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A press release **on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the crime in the area of Gornje Jame** **and Joševica, near Glina**

We wish to warn of the crimes committed in the villages of Glina district, as well as the importance of processing all perpetrators of war crimes. The crime in Gornje Jame was committed on the 11th of December 1991, and the one in Joševica on the 16th of December 1991.

After the occupation of the most of the Glina district, the inhabitants of Gornje Jame remained in their houses, trying to continue with the ordinary life, but two months later, under dubious circumstances, the majority of the inhabitants was killed, and their bodies have not been found to this day.

Armed members of the paramilitary formation 'Šilt' on the 11th of December 1991 entered the house of Mate Kireta and assembled 12 Croat civilians by force, **including 7 women and 3 under aged children**. Among the victims were 3 women from Mala Solina, Donje Jame and Hađer, who took refuge at their cousins'. Precise circumstances of the suffering remain unknown, so as the fate of the women. There are speculations they were murdered and burned in the house of Mate Kireta, but the other assumption is they were taken alive to an unknown place where they were killed, with their bodies thrown in the mud to conceal the traces of the crime.

Murdered civilians of Gornje Jame were **Mato Kireta** (1939), **Kata Kireta** (1936), **Slavica Dvorneković** (1959), **Darko Dvorneković** (1981), **Mara Kuštreba** (1929), **Marica Fabac** (1958), **Željka Fabac** (1977), **Nikolina Fabac** (1981), **Janko Fabac** (1930), **Milka Rastovski** (1936), **Agata Cestarić – Jaga** (1934) of Donje Jame (from Mala Solina) and **Jela Vrbanac** (1933) from Hađer.

Right before the event in question, according to some information, 50-year old Serb civilian **Gojko Pavlović** of Donje Jame was gunned down while trying to protect his Croat neighbours.

Ivan Fabac (1953), **Stjepan Fabac** (1950) and **Nikola Fabac** (1961) were imprisoned on the 3rd of November 1991, and then also gunned down on a crook between Donje and Gornje Jame. They were exhumed and buried in 1996.

In the village of Joševica on the 16th of December 1991, 21 civilians were murdered, and one heavily wounded. On that day, around 1 p.m., a group of masked and armed individuals came from the side of the Pogledić hill. Moving from house to house, they murdered any locals found in their houses or yards by shooting them in the head with small caliber guns with silencers from a near

distance. Among the civilians murdered, **14 of them were women, most of them elderly**. Also, there were 4 younger persons, including three of the Šiftar brothers, with the youngest **Pavao of 15**. The same time a couple from Skele who took refuge at their cousins' in Joševica, were killed too.

The civilians killed in Joševica are: **Marica Brkašić** (1938), **Antun Modronja** (1911) and **Marta Modronja** (1913), **Milka Kreštelica** (1930), **Mato Kreštelica** (1931), **Ivan Šiftar** (born around 1930), **Luka Šiftar** (1970), **Ljubica Šiftar** (1972), **Pavao Šiftar** (1976), **Marija Šiftar, born Markulin** (1946), **Marija Šiftar, born Kuzmić** (1933), **Ana Škrinjar** (1927), **Milka Škrinjar** (1908), **Pavao Škrinjar** (1930), **Ljubica Škrinjar** (1943), **Katarina Škrinjar** (1971), **Kata Štajdohar, born Lipak** (1900), **Kata Štajdohar, born Mihaljević** (1921), **Bara Štajduhar** (1927), **Stjepan Štajduhar** (1930) and **Ljuba Štajduhar**.

A scouting-saboteur group SVK under the leadership of Joso Kovačević was suspected of the crime.

In the village of Joševica from 1991 to 1994 there were more civilian victims: **Štefica Dujmović** (1934), **Đuro Kreštelica** (1932) and **Gina Kreštelica** (1935), **Kata Kreštelica** (1935), **Nikola Kreštelica** (1936), **Stjepan Mihaljević** (1910), **Pavao Šiftar** (1923) and **Stjepan Štajduhar** (1952).

Joševica and Gornje Jame are mentioned in the indictment brought by the District Attorney's office of Sisak on the 30th of July 2010 before the County court in Sisak, against five citizens of the Republic of Serbia, for committing war crime in which civilians and prisoners of war got hurt. The defendants are accused of giving orders for the crimes committed in the area of the former district of Glina between the end of September 1991 and April 1992. None of the defendants can be reached by the Croatian judiciary because of their staying in Serbia, so we propose an enhanced regional cooperation and presenting each other with evidence for the purpose of keeping war crime trials in the countries where the defendants live, as an efficient instrument in battle against avoiding the penalization.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of these crimes *Documenta* would once again like to warn of the necessity to investigate, determine and make public the facts on war crimes and other severe violations of human rights, including the destiny of those missing. The whole society should be devoted to **recognizing the suffering of the victims, establishing responsibility, supporting a just court proceeding and keeping a historical memory**. Determining the facts on the victims, as well as the **penalisation for the crimes committed, will contribute to the normalization of relations, peace-building, co-existence and establishing a sustainable peace**.

The lists of casualties are not final, and precise information on the manner of suffering of some listed are not known to us or the public. That is why we encourage family members, friends and those who had known the victims or have any information about their suffering, as well as those who have noticed incorrect data on the list, to contact us, so we could compile an even more trustworthy and thorough list of casualties, not only for Glina and its surrounding villages, but for the whole Republic of Croatia.

Vesna Teršelič, *Director*