital, until the end of the conflict in June 1999. Also in the hospital were Lirie and Jehona and after two weeks Jehona and I were put in the same room, at which point Lirie was sent to

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Belgrade for treatment to her injuries. I was eventually visited by my father and subsequently discovered that both Fatos and Genc were also being treated in the same hospital. After about five weeks I was able to move and was able to visit Fatos and Genc.

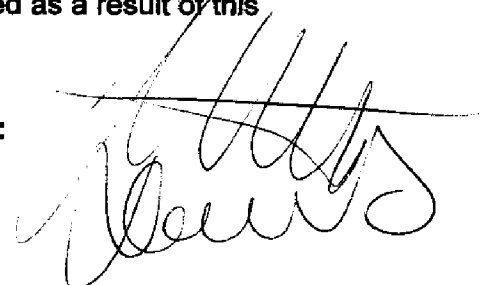
58. I was shot in the arm thirteen times, twice in the leg and once in the back – I now have limited movement in my left arm. To this day I have trouble concentrating for prolonged periods, which primarily affects my study. I become anxious very easily and there are certainly psychological injuries sustained as a result of witnessing the murder of members of my family. I don't have any medical records from Pristina in my possession. My treatment at this time consists of physiotherapy.
59. The only person I actually saw shooting that day was the man that shot both me and my aunt Shefkate. He was quite tall, he was about 30 years old, and had a short beard and dark brown hair. I don't think he was wearing a cap. I think his hair was of normal length, neither very short nor long. He was wearing the uniform that I have previously described as the green camouflage soldier's uniform, not that which I had seen before the conflict.
60. Since the weapon used to shoot me was a rapid firing automatic weapon, my conclusion is that there was more than one shooter – because I was shot in the arm and then in the leg, and after that in the back, which leads me to believe that at least one bullet came from another direction. The person I saw shooting was on my left, while the bullet that I was shot in the back with came from the right.
61. Of other Serbian soldiers and police I saw that day; there was a young man who was very short, he searched us. He was wearing a cap with the brim turned sideways instead of to the front and wore the same uniform as the shooter.
62. The soldier who took Selman GASHI and Hamdi DURIQI into the coffee house wore the same uniform as the shooter – green camouflage. However, those who were standing outside in the street were wearing blue police trousers and military shirts. These men were breaking shop windows in the street. I do not recall seeing people in civilian clothes in the street.
63. Other than the five of us treated in hospital, all other persons in our group that day was shot and killed in the courtyard.
64. I was subsequently treated in a British military hospital and then came to the UK with my father, my cousins and Uncle Selatin, in September 1999. Lirie joined us in November 1999.
65. Myself and my cousins participated in a BBC real lives documentary, aired in 2004.
66. I authorise the ICTY to inspect any medical records created as a result of this incident and my treatment for the injuries I sustained.

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Others present:



67. I have been advised that my statement may be provided to other law enforcement agencies and or judicial authorities. I agree to my statement being provided to those authorities at the discretion of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

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Others present:



WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This Statement, consisting of eleven pages is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given this Statement voluntarily and am aware that it may be used in legal proceedings before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the Tribunal.

Date: 7 October 2008

Signed: *Bogujevci*

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11

Others present:

[Handwritten signatures]