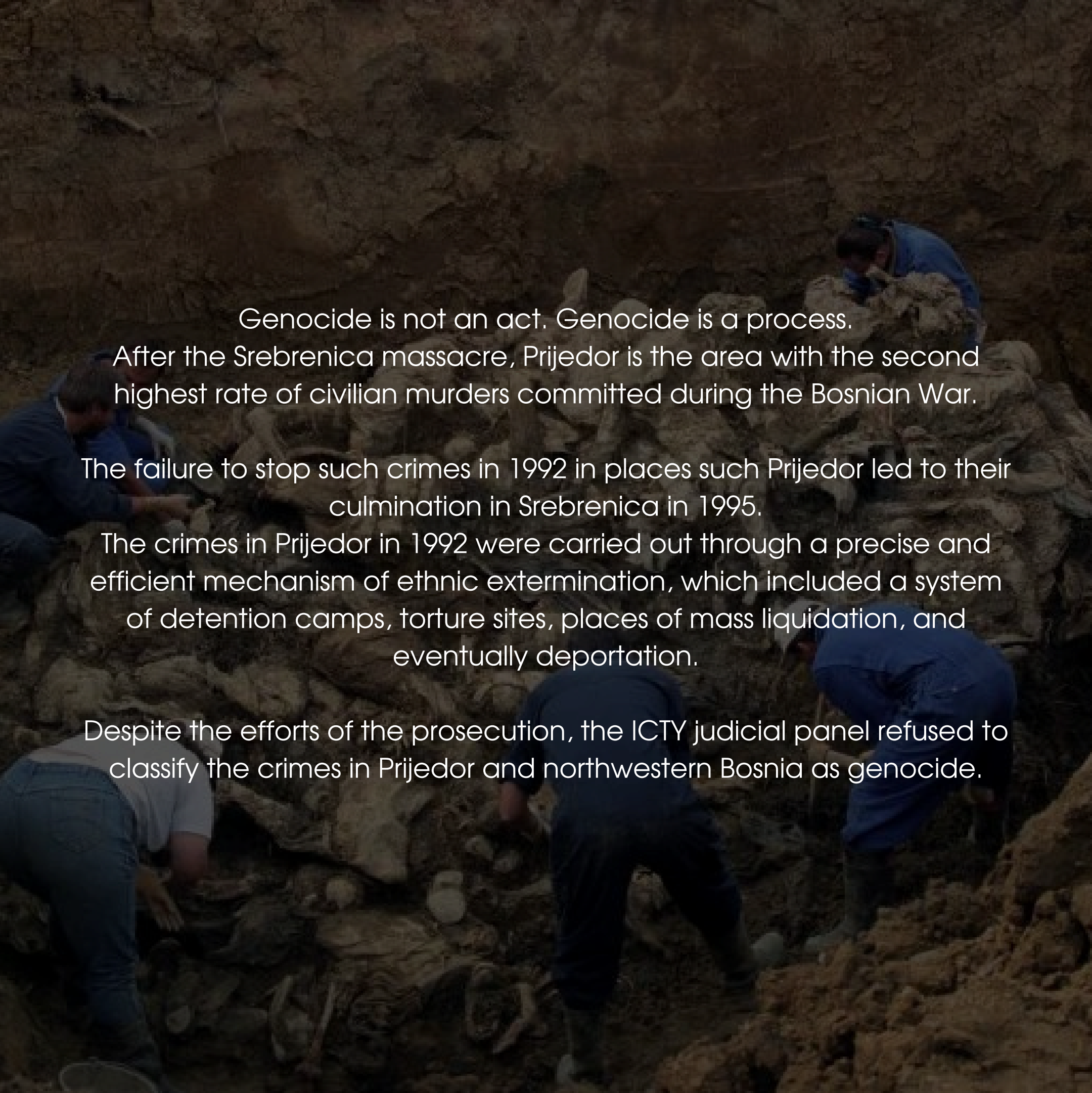
The background image is a dark, grainy photograph of a forensic site. In the foreground and middle ground, several large, brown paper bags are laid out on a light-colored surface, containing human remains, including skulls and skeletal fragments. Some remains are also visible outside the bags. In the upper left background, a person wearing a white protective suit and a dark cap is crouching, working on the site. The overall atmosphere is somber and investigative.

TIMELINE OF A GENOCIDE: PRIJEDOR



Genocide is not an act. Genocide is a process.
After the Srebrenica massacre, Prijedor is the area with the second highest rate of civilian murders committed during the Bosnian War.

The failure to stop such crimes in 1992 in places such Prijedor led to their culmination in Srebrenica in 1995.

The crimes in Prijedor in 1992 were carried out through a precise and efficient mechanism of ethnic extermination, which included a system of detention camps, torture sites, places of mass liquidation, and eventually deportation.

Despite the efforts of the prosecution, the ICTY judicial panel refused to classify the crimes in Prijedor and northwestern Bosnia as genocide.

THE FALL OF PRIJEDOR



Prijedor is located in the northwest of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the banks of the Sana and Gomjenica rivers and on the southwestern slopes of the Kozara mountains.

According to the 1991 census, the municipality of Prijedor had a total population of 112,543, of which :

- 49,351 (43.9%) were Muslims (Bosniaks);
- 47,581 (42.3%) were Serbs;
- 6,316 (5.6%) were Croats;
- 6,459 (5.7%) were Yugoslavs;
- 2,836 (2.5%) were Others.



End of Summer 1991: Many reservists from Prijedor are sent to fight in Croatia.

September 1991: Heavy artillery and rocket systems are positioned on hills above Prijedor by the JNA, focusing on areas with a predominantly Serbian population and key strategic points.

Weeks before and after the violent takeover of Prijedor on April 30, 1992: A campaign of hatred, criminalization, and dehumanization against Muslims/Bosniaks and Croats was spread through local newspapers and radio. Entire communities were targeted as historical enemies.



THE FALL OF PRIJEDOR

30. april 1992.



The JNA and other Serbian armed groups **seized power and took control of all vital facilities in the city**. Armed Serbs established checkpoints throughout Prijedor, with **soldiers and snipers stationed** on rooftops, the **Serbian flag** flying over the municipal building, and checkpoints controlling entry and exit routes. A **curfew** was imposed from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM, and an ultimatum was issued for the collection and **surrender of weapons**.



24. maj 1992.

Napad na Kozarac Napad je započeo granatiranjem, nakon čega je uslijedio prodir tenkova i pješadije. Ulaskom u Kozarac počela je paljevina kuća i pljačka imovine.

Preživjele muškarce iz Kozarca su odveli u logore Keraterm i Omarska, a žene i djecu u logor Trnopolje, te u razne objekte u gradu Prijedoru (Narodno kazalište, srednjoškolski centar...).



20. maj 1992.

Elitocid : Educated and prominent Bosniaks and Croats from Prijedor were arrested, interrogated, tortured, and detained in the Omarska camp and other detention sites in the city center. At the same time, all educational institutions (preschools, primary and secondary schools) ceased operations.



23. maj 1992.

The attack on Bosniak villages near Prijedor began with the shelling of **Hambarine**. From early May until this attack, Bosniaks and Croats faced complete blockade and restricted movement. The Bosniak population fled Hambarine to nearby villages such as Čarakovo, Zecovi, Rizvanovići, Rakovčani, and Donja Ljubija, with some **escaping into the forest near Kurevo**. As the villagers fled, looting and destruction of Bosniak property commenced. That night, the villages of Gornji Volar and Šurkovac were also shelled.



KOZARAC – TOWN OF HEROES

PLANC
JA
H TRAKA

The political upheavals in Prijedor significantly impacted Kozarac, where the Bosniak community did not recognize the new authorities. As the JNA prepared to occupy Kozarac, Ljubija, and other parts of the Prijedor municipality and setting up artillery batteries in the Kozarac area, the Bosniak residents established checkpoints and formed patrols with around ten local individuals, primarily armed with hunting rifles.

April and May 1992 : In response to Serbian demands for Kozarac to join the "Autonomous Region of Krajina," and the following rejections Colonel Vladimir Arsić and Major Radmilo Zeljaja demanded the surrender of 7,000 rifles from the Bosniaks, threatening total destruction. When Bećir Medunjanin asked **how they could surrender weapons they didn't have**, Zeljaja responded, "**Gentlemen, that is your problem.**"



May 24, 1992 : The attack on Kozarac began in the early afternoon with artillery units from the 1st Krajina Corps of the VRS. Around 5,600 artillery shells were fired at the broader Kozarac area within the first 24 hours.



May 26, 1992 : A report from the Prijedor Public Security Station stated that "about 70% of the territory in Kozarac, Kozaruša, Trnopolje, and Kamičani was cleared." The Kozarac Police Station decided to surrender to protect remaining civilians. Kozarac police officers, 35 in total, led by commander Osmo Didović, surrendered and were executed near the old school.

Despite the surrender, criminal activities continued, with a report from the 1st Krajina Corps of the VRS on June 3, 1992, indicating further cleansing measures : Surviving Bosniaks were forced to leave their homes towards Prijedor under armed escort by Serbian forces, **who separated men from women and children.** The surviving **men were taken to the Keraterm and Omarska camps, while women and children were sent to the Trnopolje camp and various facilities in Prijedor.**



Until April 1993: The systematic liquidation of Kozarac residents continued through camps and mass killing sites, resulting in 1,226 deaths, mostly Bosniaks. The majority were killed during the spring/summer 1992

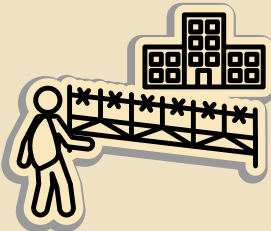
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THE CAMPS

Often forgotten today, a striking image from Prijedor—a young, emaciated man with visible ribs and wild eyes reaching through barbed wire—brought global attention in August 1992 and revealed the dire situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

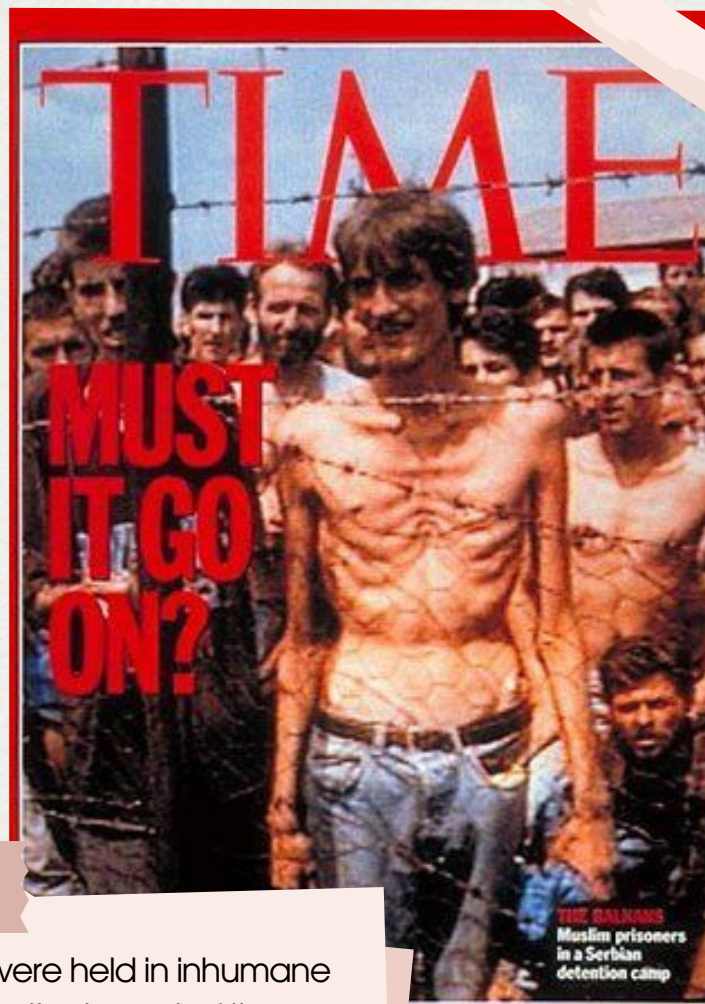
From May 23 to May 30, 1992, Serbian armed units attacked nearly all settlements with Bosniak and Croat populations and from the start of the attacks, established on May 2024 camps among whom the most known ; Keraterm, Trnopolje and Omarska. Between April and August 1992, Serbian militias detained over 30,000 people, primarily Bosniaks, in the Omarska, Keraterm, and Trnopolje camps. Many detainees died from torture, malnutrition when they were not killed.

BEFORE THE WAR, SERBS WERE A MINORITY IN PRIJEDOR BUT NOW CONSTITUTE NEARLY 90% OF THE POPULATION.



33.000

ACCORDING TO THE 1991 CENSUS, 49,351 (43.9%) WERE MUSLIMS (BOSNIAKS), IT MEANS THAT THE EQUIVALENT OF 67% OF THE BOSNIAKS POPULATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY HAS BEEN DETAINED IN CAMPS.



06. august 1992.

Journalists Ed Vulliamy and Penny Marshall first shocked the world with their reports and photographs of the camps and the emaciated detainees behind barbed wire.

From May to September 1992, the non-Serb population was subjected to:

- arrests,
- looting,
- mass killings,
- brutal torture,
- systematic rapes,
- deportations to camps,
- transfers from camps to sites of mass executions or to other camps (e.g., Manjača).

Around 3,500 people, mainly men, were held in inhumane conditions in the Omarska Camp, the largest of the concentration camps. The prisoners were given one meal per day and violence from the camp officers was widespread. Living conditions were atrocious, with suffocation caused by overcrowding being a constant threat to the prisoners. The camp was closed in August 1992 after a visit from foreign journalists. The surviving 1,500 prisoners were divided into groups and deported to different destinations.

The worst aspect of being kept in the Omarska Camp was the fact that the place was guarded by my former schoolmates, former neighbours, former policeman on whose protection I relied before the War, and even former teachers.

- Kemal Pervančić



BIJELE TRAKE & TOMASICA

May 30, 1992.

Burning of the Old Town in Prijedor: JNA members, moving through the town with tanks, fired shells, killing and wounding a large number of civilians and destroying many civilian structures that day.



May 31, 1992.

On May 31, 1992, the Bosnian Serb authorities in Prijedor issued an order for the non-Serb population to mark their houses and sleeves with white sheets.

Every year, on May 31, White Armband Day is commemorated in remembrance of the ethnic cleansing campaign that took place in Prijedor, in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina.



August 21, 1992.

A notable example of the killing of detainees occurred at Korićanske Stijene, where on August 21, 1992, over two hundred detainees were executed.

June 27, 1992.

The massacre in the "Catholic" villages of Briševo and Muštanica is the largest single crime against Bosnian Croats in this war.

May 30, 1992 - June 10, 1992.

The killings of Bosniaks were carried out in the city, and it is believed that the bodies were taken to the **Tomašica** mine site.



The Tomasica mass grave, discovered by Bosnian authorities in September 2013, is the largest in the Balkan. Located near a mining complex southeast of Prijedor, the excavation uncovered 435 bodies, with 274 identified, over 79 days.

The grave, unmarked despite being close to residential areas, holds the remains of war victims killed around Prijedor from 1992 to 1995. The exact location was revealed by a former Bosnian Serb soldier involved in the cover-up. Many of the victims were Bosniaks, including 29 from the notorious 'Room 3' at the Keraterm camp.

June 20, 1992 - June 25, 1992.

The attacks on Bosniak villages on the left bank of the Sana River: Bišćani, Rizvanovići, Rakovčani, Hambarine, Čarakovo, Zecovi, and the Croatian villages: Briševo, Raljaš, Stara Rijeka, and others.

14. juni 1992.

The attacks on the villages of Kevljani and Sivci.

PRIJEDOR IN NUMBERS



3.176

People killed
during the war
in Prijedor



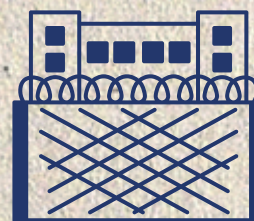
102

Children
killed



256

Women killed



33.000

People
detained in
Prijedor's camps



53.000

People forced to
flee and evacuate



In Prijedor, an
elitocide was
committed

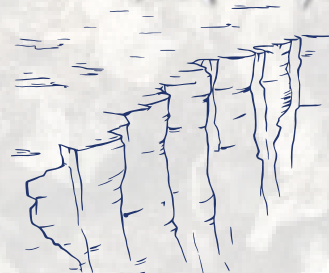


In Prijedor,
urbicide was
committed



500+

People are
still listed as
missing



KORICANSKE STIJENE

The remains of 177
people were found at
Korićanske Stijene



TOMAŠICA

596 ljudi



TPIY

Prijedor is the area with the largest number of convicted war criminals in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A total of 37 Bosnian Serbs have been found guilty of committing crimes in the area and have been sentenced to a total of 617 years in prison.

The remains of Prijedor civilians have been discovered in over 500 locations spread across three countries. This widespread distribution underscores the extensive efforts to conceal the atrocities committed during the conflict, highlighting the scale and brutality of the ethnic cleansing campaign in the region.

KORICANSKE STIJENE

The Korican Cliffs on Mount Vlasic in central Bosnia and Herzegovina were both a site for killings and a clandestine gravesite used by Bosnian Serb forces during the war in 1992. The remains of 177 people, mostly Bosniaks and Croats, have been identified in four exhumations carried out between 2003 and 2017.

Since the war, there have been several attempts by the families of the victims to mark the location of the mass grave, but plaques have always subsequently been removed. Each year, families commemorate the dead by throwing roses into the ravine.

On August 21, 1992, a large group of civilian detainees from the Trnopolje prison camp were being transported by Bosnian Serb forces to Bosnian government-controlled territory in Travnik. As the convoy reached Mount Vlasic, about 200 unarmed men were taken out and executed. Only 12 of them survived.

As the ravine is so deep, the terrain was extremely difficult for investigators to exhume the bodies, and only partial remains of many victims were found. Attempts to hide the victims included pouring acid on the remains. Looting of the bodies by the local civilian population has been reported.



Professor Huzair Crnic was killed by his student, who reminded him that he had given him a failing grade (1) before taking his life.



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JUDGMENT



Prijedor is the area with the largest number of convicted war criminals in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A total of 37 Bosnian Serbs have been found guilty of committing crimes in the area and have been sentenced to a total of 617 years in prison.

The highest sentence for crimes in Prijedor, 40 years' imprisonment, was handed down by the ICTY to Milomir Stakić, wartime president of the Prijedor Municipality Crisis Council.

The campaign of crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing of the non-Serb population in Prijedor, according to ICTY prosecutors, has all the hallmarks of genocide, but the judges did not qualify the verdicts as genocide.

TPIY



The trial of Duško Tadić, president of the local board of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) in Kozarac, before the ICTY tribunal, entered history in many ways. It was the first international criminal trial for war crimes since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials, the first trial ever for sexual violence as a form of war crime, and the first for sexual violence against men.



Source and more on the chronology of the genocide :



Contact WhatsApp
0041 78 608 95 24



Notre site web
www.commissionbrassardsblancs.com



Adresse e-mail
brassards.blancs@gmail.com



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réseaux sociaux

