



Humanitarian Law Center

FILE: Ljubisa Dikovic



HLCIndexOut: 019-3173-2
Belgrade, January, 23, 2012

Ljubisa Dikovic, Lieutenant-General of the Army of the Republic of Serbia (VS); until December 12, 2011 served as the commander of VS Land Forces. In 1999, served as a Yugoslav Army (VJ) officer in the rank of colonel and as commander of VJ's 37th Motorized Brigade (hereafter referred to as the 37th mtbr), of the Uzice Corps (hereafter UC), of the Second Army (hereafter 2a) of the VJ's 37th mtbr, which was stationed in Raska, and known also as "Raska Brigade." 1

On December 12, 2011, the President of the Republic of Serbia appointed Lt. Gen. Ljubisa Dikovic as the new Chief of General Staff of the Army of Serbia.

Dikovic was born on May 22, 1960 in Uzice, Serbia. He has served in the Army since August 15, 1979. In 1994 and 1995, Dikovic was the commander of the 16th border battalion and in this capacity, as the superior officer to Nikola Markovic, Ivan Maksimovic and other officers, he took part in the arrests of Muslims who, fleeing the Army of Republika Srpska, sought refuge in Serbia. Dikovic and his men handed over a number of refugees and Muslim prisoners, who, in most cases, lacked any legal documents (although some had transfer permits and other related documents) to the military, police and civilian secret services of Republika Srpska, who then killed many of these Muslim men. The remains of four of the five returned Muslim men, including Suljo Rahmanovic, a Muslim from the village of Zapolje, municipality of Bratunac, were found and identified beyond doubt.¹

¹ HLC database, X2000 witness statement: "I got the information from talking with several officers of the former JNA and the VJ. The murdered Suljo Rahmanovic's ID and official transfer permit, along with

1. On the order of the VJ Headquarters on July 29, 1998, the 37th mtbr was merged on March 7, 1999 with the 52nd (Prishtina) Corps of VJ's Third Corps.
2. Starting in May 1998, under Dikovic's command, a number of military security officers, among whom were Lieutenant Slobodan Stosic and Lieutenant Miodrag Djordjevic, trained several groups of convicted criminals and even several dozens of convicted murderers from the prison in Sremska Mitrovica, within the 37th mtbr. In July, 1998, the trainees were taken to Kosovo, as volunteers and members of the VJ. At the request of military and police intelligence services, the courts in Serbia revoked the prison sentences of many of these convicted murderers and released them. Lt. Col. Stosic was in charge of supplying them with military uniforms, weapons, chemicals and other means for covert killings, identity cards and badges of the military security forces.²
3. On April 20, 1999, commander Dikovic ordered captain Dragan Mitrovic and captain Bora Adzemovic to leave their combat positions together, in one vehicle, instead of individually and using utmost caution, as the usual military practice in wartime stipulates. In the vehicle were Mitrovic, Adzemovic and three soldiers, Aleksandar Milenkovic, Slobodan Cabarkapa and Boban Nastic. Near a place called Istok mahala in Srbica/ Skënderaj), the vehicle was ambushed by the KLA. All five soldiers of the VJ were killed.³
4. On March 7, 1999, or thereabout, Colonel Dikovic, then the commander of the 37th mtbr, led a combat team (BG 37) of about 400 members, from the barracks in Raska, Kosovo. About 250 of them (officers, NCOs and soldiers) were members of the 37th VJ mtbr, of the Military Security and a number of counter-intelligence centers, while the remaining 150 were well equipped and trained volunteers, including dozens of convicted murderers, criminals, and war criminals, under the command of Lieutenant

identification data of the other four returned and killed Muslims, were all kept in the house of Cedomir Milijasevic, the then Deputy of the First Company of the 16th border battalion. One of the five Muslim men with a transfer permit was taken by a contract soldier, Jelisavcic – his first name is unknown to me – from the border point of Jagostica's First Company of the 16th border battalion. On July 24, 1995, Dragan Mitrovic, commander of the First Company of the 16th border battalion, handed over all five Muslim prisoners to Nikola Markovic, commander of the 16th border battalion, who then handed two of them to M. Tadic, the inspector of the OUP Bajina Basta, who was in charge of border issues; two were handed to Bosko Boskovic, commander of the VRS' Skelanski batallion. Tadic and Boskovic then handed the four Bosniaks to the VRS security officers, who first interrogated them and then killed all four of them. Their remains have been identified. The relevant data concerning the exhumation and identification of their bodies is known to Ivan Maksimovic, security officer of the 16th border battalion, and Cedomir Milijasevic, deputy commander of the First Company of the 16th border battalion, the latter of whom also has the documents pertaining to the act of detention and the handing over of the men, as well as the documents about detection and identification of their remains."

2 HLC database, X2000 witness statement.

3 HLC database, X2000 witness statement: "Officers and soldiers died on April 20, 1999 in Drenica. Dikovic and his superiors who were familiar with the case, were hiding the real circumstances, but the family of Major Mitrovic found out about them later." VSCG KPP, The List (Lista), FHP-8817; OKMSSRJ, *Deadly (Smrtno)*, FHP-10832; SV SRJ, (*National Heroes*) *Junaci otadžbine*, 85, 211, 230, 237, 336.



Colonel Slobodan Stosic⁴ and Miodrag Djordjevic.⁵

5. By April 2, 1999, the 37th mtbr had a full complement and was transferred from Raska to Kosovo, to the Drenica area (Glogovac, Klina, Srbica), as per a plan known as “Thunder 98.”⁶

4 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, exhibit No. P2671, witness Lakić Djorović’s statement taken by the ICTY investigators on September 1, 2006, Paras. 22-39; MKSJ, ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, transcripts of Lakić Djorović’s testimony, March 11-13, 2007: “Slobodan Stosic, 1991, Captain First Class of the Military Security Service (VB) JNA-Yugoslav Army (JNA-VJ), serving in the Security Directorate (UB; VP 9922 Belgrade) of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense (SSNO, later Ministry of Defense – MD – in the FRY). He was convicted of the murder of 38 civilians in Kosovo, and served his sentence in Sremska Mitrovica. In mid-1997, the Head of UB SSNO filed with the military prosecutors, a criminal complaint in Belgrade against Slobodan Stosic, for 17 (seventeen) war crimes and other most serious crimes. The criminal complaint was recorded in the prosecution case as I VTK No. 86/97. The mildest of all 17 allegations is one that charges Stosic with having taken dozens of convicted murderers from the prison in Sremska Mitrovica on as many as 10 (ten) operations in Bosnia, Slavonia and Serbia (Smederevo) where civilians were killed. To these convicted murders, Stosic provided IDs and military security badges, state-of-the-art automatic weapons (rifles, machine guns, bombs, crossbows and other means for covert killings), gave them clothes with JNA, VJ and MUP insignia or other special units of the JNA-VJ. He illegally issued court decisions of acquittal, pardon or reductions to prison sentences. On several occasions, he took these convicts to kill, burn, destroy, steal and commit other crimes. He killed some of them after the completion of the actions or during the division of war loot. He allegedly supplied some of them with travel documents and helped them to leave the country illegally; they are now in hiding other countries, on condition that they act upon Stosic’s orders or orders of other members of military security (VB).

In a written statement Stosic admitted to every allegation, adding that “all this is nothing” compared to what he had done with Colonel Radovan Radojevic, Slobodan Tomic and Bogoljub Kijanovic from UB SSNO. He admitted that he possessed the means for silent killings, but that all other members of the UB had them too and in much larger quantities; he admitted to having possessed as many as 10 (ten) machine guns, automatic rifles, automatic pistols of various models and calibers. He claimed that all the valuables and goods he had obtained through extortion, including 5 (five) recent model Peugeot cars, were donated subsequently to the military security service on its May 13 anniversary celebrations. He claimed to have won a villa in Dedinje and a white gold Rolex watch on the battlefields. Stosic also claimed to have received some valuables from the Chinese military envoy, for whom he used to pimp Serbian girls younger than 9 years old; since he had managed to make some compromising video recordings, he forced the Chinese diplomat to cooperate with the VB. In 1998, the Military Security Administration sent Stosic to Kosovo, through the brigade in Raska. In 1998 and 1999, in villages and towns in almost all municipalities in Kosovo, Stosic committed numerous murders and other serious crimes, with the knowledge and support of his superiors in military security: Radojevic, Tomic and Kijanovic.

On September 3, 1999th, the Military Prosecutor’s Office dismissed the charges pressed by the Head of UB SSNO.”

- 5 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, exhibit No. P2671, witness Lakić Djorović’s statement taken by the ICTY investigators on September 1, 2006, Para. 38; MKSJ, ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, transcripts of Lakić Djorović’s testimony, March 11-13, 2007; MKSJ, ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, Judgement, I, Paras. 495-569 (pp. 201-569); III, Paras. 758-764 (pp. 276-78), and II, Para. 831 (p. 303).
- 6 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, exhibit No. 4D00140, Document of VJ’s Third Army, *Thunder 98 (Grom 98)*, Order on breaking up the DTS and armed insurrection forces in Kosovo and Metohija (Zapovest za razbijanje DTS i snaga oružane pobune na KiM), DT.br.6034-7/1, July 29, 1998.



The more than 4,500 members of the 37th mtbr, were split into combat groups, with the support of 31 tanks, one 105mm Howitzer, a platoon of 82 mm and 120 mm mortars, under the command of Colonel Dikovic and his subordinate commanders and battalion commanders of the base units, began the planned “cleansing” of the Drenica area from the “Shiptar terrorist forces.”⁷

6. Dikovic took part in appropriating the property of Albanians, not only from the Drenica area, but throughout Kosovo. In 1998, on Dikovic’s orders, a backhoe digger was brought from Raska from the mine in Belacevac, and later sold to a private individual. During the NATO bombing campaign, with his knowledge, thousands of expensive cars, buses, trucks and tractors were transported and sold in Novi Pazar and Raska. Dikovic kept for himself an expensive *Landrover* and a *Mercedes 300*. The seized and stolen vehicles were guarded by the military guards in the village Rvati, and at military warehouses and depots in Novopazarska Banja, in the municipality of Novi Pazar. It was widely rumored among officers and soldiers that during the NATO campaign, Dikovic seized a herd of about one thousand cattle from Kosovo Albanians.⁸

I Mass killings in Ljubisa Dikovic’s command zone in Kosovo

4 Some combat groups of the 37th mtbr. had been intermittently present in Kosovo since May 1998. The full brigade was stationed in Kosovo from March 7, 1999 until the arrival of international forces on June 11, 1999. In this period, alone or in conjunction with other VJ units, the 37th mtbr. under Ljubisa Dikovic’s command provided planning and weapon support and for the incursion of MUP/VJ forces into Albanian villages, where they committed a number of mass killings of Albanian civilians, acts of rape, looting and destruction of property.

1. Staro Cikatovo/Çikatovë e Vjetër, municipality of Glogovac/Gllogoc

- 1.1. Early in the morning on April 17, 1999, VJ/MUP forces surrounded the village of Staro Cikatovo/Çikatovë e Vjetër. After random shelling of civilian homes and buildings with artillery, tanks, mortars and other available weapons, the MUP/VJ forces entered the village around 6.00 a.m. In groups of 3 to 5, the soldiers/police officers raided the houses, beat, abused, humiliated and brutally intimidated the families in the village, seeking money, jewelry and any valuable personal belongings. Several persons were seriously injured and several killed in their homes, in front of their family members or neighbors. Survivors were driven out of their homes, beaten and threatened with being killed, and then gathered in several places in the village. Most of them, mostly from the Morina family, gathered in their Morina estate. After a new round of searches and beatings, the men were separated from the women and children. Houses and other buildings in the village were immediately

7 HLC database, X2000 witness statement.

8 HLC database, X2000 witness statement.



torched. Women and children, under threat of death, were ordered into a column and expelled from the village to Glogovac/ Glogoc. Some of the men were killed immediately on the spot, mostly with automatic weapons at close range. Others were split into three groups and thrown into the backyard of Yllber Morina, Ali Morina and Sejdi Morina's household. There, all were shot at close range. Dozens of ethnic Albanians from this village were killed in this incident, including 27 persons who have been officially identified.⁹

2. Cirez/Qirez, municipality Srbica/Skënderaj

Around 7.00 a.m. on April 17, 1999, a unit of about 100 soldiers and paramilitaries entered the village Kozica/Kozhicë. In groups of two or three, the soldiers went from house to house, forcing their way in and under threat of death demanded from household members and Albanian refugees who had fled from other villages, money, jewelry, valuables and other property. About 115 Albanian girls, women, children and older women were shut in Abedin Durmishi's family house. On the ground floor of the house, they locked 31 women and children. Soon afterward they brought in another 88 Albanian women and children, 28 of whom were locked on the ground floor, and 60 on the second floor of Durmishi's house.

Two days later, several VJ soldiers took 27 women and children from the group of 31 women and children on the ground floor and transported them to the village of Cirez/Qirez. There they were handed over to a group of 10 soldiers dressed in "red-brown camouflage uniforms," and led by an officer with rank and military insignia on his shoulder. Threatening to kill them all, together with their children, the soldiers took away their identity papers, money and jewelry, and then two soldiers led them to a barn and locked them in it. From the imprisoned group, they would occasionally pull several girls and younger women, of which some were in advanced pregnancy (between four and eight months).¹⁰ Several times they took the women and girls out of the barn and forced each of them to have intercourse

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9 HLC database: 1) Rexhep (Sheremet) Morina (01/11/1938), 2) Brahim (Sheremet) Morina (03/27/1957), 3) Sheremet (Rexhep) Morina (05/15/1971), 4) Avdyl (Hazir) Morina (1938), 5) Emin (Sadri) Morina (06/20/1958), 6) Selim (Sadri) Morina (09/22/1967), 7) Tahir (Zeqir) Morina (04/27/1951), 8) Gani (Haxhi) Morina (06/21/1949), 9) Sylë (Haxhi) Morina (03/25/1935), 10) Beqir (Jashar) Morina (05/16/1943), 11) Daut (Jashar) Morina (08/13/1931), 12) Sabit (Ali) Morina (07/30/1956), 13) Beqir (Zeqir) Morina (10/08/1945), 14) Arif (Zeqir) Morina (11/12/1920), 15) Muharrem (Rrustem) Morina (1912), 16) Kadri (Haradin) Morina (05/15/1937), 17) Isuf (Fetah) Morina (12/21/1948), 18) Bahtir (Hetem) Morina (02/14/1942), 19) Tahir (Hetem) Morina (04/10/1937), 20) Afrim (Bahtir) Morina (03/15/1965), 21) Bajram (Vesel) Makolli (10/06/1925), 22) Florim (Tahir) Morina (04/07/1962), 23) a disabled person Azem (Bajram) Morina (1930); 24) Zenel (Sylë) Morina (02/01/1930), all from the village of Staro Cikatovo/Çikatovë e Vjëtër, 25) Kadri (Tahir) Karagja (03/22/1922), 26) Haxhë (Hazir) Demaku (06/15/1980), from the village of Gornje Obrinje/Obri e Epërme. In this case, a number of persons were seriously wounded, some mortally; among them was 27) Merrushe (Hys) Shala (1970), from the village of Stankovce/Sankoc.

10 In order to protect the identity of women and girls who survived the crime, HLC will not disclose their names.



and also exploited and abused them sexually in other ways. On the same day, five of the raped girls¹¹ and three elderly Albanians, Miridije Dibrani, Tahir Shalaku and Fahrije Ademi, were separated from the group, taken out of the barn and later (the precise date is unknown) killed and thrown into three wells in Cirez/Qirez, where their bodies were found and identified in July in 1999.¹²

3. Savarine/Shavarinë, village Staro Cikatovo/Çikatovë e Vjetër

On April 30, 1999, around 5.00 a.m. heavily armed VJ/MUP forces surrounded and randomly shelled dozens of villages in the municipalities of Glogovac/Gllogoc and Skenderaj/Skënderaj. Albanian residents from these villages left their homes in panic, seeking refuge in nearby forests and mountains. Women, children, the elderly and weak, who were unable to leave the village, gathered in the local elementary school or hid in the basements of village houses. VJ/MUP forces drove them out of the village, and continued to search for those who had fled into the forests and mountains. Many were killed or seriously injured and wounded immediately upon being discovered, either where they were found or while being transported to another location.

Soldiers and policemen gathered several hundred unarmed Albanian men, children, women, elderly and the weak in large groups in several different places. They were then beaten and threatened, and their personal belongings taken away. They were then led toward the village of Cirez/Qirez, in the municipality of Srbica/Skënderaj.

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3.1. Until the early evening hours of that day, VJ/MUP forces held about 250 captured Albanian men, mostly farmers, 25 of whom were minors, in the courtyard of the local mosque. The men were severely beaten and intimidated, searched and their money, jewelry and other valuables taken away. Ismet (Haxhi) Prokshi (b. May 1, 1964), from the village of Vrbovac/Vrboc, in the municipality of Glogovac/Gllogoc, who had been seriously wounded during the arrest, was driven to the mosque tied to a tank. An unidentified VJ captain killed him on a pile of manure in the back of the mosque's courtyard, by firing thirty bullets into the man's back. On the Captain's orders, the soldiers buried Prokshi in the same pile of manure.¹³ A member of the Special Police Force (SPF/PJP) carved a Serbian tetragrammatic cross (a cross with four C-shaped "firesteels") with a knife, on the forehead of Ismet Dvorani, from

11 HLC database: five raped and later killed young Albanian women and girls: Zahide Xhema, 19 years of age; Lumnije Zymberi, 20 years of age; Antigona Dibrani, 20 years of age; Bukurije Dibrani, 18 years of age; Mirishahe Dibrani, 17 years of age.

12 ICTY, IT-02-54, *Prosecutor v. Slobodan Milosevic*, exhibit No. P141, Xhevahira Rrahmani's witness statement.

13 HLC database: After the unidentified VJ captain and his unit departed, on May 4, 1999 the villagers buried Ismet (Haxhi) Prokshi not far from the place where he was killed (at the far end in the courtyard of the mosque) and where his body had been found. On September 11, 1999, the family buried his body in a cemetery in the village of Vrbovac/Vrboc.



the village Stutica/Shtuticë, in the municipality of Glogovac/Gllogoc, forcing other prisoners to watch and threatening that the same would happen to them.

- 3.2. Early morning the next day, May 1, 1999, members of the Special Police Forces (PJP) and Special Operations Unit (JSO), known as Frenkis, entered the mosque. Among them was a man known as Charlie, who acted as a leader and the person in charge. With him were Nikci and Djuka, who seemed to be his subordinates. Around noon that day, one group of Albanian men was separated and transported on a VJ truck to the Glogovac/Gllogoc Police Station. They were then handed over to the commander Dragan Miric and officers at the station.¹⁴
- 3.3. Around 2.00 pm, on the same day (May 1, 1999), having separated and transported the first group to the Glogovac/Gllogoc Police Station, members of the PJP, among whom were Slavko, Djura and NN, nicknamed “Commander,” separated another group of about 90 Albanian prisoners. About 110 prisoners, among whom were 25 minors, were left in the mosque. Members of the PJP and VJ then loaded the group of 90 Albanian men onto two trucks. One was an olive-gray military truck, the other a yellow civilian truck. The 90 prisoners were taken toward Glogovac/Gllogoc on a local road.
- 3.4. Forty four men were loaded onto the military truck, which went ahead of the civilian one. Around 2.30 p.m. the truck stopped at Savarin/Te Shavarinat (the mining pits dug for the Feronikel factory) in the village Staro Cikatovo/ Çikatovë e Vjetër. On the orders of one PJP member known as “Commander,” the other members of the PJP and several soldiers lined up the captured Albanians on the edge of one of the pits, and simultaneously fired a barrage of shots at them, shooting continually until all 43 men fell into the pit. One man who had been killed earlier on the truck was dumped on the pile into the pit. The PJP and soldiers then threw several hand grenades into the pit. Behar Topilla, who was among the first to fall into the pit, survived the massacre. After a while, when he regained consciousness and made sure that immediate danger was over, Topilla managed to pull himself from beneath the bodies in the pit.
- 3.5. The other group of captured Albanians, loaded onto the yellow civilian truck which drove behind the military one, was also taken to the Savarin/Te Shavarinat. There the prisoners saw the “police officers” fire a barrage into the Albanians lined up on the edge of the pit, and they saw the men fall into the pit. While watching this, they were told by the police officers that they too would be shot. But they were not. Instead, they were taken to the Glogovac/Gllogoc Police Station, handed over to the commander Dragan Miric and officers employed in the station, and held with a group of Albanian prisoners detained earlier.

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14 HLC database: After they had been interrogated at the Police station Glogovac/Gllogoc, the captured Albanians were taken to prison, most of them in Prishtina/Prishtinë or in Lipljan/Lijpjan. Most were later moved to a prison and correctional facility in Dubrava (KPZ Dubrava) near Istok, where some were killed by prison guards and members of special police forces of the MUP of Serbia in May 1999.



3.6. On May 3, 1999, 14 Albanian men from the Veliqi family, in the village of Poluza/ Polluzha, were put into custody at the Glogovac/Gllogoc Police Station where they joined a group of Albanian men held since May 1, 1999.¹⁵ On May 6, 1999, a total of 76 Albanian prisoners were located in the Glogovac/Gllogoc Police Station. That day, the commander, Miric and his officers from the Glogovac/Gllogoc Police Station handed over all 76 Albanian prisoners to the military police. The prisoners were then severely beaten and, later the same day, handed over to Major Puzo, captain Andjelkovic and other officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Yugoslav Army (VJ) of the 105mm Armored Vehicle Division, and other VJ units stationed at that time in the villages of Poterk/Peterk, Vukovac/Vukoc and Krajkovo/Krajkovë. Members of this division and other units of the Yugoslav Army, forced the 76 Kosovo Albanians to dig trenches and roads every day, and to perform other hard labour.

3.7. On May 13, 1999, VJ members singled out 13 men from the group of 76 Albanian prisoners, and drove them away on a military truck to an unknown destination.¹⁶ An unidentified soldier from the Armored Vehicle Division under Major Puzovic (nicknamed Puzo) and captain Andjelkovic, told the remaining Albanian prisoners that those 13 men had been taken to Savarine/Te Shavarinat, in the village Staro Cikato/Çikatovë e Vjetër, to excavate and move the bodies of murdered Albanians, and that when they were finished, all 13 men would be killed and their bodies hidden.

3.8. Late in the afternoon on May 1, 1999, members of PJP and VJ entered the mosque in Cirez/Qirez and ordered that 25 juveniles¹⁷ from the group of about 110 captured Albanians

15 HLC database: Bajram Veliqi, his son sin Besim (23), Bekim (21), Safet (13), Kadri (35), Islam (65), Mustafe (63), Faton (35), Sadik (15), Mexhid (27), Ferat (43), Zenel (21), Milaim (15) and Faik Veliqi (20).

16 HLC database, statement of Z.K, FHP-258 (...): "On the morning of May 10, Major Puzo singled out 13 men in our group, who were taken by truck to an unknown destination, and then disappeared. After the war it became known, I do not know how, that they were forced to work in mass graves, and then disappeared, presumably killed, but their bodies have not been found, nor has any trace resurfaced about thier having been killed. These are the names of the 13 men who were separated from the group: Besim Veliqi, Zenel Veliqi, Mustafa Veliqi, from the village Polluzhe, Rrahim Prokshi, Arben Gashi, Ramadan Shala, Selami Dobra, Ismet Dobra with his son, whose name I do not know, from the village Verbovc, Ferat Krasniqi, Abedin Nika and Shefqet Karacic from the village of Gllanaselle, and Nebi Dervisholli from the village of Gradice. The rest of us were kept in the village of Krajkove until June 15, 1999, when we were freed. I immediately went to my village Gllanaselle."

HLC database; Rifat Bilallia's statement, FHP-2583: "Ferat Veliqi, who was with a group of prisoners in the village of Kajkovo, told me that when they singled out those 13 men, one of the sergeants responsible for that group said that the men would be tasked to dig some mass graves and then shot. I am sure that's exactly what happened. Their bodies have never been found."

17 HLC database, statement of Xh.V, FHP-34968 (...): "Among the 25 juvenile Albanians who had been separated and held in the mosque in the village of Cirez/Qirez were: Nebih (Ali) Salihu and Mustafë (Zeqir) Kahirmani, both from the village of Baks, Kushtrim (Sokol) Krasniqi, from Gladno Selo/Gllansellë, Hazir (Lah) Dvorani and Burim (Ali) Aliu, both from Cirez/Qirez, Ibush (Selman) Gashi, Rafet (Bajram) Rrukiqi, Betim (Beqir) Prokshi, Shpejtim (Rizah) Prokshi, all four from the village of Vrbovac/Vrboc, Ekrem (Ramadan) Morina, Jetullah (Ilaz) Ademi, Feriz (Ramadan) Ramadani, Safet (Dalip) Sokoli, Fejzë



remain in the mosque, while everyone else, more than 70 men, including Xhafer Veliu, who had been separated from his thirteen-year old son Shyqri, were taken out of the mosque and loaded onto two trucks: one gray and olive-green military truck, the other a yellow, civilian truck. The military truck was loaded first, then the civilian one. Xhafer Veliu was loaded last in the group of adults onto the civilian truck. Before he was thrown in the truck, Xhafer heard one of the officers tell another soldier, addressing him as “Bosanac”: “Do what you want with these children, because we are not coming back with the trucks.” The two trucks left the mosque at the same time, taking the local road toward Glogovac/Gllogoc. The military truck, with about 40 Albanian men, drove ahead. The yellow civilian truck, with more than 30 Albanian prisoners, among whom was Xhafer Veliu, was behind the military one. Near Savarine/Te Shavarinat, at the same place where, only a few hours earlier on that same day, 43 men had been killed and one seriously wounded, the members of the PJP and VJ unloaded both trucks with all 70 Albanian prisoners. They were all executed, in much the same way as the previous group, but they were now killed in groups of ten. While the last 10 prisoners from the (second) yellow civilian trucks were being taken to the execution pits, two men managed to escape: Bajram Shabani from the village of Dasevac/Dashec and Xhafer Veliu from the village of Poljance/Polacë.

3.9. All 25 juvenile Albanians, held by the VJ/MUP forces on May 1, 1999 in the mosque in the village of Cirez/Qirez, disappeared and nothing further was heard of them. After the war, in July 1999, bodies of 17 missing juveniles were found among the bodies of adult Albanians killed in the afternoon of May 1, 1999 near Savarin/Te Shavarinat in the village Staro Cikatovo/Çikatovë e Vjetër. To date, 24 bodies of the captured juvenile Albanians have been found.¹⁸

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3.10. After the withdrawal of Serbian forces from Kosovo, of the Albanian men captured on April 30, 1999 and held in a mosque in the village of Cirez/Qirez, who on the following day, May 1, 1999, were taken by truck to Glogovac/Gllogoc, and of whom most were shot and dumped in the pits at

(Zeqir) Zeqiri, Ilir (Rizah) Beqiri, Bajram (Zeqir) Zeqiri, all seven from the village of Stutica/Shtuticë, Sami (Sefedin) Shishani, from Novi Poklek/Poklek e Ri, and my son Shyquri.”

- 18 HLC database: Of the 25 minors and juveniles forcibly separated and kept in the mosque in Cirez/Qirez, bodies of the following 17 persons were found immediately after the war: 1) Shyqri (Xhafer) Veliu (03/05/1986), from the village of Poljance/Polac, 2) Nebih (Ali) Salihu (1984) and 3) Mustafë (Zeqir) Kahrmani (1985), both from the village of Baks; 4) Kushtrim (Sokol) Krasniqi (28.09.1984), from the village of Gladno Selo/Gllansellë; 5) Hazir (Lah) Dvorani (07/01/1983) and 6) Burim (Ali) Aliu (1982), both from the village of Cirez/Qirez; 7) Ibush (Selman) Gashi (01/23/1982), 8) Rafet (Bajram) Rrukiqi (02/13/1983), 9) Betim (Beqir) Prokshi (09/05/1985), 10) Shpejtim (Rizah) Prokshi (10/15/1984), all four from the village of Vrbovac/Vrboc; 11) Ekrem (Ramadan) Morina (10/15/1983), 12) Jetullah (Ilaz) Ademi (06/10/1984), 13) Feriz (Ramadan) Ramadani (04/11/1983), 14) Safet (Dalip) Sokoli (10/21/1983), 15) Fejzë (Zeqir) Zeqiri (09/10/1983), 16) Ilir (Rizah) Beqiri (09/22/1982), all six from the village of Stutica/Shtuticë, and 17) Sami (Sefedin) Shishani (04/16/1982), from the village of Novi Poklek/Poklek e Ri. The remains of the following minors were identified later: 18) Aziz (Sadik) Heta (12/25/1981) and 19) Xhemajl (Hazir) Tahiraj (1983), both from Staro Cikatovo/ Çikatovë e Vjetër, 20) Ilir (Shaqir) Sejdiu (07/12/1981) from Likoani/Likoshan, 21) Islam (Demir) Shaqiri (05/06/1983) from Prishtina/Prishtinë, 22) Lutfi (Daut) Salihu (06/18/1981) from Cirez/Qirez, 23) Xhavit (Sefer) Gjinovci (08/04/1983) from Makrmalja/Makërmal, and 24) Bahri (Ragip) Sokoli (08/25/1981) from Stutice/Shtuticë.



Savarin/Te Shavarinat – 99 bodies were found and identified beyond doubt on the basis of DNA analysis and in other ways. Of these 99 found and identified, 24 were minors.¹⁹ Nuredin (Avdullah) Dvorani, born September 28, 1982 in Trstenik/Tërstenik remains listed as missing.

- 19 HLC database: The remains of the following 99 Albanian persons, among whom were 24 minors, have been identified beyond doubt: 1) Bekim (Murat) Bajraktari (09/01/1970), 2) Arben (Murat) Bajraktari (01/23/1975), 3) Shpend (Ali) Bajraktari (05/01/1971), 4) Xhevdet (Agush) Qorri (11/10/1975), 5) Shpend (Agush) Qorri (09/24/1978), all from the village of Glogovca/Gllogoc, 6) Shyqri (Xhafer) Velu (03/05/1986), 7) Hamit (Isuf) Xhani (05/17/1939), 8) Arton (Hamit) Xhani (1980), 9) Tefik (Hamit) Xhani (1966), 10) Qazim (Isuf) Xani (1945), 11) Veton (Qazim) Xani (1980), all six from the village of Poljance/Polac; 12) Nebih (Ali) Salihu (06/06/1982), 13) Ferat (Tahir) Osmani (1928), 14) Driton (Rrustem) Halili (04/13/1977), 15) Ahmet (Sinan) Musliu (02/05/1981), 16) Mustafë (Zeqir) Kahrmani (04/28/1984), 17) Tahir (Liman) Tahiri (01/03/1936), all six from the village of Baks, 18) Sokol (Adem) Krasniqi (10/13/1955), 19) Kushtrim (Sokol) Krasniqi (04/28/1984), 20) Halit (Brahim) Maloku (04/15/1946), 21) Nazmi (Tafil) Maloku (09/19/1953), 22) Sabit (Brahim) Maloku (06/05/1950), 23) Deli (Hajdin) Nika (1937), 24) Ahmet Llugani (1964), 25) Hajzer (Isuf) Karaqica (07/27/1965), all eight from Gladno Selo/Gllansellë, 26) Hysni (Alush) Morina (11/02/1976), 27) Zet (Rifat) Elshani (01/17/1974), both from the village of Globare/Gllobar, 28) Shpend (Bajram) Cakiqi (10/05/1980), 29) Mehmet (Murat) Dvorani (03/25/1955), 30) Hysni (Idriz) Dvorani (08/10/1971), 31) Haki (Idriz) Dvorani (04/11/1980), 32) Veli (Idriz) Dvorani (01/05/1976), 33) Avni (Idriz) Dvorani (10/03/1974), 34) Hazir (Lah) Dvorani (07/01/1983), 35) Nuhi (Lah) Dvorani (07/15/1975), all seven of them from the village of Trstenik/Tërstenik, 36) Faton (Bajram) Shabani (06/06/1980), 37) Bexhet (Deli) Shabani (06/17/1972), 38) Naser (Deli) Shabani (10/01/1960), 39) Xhafer (Ali) Sinani (04/24/1951), all four from the village of Dosevac/Dashec, 40) Ramadan (Mehmet) Rexhepi (01/01/1935), 41) Shaban (Mehmet) Rexhepi (1939), 42) Bajram (Hysen) Aliu (03/19/1953), 43) Ilmi (Rrustem) Aliu (05/28/1947), 44) Burim (Ali) Aliu (1982), 45) Ruzdi (Ilmi) Aliu (1978), 46) Ali (Rrustem) Aliu (01/12/1950), 47) Avni (Alush) Smajli (08/25/1975), 48) Lulzim (Avdyll) Ferati (01/05/1978), all nine from the village of Cirez/Qirez, 49) Ismet (Haxhi) Prokshi (05/01/1964), 50) Gani (Smajl) Krelani (12/10/1965), 51) Ibush (Selman) Gashi (01/23/1982), 52) Rafet (Bajram) Rrukiqi (12/13/1983), 53) Betim (Beqir) Prokshi (09/05/1985), 54) Shpejtim (Rizah) Prokshi (10/15/1984), 55) Nexhmedin (Rrahim) Prokshi (11/20/1974), 56) Bekim (Tahir) Prokshi (05/17/1976), 57) Rizah (Ramiz) Prokshi (02/27/1955), 58) Xhafer (Avdyll) Gashi (07/21/1954), 59) Adem (Avdyll) Gashi (12/02/1946), all eleven from the village of Vrbovac/Vrboc, 60) Zet (Xhelil) Kastrati (06/22/1958), 61) Selman (Feriz) Istogu (02/17/1934), 62) Musa (Selman) Istogu (08/23/1955), 63) Zymer (Hashim) Veliqi (07/07/1955), 64) Agron (Qerim) Veliqi (10/18/1976), all five from the village of Poluza/Poluzhë, 65) Bahtir (Ramadan) Dervishi (01/15/1938), 66) Ekrem (Ramadan) Morina (10/15/1983), 67) Bajram (Latif) Morina (06/27/1958), all three from the village of Staro Cikatovo/Çikatovë e Vjetër, 68) Gani (Xheladin) Hajra (12/25/1946), 69) Qamil (Halil) Balii (05/31/1969), 70) Hamit (Ilaz) Ademi (07/02/1980), 71) Ejup (Zymer) Ademi (07/10/1943), 72) Jetullah (Ilaz) Ademi (06/10/1984), 73) Xhevat (Selim) Ademi (11/09/1979), 74) Muharrem (Ali) Bilalli (03/15/1938), 75) Hetem (Ali) Bilalli (07/14/1948), 76) Bilall (Ali) Bilalli (10/07/1948), 77) Zet (Muharrem) Bilalli (12/28/1970), 78) Milaim (Hetem) Bilalli (12/01/1979), 79) Ramadan (Feriz) Ramadani (05/19/1943), 80) Feriz (Ramadan) Ramadani (04/11/1983), 81) Safet (Dalip) Sokoli (10/21/1983), 82) Bahri (Ragip) Sokoli (08/25/1981), 83) Fejzë (Zeqir) Zeqiri (09/10/1983), 84) Sherif (Fejze) Zeqiri (01/20/1962), 85) Ilir (Rizah) Beqiri (09/22/1982), all eighteen of them from the village of Stutica/Shtuticë, 86) Ilaz (Hisen) Avdyli (05/18/1943), 87) Islam (Hasan) Hasani (12/24/1952), 88) Shahin (Islam) Hasani (02/15/1976), 89) Tahir (Adem) Azemi (02/20/1940), 90) Rrahman (Shaban) Nura (05/02/1958), 91) Xhemë (Ferat) Sejdiu (05/17/1965), 92) Ilir (Shaqir) Sejdiu (07/12/1981), all seven from the village of Likosane/Likoshan, 93) Faton (Miftar) Kiqina (09/29/1979) from the village of Banjica/Bajicë, 94) Sami (Sefedin) Shishani (04/16/1982), 95) Arton (Brahim) Shishani (06/16/1980) from the village of Novi Poklek/Poklek e Ri, 96) Afrim (Xhafer) Haziri (09/22/1978) from the village of Krasmirovac, 97) Hashim (Shaqir) Uka (09/02/1937) from the village of Gradica/Gradicë, 98) Jahir (Bajram) Sheqiri (06/26/1947) from the village of Pluzina/Plluzhinë, 99) Muharrem (Sylejman) Rexhepi (10/04/1934), and 99) Ymer (Hasan) Ahmeti (05/17/1948), both from Prelovac/Prelloc.



3.11. Of the Albanians who were found to have been captured on April 30, 1999 and held in a mosque in the village of Cirez/Qirez and who on May 1, 1999 were loaded onto trucks and taken to Glogovac/Gllogoc, 6 are still missing.²⁰ All six were last seen alive on May 1, 1999, near Savarin/Te Shavarinat in the village of Staro Cikatovo/Çikatovë e Vjetër.

3.12. Of the Albanians who were found to have been in the mosque in the village of Cirez/Qirez on April 30, 1999, and who on May 1, 1999 were loaded onto trucks and shot near Savarin/Te Shavarinat, only three survived: Behar (Ibrahim) Topilla (b. January 30, 1980), Xhafer Veliu from the village of Poljance/Polac, and Bajram Shabani from the village Dosevac/Dashec, who was the only one not to have been wounded .

4. Vrbovac/Vërboc, municipality Glogovac/Gllogoc

Early on the morning of April 30, 1999, heavily armed VJ/MUP forces surrounded the village of Vrbovac/Vërboc and began shelling it randomly. More than 6,000 Albanians from Vrbovac/Vërboc and from the surrounding villages in the municipalities of Glogovac/Gllogoc and Srbica/Skënderaj, who had earlier taken refuge in Vrbovac/Vërboc, fled the houses and the village in panic. They escaped into a nearby forest. Upon entering the deserted village, the Serbian police and military forces first torched the houses and other buildings in it, and then began searching for those who fled. They searched the forest all day, and killed those they found. To force the Albanians to leave their hiding places, they set forest fires. Women and children were separated from the men, assembled in large groups, transported to the town of Glogovac/Gllogoc, and from there in a convoy to be expelled into Macedonia and Albania. In this round of persecution, Serbian forces killed 92 Albanians from Vrbovac/Vërboc and the surrounding villages.²¹

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20 HLC database: The six Kosovo Albanians who were last seen alive on May 1, 1999 near Savarin/Te Shavarinat: 1) Nuredin (Avdullah) Dvorani (09/28/1982), 2) Ymer (Fazli) Dvorani (06/02/1957), both from the village of Trstenik/Tërstenik, 3) Florin (Selman) Istogu (06/04/1963) from the village of Poluza/Poluzhë, 4) Beqir (Ahmet) Sejdiu (02/01/1945) from the village of Likosane/Likoshan, 5) Selman (Jonuz) Sejdiu (02/01/1937) from the village of Prelovac/Prelloc, 6) Rrahman (Haxhi) Topilla (10/25/1966) from Gladno Selo/Gllanasellë.

21 HLC database: 1) Zenel (Islam) Bajrami (01/01/1943), from the village of Baks, 2) Halil (Nasuf) Smajli (02/01/1965), 3) Ismet (Sadik) Rama (07/11/1974) and 4) Isuf (Imer) Ferati (07/24/1956), all three from the village of Cirez/Qirez, 5) Baki (Shefqet) Hoxha (10/20/1970), 6) Ibrahim (Ismail) Hoxha (02/14/1928) and 7) Sherif (Fejzullah) Jetullahu (06/13/1953), all three from the village of Domanek, 8) Adem (Sefer) Bunjaku (04/11/1948), 9) Avdyl (Daut) Nika (01/01/1931), 10) Bedri (Murat) Bunjaku (02/27/1953), 11) Hasan (Brahim) Krasniqi (10/06/1934), 12) Hisen (Sadik) Krasniqi (05/21/1964), 13) Kadri (Idriz) Nika (01/15/1966), 14) Mehdi (Salih) Krasniqi (09/16/1956), 15) Mexhit (Hazir) Nika (01/02/1979), 16) Nexhmedin (Avdullah) Nika (03/27/1974), 17) Shefqet (Hazir) Nika (12/22/1962), 18) Sylejman (Islam) Krasniqi (12/03/1963) and 19) Zeqir (Hetem) Topilla (12/19/1977), all twelve from Gladno Selo/Gllanasellë, 20) Rexhep (Ymer) Elshani (03/17/1941) from Globara/Gllobar, 21) Bekim (Hamze) Elezi (05/18/1972) and 22) Ismet (Hamze) Elezi (09/12/1964), both from Glogovac/Gllogoc, 23) Shefqet (Rrahim) Hysenaj (11/28/1967) from Gornje Obrinje/Obri e Epërme, 24) Hamdi (Miftar) Ademi (12/14/1940) and 25) Zeqir (Ali) Shabani (01/01/1930), both from the village of Kozica/Kozhiccë, 26) Xhevdet (Imer) Shala (11/27/1983) from Krajkovo/Krajkovë, 27) Ramadan (Ali) Aliqkaj (10/26/1933) from the village of Lausa/Llaushë, 28) Ilaz (Smail) Smajli (12/01/1950) from the village of Likosane/Likoshan, 29) Bajram (Mehmet) Aliu (01/01/1968)



5. Baks, municipality of Srbica/Skënderaj

Early in the morning of April 30, 1999, VJ/MUP forces surrounded the village Dosevac/Dashec in the municipality of Srbica/Skënderaj. Villagers, women, children and adults, carrying the weak and the ill, fled in panic into nearby forests and mountains in the area of the village Vrbovac/Vrboc, and then to the area around the village of Stutica/Shëtuticë. Thirty eight unarmed Albanians found shelter in a small nearby crevice. Most of them were from the village Dosevac/Dashec; among them were Shabani (Bajram) Faton (b. June 6, 1980), Shabani (Deli) Bexhet (b. June 17, 1972), Shabani (Deli) Nasser (b. January 10, 1960) and Bajram Shabani. Among them were also those who fled from other villages, including Rahim Ferizi, Nazif Ferizi, Driton Ferizi and Ymer Rexha, all from the village of Baks. Soon afterward, a tank and a truck stopped about 40 meters from the crevice, and a group of VJ soldiers jumped out the vehicles. Shouting "Here are the terrorists, kill the terrorists!" the soldiers fired a barrage at a group of Albanians in the area, killing Ymer Rexha from the village of Baks. The rest were then beaten, searched and all their money, jewelry and other valuables seized; they were then transported to Baks. In the village of Baks, a soldier addressed as 'Milija' (his surname unknown) ordered the soldiers to kill eight Kosovo

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from the village of Likovac/Likoc, 30) Sefer (Istref) Gjinovci (01/01/1951) and 31) Selman (Istref) Gjinovci (01/01/1939), both from the village of Makrmalj/Makërma, 32) Jahir (Bajram) Osmani (01/01/1948) from the village of Pluzina/Pluzhinë, 33) Muhamet (Rrahman) Haxhiu (12/15/1964) from the village of Poplek, 34) Ibush (Shefqet) Istogu (05/19/1930) and 35) Zene (Shefqet) Istogu (01/13/1937), from the village of Poluza/Polluzhë, 36) Dibran (Ahmet) Kabashi (05/01/1981), 37) Ekrem (Latif) Kerolli (03/25/1981), from the village of Poljançe/Polac, 38) Naser (Liman) Sejdiu (04/10/1972) from the village of Prelovac/Prellac, 39) Bastri (Sadri) Deliu (05/30/1981) from the village of Rezala/Rezallë, 40) Agim (Sadri) Dervishi (01/01/1960) and 41) Besim (Fazli) Muzhaku (01/01/1976), obojica iz Starog Çikatova/Çikatovë e Vjëter, 42) Lulzim (Ahmet) Tahiri (06/18/1967) iz sela Trdevac/Tërdec, 43) Ferat (Xhafer) Dvorani (06/02/1968), 44) Imer (Fazli) Dvorani (06/02/1957) and 45) Lumni (Idriz) Dvorani (04/08/1978), all three from the village of Trstenik/Tërtstenik, 46) Adem (Shaban) Krelani (11/07/1974), 47) Ahmet (Jashar) Dobra (02/12/1937), 48) Ahmet (Ilmi) Istogu (04/19/1964), 49) Azem (Ramadan) Kastrati (12/27/1932), 50) Behlul (Avdi) Prokshi (05/02/1945), 51) Beqir (Hysen) Kastrati (05/05/1952), 52) Burim (Murat) Gllareva (01/01/1981), 53) Demir (Rexhep) Prokshi (06/13/1971), 54) Fahri (Benxhet) Gllareva (02/07/1974), 55) Florim (Bali) Gllareva (02/04/1967), 56) Haki (Behlul) Prokshi (08/14/1974), 57) Halil (Hisen) Gllareva (03/02/1969), 58) Halim (Qamil) Gashi (01/01/1930), 59) Ibrahim (Mehmet) Kastrati (02/01/1969), 60) Ibush (Rexhep) Gllareva (01/01/1940), 61) Ibush (Habib) Shala 07/03/1967), 62) Idriz (Adem) Gllareva (01/01/1930), 63) Islam Kastrati, 64) Jahir (Hajrush) Gllareva (01/01/1955), 65) Luan (Selim) Kastrati (09/18/1970), 66) Mehdi (Kadri) Gllareva (03/15/1965), 67) Milaim (Ilmi) Istogu (01/02/1973), 68) Muhamet (Osman) Shala (03/30/1955), 69) Muhamet (Brahim) Tafaleci (08/09/1969), 70) Murat (Idriz) Gllareva (01/01/1958), 71) Mustafe (Xheladin) Shala (01/01/1931), 72) Nexhmedin (Salih) Gllareva (06/02/1967), 73) Osman (Adem) Gllareva (02/01/1938), 74) Osman (Hasan) Kastrati (15.06.1944), 75) Ramadan (Rizah) Gllareva (01.01.1950), 76) Ramadan (Behram) Rrukiqi (01.01.1934), 77) Ramadan (Xhafer) Shala (04/30/1979), 78) Rexhep (Sefer) Tafaleci (05/25/1981), 79) Remzi (Rame) Gllareva (09/04/1956), 80) Rexhep (Muhamet) Kastrati (08/07/1980), 81) Safet (Idriz) Gllareva (01/01/1965), 82) Selman (Beqir) Gashi (02/21/1940), 83) Shaip (Smajl) Gllareva (12/31/1963), 84) Sinan (Halim) Gashi (04/08/1955), 85) Smail (Beqir) Gashi (12/27/1947), 86) Smajl (Rame) Gllareva (01/01/1936), 87) Sylejman (Fevzi) Gllareva (04/26/1980), 88) Tahir (Mursel) Prokshi (12/18/1946), 89) Valon (Imer) Rrukiqi (01/01/1974), 90) Vehbi (Kadri) Gllareva (03/02/1969), 91) Ymer (Jetullah) Zhushi (09/24/1964) and 92) Zeqir (Shaqir) Gashi (02/07/1951), all 47 of them from the village of Vrbovac/Vrboc.



Albanians. VJ/MUP forces lined up and shot eight Albanian men while other imprisoned Albanians watched. On May 3, 1999, the villagers buried the eight bodies near the site of their execution.²²

6. Donja Sudimlja/Studime e Epërme, municipality of Vucitrn/Vushtrri

On May 31, 1999, around 4.00 a.m. Albanians from the village of Donja Sudimlja/Studime e Epërme were alarmed by two extremely powerful detonations. They soon found out that these were two NATO bombs air-dropped on old army barracks in Vucitrn/Vushtrri. Shortly afterwards, the artillery and mortar units of the 37th mtbr. began shelling the village. In less than an hour, PJP forces, in groups of 2 and 3 men, began raiding Albanian houses. People were beaten and intimidated in their homes, their money, jewelry and valuables taken away, and they were then evicted from their houses and driven out of the village. That day, PJP officers and regular police officers of the Serbian MUP killed dozens of Albanians, among whom were 12 members of the Gerxhaliu family: Xhemajl Gerxhaliu, Seladin Gerxhaliu and his son Shaban Gerxhaliu, Seladin's wife Fexhrije Gerxhaliu (b. 1954), and their five children, all minors – Muharrem Gerxhaliu (b. 1985), Mexhit Gerxhaliu (b. 1987), Abdurrahman Gerxhaliu (b. 1989), Myber Gerxhaliu (b. 1988), Sabahudin Gerxhaliu (b. 1992), as well as Saliha Gerxhaliu (b. 1918), Sofia Gerxhaliu (b. 1963) and Safet Gerxhaliu (b. 1988), all from the village of Donja Sudimlja/Studime e Epërme. Relatives of the 12 killed members of the Gerxhaliu family collected their bodies and buried them in a family cemetery on the day they were killed.²³

22 HLC database: two statements by B.S, FHP-14920 and FHP-20291: "Eight Albanians were killed on the order of the soldier addressed by others as Milija: 1) Halit (Qerim) Haliti (05/01/1946) and 2) Mehmet (Sherif) Mehmeti (02/25/1946), both from the village of Strubulovo/Shterbullovë; 3) Feti (Daut) Sofi (10/19/1959) from Glogovac/Glllogoc; 4) Fidaim (Kamer) Zena (03/06/1969) from the village of Stutica/Shtuticë; 5) Bexhet (Deli) Shabani (06/17/1972) from the village of Dosevac/Dashec; 6) Rrahim (Habib) Ferizi (09/28/1981) and 7) Nazif (Habib) Ferizi (09/08.1984), both from Cirez/Qirez i 8) Driton (Hajriz) Bajrami (10/01/1983) from the village of Baks."

23 CTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, exhibit No P02257; HLC database: statement of F.B, FHP-2871; statement of F.G, FHP-20639; statement of Sh.G, FHP-12467.



7. Izbica/Izbicë, municipality of Srbica/ Skenderaj

On March 27, 1999, the VJ shelled the village of Izbica/Izbicë. More than 4,500 residents and displaced persons sought refuge in a meadow on the outskirts of Izbica/Izbicë. On March 28, 1999, the PJP surrounded the villagers, and then demanded that money be handed to them. According to the testimonies of three eyewitnesses, Milazim Thaci, Mustafa Draga and Sadik Januzi, accepted as authentic by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), after the men took the money, the police officers separated the men from the women and children. Having counted the men, most of whom were elderly, the PJP officers divided them into two groups. Thaci was in the smaller group, which consisted of 33 men, while Draga and Januzi were in the larger group of about 70 men. Thaci's group, led by one officer, was taken to a pit about 200 meters from the meadow.

Thaci was the first in the column. The group was facing the forest, which was only a few meters away. The PJP opened fire on the men in the column. Thaci and two other men survived the shooting.²⁴ Another group, in which Draga and Januzi were, was taken some 500 meters uphill from the meadow. The group was accompanied by about 30 PJP members. Draga was in the middle of the group. As soon as the shooting started, he fell to the ground, and his cousin fell over him. When the shooting stopped, Draga, who was wounded, remained still for 20-30 minutes, during which time he saw the police burn the houses in Izbica/Izbicë. Januzi described the same event in his witness statement and explained that he had survived because he fell to the ground before he was shot and three bodies then fell over him.²⁵ Draga saw the killing of two old men and two old women, because they could not walk. One of them was a seventy-year-old woman Zoje Osmani, whose body was found burned in a tractor trailer.

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Based on forensic reports from the site of the mass grave in Petrovo Selo; the record of missing persons from the UNMIK Office on Missing Persons (OMPF); and the list of evidence submitted to the court by Liri Loshi, 118 persons were killed in Izbica/Izbicë in the VJ/MUP attack on March 28, 1999.²⁶ Several more bodies were found at other locations in Izbica/Izbicë. The killed men were mostly older, of an average age between 60 and 70. The combined testimonies of the three survivors who testified before the ICTY, show that 14 men survived the execution.²⁷ The KLA buried the bodies in 127 graves, in the vicinity of the meadow where the people had gathered before the Serbian forces arrived. Among the 127 were buried were two KLA soldiers, Hamdi (Ajet) Doqi (b. May 15, 1955) from the village of Krnjince/Kërnice, and Sami (Jashar) Loshi (b. 1974) from Padaliste/Padalishtë village.²⁸ Upon their return to Izbica/Izbicë, the villagers did not find any graves or bodies. The VJ/MUP moved the bodies before NATO forces entered Kosovo. Most of the bodies were moved to the cemetery in Kosovska Mitrovica, while a number of them was transported to

24 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, exhibit No P02246, statement of witness Milazim Thaci.

25 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, exhibit No P2525, statement of witness Sadik Januzi.

26 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, Judgment, II, p. 605.

27 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, Judgment, II, p. 583.

28 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, exhibit No P02436, statement of witness Liri Loshi.



Serbia and buried in secret graves at the police training center in Petrovo Selo.

A number of VJ orders and combat reports, which have been included into the IT-05-87-T case, confirm that the killings in the village of Izbica/Izbičë were carried out jointly by the VJ and MUP. The VJ forces which took part in the destruction of “Shiptar-terrorist forces” in the municipality of Srbica/Skenderaj belonged to the VJ’s 37th and 125th Motorized Brigades. Seven PJP companies took part in this action, two of which had been tasked to coordinate their activities with the 37th mtbr. In court, Dikovic first claimed that his unit had not encountered any civilians in Izbice/Izbičë,²⁹ only to alter this statement later and claim that in Izbica/Izbičë “we stopped our firing and took people out,” adding that an MUP unit was in front of him at the time.³⁰ Later, he again confirmed that there had been some contact with civilian population.³¹

II Relevant conclusions from the ICTY’s Judgment in IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinović et al.*

Para. 562. Direct evidence relating to the charges of sexual assault in the village of Ćirez/Qirez around mid-April 1999 was given by two eye-witnesses, namely Xhevahire Rrahmani and K24. Their testimony was largely unchallenged and, aside from some discrepancies in the identification of uniforms of the perpetrators of these offences, generally consistent. The Chamber also admitted into evidence certain forensic information relevant to the fate of some of the alleged victims which is consistent with the evidence of Rrahmani and K24. The Chamber, therefore, accepts their evidence.

Para. 564. The Chamber also heard from a number of other witnesses who were VJ or MUP personnel, such as Ljubiša Diković, Slađan Pantić, Petar Damjanac, Nebojša Bogunović, and Dragan Živanović, and whose testimony countered certain aspects of the evidence of the witnesses led by the Prosecution in relation to Srbica/Skenderaj. Those parts of their evidence deemed reliable are set below [i.e. further in the text].

Para. 568. The Chamber also heard evidence about the positioning and movement of the FRY/Serbian forces in Srbica/Skenderaj municipality prior to the NATO bombing. PJP reinforcements from Serbia were stationed in the Feronikel factory in Glogovac/Gllogoc already from May 1998, and VJ and MUP forces were concentrated near the village of Poljanca/Polac, which is close to Srbica/Skenderaj town. According to the Accused Lazarević, joint operations between the VJ and MUP in 1999 were far smaller in scope than they had been in 1998, and were in KLA “hotbeds”, such as the Drenica area and the wider area of the Čičavica/Qiqavica mountains. In those actions the MUP directly engaged the KLA, while the VJ gave “*manoeuvr*e, movement, and fire support”.

29 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinović et al.*, transcript of Ljubisa Dikovic’s testimony, December 10 and 11, 2007.

30 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinović et al.*, transcript of Ljubisa Dikovic’s testimony, December 11, 2007.

31 ICTY, IT-05-87-T, *Prosecutor v. Milutinović et al.*, transcript of Ljubisa Dikovic’s testimony, December 11, 2007.



Para. 569. Ljubiša Diković, who was the commander of the 37th Motorised Brigade of the VJ, whose area of responsibility encompassed Drenica, testified that one combat group from his brigade, Combat Group 37, arrived there on 7 March 1999, while the rest of the brigade, boosted by some 100 to 150 volunteers, joined them by early April.

Para. 570. Dragan Živanović, the commander of the 125th Motorised Brigade which was also in the area at the time, testified that in the second half of March 1999 the intensity of KLA attacks on the VJ forces in the Drenica region increased. On 18 March 1999 the Accused Lazarević issued a plan of action to defeat the KLA in the sector of northern Drenica and Podujevo/Podujeva. On 19 March a Joint Command order was issued instructing the units of the 37th Motorised Brigade, together with units from the 125th Motorised Brigade, and PJP units from Kosovska Mitrovica/Mitrovica and Peć/Peja, to attack the KLA along the axis of Mikušnica/Mikushnicë, Donje Prekaze/Prekaz i Poshtëm, Poljance/Polac villages, some three kilometres from Ćirez/Qirez. According to Diković's daily operations report of 20 March 1999, the units of the 37th Motorised Brigade were engaged in "suppressing terrorism along the Balinci village-Ljubovac village-Poljance village axis [...] on the order of the PrK commander". The joint forces arrived in the area sometime around 20 or 21 March 1999. They did not see any civilians at this time. Six tanks were used in the operation in order to destroy KLA trenches and other fortified firing points. Units of the 125th Motorised Brigade were to establish a command post in a firearms factory in Srbica/Skenderaj and, in co-ordinated action with the 37th Motorised Brigade and the MUP forces, were to unblock the axis Klina-Srbica/Skenderaj and Srbica/Skenderaj town. They were then to continue the action of breaking up the KLA forces in the areas of Donje Prekaze/Prekaz i Poshtëm and Poljance/Polac.

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Para. 594. A number of VJ orders and combat reports in evidence confirm that a joint VJ/MUP action was proceeding in Srbica/Skenderaj municipality during the time the Izbica killings took place. On 22 March 1999 the Joint Command issued a "decision" to destroy the "ŠTS" in the sector of Lower Drenica. The "decision" anticipated an attack in the eastern part of Srbica/Skenderaj, on the axis of Poljance/Polac-Trstenik/Tërstenik-Prelovac/Prelloc-Likošane/Likoshan villages. The VJ forces involved in this attack in Srbica/Skenderaj municipality were to be the 37th Motorised Brigade and the 125th Motorised Brigade. Also participating in this action were seven PJP companies, two of which were to co-ordinate with the 37th Motorised Brigade.

Para. 595. On 24 March 1999 another order was issued by the Joint Command for VJ units to provide support to the MUP in defeating and destroying the "ŠTS" in the Drenica sector ("Operation Drenica"). According to the order, the objective was to seal off the "ŠTS" in the general sector of a number of villages, including Kladernica/Klladernica, Turićevac/Turiçec, Voćnjak/Vojnika, and Broćna/Buroja. Diković acted upon this order, moving his command post to the area of Rudnik/Runik, a village in the northwest of Srbica/Skenderaj municipality. He also engaged his combat group along the axis of Rudnik/Runik, Vitak, Kladernica/Klladernica, Voćnjak/Vojnika, and Broćna/Buroja villages, as recorded in the order and in the brigade's daily operations reports. The combat group was in the area for a number of days and stopped at a point overlooking Voćnjak/Vojnika. Diković testified that



the combat group engaged the KLA in the designated area in support of the MUP and had probably used tanks to destroy the KLA firing points established on the axis of the attack.

Para. 598. The report of 28 March also recorded that “in the forthcoming operations in the Voćnjak village sector, we expect to encounter shelters with several thousand civilian refugees”. Thus, Diković asked for instruction on “what to do with them because the unit has neither the force nor the means to seal off the shelters and escort the refugees outside the zone of [combat operations]”. He explained that he was simply expressing a possibility which he thought was real given the large size of the KLA forces in the area and their strategy of using civilians as a shield. As a result of this request, an officer from the Priština Corps was sent and told Diković that, if any civilians were to appear, his unit was to stop its activities and send them along a secure axis towards a safe area. The MUP would be in charge of doing this and assisting the civilians. When asked if this had ever happened, he first said that his combat group never encountered civilians in the area. However, he later stated that **in Izbica itself, “we stopped our firing and took people out”** and then added that a MUP unit was in front of him at the time. He confirmed this contact with civilians again later, by saying that he stopped the action because the forces came across civilians in the area of Izbica and that, for that reason, he turned back towards Srbica/Skenderaj instead of moving forward to Broćna/Buroja, as envisaged.

Para. 601. Diković, who was with his unit in the general area of Izbica on 27 and 28 March 1999, was asked whether he or his forces ever participated in removing the Izbica bodies from the graves, and whether he ever took part in an investigation surrounding them. He responded that he had no knowledge of a mass grave in Izbica and that he never engaged in any investigative activities concerning such a mass grave, nor was he ever authorised to do so.

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Para. 605. The Chamber received a large volume of forensic materials relevant to the identity of the individuals killed at Izbica. This evidence was prepared at different times and in different locations, due to the removal of the bodies from the gravesite in Izbica. These reports also indicate that a number of the 118 Izbica victims named in Schedule F, and one victim not listed, ended up in Petrovo Selo, while the rest were buried in Kosovska Mitrovica/Mitrovica cemetery. The analysis of all this evidence specific to each individual listed victim can be found in Annex A to the Judgement.

Para. 614. A large number of Izbica victims were buried in Kosovska Mitrovica/Mitrovica rather than in Petrovo Selo. Jon Sterenberg, Head of Excavation and Examination Division of the ICMP, testified that the remains of persons buried in Kosovo were also examined for DNA identification by the ICMP. The samples of remains were provided to the ICMP by UNMIK to enable them to carry out a DNA comparison with samples from relatives for the purpose of identification. The comparison of the samples resulted in the identification of a number of Izbica victims.

Para. 622. Direct evidence relating to the charges of sexual assault in the village of Ćirez/ Qirez around mid-April 1999 was given by two witnesses, namely Xhevahire Rrahmani and K24.



Para. 633. The last time the five young girls were taken out, the soldiers tied the barn doors with wire. A short time later the blonde soldier came back and instructed Miridije Dibrani, Tahire Shalaku (Rahmani's mother), and Fahrije Ademi to come with him. They did as instructed, the door was closed, and both K24 and Rahmani heard three shots. None of the eight women was ever seen alive again. Rahmani testified that approximately 15 minutes later a previously unseen soldier, wearing the same type of black and brown uniform, came into the barn and told the women to go back to Kozica/Kozhica.

Para. 640. [...] On 21 April, according to another report to the Priština Corps Command sent by Diković, the 3rd motorised battalion of the 37th Motorised Brigade was located in the area of Ćirez/Qirez. This report also referred to the fact that the MUP forces in the area did not participate in any actions and did nothing to control the territory, but instead were busy "slaughtering animals and gathering war booty."

Para. 644. Diković conceded that, despite all the measures he took, some of his soldiers committed crimes in the first half of April. Priština Corps records show that from 10 to 15 April a number of individuals from Diković's unit participated in the killings of Kosovo Albanian men in the area of Gornja Klina/Klina e Epërme, and then disposed of the corpses by throwing them into wells. The records also show that another individual, a volunteer from Diković's unit, killed a number of Kosovo Albanian men and took away women from refugee columns in and around the village of Krasimirovac/Krasimirofc, not too far from Ćirez/Qirez.





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Annex

HLCIndexOut: 019-3185-2
Beograd, 09.02.2012.

This Annex contains excerpts from a number of publicly available documents of the Yugoslav Army (hereafter VJ), which further confirm the HLC's allegations set out in the Ljubisa Dikovic File, published on January 23, 2012, regarding the presence of the VJ's 37th Motorized Brigade (hereafter "37th mtbr.") in the Drenica region of Kosovo, where mass killings of Kosovo Albanian civilians and other serious violations of international humanitarian law were committed.

Included in the Annex is the Regular Combat Report of the 37th mtbr. about the unit's presence in tt.692 on March 27, 1999, a territory identified by the survivors as the field of Vragodol/Vrogodoll, where the soldiers shot 22 Kosovo Albanian men, four of whom survived.

In addition, the Annex contains reports, signed by the commander of the 37th mtbr. about establishing control over Kosovo Albanian civilians in the villages in the municipality of Glogovac/Gllogoc and Srbica/Skënderaj, and in the towns Glogovac/Gllogoc and Srbica/Skënderaj, after several thousand Kosovo Albanians had been driven out of the area, and as many as 250 of them killed, although they had not taken part in hostilities.

The Thunder 98 campaign plan of the VJ's Third Army's command, excerpts of which are also part of this Annex (the text of the campaign plan in its entirety is available on the HLC's website and in the ICTY's public database), shows that as early as July 1999 some combat groups of the 37th mtbr. were assigned very specific tasks to 'break up the DTS and armed insurrection forces in Kosovo and Metohija.'

That Ljubisa Dikovic was not an exemplary officer when it comes to taking care of his own troops – a fact that certainly does not recommend him for the position of the Chief of Staff – is shown by a document of the Prishtina Corps Command, according to which Gen. Vladimir Lazarevic, commander of the Prishtina Corps (subsequently sentenced by the ICTY), following the death of two soldiers of the 37th mtbr in a NATO air strike on April 29, 1999, warned Dikovic that the cause of their death was a lack of discipline and disregard for the orders of 'continuous command'.

The commander of the 37th mtbr. knew (it was his duty to know) that the breaking up of the

STF [Shiptar Terrorist Forces] was being carried out by way of shelling, evictions, looting, rape and unlawful killings of Kosovo Albanian civilians. The crimes were repeated, from one village to another, as part of the plan to 'break up and destroy the STF'. After the fall of Slobodan Milosevic, Ljubisa Dikovic should have spoken about these actions and about his relationship with the Joint Command for Kosovo and Metohija. He didn't. Instead, as a witness for the defense of General Lazarevic, in *Prosecutor v. M. Milutinovic et al.* he defended the accused generals and denied any knowledge of the crimes and mass graves in the zone of his command in Kosovo.

1. Ljubisa Dikovic's professional promotion

- 1994: Attained the rank of Major for his actions in defending the Homeland from 'the attacks by Muslim extremists from Skelani, Srebrenica and Bratunac,' while serving as commander of the 16th Border Battalion;³²
- 1998: Became Lieutenant Colonel, when the Third Army Command executed the 'Thunder 98' plan;
- 1998: Promoted to the Chief of Staff of the 37th Motorized Brigade;
- 1998, November 3,: Became the Commander of the 37th mtbr;³³
- 1999, early March: Receives promotion into Colonel during the state of emergency;³⁴
- 1999, June 16: On behalf of the 37th mtbr. received the National Hero Medal, which was awarded by the decree of the then FRY President Slobodan Milosevic;
- 2005: Attained the rank of Major General of the Army of Serbia;³⁵
- 2009: Became Lieutenant-Colonel.³⁶

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2. Death of two soldiers of the 37th mtbr.

On April 29, 1999, between 15.00 and 16.00 hrs. near the village of Orlate, two members of the 37th mtbr. (Djordje Dunjic and Ljubinko Djordjevic – HLC's identification) were killed in a NATO air strike. On the same day, the commander of Prishtina Corps, Major General Vladimir Lazarevic, sent to the headquarters of the 37th mtbr. an order (marked "Very urgent") concerning the measures that were to be taken in view of the danger posed to the safety of personnel and military units.

32 Article, *Vojska*, 'Example for All Generations' („Primer generacijama“), pp.9-13, 07/15/1999 (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Document Type: Submission, Date: 05/07/2006).

33 TV program „Da, možda ne“, statement by Miroslav Lazanski, RTS, 01/26/2012.

34 Article, *Vojska*, 'The Brave Men of Drenica, Heroes of Defense' („Hrabri ljudi Drenice, heroji odbrane“), pp.11-13, 07/15/1999, Captain Slobodan Radenkovic (ICTY, IT-02-54: *Milosevic*, Exhibit P320.106); Article, *Vojska*, „37.mtbr VJ“, pp.11-13, 07/1/1999. (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Document Type: Submission, Date: 05/07/2006).

35 The Army of Serbia, official web page: <http://www.vs.rs/index.php?content=8709fe1d-fdf2-102b-9fa8-28e40361dc2e>

36 Ibid.



“It is my estimate that the ultimate cause of death of the soldiers was lack of discipline within the 37th mtbr. and the failure to execute my orders about maintaining complete control over, and continuous command of, the units.”³⁷

3. The task of 37th mtbr, as per ‘Thunder 98’³⁸

A document titled ‘Thunder 98’ dated July 29, 1998 and signed by the commander of the 3rd Army, Lieutenant General Dusan Samardzic, stipulated the distribution of tasks to be carried out by the units of the Pristina Corps. In the first phase, the entire body of the Prishtina Corps, including the Combat Team 37/37th mtbr-2.A, was to continue to secure the state border with Albania and Macedonia, protect the military units and facilities from DTG actions, enable communication routes for supplying the units, and, in conjunction with Serbia’s police forces (MUP) participate in the breaking up and destruction of the STF in that particular zone of command.

4. The task of the 37th mtbr. on March 7, 1999

“In peace-time we did not carry out any actions that involved breaking into villages and cleansings, because the military police were doing that, but now we had to do that, although we were on the move.”³⁹

5. Involvement of the 37th mtbr. in Operation *Drenica*

On March 22, 1999, the Joint Command for Kosovo and Metohija, issued an order on the destruction of ‘STF’ in the region of Donja Drenica. The VJ forces which participated in the attack in the municipality of Srbica/Skënderaj were the 37th and the 125th Motorized Brigades. The operation involved seven Special Police Forces (PJP) companies, of which two were in direct communication with the 37th mtbr. The initial command post was in Srbica/Skënderaj, and then in the village of Cikatovo/Çikatovë.⁴⁰

On March 24, 1999, the Joint Command for Kosovo and Metohija issued another order to the VJ units to support the MUP forces in breaking up and destroying the ‘STF’ in the region of Drenica. It was decided that the attack on the ‘STF’ should begin at 5:00 pm on

37 ICTY, Command of the Prishtina Corps, April 29, 1999, Commander, general-major Vladimir Lazarevic; (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Exhibit 5D00385).

38 ICTY, Order on the breaking up of DTS and insurrection forces in Kosovo and Metohija (Zapovest za razbijanje DTS i snaga oružane pobune na KiM), Command of the Third Army, DT.br.6034-7/1, 08/29/1998 (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Exhibit 4D00140).

39 Article, *Vojska*, ‘The Brave Men of Drenica, Heroes of Defense’ („Hrabri ljudi Drenice, heroji odbrane“), pp.11-13, 07/15/1999, Captain Slobodan Radenkovic (ICTY, IT-02-54: *Milosevic*, Exhibit P320.106).

40 ICTY, Joint Command of Kosovo and Metohija, Order on the breaking up of DTS and insurrection forces in the region of Donja Drenica (Zajednička komanda za KiM, Odluka za razbijanje i uništenje ŠTS u rejonu Donja Drenica), 03/22/1999 (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Exhibit P02031).



March 26, 1999. The 37th mtbr (BG-37 and TG-37) was tasked to support the MUP forces in the area of Rudnik/Runik-Vitak-Kladernica/Klladërnice-Voënjak/Vojnikë-Broëna/Burojë. The commander of the 37th mtbr. complied with this order, and transferred his command post to the village of Rudnik/Runik.⁴¹

5.1. Actions of the 37th mtbr's Combat Team between Izbica/Izbicë and Kladernica/Kllodernicë

22

The village of Rudnik/Runik was attacked on March 25, 1999. The residents fled the village and took refuge in nearby Kladernica/Klladërnice. The next day, March 26, there was firing from the hill above the village. The villagers and refugees who had sought shelter in the village, left the houses and fled into the nearby woods. Before entering the forest, they left their tractors by a creek. About 500 men, women and children found refuge in a field which was surrounded by trees. They spent the night there. In the morning on March 27, they heard gunshots. Around 11:00 am soldiers surrounded them and shouted in Serbian – "Surrender!" Zeqir Mulaj (1939) stood up and explained in Serbian that the people gathered in the field were all civilians. He was shot while giving this explanation. The soldiers then killed his son Arton Mulaj (1982), and then Miradije Mulaj (1973). Then they took 22 men, including Valon who was a minor, and headed toward the mountains. Ten minutes later, a NATO aircraft flew over, which the soldiers took as a pretext to swear at and beat the men in the column for the next three hours. Then they led the men towards Izbica/Izbicë. On the way, they arrived at the spot near the creek and the forest where the villagers from Rudnik/Runik and Vitak/Vitak had left their tractors. The soldiers burned all the vehicles. In a trailer of one of the tractors lay a paralyzed and mute old man, Osman Mulaj. One of the soldiers approached him and set fire to the trailer. The captured Kosovo Albanians were then taken to the Vragodol/Vrogodoll field.⁴²

5.2. Bvy 15.00 hrs. on March 27, 1999, the units of the 37th mtbr. arrived at the line tt.628 - tt.715-706-692. "tt" is a designation for the field Vragodol/Vrogodoll, between Izbica/ Izbicë and Kladernica/Kllodernicë.⁴³

The soldiers led the detained Albanians to a field where a tank and an armoured vehicle were parked, with many soldiers around them. The soldiers lined up the detainees in front of the tank, and fired a barrage, killing these men: Rustem (1932), Islam (1945), Rahman (1943),

41 ICTY, Joint Command of Kosovo and Metohiija, Order on the support to MUP forces in breaking up and destruction of STF in the region of Donja Drenica (Zajedniëka komanda za KiM, Zapovest za podršku snaga MUP-a u razbijanju i uništenju ŒTS u rejonu Drenica) 03/24/1999 (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Exhibit P01968).

42 HLC database, Statement: A.M, FHP-15960.

43 ICTY, Command of the 37th mtbr. 03/27/1999, Regular Comabt Report (Redovni borbeni izveštaj) (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Exhibit P02045).



Megjit (1972), Nuhi (1984) and Rifat (1949) Miftari; Idriz Sejdiu (1942); Mustafë Hyseni (1946); Murat Topalli (1931); Ahmet (1956), Rexhep (1964), Nazmi (1975), and Xhevdet (1967) Osmani; Ramadan Bekaj (1934), Bajram (1932) and Kadri Hasanaj (1940); Bashkim Imeraj (1976); and Hysni Musa (1963).⁴⁴ Four men survived the barrage: Valon, 13 years old, whom the residents of Kladernica/Kllodernicë and Rudnik/Runik found wounded two days later among the bodies; Driton Mulaj and Ahmet and Isa Miftari.

6. The Case *Prosecutor v. M. Milutinovic et al.*

Prosecutor Carter – Question for witness Dikovic: So even though your unit was directly involved in this area [Operation *Drenica*], nobody from the VJ called you to account for any of these operations or to provide any information about the discovered mass graves?

Witness Dikovic – Reply: No. Believe me, I don't know what mass graves you are talking about. Let me repeat, I didn't see any mass graves in my area.⁴⁵

7. Participation of the 37th mtbr. in Operation *Kamenica*

On April 30, 1999, between 06.00 and 18.00 hrs. between the Cicavica mountain and the Srbica/Skënderaj-Glogovac/Gllogoc road, where the villages of Baks, Vrbovac/Vërboc, Dosevac/Dashec, Stutica/Shtuticë, Staro Cikatovo/e Čikato Vjetër, Cirez/Qirez are located, an operation designed to break up and destroy the 'STF' was carried out. According to a report on the implementation of this operation, signed by the commander of 37th mtbr. Colonel Ljubisa Dikovic, 148 members of the 'STF' were killed and 172 persons detained.⁴⁶

23

However, data collected by the HLC, shows that on April 30, 1999, in the municipalities of Glogovac/Gllogoc and Srbica/Skënderaj, VJ/MUP forces killed as many as 150 Kosovo Albanian civilians, who had taken no part in the hostilities in the villages of Vrbovac/Vërboc, Dosevac/Dashec, Stutica/Shtuticë, Staro Čikatovo/e Čikato Vjetër and Baks [Cf. Section 4 and 5 of the Ljubisa Dikovic File].⁴⁷

8. Establishing control in the municipalities of Glogovac/Gllogoc and Srbica/Skënderaj

On May 4, 1999, the commander of the 37th mtbr. Ljubisa Dikovic informed the commander of the Pristina Corps that the Kosovo (Albanian) civilian population had been

44 HLC database, Statement: I.M, FHP-20326.

45 ICTY, IT-05-87: *Prosecutor v. Milutinovic et al.*, transcript of Ljubisa Dikovic's testimony, 12/11/2007.

46 ICTY, Command of the 37th mtbr, Commander Ljubisa Dikovic, 05/01/1999, Report on the implementation of the Operation *Kamenica* (Izveštaj o realizaciji akcije „Kamenica“) (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al.*, Exhibit 5D01036).

47 HLC database, statements of 82 witnesses given to the HLC in the period 1999-2007.



brought under control and registered. Dikovic reported that there were 4,981 civilians in Srbica/Skënderaj, “of whom 380 were of military age and who had been physically separated and secured in an elementary school.” In the same report, the commander of the 37th mtbr. states that 291 civilians were left in the village of Globare/Gllobar; 230 in Cirez/Qirez, 150 in Stutica/Shtuticë, and about 500 women, children and elderly in the village of Staro Cikatovo/e Čikato Vjetër.⁴⁸

According to HLC findings, on May 1, 1999, members of the VJ/MUP took about 130 Kosovo Albanian adults from the mosque in Cirez/Qirez, and transported them to Staro Cikatovo/e Čikato Vjetër, where they shot them in groups.⁴⁹

On May 12, 1999, a representative of the Command of the 37th mtbr. was in the village of Staro Cikatovo/e Čikato Vjetër. From the survivors he learned that members of the VJ had killed nine villagers.⁵⁰

9. Appointment and responsibility of Ljubisa Dikovic should be reconsidered

24 The HLC urges the President of the Republic of Serbia to carefully reconsider the military and judicial (ICTY) documents, which cast doubt on Gen. Ljubisa Dikovic’s professionalism and reveal his personal and command responsibility. The HLC also urges that his appointment as Chief of the General Staff of the Army of the Republic of Serbia be revoked.

The ICTY documents in original integral form are available at: www.hlc-rdc.org

48 ICTY, Command of the 37th mtbr. Report, Commander Ljubisa Dikovic, 05/04/1999 (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Exhibit 5D01080).

49 HLC database, statements of 68 witnesses given to the HLC over the period 1999-2007.

50 ICTY, Command of the 37th mtbr. Report on the state of affairs in Glogovac/Gllogoc (Izveštaj o stanju u Glogovcu/Gllogoc), 05/13/1999 (ICTY, IT-05-87: *Milutinovic et al*, Exhibit 5D01086).

