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Former Bosnian Serb Police Official Surrenders to Tribunal

By [NICHOLAS WOOD](#)

After more than five years on the run, Gojko Jankovic, a former Bosnian Serb police commander wanted for war crimes committed during the 1992-95 conflict in Bosnia, surrendered yesterday to the United Nations tribunal in The Hague.

Mr. Jankovic, 50, who is accused of torturing and raping Muslim women, followed an example set by four other Bosnian Serbs this year in turning himself in, which he did over the weekend to the authorities in the Bosnian Serb town of Banja Luka.

However, Mr. Jankovic appeared to have arrived at the court via a more circuitous route than his fellow suspects. Until late last year, according to his wife, Milica, he was hiding in Russia under a false identity and was under 24-hour protection.

Her account of his situation was made in a statement to the Bosnian Serb police after she traveled to Moscow last December. According to the statement, which a visitor was permitted to read, Mrs. Jankovic said she had been sent to see her husband by the Bosnian Serb authorities in an attempt to persuade him to surrender, and thereby help improve Bosnia's relations with the tribunal.

As with its former Yugoslav neighbors, Bosnia must cooperate with the United Nations court before its integration with the European Union and NATO can proceed.

Officials in the Bosnian Serb government said they were unable to comment on how Mr. Jankovic eventually came to hand himself in.

However, a Western diplomat in Sarajevo as well as officials at the war crimes tribunal in The Hague said Mr. Jankovic was one of at least three war crimes suspects hiding in Moscow.

The diplomat and the tribunal officials, who asked not to be identified, said that in addition to Mr. Jankovic, they believed that Vlastimir Djordjevic, a former commander in the Yugoslav Army during the 1999 war in Kosovo, and Vujedin Popovic, a Bosnian Serb army officer, were also in Moscow.

Since the removal of Slobodan Milosevic from the Yugoslav presidency in October 2000, Moscow has become a well-known refuge for members of his family and immediate circle. His wife, Mira Markovic, lives in Moscow. His son, Marko, also spends time there.

In her testimony, Mrs. Jankovic indicated her husband was being protected by a member of the Russian security services, but she offered no proof to support that contention.

She said a man carrying a card marked with the abbreviation F.S.B. - for the successor organization to the K.G.B. - accompanied her and her husband throughout her stay in Moscow from Dec. 7 to Dec. 12.

She said that since a previous visit to Moscow in 2003, Mr. Jankovic had married another woman even though he had not obtained a divorce, and that he had been able to acquire Russian citizenship and other official documents under the name Sergey Plutsadiev, or Plutmadiev.

Serbia has sought confirmation from Russia about the location of Mr. Djordjevic, who is wanted for war crimes committed in Kosovo. Serbian newspapers have reported that he is being in Moscow. The Russian government has denied any knowledge of his whereabouts, said Milan Vujan, an adviser to the Serbian president, Boris Tadic. "It's too small a question for them to find out where Vlastimir Djordjevic is or anyone else," Mr. Vujan said.

For his surrender, Mr. Jankovic will be entitled to a reward plan set up by the Bosnian Serb authorities to encourage war crimes suspects to surrender. It includes about \$540 and scholarships for his children.

Ivana Sekularac contributed reporting from Belgrade, Serbia, for this article.