

ANNEX 505:
WITNESS STATEMENT OF IVAN KRYLO*

SURNAME: Krylo
NAME, FATHER'S NAME: Ivan, [...]
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: [...], Škabrnja, Zadar county, Croatia
RESIDENCE: (...), Croatia
TEMPORARY RESIDENCE: (...), Croatia
EDUCATION: high school
PROFESSION: [...]
EMPLOYMENT:
MARTIAL STATUS:
CITIZENSHIP: Republic of Croatia
NATIONALITY: Croatian

I give the following

STATEMENT

On November 18, 1991, in the morning around 7:40 am, grenades began to fall on the ethnically pure Croatian village of Škabrnja. We inspected the damage at 8:00 am. Tanks were moving towards the village from the direction of Gornji Zemunik and from the direction of the fields. Our boys destroyed two tanks, a transporter and a munition's truck. An unbelievable number of grenades and projectiles of every calibre fell upon the village. Our resistance lasted only a short while and then the JNA infantry and tanks entered the village, firing at the houses. Women, children and the elderly sought refuge in their basements. The army which entered the village wore JNA military dress and decoration. There were regular soldiers and local Serbs, some were masked. An old man recognized Ivanež - that is how they called him. We sought refuge in the basement, we were in civilian dress. Threats followed: "Come out or else we will blow you up!" They repeated this three times. We had to leave, one by one. They captured us, insulted us. I heard one say: "They should all be killed immediately". In the next two basements, they killed six or seven people. Some were captured and taken to Smilčić, where they were probably killed. They gathered us together and took us to one end of the village, where they put us into a basement. They took us inside under threat, and later returned us outside. Later, they shoved us into a bus and began beating us. They beat us with their fists, feet, guns and the like. Later they took us to Benkovac, where they continued to beat us, and forced us to kneel with our "heads down". With me were [...], [...] - my father, [...], [...] and [...]. They beat us all night in Benkovac. They ordered us to sit with our legs facing the wall, and then they beat us the entire night. The next day at around noon we went to Knin in an armored vehicle. Our arms were tied behind our backs and our two guards were soldiers. They did not allow us to sit on the seats, but rather we had to sit on the floor. Here they beat us once again - with clubs, feet - all the way to Knin. In Knin, when we were leaving the car, they pushed us into a basement. Several of their soldiers gathered here and mocked us. Then they took us for questioning. Before they took us for questioning, they beat us, forced us to lick the wall, and kicked people in the head. Twenty-five of us spent the winter in a three by five square meters room. For the first day and a half, they did not give us any food - the guards threw it to us in such a way so that we would not get it. When there was fighting at Kupres, they brought people from above and transferred us to the sports complex, so they could torture the newly arrived captives. They put us "to work". We unloaded coal, sawed wood, cleaned. Everything that they looted, we stored in a warehouse. Later one group went to a prisoner exchange. There we met Mr. Mladić, later proclaimed a war criminal. The Serbian police, now guards in the camp, were predominantly former railroad workers. They were recognized by [...] and [...] because they worked together. These police officers would allow soldiers returning from the front to abuse us or maltreat us. They intensively beat members of the Croatian National Guard. The commander of the prison was the first class sergeant, Sinobad, but his replacement Jovo, is now in a prison in Šibenik. This Jovo vehemently beat us when we arrived in Knin, and conducted interrogations. They especially beat captives from Herzegovina, and members of HOS (Croatian Defence Forces). We were in the South Camp military base.

When the UNPROFOR arrived in mid-March, we were transferred to the civilian prison, called Martić's prison. Here, two police officers, Grubić and Đuro, beat us the whole time.

When they changed shifts, we received beatings. This torture was intensified when they found out about the prisoner exchange. Young men, around 18 years old, sons of some generals, beat us. The day before the prisoner exchange, they read out the names and after 193 days we were exchanged/released in Žitnić. They constantly told us that our people would not take us, the people we were fighting for.

Zadar, January 5, 1993

Statement given by:
Ivan Krylo

Statement taken by:
Miljenko Buljan