

translation

(Lovrenovic) Kresevo, Kiseljak, and part of Fojnica Municipality also controlled by the HVO are also in central Bosnia, but are not connected with the forces in Vitez and Busovaca. How are they holding up?

(Blaskic) It is certain that the will and determination of the Croatian people in these areas were awakened exceptionally early and have resulted in the firm defence of these areas, and I would add Vares here, which is in the structure of our second operative group in central Bosnia. They are carrying out, in a co-ordinated and organised manner, all commands connected with the defence of the people and Croatian territories. This physical separation is not an essential or decisive factor, because we figured in our planning that the temporary physical separation of these areas could occur. Travnik is the first operative group, Kiseljak the second, Zepce the third, and Sarajevo the fourth. All operative groups are under my command, and the chain of leadership and command functions absolutely. Without interruption.

(Lovrenovic) You investigated a crime in Ahmici. What is the result of the investigation so far?

(Blaskic) The investigation is still in progress; information is being gathered. In any case, this is a well-planned scenario in which Muslim forces wanted once again to cast a blemish on units of the HVO before the world community. After the crimes that Muslim forces committed in the areas around the Croatian villages of Lasva, Dusina, Gusti Grab, and other villages in Busovaca Municipality, the case of Ahmici was staged and skilfully shown to foreign reporters and the EC observer mission, with the assistance of the commander of a British battalion at that time, Bob Stewart. So far, we are certain that the crime was committed by members of the HOS (Croatian Defence Force) in Zenica, which was mostly Muslim, and parts of the Muslim forces of the MOS (Muslim Defence Force), and I have already said that the investigation is continuing. It is certain that the HVO does not stand behind the crime that others desire to attribute to us. However, I want to say that a much greater crime is being skilfully concealed. Muslim forces shot to death more than 40 civilians, mostly women and children, back at the beginning of June in the village of Maljina, Travnik Municipality. We

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have not been allowed to this day, nor has the UNHCR or the International Red Cross or the European Observer Mission, to look around that area and perform an exhumation of the bodies. That was a collective execution, in front of other Croats, who had to dig the grave for those killed.