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*The Role of OZN in the Liquidation of „State Enemies“ 1944–1945*

*What do the OZN archives conceal about the 1944/1945 revolutionary terror*

*Summary*

Available documents from the archives of Croatia and Serbia indicate that the phenomena of wild cleansing and repression of political and class opponents, as well as examples of non-institutional liquidations of war prisoners were not incidental nor unruly. They were planned actions that exceeded planned frameworks only fragmentally. Several basic conclusions can be drawn on the basis of these published documents. *Firstly*, they confirm that the repression was planned and operated according to previously prepared directives and decisions coupled with the existence of detailed lists of political and class enemies to be liquidated in shady, wartime circumstances. *Secondly*, the intensity of the repression in the first months after the liberation was drastic and the number of war prisoners, political and class enemies who were shot was measured in tens of thousands. *Thirdly*, from those reports it is possible to reconstruct completely the mechanism of liquidation; the arrests were carried out according to previously prepared lists based on tips from insiders, followed by mass executions orchestrated by the OZN (the state security service, literally: the Department for the Protection of People), and then cover was sought from the courts through fabricated court rulings for certain individuals, mostly respectable citizens. *Fourthly*, documents show that there exist in the archives (or used to exist!) detailed field reports illustrating that it was not a case of anarchic processes that got out of control (there were some exceptions); everything was orchestrated by and under the supervision of the party which received regular reports and like a red thread intertwined everything, coordinating the work of the prosecution, courts and secret police. There are also documents (Rankovic's official letter to OZN for Croatia!) indicating *territorial compartmentalization of guilt and examples of opportunism* of Croatian cadres within the service, as well as examples of disruption of fraternity and unity, numerous examples of inhumane exaggeration, psychopathological phenomena, messy executions etc.

Finally, the question is why the archives of OZN for this period have remained to be inaccessible to researchers in Serbia if we know that the process of publicizing these documents, without any major social upheaves, is well underway in former Yugoslav republics and it used to be the same state security territory.