

1 Thursday, 2 November 2023

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused entered court via videolink]

4 --- Upon commencing at 9.00 a.m.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Madam Court Officer, you may call the
6 case.

7 THE COURT OFFICER: Good morning, Your Honours. This is
8 KSC-BC-2020-06, The Specialist Prosecutor versus Hashim Thaci,
9 Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi, and Jakup Krasniqi.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.

11 We will begin hearing the evidence of Prosecution
12 Witness W00208. I note that the accused are all appearing today
13 through videolink with permission. I also note that W00208 will
14 testify via video-conference as granted by the Panel in filing
15 F01846.

16 Before we begin with the actual hearing, Madam Court Officer,
17 please bring us into private session.

18 [Private session]

19 [Private session text removed]

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19 [Open session]

20 THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, we're now in public session.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, the Court Officer seated next
22 to you will now provide you with the text of the solemn declaration
23 which you are asked to take pursuant to Rule 141(2) of the rules.

24 Can you see -- the print is rather small. Can you see it all
25 right? If you can't, I can read it to you.

1 Then now you can read it aloud. Read it out loud.

2 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] I can read it.

3 Should I read it now?

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes, please read it now.

5 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Conscious of the
6 significance of my testimony and my legal responsibility, I solemnly
7 declare that I will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
8 the truth, and that I shall not withhold anything which has come to
9 my knowledge.

10 WITNESS: W00208

11 [Witness answered through interpreter]

12 [The witness appeared via videolink]

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you, Witness.

14 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [No interpretation]

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Could you repeat that? We're breaking
16 up.

17 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Should I read it?

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: No, you've already read it.

19 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Conscious of the
20 significance of my testimony ...

21 Conscious of the significance of my testimony and my legal
22 responsibility, I solemnly declare that I will tell the truth, the
23 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and that I shall not withhold
24 anything which has come to my knowledge.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you, Witness. You can give the

1 document back to the Court Officer.

2 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Thank you.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Are you hearing the translation all
4 right?

5 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] So far I can hear
6 everything well.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right, Witness. Today we will start
8 your testimony, which is expected to last approximately one day.

9 As you may know, the Prosecution will ask you questions first.
10 Once they are finished, the Defence has the right to ask questions of
11 you, and members of the Panel may have some questions for you.

12 The Prosecution's estimate for your examination is a half an
13 hour.

14 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Thank you for
15 that.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: The Defence estimates that it will need
17 four hours. As regards each estimate, we hope the counsel will be
18 judicious in their use of time. The Panel may allow redirect
19 examination if conditions are met.

20 Please try to answer the questions clearly with short sentence.
21 If you don't understand a question, feel free to ask counsel to
22 repeat the question, or tell them that you don't understand and they
23 will clarify.

24 Also, please try to indicate the basis of your knowledge of
25 facts and circumstances that you will be asked about. In the event

1 that you are asked by the SPO to attest to some corrections made
2 regarding your statements, you are reminded to confirm on the record
3 that the written statement, as corrected by the list of corrections,
4 accurately reflects your declaration.

5 Please also speak into the microphone and wait five seconds
6 before answering a question, and speak at a slow pace for the
7 interpreters to catch up with you.

8 During the next days while you are giving evidence in court, you
9 are not allowed to discuss with anyone the content of your testimony
10 outside of the courtroom. If any person asks you questions outside
11 this Court about your testimony, please let us know.

12 The Panel understands that the SPO has hard copies of your prior
13 witness statements for you to reference during your testimony in case
14 of need. If you wish to consult these documents, please notify the
15 Panel before doing so.

16 Also, please stop talking if I ask you to do so and also stop
17 talking if you see me raise my hand. These indications mean that I
18 need to give you an additional instruction. If you feel the need to
19 take breaks, please make an indication and an accommodation will be
20 made.

21 Mr. Prosecutor, you may begin.

22 Examination by Mr. Michalczuk:

23 Q. Good morning, Witness. Can you hear me loud and clear?

24 A. Good morning. I can hear you loud and clear.

25 Q. My name is Cezary Michalczuk, and I'm the counsel for the

1 Prosecution. I'll be asking you some questions today for the next
2 30 minutes.

3 Could you please state your full name and surname for the
4 record.

5 A. Thank you. My name is Predrag Dedic.

6 Q. What is the date of your birth?

7 A. I was born on 21 March 1932.

8 Q. Witness, in the past you gave several statements to various
9 authorities. I will now call up on the screen all those prior
10 statements. If you cannot see them properly on the screen, please
11 refer to your binder, and, as advised by the Presiding Judge, tell
12 the Judge every time you make reference to the physical binder in
13 front of you.

14 A. All right.

15 MR. MICHALCZUK: Madam Court Officer, could I have on the screen
16 the following documents both in English and Serbian versions.
17 English would be 007623 to 007630 RED2. And here, the statement
18 would start from page 007627. Thank you. And the Serbian version
19 would be U002-9743-U002-9746 RED2.

20 Q. Witness, do you have it in front of you on the screen?

21 A. Yes. Yes, I can see this note from witness interview.

22 Q. Yes, this refers --

23 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

25 MR. KEHOE: I'm having a technical difficulty in bringing the

1 document up on the screen. In other words, I'm pressing the evidence
2 button and nothing's happening.

3 MR. YOUNG: [Microphone not activated]

4 [Trial Panel and Court Officer confers]

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, we have a short delay because
6 we have a technical difficulty here.

7 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

8 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] All right.

9 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. We're ready to proceed.
11 Go ahead, Mr. Prosecutor.

12 MR. MICHALCZUK:

13 Q. Witness, let me ask you a few questions about this statement.
14 This statement refers to the witness hearing conducted on [Microphone
15 not activated] ...

16 Witness, this refers to a witness hearing conducted on 31 May
17 2000 before the investigating judge of the court in Belgrade. Did
18 you give that statement?

19 A. Yes, I did. I gave this statement in Belgrade.

20 MR. MICHALCZUK: Madam Court Officer, could we move to page 4 of
21 the Serbian version of this statement, and that would be U002-9746.

22 Q. Witness, can you see that page of the Serbian version and a
23 signature there? Can you see that?

24 A. Yes, I can see that.

25 Q. Is that your signature?

1 A. Yes, that's my signature.

2 MR. MICHALCZUK: Madam Court Officer, can we now pull up two
3 other documents, another statement. And it would be, English
4 version, U000-0009 to U000-0016 RED2, and Serbian version would have
5 the same number but with -ST RED at the end.

6 Q. Witness, can you see in front of you another statement, another
7 document?

8 A. Yes, I can see it. I see it well.

9 Q. This one refers to your interview dated 10 August 2001, and this
10 is the statement given before the special tribunal for the former
11 Yugoslavia. And my question is: Did you also give that statement?

12 A. Yes, I certainly did.

13 MR. MICHALCZUK: Could we move, Madam Court Officer, to page 7
14 of the English version of this document, and it would be on page
15 U000-0015.

16 Q. Witness, can you see the signature in front of you on the
17 screen?

18 A. Yes, I can see it.

19 Q. Is that your signature?

20 A. Where do you see my signature? I can see the dates, 10 August,
21 but I can't see the signature.

22 Q. Take a look at the English version. You should have it on the
23 right-hand side of the screen.

24 A. In English, yes. Predrag Dedic, yes. In the English version.

25 Q. Is that your signature?

1 A. Yes, it is. It's my own signature.

2 MR. MICHALCZUK: Madam Court Officer, could we now move to
3 another set of documents. English would be 007631-TR-ET Part 1 RED2,
4 and the document in Serbian would be the same but without -ET, the
5 same number, also Part 1.

6 Q. Witness, can you see another set of documents in front of you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. This is the interview dated 12 December 2013 taken by the
9 Special Investigative Task Force. Did you give that statement,
10 Witness?

11 A. Yes, I did. Yes.

12 Q. Witness, during the recent witness preparation meeting, and that
13 meeting took place on 13 September 2023, it was at your place and I
14 was present there, were you given during that meeting an opportunity
15 to review all these prior statements?

16 A. Yes, yes, of course.

17 Q. Do you recall that you made some clarifications to these
18 statements during that preparation meeting?

19 A. Yes, I think so. I'm not sure.

20 Q. The statements were read back to you and then the questions were
21 posed to you whether the statements reflect what you had stated. Do
22 you recall that during that process you said to the person reading
23 this to you that some statements need some clarifications? Do you
24 remember that?

25 A. I don't remember the details. I don't remember.

1 Q. Then there was -- at the end of the process of the statements
2 that were read back to you, there was a note compiled with the
3 clarifications. Do you remember that such a note was read back to
4 you during that preparatory session?

5 A. Yes, I remember it, that it was read out. I do.

6 Q. Can you confirm that what was read back to you in that note
7 reflected your clarifications fully and accurately?

8 A. Yes, everything was accurate.

9 Q. Subject to the clarifications provided in that note, do your
10 written statements, as I listed them earlier, accurately reflect your
11 evidence and what you would say if you were asked again the same
12 questions in court?

13 A. Yes, yes. Everything is accurate. It certainly is.

14 MR. MICHALCZUK: Your Honours, having fulfilled the Rule 154
15 criteria, and in accordance with decision F01848, the SPO hereby
16 tenders all prior statements of this witness in English, Albanian,
17 and Serbian. I also tender the Preparation Note 1 dated 13 September
18 2023, ERN 115381 to 115384.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

20 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

22 MR. YOUNG: [Microphone not activated]

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Nothing from the Krasniqi Defence. All
24 right.

25 There are four items offered, 007623 to 007630; the second is

1 U000-0009 through 0016 RED2; the third document is 007631-TR-ET
2 Part 1 RED2; and the note of clarification, ERN 115381 to 115384.
3 All are admitted, and the Court Officer will please assign an exhibit
4 number to each.

5 MR. MICHALCZUK: Your Honour, just maybe one small clarification
6 if I may. Did Your Honour say, in relation to this document
7 007631-TR-ET just Part 1? It should be Part 1 and 6?

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Part 1 and 6?

9 MR. MICHALCZUK: And 6, sorry.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: I did not say that. So it is --

11 MR. MICHALCZUK: From Part 1 to 6, yes. The range from 1 to 6.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: To 6. Okay. All right.

13 Court Officer, you may assign exhibit numbers.

14 THE COURT OFFICER: Your Honours, the first document, 007623 to
15 007630, and the Serbian under U002-9743 to U002-9746 RED2, will be
16 Exhibit P664.

17 The second document, U000-0009 to U000-0016 RED2, together with
18 the Albanian and Serbian versions, will be Exhibit P665.

19 The third statement with the range of Parts 1 to 6 with ERN
20 007631-TR-ET RED2 for Part 1 will be Exhibit P666.1; for Part 2 will
21 be P666.2; for Part 3 will be 666.3; Part 4 will be P666.4; Part 5
22 will be P666.5; and Part 6 will be P666.6.

23 And lastly, the Preparation Note with ERN 115381 to 115384 will
24 be P667. Thank you.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Those are all admitted as noted.

1 Go ahead.

2 MR. MICHALCZUK: Your Honours, I propose to read a short summary
3 of the witness's 154 statement at this point.

4 In June 1999, the witness was living in Rahovec/Orahovac
5 together with his wife and son. Shortly after the withdrawal of
6 Serbian military and police, KLA soldiers arrived in
7 Rahovec/Orahovac. Some of them came to the witness's apartment
8 looking for weapons.

9 The witness was mistreated and threatened for an alleged failure
10 to give his weapons away. The next day, Rahovec/Orahovac KLA
11 commander Ismet Tara arrived at the family's apartment accompanied by
12 armed and uniformed KLA soldiers. Tara demanded the surrender of all
13 remaining weapons and of the keys to the apartment.

14 The witness and his wife were ordered to leave their home within
15 15 minutes, which they did and moved to the Serb part of town. On or
16 around 18 June 1999, the witness's son was abducted by four uniformed
17 and armed soldiers with KLA insignia in his mother's presence. They
18 told the witness's wife that her son would be taken to the police
19 station for an interview.

20 After receiving information about the abduction, the
21 witness went to the KLA police station located next to the fire
22 department building demanding the release of his son. Witness was
23 himself locked in a room for around an hour and was released only
24 after KFOR's intervention.

25 Ismet Tara and a KFOR member later came to the witness's house

1 and assured him and his wife that their son was safe and would be
2 released the next morning. That did not happen. And the next day,
3 the witness and his wife again met with Tara, who stated that he
4 didn't know where the witness's son might be.

5 The witness's son was never seen again.

6 That concludes the summary of this witness's evidence,
7 Your Honours. I would have a few clarifying questions to this
8 witness.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Go ahead.

10 MR. MICHALCZUK:

11 Q. Witness, I have a few questions to you. Are you ready?

12 A. I am.

13 Q. Witness, in your statement given to the SITF - and this would be
14 Part 4, page 26, lines 13, 14; page 27, lines 14, 17; or page 21,
15 line 23 - you indicated that, in June 1999, after you had found out
16 about the abduction of your son, you went to the former police
17 building in Rahovec. You also said that at one point you were taken
18 by the KLA member in the direction of the fire brigade building.

19 And I have a question. Did the KLA member who was taking you
20 there to that fire brigade building say anything to you while taking
21 you there?

22 A. While he was taking me there towards the fire brigade building,
23 he asked me, "What have you done?" And I told him, "I didn't do
24 anything. I simply came in to your commander to have an interview."
25 He then let go of my arm so that I never entered the fire brigade

1 building.

2 Q. Just to make it clear, so --

3 A. And I suppose that my son was kept there.

4 Q. Just to clarify. So you were being taken by that KLA member in
5 the direction of the fire brigade building, you get close to it, but
6 at some point, after this exchange with him, he let go your arm and
7 you turned back. Is that what happened?

8 A. Yes. After that conversation, on his own, he simply let go of
9 me and sent me back.

10 Q. Did that KLA person, did he tell you why he was taking you there
11 to that fire brigade building?

12 A. He didn't tell me why he was taking me to the fire brigade
13 building.

14 Q. Do you know why you were being taken there to that fire brigade
15 building?

16 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated].

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: You're going to have to have more
18 foundation laid to ask that question.

19 MR. MICHALCZUK: Yes. Yes, yes.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Sustained.

21 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Could you please
22 increase the volume. Just a little bit. Thank you.

23 MR. MICHALCZUK:

24 Q. You had just told us that you presumed that in the fire brigade
25 building your son might be there. What made you think so, that your

1 son might be in that building?

2 A. That's what people were saying. Everybody who was taken to the
3 police station was subsequently then led to the fire brigade
4 building. And based on that, I made my conclusions.

5 Q. You were saying that "people were saying." Could you name
6 anybody in particular about the fact that people were kept in that
7 fire brigade building?

8 A. I can't tell you. Other than invent things, I'm not able to
9 tell you now.

10 Q. Do you know the person whose name is Petko Pelevic? Petko
11 Pelevic.

12 A. Yes, of course I know him. He was kept in that prison.

13 Q. In what prison?

14 A. I know Petko Pelevic well. He was the director of a company,
15 and I know him well.

16 Q. You said that --

17 A. He was escorted by a female from KLA.

18 Q. You said that Petko Pelevic was kept there. How do you know
19 that he was kept there in that fire brigade building? How do you
20 know that?

21 A. I used to know that, but I can't remember it now. I can't
22 remember it now. I knew it.

23 Q. Did you have --

24 A. I can't remember the details.

25 Q. Did you have at any point any discussion with the family members

1 of Petko Pelevic about his abduction, about him being imprisoned in
2 the fire brigade building?

3 A. I think that I talked to his wife. I suppose that I did talk to
4 her.

5 Q. And what did she tell you?

6 A. She told me that he had been beaten there by a woman to whom he
7 had given a job in his company, and so the wife was questioning why
8 that woman had beaten him when he had done her a favour. That was
9 her question. I know for a fact that the wife told me that.

10 Q. Witness, did the wife of Petko Pelevic tell you that Petko
11 Pelevic was kept in the fire brigade building in Rahovec? Did she
12 tell you that?

13 A. Yes, she told me that. She was the one.

14 Q. Witness, in your statement that you gave to the Special
15 Investigative Task Force, in Part 4, page 27, lines 15 to 16, you
16 said the following thing about the fire brigade building. Listen to
17 what you said:

18 "And they were taking me to the Fire Brigade building, I assume,
19 and it is a 1000% collection centre for the kidnapped Serbs."

20 How do you know that the fire brigade building was, indeed, the
21 collection centre of the kidnapped Serbs? How do you know that?

22 A. I know. I know for a fact. I know that this was a collection
23 centre. People were taken from there and killed there.

24 Q. My question is how do you know that. Do you know that from
25 anybody in particular? Do you know that from people in Rahovec known

1 to you who are telling you about it? Could you please tell what you
2 know about it to the Court. How do you know?

3 A. I learned that through this woman, as I've told you.

4 Q. Are you talking about -- did you learn this from the wife of
5 Petko Pelevic? Is that what you are saying?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. Was there also a word in town amongst the Serbian population of
8 Rahovec that that fire brigade building was, indeed, as you call it,
9 the collection centre for the kidnapped Serbs?

10 A. People were saying that people were kept there for a short
11 period of time and then taken from there elsewhere. But where to, I
12 don't know.

13 Q. Was it the word in town also that people in that building, Serbs
14 in that building were also mistreated?

15 A. I didn't hear anyone saying that they had been mistreated.
16 Other than what Petko's wife told me, I don't know of other cases.

17 Q. Do you know what happened with Petko Pelevic?

18 A. He died.

19 THE INTERPRETER: Interpreter's note that the sound was
20 breaking. We didn't hear the entire sentence.

21 MR. MICHALCZUK:

22 Q. Do you know anything about the way how Petko Pelevic died?

23 A. From the beating. His arms were broken, that's what his wife
24 told me, and he was all covered in blood. So I assume that he died
25 from the beating.

1 Q. Just one last question about Petko Pelevic's wife. When did she
2 tell you all about this? The fate of Petko Pelevic, the fact that he
3 was detained in the fire brigade, when did she tell you about it?

4 A. After the event. I'm not sure, but after the event. After
5 everything was over. When he was finished. When he died.

6 Q. What event are you referring to?

7 A. I'm referring to Petko Pelevic.

8 Q. You mean after the abduction of Petko Pelevic? Is that what you
9 are saying?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. Your son was kidnapped, abducted on 18 June 1999. How long
12 before or after the abduction of your son did Petko Pelevic's wife
13 tell you about all that?

14 A. I don't know that. I can't remember.

15 Q. Was it a few days perhaps before or a few days after the
16 abduction of your son?

17 A. After, after the abduction of my son. This is when she told me.
18 Otherwise, she would not have told me anything.

19 Q. But you don't remember, do you, when it was, several days after
20 the abduction of your son, several weeks after?

21 A. No, I can't remember. Believe it or not, I can't. I can't
22 remember because I am getting more and more forgetful.

23 Q. No problem at all. No problem at all. Did you yourself see any
24 Serbs being kept in that fire brigade building?

25 A. No, I didn't see anyone. I didn't see.

1 Q. Do you know who was in charge of the fire brigade building at
2 that time?

3 A. Believe it or not, I knew the first name and the last name, but
4 I can't remember it just now. I know who was the director of the
5 fire brigade building, but I can't remember the name now.

6 Q. Let me be a bit clearer because my question was not super clear,
7 for which I apologise, Witness. My question pertained more to the
8 fact that there was a building, the fire brigade building, and there
9 was a word in town that it was a collection centre of the kidnapped
10 Serbs.

11 My question was more, at that time, was there any organisation
12 or anybody in particular in charge of that building where these
13 kidnapped Serbs were allegedly held?

14 A. I don't know exactly. There probably was a particular group in
15 charge there.

16 Q. But what was the word in town, if you don't -- if you didn't see
17 it yourself, what was the word in town? Who was in charge or what
18 organisation was in charge of that building?

19 MR. KEHOE: Your Honour, he said he didn't know.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: You've asked and answered that question.

21 MR. MICHALCZUK: I think the witness is referring to a certain,
22 particular person, and he might be also confusing, Your Honour, the
23 fact --

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Well, you'll have to ask it in a shorter
25 question then.

1 MR. MICHALCZUK: Yes, of course.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: I understand your objection, and we'll
3 get to the bottom.

4 MR. MICHALCZUK: Yes, yes.

5 Q. So let me -- Witness, let me break it down to several simple
6 questions. So you have just told us that there was a fire brigade
7 building in June 1999 and there was a word in town that it was the
8 collection centre of the kidnapped Serbs; correct?

9 A. Yes. Yes.

10 Q. Who was in control of that collection centre of Serbs in that
11 building? Which person? Which organisation? If you know.

12 A. I didn't quite understand your question.

13 Q. Yes, let me try again. So you told us about that place being
14 the collection centre for the kidnapped Serbs. Who was or which
15 organisation was in charge who was, according to the word in town,
16 holding those Serbs there?

17 A. At the time, it was the paramilitaries and from the Ministry of
18 the Interior. When I talked to the commander from Rahovec to Ismet
19 Tara, he told me that it was the paramilitaries and that he himself
20 didn't know what they were doing there. So there were
21 paramilitaries, there were regulars.

22 Q. Ismet Tara, which organisation did he belong to at that time?

23 A. He is from Rahovec, and I know him personally. I frequently
24 went to his kebab place. I would have breakfast there. He told me
25 that. He, at that moment, was the commander for Rahovec, KLA

1 commander for Rahovec.

2 Q. So let's talk a little bit about Mr. Ismet Tara. In your prior
3 statements - and I make reference to 007631-TR-ET Part 4, pages 34 to
4 36 - you said that you discussed with Commander Ismet Tara the case
5 of your son. And I have a question for you.

6 Did you specifically tell Commander Ismet Tara who you believe
7 was responsible for the abduction of your son? Did you tell him who
8 you believe was responsible for that?

9 A. I think that he was responsible for that also. He came to my
10 house with a group of uniformed men, and he advised me to leave the
11 area. He said paramilitaries could come in 15 minutes. And I don't
12 know. Maybe they kept in touch.

13 Q. Witness, my question was when you -- after the abduction of your
14 son, when you met with Commander Ismet Tara, did you tell
15 Ismet Tara -- did you tell him who you believe was responsible for
16 your son's abduction? Did you tell him that?

17 A. I didn't ask who was responsible. I was in such a state that I
18 didn't even -- it didn't even cross my mind to ask such a question.
19 Normally it would have -- I should have asked him, "him" being the
20 person in charge.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Prosecutor, you're past your
22 half-hour estimate.

23 MR. MICHALCZUK: Yes. Your Honour, I have ten more minutes,
24 with your permission, if possible.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Go ahead.

1 MR. MICHALCZUK: Thank you. Thank you, Your Honour.

2 Q. No, my question was not whether you asked Mr. Tara. The
3 question was did you tell Mr. Tara. Did you tell him who you believe
4 was responsible for your son's abduction?

5 A. I told him that my son had been kidnapped by the paramilitaries.
6 Paramilitaries. And he told me, "You should leave the apartment,"
7 because I lived in the Albanian area, and he advised me to leave as
8 soon as possible.

9 Q. Did you suggest to him whether an organisation was responsible
10 for your son's abduction?

11 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Sustained.

13 MR. MICHALCZUK:

14 Q. Did you --

15 A. I did say.

16 Q. Did your wife, Bozana, specifically tell Ismet Tara who was
17 responsible for the abduction of your son? Did she tell that to him?

18 A. I don't remember.

19 Q. From your statements, we know that shortly after the abduction
20 of your son, Commander Tara came to your place together with a
21 soldier named Stefan, KFOR soldier. You stated that during the
22 visit, Commander Ismet Tara told you in the presence of Stefan that
23 he knew where your son was and that your son would be brought back
24 the next morning.

25 And my question is, was your son brought back the next morning?

1 A. Yes, that's what they told me.

2 Q. Mm-hm. Was your son brought back the next morning?

3 A. Could you please repeat the question?

4 Q. Was your son brought back the next morning as Ismet Tara
5 promised?

6 A. No, despite the fact that they promised. They said they would
7 come in the morning with my son to our house. And as that didn't
8 happen, I went myself to investigate. However, that German soldier
9 was no longer in Rahovec. He was transferred to Prizren, and that's
10 where it remained. Just empty promises about bringing my son back
11 that never materialised.

12 Q. Did Ismet Tara give you an explanation as to why your son was
13 not brought back?

14 A. No, they didn't come. They didn't even come to inform me. But
15 it's a mystery. Instead of coming to my house in the morning, they
16 never showed up. And Stefan, the German, was gone. He was
17 transferred to Prizren. That's all that I can tell you about what
18 Ismet told me, that Stefan had been transferred.

19 Q. I just have two more questions.

20 MR. MICHALCZUK: And I would end there, Your Honours.

21 Q. In your statement to the SITF, Part 4, page 36, lines 12 to 13,
22 you said that you had also later a meeting with Ismet Tara when you
23 asked him about your son and Tara just told you to leave. He told
24 you to get lost as soon as possible.

25 When you spoke to Ismet Tara on that occasion, was Stefan or any

1 other KFOR member present during that conversation?

2 A. Let me try to remember. He wasn't. Ismet Tara was alone, by
3 himself.

4 Q. Do you know whether Commander Ismet Tara did anything to secure
5 the release of your son after Stefan from KFOR was transferred from
6 Rahovec?

7 A. While they were together, they promised that my son would be
8 brought back.

9 THE INTERPRETER: Could the witness please repeat the last
10 sentence. The interpreters didn't hear.

11 MR. MICHALCZUK:

12 Q. And this is my last issue with you, Witness. In your SITF
13 statement, it is Part 4, page 33, lines 23, 26, you said the
14 following about Stefan, the question from the investigator to you:

15 "... you previously asked Stefan to, you asked him to check on
16 Boban?"

17 And you said:

18 "Yes, yes, and he promised to look for him, but he couldn't do
19 it without the UCK, because ... they had to cooperate."

20 And my question is what makes you think that Stefan from KFOR
21 could not release your son without the UCK?

22 A. Well, I suppose that Stefan wished to bring my son back, but
23 probably the UCK were more influential in that area than he was. I
24 think that the UCK were in charge. They were commanding, actually.
25 Even though the KFOR had a duty to protect, but I suppose that he was

1 unable to do that because he was not allowed.

2 Q. Thank you, Witness. I don't have any further questions.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Prosecutor.

4 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Thank you, too.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: You may proceed.

6 MR. LAWS: Thank you, Your Honour. May I just indicate this.

7 I'm not, in fact, going to ask this witness any questions about the
8 harm caused to him by the loss of his son Boban, and I just want to
9 say why that is.

10 I've met with him and discussed it, and it is his preference not
11 to address that issue, perhaps for understandable reasons.

12 But there is one other short matter related to his harm that I
13 would like to ask questions about, so I will do that now --

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Go ahead.

15 MR. LAWS: -- with Your Honours' leave.

16 Questioned by Victims' Counsel:

17 Q. Mr. Dedic, you and I have met, but I am going to introduce
18 myself again. I am Simon Laws and I am the Victims' Counsel in this
19 case.

20 Can you hear me all right, Mr. Dedic?

21 A. I can hear you.

22 Q. Good morning to you. I just wanted to ask you a couple of --

23 A. Thank you very much.

24 Q. I just wanted to ask you a couple of questions, really. We know
25 that you left Kosovo in 1999, and I want to ask you if you ever lived

1 there again after that?

2 A. Not after that.

3 Q. And, Mr. Dedic, can you give us some idea about how long your
4 ancestors had lived in Kosovo for?

5 A. Well, we had been there a long time, and I suppose that my
6 ancestors, perhaps 200 years ago, had come from Montenegro. But
7 otherwise, my father and --

8 THE INTERPRETER: The connection was broken, interpreter's note,
9 so we could only hear one part of the witness's answer.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Perhaps you can ask him to repeat the
11 answer, Mr. Laws.

12 MR. LAWS: [Microphone not activated]

13 Q. Mr. Dedic, unfortunately, the videolink just failed us there for
14 a moment. You were explaining that your ancestors had been in Kosovo
15 for perhaps 200 years and had come from Montenegro. And then you
16 were going to say something about your father, I think.

17 Can you remember what that was and repeat it for us, please?

18 A. Well, let me tell you, we had been living there certainly for a
19 long time, and I consider that we had been there always, but the
20 story was told by my father that our origins were in Montenegro.
21 This is what I could tell you about our origins.

22 Q. Thank you, Mr. Dedic. Those are the questions that I have.
23 Thank you.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Kehoe --

25 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Thank you. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We're going to give the witness a short
4 break at this time, and then you can start --

5 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: -- your cross-examination.

7 Witness, we'll give you a short break, about 15 minutes. The
8 Court Usher will escort you out of the room.

9 Madam Court Usher, will you escort the witness out of the room.

10 [Trial Panel and Court Officer confers]

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].

12 Mr. Court Officer, can you hear me? Would you escort the
13 witness out of the room.

14 THE COURT OFFICER: [via videolink] [Indiscernible], Your Honour,
15 thank you. Yes, Your Honour, we'll do that. Thank you.

16 [The witness stands down via videolink]

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Something you need to say?

18 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Okay. We're adjourned for 15 minutes.

20 Oh.

21 MR. EMMERSON: [Microphone not activated] ... before we adjourn,
22 we have received, and I think all Defence teams have received, from
23 the SPO a revised suggestion procedure for de-redaction. And I think
24 I'm right in saying, certainly for the Veseli Defence team, we agree
25 and endorse the Prosecution's proposal, which is a slightly different

1 timeframe from the proposal that Your Honours floated.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

3 MR. EMMERSON: Yes.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

5 MR. EMMERSON: Yes.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Perhaps if we finish this witness today,
7 we can have a chance to discuss that a bit.

8 Adjourned for 15 minutes.

9 --- Break taken at 10.08 a.m.

10 --- On resuming at 10.57 a.m.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Before we begin, we'll consider that our
12 mid-morning break, and I hope everything is working for everyone now.

13 We'll go from now until 12.30, break for lunch at that time for
14 the same hour and a half, so we'll be back here at 2.00, and we'll
15 have from 2.00 until 4.00 to hopefully finish up with this witness.

16 Mr. Court Officer, you may bring the witness back into your
17 room.

18 THE COURT OFFICER: [via videolink] Your Honours, the witness
19 will be with us in a minute.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.

21 [The witness takes the stand via videolink]

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Welcome back, Witness. We apologise for
23 the delay. We were still having technical difficulties.

24 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: I know. He's talking about --

1 MR. KEHOE: He said something.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: -- not getting, hearing anything.

3 Is there a translation?

4 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] I can hear you.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

6 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

8 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated]

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

10 MR. KEHOE: [Microphone not activated].

11 THE INTERPRETER: Microphone.

12 MR. KEHOE: We weren't getting a translation is what was being
13 said.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Interpreter's note: Could you hear the
15 interpretation?

16 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

17 MR. HALLING: Your Honours, if it assists, it looks like the
18 consoles were switched to the original channel in the course of the
19 reset. It's possible changing it to English might allow the
20 interpretation to be heard.

21 MR. KEHOE: That's as good a suggestion as any.

22 THE INTERPRETER: Testing. Can you hear us now?

23 MR. KEHOE: I can hear you, yes, yes. My apologies.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

25 MR. KEHOE: Microphone, Judge.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, can you hear me now?

2 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] I can hear you.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right.

4 Mr. Kehoe, who is here in the courtroom, will have some
5 questions for you now.

6 Go ahead, Mr. Kehoe.

7 Cross-examination by Mr. Kehoe:

8 Q. Good morning, Witness. I represent President Hashim Thaci, and
9 I'd just like to ask you a few questions. It should not be too long.
10 If I ask you a question that you don't understand, Witness, please
11 just let me know, and I will try to rephrase it or clear up the
12 question. Is that okay, sir?

13 A. Yes, it's all right. Thank you very much.

14 Q. And one last point, sir. Sometimes when we do a question and
15 answer, I might not -- I might cut you off and not let you answer the
16 question completely. I apologise ahead of time for doing that, but
17 just please let us know that you haven't completed your answer,
18 because the Court wants your entire answer. Do you understand that,
19 sir?

20 A. Yes, I understand. Thank you.

21 Q. Sir, just -- I want to take you back to some items in your
22 testimony or statement that you had given to the SPO and to the
23 Special Investigative Task Force as it relates to the Rahovec battle
24 back in July 1998. You recall that, don't you?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And prior to that battle, the Serb authorities were giving
2 weapons and ammunition to civilians like you and others; isn't that
3 right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So when the battle started, you and other civilians living in
6 Rahovec had rifles, guns, and ammunition; right?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. And you were expected to work with the army and with the police
9 to defend the Serb population against any attack; isn't that right?

10 A. That's right. That's what we were told. And what I received
11 was not a rifle but rather a revolver, and I had a license for it.
12 And that's how it was.

13 Q. And you received ammunition as well for your rifle; right?

14 A. Yes, ammunition too.

15 Q. So when the attack took place on 17 July 1998, you were -- in
16 fact stayed at home; right?

17 A. Yes, I was alone at home -- rather, with my wife. And there
18 were no other Serbs in the immediate vicinity.

19 Q. But during the course of the day of that attack -- let me
20 withdraw that. The attack lasted about two or three hours; right?

21 A. Yes, approximately so.

22 Q. And over the course of the day, the MUP, the police repelled the
23 KLA forces with heavy machine-guns and reinforcements that came from
24 Prizren; right?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. And when this was going on, you didn't witness any kidnappings
2 or any abductions of Serb civilians by the KLA, did you?

3 A. No, I couldn't have seen anything like that. So that's right,
4 yes.

5 Q. So let us move ahead, if we can, to the period coming up to June
6 1999. So from the attack on Rahovec in July until June 1999, Rahovec
7 was controlled by the Serb army and the Serb police; right?

8 A. Yes, the Serbian police as there was no army in Rahovec.

9 Q. Well, there ultimately came to be an army in Rahovec in July
10 because you told us -- you told the Prosecutor --

11 A. Well, then, yes. The army is the army when it came from Prizren
12 to defend it. But otherwise, they were not stationed in Rahovec.

13 Q. So we'll get to the army in a moment. But you were aware that
14 throughout January, February, March, April, May 1999, the Serb police
15 as well as the army were forcing Kosovo Albanians from their homes;
16 isn't that correct?

17 A. Well, it's partly correct.

18 Q. And which part is correct?

19 A. You know why I'm saying that? I lived in an Albanian
20 environment, and we cooperated. Right across were Albanians, and
21 they said, "You should leave Rahovec." And then the army went in
22 front of a bus and said, "You may freely return to your home." So
23 the family that lived next to me came back home, and they said it was
24 good that they had returned. And they had left the keys to their
25 home with me, and they returned on the same day.

1 Q. But throughout Kosovo, you do know that the Serb army and the
2 military police was forcing Kosovo Albanians out of their homes and
3 villages throughout the country, not just in Rahovec, elsewhere. You
4 do know that; right?

5 A. I know about Rahovec but not about further afield. I was an
6 old-age pensioner and wasn't really interested.

7 Q. So if we talk about Rahovec in June 1999, the Serb army came to
8 Rahovec and told the Serb population that the army and the police
9 were going to withdraw as a result of the agreement at Kumanovo;
10 isn't that right?

11 A. Yes. Yes, right.

12 Q. And thereafter, when the military and the police left, a lot of
13 the civilian population left as well; isn't that right?

14 A. Right. Correct, yes.

15 Q. And --

16 A. My wife didn't want to leave and I didn't want to leave, and so
17 we stayed on. We lived on. And one part of the population did leave
18 together with the army.

19 Q. And the population left because they -- the population, the Serb
20 population left with the army and the police because they were afraid
21 of revenge from Kosovo Albanians coming back into Rahovec, weren't
22 they?

23 A. Correct. Yes, correct. That was the reason. Yes. And that
24 was normal. But my logic was that I hadn't done anyone any harm, so
25 I decided to stay in my apartment, and I did stay.

1 Q. And I understand, sir, and I have no quarrel with your decision
2 at the time. I'm just asking some background questions concerning
3 what was happening in Rahovec in June 1999.

4 So shortly after the army and the police left with most of the
5 civilian population, the Kosovo Albanians came back into Rahovec and
6 that started the looting of Serb houses and the violence. Am I --

7 A. Yes, right. Yes, they returned. That's correct.

8 Q. And these were people that were intent on revenge as to what
9 happened to them; isn't that right?

10 A. Well, I suppose that that's how it was.

11 Q. And as a consequence of that, people came back in, Kosovo
12 Albanians, and they began to loot Serb houses; right?

13 A. I was in my apartment. I slept with Albanians. And in the
14 morning, when I wanted to return to my apartment together with my
15 wife, she noticed that someone had taken off the curtains, because
16 Albanians had entered the apartment during the night, they looted
17 what they could loot, and from that moment on I left home. I was
18 looted, too. They took everything.

19 Q. And we will get to that. And during this same period of time,
20 you had paramilitaries in uniform that weren't from Rahovec that were
21 coming in to Rahovec; isn't that right?

22 A. Yes, certainly.

23 Q. And I think that your wife, Bozana, was, in fact, told by
24 Ismet Tara that there were many gangs from Albania that had come, and
25 that he was not able to keep track -- is that right?

1 A. That's right, yes.

2 Q. And that --

3 MR. KEHOE: I can give you the reference.

4 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] That's what he
5 said, yes.

6 MR. KEHOE: And the reference is -- the reference is K --

7 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] We knew Ismet Tara
8 and he told me that frankly.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Okay.

10 MR. KEHOE: My apologies, Judge. I was just trying to give
11 counsel the reference to what I was talking about.

12 Counsel, it's K020-8261-K020-8267 at page 265. Okay?

13 Q. So as soon as the army and the military left and these Kosovo
14 Albanians came back and, you know, these gangs in uniforms, there was
15 chaos in Rahovec, wasn't there?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And these individuals that had come in uniform --

18 A. I could see that through my window.

19 Q. Okay. And these individuals that had come in uniform and the
20 other civilians -- or, excuse me. The individuals that had come in
21 uniform, they were not from the Rahovec area. They came from
22 elsewhere, didn't they?

23 MR. MICHALCZUK: It's calling for speculation. Your Honours --

24 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Those who entered
25 my apartment, they were from the surrounding area next to Rahovec,

1 but they were not locals from the town of Rahovec.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

3 MR. KEHOE:

4 Q. So they were also, you had heard, individuals, paramilitaries,
5 bandits, people that had come from Kacanik to cause problems in
6 Rahovec, didn't you?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. And Kacanik is a city that is way down on the Macedonian border,
9 some distance from Rahovec, wasn't it?

10 A. Towards Macedonia.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Towards Macedonia.

13 Q. So you had these bandits and paramilitaries -- and these were
14 the bandits and paramilitaries, the ones that came from Kacanik,
15 weren't they?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And so these --

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Just a second. He wishes to interpose
19 an objection.

20 MR. MICHALCZUK: Yes, Your Honour, could I object to these lines
21 of questions, because the witness just a few seconds ago said --

22 MR. KEHOE: Well, if you're going to have a --

23 MR. MICHALCZUK: -- that he could see that --

24 MR. KEHOE: -- speaking objection, I would ask the witness --

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].

1 MR. MICHALCZUK: Your Honours, he could see all that from his
2 window. How could he know that people were from Kacanik, were coming
3 from different directions, Your Honour? That's a foundation issue.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: You're going to have to get more out of
5 him as to how he knows these things and he knows the --

6 MR. KEHOE: Sure.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: How does he know that they're bandits,
8 for example.

9 MR. KEHOE:

10 Q. So when we were talking about bandits, in fact, Ismet Tara
11 called them bandits, didn't he?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you had found out from other Serbs -- questions similarly
14 asked by the SPO. You had found out from other Serbs in the area
15 that these bandits and paramilitaries had come from Kacanik, didn't
16 you?

17 A. When I asked Ismet Tara about it, he said, "What can I tell you?
18 That's not my army. They've come from Kacanik." And that was what I
19 knew because that was what he told me. And perhaps not only from
20 Kacanik, but this is what I was aware of about those people from
21 Kacanik.

22 Q. And I don't want to put words in your mouth, Witness, but it's
23 fair to say that during this period of time there was chaos in
24 Rahovec, wasn't there?

25 A. Well, of course. Yes.

1 Q. And you had people coming into Kosovo, both in uniform and
2 civilians, who were -- and I'm talking about Kosovo Albanians, who
3 were celebrating what they thought was a victory over the Serb
4 forces; right?

5 A. Well, yes.

6 Q. And, in fact, there were celebrations during the evening in
7 Rahovec as a result of the Serb --

8 A. Yes, of course. Yes. They were celebrating, firing celebratory
9 shots.

10 Q. And, you know, with regard to the looting, someone -- someone in
11 uniform came and took your car, and that person also took your shoes;
12 right?

13 A. Yes, yes. He came, and I knew this Albanian man from Rahovec,
14 but he had put on a uniform to intimidate others. And he had some
15 boots that he didn't like, so he took my shoes, and that's how it
16 was.

17 Q. And you told the SPO, and this is at P666, Part 4, page 15, 11
18 and 19, that he was not a regular soldier, was he?

19 A. No, he wasn't. I suppose that he wasn't because he wouldn't
20 have been so poorly dressed. He also asked for keys of my garage
21 door, and my wife said, "Throw him the keys," because he was
22 threatening. He said, "I will come upstairs and I will beat you up,"
23 so I threw the keys through the window down to him. So he opened the
24 garage and he took away my car.

25 Q. Now, you talked this morning about Ismet Tara coming to your

1 house, your flat, and he came in civilian clothes; right?

2 A. Yes, he was in civilian clothes.

3 Q. And the other four soldiers that he came with were from Rahovec,
4 weren't they?

5 A. In uniform.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Now, whether they were from Rahovec or not, I wouldn't know.

8 Q. Okay. But the soldiers that had come before --

9 A. They were his escort. But I don't know if they were locals from
10 Rahovec.

11 Q. Well, you noted for us that -- and we'll get to this, that you
12 thought they were from the area because they spoke Serbian; isn't
13 that right?

14 A. Serbian. Yes, yes, Serbian. And this is why I supposed that
15 they were all from Rahovec.

16 Q. Okay. Now, the soldiers that had come before them, the soldiers
17 that had come before them, you did not know those soldiers; right?

18 A. No, I didn't know a single one of them.

19 Q. And --

20 A. They came inside, they beat me up, they took away the
21 chandelier, and they did a number of things. But I survived.

22 Q. But to your knowledge, those soldiers were not from the Rahovec
23 area, were they?

24 A. As far as I know, they were not from Rahovec.

25 Q. Now, when Ismet Tara and these four soldiers came to see you,

1 you told the SPO that they came with good intentions; isn't that
2 right?

3 A. Yes, good intentions.

4 Q. And he was concerned that these soldiers had been to your house
5 previously and had mistreated you, and he was there to make sure you
6 and your wife were okay; isn't that right?

7 A. I suppose so. And I thanked him for that.

8 Q. And you thanked him for the fact that he, Ismet Tara, and these
9 other soldiers protected you and escorted you into --

10 A. He had come by to see how I was doing.

11 Q. Okay. He came by to do that because he was concerned about you;
12 isn't that correct?

13 A. Yes, I guess. And that's why he told me, "You should move away
14 immediately," because he thought that others would come along soon.

15 Q. And these others who he thought were going to come along soon
16 were these bandits and paramilitaries that he didn't have any control
17 over; isn't that right?

18 MR. MICHALCZUK: Calling for speculation, Your Honours. How
19 could he know that?

20 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] I suppose so, yes.

21 MR. KEHOE:

22 Q. Well, did he tell you that the --

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated].

24 It is speculative. You may go on, though.

25 MR. KEHOE: Yes.

1 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Ask another question.

2 MR. KEHOE:

3 Q. He did tell you at some point that he didn't have any control
4 over these bandits and paramilitaries, didn't he?

5 A. Yes, that's what he said.

6 Q. Now, because of his concern, Ismet Tara and those soldiers
7 escorted you and your wife to the Serb area so nothing would happen
8 to them -- happen to you; isn't that right?

9 A. I organised a neighbour, an Albanian, with a car, he drove us
10 from our apartment to the Serbian part, and I was also able to
11 collect some belongings to take with us.

12 Q. But you were escorted to this Serb area by Ismet Tara, weren't
13 you?

14 A. No, no, he didn't escort us. I asked another Albanian, a
15 neighbour from the neighbourhood who had a car. We were able to load
16 some belongings that we needed. So the wife and I were driven by him
17 to the Serbian area.

18 Q. And I am talking about a -- you are talking about P0065 at page
19 12. Did you tell the SPO Prosecutor's Office:

20 "Ismet Tara said he believed me and that we had twenty minutes
21 to leave ... and that he would escort me."

22 Did you tell them that?

23 A. No, I didn't say so. He did not escort us. I left on my own.
24 But he did say, "Leave in some 15 to 20 minutes."

25 Q. And did he tell you, as you told the Prosecutor, that he would

1 escort you?

2 A. I don't think he said so, and I don't remember having said that.

3 Q. That's fine. You just tell us what you remember, sir, okay, and
4 we're not asking any more than that.

5 So you, in fact, were taken over to the Serb section of Rahovec
6 that day; right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. And he told you to do that because he was concerned about
9 you and that other people --

10 A. He told me to move away. And when I drove through the central
11 area of Rahovec, there was a large crowd there. The Albanians were
12 hitting on the car in which we were driving. They could tell that we
13 were Serbs. Fortunately, the driver didn't stop in the central area,
14 so we were able to reach our destination without being injured.

15 Q. Thank you. Thank God. So it was shortly thereafter the next
16 day when --

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. -- that your son -- by the way, your son had gone to the Serb
19 area of Rahovec several days before; right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And when you and your wife got to the Serb area, your wife and
22 son went back to get some supplies the next day or the day after; is
23 that right?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. And your wife -- I know that you weren't there, but your wife

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1 told you what had happened; right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And she told you that when your son's car wouldn't start, that
4 one of the soldiers that she knew, Mustafa Mullallia, told her that
5 she better get out of that place as soon as possible; right?

6 A. Yes, it was there in the yard, this Albanian, and my wife
7 recognised him. And he'd camouflaged himself. He put the cap over
8 his head.

9 Q. But this individual, Mustafa Mullallia, was a KLA soldier that
10 was telling your wife that you had to leave; right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And he told her that you had to leave because the area was full
13 of these other troops, these bandits and paramilitaries; isn't that
14 right?

15 A. Well, yes. Yes.

16 Q. So one individual that your wife knew -- and, by the way, did
17 she know him because she had taught him in school?

18 A. I suppose so. I'm not sure. My wife knew more of them than I
19 did.

20 Q. I understand. So what we have is we have someone who is part of
21 the KLA trying to protect your wife against these other individuals,
22 these bandits and paramilitaries; isn't that right?

23 A. That's how I felt it. That's what I thought they were trying to
24 do.

25 Q. And as we move on, you had another Albanian neighbour, Naile

1 Raba, who talked to your wife and said to her, "You have to leave and
2 tell your son not to come out of the house because these bandits or
3 paramilitaries are around"; right?

4 A. That's what they said, yes.

5 Q. Exactly. And when they said -- this is your wife telling you
6 this, these facts; right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And it was at that point that your son came out and these
9 bandits or paramilitaries in a Mercedes took your son; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And your wife, who taught school in Rahovec, she didn't know any
12 of these bandits and paramilitaries who took your son, did she?

13 A. She didn't know them.

14 Q. So, thereafter, you went to the -- she got home, told you what
15 happened, and you went to the police station; right?

16 A. I went to the police station --

17 Q. Now, just to back up --

18 A. -- because I was told that Boban had been taken to the police
19 station. Since my wife stayed talking to Albanians, I asked another
20 Albanian to come with me to the police station. Nobody wanted to
21 accompany me. They simply didn't dare. So I went by myself and I
22 was locked up there. They asked me, "Why did you come?" I said, "I
23 came looking for my son. I was told that he was taken here for an
24 interview." However, they locked me up.

25 Q. Well, when you were questioned as to why you were there, there

1 were a group of men in camouflage uniforms out in front of the
2 headquarters; right?

3 A. In front of the building.

4 Q. And you didn't recognise any of those men, did you?

5 A. No, no.

6 Q. Now, I mean, Rahovec is a relatively small town, isn't it?

7 A. Small.

8 Q. Yeah. But you didn't recognise any of these men in camouflage
9 uniforms in front of the --

10 A. Well, I was confused. I didn't really try to identify them, see
11 who they were.

12 Q. But if you had recognised them, you would be telling us today
13 that you recognised some of these soldiers, but you didn't; isn't
14 that right?

15 A. I didn't recognise anyone.

16 Q. And you told us that you were taken into the headquarters and
17 that someone was taking you over to the fire brigade, but that you
18 were then taken back to the police headquarters; right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you never went into the fire brigade; right?

21 A. No, I didn't enter. No.

22 Q. And you never saw anybody being mistreated there; right?

23 A. I couldn't see that, no.

24 Q. But when you were taken back to the police headquarters and you
25 were in the police headquarters, the KFOR officer that you knew,

1 Stefan, showed up at the headquarters; right?

2 A. My wife asked KFOR to intervene as soon as possible. She told
3 them that I had gone to the police station and wasn't coming back.
4 So she went to the police station together with the KFOR patrol and
5 inquired about me and Boban. And I heard that conversation. These
6 people were saying, "No, they're not there. Predrag is not there.
7 Boban is not there." Upon hearing that in Albanian, I yelled, "I'm
8 here. I'm Predrag," and Stefan recognised my voice. He said,
9 "Predrag is here."

10 They kept me in one of the offices while they were talking to
11 them.

12 Q. And your wife asked KFOR to intervene and they did intervene,
13 didn't they?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. And --

16 A. Fortunately. This all happened in a short period of time, not a
17 lot of time elapsed. Because had I stayed there for another half an
18 hour, I would have been transferred somewhere else. However, he
19 managed to arrive while I was still there in -- locked up, and as a
20 result I'm still alive today, fortunately.

21 Q. So we have a situation in Rahovec where it's chaotic, with
22 people coming back in to Rahovec, other bandits and paramilitaries
23 coming back in, and KFOR is trying to secure the town; isn't that
24 right?

25 A. They were trying. They were trying.

1 Q. But all --

2 A. But I don't think they were powerful enough.

3 Q. But all of this chaos is going on at the same time, isn't it?

4 The 17th, 18th, 19th July -- June. June, excuse me.

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. And I think you said to the Prosecutor this morning that KFOR
7 didn't have the power to get your son released, but they did have the
8 power to get you released; right?

9 A. Well, they didn't. I don't know.

10 Q. No, but KFOR -- Stefan, your friend from KFOR came to the police
11 headquarters and got you released; right?

12 A. He came wanting to free me, to get me out. However, he didn't
13 succeed.

14 Q. Well, he did succeed in getting you released, did he not,
15 because you were released?

16 A. From where?

17 Q. From the police headquarters.

18 A. They did not release me at his initiative.

19 Q. And when did they release you?

20 A. Well, if I could explain all of that to you now.

21 Q. Well, let us turn our attention to 666.4, page 30, 5 to 18. And
22 this is when Stefan came to see you -- or came to see you. And I
23 will just read to us the balance part. Did you say this to the SPO:

24 "I decided, I decided, since the Germans were there, I pushed
25 the door away with my elbow and pushed away the three men and made my

1 way. It was three metres away, just to make the Germans see me -
2 nothing more. I did it so swiftly, because they were pushing me back
3 to lock me back in. But I was speaking loudly in Albanian ... 'Who
4 is looking for Predrag? I am Predrag.' And so, those ones didn't
5 dare beat me" --

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. -- "because the Germans were around, the KFOR people were there.
8 And I was kept at the reception for a little while, until after they
9 made an agreement with the chief, Stefan."

10 That's right, isn't it?

11 A. They were negotiating. They were discussing. And once they
12 established that it was me -- initially, they said that I wasn't
13 there, and then when I showed up, showed my face, then they couldn't
14 deny it. And then they negotiated some half an hour, and they said
15 that we should meet by the petrol station, some 2 or 300 metres away.
16 And then two UCK soldiers took me there, and then following that, I
17 was taken to the Serbian part of town. That was all Stefan's doing.

18 Q. And when you were taken to the Serb part of town, you were taken
19 by some soldiers, and they were provoking you and cursing you and
20 telling you about all the things the Serbs had done?

21 A. Yes, of course.

22 Q. And you understood, did you not, that those people were intent
23 on revenge for what happened to them; isn't that right?

24 A. I suppose so.

25 Q. Now, with regard to your steps to find your son -- and I'm sorry

1 about what happened to your son. It was -- if I may, it was your
2 belief that both Stefan and Ismet Tara were, in fact, trying to find
3 out where your son was and to get him released, weren't they?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. And it was thereafter that -- when you made further --
6 questioned further, that Ismet Tara said that they had been taken by
7 paramilitaries from another area; right?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. So -- and, in fact, he told you that these were paramilitaries
10 that he didn't have any control over; right?

11 A. That's what he said.

12 Q. And these were part of the paramilitaries that were from Kacanik
13 according to Ismet Tara; right?

14 A. I suppose they were from Kacanik. They were not from Rahovec.

15 Q. Well, in fact, Ismet Tara told you that they were from Kacanik,
16 didn't he?

17 MR. MICHALCZUK: Could we get the reference, Your Honours, for
18 that? Could we get the reference for that proposition?

19 MR. KEHOE: He said previously. I'll withdraw the question
20 because he said so previously.

21 Q. Now, there came a time when you were in the Serb section of
22 Rahovec in August 1999 when somebody shot into the Serb area; right?

23 A. Yes, yes, of course.

24 Q. But you didn't see the person that was shooting into the area,
25 did you?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. And this was -- and your area at the time was right next
3 to the KFOR base, wasn't it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Now, just moving ahead, there came a time in October, moving
6 ahead to October, where you and other Serbs decided that you were
7 going to leave Kosovo; right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you headed towards Montenegro I think you told the
10 Prosecutor; is that right?

11 A. To Montenegro.

12 Q. And when you were headed to Montenegro, you were on a bus but
13 there were other automobiles with you as well; right?

14 A. There were five buses and 23 cars.

15 Q. And I want to focus -- go ahead, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to
16 interrupt you.

17 MR. KEHOE: I'm not sure if he finished his answer or not, but
18 I'll just ask the next question.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

20 MR. KEHOE: Okay.

21 Q. And it was a group of Kosovo Albanian civilians who looted those
22 cars that were being driven by the Serbs, wasn't it?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR. KEHOE: If I might have one moment, Judge.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Yes.

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1 [Specialist Counsel confer]

2 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Thank you.

3 MR. KEHOE: Your Honour, I have no further questions.

4 Q. Witness, thank you very much for your time.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Kehoe.

6 Veseli Defence.

7 MS. O'REILLY: We have no questions, Your Honour.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right.

9 Mr. Young.

10 MR. YOUNG: No, thank you.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Ellis.

12 MR. KEHOE: Your Honour, just that -- I did inform the Court
13 that I had cut down on my time, so I -- yes.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Okay.

15 Take your time, Mr. Baiesu. There's no rush.

16 MR. BAIESU: Thank you, Your Honour.

17 Cross-examination by Mr. Baiesu:

18 Q. Good afternoon, Witness.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, we have some questions from
20 another one of the Defence attorneys at this time.

21 MR. BAIESU: Thank you, Your Honour.

22 Q. Good morning, Witness. My name is Victor Baiesu and I represent
23 Jakup Krasniqi. I would like to start by asking you some questions
24 about a specific document.

25 MR. BAIESU: I would like to call up on the screen document

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1 SITF40010159 to SITF4001064-ET Revised.

2 Q. Witness, I would like to ask you a few questions about some
3 information your wife, Bozana, gave to the Humanitarian Law Centre in
4 Belgrade in July 1999. You are aware that your wife gave that
5 statement, aren't you, just as you gave a statement to -- sorry.

6 A. Yes. Yes, I'm familiar with that.

7 Q. In 1999, Boban was 37 years old; is that accurate? Maybe I
8 will --

9 A. I didn't hear you well.

10 Q. My question was whether in 1999 your son Boban was 37 years old.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And him being an army reservist, he kept a weapon at home,
13 didn't he?

14 A. Well, he did. He had it.

15 Q. In her statement, your wife described how, on 18 June 1999, a
16 group of individuals wearing KLA uniforms grabbed your son and took
17 him to the police station in Rahovec. Your wife shared with you
18 those details, didn't she?

19 A. Yes, she did.

20 MR. BAIESU: If we could please scroll down to page 3 of this
21 document. Go to page 3 and scroll down. All the way to the bottom.
22 And then it continues on page 4.

23 Q. Question: Your wife said that after she saw this happening she
24 was in shock and felt sick. Do you remember that?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And then there was a different group of young boys who were also
2 wearing KLA uniforms and who your wife knew were from Rahovec. They
3 brought to your wife water and a chair to help her pull herself
4 together. Isn't this what your wife told you?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. [Overlapping speakers] ...

7 A. When they -- when they took him, she knew that Albanian, and he
8 was, like, a guard, a guard in the cellar of this company. And when
9 he recognised her, he said, "Teacher, Teacher, why don't you sit down
10 and pull yourself together."

11 Q. And they brought -- and they gave her -- they offered her a
12 bottle of water and a chair to sit; correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Would it be fair to say, Witness, that in this -- during this
15 incident, these two groups of individuals behaved differently towards
16 your wife?

17 A. Well, yes.

18 MR. BAIESU: If we could scroll, please, to page 5 of this
19 document.

20 Q. Up until the incident with Boban, you were living in a building
21 where most of the residents were Albanian; correct?

22 A. Correct, yes.

23 Q. And in this statement, your wife described an incident when a
24 group of five paramilitaries disfigured the face of a 30-year-old
25 Albanian woman. Do you recall this incident?

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1 A. Yes. I remember, yes.

2 Q. Do you recall the approximate date of this incident?

3 A. Oh, no, I can't remember. I can't recall.

4 Q. But the incident occurred in the summer of 1999; correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And during this incident, the same group of paramilitaries
7 killed an Albanian man, didn't they?

8 A. I cannot remember.

9 Q. And do you remember -- and do you recall whether your son,
10 Boban, during this incident, brought as help a police officer --
11 sorry.

12 A. I don't remember.

13 Q. Sorry, I will start the question again. Your son, Boban, during
14 this incident we are talking about, did he bring as help a police
15 officer with whom he used to hang around?

16 A. Oh, God. I can't remember. I don't know.

17 Q. You and your wife asked these men who they were, and they said
18 that they signed up in the regular army as volunteers but became
19 outlaws and were taken to looting. Do you recall saying that, to you
20 and to your wife?

21 A. To be frank, I don't remember. I have forgotten it. What can I
22 do? I've forgotten.

23 Q. Thank you, Witness.

24 MR. BAIESU: I have no further questions.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Thank you.

1 Redirect.

2 MR. MICHALCZUK: Nothing, Your Honours.

3 [Trial Panel confers]

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We'll take another short break for this
5 witness, about ten minutes, and then we'll be back in the courtroom.

6 [Microphone not activated].

7 THE COURT OFFICER: Can you take the witness outside,
8 Mr. Court Officer.

9 [The witness stands down via videolink]

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: [Microphone not activated]

11 --- Break taken at 12.02 p.m.

12 --- On resuming at 12.14 p.m.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: You can just stay standing. This is a
14 lot of organisation just to tell you that the witness needs a longer
15 break. He's quite tired.

16 So we will come back at 2.00. We'll call this the lunch break
17 now. We'll be back at 2.00 and try to finish up with him as quickly
18 as possible. So we're adjourned until 2.00.

19 --- Luncheon recess taken at 12.15 p.m.

20 --- On resuming at 2.01 p.m.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Court Officer, you can bring the
22 witness into the room.

23 [The witness takes the stand via videolink]

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Welcome back, Witness. Did you get a
25 chance to get a --

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1 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Thank you.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: -- little rest? Did you have a chance
3 to get a little rest? Can you hear me? Can you hear me now,
4 Witness?

5 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] I can hear you. I
6 hear you.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Did you have a chance to get some rest?

8 THE WITNESS: [via videolink] [Interpretation] Perhaps the volume
9 could be reduced a bit. Just a bit.

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: We're glad you're back with us.

11 My colleague, Judge Barthe, may have some questions for you.

12 Questioned by the Trial Panel:

13 JUDGE BARTHE: Good afternoon, Witness. I hope you can hear me
14 well.

15 A. I do.

16 JUDGE BARTHE: Good afternoon. I have a few more questions for
17 you. And before I start, I would like to say that the Panel had some
18 difficulties to fully understand parts of your statement, and the
19 questions I will ask you are intended to clear up any ambiguities
20 that may have arisen from your testimony today.

21 Do you understand that, Witness?

22 A. Yes.

23 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. My first question concerns the
24 preparation session you had with the SPO a couple of weeks ago on
25 13 September 2023. Do you remember that you had such a meeting with

1 the Prosecution in September?

2 I'll ask again. Do you remember that you met someone from the
3 Prosecution in September this year?

4 A. Yes, yes, I did. That's right.

5 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. The Prosecution has compiled a note
6 about this meeting. According to paragraph 14 of this note, this is
7 P667, you were asked whether it was Stefan, the German KFOR soldier,
8 or Ismet Tara who said about your son: "We know where he is. He is
9 safe. Don't worry. Tomorrow by 10:00 hrs, we will bring him over."
10 And you answered that this was said by Mr. Tara.

11 A. That's right.

12 JUDGE BARTHE: You also said that you had the impression that
13 Mr. Tara knew exactly where Boban was when he said that. My question
14 is for you why did you think that Mr. Tara knew exactly where your
15 son was at the time?

16 A. Well, he personally said that. How did I know? He said, "We
17 know where he is, he is safe, which is most important. And the next
18 morning, we'll come here with your son and with Stefan." Those were
19 his words.

20 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. In your interview with the SITF, the
21 Special Investigative Task Force, in December 2013, you said that you
22 met Mr. Tara on the following day when he was passing by in his car
23 and that he told you then, and I quote, "Paramilitary took him and
24 that is for sure," and he also said, according to that, to your
25 interview, "We don't know where he is." And this is from P666.4,

1 page 12, paragraphs 12 to 13.

2 My question for you, Witness, is it correct that Mr. Tara told
3 you on the following morning that paramilitaries took your son and
4 that he did not know where he is, where Boban is?

5 A. I met him and I went towards -- what's it called? I went to the
6 KFOR. And he said, "Why are you going there now?" And I said,
7 "Well, to ask them, because you said you'd come together with my son,
8 but you didn't come." And he said, "Well, now I don't know where he
9 is." So suddenly it was "I don't know." What that was supposed to
10 know to mean, I don't know.

11 JUDGE BARTHE: And Mr. Tara mentioned in this conversation with
12 you that paramilitaries took him, took Boban? Did he say that, if
13 you can recall?

14 A. Well, did he say it exactly like that, I don't know. But he did
15 say, "I don't know where he is."

16 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. My next question is also about your
17 preparation session with the SPO, with the Prosecution, on
18 13 September 2023. In paragraph 5 of a different preparation note,
19 this is Preparation Note 2, ERN 115385 to 115387, it is stated that
20 your wife specifically told Mr. Tara during the first post-abduction
21 meeting that your son had been abducted by the KLA. And that you,
22 Witness, also told Mr. Tara during one of subsequent meetings, I
23 quote:

24 "Those are your people ..."

25 "Those are your people who did it."

1 My question is, Witness, do you remember saying this to the
2 Prosecution in September 2023?

3 A. I cannot remember that those were my exact words. I don't know.
4 But probably I did say so. But it was a long time ago and I have
5 forgotten.

6 JUDGE BARTHE: That's not a problem. Do you remember that you
7 told Mr. Tara back in 1999 that "those are your people who did it,"
8 who abducted your son? Can you remember that?

9 A. Well, I did say so. I suppose that he had to know, but that was
10 just my own conclusion, and that was what I told him.

11 JUDGE BARTHE: Was that during your conversation with Mr. Tara
12 on the following morning when you met him on the street, if you can
13 remember?

14 A. On the street, he told me, "Don't go out. Don't go anywhere
15 because the paramilitaries are still around," and that's how it was.
16 And we met each other accidentally.

17 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. And I would also like to know,
18 Witness, did Mr. Tara say anything in response when you told him that
19 it was his people who kidnapped your son? Did he say anything to
20 you?

21 A. I don't remember what he said. He probably did say something,
22 but I can't remember it at all. I have forgotten.

23 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. And, Witness, you said in your SITF,
24 Special Investigative Task Force, statement, this is, for the record,
25 P666.4, 666.4, page 37, paragraphs 11 to 12, that from the following

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1 day on, from June 1999 on, you never saw Mr. Tara again; is that
2 correct?

3 A. No, no, I didn't see him again.

4 JUDGE BARTHE: So is that still true or have you seen him or
5 talked to Mr. Tara in the meantime? I mean, from the time you gave
6 the interview with the SITF until today.

7 A. I don't remember having seen him at any later point. I -- I
8 can't remember anything like that. No.

9 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. Now, Witness, I'm not sure whether
10 you are aware that Mr. Tara has talked about you and the
11 disappearance of your son on several occasions.

12 And, for the record, I'm referring to ERN 083217-TR-ET Part 18
13 Revised, pages 18 to 23, and 083217-TR-ET Part 19 Revised, pages 1 to
14 7. This was, Witness, for the record.

15 On these occasions when Mr. Tara talked about you and the
16 disappearance of your son, Mr. Tara claimed that he had not forced
17 you to leave your apartment but had rather helped you because you
18 were in danger as the only Serb family living in that part of the
19 city of Rahovec at the time, and that he is still proud that he saved
20 you from things that could have happened to you.

21 My question is what do you say to that?

22 A. Well, he did advise me to leave for those precise reasons. And
23 I did. I did as he said, of course.

24 JUDGE BARTHE: If you can remember, did Mr. Tara ask you for
25 weapons at that time in your apartment?

1 A. No, no. He said, "You should hand over everything that you
2 have." And I did hand it over in good time, so there was no need for
3 that.

4 JUDGE BARTHE: Did Mr. Tara ask you for the keys to your
5 apartment?

6 A. The keys to the apartment? I don't remember that he asked for
7 them. I don't remember that. As far as I know, he did not, but I
8 don't remember.

9 JUDGE BARTHE: So you didn't give him your keys, the keys to
10 your apartment?

11 A. No, no.

12 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. And, Witness, what happened to your
13 apartment afterwards? Did you get it back or did you sell it?

14 A. It was looted. Everything was looted. And then they came
15 asking me to sell it, and I sold it for 8.000 marks. The Albanian
16 who came asking me to sell it, blackmailing me, said, "If you sell it
17 today, I will pay you 8.000. And tomorrow, it will be only 5.000."
18 And so I sold it on that day for 8.000. And I sold it via another
19 Albanian.

20 JUDGE BARTHE: Can you remember the name of that person who came
21 to you? Sorry.

22 A. And the person who facilitated the sale, I paid him 500 marks
23 for that. Believe it or not, I used to know his name and last name
24 but no longer. I've forgotten it.

25 JUDGE BARTHE: Was he an official, an official person, or a

1 civilian, a private person?

2 A. No, no, no. He simply knew that he could make some money, so he
3 interposed himself into the deal. I could not arrange anything
4 directly. I arranged everything through him.

5 JUDGE BARTHE: Thank you. Witness, Mr. Tara also claimed that
6 it was not true that you or your wife had told him, had told
7 Mr. Tara, that your son Boban had been kidnapped by the KLA, but that
8 you had told him that Boban had gone to town where he apparently
9 disappeared.

10 My question is, is that true? Have you or, as far as you know,
11 your wife told Mr. Tara that Boban had gone to town where he
12 disappeared?

13 A. He disappeared in the presence of his mother.

14 JUDGE BARTHE: I'll repeat the question. According to Mr. Tara,
15 you or your wife have not told him that your son Boban had been
16 kidnapped, but you had told him that Boban had gone to town and he
17 had disappeared then.

18 A. As I've told you, he disappeared in the presence of his mother.
19 They left together. And I'm surprised. How come they left the
20 mother standing there and took him only?

21 JUDGE BARTHE: And, Witness, Mr. Tara further claimed that it
22 was not true that you were kept in custody in his, Mr. Tara's, police
23 station and that you were released only upon the intervention of
24 KFOR.

25 So my question is, please listen carefully, is that true? Were

1 you not kept in the police station when you were looking for your
2 son? Were you free to leave the police station if you had wanted to?

3 A. What is true is that I went on my own to the police station to
4 inquire and they detained me. And it's true that I was detained.
5 They kept me there. It's just that the door wasn't locked. Now,
6 whether it was a reception office or what it was, I don't know. But
7 based on their order, I was kept at the police station. And after a
8 certain time passed, they let me leave the police station. And I was
9 escorted by one KLA soldier, and they took me to the fire brigade
10 building. That's how it was.

11 I didn't even want to sit down. There was a bench there in the
12 prison, but I didn't want to sit on it.

13 JUDGE BARTHE: And, finally, Witness, Mr. Tara claimed that he
14 had met you and your wife about 10 to 15 times after your son's
15 disappearance, mostly in the presence of internationals; and of those
16 15 or 10 to 15 times, between five to eight times at the police
17 station.

18 So my question is, is that true? Did you and your wife meet
19 Mr. Tara about 10 to 15 times after your son's disappearance,
20 including between five to eight times at the police station Rahovec?

21 A. It wasn't more than three or four times. There was no need for
22 us to meet with him 15 times. That's not true.

23 JUDGE BARTHE: Witness, thank you very much. I have no further
24 questions. Thank you.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Witness, I have a few questions. Just

1 two or three.

2 When you use the term "paramilitary" in connection with the
3 disappearance of your son, what do you mean by that term?

4 A. It wasn't the actual army. It was people who just put on the
5 uniforms on their own, and they went around saying that they were an
6 army. For me, it didn't really matter whether they were this or
7 that, but Tara told me specifically that these were paramilitaries
8 wearing --

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Are do you think --

10 A. -- that uniform.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: -- Mr. Tara was referring to Albanian
12 paramilitary or Serbian paramilitary?

13 A. Solely Albanian. Albanian army.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: That's my only questions. Thank you.
15 Anything? Judge Gaynor?

16 JUDGE GAYNOR: No, no questions. Thank you.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: All right. Any follow-up questions from
18 the Judges' questions?

19 MR. MICHALCZUK: No questions.

20 MR. LAWS: No questions. Thank you, Your Honour.

21 MR. KEHOE: No questions, Your Honour.

22 MS. O'REILLY: None, Your Honour.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SMITH: Mr. Young.

24 MR. YOUNG: No, thank you.

25 MR. BAIESU: No questions.

1 Thank you for your attendance today and everybody's efficiency
2 and understanding of our witness's situation. And we will see you
3 Monday at 9.00 a.m.

4 We are adjourned.

5 --- Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 2.25 p.m.

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