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for the former
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Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yougoslavie

PRESS RELEASE

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CHAMBERS

The Hague, 27 March 2009
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Dragan Jokić Found Guilty of Contempt of the Tribunal

Trial Chamber II today convicted former Bosnian Serb Army officer Dragan Jokić of contempt of the Tribunal for refusing to testify in the case of Popović and others. He was sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

Jokić was subpoenaed to testify in the case of Popović and others as a Prosecution witness on 31 October and 1 November 2007. However, Jokić refused to testify citing the reasons for his decision in a confidential submission of 31 October 2007. The Chamber ruled his submission did not justify the refusal to testify.

The Trial Chamber considered that there were sufficient grounds to proceed against Jokić for contempt and issued an order in lieu of an indictment on 1 November 2007, declaring that it would prosecute the matter Jokić itself.

Jokić pleaded not guilty to the charge of contempt at his initial appearance on 19 November 2007 and the trial took place on 19 November 2007, 10 December 2007 and 15 December 2008.

"Witnesses summoned by subpoena are under a duty to testify. It is a basic principle of this judicial institution and goes to the heart of the notion of justice. It ensures that the evidence required for the proper administration of justice is available," Judge Carmel Agius, Presiding, said today in the court.

"[Jokić] made a conscious decision not to testify and understood the consequences of his behaviour," the judgement read.

In determining the sentence to be imposed on Jokić, Judge Agius said: *"The Chamber considers that Jokić committed a serious offence, which goes to the essence of the notion of justice. By his refusal to testify he has deprived the Chamber of relevant evidence and acted against the interests of justice."* Jokić was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, which will be served consecutively.

Jokić has previously been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment on 17 January 2005 for aiding and abetting the extermination, murder and persecution of Bosnian Muslim men in Srebrenica in July 1995. His sentence was affirmed by the Appeals Chamber on 9 May 2007. He is currently serving his sentence in Austria.

The full summary of the judgement is available at:

http://www.icty.org/x/cases/contempt_jokic/tjug/en/090327_summary.pdf

A case information sheet is available at:

http://www.icty.org/x/cases/contempt_jokic/cis/en/cis_jokic_contempt_en.pdf

Internet address: <http://www.icty.org>

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Courtroom proceedings can be followed on the Tribunal's website at www.icty.org