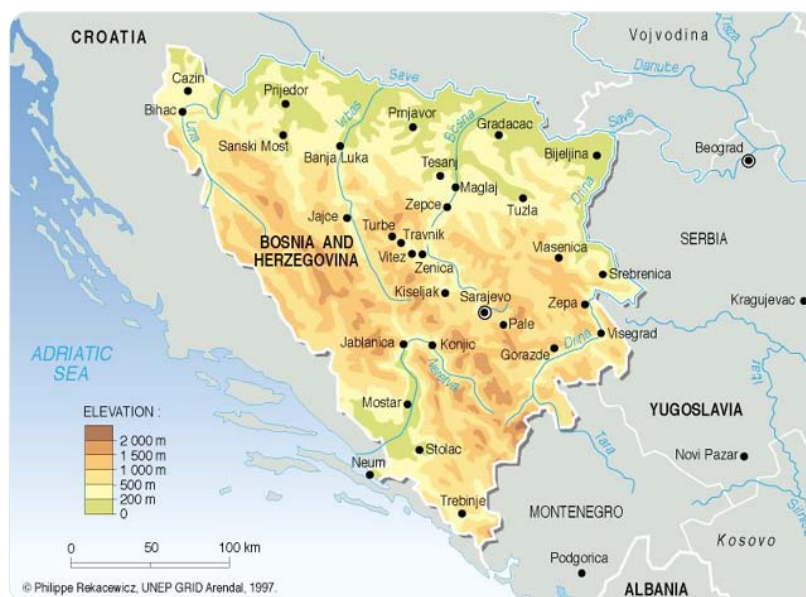




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Jul 9, 2022 · 38 tweets · [DINOin280/status/1545908893410365441](https://twitter.com/DINOin280/status/1545908893410365441)

Srebrenica is a town in eastern Bosnia and was a UN "safe area" in the 1990s upon which the Serb Army forces imposed a siege and famine that, 27 years ago, culminated in the worst act of mass murder in Europe since World War II. This is my thread on the [#SrebrenicaGenocide](https://twitter.com/hashtag/SrebrenicaGenocide).



"You are now under the protection of the UN forces. I will never abandon you." -- UN General Philippe Morillon, speaking to Srebrenica Bosnians in 1993.



Despite Srebrenica's status as a UN "safe area" and UN's disarming of the Srebrenica inhabitants--a policy which would help facilitate the genocidal killing of over 8,000 civilians--UN, at no point, fired a single bullet to protect the people of Srebrenica.

The UN disarming of the Srebrenica Bosnians was meant to be a trade: Srebrenica Bosnians would hand in their weapons in exchange for the "guaranteed" protection that the UN would offer.

A significant number of Srebrenica Bosnians did disarm, genuinely believing that the UN would protect them. Again, the UN forces did not fire a single bullet to protect the people of Srebrenica.

Keep in mind that the UN disarming of the Srebrenica Bosnians was on top of the UN arms embargo already in place on the Bosnians, which was a violation of the Bosnians right to self-defense guaranteed under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

In July 1995, the Serb Army forces began the final takeover of UN "safe area" Srebrenica, the enclave that had already been under siege and famine since 1992.

On July 11, 1995, with the Serb attack on the enclave well underway, 25,000 women, children, elderly, and (some) men set off towards Potocari, a small town within the municipality of Srebrenica, which was the location of the main UN base.



Most of the men gathered at Susnjari, west of Potocari, where they prepared to reach the area under the control of the Bosnian government. But the enclave was surrounded by minefields and the Serb army was patrolling the area.

The tail-end of this column of Bosnians left at noon on July 12, 1995. The single-file formation was chosen to avoid the impact of the mines.

On the evening of July 12th, about 8,000 these men crossed the road intersection at Konjevic Polje. On July 16th, 6,000 would reach safety via Zvornik. Since some of this specific column would have been armed, their deaths fall into the combatant category.



After the 8,000 Bosnian men crossed the intersection at Konjevic Polje, the Serb forces closed this route. Now, the Bosnian refugees were trapped between Konjevic Polje and Srebrenica.

On July 13th, a group that had been in the hills near Konjevic Polje surrendered to the Serb forces. The Serbs had used megaphones and stolen blue helmets to state that the UN and the International Red Cross were present.

A day earlier, on July 12th, the forceful transfer of those at Potocari began. The Serbs had been terrorizing, raping, and committing sporadic murders there. As the transfer was set to begin, the Bosnian men, who had not already been executed, were separated from the others.

#### Crimes committed in Potočari

On 12 July 1995, as the day wore on, the refugees in the compound could see VRS members setting houses and haystacks on fire. Throughout the afternoon, Serb soldiers mingled in the crowd and summary executions of men occurred.<sup>[69]</sup> In the late morning of 12 July a witness saw a pile of 20 to 30 bodies heaped up behind the Transport Building in Potočari, alongside a tractor-like machine. Another testified that he saw a soldier slay a child with a knife in the middle of a crowd of expellees. He also said that he saw Serb soldiers execute more than a hundred Bosniak Muslim men in the area behind the Zinc Factory and then load their bodies onto a truck, although the number and nature of the murders stand in contrast to other evidence in the Trial Record, which indicates that the killings in Potočari were sporadic in nature. Soldiers were picking people out of the crowd and taking them away. A witness recounted how three brothers—one merely a child and the others in their teens—were taken out in the night. When the boys' mother went looking for them, she found them stark naked and with their throats slit.<sup>[69][71]</sup> That night, a Dutchbat medical orderly witnessed two Serb soldiers raping a young woman.<sup>[71]</sup>

One survivor described the murder of a baby and the rape of women occurring in the close vicinity of Dutch UN peacekeepers who did nothing to prevent it. According to the survivor, a Serb told a mother to make her child stop crying, and when it continued to cry he took it and slit its throat, after which he laughed.<sup>[72]</sup> Stories about rapes and killings spread through the crowd and the terror in the camp escalated.<sup>[69]</sup> Several individuals were so terrified that they committed suicide by hanging themselves.<sup>[71]</sup>

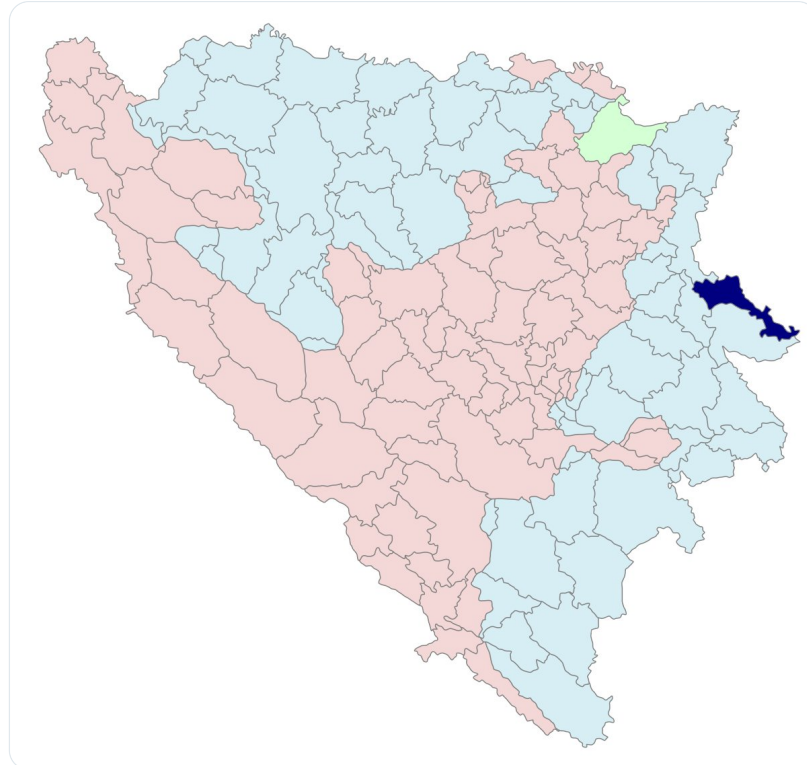
One of the survivors, Zalfa Turković, described the horrors of rapes as follows: "Two [Serb soldiers] took her legs and raised them up in the air, while the third began raping her. Four of them were taking turns on her. People were silent, no one moved. She was screaming and yelling and begging them to stop. They put a rag into her mouth and then we just heard silent sobs..."<sup>[73][74]</sup>

The forceful transfer of those at Potocari was completed in the late afternoon of July 13th.

At this early stage, the Bosnian men who had been captured were taken to Bratunac, Sandići, Nova Kasaba, or Kravica.



On July 12, 1995, Serbs executed Bosnian men in Bratunac using clubs, axes, and through throat cutting.



At around the same time, executions were taking place on the road between Konjević Polje and Sandići.



Even at this early stage, some of the men were killed in mass graves that had already been dug beforehand.

At Nova Kasaba, there is evidence for both sporadic and systematic executions. The recovered bodies there (see picture) and elsewhere would often be found with their hands tied behind their backs.





The Serbs executed at least 500 Bosnians at the Kravica hanger using firearms and grenades.



The Kravica hanger executions took place in the late afternoon on July 13th. The text below is from one of the survivors, taken from Radislav Krstic ICTY decision.

206. Guards surrounding the building killed prisoners who tried to escape through the windows.<sup>490</sup> By the time the shooting stopped, the warehouse was filled with corpses. Witness J recalled that "(n)owhere could you stand on the concrete floor without stepping on a dead body. The dead bodies had covered the entire concrete."<sup>491</sup> Witness K, who was only slightly wounded, described crossing the warehouse to make his escape through a window after the shooting stopped:

I was not even able to touch the floor, the concrete floor of the warehouse... After the shooting, I felt a strange kind of heat, warmth, which was actually coming from the blood that covered the concrete floor, and I was stepping on the dead people who were lying around. But there were even people who were still alive, who were only wounded, and as soon as I would step on him, I would hear him cry, moan, because I was trying to move as fast as I could. I could tell that people had been completely disembodied, and I could feel bones of the people that had been hit by those bursts of gunfire or shells, I could feel their ribs crushing. And then I would get up again and continue . . . .<sup>492</sup>

In the afternoon of July 13th, at Cerska valley (west of Konjevic Polje), Serbs executed 150 Bosnians with their hands (sometimes feet too) tied after transporting them there via 3 buses. The executions took place along the road and their bodies were then covered by an excavator.





Here is another photo of the Cerska mass grave, this one showing one body.



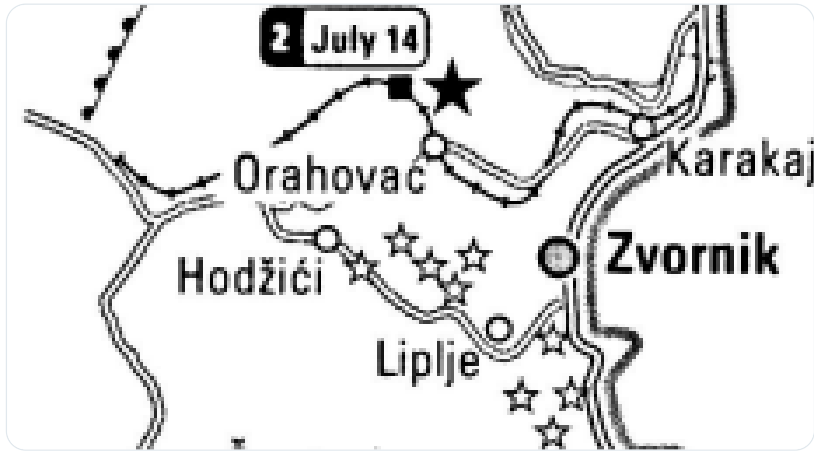
On the morning of July 13th, Serbs executed approximately 17 men at the Jadar River.



On and after July 13, prisoners began to be taken to Bratunac and from there to Zvornik. The officers of the Serb forces had been sent to Zvornik to locate sites for execution (and burial) and selected the schools in Grbavci and Petkovci.

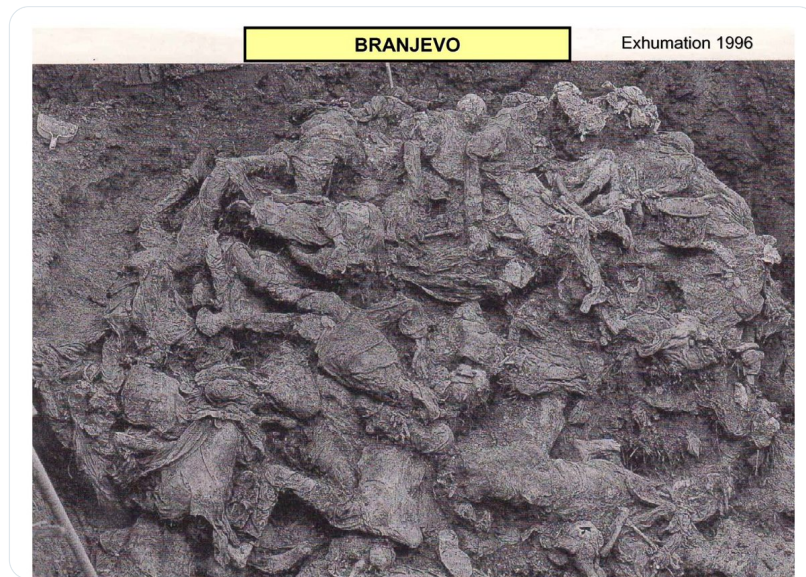


The prisoners at the Grbavci school were blindfolded & executed on July 14 in Orahovac. The prisoners at Orahovac, some who were dead & other still alive but dying, were buried alive. One witness reported seeing General Mladic watch some of the executions.



The prisoners in Petkovci school were tortured and executed at the bottom of a nearby dam. The transfer of prisoners from Bratunac continued up until July 15th. 500 prisoners were transferred to Rocevic (north of Zvornik) and executed on July 15th.

On July 15th, prisoners who were in Bratunac but not yet executed, were taken to buildings in Pilica (north of Zvornik) and, on July 16th, 1,200 were executed at the Branjevo military farm.



Picture: Forensic anthropologist William Haglund at the Pilica mass grave in 1996.



500 prisoners were transferred to Rocevic (north of Zvornik) and executed on July 15h.

As the Dayton negotiations were going on, the need for an inquiry into Serb war crimes was becoming clear. The Serb leadership then began a systematic effort to hide their genocidal crimes.



One strategy the Serb leadership deployed to conceal their war crimes was to leave a small # of bodies in the primary mass graves. The idea was that if & when the bodies are found, the claim would be that only a small # of Bosnians were executed (just tens, not many thousands).



The Serbs leadership ordered that the primary graves be dug up using excavating equipment and that the bodies be transported into (26) secondary graves throughout eastern Bosnia.

One example of where the primary grave was undisturbed was the Cerska valley mass grave where 150 bodies were found.

Jean-Rene Ruez, head of the ICTY Srebrenica investigation, has speculated that this could be due to the lower # of bodies being buried there, the Serb forces having forgotten about the site, and/or the Serb forces believing that there would be difficulty locating the site.



The Serb leadership attempt to conceal their war crimes was an early success b/c, at the end of 1996, William Haglund had exhumed all the primary mass graves and had only located about 500 bodies. Newsweek had an article titled "Genocide Without Corpses."

The search for secondary graves only began in 1997.

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