

**Second Witness Statement of MARIJA KATIĆ**

(Original Statement at Memorial Annex 40)

**Address: ...****Date of Birth: 21.02.1956.****Place of Birth: BOGDANOVCI****Occupation: RETIREE****Date of statement: 13.09.2010.****Location: VUKOVAR****Witnessed by: VLATKO MAROŠEVIĆ, POLICE OFFICER VUKOVAR POLICE STATION**

I have been shown a copy of a statement dated 23<sup>th</sup> June 1997., the first sentence of which states "*Serbian-Chetnik formations attacked the village of Bogdanovci with tank and mortar fire in the afternoon hours,*" The statement contains 2 page.

I confirm that the statement I have been shown was made by me. I confirm that its contents are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I confirm that I gave the statement voluntarily, and was not subjected to any threat, force or inducement in making it.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Marija Katić	13.09.2010.
.....	.....
<b>Signed</b>	<b>Date</b>

Witnessed by (Authorized official):	
Vlatko Marošević	13.09.2010.
.....	.....
<b>Signed</b>	<b>Date</b>

**ANNEX 40:  
WITNESS STATEMENT OF MARIJA KATIĆ**

Made in the offices of the police Department (PU) Vukovar-Srijem on 24 June 1997 of the informative interview with Marija Katić, daughter of Josip and Mara, born on 21 February 1956 in Bogdanovci, Municipality Bogdanovci, with residence in ..., and who is currently a refugee in Vinkovci, at no.2 Lapovačka Street. As well as with Branko Krajna, son of Mate and Ivka, born on 26 May 1952 in the village of Galičić, Municipality G. Vakuf, Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with residence in ..., and who is currently a refugee in Rokovci, refugee camp "Blace". An interview was conducted also with Ranko Sokač, son of Antun and Amalija, born on 11 July 1960 in Vukovar, with residence in ..., and currently a refugee in Rokovci at the refugee camp "Blace". They all testified concerning the circumstances of the aggression and the occupation of Bogdanovci by the Serbia-Chetnik formations and the so-called JNA during 1991.

During the interview with the witnesses, we found out that during August 1991 the Serbian-Chetnik formations attacked the village of Bogdanovci with tank and mortar fire in the afternoon hours, from the direction of the village of Bršadin and the "Đergaj" forest. During this attack, six mortar and tank grenades fell on the village and one fell on the tower of the local Catholic church, on which occasion the tower and the roof covering of the church were damaged as well as some family houses and farm buildings next to the church. During this attack the civilian Ilija Matijašević was injured in the abdomen.

After this attack the aggressor continued its artillery attacks every few days with 10 to 20 grenades every day and continued destroying family houses and farming objects.

During September, they attacked the village with two planes for the first time and during this period they shelled the medical corps which was located in the house of Cetko Mihajlovic and also threw three cluster bombs. Due to the explosion of these bombs the following persons were injured: VERA KIŠ, ŽELJKO PRCE, VLADO PRCE, ZRINKA BARUN, KREŠIMIR BARUN, VLATKO ANTOLIĆ, PAVO CRNOMARIĆ, CETKO MIHAJLOVIĆ, ANA MIHAJLOVIĆ, STJEPAN DVOJKOVIĆ, FRANJO PENIĆ, VERA BARLEČAJ (suffered severe injuries), and others whose names I cannot remember, which means thirty persons.

During September they continued their daily artillery attacks, i.e. to destroy Bogdanovci from the direction of Bršadin and the "Đergaj" forest which is near Bršadin, and during these attacks, they completely destroyed the Catholic church of "The Holy Cross" and the building of the local school of Bogdanovci.

In the afternoon of 2 October 1991, after artillery preparations the combined tank-infantry attack on Bogdanovci started from the direction of the occupied village of Petrovac, Marinci and Bršadin. During this attack, the village was completely surrounded and nobody could get in or out anymore. During the attack, the following persons were murdered in the house of Antun Mrkobašić: Ana Zvonarević, Marta Grubanović, Josip Dominiković, Josip Marijanović, Stana Šimić, Zdravka Katić, Đuro Katić and Ivo Križanović. They were murdered by members of the so-called JA throwing several hand grenades into the cellar of this house. The following persons survived in the cellar and suffered severe injuries: Marija Šimić and Marica Marijanović. The above-mentioned murdered persons were buried in the yard in front of this house, but the witnesses do not know who buried them (the witnesses do not know the exact location in the yard).

On 2 October 1991, the following persons were also killed: Dominko Ceranac, Zvonko Vuković (aka Strikan) and Silvester Edelinški. All three of them were killed by firearms. The witnesses do not know where the three were killed or where they were buried.

During October they continue to attack the village from the air, and during one of these attacks they also used incendiary bombs, which completely burnt down the family house and the farming objects of Slavko Dvojković.

The village of Bogdanovci was attacked daily with artillery weapons from all directions, until the village fell into the hands of the so-called JA and the other paramilitary Chetnik formations on 10 November 1991, when in the afternoon hours tanks, transporters and the infantry of the aggressor army entered the village.

The civilians and defenders who were still in the village after the aggressor had entered, retreated to the medical corps, to be precise to the cellar, and the aggressor army fired four tank grenades into this building from close range. Since the village could not be defended any longer, the defenders and the civilians split into several groups and started their breakthrough towards Vinkovci in the afternoon.

The witnesses succeeded in breaking through the enemy lines and came to Nuštar in the morning hours of 11 November 1991.

The witnesses testified that, as well as they can remember, the following persons remained in Bogdanovci after its occupation: Ivka Krajina, Franjo Kolar, Katica Kolar, Branko Višić, Dragica Gabrić, Ivo Almaš, Željko Antić, Ivan Barun, Ilija Tadić, Ana Tadić, Mato Ceranac, Anica Ceranac, Kata Ceranac, Stanko Filkovac, Ivica Plum, Ivica Crnomarić, Rozalija Šefčik, Andrija Almaš, Tomislav Konjvod, Pero Matić, Josip Jerković, Anđelina Anokić, Nikola Paljošaj, Zef Barlečaj, Ljilja Barlečaj, Vera Barlečaj, Krasnički, Kristo Lesaj, Stjepan Bartulović, Ivan Begonja, Slavko Begonja, Tomislav Elez, Pavo Katić, Ilija Marić, Pavao Šad, Marija Mazar, Ivan Mazar, Andrija Knežević, Evica Knežević, Martin Panković, Anka Panković, Marika Dvojković, Marin Ceranac, Marija Ceranac, Lela Mesnik, Đuka Mesnik, Marko Penić, Franjo Jerković, Đuka Šimić, Kata Šimić, Slavica Dvojković, Dominko Matijašević, Marko Bajac, Stjepan Matijašević, Josip Knežević, Stjepan Tadijanović, Zdravko Mariček and his wife.

The following from the above managed to leave Bogdanovci after its occupation: Franjo Jerković, Marija Jerković, Anka Panković, Marija Dvojković (she is currently in Vukovar), Đuro Mesnik (currently at his daughter's house in Tovarnik) and Janko Gabrić.

The witness Marija Katić also stressed that she had spoken to an older unknown male individual from the village of Petrovac who told her that after the fall of Bogdanovci he had helped collect and bury the murdered bodies. The witness also says about this individual that his son works in the logistics of the 10<sup>th</sup> Vukovar Home Guard Regiment, and that his first name is MIROSLAV, and his surname possibly HARHAJ, or something similar.

The witnesses also testifies that a certain TIBOR ROKLICER from Vukovar (married to a woman from Bogdanovci) also participated in the collecting and burying of the murdered people after the fall of Bogdanovci, but as far as they know, this individual emigrated to Australia.

The witnesses also state that the village of Bodanovci was completely destroyed, and that during the destruction ten people who were killed, were buried in the so-called School Square in such a way that their bodies were wrapped in tents and buried with a bottle next to their bodies. These bottles contained the data of the dead persons. The witness states that MARKO PENAVIĆ was buried in his yard next to the shack and that he was buried by Branko Krajina, Marko Konjovod and Ivica Šimunović, they covered the grave with metal.

Statemen taken by Authorized Official: STJEPAN PERIČAK

Statement given by: Marija Katić