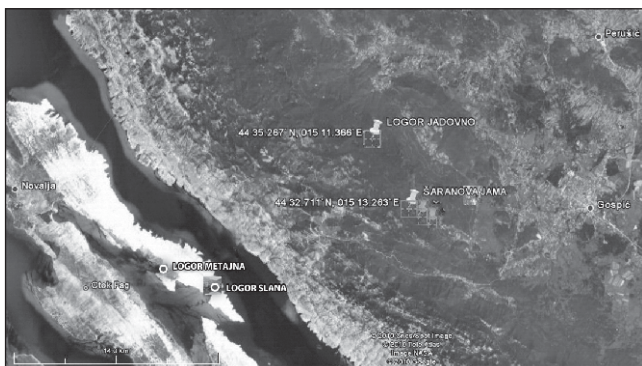




"Jadovno, in those summer months of bloody 1941, perhaps bled the most, but the blood of its victims could not be seen, such as today their martyr peace, so quiet and meek, so invisible but tangible and live, is living within us. Holy bones of the Martyrs of Jadovno were covered with dust deep within Velebit, and their heavenly peace and memory is deep within our souls, hearts and conscience."

+ Episcopo Atanasije Jeftić



"Seeds of evil are the most dangerous when hidden. The evil deeds are the most poisonous when, after being committed, are justified or deliberately consigned to oblivion. To repent for evil deeds, personal or collective, means rediscovering the true human form within, means becoming a brother again after being a brother slayer, to renew oneself with the secret of lost brotherhood. Evil not repented becomes a source of new evils, such as the solutions presented by a short-sighted politics, given for selfish interests or false peace amongst peoples, are being paid three or five-fold, all the way down to nine generations."

+ Episcopo Amfilohije Radović



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JADOVNO
יָדוֹבְנוֹ
JADOVNO **1941.**

Удружење потомака и поштовалаца жртава комплекса усташких логора Госпић 1941.
Association of Descendants and Supporters of Victims of Ustasha Concentration Camps in Gospić 1941.
1941 ארגון בנים ותומכים של קורבני מחנות ריכוז יאדובנו
Udruženje potomaka i poštovalaca žrtava kompleksa ustaških logora Gospić 1941.

24 JUNE JADOVNO 1941 REMEMBRANCE DAY



70 ANNIVERSARY
1941 – 2011

PROCLAMATION

We, descendants and supporters of the victims of Jadovno, have established 24 June as the Jadovno 1941 Remembrance Day, after 69 years have passed.

There is not a single Serbian and Jewish family in the area of the former Independent State of Croatia – NDH whose direct or indirect relatives did not die innocently in Jadovno. This makes the crime a historical and social problem that we must respect compassionately and responsibly during a joint commemoration.

Nowhere else afterwards has mindlessness triumphed in such mass killings in such a short time. This was contributed by earlier preparations and natural features of the terrain, because on a relatively small area there is an abundance of karst grottos, caverns and bottomless pits where the victims were thrown after being murdered mostly manually with knives and mallets. The victims were mostly Serbs and Jews, but there were others as well.

They came from all walks of life of that time. Here Ustashes killed in the cruellest ways even 73 members of Orthodox clergy, which means that every third priest in the NDH was murdered. As they were brought in from all areas and came from all social structures, this precedent established the genocide activities and enforcement of race laws towards non-Croats in the NDH.

The fact that it was the first criminal enterprise, that it was on a massive scale and that it was abandoned simply for technical reason, after the Italians expanded their occupation zone, labels this crime the first practice of anti-human mindlessness, which has not been condemned in a historical sense, or marked yet. On the contrary, it has been neglected to the point of denial. This forces us, as relatives, to remind the public, with great pain in our souls and with the best of intentions, to show solidarity and join us in the commemoration. The dead have no voice and cannot defend themselves, because they were unable to even defend their lives.

Our joint debt is to defend their temporary resting places, respect their remains, raise monuments, to hold commemorations and expose the crime with all civilised means.

At Jadovno, 26 June 2010

In short on the complex of Ustasha camps Jadovno

Already in April 1941, in recently established quisling Independent State of Croatia, Croatian Ustashes founded concentration camps: “Danica” near Koprivnica, “Kerestinac” near Sombor and “Gospić” in Lika.

These camps had been organised much longer before 2 June, when Poglavnik Ante Pavelić issued an official order to establish camps in the Independent State of Croatia. Already the day after the NDH had been proclaimed, on 11 April, Ustashes started to arrest Serbs in Gospić and surrounding areas, imprisoning them with severe torture in the County Court Penitentiary and its yard, where 2500 – 3000 could possibly stay for a short time. In May and early June Ustashes brought captured men, women and children from all over the NDH. The area of the Gospić concentration camp became too small, so the NDH Ministry of Interior, led by Andrija Artuković, founded a complex of Ustasha camps “Gospić 1941” in the remote areas of Mount Velebit and on the island of Pag, far from the eyes of the people.



A part of the yard of the concentration camp in the Gospić County Court building

“Jadovno” death camp was founded in early May 1941 on Velebit, 22km northwest from Gospić at the Čačić Dolac clearing, at 1200m of altitude, deep in the woods under an open sky, 50m long and 25m wide. In early June, this area was extended to 90x70m, and then on 24 June on 180x90m and secured with double barbed wire 4 metres high. The camp was then in its final layout. At the same time they did the same in the Slana Bay, a rocky desert of the island of Pag, where they fenced the camp. That is why 24 June 1941 is considered the date of founding the complex of Ustasha death camps Gospić 1941, the first mass execution site of Serbs and Jews in the NDH. In the complex of camps they also included the collection camp Ovčara, collection point at

the Gospić railway station, auxiliary camp Stupačinovo near Baške Oštarije, numerous bottomless pits on Velebit and around Gospić, camp Metajna and camps Slana on the island of Pag.



According to long-year studies by Dr Đuro Zatezalo, from 11 April to 21 August 1941, so just in 132 days it exited, 42,246 men, women and children were brought to this complex of Ustasha death camps from all over the NDH and 40,123 people were murdered in the cruellest ways.

Ustashes did not manage to kill 2123 of them who were still imprisoned because they were prevented by the Italian army, so they quickly transported them to the Ustasha camp Jastrebarsko near Zagreb, where they murdered 200 of them, and sent others to the newly founded camp Jasenovac, where they were one of its first inmates on 21 August 1941, and in camp Krušćica near Vitez.

The Association of Descendants and Supporters of the Victims of the Complex of Ustasha Camps Gospić 1941

