

War Crimes Trial Of Bosnian Serb Leader Mladic Begins

BY JANET STOBART AND CAROL J. WILLIAMS
©2012 Los Angeles Times

LONDON — Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic confronted the accusations against him at the opening of his war crimes trial Wednesday with contemptuous gestures to the court and the victims who had come to see him face justice for atrocities during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Slowed by age and the hardships of 15 years on the run from the U.N. tribunal's indictment, Mladic still mustered a hint of his trademark swagger as he entered the courtroom in The Hague, Netherlands, giving a thumbs-up to the judges and mocking applause for those watching from a glass-walled gallery.

At one point, Mladic responded to a defiant gesture from a spectator by drawing a finger across his throat in a slitting gesture, prompting censure from Presiding Judge Alphons Orie for "inappropriate interactions" with those watching the proceedings.

In a videotaped opening statement carried on the court's website and watched by Balkan refugees around the world, lead prosecutor Dermot Groome laid out the case against Mladic, backed with chilling statements from witnesses recounting the horrors experienced a generation ago.

Groome backed the accusations with recordings from the 3-year siege of Sarajevo, including a 1993 tape on which Mladic was heard boasting that "every time I go by Sarajevo, I kill someone in passing. I kick the hell out of the Turks," a disparaging reference to Bosnian Muslims.

"The world watched in disbelief that in neighborhoods and villages within Europe a genocide appeared to be in progress," Groome told the court, detailing the brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing carried out by the army of the Republika Sprska under Mladic's command.

Muslim and Croat civilians "were targeted for no other reason than that they were of an ethnicity other than Serb; their land, their lives, their dignity attacked in a coordinated and carefully planned manner," Groome said. "In some locations, this attack arose to the levels of genocide."

Mladic faces 11 counts of genocide, murder, persecution, terrorism and hostage-taking, including the 1995 slayings of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the town of Srebrenica and the siege of the Bosnian capital that killed at least 10,000 people.

The massacre in Srebrenica came after Bosnian Serb forces entered the town, separated the Muslim males from the women and small children and took them away. Victims' bullet-riddled bodies were later found in mass graves.

Mladic has refused to enter a plea, deeming the charges against him "obnoxious." But he has denied the accusations.

The 69-year-old defendant wore a gray suit for the opening of his trial, expected to last more than a year and serve as the crowning achievement of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The court's 10-year mandate expires in 2014, and with Mladic's case now under way all 161 indictments issued by the court have been brought to trial.

The judges are expected to hear from more than 400 witnesses, some of whom also testified in the trials of the Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic and Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslavia's former president. Milosevic died of a presumed heart attack during his trial for war crimes in 2006.

Survivors of the Bosnian bloodshed that cost at least 100,000 lives and left 2 million people refugees flocked to The Hague to cheer Mladic's belated arrival in the dock, though only about a dozen were able to gain entry to the crowded courtroom.

Members of the Mothers of Srebrenica group hoisted placards outside the courthouse that read: "We want justice for the victims of Srebrenica."

— Stobart reported from London and Williams from Los Angeles.



Former chief of staff of the Bosnian Serb Army

Ratko Mladic

Early years

- **Born** March 12, 1943, Kalinovik, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Education** Military Industry School, KOV Military Academy, Officers Academy

Military leadership

- **1991** Commands troops in Kosovo; leads troops in the Croatian War
- **1992** Leads the blockade of Sarajevo, beginning the four-year siege of the city; commands the main staff of the army
- **1995** Commands troops that overrun Srebrenica, where about 8,000 Bosnian Muslims were murdered on his orders
- **1996** Dismissed from his post

Indictment, capture

- **1995** Accused by U.N. war crimes tribunal at The Hague of genocide, crimes against humanity and other crimes during the 1992-95 war, including the Srebrenica massacre
- **2011** Captured after having been on the run since 1995
- **2012** On trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, for war crimes

© 2012 MCT

Source: U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, BBC

U.N. Experts Say Iran Sends Arms To Syria

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — An expert panel monitoring U.N. sanctions on Iran has reported that Syria continues to be the main destination of illicit Iranian weapons, a Security Council diplomat said Wednesday.

The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because the panel's report has not been released, said it identified three new illegal shipments, two involving Syria which was also the previous destination of a majority of Iranian arms shipments.

It said there was "a high probability" that the third large shipment of rockets originated in Iran, the diplomat said. Britain reported last year that the rocket shipment was destined for Taliban militants in Afghanistan.

"Syria continues to be the central party to illicit Iranian

arms transfers," the diplomat, who has seen the report, quoted it as saying.

The report to the U.N. Security Council committee monitoring sanctions is expected to be discussed by the 15 council members and could be changed before it is finalized. The diplomat said all eight experts on the panel signed off on it.

The U.N. Security Council first imposed sanctions on Iran in December 2006 and has been ratcheting up the punitive measures since then in hopes of pressuring the government to suspend uranium enrichment and start negotiations on its nuclear program. But despite four rounds of sanctions, Iran has refused to do so. Enriched uranium can be used to make both nuclear fuel and nuclear weapons material.

Iran insists its nuclear program is purely peaceful and aimed solely at producing nu-

clear energy.

The report coincides with a new round of talks in Baghdad next week between Iran and the six-nation group comprising the permanent U.N. Security Council members plus Germany on its nuclear program.

The diplomat said the report cites efforts by Iran to try to circumvent sanctions by constantly change the ownership, names and flags of ships from companies that are under U.N. sanctions. It said these changes "are suited to obscuring the identity of vessels" and it is likely that maritime shipments of prohibited items are continuing, the diplomat said.

It has also been using front companies, concealing the end use and end users of items, falsifying documents, reaching out to multiple suppliers for the same item, and using the Iranian diaspora to procure banned items,

the diplomat said.

The panel said Iranian financial transactions using money transfer businesses known as hawalas, its cash transfers, and barter trade have all increased, the diplomat said.

The report said the panel was informed of "the case of a small non-financial firm led by an expatriate Iranian that had transformed itself into a company involved in transferring funds received from a non-sanctioned Iranian bank to a variety of recipients through the world," the diplomat said.

It said "\$11 billion had been processed over 18 months" by this firm, the diplomat said.

"Understanding whether and how the above-described methods could be used for financing procurement for sanctioned nuclear and ballistic programs is challenging," the diplomat quoted the panel as saying.

Clashes In Western Libyan Town Leave Six Dead

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — Clashes in a western Libyan city left six dead and at least 20 injured on Wednesday, a government spokesman said.

Nasser al-Manei said unidentified assailants attacked an airport and a hospital in Ghadamis near the Algerian border, some 450 kilometers (280) southwest of the capital Tripoli. He says the attackers came from outside the city. Government forces were deployed to the city to stop the fighting, al-Manei said.

He did not say what caused the violence, but clashes have been common throughout the country since last year's overthrow of dictator Moammar Gadhafi. They have sometimes pitted rival members of the former rebel militias that fought his regime against each other. Other conflicts have involved ethnic

groups with grievances dating back to his time in power.

Ghadamis is inhabited by Berbers, an ethnic group who occupy most of the country's western desert mountains and who were long suppressed by Gadhafi.

The ruling National Transitional Council has struggled to impose its authority over the country since Gadhafi was killed and his loyalists' strongholds fell in October 2011.

In February, tribal strife left more than 100 people dead in the southern Libyan region of Kufra near the Chadian border. It pitted an Arab tribe against the Tabu, an African group who are some of the original inhabitants of south Libya. The Tabu, like the Berbers, were heavily suppressed under Gadhafi.

Fighting in another southern desert region, Sabha, left 147 people dead in March.

LEWIS & CLARK
FAMILY MEDICINE, P.C.

**Allergy Testing
NOW AVAILABLE**

Open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm • After Hours Clinic Saturday 9am-12noon
WALK-INS WELCOME

1101 Broadway, Suite 103A, **Morgen Square** • Yankton, SD
(605) 260-2100 • www.lewisandclarkfamilymedicine.com

Jeff Johnson, M.D.
Family Practice

Brandi Praveck, CNP
Family Practice
Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital

**DON'T YOU WISH ALL MEN
CAME WITH A 100%
SATISFACTION
GUARANTEE?**

**Receive Savings
Up To
\$2250 Now!**

Larry's Heating & Cooling has earned the right to be called a Carrier Factory Authorized Dealer. That's why your installation is 100% satisfaction guaranteed. turn to the experts

Free Estimates ~ Financing Available

Larry's HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway Yankton, SD • 665-9461 • 1-800-491-9461

AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Thursday, May 17
7:40 am Yankton Chamber
(Carmen Schramm)
8:15 am Yankton Conv/
Vis Bureau (Lisa Scheve)

Friday, May 18
7:40 am Vermillion Chamber
(Steve Howe)
8:15 am United Way
(Pam Kettering)

YOUR NEWS!
The Press & Dakotan

**With
Fondest Memories**

**We remember those who have passed
away and are especially dear to us.**

**On Saturday, May 26th we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net
a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.**

Aneta Burrows
Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002

Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Dan, Ann & Sarah

Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.

1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
2. May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.
3. Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together.
My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory.
6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
7. Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
8. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
9. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
10. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
11. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
12. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
13. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
14. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
15. I have written my own message and it is included.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$10.00 per listing.

Fill out the form below and mail to:

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan/With Fondest Memories

319 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD 57078

Deadline: Tuesday, May 22, 2012

"With Fondest Memories" • Deadline: May 22 • Submission Fee \$10

Name of deceased _____

Date of birth _____ Date of passing _____

Number of selected verse _____ OR Personal message _____

Print your name here _____ Phone _____

Number _____