

SANJAK COMMITTEE ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
NOVI PAZAR

INFORMATION ON THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE STATE TERROR IN SAN-
JAK

(from 15 May 1991 to 23 March 1992)

15 May 1991

1. Iljaz Hasanagic, graduate economist from Sarajevo near Bijelo Polje, president of the Democratic Action Party, was punished to prison of 45 days, because of offending the police. The judgement was pronounced by judge Miladin Joksimovic from Bijelo Polje, D. No. 138/91.

26 October 1991

2. A bomb was thrown into the backyard of the Husein-Pasa Mosque in Pjeverlja, which caused partial destruction of the mosque and total demolition of a booth of the Party of Democratic Action. The police declared that they did not know who deployed the bomb.

3. At 2.15 hours, the house of the teacher, Refik Sahman in the village of Lozna, district Bijelo Polje was searched. His family was maltreated. The police did not have a search warrant. They were searching arms and referendum material on the sovereignty of Sanjak.

28 October 1991

4. At 1.30 hours, in the village of Rakonje, district Bijelo Polje, the premises of the deputy Rifata Veskovic were searched in a brutal way. Veskovic is an active member of the Party of Democratic Action for Montenegro. His family was maltreated. The police did not have a search warrant.

5. At 2 hours, in the Loznica Street of Bijelo Polje, the premises of the local parliament deputy of Bijelo Polje, Mevludin Kasumovic, were searched. Late at night, his family was maltreated and terrified. The police did not have a search warrant. They were searching arms and referendum material on the sovereignty of Sanjak. Kasumovic is an active member of the Democratic Action Party for Montenegro.

6. The following 28 Muslim reservists from Pjeverlja were kept in prison as they refused to go to Trebinje and Dubrovnik as soldiers: Salko Polimac, Fevzo Krijestorac, Senad Cuturic, Hajrudin Bakija, Rasim Imsirovic, Aziz Sabanovic, Asko Stupar, Safet Handabaka, Selim Delic, Selim Alihodzic, Ermin Prijaca, Elvedin Hardic, Mirsad Cuturic, Sabid Hasovic, Esad Djak, Sukrija Lukovac, Muharem Kazaz, Izet Geljic, Kemal Mahmutovic, Kemal Hodzic, Jasmin Djurdjevic, Zicero Imsirovic, Murat Kosuta, Nazmija Kadic, Sabrija Cuturic, Mirsad Dzinovic, Senad Delic, Izet Nahodovic. They spent 20 days in the military prison. Information was laid against them.

28 October 1991

7. After a search of premises and a maltreatment of two hours in the village Bistrica near Bijelo Polje, the unemployed history teacher, Abdulah Dizdarevic was arrested. The police did not have a search warrant. (After the arrest, Dizdarevic spent three days in solitary confinement and 15 days in total in pretrial detention. He was maltreated and offended. The police inspector from Bijelo Polje offended him because of his Muslim religion and threatened him to death. The whole rehearsal through, Dizdarevic was tied to the chair on which he was sitting). The police units did all that under the excuse of searching arms and referendum material on the sovereignty of Sanjak.

8. At 2 hours, 15 armed policemen and reservists from the police-station Ivangrad, lead by the vice director of the police-station of Rozaje, a certain Stojanovic, encircled the house of the deputy and president of the Democratic Action Party for Montenegro, Harun Hadzic, and of his father Husein. The police entered the house in a violent way and brutally searched the house. They did not have any search warrant and no witnesses and they did not take into account the parliamentary immunity of Hadzic. The police stated that they were searching arms and referendum material on the sovereignty of Sanjak. After the house search, Hadzic was taken to the police-station of Ivangrad, where he was held for a 5-hour informative talk.

9. At 23 hours, that is late at night, six armed policemen from the police-station Ivangrad felt into the house (with their arms put out) of the 68-year old Husein Hadzic and searched his premises. The search of premises was taken out as Husein Hadzic is the father of the deputy and president of the Demo-

cratic Action Party for Montenegro, Harun Hadzic. They were searching arms and referendum material on the sovereignty of Sanjak.

10. At 22 hours, the inspectors of the police-station Rozaje, Isah Ademagic and Omer Dautic with two other policemen, felt into the house of Cazin Hadzic in the village Balouci near Rozaje und searched the premises. After the search, the policemen arrested his son, deputy in the local parliament of Rozaje, graduate of the University of Pristina, Hidajet Hadzic. He was taken to the police-station of Ivangrad, where after an information talk he was put into pretrial detention, where he was held 14 hours although he possesses parliamentary immunity. The police indicated as reasons for the maltreatment and the arrest of the deputy, Hadzic, that he had material on the referendum for the sovereignty of Sanjak.

11. At about 21 hours, the house in the Oslobodjenje Street 64 in Rozaje, of Mehdiija Husic was assaulted by armed police-units from Montenegro, who carried out a brutal search of the house. The police searched at the same time the house of Husic's brother, Esef, who lives in the same house. The police was searching material on the referendum for the sovereignty of Sanjak, but stated that they were searching arms. After the search, Mehdiija Husic was called a several times to a informative talk to the police-station in Rozaje and Ivangrad.

12. At 10.30 hours, police units from Montenegro came to the local parliament of Rozaje and forced Ejud Nurkovic, president of the finance committee, who is also deputy of the local parliament in Rozaje, to go with them. Nurkovic was taken to his house in the Omladinska Street in Rozaje by six armed policemen. The whole house was searched. The police did not have a search warrant, but stated that they were searching material on the referendum for the sovereignty of Sanjak.

13. At 1.30, the house of Ibrahim Sahman in Bijelo Polje in the 13 July Street 22 was surrounded and completely searched by the special units and criminal inspectors. After the search, Sahman was taken to the police-station of Bijelo Polje, where he was held nine hours and where they had an informative talk. Sahman is deputy of the local parliament in Bijelo Polje but the police units violated his parliamentary immunity. They did not have any search warrant. The cruelty of the policemen went that far that they also searched his offices in the building of the Union of War Invalids where Sahman works in an honorary capacity.

29 October 1991

14. The employee of the company "Stolarija" from Rozaje, Hakija Kuc, was collected at his working place by the police and taken to his house in the village Cosovica where his house was searched. He was ordered to hand over the arms that Kuc did not have in his possession. He was also ordered to hand over the referendum material. The family members were terrified and the wife and children cried. Hakija Kuc is deputy of the local parliament of Rozaje and an active member of the Democratic Action Party for Montenegro.

30 October 1991

15. The general prosecutor of Bijelo Polje filed an application (K.T. No. 75/91) for hunt at the investigating judge for the following persons:

- Rifat Veskovic (born 1958, Bijelo Polje)
- Ibrahim Sahman (born 1931, Bijelo Polje)
- Avdulah Dizdarevic (born 1961, Bistrica, Bijelo Polje)
- Mevludin Kasumovic (born 1948, Bijelo Polje)
- Halil Kasumovic (born 1965, Rasovo, Bijelo Polje)

The application proves that the mentioned persons are charged of having organised the referendum for the sovereignty of Sanjak.

5 November 1991

16. Dzema Krijestorac (born 1957) lost at about 15 hours at the bus station of Pljevlja her life while she was waiting for the bus with her father Ramiz and her daughter Emina. She was shot by the reservist Radoje Drobnjak, who was blithely shooting around with his weapon.

8 November 1991

17. The policeman, Fahrudin Niksic, from Novi Pazar, who was employed in Belgrade, was suspended and maltreated due to his nationality. His arms and equipment were taken away. He was informed officially that he had violated his duties seriously. (Fahrudin Niksic, identity card no. 60628 Hercegovacka Street 180, Novi Pazar).

18. The general prosecutor of Bijelo Polje filed an application (7. November 1991) for hunt at the investigating judge for the following persons:

-Harun Hadzic from Rozaje, deputy in the Montenegro Parliament and president of Democratic Action Party for Montenegro

-Hidajet Hadzic from Rozaje, deputy of the local parliament in Rozaje

The application proves that the mentioned persons are charged of having organised and executed the referendum for the sovereignty of Sanjak.

13 December 1991

19. Members of the Serbian home secretary forced, the following persons to join the Titovouzice Corps in the Raska garrison to be sent to the war zone:

-Nirvan Nokic, student Visegradska Street 3, Novi Pazar

-Safet Rasljanin, chauffeur from Pozega, Novi Pazar

-Mirsad Plajkic, Slatine, Novi Pazar

-Mesud Gudzevic, businessman, Novi Pazar

-Munir Bosnjak, engineer, Varevo, Novi Pazar

From the day of their trial, nobody knows where they are.

17 December 1991

20. At 7 hours, the policemen from Rozaje - Sako Muric and Iso Nurkovic came to the house of the deputy and president of the Democratic Action Party for Montenegro, Harun Hadzic, and forced him to follow them to the police-station of Rozaje and from there under guards he was taken to the Higher Court of Bijelo Polje. Hadzic did not receive any written invitation nor any official document was issued on the trial. The same day between 10 and 14 hours, the judge of the Higher Court in Bijelo Polje, Branislav Joksimovic, heard the deputy Hadzi, violating his parliamentary immunity. Only after the intervention of the local president of the district of Rozaje, Safet Crnovrsanin, with the vice-president of the Parliament of Montenegro, Hadzic was set free.

21. The Higher Court in Bijelo Polje issued the warrant of arrest (KI. No. 60/91) against:

-Harun Hadzic, deputy and president of Democratic Action Party for Montenegro

-Hidajet Hadzic, deputy of the local parliament in Rozaje

The mentioned persons are from Rozaje and are charged of having organised and participated in the referendum for the sovereignty of Sanjak.

22. In the center of Plava, Jusuf Radoncic, carrier, was arrested. After that, he was taken to the department for civil defence in Ivangrad, from where he was sent to the Banjaluka Corps, as to the information of that department. According to his parents, in the Banjaluka Corps information were not available, so that nobody knows where the mentioned person is.

23 December 1991

23. At about 3 hours on the way near Lepasovica, the police beat Ismet Paljevac from Novi Pazar and they maltreated his fellow travellers, Faik Paljevac and Adnan Dupljak, also from Novi Pazar. Paljevac passed the police, while they were controlling a bus with a foreign registration plate. As the police did not give any signs, Paljevac tried to drive around. In that moment, one policeman asked him to stop and to get out of the vehicle. The police-man hit Paljevac on his head, so that he fell to the floor. The policeman asked him to get up. After having done so, the same policeman hit him again so that he fell again. After that, the policeman kicked him several times. Only after the other policeman interrupted him, Paljevac and his fellow travellers were able to continue.

2 January 1992

24. The soldier Mujo Eleskovic from Ribaric, district Tuun, died in Dvor na Uni - Cavic Brdo. Eleskovic was not in the war zone, but he died, according to information of his unit, by bad fortune.

The soldier was shot from the very near into the forehead. The parents do not agree with the stubborn information of the physicians and suppose that their son was killed while he was sleeping or in another insidious way, as this would not have been the only case that they kill a soldier who is Muslim.

3 January 1992

25. Kimeta Kahrimanovic from Jezgrovica, district Tutin, was taken to the Neuropsychological department of the hospital of Kosovska Mitrovica with the assistance of a passing policeman.

When the male nurse, Rade, found out about that fact, he beat the ill woman and threw her out, although her physical state was serious. According to the medical certificate the injuries were caused by another person. The medical certificate was issued by Dr. Zhube, under No. 2/92, surgery, hospital "30. Juli" in Kosovska Mitrovica.

7 January 1992

26. Sait Causevic from Tutin was collected from the police and taken to the Raska garrison, from where he was to be sent to the war zone. As he refused to accept arms and uniform and to fight in the civil war, he was taken to pretrial detention. At present, he is in military prison in Belgrade. His mother, who is living alone, is not allowed to visit him.

10 January 1992

27. The Sanjak Committee for the protection of human rights sent a letter to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe with the information that on 7 and 8 January 1992 bomb attacks were carried out on Muslim buildings in Pljevlja (Montenegro).

8 January 1992

28. An unknown person destructed with a bomb the car "Zastava", registration plate PV 138-14, owned by Imam of the Husein-Pasa Mosque in Pljevlja, Orhan e. Mahmutovic. The police have not yet found the delinquent.

13. January 1992

29. Mujesira Nurovic, employee from Mura near Novi Pazar addressed herself to the Sanjak Committee for the protection of human rights demanding to help her with the issuing procedure of her identity card.

The mentioned person had already placed an application for an identity card 10 April 1991 at the Novi Pazar authorities. Until today, the authorities did not issue any document nor did they offer any explanation for the failure.

14. Januar 1992

30. The families of Jusuf Beciganic and Rafat Kacar from Novi Pazar as well as Harun Hajradinovic from Sjenica addressed themselves to the public prosecutor in Priboj demanding official information on the destiny of the mentioned persons who have been in detention on order of the public prosecutor for several months. The families of the prisoners contacted the lawyer Faruk Korenica from Kosovska Mitrovica and are asking the public prosecutor and the investigation judge to act according to Article 196, Sec. 4 of the Criminal Code.

31. The Sanjak Committee for the protection of human rights sent an official protest to the home secretary, to the Governments of Serbia and Montenegro, to Mr. Lord Carrington, to Mr. De Pinheiro, to Mr. Ahrens, to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on the occasion of the police raids and searches of Muslim premises, executed after the antiwar demonstration in Novi Pazar, organised by the Democratic Action Party on 12 January 1992. In Novi Pazar, Sjenica, Tutin, Bijelo Polje, Priboj and other towns of Sanjak, houses were searched and people were arrested. The police indicated that they were searching arms. In the protest, the final termination of the maltreatment, enforced mobilizations of the Muslim people, who refuse to fight in Croatian-Serbian war was demanded.

15. January 1992

32. The general manager of the "FAP" automobile-company from Priboj, Vidoje Pjevovic, dismissed the employee, Mirsad Celovic. The reason for that step was the employee's refusal to fight in the war in Croatia.

26. January 1992

33. At about 3 hours on the Road from Novi Pazar to Sarajevo near Uvac, Safet Brnicanin and Ismet Drustinac were taken away 45 kg smoked meat by inspectors of the Serbian home secretary. Drustinac and Brnicanin were intending to take the meat to their family in Sarajevo. The police prevented them from doing so by stating that the export of food to Bosna Hercegovina was not allowed. At a later time, the two men were informed that the two officers had handed the meat over to a food store in Priboj where it was to be sold. They were told that they could complain about that.

27 January 1992

34. The general manager of the "FAP" automobile-company from Priboj, Vidoje Pjevic, dismissed the employee, Rasim Bajramovic. The reason for that step was the employee's refusal to fight in the war in Croatia. It was also stated that he had failed to appear at the work without excuse.

35. By a local authorities decree, Totic Hajran aus Novi Pazar was forced to remove his house, which was before offered to him as emergency accomodation because his house was torn by the same authorities. The present house that he must vacate will be provided for a Serbian police officer.

36. Nazim Izberovic from Ribanci, district Tutin, informed the Sanjak Committee on the protection of human rights that on 04.02.92 at about 9 hours, his brother Mensur Izberovic, foreign worker in Luxemburg, was arrested by the police. The arrested was confiscated his passport and taken to the Raska garrison, in order to go voluntarily to the war zone. Mensur Izberovic has a valid residence and working permit for Luxemburg, a fact that liberates him from being mobilized. The police, however, did neither take this into consideration nor the fact that Iberovic's family was living in Luxemburg.

37. The main officer of the police-station in Rozaje, Velizar Vlaovic, ordered with decree UP-I No. 015-33 of 10.02.92 that the gun, mark "Bernardeli", calibre 7,65 mm as well as the correspondig gun licence to be confiscated from its owner, Husein Hadzic from Rozaje. Although Hadzic is a loyal citizen and older than 60 years, it was stated as grounds that the gun was confiscated for sake of general order and for security reasons. Hadzic never committed a crime nor is he in dispute with anyone. He has been possessing the gun for 30 years. His son is Harun Hadzic, deputy in the parliament of Montenegro and president of the Democratic Action Party (Muslim Party). It is to assume that the police took away the gun only for that reason.

38. Selim Numanovic from Josanica near Novi Pazar informed the Sanjak Committee on the protection of human rights that the local authorities refuse to issue an identity card for the 18-years old daughter, Elma. The family Numanovic has been living in Novi Pazar for 50 years, where they also own a house and other estates. The local authorities justify their steps with the fact that Numanovic did not present a proof (title deed), that shows that he owns estates in Novi Pazar. The same authorities, however, also refuse to issue the title deed as, in their opinion, there was a ban on transfer of title in that district. The family Numanovic, who is not the only example in Novi Pazar, has serious problems, as without identity card one is not able to carry out one's civil duties and rights. According to law, a person without identity card is committing an offence and is therefore not in the position to participate in every day life.

12 February 1992

39. At 4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m., 43 busses of armed Serbian reservists passed through Novi Pazar. They were intoxicated and while in Novi Pazar, poured beer and liquor on civilians. They were followed by 20 busses more full of armed Serbian reservists who later stationed between Novi Pazar and Sjenica. All of the reservists were dressed in chetnik attire symbols and flags.

13 February 1992

40. In afternoon hours, 14 busses with artillery passed through Novi Pazar and then were stationed on the road from Novi Pazar to Sjenica. The Serbian reservists stopped civilian traffic, souced them, harassed the occupants and confiscated money and food. After this the Serbian police arrived and began a more detailed search and seizure operation. Only Muslims and Albanians were stopped and souched.

28 February 1992

41. Between 1.15 p.m. and 2.45 a.m. On their way to Novi Pazar a delegation from the Muslim National Congress of Sanjak were stopped by Serbian police. Dr. Sulejman Ugljanin, president of the SDA party of Sanjak, Dr. Alija Mahmutovic and Prof. Rizah Gruda both members of the serbian Parliament and their driver were stopped, checked for identification, searched and their money confiscated (610 U.S. \$ and 900 DEM). Also the police confiscated 56 statements of human rights violatouones of Muslims by the serbian authorities. The Muslim delegation received receipts from the Serbian police that prove that these items were confiscated.

05 March 1992

42. SDA representatives to the Serbian parliament DR. Alija Mahmutovic and Prof. Rizah Gruda informed the Serbian parliament of the incident, and were heckled by the Serbian members of parliament, while they made their statements. The SDA members of the Serbian parliament have chosen to not partake in the Serbian parliament until the terror stops and the Serbian reservists leave Sanjak.

07 March 1992

43. The Serbian police is presently located on all roads which lead to Novi Pazar, those leading from Sje-

nica, Tutin, and Rozaje. At 8.30 a.m., the police stopped and searched all 300 delegates of the SDA party for Sanjak who were coming to the SDA meeting in Novi Pazar. This lasted until 10.00 a.m., and was repeated from 5.00 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. while the delegates were leaving Novi Pazar.

44. 600 Serbian and Montenegrinian reservists are stationed on the road from Ivangrad to Plav. In the village of Uhotina they are located in the homes of Serbian and Montenegrinian civilians because not being regular army (JNA) they are not allowed to be in army barracks nor are they allowed to be located in civilian homes but the army is allowing this.

13 March 1992

45. Four busses carrying Serbian reservists passed through Novi Pazar headed for Sjenica. At 7.00 p.m. two more busses of Serbian reservists. The terror is ever increasing.

16 March 1992

46. At 12.15 p.m., a group of school children Enes, Nuradin, Sukrija, Enver and Sadat Hajredinovic on their way home from school encountered a Yugoslav army vehicle carrying Serbian reservists. The children were stopped by the Serbian reservists after which they were verbally abused and ridiculed, the children were then stripped naked. The reservists then proceeded to beat the children upon their genital areas. The reservists forced them to crawl on the snow covered ground and to dig their own graves in the ground because they were told that they would be killed. They were later released to go home. The children were taken by their parents to a doctor and the wounds were documented and photographed. A complaint was filed in the national court and presented to a local member of Parliament. The formal protest was filed on 18. March 1992.

18 March 1992

47. At 2.00 p.m., Muslims of this area protested and called for the dismissal of the local representative and the police chief both who are Serbian. This was prompted by the imprisonment of a group of Muslims. While the Muslims protested in front of the city hall, Dr. Alija Mahmutovic the local representative to Serbian Parliament negotiated with the Yugoslav army. Serbian reservists in particular officers Ristic, Stojanovic and assistant defence minister Seber and others. Officer Ristic stated to Dr. Mahmutovic "we will give orders to annihilate your people, arrest SDA party members, close all of your schools and our special units will chase your woman and children away."

19 and 20 March 1992

48. Citizens and school children protested for the Serbian reservists to leave and stop the terror being committed by the reservists upon the Muslim population. The protesters gave the reservists till 25 March 1992 to leave Sjenica and the surrounding area. The meeting was called for the citizens and school children under the slogan of "Meeting for democracy against aggression and equal rights for all". Serbian army Generals ordered the arrest and patrol for all Muslims. The situation is grave.

21 March 1992

49. At 12.30 p.m., three masked Serbians armed with automatic weapons stopped a car in which were present a delegation of humanitarian organisations of Novi Pazar. The delegation was transporting 82 kilograms of medical supplies to Novi Pazar and 30,000 dinars, 1,150 DM, a typewriter, 1,000 containers and 1,000 membership cards, humanitarian relief advertisement materials, and 10 packagers of 500 pages of appeals for humanitarian donations. The Serbians fired shots with their automatic weapons. They forced the delegation out of the car and then proceeded to force the men to lay on the ground they stepped on their throats, put the barrels of their weapons in the mouths of the victims and beat them. One of the Serbian chetniks then drove off with the car and all of its contents. The delegation was then taken deep into the forest and were detained for one hour and then released. The delegation reported this to the court in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Inspector Refik Amutovic of the Bosnia-Herzegovina court is handling the case.

23 March 1992

50. At 2.30 p.m., Republic of Montenegro member of Parliament, Muslim SDA party representative Rasim Gorovic was arrested and taken to the police station and tortured for over 1 hour. The reason for this was that he earlier refused to be inscripted in the Yugoslav army and therefore be sent off to war in Croatia. At 3.30 p.m., he was released and told to go home and that he "will answer for his criminal acts".

SANJAK COMMITTEE ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Dipl. iur. Harun Hadzic