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**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL VIDEO NEWS RELEASE**

**"DISAPPEARANCES" IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA  
ANNIVERSARY OF FALL OF SREBRENICA**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL: 10 JULY 1996**

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10:00:00 Amnesty International Logo.

10:00:07 Clock.

**Srebrenica fell to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) on 10 July 1995.**

10:00:47 Signpost: "Srebrenica", April 1996.

10:00:54 BSA military offensive on Srebrenica, 10 July 1995.

10:01:00 BSA tanks.

10:01:11 Burning building, close up.

10:01:16 Tank firing shell.

10:01:21 GVs shell-torn Srebrenica.

10:01:26 BSA soldiers, Srebrenica, 11 July 1995.

10:01:29 General Ratko Mladić, commander-in-chief of the BSA, Srebrenica, 11 July 1995, talking to BSA soldiers.

General Ratko Mladić SYNC:

"On to Potočari, On to Potočari, Bratunac. Don't stop, Let's go."

10:01:46 BSA soldier talking to Ratko Mladić SYNC:  
"11 July, I'll remember this day."

10:01:50 Srebrenica streets littered with belongings of Muslims who fled.

10:01:54 Corpses, Srebrenica, July 1995.

10:02:03 Amnesty International delegate Johanna Bjorken meeting 27-year-old Mila Ahmetović, April 1996. Mila's husband and brother went on foot to try to reach Bosnian government territory, but never made it to the other side. Her father-in-law was abducted in Potočari when the family went to board the buses.

Johanna Bjorken SYNC:

"We're from Amnesty International. We're preparing a video..."

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- 10:02:10 Set up: Mila with her three children.
- 10:02:19 I/V Mila Ahmetović SYNC:  
 "We never thought that Srebrenica could fall. UNPROFOR said 'protected, protected', come on... But nothing of that was protected. Nothing."
- 10:02:37 "I lived on the frontline and, when everyone went to sleep at night we went to work, while they weren't shooting, until dawn. We women worked by night so that we would be able to have something to feed our children."
- 10:02:55 "When [my husband and I] actually parted, he told me, 'Mila, I have to go'. He said, 'Look, take care of the kids'. I began to cry then."

**Approximately 15,000 people fled on foot through the woods trying to reach Bosnian Government territory. Thousands of those captured in ambushes by Bosnian Serb soldiers have never been seen again. US Intelligence has aerial photographs pointing to the existence of mass graves in this area.**

- 10:03:04 Moving road shots: woods outside Srebrenica, Pobudja area, April 1996. Ruined houses.
- 10:04:12 Set up: Three men who escaped through woods looking at map with Amnesty International delegate Johanna Bjorken.
- 10:04:25 I/V Vahid Sulejmanović SYNC:  
 "The most difficult the next night was in the place Pobudja here, and the crossing of the road at Konjević Polje. We had the most problems here because of the crossing. They waited for us there, because they knew we could only cross at this point."
- 10:04:40 "They wanted to personally kill as many of us as possible, to make us disappear..."
- 10:04:50 "Kasaba. That is this place, Kasaba, not far from Konjević Polje. There is a playing field there, for sports. Here I saw them take maybe 300 to 350 people that day. All day they took people to that field and that night, in the evening, trucks came, and started to massively take them away, without their equipment, they stripped them there, prepared them, as if they were going to help them get to free territory. [But] from there they went [in the other direction] towards Zvornik and Karakaj."

**Numerous witnesses have testified to Amnesty International that they saw men being detained on this football field at Nova Kasaba, none of whom are now accounted for.**

- 10:05:28 Pan from road to football field, Kasaba, April 1996.
- 10:05:38 GV's football field from road.
- 10:05:58 Ramo Aganović, July 1995, interviewed by a Serb camera crew when captured in the woods by BSA troops. He is still "missing."

I/V Ramo Aganović SYNC:

"We spent two days and two nights there."

Question:

"Were you completely equipped or what? Where are the guns?"

10:06:04

Ramo Aganović:

"I didn't have a gun. I am a civilian."

Question:

"Are you very afraid?"

10:06:12

Ramo Aganović:

"How could I not be afraid?"

10:06:22

Prisoners walking along dirt track.

10:06:35

16-year-old Enver Husić who witnessed prisoners being taken into this agricultural warehouse where survivors report that mass executions took place. Enver escaped, hiding among a woman's belongings on a bus while his captors were distracted getting water from a stream.

10:06:38

Voice: Enver Husić

"They knew what awaited them there. I also thought, knew, that something awaited them, that they'd be killed. They were praying to God that they would only be killed, I heard people whispering that they hoped that they would be killed, that they wouldn't be made to suffer."

10:06:38

PIX: Agricultural warehouse.

10:06:49

Personal belongings (glasses and wallet) on grass outside.

10:06:54

Bullet holes in outside walls.

10:07:06

Bullet holes inside warehouse.

10:07:10

Blood stains on inside walls.

10:07:15

Rifet Mujić, 34-year-old locksmith who escaped through woods. He believes his brother was among those who surrendered and "disappeared". April 1996.

I/V Rifet SYNC:

"They called to us from across the road at Konjević Polje, and no one crossed. But 2,500 had gone across earlier, they said surrender, they had captured one of our men who got up on a UNPROFOR transporter, and trucks. 'Come on', he said, 'Surrender, so we can take you where the women went'. I saw 1,500 people go immediately. I didn't want to. I told people, 'Wait, don't go. You don't know who you're surrendering to', but that was our man on the transporter. They had captured him and he had to say what they told him to. And none of those who surrendered have appeared since then."

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10:08:00 "I had everything - house, land and all that, but the most severe pain is close family, when you lose that. Your house, buildings, or apartment, that can all be compensated for, but your family, never. It's lost forever. And now, let me tell you, my pain is such that I don't know what to do with myself."

Thousands of civilians fled to the area surrounding the Dutch UN compound at Potočari, about 4km north of Srebrenica, to await evacuation. When Bosnian Serb soldiers arrived, they divided them and took mostly men to an unknown destination. Some corpses, including nine who were allegedly shot in the back of the head, were documented in the area by Dutch UNPROFOR soldiers.

## APRIL 1996

10:08:29 Moving shot from road of derelict UN compound, Potočari.

10:08:56 White building = former slaughter house (see Sevdina's I/V).

10:09:23 UN sign post.

10:09:33 Warehouse.

10:09:43 UN watch tower.

10:09:56 Pan in to woman's shoe.

10:10:06 Woman cleaning shoes in stream. Former slaughter house in background.

10:10:18 Wrecked cars and buses.

## JULY 1995

10:10:23 GV's UN compound at Potočari filled with Srebrenicans.

10:10:39 GV's Srebrenicans sitting behind fence at UN compound.

10:10:44 Serb soldier arrives. Srebrenicans wailing.

10:10:45 BSA soldier SYNC:  
"Don't whine, no one will hurt you."

10:10:54 UN soldiers standing in front of crowd of Srebrenicans.

10:10:75 General Ratko Mladić, talking to UNPROFOR soldier, SYNC:  
"It will be conducted according to my orders, sir. I am not the least interested in your commander. We will load up all those who want ..."

10:11:08 General Ratko Mladić, addressing crowd of Srebrenicans, SYNC:  
"All those who want to be will be transported, be him big or little, old or young. Don't do anything just take it easy, take it easy. Let the women and children go first. Thirty buses will come to take you towards Kladanj. Don't do anything, no one will do anything to you."

- 10:11:31 BSA soldiers guarding as people board busses at Potočari.
- 10:11:41 Close up of women and children boarding bus.
- 10:11:54 Men diverted by BSA soldier from line of Srebrenicans heading to buses.
- BSA soldier SYNC:  
"Come on, get in line, just get behind him, no, to the left, to the left."
- 10:11:59 Men only walking to side of trucks.
- 10:12:06 Women and children continue towards buses.
- 10:12:12 Sevdina Latifović, 20 years old, whose father and two brothers are "missing" after being taken by Bosnian Serb soldiers from Potočari. Sevdina reports seeing 20 bodies lying in a field with their throats cut.
- I/V Sevdina Latifović SYNC:  
"We were all together [at Potočari]. My father worked at UNPROFOR in the post office for the observers. I don't know, they must have promised him that they would evacuate him, because my father was pretty young, he was able-bodied, he could have gone through the forest. But he was more confident that they would save him. He went to Potočari and, I don't know if UNPROFOR didn't want to save him or if they couldn't."
- 10:12:43 "My father told me he was going a little bit closer down to UNPROFOR so that UNPROFOR could help him, that they would save him, that Serbs wouldn't be able to do anything at UNPROFOR. And then he went further on and two Chetniks came up to him, grabbed him and took him away. My father and my older brother."
- 10:13:02 "I saw in the field up to 20 people with their throats cut. Two UNPROFOR [soldiers] stood there, they didn't let... There was water there, a little further in a stream. We went to get some water and they didn't let us. And I thought, if they'd let me go up there, that I'd go see if my father and brother were there among those slaughtered people. Because I knew that the night before they had taken away my father and brother, and in the morning I went to get water but they wouldn't let us go close to the dead people lying in the field. I don't know who they were."
- 10:13:40 "And there was one building, I saw them lead one of my father's cousins, how they took him also, they took him into that building. Before, in peace, it was a slaughterhouse for cattle and that's where they took the men now. They took that cousin of my father and behind him followed another Chetnik with a big knife. And before that they had collected two bus-fulls of men from that building and took them towards Bratunac."
- 10:14:16 Set ups: view from Sevdina's house in Vozuća.
- 10:14:23 GVs Sevdina and her women relatives.

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- 10:14:58 Set ups: 17-year-old Halil Mehić, Sevdina's cousin, walking up hill with children outside Sevdina's house. He started to escape on foot through the woods but turned back because his shoes were poor and he had no food to take with him. At Potočari, he dressed up as a woman to escape being taken by the Bosnian Serb soldiers. While being evacuated by truck from Potočari, he saw many men, including his cousin Kadrija Halilović, under guard in a football field, most likely at Nova Kasaba. His two brothers are "missing" after trying to escape through the woods. April 1996.
- 10:15:06 I/V Halil Mehić SYNC:  
 "Then the leader came, that Ratko Mladić. He ordered that men be led off to the side, for security, so that children didn't get smothered, so that they weren't all crammed into each other's spaces. 'Men,' he said, 'to one side' and then they took them to another place. Where that other place was, I don't know."
- 10:15:33 "So then Thursday morning came and I heard a woman yell, 'The trucks and busses have come to take us to Tuzla.' And so I got up and disguised myself prettily [as a woman] and took my sister's child in my arms, and started moving towards the cord where they were letting people through in groups of 50. So I got to the cord and my friend, one who was an [Dutch UNPROFOR soldier] observer in Srebrenica, his name was David, I saw him standing right at the edge of the cord. And even though not one of the enemy could recognize me, he recognized me and just told me to be quiet and to cross. 'Just cross', but he recognized me. I looked constantly at him and he looked at me and immediately knew that it was me, because he was my pal."
- 10:16:34 Question (Johanna Bjorken, Amnesty International):  
 "How do you feel towards him, towards David?"
- 10:16:40 I/V Halil SYNC:  
 "All the best. All the best. Because he could have betrayed me, but for me he is a true human being. He helped me, he saved my life."
- 10:16:51 Question:  
 "Do you want to go back to Srebrenica?"
- 10:16:55 I/V Halil SYNC:  
 "Well, only if my brothers come, I'd be able to. I would have a wish to go back only if it would be possible to find somewhere the bones of my brothers, to bury them. Otherwise, I wouldn't. Otherwise I'd never go back. Only if it would be possible to somehow find some piece of his body. Otherwise, no, I wouldn't want to be alone there. That, no."
- 10:17:28 Halil Mehmedović, 76 years old, whose 73-year-old brother was taken from Potočari and his two sons, two grandsons and 10 cousins are "missing" after trying to escape through the woods. April 1996.
- I/V Halil Mehmedović SYNC:  
 "The next day, it was Thursday, we were there two days, when we left. You down! You down! You down! They took them off, took them all off, took all the

people off. Leave it all behind! Leave it all behind! I barely got by with the women."

10:17:50 Question (Johanna Bjorken, Amnesty International):  
"Do you know anyone personally who was taken?"

10:17:53 I/V Halil Mehmedović SYNC:  
"They took off my brother, 73 years old, took him off. Mehmedović Selim. They took away everything. They took all brothers. They took off everyone. Then I saw that son of a bitch general, what's his name, Mladić. Mladić comes. 'Don't be afraid of anything'. Son of a bitch. When he came they took more off. Only those born after 1980, they took them all. Took them."

10:18:28 "They all went through the woods with the army, my two sons, two grandchildren, 10 cousins too. They are all I have, and there is not a trace nor a hair, no one is left. I am nothing without them."

**General Ratko Mladić and Radovan Karadžić were indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on 16 November 1995 for genocide, crimes against humanity, and violations of the laws or customs of war. IFOR has instructed its personnel to arrest any indicted war criminals they encounter, if feasible, however Amnesty International objects to IFOR's refusal to seek them out.**

10:18:45 Still photograph General Ratko Mladić.

10:18:53 GVs IFOR checkpoint: US soldiers, tank, queue of cars, soldier, car.

10:19:19 Sound - Johanna Bjorken, Amnesty International:  
"Tell me, what does Ratko Mladić look like, do you know?"

Soldier:  
"Who? No."

10:19:40 Johanna Bjorken SYNC:  
"Ratko Mladić. You don't know? No? Never mind."

10:19:53 GV: Checkpoint.

10:19:57 Šaha Ahmetović, 73 years old. Seventeen male members of her family are "missing" including her brother, three sons and three grandsons. The only male relative in her family alive and accounted for is one of her grandsons. April 1996.

I/V Šaha Ahmetović SYNC:  
"It hurts me here. I can't breathe at all. See my grandson, he's the only one who made it here. Every day I just cry and cry. They examine me, see what it has come to? Do you have children? Oh sweetheart, only a mother knows this grief."

10:20:29 Manfred Nowak, expert member of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, responsible for the UN Special process on missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, May 1996.

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I/V Manfred Nowak SYNC:

"There can't be a lasting peace without truth and reconciliation. The women of Srebrenica have a right to know what happened to their relatives. And if we are not able to tell them, then I'm very doubtful whether we can achieve this peace."

10:20:50 "First of all, I need the political support that the international community is determined to back the special process of missing persons including the task of excavating mass graves. Secondly we need the necessary financial resources that cannot be paid out of the regular UN budget. That means we need voluntary contributions from as many governments as possible to start as soon as possible."

10:21:23 GVs: Site of suspected mass grave, near Karakaj, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bones in mud, muddy field.

10:21:40 Cemetery, Gornji Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, April 1996. Set ups: Cattle pulling cart, grave yard.

10:22:12 Brian Phillips, Amnesty International Campaigner, April 1996.

I/V Brian Phillips SYNC:

"It's unlikely that many of the missing of Srebrenica will ever be seen alive again. But that doesn't mean that their story ends here or that further action on their cases is unnecessary. Physical reappearance is not the only objective of Amnesty International's campaigning on behalf of disappeared and missing persons. Discovering the truth about what happened to these people is a crucial part of undoing at least a part of the crime that was committed here."

10:22:43 "Although their losses in this conflict are no less tragic, the families of those buried here at least have a place to mourn their dead. For the families of the estimated 25,000 disappeared and missing persons from all parts of the Former Yugoslavia, there is as yet no such place. Having a place to mourn can make all the difference between being able to get on with one's life and being stranded forever in an agony of uncertainty."

10:23:09 GVs: Grave stones.

10:23:21 GVs: women weaving carpets at BOSFAM workshop, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. BOSFAM is an NGO working with women of Bosnia-Herzegovina, whose activities include including psycho-social rehabilitation of women, work with children and the elderly, and income generation projects by women. BOSFAM makes its facilities available to Women of Srebrenica.

10:23:52 Fatima Husejnović, President of Women of Srebrenica, a women's organization which campaigns on behalf of the "missing".

I/V Fatima Husejnović SYNC:

"For the people of Podrinja [the region of Bosnia-Herzegovina bordering the Drina river, including Srebrenica], for the women of Podrinja, the war isn't over yet. In our hearts there is still war. Because until we know the fate of the last of our disappeared from all of the Podrinja, from the exodus of Srebrenica, as long



as we all don't go back to our own houses, a possibility enabled by the Dayton Agreements, and promised by the Agreement, as long as that is not carried out in acts, in our hearts it is still war."

- 10:24:25 Amnesty International members demonstrating on behalf of the "disappeared" and "missing" from former Yugoslavia during the organization's International Council Meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia, August 1995.
- 10:24:36 Relatives of "missing" wearing photos, petition signing.
- 10:24:44 Ross Daniels, Chairperson, International Executive Committee speaking at demonstration:  
"...The "disappeared" may be missing, but we at Amnesty promise you this one thing: they will never be forgotten by us."
- 10:24:58 Amnesty International Logo.
- 10:25:10 ENDS