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## Milosevic Denies Role in Srebrenica Killings

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE HAGUE, Aug. 25 — A former Bosnian Serb soldier who confessed to executing at least 100 Muslims from Srebrenica in 1995 testified at Slobodan Milosevic's war crimes trial today that the killings must have been ordered by higher-ranking military officials.

Mr. Milosevic, the former Yugoslav president, denied involvement in the massacre at Srebrenica, which claimed up to 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys. He blamed mercenaries who he said had been paid in gold and commissioned by French intelligence.

"Neither Serbia nor I have anything to do with these events in Srebrenica," he said.

The former soldier, Drazen Erdemovic, 31, took the stand as prosecutors entered a final, critical stage of their case, in which they will try to prove the allegations that Mr. Milosevic orchestrated the massacre, which was the most heinous crime of the Balkan wars.

Mr. Erdemovic, who pleaded guilty to murder as part of a deal with prosecutors in 1996 and has served a five-year sentence, described how on July 11, 1995, his battalion summarily shot 1,000 to 1,200 people at a farm in the northeastern enclave of Srebrenica.

He said that in spite of moral objections, he took part in the killing for four hours before being relieved.

"I was personally ordered to do it," Mr. Erdemovic said. "This could not have happened if it had not been allowed by the main staff" of the Bosnian Serb military command, he said.

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