

Milosevic & Aanklacht

Map 7C

22-3-2006

DE EERTYDSE NOS-VERSLAGGER
JAAP VAN MEEREN WAS, ZO
BLEEF BIJ EEN FIETSTEST, OOK
HART PATIENT, WANT HIJ KREEG
BIJ EEN FIETSTEST EEN ACUUT HART-
INFARCT. HIJ HAD NIET
ANGINA PECTORIS-VAASCLEN

→ LAAT NAAN ZYN HART
OVERLEDEN

— 2

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Aan: "Congo-Ned"
Verzonden: vrijdag 24 maart 2006 12:32
Onderwerp: Re: bericht
Hoi Nelly,

Wat vreselijk zonde dat het zo gelopen is !
Ik begrijp ook niet dat men bij de balie's niet gewoon de juiste informatie heeft verstrekt. Maar de fout ligt ook bij mij. Ik heb kennelijk niet op het cruciale moment goed gekeken of er nog solidaire mensen opgekomen waren, anders begrijp ik het ook niet.

In ieder geval was de situatie zo dat ik, mede vanwege de drukte rond de dood van Milosevic, pas erg laat mensen heb kunnen waarschuwen dat de zitting omtrent de meined van Van Aartsen op die dag zou plaatsvinden.

Ik heb toen ook nog bij de politie , op zeer korte termijn, toestemming kunnen regelen om buiten, voor het gerechtsgebouw, te manifesteren.

Ook daar heb ik af en toe gekeken, maar zag niemand.
Mijn conclusie is toen geweest dat er, o.a. als gevolg van de korte aankondigingstermijn, demoralisatie als gevolg van de dood van Milosevic en het feit dat misschien een aantal Serviërs naar Belgrado was gegaan voor de begrafenis, kennelijk niemand gekomen was.

Volkomen verkeerd idee, want net toen de zitting afgelopen was, hadden zes Joegoslaven eindelijk toch de juiste zaal gevonden. Van nog iemand anders die solidariteit op de zitting had willen betuigen, hoorde ik inmiddels dat zij er ook niet in geslaagd was de juiste zaal te vinden.
En zo zijn er misschien nog wel meer geweest dan jij en zij.

Ik vind het ongelooflijk dat NIEMAND in het gerechtsgebouw in staat was om al die mensen naar de juiste zaal door te sturen. Maar blameer ook mezelf.
Ik heb, voordat de zitting begon, nog beneden even rondgekeken, maar niemand gezien. Met de bovengenoemde conclusie voor mezelf.
Ik had dus beter moeten kijken !

Overigens heeft de zaak tegen Van Aartsen niet afgehandeld op deze zitting. De behandeling spitste zich al snel toe op de vraag of ik voor deze aanklacht tegen van Aartsen een specifieke geschreven machtiging nodig had van de nabestaanden van de RTS-slachtoffers. Ik heb toen verdedigd dat de generale schriftelijke machtiging die ik van de nabestaanden heb voldoende is. Daar is toen geruime tijd over beraadslaagd in raadkamer en toen kwam het antwoord dat daar toch geen genoeg mee werd genomen. Vervolgens is de zaak voor anderhalve maand aangehouden voor het verkrijgen van schriftelijke machtigingen voor deze specifieke klacht.

Zoals gezegd, net toen die uitslag bekend was, hadden de genoemde mensen de juiste zaal gevonden.

We zijn toen met z'n allen nog maar eens uitgebreid koffie gaan drinken, want er viel zo, na de dood van Milosvic, nog heel wat te bespreken.

Helaas was jij - en dus ook kennelijk anderen - zelfs niet in de gelegenheid om daar bij te zijn , jammer hoor !

- Ik hoop dat je je er niet door laat afschrikken om bij een volgende gelegenheid toch ook weer te bezien of je de gang naar Den Haag zult maken. Mij deed in elk geval het contact achteraf met een aantal gelijkgestemde mensen erg veel goed !

Daarna ben ik nog even op de Lange Voorhout gaan kijken. Naar de ongelooflijke weelde van krokussen die daar boven de grond komt.

Ik hoop dat jij in elk geval ook nog iets leuks hebt kunnen doen in Den Haag, nu je er toch was !

hartelijke groeten,

Nico S.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Congo-Ned" <congoned@dds.nl>

To: <sagitar@hetnet.nl>

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 5:43 PM

Subject: bericht

- > Hallo Nico,
- > Ik ben om 13.30u langs geweest bij het Paleis van Justitie.
- > maar noch bij de gewone balie, noch bij de centrale balie wisten ze iets van
- > het proces tegen Van Aartsen.
- > Hoe kan dat?
- >
- > tot ziens,
- > Nelly Koetsier
- >


Sagittarius

Van: "Wessel Koopmans" <wessel.koopmans@hccnet.nl>
Aan: "Meindert Stelling" <meindert.stelling@planet.nl>; "Sagittarius"
Verzonden: donderdag 23 maart 2006 4:22
Onderwerp: Oproep 8-4 picket zeist, nog niet definitief dus vertrouwelijk, bevestiging volgt nog
 Beste Nico en Meindert (Rechtsherstel)

Ter informatie alvast onderstaande oproep. De actie gaat zo goed als zeker door, maar de oproep is nog niet geheel definitief en daarom niet bedoeld om nu al te verspreiden. (Nadere bevestiging volgt zsm.)

Met deze mail wil ik jullie vragen of jullie bereid zijn om de oproep te ondertekenen. Ik hoop van jullie te horen.

Met hartelijke groeten van Wessel.

030-2610782

KONSEPT, (nog) VERTROUWELIJK.

<http://puscii.squat.net/wiki/index.php/Sluitingkampzeist>

Sluiting Kamp Zeist

Oproep: Picketline za. 08-04-2006, 17:00 uur Adres: Richelleweg 13 Soesterberg.

Kamp Zeist is een gevangenis waar mensen zonder papieren opgesloten worden. Deze mensen hebben geen misdaden begaan maar worden alleen maar opgesloten, voor onbepaalde tijd, omdat ze geen papieren (verblijfsvergunning) hebben. Deze mensen, waaronder ook kinderen, zijn "illegaal" gemaakt door deze (of een vorige) regering, die weigert om hen burgerrechten te verlenen. Maar geen mens is "illegaal".

De picketline is bedoeld om de bezoekers van de open dag te laten zien dat wij het niet accepteren dat mensen illegaal gemaakt worden en worden opgesloten in kampen.

Op deze dag is er een open dag, maar dit is niet echt een open dag. Er zijn drie rondleidingen om 17:30, 18:30 en 19:30 uur. Hieraan kunnen telkens 50 mensen meedoen, maar de lijst is al vol. Natuurlijk zal voor de rondleiding alles zo mooi mogelijk worden voorgespiegeld. De gasten zullen de isoleercellen etc. niet te zien krijgen.

Deze picketline wordt georganiseerd door het Komitee Sluiting Kamp Zeist email: stopdeportatie@hypocrisy.org Dit komitee is opgericht om actie te voeren voor de onmiddellijke sluiting van Kamp Zeist (en van alle andere zgn. "detentiecentra" voor "vreemdelingen"). Ook verzetten we ons tegen de bouw van een nieuw (permanent) Kamp Zeist. De bestemmingsplannen hiervoor zijn momenteel in behandeling bij de gemeentes Zeist en Soest.

Sluiting Kamp Zeist! Vrijheid en burgerrechten voor alle mensen zonder papieren! Geen mens is illegaal! Komt allen op zaterdag 8 april, 17:00 uur

Komitee Sluiting Kamp Zeist

email: stopdeportatie@hypocrisy.org

Deze oproep is ondertekend door:

- Anarchistische Anti-deportatie Groep Utrecht (AAGU)

-

-

Internationaal Comité ter Verdediging van Slobodan Milosevic (ICDSM)

Velko Valkanov, Ramsey Clark, Alexander Zinoviev (vice-voorzitter), Klaus Hartmann (voorzitter), Vladimir Krsljanin (secretaris), Christopher Black (hoofd Juridisch comité), Tiphaine Dickson (juridisch woordvoester)

Speciaal Bericht

Verklaring

President Slobodan Milosevic, de grootste strijder voor vrijheid en waardigheid van het Servische volk en het grootste internationale symbool van de strijd voor mensenrechten, is vanochtend vermoord in de gevangenis in Scheveningen. Voor deze misdaad is het Haagse tribunaal direct verantwoordelijk, door hem geen toestemming te geven voor een medische behandeling in Moskou, ondanks zijn kritieke gezondheidstoestand.

Wij eisen van de secretaris-generaal van de Verenigde Naties om de werkzaamheden van dit misdadige instituut onmiddellijk te staken, en we eisen van de Veiligheidsraad van de VN dit instituut op te heffen. Wij eisen van de Servische autoriteiten om onmiddellijk iedere samenwerking met het tribunaal te beëindigen en het voor de bevolking mogelijk te maken om president Milosevic te eren. Als zij dit weigeren, moeten zij zich voor het volk verantwoorden.

Wie was Slobodan Milosevic en waarvoor streed hij? Het Servische volk en de hele vrijheidslevende wereld weten dat heel goed. Zijn dood moet het einde betekenen van de verraderlijke en slaafse politiek, die het land en de bevolking naar een catastrofe heeft geleid. Wij roepen de bevolking op zich te verenigen voor de verdediging van hun vrijheid en waardigheid, zoals dit altijd is gedaan door Slobodan Milosevic.

Het condoléance-register kan worden getekend op zondag 12 maart om 9.00 uur in het pand van de Slobida/Freedom Association, Rajiceva straat 16, Belgrado.

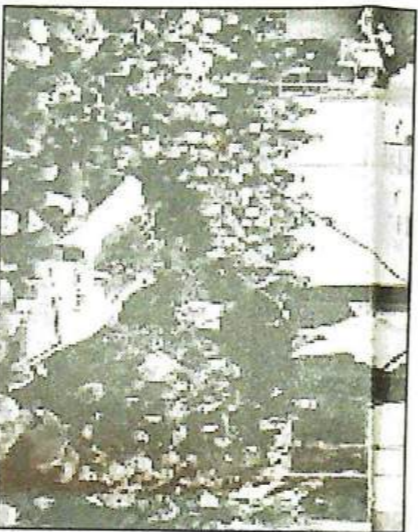
Voor ICDSM: Sloboda/Freedom Association
National Committee for the Liberation of Slobodan Milosevic
11 March 2006, Sofia - New York - Moskou - Belgrado
slobodak@yubc.net tel: +381 63 8862 301 fax: +318 11 630 549
Vertaling J.Bernaven.

Verklaring Partijbestuur 'NCPN over Milosevic' dood

Het partijbestuur van de NCPN is diep geschokt door de tragische dood van de ex-president van de Joegoslavische Federatie, Slobodan Milosevic.

Er is hier op zijn minst sprake van dood door schuld van het International Criminal Tribunal (ICTY) in Den Haag, gezien het feit dat verzoeken, vanaf 15 november 2005 gedaan, om te worden behandeld in een hartkliniek in Moskou werden afgewezen, ondanks de kritieke lichamelijke toestand die door een team van artsen was vastgesteld. De weigering om Milosevic naar Moskou te laten vertrekken betekende in feite de ondertekening van zijn doodsvonnis. Ook de medische verantwoordelijkheid van de gevangenisartsen staat ter discussie. Ook moord met voorbedachte rade valt niet uit te sluiten, gezien het verloop van het proces en recente uitspraken van de advocaten van Milosevic en andere intimi.

Het ICTY had onvoldoende bewijs voor de aanklachten en raakte steeds meer in een patstelling. Voortgang van het proces zou leiden tot de vaststelling dat Slobodan Milosevic niet kon worden veroordeeld en dus onschuldig is. Gewaarfijker nog voor dit NAVO-Tribunaal was dat de door Milosevic opgeroepen getuigen steeds meer de ware toedracht onthulden van het drama op de Balkan: de politieke intriges van afzonderlijke westerse landen, zoals Duitsland en de VS en hun imperialistische economische en geopolitieke belangen.



Een half miljoen mensen dwong de Servische regering om toe te geven aan de druk om op waardige wijze in het hart van Belgrado afscheid te nemen van de ex-president van Joegoslavië, Slobodan Milosevic.

(Pagina hiernaast) Boven: Aan de kist rechts, Vladimir Krsljanin, secretaris ICDSM. Onder: demonstratie in Moskou bij de ambassade van de VS in Moskou op maandag 13 maart jl. Op de poster in het midden: "Milosevic is een held! Bush is een fascist!"



De ware schuldigen zijn de westerse landen die doelbewust uit waren op het uiteenvallen van de politiek en economisch onafhankelijke federale staat Joegoslavië. Het tribunaal vertegenwoordigt de institutionalisering van de voortdurende schending van het internationaal recht door de Verenigde Staten en het Verenigd Koninkrijk. De beide landen die nu in het geheim bezig zijn een nieuw type atoomwapen te produceren.

De NCPN betreurt de laksheid en zogenaamde neutraliteit van de Nederlandse regering, die ook op dit punt optrad als slaafse volgeling van de dictaten uit de VS. In deze zaak hebben de Nederlandse media laten zien wat ze zijn: klakkeloze napers van internationale persagentschappen die opereren als tekstschrijvers van heersende westerse machten. Dat kwam vooral tot uitdrukking vanaf het moment dat Slobodan Milosevic aan zijn getuigenverhoren begon.

Voordien was het proces voortdurend in het nieuws, daarna viel er plotseling een georchestreerde doodse stilte.

De media-aandacht voor de dood van Milosevic onderstreept deze conclusie:

- * geen woord over de stagnatie in het proces door gebrek aan bewijs,
- * geen woord over westerse wapenleveranties en kapitaalgroepen aan separatistische bewegingen in Joegoslavië,

* geen woord over de destructie van de Balkan en de lucratieve opdrachten voor westerse bedrijven.

Het is een leugen dat het ICTY een instelling van de Verenigde Naties zou zijn. Het tribunaal is ingesteld door de aanstoker en "overwinnaar" van de oorlog in Joegoslavië: de NAVO, die ter "goedkeuring" is voorgelegd aan de, door landen van de NAVO gedomineerde, Veiligheidsraad. Niet aan de Algemene Vergadering van de VN.

Slobodan Milosevic zal - nadat de waarheid aan het licht is gekomen en de deken van leugens zal zijn weggetrokken - de geschiedenis ingaan als een dapperer strijder voor de politieke en economische onafhankelijkheid van Joegoslavië.

Het partijbestuur van de NCPN, bijeen op 11 maart 2006, nam twee minuten stilte in acht en zal naar vermogen al diegenen steunen die de volle waarheid over de dood van Milosevic en de vernietiging van Joegoslavië boven tafel willen brengen.

Wij wensen familie, vrienden, de SPS, de Joegoslavische bevolking en alle onafhankelijke geesten die bezig waren en zijn met de strijd tegen knechting, oppervlakkigheid en westerse arrogantie sterkte in dit moeilijke uur.

De schuldigen moeten worden gestraft. De strijd van Slobodan Milosevic zal op talloze plaatsen in de wereld worden voortgezet.

Partijbestuur NCPN, 11 maart 2006.

Russische Doema werkt aan oproep tot beëindiging van het Haagse Tribunaal

Redactie buitenland

De Staatsdoema* buigt zich op woensdag 15 maart over een ontwerperverklaring over de zinloosheid van de voortzetting van het werk van het ICTY (Haagse schijntribunaal), zei de voorzitter van de Staats-

doema, Boris Gryzlov, vandaag [14 maart jl., noot van de red.]

"De Staatsdoema moet deze ontwerperverklaring in overweging nemen ten gevolge van de dood van Slobodan Milosevic. De belangrijkste bedoeling van deze verklaring is een discussie op gang brengen over de zinloos-

heid van de voortzetting van het werk van het tribunaal", vertelde Gryzlov aan de pers.

De Russische minister van Buitenlandse Zaken, Sergey Lavrov,

gaf uiting aan zijn ongeloof over de bevindingen van pathologen die autopsie hebben verricht op het lichaam van Milosevic, en over het Tribunaal als instituut. Hij zei dat als het Tribunaal de

Russische garanties voor de medische behandeling van Milosevic wantrouwde, Rusland het volste recht heeft om de activiteiten van het Tribunaal te wantrouwen.

* het lagershuis van het Russische parlement (noot van de redactie)

Bron: MakFax (Macedonia), Moskou, 14 maart 2006, vertaling J.Bernaven.

Sagittarius

Van: "Klaus von Raussendorff" <redaktion@aikor.de>
Aan: "Klaus von Raussendorff" <raussendorff@web.de>
Verzonden: donderdag 23 maart 2006 8:18
Onderwerp: Gedenkfeier für Slobodan Milosevic (Berlin, Samstag, 25. März 06, 18 Uhr 30 in den Räumen der GBM)

Liebe Leute,

Die Schwachen kämpfen nicht.
 Die Stärkeren kämpfen vielleicht eine Stunde lang.
 Die noch stärker sind, kämpfen viele Jahre.
 Aber die Stärksten kämpfen ihr Leben lang.
 Diese sind unentbehrlich.
 (Bertolt Brecht)

Bis zum letzten Atemzug kämpfte Slobodan Milosevic für die Wahrheit über die Zerstörung Jugoslawiens, geistig und moralisch ungebrochen. Nur die mörderische NATO-Maschinerie in Den Haag konnte ihn brechen. Sein Kampf bleibt Verpflichtung für alle, die für den Fortschritt und den Frieden kämpfen. Die Aggressoren werden nicht die Geschichte schreiben.

Die Deutsche Sektion des Internationalen Komitees für die Verteidigung von Slobodan Milosevic (ICDSM) lädt ein zu einer

Gedenkfeier für Slobodan Milosevic:

Sonnabend, 25. März 2006 um 18.30 Uhr
 in der Gesellschaft für Bürgerrecht und Menschenwürde (GBM) in
 Berlin-Lichtenberg, Weitlingstr. 89
 Es sprechen u. a. Klaus Hartmann, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Richter, Cathrin Schütz, Ralph Hartmann, Arnold Schölzel und Gordana Milanovic.

Hierzu dokumentiere ich:

KEIN RAUM FÜR MILOSEVIC-GEDENKEN?
 ABSAGEN FÜR ZUNÄCHST ZUGESAGTE RÄUMLICHKEITEN VON ROSA-LUXEMBURG-STIFTUNG

UND »HAUS DER DEMOKRATIE«
<http://www.jungewelt.de/2006/03-23/059.php>

[1]

»EINE MENSCHENMENGE, SO WEIT DAS AUGEN REICHT«
 Trauerfeier in Belgrad:
 Zehntausende Serben erwiesen Slobodan Milosevic die letzte Ehre.
 Gespräch mit Cathrin Schütz,
 (Mitarbeiterin des Rechtshilfeteams von Slobodan Milosevic in Den Haag)
 junge Welt v. 20. März 06
<http://www.jungewelt.de/2006/03-20/038.php>

[2]

NICHT IN DIE KNIE GEZWUNGEN
 Rede zum Gedenken an Slobodan Milosevic
 Von Ralph Hartmann

(ehemaliger DDR-Botschafter in Belgrad)
junge Welt v. 20. März 06
<http://www.jungewelt.de/2006/03-20/031.php>
[3]

DER TOD VON MILOSEVIC: EIN POLITISCHER MORD,
FÜR DEN DAS OPFER VERANTWORTLICH GEMACHT WIRD
Von Sarah Flounders
(Co-Direktorin des International Action Center, New York)
[4]

Buchempfehlung:

"DIE ZERSTÖRUNG JUGOSLAWIENS -
SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC ANTWORTET SEINEN ANKLÄGERN"
(Zambon-Verlag 2006, ISBN 3-88975-135-0, 298 Seiten, 10,-- Euro)

Mit internationalistischen Grüßen
Klaus von Raussendorff

Anti-Imperialistische Korrespondenz (AIKor) -
Informationsdienst der Vereinigung für Internationale Solidarität (VIS)
e.V.,
Redaktion: Klaus von Raussendorff
Postfach 210172, 53156 Bonn; Tel. & Fax: 0228 - 34.68.50;
Webmaster: Dieter Vogel

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Email-Kontaktaufnahme zu Redaktion und Webmaster über unsere Webseite.

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dem Betreff
"unsubscribe"

[1]
Aus: junge Welt v. 23. März 06
<http://www.jungewelt.de/2006/03-23/059.php>

KEIN RAUM FÜR MILOSEVIC-GEDENKEN?
ABSAGEN FÜR ZUNÄCHST ZUGESAGTE RÄUMLICHKEITEN VON ROSA-LUXEMBURG-
STIFTUNG
UND »HAUS DER DEMOKRATIE«

Die Deutsche Sektion des Internationalen Komitees für die Verteidigung von
Slobodan Milosevic lädt für Samstag zu einer Gedenkfeier in Berlin ein. Die
Wahl des Veranstaltungsortes gestaltete sich indes schwierig. Der zugesagte
Saal in den Räumen der Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung stand plötzlich »an diesem

Tag« doch nicht zur Verfügung. Auf die Frage, welcher andere Tag in Frage käme, war die Aussagefähigkeit abrupt erschöpft. Die Zusage des »Hauses der Demokratie und Menschenrechte« galt nur, bis Vorstand und Stiftung des Hauses von der Sache Wind bekamen.

All das erinnert an die Internationale Irak-Solidaritätskonferenz im März 2005, die aufgrund von Raumkündigungen ebenfalls ständig umziehen mußte. Klaus Hartmann, Sprecher des deutschen Milosevic-Komitees: »Damals hatte der >Staatsschutz< bei den Vermietern interveniert, diesmal funktionieren vermeintliche >Bürgerrechtler< und >Linke< freiwillig als Staatsschutz de luxe. Mit antiserbischen Kriegszweckklügen und Milosevic-Dämonisierung sei ganze Arbeit geleistet worden. Aber wer der Gehirnwäsche nicht widersteht, für den sind >Demokratie< und >Freiheit Andersdenkender< die falschen Firmenschilder.«

Daß die Gedenkfeier doch noch in würdigem Rahmen stattfinden kann, ist der Gesellschaft zum Schutz von Bürgerrecht und Menschenwürde zu verdanken, die ihre Räume zur Verfügung stellt. Einen Tag, nachdem sich die NATO-Aggression zum siebenten Mal jährt, versammeln sich jene, die die NATO-Version der Geschichte nicht akzeptieren. Es sprechen u. a. Klaus Hartmann, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Richter, Cathrin Schütz, Ralph Hartmann, Arnold Schölzel und Gordana Milanovic. (jW)

Gedenkfeier für Slobodan Milosevic am 25. März, 18.30 Uhr, GBM, Weitlingstr. 89, Berlin-Lichtenberg

[2]

Aus: junge Welt v. 20. März 06
<http://www.jungewelt.de/2006/03-20/038.php>

»EINE MENSCHENMENGE, SO WEIT DAS AUGE REICHT«

Trauerfeier in Belgrad: Zehntausende Serben erwiesen Slobodan Milosevic die letzte Ehre. Ein Gespräch mit Cathrin Schütz

* Cathrin Schütz gehörte zum Rechtshilfeteam von Slobodan Milosevic in Den Haag

F: Als eine der wenigen Deutschen haben Sie am Samstag vor dem Belgrader Parlament an der Trauerfeier für den jugoslawischen Expräsidenten Slobodan Milosevic teilgenommen und auch der Beisetzung in seinem Heimatort Pozarevac beigewohnt. Wie kamen Sie dazu?

Ich habe an den Trauerfeierlichkeiten als Mitglied des Den Haager Rechtshilfeteams von Präsident Milosevic teilgenommen, dem ich seit zwei Jahren angehörte. Die deutsche Sektion des Internationalen Komitees zur Verteidigung von Milosevic (ICDSM) wurde durch Peter Betscher vertreten. Zahlreiche weitere Personen aus Deutschland und anderen Ländern befanden sich unter den Trauergästen, so auch der Schriftsteller Peter Handke.

F: Wer gehörte neben Ihnen zur internationalen Delegation?

Das ICDSM wurde außerdem durch den ehemaligen US-Justizminister Ramsey

Clark, Velko Valkanov aus Bulgarien, Aldo Bernardini aus Italien, June Kelly aus Irland und einem Mitglied des Politbüros der griechischen KP repräsentiert. Rußland stellte eine Delegation, in der alle Dumafraktionen vertreten waren, darunter Konstantin Satulin von der Partei Putins, Sergej Baburin, Vizesprecher der Duma, der Vorsitzende der Kommunistischen Partei der Russischen Föderation, Gennadi Sjuganow, und General i.R. Leonid Iwaschow.

F: Nahmen auch Vertreter der serbischen Regierung an der Trauerfeier teil?

Nein, diese versuchte im Gegenteil, den Organisatoren der Sozialistischen Partei und Milosevics Verteidigungskomitees »Sloboda« Steine in den Weg zu legen, nachdem sie ein Staatsbegräbnis abgelehnt hatte. 15 serbische Generale, die von der neuen Regierung vorzeitig in den Ruhestand entlassen wurden, weil sie 1999 im Krieg gegen die NATO teilnahmen, erschienen daraufhin in Paradeuniform, um zu salutieren. Von ehemaligen Mitgliedern des Militärorchesters wurde »Lenins Begräbnismarsch« gespielt. Die Führung der Radikalen Partei, stärkste Partei Serbiens, die sich in der Opposition befindet, nahm geschlossen teil. Sie verlas einen Brief ihres in Den Haag inhaftierten Vorsitzenden Vojslav Seselj, der seinen politischen Kontrahenten Milosevic würdigte.

F: In den deutschsprachigen Nachrichten war am Wochenende von 50 000 bis 100 000 Trauergästen in Belgrad die Rede.

Es kursieren unterschiedlichste Zahlen. Ein Belgrader Sender sprach von 500 000. Der Blick vom Podium war jedenfalls beeindruckend, soweit das Auge reichte, waren der Platz vor dem Parlament und alle Nebenstraßen mit Menschen gefüllt. Ohne Zweifel handelt es sich um die größte Versammlung seit dem Sturz Milosevics am 5. Oktober 2000. Einige Beobachter schätzten, daß die Zahl der damals vom Westen mitfinanzierten und organisierten Oppositionsbewegung sogar übertroffen wurde.

F: In hiesigen Medien wurde fast durchgängig behauptet, daß ganz überwiegend Rentner um Milosevic trauerten.

Als ich nach meiner Ankunft in Belgrad am Freitag um Mitternacht das »Museum des 25. Mai« in Dedinje, einem Außenbezirk von Belgrad, erreichte, wo der Leichnam Milosevics seit Donnerstag aufgebahrt war, befanden sich trotz nächtlicher Kälte und Regen noch immer Tausende Wartende aller Altersgruppen in der Schlange. Die Wartezeit, Milosevic die letzte Ehre zu erweisen, betrug noch immer bis zu sechs Stunden. Auch Ramsey Clark zeigte sich sichtlich gerührt und meinte, er habe so etwas seit dem Tod von John F. Kennedy nicht erlebt.

F: Es liegt in der Natur der Sache, daß Beerdigungen eine traurige Atmosphäre ausstrahlen. War auch Resignation unter den Trauergästen zu spüren?

Von Resignation war am Samstag keine Spur. Die Stimmung der Menschen war von tiefer Trauer und Wut bestimmt. Ich persönlich empfand es als besonders tragisch, daß die engsten Familienmitglieder an der Beisetzung nicht teilnehmen konnten, weil sie in Serbien aus fadenscheinigen Gründen noch immer rechtlich verfolgt werden. Am Grab wurden daher lediglich Briefe mit den letzten Worte von Witwe Mira Markovic und Sohn Marko verlesen - ein bedrückendes Erlebnis.

F: Den bisher vorliegenden Untersuchungen zufolge hätte das Haager Tribunal den Tod Milosevics durch eine adäquate medizinische Behandlung verhindern können. Werden rechtliche Schritte gegen die verantwortlichen Richter und Chefanklägerin Carla del Ponte erwogen?

Das ICDSM zieht solche Schritte in Erwägung. Zunächst will man von UN-Generalsekretär Kofi Annan die Aufhebung der Immunität der verantwortlichen Personen des Haagers Tribunals verlangen.

Interview: Rüdiger Göbel

[3]

Aus: junge Welt v. 20. März 06
<http://www.jungewelt.de/2006/03-20/031.php>

NICHT IN DIE KNIE GEZWUNGEN
Rede in Berlin zum Gedenken an Slobodan Milosevic
Von Ralph Hartmann

* Auf einer Trauerfeier für Slobodan Milosevic in Berlin sprach am vergangenen Mittwoch der ehemalige DDR-Botschafter in Belgrad, Ralph Hartmann:

»Sie werden mich nicht brechen können. Ich werde sie auseinandernehmen«, das sind die letzten überlieferten Worte von Slobodan Milosevic. Geäußert hat er sie am Freitag, den 10. März, in einem Telefongespräch mit dem stellvertretenden Vorsitzenden der Sozialistischen Partei Serbiens (SPS), Milorad Vucelic. Milosevic, Vorsitzender der SPS, hatte seinen Stellvertreter in Belgrad angerufen, um über einige Parteifragen zu sprechen. Zum Prozeß vor dem sogenannten Haager Jugoslawien-Tribunal bemerkte er nur noch, daß er mit Momir Bulatovic, ehemaliger Ministerpräsident von Montenegro, den er als nächsten und besonders wichtigen Zeugen der Verteidigung im Gerichtssaal befragen wollte, eine Dokumentation vorbereitet habe und dem Tribunal den bisher »schwersten Schlag« versetzen werde.

Dazu ist es nicht mehr gekommen. In der darauffolgenden Nacht ist der langjährige Präsident Serbiens und Jugoslawiens in seiner Einzelzelle verstorben. Bei seinen Freunden und Unterstützern wurde die Todesnachricht mit Bestürzung und Trauer aufgenommen, seine Gegner in Den Haag und in den NATO-Metropolen reagierten nach ersten heuchlerischen Betroffenheitserklärungen mit den eingeübten Haßgesängen auf den »Belgrader Unhold«. Sie haben ihm nie verziehen, daß unter seiner Führung die rote Fahne in Europa am längsten wehte, daß er konsequent für den Erhalt der multinationalen jugoslawischen Föderation eintrat und der Weltbank, dem Internationalen Währungsfonds und der NATO die Stirn bot. Das war und ist die Hauptquelle ihres Hasses. Mit Inbrunst wiederholten ihre publizistischen Sprachrohre die im Verlauf des Prozesses vom angeklagten Expräsidenten längst überzeugend widerlegten Lügen über den »skrupellosen großserbischen Nationalisten«, der für »systematische ethnische Vertreibungen«, »Massaker« in Kroatien, Bosnien, Kosovo und »Massenvergewaltigungen« verantwortlich gewesen sei. (...) Nicht wenige Kommentatoren wiesen empört den in Belgrad und anderswo erhobenen Vorwurf

zurück, Milosevic sei in Den Haag ermordet worden. Aber wenn es kein Mord war, was war es dann?

Man kann einen Menschen erschlagen, erschießen, ertränken, erwürgen, aber man kann ihn auch langsam, mit subtileren Mitteln zu Tode bringen. Im Falle des Haager Angeklagten ist das geschehen. Auf Geheiß der NATO wurde Milosevic, der ausgerechnet während des verbrecherischen Terrorkrieges der NATO gegen sein Land vom völkerrechtswidrig installierten Haager Jugoslawien-Tribunal der Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit angeklagt worden war, von der Belgrader Djindjic-Regierung am 1. April 2001 verhaftet, in einen Isolationsraum des Belgrader Zentralgefängnisses gesperrt, nach 89 Tagen nach Den Haag verschleppt und dort vier Jahre und neun Monate in Einzelhaft gehalten. Während der ersten Phase des Prozesses wurde der sich selbst verteidigende NATO-Gefangene an 250 Verhandlungstagen mit 300 Zeugen der Chefanklägerin Carla del Ponte, darunter makabrerweise die für die barbarische Kriegsführung gegen Jugoslawien verantwortlichen NATO-Generäle Wesley Clark und Klaus Naumann, konfrontiert, mit einer Million DIN-A4-Seiten »Beweismaterialien« und unzähligen Tonbändern und Videos überschüttet. Das Tribunal schikanierte ihn, wo es nur konnte, seine Erholungsphasen und die Vorbereitungszeit auf seine Verteidigung wurden extrem verkürzt, britische Verteidiger sollten ihm aufgezwungen werden, seine Frau Mira und seine nächsten Angehörigen durften ihn jahrelang nicht besuchen, was den psychischen Druck auf ihn erhöhte.

Doch die Schikanen des Tribunals konnten ihn nicht in die Knie zwingen. Vor Gericht widerlegte er souverän und mit beeindruckender Sachkenntnis Punkt für Punkt die Lügen der Anklage und ihrer Zeugen, prangerte die bürgerkriegsschürende Einmischungspolitik der NATO, vor allem Deutschlands, die Unterstützung für die Terroristen und Separatisten in Kosovo und den verbrecherischen Überfall des Kriegspaktes auf sein Land an. Selbst NATO-Beobachter kamen zu der Einschätzung, daß Milosevic vor den Schranken des Gerichtes vom Angeklagten zum Ankläger geworden war. Frau del Ponte und mit ihr das Tribunal sowie seine Hintermänner standen vor einer Niederlage. Auch in den USA erhoben sich einflußreiche Stimmen, das Haager »Frankenstein-Monster« zu begraben und die Chefanklägerin in die Wüste zu schicken. In dieser Situation schreckten die Gegner Milosevics auch nicht davor zurück, die so schon angeschlagene Gesundheit des Angeklagten zu untergraben.

Bereits 2002 hatte ein vom Gericht bestellter niederländische Kardiologe nach einer Untersuchung des Angeklagten extremen Bluthochdruck mit sekundärem Organschaden, Erweiterung der linken Herzkammer, diagnostiziert. Aus seinem Bericht ging eindeutig hervor, daß der Druck des Verfahrens zu extremer Erschöpfung, zu Gehirnschlag, Herzinfarkt und Tod führen kann.

Das Tribunal sah das anders und lehnte eine Behandlung durch seine Belgrader Ärzte ab, es untersagte ihm sogar, die von diesen verordnete Medizin einzunehmen. Wie skrupellos es vorging, zeigte erst unlängst die Ablehnung des Antrages des NATO-Gefangenen, sich wegen seiner akuten Leiden am weltbekannten Moskauer Bakuljew-Zentrum von russischen Herzspezialisten behandeln zu lassen. (...)

Noch kurz vor seinem Tod hatte er seinem Rechtsberater Zdenko Tomanovic gesagt, daß man ihn vergiften wolle, worüber der Berater umgehend das holländische Justizministerium, die Polizei und die russische Botschaft mit einem handschriftlichen Brief Milosevics an Außenminister Lawrow

informierte. Die Obduktion bestätigte diesen Verdacht. Der Versuch des Tribunals und dessen propagandistischen Hilfstruppen, ausgerechnet dem standhaften Milosevic zu unterstellen, sich selbst vergiftet zu haben, um das Risiko eines Herzinfarktes zu erhöhen, ist an Dummheit und Infamie nicht zu überbieten. Er rundet allerdings das Bild ab, das das Haager Tribunal und der von den Aggressoren veranlaßte schändliche Prozeß gegen den Präsidenten des von ihnen angegriffenen Landes von Anbeginn an geboten hat.

Slobodan Milosevic hat mit seinen letzten Worten: »Sie werden mich nicht brechen« Recht behalten. Sie haben ihn nicht gebrochen, zu Tode gebracht haben sie ihn.

(gekürzt)

[4]

DER TOD VON MILOSEVIC: EIN POLITISCHER MORD, FÜR DEN DAS OPFER VERANTWORTLICH GEMACHT WIRD

Von Sarah Flounders (Co-Direktorin des International Action Center, New York)

Im Sommer 2004 begegnete ich dem ehemaligen jugoslawischen Präsidenten Slobodan Milosevic im Gefängnis von Scheveningen, als ich als Zeugin seiner Verteidigung zugelassen worden war. Bevor ich hinein gelangen konnte, hatte ich vier völlig separate Kontrollposten zu passieren und konnte nichts anderes als Papiere mit hinein nehmen. Jede Sicherheitsstufe war strenger als die vorherige.

Niemand der mit Präsident Milosevic in den letzten vier Jahren zusammen getroffen ist, kann glauben, er hätte riskiert, sich selbst zu töten, anstatt sein Verfahren zu Ende zu führen. Und niemand, der einmal im Den Haager Gefängnis in Scheveningen war, kann die abwegigen Behauptungen glauben, dass er irgendwie in der Lage war, regelmäßig nicht verordnete Medikamenten herein zu schmuggeln. Da würde man schon eher jene Kräfte verdächtigen, die verzweifelt versuchen, ihre eigenen Verbrechen zu vertuschen.

Meine Rolle als Zeugin beruhte auf meiner Reise nach Jugoslawien im Frühjahr 1999 während des 78-tägigen US/NATO-Bombardements. Ich besuchte zerbombte Schulen, Krankenhäuser, Heizwerkanlagen und Märkte und berichtete über die Schäden der Zivilbevölkerung. Außerdem hatte ich seit 1993 über die Rolle geschrieben, welche die USA bei der Strangulierung und gewaltsamen Zerstückelung Jugoslawiens hinter der Szene spielten.

Selbst nachdem mein Name als Zeugin der Verteidigung akzeptiert worden war, war es auch dann noch eine komplizierte und langwierige Prozedur, diesen Besuch abzustatten. Obgleich alles am Tage des Besuches genehmigt worden war, vergingen immer noch vier Stunden, um durch die Kontrollposten in die Spezialeinheit im Innern des Gefängnisses zu kommen, wo die Angeklagten des Internationalen Straftribunals für das ehemalige Jugoslawien (ICTY) völlig abgetrennt von den übrigen Gefangenen unter strenger Bewachung gehalten wurden.

Das Gefängnis Scheveningen ist eine Hochsicherheitseinrichtung. Milosevic

Sagittarius

Van: "Global Reflexion"
 Aan: "ETRP" <etrp@bluewin.ch>
 Verzonden: donderdag 23 maart 2006 12:44
 Onderwerp: Re: La mort de mon Président
 Cher Monsieur Milojkovic,

Avant je me veux excuser por mon francais, que je ne peut pas parler bien et moins ecrire. Mai j'ai entendu bien votre message et votre geste je considerai très valeureux. Nous avons l'dee de organiser en avril un grand event de commemoracion en la Haye, et en cette event votre contribución sera très importante. J'attand maintenant a la response de representantes Serbes et quand je peut dire plus, je vous informeré.

Avec grand affection,

Nico Varkevisser

At 04:58 23-03-2006, you wrote:

Genève, le 23 mars 2006

Cher Monsieur,

Je suis pianiste concertiste de nationalité Serbe et Suisse et j'occupe la fonction de directeur de l'Ecole Traditionnelle Russe de Piano à Genève.

Je suis bouleversé par la mort subite de mon Président et je suis très touché par votre détermination à déposer des charges criminelles contre les juges de Tribunal de la Haye dans les conséquences mystérieuses de sa mort.

Je suis également persuadé que la santé de Président Slobodan Milosevic été délibérément détruit ce qui a causé sa mort en l'empêchant activement d'obtenir le soin médical vital.

En tant que pianiste concertiste, je suis prêt à vous offrir mes services, si vous le souhaitez. Nous pourrions organiser des récitals de piano et ainsi utiliser tout l'argent récolté pour le financement de votre projet.

En vous souhaitant beaucoup de succès dans votre démarche et tout en restant à votre disposition pour de plus amples informations, je vous prie de croire, cher Monsieur, à l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleures.

École Traditionnelle Russe de Piano

Prof. Djordje Milojkovic

Directeur de l'Ecole Traditionnelle Russe de Piano

Membre actif accrédité de la Société Suisse de Pédagogie Musicale

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Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-johnson@lineone.net>
Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>
Verzonden: donderdag 23 maart 2006 23:20
Onderwerp: CDSM: The Demonization of Slobodan Milosevic - Michael
 Dear Friends,

I wish to bring to your attention the article I wrote a couple of years ago.
 Feel free to post and circulate.

Michael Parenti
 ICDSM, USA

The Demonization of Slobodan Milosevic by Michael Parenti

December 2003

U.S. leaders profess a dedication to democracy. Yet over the past five decades, democratically elected governments---guilty of introducing redistributive economic programs or otherwise pursuing independent courses that do not properly fit into the U.S.-sponsored global free market system---have found themselves targeted by the U.S. national security state. Thus democratic governments in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Syria, Uruguay, and numerous other nations were overthrown by their respective military forces, funded and advised by the United States. The newly installed military rulers then rolled back the egalitarian reforms and opened their countries all the wider to foreign corporate investors.

The U.S. national security state also has participated in destabilizing covert actions, proxy mercenary wars, or direct military attacks against revolutionary or nationalist governments in Afghanistan (in the 1980s), Angola, Cambodia, Cuba, East Timor, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Fiji Islands, Grenada, Haiti, Indonesia (under Sukarno), Iran, Jamaica, Lebanon, Libya, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Syria, South Yemen, Venezuela (under Hugo Chavez), Western Sahara, and Iraq (under the CIA-sponsored autocratic Saddam Hussein, after he emerged as an economic nationalist and tried to cut a better deal on oil prices).

The propaganda method used to discredit many of these governments is not particularly original, indeed by now it is quite transparently predictable. Their leaders are denounced as bombastic, hostile, and psychologically flawed. They are labeled power hungry demagogues, mercurial strongmen, and the worst sort of dictators likened to Hitler himself. The countries in question are designated as "terrorist" or "rogue" states, guilty of being "anti-American" and "anti-West." Some choice few are even condemned as members of an "evil axis." When targeting a country and demonizing its leadership, U.S. leaders are assisted by ideologically attuned publicists, pundits, academics, and former government officials. Together they create a climate of opinion that enables Washington to do whatever is necessary to inflict serious damage upon the designated nation's infrastructure and population, all in the name of human rights, anti-terrorism, and national security.

There is no better example of this than the tireless demonization of democratically-elected President Slobodan Milosevic and the U.S.-supported wars against Yugoslavia. Louis Sell, a former U.S. Foreign Service officer, has authored a book (*Slobodan Milosevic and the*

Destruction of Yugoslavia, Duke University Press, 2002) that is a hit piece on Milosevic, loaded with all the usual prefabricated images and policy presumptions of the U.S. national security state. Sell's Milosevic is a caricature, a cunning power seeker and maddened fool, who turns on trusted comrades and plays upon divisions within the party.

This Milosevic is both an "orthodox socialist" and an "opportunistic Serbian nationalist," a demagogic power-hungry "second Tito" who simultaneously wants dictatorial power over all of Yugoslavia while eagerly pursuing policies that "destroy the state that Tito created." The author does not demonstrate by reference to specific policies and programs that Milosevic is responsible for the dismemberment of Yugoslavia, he just tells us so again and again. One would think that the Slovenian, Croatian, Bosnian Muslim, Macedonian, and Kosovo Albanian secessionists and U.S./NATO interventionists might have had something to do with it.

In my opinion, Milosevic's real sin was that he resisted the dismemberment of Yugoslavia and opposed a U.S. imposed hegemony. He also attempted to spare Yugoslavia the worst of the merciless privatizations and rollbacks that have afflicted other former communist countries. Yugoslavia was the only nation in Europe that did not apply for entry into the European Union or NATO or OSCE.

For some left intellectuals, the former Yugoslavia did not qualify as a socialist state because it had allowed too much penetration by private corporations and the IMF. But U.S. policymakers are notorious for not seeing the world the way purist left intellectuals do. For them Yugoslavia was socialist enough with its developed human services sector and an economy that was over 75 percent publicly owned. Sell makes it clear that Yugoslavia's public ownership and Milosevic's defense of that economy were a central consideration in Washington's war against Yugoslavia. Milosevic, Sell complains, had a "commitment to orthodox socialism." He "portrayed public ownership of the means of production and a continued emphasis on [state] commodity production as the best guarantees for prosperity." He had to go.

To make his case against Milosevic, Sell repeatedly falls back on the usual ad hominem labeling. Thus we read that in his childhood Milosevic was "something of a prig" and of course "by nature a loner," a weird kind of kid because he was "uninterested in sports or other physical activities," and he "spurned childhood pranks in favor of his books." The author quotes an anonymous former classmate who reports that Slobodan's mother "dressed him funny and kept him soft." Worse still, Slobodan would never join in when other boys stole from orchards---no doubt a sure sign of childhood pathology.

Sell further describes Milosevic as "moody," "reclusive," and given to "mulish fatalism." But Sell's own data---when he pauses in his negative labeling and gets down to specifics---contradicts the maladjusted "moody loner" stereotype. He acknowledges that young Slobodan worked well with other youth when it came to political activities. Far from being unable to form close relations, Slobodan met a girl, his future wife, and they enjoyed an enduring lifelong attachment. In his early career when heading the Beogradska Banka, Milosevic was reportedly "communicative, caring about people at the bank, and popular with his staff." Other friends describe him as getting on well with people, "communal and relaxed," a faithful husband to his wife, and a proud and devoted father to his children. And Sell allows that Milosevic was at times "confident," "outgoing," and "charismatic." But the negative stereotype is so firmly established by repetitious pronouncement (and by years of propagation by Western media and officialdom) that Sell can simply slide over contradictory evidence---even when such evidence is provided by himself.

Sell refers to anonymous "U.S. psychiatrists, who have studied Milosevic closely." By "closely" he must mean from afar, since no U.S. psychiatrist has ever treated or even interviewed Milosevic. These uncited and unnamed psychiatrists supposedly diagnosed the Yugoslav leader as a "malignant narcissistic" personality. Sell tells us that such malignant narcissism fills Milosevic with self-deception and leaves him with a "chore personality" that is a "sham." "People with Milosevic's type of personality frequently either cannot or will not recognize the reality of facts that diverge from their own perception of the way the world is or should be." How does Dr. Sigmund Sell know all this? He seems to find proof in the fact that Milosevic dared to have charted a course that differed from the one emanating from Washington. Surely only personal pathology can explain such "anti-West" obstinacy. Furthermore, we are told that Milosevic suffered from a "blind spot" in that he was never comfortable with the notion of private property. If this isn't evidence of malignant narcissism, what is? Sell never considers the possibility that he himself, and the global interventionists who think like him, cannot or will not "recognize the reality of facts that diverge from their own perception of the way the world is or should be."

Milosevic, we are repeatedly told, fell under the growing influence of his wife, Mirjana Markovic, "the real power behind the throne." Sell actually calls her "Lady Macbeth" on one occasion. He portrays Markovic as a complete wacko, given to uncontrollable anger; her eyes "vibrated like a scared animal"; "she suffers from severe schizophrenia" with "a tenuous grasp on reality," and is a hopeless "hypochondriac." In addition, she has a "mousy" appearance and a "dreamy" and "traumatized" personality. And like her husband, with whom she shares a "very abnormal relationship," she has "an autistic relation with the world." Worse still, she holds "hardline marxist views." We are left to wonder how the autistic dysfunctional Markovic was able to work as a popular university professor, organize and lead a new political party, and play an active role in the popular resistance against Western interventionism.

In this book, whenever Milosevic or others in his camp are quoted as saying something, they "snarl," "gush," "hiss," and "crow." In contrast, political players who win Sell's approval, "observe," "state," "note," and "conclude." When one of Milosevic's superiors voices his discomfort about "noisy Kosovo Serbs" (as Sell calls them) who were demonstrating against the mistreatment they suffered at the hands of Kosovo Albanian secessionists, Milosevic "hisses," "Why are you so afraid of the street and the people?" Some of us might think this is a pretty good question to hiss at a government leader, but Sell treats it as proof of Milosevic's demagoguery.

Whenever Milosevic did anything that aided the common citizenry, as when he taxed the interest earned on foreign currency accounts---a policy that was unpopular with Serbian elites but appreciated by the poorer strata---he is dismissed as manipulatively currying popular favor. Thus we must accept Sell's word that Milosevic never wanted the power to prevent hunger but only hungered for power. The author operates from a nonfalsefiable paradigm. If the targeted leader is unresponsive to the people, this is proof of his dictatorial proclivity. If he is responsive to them, this demonstrates his demagogic opportunism.

In keeping with U.S. officialdom's view of the world, Sell labels "Milosevic and his minions" as "hardliners," "conservatives," and "ideologues"; they are "anti-West," and bound up in "socialist dogma." In contrast, Croatian, Bosnian, and Kosovo Albanian secessionists who worked hard to dismember Yugoslavia and deliver their respective republics to the tender mercies of neoliberal rollback are identified as "economic reformers," "the liberal leadership," and "pro-West" (read, pro-transnational corporate capitalist). Sell treats "Western-style democracy" and "a modern

market economy" as necessary correlates. He has nothing to say about the dismal plight of the Eastern European countries that abandoned their deficient but enduring planned economies for the merciless exactions of laissez-faire capitalism.

Sell's sensitivity to demagoguery does not extend to Franjo Tudjman, the crypto-fascist anti-Semitic Croat who had nice things to say about Hitler, and who imposed his harsh autocratic rule on the newly independent Croatia. Tudjman dismissed the Holocaust as an exaggeration, and openly hailed the Croatian Ustashe Nazi collaborators of World War II. He even employed a few aging Ustashe leaders in his government. Sell says not a word about all this, and treats Tudjman as just a good old Croatian nationalist. Likewise, he has not a critical word about the Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic. He comments laconically that Izetbegovic "was sentenced to three years imprisonment in 1946 for belonging to a group called the Young Muslims." One is left with the impression that the Yugoslav communist government had suppressed a devout Muslim. What Sell leaves unmentioned is that the Young Muslims actively recruited Muslim units for the Nazi SS during World War II; these units perpetrated horrid atrocities against the resistance movement and the Jewish population in Yugoslavia. Izetbegovic got off rather lightly with a three-year sentence.

Little is made in this book of the ethnic cleansing perpetrated against the Serbs by U.S.-supported leaders like Tudjman and Izetbegovic during and after the U.S.-sponsored wars. Conversely, no mention is made of the ethnic tolerance and diversity that existed in President Milosevic's Yugoslavia. By 1999, all that was left of Yugoslavia was Montenegro and Serbia. Readers are never told that this rump nation was the only remaining multi-ethnic society among the various former Yugoslav republics, the only place where Serbs, Albanians, Croats, Gorani, Jews, Egyptians, Hungarians, Roma, and numerous other ethnic groups could live together with some measure of security and tolerance.

The relentless demonization of Milosevic spills over onto the Serbian people in general. In Sell's book, the Serbs are aggrandizing nationalists. Kosovo Serbs demonstrating against mistreatment by Albanian nationalists are described as having their "bloodlust up." And Serb workers demonstrating to defend their rights and hard won gains are dismissed by Sell as "the lowest instruments of the mob." The Serbs who had lived in Krajina and other parts of Croatia for centuries are dismissed as colonial occupiers. In contrast, the Slovenian, Croatian, and Bosnian Muslim nationalist secessionists, and Kosovo Albanian irredentists are simply seeking "independence," "self-determination," and "cultural distinctiveness and sovereignty." In this book, the Albanian KLA gunmen are not big-time drug dealers, terrorists, and ethnic cleansers, but guerrilla fighters and patriots.

Military actions allegedly taken by the Serbs, described in the vaguest terms, are repeatedly labeled "brutal," while assaults and atrocities delivered upon the Serbs by other national groups are more usually accepted as retaliatory and defensive, or are dismissed by Sell as "untrue," "highly exaggerated," and "hyperventilated." Milosevic, Sell says, disseminated "vicious propaganda" against the Croats, but he does not give us any specifics. Sell does provide one or two instances of how Serb villages were pillaged and their inhabitants raped and murdered by Albanian secessionists. From this he grudgingly allows that "some of the Serb charges . . . had a core of truth." But he makes nothing more of it.

The well-timed, well-engineered story about a Serbian massacre of unarmed Albanians in the village of Racak, hyped by U.S. diplomat and veteran disinformationist William Walker, is wholeheartedly embraced by Sell, who ignores all the contrary evidence. An Associated Press

TV crew had actually filmed the battle that took place in Racak the previous day in which Serbian police killed a number of KLA fighters. A French journalist who went through Racak later that day found evidence of a battle but no evidence of a massacre of unarmed civilians, nor did Walker's own Kosovo Verification Mission monitors. All the forensic reports reveal that almost all of the forty-four persons killed had previously been using fire arms, and all had perished in combat. Sell simply ignores this evidence.

The media-hyped story of how the Serbs allegedly killed 7,000 Muslims in Srebrenica is uncritically accepted by Sell, even though the most thorough investigations have uncovered not more than 2,000 bodies of undetermined nationality. The earlier massacres carried out by Muslims, their razing of some fifty Serbian villages around Srebrenica, as reported by two British correspondents and others, are ignored. The complete failure of Western forensic teams to locate the 250,000 or 100,000 or 50,000 or 10,000 bodies (the numbers kept changing) of Albanians supposedly murdered by the Serbs in Kosovo also goes unnoticed.

Sell's rendition of what happened at Rambouillet leaves much to be desired. Under Rambouillet, Kosovo would have been turned into a NATO colony. Milosevic might have reluctantly agreed to that, so desperate was he to avoid a full-scale NATO onslaught on the rest of Yugoslavia. To be certain that war could not be avoided, however, the U.S. delegation added a remarkable stipulation, demanding that NATO forces and personnel were to have unrestrained access to all of Yugoslavia, unfettered use of its airports, rails, ports, telecommunication services, and airwaves, all free of cost and immune from any jurisdiction by Yugoslav authorities. NATO would also have the option to modify for its own use all of Yugoslavia's infrastructure including roads, bridges, tunnels, buildings, and utility systems. In effect, not just Kosovo but all of Yugoslavia was to be subjected to an extraterritoriality tantamount to outright colonial occupation.

Sell does not mention these particulars. Instead he assures us that the request for NATO's unimpeded access to Yugoslavia was just a pro forma protocol inserted "largely for legal reasons." A similar though less sweeping agreement was part of the Dayton package, he says. Indeed, and the Dayton agreement reduced Bosnia to a Western colony. But if there was nothing wrong with the Rambouillet ultimatum, why then did Milosevic reject it? Sell ascribes Milosevic's resistance to his perverse "bunker mentality" and his need to defy the world.

There is not a descriptive word in this book of the 78 days of around-the-clock massive NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, no mention of how it caused the loss of thousands of lives, injured and maimed thousands more, contaminated much of the land and water with depleted uranium, and destroyed much of the country's public sector industries and infrastructure-while leaving all the private Western corporate structures perfectly intact.

The sources that Sell relies on share U.S. officialdom's view of the Balkans struggle. Observers who offer a more independently critical perspective, such as Sean Gervassi, Diana Johnstone, Gregory Elich, Nicholas Stavrou, Michel Collon, Raju Thomas, and Michel Chossudovsky are left untouched and uncited. Important Western sources I reference in my book on Yugoslavia offer evidence, testimony, and documentation that do not fit Sell's conclusions, including sources from within the European Union, the European Community's Commission on Women's Rights, the OSCE and its Kosovo Verification Mission, the UN War Crimes Commission, and various other UN commissions, various State Department reports, the German Foreign Office and German Defense Ministry reports, and the International Red Cross. Sell does not touch these sources.

Also ignored by him are the testimonies and statements of members of the U.S. Congress who visited the Balkans, a former State Department official under the Bush administration, a former deputy commander of the U.S. European command, several UN and NATO generals and international negotiators, Spanish air force pilots, forensic teams from various countries, and UN monitors who offer revelations that contradict the picture drawn by Sell and other apologists of U.S. officialdom.

In sum, Sell's book is packed with discombobulated insider details, unsupported charges, unexamined presumptions, and ideologically loaded labeling. As mainstream disinformation goes, it is a job well done.

MICHAEL PARENTI received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University. He is an award winning author and activist who has published some 250 articles and 19 books, including *Superpatriotism* (2004), and *The Assassination of Julius Caesar* (2003) which won the "Book of the Year Award" (nonfiction) from Online Review of Books. His most recent book is *The Culture Struggle* (2006). Various works of his have been translated into some twenty languages. For further information, visit his website: www.michaelparenti.org

Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-
Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient;>
Verzonden: donderdag 23 maart 2006 23:42
Onderwerp: CDSM: Letter of Complaint to the BBC

Dear Friends,

Please find below a copy of the Letter of Complaint that has been filed against the BBC in regard to their coverage of the death of Slobodan Milosevic. IJ.

BBC Complaints Department,
 Glasgow,
 BBC Information,
 P.O. Box 1922,
 Glasgow G2 3WT

22nd March 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, the undersigned, would like to make a formal complaint about the very one-sided BBC coverage of the death of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

From the moment his death was announced on Saturday 11th March, the BBC seemed determined to paint a biased and factually incorrect portrayal of Milosevic. A succession of virulently anti-Milosevic 'experts' and politicians were wheeled out- (Lord Ashdown seemed to be permanently camped in the BBC studios) all parroting the same 'Butcher of Belgrade' line.

Ashdown claimed that Milosevic's death provided us with 'closure'. But how impartial a commentator was Ashdown? Only last autumn, when appearing as a witness at the Hague Tribunal, Ashdown was exposed by Milosevic to be a

liar
 (his testimony can be found at the url : hague.bard.edu/past_video?09-2005.html). Milosevic also played a video tape in court which showed Ashdown inspecting a Kosovan Liberation Army weapons cache in 1998 and in which he could be heard saying he would 'do his best' to procure the drug-running terrorist group assistance. Why did those asking for Ashdown's opinion on Milosevic not mention these revelations when interviewing him?

We did not see or hear a single commentator on the BBC who put forward a different viewpoint on Milosevic. Two of our number, the journalist Neil Clark and Dr John Laughland of the British Helsinki Human Rights Group have been asked to appear on the BBC before to talk about Milosevic and the

Hague Tribunal, but this time they received no invitation. There were plenty of other speakers the BBC could have asked too to get a better balance in its coverage.

For example, Professor Mark Almond, a Balkans expert from Oriol College,

Oxford; Ian Johnson of the British branch of the International Committee for the Defence of Slobodan Milosevic, Misha Gavriloic of the British Serb Alliance; former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who has conceded that the Western powers deliberately engineered the break-up of Yugoslavia and George Kenney, former official of the US State Department, who was due to testify in Milosevic's defence at The Hague. Why did the BBC not invite any of these people to give their verdict on Milosevic?

In the week following President Milosevic's death a number of lies were repeated on the BBC.

The first was the statement, which appeared in News bulletins and on the BBC News website that 'few will mourn Milosevic'. This was clearly nonsense-and may we say racist- the world is not just people in the corridors of power in

the US and Europe- but a much larger place. In many countries, like China, where one-fifth of the world's people live, Milosevic was regarded as a hero

of the anti-imperialist struggle, ditto in India, Africa, South America and the Middle East. Why was this global opinion not reflected in your coverage?

If the BBC had taken the trouble to read the comments posted on its news blog- it would have seen that there are plenty of people throughout the world who do not hold the standard Western governments line on Milosevic.

We

enclose two tributes to Milosevic from your news blog, from a Kosovan Albanian and a Sri Lankan.

(1) "I say - Rest in peace my friend, Milosovich, be happy. You surpassed this cruel, corrupt, hypocritic world". Sridhara Senarath, Colombo & Sri Lanka.

(2) "With all due respects to people in various parts of the world, the strong condemnation of this man is solely based on what the media has dished

out to them, how a hostile media can turn people with no connection to be so

damning about the only man of that region who tried to hold it together. As a Kosovo Albanian when he was in power we were in peace, now after Nato we are left with a similar fate of Iraq. Rest in peace mr President." rexep rexepi, Hobart.

Then there was the claim that President Milosevic was a 'dictator'.

This term was used by Kim Barnes in her video report of Milosevic's funeral on the BBC News website on 18th March. Milosevic won three democratic elections in a country where over twenty-one political parties freely operated. Even Adam Lebor, in his hostile 2002 biography of Milosevic concedes that the use of the word 'dictator' is factually incorrect. So why on earth did the BBC's correspondent use it?

Barnes also claimed in her report that 50,000 people attended Milosevic's funeral ceremony in Belgrade. The ceremony's organisers claimed 500,000 were present (a figure supported by Focus News Agency), whereas the Serbian authorities themselves put the figure at 100,000. Gavin Hewitt in the BBC1 News that evening talked of 80,000. From which source did Kim Barnes obtain her figure of 50,000?

Neil Clark mentioned BBC's one-sided coverage of Milosevic's death in an

interview he gave for Sky News on 12th March. He also made a telephone complaint on the same day to the BBC line 'Newswatch'.

His complaint was featured by Raymond Snoddy in his Newswatch programme of 18th March, but in a most unsatisfactory manner. Snoddy introduced the programme by asking "How should news coverage reflect the death of a man who was universally reviled"! The whole point is that Milosevic was not 'universally reviled'. His complaint was then glossed over by the BBC Obituaries correspondent and a correspondent who both said that 'the weight of evidence' pointed to Milosevic's guilt. This again, was simply not true. A four year trial in which over 100 prosecution witnesses were called failed to produce a single scrap of compelling evidence that Milosevic was guilty of the crimes he was charged with. The 'weight of evidence' supports Milosevic's innocence- not his guilt- yet one would never have thought so from the BBC's coverage.

On the day of Milosevic's funeral, Saturday 18th March, BBC News again showed its bias. Reporter Gavin Hewitt, in his report shown on BBC1's 10.15pm bulletin said that Milosevic's funeral seemed 'more like a rally for Serb nationalism' -despite the picture of communist era Yugoslav flags flying in the foreground. Rather than concentrate on these visible demonstrations of pro-Yugoslavism- the BBC cameras instead zoomed in on one, isolated placard showing Milosevic with Karadzic and Mladic- which Gavin Hewitt commented on to back up his thesis. And when the pictures of Milosevic's coffin being loaded into the ground were shown, Hewitt commented 'some of the mourners were indicted war criminals'. Were they? Can he produce evidence for this assertion? Milosevic's burial was attended by a large crowd of mourners, many in tears. Yet rather than comment on the genuine sadness that those who were present at the burial felt- Hewitt instead preferred to make unsubstantiated jibes about 'war criminals'.

Overall, we believe the BBC's coverage of the death of President Milosevic to have been totally disgraceful. A man who enjoyed widespread support, not just in the former Yugoslavia, but around the world, was demonised and treated as if he had already been found guilty of the charges the NATO powers laid against him.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Clark, Name & Address supplied

Countersigned:

Dr John Laughland, Name & Address supplied
 Zsuzsanna Clark, Name & Address supplied
 Roy Clark, Name & Address supplied
 Joan Clark, Name & Address supplied
 Julia Hammett, Name & Address supplied
 Kim Cooling, Name & Address supplied
 Stuart Carr, Name & Address supplied.

Nederlands OM bevoegd zaak Milosevic te onderzoeken

24 maart 2006

Het Nederlandse Openbaar Ministerie (OM) is bevoegd de oorzaak van het overlijden van de heer Milosevic te onderzoeken. In het Algemeen Dagblad van 21 maart is ten onrechte gesteld dat dit niet het geval zou zijn.

De basis voor deze bevoegdheid is gelegen in artikel V en VI van de overeenkomst tussen de Verenigde Naties (VN) en Nederland over het de zetel van het Joegoslavië tribunaal in Den Haag uit 1994 (Headquarters Agreement'). De hoofdregel is dat de wetgeving van het gastland (Nederland) van toepassing is op het terrein van het tribunaal. Hiermee verbonden zijn de Rules of Detention van het tribunaal die gelden vanaf 1 augustus 1994. Artikel 33 van deze Rules of Detention bepaalt dat in geval van het overlijden van een gedetineerde een officieel onderzoek zal plaatsvinden, in overeenstemming met de wettelijke eisen van Nederland.

Deze bepalingen vormen de basis voor het onderzoek dat door het Haagse Openbaar Ministerie naar het overlijden van de heer Milosevic is gedaan. De Nederlandse Wet op de lijkbezorging schrijft voor dat als er geen verklaring van natuurlijk overlijden wordt afgegeven, de officier van justitie moet worden geïnformeerd. De officier moet dan beslissen of het lichaam direct wordt vrijgegeven of dat nader onderzoek nodig is.

Volgens artikel V van de overeenkomst tussen de VN en Nederland hebben de Nederlandse autoriteiten toestemming van de griffier van het tribunaal nodig om het terrein van de VN te betreden. Deze toestemming is ten behoeve van het huidige onderzoek door de griffier steeds gegeven. Vanaf het allereerste moment is er overleg geweest tussen het tribunaal en het OM over de juridische basis van het Nederlandse onderzoek. Hierover is nooit een verschil van mening ontstaan. Daarnaast heeft de griffier van het tribunaal het Nederlandse OM verzocht de omstandigheden rond de dood van Milosevic te onderzoeken.

In het AD artikel wordt ook nog gesteld dat er interne regels bij het tribunaal zouden zijn, die voorschrijven dat Britse lijkschouwers de doodsoorzaak zouden moeten onderzoeken. Dit is onjuist. Ook is het niet zo dat de griffier van het tribunaal een verklaring zou hebben ondertekend dat het OM op zijn verzoek heeft gehandeld.

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic"
Aan: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: zaterdag 25 maart 2006 20:41
Onderwerp: Death and the rain

<http://www.granma.cu/ingles/2006/marzo/vier24/13milosevic.html>

GRANMA INTERNATIONAL/Cuba

Havana. March 24, 2006

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC
Death and the rain

BY ELSA CLARO—Granma International staff writer—

THERE are inopportune suspicions as to the real cause of the death of Milosevic (the fourth of Serbs imprisoned in The Hague) which, even if it was the most natural of all, leaves behind it a trail of reservations as to the legitimacy of the court that has held him for more than four years and that subjected him to a trial whose probity is questionable. Even with motives for having put him on trial for faults committed, that should have happened within his country, where legislation prevents the extradition of prisoners, and of having decided to make an exception: the placing in cells adjoining his of those who forced events into a one-way street or made themselves the decisive participants in a matter that was beyond their competence, thus rarefying results that, at the end of the day, have not turned out for the best.

There was no cleanness in the way in which the former head of state was taken to the Dutch capital. First he was pulled out of his residence and incarcerated in Belgrade. That was an initial step to facilitate his kidnapping via a nocturnal operation organized by the CIA (possibly with the help of other European secret services) and with the complicity of the then Prime Minister Zoran Djinic, who ended up being a priori assassinated by the mafia that he likewise betrayed, according to conjectures.

Djinic's motive was to get rid of Milosevic – who continued having followers – and at the same time to obtain Western financial aid, supposedly to pull Yugoslavia out of the economic strangulation to which it was subjected by the United States and the European Union with lengthy trade sanctions. For those pieces of silver he sold the former statesman, going over the head of Vojislav Kostunitca, president of the country at that time (June 2001), in an act so contemptible and self-seeking that he broke the existing government coalition and created anarchy out of what was an already highly delicate situation for Yugoslavia at the end of 10 years of dismemberment as a country and almost three months of intensive NATO (read the United States) bombardments.

ARIADNE'S THREAD

In 1991 Slovenia affirmed its decision to become independent of Yugoslavia. The German government headed by Helmut Kohl hastened to recognize it in early January 1992, thus forcing the EU to act likewise. The United States, with Bush Sr. experiencing the hangover of the first Gulf War, did not appear to have approved that secession among his plans, perhaps because of certain fears of the conflictive and immature process of the Socialist bloc's re-conversion or because one of his advisers had warned him that it was not a healthy idea to establish new borders in Europe.

Croatia followed the Slovenian impulse and, almost at the end of the same year, the Croats and Muslims from Bosnia-Herzegovina did likewise. To that point, a certain coexistence had been attained in Bosnia with power sharing among the three human groups that inhabited it, to an extent similar to that established by Marshall Tito when he legislated that the presidency of Yugoslavia should rotate as a way of avoiding setbacks, jealousy or envy of any of the leaders of this human mosaic.

Nevertheless, the first confrontations occurred on February 4, 1992. Almost immediately, Brussels and Washington accepted the sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while withholding support for the new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, recreated that same month (April 1992) and made up of Serbia and Montenegro, as the legal inheritors of the former.

In the face of an imminent triumph which could have resulted in the area asking to be annexed to the semi-proscribed

Yugoslavia, the West entered the scenario, affording itself the right of military intervention in an alien civil conflict. It did so outside of the UN and in violation of its precepts of international law.

The NATO bombardments were directed at Serb positions in order to twist the existing reality, without having any mandate or credible excuses, but by spreading macabre stories that are still repeated to justify the unacceptable.

In spite of the power of the Western allies there was no alternative but to accede to negotiations to halt what they were contributing to make worse and which could easily have reached a civilized outcome. However, to tell the truth, that was difficult, because Washington also utilized people of the likes of Osama Bin Laden in this episode to attract to the conflict extremist Muslims (including Talibans), who participated in this allegedly ethnic war but what was one of a political-economic nature before anything else.

The reasons? In the first place they were frightened of the existence in the very heart of Europe of a state that called itself socialist, although the unique experience of the Yugoslavs was distinct from that of Eastern Europe or the Soviet Union, and Slobodan Milosevic had already been forced to accept conditions imposed in the context of financial strangulation.

The Dayton Accords fabricated a government that is unable to function or to have resolved anything to date, given that troops are still in place in Bosnia and the scenario is one of total anomaly.

Something does seem to have occurred and is still occurring in the Serb province of Kosovo, where certain chapters of the same story have been barefacedly repeated.

The culminating point occurred in 1999 when, after giving support to the separatist Albanian Kosovars, the Clinton government ordered bombardments that continued for three months under the pretext that Belgrade was undertaking "ethnic cleansing." Strangely, enough since then and to date they have neither defended or helped the Serb Kosovars from whom they stole houses and possessions or whom they have killed and humiliated, even though the troops stationed in the area are supposedly neutral.

Those three months of 1999 and their collateral damage inflicted on individuals and civilian targets, with U.S. and NATO cluster bombs – what's the difference – will not go down in history through the gate of decorum.

PROVISONAL EPILOGUE

The special court financed and manipulated by the United States and various of its multinationals in which Milosevic was tried is usually confused with the International Court of Justice in The Hague created by the UN in 1947 and which judges states, not individuals. There are also people who confuse it with the International Criminal Court created in Rome in July 1998. The latter is the one that George W. Bush threatened with an armed assault if it extradited even one of its soldiers, however much of a torturer or genocidal killer he might be.

The fact that it is one of the many White House falsifications admitted by its partners is borne out by what Jaime Shea stated as spokesman for the military alliance commanded by Washington:

"The International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) will only investigate (NATO crimes) if we permit it." He was alluding to charges in Yugoslavia against that military pact but above all indicates the feeling of impunity with which it acts.

Neither the first or only arbitrariness was committed with Milosevic, other equally terrible legal procedures have been experienced, but if justice is as impartial as it is enshrined to be, governments on both sides of the Atlantic that helped to destroy a country and to increase the volume of victims via illegal interventions, them should all stand trial and in authentic courts, not one fabricated by "conquerors;" in other words, the new empire.

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.1.385 / Virus Database: 268.3.0/290 - Release Date: 23-3-2006

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
 Aan: "Andy Wilcoxson"
 Verzonden: zaterdag 25 maart 2006 17:53
 Onderwerp: Re: Website
 Andy,

There was not enough time for me to check it. Sounds great ! Tomorrow I will take a try to get it to my account. Could you please repeat the procedure for me on "child-level" by mail ? I think I have the right password, but that other a-doings... I wonder if I will be able to, unless along written full and step-by-step instructions !

Nico

----- Original Message -----

From: "Andy Wilcoxson" <andywilcoxson@comcast.net>
 To: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
 Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 12:42 PM
 Subject: RE: Website

Thank you, I have updated the article. I don't know if you've seen the PayPal account or not yet, but we have received almost 200 Euros in donations in less than a week!

- Andy

-----Original Message-----

From: Sagittarius [mailto:sagitar@hetnet.nl]
 Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 2:34 AM
 To: Andy Wilcoxson; webmaster@slobodan-milosevic.org; Andy Wilcoxson
 Subject: Fw: Website

----- Original Message -----

From: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
 To: "Andy Wilcoxson" <andywilcoxson@comcast.net>
 Sent: Friday, March 24, 2006 3:30 PM
 Subject: Re: Website

> Dear Andy,

>

> Your article of course is okay, and more than that.

> However, maybe you might be able to add some phrases where you mention

> Article 1 and its content. The point is that, if there is not enough

> evidence for (direct) torture in the sense of Article 1 of the Convention,

I

> will also invoke article 16 of the Convention, since there is, any how,

> enough evidence to establish 'cruel or inhumane treatment 'in this case.

>

> So it seems better to add, after "...violated the Convention", a paragraph

> stating

- >
- > "Except from direct torture in the sense of Article 1 of the Convention,
- > moreover Article 16 will be invoked, which points out also 'a cruel or
- > inhumane treatment' as a major crime under the Convention.
- > Abundant case law confirms that a treatment like Milosevic had to face in
- > his the Hague prison, systematically and deliberately deprived of the the
- > medical treatment he needed, is also at least to be considered a crime
- under
- > this specific Article."
- >
- > And such of course in better English !
- >
- > best regards,
- >
- > Nico S.
- >

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>; "Nico Varkevisser" <nico.v@slobodan-
Verzonden: zaterdag 25 maart 2006 20:42
Onderwerp: Was Milosevic Poisoned? (by William Norman Grigg)

Was Milosevic Poisoned? (by William Norman Grigg)

by William Norman Grigg

March 25, 2006

http://www.thenewamerican.com/artman/publish/article_3649.shtml

On March 9, the day before he died in his UN detention cell in The Hague, former Yugoslav ruler and career communist thug Slobodan Milosevic wrote a six-page letter to a legal aide expressing suspicions that he was being poisoned.

Two days after the former Serbian strongman's death, Dutch toxicologist Donald Uges reported finding "rifampicin, an antituberculosis drug that 'makes the liver extremely active' and thus breaks down other medications very quickly, possibly taking away their effectiveness," reported the AP. An official autopsy concluded that Milosevic had died of a heart attack. For several weeks prior to his death, he had repeatedly requested permission to travel to Russia for medical treatment, but those requests had been denied.

Prior to Donald Uges' report, Carla Del Ponte, chief prosecutor for the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY), dismissed the idea that Milosevic had been poisoned. After material evidence emerged lending credence to that claim, Del Ponte insisted that suicide "should not be ruled out" as a last act of "defiance" on the part of the former dictator. Both of Milosevic's parents committed suicide, and the former dictator was prone to dramatic, self-destructive gestures.

But even though a guilty verdict was a foregone conclusion in the Soviet-style UN "trial," Milosevic — serving as his own chief defense counsel — just weeks before his death, pried loose an important piece of evidence that may have gotten him killed.

On February 1, British journalist Eve-Ann Prentice, testifying in defense of Milosevic, told how she had seen Osama bin Laden ushered into the Sarajevo office of Bosnian president Alijah Izetbegovic in 1994. Prentice's testimony, which was publicized by Milosevic's defense team and not contested by the UN prosecution, was ruled inadmissible. Her testimony shows that with the material aid of Washington and its allies, bin Laden and his allies seized control over Bosnia and turned it into a base for terrorist operations in Europe and beyond. This was confirmed by investigative bodies in both the Senate and the Pentagon.

At the time of his death, Milosevic had a request pending before the ICTY to subpoena former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who would certainly have been asked about the role his administration played in helping al-Qaeda gain a foothold in the Balkans — both in Bosnia and later, via the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, in Kosovo.

And now it seems that someone — most likely the dimly-seen but perceptible power elite that presides over practically all national governments, just as the Mafia Commission ruled the constituent "families" of La Cosa Nostra — **has pulled the chain on Milosevic**. This was likely done to dispose of a defiant and irritating former employee, to shut down a "trial" that threatened to produce some untimely revelations, and to serve as an object lesson to other national leaders who might begin to entertain delusions of autonomy.

No virus found in this incoming message.

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Version: 7.1.385 / Virus Database: 268.3.0/290 - Release Date: 23-3-2006

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>; "Jenny Ligtenberg"
Verzonden: zaterdag 25 maart 2006 20:47
Onderwerp: A Mystery at the Hague?

http://www.chroniclesmagazine.org/cgi-bin/newsviews.cgi/The%20Balkans/A_Mysterious_Death_.html?seemore=y

ChroniclesExtra! Friday, March 24, 2006

A MYSTERIOUS DEATH AT THE HAGUE

By Srdja Trifkovic

The mainstream Western media coverage of the death of Slobodan Milosevic, while predictably relentless in its clichés (the "Butcher of the Balkans," guilty of "starting three wars" and ordering ethnic cleansing and genocide in his pursuit of a "greater Serbia," etc.), has ignored the unresolved mystery surrounding the event itself. Having spent a week in Belgrade talking to a score of well-placed individuals at different ends of the political spectrum, I can present to our readers the facts of the case that are deemed unfit to print by their Gannett, Tribune, NYT, or Knight Ridder outlets.

Milosevic was found dead in his cell at the International Criminal Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) detention unit near The Hague on Saturday, March 11, at 10:05 in the morning. His death came less than a week after another indicted Serb—the former President of the Krajina Serb Republic Milan Babic—hanged himself in another wing of the same UN detention facility. It also came a week after the Tribunal formally rejected his petition for temporary leave to travel to Moscow for medical treatment.

Far more remarkably, Milosevic's death came a day after he wrote a letter in longhand to the Russian foreign ministry, warning foreign minister Sergei Lavrov that his life was in danger:

"[T]he persistence with which the medical treatment in Russia was denied, in the first place is motivated by the fear that through careful examination it would be discovered that active, willful steps were taken to destroy my health throughout the proceedings of the trial, which could not be hidden from Russian specialists . . . [O]n January 12th (i.e., two months ago), an extremely strong drug was found in my blood, which is used, as they themselves say, for the treatment of tuberculosis and leprosy, although I never used any kind of antibiotic during these five years that I've been in their prison. Throughout this whole period, neither have I had any kind of infectious illness (apart from flu). Also the fact that doctors needed 2 months [to report this fact to me] cannot have any other explanation than we are facing manipulation. . . . [by] those from which I defended my country in times of war and who have an interest to silence me . . . , I am addressing you in expectation that you help me defend my health from the criminal activities in this institution, working under the sign of the U.N. . . ."

Within hours after Milosevic's death was announced, his legal advisor Zdenko Tomanovic filed an official request to the Tribunal to have the autopsy carried out in Moscow, "having in mind his claims yesterday that he was being poisoned in the jail." This was rejected by the Tribunal and an autopsy was carried out by a Dutch team, in the presence of Russian and Serbian doctors. No overt signs of poisoning were found, but the head of the Bakulev Cardiovascular Surgery Centre, Academician Leo Bokeria, who attended the autopsy, said that the medicines given to Milosevic might have exacerbated the situation: "We indicated how the patient could be cured, but no steps were taken. We warned for more than two years that something might happen to the patient, but the leadership of the tribunal avoided facing this." Russian diplomats at the UN described the report from The Hague as "disturbing" and demanded a full report from the UN Secretariat.

Suspicions of foul play were fuelled by the ICTY chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte's strange demeanor in the immediate aftermath of Milosevic's death. She appeared almost gleeful on March 12 when she declared that Milosevic's death may have been a suicide, and speculated that he might have wanted to thwart the impending guilty verdict in his trial. The theme of "Milosevic cheating justice" was duly picked up by the media pack and establishment politicians and repeated thousands of times, creating the impression that the trial was going well for the prosecution.

Anyone who had met Milosevic at The Hague—myself included—knew that del Ponte's speculation was absurd. He was conducting his defense effectively and at times brilliantly, and he was positively looking forward to the rest of the trial—not because he expected a "not guilty" verdict (no such luck at The Hague), but because he believed that he was contributing to setting the record of history straight.

Canada's former ambassador in Belgrade James Bissett was one of the last defense witnesses to see Milosevic alive. He told me in Belgrade earlier this week that, in the course of their long meetings on February 21 and 22, Milosevic struck him as the man least likely to contemplate suicide at the ICTY, the prosecution team included:

He was perfectly relaxed, not in the least depressed, and seemed to be in a good health. He was busy trying to prepare for my testimony and he struck me as being content with the way the trial was going. The following day, however, around five o'clock-after we'd worked for 2 or 3 hours-he suddenly became flushed in the face and clasped his hands to his head. I was startled and asked if he was all right. He answered that he was OK and explained that although his blood pressure was under control, he had these constant ringing and echoing sounds in his head. This was caused, he said, by a problem with an artery in his ear. He complained about it before to the Dutch doctors who simply said it was psychological. But after increasing demands they gave him a MRI test and found that indeed he was right there was a problem with the artery in his ear. Artery had a "loop" in it and to correct it, surgery would be necessary. That is why he wanted to go to Moscow to a clinic that specializes in this type of ailment, but the Tribunal refused it."

Bissett was especially sorry to hear of Milosevic's death because it means that the historical record that he had wanted to set down during his trial will be incomplete: now we are not going to hear the Milosevic's story but only the media spin, as all of the evidence in his favor has been censored:

"He knew his material. He has done a very good job of cross-examining the prosecution witnesses and destroying many of them who appeared before the Tribunal. He has discounted much of the case against him but the public hears none of this because there seems to be a deliberate news blackout on anything recorded in his favor . . . There is a sense of relief at The Hague, because the Tribunal was having a very hard time bringing forth any hard evidence to prove that there was genocide in Kosovo or that Milosevic entered into the criminal conspiracy to establish a 'Greater Serbia.' Nevertheless they would have found him guilty. He was under no illusion about that but he wanted to put the facts on the historical record. Unfortunately this is no longer possible and so it will be NATO's interpretation of events that the world will have."

According to the former Yugoslav foreign minister Zivadin Jovanovic, who served at the time of the NATO bombing, the issue is not so much whether Milosevic was poisoned, as many Serbs still believe, but whether his death was made more likely by the Tribunal's willful negligence. He and his colleagues from the Belgrade Forum, an NGO critical of the ICTY, note that there has been no serious attempt by any major Western media outlet to examine the facts of the case, and ask who exactly stood to profit from his death.

The suspicion of deliberate negligence is shared by many Serbs who had never been sympathetic to Milosevic, politically and personally. They complain that Western journalists have accepted a tad too blithely the Tribunal's claim that Milosevic was illicitly taking powerful antibiotics that had neutralized his blood pressure medication, allegedly in order to create the impression that the therapy ordered by Dutch doctors was ineffective and that therefore he should be allowed to travel to Moscow for treatment. Even if Milosevic had been willing to risk his life by taking a powerful antibiotic, Rifanticin, which would have rendered blood pressure medication useless, the claim is unconvincing for three reasons:

1. Milosevic's very public alarm about the antibiotic's traces, evident in his letter to Lavrov, does not tally with his allegedly illicit scheme to self-medicate the drug;
2. Milosevic's premises were under surveillance and subject to detailed searches;
3. All visitors and their possessions (briefcases, papers) are subjected to a thorough search by the detention unit staff.

As for the assertion that Milosevic "escaped justice," impartial observers were of the opinion that Carla del Ponte was the one losing the legal battle. The charges against Milosevic-genocide, crimes against humanity, "joint criminal conspiracy" to create a "Greater Serbia"-have always been political, and they are collective by definition. They remain unproven and, by the standards of any normal court in a normal country, would have been deemed discredited by now. Neil Clark, who used to cover the ICTY for the Guardian, noted that "not only has the prosecution signally failed to prove Milosevic's personal responsibility for atrocities committed on the ground, the nature and extent of the atrocities themselves has also been called into question." In the worst single atrocity ascribed to Milosevic's ultimate responsibility, that in Srebrenica in July 1995, Clark says that del Ponte and her team "produced nothing to challenge the verdict of the five-year inquiry commissioned by the Dutch government-that there was 'no proof that orders for the slaughter came from Serb political leaders in Belgrade.'" John Laughland noted that the trial had heard more than a hundred prosecution witnesses by late last year, "and not a single one has testified that Milosevic ordered war crimes." In Julia Gorin's view, an attempt to create an Islamic "Greater Albania" was confused with one to create a "Greater Serbia":

"Surely if the latter were Slobodan Milosevic's goal, he would have started by ethnically cleansing the nearly 300,000 Muslims of Serbia. Though he built his career in whatever dirty ways Tito's Yugoslavia allowed, he was the least of the Balkans' villains. For most Serbs, he was not a hero until he was called upon to defend an entire nation at The Hague. Now that Milosevic is dead, we are spared the worldwide riots that would have ensued had the tribunal mustered the courage to issue a verdict based on the evidence. And we can all sleep comfortably as the disproved charges are accepted as history."

The circumstances surrounding Milosevic's death will be brought to light sooner or later, and the verdict will not be to the credit of the "international community" or the concept of transnational justice. He was guilty of many sins and errors, but they were a matter between him and his people. The Hague was the wrong court trying to find him guilty of

... wrong crimes, and it has always been motivated by all the wrong reasons.

The verdict of history on Milosevic himself will be ambiguous because there had been more than one "Milosevic" in his 64 years (1941-2006). His career can be divided into four periods of unequal duration and significance. The first, from his birth in 1941 until his meteoric rise to power in Serbia in early 1987, was the longest and the least interesting. The only unusual element in his early biography was the suicide of both his parents, who had separated when he was a child. At 24 he married his only sweetheart, Mirjana Markovic, illegitimate daughter of a high-ranking communist official. She was neurotic, uncompromisingly hard-Left in her politics, ambitious, and able to dominate "her Sloba" until the very end. Unstable to the point of clinical insanity, more than any other person she had contributed to his serious errors of judgment and eventual loss of popularity and power base.

To all appearances, until 1987 Milosevic was an unremarkable apparatchik. His solid Communist Party credentials-he joined the League of Communists as a high school senior in 1959-were essential to his professional advance. After graduating from Belgrade's school of law in 1964 he held a variety of business administration posts, eventually becoming director of a major bank and, briefly, its representative in New York. By the early 80s he increasingly turned to politics and made his way up the Party ladder by forging alliances and friendships that were pragmatic rather ideological. His name remained relatively unknown outside the ranks of the nomenklatura.

Then came the turning point. As president of the League of Communists of Serbia, in April 1987 Milosevic traveled to the town of Kosovo Polje, in the restive southern Serbian province of Kosovo, to quell the protests by local Serbs who were unhappy with the lack of support they were getting from Belgrade in the face of ethnic Albanian pressure. When the police started dispersing the crowd using batons, Milosevic stopped them and uttered the words that were to change his life and that of a nation. "No one is allowed to beat you people; no one will ever hit you again," he told the cheering crowd.

Used to two generations of Serbian Communist leaders subservient to Tito and reluctant to advance their republic's interests lest they be accused of "greater Serbian nationalism," ordinary Serbs responded with enthusiasm. The word of a new kind of leader spread like wildfire. Milosevic's populism worked wonders at first, enabling him to eliminate all political opponents within the Party leadership of Serbia at a marathon 30-hour Central Committee session in September 1987. A huge rally in Belgrade's Confluence Park (1988) and in Kosovo to mark the 600th anniversary of the historic battle (1989), reflected a degree of genuine popularity that he enjoyed in Serbia, Montenegro, and Serbian-inhabited part of Bosnia and Croatia in the late 1980s.

Far from proclaiming an agenda for expansion, as later alleged by his accusers, his speech at Kosovo was full of old ideological clichés and "Yugoslav" platitudes:

"Equal and harmonious relations among Yugoslav peoples are a necessary condition for the existence of Yugoslavia and for it to find its way out of the crisis and, in particular, they are a necessary condition for its economic and social prosperity . . . Internal and external enemies . . . organize their activity against multinational societies mostly by fomenting national conflicts. At this moment, we in Yugoslavia are behaving as if we have never had such an experience."

The precise nature of his long term agenda was never stated, however, because it had never been defined. He was able to gain followers from widely different camps, including hard-line Party loyalists as well as anti-Communist nationalists, because they all tended to project their hopes, aspirations and fears onto Milosevic-even though those hopes and aspirations were often mutually incompatible.

The key issue was the constitutional framework within which the Serbs should seek their future. They were unhappy by Tito's arrangements that kept them divided into five units in the old Yugoslav federation. Milosevic wanted to redefine the nature of that federation, rather than abolish it. Then and throughout his life he was a "Yugoslav" rather than a "Greater Serb." In addition he was so deeply steeped in the Communist legacy of his formative years-and so utterly unable to resist the pressure from his doctrinaire wife-that even after the fall of the Berlin Wall he kept the old insignia with the red star, together with the leadership structure and mindset of the old, Titoist order.

The tensions of this period could have been resolved by a clear strategy once the war broke out, first in Croatia (summer 1991) and then in Bosnia (spring 1992). This did not happen. In the third phase of Milosevic's career, from mid-1991 until October 5, 2000, a cynically manipulative Mr. Hyde had finally prevailed over the putative national leader Dr. Jekyll. As the fighting raged around Vukovar and Dubrovnik, he made countless contradictory statements about its nature, always stressing that "Serbia is not at war" and thereby implicitly recognizing the validity of Tito's internal boundaries.

Anticipating the onset of the second stage even before it became fully apparent, and to many raised eyebrows in Washington, I opined that "Milosevic is cynically exploiting the nationalist awakening to perpetuate Communist rule and his own power in the eastern half of Yugoslavia." (U.S. News & World Report, 18 June 1990), that he "needs outside enemies to halt the erosion of his popularity." (U.S. News & World Report, 12 November 1990). In the end, for Serb patriots it turned out that "trusting Milosevic is like giving a blood bank to Count Dracula" (the Times of London, 23 November 1995).

ly blithely recognizing the secessionist republics within Tito's boundaries, the "international community" effectively became a combatant in the wars of Yugoslav secession. Its "mediators" accepted a role that was not only subordinate, but also squalid. Lord David Owen, prominent among them, conceded that Tito's boundaries were arbitrary and should have been redrawn at the time of Yugoslavia's disintegration: "to rule out any discussion or opportunity for compromise in order to head off war was an extraordinary decision," he wrote, "to have stuck unyieldingly to the internal boundaries of the six republics within the former Yugoslavia as being the boundaries for independent states, was a folly far greater than that of premature recognition itself." But in all his deeds he and a legion of other mediators nevertheless stuck, unyieldingly, to that formula.

Milosevic's diplomatic ineptitude and his chronic inability to grasp the importance of lobbying and public relations in Washington and other Western capitals had enabled the secessionists to have a free run of the media scene with the simplistic notion that "the butcher of the Balkans" was overwhelmingly, even exclusively guilty of all the horrors that had befallen the former Yugoslavia. At the same time, far from seeking the completion of a "Greater Serbian" project while he had the military wherewithal to do so (1991-1995), Milosevic attempted to fortify his domestic position in Belgrade by trading in the Western Serbs (Krajina, Bosnia) for Western benevolence. It worked for a while. "The Serbian leader continues to be a necessary diplomatic partner," the New York Times opined in November 1996, a year after the Dayton Agreement ended the war in Bosnia thanks to Milosevic's pressure on the Bosnian-Serb leadership. His status as a permanent fixture in the Balkan landscape seemed secure.

It all changed with the escalation of the crisis in Kosovo, however. His belated refusal to sign on yet another dotted line at Rambouillet paved the way for NATO's illegal bombing of Serbia in the spring of 1999. For one last time the Serbs rallied under the leader many of them no longer trusted, aware that the alternative was to accept the country's open-ended carve-up. For one last time they were let down: Milosevic saved Clinton's skin by capitulating in June of that year, and letting NATO occupy Kosovo just as the bombing campaign was running out of steam and the Alliance was riddled by discord over what to do next.

The ensuing mass exodus of Kosovo's quarter-million Serbs and the torching of their homes and churches by the KLA terrorists did not prevent Milosevic from pretending that his superior statesmanship, embodied in the unenforceable UN Security Council Resolution 1244, had saved the country's integrity. The ensuing reconstruction effort in Serbia was used as a propaganda ploy to improve the rating of his own socialist party of Serbia and his wife Mirjana Markovic's minuscule "Yugoslav United Left" (JUL).

For many Serbs this was the final straw. Refusing to recognize the change of mood, in mid-2000 Milosevic followed his wife's advice and called a snap election, hoping to secure his position for another four years. Unexpectedly he was unable to beat his chief challenger Vojislav Kostunica in the first round, and succumbed to a wave of popular protest when he tried to deny Kostunica's victory in the closely contested runoff.

His downfall on October 5, 2000, followed a failed attempt to steal yet another election. It nevertheless would not have been possible if the military and the security services had not abandoned him. There had been just too many defeats and too many wasted opportunities over the previous decade and a half for the security chiefs to continue trusting Milosevic implicitly. Their refusal to fire on the crowds—as his half-demented wife allegedly demanded on that day—sealed Milosevic's fate. After five months' powerless isolation in his suburban villa he was arrested and taken to Belgrade's central prison. On June 28, 2001, Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic arranged for his transfer to The Hague Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal, in violation of Serbia's laws and constitution.

The final four years of Milosevic's life were spent in prison. During this time a haughty and arrogant know-all of previous years rapidly evolved into a hard-working and efficient lawyer who conducted his own complex defense. He was helped by an indictment that was hastily concocted by del Ponte's predecessor Louise Arbour at the height of the bombing campaign in May 1999 to serve political, rather than legal purposes.

In preparing his defense Milosevic was initially guided by personal motives. By the end of 2003 or early 2004, however, he came to realize that, regardless of his own destiny, what he was doing had a wider historic significance. He was accused of "genocide," a crime that places collective stigma on a nation, not just its leader. Furthermore, the accusation of a "joint criminal conspiracy" with the purpose of creating a "Greater Serbia" was expanded by the Tribunal into an attempt to misrepresent two centuries of Serbia's history as an open-ended quest for aggressive expansion, with Milosevic but the latest link in that chain. As John Laughland wrote in the Spectator last year, even more than the gross abuses of due process which it is committing, the Milosevic trial has shown the futility of trying to submit political decisions to the judgment of criminal law:

"Because it seeks to comprehend war as the result of the decisions of individuals, and not as the consequence of conflict between states, modern international humanitarian law sees trees but no wood. In the Milosevic trial, the role of the other Yugoslav leaders in starting the war especially those who declared secession from Yugoslavia is grossly obscured, as is that of the countless Western politicians and institutions who were intimately involved at every stage of the Yugoslav conflict, and who encouraged the secessions."

Finally grasping the extent to which his trial was also the trial of the Serbian nation as a whole, Milosevic succeeded for the first time in his life to transcend the limitations of ideology and egotism that had blinkered him for so long. He turned

heralded by the Western media class as a new Nuremberg, into a political embarrassment for "the
national community." His defense, effective and at times brilliant (one prosecutor acknowledged that "there's no
one who's the smartest guy in the courtroom"), finally blended Milosevic's personal interest with the interest of his
people. When I met him at his cell in June 2004 he told me that he may never get out of there, but he was certain his
refutation of [chief prosecutor Carla] del Ponte's ridiculous indictment would set the record of history straight."

Milosevic's death makes that certainty well justified, even if "the record of history" comes too late to alter the unjust and
untenable temporary outcome of the wars of Yugoslav succession. It is to be feared that those who had collectively
invented a fictional character bearing the name "Slobodan Milosevic" in the 1990s will use the historic man's death as a
welcome opportunity to put the finishing touches on the caricature, and promote it as the final, approved and
unalterable likeness.

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Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-johnson@lineone.net>
Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>
Verzonden: zondag 26 maart 2006 20:01
Bijlage: smlink.gif
Onderwerp: CDSM: From Russia, with love and
 farewell.

Thank you to our good friend MC for sending this.

<http://cirqueminime.blogspot.com/2006/03/from-russia-with-love-and-farewell.html>

{Still can't clear this bile from my throat to write about the assassination of President Milosevic or anything else. But these letters of love and farewell from his wife and son touched and moved me very much. I hope they will counter balance the moral depravity that is drowning the current geopolitical discussion. -mc}

English translation of letters written by Slobodan Milosevic's widow, Mira Markovic, and their son Marko Milosevic read out at his funeral in Pozarevac on March 18, 2006.

MIRA MARKOVIC'S LETTER:

Our anniversary was on March 14, our love was born on March 17, March was our month and in March we are bidding farewell.

We were constantly together ... You have spent five years in prison and I have not seen you in three years. You returned home from The Hague prison and I am not there with you. The criminals who murdered you in The Hague want my life, and maybe the life of our children. You were murdered by criminals who, by the achievement of our ideals, were deprived of the privileges they won through other people's work.

You have returned home to stay here forever in this spot.

I am not here with you, at our home.

Every struggle against injustice will in the future be inspired by you.

I will continue where you stopped, I will love our children, our country our home and I will fight for our ideals.

I was waiting for you for five long years, but I was not fortunate enough to see you. Now you are waiting for me.

Love, Your Mira.

MARKO MILOSEVIC'S LETTER:

Dad, I fulfilled what you asked of me and I sent you home, here with us, where you wished, where your place is. Here, where Marija and I grew up and where (grandson) Marko is growing up.

Here, to one of the most beautiful places in this holy Serbian land where the greatest Serbian heroes and martyrs lived and died for their homeland for more than two centuries, both under the Orthodox cross and five-point star.

Unfortunately, you are not the first to return here losing their life but, as all before you, winning the war and gaining freedom.

our death be holy and let it be remembered forever and let it be the last. Let it sober humiliated and
eived Serbian people. Let it remind them of all Serbian martyrs, from King Lazar, to you, so never again a
ngle Serbian patriot will be betrayed and lose his life.

Let Serbia return all those from this shameful and doomed place where I saw you last. Never should
aggressors and occupiers be allowed to set foot on this land. Do not allow freedom and dignity be buried with
your death. Let freedom and peace replace violence, betrayal, persecution and humiliation that rule this
country.

Traitors and cowards justify a betrayal of the homeland with national interests. Real patriots and heroes die
for the homeland like you did. Dying for homeland means living forever.

Dad, when your heart stops beating, mine is just ticking.

Be finally in peace and free, you have come home.

Here, you will be with us forever. Although your heart does not work any more, we give you ours, to remain
with you forever.

I love you forever and ever, the most in the world.

May you rest in peace,

Marko.

26-3-2006

THE QUISLING OF BELGRADE

The murdered Serbian prime minister was a reviled western stooge whose economic reforms brought misery

By NEIL CLARK

Tributes to Zoran Djindjic, the assassinated prime minister of Serbia, have been pouring in. President Bush led the way, praising his "strong leadership", while the Canadian government's spokesman extolled a "herald of democracy" and Tony Blair spoke of the energy Djindjic had devoted to "reforming Serbia".

In western newspaper obituaries Djindjic has been almost universally acclaimed as an ex-student agitator who bravely led a popular uprising against a tyrannical dictator and endeavoured to steer his country into a new democratic era.

But beyond the CNN version of world history, the career of Zoran Djindjic looks rather different. Those who rail against the doctrine of regime change should remember that Iraq is far from being the first country where the US and other western governments have tried to engineer the removal of a government that did not suit their strategic interests. Three years ago it was the turn of Slobodan Milosevic's Yugoslavia.

In his recent biography of Milosevic, Adam Lebor reveals how the US poured \$70m into the coffers of the Serb opposition in its efforts to oust the Yugoslav leader in 2000. On the orders of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, a covert US Office of Yugoslav Affairs was set up to help organise the uprising that would sweep the autocratic Milosevic from power. At the same time, there is evidence that underworld groups, controlled by Zoran Djindjic and linked to US intelligence, carried out a series of assassinations of key supporters of the Milosevic regime, including Defence Minister Pavle Bulatovic and Zika Petrovic, head of Yugoslav Airlines.



THE QUISLING OF BELGRADE:

ZORAN DJINDJIC

With Slobodan and his socialist party finally toppled, the US got the "reforming" government in Belgrade it desired. The new President Vojislav Kostunica received the bouquets, but it was the State Department's man, Zoran Djindjic, who held the levers of power - and he certainly did not let his Washington sponsors down.

The first priority was to embark on a programme of "economic reform" - new-world-order-speak for the selling of state assets at knockdown prices to western multinationals. Over 700,000 Yugoslav enterprises remained in social ownership and most were still controlled by employee-management committees, with only 5% of capital privately owned. Companies could only be sold if 60% of the shares were allocated to workers.

Djindjic moved swiftly to change the law and the great sell-off could now begin. After two years in which thousands of socially owned enterprises have been sold (many to companies from countries which took part in the 1999 bombing of Yugoslavia), last month's World Bank report was lavish in its praise of the Djindjic government and its "engagement of international banks in the privatisation process".

But it wasn't just state assets that Djindjic was under orders to sell. Milosevic had to go too, for a promised \$100m, even if it effectively meant kidnapping him in contravention of Yugoslav law, and

sending him by RAF jet to a US-financed show trial at the Hague. When a man has sold his country's assets, its ex-president and his main political rivals, what else is there to sell? Only the country itself. And in January this year Djindjic did just that. Despite the opposition of most of its citizens, the "herald of democracy" followed the requirements of the "international community" and after 74 years the name of Yugoslavia disappeared off the political map. The strategic goal of its replacement with a series of weak and divided protectorates had finally been achieved.

Sometimes, though, even the best executed plans go awry. Despite the western eulogies, Djindjic will be mourned by few in Serbia. For the great majority of Serbs, he will be remembered as a quisling who enriched himself by selling his country to those who had waged war against it so mercilessly only a few years earlier. Djindjic's much lauded reforms have led to soaring utility prices, unemployment has risen sharply to over 30%, real wages have fallen by up to 20% and over two-thirds of Serbs now live below the poverty line.

It is still unclear who fired the shots that killed Zoran Djindjic. The likelihood is that it was an underworld operation, his links to organised crime finally catching up with him. But, harsh though it sounds, there are many in Serbia who would willingly have pulled the trigger. On a recent visit to Belgrade, I was struck not only by the level of economic hardship, but by the hatred almost everyone I met felt towards their prime minister, whose poll ratings had fallen below 10%.

The lesson from Serbia for today's serial regime changers is a simple one. You can try to subjugate a people by sanctions, subversion and bombs. You can, if you wish, overthrow governments you dislike and seek to impose your will by installing a Hamid Karzai, General Tommy Franks or a Zoran Djindjic to act as imperial consul. But do not imagine that you can then force a humiliated people to pay homage to them.

Neil Clark is writing a book about the recent history of Yugoslavia

(The Guardian)

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Aan: "R Despotovic"
Verzonden: maandag 27 maart 2006 13:18
Onderwerp: Re: ISTINA=waarheid
Hoi Roza,

Hardstikke fijn dat 't nu ook in het Servisch vertaald is !
Ik had ook iemand die het in het Engels zou vertalen, maar daar hoor ik niks meer van.

Toen ik zaterdagavond laat 11 maart thuis kwam van een vergadering, vond ik een briefje van Neeltje:

"Nico Varkevisser belde. Milosevic is overleden ! Kay heeft het bevestigd. Deze echte pure waskaars brandt voor Slobodan Milosevic, voor zijn inzet voor de pure waarheid en RECHT. "

Ik zal dat bewaren.

Van een bijeenkomst weet ik niets. Alleen dat de NCPN, later, nog iets van een herdenkingsbijeenkomst van plan zou zijn.

groetjes,

Nico

----- Original Message -----

From: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
To: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 1:35 AM
Subject: ISTINA=waarheid

> Hoi Nico,
> dit is de vertaling van jou brief over Slobo, gepubliceerd op deze websit.
>
> Nico, van Snezana kreeg ik de vraag over woensdagavond, een of andere
> bijeenkomst zal plaats vinden, alleen zij weet het niet exact waar en hoe
> laat het plaats zal vinden? Kun jij mij wat meer over vertellen?
>
> Groetjes,
> Roza
> <http://www.istina.at/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=1289&Itemid=57>
>

The Milosevic Case

John Catalinotto Interviews Sara Flounders

(Swans - March 27, 2006) **John Catalinotto:** Sara, you have been active as a writer and political organizer since the breakup of Yugoslavia was first threatened in the early 1990s. What was your reaction when you heard that former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic had died in Scheveningen Prison in The Hague and that the media was claiming he might have committed suicide or purposely taken medications that compromised his health?

Sara Flounders: My first reaction was distress that he had died while in the hands of the same US and NATO forces that had destroyed his country, Yugoslavia, and which had refused to allow him the medical care he and his defenders sought, sorrow for his family who had been prevented from visiting him on a regular basis, and anger that the same demonization of him that had gone on for the past 16 years spewed out after his death. As an approved defense witness, I had interviewed with Milosevic on June 28, 2004. I knew on the one hand how the latest accusations were as contrived and filled with contradictions as the whole case against him was, and on the other hand how people unfamiliar with the facts might be deceived by all the lies.

No one who has met with President Milosevic since he was kidnapped from Belgrade to The Hague in June of 2001 or who watched him cross-examine government witnesses during sessions of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) could believe he would kill himself or even risk killing himself rather than finish his defense. By choosing to defend himself during what was already a four-year-long hearing he could use the ICTY as a platform to make his political case against NATO, and he did this well.

Anyone wanting to learn the recent history of the Balkans could benefit from reading Milosevic's opening defense speech, given on August 31-September 1, 2004. With it, he has left a ringing indictment of US and European big-power intervention in the Balkans in a historic document that follows a *J'Accuse* format. His speech, which contains extensive documentation and factual detail, has been published in Serbian, Greek, French, Russian, and English. This response, which the International Action Center published just a few months ago in English under the title, *The Defense Speaks for History and the Future*, will stand long after the tawdry war propaganda has collapsed.

And no one who visited Scheveningen in The Hague would believe the outlandish claims that somehow Milosevic was able to smuggle in unprescribed medications on a regular basis. Even after my name was accepted as a defense witness, it was a complicated and lengthy procedure to get through to Milosevic. Before I could get in, I had to pass four totally separate checkpoints and was unable to take in anything but

papers. Each level of security was more rigid than the one before. Though all was approved on the day of the visit, it still took four hours to get through the checkpoints into the special unit inside the prison where ICTY defendants were kept -- totally segregated from the general population and closely monitored.

JC: How did you come to visit Milosevic in Scheveningen and what were your impressions of him?

SF: My role as witness was based both on my political knowledge -- I had co-edited two books on its recent history -- and on my trip to Yugoslavia in the spring of 1999 during the bombing. I went then with a delegation from the International Action Center that accompanied former Attorney General Ramsey Clark. In the middle of the 78-day US/NATO bombing campaign -- it was in mid-May, I visited bombed schools, hospitals, heating plants, and market places, recording the destruction done to civilians, what NATO press spokesperson Jamie Shea in 1999 used to call "collateral damage," although some of those giving orders later admitted that the civilian infrastructure and the morale of the Yugoslavs were the main targets of the bombing campaign.

After the cease-fire in June 1999, NATO discovered it had destroyed only 13 tanks in Kosovo and killed maybe a hundred Yugoslav soldiers, but had killed hundreds if not thousands of civilians in Serbia, including hundreds of children, rocket-bombed the television broadcasting center and the Chinese Embassy, and had polluted the entire region by bombing the chemical plants at Pancevo near Belgrade.

The day I met Milosevic I had flown over from the U.S., suffered from lack of sleep and jet lag, and had just gone through four hours of unpleasant security checks. Milosevic had high blood pressure, but he was energetic and positive throughout the entire interview, which lasted more than three hours. He had a clear grasp of what he wanted from my testimony. He was also in complete command of the history of the region. Whatever my own desire to rest might have been, his enthusiasm kept me focused on the work. One got the impression that his best moments were planning and then carrying out his case.

In the hours we met he expressed no complaints about the physical conditions under which he was held. He didn't complain about the food, painfully strict security conditions, lack of being allowed to visit with any of his family, or any of the other things that the ICTY was using in an attempt to break his morale. His only complaint was that the ICTY was able to deny him any access to any preparation material or files during days and days of imposed rest, anytime his blood pressure was high or he was sick. These delays further increased the pressure on him, because each court-imposed "rest" further limited his preparation time. None of the material was allowed into his cell, so the hours that he could work were very strictly limited. All of this was part of the pressure to get him to give up on presenting his own defense.

He spoke English fluently so we needed no interpreter. Before the ICTY officials, he spoke only Serbian -- not only was that his right, but he was aiming his statements at the people back home, who were the only ones, after the first week, who were able to follow the trial daily in detail. The reason his trial rebuttals and presentations were such popular viewing in Serbia every evening after Milosevic had cross-examined prosecution witnesses or later on the court days when he presented his witnesses, was that these were familiar figures and events to people in Serbia. The population constantly saw him as battling Western propaganda and demonization, not battling for his personal reputation but always putting the events in the larger political context, yet taking up the minutest details.

Milosevic had hundreds of files, lists and lists of potential defense witnesses. Every potential witness had to be approved by the ICTY. He read an enormous amount and

knew at the tip of his tongue each person's particular view, specific contribution, and general political orientation. He also had a very detailed and fully developed defense strategy. There were stacks of books in his office cell and stacks of files of transcripts with stickers marking specific points to raise or rebut.

During our interview, Milosevic referred often to his copy of *Hidden Agenda: the U.S.-NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia*, in which he had written many comments in the margins of the text. The book, which the International Action Center published in 2002, was organized so as to present a case of war crimes against the NATO leaders and generals. It followed the outline of a people's tribunal we organized in June 2000 charging [President Bill] Clinton and the other NATO presidents, prime ministers, chancellors, and generals with war crimes regarding the aggression against Yugoslavia. Ramsey Clark had prepared our indictment, and it was all laid out in the form of violations of international laws.

Most important for Milosevic's work, the book included people's efforts from around the world to gather the evidence of U.S./NATO's crimes against Yugoslavia during the bombing and it framed the political role of these bombings in the breakup of Yugoslavia in the light of international law and war crimes. These were the exact points Milosevic wanted to develop in his defense. It was obvious our book was a useful tool for his own preparation, even if he brought up additional topics or gave a different emphasis.

JC: You say Milosevic had a different emphasis. What do you mean?

SF: In our people's tribunal, although we presented a case against the leaders of other NATO countries, the main part of our argument exposed the role of the United States. Also, we were concentrating mainly on what is called the Kosovo war, that is, the 1999 military assault on Yugoslavia with the excuse of defending "human rights" of the ethnic Albanian people who were a majority of the population in the Kosovo province of Serbia. Milosevic had to defend his role during the conflicts involving Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina also, and he paid close attention to the role of the German government -- which was significant in subverting Yugoslavia in the early 1990s -- and to the role played by agents of the Vatican. He also developed the historical role of both Germany and the Catholic Church hierarchy in the Balkans. Regarding the US role, he used many of the same points we did, but he also knew -- from the inside -- of the duplicity of US diplomacy.

JC: If the war in Kosovo wasn't fought over human rights, what was behind this war?

SF: Yugoslavia was the last standing pro-socialist country in Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was also the last remaining country whose government had not capitulated to the Western European powers and the United States and given them free entry to the economy. For that reason alone these powers aimed at what would today be called "regime change" first in Yugoslavia and then, after they succeeded in dividing the Yugoslav Federation into weak countries they could easily rule, in the remaining independent regime in Serbia and Montenegro headed by the Socialist Party of Serbia, Milosevic's party.

In addition, these big powers, especially the U.S. and Germany, had their own rivalries and their own interests at stake in the Balkans. Yugoslavia has strategic importance. It lies on the oil pipeline route from the Caspian Sea region to Western Europe. It has a skilled, educated workforce. It is in what the rulers in Berlin consider their "back yard," just as Washington looks at Latin America. German diplomacy and subversion had made key inroads in the early 1990s by backing the secessionist regimes in Croatia and Slovenia. Washington had as its trump card its military might, and the 1999 war put the U.S. back in the leading role in the region.

It is instructive that at the end of the 1999 war the big powers held a conference in Bosnia to carve up Kosovo just as they had met in 1878 in Berlin to carve up the Balkans or in 1885 in Berlin again to carve up Africa. Without the Soviet Union as a counterweight, these powers more openly exposed their role as colonial rulers. The United States set up the large permanent military base, Camp Bondsteel, in Kosovo, its largest foreign military base since the Vietnam War, poised to threaten all of the Balkans and Eastern Europe. Germany, France, Britain, and Italy each took control of pieces of Kosovo, which includes the valuable mines and refineries in Trepca, their worth valued at \$5 billion. Italy, as the least powerful of these colonial powers, got control of the part of Kosovo that had the most Depleted Uranium weapons fired and left as a dangerous waste product of the war.

By 2003, with a client regime in power in Serbia, USX, formerly known as the U.S. Steel Corporation, had bought the technologically advanced Sartid steel plant for a mere \$23 million, although the Yugoslav government had invested \$1 billion into it from 1990 to 2000. This plant manufactures specialized steel with buyers on the world market. And it has workers with more than 30 years experience who are paid only \$159 per month. Sartid was only one of 882 major purchases at low prices of Yugoslav industries bought up by US and West European capital. They paid \$1.4 billion in total to the Serbian government, about half of it from US capital.

Like the other wars of the 20th century, the war against Yugoslavia was fought over conquest of raw materials, markets, and areas to invest capital.

JC: What was Milosevic's attitude toward the ICTY?

SF: The president constantly raised the illegitimacy of the ICTY, who set up the tribunal and whose interests it served. He refused to show respect for the ICTY, and never addressed the ICTY judges by their titles. He would only say Mr. Robinson, Mr. May. He insisted on representing himself in the proceedings so as not to be at the mercy of anyone who may have a separate agenda, and especially to anyone beholden to the ICTY.

Milosevic did not plead with his own innocence. He didn't push the responsibility for decisions onto others, as so many US politicians do when they say that they were not informed about a situation, had bad advice, were kept in the dark, etc. He focused his strategy entirely on proving the role and the guilt of the United States, Germany, and NATO in the dismemberment of the Yugoslav Federation.

During the ICTY proceedings, Milosevic constantly cut through layers of phony legalisms and procedural motions and put the issue, the fact or the witness in clear terms. To him, the terms were who had resisted US/NATO aggression and who had worked for and served US/NATO aggression. I saw a Dutch television film about the Milosevic case with some coverage of highlights of testimony. Milosevic showed in his detailed cross-examination of prosecution witnesses that he often knew more about the witnesses and their history in Yugoslavia than the prosecutor who had brought them to The Hague. He often had information that would discredit their testimony.

When we met he discussed how determined he was to subpoena as witnesses both Bill Clinton and Tony Blair. He reasoned that if these leaders of NATO countries refused to testify as hostile witnesses, it would only further expose just how rigged the entire trial was. Last month Milosevic asked to have both Clinton and Blair as witnesses and both refused.

JC: Could you explain what the origins of the ICTY were?

SF: The ICTY is not a real international court, in the sense that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is. The United States government refuses to recognize the authority of the ICC since this court has the ability to try anyone in any country signed

up to it for war crimes. But the ICTY, the one that tried Milosevic, is a political court set up by the UN Security Council at the insistence of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in 1993. As Ramsey Clark has made clear in his writing many times, there is nothing in the UN Charter that allows the United Nations Security Council to set up such a court. The ICTY's scope is limited to trying the peoples of the former Yugoslavia. The vast majority of the prisoners are Serbs. It is a propaganda apparatus and internment camp for political prisoners, disguised as an unbiased court.

The ICTY's goal is to punish the victims for the crimes committed against them and to absolve the big powers -- who were all the former colonialist rulers of the world, including the Balkans -- who invaded, bombed, dismembered, and forced the privatization of the Socialist Federation of Yugoslavia. When attorneys from Canada and Britain tried to bring charges against US and NATO figures for war crimes, such as the bombing of civilian targets, the ICTY decided that it could not hear these charges.

For six years after the ICTY was established it brought no charges against Milosevic for anything having to do with the battles in Croatia or the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It was only during the heat of the bombing attack on Yugoslavia, when NATO was desperately trying to get the Yugoslavs to stop resisting this bombing, that is, toward the end of May 1999, that the ICTY charged Milosevic with war crimes regarding Kosovo. German and US politicians had claimed there were massacres of as many as 100,000 people in Kosovo. This was given as the reason for intervening. On November 10, 1999, Carla Del Ponte, chief prosecutor for the ICTY, reported that UN war crimes investigators and forensic experts from 17 countries who had spent the entire summer digging in over 195 locations in Kosovo where the media had reported on the existence of mass graves and had found absolutely no evidence of any mass graves in Kosovo. Nevertheless, the indictment of Milosevic for war crimes in Kosovo remained.

After Milosevic was kidnapped and brought to The Hague, the ICTY realized that they could never make a charge for something like "genocide" stick regarding Kosovo. The only "massacres" that took place there were the mass killings from NATO bombing raids. So the additional charges regarding Bosnia and Croatia were added to the indictment against Milosevic. In Croatia, the biggest massacre took place during "Operation Storm" in the summer of 1995. This was an attack by the neo-fascist Croatian regime and its army, planned with the assistance of allegedly retired US generals, aimed at the Serb-origin population of the Krajina region of Croatia. Serbs whose families had lived in the region for centuries were driven out and became refugees in Serbia. This left Bosnia, where there was a bloody three-sided civil war that lasted from 1992 to 1995.

The ICTY ignored the fact that the international community -- that is, the diplomats of the big powers -- had praised Milosevic for helping bring about the Dayton Accord in 1995 that ended the civil war. Instead, they tried but failed to show that he had operational command of the Bosnian Serb forces. The ICTY prosecutors thought that by bringing hundreds of witnesses to generate 500,000 pages of prosecution testimony from February 2002 to February 2004 they could make a case against Milosevic that would look strong. But his determination to keep fighting defeated them.

As Milosevic said in his defense speech, he was honored to be defending himself because "truth and justice are on my side."

At this point the ICTY is an entire multi-million dollar industry at The Hague and in the Balkans. The two-year budget for the Tribunal for 2004 and 2005 was \$271 million. The court expenses have been \$500 million in the last five years alone. Private corporations and foundations pay a substantial part of the budget. There are more than 1,200 employees of the court from 84 countries.

There are special, separate prison guards, monitors, greeters, translators, clerks, administrators, teams of rotating judges available for different cases, each with staff, a large prosecutors department with teams of lawyers, investigators, researchers. Hundreds of other individuals have part-time employment and consulting jobs in the Balkans. In a region where unemployment is enormous, the ICTY payroll is a huge source of funds.

There are no set rules for the ICTY. The judges can make quite arbitrary decisions ruling about what testimony is legal or not. For example, when General Wesley Clark, who directed NATO's 1999 war against Yugoslavia, testified for the prosecution he was allowed to testify in secret and not in a public session. In addition, the US government was granted the right to review Wesley Clark's testimony before the transcripts were released. Further, the judge ruled that Milosevic on cross-examination could not ask General Wesley Clark "anything at all about the war waged by NATO against Yugoslavia."

The general had written a book about his experiences in the war in which he made it clear that the military command had purposely bombed civilian targets in an attempt to wear down the resistance of the Yugoslavs and try to turn the population against the government. This came out because there was a struggle within the Pentagon command regarding how to divide the bombing effort. Some argued for striking military targets in Kosovo -- allegedly the reason for entering the war, that is, as a "humanitarian" effort to protect ethnic Albanians in Kosovo -- and to strike Serbia. Others argued for focusing all the effort at striking the civilian infrastructure in Serbia. One can see why the U.S. didn't want this type of testimony to come out in the sessions.

JC: Some of Milosevic's supporters say that he was killed by the ICTY. What evidence do they have of this?

SF: I know there will be many people, especially inside the United States, who will claim that such a murder is impossible, that the ICTY would never do this, that there is no evidence. Since we have no secret evidence, probably the best way to discuss this question is to simply state some facts that are easy to check.

First of all, this would not be the first time NATO was involved in an effort to assassinate President Milosevic. On April 22, 1999, NATO forces fired a missile directly in the bedroom window of his private residence. He wasn't in the house at that time and escaped death. It was only after this failed attempt at assassination that on May 27 NATO got the ICTY to announce the indictment of Milosevic for war crimes in Kosovo. The US and NATO rulers believed five years ago that a show trial of Milosevic would help subdue Serbia and turn it into a more willing colony. Now, with the ICTY's case against him in shambles, they were again better off if Milosevic could be made to disappear.

Second, everyone is aware the CIA has been involved in assassinations and attempted assassinations of heads of state. There are even jokes about all the failed attempts to kill Fidel Castro. Patrice Lumumba was assassinated in the Congo.

But even if you put all the above aside, and you don't believe that the ICTY poisoned Milosevic outright, it is responsible for his death because the ICTY systematically denied Milosevic proper medical treatment. Despite the life-threatening cardiovascular risk raised in every dispute with the prosecution, tribunal officials refused even to secure regular checkups of the president's health condition. They also denied access for months to specialists who were willing to come to Scheveningen, thus delaying his care.

There were several mass international campaigns to demand that the court allow

Milosevic to see doctors of his choosing and specialists who could examine his dangerous heart condition. Tests for his heart condition were demanded again and again. Thousands of people in Serbia and around the world signed petitions demanding that specialists be allowed to visit him. It was only in the fall of 2005 that a team of three medical specialists from France, Russia, and Serbia was allowed to examine Milosevic. On November 12, 2005, I attended an emergency conference in Belgrade that focused on Milosevic's health problems. The team had released a grave warning that there was serious danger to former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's life if the US-orchestrated show trial at The Hague continued without regard to his deteriorating health. The team urged an immediate six-week break in the proceedings to allow time for medical treatment. The ICTY ignored this request.

On March 18, 2006, the *New York Times* reported that Russian heart specialist Dr. Leo Bokeria, who flew to The Hague to review the autopsy reports on Milosevic, said that "two stents" for blocked arteries could have saved his life and given him many long years. In other words, this was not just neglectful treatment by the ICTY, but a systematic and intentional denial of adequate medical care.

In a letter addressed to the Russian Embassy two days before he died, Milosevic wrote that he had taken no antibiotics in more than four years. He asked why the medical report on the discovery of rifampicin was kept secret from him for almost two months. He wrote that he believed that "active steps are being taken to destroy my health." He warned that he was sure he was being poisoned and that his life was in danger. The president had good reason to suspect foul play. Last January 12, tests performed by the ICTY doctors found the antibiotic rifampicin in Milosevic's blood. The ICTY kept the report of the blood tests secret, even from Milosevic and his doctors, who were complaining at the time that something terribly wrong was damaging the defendant's health. While the prisoner and his defense committee and assistant lawyers were demanding health information, the ICTY officials sat on this report.

Then the Dutch authorities claimed that Milosevic was taking a rare, difficult-to-acquire antibiotic used to treat leprosy or tuberculosis that has the unique ability to counteract the medicine he was taking to control his high blood pressure. If the authorities believed this, why hadn't they publicized this report earlier? How did this medicine, rifampicin, get into Milosevic's system? He was held in a maximum security prison in triple lockdown in a special contained unit within a larger Dutch prison once used by the Nazis to detain Dutch resistance fighters.

Claims that Milosevic staged his illness -- and risked killing himself -- to delay the trial are equally outlandish. Each time Milosevic was too sick to continue in court, the prosecution moved to impose counsel and to take away the prisoner's right to present his own defense. When I met Milosevic it was in the special room that was the only place where the ICTY allowed him to work or have the court papers to prepare his defense. Whenever his blood pressure rose and he was unable to continue the court sessions, he was also barred from any access to his defense materials.

Milosevic was determined to use the trial as a platform to defend not only himself but the people of Yugoslavia, and to indict the U.S., Germany, and the NATO powers for their role in the criminal destruction of his country. He welcomed the trial as the only platform where he could make the historical record. In his words to the court he constantly described why, despite his bad health, he was determined to continue.

The only thing the court did about Milosevic's acknowledged heart condition was to use it as an excuse to deny him access to his defense papers for days at a time, whenever his blood pressure went up too high. During each step of the trial Milosevic's cardiovascular problems, especially his high blood pressure, had resulted in several delays in the trial. At each step the ICTY officials tried to use the issue of

his health as they made constant efforts to deny him the right to conduct his own defense. Neither the illness nor the delays helped his defense.

The ICTY had earlier charged that Milosevic was secretly medicating himself and avoiding taking prescribed medicines. Milosevic answered this charge himself for the court record on September 1, 2004: "You probably don't know the practice in your own Detention Unit. I take my medication in the presence of guards. I'm given them. I take them in the presence of the guard, and the guard writes down in the book the exact time when I ingested those medicines."

JC: At one point you and other witnesses told the ICTY you would not appear in the sessions if summoned. What was that about?

SF: Milosevic had to win and win again his basic right to defend himself. At every step the court sought to deny him this right and to impose counsel. The ICTY really feared that Milosevic was successfully taking advantage of his position as defendant and counsel to make a strong political case. Even after two years of his well-demonstrated ability to cross-examine all the prosecutions witnesses, the court again moved to silence Milosevic and impose counsel in order to speed up the trial. Once he laid out this well reasoned, researched, and detailed presentation of his entire defense on August 31 and September 1, 2004, the ICTY again moved to impose counsel on him and deny him the right to defend himself.

I, along with hundreds of other witnesses who had agreed to testify for the defense, sent letters notifying the court that we were outraged by the ICTY decision to impose counsel on Milosevic against his will and to deprive him of his lawful and fundamental right to self defense. Under these court-imposed conditions we each wrote to the court that we could not participate as witnesses in the proceedings.

Faced with a mass insurrection of all of the witnesses that Milosevic had called and the ICTY had already approved, and the inability of the imposed counsel, Steven Kaye, to provide any witnesses, the ICTY was forced to back down in its attempt to deny Milosevic his right to present his own defense. The media kept repeating after he died that Milosevic faced 66 counts of war crimes charges. Whether it was 66 or 66 million, none of them had been proven. His death saved the ICTY from either convicting him without sufficient evidence or admitting that he could not be found guilty of these charges. In the course of the four years of proceedings, Milosevic had shown that the real "butchers of the Balkans" were found not in Belgrade but in Berlin, Brussels, and Washington.

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The Balkans and Yugoslavia

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THE COMPANION OF THINKING PEOPLE

The Demonization And Death Of Slobodan Milosevic

by Louis Proyect

(Swans - March 27, 2006) In the days following the death of Slobodan Milosevic, every newspaper made sure to find him guilty of charges that the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) could not prove in court. Typical is the pontificating *Washington Post* editorial of March 14, 2006:

The life of Slobodan Milosevic offers another lesson in how one individual can shape the course of history. Yugoslavia, the country whose disintegration he inspired, emerged from communist rule at the end of the 1990s resembling many nations (Iraq comes to mind) in the throes of transition: Ethnic and sectarian rivalry was real in a cobbled-together state, but few people expected, much less wanted, a civil war. Mr. Milosevic, a Communist Party apparatchik in Serbia, deliberately and methodically nursed this latent tension from a flicker to a conflagration and used it to consolidate a criminal regime in Belgrade.

The demonization of Milosevic has a long and sordid history. A LexisNexis full-text search for "Milosevic" and "Hitler" aborted since the resulting 1000+ articles exceeded the system limit. A more restrictive search within the headline and lead paragraph returns 307, with this item from the May 15, 1991 *Independent* being typical:

As the crow flies, she was only four miles from Kosovo. As the B-52 bomber speeds, she was only a few minutes from the village of Korisa, where Nato warplanes were accused of killing about a hundred civilians a few hours earlier.

But Hillary Clinton did not talk of the latest dead or wounded when she toured this camp in northern Macedonia yesterday. Perhaps she had not yet been informed. Instead, she referred to past atrocities, notably those carried out by Adolf Hitler and Slobodan Milosevic, comparing the Yugoslav leader's "ethnic cleansing" to the Holocaust.

Mrs. Clinton was not to be outdone by her husband who accused Milosevic of systematically promulgating doctrines of racial supremacy in a 1999 Memorial Day speech: "In Kosovo we see some parallels to World War II, for the government of Serbia, like that of Nazi Germany, rose to power in part by getting people to look down on people of a given race and ethnicity and believe they had no place in their country and even no right to live." (1)

But when one goes to the trouble to track down Milosevic's speeches, the words sound more like the sort of thing heard in a multicultural training workshop at a liberal

arts college than anything heard from Der Furher:

Equal and harmonious relations among Yugoslav peoples are a necessary condition for the existence of Yugoslavia and for it to find its way out of the crisis and, in particular, they are a necessary condition for its economic and social prosperity. In this respect Yugoslavia does not stand out from the social milieu of the contemporary, particularly the developed, world. This world is more and more marked by national tolerance, national cooperation, and even national equality. The modern economic and technological, as well as political and cultural development, has guided various peoples toward each other, has made them interdependent and increasingly has made them equal as well. Equal and united people can above all become a part of the civilization toward which mankind is moving. If we cannot be at the head of the column leading to such a civilization, there is certainly no need for us to be at its tail. (2)

Now, of course, these words can simply be rhetoric intended to pull the wool over the world's eyes, but they don't bear out Clinton's claim that Milosevic openly employed racial supremacist doctrines. Perhaps the wily Milosevic had trained the Serbs to go on killing sprees whenever they heard words in favor of tolerance, just as the Red Chinese had trained Frank Sinatra to kill their enemies whenever he saw the Queen of Diamonds card in *The Manchurian Candidate*.

The occasion of the speech was the 600th anniversary of the defeat of the Serbs by the Ottoman Turks, an opportunity that Milosevic took to reassure Serbs in Kosovo that they would no longer be victimized. For the Cruise Missile Left, this speech would eventually take on the dimensions of a Hitler speech to a Nuremberg Rally. Needless to say, the actual words never appeared in these attacks. Before the lynch mob against Milosevic had been fully assembled, the liberal press was quite capable of describing him accurately.

The Independent, a liberal British newspaper that would eventually lead the wolf pack against Milosevic, described the 1990 election, on December 11th of that year, as one pitting him and "his communist allies" against Vuk Draskovic, a "right-wing nationalist." As the 1990s dragged on, with the Western press moving toward the propaganda consensus that Milosevic was Satan, there would be a growing tendency to describe him as the counterpart of Croatia's Franjo Tudjman, despite Milosevic's ongoing clashes with Draskovic, Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj and other such ultra-nationalists. But once the capitalist press decided to stick the nationalist label on him, nothing could remove it. If Milosevic was determined to defend Serb interests in a context of anti-Serb racism, then that was proof enough that he was embarking on a new Holocaust.

When Milosevic assumed power, he embarked on a tentative series of economic reforms of the kind that were sweeping Eastern Europe. Those who are anxious to represent Milosevic as being identical to the Croatian and Slovenian rightist rulers exploit these measures as proof that there was nothing "socialist" about Milosevic's party except the name. Since Titoist Yugoslavia (a political tradition that Milosevic was determined to uphold despite the "End of History" type message being propagated in the West) was characterized by a high degree of marketization, it might at first seem difficult to figure out exactly where Milosevic stood. Since Milosevic was more of a pragmatist than a Marxist, who veered left and right in the course of sustaining a social base in Serbia, there was little in the way of "The Thoughts of Slobodan Milosevic" to identify him ideologically.

But the local anti-Communists had no such problems. On March 14, 1991, *New York Times* reporter Stephen Engelberg described enormous crowds of anti-Communist protesters out in the streets calling for his resignation. As was obvious to anybody who listened to their chants or read their leaflets, we were dealing with "the

same sort of popular upheaval that toppled most of Eastern Europe's Communist governments in 1989."

By this point, *The Independent* had joined the crusade against Milosevic. Despite its liberal reputation, earned mostly through the inclusion of reporter Robert Fisk on their staff, the paper made sure in a March 25, 1991 article that its readers understood that the Serb Communist brontosaurus stood in the way of genuine freedom and progress:

The irrational and autocratic Serbian leader is effectively preventing Yugoslavia's federal government from implementing the economic reforms which could rapidly turn it into a thriving country. Although in the past he has shown an interest, at least verbally, in Western-style reforms, Mr Milosevic is now clinging firmly to the old Marxist state system which gives him immense power and support from many people, like pensioners, who would suffer from change. The impact of privatisation and a free market, says Professor Veselinov, "would overthrow Milosevic and socialist ideas."

There were also frequent reports that his wife Mirjana was a kind of communist Rasputin directing Milosevic from behind the curtains, making sure that he was not seduced by the siren song of neoliberalism. The *Washington Post* reported on January 21, 1996:

Mirjana Markovic's unwavering belief in communism -- she has taken much-publicized trips to Beijing and Moscow in the past year -- is seen as a threat by some economists who have studied Serbia's plight over the past five years.

She and her colleagues have kept up a steady drumbeat in the media, warning that privatization, a cornerstone of transition to a market economy, has meant trouble in former communist nations. To the 80 percent of the Serb population who rely on state-controlled television for their news, the economic successes since 1989 of the Czech Republic or Poland simply do not exist.

Hatred toward Mrs. Milosevic took on a kind of frenzy -- reminiscent of that directed against Eva Peron in the 1950s -- in which she was described frequently as a "red witch." Like Juan Peron, Milosevic was an imperfect ruler. He understood the need for state control over the commanding heights of the economy, but lacked the political will to transform his society into a bulwark of revolutionary socialism. In an almost universal law of history, half-measures and vacillation lead to defeat. This is dictated mostly by the deadly resolve of the capitalist class to bring all of humanity under its iron heel. If Milosevic had any real sin, it was not being ruthless enough.

Mrs. Milosevic's mother was a Communist partisan killed presumably by the Nazis in 1943, a year after giving birth to her daughter. (It is unclear whether she was killed by the Nazis or by partisans who charged her with collaboration. Since she had been captured and tortured by the Nazis, it is not out of the question that she did provide some information.) Markovic would begin to call herself "Mira" after her mother's wartime guerrilla name. Devotion to her mother's memory led her to join the Communist Party when she was 16. She became a Marxist academic, gaining a Ph.D. in Marxist sociology. All in all, whatever her flaws, she seems far more appealing than her "leftist" detractors like Paul Berman, Christopher Hitchens, and Marko Attila Hoare.

To an extent, the hatred directed toward the Milosevics simply reflected a variety of anti-Slav racism in the West. The Serbs became the ultimate "Other" who always came out as losers when compared to Croats, Slovenes, or Muslims. The *Daily Telegraph* of June 29, 1991 provides a graphic example:

There are fewer than two million Slovenes... Unused to combat, their national heroes are poets who have kept the language alive. The republic attracts tourists for skiing and lakeside mountain holidays and is known for its wines... Shaped by centuries in the Austro-Hungarian empire, they are Roman Catholics and use the Latin script. By contrast the Serbs, landlocked and eastward looking, still cling to neo-Communist centralism. Their religion is Orthodox Christianity, they use the Russian alphabet and suffer the influence of centuries of domination by the Ottoman Turks.

Who wouldn't prefer people "unused to combat" with an affinity for skiing to the glowering, Stalinist Serbs? Unlike the Bosnian Muslims, the Slovenes, and the Croats, the Serbs never mastered the art of cultivating Western opinion makers. This, no doubt, arose from an underlying conviction that the effort was hardly worth it in light of the anti-Communist prejudices prevailing in the West. This not only described the mass media, but popular culture as well.

A British film like the 1997 *Welcome to Sarajevo* was an awful propaganda piece that depicted the Serbs as killing machines and the Muslims as pure as the driven snow. Based on a book by British foreign correspondent Michael Nicholson about trying to evacuate Bosnian Muslim babies from a Serb siege, the film unsurprisingly depicts the hard-drinking and cynical Western journalists (the script abounds in clichés) as good guys. So wrapped up was Nicholson in demonizing the Serbs that by his own admission other journalists had decided that "he's lost his credibility now," according to the December 21, 1997 *Denver Post*. In other words, just the sort of "witness" that would prove crucial to increasing war fever in the Balkans.

Outlets of high culture were just as bad. The prestigious *New York Review of Books* had no fewer than 127 articles that dealt with Milosevic in one fashion or another. With Michael Ignatieff, Warren Zimmerman, and arch-Serbophobe Tim Judah weighing in regularly, it is no surprise that many academics would give assent to the idea that Milosevic was the new Adolf Hitler. After NATO's victory in Yugoslavia, Judah has taken up new pursuits -- writing dispatches from Afghanistan trying to make the case that the Northern Alliance was not that bad, and from Iraq assuring his upscale readers that the American soldiers would be welcomed with rosewater.

According to the Official Version of the war in Bosnia, Milosevic was largely responsible for all the bloodshed by promoting expansionist tendencies by Serb militias. There are, of course, reputable scholars and historians like Misha Glenny (utterly hostile to Milosevic) who felt that "The decision by the European Community to recognize Slovenia and Croatia pushed Bosnia into the abyss."

Despite Diana Johnstone's reputation in certain circles as the basest kind of pro-Serb apologist, she leaves no doubt that there were no "good guys" in the war over Bosnia, which she described as a "brutal little civil war for control over contiguous territory in a mountainous province chock full of arms factories and men trained in guerrilla war, occasionally aided by outside mercenaries: thousands of Muslim mujahidin fighting for Allah, a smattering of Russian Slavophiles rushing to the aid of the Serbs, and various European neo-Nazis inspired by Tadjman." These men were "inevitably joined by local criminals and psychopaths taking advantage of the chaos to rape and pillage under control of one 'cause' or another." (3)

However, this even-handed treatment was not accepted by Western intellectuals who tended to project the Spanish Civil War and other "good fights" on a rather Hobbesian landscape. For them, it was a battle between Good and Evil, with the Bosnian Muslims standing for multiculturalism and democracy and the Serbs representing pure, almost metaphysical Evil -- at times taking on the dimensions not just of Nazis, but practically like invaders from another planet who were on a mission to destroy all earthlings.

With such a false dichotomy in place, Milosevic became the mastermind of a genocidal plot rather than simply one actor among many in a nasty civil war. Throughout the 1990s, self-described radicals like Mark Danner or State Department liberals like Michael Ignatieff were consumed with the need to vilify Milosevic as some kind of awful combination of Hitler and Stalin.

For the anti-Milosevic fraternity, Srebrenica became a kind of latter-day Guernica. Since much of the ICTY testimony was consumed with the need to prove that Milosevic was the mastermind, one can understand how frustrated they would become as proof of this remained elusive. An official Dutch report into the Srebrenica massacre would state that the Dutch Government and the United Nations bore as much responsibility as the Serb militias. UN soldiers from the Netherlands allowed Bosnian Serb warlord Ratko Mladic to overrun the city and kill thousands of Muslims in revenge for killings carried out in Serb villages by Muslim militias in an all-too-familiar scenario. The report failed to link Milosevic to any of the killings: "No evidence had been found that suggests the involvement of the Serbian authorities in Belgrade." (4)

The war in Bosnia eventually exhausted itself, just as a brush fire eventually runs out of fuel. Even as the demonization campaign against Milosevic in the West continued, he was seen as necessary to bring the war to an end at the Dayton, Ohio Conference. Evidence of this can be found in the habitually anti-Milosevic *Independent*, which, on November 24, 1995, admitted that Milosevic pushed through the treaty over the opposition of Bosnian Serb hardliners. Radovan Karadzic, who along with General Mladic ran the Serb militias, was furious that the proposed peace plan would cede most of Serb-held portions of Sarajevo. It also required him to surrender elected office in Bosnia and face ICTY prosecution. No wonder Bosnian Serb nationalists and their co-thinkers in Belgrade would denounce Milosevic as a traitor.

Despite this report and dozens of others like it from that year, Dayton was not mentioned *once* in all the venomous articles following Milosevic's death. Instead there was the all-too-familiar amalgam made between Milosevic and characters like Karadzic and Mladic.

With the end of the war in Bosnia and until new war clouds gathered around Kosovo, there was some relaxation in the crusade against Milosevic and the Serbs. A LexisNexis search on "Milosevic" and "Hitler" reveals no articles written between 1996 and 1997 that compare the two.

However, between 1998 and 1999 the propaganda machine was turned on once again in order to prepare the world for a new intervention in Kosovo – 180 articles likening Milosevic to Hitler can be found in this period. At least one media pundit showed signs that he was getting jaded with these comparisons. In an April 20, 1999 *Toronto Star* article titled "Nato Campaign To Hitlerize Milosevic Falls Flat," Tom Walkum declared his willingness to break ranks:

Most of us know little or nothing about the complicated politics of the Balkans.
But we do know Nazis.

That's why, when NATO started its bombing on March 24 [1999], U.S. President Bill Clinton immediately compared Milosevic to Hitler.

Clinton was taking a lesson from the playbook of his predecessor, George Bush, who used the Hitler analogy with great effect in his war against Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Unfortunately for Clinton, not everyone bought the Milosevic-Hitler comparison

right away. NATO hadn't done its preparatory propaganda spadework.

"You don't go out and start talking about Hitler, when it's really the first opportunity you've had to introduce him (Milosevic) to the American people," U.S. communications professor Leonard Steinhorn explained at the time.

"All of a sudden there's this lunatic out there who is like Hitler and we haven't heard about him before?"

All the while that the war in Bosnia had been raging, a new war was gestating in Kosovo. Armed rebels led by the KLA had carried out guerrilla attacks on police and had also victimized Serb citizens. From the very beginning, the same intelligentsia that had so willingly looked the other way at Muslim atrocities in Bosnia would find itself on the KLA bandwagon. The Guardian newspaper in particular was replete with encomiums to the ruthless fighters. When Milosevic warned that he would be forced to come to the aid of the beleaguered Serb citizenry, he was accused of preparing a genocide.

After the bodies of 45 Albanians turned up in Racak on January 17, 1999, the liberal press, the Clinton White House, and NATO came together in a perfect storm to smash the Serbs once and for all. It is worth mentioning that William Walker was head of the investigation team that would establish responsibility for the killings. To nobody's surprise, he found the Serbs guilty of war crimes against civilians. This William Walker was Reagan's US ambassador to El Salvador in November 1989 when six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter were plucked from their beds and murdered by the Salvadoran Army.

As journalist Mark Cook pointed out in *Covert Action Quarterly*,

Walker first emerged in the Iran-Contra Scandal as the right-hand man of Oliver North and Elliott Abrams in illegal arms shipments to the Contras out of Ptopango airbase in El Salvador. Before that, he was deputy chief of mission at the embassy in Honduras when U.S. authorities were recruiting officers from Somoza's deposed National Guard to establish the Contras, and forming military death squads that murdered hundreds of Honduran workers, labor organizers and students. (5)

In other words, he was just the right man to build a case against the dastardly Serbs.

Milosevic's fears -- as expressed in the 1989 speech -- were unfortunately grounded in reality. As soon as the Serb army was driven out of Kosovo and power fell into KLA hands, a series of pogroms were unleashed that were so acute that even Human Rights Watch (HRW), a key element of the Serbophobe brigade, was forced to take notice. (6)

HRW called attention to how Serb refugees from Kosovo expressed fears of being killed. One told an investigator, "We're in a panic. Our defense forces are leaving, and we'll be at the mercy of the KLA. I have two children; what can I do?" HRW called attention to a "rash of killings of Serbs" that proved such fears were not unfounded. Those who remained in Kosovo tended to be the oldest and most vulnerable members of the Serb community. HRW described how 14 Serb farmers were shot dead as they harvested hay in the village of Gracko, in central Kosovo. It would be difficult to imagine people like Susan Sontag circulating letters in the *New York Review of Books* demanding that the killers be brought to justice.

Even with the Serb army being driven out of Kosovo, the anti-Milosevic forces were still not assuaged. Until he was driven from office and until the Serb Republic was liberated into the hands of the IMF and NATO, they would not rest.

The new insurgent movement that would take shape in Serbia itself, like all anti-Milosevic movements in the past, would receive the automatic benediction of Western pundits. At first blush, Otpor (Resistance) seemed to be dreamed up by a public relations wizard. Consisting of freedom-loving students including a healthy dollop of anarchists, nobody could be more different from the stodgy Stalinist supporters of Milosevic. The other key freedom fighter was radio station B92 that promoted rebel rock music. A favorite was Dragan Ambrozic, who founded Serbia's most popular band. He was a sex, booze, and good times-loving hippie who could be counted on to sing at anti-government rallies.

Despite the radical cachet, Otpor and B92 were not that much different from all the counter-revolutionary groups that dotted up in Eastern Europe and the USSR in the late 1980s. Whatever the intention of its founders, these groups were basically instruments of imperialism. Roger Cohen, who wrote the *New York Times* ritual condemnation of Milosevic while his body was still warm, was quite candid about the connections between the "youth revolt" and Western intelligence.

At a June meeting in Berlin, Homen heard Albright say, "We want to see Milosevic out of power, out of Serbia and in The Hague," the site of the international war crimes tribunal. The Otpor leader would also meet with William D. Montgomery, the former American ambassador to Croatia, in the American Embassy in Budapest. (Washington had by then severed diplomatic relations with Belgrade.) "Milosevic was personal for Madeleine Albright, a very high priority," says Montgomery, who was yanked out of Croatia in June to head a group of officials monitoring Serbia. "She wanted him gone, and Otpor was ready to stand up to the regime with a vigor and in a way that others were not. Seldom has so much fire, energy, enthusiasm, money -- everything -- gone into anything as into Serbia in the months before Milosevic went."

Just how much money backed this objective is not clear. The United States Agency for International Development says that \$25 million was appropriated just this year. Several hundred thousand dollars were given directly to Otpor for "demonstration-support material, like T-shirts and stickers," says Donald L. Pressley, the assistant administrator. Otpor leaders intimate they also received a lot of covert aid -- a subject on which there is no comment in Washington.

At the International Republican Institute, another nongovernmental Washington group financed partly by A.I.D., an official named Daniel Calingaert says he met Otpor leaders "7 to 10 times" in Hungary and Montenegro, beginning in October 1999. Some of the \$1.8 million the institute spent in Serbia in the last year was "provided direct to Otpor," he says. By this fall, Otpor was no ramshackle students' group; it was a well-oiled movement backed by several million dollars from the United States. (7)

Despite the obvious signs that the West was interfering in the Serb political process, Milosevic decided to run once again for president in September 2000. His opponent was Vojislav Kostunica, who, according to the October 7, 2000 Reuters, received millions of German deutschemarks. In that same report, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and Green Party warmonger was said to feel duty bound to provide financial support to Slobodan Milosevic's opponents as an "obligation based on history" to promote democracy. *Der Spiegel* reported that the USA coughed up around \$30 million. Additionally, the USA promised to lift economic sanctions if Milosevic got the boot. A little over 10 years earlier, the same strategy proved effective in getting Daniel Ortega to leave office in Nicaragua. Ronald Reagan called "Crying uncle" but much of the left failed to make the connections between the first instance of imperialist meddling and the second.

Even with all the cash pouring into Kostunica's coffers, there was still enough of a reservoir of Serb nationalist resentment of NATO and Western financial domination to

necessitate a runoff between Milosevic and Kostunica. Naturally, the opposition accused Milosevic of election fraud and demanded nothing less than Kostunica in power.

Despite all their lip service to democracy, the imperialist-backed opposition showed an impressive willingness to use violence against anybody who stood in their way. The October 9, 2000 *Guardian* reported that cops and soldiers were key elements in the "democratic revolution."

The soldiers, who had been assigned to the elite 63rd parachute brigade, provided the shock troops in the storming of the parliament and the offices of state television RTS. This was corroborated by a participant, Zivan Markovic, who was a veteran of the 63rd brigade.

The paratroopers got their marching orders from Velimir Ilic, a long-time anti-Milosevic activist and mayor of Cacak, where the coup was organized. Ilic is just the sort of person you'd expect to see in the middle of such skullduggery. When he was accused of breaking windows at a Cacak radio station that he disapproved of, he responded, "We're not some small-time, two-bit Gypsies, here. Trust me, where we strike -- grass doesn't there grow no more." In August 2005, after feeling insulted by a question from a reporter from his erstwhile allies at B92, he accused her of being "mentally disturbed" and threatened to kill her and her editor. (8)

Even after Milosevic was ousted by a motley crew of paratroopers and Western-backed "youth rebels," his enemies were not mollified. They obviously wanted his head. In a brazen act of blackmail, they told Kostunica that he had to be turned over to the ICTY or else suffer the withholding of more than \$50 million in badly needed economic aid. An additional \$1.3 billion was subsequently doled out to Belgrade after Milosevic was turned over. This open act of blackmail raised very few eyebrows among the Serb-hating Left.

Despite the fact that Kostunica made a campaign pledge to not extradite Milosevic and despite the fact that the Yugoslav Constitution bans the extradition of citizens, the ex-president was turned over to the West on April 2, 2001. In a pattern that had become depressingly familiar, the imperialist powers were breaking the law in order to restore legality to Yugoslavia.

In a stubborn refusal to toe the propaganda line, Aleksa Djilas, a Belgrade historian, told the *New York Times* on June 29, 2001: "We sold him for money and we won't really get very much money for it. The U.S. is the natural leader of the world, but how [does it] lead? This just feeds the worst American instincts, reinforcing this bullying mentality."

Sticking to the script that had been established in the early 1990s, the trial of Slobodan Milosevic was filled with violations of human rights in the name of human rights. In a series of articles that appeared in *The Spectator* beginning in 2002, John Laughland has documented the openly prejudicial behavior of both judges and prosecutors who often acted in concert.

Despite the tendency today of the Cruise Missile Left to still accuse Milosevic of genocide in Kosovo -- the charge that was leveled against him in The Hague -- the court dropped this charge in 2001. Why? The tripartite panel of judges confessed that they simply could not convict since there was insufficient evidence!

Now, in a normal society where justice was impartial Milosevic would have been released. Instead, however, the prosecutor -- the awful Carla del Ponte -- decided to introduce two new charges involving war crimes in Croatia and Bosnia. One wonders why they didn't try to blame him for 9/11 as well, or the sinking of the Battleship Maine, while they were at it.

Additionally, anybody with an IQ higher than a flea might ask why Milosevic would now be viewed as a war criminal when he was a key participant in the Dayton Accords that ended the war in Bosnia. Indeed, The ICTY had already decided in 1995 that there was no evidence to warrant bringing charges against him for war crimes in Bosnia. And this was even after Srebrenica, supposedly the worst slaughter by the Serbs during the entire war. It would seem that the new charges were introduced only to keep Milosevic behind bars. If they could not convict, the imperialists could at least keep him captive within their Kafkaesque court system.

Once the proceedings began, the results would have proven embarrassing to any truly impartial court as Laughland points out:

Highlights include the Serbian "insider" who claimed to have worked in the presidential administration but who did not know what floor Milosevic's office was on; "Arkan's secretary," who turned out to have worked only as a temp for a few months in the same building as the notorious paramilitary; the testimony of the former federal prime minister, Ante Markovic, dramatically trashed by Milosevic, who produced Markovic's own diary for the days when he claimed to have had meetings with him; the Kosovo Albanian peasant who said he had never heard of the KLA even though there is a monument to that terrorist organization in his own village; and the former head of the Yugoslav secret services, Radomir Markovic, who not only claimed he had been tortured by the new democratic government in Belgrade to testify against his former boss, but who also agreed, under cross-examination by Milosevic, that no orders had been given to expel the Kosovo Albanians and that, on the contrary, Milosevic had instructed the police and army to protect civilians. And these, note, were the prosecution witnesses.

We can conclude with some observations on the circumstances of Milosevic's death that have taken on the aspects of a CSI episode in the Western press. Speculation has revolved around whether he was poisoned by his enemies. There is also speculation that he took antibiotics, which diluted his heart medication, in order to precipitate a transfer to a Moscow hospital. Some have argued that he was not taking his heart medication for the same reasons.

All of this seems beside the point. As war crimes expert James Gow once stated, it would be better if Milosevic died in the docket because if the trial ran its course he might be found guilty only of minor charges. So there was a strong incentive for the ICTY to keep his medical condition as poor as possible in the hopes that he might succumb to a long-standing heart condition.

It was becoming obvious over the past year or so that the strain of defending himself was the main cause of Milosevic's deteriorating health. When the court raised the possibility that a lawyer be appointed to represent him, there were strong objections from the ex-President's camp since nobody knew the facts of the case better than the defendant, who under normal circumstances would have already won an acquittal.

But these are not normal circumstances. Over the recent past, the greatest threat to world peace since the days of Adolph Hitler has emerged under the banner of the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack. Using pious phraseology about democracy and human rights, it invades sovereign nations on the basis of lies and then subjects their head of state to show trials.

To the credit of the late Slobodan Milosevic and to Saddam Hussein, who now is on trial for his life in another kangaroo court, they never bowed down. In life and in death, these imperfect men will always remind us of the need to resist the injustice perpetrated by states acting out of perfect evil.

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Notes

(All links valid as of March 21, 2006.)

1. "Transcript: Clinton speaks at Memorial Day Event," CNN, May 31, 1999. ([back](#))
2. [Kosovo Polje Speech, June 28, 1989](#) ([back](#))
3. [Fool's Crusade, p. 58.](#) ([back](#))
4. "Srebrenica blame 'must be shared'," BBC News, April 10, 2002. ([back](#))
5. "William Walker: 'Man With A Mission'", by Mark Cook, CovertAction.org, the Web site of the Institute for Media Analysis, Inc. [ed. undated article.] ([back](#))
6. "ABUSES AGAINST SERBS AND ROMA IN THE NEW KOSOVO," Human Rights Watch, August 1999, Volume 11, No. 10 (D). ([back](#))
7. [New York Times Magazine](#), November 26, 2000. ([back](#))
8. [Velimir Ilie on Wikipedia.](#) ([back](#))

Internal Resources

[Slobodan Milosevic, 1941-2006: A Cursed, Blasted Statesman](#), by Gilles d'Aymery - May 13, 2006

[The Milosevic Case: John Catalinotto Interviews Sara Flounders](#) - May 27, 2006

[The Balkans and Yugoslavia](#)

About the Author

[Louis Proyect on Swans](#) (with bio).

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THE COMPANION OF THINKING PEOPLE

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic"
Aan: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
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Hoi Nico,
dit is de vertaling van jou brief over Slobo, gepubliceerd op deze websit.

Nico, van Snezana kreeg ik de vraag over woensdagavond, een of andere
bijeenkomst zal plaats vinden, alleen zij weet het niet exact waar en hoe
laat het plaats zal vinden? Kun jij mij wat meer over vertellen?

Groetjes,

Roza

<http://www.istina.at/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=1289&Itemid=57>

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ЦРНА ГОРА ПОСЛЕ РЕФЕРЕНДУМА



Недеља, 26. III 2006.

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Пошаљи ово пријатељу

МОТИВА ЗА УБИСТВО БИЛО ЈЕ МНОГО

Пише: Н.М.П. Штајнен, холандски адвокат

У ситуацији када је верним сатрапима трибунала дат монопол у медијима, потпуно је објашњива постојећа нереална слика о процесу Милошевићу.

У разговорима које сам претходних дана водио са разним људима поводом суђења Милошевићу, преовладавало је мишљење да се овде ради о човеку против кога је у вишегодишњем процесу, и поред јуначког отпора, он се понекад чак и безобразно бранио - доказ против њега све више гомилао и како се процес приближавао крају да је он све више губио тло под ногама. Да је он био зрео за дело које се чини у безнађу. Дакле, употребљена је брижљиво изабрана представа догађаја која потом сама по себи изазива одређене психолошке закључке.

Међутим, стварност с обзиром на ток процеса била је дијаметрално супротна. Та стварност је била таква да ју је свако могао проверити. Довољно је било да се потруди и прочита транскрипте са суђења.

Објективна је чињеница да Милошевић није никада стојао лоше у процесу пред Трибуналом. То није било само "данас" тако. У време када су тужиоци, после више година претреса требали да окончају доказни поступак, стајало је у «Volkskrant»: «Нема убедљивог доказа против Милошевића» (VK, 26. фебруар 2004), а NRC је чак ставио као наслов «Процес против Милошевића у распадању» (NRC 28. фебруар 2004).

Очигледно је да је услед све масовнијег стереотипног и непотпуног приказивања тока процеса од стране заговарача Трибунала, како су они тврдили да су заузети беспштедним откривањем "лопова" Милошевића, у међувремену много што шта пало у заборав у колективној свести.

Годинама су тужиоци, у непрегледном низу употребили стотине сведока против њега и обасули га тонама докумената, али и поред тога нису успели да имају такозвани "sound case" (предмет у коме су докази неоспорни).

Кад је ред дошао на Милошевића да изнесе своју одбрану знатно се погоршала ситуација у Трибуналу. Извештачи и коментатори, који су у ствари прикривене присталице и обожаваоци Трибунала, пажљиво су од јавности сакривали чињеницу да је Милошевић у току процеса преко сведока успео да оповргне наводе оптужбе. Она је једноставно демолирана, односно чак и оно мало што је још остало од оптужби.

Оно што је он, углавном уз помоћ западних сведока, у току процеса успео доказати било је убитачно не само за његове тужиоце већ је и за НАТО било у тој мери погубно, да је та чињеница допринела да се упале алармни сигнали.

Као што је западно јавно мњење, обмануто и нахушкано од стране заједничког фронта политичара и медија, после агресије на Ирак, у целини морало да се промени у вези са митом о масовном оружју за уништавање, тако је претила опасност, под утицајем чињеница које је Милошевић систематски подносио Трибуналу, да се мњење које је учвршћено на Западу о узроцима НАТО агресије 1999 на Југославију у потпуности промени.

25. августа 2005 тужилац Најс је био приморан да изјави да се Милошевић неће гонити због оптужбе да је он употребом силе тежио стварању Велике Србије. Тиме су основе оптужбе дефинитивно се распале у парампарчад. Све оптужбе су биле засноване и међусобно повезане – главна, централна оптужба је била да је Милошевић као вођа криминалне организације у свему имао тежњу ка стварању велике Србије.

Ускоро је штета за суд постала још већа. Ток процеса и његов садржај почели су да делују као бумеранг на сам суд ка и према западним тужиоцима. Милошевић је поднео, поново путем углавном западних сведока, снажне доказе о томе да на Косову није било ни говора о нужној хуманитарној ситуацији Албанаца, него да је управо КЛО (УЧК) тада вршио терористичку кампању, даље да је међународни терористички покрет имао чврсто оформљене позиције у Босни у току деведестих година, да је овај у целини имао потпору Запада, да је Хатта, самоубица у нападу на Њујоршке близанце деведесетих година имао тамо своје пребивалиште, да је Осаму Бин Ладена у



ноембру 1994 лично примио Изетбеговић.

Карактеристично је за понашање судија Трибунала да су ови докази увек, по неким непосредним рефлексом одбачени као "ирелевантни". Све то у очигледном покушају да још у корену сатру и сузбију изјаве тако експлозивног садржаја.

Као да ово већ није било довољно поражавајуће за Трибунал, нови сведоци Милошевића пружио су и значајан доказ поводом чињенице да није српска војска натерала Албанце на бежање, него да је оно углавном било последица НАТО бомбардовања и интимидације од стране КЛО. Услед чега је у то време уствари више косовских Срба побегло са Косова него Албанаца.

Када је Алице Махон, која је својевремено као члан НАТО Парламентарне скупштине, на крају посведочила да је путем НАТО бомбардовања 1999 отворен пут ка тероризму становништва, неколико дана касније Милошевић је нађен мртав у Ђелији.

Милошевић није имао разлога за самоубиство, него је то Трубунал и цела његова околина која у ствари ради за НАТО, имао разлога за његово убиство. Цео предмет и начин на који је вођен постао је претња НАТО земљама, које и финансирају Трибунал, да ће се измаћи контроли Трибунала, другим речима и њиховој контроли. Ранији покушаји да се Милошевићу наметне ћутање- тиме што ће му се поставити адвокат/бранилац и сами тим он буде принуђен да буде "присутан" уз обавезно ћутање, чиме би се његова улога у сопственом процесу потпуно обезвредила, нису успели. То се десило захваљујући непредвиђеном фактору, на кога суд није могао утицати, наиме услед масовног одбијања позваних сведока да сведоче у таквим околностима и да се уопште појаве. Услед масовног бојкота претила је могућност да се цео процес једноставно јако обезвреди.

Огромни интереси су у игри, и то је јасно. После Абу Граиб-а и Гуантанамо Бау – нема више места за наивност с обзиром на безобзирност Запада када се ради о људским правима, а Трибунал и његова околина врве од функционера који имају уске везе са Натом.

Као један од ретких Холанђана – имао сам прилике да неколико пута опширно разговарам са Милошевићем. Ја сам на тај начин, неформално имао прилику да упознам његову личност, ставове и мотиве. О томе могу да кажем да сам, као адвокат, ретко срео некога ко је био као он уверен у свом предмету као и у могућности да пружи доказе. Ако има нечега што њему није падало на памет, то су биле ниске интриге у одбрани само зато да би се живот сачувао. Он је имао своју мисију и иза ње је стојао, безусловно.

Ако "они" нису убили Милошевића, за шта је уосталом у окружењу као што је затвор, присутна сва моћ и прилика постоји, онда су га у сваком случају отерали у смрт.

Цео досије са упозорењима, позивима и молбама организација које су Милошевићу пријатељски наклоњене - да се престане са стављањем Милошевићевог живота и здравља на коцку обухвата у току неколико година око 200 страна.

У протеклој годинама више пута сам заступао Милошевића у процесу за одбрану његових основних људских права у овину холандског правног система.. У том оквиру ом ме је више пута овластио да у одређеним моментима поступка предузнем нужне кораке. Тако је дошло до процеса против холандске државе – након његовог киднаповања у Хаг, до процеса против постављања "amicus curie" Владимирофф-а, процеса против Стивен Кау-а који је претио злоупотребом својих права да брани итд.

У вези са тим следице нови правни кораци против умешаних функционера Трибунала, судија као и тужилаца због наметања Милошевићу суровог и нељудског третмана, према Закону против мучења/тортуре. Сурово и нељудско опхођење са Милошевићем, који је био болестан и већ годинама у животной опасности – одбијена му је нужна медицинска бригаа. Они нису поступали са њим како је његово здравствено стање захтевало.

Круг људи око Трибунала заштитио се широким имунитетом од кривичног гоњења. Али чињења која су у супротности са поменутиим Законом против мучења - нису изузета од гоњења.

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Disappearing Genocide **The Media and the Death Of Slobodan Milosevic**

by Media Lens

www.dissidentvoice.org

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"If we don't know history, then we are ready meat for carnivorous politicians and the intellectuals and journalists who supply the carving knives. But if we know some history, if we know how many times presidents have lied to us, we will not be fooled again."

-- Howard Zinn, historian

Introduction: 2003 And All That

Three years on, it is clear that the case for war against Iraq was based on lies. Despite the cover-ups, insider compromise and silence, there can be no serious doubt that the lies were conscious and carefully planned.

The real target of Western "intelligence" was not Iraq, but the British and American public -- the goal was to frighten and deceive us to support a war fought for elite interests. It was to persuade us to send our troops to kill and die for profits. It was to persuade us to ignore clear warnings that, in all likelihood, we would be subject to terrorist reprisals. Such risks were clearly deemed a small price to pay for the prize that mattered -- control of Iraqi oil and enhanced influence in the region and beyond.

This is the ugly reality behind "patriotic" governments "supporting our boys" and protecting "national security."

Iraq, of course, never posed any kind of threat to the West. Even if portions of Saddam's WMD had been retained, they would have been no danger to America, Britain and Israel bristling with veritable doomsday weapons. Saddam Hussein may be an animal, but he is a political animal -- a survivor, not someone who would have committed national suicide by launching WMD at the West.

An honest press would be hyper-sensitive to these issues -- it would be keenly aware that Bush and Blair had lied, and would be re-evaluating earlier wars, earlier claims of "humanitarian intervention", in light of what they now know.

Given this context, something truly astonishing is revealed by media coverage of the death of Slobodan Milosevic. Because it could not be clearer from current media reporting that journalists have come to understand that the 78-day NATO bombing of Serbia from March 24 to June 10, 1999 was also based on lies. It is therefore clear to them that the government deceived the public and, once again, the media supported the deception. And yet, despite this, despite the endless horror of Iraq, journalists cannot bring themselves to expose either the earlier lies of government or their own complicity in them.

Virtually to a man and woman, journalists sold the lie to the public in 1999. This makes them complicit in the killing of 500 Serb civilians and \$100 billion worth of destruction. More importantly (for the media), the lies about Kosovo provided a template and justification for the subsequent lies surrounding the "humanitarian intervention" in Iraq. An *Observer* editorial gives an idea of the significance, explaining that the West's "belated response to political thuggery" in the Balkans resulted in "a new doctrine of humanitarian intervention." It was led "at first by President Clinton over Bosnia, and again in Kosovo. The rationale behind those interventions was then invoked for the invasion of Iraq". (Leader, "Let a dictator's death remind us of the evil of unchecked nationalism," *The Observer*, March 12, 2006)

Dissident writer Alexander Cockburn translates this into meaningful English: "the legal, military and journalistic banditry that have accompanied the Iraq enterprise from the start were all field-tested in the late 1990s in the Balkans". (Cockburn, "Did Milosevic or His Accusers 'Cheat Justice'? The Show Trial That Went Wrong," *CounterPunch*, March 14, 2006)

Kosovo -- Genocide It Wasn't

Just as they knew Iraq possessed WMD in 2003, so in 1999 politicians and journalists knew exactly what the Serbs were doing in Kosovo. Bill Clinton, then President, talked of "deliberate, systematic efforts at ethnic cleansing and genocide." (John M. Broder, "Clinton underestimated Serbs, he acknowledges," *New York Times*, June 26, 1999)

British Defense Secretary, George Robertson, insisted that intervention in Kosovo was vital to stop "a regime which is intent on genocide." (Nic North, Kevin Maguire And Harry Arnold, "A pilot saved," *Daily Mirror*, March 29, 1999)

A year later, Robertson conjured up the ghost of Nazism to justify NATO's action:

"We were faced with a situation where there was this killing going on, this cleansing going on -- the kind of ethnic cleansing we thought had disappeared after the second world war. You were seeing people there coming in trains, the cattle trains, with refugees once again." (ITV, Jonathan Dimpleby program, June 11, 2000)

US Defense Secretary, William Cohen, claimed: "We've now seen about 100,000 military-aged men missing... They may have been murdered." (Quoted, Philip Hammond and Edward S. Herman, *Degraded Capability*, Pluto Press, 2000, p.139)

Across the spectrum, the media instantly rallied to the cause. A *Daily Mail* news report was titled: "Flight from genocide; as half a million Kosovans flee their homes in terror from Milosevic, a haunting echo of another war 60 years ago." (Steve Doughty, *Daily Mail*, March 29, 1999)

The *Mirror* referred to "Echoes of the Holocaust." (Quoted, John Pilger, "The lies that brought hell," *Morning Star*, December 13, 2004) *The News of the World* declared: "The aim of this war is to stop Serbian genocide in Kosovo." (Cited, Monitor, *The Independent*, April 19, 1999) A 2002 BBC documentary on the alleged Serbian genocide, "Exposed", was billed as a program marking Holocaust Memorial Day. ("Exposed", BBC2, January 27, 2002)

As we will see, this constitutes a tiny sample -- in fact British media were filled with hundreds of claims of genocide in Kosovo. A Lexis Nexis database search similarly showed that between 1998-1999, the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek* and *Time* used "genocide" 220 times to describe the actions of Serbia in Kosovo.

And yet, following the war, NATO sources reported that 2,000 people had been killed in Kosovo on all sides in the year prior to bombing. In November 1999, the *Wall Street Journal* published the results of its own investigation. Instead of "the huge killing fields some investigators were led to expect . . . the pattern is of scattered killings (mostly) in areas where the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army had been active."

The *Journal* concluded that NATO had stepped up its claims about Serb killing fields when it "saw

a fatigued press corps drifting toward the contrarian story -- civilians killed by NATO bombs. The war in Kosovo was cruel, bitter, savage. Genocide it wasn't." (Quoted, Pilger, op., cit)

In 2004, Neil Clark, a Balkans specialist, reviewed Milosevic's trial in *The Guardian*, noting that the charges relating to the war in Kosovo were expected to be the strongest part of the case. But "not only has the prosecution signally failed to prove Milosevic's personal responsibility for atrocities committed on the ground, the nature and extent of the atrocities themselves has also been called into question." (Neil Clark, "The Milosevic trial is a travesty," *The Guardian*, February 12, 2004)

Philip Hammond of South Bank University summarized the extent of the political and media deception:

"We may never know the true number of people killed. But it seems reasonable to conclude that while people died in clashes between the KLA and Yugoslav forces . . . the picture painted by Nato -- of a systematic campaign of Nazi-style 'genocide' carried out by Serbs -- was pure invention." (*Degraded Capability, The Media and the Kosovo Crisis*, edited by Philip Hammond and Edward S. Herman, Pluto Press, 2000, p.129)

What A Difference Seven Years Make -- The Genocide Disappears

Without recognizing their earlier role in propagandizing for war against Serbia, and without drawing attention to the implications for US-UK criminality, the media has completely re-written its own history on Milosevic. A media database search by Media Lens has failed to turn up a single example of any British journalist describing Kosovo as "genocide" since Milosevic's death.

The *Sunday Express* provides a typical example of the kind of language used:

"He [Milosevic] was facing 66 counts of genocide and crimes against humanity for his central role in the wars in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo during the 1990s, in which 200,000 people died. The worst incident was the massacre at Srebrenica in 1995, when an estimated 8,000 Bosnian men were murdered." (Tominey, "Milosevic cheats justice by dying in his jail cell," *Sunday Express*, March 12, 2006)

Thus, also, *The Guardian* website:

"Milosevic faced 66 charges including genocide in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo. The most egregious act committed under his watch was the Srebrenica massacre, in which up to 8,000 Muslim men and boys died." (*Guardian Unlimited*, "Closure perhaps, but no justice," March 11, 2006)

It seems the earlier massacre at Srebrenica in 1995 is now Milosevic's worst crime. Of the 1999 'genocide' in Kosovo, the alleged mass slaughter of tens of thousands, there is not a word.

And yet in 1999, *The Guardian's* Timothy Garton Ash observed that the Nato attack on Serbia was intended to stop "something approaching genocide." (Garton Ash, "Imagine no America," *The Guardian*, September 19, 2002)

Francis Wheen ridiculed opponents of the war who believed, "that genocide is a lesser evil than bombing military installations." (Wheen, "Why we are right to bomb the Serbs," *The Guardian*, April 7, 1999)

Also in *The Guardian*, Jonathan Freedland wrote of Milosevic's plan "to empty a land of its people." (Freedland, "No way to spin a war," *The Guardian*, April 21, 1999)

A *Guardian* editorial described the war as nothing less than "a test for our generation." (Leader, *The Guardian*, March 26, 1999)

This month, Ian Traynor of *The Guardian* wrote of Milosevic's death:

"[H]e left a legacy of more than 200,000 dead in Bosnia and 2 million people (half the population)

homeless. He ethnically cleansed more than 800,000 Albanians from their homes in Kosovo." (Ian Traynor, "Obituary: Slobodan Milosevic," *The Guardian*, March 13, 2006)

Traynor mentions forced displacement in Kosovo, but does not mention the "genocide" described by *The Guardian* in 1999.

Admirably, John Laughland has even noted in *The Guardian* how "witnesses have been trooping into The Hague for nearly two years now, testifying that there was neither genocide in Kosovo nor any plan to drive out the civilian ethnic Albanian population." (Laughland, "Criminal proceedings," *The Guardian*, March 14, 2006)

But Laughland made no mention of what virtually the entire British media, including *The Guardian*, had been insisting just seven years earlier.

In 1999, a team of *Observer* reporters wrote:

"His [Slobodan Milosevic's] troops in Serbia are out of barracks. But in Kosovo they are scouring the fields, villages and towns, pursuing their own version of a Balkan Final Solution." (Peter Beaumont, Justin Brown, John Hooper, Helena Smith and Ed Vulliamy, "Hi-tech war and primitive slaughter," *The Observer*, March 28, 1999)

An *Observer* leader declared:

"There are already grounds for considering events in Kosovo as genocide." (Leader, "Time, now, to raise the stakes," April 4, 1999)

Leading *Observer* commentator, Andrew Rawnsley, wrote of how Milosevic had "embarked on his latest campaign of 'ethnic cleansing,' that vile euphemism for genocide." (Rawnsley, "You can't deal with barbarism by washing your hands -- nor by wringing them," *The Observer*, March 28, 1999)

But "genocide" has now also disappeared from *The Observer's* vocabulary:

"Europe and the US watched and failed to act for far too long. The consequences were the massacres of Srebrenica and Gorazde, the prolonged siege of Sarajevo and the forced displacement of a large part of Kosovo's Albanian population." ("Leading article: Let a dictator's death remind us of the evil of unchecked nationalism," *The Observer*, March 12, 2006)

Again, the emphasis is on Srebrenica. Again, the crime is "forced displacement" rather than "genocide".

In 1999, David Aaronovitch -- then employed by *The Independent* -- described Serbian actions in Kosovo as "the worst crime against humanity committed in Europe since the Second World War." (Aaronovitch, "The reality is that war, tragedy and incompetence go together," *The Independent*, May 11, 1999)

In a tragicomic moment, Aaronovitch even asked:

"Is this cause, the cause of the Kosovar Albanians, a cause that is worth suffering for? . . . Would I fight, or (more realistically) would I countenance the possibility that members of my family might die?"

His answer: "I think so." (Aaronovitch, "My country needs me," *The Independent*, April 6, 1999)

And yet in reviewing the death of Milosevic in *The Times* last week, Aaronovitch wrote of the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica:

"In front of our eyes, just about, with our full knowledge, thousands were taken to European fields -- just as they had been 50 years earlier -- and murdered en masse. It was the most

shaming moment of my life. We had let it happen again." (Aaronovitch, "The meaning of Milosevic: how the Butcher of the Balkans changed us," *The Times*, March 14, 2006)

Aaronovitch made passing mention of Kosovo four times in the article, but he made no mention at all of the extent of the killing. Instead, he wrote:

"If Bosnia was the betrayal through inaction and appeasement, Srebrenica the consequence and Kosovo the determination not to let it happen again, then the line runs clear."

But, according to Aaronovitch in 1999, Kosovo was all about the fact that "it" *had* happened again in a more extreme form. We wrote to Aaronovitch:

"Why no mention of this, given that Kosovo was 'the worst crime against humanity committed in Europe since the Second World War?' Do you still believe there was a genocide in Kosovo 1998-1999? If so, what is your evidence for this?" (E-mail, March 14, 2006)

We have received no reply.

In 1999, Marcus Tanner wrote in *The Independent*:

"NATO stepped up the air war against Yugoslavia last night in what appeared a desperate race against time to stop the Serbs from committing 'genocide' against Albanian civilians in Kosovo." (Tanner, "NATO targets troops as refugees flee genocide and tells Serbs to pull back or die," *The Independent*, March 29, 1999)

A month later, Tanner wrote:

"RTS [Radio Televisija Srbija] has turned into a vehicle that whips up genocidal passions, a vital cog in the business of psychologically preparing the entire Serbian nation for the necessity of exterminating its enemies." (Tanner, "I watched as 'TV Slobbo' turned into voice of hate," *The Independent*, April 24, 1999)

This month, Tanner notes that in the spring of 1998 a new group, the Kosovo Liberation Army -- which in fact was funded by the CIA-organized an insurrection that spread rapidly across the province:

"Milosevic responded with the ruthless brutality that had become his trademark, pouring special police units and paramilitaries into the province and burning down villages where the rebels were based." (Marcus Tanner, "Obituaries: Slobodan Milosevic," *The Independent*, March 13, 2006)

Tanner writes of how the "conflict worsened" and how "the policy of burning villages and expelling Kosovar Albanians was stepped up, massively so after Nato began air strikes" -- but about the alleged "genocide" there is not one word.

Likewise, an Independent leader last week referred, not to 'genocide', but to "thousands killed in Kosovo and Croatia." (Leader, "A death that cheats justice and Serbia's democracy," *The Independent*, March 13, 2006)

The Independent on Sunday also noted blandly: "1998: Milosevic sends troops to crush uprising in Kosovo." ("The bloody life and times of the butcher of Belgrade," *The Independent on Sunday*, March 12, 2006)

In 1999, in an article titled, "Europe's turn in the killing fields," Jon Swain wrote in the *Sunday Times*:

"The symbols of death found in Cambodia under Pol Pot are everywhere in Kosovo today -- in the blackened ruins of houses where the victims of 'ethnic cleansing' lie, in the broken and homeless people on the move in their tens of thousands.

"Only this is Europe. This continent has not seen such a procession of human misery since the end of the second world war, and for it to be allowed to happen again has diminished us all." (Swain, "Europe's turn in the killing fields," *Sunday Times*, April 4, 1999)

Last week, the same newspaper argued:

"It was only in 1998-99, when Milosevic reacted to Albanian guerrilla tactics in Kosovo with large-scale repression, that the West finally ended its long courtship and took up arms against him." (Brendan Simms, "The butcher is dead," *Sunday Times*, March 12, 2006)

Again, no genocide -- the description cannot be compared to the picture painted by the *Sunday Times* in 1999.

Conclusion -- Safety In Numbers

In 1999, moving as an intellectual herd, almost all journalists portrayed Serbian actions in Kosovo as "genocide" and supported military action. The Blair government needed a black and white picture of the world to generate public support for the killing. A civil war was not enough, "scattered killings" were not enough. The state needed atrocities, Nazi-style horror -- it needed a 'genocide'. And the media obliged. How ironic that politicians and journalists used comparisons with the Nazi "Final Solution" to sell their war. In August 1939, one week before invading Poland, Adolf Hitler declared:

"The wave of appalling terrorism against the [minority] inhabitants of Poland, and the atrocities that have been taking place in that country are terrible for the victims, but intolerable for a Great Power which has been expected to remain a passive onlooker. We will not continue to tolerate the persecution of the minority, the killing of many, and their forcible removal under the most cruel conditions." (Hitler, August 23, 1939, from letters sent to the UK and French governments, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Monitor, April 2003; www.swt.org/share/ancientciv.htm)

In 2006, again moving as a herd, journalists have now silently rejected their own fraudulent claims of "genocide" from 1999. Moreover, they have rejected the need to examine how they got it wrong, why, what it tells us about Clinton, Blair and Bush, and, above all, what it tells us about the latest "humanitarian intervention" in Iraq.

Media Lens is a UK-based media watchdog group headed by David Edwards and David Cromwell.

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Aan: <canauk@bleuyonder.co.uk>; "CDSMireland" <cdsmireland@eircom.net>; "Ruza" <despot@tiscali.nl>; <nedaist@ntworld.com>; <ztomanovic@yahoo.com>; <lawofficetomanovic@yahoo.com>; "V. Valkanov" <v.valkanov@hotmail.com>; "Branko Rakic" <brankorakic@yahoo.com>; <boculence@tehnicon.net>; "Petar Borojevic" <pertep@yahoo.com>; "Ksenija Sigulinski" <lizamia@zonnet.nl>; <michel.collon@skynet.be>; <gordana.m-k@t-online.de>; <lodalmas@wanadoo.fr>; "Ineke Grbic" <ssicc@planet.nl>; "M Gavrilovic" <mishag1@cwcom.net>; "Ljiljana Milanovic" <infograf@beograd.com>; <ppdscat@dircon.co.uk>; <petar@mail.cyberus.ca>; <scontact@balkanpeace.org>; "Vladan Joksimovic" <joxa.bgc@opennet.org>; <komitet@beotel.yu>; "Review International Affairs" <interaff@eunet.yu>; "Bob Petrovich" <bojan@home.com>; "Vladimir Krsljanin" <slobodavk@yubc.net>; <beoforum@verat.net>; "Zdenko Tomanovic" <zdenkot@eunet.yu>
Verzonden: woensdag 29 maart 2006 14:17
Bijlage: ISTINA.htm; smorg-031906[2].doc
Onderwerp: legal action against the death of Mr. Milosevic
Dear friends of Mr. Milosevic,

I intend to undertake legal action, under the Dutch laws as well on the international level, against those who are directly responsible for the death of Milosevic.
Based upon the UN Convention against Torture and other Inhumane or Degrading Treatment.
This as a way to circumvent the immunity of the tribunal's officials.

However, I need support. In the sense of authorization by his family members and by human rights organisations and support organisations, especially in Serbia itself.

Maybe we may also start a committee aimed at legal steps against his death.

We cannot tolerate that those who deliberately caused his death will remain without any legal challenge.

Some intentions you will find in the attachments.
The article in Serb was published in a couple of prominent newspapers in the Netherlands.

I hope I will find your support !

best regards,

Nico Steijnen,

lawyer

Advocatenkantoor Steijnen, Olof & Stelling
Couwenhoven 52-05
3703 ER Zeist
tel. 030-6956867
email: sagitar@hetnet.nl

29-3-2006

Hoi Roza,

Je weet dat ik alles zoveel mogelijk uitprint en bewaar.
Daarom was ik in staat om, voor de persconferentie in Den
Haag, een overzicht te maken van alle waarschuwingen, etc. die
er de afgelopen jaren zijn gedaan om OP TE HOUDEN met de
gezondheid van Milosevic in gevaar te brengen.

EEN HEEL BOEKWERK VOL !

Het is op de persconferentie verspreid onder de internationale
pers.

Ik hoorde dat Nico nog op Russische T.V. te zien was, terwijl
hij daarmee zwaaide, ' t kan ook de Italiaanse zijn geweest.

Ik stuur je hierbij ook een exemplaar.

Ik zal het gebruiken bij de komende aanklachten.

Verder stuur ik nog wat stukken, ook eentje over de RTS.
Van de rechtszaak van 22 maart j.l.

Hou je goed en de groeten ook voor Radica !

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Aan: "Jonathan Widell"
Verzonden: donderdag 30 maart 2006 18:26
Onderwerp: Re: de dood van Milosevic
Beste Jonathan,

Ik ben je dankbaar als het in het weekend zou kunnen worden afgerond. En zie gaarne de uitkomst hiervan tegemoet.

hartelijke groeten,

Nico Steijnen

— Original Message —

From: Jonathan Widell
To: Sagittarius
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 9:00 PM
Subject: Re: de dood van Milosevic

Kunt u weten tot zaterdag? Ik heb het ontzettend druk tot vrijdag in het werk. Ik bid mijn excuses aan.

Jonathan

— Original Message —

From: Sagittarius
To: Jonathan Widell
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 10:37 AM
Subject: Fw: de dood van Milosevic

Beste Jonathan,

Lukt het nog om de vertaling rond te krijgen?

Sagittarius

Van: "Andy Wilcoxson"
Aan: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: donderdag 30 maart 2006 0:41
Onderwerp: RE: legal action against the death of Mr.

Nico, you have my full support, please do not hesitate to call on me if you need anything, and do not worry; I will not mention anything about needing you needing further authorization. As far as I am concerned I will exclusively refer to you as "Slobodan Milosevic's attorney before the Dutch and international courts."

- Andy

-----Original Message-----

From: Sagittarius [mailto:sagitar@hetnet.nl]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 4:27 AM
To: webmaster@slobodan-milosevic.org; Andy Wilcoxson; Andy Wilcoxson
Subject: Fw: legal action against the death of Mr. Milosevic

Dear Andy,

Please, do'n't mention that I am in the need of further authorization. As I told you, when I can't get it, I expect trouble form a legal point of view, but nevertheless I will take action., as announced.

regards,

Nico S.

----- Original Message -----

From: Sagittarius
To: canauk@bleuyonder.co.uk ; CDSMireland ; Ruza ; nedaist@ntworld.com ; ztomanovic@yahoo.com ; lawofficetomanovic@yahoo.com ; [V. Valkanov](mailto:V.Valkanov) ; [Branko Rakic](mailto:BrankoRakic) ; boculence@tehnicon.net ; [Petar Borojevic](mailto:PetarBorojevic) ; [Ksenija Sigulinski](mailto:KsenijaSigulinski) ; michel.collon@skynet.be ; gordana.m-k@t-online.de ; lodalmas@wanadoo.fr ; [Ineke M Gavrilovic](mailto:InekeM.Gavrilovic) ; [Ljiljana Milanovic](mailto:LjiljanaMilanovic) ; ppdscat@dircon.co.uk ; petar@mail.cyberus.ca ; scontact@balkanpeace.org ; [Vladan Joksimovic](mailto:VladanJoksimovic) ; komitet@beotel.yu ; [Review International Affairs](mailto:ReviewInternationalAffairs) ; [Bob Petrovich](mailto:BobPetrovich) ; [Vladimir Krsljanin](mailto:VladimirKrsljanin) ; beoforum@verat.net ; [Zdenko Tomanovic](mailto:ZdenkoTomanovic)
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 2:17 PM
Subject: legal action against the death of Mr. Milosevic

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I hope I will find your support !

best regards,

Nico Steijnen,



Marlise Simons: The hoped-for legacy of the Milosevic trial

Marlise Simons International Herald Tribune

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006

THE HAGUE The trial of Slobodan Milosevic generated about 120 DVDs, 46,000 pages of transcripts and more than 300,000 pages of oral and written evidence. The total number of documents had reached 1.2 million pages and more was on the way before his death.

All that work was stopped in its tracks. On March 13, two days after Milosevic's death, the court ended the case here, leaving lawyers and court officials, witnesses and victims abruptly bereft of any sense of closure.

So has the first international criminal trial of a head of state bequeathed more than immense frustration?

Yes, albeit almost accidentally.

The prosecution set out to tell the detailed history of three Yugoslav wars because it saw this as the only way to uncover what it believed was Milosevic's often hidden hand in the political and military nightmare.

Yet the nature of the trial worked against this objective since it was not the role of prosecutors to be historians. Rather, their mission was to establish proof.

"Proof will include truth, but it will not present the full picture," Geoffrey Nice, the lead prosecutor, once said. "We have a limitless field of evidence from the wars, but we are not inquiring like scientists; we are asked to extract from it."

With Milosevic's death, no judges will weigh this evidence and, in practice, what remains is the prosecution's account - one in which the three wars are attributed almost entirely to Milosevic.

The court did not indict the other wartime leaders. Franjo Tudjman, the president of Croatia, was under investigation but died in 1999. Nor did it focus on the role of the Bosnian Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic. Other trials dealing with senior Muslims and Croats aim to provide a more balanced view of the wars that accompanied the breakup of Yugoslavia. The country's dissolution may have been inevitable, but prosecutors argued that Milosevic was most to blame for its violence.

Milosevic himself devoted almost his entire defense to charges related to Kosovo, a Serbian province. In that sense, a tested version of history exists and it may influence future cases.

In a broader sense, the court's biggest but aborted case can claim some successes. Even without a verdict, it is helping to shape a collective memory of the Balkan tragedy.

In its volume of work are the building blocks and procedural lessons for future trials. Not least it established the precedent, long unthinkable, of having a former head of state face a criminal trial before an international court.

Even some of the evidence presented in the Milosevic trial may have a second life. At the trial's great predecessor of Nazi leaders at Nuremberg, the occupying Allied troops had an immense paper trail of signed orders. But while Germans recorded most things, Milosevic wrote very little.

So over the four-year trial a painstaking reconstruction has taken place, using witnesses, insiders, affidavits, letters, and transcripts of phone taps and radio intercepts. Some of that evidence may be admitted in other trials.

Eligible topics could include the role of special forces, their links to the militia, Milosevic's use of secret parallel commands, Belgrade's payment of equipment, salaries and pensions to its proxy army in Bosnia.

In addition, the Milosevic prosecution team has created a vast database where evidence can be retrieved for other trials. Nice, the lead prosecutor, has said he wants to make it publicly accessible as a tool for scholars, lawyers, researchers or journalists.

"It should have a long shelf life," he told a friend. "If there had been a detailed record of a trial in ancient Rome, we'd be reading it today."

Nonetheless, the court has understood that its strategy in the Milosevic case created an overly cumbersome case and a poor role model for future high-profile trials.

It has not gone unnoticed here that in the trial of Saddam Hussein, the prosecution has focused narrowly on one infamous case of brutality, rather than addressing the accumulated horrors of his regime.

But lawyers at the court say the two cases are very different. Saddam is on trial as a perpetrator who directly participated in a single event. Milosevic was always far from the scene. He was accused of command responsibility, for planning and ordering the crimes of others.

The way the prosecution made its case required charting the entire political and military structure of Yugoslavia. One lawyer said there was no simple event, standing alone, that could be sliced off and pinned on Milosevic. Moreover, he argued, the trial did not aim to simply seek retribution but had grander ambitions. It wanted to help shape the history of the war, to spur Serbs to end their denial of atrocities and reconnect Serbian society to the rest of Europe.

Lawyers will be debating for a long time whether this can or should be the role of a criminal trial.

Even as the trial was still limping along, bogged down by its scope and by a part-time schedule imposed by Milosevic's doctors, there was much internal finger pointing over who was to blame for the lack of progress.

Judges had no doubt that the scale of the trial was unmanageable, linking three wars over a 10-year period. At several stages, judges tried to break up the indictment and deal separately with the war in Kosovo. Even last November, both Milosevic and the prosecutors fought against that and the judges accepted reluctantly.

Prosecutors often complained that they found the judges too lenient with Milosevic. He had played the United Nations, the Europeans and the Americans during the war, and was able to play the court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Despite his filibustering and his declining health, the judges never limited his right to defend himself. Rather, to protect him from his hubris and lack of court experience, they sought to ensure fairness by appointing a defense team, two experienced British lawyers.

The legacy of the trial is already making itself felt behind the scenes. As the court deals with the rest of its caseload, it will be harder for any accused to obtain the right to defend himself, and nearly impossible for someone who is sick.

Court officials have privately said that international tribunals handling complex war crimes cases need the most able and experienced of judges. Several judges who retired after serving in The Hague have said they deplored working alongside inexperienced judges who came from diplomatic, academic or political posts. Patrick Robinson, the judge who presided over the Milosevic trial, had a long diplomatic career but almost no trial experience. He replaced Sir Richard May, who died during the trial.

There is much internal debate about whether the dominant common law system where most evidence has to be heard orally, in full, in the courtroom, should not move closer to the inquisitorial system where judges play a more active role and more evidence is accepted in writing.

Evidence in writing has already become more acceptable at the tribunal. But future shifts do not alter the plight of the Milosevic prosecutors who wrote a sweeping historical indictment and ended up, not with jurisprudence - a verdict and sentence - but mostly with food for historians.

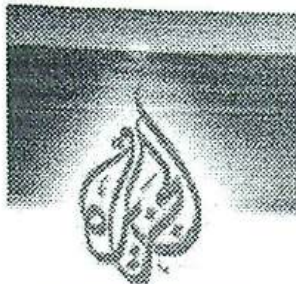
E-mail: pagetwo@iht.com

Tomorrow: Amelia Gentleman on the glamorization of India's railroads.

THE HAGUE The trial of Slobodan Milosevic generated about 120 DVDs, 46,000 pages of transcripts and more than 300,000 pages of oral and written evidence. The total number of documents had reached 1.2 million pages and more was on the way before his death.

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Milosevic death prompts UN jail audit

Friday 31 March 2006, 23:30 Makka Time, 20:30 GMT

Sweden has accepted a request by the Hague war crimes tribunal to conduct an independent audit of the detention unit where Slobodan Milosevic died earlier this month, the court said.

The former Yugoslav president died in his cell on March 11 of a heart attack, months before an anticipated verdict in his United Nations war crimes trial. The 64-year-old suffered from high blood pressure and a heart condition.

"The tribunal is grateful to the Swedish government for its support," the court said in a statement on Friday, adding that the audit would cover all areas related to the management and administration of the detention unit in a Dutch prison outside The Hague.

Milan Babic, a Croatian Serb leader committed suicide in the same detention centre a week before Milosevic's death.

In New York, Fausto Pocar, an Italian judge and president of the UN tribunal on the former Yugoslavia, told UN Security Council members in a video briefing that Milosevic had been examined by several doctors, including a Belgrade-based cardiologist and seven others he had requested.

Russian dissatisfaction

Russia asked for the briefing but diplomats who attended said Russian representatives were not satisfied and questioned why Milosevic had not been allowed to go to Moscow for treatment as he had requested.



Milosevic died in jail on March 11

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"The tribunal is grateful to the Swedish government for its support"

Hague war crimes tribunal statement

Cesar Mayoral, Argentine ambassador and this month's council president, said Russia wanted to renew the questioning when Pocar

comes to New York in June.

In January, Dutch physicians during a routine blood test discovered the presence of a drug that is rare in the Netherlands and is used mainly to treat leprosy and tuberculosis, Pocar told the council. The drug has been identified as rifampicin.

In a letter sent to Russia the day before he died, Milosevic suggested he was being poisoned.

Milosevic request

The court had denied a December request by Milosevic to travel to Russia for treatment of his heart problems, ruling he could receive the best possible care in the Netherlands.

Since the tribunal had granted Milosevic the right to defend himself, he was given a private office with a telephone and computer, where he could meet with witnesses.


Milosevic had interviewed some 70 potential witnesses as well as legal experts advising him, Pocar said.


The judge told the council that doctors who attended Milosevic, including some from Russia, were now being asked to provide additional information for an inquiry, including autopsy reports and data on "non-prescribed medicines" found in his blood stream, the diplomats reported.


Pocar said the International Committee of the Red Cross has visited the prison 18 times to ensure it was run properly.

Reuters

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Politics

Mar 31 2006 8:09PM

ICTY to report findings of investigation into Milosevic's death to UN

MOSCOW. March 31 (Interfax) - The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia [ICTY] will inform the UN Security Council of the findings of an investigation into the death of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in the near future, a source in the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax on Friday.

The briefing by ICTY top officials "was organized at Russia's request and was in many aspects brought about by the need to clarify the circumstances surrounding Milosevic's death in the Hague prison," the source said.

ICTY Chairman Fausto Pocar and other ICTY officials will report to the UN Security Council on the conditions of ICTY suspects' incarceration in the Hague prison and the tribunal's investigation into recent events in the Scheveningen prison, where trial suspects are held.

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Zweden onderzoekt cellen VN na dood Milosević

14-2006

DEN HAAG - Zweden gaat de situatie in het VN-cellencomplex in Scheveningen onderzoeken. Het Joegoslavië-Tribunaal heeft Zweden hiertoe benaderd nadat na de dood van de voormalige Servische president Milosevic op 11 maart werd bericht over drank en niet-voorgeschreven medicijnen in zijn cel (ANP)



THE EUROPEAN WEEKLY

New Europe

March 26- April 1, 2006. Issue Number 670

Page 2 - Opinion

Out of Milosevic

By Aleksandar Mitic

The EU Council of Ministers was right this week in promising strong support to Serbs in coming to terms with the legacy of Slobodan Milosevic, but in order to achieve this, Brussels must first free its current policies from the 1990s double standards and stereotypes about a "rogue Serbia".

Consider the timing of the current "pressure package" on Serbia. The Montenegrin government has been calling for independence for over five years now – but the referendum is scheduled at a time when the volatile Kosovo status talks are heating up. Bosnia has filed a lawsuit against Belgrade in front of the International Court of Justice in 1993 – but the proceedings and the verdict will be given during the Kosovo negotiations. The "Dayton Peace Accord" in Bosnia had been in place since 1995, but the pressure on Republika Srpska to accept constitutional changes have stepped up only now, during the Kosovo talks. Former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic had been indicted for war crimes since 1995 but Belgrade is being given a strict deadline to locate and to arrest the runaway general or face disruption of EU integration talks – you guessed it, exactly at the beginning of the Kosovo status talks.

One might argue that all this is pure coincidence based on unfinished business, but most will agree that the current approach towards the Kosovo status talks smells too much like bad timing and double standards.

With Pristina, it is a wholly different story -- as if Milosevic was still in power in Belgrade. Criminal activities are tolerated, controversial, "lesser evil" politicians are pushed to power, the lack of results on the ground is masked by rhetorical goodwill of the UN and the Kosovo leadership, while threats of violence by "frustrated Albanians" are tolerated and even used as arguments to speed up the status process. The pressure is put on the Kosovo Serbs instead.

Still living in enclaves and ghettos seven years after the war, the Kosovo Serbs have rejected further participation in the Kosovo institutions in protest over the persistent discrimination and attempts to use them as a "multiethnic decor". In the two years in

parliament, not a single amendment they had proposed has been adopted. It seems highly unlikely that they will return to parliament now, just for the sake of "fulfilling the standards of multiethnic institutions". They do not see their place in the Kosovo assembly which ignores their legitimate interests, proclaims "independence as the only solution", puts portraits of war crimes indictee Ramush Haradinaj on its walls and elects Agim Ceku, a general suspected of war crimes, for Prime minister.

Kosovo Albanians, on the other hand, are praised for their "political maturity" even as all reports suggest international standards are far from being achieved. At the time of his death in January, Kosovo president Ibrahim Rugova was dubbed "the Gandhi of the Balkans", although he never genuinely condemned anti-Serb violence or ever stood for any other than his own fellow Albanians. Rugova's "pacifist" policy is praised as a model for Kosovo, but then a month later, it is the warlord and war crimes suspect Ceku who is elected Prime Minister.

And what about war crimes hypocrisy? Although Serbia extradited all of its Kosovo war crimes indictees to the The Hague tribunal, had the courage to open its mass graves and to organize local war crimes trials, the Albanians are still getting preferential treatment: nobody is pressuring them to face their own crimes, indictee Fatmir Limaj is freed of all charges, former Prime minister Ramush Haradinaj is set free until trial and allowed to participate in political life, and Agim Ceku, accused by Serbia of massive crimes against humanity in Croatia and Kosovo, is elected as Prime minister of Kosovo with the backing of the international community.

Moreover, statements urging the Serbs "to accept reality" abound. Some senior Western officials, including a foreign minister of a EU country, are suggesting that independence of Kosovo is inevitable, although the negotiations on the status itself have not even begun and despite the dangerous repercussions of such a precedent.

This is not the way to help Serbia's pro-European government and the democratic forces of a country which Brussels sees as the future backbone of economic growth and political stability in the region.

Neither helpful are the extremely meager carrots offered to Serbia: selective softening of the Schengen visa regime, limited aid funds, a regional free trade agreement – way too little for the "crucial year in the Balkans".

And then came "absorption capacity"...

Aleksandar Mitic is the Brussels correspondent of the Tanjug news agency, a lecturer at the University of Belgrade and an analyst of the Institute 4S.

Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-johnson@lineone.net>
 Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>
 Verzonden: zondag 2 april 2006 22:03
 Onderwerp: CDSM: Was Serbia a Practice Run for

<http://www.counterpunch.com/roberts03132006.html>

Killing Off Sloba**Was Serbia a Practice Run for Iraq?**

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

On March 11, the former Serbian leader and president of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, died in his prison cell at the Hague, where he had been on trial for four years and one month for war crimes and genocide. The Serbian Socialist Party leader Zoran Andelkovic responded to the news of Milosevic's death with the following statement:

"Slobodan Milosevic, the president of the Socialist Party of Serbia and a former president of Serbia and Yugoslavia was murdered today at the Tribunal in Hague. The decision of the Tribunal to disallow Milosevic's medical treatment at the BakunIn Institute in Moscow represents a prescribed death sentence against Milosevic. Truth and justice were on his side and this is why they have used a strategy of gradual killing of Slobodan Milosevic. The responsibility for his death is clearly with the Hague Tribunal."

A partisan accusation or the truth? Milosevic was known to be seriously ill. The Russian government promised to return Milosevic to the Tribunal after treatment. The Tribunal refused. It is easy to conclude that the case against Milosevic had collapsed and that an embarrassed US government, NATO authorities, and Hague Tribunal decided to let him die in his cell rather than admit that his guilt could not be proven even after a trial lasting four years and one month.

Milosevic was caught up in the post-Soviet era break-up of Yugoslavia. Nationalist forces broke up the Yugoslav federation. During 1991-92, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina seceded from Yugoslavia. Large Serbian minorities in Croatia and in Bosnia objected and claimed the identical right of self-determination to remain in the federation as Croats and Muslims claimed to leave it. Croatian and Bosnian Serbs organized and a war against secession began.

Milosevic could hardly remain a Serbian leader and not support the Serbs. Abraham Lincoln was canonized for invading the South to prevent its secession, but Milosevic was damned for trying to protect Yugoslavia's territorial integrity. In the end Milosevic accepted secession. In 1995 Milosevic negotiated the Dayton Agreement which ended the war in Bosnia. According to the encyclopedia, Wikipedia, "Milosevic was credited in the West with being one of the pillars of Balkan peace."

In 1998 Milosevic was confronted with a more severe problem. Armed actions by the separatist Kosovar Liberation Army, listed as a terrorist organization by the US Department of State, in the ancient Serbian province of Kosovo broke out into warfare. Milosevic was now trying to hold on to a province not of Yugoslavia but of Serbia itself, a province that had been colonized by ethnic Albanians. The Serbian population in Kosovo was outnumbered nine to one and suffered greatly at the hands of the KLA.

Milosevic, already damaged by the wars of secession that destroyed Yugoslavia, lost the

media campaign waged by public relations firms hired by contending factions that spun the news that Americans received. Milosevic was demonized, and the Clinton administration had Serbia bombed by NATO forces for 78 days in the spring of 1999. Many Serbian civilians were killed by the air strikes which hit passenger trains and destroyed the Chinese embassy. In effect, the US interfered in Serbian affairs in behalf of the secession, with the result that Kosovo has been essentially ethnically cleansed of Serbs. Kosovo is apparently still considered to be a part of Serbia, but it is administered by the United Nations. Somehow, this has been presented as a great moral victory for humanity.

If the massive propaganda campaign against Milosevic had many facts behind it, he long ago would have been convicted at the Hague. What was the episode all about?

In my opinion, it was to establish the precedent, later to be employed in the Middle East, that the US government could demonize a head of state geographically distant from any legitimate "sphere of influence" and use military force to remove him. This is precisely the fate of Saddam Hussein, and the Bush regime still hopes to repeat the strategy in Iran and Syria.

The unanswered question is why does the "international community" go along with it? The numerous civilians killed by US interventions are just as dead as the ones killed by heads of state attempting to hold on to their countries. Why are the latter deaths war crimes but not the former?

As a presidential candidate, George W. Bush criticized President Clinton's intervention in Serbia and disavowed the international policeman role for the US. But as soon as Bush got in office, he plotted to invade Iraq. Why?

Americans should be very concerned that Bush still has not come clean about why he invaded Iraq. Americans should be disturbed that despite the disastrous results in Iraq, Bush still intends "regime change" in Iran and Syria.

Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-
Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient;>
Verzonden: donderdag 27 april 2006 19:17
Onderwerp: CDSM: Belarus Statement

<http://www.interfax.com/3/144504/news.aspx>

Interfax - April 3, 2006

Belarus parliament adopts statement on Milosevic's death

MINSK - Both chambers of the Belarussian parliament have adopted a joint statement calling for a trial of the judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) who rejected a request for treatment submitted by former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic before his death.

"The administration of The Hague tribunal was interested in Milosevic's death since it was not able to prove the accusations made against him," Nikolai Cherginets, head of the upper chamber's international affairs and national security committee, said.

The judges' refusal to allow Milosevic to travel to Russia for medical treatment "was an official death sentence," he said.

The lower chamber of parliament said in an earlier statement that "a detailed, comprehensive and objective international investigation" should be conducted into the ex-Yugoslav president's death, questioning the wisdom of the tribunal's further activities.

The Belarussian parliament demands that "ICTY judges who rejected Milosevic's treatment request, effectively denying him the right to live, be brought to justice."

"It is obvious to us that the ICTY is a politicized body, the functioning of which is plagued by double standards and biased decisions," the statement reads.

"Milosevic was an outstanding figure. As head of a sovereign state, he had the right and was duty-bound to defend his country's integrity and ensure its security," the document reads.

"The former Yugoslavia was used as a testing ground for methods to destroy multinational states," it reads.

Belarus parliament blames Hague tribunal for Milosevic's death

BBC Monitoring Kiev Unit - April 3, 2006, Monday
 Excerpt from report by Belarusian news agency Belapan
 Source: Belapan news agency, Minsk, in Russian 1240 gmt 3 Apr 06
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Minsk, 3 April: The Belarusian National Assembly's House of Representatives [parliament's lower house] adopted a statement on the death of the former Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, on 3 April. Presenting the draft statement, the chairman of the Standing Commission for International Affairs and CIS Relations, Vadzim Papow, said that Milosevic's death on 11 March 2006 "attracted the attention of the international community" and caused "critical assessments of the activities by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia [ICTFY]".

The statement by the House of Representatives reads that the international community has repeatedly drawn the ICTFY's attention to the fact that Milosevic was suffering from a coronary heart disease and hypertension and needed specialized cardiological treatment. However, in January 2006, he was denied the right to go to Moscow for treatment

Despite the fact that the Russian government guaranteed his personal security and his return to the Hague. "This refusal can be viewed only as an inhumane and harsh act which led to the tragic result," the statement reads. (...) [agency ellipsis] "Today, the ICTFY is trying to disclaim responsibility for the former Yugoslav leader's death and speaks about 'care of the accused individuals'. However, Milosevic is not the only victim of the Hague tribunal. Serbs account for the majority of those who died or committed suicide in connection with the legal proceedings that were considered by the tribunal. It is evident that the ICTFY cannot guarantee life security for the people standing trial." Belarusian MPs described the Hague tribunal as "a politicized body, for which double standards and bias are typical when rendering decisions". "The tribunal acts in the interests of those who conducted the Balkan operation. The purpose of its existence is clear - to justify NATO's confrontation in the region and shift responsibility for what happened on the territory of former Yugoslavia to Milosevic and other former leaders of the country," the statement says. (...) [agency ellipsis] "Former Yugoslavia was used to test and fine-tune a methodology for breaking up multinational states."

The MPs also deem the existence of the Hague tribunal inexpedient and demand that the ICTFY be disbanded and all the cases being considered by it be transferred to national judicial authorities.

The MPs also expressed their "feeling of solidarity and support for the Serbian people's effort to preserve integrity of their country".

Sagittarius

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Historical and Investigative Research

Was Slobodan Milosevic murdered?

14 March 2006

by Francisco Gil-White

The former president of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, was found dead in his cell on Saturday. That very day, Deutsche Presse Agentur reported:

"Slobodan Milosevic was found dead in his cell in the Scheveningen detention unit near The Hague Saturday morning, the UN war crimes tribunal said.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) said Milosevic, 64, had been found 'lifeless' shortly after 9.00 a.m. It gave no cause of death, but said an inquiry had been launched." [1]

The Daily Telegraph reports that some in the Milosevic camp have been alleging that the cause of death was homicide: Milosevic, his supporters claim, was murdered at The Hague. [2]

Does the murder hypothesis make sense?

In order to answer that question, we must first be clear on something. If Milosevic was murdered, who would ultimately be responsible? NATO. Why NATO? Because, though the ICTY (or 'Hague Tribunal') presents itself to the world as a UN body, NATO officials have themselves made clear, in public, that it really belongs to NATO. [3] This helps explain why NATO appoints the prosecutors, [4] and why the Hague Tribunal ruled out investigating any war crimes accusations against NATO. [5] It follows that Slobodan Milosevic, who was a prisoner of the Hague Tribunal's Scheveningen prison when he died, was a prisoner of NATO.

Now, since the accusation that Milosevic was murdered is an accusation against NATO, we must ask – as one would in a US court of law – whether NATO had both motive and opportunity to kill him. The question of opportunity does not require a special demonstration: Slobodan Milosevic was NATO's prisoner, so NATO clearly had opportunity.

Did NATO have motive?

Anybody who has followed the trial proceedings at the Hague Tribunal knows that NATO failed utterly in supporting its case against Slobodan Milosevic, despite tilting the entire structure and procedure of the trial against the defense in a manner that beggars description. [6] The reasons for this are not far to seek. As HIR has demonstrated multiple times, the accusations against the Serbs – for which Slobodan Milosevic was standing trial – are lies. For example, though NATO alleged that the Serbs had committed a massacre of Albanian civilians in the Kosovo town of Racak, this turned out to be a hoax. [7] This is especially embarrassing because the allegation of a massacre at Racak was the excuse that NATO used to begin bombing the Serbs on 24 March 1999. But it pales next to this embarrassment: after claiming that the Serbs had supposedly been murdering 100,000 Albanian civilians (or else 500,000), NATO's own forensics reported that they could not find even one body of an Albanian civilian murdered by Milosevic's forces. [8] The failure to find any bodies eventually led to NATO's absurd claim that the Serbs had supposedly covered up a genocide by moving the many thousands of bodies in freezer trucks deep into Serbia (while NATO was carpet bombing the place) without leaving a single trace of evidence. But HIR has shown these accusations to be entirely fraudulent as well. [9] Without any bodies, how was NATO to make a case against Milosevic in Kosovo? They brought Patrick Ball to talk confusedly about statistics of refugee movements streaming out of Kosovo, from which Ball pretended to 'infer' that there had supposedly been massacres by the Serbs against Albanian civilians, quite despite the fact that Patrick Ball's own data called for a different conclusion. [10] None of this should be terribly surprising for those who know that, contrary to the accusations against the Serbs all over the media, and which helped convince the public that the NATO

It was just, the Kosovo Albanians were the best treated minority in the world, bar none.[11] Consistent with this, accusations against the Bosnian Serbs – also lumped together in the case against Milosevic – were similarly lies.

From the above it follows that NATO's Hague Tribunal is a kangaroo court whose purpose is to convince ordinary people all over the world that NATO's destruction of Yugoslavia was justified. Since, despite cheating all over the world, NATO failed to show this in its own court (a total absence of evidence did make this difficult), there is indeed a powerful motive to murder Milosevic: preventing his acquittal. In this way, NATO can continue to claim that Milosevic was guilty, and nobody will be the wiser, because the controlled media will continue to say this.

From the point of view of this hypothesis Milosevic did indeed die just at the right time, for, as The Washington Post explains:

"Court officials had said they had expected his trial to conclude in May and judges to issue a verdict by the end of the year." [13]

In other words, Milosevic died shortly before the Hague Tribunal, under the law, would have been forced to pronounce him 'not guilty.' Convenient, for NATO.

But there is something else to consider: there is precedent.

HIR has published an investigation that leaves little room for doubt that Slavko Dokmanovic, a Serb fraudulently accused of committing atrocities against civilian Croats, was murdered in the Hague Tribunal's Scheveningen prison two weeks before his expected acquittal.

HIR invites you to read this investigation, which helps place in a more complete context the accusation that Slobodan Milosevic was murdered in prison.

"MURDER AT THE HAGUE? An investigation into the alleged suicide of Slavko Dokmanovic"; Historical and Investigative Research; 11 March 2006; by Francisco Gil-White
<http://www.hirhome.com/yugo/dokmanovic1.htm>

In closing, allow me to make something clear. Though I have shown that the accusations of war crimes against Slobodan Milosevic are false, he was nevertheless guilty, as president of Yugoslavia and Serbia, of not properly defending the Serbs, helping cause the death of many, many innocent people. In this he resembles Ariel Sharon, and other Israeli leaders, who have been guilty of sabotaging the defense of the Israeli Jews. The two cases have many parallels.

Footnotes and Further Reading

[1] Deutsche Presse-Agentur, March 11, 2006, Saturday, Politics, 329 words, 4TH LEAD: Hague tribunal confirms Milosevic death, inquiry started, The Hague/Belgrade

[2] Milosevic voiced fears that he was being poisoned, The Daily Telegraph (LONDON), March 13, 2006 Monday, NEWS; Pg. 1, 399 words, Neil Tweedie in The Hague

FULL TEXT:

"THE United Nations was under pressure last night to clarify the circumstances surrounding the death of Slobodan Milosevic following claims that he feared he was being poisoned.

Preliminary results of a post mortem examination showed that he died of a heart attack, according to a statement by the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

The autopsy was carried out amid suspicions that Milosevic, who had heart problems, had been poisoned or took his own life before he was found dead in his cell on Saturday.

Lawyers representing Milosevic produced a letter said to be from the former president of Yugoslavia to the Russian embassy in the Netherlands expressing his belief that he was being poisoned in order to silence him.

The marathon four-year trial of the man who presided over three brutal wars in the Balkans in the 1990s was due to end at the tribunal in The Hague later this year.

Zdenko Tomanovic, one of the Belgrade lawyers who assisted Milosevic during his trial for war crimes, said his 64-year-old client was worried about traces of drugs in his bloodstream apparently used only to treat leprosy and tuberculosis.

The letter was allegedly sent on Friday, shortly before Milosevic died at the UN prison in Scheveningen. According to a report on the Dutch public television station NOS, the drugs, said to neutralise medicines intended to treat Milosevic's chronic heart complaint and hypertension, were discovered earlier this year. Dutch doctors, the report said, ordered the tests to find out why his medicines were not working satisfactorily.

Steven Kay QC, the British barrister appointed to assist Milosevic as his health failed, told The Daily Telegraph that Milosevic knew that he was gambling with his life by insisting on presenting his own defence case.

He was worried that UN doctors were not doing enough to treat his illness.

Mr Kay also criticised the length and complexity of the trial, saying the decision of UN prosecutors, led by Carla Del Ponte, to try Milosevic jointly for alleged genocide and other war crimes in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo had resulted in a completely unmanageable process.

Miss Del Ponte refused to rule out suicide as a cause of death yesterday, but said the world would have to await the results of the Dutch autopsy. She defended her policy of seeking a conviction for all three wars.

Milosevic's body will be released to his family today."

[3] "Official Statements Prove Hague 'Tribunal' Belongs To NATO"; Emperor's Clothes; 30 June 2001; by Jared Israel
<http://emperors-clothes.com/docs/h-list.htm>

[4] "Madeleine Albright [at the time US Secretary of State]...eager for war in Kosovo... hand-picked Canada's Louise Arbour to be [ICTY -- Hague Tribunal] war crimes prosecutor, who had no experience with the Balkans and tended to believe every atrocity claimed by the Muslims."

SOURCE: The Ottawa Sun, April 15, 2001 Sunday, Final Edition, Comment., Pg. C4; 868 words, "Keeping Peace, Making War; Documentary Argues That If Nato Had Stayed Out Of The Kosovo Conflict, The Balkan People Would Have Been Better Off," Peter Worthington, Toronto Sun, Toronto.

[5] On 13 June 2000 the Hague Tribunal announced that "no investigation [will] be commenced." The Tribunal was not saying that it had found NATO 'not guilty' of war crimes violations; it said that "no bombing campaign." The key word is "commenced." That is, the Tribunal would not ask the question.

SOURCE: Final Report to the Prosecutor by the Committee established to Review the NATO bombing Campaign Against the FRY, PR/P.I.S./510-E, 13 June 2000

This document may be found in Krieger, H. (2001). The Kosovo conflict and international law: An analytical documentation 1974-1999. Cambridge International Documents Series, Volume II. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (pp.340-352).

[6] To see an example of the amazing bias with which court proceedings are conducted at The Hague, see

"The Judge As Prosecutor: Two Days At The 'Trial' Of Slobodan Milosevic"; Emperor's Clothes; 19 June 2002; by Ian Johnson
<http://emperors-clothes.com/articles/ian/day.htm>

THE ROAD TO JENIN: The Racak 'massacre' hoax, and those whose honesty it places in doubt: Helena Ranta, NATO, the UN, The New York Times, Washington Post, CNN, The Associated Press, and Human Rights Watch." Historical and Investigative Research; October 2005; by Francisco Gil-White
<http://www.hirhome.com/yugo/ranta.htm>
 [8] "THE FREEZER TRUCK HOAX: How NATO framed the Serbs"; Historical and Investigative Research; 2 December 2005; by Francisco Gil-White
<http://www.hirhome.com/yugo/freezer1.htm>
 [9] "THE FREEZER TRUCK HOAX: How NATO framed the Serbs"; Historical and Investigative Research; 2 December 2005; by Francisco Gil-White
<http://www.hirhome.com/yugo/freezer1.htm>
 [10] "HOW TO LIE WITH (OR WITHOUT) STATISTICS: An examination of Patrick Ball's indictment of Milosevic; Historical and Investigative Research; 14 March 2006; by Francisco Gil-White
<http://www.hirhome.com/yugo/ball.htm>
 [11] "The Serbs Were Not Oppressing the Kosovo Albanians... Quite the opposite"; Historical and Investigative Research; 14 March 2006; by Francisco Gil-White
<http://www.hirhome.com/yugo/kosovo.htm>
 [12] "WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN BOSNIA?: Were the Serbs the criminal aggressors, as the official story claims, or were they the victims?"; Historical and Investigative Research; 19 August 2005; by Francisco Gil-White
www.hirhome.com/yugo/ihrilija1.htm
 [13] Milosevic Found Dead in Prison; Genocide Trial Is Left Without A Final Judgment, The Washington Post, March 12, 2006 Sunday, Final Edition, A Section; A01, 1801 words, Molly Moore and Daniel Williams, Washington Post Foreign Service, PARIS March 11

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<http://kosovareport.blogspot.com/2006/04/milosevic-lessons-faster-and-more.html>

NY Times

Saturday, April 01, 2006

The Milosevic Lessons: Faster and More Efficient Trials

By MARLISE SIMONS

THE HAGUE - The trial of Slobodan Milosevic generated about 120 DVD's, 46,000 pages of transcripts and more than 300,000 pages of oral and written evidence. The number of documents had reached 1.2 million pages, and more were on the way.

All that work stopped in its tracks. On March 13, two days after Mr. Milosevic's death, the international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia ended the case here, leaving lawyers and court officials, witnesses and victims abruptly bereft.

So, has the first international criminal trial of a head of state bequeathed more than immense frustration? Yes, even if accidentally.

The prosecution set out to tell the detailed history of three Yugoslav wars of the 1990's because it saw this as the only way to uncover Mr. Milosevic's often hidden hand in them.

Still, prosecutors are not historians; their focus is on establishing proof.

"Proof will include truth, but it will not present the full picture," Geoffrey Nice, the lead prosecutor, once said. "We have a limitless field of evidence from the wars, but we are not inquiring like scientists; we are asked to extract from it."

With Mr. Milosevic's death of a heart attack in his jail cell, no judges will weigh this evidence. So what remains is not a verdict, but the prosecution's account - that the former Serb leader was almost the sole driving force behind the three wars.

The court did not indict his wartime counterparts. Franjo Tudjman, the president of Croatia, was under investigation but died in 1999. The court never focused on the role of the Bosnian leader Alija Izetbegovic.

Other trials are dealing with senior Muslims and Croats, aiming to provide a balanced view of the wars that accompanied the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Milosevic devoted almost his entire defense to charges related to the 1999 war in Kosovo. Because both sides had a say, a tested version of that history exists, and it may influence future cases.

Even without a verdict, the Milosevic case will help shape a collective memory of the Balkan tragedy, and the trial created building blocks and procedural lessons for future trials. Not least, it established the precedent, long unthinkable, of having a former head of state face a criminal trial before an international court.

Even some of the evidence presented in the Milosevic trial may have a further life.

At the trial's great predecessor, the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders, the occupying Allied troops had an immense paper trail of signed orders. But Mr. Milosevic wrote very little, so over the four-year trial, prosecutors painstakingly

constructed events, drawing on testimony of witnesses and insiders, as well as affidavits, letters and transcripts of phone taps and radio intercepts.

All that has been incorporated into a vast database, where evidence may be retrieved for other trials. It may be opened to scholars, researchers and journalists.

Eligible topics could include the role of Serbia's special forces, their links to the paramilitary, Mr. Milosevic's use of secret parallel commands, and Belgrade's payment of equipment, salaries and pensions to its proxy army in Bosnia.

The Milosevic trial offers important lessons, which are now being debated. The court has understood that its strategy of trying Mr. Milosevic for his whole "criminal enterprise" created an overly cumbersome case, signaling the pitfalls for future high-profile trials.

It has not gone unnoticed here that in the trial of Saddam Hussein, the prosecution has focused narrowly on one infamous case of brutality to which he is linked as an active participant.

But unlike Mr. Hussein, Mr. Milosevic was always far from the scene of action. He was accused of command responsibility, in planning and ordering the crimes of others.

The way the prosecution made its case required charting the full political and military structure of Yugoslavia and its dissolution. One lawyer said there was no simple event, standing alone, that could be sliced off and pinned on Mr. Milosevic.

Moreover, he argued, the point of the process was not just to seek retribution but to help shape the history of the war, to spur Serbs to end their denial of atrocities and reconnect Serbian society to the rest of Europe.

Lawyers will be debating for a long time whether this can or should be the role of a criminal trial. Much fingerpointing has occurred over the trial's inefficient and slow pace.

Judges tried several times to break the prosecution's vast indictment into more manageable portions. Doctors imposed a part-time schedule because of Mr. Milosevic's poor health.

Prosecutors complained that the judges' decision to let Mr. Milosevic act as his own lawyer not only slowed the trial every time he was sick but also allowed him to filibuster and to use the court as a political stage.

Other international tribunals have already drawn their conclusions, and as this court deals with the rest of its caseload it will be harder for any accused to obtain the right to defend himself, and nearly impossible for someone who is sick or unruly.

Court officials also emphasized privately that international tribunals handling complex war crimes cases need the most experienced judges.

Several judges who retired after serving in The Hague have said they deplored working beside inexperienced judges who came from diplomatic, academic or political posts. Patrick Robinson, who presided over the second half of the Milosevic trial, had a long diplomatic career but almost no trial experience.

There is intense internal debate over whether complex war crimes trials are best served by the adversarial system with its many witnesses and courtroom drama, or by more of a civil law system with its more active role for the judges and far more written evidence.

Steven Kay, a British court-appointed lawyer for Mr. Milosevic, said the adversarial system "utterly fails to deal with trials of the Milosevic type."

Written evidence has already become more acceptable at the tribunal, and other rules have been changed to streamline procedures.

But future shifts do not alter the plight of the Milosevic prosecutors, who wrote a sweeping historical indictment and ended up, not with a verdict and a sentence, but mostly with food for historians.

posted by KosovaReport @ 7:00 PM 2 comments

2 Comments:

At 9:18 PM, Dardania 2006 said...

At this rate the Hague will still have a Serb majority.

They can get autonomy there?

Jokes aside, I hope you see them as jokes, dark humor but humor nevertheless...

The trials should really move ahead because everyone has to see what evils they did.

Serbs to everyone
Croats to Bosniacs
Albanians to themselves.

Hmmm, Bosniacs I think are the cleanest here...

At 11:58 PM, Mir said...

There are a lot of articles out there (mainly from Westerners that testified in defense of Milosevic) saying that the trial was not actually going well for the prosecutors. That Milosevic was actually doing good at cross-examining witnesses and defending himself. They also said the idea of him 'smuggling' drugs into his cell was crazy because of the security.

I do not know which side of media to believe because they have both been liars a lot of the time and I won't ever truly know what was happening. But I do feel that the Hague trial was meant to be a showcase trial to warn the rest of the world's dictators about what could happen to them. I don't think the message worked with Milosevic but it sure did with Hussein. Anyone agree with that?

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Itar-Tass

ALL NEWS

Rssn diplomat says Hague tribunal must be disbanded by 2010.

01.04.2006, 03.38

UNITED NATIONS, April 1 (Itar-Tass) - The Hague International Tribunal for War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia has failed to live up to the expectations pinned on it, since its activity is biased and its procedures revealed an anti-Serb accusatory tendency from the very start, Russia's deputy ambassador to the UN, Ilya Rogachov, told Itar-Tass Friday.

"Serbs make up 80% of people the Tribunal has made charges against," he said.

He spoke to Itar-Tass after a UN Security Council briefing on the conditions for convicts in Scheveningen prison outside The Hague.

Russia requested the information on conditions there after several cases of deaths among people under investigation kept there, the list of which includes former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and the former leader of Croat Serbs, Milan Babic.

Rogachov said the UN Security Council conceived The Hague Tribunal "as an instrument of peace settlement in the Balkans that was supposed to scale down tensions there."

"We can state, however, it never reduced the tensions," he said. "On the contrary, it fanned passions in that boiling region of the world, and that's why it clearly failed to perform its duties."

Rogachov indicated that the Tribunal, an agency with a huge staff of about 1,100 people, has been operating for 13 years and its budget for 2006 and 2007 stands at around 300 million U.S. dollars.

"That's too expensive, and its efficiency obviously doesn't match its costs," he said.

In 2003, the UN Security Council adopted a strategy of completion of the Tribunal's functions that envisioned termination of all investigative actions in 2004, the ending of first-instance trials by 2008, and reviewing of appeals by

Rogachov said, however, top officials at the Tribunal have demanded a revision of the strategy, saying they cannot meet the specified deadlines.

"Russia and some other members of the Security Council tell them it's impossible to revise that strategy, but our position only got firmer after the incident with Slobodan Milosevic," Rogachov said.

"We believe the Tribunal must be disbanded by 2010 regardless of whether or not the leaders of Bosnian Serbs, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadjic are seized and brought to The Hague," he said.

"The conflict in the Balkans is settled now, the passions have calmed down and there're no obstacles towards transferring the defendants' cases to national courts in Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia," Rogachov said.

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Geen aanwijzing misdrijf bij dood Milosevic

5 april 2006

Het Openbaar Ministerie in Den Haag heeft het onderzoek naar de dood van de heer Milosevic afgesloten. De officier van justitie concludeert dat de heer Milosevic een natuurlijke dood is gestorven en er geen enkele aanwijzing is dat de dood het gevolg is van een misdrijf.

De heer Milosevic werd op zaterdag 11 maart 2006 in de ochtend rond 10 uur bewegingloos aangetroffen in zijn bed in zijn cel. Eerder was er om 9.00 uur door de bewaarders aangeklopt. Zij namen toen aan dat hij niet op het weksignaal reageerde omdat hij sliep en hebben pas om 10 uur zijn cel betreden. Om 10.30 uur heeft een arts van de Penitentiaire Inrichting van de Verenigde Naties de dood vastgesteld, waarna op verzoek van het Tribunaal de schouwarts is ingeschakeld. Omdat de doodsoorzaak niet direct duidelijk was heeft de schouwarts geen verklaring van een natuurlijke dood afgegeven. Het tijdstip van overlijden is, blijkens het rapport van de schouwarts, vermoedelijk 11 maart rond 7.45 uur, doch in ieder geval tussen 7 en 9 uur geweest.

Het lichaam is door de officier van justitie in beslag genomen ten behoeve van het verrichten van een gerechtelijke sectie en overgebracht naar het Nederlands Forensisch Instituut (NFI). Op verzoek van het Tribunaal is een halve dag gewacht zodat twee Servische pathologen bij de sectie op 12 maart aanwezig konden zijn. Het NFI heeft een Belgische patholoog als waarnemer bij de sectie uitgenodigd. Van de zijde van de familie Milosevic is op zondag 12 maart een verzoek gekomen om een Russische arts bij de sectie aanwezig te laten zijn. Gelet op het tijdsverloop na het overlijden bleek dit echter niet meer mogelijk.

Russische pathologen zijn wel op een later tijdstip (dinsdag 14 maart) in de gelegenheid gesteld de foto's van de sectie te bekijken en het voorlopige sectierapport te bestuderen. Noch van de zijde van de Russische of Servische pathologen noch van de familie is commentaar gekomen op de uitkomst van de sectie. Tijdens de sectie zijn extra monsters genomen ten behoeve van een eventueel tegenonderzoek.

Conform de eerder gemelde voorlopige bevindingen, heeft het NFI nu definitief geconcludeerd dat de doodsoorzaak een hartinfarct was. Bij de sectie werden ernstige hartafwijkingen geconstateerd die tot een hartinfarct hebben geleid. Er bleken geen tekenen van uitwendig geweld.

Uit informatie van het Tribunaal bleek dat in december 2005 in de cel van de heer Milosevic niet voorgeschreven medicijnen zijn aangetroffen

Ook uit diverse bloedonderzoeken (laatstelijk in januari 2006) was het gebruik van niet voorgeschreven medicijnen, waaronder het middel Rifampicine, gebleken. Daarnaast is door diens advocaat aan de politie meegedeeld dat de heer Milosevic vermoedde dat hij werd vergiftigd. Daarom is er door de officier van justitie een toxicologisch onderzoek gelast en is er een doorzoeking van de cel van de heer Milosevic gevorderd. Zondagavond 12 maart is onder toezicht van de rechter-commissaris de cel van de heer Milosevic doorzocht. Hier zijn geen andere dan de voorgeschreven medicijnen gevonden en werd ook geen andere contrabande aangetroffen.

Het toxicologisch onderzoek naar de doodsoorzaak is nu afgerond. Er

Het toxicologisch onderzoek naar de doodsoorzaak is nu afgerond. Er zijn geen aanwijzingen voor een vergiftiging gevonden, en ook geen toxicologische factoren die een hartinfarct hebben kunnen uitlokken. Een aantal van de aan de heer Milosevic voorgeschreven medicijnen is in het lichaamsmateriaal aangetroffen, echter niet in toxische concentraties. Er zijn geen sporen van medicijnen aangetroffen die niet waren voorgeschreven. Het NFI heeft voorts vastgesteld dat het onwaarschijnlijk is enkele dagen voorafgaand aan het overlijden rifampicine is ingenomen of toegediend.

Om de kwaliteit van het onderzoek te waarborgen heeft het Nederlands Forensisch Instituut het toxicologisch onderzoek laten overdoen door het onafhankelijk Duitse Institut für Gerichtsmedizin uit Bonn. Dit instituut is tot dezelfde conclusies is gekomen als het NFI. Het steekproefsgewijs schaduwen van onderzoek is een gebruikelijk onderdeel van het kwaliteitssysteem van het NFI.

Maandag 13 maart is het lichaam vrijgegeven en dinsdag 14 maart is het opgehaald door de familie.

De bevoegdheid voor het optreden van het Nederlandse Openbaar Ministerie in deze zaak is gelegen in artikel V en VI van de overeenkomst tussen de Verenigde Naties (VN) en Nederland over het de zetel van het Joegoslavië tribunaal in Den Haag uit 1994 (Headquarters Agreement'). De hoofdregel is dat de wetgeving van het gastland (Nederland) van toepassing blijft op het terrein van het tribunaal. Hiermee verbonden zijn de Rules of Detention van het tribunaal die gelden vanaf 1 augustus 1994. Artikel 33 van deze Rules of Detention bepaalt dat in geval van het overlijden van een gedetineerde een officieel onderzoek zal plaatsvinden, in overeenstemming met de eisen die de Nederlandse wet aan een dergelijk onderzoek stelt.

Bron: Openbaar Ministerie

Milosevic stierf natuurlijke dood

(belga) - De voormalige Joegoslavische president Slobodan Milosevic is een natuurlijke dood gestorven. Dat heeft het Nederlandse Openbaar Ministerie laten weten.

Slobodan Milosevic (foto: epa)

Het Openbaar Ministerie was belast met het onderzoek naar de dood van Milosevic, die op 11 maart overleden is in de VN-gevangenis in Scheveningen.



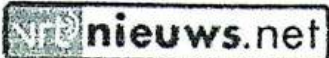
'Er zijn geen aanwijzingen dat de dood van Milosevic het gevolg was van vergiftiging of een andere misdaad', zo meldt het OM in een communiqué.

'Tijdens de autopsie kwamen verschillende zware hartkwalen aan het licht, die een hartinfarct hebben veroorzaakt', zo staat er nog.

De voorzitter van het Joegoslavië-Tribunaal, Fausto Pocar, liet woensdag weten dat er intern nog onderzocht wordt of Milosevic zijn medicijnen heeft ingenomen zoals voorgeschreven.

14:07 - 05/04/2006
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(foto Belga)

Het Nederlands Forensisch Instituut concludeert dat Slobodan Milosevic aan een hartaanval is gestorven.

Milosevic stierf natuurlijke dood

wo 05/04/06 - De voormalige Joegoslavische president Slobodan Milosevic is een natuurlijke dood gestorven. Dat is de definitieve conclusie van het onderzoek van het openbaar ministerie in Den Haag.

Milosevic is gestorven aan een hartaanval, en er is geen enkele aanwijzing dat hij vergiftigd zou zijn.



(foto Belga)

Het openbaar ministerie moest definitief alle twijfels wegwerken over de onverwachte dood van Slobodan Milosevic. Toen hij op zaterdag 11 maart dood in zijn cel in Den Haag was gevonden, rezen er vooral bij de Serviërs vragen over de doodsoorzaak. Er werd gesuggereerd dat hij vergiftigd zou zijn of foute medicijnen had gekregen.

Het Nederlands Forensisch Instituut concludeert nu klaar en duidelijk dat Milosevic aan een hartaanval is gestorven. Uit de autopsie is bovendien gebleken dat hij ernstige hartafwijkingen had, wat de hartaanval ook kan verklaren.

Er is geen enkele aanwijzing voor vergiftiging, zegt het openbaar ministerie. Daarmee lijkt die kwestie van de baan. Maar het Joegoslavië-tribunaal is zelf intussen wel nog bezig met een intern onderzoek naar de medicijnen die Milosevic in gevangenschap heeft gekregen.

5-4-2006

STELLING

ZOEK

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Geen aanwijzing misdrijf bij dood Milosevic

05/04/2006 om 12:09pm | D. v Emmerik

Oud-president Slobodan Milosevic stierf een natuurlijke dood. Dat is de definitieve conclusie van het Openbaar Ministerie in Den Haag. Er zijn geen aanwijzingen dat zijn dood het gevolg was van een misdrijf.

Milosevic werd op 11 maart bewegingsloos aangetroffen in zijn cel in Scheveningen. Het lichaam is voor een gerechtelijk onderzoek overgebracht naar het Nederlands Forensisch Instituut (NFI). Het NFI heeft nu definitief geconcludeerd dat de doodsoorzaak een hartinfarct was. Bij de sectie werden ernstige hartafwijkingen geconstateerd.

Categorie: Nieuws, Binnenland

Nog geen reacties »

Reageer Ook!

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Bericht

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Advocatenkantoor Steijnen, Olof & Stelling
Couwenhoven 52-05
3703 ER Zeist
tel. 030-6956867
email: sagitar@hetnet.nl

5 april 2006

Geachte Heer Veltman,

Hierbij stuur ik u, ter informatie, een artikel over de dood van Milosevic, zoals dit ook verschenen is in de NRC.

Het complete artikel is veel uitgebreider geworden, en gaat in het Engels eveneens hierbij.

Mijn stelling is, kort en goed, dat als Milosevic niet regelrecht is gedood in zijn cel, hij in elk geval de dood is ingejaagd. Primair ook door medische verwaarlozing.

Ik, en een aantal mensen met mij, vind dat de onderste steen boven moet komen.
En we zullen, met uw hulp en bijstand, niet rusten tot het zover is.

Wat dat betreft is het proces nog lang niet over !

hoogachtend,

N.M.P. Steijnen

Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-
Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient:>
Verzonden: donderdag 6 april 2006 22:07
Onderwerp: CDSM: Letter to Morning Star

Dear Friends,

It came to our notice that a letter appeared in the Morning Star newspaper of 29th March 2006 claiming, amongst other things, that Alija Izetbegovic 'embraced a multiethnic Bosnia' and intimating that the CDSM was 'offensive'. (Also the writer is obviously unaware that the Hague prosecution had virtually given up on the 'Greater Serbia' accusation against Mr Milosevic because of zero evidence).

In response we sent a letter to the Morning Star addressing all of the issues raised in this hostile letter. However the paper would not publish it because it was 'too long'.

We have therefore now sent them a much shorter letter which needless to say cannot deal with all the accusations. As yet we do not know if they will publish it but for your information our letter and the original hostile letter are copied below. IJ

1. Hostile letter printed in Morning Star 29th March 2006.

Star's Milosevic coverage has been one-sided to say the least (Wednesday 29 March 2006)

THE Star's coverage of the death of Slobodan Milosevic was, to say the least, partial.

In asking: "Who are the real criminals?" (M Star March 14) Geoff Simons conveniently omits any mention of Milosevic's prosecution of a bloody, unprovoked war in Bosnia.

Brian Denny, in claiming: "Dancing bears are out again" (M Star March 15) virulently dismisses criticism of Milosevic as "a torrent of lies," while, for example, branding the late Bosnian leader Alija Izetbegovic in unsubstantiated and dubious terms as a "Muslim chauvinist fanatic."

This of a leader who embraced a multiethnic Bosnia which had no standing army at the outbreak of hostilities.

Perhaps we should stop to think just where the torrent of lies is coming from.

The fact that Milosevic was very belatedly demonised by Western powers does not wash the blood of tens of thousands of Bosnians and others from his hands.

The fact that he called himself a socialist in no way mitigates his bellicose pursuit of a racist, expansionist project to create a "Greater Serbia."

For the Star to include the Committee to Defend Slobodan Milosevic in its progressive website listings strikes me as an offensive contradiction in terms.

PETER GODFREY
 London E8

2. Our (shortened) reply. Sent to the Morning Star 6th April 2006.

In reference to 'Star's Milosevic coverage has been one-sided to say the least' (Star 29th March 2006) submitted by Peter Godfrey.

Mr Godfrey bemoans the fact that a recent Star article branded the late Bosnian leader Izetbegovic 'in unsubstantiated and dubious terms as a "Muslim chauvinist fanatic."' and then he incredibly claims that

Izetbegovic was 'a leader who embraced a multiethnic Bosnia which had no standing army at the outbreak of hostilities'.

For the sake of Mr Godfrey and other apologists for Imperial aggression, we bring to their attention the following: In his youth Izetbegovic was imprisoned by the Yugoslav government for actively recruiting units for the Nazi SS during World War 2: In 1970 Izetbegovic published his 'Islamic Declaration' which stated 'The first and most important lesson from the Koran is the impossibility of any connection between Islamic and non-Islamic systems'. The 'Declaration' also stated the Islamic movement, 'can and will assume power as soon as it gains adequate moral and numerical strength to not only destroy the existing non-Islamic government but to build an Islamic government.' He republished the 'Islamic Declaration' in 1990 and in 1993 Izetbegovic received an Islamic reward in Riyadh for 'his contribution to jihad, the holy war against non-believers'. (Reuters 11th April 1993).

When Izetbegovic first took his Islamic 'oath' the majority of the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina was non-Islamic. How then could this be the 'leader who embraced a multiethnic Bosnia' ?

We do not point this out to attack any religion but to show how the Western powers used Izetbegovic's fanaticism for their own ends.

Peter Godfrey ends his letter 'For the Star to include the Committee to Defend Slobodan Milosevic in its progressive website listings strikes me as an offensive contradiction in terms'.

In response we would merely state that given the choice of either offending historical truth or Mr Godfrey, then on balance we would rather offend Mr Godfrey.

Ian Johnson
CDSM-UK

www.free-slobo-uk.org

Advocatenkantoor Steijnen, Olof & Stelling
Couwenhoven 52-05
3703 ER Zeist
tel. 030-6956867
email: sagitar@hetnet.nl

AAN: mevrouw Miodragovic, mevrouw Goljic, mevrouw Milikic en
mevrouw Vicentijevic

6 april 2006

Beste mensen,

Hierbij het artikel over het overlijden van Milosevic uit de
NRC.

Voor een aantal van u doe ik hierbij ook een vertaling in het
Servisch.

Voor Stojana geeft ik tenslotte nog het adres van het Joego-
slavie tribunaal:

Joegoslavie tribunaal
Churchillplein 1
2517 GW Den Haag
tel. 070-51253536

Gevangenis Scheveningen

UN Detention Unit
Pompstationsweg 32
2597 JW Den Haag
tel. 070-3588677

hartelijke groeten voor iedereen,

Nico Steijnen

Dood Slobodan Milosevic niet het gevolg van misdrijf

AP, ANP, Reuters
DEN HAAG

6-9-2006

ven na zijn dood aan te geloven dat de Serviër was vermoord.

+ Slobodan Milosevic is overleden aan een hartinfarct met natuurlijke oorzaak. De dood van de voormalig president van Joegoslavië is niet het gevolg van een misdrijf. Dat blijkt uit onderzoek van het Nederlands Forensisch Instituut (NFI), zo maakte het Openbaar Ministerie in Den Haag woensdag bekend.

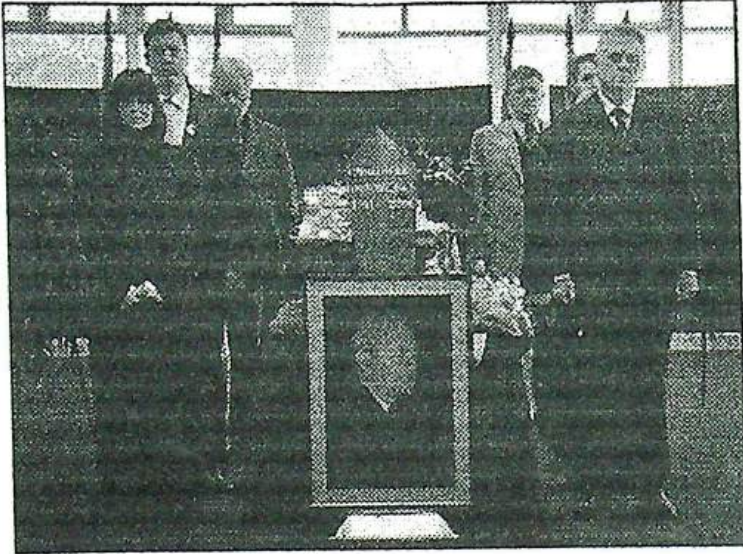
De 64-jarige Milosevic werd op 11 maart dood aangetroffen in zijn cel in Scheveningen. Hij stuurde een dag voor zijn dood een brief naar Moskou, waarin hij het vermoeden uitte te worden vergiftigd. Ook familieleden en vrienden ga-

Het onderzoek door het NFI spreekt deze vermoedens tegen. Het concludeert dat Milosevic is gestorven aan een hartinfarct. Hij leed aan een ernstige hartafwijking, zo constateerde men tijdens de sectie.

Uit eerdere onderzoeken was gebleken dat Milosevic medicijnen slikte, die niet waren voorgeschreven, zoals het middel Rifampicine. Dit middel tegen lepra en tuberculose zou de werking van de medicijnen die Milosevic slikte tegen hoge bloeddruk, teniet hebben gedaan. Het middel is de dag na Milosevic' dood echter niet in zijn cel aangetroffen.

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: vrijdag 7 april 2006 0:45
Onderwerp: Milosevic Autopsy: The Murderers Clear



Milosevic Autopsy: The Murderers Clear Themselves Move along, nothing to see here

Paul Joseph Watson/Prison Planet.com | March 17 2006

First we were told Milosevic died of natural causes.

Then we were told Milosevic committed suicide.

Then we were told Milosevic's body contained drugs that counteracted the effect of his regular heart drugs.

Then we were told, under 24 hour armed guard and camera surveillance, that these drugs were smuggled into Milosevic's prison cell and he had deliberately taken them to escape to Moscow for treatment.

Now **we are told** that Milosevic's body, "found no evidence of poison or medicines in concentrations that could have killed him, the U.N. war crimes tribunal said Friday."

This is a cover-up and a pathetic one at that.

Milosevic **wrote a letter** one day before his death claiming he was being poisoned to death in jail. The lawyer who advised Milosevic during his trial, Azdenko Tomanovic, showed journalists a handwritten letter in which Milosevic wrote: "They would like to poison me. I'm seriously concerned and worried."

Milosevic's trial was coming to an end and the only verifiable evidence to emerge from it was proof that the **real Butcher's of Serbia** were Wes Clark and Bill Clinton. The US government's **financial and military support** of Al-Qaeda, after the embassy bombings, was also being exposed.



Milosevic, just like Saddam Hussein when his testimony was shut off after he discussed the **US' role in staging bombings in Iraq**, had to be silenced and the trial prematurely aborted before its credibility completely collapsed.

We are always watching a rigged game. Every time the US or British government's are caught red-handed engaging in acts of unparalleled criminality, they always fight tooth and nail to avoid any proper investigation. Then when they finally relent and allow an investigation to take place the furore completely dies down. The criminals then appoint members of their own gang to investigate themselves and then quietly absolve themselves of any blame.

The 9/11 Commission, Lord Steven's Diana investigation and the De Menezes shooting inquiry are all shining examples of this fraud. Did you really believe for a second that the Dutch, the only NATO country to vote in Parliament in favor of illegal aggression would conduct a fair autopsy? The first Yugoslav jet was shot down by a Dutch warplane.

I have no doubt that in the coming months and year's we will have certifiable stone-clad proof that Milosevic was murdered, to add to the already **overwhelming evidence**. No doubt the criminals will again lavish us with another phony rigged investigation in the hope that time will wash away their bloody fingerprints.

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Slobodan Milosevic's death puts entire Serbia to rest

[Front page](#) / [World](#) / [Europe](#)

30.03.2006 Source:



Pages: 1 2 3

The monstrous flood in Europe continues



Serbia has buried its former president Slobodan Milosevic. Serbians believe that the country laid itself to rest in lieu of authoritarian ruler.

"How on earth are we going to live without you, our dear father?" the old woman Milica weeps profusely as she stands on her knees in the sleety snow on a murky Belgrade afternoon.



People hold cards of Slobodan Milo

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There are no grown children nearby to help her get up. Milica is a refugee from Kosovo. Her two daughters were killed by an Albanian sniper for no particular reason, just for the hell of it. Some onlookers rush to help the old woman but she brushes them aside. Milica strikes a match and sets fire to a slim yellow Serbian Orthodox candle stuck in her trembling hand. Then she puts it in the snow strewn with flowers. Milica begins to cross herself earnestly.

The atmosphere inside the funeral hall where Milosevic lies in state is even more mournful. The former president's body is in a tightly closed coffin – a circumstance that gave rise to plenty of rumors and speculations. Nobody doubts that "Slobo" has been murdered, the mentioning of any other version of his death is frowned upon. Hundreds of people are patiently standing in line to kiss the picture of the former president. They kiss the p

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Natalie Portman: the daring Hollywood star

7 April 2006

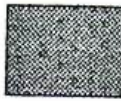
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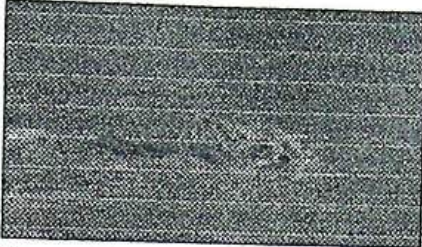
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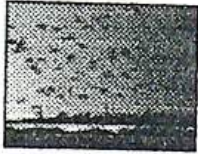
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30.03.2006 Source:



Pages: 1 2 3

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Natalie Portman: the daring Hollywood star

solemnly as if it were an icon. A special girl wipes off a glassed picture of the picture with a rag every hour. Half of the mourners are people of advanced age, the other half look younger and display crew cuts and a military bearing. They must be the former members of Serbian paramilitary units. They wait for their turn to approach the coffin and salute it silently.


My cell phone rings as I step outside for a breather. The people around me listen to words in Russian being spoken. Soon I am surrounded by dozens of people. All of them want to shake my hand. I take a step over the long line of mourners that stretches for at least two kilometers.


"Hey, you Russian brother, just look how many of us showed up!" says the 45-year-old Velimir. "According to reports broadcast on TV, this square is empty," adds he.

The dribbles of wax from thousands of melting candles run along the wet asphalt patchily covered with petals from the roses, which are away lying in the snow. A sharp florist unveils a placard that says "you bring your bouquet to Sloba?"

As for the rest of Belgrade, you can not see any signs of mourning. City dwellers have fun in the cafes, shoppers fill the stores and couples make out in the parks. Most of the Belgrade residents ignore the death of Milosevic.

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Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>; "Jenny Ligtenberg"
Verzonden: zondag 9 april 2006 2:03
Onderwerp: Notes From Belgrade

My Notes From Belgrade

April 1, 2006 - My last three visits to Belgrade happened to be at the time of major events there. Massive demonstrations of some half a million people took to the streets of Belgrade on October 5th 2000. It marked the downfall of Milosevic's regime and take over by Democratic Opposition of Serbia. I believed as much as the rest of protestors who spent days and nights in the streets of Belgrade protesting at that time, that the "October Revolution" was going to radically transform the country for the better. The results have been disappointing and the rest is history.

My next visit to Belgrade happened to be on September 11, 2001. The moment I landed to Belgrade airport, I heard the news about the first terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. The Serbs' reactions to 9-11-01? Almost everyone said it was a terrible tragedy, and they meant it. But then a lot of people would move on to a more delicate issue: What had Americans expected, after all? Yugoslavia was one of many countries bombed by the United States contrary to international law, with no sanction from the United Nations. The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon will subsequently lead to "War on terror" and Islamic extremism in the World, Europe, Bosnia and Kosovo.

On my third visit, I arrived in Belgrade on March 15 2006 only a couple of minutes after the plane carrying the body of the former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic from the Netherlands touched down at the city's airport. No government representative stood on the tarmac to meet it, only dozens of Milosevic's supporters and party members. The coffin, wrapped in plastic, slid down a conveyor belt from the belly of the jet and sat untouched for a few minutes under light snow. Milosevic's associates approached the casket. They placed a Serbian flag and roses over the casket of the man who once was a popularly elected president, and quietly carried it to a commercial hearse. Several hundred mourners lined part of the road and tossed carnations at the hearse. Slobodan Milosevic was buried in a quiet ceremony at his family estate in his hometown of Pozarevac on a cold winter day, on Saturday, March 18. The funeral followed an emotional farewell in Belgrade that drew about 150,000 followers who packed a square in front of the federal parliament to pay their respects. They gave the former leader, a hero's farewell and pronounced him a victim of the U.N. war crimes tribunal, in whose custody he died on March 11.

The funeral of the former president Slobodan Milosevic completely overshadowed news of a major three day conference, which carried the title Kosovo and Metohija: past, present and future, organized by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SANU) from 16 - 18th March. Excellent speakers from eleven countries gave their speeches at the conference. We heard many respected professors, diplomats, historians and journalists speak on the theme of Kosovo, such as James Bissett, Scott Taylor, Diana Johnston, Peter Maher, Sir Alfred Sherman, Srdja Trifkovic, academician Kosta Mihajlovic and Stevan Karamata, Slavenko Terzic, Raju Thomas, Caslav Ocic, Smilja Avramov, Kosta Cavoski, and many more. Their arguments as to why Kosovo should remain part of Serbia can be categorized into four groups:

Historical and cultural: Kosovo and Metohia historically and culturally belong to the Serbs. Kosovo was part of Serbia as early as the Nemanjic dynasty (12th-14th c.). Kosovo and Metohia are considered the key to the identity of the Serbs. Kosovo is a place where the first Serbian kings were crowned and where there are Orthodox Christian monasteries with precious icons, listed by UNESCO as world cultural monuments. The seat of the independent Serbian Orthodox Church was in Pec, in Kosovo. Serbs call Kosovo and Metohia the heart of Serbia and the cradle of the Serbian state and nation.

Economical: Serbia has poured a good deal of money into Kosovo and Metohia. "For decades, significant federal resources have been set aside for the development of Kosovo and Metohia, the reason being that all the previous Yugoslav constitutions stipulated "more rapid development for under-developed regions, and the most rapid for Kosovo and Metohia" as the federation's obligation. Data for the period 1981-1988 on total contributions and funds received by republics and autonomous provinces according to federal regulations shows that Central Serbia (meaning Republic of Serbia without its autonomous provinces - Vojvodina and Kosovo and Metohija) had the largest outflow (212 billion dinars), and Kosovo and Metohia the largest inflow (113 billion dinars). Kosovo and Metohia was also the largest relative "winner" - receiving 12 times more of these funds than it gave," said Caslav Ocic in his speech. For instance, Kosovo received 30-50% of the total investments made by the Federation's Fund for Under-Developed Regions and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The rate of investments was always noticeably higher in Kosovo than in Serbia or Yugoslavia, from 30 to 200%. Despite Albanian demands for independence, Belgrade is still paying the Kosovo's international debt to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The bill amounts to a total of \$1.4 billion and Serbia puts aside 250 million dollars every year in order to

debts back. A number of speakers at the conference concluded that an independent Kosovo would be financially unsustainable.

Legal and Political: The aerial attacks launched by NATO against Yugoslavia in 1999 establish the truth of the axiom: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely". There is no legal sanction whatsoever for this unilateral action by NATO, carried out at the behest of the US. The NATO action can only be described as an arbitrary and blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a member state of the UN, which has no legal sanction under international law.

The independence of Kosovo, which was expected by many western observers as the most logical solution after the war in 1999 is in fact an option, which would seriously destabilize the entire Balkans. An independent Kosovo would not only be economically unsustainable but would generate serious security problems for the neighboring countries. Hardly any Serb would be able to live in an independent Kosovo. In fact, a new ethnically clean Albanian state of Kosovo, based on Islamic law will continue to provide the breeding ground for international terrorist groups in the Balkans. A "failed state" of Kosovo showed to be incapable of protecting minorities and preventing horrible atrocities to take place against the Serbian civilian population and other minorities. "Failed states are", according to James Bissett "defined as those countries whose governments have weakened to the point where they can no longer provide adequate public services, physical security or economic livelihood to their inhabitants. They become attractive to terrorist organizations as safe havens and as staging grounds for attacks on other targets." It remains to be seen if the Kosovo precedent of a selective use of unilateralism and even pre-emptive military action will be applied in the other conflict areas of the world in the event Kosovo becomes independent.

Ideological and Civilizational: Defending Kosovo means defending Christian civilization. An independent Albanian Kosovo will succumb to the cause of global jihad. Kosovo's current leaders (members of KLA) have obtained significant aid from Islamic countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Kosovo has become a predominantly Muslim society with the obvious intention to wipe out any trace of Christianity there. In his speech Sir Alfred Sherman noted that: "Governments seem helpless or unwilling to stem the tide. Spokesmen for the EU laud this Muslim colonization as Europe and the Muslim world as coming together, ignoring its utter one-sidedness. Criticism of these trends is stifled as "racism", ignoring consideration of patriotism, national consciousness and social order. The undermining of national homogeneity based on common values is leading to a visible social breakdown."

"After almost two decades of Yugoslavia's crisis and disintegration," explained Srdja Trifkovic in his speech, "too many Serbs still cherish too many illusions about the nature of the Western beast, its hostility to Christianity and to any form of ethnic coherence of European nations. To the promoters of such Western pathology, those who argue that they should be entitled to keep a territory because they feel a strong, centuries-long historical bond to it, or because they had built lovely Christian churches in it, or because it underpins their moral code and spirituality based on Christian martyrdom, or because they are defending themselves against an aggressive and resurgent Islam... are only proving the necessity of having that territory taken away from them! The arguments advanced by Belgrade's distinguished professors only confirm to the luminaries of the International Community that Kosovo should be detached from Serbia in order to cure her from such retrograde atavisms. An ideological commitment to neoliberal globalization has turned multiculturalism and open-ended, predominantly Muslim immigration into two inviolable dogmas of the elite class. Its members reject the suggestion that the shared legacy of the European family and its common historical experiences are worthy of preserving as such. That is why they will do their utmost to detach Kosovo from Serbia... This important lesson is yet to be absorbed in Belgrade."

My congratulations go to SANU for putting together a conference such as this one. Advertisement of the conference was the only thing that was poorly executed. We were told, however, that SANU intends to publish a book with the materials presented at the conference, which will in a sense represent a testimony of the time for some future generations.

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TRIBUNAL HAD A MOTIVE FOR MILOSEVIC'S MURDER

Slobodan Milosevic Freedom Center – April 11, 2006

Written by: Mr. N.M.P. Steijnen

Even if it is proven beyond reasonable doubt that Slobodan Milosevic was not murdered as the result of direct violence that still does not morally or legally absolve The Hague Tribunal, or its officers, of direct responsibility for his death.

Since the beginning of his trial Milosevic suffered from severe health problems. Therefore, it would not be difficult for malicious interests within the Tribunal to forecast that he could be liquidated without making a direct attack on his life, which could bring with it the risk of leaving forensic evidence.

A series of actions intended to undermine his health would be sufficient to ensure that he would die sooner or later. These actions combined with medical negligence and the extreme stress put upon him by the working conditions imposed by the Tribunal would be a certain recipe for his demise. Therefore, in the Tribunal's interests, this approach would be far preferable to a blunt direct liquidation.

Convincing Evidence that Milosevic's Health was Deliberately Undermined

At this moment there is no evidence that Milosevic was murdered directly, but there is substantial evidence that he was killed indirectly.

The history of medical negligence is already well documented, just like the enormous pressure imposed upon him by the Tribunal's working conditions. These subjects require a separate discussion.

This article will focus on evidence which indicates that Milosevic's health was deliberately undermined by a series of direct covert actions throughout his trial. A trial in which there were persistent efforts made to silence him by imposing counsel.

Upon closer examination it will emerge that a number of very suspicious actions were undertaken at precisely the moments when the tribunal was trying the hardest to silence Milosevic.

For NATO Failure was a Threat

In a climate where special interest groups, such as IWPR, CIJ, and SENSE, which are directly financed by NATO governments or by the Tribunal itself, dominate the reporting on Milosevic's trial in Western media, it is no wonder that an image has been created that is completely alien to the reality.

As the result of this propaganda, the Western public's perception is that the evidence against Milosevic was overwhelming, and that he was a man who felt the ground sinking under his feet and was ripe for some desperate act such as suicide or an escape attempt.

The reality of the Milosevic trial was the direct opposite of the reports in the Western media. Anybody who takes the time to read the trial transcripts can verify this fact for themselves.

It is an uncontestable fact that the Tribunal failed to prove its case against Milosevic. When the Prosecution rested in February 2004 several prominent Dutch newspapers, such as the Volkskrant had headlines reading "No conclusive evidence against Slobodan Milosevic" [de Volkskrant 26 February 2004], and the NRC Handelsblad headline read: "Case against Milosevic 'falls apart'" [NRC Handelsblad 28 February 2004].

In spite of the Prosecution's failure to prove the charges against Milosevic, most of the Western media persisted in their assertions that he was guilty, even though they had no evidence to substantiate their claims.

The prosecution took two years to present its case, it called 296 witnesses, and introduced nearly 1 million pages into evidence, but still they could not make a sound case against Milosevic.

Things went from bad to worse for the Tribunal when Milosevic began presenting his defense case. What the Tribunal's advocates hid from the Western public was the fact that, through his witnesses, Milosevic was demolishing the most fundamental pillars of the Western narrative on the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s.

What he was able to prove over the past sixteen months, which to a great extent relied on Western witnesses, was not only catastrophic for the Prosecution, but also for the NATO Governments whose role he was exposing.

Just as the Western public was misled and manipulated by a common front of politicians and media regarding the alleged "Iraqi weapons of mass destruction", so too were we misled about the wars in the former Yugoslavia. Slobodan Milosevic was using his trial as a vehicle to expose these lies and set the record straight.

Allegations of Pursuing the Creation of "Greater Serbia" Dropped

In August 2005 prosecutor Geoffrey Nice was compelled to announce that Milosevic was not being accused of the central thesis of the indictments, namely that he sought to create a Greater Serbia through violence.

This admission brought down the entire infrastructure behind the charges against him. The indictments were based on the thesis that Milosevic was the leader of a massive criminal conspiracy aimed at the establishment a Greater Serbia.

During a motion hearing on 29 November 2005, according to the transcript, Milosevic reacted to the prosecution's admission as follows:

"What is the fate of these proceedings that have been going on for over three years where you and I, and probably the other side, thought that I was being tried for a Greater Serbia, which was the objective of some kind of alleged joint criminal enterprise. So that was what we tried to deal with when putting questions to the witnesses and in dealing with all the evidence, because that is what Mr. Nice was alleging through his witnesses."

"So, then, what is the legal validity of that part of the proceedings, when we were all being deluded into believing that this was the main objective of the Prosecution? So what's the point of all these witnesses who talked about a Greater Serbia as my primary goal here? Are you going to take that out of the evidence, the body of evidence, or are you going to let me examine them further? Also, what about this joint criminal enterprise? And what would its objective be after this change? And what is this phantom of a joint criminal enterprise that is being discussed here? And what is it that is exactly being alleged? People who are sitting here, including me, including you, on the one hand, simply cannot know all the things that are referred to in all these documents that Mr. Nice served - a million pages, no less - and no one knows what the Prosecutor is prosecuting, including the Prosecutor herself. She doesn't know it either. I think that even Franz Kafka would feel that he did not have great imagination compared to this."

Further Havoc to NATO's Carefully Spun Positions

The damage that the Milosevic trial was inflicting upon the Tribunal was immense. His trial had turned against his Western accusers like a boomerang.

Milosevic, through predominantly Western witnesses, presented strong evidence showing that the NATO attack on Yugoslavia actually caused the humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo in 1999. These same witnesses testified that no humanitarian catastrophe existed in Kosovo prior to the NATO aggression. On the contrary, his defense case showed that the KLA was conducting a large-scale terrorist insurgency backed by Arab Mujahedeen who had been recruited by American defense contractors such as MPRI.

He used Western witnesses to present evidence showing that Al-Qaeda was well rooted in the Bosnian-Muslim armed forces, and that several of the 9/11 hijackers including Mohammed Atta and Khaled Sheikh Mohammed had served in the Bosnian-Muslim forces. Shortly before his death Milosevic presented evidence showing that the Bosnian-Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic had received Osama bin Laden in his office as recently as November 1994.

The instant reflex of the judges was to always dismiss such testimony as "irrelevant". Clearly, their intention was to keep a lid on such explosive information.

As if this had not been incriminating enough for the Tribunal, Milosevic's witnesses gave evidence that the Albanians did not flee Kosovo as the result of the Serbian army, but mostly as a result of intensive NATO bombing and intimidation from the KLA. For that reason there was proportionally more Kosovo-Serbs among the refugees than Kosovo-Albanians during the 1999 war.

Shortly after British MP Alice Mahon, who was a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly during the Kosovo war, testified that "the [NATO] bombing was the main reason for the [Kosovo] exodus." Milosevic was found dead in his cell before he could call another witness.

Who Had the Motive for Milosevic's Death?

Milosevic did not have a reason to commit suicide, but NATO did have a motive to silence him permanently. And let there be no misunderstanding that the Hague Tribunal is swarming with NATO spies. When Graham Blewitt, the former deputy chief prosecutor of the tribunal, stepped-down from his post in 2004 he told the Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad that several members of the Prosecution staff spent as much time at the American Embassy as they did in the Tribunal's offices.

The trial was getting totally out of hand for the same NATO countries who, as Jamie Shea explained at a May 17, 1999 press conference, "provided the finance to set up the Tribunal, and are amongst it's majority financiers."

Attempts to silence Milosevic by imposing a defense attorney on him against his will failed. The tribunal could not

control the mass-refusal of witnesses to testify. Unable to continue the trial, the Tribunal was on the verge of disintegrating. They were forced to retreat and allowed him to continue his defense.

It is clear that enormous interests are at stake. After the notorious incidents at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, the Western public is far less trusting of their Government's rhetoric about human rights than they used to be.

Milosevic's Determination

I am one of the few Dutchmen who have spoken candidly with Milosevic. As his attorney before the Dutch courts, I had the chance to visit with him and get to know him personally. I can say that I have seldom met anybody who was so thoroughly convinced of his case, and his ability to prove it. He had a mission and he stood behind it, without reservation. He would never commit suicide or deliberately damage his health.

Steven Kay, the attorney that the Tribunal imposed on Milosevic, told BBC World on 11 March 2006 that he could not imagine that Milosevic would undertake any suicidal action. In his opinion, Milosevic was determined to fight.

Everyone who was in close contact with Milosevic shares this opinion that he was firmly determined to finish his job.

The next witness who had been scheduled to testify was the former Montenegrin president Momir Bulatovic. He told a news conference that Milosevic was "strongly and deeply" convinced that he was being poisoned by the tribunal.

Bulatovic stipulated:

"The crown proof that Milosevic was poisoned is the Hague tribunal's indifference - the tribunal did nothing - although the medication was found in his bloodstream on 12 January, while the results of tests were given to Milosevic only on 9 March."

He also stated:

"On 9 March, Milosevic spoke to the assistant of the imposed defense lawyer, Gillian Higgins and asked her to refer to the court council his request that an independent medical commission establish whether he was being poisoned."

And H.E. James Bissett, Canada's Ambassador to Yugoslavia between 1990 and 1992, who testified as a witness on February 23-24 said in an interview with CKUK's program "Monday's Encounter":

"When I went to see him at the penitentiary in The Hague, Milosevic was dressed very casually. [...] He looked good. He had good color. He was relaxed. He had a sense of humor. He was obviously busy trying to prepare for my testimony and he struck me as being reasonably content with the way the trial was going."

And:

"The following day, however, it was in the afternoon around five o'clock after two or three hours with him, he suddenly became flushed in the face and clasped his hands to his head. I was startled and asked if he was all right. He answered that he was O.K. and explained that he suffered from a loud ringing sound in his ears that seemed as though he was speaking in an empty pail. He told me that although his blood pressure was under control he had this constant ringing and echoing sounds in his head."

And, finally, Milorad Vucelic, a Socialist Party official recounted a telephone conversation that he had with Milosevic the day before his death, "He told me, 'Don't worry, they will not destroy me or break me; I shall defeat them all.'"

More than 200 Pages of Appeals Asking the Tribunal to Stop Endangering Milosevic's Life

If the Tribunal did not murder Milosevic directly, which they had every opportunity to do while he was in their prison, then they certainly caused him to die. Various organizations that were sympathetic to Milosevic's cause had generated more than 200 pages of appeals and supplications asking the tribunal to heed his doctors' medical advice and stop endangering his life.

Not Only Medical Negligence

There are strong indications that there was not only medical negligence, but strong indications also exist that his health was deliberately undermined during some crucial points during his trial.

By early 2006 it was clear that it was not possible to stop Milosevic from using his defense case to present facts that were extremely compromising for NATO.

In January 2006, Rifampicin, a drug used to treat leprosy and tuberculosis, which interfered with medicines Milosevic was taking for high blood pressure and vascular disease was found in his blood, but this information was never

<http://www.slobodan-milosevic.org/news/smf041106.htm>

disclosed until shortly before his death.

According to an official statement issued by the ICTY registrar's office, neither the tribunal nor Milosevic had been informed of the results of the blood tests until 7 March 2006.

The fact that he was not told of the results raises suspicion. Normally Milosevic received all medical reports concerning his health as soon as they were available.

Urgent Questions

The most pressing question is why did it take two months to inform Milosevic that this drug had been found in his blood? And who made the decision to conceal this information from him?

These questions are all the more urgent because there is no doubt that this drug was extremely dangerous and put him in acute mortal danger. So who decided to keep him in this state of mortal danger for so long?

Those who concealed the results of the blood test must have known that the drug placed his life in jeopardy. Were they the same people who administered the drug to him?

Clearly, this drug was damaging his health, yet the trial chamber took no measures to safeguard his health, in spite of the fact that his health was clearly declining.

On February 22, 2006 Milosevic flat-out told the Tribunal, "Mr. Robinson, I cannot continue with the examination of this witness. I really don't feel well."

The trial chamber ignored him and continued the hearing.

The very next day Milosevic told the trial chamber, "Mr. Robinson, I told you yesterday that I didn't feel well, and you refused to accept that. Let me repeat: I do not feel well."

Again the trial chamber ignored him and continued the trial.

Later on that same day the trial chamber handed down its ruling denying Milosevic's request to receive heart surgery at the Bakoulev medical center in Moscow.

The forces that kept the results of the blood tests secret waited until after the ruling on medical treatment in Russia was handed down.

If the trial chamber had openly been informed about the results of the blood tests before handing down its ruling, then the only conclusion that could be reached was that the judges were part of the plot to kill Milosevic. Obviously, if it had been known that the Judges were aware of the harmful drugs, yet took no action, that would be the only conclusion that could be reached.

Even if the Trial Chamber didn't know about the drugs, serious questions still remain.

The most urgent question which remains is why the judges did not insist on getting acquainted with the content of this report as soon as possible and why they accepted that the release of this report remained forthcoming?

Was this simply because the trial chamber was not interested in the health of Milosevic? Or was there something more behind it?

Was it, perhaps, more convenient for the judges "to be not wiser" and was it, consequently, a matter of tactics for the Trial Chamber to abstain from insisting upon the release of the report so that they would have a free hand to dismiss Milosevic's request for medical treatment in Moscow?

Or were they secretly tipped-off about the report and was this why they did not insist upon a timely release of the forthcoming report?

Bad Faith by the Trial Chamber

It is a matter of fact that the trial chamber did not take any action to obtain the content of the pending medical report for their deliberations on Milosevic's request for heart surgery in Moscow. This alone is evidence of their bad faith.

Refusal to Allow Treatment in Moscow

Further evidence of their bad faith with respect to Milosevic follows from the reasoning of their February 23rd ruling,

<http://www.slobodan-milosevic.org/news/smf041106.htm>

which states:

"The Chamber notes that the Accused is currently in the latter stages of a very lengthy trial, in which he is charged with many serious crimes, and at the end of which, if convicted, he may face the possibility of life imprisonment. In these circumstances, and notwithstanding the guarantees of the Russian Federation and the personal undertaking of the Accused, the Trial Chamber is not satisfied that the first prong of the test has been met - that is, that it is the more likely than not that the Accused, if released, would return for continuation of his trial."

On February 24, 2006 Andy Wilcoxson, a member of the Slobodan Milosevic Freedom Center, wrote an article stating that: "What the tribunal is saying here is that the Russian Government can not be trusted to apprehend a 64-year-old man with a heart condition if he tried to escape. For all its empty rhetoric about human rights, what the Hague Tribunal has shown by its decision is that it is perfectly happy to imperil a man's life just for the sake of politics." Mr. Wilcoxson went on to write, "Denying Milosevic the medical treatment he needs could kill him."

This is what Andy Wilcoxson wrote not realizing that he was actually forecasting Milosevic's death only two weeks later.

Recently the Tribunal has allowed other inmates to travel to Kosovo and Montenegro for medical care. Why the Trial Chamber has more trust in the Government of Montenegro or the "interim administration" in Kosovo than it has in the Russian Federation is not explained. But the insult to a permanent member of the UN Security Council is inescapable. The day after Milosevic's death a statement posted on the official website of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated:

"Russian doctors were ready to offer him due assistance and the Russian authorities guaranteed the fulfillment of all related ICTY requirements. Unfortunately, despite our guarantees the tribunal refused to give Milosevic a chance to get treatment in Russia."

On March 15, 2006, Dr. Leo Bokeria the head of the Russian medical team, which had offered to treat Milosevic in Moscow, told a press conference in The Hague: *"If Milosevic was taken to any specialised Russian hospital, the more so to such a stationary medical institution as ours, he would have been subjected to coronary examination, two stents would be made, and he would have lived for many long years to come. A person has died in our contemporary epoch, when all the methods to treat him were available and the proposals of our country and the reputation of our medicine were ignored."*

He went on to state:

"It's a great regret that they did not heed our numerous appeals during examination. The point is that a man who had suffered from a complex illness and the heart and vascular system was not examined adequately, and thus naturally he could not be cured. If he had had a coronary arteriography...then of course he would have undergone surgery or a bypass and he would be alive".

Dr. Bokeria is the one of the most renowned heart specialists in the world. His statement that Milosevic would have lived had he been given proper medical treatment are damning for the Tribunal.

Deliberate Suppression of the Medical Report - More Questions

If the Trial Chamber really didn't know about the results of the blood tests, then it must be concluded that the malicious forces that sought Milosevic's death deliberately delayed the release of the medical report in order to prevent positive knowledge that Milosevic's life was in serious danger.

There is no denying that the results of the blood tests were concealed for two months. And, considering their highly alarming results, which dealt with a life-threatening situation for Milosevic, it can only be concluded that this information was deliberately suppressed.

According to the Tribunal's Registrar the Trial Chamber received the medical report on March 7, 2006, but did not take any action. Which begs the question: why not?

If the judges had been acting in good faith, then they would have taken action immediately. Especially since Milosevic had repeatedly told them in no uncertain terms "I do not feel well."

But there was no alarm. The Trial Chamber took no action even after they received the report. They had four days before he died in which they could have ordered medical tests to ascertain whether Milosevic was still being drugged; they could have ordered an investigation to see where the drugs were coming from. They had four days – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday – yet they did absolutely nothing.

Milosevic Revealed the Contents of the Medical Report, not the Tribunal

It must be stressed that it was not the Tribunal who revealed the contents of this highly disturbing medical report. Milosevic revealed the contents of the medical report through a March 8th letter that he wrote to the Russian government, which became public only after his death when his legal associate Zdenko Tomanovic, showed a copy of the letter to the media.

This letter stated, as far as relevant:

"I think that the persistence, with which the medical treatment in Russia was denied, in the first place is motivated by the fear that through careful examination it would be discovered that there were active, willful steps taken, to destroy my health throughout the proceedings of the trial, which could not be hidden from Russian specialists."

"In order to verify my allegations, I'm presenting you a simple example which you can find in the attachment. This document, which I received on March 7, shows, that on January 12th (i.e. two months ago), an extremely strong drug was found in my blood, which is used, as they themselves say, for the treatment of tuberculosis and leprosy, although I never used any kind of antibiotic during this 5 years that I'm in their prison."

[...]

"Also the fact that doctors needed 2 MONTHS (to report to me) can't have any other explanation than we are facing manipulation. (Emphasis added by the author). In any case, those who foist on me a drug against leprosy can't treat my illness; likewise those from which I defended my country in times of war and who have an interest to silence me."

Autopsy Results Don't Prove that Milosevic Wasn't Deliberately Killed

The autopsy performed by the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) established that Milosevic died as a result of a heart attack and that there were no traces of non-prescribed drugs in his blood when he died.

However, as far as the results of this autopsy are reliable, this only proves that he was not directly poisoned on the eve of his death. This outcome in no way establishes that there was not, at an earlier stage, deliberate steps taken to undermine his health in order to imperil, step by step, his life.

Alarming Signals in November 2002

Already in 2002 there had been alarming signals that Milosevic was deliberately being given drugs which were damaging his fragile health.

On 23 November 2002 the leading Dutch Newspaper NRC Handelsblad wrote an article headlined "Milosevic got wrong medicine". This article is quoted as far as relevant here:

"In the Scheveningen prison Slobodan Milosevic was given the wrong medicine, causing his blood pressure to rise very quickly. This was why at the beginning of this month the trial against the former president of Yugoslavia was suspended. Sources within the tribunal have confirmed this. However a spokesman for the Tribunal denies that mistakes were made. He refuses to discuss the issue further on grounds that "This is about the privacy of the defendant."

On 18 November 2002 a cardiological report was handed over to Milosevic, resulting from a medical examination on November 15th, which stated inter-alia:

"PATIENT HISTORY - In recent weeks during trial again steep blood pressure up to around 220/120 to 130 mmHg. The patient had no other complains related to this. I am now asked to make a prognosis regarding Mr. MILOSEVIC's blood pressure and determine whether the patient is still fit to stand trial."

[...]

"DISCUSSION - During the trial again strong increase in blood pressure. Most likely a combination of an existing tendency to hypertension and the mental pressure of the trial."

This all was going on exactly during a time period when the prosecutor was making fresh attempts to convince the Trial Chamber to force Milosevic to accept legal counsel, which would usurp his right to defend himself and effectively silence him.

With the prosecutor's objective in mind, at that precise moment, there was a motive to deteriorate his health and cause a situation where his blood pressure got persistently out of hand. In order to bring him to a state of health where it would be impossible for him to conduct his own defense.

Alarming Signals in August 2004

<http://www.slobodan-milosevic.org/news/smf041106.htm>

Two years later, the prosecution was again doing its utmost to prevent Milosevic from presenting his own defense. It was at this moment that the Tribunal imposed Steven Kay as his attorney – a move which was vehemently opposed by Milosevic.

During an impassioned plea against these attempts to silence him. On September 1, 2004, Milosevic stipulated that he was fit enough to continue his own defense and, subsequently, stressed the incident mentioned hereafter:

"Therefore I wish to reiterate: My right to defend myself is something that I will neither accept having diminished nor will I ever waive it. Please bear that in mind. And you can reach your own decisions, but I receive the medicaments given to me by your people, your employees. What is happening here, I don't know, but I can bring the whole floor of the Detention Unit here to testify to what happened when the food I had was exchanged with the food of the person across the passageway, and there was a big to-do about setting things right, although the food apparently was the same. It appeared to be the same. And I did not raise the issue. I don't know what was going on. But please be kind enough to bear in mind that when, for three years, they have been saying one thing and now suddenly they turn around and say something else, I am right in having suspicions. My suspicions may or may not be justified, but they are well

The last remark was regarding his doctors, who had always stated, until that moment, that he was enough fit to defend himself, but had suddenly taken the opposite opinion.

Again the specific time of the incident was a crucial one in the attempts of the prosecutor to silence Milosevic's defense.

And this time the prosecution succeeded: Kay was imposed as Milosevic's defense counsel. But even this attempt collapsed, because, as already noted, the trial was derailed because the witnesses boycotted the proceedings, which ultimately forced the tribunal to back down.

Grinding their teeth, the Tribunal was forced to re-establish Milosevic's right to conduct his own defense. After such a defeat the Tribunal knew that there was only one way to silence Milosevic – one ultimate and definitive way.

Legal Steps Against the Tribunal's Officials

In recent years I have repeatedly represented Milosevic in legal proceedings to defend his fundamental human rights within the Dutch legal system. In that context, he gave me authorization to take whatever steps were necessary at a given moment. That was the case in the trial against the Government of The Netherlands regarding his kidnapping to The Hague, in the legal proceedings against the amicus-curiae Wladimiroff, and in the legal proceedings against Steven Kay, who threatened to usurp his defense.

Through the authorization vested in me by Slobodan Milosevic, I will be bringing legal action against the relevant officers of The Hague Tribunal, including its judges and its prosecutors. This legal action will be brought before the Dutch courts in the context of the "Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment".

I intend to argue that the Tribunal subjected Milosevic to cruel and inhuman treatment by denying him, a sick man whose life was in danger for years, the medical care he needed. And by not giving him the support that was necessary, as was evident by the state of his health for years.

The tribunal's officials rely on diplomatic immunity to protect themselves from Dutch criminal prosecution, but immunity does not apply when acts contrary to the Convention against Torture are committed.

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You can support his work by making a donation to The Slobodan Milosevic Freedom Center at:
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