



ABDUCTIONS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF NON-ALBANIANS IN KOSOVO

24 March 1999 – 31 December 2000

At least 932 non-Albanians disappeared¹ or were abducted² in the period from the deployment of the international peacekeeping force (KFOR) in Kosovo on 12 June 1999 up to 31 December 2000. Field research by the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) brought out that Serbs, Roma, Montenegrins and Bosniacs went missing on a daily basis from 12 June to 1 September 1999, in which period 835 non-Albanians were abducted or disappeared. The whereabouts of 593 remain unknown. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) released 141 persons, 24 were able to escape from KLA prisons, 13 were set free by KFOR, and 62 were killed after being abducted.

The missing persons are mainly civilians. Of the 593 non-Albanian missing registered by the HLC, 257 were taken by KLA members or individuals acting in its name and all trace of them was subsequently lost, while 336 disappeared in unclear circumstances. The greatest number of disappearances was registered in cities and towns in which there was no violence on a larger scale by Serbian forces against ethnic Albanians during the NATO bombing. In the period from 12 June to 1 September 1999, 121 non-Albanians disappeared in Prizren: 51 were taken by KLA members and their whereabouts remain unknown; 42 disappeared in unclear circumstances; five were killed after being taken; and 23 were released by the KLA or through the intervention of KFOR. In Priština in the same period, 142 non-Albanians disappeared, of whom 27 were released by the KLA a few days later. Up to 1 September, families or KFOR found the bodies of seven of the Priština missing. In Gnjilane, 120 persons disappeared: 47 were released

¹ Term denotes persons who disappeared in unclear circumstances, with no eyewitnesses of the incident.

² Term denotes persons who were unlawfully deprived of their liberty, either by the KLA or persons acting in its name.

by the KLA after questioning and eight were set free by KFOR. The bodies of 10 non-Albanians who were killed after being taken were found. According to information collected by the HLC, 63 Serbs and Roma³ disappeared in Djakovica within a period of two and a half months. Fourteen were released by the KLA after being questioned for a few hours or several days, two were able to escape, the remains of four taken from their homes were found, and the fate of 41 is unknown.

HLC research indicates that several tens of Yugoslav Army members and police disappeared during the NATO bombing and fighting with the KLA, whose whereabouts remain unknown. In the same period, over 1,500 Albanians went missing after being taken into custody, most frequently after men were separated out of refugee columns. Their fate, too, is unknown.

After 1 September 1999, abductions and disappearances occurred as isolated incidents. This was primarily the result of the fact that Serbs had either fled Kosovo or sought refuge in enclaves protected by KFOR. HLC data shows that 97 non-Albanians went missing from 1 September 1999 up to the end of December 2000 and that nothing is known about 72 of them. Involuntary disappearances, however, continue in Kosovo. Over 300 Albanians went missing in the second half of 1999 and during 2000 and the indications are that their abduction was politically motivated. The fate of the majority remains unclear.

Allegations on the existence of KLA prisons were independently confirmed by numerous witnesses interviewed by the HLC. There is no doubt that the KLA held prisoners in many public buildings, private houses and in the open. The information collected brought out that the KLA had over 100 prisons up to 1 September 1999, which is directly connected with the number of disappearances and abductions of non-Albanians. No independent confirmation was available for allegations that secret KLA prisons existed during 2000. It is certain that the KLA made it a practice to frequently move prisoners from one location to another in order to preclude discovery of the secret prisons by KFOR. Witnesses and victims stated that the locations of a number of KLA prisons were reported to KFOR in June 1999 but that KFOR failed to take any action. The HLC learned that, after the abduction of five Serbs in Orahovac on 29 October 1999, KFOR in Peć checked out allegations of secret KLA prisons in the building of the Yugoslav Army Cultural Center and an abandoned industrial plant in the Piskote neighborhood of Djakovica but found no prisoners there. The abducted included two Orahovac Serbs into whom the Prizren public prosecutor had requested an investigation on suspicion that they committed war crimes against the civilian population.

³ Indications are that the number of Roma missing is higher than that registered by the HLC. Roma displaced from Kosovo often change their places of residence in Serbia and Montenegro, owing to which the HLC was unable to locate eyewitnesses of abductions and verify statements on the disappearance of over 150 Roma in Djakovica following the deployment of KFOR.

It is certain that the KLA maintained prisons in the basement of the Paštrik Hotel, the Start driving school, the building of the former Yugoslav Army Cultural Center and in the abandoned factory in the Piskote neighborhood in Djakovica; in the boarding school, the basement of the supermarket in Bojanina Street, the Čenar Ćesma neighborhood and the Starti stadium in Gnjilane; in the buildings of the district prison and former police station, the school for deaf-mutes, the basement of the Yugoslav Program apartment complex, the former Yugoslav Army Cultural Center and the abandoned house of a Serb, Dragan Spasić, in Prizren; in private houses in Zlatare and Matičevo villages, in the Dragodan, Taslidže and Ulpijana districts and the Meto Barjaktari elementary school in Priština. All these locations were used by the KLA in the second half of June, July and August 1999 when non-Albanians disappeared or were abducted on a daily basis.

The HLC was able to investigate the disappearances which occurred following the deployment of KFOR in Kosovo thanks to the assistance and support of Father Sava and clergy and monks of the Gračanica and Visoki Dečani Monasteries. The present report is not a full and completely accurate account of the missing Serbs, Roma, Bosniacs, Montenegrins, Yugoslav Army members and police as it does not include the disappearances and abductions in 1998 or cases after the arrival of KFOR, which the HLC was unable to research independently either because of lack of sufficient data or because witnesses were unavailable.

DEČANI (DEÇAN)

1. Missing

Vukanić, Vlastimir (M, 80), Montenegrin, from Junik (Kalavaj (Mahalla e Kallavaj) neighborhood)), Dečani Municipality – disappeared on 12 June 1999 in Dečani; last seen by the Albanian family Sadiku.

Vukanić's son recounted that his father remained in Dečani after he and his family fled to Serbia on 10 July. Albanian neighbors, the Sadiku family, who had moved in with the Vukanićs during the NATO intervention, stayed with him until 12 June when they returned to their home. These neighbors told the son they had agreed with his father that he would move to their house the next day. When he did not appear, they went to look for him and found the Vukanić house empty. KLA members torched the house that afternoon.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Krstić, Milija (M, 70), Serb, retired; his wife **Krstić, Vilka** (F, 60), Slovene, housewife, from Dečani (60 Cara Dušana St.) - disappeared on 11 July 1999. Olga Krstić stated that she last saw her parents in mid-June when she fled Djakovica to Serbia. She had no contact with them after that date. At the end of

July, a Serbian Orthodox priest from Dečani informed her that her parents were missing and said their neighbors had told him they were last seen on 11 July.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Markušić, Omer, (M), Montenegrin Muslim, from Plav - disappeared on the Peć (Pejë)-Dečani road in early December 1999.

According to the source, Markušić went missing in an area under the control of Besim Čeku (Besim Çeku), a local KLA commander.

Source: *Slav Muslims from Plav, Montenegro, Protest in Peć, Kosovo*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 6 December 1999

Jovanović, Mile (M); **Petrović, Boban** (M) and **two unidentified men**, Serbs, from Dečani - disappeared in January 2000 in Dečani.

Source: *Pet otetih u Dečanima* [Five Abducted in Dečani], BLIC, 31 January 2000

2. Abducted

Pavlović, Borivoje (M, 65), Serb from Dečani, retired, resided in Peć - abducted between 15 and 17 June 1999 in Dečani.

Pavlović's sister Angelina told the HLC that her brother was last seen when he left the Dečani Monastery to visit his other sister who lived in the town. Neighbors in this sister's building told her that a group of KLA men followed Pavlović into the apartment and took him away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jolaja, Binak (Jollaj Binak) (M, 80); his son **Jolaja, Muharem** (23); and grandson **Jolaja, Binak** (13), Roma, from Glodjani (Gllloxhan), Dečani Municipality – abducted from their home on 20 and 21 June 1999. The grandson was released while his father and grandfather were taken to the KLA prison in Piskote (Piskotë), Djakovica Municipality (Gjakovë).

A member of the Jolaja family recounted that four KLA members, three of whom he identified as Bug and Muharem Sadrija and Arben Neziraj, came to their house on 20 June. After verbally and physically abusing the whole family, they took away the 13-year-old Binak but released him on the road halfway to Piskote, ordering him to tell the rest of the family to leave Kosovo immediately.

Later that day, the same KLA men came again and led away Muharem Jolaja. The next day, 21 June, they came for the third time and took the witness's father, Binak Jolaja.

The witness stated that the KLA headquarters at Piskote was at the time under the command of Ramus Haradinaj. Following the abductions, the Jolaja family fled Kosovo to Montenegro.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Sadula, Faredin (Sadullahu, Fahredin) (M, 68) Gorani, from Dečani (Edvarda Kardelja St.), retired - abducted on 15 July 1999 in Dečani.

Sadula's daughter Ibiše (Ibishe) recounted that from mid-June her parents spent the nights with their Albanian neighbors because they were afraid of the KLA, and the days at their own house. When their son Fatmir, who was at the Dečani Monastery with his family, came to see his parents at about 7 a.m. on 15 July, he found that the house has been torched during the night. His mother was in the yard and told him that his father was at a neighbor's house. After spending some time with his mother, Fatmir left to take care of some business in the town center. When his father returned about 9 a.m., Mrs Sadula told him Fatmir had been and had gone to the town center. Mr Sadula went to look for him and was not seen or heard from again.

Mrs Sadula was told by Albanian friends that her husband had been abducted and that two Albanians from the vicinity of Dečani, were among the abductors⁴.
Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Nikovčević, Avdo (M, 65), Muslim, from Rastavica, Dečani Municipality; his brother **Nikovčević, Zaim** (63), Montenegrin Muslim, from Kruševo near Plav - disappeared on 4 July 1999. Their bodies were found on 18 August 1999.

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak reported that Avdo Nikovčević, who was staying with his family at his brother's in Montenegro, returned to Rastavica with his brother Zaim to put the house in order for the family's return. The two brothers disappeared after their first night in Rastavica. Their bodies were found on 18 August in a woods near Košare (Koshare), a village on Mt Junik near the border with Albania.

Source: *Izveštaj o položaju Muslimana-Bošnjaka na Kosovu nakon dolaska KFOR-a* [Report on the Position of Bosniac-Muslims in Kosovo Following KFOR's Deployment], Helsinški odbor za ljudska prava u Sandžaku [Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak], October 1999

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

DŽ.J. (M, 29), Roma, from Dečani, employee of municipal sanitation company, police reservist – abducted from his home by three KLA members on 17 June 1999.

⁴ Identities known to the HLC.

DŽ.J. was first taken to a barn behind the Čakor (Çakor) Restaurant where he was beaten and questioned about why he had been a reservist and what he did as an employee of the local sanitation company during the war. He was then led into the restaurant, in which the local KLA headquarters was located, questioned for several hours and released. Before letting him go, the KLA told him he had three days to leave his house. DŽ.J. and his family immediately sought refuge at the Serbian Orthodox monastery in Dečani and on 3 July left for Montenegro under a KFOR escort. On the basis of his son's story, DŽ.J.'s father concluded that a local Albanian, Avdulj Muškolaj (Avdyl Mushkolaj), was among the KLA men who beat and questioned DŽ.J.

Source: HLC, witness statement

DJAKOVICA

1. Missing

Hadri, Djevira (Hadri Xhevahira) (F, 37), Romani, from Djakovica - disappeared after 24 March in Djakovica.

Source: *Roma in the Kosovo Conflict*, ERRC, November 1999

Bojović, Predrag (M, 20) Serbian Serb, from Čačak, Yugoslav Army member - disappeared on 15 or 16 April 1999 at the Košare frontier post on the Albanian border.

Members of Bojović's military unit told the family that he was wounded in the hip on 15 April before the unit pulled out of the area. Bojović gave them his papers and they left him under a tree, believing that he would be collected by the casualty evacuation unit.

The Yugoslav Army first notified Bojović's parents that he went missing between 15 and 16 April. Later, a Colonel Živanović sent a telegram saying that Predrag Bojović was presumed killed in action as, according to eyewitness accounts, there was only a one-percent chance that he survived. Predrag Bojović is therefore listed as killed in action. His body was never found.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Acic, Zlatko (M, 20), from Smederevo; **Kostić, Dejan** (M, 20), from Klenak, Šabac Municipality; **Ivanković, Saša** (M, 20), from Valjevo; and **Mitić, Dejan** (M), from Trupale, Niš Municipality, Serbian Serbs, Yugoslav Army members - disappeared on 16 April 1999 at Maja Glava near the Košare frontier post on the Albanian border.

Saša Ivanković's father Milomir recounted that he last spoke with his son in the afternoon of 27 March when Saša told him he was in a schoolhouse.

The Yugoslav Army notified the Ivanković family that their son went missing in action at Maja Glava near the Košare frontier post. Lt. Col. Ljubinko Ljurković sent the families of the missing soldiers an official report according to which they were last seen about 11 a.m. on 16 April during combat operations.

The families later heard from other soldiers that Yugoslav Army troops fighting the KLA had entered 15 kilometers into Albanian territory, that some soldiers were wounded and their units were unable to take them when they pulled out or to return for them.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Mijatović, Zoran (M, 20), Serbian Serb, from Raška, Yugoslav Army member - disappeared on 16 April 1999.

Mijatović went missing on 16 April at the Košare frontier post near the Albanian border, west of Djakovica.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Peković, Spasoje (M, 58), Serb, from Šeremet, Djakovica Municipality – last seen on 5 May 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Stanojević, Vladan (M, 25); **Komatović, Saša** (M, 27), Serbian Serbs, Yugoslav Army members - disappeared on 6 May 1999 at Košare frontier post near the Albanian border.

Stanojević and Komatović were wounded on 6 May and transferred to a hospital, after which all trace of them was lost.

The Peace and Tolerance Center reported that the Yugoslav Army notified Komatović's father that Saša had been wounded between 8 and 9 a.m. on 6 May. On 27 May, however, the Army informed Mr Komatović that his son was listed as missing in action. Mr Komatović heard later that Saša was wounded in the head and his eyesight impaired.

Source: *Zagrljeni otišli u misteriju* [Together in Mysterious Disappearance], BLIC, 15 September 1999; "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Rokvić, Dragan (M, 27), Serbian Serb, from Zrenjanin – last seen on 23 May 1999 at Visa near Žabalj, Djakovica Municipality.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Konović, Sreten, (M), Serb, from Djakovica – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in Djakovica.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Soba, Vidosava (F, 69), Montenegrin, from Djakovica (Miloša Obilića St.) – last seen on 15 June 1999.

A neighbor recounted that she passed by Mrs. Soba's house on 15 July and saw several KLA members beating the elderly woman. The KLA men, described by the neighbor as very young, left soon afterwards.

When the neighbor passed by the house again on 20 June, she noticed that the front door had been broken down. She investigated and found that the house had been ransacked and Mrs. Soba was no longer there.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo, Kosovo

Biberdžić, Dragica (F, 73), Serb, from Ćerim (Qerim), Djakovica Municipality – disappeared on 15 June 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo, Kosovo

Milić, Momčilo (M, 49), Serb, from Djakovica – last seen on 15 June 1999.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Vukasović, Lazar (M, 64), Serb – last seen on 17 June 1999 in Djakovica.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Ičević, Milka (F, 73), Serb – last seen on 19 June 1999 in Djakovica.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Petković, Živko (M, 61), retired; his wife **Petković, Desanka** (58), housewife, Serbs, from Djakovica (13a Stanka Djordjevića St.) – disappeared after 26 June 1999.

Petković's son related that he and his brother left Djakovica on 12 June. Their parents stayed in their house, together with an Albanian neighbor, Baškim Djoha (Bashkim Xhoka), who had moved in with them after Serbian forces torched his house during the NATO intervention. The sons were unable to call their parents from Serbia as telephone connections were cut.

In early January 2000, they telephoned Djoha's sister in Prizren who told them their parents had decided to flee to Serbia as KLA members frequently came to their home and questioned them about their sons. They left for Serbia in their white Citroen car at 2.30 p.m. on 19 June, taking the road to Peć. Her brother

had removed the license plates, believing that the Petkovićs would be safer without them.

An Albanian friend told Petković's son it was not true that his parents left Djakovica on 19 June as claimed by Djoha, since she saw them every day from 12 to 26 June when she brought them food. She discontinued the visits when KLA members threatened her and her family with death for "cooperating" with Serbs.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Petričević, Dragica (F, 77), Serb, from Djakovica (147 Miloša Obilića St.) – disappeared on 5 July 1999.

Mrs Petričević's daughter-in-law told the HLC she last saw Mrs Petričević when she visited her in the evening of 4 July. The next day, she saw traces of blood, Mrs. Petričević's hair clip and dentures on the steps of the house next door. This house belonged to Mrs Petričević's son and was occupied by an Albanian, Idriz Daci, a Djakovica lawyer, his wife and two sons, one of whom was a KLA member, when Mrs Petričević's son fled Djakovica.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Radovanović, Milorad (M, 60); his wife, **Radovanović, Zorka** (54), Serbs, from Osek Hilija, Djakovica Municipality – disappeared on the night of 15/16 July 1999 in Osek Hilija.

They were the only Serbs left in the village and their family has no further information on them.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Gunga, Musa (M, 60), Rom, from Djakovica – disappeared on 25 July 1999 on the road from Brekovac (Brekovc) to his home in Sadika Požege St. (Sadik Pozhegu).

Following the return of Albanian refugees and displaced to Djakovica, KLA members on several occasions stormed into Gunga's home and stole the family's valuables. Gunga's son Hisen reported the theft to KFOR and was beaten up by the KLA. On another occasion, his son Arif was taken to the KLA headquarters in the Paštrik (Pashtriku) Hotel. He was held for two days, questioned about events during the war and beaten.

When Arif returned, the Gungas moved to Brekovac where other Roma had also sought refuge. Musa Gunga went missing on 25 July when he went to check up on his house in Djakovica. The family reported his disappearance to KFOR.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stolić, Goran (M, 25), Serb, from Djakovica – disappeared on 29 October 1999.
Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

2. Abducted

Lazarević, Jovan (M, 87); his wife **Lazarević, Ljubica** (75), Serbs, from Djakovica – abducted by KLA members from their apartment on the night of 13/14 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Kostić, Marko (M, 57), Serb, retired, from Djakovica (25 Dunavska Kolonija St.) – abducted by the KLA from his home on 15 June 1999.

A friend of the family recounted that a group of masked KLA members stormed into the Petković house, led him out, pushed him into a car and drove away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Beća, Halid (Beqa, Halid), (M, 32), Rom, from Crmljane (Crmljane), Djakovica Municipality – abducted by the KLA from his father's house in Piskote, Djakovica Municipality on 16 June 1999. His father **Beća, Miftar (Beqa, Myftar)** (55), was taken by the KLA on 17 June, beaten, questioned and released later that day.

Relatives of the family stated that Halid Beća was visiting his father in Piskote district when Arif Šalja (Arif Shala), the KLA commander in Crmljane, Jah Bušati (Jahë Bushati) and another KLA member came to the house. All three were in KLA uniforms and armed. They led Halid Beća out of the house, pushed him into a Lada car and drove him away.

The next morning, the same KLA members returned and took Miftar Beća to a woods in Rakovina (Rakovinë) village. They questioned and beat him until midnight and then drove him home. The elder Beća told the family he had not seen his son.

The Bećas fled Kosovo to Belgium shortly afterwards.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Beljulji, Fadilj (Behluli, Fadil) (M,23), Rom, from Djakovica, staying at the refugee facility in Brekovac, Djakovica Municipality – abducted by the KLA from the Djakovica hospital on 17 June 1999.

Beljulji's father recounted that Djakovica Roma were frequently attacked by the KLA, owing to which KFOR on 13 June placed them in the refugee facility in Brekovac just outside the town. On 16 June, doctors came to the facility to examine the Roma. Fadilj Beljulji's son Vedat was ill and was taken to the Djakovica hospital, accompanied by his father. When they arrived at the hospital, some ten KLA members attempted to seize Beljulji but he managed to get away and reach Brekovac. After receiving medical attention, his son was returned to Brekovac and doctors told the family he had to be brought back to the hospital the next day.

When Beljulji came to the hospital on 17 June with Vedat and his friend Lazo Zećiri (Lazo Zeqiri) they were again attacked by the same KLA men. Beljulji was taken away while Zećiri escaped. Vedat was returned to Brekovac by KFOR two hours later.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dedić, Marjan (M, 44), Serb, from Djakovica, trucker - abducted by KLA members from his home on the night of 17/18 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Janjić, Slobodan (M, 53), Serb, from Djakovica (13 Dimitrija Tucovića St.), fireman – abducted by the KLA on 18 June 1999.

Janjić's sister-in-law told the HLC that Mrs Janjić and her children left Djakovica on 12 June 1999. Neighbors last saw Janjić between 10 and 11 a.m. on 18 June when four men forced him out of the building, pushed him into a car and drove him away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tafaj (first name unknown), (F, under 18), Roma, from Djakovica – held in the KLA prison at the Paštrik Hotel from where she was taken to an unknown destination on 18 June 1999.

A witness who was also held at the hotel stated that the Roma girl was taken away by a KLA man known by the nickname "Džifa" (Xhifa). A Roma woman, **Afijete Zećiri (Afijete Zeqiri)**, **10 Roma men** and an **Albanian man** were among

those imprisoned at the hotel. Four of the Roma men were shot⁵ while the remaining six were released.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Imeri, Baškim (Ymeri, Bashkim) (M, 50), Rom, from Paljabard (Palabardh), Djakovica Municipality – abducted by the KLA from his home on 23 June 1999.

⁵ Witness statement on the shooting of the four Roma: Djakovica, 2.1. Killed.

Imeri was visiting with his sister in Piskote, Djakovica Municipality, on 20 June when Miftar Elezi and another three KLA members came into the house about 1 p.m. They took Imeri to their headquarters in the village where he was questioned by Alija Met (Alija Metë) and Esad Ljuma (Esad Luma). He was asked if he had looted Albanian houses and slapped, kicked and punched during the questioning. He was released four hours later and returned to Paljabard.

Three days later, on 23 June, Ramuš Haradinaj, Alija Met, Uka Derviš (Uka Dervish), Martin Ndrecaj, Prek Ndrecaj, Uke Ndrecaj (Ukë Ndrecaj) and Sandi Binak, all KLA members, came to his house, said they were taking him to their commander, Rustem Beriša (Rustem Berisha), at the KLA headquarters in Junik, Dečani Municipality, and drove him away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Kuzmanović, Djordjije (M, 42), Serb, from Djakovica (42 Srpska St.), post office employee – abducted by the KLA on 21 June 1999.⁶

Source: HLC, witness statement

Antonijević, Zoran (M, 32), Serb, from Djakovica (227 Cara Dušana St.) - abducted on 23 June 1999 in Djakovica.

A friend of the family related that Antonijević was leaving his apartment building in the afternoon of 23 June when he was stopped by men in KLA uniforms waiting outside and taken away by force.

Antonijević had a brain tumor and his family doubts that he could have lived without his medication. The day after his abduction, a group of KLA members came to the Antonijević apartment and ordered the family to leave Djakovica or be killed. The Antonijevićs went to the KFOR headquarters from where they were escorted to the Patriarchate building. They fled to Montenegro on 25 June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Kabaš, Milenko (Kabash, Milenko) (M, 41), mixed Albanian/Serb parentage, from Djakovica – abducted by the KLA on 25 June 1999 from his sister's apartment in Djakovica.

Kabaš's sister recounted that KLA members came to the apartment of her neighbors on 25 June and started searching it. She went to see what was going on. The KLA men, who were in civilian clothes, seized the neighbor's weapons and left. While she was still with the neighbors, she heard a noise from her own fifth floor. She returned to her apartment and saw that the door was open and her brother was no longer there. Through the window, she saw three KLA

⁶ Witness statement on Kuzmanović's abduction: Djakovica, 2.2. 2. Escaped.

members in camouflage uniforms leading away her brother, who was holding a bloody towel to the left side of his face. She identified one of the KLA men as Faton. At gunpoint, the KLA men forced Kabaš to put his hands against the wall, searched him, bundled him into a car and drove away. When she went downstairs, an Albanian neighbor told her that her brother had resisted the KLA men and was wounded in the left ear, and that he had tossed him a towel to staunch the heavy bleeding. Kabaš's sister immediately reported the abduction to KFOR.

On 13 June, the same KLA men came to the building again, and encountered Kabaš's sister at the entrance. Obviously not recognizing her as the woman they were looking for, they asked if she knew where the "Shkija" (Shkija)⁷ from the fifth floor was. She escaped being taken herself by replying in Albanian that the woman they wanted had just gone into the neighboring building. As soon as the KLA men left, she sought refuge with neighbors from where she called an Albanian friend who came for her and took her to her own apartment on the other side of town. She fled Kosovo to Serbia two days later.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Staletović, Milan (M, 73); his wife **Staletović, Marica** (68), Serbs, from Djakovica (Building C, fourth floor, Cara Dušan St.) – abducted from their apartment by the KLA on the night of 26/27 June 1999.

The Staletovićs daughter, Stanka, related that her parents lived alone as she resided in Serbia and her sister Radojka with her family fled Djakovica in May 1999. They lost touch with their parents at that time as telephone communications with Djakovica were cut.

In late May, Stanka asked a friend who was going to Djakovica to take a parcel of food to her parents and to tell them to leave the town and come to her as soon as possible. The elderly couple, however, refused to leave their home.

By mid-June most Serbs had left the town. Stanka's friend returned to Djakovica at the end of June to pick up some belongings. She went to see Stanka's parents but did not find them in their apartment. When she returned to Serbia, she gave Stanka a telephone number in Rožaje (Montenegro) at which she could reach Iljir (Ilijir), an Albanian neighbor of her parents who frequently traveled from Djakovica to Rožaje. When Stanka called this Albanian, he said he knew what had happened to her parents. He added that Mrs Staletović had been a good woman but was killed because of her husband who insisted on saying that Djakovica was a Serb town. The Albanian refused to give any more details.

⁷ Derogatory for Serb.

Stanka then reported her parents' disappearance to KFOR who interviewed residents of her parents' building, who stated they last saw Marica and Milan Staletović on 26 June and believed they had left for Serbia.

A Muslim friend of the Staletović family, who also fled Djakovica to Serbia, told Stanka that she frequently went to see her parents and shopped for them because they were afraid to leave their apartment. Unidentified Albanians came several times and threatened to kill them unless they moved out. Mrs Staletović, who spoke fluent Italian, on several occasions requested protection from KFOR who, however, were not able to provide it. This was confirmed to their daughter by KFOR.

On 23 and 24 June, KLA members took Mrs Staletović to their headquarters in the local driving school. She was questioned for long periods by the KLA commander who, on 24 June, issued her a permit allowing her freedom of movement in the town.

At 1 a.m. on 27 June, armed and uniformed KLA members came to the Staletović building. A friend of theirs, who was visiting another resident in the building at the time, saw them lead the couple, gagged and their hands bound, from their apartment, push them into a car parked outside the building and drive away.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Ljalja, Bekim (Lala, Bekim) (M, 27), Rom, from Djakovica – abducted by the KLA in central Djakovica on 27 June 1999.

Mrs Ljalja last saw her son when he left home to go to work in the morning of 27 June. That evening, a man came to tell the family that Ljalja had been stopped by KLA members on the way to his workplace and taken away. Two days after his disappearance, another two men told the family they had seen Ljalja in the KLA prison in the Junik building in central Djakovica where they too were held. One of the men said there were other Roma besides Ljalja in the prison and that they were beaten there.

Source: *Roma in the Kosovo Conflict*, ERRC, November 1999

Vekić, Milica (F, 59), Serb – abducted by the KLA from her apartment in the evening of 1 July 1999.

A neighbor told the HLC that Mrs. Vekić was led by KLA men into a butcher's shop owned by one Agimi.

Source: HLC, witness statement

T.F. (M, 27), Rom, from Djakovica – abducted before 6 July 1999.

Friends of T.F. saw when a group of KLA members stopped him in the town center and took him away to an unknown destination.

Source: *The Current Situation of Roma in Kosovo*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 12 September 1999

Jovanović, Ilija "Ilja" (M, 71), Serb, from Djakovica (Maršala Tita St.), retired – abducted by the KLA from his apartment on 7 July 1999.

A neighbor stated that Jovanović was taken by KLA men from his apartment in the Paštrik Hotel late on 7 July. Shortly before the abduction, KLA members threatened to kill Jovanović and his family.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jevrić, Darinka (F, 60); and her **three sons**, Serbs, from Djakovica (Block 3, entrance 19, Miloša Obilića St.) – abducted on 7 July 1999.

The family's neighbor recounted hearing the voices of unknown men, screaming and other loud noises from the Jevrić apartment on the night of 7 July. She then heard Mrs Jevrić weeping and pleading, "Kill me but leave my children alone!" The neighbors were afraid to go to the help of the Jevrićs. When the noise stopped after a time, Mrs Jevrić and her sons had disappeared.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Petrović, Mića (M, 61), lay judge with the Municipal Court in Djakovica, retired police officer; his wife **Petrović, Radmila** (56), Serbs, from Djakovica (Block 3, entrance 19, Miloša Obilića St.) – abducted from their apartment on 11 July 1999.

A neighbor stated that KLA members in civilian clothes came to the Petrović apartment for the first time on 25 June, searched it, seized the weapons they found and left. Around 3 a.m. on 11 July, the KLA came again, led out Mr and Mrs Petrović and took them away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Cigani, Elmir (M, 35), Rom, from Erić (Hereq), Djakovica Municipality – abducted on 17 July 1999.

Mrs Cigani recounted that five Albanians, among whom she recognized Džavid (Xhavid) and Fljamor (Flamur) from Jasići (Jasiq) village, Djakovica Municipality, came to her house on 15 July. They beat her son, saying he had betrayed the Albanians by working for the Serbian police. Before leaving, they warned Elmir not to leave the house.

Two days later, on 17 July, three other Albanians came and led Elmir away. They said he would be brought back shortly, and that the family had to leave Kosovo. Elmir Cigani never returned home.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Imeraj, Avdulj (Ymeraj Avdyl) (M, 22), Rom, from Djakovica, laborer – abducted by the KLA in Brekovac, Djakovica Municipality, in July 1999.

Mrs. Imeraj recounted that three masked KLA members came for her husband, saying they needed some information from him. She recognized among the abductors the son of Isuf Smajlilji (Isuf Smajlili), a Djakovica Albanian. Her husband did not return home and she and the rest of the family fled to Montenegro in August 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ziberaj, Gen (Zyberaj, Gen), (M), Rom, from Djakovica – abducted in late July 1999. Ziberaj was taken from his home by KLA members to their headquarters in Piskote, Djakovica Municipality.

When his wife and son went to look for him there, the KLA beat the son and drove them away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Račić, Radovan (M, 61), Serb, from Djakovica (2/15 Dimitrija Tucovića St.) – abducted in August 1999.

Mrs Račić and her children fled Djakovica to Montenegro in mid-July. A neighbor from Djakovica informed her in September that KLA members had taken her husband from their apartment. The neighbor said she first heard a noise and, looking through the window, saw several KLA men lead Račić out of the building, push him into a car and drive him away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Mojsić, Zvezdan (M, 27), **Baljošević, Budimir** (M, 55), director of Orahovac kindergarten; **Dedić, Negovan** (M, 33), secretary of Orahovac Automobile Club; **Milenković, Staniša** (M, 43), director of Orahovac Sanitation Company; **Jakić, Goran** (M, 23), employee of Orvin Winery in Orahovac, Serbs – abducted on 29 October 1999.

The families of these five men stated that they paid Negovan Vitošević, a Serb, 1,200 deutsche marks each for passage to Montenegro. The families later heard from Agron Avduljija (Agron Avdyli), a Roma man who organized these departures from Orahovac, that Vitošević gave him 800 marks per man and kept the remaining 400 marks for himself.

The five left the Serb quarter of Orahovac at about 11 p.m. on 28 October. Mojsić and Dedić were carrying ID cards in the names of Nebojša Kujundžić and Sreten Vitošević respectively, while the other three had their own. Avduljija drove them to Djakovica in a Yugo Florida car and stopped by to see a relative, one Bujar there. He went into the house while the five Serbs waited in the car. A few minutes later, Avduljija heard calls for help. He was afraid to go out and see what was going on, and does not know who abducted the five Serb men.

The families were subsequently told that their men were being held by Hekuran Hoda, a local KLA commander, that they were imprisoned in the building of the Kosovo Protection Corps and later transferred to Piskote district, Djakovica Municipality. In late November, UNMIK said an investigation had been launched but has not publicized any results.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Bećiri, Ibiš (Beqiri Ibish) (M, 59), Rom, from Hereć, Djakovica Municipality – abducted on 18 June 1999; his body was found in Jasić, Dečani Municipality.

Bećiri's daughter told the HLC that she had been a member of the Serbian police force. She and her father were taken by the KLA for the first time on 28 May 1998. Among their abductors, she recognized Džosaj Buca (Xhocaj Buca) and Ali Riza (a.k.a. Rezak). Father and daughter were held in the woods on Mt Djerovica near the Albanian border where they were questioned and beaten for two days before they managed to escape.

When the Serbian police and Yugoslav Army withdrew from Kosovo, Bećiri's daughter left Djakovica for Montenegro on 12 June. Bećiri remained in the village. On 18 June, he went to see his sister and check up on his daughter's house. A group of KLA members intercepted him near his sister's house. His sister-in-law Zenija Bećiri was with them and pointed him out to the KLA men. The men led Bećiri away, saying they were taking him to Jasić village to say goodbye to his daughter for the last time. Bećiri's niece observed the incident and identified one of the abductors as Ali Riza, the KLA commander in Ponoševac, Djakovica Municipality, who had abducted Bećiri and his daughter in 1998.

A few days later, Bećiri's mother, sister and friends searched for him and found his body, bearing signs of violence, in Jasić.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ramoci, Besim (M, 23), Rom, from Djakovica (171 Bore Stankovića St.) – taken to the local KLA headquarters on 17 June, questioned for eight hours and

released. KLA members came again the next day, 18 June 1999, and abducted him.

Ramoci's uncle stated that three KLA members, Mark Mikuši (Mark Mikushi), Hoda Hekuran, and Besim Vokši (Besim Vokshi) came for Ramoci on 17 June. They did not find him as he was hiding in the attic and took away his young brother Ćamilj (Qamil), telling the family the boy would be killed if Ramoci did not turn himself in. With others members of the family, Ramoci went to the KLA headquarters at the Paštrik Hotel. The KLA released Ćamil and detained Ramoci. He was beaten, asked if he had assisted Serbs or stolen, and released eight hours later.

At about 6 p.m. the next day, 18 June, the same KLA members came and took Ramoci to the hotel again. He was physically abused and reportedly shot in front of the local abattoir on 25 June. His body was not found.⁸

Source: HLC, witness statement

Gagović, Rade (M, 48), Montenegrin, from Djakovica (209 Njegoševa St.), waiter - disappeared on 18 June 1999.

Gagović's son told the HLC that he and his family fled Djakovica to Montenegro on 18 June. His father refused to leave his home. KLA members came for his father later that day, took him to the basement of the Paštrik Hotel where he was physically abused for a week. He was reportedly shot outside the Djakovica abattoir on 25 June; his body was not found.⁹

Source: HLC, witness statement

Šalja, Redža (Shala, Rexhë) (M, 23); **Krasnići, Bajram (Krasniqi, Bajram)** (M, 45); **Rulji (Ruli), first name unknown** (M,23), Roma, from Djakovica – imprisoned by the KLA for seven days and shot on 25 June 1999.

The HLC witness, **the brother of Redža Šalja**, recounted that he and Bajram Krasnići; **Šalja, Beriša (Shala, Berisha); Ljušaj, Zvezdan (Lushaj, Zvezdan) Zećiri, Gzim (Gëzim, Zeqiri)**, his sister **Zećiri, Afijete**; Rulji; **Šaban Balaj (Shaban Balaj)**; and **Hasan Tafaj** were in a wedding party bringing the **daughter of Hamza Tafaj**, his brother's bride, to her new home. They were returning with the bride when they were stopped by some ten armed and uniformed KLA members near the textile factory. The witness identified four of the KLA men as Kujtim, Azemi, "Pinça" and "Džifa," all from Djakovica. Being Albanian, Beriša was allowed to go while all the others were taken first to the department store and then to the Paštrik Hotel. They were locked in the

⁸ Witness statement on the shooting of Ramoci: Djakovica, 2.1. Killed.

⁹ Witness statement on the shooting of Gagović: Djakovica, 2.1. Killed.

basement together with **Rade Gagović** (48), a Montenegrin, and **Besim Ramoci** (23), a Roma man, who had been brought in earlier.

The men were beaten every day, denied food and water, and forced to drink their own urine. The witness said the worst abuse was meted out by Džifa, who slashed his cheek with a knife, stubbed out cigarettes on his body and beat him with a metal bar. Džifa also inflicted knife cuts on Gagović and Gzim Zećiri, while another KLA man severed the tip of Zećiri's index finger with a pair of pliers.

Afijete Zećiri was released on the second or third day. The bride was taken out of the basement and repeatedly raped until a KLA commander called "Besa" came, chastised the KLA men and said they would answer to him if they did it again. He allegedly told them they were not allowed to kidnap and rape Serb women but had a free rein with Serb men. Džifa nonetheless took away the bride one day and she was not seen or heard from afterwards.

The KLA released Gzim Zećiri, Beriša Šalja, Zvezdan Ljušaj, Šaban Baljaj and Hasan Tafaj four days later. On 25 June, Džifa and another two KLA members took Redža and his brother to the local abattoir. Rulji, Bajram Krasnići, Besim Ramoci and Rade Gagović had been brought there earlier. Džifa ordered them to line up and raise their hands, and fired a burst of shots from his automatic rifle. All the captives were hit except the witness who managed to escape. He hid in Djakovica until he was able to flee to Montenegro on 24 August 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

Beća, Miftar (Beqa, Myftar) (M, 55), Rom, from Crmljane, Djakovica Municipality – taken from his home by the KLA on 17 June 1999, beaten and questioned and released later that day.¹⁰

Source: HLC, witness statement

H.A. (M, 24), Rom, from Djakovica, laborer – abducted on 20 June 1999 by the KLA, held for five days at different locations and severely beaten.

H.A. recounted that five KLA members, among whom he recognized Emin Sofija of Djakovica and one Fatmir of Drenica, came to his home on 20 June and ordered him to go with them to be questioned. They took him to the cellar of a house owned by Viktor Duši (Viktor Dushi) where there were six KLA members, four men and two young women, none of whom he knew. He was beaten with wooden clubs on the back and face and asked if he had killed or raped

¹⁰ Witness statement on the release of Beća: Djakovica, 2.2. Abducted.

Albanians, or worked with Serbs against Albanians. His captors denied him water.

That same evening, H.A. was moved to Ćafa Pruš (Qafa Prush), a village close to the Albanian border, probably because his father had reported to KFOR that Emin Sofija had abducted his son. He was held in a stone house in which about 15 KLA members, none of whom he knew, beat him all night. The next morning, he was blindfolded, put on a tractor and taken to the cellar of a house in Dolj (Dal) village. The KLA men threatened to cut off his leg with a chain saw unless he confessed what he did to Albanians during the war. An elderly man with a gray beard who said his name was Adem Jašari (Adem Jashari) beat him with a wooden club. The next morning, H.A. was taken to the village graveyard in Grečina (Greqina) and forced to trample on the graves. The KLA men told him he would end up the same way as the people buried there. After some time, he was led to a house in which there were dozens of KLA members who tied him up, beat him with iron bars, placed a noose around his neck, fired shots close to him and threatened to kill him if he did not admit whom he had killed and what he had stolen. He was also forced to drink heavily salted water. When he begged to be killed, a KLA man struck him with a wooden club and broke his nose.

In the morning of 25 June, H.A. was untied, given some food and a cigarette, and told that he would be returned to Djakovica. He was thrown out of a car half-way to Djakovica and lay beside the road until a KLA member from Peć found him. When he recounted what had happened to him, the KLA man said it was criminal and drove him to Emin Sofija in Djakovica. Sofija told H.A. that he had been beaten by his men, who spared his life at his order. He gave him a KLA uniform to put on and took him home in the dark. He came for several nights to dress H.M.'s wounds but did not allow him to see a doctor. Some ten days later, when Sofija stopped coming, H.A. went to a doctor and was hospitalized. During the four days he was in hospital, KLA members threatened to kill his family unless he left the hospital. Fearing for the lives of his family, H.A. ran away from the hospital on the fifth day and fled Djakovica. He returned ten days later when KFOR provided protection for Roma in nearby Brekovac. H.A. and his family fled to Montenegro on 24 August 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Zećiri, Gzim (M, 38); his sister **Zećiri, Afijete** (30); **Baljaj, Šaban** (M), **Tafaj, Hasan** (M); **Ljušaj, Zvezdan** (M), all Roma, from Djakovica; and **Šalja, Beriša** (M), Albanian, from Djakovica – detained on 18 June 1999 in Djakovica and taken to the KLA headquarters at the Paštrik Hotel.

Berisha was released immediately. Afijete Zećiri was allowed to go three days later and informed her brother's friends that he was being held by the KLA. These friends, including two Albanian nationals, went to the hotel and asked the KLA to release Gzim Zećiri because he had helped Albanians during the war.

They threatened to kill the family members of some of the KLA men, who were still in Albania after fleeing Kosovo. The KLA then released Zećiri, Baljaj, Ljušaj, and Tafaj.¹¹

Source: HLC, witness statement

Gunga, Arif (M, 27), Rom, from Djakovica – detained for two days at the KLA headquarters in the Paštrik Hotel in Djakovica, questioned and beaten.

Gunga was questioned about Roma crimes against Albanians and cooperation with Serb forces. He was beaten and sustained serious injuries to his head and body. He fled Kosovo after the incident to Montenegro.

Source: HLC, witness statement

D.Dj. (M, 40), Rom, from Djakovica – abducted by the KLA on 30 June 1999, questioned and beaten, released in the evening.

D. Dj. recounted that KLA members came to his house at 11 a.m. on 30 June and ordered him to go with them. He was taken to the fruit juice plant in Piskote district where the local KLA headquarters was located.

D.Dj. described what happened then:

"As they led me into one of the rooms at the headquarters, I saw a man from Piskote, with his hands tied, in the corridor. They asked me if I had killed and robbed Albanians. Then they began to beat me with clubs and punched me all over the body until I blacked out. I came to about 6 p.m. They ordered me and my whole family to leave the village by the next morning and said they would burn me alive in my house if we didn't. Then they let me go."

D. Dj. identified the KLA man in charge at the KLA headquarters and prison in Piskote as one Esat from Smonica village, Djakovica Municipality.

Source: HLC, witness statement

M.M. (M), Rom, from Djakovica – abducted by the KLA from his home at 4 p.m. on 5 July 1999, imprisoned in the building of the Sara Driving School in Djakovica, beaten and questioned for four days, handed over to KFOR.

M.M. recounted what happened while he was held by the KLA:

"They locked me in a room at the driving school. They gave me no food or water. Every hour, different KLA members came in and beat me. They said my Albanian neighbor, Benan Morina, had reported to them that I was in the Yugoslav Army and had committed some war crimes. They demanded I admit what crimes I had committed. On the third day, the KLA men cut me with a knife on my upper lip and back. On the fourth day, in the morning, they took me to the Italian members of KFOR and handed me over to them, saying I was a war

¹¹ Witness statement on the abduction and release of these persons: Djakovica, 2.1. Killed.

criminal. The KFOR men gave me first aid, took me to their prison in Peć and kept me there for the next 12 days, until a Tribunal investigator came to question me. Five days after I talked with the investigator, they let me go.”

M.M. returned to Djakovica and immediately fled Kosovo to Serbia with his family.

Source: HLC, witness statement

M.K. (M, 31); his wife **Dj.K.**, Roma, from Piskote, Djakovica Municipality, abducted by the KLA on two occasions in August 1999, questioned and beaten, released.

M.K. stated that KLA members came almost daily to his house in July, searched it for weapons, demanded that that family admit to robbing Albanians and collaborating with the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police, and threatened to kill them. The KLA members included a Roma man they knew, one Rudži. Scared by these incidents, M.K. moved in with relatives in Djakovica. His wife stayed in the village and went to see him occasionally.

When she was returning from Djakovica to Piskote one day in August, Dj. K. was stopped on the road by armed and uniformed KLA members. They dragged her into a Lada car and drove her to the KLA headquarters in Djakovica. She described the physical abuse to which she was subjected there:

“I was questioned by Esad Ljuma (Esad Luma), a KLA member. He asked where my husband was, what kind of weapons we had and where we had hidden them, if we had looted Albanian houses and dug trenches for the Yugoslav Army. After three hours of this questioning, another KLA man began to beat me. He punched and kicked me for half an hour and then took a wooden club and beat me with it. Then he said I could go home but that I had to come back to their headquarters tomorrow and confess what my husband and I had done or they would kill us both.”

After this incident, Dj.K. went to Djakovica for her husband. They returned to Piskote together to pack and leave the district. Her husband recounted what happened next:

“That night, about 2 a.m., while we were still packing, four uniformed KLA men came. Two had automatic rifles and the other two had pistols. Three of them led me out of the house, and one stayed inside with my wife. Outside, one of them aimed a pistol at my head and the other two beat me on the back and head with their rifles. Then they grabbed me and began banging my head against the wall of the house. Twenty minutes later, they dragged me into their car. There was a man already inside. He put his hand over his face, probably so I wouldn’t recognize him. They drove me to the refugee settlement in Babaloč village at Dečani, and took me into a private house, into a dark room. KLA commander

Ramuš Hardinaj was in this room. He started questioning me. He asked where I was hiding weapons. He yelled at me and threatened to kill me and my wife. He questioned me some more and then ordered the KLA men to take me back home.”

The next morning, M.K. and his wife left their village and fled to Montenegro.
Source: HLC, witness statement

I.V. (M, 20); **M.C.** (M, 23); and **four friends** (M), Roma, from Djakovica – taken by the KLA in August 1999 on the road to Smolice village, beaten for several hours and released.

A relative of the two men, who was displaced to Montenegro, told the HLC that I.V., M.C. and four of their friends were on the way to Smolice village with an Albanian who had hired them to do some work. Travelling in the Albanian’s horse-drawn cart, they were stopped on the road by a KLA member who took the Roma into a woods where there were another seven KLA men, including Esat Kurtaj of Smolica. The Roma were physically abused and made to collect the carcasses of dead livestock and bury them. They were then taken into the cellar of a house in Smolice where the KLA men continued to beat and question them, demanding the names of Roma who had allegedly killed Albanians during the war. Shots were fired close to them and they were threatened with death. They were allowed to return to Djakovica in the evening.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2.2. Escaped

V.Š. (M, 71), Serb, from Djakovica Municipality, retired; **Kuzmanović, Djordjije** (M, 42), Serb, from Djakovica (42 Srpska St.), post office employee - abducted by the KLA on 21 June 1999. V.Š. was held for several hours until he managed to escape. The whereabouts of Djordjije Kuzmanović remain unknown. Kuzmanović’s sister stated that two armed KLA members wearing military blouses and civilian trousers came to the apartment in which her mother and brother lived at about 5 p.m. on 21 June. They demanded that her brother hand over his weapons, to which he replied that he had none. They searched the apartment, handcuffed Kuzmanović and led him away.

The next day, one of the KLA men returned. He beat Mrs Kuzmanović and demanded that she give him a pistol she had supposedly concealed. An Albanian friend of the family was in the apartment at the time. He told the KLA man to stop mistreating Mrs Kuzmanović and he left. Mrs Kuzmanović fled Djakovica to Serbia after this incident.

V.Š. stated that his family left Breskovac village on 12 June. Although he was the only remaining Serb, he decided to stay. On 16 June, about a dozen Albanians stormed into his house, began looting it and ordered him to leave the village. Albanian neighbors called KFOR but the attackers had left by the time a patrol arrived. The patrol took V.Š. to Djakovica where he moved in with Djordjije Kuzmanović. Both men were abducted by the KLA at about 10 a.m. on

21 June. V.Š. described what happened next:

"It was about 10 in the morning that day when two uniformed KLA men barged in. I knew one of them. It was Ibiš Redžepi (Ibish Rexhepi) from Ponoševac (Ponoshec) village near Djakovica. Our families had close ties. They searched the place, supposedly looking for guns. Then they forced me and Djordjije into their car – it was a white Fiat, I believe – and drove us to the driving school. I saw about 30 KLA members in the building. They took me into the lobby and hit me about the head, asking if I preferred to be hanged or have my eyes gouged out. Then they took me down to the basement, into a room with a toilet. A man and a woman, both in KLA uniforms, ordered me to lie face down. The man beat me with a nightstick, and then they carved UÇK [Albanian acronym for Kosovo Liberation Army] in the flesh on my back and stabbed me in the right side with the same knife. They took off my shoes and the woman beat me on the soles of my feet with the nightstick. Another man came into the room and tried to get me up on my feet. I couldn't stand up straight because of the beating I'd been given. The man and the woman had called him because, so far as I understood, more people had been brought in. The woman asked again if I preferred to have my throat slit or be shot. I didn't say anything and she left the basement. I took advantage of a moment when they weren't watching, went down the corridor and kicked open a door which was unlocked, and went into a garage. I walked calmly by the cars and some KLA men who were sitting in the yard outside, climbed over the wire fence and hid in a garden near the transformer substation. I spent the night there, covering myself with nettles and with my feet in water."

After running and hiding in several different houses, V.Š. found refuge with Albanian neighbors in his village who called KFOR. When he told the KFOR patrol what had happened, they suggested that he accompany them to the driving school and identify the persons who had detained and beaten him. Frightened of the consequences, V.Š. refused but informed the patrol that Djordjije Kuzmanović was being held in the prison. The KFOR patrol went to the driving school but did not find Kuzmanović there. V.Š. was taken to the Serbian Orthodox church in Djakovica, where some 30 Serbs, mainly women, were sheltering. On 25 June, together with Father Savo Janjić and about nine other Serbs, Kuzmanović left for Dečani and fled to Montenegro a week later.

Source: HLC, witness statement

GLOGOVAC

1. Missing

Aleksić, Tomo (M, 34), Serb, from Gornje Obrinje (Abrinja e Epërme), Glogovac Municipality – last seen on 8 June 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo, Kosovo

GNJILANE

1. Missing

Jovanović, Zoran (M), MD (surgeon), Serb, from Gnjilane – disappeared in the first half of July 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo, Kosovo

Sirinić-Cvetković, Vlasta (F), Serb, from Gnjilane (Bojanina St.), proprietor of hardware store; **Stojković, Slobodan**, Serb, from Gnjilane (Kamnik 3) – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in the Gnjilane area.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo, Kosovo

Furunović, Dragan, (M) Serb – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in Gnjilane.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Lazić, Božidar (M, 69); his wife **Lazić, Dušica** (69), Serbs, from Žegra (Zhegra), Gnjilane Municipality – last seen 15 June 1999 in the Gnjilane area.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo, Kosovo

Stanojković, Siniša (M, 32), Serb, from Trpez (Trpezë), Vitina (Viti) Municipality, fireman with KFOR – disappeared on 17 June 1999 in Gnjilane.

Friends of the missing man stated that he started working as a fireman for KFOR immediately after the deployment of the peacekeeping force. He went to work in the morning of 17 June and has not been seen or heard from since.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojiljković, Božin (M, 79); his wife **Stojiljković, Stanija** (73); **Stefanović, Ljubinka** (F), Serbs, from Vlastice (Vllashticë), Gnjilane Municipality – last seen on 18 June 1999.

The Stojiljkovićs' son told the HLC that he last saw his parents when he visited them on 18 June. They and their neighbor Ljubinka Stefanović, a mental patient, were the only Serbs remaining in the village.

On 28 June, the son's friend from nearby Pasjane village informed him that he had seen through binoculars that the Stojiljković house in Vlaštice had been set on fire. It was only in October that the son was able to go to Vlaštice under KFOR escort. The house was burned down and his parents and Ljubinka Stefanović were no longer in the village. When he asked the Albanian villagers if they knew what had happened, they said they were not in the village when the Stojiljković house was torched.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Arsić, Dragan (M, 36), employee of Mladost abattoir in Gnjilane; **Paunović, Jovica** (M, 26), Serbs, from Pasjane (Pasjan), Gnjilane Municipality – disappeared on 23 June 1999.

Mrs Arsić related that her husband and Jovica Paunović went to the Gnjilane market to buy vegetables about 9 a.m. on 23 June. They went by car, a WV Jetta, planning to proceed to the market in Bujanovac (Serbia) if they did not find what they needed in Gnjilane. At about 10 a.m., they dropped by to see Teki, an Albanian friend of Arsić, but were told by his mother that he was not at home. They left a message for Teki to meet them at the gasoline station. They were not seen again.

Some ten days later, Major Russell of KFOR notified Mrs Arsić that her husband was in the KLA prison in Gnjilane and that he was trying to obtain his release. KFOR had no information about Jovica Paunović. On 21 June, Muhamed Škodra (Muhamed Shkodra), an Albanian from Draganac, Gnjilane Municipality, telephoned the Arsić family to say that Arsić and Paunović were being held in Albania, and that he could get them released in return for 40,000 deutsche marks. Within two weeks, the family collected 15,000 marks and gave the money to Škodra. The agreement was that he would go immediately to Albania and receive the remaining 25,000 marks when he brought back Arsić and Paunović. Škodra never contacted the family again.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Svetozar (M, 46); his brother **Ristić, Vitomir** (M, 38), Serbs, from Kosovska Kamenica (Kamenica e Kosovës), police officers – disappeared after June 1999 in Gnjilane.

The Ristić brothers were detained by KFOR on the Kosovska Kamenica-Gnjilane road and were released in Gnjilane after being questioned. All trace of them has been lost.

Source: HLC, witness statement

(Last name unknown), Slobodan (M), Serb, from Pavlovac, disappeared after 4 July 1999.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Djekić, Milorad (M), Serb, from Koretište (Koretishtë), Gnjilane Municipality – disappeared on 6 July 1999 in the Gnjilane area.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Pirić, Ljubiša (M, 26), Serb, from Vrbovac (Urbodë), Vitina Municipality, technician – disappeared on 8 July 1999 in Gnjilane.

Pirić was last seen by an Albanian acquaintance outside a department store in central Gnjilane.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Stojanović, Staniša (M, 28), Serb, from Gnjilane (29 Dragi Popović St.), fireman – last seen about 10 a.m. on 10 July 1999.

Mrs Stojanović recounted that her husband came home at 8 a.m. on 10 July after working the night shift. He went out again at 10 a.m. to buy some medicine in the town center and never returned. His wife reported his disappearance to KFOR the next day.

Two weeks later, Stojanović's superior, an Albanian, telephoned to ask why he was not coming to work. When Mrs Stojanović told him her husband was missing, he laughed and said he must have run off to Serbia with another woman.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Simonović, Siniša (M, 35), Serb, from Šilovo (Shilovë), Gnjilane Municipality, private businessman – disappeared on 10 July 1999 in Gnjilane.

Mrs Simonović said her husband left home between 9 and 10 a.m. on 10 July by car, a beige Renault 4, to buy food at the Gnjilane marketplace. He had many Albanian friends and planned to ask them if they knew anything about the abduction of another Gnjilane Serb, Dragan Ječimović,¹² the day before. Mrs Simonović does not know which of these friends he was going to see on the way to the market. When he did not return, the family reported his disappearance to KFOR later that day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Sava (M), Serb, from Makreš (Makesh), Gnjilane Municipality – disappeared on 13 July 1999.

¹² Witness statement on Ječimović's abduction: Gnjilane, 2. Abducted.

All trace of Ristić was lost after he left Makreš for Priština on 13 July.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Maksimović, Čedomir (M), Serb, from Gnjilane, watchman at Binočka Morava company – disappeared on 16 July 1999.

Maksimović's friends stated that he was last seen at 6.30 p.m. that day at 6, Bojanina St. in Gnjilane.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Perić, Živojin (M), Serb, from Trnjavica (Trnjavicë), Srbica (Skenderaj) Municipality – disappeared on 17 July on the road to Gnjilane.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Stević, Zlatko (M, 34), Serb, from Poneš (Ponesh), Gnjilane Municipality – last seen on 21 July 1999 on the road between Poneš and Gnjilane.

The family told the HLC that Stević left the village at 11.30 a.m. on 21 July in his blue Zastava 750 car, intending to go to the market in Gnjilane. His disappearance was reported to KFOR the same day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tasić, Srdjan (M, 31), Serb, from Šilovo, Gnjilane Municipality – last seen on 27 July 1999 in central Gnjilane.

Mrs Tasić stated that her son left home at 3.30 p.m. on 27 July to check up on a field he owned in Gnjilansko Polje. Tasić was intoxicated and angry with KFOR for having taken over his field, and planned to go first to the KFOR headquarters in central Gnjilane to discuss the problem.

When her son failed to return, Mrs Tasić went to the KFOR headquarters the next day to ask if he had been there. KFOR members confirmed that he had and said they had advised him to go to the UN office. KFOR members stationed in Tasić's field, which is some two kilometers from the town center, told her that they too had seen Tasić. They said he was there for a short time and then took the Mališevski road, emerged on the main road at the waterworks, passed through the checkpoint near the marketplace and proceeded to the town center. He was not seen again.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Pavić, Borislav (M, 67), Serb, from Gnjilane (145 Stojana Trajića St.), medical technician, radiology dept., Gnjilane hospital – disappeared on 5 August 1999.

Pavić's neighbor recounted that Pavić went to the market to buy feed for his chickens and pigeons on 5 August. He stopped first at a store near the church

where he spent about 20 minutes and then left for the market. That was the last time he was seen.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojanović, Tihomir (M, 34), Serb, from Paralovo (Parallove), Gnjilane Municipality, resided in Smederevo, Serbia – last seen on 17 August 1999 at the Gnjilane bus depot.

A friend told the HLC that Stojanović came to Paralovo on 15 August to see his grandmother and to try to find employment with KFOR as an interpreter. Two days later, on 17 August, he went with KFOR members to Gnjilane. They left him at the bus depot where he was to wait for a bus for Priština.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Denić, Stojan (M, 72), Serb, from Pasjane, Gnjilane Municipality, retired – last seen on 21 August 1999 at the Gnjilane bus depot.

Denić's son told the HLC his father left Pasjane at 8.30 a.m. on 21 August to check on his apartment in Gnjilane (1/12 Bojanina St.), and to meet with an Albanian friend, Metuš Dubova (Dubova Metush), to discuss the sale of the apartment. At noon, he dropped in on a close family friend in Gradimira Simijonovića St, and was last seen by another friend at 4.30 p.m., waiting at the depot for the bus back to Pasjane.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tajić, Radovan (M, 28); **Mitrović, Dragan** (M,23); **Jovanović, Goran** (M,23), Serbs, from Vrbovac, Vitina Municipality, police officers – disappeared on 3 August 1999 near Dobrčane (Miresh), Gnjilane Municipality.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stolić, Gradimir (M, 32), Serb, from Gnjilane (1 Stojana Trajića St.), waiter at the Baron Cafe – disappeared on 25 August 1999 in central Gnjilane.

Stolić and his wife and children fled to Serbia in mid-July. He returned to Gnjilane on 23 August to retrieve some belongings from their apartment. His mother recounted that he went to the town center to buy cigarettes at 5.45 p.m. on 25 August, and said he would stop at the Baron Cafe where he used to work. When he did not return, his mother reported his disappearance to KFOR.

His mother went several times to the cafe to try to find out something about her son but the staff refused to speak with her.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stanković, Novica, Serb, from Gnjilane (Soliter St.), welder at the Jugoterm company – last seen at the end of August 1999.

Stanković left for Bujanovac (Serbia) in late August. A friend, Milorad Vučić, saw him off at the bus depot. Stanković never arrived in Bujanovac.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Busatović, Ljubica (F, 27), Serb, from Dobrčan, Gnjilane Municipality – last seen on 10 November 1999

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

2. Abducted

Milošević, Dragan (M, 24), Serbian Serb, from Aleksinac, machinist; **Stoiljković, Dragan** (M, 31), Serbian Serb, from Leskovac, auto mechanic, Yugoslav Army reservists – abducted on 6 June in Iskrut, Gnjilane Municipality (listed as killed).

Mrs. Milošević told the HLC her son and Dragan Stoiljković were wounded at 5.30 p.m. on 6 June in fighting with the KLA at Iskrut village. They were taken to an abandoned house and cared for by a nurse called Goca. At 9 p.m., two KLA members came to the house and took them away.

A few days later, the Yugoslav Army notified the family that Milošević had been killed. The Army said Stoiljković and another three soldiers went AWOL at 5.30 p.m. on 6 June, stole a tractor and horse-drawn cart and looted abandoned houses in the surrounding villages, that they were ambushed by the KLA, that Milošević and Stoiljković were killed while the others were able to get away and return to their unit.

Mr. Stoiljković told the HLC that his son, Dragan Milošević and another three soldiers were loading property from abandoned houses in Žegovac (Zhegovac) village at about 6 p.m. They were attacked by the KLA as they were returning. His son and Milošević were wounded, the three other soldiers managed to escape. The Stoiljković family also learned that a nurse by the name of Gordana from a nearby village attended to the two wounded in an abandoned house until they were taken by KLA members at around 9 p.m.

The Yugoslav Army refused to allow the families to identify the bodies or to release the autopsy reports. They were only shown photographs from which they were unable to make positive identifications.

Source: HLC, witness statements

Ristić, Momčilo (M, 44), Serb, from Gornj Livoč (Livoq i Epërme), Gnjilane Municipality, worked in design bureau of Binačka Morava company; his father-in-law **Ivanović, Velizar** (60), Serb, from Pasjane, Gnjilane Municipality – abducted on 8 June 1999 on the road between Pasjane and Gornji Livoč, Gnjilane Municipality.

Neighbors of the two missing men stated that KLA members warned Ristić that he would be killed and his house burned down unless he left Gornji Livoč. At 8.30 a.m. on 8 June, Ristić and Ivanović drove to Pasjane (red Zastava 750 car) to take some belongings from Ristić's house to his daughter's apartment in Pasjane. They were stopped on the road by KLA members and taken away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Dragan (M, 36), Serb, from Gornje Kusce (Kuske e Epërme), Gnjilane Municipality, resided in Gnjilane (72a Radeta Petrovića St.), electrical engineer, employed at Industrija Baterija Gnjilane – abducted on 22 June 1999. Also on 22 June, the KLA abducted **S.S.**, his son **S.R.** and brother **S.R.**, Roma from Gnjilane, and released them later that day. They were the last persons to see Ristić.

Ristić's brother stated that Ristić was alone in his Gnjilane apartment as his wife and daughter had fled to Serbia in mid-June. Ristić last spoke with his mother at 9.50 a.m. on 22 June when he told her someone had telephoned to say he was wanted at the factory, located about 400 meters from his home. Half an hour later, Mrs Ristić called again but there was no answer. She then called her son's co-worker Vlado and asked if he knew Ristić's whereabouts. Vlada learned at the factory that Ristić had been there about 10 a.m. but three KLA members, from Ugljari (Uglare), Zubin Potok Municipality, Makeš and Mališevo respectively, had barred his entry.

The next day Vlado went to the factory to ask about Ristić. KLA members there told him that Ristić had been taken in for questioning and would be released soon.

The family subsequently heard more about Ristić's abduction from three Gnjilane Roma (S.S., his son R.S. and brother R.S.) who were detained by the KLA in the factory porter's booth just before Ristić's arrival. As Ristić tried to enter, four or five armed and uniformed KLA men stopped him. When he turned to go, one KLA man asked his name. When Ristić gave his name, the man looked at a list he was holding and the other KLA men ran after Ristić, tied his hands and led him into the booth. The KLA men then beat up the three Roma and let them go but retained Ristić.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Vitković, Borivoje (M); his wife **Vitković, Slavica**, Serbs, from Gnjilane – abducted by unidentified persons in central Gnjilane between 20 and 23 June 1999.

Source: *Državljeni Albanije stižu u Prištinu* [Albanian Nationals Arriving in Priština], BLIC, 24 June 1999; *Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština*, BLIC, 5 July 1999

Metodijević, Miroslav (M, 24), Serb, from Gnjilane (Vojvode Stepe St.), police officer in Priština – abducted on 25 June 1999; last seen by **S.D.**, a Serb who was abducted on the same day and imprisoned at the KLA headquarters in the school dormitory in Gnjilane. **S.D.** was released the next day.

Mr Metodijević told the HLC his son Miroslav was helping a friend to move goods from his store in Borisa Kidriča St. to his home that day about 1. 30 p.m. The friend left with a load while Metodijević stayed in the store together with the Albanian shop assistant and her two brothers. Four armed Albanians in black uniforms came in and said they were KLA police. At gunpoint, they led Metodijević out of the store, pushed him into a red WV Golf without license plates and drove to the school dormitory in the Gavran neighborhood in which the KLA headquarters were located.

S.D., who had been abducted earlier that day, was in the building at the time. He was questioned and beaten, and released the next morning. He told Mr Metodijević that he saw his son and that he remained imprisoned in the building after his own release.

On 3 February 2000, the International Red Cross notified the family that Metodijević was in a hospital in Skopje, Macedonia. Mr Metodijević immediately traveled to Skopje but established that it was a case of mistaken identity. The whereabouts of his son remain unknown.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Radović, Predrag (M); **Ilić, Živojin** (M); **Ilić, Jugoslav** (M), Serbs, from Žegra, Gnjilane Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 27 June 1999.¹³

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dajić, Radovan (M, 26), police officer; **Jovanović, Goran** (M, 21), police reservist; **Mitrović, Miodrag** (M, 20), student; **Vasić, Ljubiša** (M, 31), Serbs from Vrbovac, Vitina Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 30 June 1999 at Dobrčane, Gnjilane Municipality.

¹³ Witness statement on the abduction of Radović and the Ilićs: Gnjilane, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

Mitrović's brother-in-law stated that a neighbor from Vrbovac, who was passing through Dobrčane village at the time of the abduction, recognized one of the KLA men as the son of Dr. Fitije from Vitina.¹⁴

Source: HLC, witness statement

Žulji, Džema (Zhuli Xhemë) (M, 43), Rom, from Gnjilane (Vojvode Stepe St.), police officer – abducted in late June 1999.

Džema's neighbor recounted that several KLA members, one of whom a former police officer and colleague of Džema, came to the Džema apartment. In the presence of Džema's wife and daughter, this man said he was carrying out a routine check, that Džema had to come to the KLA headquarters for questioning, and led him away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojković, Vlastimir (M), Serb, from Gnjilane – abducted from his store on 1 July 1999.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (July-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Ristić, Slavoljub "Cacko" (M, 35), Serb, from Gnjilane (43 Ivo Lola Ribar St.), driver with OSCE – abducted on 5 July 1999 in Gnjilane.

Ristić left home at 9 a.m. on 5 July in his blue Mini Morris (Vranje, Serbia, license plates) with his friend Predrag Stefanović to inquire at the Town Hall if KFOR or some other organization needed a driver. On the way back, they noticed a dark-grey Opel Omega with Novi Pazar (Serbia) license plates with two men inside following them. When they turned into Bore Vukmirovića St., they saw that the roadway was blocked by a truck and a Lada automobile. They stopped and the two men in the car behind them got out, trained their weapons on Ristić and Stefanović, and in Albanian ordered Ristić to get out and told Stefanović to park the car. As Stefanović did so, the men pushed Ristić into their car and drove him away.

The Ristić family immediately reported the abduction to KFOR and the International Red Cross. Predrag Stefanović fled Kosovo to Serbia after the incident.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jećimović, Dragan (M, 37), Serb, from Šilovo, Gnjilane Municipality; **T.M.** (M), Serb, from Gnjilane – detained on 9 July 1999 and shortly released. Twenty minutes later, Jećimović disappeared.

¹⁴ Witness statement on the abduction of Dajić, Jovanović, Mitrović and Vasić: Gnjilane, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

The Jećimović family related that Jećimović and T.M. went to the house of Slobodan Maksimović at 2.45 p.m. on 9 July to help Maksimović pack and move. As Jećimović and T.M. were loading belongings into Jećimović's Ford automobile, Beksat Baša (Bekzat Basha), and another three armed Albanians in civilian clothes approached them and ordered them to get into the car. They drove to the boarding school where the Albanians questioned and slapped them for about 15 minutes and then allowed them to go. Baša promised to bring Jećimović's car to the department store in 15 minutes. Jećimović and T.M. waited there for some time and, as Baša did not turn up, Jećimović went back to the boarding school. He was not seen again.

Jećimović's parents reported his disappearance to KFOR the same day. They asked KFOR members to take them to the boarding school to see whether their son was imprisoned there but were turned down on the excuse that the building was empty.

Ten days after Jećimović's disappearance, his father saw their Ford automobile parked in the yard of Baša's house (24, Novobrodsko (Novobërdës) St.)).

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jović, Mirko (M, 41), Serb, from Gnjilane (Bojanina St, Komnik development 2/2), engineer, employee of Gnjilane water supply company; **Č.S.** (F) and **S.Z.** (F), Serbs from Gnjilane – abducted by the KLA on 12 July 1999 in Bojanina St. in Gnjilane and taken to the boarding school; Č.S. and S.Z. were released 20 minutes later; Jović was retained.

Mrs. Jović related that her husband and the two women were stopped by three Albanians at the entrance to their building about 6 p.m. on 12 July. Two of the Albanians – Adnan and Sulja Adem (Sula Adem) - lived in the same building. All three were wearing black jeans and shirts and were carrying Zastava pistols. Speaking Serbian, they ordered Jović and the women to go with them to be questioned and drove them to the boarding school. At the entrance, a KLA guard told the Albanians that the commander was absent, that Jović should be held and the women released. Jović was led inside. The guard pointed his gun at the women, threatened to kill them, verbally abused them and let them go some 20 minutes later.

Mrs. Jović later found in the pocket of her husband's trousers a note reading: "If something happens to me, turn to Adem and Aznan from our building and Čaza (Qaza) from the nearby private house."

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djokić, Čedomir (M, 51), Serb, from Gnjilane (Kneza Lazara St.) – abducted by unidentified armed Albanians in mid-July 1999.

Djokić's sister recounted that two armed Albanians in civilian clothes stormed into Djokić's apartment two days before his abduction. They demanded that Djokić hand over his weapons and beat him. They did not maltreat his wife. They left after searching the apartment and failing to find any weapons. Two days later, the same Albanians came and took Djokić away with them. His wife was not at home at the time. She immediately reported her husband's disappearance to KFOR.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojanović, Dragan (M); **Stojanović, Momčilo** (M), Serbs, from Gornji Makreš, Gnjilane Municipality – last seen on 29 July 1999.

The Blic newspaper reported that the Stojanovići were abducted from their home by their Albanian neighbors Ramiz and Rasim.

Source: *Rafali na Srbe u Gnjilanu* [Fire Opened at Serbs in Gnjilane], BLIC (FoNet), 31 July 1999

Lazić, Sreten (M, 46), Serb, from Gnjilane (7 Stojadina Trlajića St.), employee of Gnjilane cigarette factory; **Arsić, Dragan** (M, 37), Serb, from Gnjilane (9 Ivo Lola Ribar St.), employee of textile factory); **Saliku, Seljomi (Selami Salihu)** (M), Albanian, from Gnjilane, employed as driver with 16 Novembar company – abducted on 3 August 1999. Seljomi was beaten up and released.

Ilinka Cvetković, hardware store proprietor in Gnjilane and eyewitness of the abduction, described to the HLC what happened:

"Fadilj Gaši (Fadil, Gashi), the new manager of the 16 Novembar company from which I leased my premises, told me in mid-July that I had to apply for an extension of the lease. I refused and in the morning of 3 August he called to tell me I was to vacate the premises so that the new leaseholder could move in. I told him I was scared to be in the store alone and he promised to send a driver with the company truck and a few workers to help me move my stuff out. Half an hour later, the truck driven by Seljomi Saliku, two Albanian workmen - Hevzi Jerljiu (Hevzi Jerliu) and one whose name I don't know - and Djumra (Gjurma), a Roma man, were in front of the store. I packed inside with my relative Miroslava and friend Živka. At about 11 a.m., Živka called two Serb neighbors of hers, Sreten Lazić and Dragan Arsić, to help us pack. They arrived very soon.

"Miroslava, Živka, Hevzija and I did the packing while Sreten, Dragan and the company workers loaded the things on the truck. When we finished about 11.30, Sreten, Dragan and the driver Saliku left to drive the things to my house, which is about 15 minutes by car from the store. When I called my husband at home to

ask if they had started unloading, he told me the truck hadn't arrived yet. So I started out on foot to see where they were. I met Alija, an Albanian neighbor who also worked at 16 Novembar and told him what had happened. He called the company at once and the porter told him the truck had just pulled into the company yard. I asked where the men were and Alija said he would go to the company to see. He didn't contact me again and avoids talking to me. I went back to the store and asked Hevzija who was still there with Miroslava and Živka to try and find out what happened. When he didn't come back either, I reported the case to KFOR and suggested that they go to the 16 Novembar company and check out whether Sreten and Dragan were there. The KFOR soldiers refused and gave me a number to call and ask for an escort. When I repeated that two Serbs were missing, I realized by their reaction that the interpreter, an Albanian woman, hadn't translated anything of what I had said.

"Later on, about 2 p.m., Fadilj called, apologized for the misunderstanding, said my property was safe and that he would bring it around the next morning at 9 o'clock. When I said I only wanted to know what had happened to Dragan and Sreten who were in the truck, he said they had gone home. I checked and found out that they had not come home, and called Fadilj to tell him so. He apologized again and said he would find out where they were. At 3 o'clock, he called back and said again he had been told that they had gone home. An hour later, Saliku the truck driver called and said the three of them were stopped on the way to my house by some masked men, that Sreten and Dragan were let go, that he had his eyes blindfolded and was taken to the quarry at Glomi. They held him there for a while, questioned him and then released him. He said he didn't know what had happened to my property. I started shouting at him, said I knew the truck was at the company, and that he was responsible for Sreten and Dragan's kidnapping. He said he didn't know what I was talking about and hung up. He never called again."

On 8 August, five days after the abduction, a U.S. police officer with UNMIK took another statement on the incident from Mrs. Cvetković. On 11 August, the UNMIK police took Fadilj Gasi and Saliku Seljomi into custody. Mrs Cvetković heard that they were detained for a month at the Bonsteel base. She was summoned to make a statement to the investigating judge in Sojevo, Uroševac (Ferizaj) Municipality. Mrs. Cvetković does not know whether or not any proceedings were instituted in connection with the abduction.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Antić, Slobodan (M, 57), Serb, from Gornje Kusce, Gnjilane Municipality; **Stevanović, Zoran** (M, 35), from Gnjilane, both employees of the Gnjilane water supply company – abducted on 24 August 1999 just outside Prilepnica, Gnjilane Municipality.

A friend of the two men told the HLC that Ramadan Gajtani, manager of the water supply company, on 24 August sent Antić and Stevanović with a company car and driver to inspect the water-filtering system at the reservoir in Prilepnica. At Bunarče, just before the turnoff to Prilepnica (Perlepnice), the car was stopped by four or five KLA members who dragged the Albanian driver Jakupi out of the car, beat him up and left him on the roadside. Antić and Stevanović were driven away in the car.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Antić, Vlajko (M); his sons **Antić, Milisav** (28); **Antić, Svetislav** (31) and **Antić, Radovan** (22), Serbs, from Požaranje (Pozharan), Gnjilane Municipality – abducted from their home on 18 June 1999 by unidentified men.

Friends of the family recounted that the abductors killed Vlajko Antić before taking away his three sons. Their bodies were found a few days later in Ljubište (Lubishte), Vitina Municipality.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Denić, Čedomir (M, 39); **Dimić Momčilo** (M, 32), Serbs, from Poneš, Gnjilane Municipality – abducted and killed by KLA on 19 June 1999.¹⁵

Source: HLC, witness statement

Marković, Slobodan (M, 35); **Pekić, Stojan** (M, 50); **Trajković Slobodan** (M, 50), Serbs, from Vitina – last seen on 4 July 1999 at Gornji Livoč, Gnjilane Municipality, riding on a tractor on the Gnjilane-Vitina road. Three bodies found by KFOR in Ugljari village, Zubin Potok Municipality on 11 September 1999 were positively identified by the families as Marković, Pekić and Trajković.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stević, Slobodan (M), Serb, from Dobrčane, Gnjilane Municipality – abducted while driving his tractor through the village on 4 July 1999. A body bearing traces of violence found by KFOR in November was positively identified as Stević by his family.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Perić, Milorad (or **Dobrivoje**) (M), Serb – abducted by Kosovo Albanians on 27 July 1999 in Gnjilane. Perić was physically abused and left in the street where he was found by a KFOR patrol. He was airlifted to hospital and died of his injuries.

Source: *Kosovo Serb Dies After Kidnapping*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 29 July 1999

¹⁵ Witness statement on the abduction of Denić and Dimić: Gnjilane, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

Nikolić, Čedomir (M, 59), Serb, from Koretište, Gnjilane Municipality, secretary of local elementary school – abducted on 1 November 1999 on the Gnjilane-Bujanovac road near Dobrčan village. His body was found by KFOR the next day. Eyewitness related that Nikolić was forced to stop his car when a group of KLA men shot out the tires. With him were his wife, neighbor Borislav Stević and some friends. The KLA men stabbed Stević four times in the chest and shoulder. Nikolić was dragged out of the car and led to a nearby stream. He was killed one hour after being abducted. His body, with throat slashed, a gunshot wound in the head, and several knife stabs was found by KFOR at 2.30 p.m. on 2 November, lying about 500 meters from the place where his car was stopped. Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

M.M. (M, 52), Rom, from Gnjilane (27a Momčila Trumbića St.) – abducted on 16 June 1999 and released after four hours of questioning at the KLA headquarters in the former Yugoslav Army Cultural Center.

M.M. related that his neighbor Idriz, a KLA member, came to his house at 1.30 p.m. on 16 June, accompanied by some 20 Albanians in uniform. He ordered M.M. to go with them to the KLA headquarters in the building of the former Yugoslav Army Cultural Center.

He described the questioning and beating he was subjected to:
"They demanded that I hand over my weapons to them. When I said I had turned in my pistol to the Yugoslav Army, several KLA soldiers started beating me. They punched and kicked me, beat me with clubs, whatever they had at hand, for about four hours. I recognized none of the soldiers. In the end, they threw me out of the building and gave me until the next day to leave Kosovo."

M.M. fled to Serbia and spent 10 days in hospital for treatment of the injuries he sustained at the KLA headquarters.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jovanović, Tihomir, Serb (M) , from Gnjilane – abducted on 9 June 1999 in the town center and released the same day.

Jovanović was abducted by unidentified men, taken to the Čenar Česma (Qeshmja e Çenanit) neighborhood, beaten and released later that day.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

S.M. (M, 46); **T.J.** (M, 30), his nephew **T.D.** (13); **V.B.** (18), Serbs, from Poneš, Gnjilane Municipality – abducted by three uniformed KLA members on 19 June 1999, beaten for several hours and released. On this occasion, the KLA men killed **Denić, Čedomir** (39) and **Dimić, Momčilo** (32), Serbs from the same village.

S.M. described the incident to the HLC:

"At 9 a.m. that day, T.J., T.D., V.B., Čedomir, Momčilo and I took our animals to pasture at Lazovac Meadows near our village. Three KLA soldiers, in uniforms and masked faces, came out of the nearby woods. They trained their guns on us and ordered us to go over the hill to the next woods. Momčilo refused and started arguing with them. One of the soldiers fired a burst into the air as a warning. When Momčilo still refused to go, the soldier shot him dead. Two of the soldiers led us along a path through the woods towards Rudace village, Gnjilane Municipality. Some 200 meters farther on, at a meadow called Preštíp (Preshtip), the third soldier, the one who killed Momčilo, caught up with us. He took Čedomir out of the line, started arguing with him and then we heard a shot. This soldier caught up again with us at the graveyard just outside Rudace, separated out T.D., pointed to a path through the woods and told him to run home. At first T.D. refused, wanting to stay with his uncle, but when the soldier threatened to kill him he went. At the entrance to Rudace, two kilometers farther on, the three soldiers ordered us to sit down beside the road.

"They took their masks off and started questioning us. The soldier who killed Momčilo and Čedomir was Ibrahim Spahiju from Kišno Polje (Kishnapole), Gnjilane Municipality. I recognized the second one too – Sadik from Žegovac (Zhegofo), Gnjilane Municipality. I didn't know the third one. They asked if we had weapons and what kind, who else in the village had weapons and where they were hidden, who of the villagers had been in the Army and who in the police. They asked these questions about every single Serb in the village. They kept saying they would kill us and that we could choose how we wanted to die. They asked where our police and Army were now. They cursed our Serb mothers. They kept kicking and punching us as they asked their questions, but mostly hit us with their rifles. After an hour and a half, Ibrahim suggested to Sadik that they shoot us. Sadik replied he didn't want to do that because he and I had done our military service together in Sombor 25 years ago. He told us we could go and threatened to kill us if he caught us pasturing our animals in the meadows around the village."

S.M., T.J. and V.B. returned to their village and reported the incident to KFOR. KFOR members found the bodies of Momčilo Dimić and Čedomir Denić in a woods between Poneš and Rudace villages.

Source: HLC, witness statement

J.V. (M, 38), Serb, from Gnjilane (Vojvode Stepe St.), director of Beobanka branch in Gnjilane – detained in the bank building on 20 June 1999.

J.V.'s neighbor told the HLC that J.V. went to the bank that today to try to save the computers and other equipment there. Three Albanians in civilian clothes followed him into the building and began to question and beat him. After a time, they led him out, forced him into a red Yugo car and drove him to his apartment to get his gun. Watching through the window, the neighbor recognized the driver as an Albanian from Donji Livoč (Livoq i Poshtem), Gnjilane Municipality and described him as about 190 cm. tall, aged about 40 and with brown hair going gray. The attackers left when J.V. handed over his rifle.

Source: HLC, witness statement

S.S.; his son **S.R.**; and brother **S.R.**, Roma from Gnjilane, detained by the KLA on 22 June 1999 and released several hours later. ¹⁶

Source: HLC, witness statement

A.S., Serb, from Gnjilane (22 Abaz Ajeti St.) – abducted by the KLA on 23 June 1999 in the presence of his mother, wife, sister and daughter, beaten and released the next day.

A.S. recounted that four KLA members broke into his house forty minutes after midnight on 23 June while another four stood guard at the gate. He recognized three of the four KLA men: the son of an blacksmith from Gnjilane known as "Bilder," the son of Sabit, an auto mechanic from Radivojce, Vitina Municipality whose name he did not know, a man known as "Guzila" from Gnjilane. He described the fourth Albanian as being about 25 years of age and with dark hair and a beard.

A.S. described what happened:

"As soon as they barged in, they looked for the phone and yanked the cord from the wall. Then they searched for weapons. I had a hunting rifle, an M48, under my bed. They searched for about 15 minutes. One put a knife to my wife's throat and they pushed us all around. Their behavior was kind of hysterical, wild. They ransacked the house and kept yelling. They found the gun under the bed. Then they led me out and fired a shot into the air in front of the house as a signal, I guess, that they had finished at our place. They put me in their car, a yellow Lada. Two sat in front and two with me in the backseat. One held a Heckler and the other a knife to my back. They drove me to the school dormitory in the Gavran neighborhood in Gnjilane. KLA guards were posted outside the dorm. They handcuffed me and took me up to a first-floor room in which there was a bed, a table and a chair. They ordered me to sit down in the chair. That's where they questioned me. It seemed like all of them questioned me but their

¹⁶ Witness statement on the abduction and release of S.S., S.R., and S.R.: Gnjilane, 2. Abducted.

commander was really in charge. We spoke Albanian. He asked why I had stayed in Gnjilane and said I had to move out by tomorrow morning and leave the keys of the house in the front door. Then they began beating me. I don't know how many of them beat me. Most of them had black masks over their faces. One of the masked ones who beat me told me he was my neighbor. They hit me with metal bars, chains, and nightsticks. About an hour later, they took me out of the room and down into another one on the ground floor, which was exactly the same as the one upstairs.

"Before they took me into this room, they dragged out an Albanian who had been badly beaten and was barely conscious. In the room I heard noises – blows and screams – from the basement. They put me in one chair and pulled my feet through the rungs of another and started beating me. One beat me on the soles of the feet with a metal bar and another one beat me on the chest. They put their pistols to my temple and cocked them. They stubbed out their cigarettes on my arms and back. Then they shoved me down on the floor and kicked me. When I blacked out they threw a bucket of water over me and started over again. They said they would take me to Drenica and carve the Albanian eagle into my chest and forehead. They said they weren't hitting me on the head because they wanted me to remember who had beaten me. At dawn, about 5 a.m., they led me out of the building and left me at the nearby sports field. I was down on the pavement. One took out his pistol, put it to my head and pulled the trigger. I thought I was a dead man but the gun wasn't loaded. Then they went away. Somehow I dragged myself home, my family saw me in the yard and carried me into the house."

A.S. was taken by his family to the hospital and given first aid. The next day, unidentified persons robbed and torched their house. They spent two days with relatives and fled Kosovo to Serbia

Source: HLC, witness statement

Witness wished to remain anonymous¹⁷ (M, 33), Serb, from Gnjilane – abducted by the KLA from a grill room, questioned and beaten for four hours, released at the intervention of a KLA colonel.

The witness described the incident to the HLC:

"I went out at 8.30 a.m. that day to buy some food at a grill room. An Albanian acquaintance was there and left without a word as soon as I came in. He came back five minutes later and in front of everybody pointed a pistol at me and ordered me down into the basement. When I offered him money, he slapped me twice and told me to shut up if I didn't want to be killed there and then. Five minutes later, he led me to a white WV Golf parked outside the grillroom. Two Albanians were in the car. They drove me to the boarding school and when I asked again why they were doing this to me, they replied I would find out at

¹⁷ Identity known to the HLC.

their headquarters. They took me to the second floor in the left wing of the building and to the last room on the right.

"There were 11 Albanians in the room, some of whom I had seen about town before. All were in uniforms, either camouflage or black, and with KLA badges. One, of very large build and no older than 20, hit me twice on the head with a nightstick. Then another one hit me on the back with a baseball bat and floored me. They kept hitting me with nightsticks, baseball bats and punching me for almost four hours. They made me take off my shoes and socks and beat me on the soles of my feet. They put their pistols in my mouth and knives on my neck and chin, asking if I was afraid to die and threatening to kill me. They made me say in Albanian that Slobodan Milošević was a moron and an idiot. They asked if I would put on a KLA uniform and go to the nearby Serb village of Šilovo. They asked about some policemen from Gnjilane and the names of volunteers. I said I didn't know any of them because I worked during the war and was never in the Army or the police. Most of the questioning was by a soldier the others called "Captain" but he didn't have any marks of rank on his uniform. About four hours later, they said I had to go down to the basement to repeat my statement about the police and volunteers. At that point, a man in uniform they called "Colonel" came into the room. I knew him by sight. He was very surprised to see me and asked who had brought me in. My Albanian acquaintance said he had. The man asked who had given the order and my acquaintance replied that a colonel whose name I didn't catch had told him to bring in any Serbs he found. The colonel told me to put on my socks and shoes and go with him. I could barely walk from the beating and two soldiers held me up. When we were out of the room, the colonel asked me quietly if I had any weapons. I said I had a semi-automatic rifle and he said it would be best for me and the safety of my family to hand it in. We agreed that I would bring him the gun. I handed it to two KLA men from the colonel's party half an hour later, outside the boarding school."

The witness returned home and shortly afterwards fled to Serbia where he was treated for the next six months for the injuries inflicted on him by the KLA.

Source: HLC, witness statement

S.D. (M), Serb, from Gnjilane – detained and held at the KLA headquarters in the boarding school in Gnjilane. He was released the next day.¹⁸

Source: HLC, witness statement

Vasić, Dragan (M, 40), Serb, from Gnjilane (Mladena Popovića St.), abducted on 26 June 1999 and released.

Vasić's abductors took him from his neighbor's yard. He was held for some time at an unknown location and released after being questioned and beaten.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

¹⁸ Witness statement on the detention and release of S.D.: Gnjilane, 2. Abducted.

V.R. (M, 64), Montenegrin, from Vrbovac, Gnjilane Municipality – abducted by the KLA from his home on 27 June 1999, held in a private house in Mališevo, Gornja Mahala (mahalla e Epërme) neighborhood, Gnjilane Township. He was questioned and beaten and released in the evening. That same day, the KLA abducted his Serb neighbors **Predrag Radović**, and **Živojin** and **Jugoslav Ilić**. V.R. last saw them in Žegra (Zhegër) village, Gnjilane Municipality. V.R. described to the HLC what happened:

“Three KFOR members accompanied by an Albanian interpreter were collecting weapons from the villagers around noon that day. My Albanian neighbor Muslija Surdulji (Muslli Surduli) sent them to my house for my guns. I handed over an M48 rifle and when I also gave them two hunting guns for which I had permits, they refused to take them. When they left, Muslija came over and said it would be better for me if I had turned in all my guns because the KLA would give me a hard time if they found any weapons in my house. Later on, at about 2 o’clock, a Serb neighbor, Predrag Radović, called to me from my gate. When I got to the gate, I saw that Predrag was scared and that Muslija with four Albanians in civilian clothes, from 20 to 25 years old and armed with pistols and rifles, were also there. They said they were KLA members. One of them, a very tall young man, hit me on the head and in the kidney area with his rifle. He ordered Predrag and me to go with him to the house of Muhamed Zuzaku. KLA men were holding two Serbs, Živojin and Jugoslav Ilić, in front of Zuzaki house. Muslija had left in the meantime. When the KLA men began insulting and swearing at me, my Albanian neighbors tried to protect me, saying I had stopped the Serbian forces from looting and burning their homes. The KLA men paid no attention. They demanded my weapons and took me back home and I handed over three hunting rifles, a hunting carbine, an M48 rifle, a TT762 pistol, a CZ 765 pistol and an automatic rifle.

“They took the weapons and started beating me. They hit me only on the left side, probably having heard that my right lung and ribs had been surgically removed. About ten minutes later, they took me back to Muhamed’s house where two KLA men were beating Predrag, Živojin and Jugoslav. After some time, they put us on a trailer attached to the tractor of Surdulja, the younger brother of Muslija, who drove us to Žedan (Zhedan), a neighborhood on the outskirts of Mališevo. Then they took me to a small red car in which there were four Albanians, while Predrag, Živojin and Jugoslav stayed in the trailer. I got in the back seat and one of the Albanians immediately pulled a black bag over my head. One of them got out in Gornja Mahala and they ordered me to lie down on the backseat, and drove on. We stopped about five minutes later. They took me into a house and to an upstairs room. They took the bag off my head and covered the windows with pieces of foam rubber. But I knew where I was because I had done a lot of electrical work in that neighborhood. I know that

there are two houses that stick out from the rest about 200 or 300 meters from Gornja Mahala and that they belong to the brothers Bajram and Sali Grabovci (Sali Grabovci). I was in one of them. A young man in a camouflage uniform with KLA insignia was in the room with me. A bit later, two KLA men in black uniforms came in. One was dark and of heavy build and weighed about 95 kilos. The other one, who was tall and weighed about 80 kilos, told me he was from Kijevo. He ordered me to hold out my hands and began hitting me on them. Then he punched me in the chest with a nightstick. I lost my breath and fell to the floor. The two of them went out. An hour later, an Albanian in civilian clothes came in to question me. He spoke Albanian, saying he wanted to see if I understood. I didn't understand much but I know he wanted to know my particulars, what I did for a living, where I was and what I did during the war and if I knew which Žegra villagers had died. He didn't beat me. The KLA policeman from Kijevo came in again and once more ordered me to hold out my hands and hit me on them. Then they offered me a cigarette. They asked why I had so many guns and if they were for killing Albanians. I explained that I was Montenegrin and collecting guns was my hobby, like my father's before me, and that I never used them or killed anybody in my life. One of them asked why I hadn't said I was a Montenegrin before, adding that Milo Djukanović [Montenegrin president] had done a lot for them. They offered me tea and I drank two glasses. They put the black bag over my head again, took me out of the house and put me in a car. When we got to the Žegra graveyard, they off the bag and asked if I knew where I was. It was already dark. My shirt was bloodstained so they gave me a brand new white shirt, still in its wrappings, and said I was free to go.

"When I reached my village, the neighbors said they were very sorry they weren't able to prevent the KLA from looting my house. I said it didn't matter, that the important thing was that I was alive. I went in. Ten minutes later I heard the dog barking and through the window saw the dark shapes of men coming up the road. I hid in the pigpen. The men went into my house and called my name. A little afterwards I saw huge flames. My house was on fire."

The witness spent the night in the pigpen and left the village on foot in the morning.

Source: HLC, witness statement

D.J. (M, 38), Serb, employee of municipal water supply company, Yugoslav Army reservist; his brother **D.M.** (36), police officer; **T.S.** (M, 36), Serb, shop assistant, police reservist, all from Gnjilane – abducted on 29 June 1999 and released the next day.

The three men had hired an Albanian trucker from Gnjilane to take them and their belongings to Serbia. At 10 a.m. on 29 June, they were stopped in Dobrčan village, Gnjilane Municipality, by a group of armed Albanians wearing black clothes with KLA insignia. The three Serbs were ordered to step down from the

truck and taken to a woods near the road; the Albanian trucker was held beside his vehicle.

D.J. described what happened next:

"Once we were in the woods they searched us, took our ID cards and checked if our names were on some lists they had. I saw the photographs of some Serbs I knew attached to those lists. They didn't find our names on the lists and just noted down our particulars. They asked if we had been in the Serbian forces. D.M. and I said we hadn't but T.S. admitted he had been a police reservist. They tied our hands, using shoelaces on me and D.M. and rubber handcuffs on T.S. They began kicking and punching us, demanded that we confess how many Albanians we had killed and if we had weapons. Then they put us in a dark blue Zastava 101 car and drove us to the KLA headquarters in the schoolhouse in Ugljare village.

"They led us into the room of the commander, who was wearing a black uniform. He too asked if we had been in the Serbian forces and we continued to deny it. But when a large group of uniformed KLA members came in, one of them recognized my brother because, as a police officer, he had earlier arrested this man for smuggling. The KLA men who had brought us there from Dobrčani started defending us from being lynched by these Albanians. My brother kept his wits about him and calmly claimed it wasn't true he had been a policeman. They believed him and locked us in the cellar.

"The next day, 30 July, they drove us in a Lada Niva to what used to be the Yugoslav Army building and in which the Gnjilane headquarters of the KLA was located. They questioned us again but, since we were now in Gnjilane where a lot of people knew my brother had been a police officer, he had to admit it. They went out to discuss what to do with us. I think the KLA were scared because KFOR had stepped up patrolling of Gnjilane after the discovery of the mass grave in Ugljare. At about 5 p.m., they dumped us outside the former police station. KFOR members gave us first aid, took down our particulars and asked if we had any weapons. They drove us to the house of our relative where T.S. handed over the weapons we had."

All three men fled Kosovo to Serbia after this incident.

Source: HLC, witness statement

K.M. (M, 48); **V.S.** (M); **K.D.** (M), Serbs, from Vrbovac, Vitina Municipality; B. (last name unknown) (M), Serbian Serb, trucker - stopped on 30 June 1999 by a large group of KLA members near Dobrčane, Gnjilane Municipality, questioned, beaten and subsequently released. **Dajić, Radovan** (M, 26), police officer; **Jovanović, Goran** (M, 21), police reservist; **Mitrović, Miodrag** (M, 20), student; **Vasić, Ljubiša** (M, 31), all Serbs, from Vrbovac, Vitina Municipality,

were travelling in the same convoy as the above in a red Yugo car. They too were stopped by the same KLA group, questioned, beaten and taken away, after which all trace of them was lost. **A.B.** (M, 33); **K.S.** (M, 39); **K.M.** and his **wife and two children**, also in the convoy, were able to escape.

K.M. recounted that the Serbs left Vrbovac together at 5.30 a.m. on 30 June. He described to the HLC what happened:

"We reached Dobrčane about half past six. The road at the entrance to the village, next to the first house, was blocked with three big slabs of concrete. Six men were standing beside the barricade, three in KLA camouflage uniforms and the other three in civvies. All were about 25. I saw that the road behind the barricade, in the village center, was completely blocked: two trucks and metal obstacles in the right lane, and bags of sand reinforced with metal barricades in the left. Some 30 men in black clothes were standing there. One had a black mask over his face. The KLA soldier at the first roadblock signaled to us to stop.

"A KLA man dragged A.B. out of the car in which he was travelling with K.S. and K.M. and tried to haul him over to the left side of the road. At that moment, K.S. stepped hard on the gas and A.B. got away from the Albanian and threw himself into the attached trailer. They bypassed both barricades by getting off the road and driving around them. The Albanians opened fire at them but they managed to get away.

"Two KLA soldiers then got Radovan, Goran, Miodrag and Ljubiša out of their car and led them to the left side of the road. Another man, in civvies, fattish, with brown hair and a dark complexion, ordered one of the two soldiers to drive the car away. Two soldiers got V.S., K.D., B. and me off the truck, searched us, took our papers and money. They tied our hands with plastic handcuffs and took us to the left side of the road where I saw five or six KLA men kicking Radovan, Goran, Miodrag and Ljubiša who were down on the ground. Their IDs were scattered around them. When the fattish Albanian ordered us to sit down on the ground, two or three soldiers started kicking V.S. in the head, back and stomach. Then another soldier began hitting me with a nightstick and kicking me in the head. They beat us for about 30 minutes. They asked no questions, just said we had done the same thing to their brothers and sisters. As they beat us, I noticed several KLA soldiers push and kick Radovan, Goran, Miodrag and Ljubiša into the first side street on the left. Later on I saw there were five or six houses in the street and a stream at its end. When they stopped beating us, I saw a semi-trailer with Vranje (Serbia) plates and a Yugo passenger car at the first roadblock. The KLA stopped the semi-trailer but let the Yugo through after first taking a child's bike off the roof rack. Then they told us to get up and go toward our truck. A soldier cut the plastic cuffs on our hand with a knife and let us climb in. From the truck I saw the soldiers moving the roadblock a little and signaling to us to be on our way."

Source: HLC, witness statement

M.A. (M, 51), Rom, from Gnjilane (266 Abdula Preševa (Abdyl Presheva) St.)) – abducted in June 1999, held for several hours and released.

M.A. related to the HLC that an Albanian by the name of Adem accosted him in a Gnjilane pastry shop and threatened to kill him unless he accompanied him to the school dormitory. M.A. was questioned there by an Albanian acquaintance from Gnjilane, Avdija, also known as "Goldsmith."

"Avdija asked me to name who in Gnjilane was in the Yugoslav Army and in the paramilitary groups. I said he ought to put that question to the Yugoslav government. He wasn't pleased with the answer and punched me in the head. Adem's sons, who were there at the headquarters, ran up and started hitting me with nightsticks and iron bars. They ordered me to keep count of the blows. They beat me for about two hours, demanding answers I didn't have. I blacked out and, when I came to, found myself in my yard. My wife said they threw me down in the yard like I was a dog and left. They said we were to pack up and leave the house."

M.A. and his family fled Kosovo to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stanković, Djordje (M, 80), Serb, from Gnjilane (1 Ganeta Jovanovića St.) – abducted in late June 1999 in Gnjilane.

Stanković was abducted and held for several days by unidentified persons before being released.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Cvetković, Dragan (M, 27), Serb, from Kmetovce (Kmetofc), Gnjilane Municipality – abducted in early July 1999.

Cvetković's friends recounted that he was taken by KLA members from the neighboring village. His Serb neighbors retaliated by abducting three Albanians from their village who knew the abductors, and told their families they would be released when the KLA let Cvetković go. He was set free the next day, and his neighbors released the Albanians they were holding. The witnesses stated that another three Serbs, **Jordanović, Djordje; Filipović, Zvonko** and **Stojanović, Zvonko**, were taken by the KLA in July and released either the same or the next day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Todorović, Predrag (M), Serb, from Gnjilane – abducted on 2 July 1999 and released when he handed over the weapons he had in his home.

Todorović was stopped by men in uniform on the road from Gnjilane to Dobërçane village who demanded that he hand over his weapons. When he said his guns were at home, the men drove him there, took the guns and left.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

J.Ž. (M, 34), Serb, from Gnjilane (AS 22 Vojvode Stepe St.), employed at Gnjilane branch office of Magistrala Priština company - abducted by the KLA on 3 July 1999, held for a week and released.

J.Ž. recounted that he went to his office about 2 p.m. on 3 July. Three Albanians in camouflage uniforms and caps with KLA badges stopped him at the entrance. Two were about 35 while the third was somewhat younger, about 27. All three were tall with dark hair and dark complexions. Two spoke only Albanian and the youngest one, who knew Serbian, interpreted for them. They said they were doing routine checks and asked why he had remained in Gnjilane. They pushed him into a metallized tan Opel Ascona without license plates and blindfolded him. In the car, they told him they knew he had been called up and served in the Yugoslav Army in Vitina and was the only Kosovo Serb in the unit. Though unable to see through the blindfold, J.Ž. realized that they were taking him to Vitina. When the car stopped, he was taken into the cellar of a house.

J.Ž. described to the HLC what happened then:

"The cellar was all of concrete and quite bare. A big guy with a beard, dark hair and skin of about 30 who spoke Serbian with a Vitina accent took off the blindfold. Though he already knew a lot about me, he asked for my particulars, where I worked and where I had been during the fighting. Telling him about my service in the Army, I mentioned something that happened in my unit. A soldier from Vranje stole a Ford Sierra from an Albanian from Drobeš (Dobresh) and brought it to Captain Jovanović at our command post. Because of the bombing, Capt. Jovanović gave orders for the car to be removed. I knew the car belonged to an Albanian called Ćerim (Qerim) so I drove it to his house. Ćerim was delighted and told everybody how his car had been returned by a soldier. The KLA man questioned me for an hour after I told this story and then said he was going to check it out. Nobody questioned me after that. Over the next week, only a young soldier came into the cellar three times a day to bring me bread, meat paste and canned meat. He was short, about 24, dark and wore a KLA uniform with a camouflage pattern.

"In the afternoon of 9 July, the KLA man who had questioned me the first day came in. He said he had checked out my story and that I could go home. He blindfolded me, led me out of the house and put me in a car. By the sound of the engine, I think it was a WV Golf. He let me out near the Truba Cafe in Klokot (Kllokot), Vitina Municipality. When he drove away, I took off the blindfold and went home."

The witness remained in Gnjilane until 10 September 1999 when he and his family fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

R.R. (M), Serb, from Gnjilane, proprietor of grocery store – abducted on 7 July 1999, held for two hours and released.

R.R.'s wife stated that KLA members came to their home almost every day from mid-June to 7 July, searching the house for weapons, warning them that they had to move out, and demanding 5,000 to 10,000 deutsche marks in cash.

On 7 July, Daut Morina, an Albanian business associate of R.R. and former Gnjilane police chief, and several KLA members broke the window of R.R.'s store and loaded all the goods into a white van. On this occasion, Morina demanded 5,000 marks and when R.R. did not give him the money, took him to the KLA prison in the basement of the department store in Bojanina St. The KLA men beat R.R., asked where his son was, and threatened him with being roasted on a spit if he did not turn in his son. He was held for two hours and returned to his home.

After this incident, R.R. and his family fled Kosovo to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojanović, David (M), Serb, from Gnjilane, MD - abducted from his apartment (Vojvode Stepe St) on 8 July 1999, held for several hours and released.

Stojanović's neighbor recounted that KLA members came to the apartment in which Stojanović lived with his wife at about 5.40 p.m. on 8 July, led him out and pushed him into a car. They drove him to the building of the Binočka Morava firm where four or five KLA men beat him. He was then taken to the nearby stadium where the beating continued. Several hours later, the KLA men told Stojanović he could go. Stojanović returned home and with his wife left Gnjilane for Serbia a few days later.

Source: HLC, witness statement

T.M. (M), Serb, from Gnjilane – abducted on 9 July 1999, taken to the school dormitory in Gnjilane where he was questioned, slapped and shortly released.¹⁹

Source: HLC, witness statement

Č.S. (F) ; **S.Z.** (F), Serbs, from Gnjilane – abducted by the KLA on 12 July 1999 in Bojanina St., taken to the KLA headquarters and released some 20 minutes later.²⁰

¹⁹ Witness statement on the abduction and release of T.M: Gnjilane, 2. Abducted.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Nasković, Siniša (M), Serb, from Kmetovac, Gnjilane Municipality – reported by the Church Committee to have been abducted in the summer of 1999 and released some time later.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Perić, Živojin (M, 59), Serb, from Gnjilane (Kralja Petra St.) – abducted in the summer of 1999, taken to the cellar of the next-door house, beaten and questioned and released later that day.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Petrović, Srdjan (M), Serb, from Gnjilane (Bojanina St.) –abducted from his home, taken to the school dormitory, questioned, beaten and released.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Stošić, Aleksandar (M), Serb, from Gnjilane – abducted in the summer of 1999, physically abused and then released.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Antić, Branimir (M), Serb, from Gnjilane - abducted in the summer of 1999, severely beaten and released.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

(Last name unknown) Mladen, Serb, from Gnjilane – abducted in the summer of 1999, taken to the Staro Igralište neighborhood, physically abused and released.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Stojanović, Gradimir (M); **Cvetanović, Ivan** (M), Serbs, from Šilovo, **Stajić, Jovica** (M); **Stojković, Vojislav** (M), Serbs, from Gornje Kusce; **Popović, Duško** (M), Serb, from Donja Budriga (Budzike e Poshtem), Gnjilane Municipality; **Perić, Igor** (M), Serbian Serb, from Belgrade – abducted on 31 December 2000 on the Preševo-Gnjilane road.

The six men were abducted by armed Albanians on the Preševo-Gnjilane road, a few kilometers from the Cerevajk crossing on the administrative boundary between Serbia and Kosovo. They were released to the International Red Cross on 1 January 2001 after KFOR and FRY Yugoslavia officials intervened.

Source: *Oslobodjena šestorica otetih Srba* [Six Kidnapped Serbs Released], DANAS, 3 January 2001

2.2.3. Set free

²⁰ Witness statement on the abduction and release of Č.S. and S.Z: Gnjilane, 2. Abducted.

J.S. (M, 54), Serb, from Bostane, Novo Brdo (Novobërdë) Municipality, employee of Novi Beograd company in Serbia; **unidentified man**, Serb, from Gračanica (Graçanicë)– abducted by KLA on 13 July 1999 near Gnjilane, set free by KFOR the same day.

J.S. recounted to the HLC what happened:

"I was returning to Kosovo from Serbia by bus that day. Two KLA policemen in civilian clothes stopped the bus near Gnjilane and started checking the passengers' papers. The Albanian driver tried to help me escape but it didn't work. They took me off the bus together with an older man from Gračanica and led us to a building close by where KLA headquarters was. We were both taken into the same room. After they had searched our luggage, one of the KLA men began questioning me. First he took down the particulars in my ID card, then asked where I had been and what I did during the war. Then he started to question the older man, who offered him 100 dinars. The KLA man said he was not a member of the 'pig police force,' that he was an Albanian policeman, that he wouldn't let him go even for 100 deutsche marks, and that he would take him to the main headquarters of the KLA police in Ugljare where he would confess how many Albanians he had killed and how many of their houses he had torched. Then he turned to me and told me not to be afraid, that we would not be alone because there were other Serbs imprisoned there. He took us out of the building and ordered us to get into a taxi.

"The KLA man told the taxi driver to drive slowly to the town center by way of the marketplace so as to avoid the KFOR checkpoints. When we got to the turnoff for Ugljare we had to stop because of a convoy of about 10 vehicles of the American troops with KFOR. The old man and I seized the chance, jumped out of the car and I started shouting, 'Police UÇK'. Five or six American soldiers ran up and pointed their guns at us. I kept repeating 'Police UÇK'. The KLA policeman shouted at me, 'Shame on you. You've been riding for two hours and now you won't pay,' and the KFOR interpreter, an Albanian, translated this for the American soldiers. I said 'Police UÇK' over and over and caught one of the soldiers by the arm and pointed to the KLA policeman's pocket. The American soldier reached into the KLA man's pocket, took out my ID card and some kind of list and realized that they had taken our papers. The KFOR soldiers handcuffed them and took them away. They drove us to their headquarters where they offered us soft drinks, returned our papers, asked what had happened exactly and if we wanted to press charges against the KLA man. I said all I wanted was never to lay eyes on him again."

KFOR then took J.S. and the elderly man to their homes. During August 1999, KLA members frequently came to Bostane, putting pressure on Serb families to leave the village. On one of these occasions, they set fire to J.S.'s barn and

robbed him of some of his belongings. The family left the village and fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

A.S. (F, 20), Serb, from Gnjilane – abducted by three unidentified Albanians, taken to the apartment of a Serb in Priština, physically abused and raped. She was set free by KFOR three days later.

In her statement to the HLC, A.S. described what happened:

"I went to see a friend who lived at the end of my street between 3 and 4 p.m. that 18 July. Suddenly, a red Yugo stopped beside me on the road, a man grabbed me and pulled me into the car and put a blindfold over my eyes. Not a word was said while the car was moving. When it stopped, they took the blindfold off. I saw three men with me in the car. It was 5 p.m. and we were in Priština, in the Dardanija neighborhood in front of a 15-story apartment building. They took me into a two-room apartment. It was furnished but in a mess and filthy. They pushed me into a room and started asking questions about some people I didn't know, about my brothers who are military personnel, and about my neighbor Zare Cvetanović. They asked where they were, what they were doing, where they were hiding. I didn't know anything and wouldn't have told them even if I had known. They slapped me and hit me all over the body. They had knives and pistols and threatened to kill me with them. They said I wasn't to scream or cry because the KLA headquarters was just outside the building and threatened to take me there if I called for help. They made me speak Albanian and kept asking the same questions. It was late at night when they stopped questioning and beating me. They locked the apartment when they left.

"When they came back in the morning, they started questioning me again. One asked the questions, the other one beat me, and the third one just sat there, smoking, drinking and insulting me. When I stopped answering their questions, they got very angry. They grabbed me and tore at my clothes. They threw me down on the couch. Two held my arms and legs and the third raped me. Every five or ten minutes they would change places. They made me perform oral sex on them several times. After a while, they carried me into the other room and continued to rape me on the bed. All three noticed that I was bleeding but didn't stop raping me and roughing me up. They slapped me whenever I cried or screamed loudly. It was getting dark outside when they left me and went into the living room. I couldn't move from the bed because of the pain. All three stayed in the apartment that night. I heard them talking in Albanian.

"On the morning of the third day all three went out and left me locked in the apartment again. Some time later, I heard the phone ringing in the next-door apartment. Then I started looking for a phone and found it but the cord had been cut. I managed somehow to splice it and call the police for help. I found

the telephone bill of the apartment's former owner, a Serb, with the address on it so I was able to tell the police exactly where I was. Three KFOR soldiers soon came with an Albanian woman interpreter. Two soldiers stayed in the apartment and the third one and the Albanian woman took me to the police station. I said I wanted a doctor to examine me and establish that I had been raped and ill-treated, but they didn't allow it. The two soldiers who had stayed in the apartment caught a man but when they brought him to the police I saw it wasn't one of the kidnappers."

The man arrested by KFOR in the apartment denied any involvement in the abduction and rape of A.S. He stated that some men had asked him to go to the apartment to pick up a friend who was there and drive her somewhere.

A few days after the incident, A.S. was called in to identify her abductors but they were not among the among arrested. She left Gnjilane that same day and fled to Montenegro. She believes that her abduction was organized out of revenge by her Albanian next-door neighbor in Gnjilane because her ex-husband and his friends had robbed and torched his house.

Source: HLC, witness statement

S.DŽ. (M), Serbian Rom, from Kraljevo; **his brother, uncle and brother-in-law** – abducted on 28 July 1999 by four Albanian civilians near Dobrčane, Gnjilane Municipality, beaten, set free by local Albanians several hours later.

"With my uncle, brother and brother-in-law, I went to Gnjilane that day to take a relative to Serbia. We went in two cars. My brother-in-law and I were in the first, a Zastava 101, and my uncle and brother in the second, a Renault 4. We were stopped by four Albanian civilians between 6.30 and 7 p.m. just outside Dobrčane. They were wearing black pants and sweat suit tops. When we got out of the car I saw they were drunk. Another three came in a red WV Golf without plates and joined them. They started to beat my brother and uncle. Two of the Albanians pushed me and my brother-in-law into the back seat of the Zastava 101. One drove and the other kept his pistol pointed at us. The other two tied my uncle and brother to each other, bundled them into the Renault 4 and, with the red Golf following, we were driven in the direction of Gnjilane. Half an hour later, we turned left into a woods.

"They shoved us into some barn and said, 'This isn't Serbia, what do you want here? Who sent you? With which army did you fight?' They put a chain round my neck, ordered us to strip naked and began beating us with clubs and crowbars and kicking and punching us all over. They pushed sharp sticks into our mouths and threatened to cut off my brother's finger. They beat us for about one and a half hours. Then they dragged me through a small window and led me into the woods. I was scared, thinking they were going to kill me. They questioned me

but didn't wait for the answers, just rained blows with thick branches on me. This lasted about two hours. Then seven Albanians from a village near by came. Three were carrying axes and two had pistols. They told the men who were beating me to let me go, saying if they didn't the Serbs would come again and slaughter them all. One winked at me. They gave us a minute to get dressed, put us in the back seat of the Zastava 101 and drove to the main road. I was benumbed. When we got there, they left us in the car and told us to go back to Serbia."

S.DŽ., his uncle, brother and brother-in-law returned to Serbia and received medical attention in a hospital. They never went back to Kosovo.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Vitković, Zoran (M), Serb, from Gnjilane, judge – abducted by armed Albanians on the morning of 30 July 1999 on the road to Bujanovac near Dobrčan, Gnjilane Municipality, questioned and physically abused, set free several hours later by members of the Russian contingent of KFOR.
Source: *Rafali na Srbe u Gnjilanui* [Fire Opened at Serbs in Gnjilane], BLIC (FoNet), 31 July 1999

Stanković, Miodrag (M, 39), Serb, from Žegra, Gnjilane Municipality – abducted by the KLA in early October 1999, tortured, set free by KFOR. The abductors, among whom Stanković recognized his neighbors Ćerim Gazimi (Qerim Gazimi) and Idriz Iseni, dragged him into a burnt-out house and tortured him. When US members of KFOR appeared unexpectedly, the abductors ran away. Stanković was taken to a hospital for treatment of his injuries, which included knife cuts on his tongue and stomach.
Source: *Serbs Left as Targets*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 22 October 1999

ISTOK

1. Missing

Ašanin, Milan (M, 24), Serb, from Istok – last seen on 16 April 1999 in Istok.
Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Memarović, Djordje (M), Serb, from Bijelo Polje, Istok Municipality – disappeared in Bjelo Polje after 14 June 1999.
Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Stojković, Djurka (F), Serb, from Zać (Zallq), Istok Municipality – disappeared after 14 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement; *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Radmić, Radovan (M, 44); **Džogović, Stana** (F); **Pešić, Zlata** (F), Serbs, from Istok – disappeared on 16 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Krstić, Danica (F, 68), retired; **Milosavljević, Ljubomirka** (F, 65), employee of Ribnjak Motel, Serbs, from Istok – last seen on 18 June 1999.

Mrs Krstić's son-in-law stated that a local priest, Father Sava, had reportedly advised Istok Serbs to flee to Serbia or come unarmed to the Serbian Orthodox church. He went to Mrs Krstić's house to tell her that they had to leave but she refused. The next day, the majority of Serbs left Istok and all trace of Mrs Krstić was lost.

An Albanian friend subsequently told her family that he met Mrs Krstić on 28 June when she told him she had moved in with Ljubomirka Milosavljević, who had also remained in Istok. The Albanian friend did not see her again. He also said he heard that all the remaining Istok Serbs were killed and their bodies buried near the former stock market in the town.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djuričić, Vučeta (M, 70), Serb, from Bijelo Polje, Peć Municipality – disappeared between 19 and 21 June 1999 in Istok.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ćirković, Miloš (M, 30), Serb, from Bijelo Polje, Peć Municipality, forester – last seen on 26 June 1999.

Ćirković's family left Bijelo Polje on 17 June. Relatives heard from his neighbors that he was last seen in his home on 26 June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ljušić, Stanoje (M, 64), retired (1 Milića Krstića St.); his sister **Vulić, Djurdja**; her husband **Vulić, Mihajlo**; **Vulić, Radoje** (M, 72), retired; his wife **Vulić Stanica** (59), housewife; his son **Vulić, Miodrag** (40), accountant at Dubrava company; **Djurić, Petar** (M, 60), retired (40 Hvostanska St.), all Serbs from Istok – disappeared on the night of 29/30 June 1999.

Inquiring with KFOR in Istok, the families learned that a group of Serbs had requested an escort to leave the town. An agreement was reached for these Serbs to come to a designated location in the town the next morning, 30 June, from where they would proceed with a KFOR escort. None of them turned up.

That same day, KFOR found the burnt-out house of Stanoje Ljušić and in it the carbonized remains of five men and two women. The bodies could not be identified since all Serbs had by then departed Istok. KFOR therefore turned the bodies over to local Serbian Orthodox priests for burial. Four bodies were buried in one location. The names Radoje Vulić, Miško Vulić and Petar Djurić were inscribed on three gravestones; there was no name on the fourth. In early July, unidentified persons blew up the graves and destroyed them.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dobrić, Djordje (M, 61), Serb, from Krnjina (Kerninë), Istok Municipality, farmer – disappeared in late June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Nedeljković, Ranko (M), Serb, employee of Istok post office; his wife **Nedeljković, Vlasta**, Slovene – disappeared in late June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Vujisić, Miloš (M, 57), Serb, from Crkolež (Cërkolez), Istok Municipality – last seen on 15 July 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Pejović, Savka (F, 77), Serb, from Istok – disappeared in July 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

2. Abducted

Hetaj, Valdet; his children **V.S.** (2), **V.V.** (1), Roma, from Banja (Baje), Istok Municipality – abducted by the KLA in May 1999.

A relative told the HLC that Hetaj, his wife Šureta (Shyhrete) (F, 18) and their two children, V.S. (2) and V.V. (1) went to Vrelo, Istok Municipality, in May. Hetaj was taken by KLA members, after which his wife and children hid in the schoolhouse.

The next day, Mrs Valdet and the children started out for Savine Vode, her mother's village, but did not arrive. Her mother, Mira Ferizaj, went to look for them, found the children beside her daughter's dead body and took them home with her. A few days later, KLA members came to Mrs Ferizaj's house, abducted the children and took them to an Albanian in Rožaje, Montenegro. The Albanian contacted Mrs Ferizaj two months later, she went to Rožaje for the children and then fled Kosovo to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Pumpalović, Momčilo (M, 61), Serb, Russian language teacher and principal of Braća Ribar high school in Istok – abducted on the night of 27/28 June 1999 from the apartment of his daughter (C/5 Solunskih Boraca St.); his wife **Pumpalović, Sretenka** (60), Serb, housewife; **unidentified woman friend** (Serb) – abducted on 30 June 1999 from her house.

The Pumpalovićs' daughter recounted to the HLC that she and her family fled to Serbia on 17 June, after which she lost touch with her parents who remained in Istok.

From Albanian neighbors she heard that her father moved to her apartment to look after it while her mother and a woman friend stayed in the Pumpalović house. On the night of 28/28 June, unidentified men came and took her father from the apartment. Three days later, in the evening of 1 July, Sretenka Pumpalović and her friend were abducted from the house. This was confirmed subsequently to the daughter by other neighbors and friends who lived in the same street.

In early July 1999, a neighbor informed the daughter of her parents' disappearance. When this neighbor was leaving Istok at the beginning of July, the Albanian trucker pointed out a body lying near the mosque and said it was Momčilo Pumpalović. The neighbor asked what had happened to Mrs Pumpalović and the trucker replied that she had been "finished off" too. The neighbor also told the family that KLA members on 27 June took the majority of Serbs who had remained in Istok to the KLA headquarters for questioning and that Pumpalović was among them. They were questioned by the local KLA commander, Naser Šatri (Naser Shatri), who reportedly told them they had to leave and guaranteed them safe passage. Many of the remaining Serbs were killed or abducted the following night.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2. Released

V.S. (2); **V.V.** (1), Roma, from Banja, Istok Municipality – abducted by the KLA in May 1999, taken to Rožaje, Montenegro, and set free two months later.²¹

Source: HLC, witness statement

KAČANIK (KAÇANIK)

1. Missing

²¹ Witness statement on the abduction and release of V.S and V.V: Istok, 2. Abducted

Stojković, Slobodan (M, 48), Serb, from Stari Kačanik, Kačanik Municipality – last seen on 13 June 1999 on the road from Stari Kačanik to Gnjilane.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Mladenović, Stanojko (M, 37), Serb, from Stari Kačanik (Kačaniku i Vjetër), Kačanik Municipality, police reservist - last seen at the Partizanski Put crossroads near Uroševac on 13 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Janković, Slobodan (M, 55), Serb, from Uroševac, retired – last seen on 16 June 1999 on the road between Stari Kačanik and Kačanik.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2. Abducted

Stojković, Slobodan (M, 54), Serb, from Kačanik (11 Kralja Petra St.), police officer – abducted on 11 June 1999.

Mrs Stojković recounted that Serbs and Roma left Kačanik on 11 June, seeking safety in Stari Kačanik village. Some 15 Roma could not find transportation so her husband borrowed from an Albanian neighbor a tractor with trailer attached to take them. He took the tractor at about 1 p.m. and returned it at 2 p.m., after which he was not seen again.

Mrs Stojković waited for her husband in Stari Kačanik for a few days and, when he did not turn up, went to Kačanik to inquire about him. An Albanian woman neighbor, a KLA member, told her that her husband had been taken by the KLA for questioning. Mrs Stojković then fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dejanović, Milorad "Rade" (M, 55), chairman of local Red Cross organization; his wife **Dejanović, Jelena** (52), Serbs, from Stari Kačanik, Mahala Čardak neighborhood (Vendbanimi i Qardak) – abducted by the KLA from their home on the night of 17/18 June 1999.

A neighbor told the HLC he went to see the Dejanovićs' on 18 June. No one answered when he rang the doorbell. He noticed that the light in the hallway was on, and the glass in a window on the other side of the house broken. He entered the house through this window and saw that it had been ransacked. He asked the neighbor next door, an Albanian, if he knew what had happened to the Dejanovićs. The man replied that three armed and uniformed KLA men he did not know had come to the house on the night of 17/18 June, pushed Dejanović into a car and drove away. An hour later, two of them came back for Mrs Dejanović.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stanković, Radojko "Rade" (M, 63), Serb, from Stari Kačanik, employee of Telekom in Uroševac – abducted on 26 June 1999.

An eyewitness of Stanković's abduction described what happened.

"Rade came to see me that day. At 3.30 p.m., seven armed KLA men came into my yard and started beating Rade. Then they dragged him into the hallway where they began to beat me too. They demanded that we hand over our weapons. About half an hour later, they led us out of the house and to a car, saying they were taking us to the KLA headquarters. They pushed Rade into the back seat. There wasn't room for me and they said I was to stay at home and wait until they came back for me. I didn't wait for them and hid behind the house. They didn't come looking for me that day."

Mrs Stanković went to the KLA headquarters in the Stari Kačanik schoolhouse to inquire about her husband. KLA members told her Stanković was not there and that they did not know his whereabouts.

The Stanković family, together with other Serbs in the municipality, left Kačanik with the assistance of the International Red Cross on 28 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1 Killed

S. Živka (F, 52); her daughter **S. Gordana** (22), Serbs, from Stari Kačanik, Kačanik Municipality – abducted by the KLA and killed on 27 June 1999.

S.D. told the HLC how his wife and daughter were killed:

"At about 4 p.m. that day, my wife Živka, daughter Gordana and I went to see a Serb neighbor. We were on foot. About 200 meters from our house, two Albanians drove up in a car which belonged to a Serb villager, Jovan Janković, and stopped us. They had automatic rifles, one was in a KLA camouflage uniform and the other in civvies. They asked in Albanian if we were Serbs. When we said we were, they forced us at gunpoint into the car. They took us to the elementary school in Djeneral Janković village, Kačanik Municipality. There were eight KLA soldiers in the school, armed with pistols and wearing camouflage uniforms with KLA badges. One of them had a red band around his arm. They led us to a classroom on the first floor and left us alone. We were there until 8 or 9 p.m. when three KLA men came for us and took us into a woods called Gajre, above Djeneral Janković. Two were in KLA camouflage uniforms and one in civilian clothes.

"When we were in the woods, the soldiers blindfolded us and ordered us to kneel and clasp our hands behind our heads. They stood in back of us and fired, first

at my daughter Gordana, then my wife Živka and finally at me. I fell and don't know how long it was until I came to. I had blood all over me. A bullet had hit me in the shoulder and another had grazed my neck. Gordana and Živka were on the ground beside me, dead. I took my wife's handbag and ran off through the woods."

The witness cannot recall which route he took or how he reached his sister's house in Brezovica (Brezovicë), Štrpce (Shtërpce/Firajë) Municipality. He fled Kosovo to Macedonia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

KOSOVSKA KAMENICA

1. Missing

Tasić, Aleksandar (M, 35), Serb, from Boljevce, Kosovska Kamenica Municipality, police officer – disappeared on 24 June 1999 on the road between Boljevce (Bolec) and Novo Brdo.

A friend said Tasić went to Novi Brdo that day to see his wife, who was staying with her father.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Srboljub (M, 40), Serb, from Strezovce (Strezofc), Kosovska Kamenica Municipality, teacher – disappeared in late June 1999 on the road between Strezovce and Priština.

Ristić, his wife and son lived in Strezovce but he also had a house in Priština in which his mother lived, stated a friend of the family. In late June, an Albanian neighbor, Hamdija Duvali (Hamdija Duvalli), and his family moved into the Priština house. Duvali drove Ristić's mother to Strezovce and left her there. When he heard from his mother what had happened, Ristić started out for Priština on foot and was not seen again.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stanković, Goran (M, 19), Serb, from Domorovce, Kosovska Kamenica Municipality; **Tomić, Zoran** (M, 27), Serbian Serb, from Lopardince, Bujanovac Municipality – last seen on 12 August 1999 at the Ismajilj filling station between Domorovce and Ogošta (Ogoshte) villages with a tractor for which they were buying fuel.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jovanović, Vida (F, 42), Serb, from Ranilug (Ranllug), Kosovska Kamenica Municipality – last seen on 13 October 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

2. Abducted

Petković, Dobri (M, 37), manager of food store in Kosovska Kamenica; his brother **Petković, Dragan**, Serbs, from Korminjane, Kosovska Kamenica Municipality – abducted on 2 July 1999 from a bus running between Gnjiljane and Korminjane.

According to neighbors, KLA members blocked the road forcing the bus to stop, ordered the Petković brothers to get off and took them away.

2.1. Killed

Simić, Milivoje (M, 51); **Arsić, Nenad** (M, 33), Serbs, from Kosovska Kamenica – detained by the KLA on 19 June 1999 at the gasoline station in Kosovska Kamenica. Simić was able to escape while Arsić was abducted. Later that day, the same KLA members abducted Simić.

The witness told the HLC that KLA members occupied the gasoline station and the hospital in Kosovska Kamenica on 18 June 1999. The next day, Simić, his son Goran and relative Nenad Arsić went to the Orthodox Church to meet with other Serbs to discuss how to defend themselves. They were stopped at the gasoline station on the main road about noon by four armed KLA members in civilian clothes, all from Kosovska Kamenica, who were in a green Mercedes car parked by the road. At gunpoint, the KLA men forced Simić, Goran Simić and Arsić to get out of their car, pushed Arsić into the back seat of the Mercedes where one KLA member held a pistol to his temple, and searched Goran Simić. Milivoje Simić managed to escape.

An Albanian neighbor of the Simić family came by and, after talking briefly with the KLA men, took Goran Simić by the hand and told him he was free to go home. Nenad Arsić was driven away in the Mercedes in the direction of Koretin village, Kosovska Kamenica Municipality.

In the meantime, Milivoje Simić and several other Serbs met with Albanian acquaintances at the gasoline station and asked them to intercede with the KLA for Arsić's release. As they were talking, the same green Mercedes came from the direction of Koretin and stopped by the gas station. Arsić was inside. The driver repeatedly called out to Goran Milivojević to approach the car. He refused and his father went instead, spoke very briefly with the driver, walked to the other side of the car and got in. He shouted to the others that he was going to get Arsić's car and would be back soon.

The green Mercedes moved towards the center of the town, followed by several others cars with KLA members from Kosovska Kamenica in civilian clothes inside,

which had been parked near by. When the cars had traversed 200 to 300 meters, three shots were heard. Nenad Arsić was dead, shot in the head and chest. Milivoje Simić was then transferred to another car. The KLA men threw Arsić's body over the bridge and proceeded to the other side of the river where there are two neighborhoods, Serb and Albanian. The Serbs, who had in the meantime heard what was happening, opened fire at the approaching cars. Three Albanians were killed in the shooting. The others reached the Albanian neighborhood with Simić, got into two other cars (dark red Opel Vectra and orange Lada Niva), drove through the Serb villages Grizime, Bosce and Strelica (Strelicë) and on to the all-Albanian village Koprivnica.

Acting on an anonymous tip, KFOR found Milivoje Simić's mutilated body near the substation in the Albanian neighborhood on the other side of the river: the left ear was missing, there were multiple wounds inflicted by a sharp object and gunshot wounds on the body.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tomić, Dragan (M, 35); **Zdravković, Djordje** (M, 50); his son **Zdravković, Zoran** (25), Serbs, from Glogovce, Kosovska Kamenica Municipality – disappeared on 10 July 1999, their bodies were found on 15 July 1999.

Neighbors recounted that Tomić and the Zdravkovićs went to a woods 15 kilometers from Kosovska Kamenica to cut some firewood. Their remains were uncovered in the mass grave in Ugljare, Gnjilane Municipality, on 24 July.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Antić, Negovan (M, 33), Serb, from Kosovska Kamenica, shopowner; his relative **Ilić, Novica** (38), Serb, from Koretina, Kosovska Kamenica Municipality, former assistant police chief in Kosovska Kamenica – disappeared on 31 July 1999; their bodies were found in Koretina on 4 August 1999.

A neighbor stated that Ilić started out for Vranje, Serbia, on 31 July with his relative Antić to make arrangements for the transport of his mother-in-law's body to Kosovska Kamenica. Ilić drove his white Yugo car. They were last seen later that day, on the road through Koretina village, five kilometers from Kosovska Kamenica.

On 4 August, KFOR found the bodies of Ilić and Antić concealed in the bushes on a hill near Koretina. There were visible traces of violence on them: the hands were tied and there were gunshot wounds in the heads.

Shortly afterwards, unidentified persons several times threw incendiary devices into the yard of the house in which Antić had lived with his wife and her parents, and into his store.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

Miljković, Goran (M, 20); his brother **Miljković, Milosav** (22); **Pešić, Saša** (M, 29); **Kostić, Milan** (M, 19), Serbs, from Berivojce, Kosovska Kamenica Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 24 December 2000 on the Preševo-Gnjilane road as they were returning by car from Preševo to Berivojce. They were released two days later.

Source: *Nestala četvorica srpskih mladića* [Four Serb Youths Disappear], POLITIKA, 25 December 2000; *Četvorica Srba bila u rukama albanskih ekstremista* [Four Serbs in the Hands of Albanian Extremists], FREE B92 website, Latest News, 26 December 2000.

KLINA (KLINE)

1. Missing

Milenković, Stanko (M, 22), Serb, from Sevce (Sefcë), Štrpce Municipality, law student in Priština, Yugoslav Army member – disappeared in March 1999. His last contact with his parents was on 22 March 1999 when he called them from the Metohija army barracks in Djakovica where he was doing his military service.

Mr Milenković said that his son's commanding officer, Colonel Miloš Djošan, issued a certificate stating that Stanko Milenković had deserted on 13 April 1999 when his unit was stationed in Kijevo, Klina Municipality.

Col. Djošan declined to give Mr Milenković any further information about his son's disappearance. Two other soldiers who were in the same unit claimed that they had not known Stanko Milenković. Another soldier subsequently told the father he had been friendly with Stanković but refused to say anything about his disappearance.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dašić, Dušan (M); **Dašić, Jovanka** (F), Serbs, from Rudice, Klina Municipality – disappeared after 14 June 1999.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Martinović, Zorka (F); **Ljusić, Cenka** (F), Serbs, from Štupelj (Shtupel), Klina Municipality – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in Štupelj.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Gvozdenović, Živan (M, 76), retired; his son **Gvozdenović, Gojko** (53), construction worker, Serbs, from Vidanja, Klina Municipality – disappeared on 17 June 1999 after their families and most neighbors had fled the village.

Gojko Gvozdenović was last seen walking in the direction of Djurakovac (Gjurakovc), Istok Municipality.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Minić, Boško (M, 53), Serb, from Vidanja, Klina Municipality – disappeared on 17 June 1999, after most of the Vidanje (Vitejë) villagers had fled Kosovo.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Marušić, Milica (F, 66); her brother-in-law **Marušić, Živko** (67); his wife **Marušić, Cveta**; **Šutić, Vučko** (M, 67), his wife **Šutić, Dostana** (64); **Lalić, Vojislav** (M, 63); his wife **Lalić, Jelena** (62); **Lalić, Ljubomir** (M, 66); **Lalić, Milijana** (F, 60), Serbs, from Štupelj, Klina Municipality – disappeared on 17 June 1999.

The son of Milica Marušić recounted that the family heard someone calling to his father to come out of the house at about 10.30 p.m. on 17 June. Recognizing the voice of an Albanian neighbor, Ćazim (Qazim), who was a member of the KLA, the family did not allow the elder Marušić to leave the house. The KLA men then broke down gate, came into the yard and killed the family's dog. The Marušićs fled through the back door into the fields behind the house, followed by Serbs from neighboring houses. They saw the KLA men loot and set fire to their homes. Fleeing through the woods, the Štupelj Serbs reached the Orthodox church in the nearby village of Budisavci (Budisallc). It was only then that they realized that the Marušićs, Šutićs and Lalićs were not with them.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jovanović, Božana (F, 80); her son **Jovanović, Vojislav** (55); Serbs, from Dranovac (Drenoc), Klina Municipality – disappeared on 17 June 1999.

The HLC was told that Mrs Jovanović's son Vlado came from Montenegro to see his mother and brother three days after the withdrawal of the Serbian forces from Kosovo. He found only his brother's hat in the yard. The house had been ransacked. When he returned to the village a week later, the house was burnt down.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Bogićević, Milić (M, 49), Serb, from Dranovac, Klina Municipality – last seen on 18 June 1999.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Pešić, Živko (M, 76), Serb, from Klina – last seen on 18 June 1999 in Kruševo village, Klina Municipality.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Stevanović, Stanoje (M, 69); his wife **Stevanović, Dragica** (63), Serbs, from Jošanica (Jashanicë), Klina Municipality – disappeared on 26 June 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Dončić, Ilija (M); his wife **Dončić, Milena**, Serbs, from Bić (Biq), Klina Municipality – last seen in the second half of June 1999 in Bić.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Pavlović, Milovan (M, 63); his son **Pavlović, Radoš** (38), Serbian Serbs, from Niš – last seen at 1.30 a.m. on 16 July near the bridge in Klina.

Relatives stated that the Pavlovićs were transporting vacuum cleaners manufactured in Montenegro to Priština via Rožaje (Montenegro) in a green, 10-ton Mercedes truck (license plates NI-181-19). The vacuum cleaners had been ordered by a longstanding Albanian business associate of the Pavlovićs.

This Albanian told Mrs Pavlović that he and her husband were riding in a van behind the truck, and that his brother and her son were in the truck. The truck's brakes malfunctioned near Klina and, as her son struggled to stop the vehicle, the Albanian's brother fell out and slightly injured his soldier. When the Albanian decided to drive his brother to the Priština hospital in the van, the Pavlovićs parked the truck near the bridge and appealed to him not to leave them alone on the road. The Albanian replied that there was no need to worry because there was a KFOR post near by. The Pavlovićs were not seen again.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Murić, Dešo (M, 58); **Nurković, Halid** (M, 62), Montenegrin Muslims, from Rožaje – last seen in late July 1999 in Petrić (Poterq), Klina Municipality.

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak reported that Murić and Nurković went to Petrić to inquire about the disappearance of a Serb by the last name of **Kesić**.

Source: *Izveštaj o položaju Muslimana-Bošnjaka na Kosovu nakon dolaska KFOR-a* [Report on the Position of Bosniac-Muslims in Kosovo Following KFOR's Deployment], Helsinški odbor za ljudska prava u Sandžaku [Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak], October 1999

2. Abducted

Omeragić, Lidiya (F, 47), Muslim, from Klina, teacher at Pčelica Maja kindergarten in Klina – abducted on 30 June 1999 in Klina.

Ms. Omeragić left Klina following the deployment of KFOR and stayed with her sisters in Peć, one of the sisters told the HLC. Ismet Kolenović, who worked at the Klina bus depot, drove her back on 26 June. She found an Albanian family from Drenica in her apartment, from which all her belongings apart from a combined wardrobe-bookshelf were missing. She reported the case to KFOR and the illegal occupants were evicted. Ms. Omeragić returned to Peć the same day, planning to go back for the wardrobe and find someone to look after her apartment.

On 30 June, unable to find a trucker, she decided to go by bus. At the depot, she met Kolenović and Ljulzim Ljajći (Lulzim Lajqi), a young man from Peć, and paid them to drive her to Klina. Šeremet Bojaj (Sheremet Bojaj), a medical doctor from Klina who had offered to take care of Ms. Omeragić's apartment, accompanied them. Kolenović left her and Dr. Bojaj in front of her apartment building about 5 p.m. and proceeded on his way with Ljajći.

A friend of Ms. Omeragić from Klina told her sister that he had seen her entering the apartment building around 5 p.m. on 30 June. Somewhat later, he observed several men taking her out of the building with her hands tied. Albanian residents of the building told the sister they had not seen Ms. Omeragić that day. Source: HLC, witness statement

Purić, Stefan (M), Serb, hieromonk at Budisavić Monastery; **Vujović, Vujadin** (M), Serb, from Stup, Klina Municipality, teacher, staying at monastery – abducted by the KLA on 19 July 1999.

One of the monks learned from Stup (Stupë) villagers that Father Stefan and Vujović were stopped between 2 and 3 p.m. on 19 July by a group of KLA members on the road from the railway station to the monastery and taken to the KLA headquarters for questioning.

The Gračanica Monastery newsletter alleged that the Ljuljaj (Lulaj) family, Roman Catholic Albanians and members of the KLA, were responsible for the abduction.

Source: *Informativni servis Srpske pravoslavne crkve*, [Information Service of the Serbian Orthodox Church], PRAVOSLAVLJE PRESS, 21 July 1999; *Ubijaju i kidnapju sveštenike i monahe* [Priests and Monks Killed and Abducted], GLASNIK KOSOVA I METOHIJE, 15-22 September 2000.

KOSOVO POLJE (FUSHE E KOSOVËS)

1. Missing

Ristić, Davor (M, 28), Serb, from Kosovo Polje (Serdar Janka Vukotića St.), warehouseman – disappeared on 22 June 1999 on the road between Kosovo Polje and Priština.

Mrs Ristić recounted that her son left home at about 1 p.m. on 22 June in his white Yugo 45 (license plates PR 832-90) for Priština to buy an auto part. He was last seen by a neighbor on the road to Priština with an unidentified man in the car with him.

The family was subsequently informed that Ristić was imprisoned in the Zejnelj Ajdini (Zejnel Ajdini) elementary school in the Vranjevac (Kodra e Trimave) district of Priština. His mother reported this to KFOR, who went to the school but found it empty.

On the advice of a family friend, Mrs Ristić in late June gave 7,000 deutsche marks to Gaši Aljiju (Gashi Aliju), a Priština Albanian, who promised to arrange for her son to be released. Gaši never contacted her again.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Prokić, Dejan (M, 20), Serb, from Kosovo Polje – disappeared in June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Sakoj, Josa (F, ethnicity unknown) – disappeared in the first half of December 1999 in Vragolija (Vragoli), Kosovo Polje Municipality.

Source: *Albanian Terror in Kosovo Polje*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 14 December 1999

Mićunović, Milija (M, 60), Serb, from Kosovo Polje, disabled – disappeared on 28 December 1999, last seen about 11 a.m. that day when leaving the Kosovo Polje hospital.

Source: *Albanians Batter Jelica Stefanović*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 30 December 1999

2. Abducted

2.1. Killed

Petrović, Miroslav (M, 56), Serb, from Kosovo Polje, laborer – disappeared on 7 August 1999. Local police reported that his body was found on 14 August in Kojlovica (Kolovicë), Priština Municipality.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ničić, Dejan (M, 27), Serb, from Kosovo Polje, waiter at the Grand Hotel – disappeared on 8 August 1999 on the road between Kosovo Polje and Priština. His body was found on 10 August.

Mrs Ničić recounted that her son left Kosovo Polje at 3 p.m. on 8 August on his motor bicycle to see a friend in Laplje Selo (Fshati Llap), Priština Municipality. He never arrived there. She immediately reported his disappearance to KFOR.

Two days later, on 10 August, KFOR found his body on the right side of the rail tracks at the entrance to Priština. The body, which bore visible signs of torture, was positively identified by Mrs Ničić.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Joksimović, Ljubomir (M, 61), Serb, from Kosovo Polje (Vidovdanska St.), conductor – disappeared on 6 November on the road between Radevo (Radevë), Lipljan (Lipjan) Municipality and Kosovo Polje. His body was found on 18 November 1999 in Srbica.

Joksimović's son stated that his father and an Albanian baker from their neighborhood had agreed to go to from Radevo to Kosovo Polje together at about 2 p.m. When the baker did not turn up, Joksimović proceeded alone. He was last seen by fishermen from his neighborhood, riding alone on his tractor.

His body, bearing visible signs of torture, was found on 18 November in Srbica.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

Stepić, Živorad (M, 31), Serb, from Kosovo Polje, bus driver at Belačevac coal mine – abducted on 12 June 1999, released on 27 June 1999.

According to the HLC's information, a group of armed Albanians abducted Stepić and another three or four Serb employees in the mine compound as they were about to board the bus which took them to and from work. Six other miners who were there at the time were able to escape to Kuzmin, Kosovo Polje.

Stepić was released two weeks later, on 27 June. A report that he was held in a KLA prison at Trstenik (Trëstenik), Glogovac Municipality, until his family paid 10,000 deutsche marks in ransom could not be confirmed.

Source: HLC, witness statement

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA (MITROVICE)

1. Missing

Stojić, Ljubiša (M, 46), Serb, from Žabare (Zhabari), Kosovska Mitrovica Municipality – disappeared on 17 April 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Azemi, Safet (M, 30), Rom, from Kosovska Mitrovica (348 Fabrička St.) – last seen on 22 April 1999.

Mrs Azemi stated that her son left home at 11 a.m. on 22 April on his bicycle to buy cigarettes and flour at the market. When he failed to return by 5 p.m., she reported his disappearance to the Serbian police.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Denić, Cvetko (M, 37), Serb, from Peć – last seen on 17 June 1999 in Kosovska Mitrovica.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Živković, Todor (M, 50), Serb, from Padine, Zubin Potok Municipality, electrician – disappeared on 2 August 1999 in the souther part of Kosovska Mitrovica, last seen at the Orthodox cemetery.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Vasović, Dejan (M, 26), Serbian Serb, truck driver for Monteks company of Kragujevac (Serbia) – disappeared on 11 August 1999 on the road between Kosovska Mitrovica and Zvečan (Zveçan).

His family told the HLC that Vasović called his company just before 1 p.m. on 11 August to report that he had delivered on schedule a shipment of roof tiles to a private business near the Trepča industrial plant in Kosovska Mitrovica. The owner of the business, an Albanian and longstanding associate of Vasović's company, confirmed that Vasović had left his storage yard about 12.45 p.m.

According to KFOR, Vasović crossed the boundary into Kosovo at Rudare (Rudar) village at 7.30 a.m. on 11 August. There is no record of him leaving Kosovo.

Vasović had 10,000 deutsche marks concealed under the tarpaulin of his Man truck (license plates KG 112.03). The truck was never found.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ćorović, Muharem (M, 55), Muslim, from Kosovska Mitrovica, engineer – disappeared in the first half of August 1999 in Kosovska Mitrovica.

Source: *Izveštaj o položaju Muslimana-Bošnjaka na Kosovu nakon dolaska KFOR-a* [Report on the Position of Bosniac-Muslims in Kosovo Following KFOR's Deployment], Helsinški odbor za ljudska prava u Sandžaku [Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak], October 1999

Stojković, Srdjan (M, 31), Serb, from Mušutište (Mushtishtë), Suva Reka (Suharekë) Municipality, police officer, resided in Belgrade – disappeared on 16 August 1999 in the northern part of Kosovska Mitrovica.

Stojković's sister recounted that her brother worked as a police officer in Belgrade after the Serbian forces withdrew from Kosovo. He carried out three assignments in Kosovska Mitrovica before his disappearance. He left for Kosovska Mitrovica for the fourth time on 16 August and did not return.

The Belgrade police refused to give any information to the Stojković family. His wife continues to receive his salary regularly. His sister spoke with her brother's colleague, one Slaviša, who, she knew had left for Kosovska Mitrovica on 16 August together with her brother. He told her he thought Stojković had returned home and that he knew nothing more about him.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Milosavljević, Vasilije (M, 46), Serb, employee of Secondary Technical School in Zvečan – disappeared about 10.30 a.m. on 2 October 1999 in Kosovska Mitrovica.

Mrs Milosavljević said her husband went to the UNMIK police headquarters in the northern part of Kosovska Mitrovica to report that his apartment had been broken into. He did not return home.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Daničić, Mirko (M), Serb, from Leposavić, employee of Trepča mining complex – disappeared in the all-Albanian southern quarter of Kosovska Mitrovica on 21 October 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Milenković, Rajko (M, 45), Serb, from Kosovska Mitrovica (15 Drvarska St.), driver with the Sloga company – last seen on 14 November 1999 at the Rubin Cafe near his apartment.

Milenković's brother stated that Milenković left his apartment to buy cigarettes on 14 November. He met a friend with whom he went to the Rubin Cafe for a drink. He left the cafe between 7.30 and 8 p.m. to pick up his wife and children who

were at his mother-in-law's. A waiter at the cafe saw him cross the street and go in the direction of the mother-in-law's apartment. He never arrived there.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Antović, Vojislav (M, 41), Serb, from Žvečan – disappeared on 27 December 1999 in Kosovska Mitrovica.

The Belgrade daily *Blic* reported that Antović on 27 December told his family he was going to Serbia on business. He was not seen by them again.

Source: *Nestao Antović* [Antović Missing], BLIC, 6-7 January 2000

2. Abducted

Stojiljković, Dejan (M, 26), Serb, from Veliko Ropotovo (Ropotove e Madhe), Kosovska Kamenica, police officer in Gnjilane – abducted on 19 May 1999 on the Kosovska Mitrovica-Peć road.

Family friends recounted that Stojiljković was travelling on a bus that day together with his uncle. The bus was stopped by the KLA at a location known locally as Čugre Polje (Çugrepole). Stojiljković was ordered to step down and was led away at gunpoint. The others passengers, including Stojiljković's uncle, were allowed to proceed.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Avramović, Milorad (M, 39), Serb, from Kosovska Mitrovica (31 Stari Vujadin St.), employee of the Trepča industrial plant; his neighbor **B.S.** (F), Serb, and another **three unidentified men** from Kosovska Mitrovica (two Serbs, one Muslim); **B.S.** and the two unidentified Serbs were released a few hours later; the unidentified Muslim was released the next day.

Avramović's sister Radmila stated that he went to the apartment of a neighbor, B.S. with another three neighbors to help her move. As they were carrying out the furniture, three KLA men came and at gunpoint took them all to the KLA headquarters located in the Social Security Bureau building near by.

Three or four hours later, B.S. and the two Serb neighbors were released while Avramović and the Muslim neighbor were retained.

The Muslim neighbor was allowed to go the next day. He told the family that he and Avramović were held in different rooms. He heard screams and the sounds of somebody being beaten from the room next door but was not certain if it was Avramović. When the KLA men let him go the next day, he asked about Avramović and was told he would never see him again.

The family reported Avramović's disappearance to KFOR, whose members searched the KLA headquarters but found no prisoners. Avramović's wife and father spoke with the KLA commander, a man called Enver, on 7 July in an attempt to learn something about him. Enver confirmed that Avramović and some other persons had been brought in on 19 June, claimed they had been released the same or the following day and said he knew nothing more about Avramović.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Virijević, Radoš (M, 25), Serb, from Leposavić, watchman at the Trepča mining complex – abducted on 23 October 1999 in Kosovska Mitrovica.

Virijević went missing after he went to work on 23 October, his brother told the HLC. The family reported his disappearance to KFOR. KFOR confirmed that two of its members saw unidentified civilians pushing a man into a white van but were unable to prevent the abduction as they were on the roof of a high-rise at the time.

In early December 1999, UNMIK police arrested three Albanians suspected of abducting Virijević. The two KFOR members who had witnessed the incident, Laurend Cross and Ahmad Monrad, identified one of the suspects in a line-up. The district prosecutor in Kosovska Mitrovica on 14 December indicted three local Albanians, Gezim Kljinaku (Gezim Klinaku), Musa Feriki, and Isuf Ramadani, alleging that they stopped Virijević at 4 p.m. on 23 October in 2 Jula St. while he was on his way to work and, threatening him with death, forced him into a van and drove him to the Travnik neighborhood. At the trial, the defendants stated that they had handed Virijević over to the KLA for questioning and knew nothing further about him. At the end of October, Judge Mahmut Halimi (Mahmut Hallimi) of the District Court found Kljinaku, Feriki and Ramadani guilty and sentenced them to three years in prison.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Sedlarević, Dejan (M), Serb – disappeared on 24 August 1999 in the northern part of Kosovska Mitrovica. His body was found on 26 August 1999.

Source: *Kosovo and Metohija Events*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 27 August 1999

Ugljanin, Hajro (M), Muslim, from Kosovska Mitrovica, employee of Luks Department Store – disappeared in early September 1999 in Kosovska Mitrovica. His body was found two days later near the rail tracks in Kosovska Mitrovica.

Source: *Izveštaj o položaju Muslimana-Bošnjaka na Kosovu nakon dolaska KFOR-a* [Report on the Position of Bosniac-Muslims in Kosovo Following KFOR's

Deployment], Helsinški odbor za ljudska prava u Sandžaku [Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak], October 1999

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

B.S. (F), Serb; **three unidentified men** (two Serbs and one Muslim), from Kosovska Mitrovica – abducted on 19 June 1999. **B.S.** and the **two Serbs** were released a few hours later; the **Muslim** man was released the following day.²²
Source: HLC, witness statement

LIPLJAN

1. Missing

Ćerimi, Bedrija (Qerimi Bedri) (M), Rom, from Lipljan, police officer – disappeared after 24 March 1999.
Source: *Roma in the Kosovo Conflict*, ERRC, November 1999.

Andrejević, Duško (M, 40), Serb, from Lipljan – disappeared on 11 June 1999.
Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Mirković, Zoran (M), Serb, from Čanip (Çanip) near Brus, Lipljan Municipality – disappeared on 13 June 1999.
Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Ćanović, Momir (M), State Security officer; his wife **Ćanović, Slavica**, Serbs, from Lipljan – disappeared between 14 and 19 June 1999 in Lipljan. Mrs Ćanović was pregnant.
Source: *OVK otima, KFOR oslobadja* [KLA Kidnaps, KFOR Releases], BLIC, 20 June 1999; *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Dukić, Anka (F), Serb, from Magura (Magurë), Lipljan Municipality – disappeared after 14 June 1999.
Source: *OVK otima, KFOR oslobadja* [KLA Kidnaps, KFOR Releases], BLIC, 20 June 1999; *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

²² Witness statement on the abduction and release of B.S. and three unidentified persons: Kosovska Mitrovica, 2. Abducted.

Stojanović, Radovan (M, 61), Serb – disappeared on 24 June 1999 in Lipljan-
Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*,
KOSOVO.COM

Stolić, Milica (F), Serb – disappeared on 10 July 1999 in Lipljan.
Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*,
KOSOVO.COM

Živić, Vojimir (M, 74); his son **Živić, Dragan** (55), Serb, from Staro Rujce (Rujfc i Vjetër), Lipljan Municipality – disappeared on 10 July 1999 on the road between Lipljan and Staro Rujce.

Mrs. Živić stated that her husband and son left Lipljan about 10 a.m. on 10 July to check up on their house in Staro Rujce, which they had fled the previous month. They traveled in her son's white Zastava 101. When they did not return, she reported their disappearance to KFOR.

With a KFOR escort, Mrs. Živić went to Staro Rujce the next day. In the family's field, some 200 meters from the village, she found several sacks, her husband's bag, pans containing food and a water flask. She asked some Albanian neighbors if they had seen her husband and son but they refused to speak with her. Only one of them, H.A., said she should not have come and that the situation in the village was dangerous even for Albanians.

Following the disappearance of her husband and son, Mrs. Živić on several occasions saw her son's car being driven by a man she did not know. She reported this to KFOR but no action was taken.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Nikola (M, 67), Serb, from Lipljan – last seen on 12 July 1999
Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*,
ICRC

2. Abducted

Slavković, Dragoljub (M, 43), locksmith; **Djukić, Miodrag** (M, 52), employee of farm cooperative in Lipljan; **Vasić, Mladen** (M, 35), porter at the Lipljan Medical Center, Serbs, from Rabovac, Lipljan Municipality – abducted by the KLA in two separate incidents on 22 June 1999 just outside Lipljan.

At 9 a.m. on 22 June, Vasić and Djukić left Rabrovac for Lipljan in Vasić's yellow Zastava 750 (license plates PR 609-03). They never arrived at their destination. Slavković had agreed to wait for his friend S.M. at the crossroads just outside Lipljan at 4 p.m. so that they could return to Rabrovac together. S.M. noticed a

red Ford Escort (license plates UR 385-51) which belonged to Nezir Šelja (Nezir Shela), and a WV Golf (license plates PR 123-999) parked near the crossroads. When Slavković arrived to pick up him up, armed KLA members got out of the two parked vehicles, accosted him and took him to a private house in the Mostine (Mostinë) neighborhood of Lipljan (third house from the fountain on the right side of the road).

An Albanian woman friend of Slavković from Mostine told his family that she saw armed KLA men leading Slavković into the house and, 15 minutes later, leading him out again together with Djukić and Vasić. She said the three men, whose hands were tied, were pushed into a red Ford Escort and driven away in the direction of Topličane (Topliqan) village, Lipljan Municipality.

The families immediately reported this to KFOR. Some KLA men believed to have been involved in the abduction were arrested but KFOR was not able to learn what happened to the abductees. KFOR also searched the house in Mostine but found nothing there apart from a large quantity of weapons.

On 23 June, an Albanian friend whose son had also been abducted by the KLA for keeping company with Serbian policemen, came to see Slavković's father, and said he would ask an Albanian friend of his known to be working with the KLA to arrange the release of the abducted men. The Albanian's son was released five days later. He told the Serb families that he was held together with Slavković, Djukić and Vasić in the vicinity of Rabovac but was afraid to say anything more.

In early August, the Albanian friend came again to Slavković's father and said the KLA had agreed to release Slavković if his family paid ransom. This, however, did not happen as one of the three KLA men who were in a position to decide on Slavković's fate refused to accept ransom. This KLA man was known by the nickname "Beg" and was from Glogovac village near Lipljan.

The families learned later that Sulja Badakov (Syla Badakov), the KLA commander in the Lipljan area who was subsequently killed in Kosovska Mitrovica, Agim Tašoli (Agim Tasholli) from Gadimlje (Gadime) village, Lipljan Municipality, and "Beg" were involved in the abductions.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stanišić, Zoran (M), Serb, from Slovinje (Sllovi), Lipljan Municipality, secondary technical school student – last seen on 22 June 1999.

Mr Stanišić recounts that around noon on 22 June, his son and daughter were moving furniture and other belongings from their old house to a new one they had built some 400 meters away. His son left alone on their tractor with trailer

attached with the last load about one hour later. When Mr Stanišić noticed that his son had been gone for some time, he went to the new house to look for him. He found the gate open and the tractor with its engine still running in the yard, and no sign of his son.

The Stanišić's neighbor told the HLC that he saw some men he did not know get out of a car at the gate of the new house, pull Zoran Stanišić into their car and drive away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Nedeljković, Svetislav (M, 47), Serb, from Krajište (Krajshte), Lipljan Municipality – abducted on 3 July 1999 in Lipljan.

Mrs Nedeljković stated that she and her husband planned to leave the apartment they were renting and move in with a friend in Lipljan. They moved some of their belonging on 2 July and intended to take the remainder to their daughter's house in Livadje (Livadh) village the next day.

"At 8.45 a.m. that day, we met our friend, R.B. who was to transport our things on his horse-drawn cart outside the building. Since R.B. hadn't finished moving some other people, Svetislav went to help him so that he could take our things as soon as possible. I stayed in our car outside the building to wait for them. At about 10 a.m., I went to the store in the town center, beside the elementary school, to buy some food. I saw seven or eight Albanians from Krajište at the kiosk in front of the school. When they saw me I heard one of them say in Albanian, 'Look, that's Sveta's wife.' They realized I had heard and said nothing more. I finished my shopping and went back to the car.

"When my husband didn't come back by 1 p.m. I went to the UNMIK police to report him missing. Then I went to R.B.'s apartment. He and his son were there. R.B. told me that Ibiš Deduši (Ibish Debushi), an Albanian from Krajište, and some other Albanians had stopped them near the school at about 11 a.m. At gunpoint, Deduši ordered my husband to get down from the cart, saying he wanted to talk to him. R.B. and his son stayed on the cart. R.B. said he didn't overhear the conversation between Deduši and my husband. Five minutes later, a car with dark-tinted glass and no license plates drew up. Three men in civilian clothes got out, grabbed my husband and pushed him into the car. They drove away in the direction of the church. Deduši and the other Albanians went their separate ways. "

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Pera (M, 68), Serb, from Novo Topličane (Topliqani i Rinj), Lipljan Municipality, milkman – abducted on 16 July 1999 in the vicinity of Lipljan.

According to a statement by Mrs Ristić carried by the Belgrade daily Blic, her husband was abducted by a group of KLA men in the afternoon of 16 July as he

was crossing a bridge over the Sitnica River, two kilometers from Lipljan, on his bicycle. She heard that he was taken in the direction of Majdan hamlet and that three Albanians, Muhamed Ademi, Sulja Lecaj (Syle Llecaj) and Lecaj's brother, were responsible for his abduction.

Source: *Parada OVK i teror nad Srbima* [KLA Parade and Terrorization of Serbs], BLIC, 19 July 1999; *Dan žalosti na Kosovu i Metohiji* [Day of Grief in Kosovo and Metohija], BLIC, 26 July 1999; Church Committee, Kosovo

2.1. Killed

Dukić, Zoran (M, 50), Serb, from Suvi Do (Suhodoll), Lipljan Municipality – last seen on 3 November 1999; his remains were found on 2 April 2000 in Glogovac.

Dukić ran a minibus line between Suvi Do and Kosovo Polje. On 3 November, he took some passengers to Gračanica and headed back for home about 2 p.m. His body was found by KFOR on 2 April 2000 in an advanced state of decomposition and was identified on the basis of dental records.

Source: HLC, witness statement; *Teroristi pretukli Ratibora Mašulovića* [Ratibor Mašulović Beaten Up by Terrorists], POLITIKA, 4 November 1999; *Kidnapovan vozač klanice* [Abattoir Driver Kidnapped], BLIC, 4 November 1999; *UNMIK saopštio vest o ubistvu kidnapovanog Zorana Dukića* [UNMIK Reports Kidnapped Zoran Dukic Murdered], POLITIKA, 3 April 2000.

2.2. Free

2.1.1. Escaped

N.B. (M, 35), Rom, from Mala Dobrinja (Dobrajë e Vogël), Lipljan Municipality, security guard at Goleš (Golesh) mine – abducted by the KLA from a friend's home on 15 June 1999.

N.B. described to the HLC what happened:

"Soon after 10 o'clock that night, ten armed and masked KLA members came to the village. They went first to my house and, threatening my next-door neighbor with death, found out where I was. They came to my friend's house and took me to the Mlaka woods near Lipovica. They started to beat and question me, asking if I had killed Albanians and raped Albanian women. They demanded to know where I kept my pistol. At one point, one of them moved away a bit, called someone on the phone and said they had caught me. When he finished talking on the phone, he told the others that they had to kill me.

"I began saying my prayers. They asked what I was doing and when I said I wanted to die with a pure soul, one of them cocked his gun and another hit me on the chin and hand with a thick wooden stick. As I knelt there, they beat me on the back with sticks, making cracks about how strong I was and wouldn't fall

down. I begged them to kill me. When I fell to the ground, one took off his mask. He was thin and had gray hair. I couldn't move at all. They said they thought I was dead and one kicked me and jumped all over me. I blacked out.

"It was about 2 a.m. when I woke up. My face was cut and I was bleeding. I couldn't move my right leg. They had taken my papers and everything I had on me. I started crawling and reached the edge of the village about 4 a.m. and blacked out again. My relatives found me and carried me home."

N.B., his family, and his Roma neighbors fled Kosovo to Montenegro the next day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

NOVO BRDO

1. Missing

Vasić, Dragica (F, 80), Serb, from Klobukar (Klobukar), Novo Brdo Municipality – disappeared after 14 June 1999.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Stanković, Dragan (M, 19), Serb, from Klobukar, Novo Brdo Municipality – disappeared on 4 July 1999.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Stojanović, Stanko (M, 52), Serb, from Klobukar, Novo Brdo Municipality – disappeared on 4 July 1999.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

3. Abducted

Marinković, Goran (M, 27); **Pavić, Živojin** (M, 48), Serbs, from Slivovo (Slivovë), Priština Municipality; **Miljković, Predrag** (M, 38), Serbian Serb, from Smederevo, driver – abducted on 19 June 1999 in Labljane (Llabjan), Novo Brdo Municipality.

Mrs. Marinković recounted that she and her husband left Slivovo on 18 June for Gračanica from where they intended to proceed to Serbia. At noon the next day, Marinković, his parents, her brother and a friend went back to Slivovo in a car and tractor with trailer to move some belongings to Gračanica. In the village, Marinković met a neighbor, Živojin Pavić, who was packing to depart for Serbia.

As the truck he had hired was not full, Marinković asked him to take some of his belongings too. Marinković's parents, brother-in-law and friend returned to Gračanica at 7 p.m. while Marinković, Pavić and the truck driver, Predrag Miljković from Smederevo, started out for Serbia. The truck was a blue MAN (license plates PA 836-54), and its trailer (license plate PA 19-24) was covered with a tarpaulin on which was stenciled "Jugoslavi" (the last two letters "ja" were missing).

When Marinković's parents returned to Slivovo on 7 July, an Albanian villager told them their son, Pavić and Miljković were stopped at about 7 p.m. on 19 June by some 15 armed KLA members, some in uniform and others in civilian clothes, at the turnoff to Novo Brdo in Labljane village where the KLA had set up a checkpoint. Among these KLA men were Arif, known also as "Ćopa," his sons, and his nephews Enver and Mustafa Abazi. The latter was in charge at the checkpoint. Marinković, Pavić and Miljković were held there for about half an hour and then taken to Mramor, a village in Priština Municipality. Their truck remained for a time in the school yard in Labljane and was then moved into to the yard of Arif's house. After two days in Mramor, the three Serbs were transferred to the KLA headquarters in Zlaš (Zlash) village.

The Albanian villager also told Marinković's parents that a meeting was held at the KLA headquarters in Zlaš on what to do with the three abducted Serbs. Some participants who knew Marinković urged his release, others said he should be held for subsequent exchange. The villager said he had no information on Pavić and Miljković, adding that he was certain that Marinković was alive and imprisoned.

The UNMIK police later detained this Albanian and a Slivovo Serb, M.P., on suspicion of involvement in the abduction. They were questioned in separate rooms but the Albanian heard M.P. say that he had told the KLA that Marinković would be passing through Labljane in a truck on 19 June in order to strengthen his business ties with them. M.P. had started out from Slivovo five minutes before Marinković and described to Arif at the checkpoint the truck in Marinković was riding.

According to the Church Committee, KFOR identified the abductors as Raif Mustafi and his sons Azem, Tefik and Faik; Enver Avdulji (Enver Avdyli), his brothers Skender and Gazmen; Abazi Mustafi, his brothers Enver and Murtez, and his nephew Raif Mustafi.

Source: HLC, witness statement; Church Committee, Kosovo

2.1 Free

2.1.1. Released by the KLA

J.M. (M), Serb, from Vlasce, Gnjilane Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 15 June 1999 at Novi Brdo and released a few hours later.

A witness stated to the HLC that his neighbor J.M. was abducted by KLA members around noon on 15 June at Novo Brdo and taken to the police station building where he was beaten and threatened with death. When his brother heard that J.M. was being held at Novo Brdo, he went to the home of one of the most prominent Albanians in Vlasce, abducted his son and held him in his house. He told the young Albanian's father that he would kill his son unless he arranged for J.M. to be released. J.M. was allowed to go at 4 p.m. that day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1.1. Escaped

Witness wished to remain anonymous (M, 28), Serb, from Vlastica, Gnjilane Municipality; his **two friends** – abducted by the KLA on 14 June 1999 in the Nova Kolonija neighborhood of Novi Brdo; escaped several hours later from the police station building.

The witness described to the HLC what happened:

"I was on the way from Gračanica to Novo Brdo with two friends. We were stopped by the KLA in the Nova Kolonija neighborhood in the center of Novo Brdo. They were wearing camouflage uniforms with black T-shirts underneath their blouses, KLA caps, and were armed with 762 rifles, M48 carbines and hunting rifles. I recognized some of them: Nedžad Vlasi (Nexhat Villasi), the KLA commander in Novo Brdo, Avdulj Klokoči (Avdyll Klokoqi) who used to be a bus conductor; and a teacher from Marevce (Marefc) village. They addressed us in Albanian because, they said, they didn't want to speak Serbian. They asked who we were, what we were doing there and where we were going. Then they searched the three of us and the car, and took the pistol they found in it. They asked why we had the gun, if we wanted to kill some more Albanians with it, hadn't we had enough of killing. They took us to the police station.

"A guard, in a black uniform and with a red armband, was standing outside. He took us to the last office on the right at the end of the corridor. The three of us, Nedžad and another three Albanians I didn't know were in the office. They weren't over 30 and also wore camouflage uniforms. All four fired questions at us, though Nedžad was the roughest. They asked when and where we had done our military service, if any of us had been on the police force, and asked for the names of Albanians in Vlasce, Bunjaci, Labljane and Klobukare who cooperated with Serbs. Our replies were very brief and I had the impression that they were doing most of the talking and making their own conclusions. During the questioning they several times put knives or a pistol against our necks, in our mouths and under our chins, threatening to kill us. They also slapped us at times. At one point, Nedžad told one of the soldiers to take us into the woods

and finish us off. Some time later, they led us into the office on the other side of the corridor. An overweight KLA soldier with a beard and the guard were in this office and they continued the questioning. They punched us on the head, slapped us and threatened to slit our throats. Then they took us back to the first officer. They shunted us back and forth several times.

"At 4.30 p.m. I heard someone come into the police station. They quickly hid their weapons behind the door and went to the entrance. I heard some foreign language and realized they were greeting KFOR soldiers. Since we hadn't been tied up, we took advantage of the situation and walked out of the station. I saw by their reaction that they wanted to keep us there, but they couldn't because four KFOR soldiers were talking with Nedžad and some other KLA men. The KFOR soldiers paid no attention to us. We were afraid to say anything to them because we saw they were very friendly with the KLA soldiers and none of us spoke English anyway and couldn't have made ourselves understood. Our car was outside the station, a bit banged-up. I had the spare key on me. We got inside and drove to Gračanica."

Source: HLC, witness statement.

2.2. Detained

S.B. (M, 20), medical technician; **four elderly women**, Serbs, all from Slivovo – detained at the entrance to Labljane, Novo Brdo Municipality on 19 June 1999, released 15 minutes later.

S.B. described the incident to the HLC:

"At 11 a.m. that day I went by tractor with four elderly village women to Gračanica. At the crossroad before the turnoff to Labljane, a dozen armed KLA members got out of the trenches by the road. The soldier who signaled me to stop was about 30, with a beard, in a black uniform and cap with a KLA badge. The soldiers were carrying automatic rifles, one had a carbine and another a semi-automatic rifle. I knew them all by sight; they were from Labljane. It was then that I noticed soldiers with guns trained on us standing at the windows of the nearby houses. The soldier who had stopped us aimed his gun at my head and ordered us in Albanian to get off the tractor. He cursed my Serb mother and asked who had torched Albanian houses in Slivovo. He asked about weapons and I told him I had none. Three soldiers guarded us while the others walked away a bit and discussed what to do with us. They talked about taking me to the prison in Marevce near Priština. Then they searched my things and when they saw I really didn't have a weapon they said I could go. They also searched the women. They fired a shot into the air and let us go."

The witness was detained for about 15 minutes. He and the elderly women reached Gračanica safely.

Source: HLC, witness statement

OBILIĆ (OBILIQ)

1. Missing

Milosavljević, Zmajko (M), journalist, from Kosovska Mitrovica; his brother **Milosavljević (first name unknown)**, Serbs – disappeared in late August 1999 in the vicinity of Obilić.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Stolić, Branislav; an unidentified man, Serbs – disappeared on 4 November 1999 in Obilić.

Source: *Pronadjena tri tela* [Three Bodies Found], BLIC, 11 November 1999.

2. Abducted

2.1. Killed

Stanojević, Miladija (F, 80), Serb, from Obilić – disappeared on the night of 16/17 November 1999; her body was found on 28 December 1999.

The son-in-law of Mrs. Stanojević, an elderly and ill woman confined to her bed, came to her apartment in the morning of 17 November to give her breakfast. He found the apartment ransacked and empty.

Mrs. Stanojević's body was found on 28 December in a canal near the thermoelectric power plant in Obilić.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo; *Kidnapovani Milija Mićunović i Radivoje Lukić* [Milija Mićunović and Radivoje Lukić Kidnapped], POLITIKA, 30 November 1999.

ORAHOVAC (RRAHOVEC)

1. Missing

Todić, Miroslav (M, 50), Serb, from Velika Hoča, Orahovac Municipality, employee of Orvin company in Orahovac – last seen on 23 March 1999 in his field between Velika Hoča and Brestovac (Brestoc) villages.

Mrs. Todić stated that her husband went to his company at 8 a.m. on 23 March and then to his vineyard where he worked until 2 p.m. He then took the tractor to work in a field he owned between Velika Hoča and the all-Albanian village of Brestovac. When he left home, he told his wife that a old Albanian friend, Ismet

Beriša (Ismet Berisha) from Brestovac, had invited him to drop by for coffee when he finished in the field. Beriša's house is located about 500 meters from the field. Her husband did not return home.

After KFOR's deployment in Kosovo, Mrs. Todić asked members of the German contingent stationed in Velika Hoća to take her to Brestovac to speak with Beriša. KFOR members escorted her to a point midway between the two villages where Beriša was waiting by agreement. He told her that he and his family were in Albania at the time of her husband's abduction, and promised to make inquiries about Todić and let her know if he heard anything. Their conversation was curtailed by the arrival of two KLA members in black uniforms and carrying Heckler guns. They approached the KFOR soldiers and talked with them in German. Beriša was frightened and refused to say anything more to Mrs. Todić. The KFOR soldiers then told her to get in the armored personnel carrier. The KLA men drove Beriša away in their car.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Isaku, Skeljzen (Isaku Shkelzen) (M), Rom, from Orahovac – disappeared after 24 March 1999.

Source: *Roma in the Kosovo Conflict*, ERRRC, November 1999

Begović, Jovan (M, 75); **Begović, Nikola** (M, 45); **Begović, Simo** (M); **Begović, Blažo** (M), Croatian Serbs, refugees – disappeared on 16 June 1999 in Orahovac.

It is generally believed in Orahovac that the bodies of these four refugees are among the unidentified remains recovered by KFOR at Brnjača (Bernjakë) on 22 June. No relatives or close friends were able to come to Orahovac to identify the remains.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Bulić, Budimir (M, 47), Montenegrin Montenegrin, from Berane, resided in Orahovac (2/4 Peke Tepavčevića St.), employee of Social Work Center – disappeared on the night of 18/19 June 1999.

Mrs. Bulić stated that she and her son moved to the Serb quarter in Orahovac on 18 June, intending to proceed with a group of people to Serbia the next day. Her son realized that he had forgotten to take some personal papers from their apartment and returned for them about 7 p.m. Somewhat later, she called from a friend's apartment to check if her son had arrived at their home and to tell him where she would be waiting for him. He answered the phone, told her he had retrieved the papers and was on his way back. He did not turn up.

The next day, Mrs. Bulić went to their apartment to look for her son. She saw their television set and other belongings in the lobby. The door of her apartment was open, belongings were strewn around and there was no one inside. She heard noises from the next-door apartment, which belonged to an Albanian who lived and worked in Switzerland and, believing he had returned, rang the doorbell. Four unknown Albanians, two of whom in KLA uniforms, opened the door and asked why she had come there without permission. When one moved toward her she said a KFOR escort was waiting for her outside and quickly left. Mrs. Bulić fled Orahovac to Montenegro.

Orahovac Serbs believe that a body found on 22 June was that of Budimir Bulić. Since it had been decapitated, neighbors did not allow Mrs. Bulić to view the remains and no positive identification was made.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Simić, Arsa (M, 76), Serb, from Orahovac – last seen on 19 June 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Halimi, Ali Tasim (Hallimi, Alli Tasim) (M, 25), Rom, from Orahovac – last seen on 21 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Hamza, Haljit Škeljzen (Hamza, Halit Shkelzen) (M, 34), Rom, from Orahovac, employee of 18 Novembar plastics factory – last seen on 21 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Kazić, Siniša (M, 35), Serb, from Orahovac, deaf-mute – disappeared on 30 June 1999.

Kazić's brother said Siniša went to see his sister about 11 a.m. on 30 June, and after that visited with a friend, Nebojša Grković who lived in the Serb quarter near the church. He left for home at about 2 p.m. but never arrived. His family reported his disappearance to KFOR the same day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Grković, Ljubiša (M, 44), Serb, from Orahovac, porter at the 18 November plastics factory, mildly retarded - last seen about 4 p.m. on 4 July 1999 in a street in the Albanian quarter of Orahovac.

A relative who was the last person to see Grković believes that he went to the Albanian quarter to check up on the apartments of his brothers who had fled Kosovo on 16 June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Krstić, Snežana (F, 30), Serb, from Orahovac, deaf-mute – last seen on 5 July 1999 in Orahovac.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Veličković, Trifun (M, 74), Serb, from Orahovac – last seen on 28 July 1999.

Veličković's son recounted that his father took his goats to their vineyard at the reservoir near the Muslim cemetery at 5.30 p.m. on 28 July. He usually stayed until 7.30 p.m. and on the way home went to see three other Serbs who also pastured their goats in the vineyards on the hills above Orahovac. When he did not return at his usual time, the son reported his disappearance and went to search for him with a KFOR patrol at 11.30 p.m. The next day, Veličković's brother, who had also been searching for him since 4 a.m., found his shoe near the house of Hasan Malabazi (Hasan Mallabazi). When the son went to inquire with Milabazi about his father, the Albanian began to cry and swore he knew nothing. A neighbor of Veličković told him he had seen the unattended goats at the reservoir about 6 p.m. that day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojanović, Stojan (M); his wife **Stojanović, Brankica**, Serbs, from Nakarada, Kosovo Polje Municipality – disappeared on 16 August 1999 on the road to Orahovac where they were to attend the funeral of a relative.

Source: *Ubijena dva deteta, šest osoba ranjeno* [Two Children Killed, Six Persons Wounded], BLIC, 18 August 1999

Mavrić, Mladjan (M, 36), Serb, from Velika Hoča, Orahovac Municipality – disappeared on 12 October 1999 on the road to Velika Hoča.

Mavrić's brother stated that Mladjan left Velika Hoča for the Serb quarter of Orahovac at 9.30 a.m. to buy some things he needed for his cafe. He finished shopping at around noon and was last seen by a friend, Zoran, when he set off for Velika Hoča in his car. The family reported his disappearance to KFOR the same day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Murselji, Mazlum (Murseli, Mazllum) (49), Rom, from Orahovac - disappeared on 16 October 1999 in the Orahovac area.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Lukić, Radivoje (30), Serb, from Orahovac, disappeared on 27 December 1999 in the Serb quarter in Orahovac.

Lukić's brother recounted that Lukić went to see a friend at 7.30 p.m. on 27 December. He left his friend's house at 9 p.m. and disappeared. His family immediately reported his disappearance to KFOR.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Rašić, Milorad (M), Serb, from Orahovac (Dragoljuba Jankovića St.), employee of Termovent company – disappeared on 25 February 2000.

Rasić's brother said Rasić was visiting with a friend on 19 February. He left at 1 p.m. and went to a billiard parlor located some 100 meters from the Albanian quarter of the town. He was there for a very short time as he saw through the window his old Albanian friend and colleague at Termovent, Bajram Zlonoga, and went outside to greet him. Zlonoga invited him to his home for coffee and they proceeded together to his house. Rasić was not seen again. His family reported his disappearance to KFOR the next day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2. Abducted

Grković, Svetislav (M. 66), employee of 18 Novembar plastics factory; **Vitošević, Marko** (61), Serbs, from Orahovac (Svetosavska St.) – abducted by the KLA on 16 June 1999.²³

Source: HLC, witness statement

Hamza, Jusuf (M, 35), Rom, from Orahovac (Slobodana Penezića St.), deaf-mute – abducted by the KLA from his home on 18 June 1999.

Hamza's son stated that two armed KLA members in camouflage uniforms and caps came into their yard at 7 a.m. on 18 June, while another remained at the gate. One of them, of larger build and with insignia of rank on his shoulder board, had a stammer. They asked if there were weapons in the house. Hamza searched for a medical certificate that he was deaf-mute but, before he was able to find it, the KLA men led him out of the yard and through the vineyards toward the town center. His son immediately reported the abduction to KFOR.

Three days later, on 21 June, two members of the Egyptian ethnic community²⁴ from Orahovac, Beni and Dia, came to the Hamza home and told his son to go to the town center to get his father. The son did not trust them and did not go.

Source: HLC, witness statement

²³ Witness statement on the abduction of Grković and Vitošević: Orahovac, 2.2.2. Escaped.

²⁴ Many persons referred to as "Gypsies" in Kosovo consider themselves "Egyptians" and not Roma.

Jelić, Marko (M, 31), Serb, from Orahovac, economist, employee of Termovent company in Orahovac – abducted from his home by the KLA on 20 June 1999.

Three armed men of about 30 years of age came to Jelić's apartment on 20 June. In the presence of his parents, wife and five children, they said in Albanian that they were members of the KLA and had come to take him to their headquarters for questioning. They said he would be brought home immediately afterwards. They led him away on foot. Jelić never returned.

His family stayed in Orahovac to the end of August 1999 when they fled to Montenegro.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Majmarević, Gradimir (M, 54), employee of municipal sanitation department in Orahovac; **Vitošević, Siniša** (38), electrician, employee of power distribution company in Orahovac, Serbs – abducted in Krajište near Orahovac on 22 June 1999.

Mrs. Majmarević recounted that her husband and Vitošević went to Vitošević's weekend cottage in Krajište about noon on 22 June in a red Renault 4 car to water the farm animals Vitošević kept there. They said they would be back very soon. When they had not returned for some time, her son went to look for them. He found the cottage door broken down and no one inside. A neighbor told Mrs. Majmarević he had seen with the aid of binoculars when two Albanians, one of whom he identified as Jupu Vebiju (Jupu Vehbiu), led her husband and Vitošević out of the cottage and took them to the police station in Orahovac. The Majmarević's car remained parked outside the police station that day but was moved to the firehouse on 23 June. The abduction was witnessed also by an Albanian neighbor, D.G., who was working in his vineyard near the cottage. He immediately informed a group of Serbs who were pasturing their animals in the vineyards. Mrs. Majmarević reported the abduction to KFOR the next day.

Four days later, I.Č., an Albanian friend of the family, told Mrs. Majmarević that the names of her husband and Vitošević were on a KLA list of war criminals and that they would be tried. In the month following the abduction, a man who spoke poor Serbian telephoned Mrs Majmarević every evening about 8 o'clock and asked for the names of Serbian police officers. Two months after her husband's abduction, she received an anonymous phone call from a man who threatened to kill her and her children.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jeftić, Milica (F, 80), Serb, from Orahovac – last seen on 5 July 1999 when she left the Serb quarter to check up on her house near the Orvin Hotel in the town center.

Mrs Jeftić's friends heard that she was stopped by KLA members who took her away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

(Last name unknown) Skeljzen (Shkelzen) (M), Rom – abducted by the KLA before 5 July 1999.²⁵

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dedić, Boban (M, 37), Serb, from Orahovac, accountant, employee of Žitopromet agricultural combine in Orahovac – abducted about 1 p.m. on 17 July. His father, Predrag Dedić, was detained when he went to inquire about Dedić at the KLA headquarters, but was set free the same day by a KFOR member.

Mrs Dedić stated that she and her son went to their apartment to pick up some belongings. Their car broke down on the way. A KLA member approached and whispered a warning to them to leave immediately. She and her son went into an abandoned Serb house close by but were followed by a group of KLA men who led out Dedić out of the house, pushed him into their car and drove him away. They told Mrs Dedić that her son would be brought back in 15 minutes.

Dedić's father, Predrag, who had in the meantime heard of his son's abduction, went to the KLA headquarters to demand his release. As soon as Predrag Dedić entered the building, he too was taken prisoner. When her husband and son failed to return, Mrs Dedić notified KFOR. Stefan, a soldier of the German tank unit with KFOR, went to the KLA headquarters and demanded that Dedić and his father be released. The KLA members claimed that no persons by those names were in the building. The German soldier shouted the name of Predrag Dedić who heard him, managed to get away from the KLA members holding him and ran into the corridor. The KFOR soldier took Dedić by the arm and led him out. Two KLA men caught up with them at the exit, seized Dedić and took him in the direction of the Jugopetrol gasoline station. The German soldier went after them in his tank, pulled Dedić inside and drove him to the Serb quarter. After the incident, the KLA never allowed the German soldier into the building again. Boban Dedić's whereabouts remain unknown.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Zenuni, Iljber (Zenuni, Ylber) (M, 23), Rom, from Novo Selo, Djakovica Municipality – disappeared on 18 July 1999.

Zenuni came to Orahovac for his wife who was visiting her parents. The family subsequently learned that he was stopped near the hotel by four Albanians who pushed him into a car and drove him away.

²⁵ Witness statement on the abduction of Skelzen: Orahovac, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Pelević, Ratko (M. 64), Serb, from Orahovac – abducted from his home during the summer of 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Matić, Slobodan (M), Serb, from Orahovac – abducted by unidentified Albanians before 30 October 1999 in Orahovac.

Source: *Kosovo Serbs and Gypsies Feel Trapped in Orahovac*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 31 October 1999

2.1. Killed

Pelević, Peko (M, 64), Serb, from Orahovac (Svetosavska St.) – abducted by the KLA on 16 June 1999 and beaten to death.²⁶

Source: HLC, witness statement

Grković, Panta (M, 64), Serb, from Orahovac (34, Svetosavska St.), retired, abducted from his home by the KLA on 17 June 1999. His body was found on 22 June 1999 in the woods at Brnjača near the Termovent plant, Potočane (Potočan), Orahovac Municipality.

Mrs. Grković recounted that she and her husband went to the home of a neighbor, Miroslava Filipović, to wait there for KFOR to escort them and two Serb women to the Serb quarter of the town. Six KLA members came to the Filipović house at 9.30 p.m., some of whom lived in the same street: Faredin "Faduš" Hondozi (Faredin "Fadush" Hondozi) (18), Ramadan Bugari (24), the son of Seli Bugari (Sellie Bugari), and a Roman Catholic Albanian known by the nickname "Blacksmith." The other three KLA men were also young and spoke Serbian. They demanded weapons and money from those present. As Grković's sons by his first marriage were police officers, the KLA men believed that he had a large quantity of weapons. After searching the Filipović house and yard, the KLA men led out Grković, pushed him into a Zastava car and drove away in the direction of the Jugopetrol gasoline station.

When the KFOR escort failed to appear, Mrs. Grković went home and found that it had been looted during the night. She reported her husband's abduction to KFOR the next morning. Over the next few days, KLA members came daily to her home, asking about weapons and the whereabouts of her stepsons.

On 22 June, local Albanians reported to KFOR that they had found four bodies in a woods at Brnjača near the Termovent factory. KFOR asked Orahovac Mayor Andjelko Kolašinac to view the remains and to summon family members for

²⁶ Witness statement on the abduction and killing of Pelević: Orahovac, 2.2.2. Escaped.

identification. Mrs Grković identified her husband's remains. She stated that all the bodies bore signs of violence; one was decapitated and could not be identified. The other two bodies were believed by locals to be Serb refugees from Croatia. No positive identification was made as their family members were not in Orahovac. The decapitated body was believed to be that of Budimir Bulić. To spare her the shock, neighbors did not allow his mother to view the remains so that no positive identification was made.

Mrs Grković left Orahovac with UNHCR assistance on 8 September and fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Velimirović, Mihajlo (M, 55), Croatian Serb, refugee - abducted on 18 June 1999.

Velimirović was abducted on his way back from the Serb quarter where he had taken his mother. His body was subsequently found in Orahovac.

Source: HLC, witness statement; *U dvostrukom paklu* [In a Double Hell], VEČERNJE NOVOSTI, 23 March 2000

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

C.M. (M, 70), Serb, from Orahovac, retired – abducted by the KLA from his home on 17 June 1999, questioned and released several hours later.

C.M. recounted that four armed and uniformed KLA members came to his apartment about 8 a.m. on 17 June. He recognized Verhan Cena, called "Blacksmith," who was the oldest. The other three were between 20 and 25 years of age. They searched the apartment, took the 2,000 dinars they found, and demanded that C.M. hand over his weapons. C.M. gave them his hunting rifle, two pistols and a pair of binoculars. He described what happened next:

"Blacksmith hit me twice with a club, on the head and body. I demanded to see their commander. They took me first to the firehouse where I was held under guard for about an hour. Then they took me to the former police station where I was questioned by Ismet Tara, commander of the 124th Brigade of the KLA. He behaved correctly during the two hours he questioned me. Another three KLA members were present, one in uniform and two in civilian clothes. Then somebody called on the phone to say that Tara was wanted urgently in Prizren and he left. I continued making my statement to the other KLA commander. As I was doing this, they brought Cvetko Šorić, an Orahovac man, into the office. I realized then that all those held at the firehouse were either taken to the police station to be questioned by the KLA and then released, or to the camp on the

Brestovačke slopes. I left the police station together with Cvetko Šorić and commander Tara, the one who had questioned me, gave me a permit to move around Orahovac freely.”

A few days after the incident, C.M. and his wife left Orahovac and fled to Serbia.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Isaku, Adrian (M, 19), Rom, from Orahovac – abducted by the KLA on 27 June 1999.

Isaku’s friend stated that he was abducted on the road between Djakovica and Orahovac. He was reportedly released in September 1999, after which he and his parents fled to Serbia. No independent confirmation of the report was available.
Source: HLC, witness statement; *Roma in the Kosovo Conflict*, ERRC, November 1999

T.L. (M, 22), Rom, from Prizren, abducted by the KLA in Velika Kruša, Orahovac Municipality, and held for several hours.

In his statement to the European Roma Rights Center, T.L. said a red tractor on which two men and a woman were riding stopped outside his father’s house in Velika Kruša (Krushe e Madhe) at 4.30 p.m. on 5 July. Saying they were KLA members, they demanded that T.L. go with them their headquarters to make a statement on how many Roma were killed during the war. He refused and one of the men drew a knife and forced him to climb on the tractor. Then T.L.’s relatives and friends gathered around. The KLA members said they had no intention of beating up T.L. and that his relatives could come with them to make sure. T.L.’s father and a female relative joined them on the tractor. They drove to a private house on which the flag of neighboring Albania had been hoisted, and led T.L. into one of the rooms. Two KLA men, one in uniform and the other in civilian clothes who was typing, were in the room. The uniformed one asked T.L. where he had been during the war and if he had taken part in the fighting. He said they had a witness who had confirmed that T.L. was a member of Željko “Arkan” Ražnatović’s paramilitary group. T.L. was then taken into another room where he saw a Roma man from Orahovac he knew only by the first name of **Škeljzen (Shkelzen)**. Škeljzen, who was heavily bruised and bleeding, told the KLA men that T.L. was a paramilitary. The KLA men showed T.L. a notebook in which Škeljzen had written this down. The KLA members then started beating and torturing both the Roma men. After some time, T.L. was forced to put on a Yugoslav Army uniform. The Roma men were beaten for four hours, after which T.L. was taken out to the tractor where his father and relative were still waiting. They were driven to the nearby hills and, after threatening him with death if he told anyone what had happened to him, the KLA men left them there. T.L. never learned the fate of Škeljzen.

Source: *Roma From Kosovo Testify*, ERRC, 2 August 1999

Rustemi, Fadilj (Rustemi, Fadil) (M) Rom, from Orahovac – abducted by the KLA on several occasions during the summer of 1999, questioned and beaten and then released.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

2.2.2. Escaped

P.S. (M, 73), Serb, from Mala Kruša (Krushe e Vogël), Orahovac Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 13 June 1999; **S.P.** (M, 77), Serb, from Orahovac, retired – abducted by the KLA on 15 June 1999; **K.N.** (M, 60), Serb, from Orahovac (13/5 Milorada Popovića St.), post office employee – abducted by the KLA on 16 June 1999; all three escaped on 22 June 1999.

The granddaughter of P.S. recounted that her grandfather was just about to take his cows to pasture when a large group of armed and uniformed KLA members came into their yard, broke down the front door of the house and dragged P.S. inside. They asked in Albanian where the other Mala Kruša Serbs were and where they had concealed their weapons. When P.S. replied that he did not know, one KLA man knocked him unconscious with a blow to the head with a thick wooden pole. P.S. was put on a tractor and taken to Celina (Celinë) village, Orahovac Municipality. He spent two days locked in a shed of a private house which had been taken over by the KLA. He was questioned, beaten and denied food and water. On 15 June, an Albanian journalist from Prizren came, grabbed P.S. by the throat and started choking him, saying repeatedly, "Do you Serbs know what you did to us?" and then told the KLA guards to kill P.S. immediately. Later that day, P.S. was taken to Nogavac (Nagaft), Orahovac Municipality, and held in a private house until 17 June. Among the KLA members there, he recognized three of his neighbors in Mala Kruša, Murat and another two he knew only by sight. None of them were over the age of 20. They did not abuse him severely and gave him food and water.

In the morning of 17 June, P.S. was taken to the KLA prison in the former police station in Orahovac. KLA men led him into a cell, ordered him to strip naked, and started beating him. At one point, two Serbs, S.P. and K.N., were brought into the cell. P.S. told his granddaughter that he was flogged with thick ropes every day. When he lost consciousness, the KLA men revived him by throwing water over him, and then resumed beating him. There was only one wooden bench in the cell on which P.S. slept; S.P. and K.N. slept on the bare concrete floor.

The son of S.P. told the HLC that about 10 KLA members in camouflage uniforms and carrying automatic rifles came to their house on 15 June. They demanded that S.P. hand over to them his weapons – a hunting rifle, pistol and M48 rifle.

Among the KLA men, the witness recognized Ziber Miftari (Zymber Myftari), a farmer from Orahovac, who was in a KLA police uniform – black shirt and black cap with a KLA badge. Though a search of the house produced no weapons, S.P. was taken to the former police station in Orahovac. The next day, his son handed over the weapons to the KLA men who had taken his father. The receipt he was given was signed by Hajlili Čardakuj (Halili Çarabakuja).

K.N.'s daughter stated that a large group of armed and uniformed men came to the family's home on 16 June. They beat K.N. with their rifle butts on the head, back and legs and, after searching the apartment, led him away in his pyjamas.

At 9 p.m. on 22 June, P.S., S.P. and K.N. saw a KFOR soldier in the corridor of the police station. Somewhat later, an acquaintance of S.P. and a member of the KLA came into their cell and told them they could escape. He unlocked the door and told them which streets to take to avoid KLA patrols. The three Serbs left the building without encountering any KLA members and fled. P.S. was unable to walk and was carried by K.N. and S.P. through the streets of the town to an abandoned cottage in the hills on its outskirts. They spent the night in the cottage and brought P.S., who was very ill and lost consciousness several times, to the apartment of his daughter at 5 a.m. the next morning.

P.S. and his granddaughter fled Orahovac to Serbia on 10 September 1999. K.N. and S.P. fled to Serbia immediately after their escape.

Source: HLC, witness statement

M.T. (M, 70), Serb, from Orahovac – abducted by the KLA on 16 June 1999 at the same time as **Vitošević, Marko** (M, 61); and **Pelević, Peko** (M, 64), also Serbs from Orahovac. All were taken to the KLA headquarters in the Orahovac firehouse where Pelević was beaten to death. After being questioned, M.T., Vitošević and Grković were taken in a van toward Brestovac where Pelević's body was disposed of. M.T. seized an opportunity to escape. The whereabouts of Vitošević and Grković remain unknown.

M.T. related that five men between 20 and 25 years of age, in civilian clothes and wearing caps with KLA badges, came to his home at 12.30 p.m. on 16 June. He could not recall their names but knew they were from Orahovac and kept pigeons. The KLA men ordered M.T. to hand over his weapons. He gave them his rifle and they searched the house to check whether there were any more firearms. The KLA men then led M.T. to the homes of his neighbors, Svetislav Grković and Marko Vitošević, who also turned in their weapons, and told all three men to come with them to the KLA headquarters for receipts for the guns. They were driven to the KLA headquarters in the firehouse by one Balja (Bala), a Roma photographer, in his white Zastava 125 car, which had been parked

outside the Grković house. At the firehouse, the three were taken up to the third floor - Grković to the office of the KLA commander Ismet Tara, and Vitošević and

M.T. to the toilet. M.T. described what happened next:

"There were about 10 young KLA men in the toilet. They began beating us on the head and body with ceramic tiles. Marko blacked out and fell into the excrement in the filthy squatter toilet. Some time later they stopped beating us. A tall woman I knew by the last name Siljka (Silka) - she is known in Orahovac by the nickname Ljilja (Lila) and is married to Adžija Šarković - came in. One of her family was killed in 1998. She had a wooden club with which she started battering me. I tried to protect my head with my hands, and she broke my left wrist. When I said in Albanian that she had worked with my daughter-in-law Vesna at the supermarket and that my wife had helped her mother get her pension, she stopped, threw away the bat and ran out. The KLA men who had been watching began to beat me again. I couldn't recognize any of them because I kept my head down and tried to ward off the blows with my hands. When I fell to the floor after several blows, they went out and locked the door behind them. I somehow managed to get on my feet and gather the tiles so they wouldn't use them to beat me again. I put them into small piles and covered them with the excrement. Marko was still lying there unconscious. It was then that I saw a man who had been beaten up at the door of a small bathroom with a shower stall. I went to him and he told me his name was Peka Pelević and asked me to get him some water. I got a glass of water from the wash basin and he drank with great difficulty. Then Zijadin Bugari, who worked as a porter at the clinic, appeared at the door. He was a good friend of mine and I asked him for help, but he just slammed the door.

"Later on, a young man in civilian clothes and a red beret with the KLA badge came in. He pointed his automatic rifle at me and said he would kill me if I didn't give him money. I gave him my wallet and he took 1,500 dinars. He ordered me to pick up Marko, who was slowly coming to. I sat him up beside me. The KLA man asked Marko where his son, Beli, who used to work as a mailman, was. Marko didn't hear him and I explained to the KLA man that he was hard of hearing. He cursed my Serb mother and threatened to kill me. When he repeated the question, Marko said his son had been in Australia since 1998. The man demanded money from Marko too, but he didn't have any on him. Then he left.

"Some time later, R. from Orahovac, an acquaintance of mine, came in. He was surprised to see me. I said I had done nothing wrong and had been brought there for no reason. R. told me to bang on the floor with my feet and scream as if I was being beaten. Five minutes later, another man in civilian clothes came in and R. said there was no need for him to stay, that he could manage beating me on his own. He told me two of his brothers had been killed recently and that he was looking for their killers. He said he couldn't let me go because there were a

lot of soldiers at the headquarters and it would be worth his life if he tried. Then he left.

"I went to Peko to see how he was but there was no sign of life in him any more. At about 11 p.m., two KLA men came and wrapped Peko's body in a blanket. They led me and Marko out of the toilet and Sveto out of the office of Ismet Tara, and took all three of us to a van parked outside the building. They put Peko's body inside with us. In the van, Sveta told us Siljka had beaten him too, and that Ismet Tara had told him Marko would be shot because his son supposedly killed some Albanians, and that he would spare Sveta and me.

"F.H., a KLA man I knew, got in the van with us and started to tie our hands. I asked me not to tie mine because of my broken wrist and offered him 200 deutsche marks. He took the money and told me to keep my hands behind my back and pretend they were bound. The van drove off toward Brestovac village, by way of the road to Velika Kruša. Inside, besides F.H., there were Hisen Cena (Hysen Cena) and three young men with automatic rifles. When we turned off the main road to Brestovac, Hisen Cena asked if we wanted to be killed at the place where the Yugoslav Army and police had killed Albanians or somewhere else. I said we didn't deserve to be killed, that we condemned what had happened, to which Cena replied by cursing our Serb mothers. The van stopped by the vineyards below the Brestovac Slopes. It was dark and raining. As F.H. and Cena were pulling Peko's body from the van, I took advantage of a moment when no one was watching me, jumped out and ran. They started firing after me and I dropped to the ground and crawled on. I hid in the woods and 15 minutes later heard four individual shots, which weren't fired in my direction. After that I heard Cena calling to me to give myself up. Soon afterwards I heard the van drive away. I stayed in the woods for another hour, afraid that they would come looking for me. Then I started out through the woods in the direction of Prizren, to Mala Hoča."

Mrs. Grković stated that five KLA members came to their home at 12.30 p.m. on 16 June. She recognized two of them as Orahovac Albanians – Ukšini (Ukshin) and Afrim, the son of a local photographer. They demanded that her husband Svetislav hand over his weapons. He did and asked for a receipt he could present to other KLA members if they came looking for guns. Ukšini replied that he had to come with them for a receipt. The KLA men left with her husband. Mrs. Grković saw their neighbors from Svetosavska St. – M.T., Peko Pelević and Marko Vitošević - being taken away at the same time as her husband. The next day, Ukšini came again and told Mrs. Grković that her husband had said she was to give him his pistol and car keys. On 31 August, Mrs. Grković filed a complaint with the Prizren Public Prosecutor's Office against Mahmut Ukšini, Afrim Balja and three unidentified KLA members, charging them with unlawful detention and saying there was reason to believe that they had also committed murder.

Marko Vitošević's son and wife moved to the Serb quarter of Orahovac on 15 June while he remained in their apartment. The son last spoke with his father about noon on 16 June. Later that day, KFOR escorted two Serb women who lived in the Vitošević's street to the Serb quarter. The women told him that four Albanians, among whom Mahmut Ukšini, started searching Serb apartments in the street at noon that day.

After his escape, M.T. first found refuge in a Serbian Orthodox seminary and fled Kosovo to Serbia on 29 October 1999. Mrs. Grković left Orahovac in early November and came to Serbia. The body of Peko Pelević was not found, and the whereabouts of Svetislav Grković and Marko Vitošević remain unknown.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2.3. Set free

Štrbac, Marica (F, 70), Croatian Serb, refugee – imprisoned on 15 June 1999 at the refugee camp in Orahovac after it was occupied by the KLA. **Two women and a man**, all Serb refugees from Croatia, were also imprisoned there until set free by KFOR on 20 June 1999.

Mrs. Štrbac was staying at the refugee camp near the Orvin plant with her husband, a friend stated. A few days before the camp was taken by the KLA on 15 June, her husband moved to the Serb quarter of the town. Mrs. Štrbac refused to accompany him. When the KLA came, they held her, another two women and a man imprisoned in the camp. They were set free by KFOR five days later and taken to the Serb quarter. With Red Cross assistance, Mrs. Štrbac and her husband fled Kosovo to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dedić, Predrag (M), Serb, from Orahovac - detained at the KLA headquarters when he went to inquire about his son who had been abducted. He was set free later that day by a member of KFOR.²⁷

Source: HLC, witness statement

PEĆ

1. Missing

Korač, Mirka (F, 65), Serb, from Zahać (Zahaq), Istok Municipality – last seen on 12 June 1999 in Peć.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

²⁷ Witness statement on the abduction of D.P.: Orahovac, 2. Abducted.

Ilić, Luka (M); his wife **Ilić, Desanka** (54), Serbs, disappeared on 12 June 1999 in Peć.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Vuković, Milan (M, 17), Montenegrin, from Dubovik, Dečani Municipality – disappeared on 13 June 1999 on the road between Peć and Dubovik.

Family friends recounted that the Vuković family left Dubovik for Peć during the NATO intervention, believing that they would be safer there. After the intervention, Vuković went on foot to Dubovik to check up on the house and see if they could move back. He has not been seen or heard from since.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Vulević, Branislav (M, 62), Serb, from Glavičica (Kokaj), Peć Municipality – disappeared on 13 June 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Vukčević, Spaso (M, 72), Montenegrin, from Korenica (Korenicë) village, Peć (210, B. Vukmirovića St.) – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in Peć.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Ćirković, Vasiljka (F, 79), Serb, from Belo Polje (Bellopojë), Peć Municipality – last seen on 15 June 1999 in Glavičica, Peć Municipality.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Zogović, Radenko (M, 46), Montenegrin, from Crni Vrh (Ceroverhë), Peć Municipality, employee of Leather and Shoe Factory, Yugoslav Army reservist – disappeared between 15 and 16 June 1999.

Zogović's sister told the HLC that her brother's family left Peć on 12 June. Zogović was demobilized on 13 June. The Yugoslav Army notified his family that he left headquarters for home that day.

Albanian neighbors told his sister that they saw him on several occasions on 15 or 16 June. The Zogović house was torched in late June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Novović, Cvetko (M, 75); his wife **Novović, Stanka** (65), Serbs, from Nabrdje (Nabrxhanë), Peć Municipality – disappeared on 16 June 1999 in the Peć area.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Jačić, Dušan (M, 24), Serb, from Peć, Yugoslav Army member – last seen on 17 June 1999.

A woman friend stated that Jačić did not leave Peć when the Yugoslav Army withdrew from Kosovo but no longer wore his uniform. He told her he and some colleagues were organizing a covert force to protect non-Albanians in the town. On 16 June, Jačić visited this friend and, since it was late, decided to spend the night at her apartment.

The next morning, he went on foot to his own apartment. Her parents accompanied him to the town center where they parted. A few hours later, his parents called to say he had not arrived at his home.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Novović, Goran (M, 34), Serb – last seen on 17 June 1999 in Mala Jablanica (Jabllanicë e Vogël), Peć Municipality.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Kuč, Petar (M, 45), Montenegrin, from Brestovik, Peć Municipality – last seen on 18 June 1999 on the road from Peć to Rožaje, Montenegro.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Grujić, Bogomir (M, 63); his relative **Grujić, Radosav** (M, 42), Serbs, from Donji Petrić (Petriq e Ulët), Klina Municipality --last seen on 18 June driving past the building of the old hospital in Peć in Grujić's car (Peć license plates).

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Mikulić, Rade (M, 68), Montenegrin, from Peć (12, Djurdjina Jovičević St., Brežanik (Brezhanik) neighborhood)), electrician, employee of Elektro-Kosovo – disappeared between 18 and 19 June 1999.

Mikulić's family fled Peć to Montenegro on 15 June. Only he remained in their house. His daughter-in-law heard from Albanian neighbors that they saw him go shopping in the first few days after the family's departure.

When the family called him, unknown persons speaking Albanian answered the phone, refused to say when and how they had moved into the house or whether they knew anything about Mikulić.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Folić, Veljko (M, 50), Montenegrin, from Djakovica, driver with the Lasta bus company; **Jevrić, Miloš** (M, 59), Montenegrin, from Peć (26, 1. Maja St.), owner of auto repair shop in the same street – disappeared on 19 June 1999 in Peć.

In the evening of 18 June, Folić came to the Peć Patriarchate from where he planned to proceed to Djakovica to fetch his wife. At the Patriarchate, he met his brother-in-law and his close friend, Miloš Jevrić, with whom he discussed how to best reach Djakovica and get his wife out of the town. All the Serbs who had found refuge at the Patriarchate advised him not to go.

Between 10 and 11 a.m. on 19 June, Folić nonetheless left for Djakovica, traveling together with Jevrić in Jevrić's Opel Cadet with Belgrade license plates.

A friend of Jevrić related to the HLC that he met Jevrić in a cafe by the Bistrica River not far from Peć around noon that day. This witness did not mention Folić by name but said Jevrić was with several men he did not know. Two men and a woman came up to their table. The men introduced themselves as foreign reporters and the woman as their interpreter, and said they wished to buy a car. Jevrić told them he was an auto mechanic and could find them the kind of vehicle they needed. The witness left the cafe when they began to discuss a price.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djokić, Ivan (M, 40), Serb, from Peć (Brdjansko (Bërzhënik) neighborhood)), employee of sugar refinery – last seen on 19 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tošković, Djordje (M, 75), Serb, from Peć (46, Ive Lole Ribara St., Karagač (Karagaq) neighborhood)), MD, gynecologist, retired – disappeared on 20 June 1999.

During the NATO intervention, Tosković moved to the downtown apartment of a Serb relative who had left Peć. His daughter told the HLC that he left the apartment to check up on his house on 20 June in the morning. He was last seen between his house and the Metohija Hotel.

The daughter heard from acquaintances that prior to Tošković's disappearance, some unidentified Albanians had come to his home, inquired where he was and said they would "skin him alive."

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jašović, Aleksandar (M, 63), Serb, from Peć (Hora Šehamanovića St.), economist, deputy manager of Beobanka branch in Peć – last seen on 20 June 1999.

Relatives related that Jašović's family fled Peć to Serbia on 13 June while he decided to stay. His sister-in-law and nephews also stayed in their house, next door to the Jašović home. On 8 June, KLA members came for Jašović, took him

to a house where he was questioned. Before they released him, they told Jašović he had to leave Peć immediately or he would kill him. Jašović told his sister-in-law he would not leave despite this threat.

Two days later, on 20 June, he went to check up on the house of relatives who had fled Peć earlier. His sister-in-law never saw him again.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Gojković, Rade (M, 63), Serb, from Peć (37, Landovačka (Landovicës) St.)), restaurant proprietor – disappeared between 19 and 21 June 1999.

Family friends recounted that Gojković had found refuge at the Peć Patriarchate and disappeared when he went to check up on his apartment between 19 and 21 June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Samardžić, Luka (M), Serb, from Peć – disappeared between 19 and 21 June 1999 in Peć.

According to friends, Samardžić had found refuge at the Peć Patriarchate. He was last seen when he went to check up on his apartment near the old hospital in Peć.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dončić, Luka (M); **Dončić, Slobodan** (M); **Dončić Snežana** (F); **Dujačić, Miša** (M); **Milosavljević, Vladimir** (M); **Novičević, Milorad** (M, 59), Serbs – disappeared on 21 June 1999 in Peć.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Bašić, Sadat (M), Muslim, from Nabrdje, Peć Municipality, PTT lineman – disappeared on 21 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dragović, Predrag (M, 49), Serb – last seen on 22 July 1999 in Peć.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Golubović, Zoran (M, 37), Serb, car body mechanic – last seen on 25 June 1999 near the Roman Catholic church in Peć.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Lazović, Petar (M, 58), Serb, from Peć (29, Gimnazijska St.) – disappeared after 27 June 1999.

Jugoslav Lazović stated that his mother and sister left Peć on 14 June, and he and his brother on 27 June. His father decided to stay. The last time Jugoslav Lazović spoke with his father was on 27 June when he called him from the Peć Patriarchate before leaving for Serbia. Lazović told his sons not to worry, that he had spoken with their neighbor Ferdi, a KLA member, who had told him he was safe and that the rest of the family need not have fled Peć.

After his father's disappearance, Jugoslav Lazović came to Peć to make inquiries with their Albanian neighbors. The neighbors, however, were not able to tell him what had happened to his father and said they believed Lazović had fled to the Patriarchate. Two months later, the Lazović house was burned down.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Petrovi}, @arko (M, 54), **Seni}, Vasilije** (M, 63) i **Jerini} Milivoje** (71), Serbs, from Peć, last seen on 28 June 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Stević, Smiljana (F, 70), Serb, from Peć – last seen on 20 July 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Medenica, Branko (M, 57), Montenegrin Montenegrin from Drijena near Kolašin retired, mentally ill – last seen at the Peć Patriarchate in late August 1999.

Medenica's sister recounted that Medenica was hard hit emotionally by the death of their older sister on 7 July. In late August, he went to Peć to see his aunt and cousins who, however, had fled to Montenegro in the meantime.

Amateur radio operators informed Medenica's sister that he had been seen at the Peć Patriarchate in late August where he spoke with a reporter by the first name of Slavko, and Bishop Amfilohije Radović.

KFOR intended to transfer Medenica to Montenegro or a psychiatric institution because of his condition. His sister does not know whether he was hospitalized or went elsewhere of his own accord. No one at the Patriarchate saw Medenica after the end of August.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dragović, Dušan (M); his wife **Dragović, Milosavka**, Serbs, from Peć – disappeared during the summer of 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

2. Abducted

Pejčinović, Slobodan (M, 19), Serb, from Peć (3, Limska St.) – abducted by the KLA on 26 March 1999 on the road between Peć and Rožaje, Montenegro.

Mrs. Pejčinović stated that her son and three Albanian friends, A.B. (18), B.A. (25) and B.K. (17), left on foot at 1.30 p.m. on 26 March for Rožaje, Montenegro, by way of Crni Vrh village.

When her son failed to return, she reported his disappearance to KFOR. Pejčinović's Albanian friends told the family that they reached Rugova village where KLA members stopped them and took them to their headquarters. The youths spent the first night locked up together in one room but Pejčinović was separated from them the next day. The Albanian youths were released later that day while Pejčinović was retained and has not been heard from since.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Petković, B. Dragan (M, 39), employee of Metohija Hotel; his brother **Petković, Zoran** (43), employee of Peć brewery, Serbs, from Peć – abducted on 13 June 1999.

A relative told the HLC that he last saw the Petković brothers just before 1 p.m. on 13 June. He was informed by an acquaintance that soon after that unidentified Albanian civilians forced the brothers into a light blue Yugo car and drove them away.

The Petković house was looted later that day. The relative came to Peć again on 27 July to inquire about the brothers but was not able to obtain any more information about their disappearance.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Petrušić, Luka (M, 57), Montenegrin, born in Ljubovo, Peć Municipality, Montenegrin national, domiciled in Podgorica; his relatives **Vujačić, Slobodan** (M, 54), elementary schoolteacher in Pećka Banja; **Petrušić, Radmila** (F, 54), teacher in Pećka Banja, Montenegrins – disappeared on 17 June 1999 in Pećka Banja.

Petrušić came to Kosovo to help his relatives flee Pećka Banja to Montenegro on 15 June. When he arrived, Vujačić and Radmila Petrušić asked him to stay one day longer so that they could pack some belongings.

They finished packing in the evening of 17 June and decided to wait until morning before they started out for Montenegro in a tractor with trailer attached

and Luka Petrušić's Lada Niva. At 9.15 p.m., Petrušić left the Vujačić house to spend the night at Radmila Petrušić's house, some 500 meters away. Slobodan Vujačić walked there with him while his wife stayed on the porch. She soon heard the ignitions of the tractor and car turned on and the vehicles driving away. About 15 minutes later, she heard gunfire, first a single shot and then a burst. At daybreak, she saw that the car and tractor were gone and went to Radmila Petrušić's house. She found it empty and the windows smashed.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Bogićević, Dušan (M, 68), Serb, from Dobri Do (Dobërdol), Peć Municipality, retired – abducted by the KLA in Peć on 17 June 1999; his friend **P.D.** (M), Serb, from Peć, managed to escape. Somewhat later, KLA members came to the apartment of the **S.** family, led out **S.Z.**, her **husband and two children**, and their friends **T.R.** and **R.R.**, all Serbs from Peć, beat up **T.R.** and then allowed them to go.

Bogićević's sister recounted that her brother left their village on 12 June and stayed with relatives in Goraždevac (Gorazhdec), Peć Municipality. He visited with the S. family in Peć on 17 June. At 11 p.m. he left with a friend, P.D., to spend the night in the apartment of his son who was in Switzerland. They were attacked by unidentified Albanians outside the Leather and Shoe Factory. Bogićević was abducted while P.D. managed to escape.

In shock after the incident, P.D. was unable to give the Bogićević family any details about the abduction, and fled Kosovo immediately afterwards.

Around midnight, KLA members broke into the S. apartment, led the family and two friends who were there into the street and threatened to shoot them on the spot. Pleading with them, S.Z. said she was Croat and that her children were not Serb. After beating up T.R., the KLA men allowed them all to go. They found refuge at the Peć Patriarchate and never returned to Peć.

An Albanian friend confirmed to Bogićević's sister that her brother had been abducted by the KLA outside the Leather and Shoe Factory, and that P.D. was able to get away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jočić, Dušan (M, 24), Montenegrin, from Peć, employee of the construction materials plant and student of the Peć Business School; **Dašić, Dragan** (M, 35), Montenegrin, from Peć, courier with the municipal Military Affairs Department; **Bademović, Mujo** (M, 34), Muslim, from Peć, plumber – abducted by the KLA on 18 June 1999 outside the KFOR headquarters in the former Yugoslav Army Cultural Center in Peć.

Responding to a KFOR notice, Jočić, Dašić and Bademović on 18 June went to the KFOR headquarters to submit job applications. They parked their car, a grey Mercedes 190 with Peć license plates which belonged to Jočić's brother, outside the building and, waiting to be called inside to be interviewed, talked among themselves in Serbian. Two groups of five or six men in KLA uniforms came by and at gunpoint ordered Jočić and Dašić to get in the car, saying they were taking them for questioning at the KLA headquarters located in the Dukadjini (Dukagjini) printing works in Peć. When he protested against his friends being taken, Bademović too was forced into the car and they were all driven away.

The families reported the abduction to KFOR and were told that there was no reason for concern since Jočić, Dašić and Bademović would only be asked to give statements and would be released within a few hours. The three men never returned to their homes.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Lalić, Spasoje (M, 40), Montenegrin, from Peć, employee of Tobacco Factory – abducted on 18 June 1999 from his home in Peć.

Mrs Lalić stated that some Albanians knocked at their gate at 7.55 a.m. on 18 June. Her husband, still in his pyjamas, went out to see who it was. Mrs Lalić did not see the persons by the gate and only heard her husband speaking with them in Albanian. Realizing that something was wrong, she went outside but found no one there any more.

She drove immediately to the KFOR headquarters at the Metohija Hotel to report her husband's disappearance and then returned home. She was near her street when she heard three gunshots and saw several men in black uniforms running away. Scared, she returned to the KFOR headquarters and was escorted back to her home by several KFOR members. Her husband was not there. The KFOR members told her it was not safe for her to remain in the house and advised her to move in with friends. She went to a building where other Serbs who had remained in Peć were staying.

She returned to her home on 20 June to retrieve some belongings. The house had been looted and ransacked. She found her the pyjamas her husband was wearing when he was abducted stuffed behind a radiator. There were no rents or bloodstains on them.

On 22 June, KLA members came to the building in which she was staying, took her and the other Serbs into the basement and told them they would be shot. At that moment, a KFOR patrol came into the building and the KLA men escaped through the back entrance. The Serbs were escorted by KFOR to the Patriarchate from where they fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Grujić, Branko (M, 65), retired; his relative **Grujić, Milorad** (M, 42), driver with the Kosovo-Trans company, Montenegrins, from Peć – abducted by the KLA on 18 June 1999 in Peć.

Mrs. Grujić related that Milorad Grujić was taken by the KLA on the stairway of his apartment building in the vicinity of the Kosovo-Trans company and Ramiz Sadiku school between 4 and 5 p.m. on 18 June, forced into a Mercedes car and driven away.

She, her husband and an Orthodox priest went to the KFOR checkpoint near the Beopetrol gasoline station to inquire about Milorad. KLA members at the checkpoint told her husband to get in his car, a dark blue Fiat 132 (license plates PE 36-00), and go with them to the KLA police to give a statement about his relative. Her husband did not return home and Mrs. Grujić fled Kosovo shortly afterwards.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Šoškić, Miodrag (M, 44), Montenegrin, from Peć (71 Vojska Jugoslavije St.), employee of Leather and Shoe Factory; **Krstić, Maksim** (M, 45), Serb, naturalized Russian – abducted by unidentified persons on 19 June 1999 in Peć. Šoškić and Krstić, who had come to Peć to get his sister out of the town, were abducted together with R.D., a mutual friend who was released the same day. Their whereabouts remain unknown.²⁸

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djuričić, Milivoje (M, 62), attorney; **Petrović, Radonja** (M, 64), retired; **Savić, Jovica** (M, 40), electrician, employee of Baterija company, Montenegrins, from Peć – abducted on 19 June 1999. The three men were last seen by K.A., a Serbian Orthodox priest, in the home of a Roma man in Peć where they were being held by the KLA.

Mrs Djuričić and her daughter left for Montenegro during the NATO intervention. Her husband and son stayed in Peć. In June, her husband was finalizing some contracts between KFOR and the staff of the Metohija Hotel.

Mrs Djuričić told the HLC that her husband and son left home about 8 a.m. on 19 June and went to Vitomirica (Vitimircë) village where they had a weekend house. Her husband left their son there and went back to Peć. He telephoned his wife from the Metohija Hotel. They spoke briefly and he said he would call her again around 4 p.m.

²⁸ Witness statement on the abduction of Šoškić and Krstić: Peć, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

Staff at the hotel later told the family that Djuričić received a telephone call and was told that his apartment in the Kaković (Kaković) neighborhood (90/2, Vidaka Markovića St.) had been broken into. Leaving the hotel between 1 and 2 p.m., he met Radonja Petrović, told him about the phone call and said he was going to his apartment to check out the information. Petrović decided to go with him and they left in a white Yugo car, together with their mutual friend Jovica Savić.

The next day, Mrs Djuričić was notified by amateur radio operators of her husband's abduction and immediately left for Peć. She fetched her son from the weekend house on 24 June and, two days later, heard that an Albanian family, the Husajis, had moved into their apartment in Peć. Two Husaji brothers were longstanding clients of Djuričić and knew the family well. Mrs Djuričić tried to talk with them to see if they had any information about her husband but they refused to speak with her.

A priest from the Peć Patriarchate recounted to the HLC that he was detained by the KLA on the same day as Djuričić, Petrović and Savić and taken to the house of a wealthy Roma man near the gasoline station. He saw Djuričić and Petrović on the terrace of this house and noticed signs of physical abuse on both. The priest was released later that day on the order of, Etem Čeku (Ethem Çeku), the local KLA commander and mayor of Peć.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Karać, Milutin (M, 51), Serb, from Peć (32 Vojske Jugoslavije St.), employee of Hydro-Meteorological Bureau – abducted on 21 June 1999 in Peć.

Karać's daughter recounted that the family left Peć following the withdrawal of the Serbian forces from Kosovo. Only her father remained in their apartment, and her paternal grandmother in her house (10, 29. Novembra St.).

As he did daily, Karać went to see his mother on 21 June and disappeared. A Gorani neighbor told his mother later that day that Karać was stopped just outside her house by uniformed KLA men who asked him to produce some identification. He had only his driver's license and gave it to them, after which they took him away. When she went to Karać's apartment, his mother found it broken into and looted. She then fled Peć to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stanković, Miodrag (M, 45), typographer-signpainter; his neighbor **Martinović, Voja** (M, 74), retired, Serbs, from Peć – abducted by the KLA on 23 June 1999 in Peć.

Mrs Stanković told the HLC she heard noises from her yard about 3 p.m. on 23 June. She, her husband and a neighbor, Roksanda Savić, went outside to see

what was going on and found two uniformed KLA men trying to break into their garage. Stanković went up to them and asked them to stop. They replied in Albanian that they urgently needed a car battery and, at gunpoint, ordered him to come with them. They emerged into the main street where another three KLA men were waiting, and entered the yard of a nearby house in which a red car was parked. Mrs Savić's husband Voja, who had seen this, followed the KLA men to help his neighbor.

The two women were unable to see what happened in the yard but a neighbor, who watched through her window, told them that the KLA men searched Stanković and took his pistol. After beating him, they pushed him into the red car and drove away. Savić remained in the yard with two of the KLA men. Some 10 minutes later, the red car came back for Savić and the two KLA members.

After reporting her husband's abduction to KFOR, Mrs Savić sought refuge at the Patriarchate from where she fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Čupić, Branko (M, 47), Serb, from Peć (M. Pavličića St.), secretary of driving license commission – abducted by the KLA from his neighbor's apartment on 23 June 1999. Two hours later, the abductors came back to demand ransom from his wife. She gave them her gold jewelry but her husband was not returned.

Čupić's sister told the HLC her brother, his wife Olivera, mother Milijana and an Albanian neighbor were in the apartment of a Serb in the same building as theirs, which Čupić had been asked to look after. At 9.30 p.m. on 23 June, two armed and uniformed KLA men came to this apartment, searched it, took all the valuables they found, including 1,300 dinars and Čupić's pistol, and, before leaving, gave the family until 10 a.m. the next day to leave Peć. At 11 p.m., seven KLA members in black uniforms came, led Čupić and the Albanian neighbor out of the apartment, beat up the neighbor in the hallway, and took Čupić away, saying he would only be questioned.

One hour later, two of the black-uniformed KLA men came back. They handed Mrs Čupić a note in her husband's handwriting reading: "Olivera, give them all the gold you have." Underneath that was written in another hand, "And the marks." Mrs Čupić took off her gold jewelry and gave it to the men who then demanded deutsche marks. She had no currency on her apart from 91 dinars, which they refused to take. The KLA men left.

Mrs Čupić reported her husband's abduction to KFOR the next day and went to see an Albanian friend of his, Mahmut, who told her Čupić was being held in the movie theater in Peć. Mahmut promised to do everything in his power to obtain her husband's release.

Mrs Čupić spent the next two days at the Patriarchate and then came back to Peć to see whether Mahmut had any more information about her husband. Mahmut told her Čupić had been released and was in the apartment. When she arrived there, however, she found only the Albanian neighbor who was with them the night of her husband's abduction and to whom she had given the keys. The neighbor said her husband had not come home.

Mrs Čupić went back to the Patriarchate and never returned to Peć.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Djikanović, Jovo (M), Montenegrin, from Peć – abducted from his home by the KLA on 25 June 1999.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Radević, Bogdan (M, 64), Montenegrin, from Peć (Božnik (Bozhnik) neighborhood)), former mayor of Peć – abducted on 26 June 1999.

Family members recounted that a group of KLA men stormed into the Radević house about 9 a.m. on 26 June. They tied up Radević, demanded weapons, and beat him and his wife Milena. When Radević told them he possessed no firearms, they ordered him to go with them to their headquarters. Two KLA remained with Mrs Radević. They searched the house and then tried to rape her. She jumped out the window and ran into the neighboring yard from where she called KFOR. When the KFOR members arrived, they found the house empty.

Mrs Radević was escorted to the Patriarchate by KFOR the same day and fled to Montenegro.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Bećir, Ramu (Beqiri Ramë) (M, 25), Rom, from Lešane (Leshanë), Peć Municipality – abducted by unidentified persons in late June 1999 on a local road near Peć while riding with his family on a horse-drawn wagon.
Source. *Roma in the Kosovo Conflict*, ERRC, November 1999

Vulević, Vlado (M, 65), Serb, from Zahać, Peć Municipality; **unidentified Albanian**, from Zahać – abducted on 2 July 1999.

The witness stated that a group of KLA members came to Zahać on 2 July and took Vulević to a KLA prison. Vulević's Albanian friend, who protested with the KLA men, was also taken but was released the next day.

After the incident, this Albanian and his father took Mrs Vulević to the Patriarchate for safety.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Radević, Miloš (M, 50), Montenegrin, from Vitomirica, Peć Municipality, economist, employee of Leather and Shoe Factory – abducted from his apartment in July 1999.

Radević's daughter recounted that a group KLA members came to their apartment and drove her father away in his Lada Samara car (license plates PE 502-75).

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Haljilji, Muslji (Halili Musli) (M), Rom, from Brestovik, Peć Municipality – abducted and killed by the KLA on 16 June 1999.

Muslji's father-in-law stated that five KLA members came to Muslji's house on 16 June and demanded that he hand over his rifle. When he said he did not have any firearms, they took him away.

Mrs Mulji found her husband's body the next day with a chain around his neck with which he had been tied to a car bumper. There were bloodstains on the road.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Janković, Nebojša (M, 37), Montenegrin, from Peć (48 Žrtava Fašizma St.) – abducted on 18 June 1999; his body was found by KFOR in the abandoned building of the Peć jail on 23 June 1999.

Following the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police from Kosovo, Mrs Janković and her sons Nebojša and Žarko moved in with friends who lived near the former police station. Around 9 a.m. on 18 June, Nebojša Janković went out to inquire when a rally at which the Serbian Patriarch was to speak would be held. He took a side street leading to the former police station and jail.

When her son did not return soon, Mrs Janković thought the rally had started and that he was attending. Around noon she began to inquire with neighbors and friends about the rally and heard that it had been cancelled. She called her other son and they began to look for Nebojša. An Albanian neighbor told them she had seen him talking with an Italian member of KFOR that morning. Another neighbor said she had seen Janković with a group of KLA men outside the abandoned jail. Mrs Janković immediately reported her son's disappearance to KFOR.

On 23 June, KFOR found the body of Nebojša Janković in the jail. He had a gunshot wound in the head and the investigation showed that he had been killed on 18 June, the day he went missing. Mrs Janković and Žarko left Peć on 24 June; the burial of Nebojša Janković on 26 June was arranged by a neighbor.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Rastoder, Sejdo (M, 63), Muslim, from Vitimirica, Peć Municipality, taxi driver – abducted on 4 July 1999 in Peć and killed.

Rastoder was abducted by unidentified persons on 4 July in Peć and killed. His body was found in early August in Novo Selo, Peć Municipality.

Source: *Izveštaj o položaju Muslimana-Bošnjaka na Kosovu nakon dolaska KFOR-a* [Report on the Position of Bosniac-Muslims in Kosovo Following KFOR's Deployment], Helsinški odbor za ljudska prava u Sandžaku [Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak], October 1999

Begović, Hamdija (M, 58); his wife **Begović, Ifeta** (54), Muslims, from Peć – abducted from their home by the KLA on the night of 8/9 July 1999; their bodies were found by KFOR in central Peć on 9 July 1999.

The Begovićs' daughter recounted to the HLC that Albanian neighbors of her parents told her that KLA members came to their apartment on the night of 8/9 July. The neighbors attempted to prevent the KLA men from taking the couple away but, afraid that they would also be taken, soon desisted. They immediately reported the abduction to KFOR.

The next day, KFOR found the bodies of the Begovićs under the bridge near the old town hall in central Peć. The bodies were lying partly in the water, the hands were tied in front and they had been shot in the back. The rifle with which they had been killed was lying beside them.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Kočan, Haćim (M, 55), Muslim, from Zlopek (Qellopek), Peć Municipality – abducted by unidentified persons in Peć in mid-July 1999.

Parts of Kočan's body, some articles of his clothing and personal papers were found in late July 1999 in a damaged and abandoned house in Zlopek village.

Source: *Izveštaj o položaju Muslimana-Bošnjaka na Kosovu nakon dolaska KFOR-a* [Report on the Position of Bosniac-Muslims in Kosovo Following KFOR's Deployment], Helsinški odbor za ljudska prava u Sandžaku [Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak], October 1999

Dragolovčanin, Ševćet (M, 42), Serbian Muslim, from Sjenica, clergyman – disappeared on 8 August 1999 on the road to Peć.

Dragolovčanin left Rožaje, Montenegro, about 1 p.m. on 8 August in a Mercedes 250 D automobile (license plates NP 505-95). His body was found on 21 August 1999 in Mala Jablanica, Peć Municipality.

Source: *Izveštaj o položaju Muslimana-Bošnjaka na Kosovu nakon dolaska KFOR-a* [Report on the Position of Bosniac-Muslims in Kosovo Following KFOR's Deployment], Helsinški odbor za ljudska prava u Sandžaku [Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak], October 1999

Hakanjin, Ismet (M, 33); **Srdanović, Dževad** (M, 45), Montenegrin Muslims, from Plav – abducted by the KLA on 20 November 1999 at the bus depot in Peć. From the bus depot, Hakanjin and Srdanović were taken to the building of the RAJ Bank in Peć, which served as the headquarters of the KLA police. Hakanjin's body with several gunshot wounds was found on 25 November 1999 on the road to Dečani; Srdanović's body, also with gunshot wounds, was found in early December 1999.

Šefko Alomerović, Chairman of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak, was quoted by Belgrade newspapers as saying that Azem Purušić, a relative of both the mayor of Peć, Etem Čeku, and Hakanjin, spoke with Čeku on the day Hakanjin and Srdanović were abducted. Čeku told him that the two men were being questioned by KLA police and would be released shortly.

Alomerović also said he had information that Hakanjin and Srdanović were killed by two KLA policemen, Zeka Besnik and Dževat Fetahu (Xhevat Fetahy), some 20 minutes after Purušić's conversation with Čeku.

Source: *Sahranjen Ismet Hakanjin* [Ismet Hakanjin Buried], DANAS, 1 December 1999; *Dva Muslimana ubijena, jedan kidnapovan* [Two Muslims Killed, One Kidnapped], GLAS JAVNOSTI, 6 December 1999; *Postoje logori za nealbance* [Camps for Non-Albanians Exist], GLAS JAVNOSTI, 11 April 2000.

Radunović, Slavoljub (M), Montenegrin, from Peć – abducted by unidentified persons on 17 December 1999 on the road from the Patriarchate to central Peć.

Radunović had found refuge at the Patriarchate. He left it on 17 December to go to central Peć to buy some things he needed. His body was found by the UNMIK police near the Patriarchate on 1 January 2000.

Source: *Pronadjeno telo nestalog Srbina* [Body of Missing Serb Found], DANAS (BETA), 4 January 2000

Brakočević, Radojko (M, 40) Montenegrin Montenegrin, from Berane; **Mustajbašić, Jasmin** (M, 36), Montenegrin Muslim, from Berane – disappeared on 3 February 2000 on the road from Berane to Kosovo. Mustajbašić's body was found on 18 February and Brakočević's on 13 March 2000.

Brakočević and Mustajbašić left Berane at 8 a.m. on 4 January in truck loaded with lumber. They drove to Savine Vode, Peć Municipality, where they were to separate. Mustajbašić was to continue alone with the truck to a destination in Kosovo, and Brakočević was to return to Montenegro.

Mustajbašić's body, bearing signs of violence, was found on 18 February in Junik village near Peć. Brakočević's remains were found on 13 March, two kilometers from Savine Vode. He had been shot dead and there were no other traces of violence.

Source: *Oteta dvojica žitelja Berana* [Two Berane Residents Abducted], BLIC, 15 February 2000; *Tijelo je 40 dana prekrivao snijeg* [Body Under Snow for 40 Days], VIJESTI, 15 March 2000

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

K.M. (M), Serb, from Peć, Orthodox clergyman – detained by the KLA on 19 June 1999; released later that day on the order of the local KLA commander.

Three KLA men in camouflage uniforms stopped K.M.'s car near the Beopetrol gasoline station in Peć, searched it and, claiming to have found suspicious objects: a face mask (actually part of a slipcover), knife and Motorola, took him to the yard of a nearby house that belonged to a wealthy Roma.

There were some 20 KLA men in the yard. On the terrace of the house, K.M. saw Radonja Petrović and Milivoje Djuričić, an attorney. Petrović's jacket was torn and K.M. noticed signs of violence on both men.

K.M. was then taken to the basement of an uninhabited house with a store on the ground floor. He heard one of the KLA men say, "Finish the job." In the basement, he saw a rifle fitted with a silencer. One wall was pockmarked with bullet holes and there were bloodstains on it and the floor. One of the three KLA men who brought him down, no older than 20, put his rifle to K.M.'s head and said, "Now you'll pay for all the people you killed." At that point, a uniformed KLA member K.M. had seen at the checkpoint the day before came into the basement, told the young man to put away his rifle and released the clergyman, saying their commander Etem Čeku had given orders that "no one may kill a priest." He untied K.M.'s hands, led him out of the basement, returned his belongings and car keys.

Source: HLC, witness statement

R.D. (M, 40), Montenegrin, from Peć (Vojska Jugoslavije St.), electrical engineer; **Šoškić, Miodrag** (M, 44), Montenegrin, from Peć (Vojska Jugoslavije St.),

employee of Leather and Shoe Factory); **Krstić, Maksim** (M, 45), Serb, naturalized Russian – abducted by unidentified persons on 19 June 1999 in Peć. R.D. was released later that day. The whereabouts of the other two men remain unknown.

The brother of Miodrag Šoškić, who fled Peć to Montenegro on 13 June, told the HLC that his brother lived alone and their mother in the house next door to him. At about 9 a.m., Miodrag Šoškić, Maksim Krstić, a naturalized Russian who had come to Peć to get his sister out of the town, and his relative R.D. went downtown at about 9 a.m. on 19 June.

Around 11 a.m., they left the Metohija Hotel in a white Yugo 55 car with Peć license plates, heading for Šoškić's house. They were stopped by a KLA patrol after crossing the steel bridge. The KLA men asked to see their ID cards and, upon inspecting them, allowed them to proceed. Soon afterwards, another KLA patrol signaled to them to stop. Šoškić attempted to drive past the patrol but R.D. grabbed the steering wheel and swerved the car to a halt. Five or six armed and uniformed KLA men dragged them out of the car. R.D. was pushed into an automobile, Šoškić and Krstić into another and were driven away.

R.D. described what happened next:

"They took us to the warehouse of an Albanian from Peć, Mućaj (Muqaj), right next to the Leather and Shoe Factory. There were two guards in green uniforms, one of whom questioned us. After asking a few questions, they put us in the cold storage locker and began to beat us. We were held in the locker until the evening when they took us out and pushed us into a white Audi without license plates. They tried to manhandle me into the trunk first but I'm quite big and they couldn't get me in so they dumped me in the back seat. Then I heard another car driving up and Miodrag and Maksim being shoved into it. That was the last time I saw them.

"They drove me to Češkovo (Qeskove), a village about 30 kilometers from Peć, and led me into a woods, to a man they all called 'Commander.' There were another two KLA members with him, one a younger man from nearby Nepolje (Nepolë) village whom I know by sight though I don't know his name. The commander questioned me for a long time, asking if I had weapons, if I had been mobilized, if I had killed anybody... We argued for a long time and in the end he said, 'All right, let's say we forgive you.' They took me back to the car and drove to Peć. Two KLA men were in the car with me, one in black and one in green uniform. I know the one in the green uniform by sight too. His name is Uljar (Ular) and he lives in the Dečani area. They all spoke Serbian. They let me out in the town and said I was free."

Miodrag Šoškić's brother recounted that three KLA members brought his brother to his home in a car at about 1 a.m. on 20 June. Two entered the house with him while the third stood at the entrance of their mother's house to prevent her from going to her son. They did not turn on the lights so that she was unable to see them. She only heard them demanding weapons from her son. They left an hour later, taking Miodrag Šoškić with them.

KFOR transferred the remaining Serbs in Peć, including R.D. and Mrs Šoškić, to the Patriarchate the next morning, 20 June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jovanović, Rajko (M) ; his wife **Jovanović, Mira**, Serbs, from Peć – abducted by the KLA between 19 and 21 June 1999 in Peć, released six days later and fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tafa, Naser (M, 32), Rom, from Čungare (Qungarë), Peć Municipality – abducted by the KLA in June 1999 and released several hours later.

Tafa recounted that five Albanians stormed into his home, beat him and demanded that he tell them where the village Serbs were hiding and the location of concealed weapons.

"They tied me up and took me to the KLA headquarters where they beat me for hours, until I blacked out. When I came to, they told me to go home and to leave the village and Kosovo. They said they would kill me and all my family if they came back and found me in the village."

Tafa fled Kosovo after the incident. He heard that his Roma neighbor **Osman Krasnići (Osman Krasniqi)** was also imprisoned, beaten and, before being released, threatened with death unless he left Kosovo.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dedaj, Redžep (Dedaj, Rexhep) (M); his brother **Dedaj, Ramuš (Dedaj, Ramush)**, Roma, from Peć – imprisoned for several hours at the KLA headquarters in late June 1999.

Redžep Dedaj stated that KLA members in late June forced him and his brother to load into trucks belongings stolen from abandoned Serb houses. When they finished the loading, they walked home but were stopped by other KLA members who took them to their headquarters. They were questioned about whether they had killed or robbed Albanians. When they denied this, they were beaten and the

KLA men claimed they had proof that Redžep Dedaj and his brother had killed and robbed Albanians. They were released several hours later.

Both brothers and their families fled Kosovo to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

V.Š. (M), Rom, from Lešane, Peć Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 3 July 1999, released 24 hours later.

The wife of V.Š. recounted that KLA members forced their way into their home on 3 July and took her husband to their headquarters. He told her he was so severely beaten there that he lost consciousness and remembers only being brought back to his home. The same day another two KLA members, Brahim Uka and Hajrudin Mustafa, came and forcibly ejected V.Š. and his wife from their house, after which they fled to Montenegro.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2.2. Escaped

D.Č. (M, 63), Serb, from Peć, retired – abducted by the KLA on 19 June 1999; he escaped the same day.

D.Č. stated that KLA members came to his home on 16 June and demanded that he hand over his firearms. He gave them his rifle and pistol and they left. The next day, other KLA members came and also demanded weapons. D.Č. told them he had turned over his firearms to the KLA, and that he would go with them to the headquarters to seek the men to whom he had given the guns so that they could check out his story. The KLA men said they believed him and went away.

At about 5 p.m. on 19 June, three KLA men D.Č. recognized as neighbors living in the same street – Kujtim Neka and two young men who had worked in Switzerland the preceding two years – came to his home.

He described what happened then:

"They were armed and had walkie-talkies over which they kept reporting where they were. Kujtim showed me an ID with a golden UÇK emblem. They started speaking Albanian and when I said I didn't understand, they switched to Serbian and cursed me, asking why I didn't know Albanian and did I know where I lived. They started searching for weapons. I did have some more guns but had buried them all in the garden. Then they began to beat me and knocked out one of my teeth with a rifle butt. Kujtim ordered me to open my mouth and pushed the barrel of his pistol into it. He was going to fire but changed his mind, said it would be too easy a death. He took a knife from his belt and said they were taking me away where they could kill me slowly, adding that they had just slit

the throat of a man down the street. They said to hand them the keys of my car, a red Zastava 128 with Peć license plates. I gave them the keys but warned them there was no gas in the tank. One got in the car and the ignition caught. They yelled and cursed me and said I had lied about the tank being empty since the car had started fine.

"We went into the yard and they ordered me to open the gate. I went but the beating had made me faint and I stumbled and fell. They opened the gate themselves, banging my leg with it. They picked me up and started pushing me in the car. One noticed my watch and took it off my wrist. When I realized they were getting me into the car to take me away, I started defending myself. I hit one of them. I wasn't going to let them take me, and wanted to make them kill me then and there so they wouldn't have a chance to torture me. They just went on beating me even harder. We didn't get far before the car stopped. 'No gas,' one said. I was pleased that they now knew I hadn't been lying. They discussed what to do.

"Then they noticed Ilija Fatić's green Volkswagen parked in his yard. One stayed to guard me and the other two went to siphon off some gas from the Volkswagen's tank. They poured in about three liters and we drove on. They saw a banged-up car in a yard and said it might have some gasoline left in it. Again, two of them went to siphon out the gas and the third stayed to guard me. As they tried to lift the banged-up car so they could get at the gas, it fell on them. They called the third one and he ran to help them. They weren't watching me and I took a chance, crawled to the other side, got out and ran through the yards of the burnt Albanian houses. I came to a overgrown hedge, crawled inside and stayed there. I didn't get out until it was very late, about 3 a.m., before dawn. I don't know what I was thinking and why I did it, but I went back to my own yard. I gave the pigs their feed and water and then I left. I went to Bijelo Polje, a Serb village only two kilometers from Peć. I got there in the morning of 20 June."

D.Č. was in Bijelo Polje for a few days until KFOR escorted him and the villagers out of Kosovo to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Š.M. (M, 67), Serb, from Peć (27 1. Maja St.), carpenter – abducted on 18 June 1999; escaped with the help of a KLA member.

The family of Š.M. left Peć on 14 June. He decided to stay. Shortly after noon on 18 June, two KLA members broke down the front door and entered the house. They demanded to know the whereabouts Š.M.'s son, who had been mobilized during the NATO intervention, and ordered Š.M. to give them his weapons. One of the KLA men, formerly apprenticed to Š.M., put his pistol under Š.M.'s chin

and verbally abused him. When the other left the room to search the house, the former apprentice put away his gun and told Š.M. to run. Š.M. fled to the abandoned house of a Serb neighbor and concealed himself in the shed where he stayed for two days. He then managed to reach the house of another neighbor and telephone a friend who, with several others Serbs, was in a house near the Patriarchate. They were all able to get to the Patriarchate the next day, from where they fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

3. Detained

S.Z. (F); her **husband**; their **two children**; and friends **T.R.** and **R.R.**, Serbs, from Peć - detained by the KLA on 17 June 1999.

KLA members forced their way into the home of the S. family, led them and their friends outside, threatened to shoot them all, beat up T.R. and shortly released them.²⁹

Source: HLC, witness statement

PODUJEVO (PODUJEVĚ)

1. Missing

Milačić, Miroslav (M), Serb, from Belovac (Belovëc), Podujevo Municipality – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in the Podujevo area.

Source: *Državljeni Albanije stižu u Prištinu* [Albanian Nationals Arriving in Priština], BLIC, 24 June 1999; *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Hiti, Marijan (M, ethnicity unknown) – disappeared in Rudare, Podujevo Municipality, after 14 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Milačić, Ljubiša (M), Serb – last seen on the Podujevo-Priština road after 14 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Vojvodić, Nebojša (M, 41), Serb, from Priština (1 Ace Marovića St.) – disappeared on 25 August 1999.

²⁹ Witness statement on the abduction of the S. family, T.R. and R.R.: Peć, 2. Abducted.

Vojvodić left for Serbia in his blue Zastava 101 (Priština license plates) on 25 August. He was last seen at Lužane (Lluzhane), Podujevo Municipality.
Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

2. Abducted

Milovanović, Smiljko (M, 42), Serbian Serb, from Blace, Kruševac Municipality, Yugoslav Army reservist – abducted by the KLA on 21 May 1999 in Dobri Do, Podujevo Municipality.

Mrs Milovanović related to the HLC that her husband and another two reservists went by car to Dobri Do to shop. They were stopped by the KLA at the edge of the village. Milovanović was taken away while the other two reservists managed to escape. They informed their commanding officer of the abduction. A group of soldiers dispatched to the location found no traces of violence.
Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Sarić, Mirko (M, 53), from Podujevo, employee of Srbijašume company – disappeared on 19 July on the road between Tačevci (Taqevcë) and Metohija (Metohi) villages, Podujevo Municipality. His body was found a few days later in Krpimej (Kerpimeh), Podujevo Municipality.
Source: *Sahranjen Mirko Sarić* [Mirko Sarić Buried], POLITIKA, 28 July 1999

Mladenović, Zoran (M, 30), Serb, from Lipljan – disappeared on 25 November 1999 on the way from Lipljan to Serbia. His body was found in May 2000 by UNMIK police.

Mladenović and his friend Č.D. (M, 27) started out for Bor in Serbia at 8.30 p.m. on 25 November in his dark blue Renault 18 car.

Č.D. related to the HLC what happened:

"A white van swerved and blocked the road about 1.5 kilometers after the turnoff for Podujevo, at the second bridge. As Zoran tried to drive around it, the van crashed into us. I received a hard knock to the head and my leg was broken. Zoran got out and ran off. Two men in civilian clothes were in the van. The younger one didn't get out. The other one, a shortish man of about 45, came over and dragged me out of the car. He put me in a Zastava 128 and drove me to the clinic in Podujevo. He asked me why the driver had run away and I replied that I didn't know. We said nothing more because I kept blacking out. A doctor examined me at the clinic in Podujevo and said my leg had to be X-rayed but that they didn't have an X-ray machine. The Albanian came in a big white jeep with another man and they drove me to the Priština hospital. Doctors there X-

rayed my leg, put it in a cast, and called the UNMIK police who took me to Kosovo Polje.”

Hearing that her son had not arrived in Bor, Mrs Mladenović reported his disappearance to KFOR. The next day, KFOR members accompanied her along the route taken by her son. She found his dented and burned car on the road between Priština and Podujevo.

On 30 May 2000, the UNMIK police notified Mladenovićs’ parents that his body had been found in the Vranjevac district and was in the Priština hospital morgue, registered as No. 1748. The Mladenovićs came to the hospital to identify the body but staff were unable to find it. At the UNMIK police, they were told that there had been a mistake and that they would be able to claim their son’s body in two or three days. On 8 June, the UNMIK police notified them that their son’s remains had been found and buried in the Muslim cemetery in Priština.

Source: HLC, witness statement

PRIŠTINA (PRISHTINË)

1. Missing

Andjelković, Zoran (M, 27), Serb, from Lebane (Lebanë), Priština Municipality – disappeared on 28 March 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Lazić, Miodrag (M, 40), Serbian Serb, from Niš, Yugoslav Army reservist, brigade psychologist, mobilized on 8 April 1999; **Milićević, Miloš** (M, 52), Serbian Serb, Yugoslav Army reservist – abducted on 3 May 1999 near Kačikol (Kaçekolë) village, Priština Municipality.

According to the families’ information, Lazić and Milićević were in a blue FAP truck with Prokuplje license plates in a Yugoslav Army column. Soldiers who subsequently returned to Serbia told the families they last saw Lazić and Milićević when the column was attacked near Kačikol village on the road from Priština to Medvedja, Serbia, by armed Albanians wearing Serbian police uniforms. Tomislav Igić was killed in the attack.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ivezić, Nebojša (M, 25), Serbian Serb, from Prokuplje, Yugoslav Army reservist; **Lazić, Batica** (M, 26), Serbian Serb, from Pejkovac, Prokuplje Municipality, Yugoslav Army reservist – abducted on 18 May 1999 four kilometers from Priština.

Ivezić, Lazić and another 9 reservists left their army post in a truck on 18 May to buy bread. They were ambushed by the KLA between 5 and 6 p.m. The driver was killed by a sniper, four soldiers were killed in combat, four were able to get away while Ivezić and Lazić disappeared. Ivezić's uncle stated that 40 reservists from Prokuplje were listed as missing.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djordjević, Slavko (M), Serb, from Priština – last seen in the Sunčani Breg (Bregu i Diellit) district (SU 2, building 40) after 14 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Lukić, Slobodan (M), Serb, from Priština (Block 4, apart. 16, Kupusište (Lakrishte) district)) – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in Priština.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Maksić, Radomir (M), Serb, from Priština (building No. 3, entrance B, Praskina Vodenica district) – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in Priština.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Djukić, Branko (M, 38), Montenegrin, from Priština (Sunčani Breg district), agricultural technician, employed as porter at the Priština Student Hostel – last seen on 15 June 1999.

Djukić's sister Milena told the HLC that a neighbor asked her brother to drive some belongings in his car to a truck parked some 600 meters from their apartment building on 15 June. They did so at about 5 p.m. and finished loading the things into the truck about 6 p.m. when they separated.

Shortly afterwards, another neighbor saw Djukić driving his Wartburg (license plates PR 168-57) at speed through an intersection and going in the direction of Matičane (Matiqanë) village. The neighbor said there were two men he did not know in the car with Djukić.

The family waited until 8 p.m. for Djukić to return and then reported his disappearance to KFOR. The next day, his brother went with KFOR members to Matičane but failed to find Djukić.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Petrović, Vera (F), Serb, from Priština – disappeared about 4 p.m. on 15 June 1999 in the Ulpijana district while on her way to the Priština hospital.

Source: *Teroristi protiv mira* [Terrorists Against Peace], POLITIKA, 17 June 1999.

Topić, Zoran (M), Serb, from Priština – last seen about 4 p.m. on 15 June 1999 in the Vranjevac district of Priština.

Source: *Apel rođjaka oteatih bez rezultata* [No Results of Appeal by Relatives of Missing], POLITIKA, 1 July 1999; *Terrorists Against Peace*, POLITIKA, 17 June 1999

Marulović, Branko (M), Serb, from Priština (Vranjevac district) – disappeared after 15 June 1999 in Priština.

Source: *Spisak ubijenih i oteatih Srba – Izveštaj episkopa Artemija za zasedanje Svetog episkopalnog sinoda* [List of Killed and Abducted Serbs – Bishop Artemije's Report to the Holy Synod], DANAS, 10-11 June 1999

Milić, Milica (F); **Milić Miloš** (M), Serbs, from Priština (55 Sitnička (Sitnice) St, Vranjevac district)) – disappeared after 15 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Grković, Jovo (M), Serb, from Slivovo, Priština Municipality – disappeared after 15 June 1999 in the Priština area.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Živić, Nenad (M, 15), Serb, from Priština – last seen on 16 June 1999 in Priština.

Source: *U Obiliću pronadjena tela šestoro izbeglica* [Bodies of Six Refugees Found in Obilić], BLIC, 23 June 1999.

Djokić, Vladimir (M, 55); **Spasić, Veljko** (M, 40), Serbs, from Priština (Sunčani Breg district), employees of Serbian Power Company, Obilić heating plant – disappeared on 18 June 1999.

Mrs Spasić recounted that her husband and Djokić were last seen in the afternoon of 18 June when they left work for home in Spasić's blue Zastava 101 (license plates PR 113-22). When her husband failed to arrive, she reported his disappearance to KFOR.

The family subsequently learned that Djokić and Spasić dropped in to see the Djokić family in the Kakrić district (19 Bratstva i Jedinstva St.) and left for Priština about 5 p.m.

On 21 June, a group of five or six armed Albanian civilians entered the Spasić apartment and forcibly ejected Mrs Spasić and her children, and threatened to kill them if they did not move out of Kosovo. Mrs Spasić and the children spent the night with neighbors and fled to Serbia the next day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Srdić, Stefan (M, 33), Croatian Serb, refugee, placed at the Božur Hotel in Priština – disappeared on 18 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Radić, Miloš (M), Serb, from Priština – disappeared on 18 June 1999 in Priština.
Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Dimić, Dragan (M), Serb, from Priština – last seen in central Priština before 20 June 1999.

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance website

Biočanin, Ljubisav (M, 49), Serb, from Priština (43 Sitnička St.), civilian, crime laboratory technician employed by the Serbian police force - disappeared on 22 June 1999.

Mrs Biočanin stated that her husband left work at 3.15 p.m. on 22 June for the Grand Hotel in Priština where they were staying temporarily. Police Chief Petrović confirmed the time of her husband's departure from work.

Mrs Biočanin fled Kosovo to Serbia on 28 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stamenković, Žarko (M, 39), Serb, from Devet Jugovića (Ninte Jugoviq), Priština Municipality, employed as a driver with the Priština Post Office – disappeared on 22 June 1999.

According to information gathered by the HLC, Stamenković was last seen on 22 June near Miljevac (Milevcë) village on the road from central Priština to Devet Jugovića. He was driving his dark red VW Polo (license plates PR 40-27).

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stošić, Nebojša (M), Serb, from Priština, university professor – disappeared on 22 June 1999.

Source: *Aktivnosti Centra za mir* [Activities of the Peace Center], BLIC, 23 June 1999

Tašević, Djordje (M), Serb, from Priština (Lole Ribara St.), medical doctor – disappeared on 23 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999; *Još trideset Srba u Uroševcu* [Thirty Serbs Still in Uroševac], BLIC, 25 June 1999

Mikić, (first name unknown) (F, 18), Serb – disappeared on 24 June 1999.
Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Milančić, Miro (M), Serb, from Priština (Ulpijana district) – disappeared on 25 June 1999.
Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Buljević, Mile (M, 55), Croatian Serb, refugee, placed at the Božur Hotel in Priština – disappeared on 25 June 1999.
Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Sekulić, Gorica (F); her husband **Sekulić, Miloš**, their **four minor children**, Serbs, from Priština – disappeared on the night of 25/26 June 1999 in the Dardanija district, Priština.
Source: *Orahovčani traže hitnu evakuaciju* [Orahovac Serbs Seek Immediate Evacuation], BLIC, 26 June 1999

Arsić, Miloš (M, 84), Serb, from Matičane, Priština Municipality – last seen on 26 June 1999 in a meadow near his home in Matičane.

Arsić's son stated that his father took their cow to pasture in a meadow some 100 meters from the family's house in the morning of 26 June. The cow came back alone about 6 p.m. Mrs Arsić called her son and told him his father was missing and he reported the disappearance to KFOR.

Being afraid to go about the village on their own, Mrs Arsić and her son asked KFOR members to accompany them while they searched for Arsić. Their request was denied.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Radić, Milan (M, 39), Croatian Serb, refugee – last seen on 26 June 1999 at the Božur Hotel in Priština.
Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999; *Spisak ubijenih i otetih Srba – Izveštaj episkopa Artemija za zasedanje Svetog episkopalnog sinoda* [List of Killed and Abducted Serbs – Bishop Artemije's Report to the Holy Synod], DANAS, 10-11 June 1999

Mirić, Mladen (M, 50), Serb, from Prizren, painter, jewelry designer for the Trepča company, lived in an apartment in the courtyard of the Church of the

Mother of God of Ljeviška in Prizren - disappeared on the Priština-Gračanica road on 29 June.

Mrs Mirić recounted that she and her son left Prizren for Serbia on 14 June and her husband a day later, on 15 June. They were reunited in Belgrade on 18 June. Mirić wished to return to Prizren to collect his paintings, prints and collections of jewelry, national costumes, decorated Easter eggs, antiques, slides of Kosovo art treasures, and the manuscript of his book on the Church of the Mother of God of Ljeviška. He asked the Serbian Artists Association for assistance in transporting the collections to Belgrade and, upon being told they could not help, decided to return by himself.

Mirić reached Priština on 19 June and called his wife to tell of her of his safe arrival. He stayed with his uncle and cousin. As they were afraid to leave the apartment, Mirić went out every day to buy necessities and encountered no problems. He phoned his wife in Belgrade every evening.

On 28 June, he went to Gračanica to attend the St Vitus Day festival and spent the day there. He was to leave for Prizren at 9 a.m. the next day with a Serbian Orthodox Church delegation under KFOR escort. Since there were many guests and displaced from other parts of Kosovo in Gračanica, Mirić could not find a place to stay over night and returned to Priština. He phoned his wife and told her of his plans. His uncle and cousin stated that he left for Gračanica in the morning of 29 June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ješić, Marko (M), Yugoslav Army member – last seen in June 1999 in the Vranjevac district, Priština.

Source: *OVK otima, KFOR oslobadja* [KLA Kidnaps, KFOR Releases], BLIC, 20 June 1999

Kostić, Momir (M, 42), Serb, from Matičane, Priština Municipality, driver with the Žitopromet company in Kosovo Polje – disappeared in June 1999.

A neighbor stated that Kostić left Matičane for Dobrotin (Dobratin), Lipljan Municipality, on 15 June together with the majority of the Serb villagers. He disappeared a few days later when he went back to Matičane to retrieve some belongings.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stefanović, Jelena (F), Serb, from Priština (Aktaš (Aktash) neighborhood)) – disappeared in June 1999 in Priština.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Rajković, Mirjana (F); **Rajković, Slavoljub** (M); **Rajković Violeta** (F), Serbs, from Priština - disappeared in the second half of June 1999 in Priština.
Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Raičević, Zoran (M), Serb, from Priština – last seen in late June 1999 in the Vranjevac district, Priština.
Source: *U selu Gotiva oteta porodica Jokić* [Jokić Family Kidnapped in Gotiva Village], BLIC, 19 June 1999

Stamenković, Nenad (M), Serb, from Devet Jugovića, Priština Municipality – disappeared in late June 1999 in the Priština area.
Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Maksus, Djulderan (M, 46), Muslim – last seen outside the Kosovo Parliament building in Priština in the second half of June 1999.
Source: *Izveštaj o položaju Muslimana-Bošnjaka na Kosovu nakon dolaska KFOR-a* [Report on the Position of Bosniac-Muslims in Kosovo Following KFOR's Deployment], Helsinški odbor za ljudska prava u Sandžaku [Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Sandžak], October 1999

Buha, Mirko (M, 51), Serb, from Priština – disappeared in late June 1999.
Source: *News from Kosovo*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 13 December 1999

Čanović, Jelena (F, 71), Serb, from Priština – last seen in early July 1999 in her apartment at the Singles Hotel in the Ulpijana district, Priština.

Just before her disappearance, unidentified persons threatened Mrs. Čanovic with death unless she moved out of Kosovo.
Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Ilić, Milorad (M), Serb, from Priština (Dardanija district) – disappeared in early July 1999 in Priština.
Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 6 July 1999

Tomić, Časlav (M, 57), Serb, from Priština, owner of Tom-Kom company – last seen between 10 a.m. and noon on 10 July when leaving Priština in a truck with his belongings.
Source: PRAVOSLAVLJE PRESS, 11 July 1999

Marković, A. Zoran (M, 38), Serb, from Priština (Vidovdanska St.) – last seen about 5 p.m. on 11 July in Priština

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Rakočević, Petar (M, 30), Serb, from Devet Jugovića, Priština Municipality, manager of electrical maintenance department, Kosovo A thermo-electric power plant – disappeared on 12 July 1999.

Rakočević went missing on 12 July when he left his workplace to pick up his identity card at the KFOR post inside the power plant compound.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Timotijević, Vojislav (M), Serb, from Novo Brdo – disappeared in the first half of July 1999 in Priština.

Timotijević was in the Priština hospital in July for treatment of a chest disorder. His wife came to visit him on 14 July and was told by staff that he had run away.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Dimić, Svetislav (M, 54), Serb, from Priština (Vidovdanska St.), employee of Obilić thermo-electric power plant – disappeared on 19 July 1999.

A friend of Dimić said he lived alone in a building opposite the Božur Hotel in Priština. He occasionally left his apartment to go shopping, and was in daily contact by telephone with this friend. He told her it was difficult to obtain food and that he was mostly hungry. In early July, he told her a KLA member had moved into the next-door apartment and had promised to leave him alone.

When they spoke on 16 July, Dimić told his friend that the KLA man and his brother-in-law were coming to see him that evening. On 17 July, the last time she spoke with him, Dimić said the KLA man had not come as he went to Drenica to attend some kind of KLA celebration.

She phoned Dimić the next day but received only an engaged signal. Another friend of Dimić went to his apartment to see why he was not answering the phone. There were bullet holes in the front door and the apartment was empty.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Mikić, Svetomir (M, 36), Serb, from Sušica (Sushicë), Priština Municipality, laboratory technician at the Pathology Department, Priština Hospital, chairman of the local branch of the opposition Serbian Renewal Movement in Gračanica – disappeared on 21 July 1999.

Mikić's sister recounted that she last spoke with her brother at 7.45 a.m. on 21 July. Mikić told her that a neighbor with whom he always went to work had left earlier that day and that he would therefore go alone. Shortly afterwards, Mikić's fiancée called her to say that she had phoned Mikić at work, that a woman doctor called Danica had answered the phone, said in a panicky voice that she did not know whether Mikić was alive and hung up.

The sister then called the neighbor with whom Mikić went to work. He confirmed that he had left earlier and said he had not seen Mikić that day. He only heard from other residents of the building that Mikić had left about 8 a.m., carrying a Serbian-language newspaper.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jovanović, Milorad (M, 67), Serb, from Prština – last seen about 11 a.m. on 23 July 1999 in Priština.

Source: *Spisak ubijenih i otetih Srba – izveštaj episkopa Artemija za zasedanje Sveto episkopalnog sinoda* [List of Killed and Abducted Serbs – report by Bishop Artemije to the Holy Synod], DANAS, 10-11 July 1999

Adžić, Tomislav "Toša" (M, 54), Serb, from Priština (Kičma building, entrance 1, Dardanija district), deputy manager of Jugobanka; **Jeton, Ljilja (Jeton, Lila)**, (M, 46), Albanian, from Priština, employee of Jugobanka – disappeared on 24 July 1999 in Priština.

Adžić's relative Petar Čolić recounted that the Adžić family left Priština around 10 June and found refuge in Montenegro. Adžić left the keys of his apartment with an Albanian friend, Ljilja Jeton, who looked after it for some 20 days and then brought a relative from Kosovska Mitrovica to stay in the apartment and watch over it.

In the meantime, KLA members moved into the building, ordered Jeton's relative to vacate the Adžić apartment and gave it to an Albanian, Nuhi Jašanica (Nuhi Jashanica) who had papers showing that the apartment had been allocated to him in 1990. Informed by Jeton of these events, Adžić returned to Priština on 22 July. He reported the case to KFOR and submitted documentation proving his ownership of the apartment. He was told to wait until a court was established and then pursue his case through judicial channels.

With the consent of the new occupant, Adžić with Jeton's help took some belongings – carpets, paintings, clothing and the like - from his apartment on 24 June to a relative's home for safekeeping. The relative advised them not to go back for more as it was too dangerous. However, somewhat after 2 p.m., Adžić and Jeton went to the apartment again and did not return.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stević, Slaviša (M, 37), Serb, from Novi Badovci (Badovëc i Rinj), Priština Municipality, employee of Priština public library, member of the Serbian Fine Arts Association – last seen on 1 August 1999.

Mrs Stević said her son left for Gračanica between 7 and 8 a.m. on 1 August and did not return. He had on him his wallet, ID card and health insurance card.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Pilipović, Rade (M), Serb, from Priština – disappeared on 4 August 1999. Pilipović was last seen near the Brotherhood and Unity monument in central Priština, waiting for a truck that was to carry his furniture to Serbia.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], POLITIKA, 6 August 1999

Perović, Miroslav (M), Serb – last seen on 10 August 1999 in Laplje Selo, Priština Municipality.

Source: *Kosovo and Metohija Events*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 17 August 1999

Stanković, Trajko (M, 55), Serb, from Kojlovica (Kolovic), Priština Municipality – disappeared on 11 August 1999 in the Priština area.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Stevanović, Dragan (M, 41), Serb, from Kosovo Polje, chemical technician; **Majstorović, Ivan** (M, 18), Serb, from Priština, high school student – disappeared on 19 August 1999 on the Priština-Podujevo road.

Stevanović and Majstorović left Kosovo Polje for Leskovac (Serbia) in a yellow Yugo (license plate PR 852-16) about 10 a.m. that day. They were last seen by an acquaintance, Ilija Bandjur, at the overpass near the Kosovski Junaci military barracks in Priština. They told Bandjur they were waiting for a Serb official who was in Priština on business, and would continue the journey with him.

The mother of Ivan Majstorović told the HLC that armed Albanians forced them out of their apartment in the Dardanija district (Kičma building, entrance 9, apart. 1104) on 3 July, after which the family moved to Kosovo Polje. Mrs Majstorović and her other son fled to Serbia on 15 July. Ivan followed them on 19 July, travelling with Dragan Stevanović. They were to proceed together with two Serb officials from Kosovo Polje and with a KFOR escort.

Mrs Stevanović was informed by KFOR and Serbian police at the Merdare-Rudare border checkpoint that no car with the license plates PR 852-16 had crossed into Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Popović, Predrag (M, 41), Serb, from Donja Brnjica (Bernica e Poshteme), Priština Municipality, employee of Devet Jugovića farm cooperative – disappeared on 21 August 1999.

Popović's uncle told the HLC his nephew was last seen by a neighbor about 7 a.m. on 21 August when he left for work. He met the neighbor on the road, they spoke briefly and the neighbor continued to the village. An Opel Cadet car passed him and when he turned around a few moments later, Popović was no longer on the road. The neighbor thought that he had been picked up by friends and given a ride. Popović did not turn up at his workplace.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojković, Dragan (M, 50), Serb, from Priština (22 Mostarska St.), architect – last seen on 28 August 1999 in Priština.

A neighbor told the HLC that Stojković was working for KFOR on a map of Priština, and always wore his KFOR identification badge prominently displayed.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Petković, Gradimir (M), Serb, from Priština (Ulpijana district), sports reporter with the Serbian-language *Jedinstvo* newspaper – disappeared on 29 August 1999 in Priština.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Popović, Milorad (M, 43), Serb, from Priština (Sunčani Breg district), truck driver – last seen on 31 August 1999 on the road from Priština to Novo Brdo.

Popović's employer K.B. stated that Popović came about 6 a.m. on 31 August for the truck, a red Zastava 640 with an orange tarpaulin. He was scheduled to go to Zebince (Zebnice), Novo Brdo Municipality, to pick up a load of firewood from M.S. and sell it in Laplje Selo near Priština.

Popović returned to Priština about 10 a.m. and told his employer that three Albanian civilians had stopped him outside Gračanica. He knew one of them as he had previously bought firewood from him. The Albanian told Popović that the KLA had imposed a "tax" of five deutsche marks per cubic meter of firewood and said the money should be paid in the Suteska neighborhood of Mramor village, Priština Municipality. According to the Albanian, payment of the "tax" would enable Popović to freely transport and sell firewood. Though his employer advised him not to go to Novo Brdo, Popović said he had to because he had

promised to deliver firewood to some people in Laplje Selo. He did not return and his family reported his disappearance to KFOR the next day.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djordjević, Dragan (M, 49), Serb, from Devet Jugovića, Priština Municipality – last seen on 1 September 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Nacić, Gorica (F), Serb – disappeared on 2 September in Priština.

Source: *Kosovo and Metohija Events*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 7 September 1999.

Ristić, Višeslav (M, 56), Serb, from Priština – last seen on 5 September 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Desani, Šaban (Destani, Shaban) (M, 60); **Krueziju, Adem (Kryeziu, Adem)** (M, 47); **Kači, Derviš (Kaçi, Dervish)** (M, 44); **Zenuni, Idriz** (M, 33), Roma – disappeared after 7 September 1999 in Priština.

Source: *Fire Opened on Convoy of Serbs*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 14 September 1999

Serdić, Stevo (M), Serb, from Priština – disappeared in the summer of 1999 in Priština.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Petrović, Marija (F, 52), Serb, from Priština (Aktaš district) - disappeared in the summer of 1999 in Priština.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Djordjević, Vesna (F, 42), Serb, from Priština, employee of Djurdjevak kindergarten.

On 16 December 1999, A. B., an amateur radio operator, forwarded what turned out to be the last message from Vesna Djordjević to her parents.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

2. Abducted

Jovanović, Krunoslav (M), Serb, from Priština – last seen on 11 June 1999.

The Blic newspaper reported that Jovanović was taken by unidentified persons from the building of the municipal garbage disposal company in Priština on 11 June.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo; *Aktivnosti Centra za mir* [Activities of the Peace Center], BLIC, 23 June 1999.

Marković, Branko (M, 38), driver, employee of Radio Priština; **Dimitrijević, Milutin** (M, 66); his son **Dimitrijević, Dragan**, Serbs, from Priština; their relative **Rajičić, Zoran** (M, 31), Serbian Serb, from Aleksandrovac, former police officer – last seen in the Vranjevac district of Priština on 12 June 1999.

A friend of the four men told the HLC that they were last seen on an intersection in the Vranjevac district where they were stopped by the KLA and taken to the Zejhan Hajdit elementary school. The abduction was witnessed by an acquaintance of the friend who watched it from her apartment window.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Mašulović, Miodrag (M, 38), Serb, from Priština (entrance 8, building D1, Ulpijana district), chief of security at Kosmet-Tehna company – abducted on 13 June 1999 in the Vranjevac district of Priština.

Mrs Mašulović said her son left home at 5 p.m. on 12 June in his red WV (license plates PR 123-19) for the Vranjevac district. He and his girlfriend planned to leave Priština the next day and he went to see her to make the final arrangements. When he did not return, his mother thought he had decided to spend the night at his girlfriend's apartment. The next day, Mrs. Mašulović's other son came and said he had spoken with his brother's girlfriend who told him Mašulović had not been to see her. The girlfriend said she had seen KLA members ejecting Serbs from their homes in the Vranjevac district that day.

The next day, Serb acquaintances called Mrs. Mašulović and told her different versions of what had happened to her son. An acquaintance who lived near the Zejhan Hajdit elementary school said she saw KLA members stop Mašulović's car on the intersection in front of her house, that a man she did not know was with him in the front seat, that the KLA killed this man on the spot, pulled Mašulović out of the car and led him into the school, and drove the car away. Another acquaintance said he had seen the dead bodies of Mašulović and two unidentified men in front of the school.

The bodies were collected by KFOR and Mrs Mašulović was called in to identify her son. His body, however, was not among those found. She and her other son fled Kosovo in July.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Izderović, Slaviša (M, 25), Serbian Muslim, from Novi Pazar, military band instrumentalist, Yugoslav Army lieutenant, lived in the Army's bachelor quarters in Priština - disappeared in the Vranjevac district on 13 June.

Mr. Izderović stated that K.R. asked his son to help take some belongings from Vranjevac to central Priština. Izderović borrowed an Opel Ascona (license plates PR 203-21) and they left for Vranjevac at 9.30 a.m. on 13 June. K.R. subsequently told the Izderović family that the KLA opened fire at the car about 10 a.m. on the road to Vranjevac and that both he and Izderović were wounded. K.R. managed to get out and hide in a nearby house whose owner tended him until he recovered. Mr. Izderović said his son was in Yugoslav Army uniform and carrying his official-issue pistol at the time of his disappearance.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Milenković, Momir (M, 42), Serb, from Priština (96 Miladina Popovića St.), driver with the Izolacija company – abducted by the KLA on 14 June 1999 in concert with a neighbor.

Milenković's brother recounted that an Albanian woman neighbor, Bela Vranići (Bella Vranići), came to the Milenković house about 4 p.m. on 14 June with two KLA members in black uniforms, saying they wanted to see if there were any belongings stolen from Albanians in the house. Momir Milenković said they were free to search and kill him if they found any stolen goods but, if they found nothing, she deserved a beating. The house was searched, nothing was found and the neighbor left with the KLA men.

Some ten minutes later, at 4.30 p.m., Bela Vranići came again to the front door and asked Milenković's sister-in-law to tell him to come out. A black limousine without license plates was parked at the gate of the Milenković yard and four black-uniformed KLA members, including the two who had previously searched the house, were standing beside it. When Milenković came out, the KLA men seized him, pushed him into the car and drove at speed in the direction of Grmlje, Priština's Grmlje picnic area. Bela Vranići returned to her own home. The family reported Milenković's abduction to KFOR the next day and fled Priština to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Visoka, Šaban (Visoka, Shaban) (M, 50); his son **Visoka, Sami** (18), Roma, from Priština – abducted by unidentified persons on 19 June 1999 in Priština. Unidentified persons came to the house of Šaban Visoka's friend in Jablanička St., on 19 June, beat up Visoka and his son and took them away.

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Kemalji, Ismailj (Kemali, Ismail) (M, 32), Rom, from Priština (55/a Ace Mrdakovića St.) – abducted on 20 June 1999 in Priština.

Unidentified persons took Kemalji from his home by force about 3 p.m. on 20 June.

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Babić, (first name unknown) (M), Serb, from Priština (Sunčani Breg district), engineer – abducted by unidentified persons on 22 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Ivanović, Mileta (M); his daughter **Ivanović, Jelena**, Serbs, from Priština – abducted by unidentified persons from their home in the morning of 22 June.

Source: *Aktivnosti Centra za mir* [Activities of the Peace Center], BLIC, 23 June 1999

Kovačević, Nebojša (M, 17), Serb, from Priština – abducted on 22 June 1999.

The Blic daily quoted Mrs. Kovačević as saying a group of Albanians forced their way into the Kovačević apartment on 22 June, ordered them to move out, and took away her son.

Source: *Aktivnosti Centra za mir* [Activities of the Peace Center], BLIC, 23 June 1999

Jovanović, Nikola (M), Serbian Serb from Čarapić Ljubovija Municipality; **Capakić, Cepo** (M, ethnicity unknown), from Ljubovija – abducted on 23 June 1999.

Jovanović and Capakić were staying at the Božur Hotel, a refugee facility, when they were abducted by unidentified persons in the evening of 23 June.

Source: *Petorica ubijenih u Prištini* [Five Killed in Priština], BLIC, 25 June 1999

Mikić, Leposava (F, 55); her husband **Mikić, Miloš** (61), Montenegrins, from Priština (55 Sitnička St., Vranjevac district), both retired; their relative, **Tasev, Tome**, Macedonian, from Priština (Ulpijana district), train driver – abducted on 23 June 1999.

The Mikićs' son and Mrs. Tasev stated that Tasev came to the Mikić house at 2 p.m. on 23 June to help them move to Kosovo Polje. The Mikićs' daughter and her husband took some belongings and left in their car. Mr. and Mrs. Mikić planned to go with Tasev in his grey-green Zastava 128 (license plates PR 827-33).

At the gate of the Mikić house, Tasev spoke briefly with an Albanian neighbor, Hakif Bregaja. Bregaja later told relatives that a group of Albanians he did not know came to his house soon after his conversation with Tasev and ordered him to stay indoors until 8 p.m. The Albanians then went into the Mikić house. The neighbor did not know what happened after that.

Milomir Mikić and Mrs. Tasev went to the Mikić house on 24 June and found it ransacked and looted. They reported the disappearances to KFOR and the UNMIK police.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Marković, Tomislav (M, 64), bookkeeper with the farm cooperative; **R.J.** (F, 60), Serbs, from Devet Jugovića, Priština Municipality – abducted by unidentified Albanians on 24 June 1999 on the road between Čaglavica (Cagllavicë) and Devet Jugovića. **R.J.** was later found tied up beside the road.

Marković's daughter recounted that her father was returning to Kosovo on 24 June after visiting relatives in Prokuplje, Serbia. His neighbor, R.J. was traveling with him in his blue Zastava 101 car. They were to wait at the Kosovo boundary for a KFOR escort to their village but were late and the KFOR escort left without them. When they entered Kosovo, they joined a convoy with a KFOR jeep in the van. The convoy reached Podujevo where a group of unidentified Albanian civilians stopped Marković's car, dragged him and R.J. out and took them away. The abductors were in a van and a passenger car without license plates. One of them drove away Marković's car.

Later that day, R.J. was left tied up beside the road. She was found by some people who took her home to Devet Jugovića, where the Marković family was unable to contact her.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tomanović, Andrija (M, 63), Montenegrin, from Priština, MD, surgeon, Head of Surgery at the Priština Hospital, professor at Priština University Medical School – abducted on 24 June 1999 when leaving work.

Dr. Tomanović phoned his family about 1 p.m. to say he was about to leave for home and would be given a lift by a friend. A surgical nurse at the hospital told the HLC that Dr. Tomanović walked to the main gate of the hospital grounds where KFOR had established a checkpoint.

A second witness, also a surgical nurse, met Dr. Tomanović and was with him until her husband arrived and took her home. She told his family he had stayed to wait for the friend who was to pick him up.

A third witness told the HLC that she saw through a hospital window two unidentified men holding up a limping Dr. Tomanović and leading him away between 3 and 4 p.m. that day. Thinking that he had been taken ill, she ran out and from the door asked, 'Are you all right, Doctor Tomanović?' A colleague called her and she went back into the building and saw through the window

when the men pushed Tomanović into a beige Renault automobile. The colleague, who also watched, said one of the abductors was a surgeon, Ibiš (Ibish), who used to work at the hospital.

Source: HLC, witness statements

Todorovski, Aleksandar (M, 29), Serb, from Priština, dentistry student, worked as dental technician at the Emergency Medical Care and Ambulance Service in Priština, son of Dr. Milivoj Todorovski, Head of Emergency Medical Care and Ambulance Service; abducted on 25 June.

Mrs. Todorovski said her son was on duty on the night of 24/25 June. He left between 8 and 9 a.m. the next morning in a Peugeot ambulance driven by Suljeđman Djata (Sulejman Xhata) but did not return to his home.

Dr. Todorovski asked Suljeđman Djata and Dr. Suljeđman Beci (Sulejman Beci), who emigrated to Albania in 1991 and returned to Kosovo following the deployment of KFOR, about the circumstances of his son's disappearance. The driver refused to answer his questions and Dr. Beci denied any knowledge of the abduction. Dr. Todorovski, however, believes that Dr. Beci knows who kidnapped his son as he asked him, 'What did Aleksandar think he was doing in Kosovo with an identity card issued in Belgrade?'

Source, HLC, witness statement

Šaranović, Stanko (M, 46) Serb, from Priština, employee of Beopetrol – abducted on 27 June 1999 in Priština.

Šaranović's friend Dragan recounted that he and Šaranović decided on 27 June to move belongings from their apartments to the nearby village of Donja Konjuša (Konjushë e Ulët). At 1 p.m., Dragan drove a carload to the village while Šaranović stayed in Dragan's apartment (Karadjordja Petrovića St.) with an Albanian neighbor, R.R. On his return about 7 p.m., Dragan found the apartment ransacked although there were no signs of a forcible entry. Šaranović was not there. He called Šaranović's brother who said R.R. had phoned between 4 and 5 p.m. and told him that four unidentified Albanians in civilian clothes came to the apartment and gave Šaranović 15 minutes to move out. When Šaranović explained that the apartment was not his, the Albanians ransacked it. They beat up R.R. and pushed him down the basement stairs, and drove Šaranović away. Dragan called R.R. to learn more but R.R. said he was afraid to tell him anything. Leaving the building at 10 p.m., Dragan noticed a grey Opel Cadet with four men inside parked in front. In order not to be observed by them, he did not switch on the light at the entrance and was able to get away. He immediately reported the abduction of Šaranović to KFOR.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djosić, Zoran (M, 56), Serb, from Priština, employee of the State Auditing Office – abducted on 28 June 1999 in Priština.³⁰

Source: HLC, witness statement

Barač, Djuro (M, 35); **Prusac, Nenad** (M, 30), Croatian Serbs, refugees – abducted on 28 June 1999 in Priština.

Barač and Prusac, 1995 refugees from Croatia, were placed in the Technical School in Priština which served as a refugee facility. In his statement to the HLC, Barač's father said a group of Albanians stormed into the school on 28 June and ejected the refugees. The refugees were then placed by KFOR and the UNHCR at the Božur Hotel in Priština, where they were again harassed by Albanians. Barač and Prusac had agreed with a truck driver from Kuršumlija (Serbia) that he would come on 28 June to drive them and their belongings to Serbia. They left the hotel at about 8 a.m. to find a pay phone and inquire whether the driver had left for Priština. Shortly afterwards, Barač's father, who was waiting for his son at the hotel, heard from some Albanians that his son and Prusac had been stopped by a group of Albanians at the intersection between the museum and mosque, forced into an automobile and driven away. That same evening, several Albanians entered the hotel through a window and stole the refugees' belongings and the humanitarian aid they had received.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Spasić, Dragan (M); **Bakić, Azra** (F), Roma, from Priština (10 Ibarska St., Lapska Džamija (Xhamija e Llapit) district)) – abducted in June 1999.

Spasić's daughter stated that her father and stepmother were abducted in June when about 20 Albanians, some in KLA uniforms, forced their way into the Spasić house. The Albanians beat them all, demanding the names of persons who had killed and robbed Albanians in Priština. She recognized among the attackers an Albanian called Fajika from the Dragaš (Dragash) district in Priština. Miss Spasić lost consciousness from the beating and, when she regained it, she found herself in the house of a neighbor. He had carried her to his home after the attackers left the Spasić house, taking Spasić and Azra Bakić with them. Miss Spasić fled to Montenegro after the incident.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Čubanović, Djordje (M, 59), Serb, from Priština (34 Svetosavska St., Dardanija district), employee of Elektrokosovo – last seen on 1 July 1999.

Čubanović's brother said Čubanović had orders to remove documentation from the building of the Kosovo Provincial Executive Council and deliver it to the

³⁰ Witness statement on the abduction of Djošić: Priština, 2.1. Killed.

Serbian authorities, and planned to leave Priština as soon as he completed the assignment.

He was preparing to leave on 1 July. His friend Ljubiša Vasić was helping him to pack and load belongings into his car in front of the building when they were attacked by three Albanian civilians. Vasić managed to escape and returned shortly with security guards from the Executive Council. They saw the Albanians go into a nearby store and pull down the metal shutter behind them. They did not see Čubanović. They reported the incident to KFOR whose members sealed off and searched the area but did not find the abductors. The Čubanović family heard indirectly that some Albanian neighbors saw the abductors taking Čubanović away and urged them to release him, but to no avail.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Fazljija, Gafo (Fazlija, Gafo) (M, 23), **Čelović, Ismet** (M, 52), Roma, from Preoce (Preoc), Priština Municipality – last seen on 3 July 1999 in the Ulpijana district, Priština.

Fazljija, his brother F.G., Ismet Čelović and his brother Č.A. were hired by a Serb trucker, Slavko Zdravković, to move an elderly Serb woman from her apartment in Priština (entrance 11, seventh floor, green building, Kičma (Kuriz) district)) on 3 July. F.G. and Č.A. recounted that Zdravković came to Preoce at 9.40 a.m. and drove them to the building. The elevator was out of order so they carried the furniture and belongings down the stairs. A group of Albanians gathered on the steps outside the building and threatened and insulted them. Zdravković, who was upstairs, called KFOR. A patrol arrived shortly and dispersed the Albanians, and they continued loading the truck. Half an hour later, the same Albanians came back, resumed abusing them and said the belongings they were taking out of the apartment had been stolen by the elderly Serb woman. The Serb woman called KFOR and the Albanians were again dispersed.

The loading was finished at 3.30 p.m. Zdravković told the Roma he could not drive them back to Preoce as he had promised, and they walked to the bus stop near the market in the Ulpijana district. They noticed that they were being followed by four men, three of whom were about 23 or 24 and the fourth about 30. The older man was tall, of strong build and going bald. The younger men were shorter and thinner, two had streaked hair, and one curly hair. The witnesses recognized them as being in the group of Albanians who had abused them while they were loading the truck. At the post office, the men separated, two turning to the left at the market and two going in the opposite direction.

As they neared the bus stop, a white Zastava 101 with four men inside stopped in front of them. One of these men was the curly-haired man who had been following them. Then a blue Lada car drove up, with the remaining three men in it. The Roma started running: F.G. and Č.A. toward the market and Fazljija and

Čelović down Vidovdanska St to the ring road. Two men got out of the Zastava and chased after F.G. and Č.A. When they reached the Kontra Restaurant, F.G. and Č.A. looked back and saw that no one was following them any more. A KFOR patrol with a young Albanian woman interpreter came by and they tried to report the incident. The woman at first refused to translate what they were saying but then said something to the KFOR members. The witnesses believe that she did not translate their words as a KFOR member merely gave them a piece of paper with a telephone number to call if they needed an escort. The woman told F.G. and Č.A. that they were safe and would not be harmed.

F.G. and Č.A. walked on and then sat on a bench where they were approached by two young women who had overheard them talking about the incident. They said they were Serb and offered to take F.G. and Č.A. to the apartment of a friend who spoke English and could help them report to KFOR what had happened. They agreed, went to fetch the young man who spoke English and went with him to a KFOR post. The KFOR members there heard them out, said they could not leave their post and gave them the address and telephone number of the KFOR headquarters in Priština. Afraid of being caught in the streets, they returned to the young man's apartment and tried to call the KFOR headquarters but the line was constantly busy.

A Serb neighbor of the young man offered to drive them to their village, for which they paid him 10 deutsche marks. They never learned what happened to Fazljija and Čelović.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Marković, D. Novica (M, 40), Serb, from Priština (7/6 Goleška (Goleshit) St.)), engineering technician, employee of Priština Power Distribution Company – abducted on 4 July 1999.

Marković's relative recounted that Mrs. Marković and her children fled Priština for Serbia in late June. Marković stayed and occasionally went to see his father in the nearby Devet Jugovića village. A Priština Albanian told the family that Marković boarded a private bus bound for Devet Jugovića at the Lapska Džamija stop on the outskirts of Priština about noon on 4 July.

When the bus neared the stop where Marković was to descend, unidentified Albanian passengers went up to the driver and ordered him to continue without stopping. The bus reached Lužane village where the Albanians ordered the driver to halt. They dragged out Marković and took him away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jakšić, Svetislav (M, 71), Serb, from Priština (30/a Lenjinova St.), retired – abducted on 5 July 1999 on the way from his apartment to the Ulpijana district, Priština.

Jakšić's daughter and her family lived in the Ulpijana district until they fled to Serbia on 5 July. She told the HLC that three unidentified Albanians attempted to enter her father's apartment in the evening of 4 July, but were seen and arrested by a KFOR patrol. Her father spent the night in her apartment.

After seeing his daughter off the next morning, Jakšić returned to his apartment. Planning to spend that night also in his daughter's apartment, he left at 5 p.m. As he was leaving his building an Albanian, formerly a security guard at the Granit company, physically assaulted him. An Albanian neighbor intervened to defend Jakšić who then got in his Zastava 101 (license plates PR 193-84) and drove away in the direction of Ulpijana. When he stopped at a traffic light, two armed Albanians came up, fired several shots into the car and ordered him to get out. A large group gathered around and helped the armed Albanians drag Jakšić out and knock him to the ground. The armed men then pushed him into the back seat and drove away.

Two relatives of Jakšić were driving through the intersection and saw what was happening. They were afraid to get out of their car to go to his help but immediately informed the family and KFOR.

Friends from Priština told Jakšić's relatives that they saw his car a week after the abduction in front of the Tri Šešira Cafe in Vidovdanska St. The car was without license plates and was dented on the right side near the bumper.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Pavlović, Nataša (F), Serb, from Priština (19 Meto Bajraktari St.) – abducted on 5 July 1999.

Nataša Pavlović was taken from her yard by a young woman and two young men in uniforms without insignia about 2 p.m. on 5 July. Mrs. Pavlović suspects that an Albanian woman neighbor was involved in her daughter's abduction.

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Gordić, Miloš (M, 36), Bosnian Serb, refugee from Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina; **Ostojić, Veljko** (M, 24), Bosnian Serb, refugee from Dvor na Uni, Bosnia-Herzegovina, medical technician – abducted on 12 July 1999 from room 301 at the Božur Hotel.

Gordić and Ostojić had been placed in the Božur Hotel together with other Serb refugees from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. On 12 July, five or six Albanians stormed into their room and took them away.

Source: *Oslobodjen direktor Gradinga* [Grading Manager Freed], BLIC (BETA), 15 July 1999

Ristić, Bratislav (M, 47), Serb, from Priština (36 Beogradska St, Dardanija district), employee of Jugobanka branch in Priština – abducted from his apartment on 12 July 1999.

Mrs. Ristić was told by her daughter-in-law that three armed Albanians forced their way into her son's apartment at 9.30 p.m. on 12 July and took him, in his car, to the KLA headquarters to be questioned. The Albanians said Ristić would be in 15 minutes. His wife and daughter remained in the apartment. On 15 July, a man Mrs. Ristić did not know and who spoke little Serbian came to her apartment and handed her a note reading: "Your son is in prison in Kosovska Mitrovica, he is all right and nothing will happen to him if you pay." Beneath that her son had written, "They want 10,000 marks. If you can find the money, they will either let me go or kill me tomorrow or the day after" and his signature.

The family borrowed the money from friends to pay the ransom. The man phoned them the same afternoon and they agreed to give him half at once and the remainder when Ristić was released. The money was to be handed over at 7.30 p.m. at a prearranged location but no one turned up. The man did not contact them again. Ristić's wife and daughter fled Kosovo to Serbia soon afterwards.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ivanović, Momčilo (M, 33), Serb, from Priština, employee of railway company in Kosovo Polje – disappeared on 17 July 1999 in Priština.

Mrs. Ivanović told the HLC that her son left home without saying where he was going about 10 a.m. on 17 July. At noon, three Albanian civilians came and said her son had sent them. They searched the apartment but did not take anything. She asked where her son was and they replied, "You won't see him again." When they left, they told her to lock the door and to let no one in. For several consecutive days after her son's disappearance, unidentified Albanians came to Mrs. Ristić's door, said her son had been killed, and that she would be killed also unless she moved out. They described her son's appearance, habits and the manner in which he was killed. Serb neighbors heard the threats to Mrs. Ivanović from behind the closed doors of their apartments but were afraid to go to her assistance.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Vasić, Dragoljub (M), Serb, from Priština (27 Roberta Gajdija St.), retired – abducted from his apartment on the night of 17/18 July 1999.

Miomir Djukić, a relative of Vasić, found Vasić's apartment empty when he came in the morning of 18 July. On the basis of the apartment's appearance, Djukić believes that Vasić was asleep when his abductors entered.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Milorad (M), Serb, from Priština, son of **Bora Ristić**, official of the former Provisional Executive Council of Kosovo – abducted by the KLA on 18 July 1999 in Vidovdanska St. in Priština.

Source: *Novo stradanje srpskog stanovništva* [New Tribulations of Serb Population], POLITIKA, 19 July 1999

Nikolić, Dejan (M), Serb, from Priština (Sunčani Breg district) – abducted on 26 July 1999 from his apartment.

A group of armed Albanians came to Ristić's apartment about 7.30 p.m. on 26 July, tied him up, raped his fiancée and took him away.

Source: *Oteli supruga, ženu silovali* [Husband Kidnapped, Wife Raped], BLIC, 28 July 1999

Petković, Nebojša (M, 40), Serb, from Priština (15, Šarla Tranijea St, Ulpijana district), oral surgery specialist, worked at the Emergency Medical and Ambulance Service – disappeared on 30 July 1999.

Mrs. Petković left Priština in mid-June, immediately after the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police from Kosovo. Her husband decided to stay. She last spoke with him by telephone on 25 July when he told her unknown Albanians in uniforms had come to his place of work and threatened him with death unless he left Priština. Her father-in-law, who had also stayed in Priština, informed her on 5 August that her husband had disappeared. He had left work that day about 5 p.m. KLA members intercepted him outside the Devet Jugovića building in an area called the Micro-Development and took him to an unknown destination. His father also learned that KLA members had on two earlier occasions attempted to take Petković from the building in which he worked but were prevented by Albanian medical staff.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Milenković, Svetomir (M, 37), Serb, from Priština (183 Dalmatinska St), teacher in Obilić – abducted from his family house on 3 August 1999; his father **Milenković, Momčilo** was killed.

Milenković's sister Jorgovanka told the HLC that KLA members came to the family's house at 9.30 p.m. on 3 August. She, her brother, father and nine-year-old daughter Valentina were at home at the time. Four KLA men came into the house. The one in charge was about 30, brown-haired, short (approximately 165 centimeters), overweight and had a plaster cast on his right hand. A blue ship and an Albanian flag were tattooed on his lower right arm. The second KLA man was about 25, had short, dark hair spiked with gel ("like a hedgehog"), was between 175 and 180 centimeters tall, had acne and was wearing black jeans and sports shoes and a grey T-shirt. The third was very thin but muscular, with long hair drawn through the back of his black cap, and wore black jeans and shirt, a light brown belt, and white Nike shoes. The fourth was of medium height, with short brown hair combed to one side, and was also wearing black jeans and T-shirt and white Nike shoes. He was the only one who spoke Serbian.

Jorgovanka described what happened to her and her family:

"Dad unlocked the gate. They came up to the terrace where we were all sitting and forced us into the house. They held Dad in the living room and led me and Valentina into my room. I didn't see where they took Sveta (shortened form of Svetomir). They said they were looking for guns as well as gold and money. They turned everything upside down and seemed to be looking for gold and money rather than weapons. The one with the long hair was in the room with me and Valentina. He began to beat me. He put some metal thing over his fist and hit me on the head with it. Then he took some thin wires out of his pocket, put them round my throat and began throttling me. The wires cut deeper and deeper and blood poured down my neck, and he banged my head alternately against the cabinet and the wall. I fainted for a short while. When I came to I saw them going in and out of the room, carrying out all the more valuable things. They continued beating me, asked where the money and gold was. I said I'd tell them when they stopped beating me. They did and I gave them the box in which I kept my gold jewelry and some money. They went out and locked me and Valentina in the room.

"I heard them beating Dad in the living room; he screamed loudly with the pain. I took Valentina in my arms and began to cry. Fifteen or 20 minutes later, the sound of the blows and the screams stopped. Then I heard their voices in the yard, the sound of the car engine and they left. I waited another five minutes to be sure they had gone and climbed out the window with the help of a sheet, helped Valentina down and we went together from the yard to the living room. Dad was on the couch. A thin lace tablecloth was tied tightly around his neck. He saw us, got up and came towards us to hug us. He pointed to his neck, signing to me to take the tablecloth off. He put his arms around me and leaned against me. I tried to untie the tablecloth but the knot was very tight. Under the tablecloth, there was a wire fastened tightly around his neck, and had cut him in many places. There was a piece from a rifle beside him, all bloody. Sveta had

been on military exercises and was left with the gun. We threw it away and only that part of it remained. They beat Dad with it, his head was all battered. When I managed to untie the tablecloth, blood poured from his nose and mouth. He slumped against me and died. I was soaked with blood. I began calling Sveta. I went out into the yard and saw that the lights were on in the old house. I went in. It had been ransacked but I couldn't find Sveta anywhere.

"I went to our Serb neighbors, Žarko and Lola Nikolajević, and asked them for help. We called KFOR and they came in five minutes. I told them everything. The interpreter was a woman. They gave me something to calm me down. I took them to our house and they made an investigation. They called a doctor to examine Dad. He came quickly, took a look at him and when he came out gave me his condolences. They put his body in a bag and took him away. Since I couldn't do it, I asked them to bury him next to my mother who had died three years before. I explained where my mother's grave was and they buried him there later. Valentina and I stayed with the neighbors. KFOR came to see us and brought us food. Ten days later, they took us to Peć to identify a man they had arrested and believed was one of those who had attacked us. It was the fat one; Valentina recognized him immediately. I don't know what happened to him after that; nobody told us anything. I never saw or heard from my brother. I know nothing about him."

Jorgovanka and her daughter fled Kosovo to Serbia in late August. She lost her eyesight as the result of the beating she was subjected to.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Vasić, Nada (F, 95), Serb, from Priština (Lenjinova St.) – abducted on 8 August 1999.

Mrs. Vasić's granddaughter last saw Mrs. Vasić when she went to see her between 10 and 12 a.m. on 7 August. On 8 August, Mrs. Vasić's friend, who brought her bread every morning, found some Albanians changing the lock on the apartment door. They tried to drag her inside but she managed to get away. She informed Mrs. Vasić's granddaughter of what had happened and they went together to KFOR to report the incident. KFOR arrested the young Albanians found in the apartment, who claimed that it was empty when they arrived.

The granddaughter told the HLC that two KLA members had forced their way into Mrs. Vasić's apartment in mid-June and searched it for money and weapons. They asked Mrs. Vasić where her son was and she replied she had only a daughter. On leaving, they threatened to slit her throat if she did not move out.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Živković, Ilija (M, 56), Serb, from Priština (135 Vidovdanska St., Ulpijana district), employee of Jugoinspekt company – abducted on 14 August 1999 on the road between Rudare and Priština.

Živković's daughter, who fled Priština to Belgrade, told the HLC that her father left Belgrade for Priština with an Albanian from Belgrade with whom he intended to exchange apartments. They traveled in a car lent to Živković by a friend (license plates PR 107-906). Serbian police at the Rudare checkpoint on boundary with Kosovo registered that the car passed through about 5 a.m. and headed in the direction of Podujevo.

A family friend stated that he spoke with the Albanian who was travelling with Živković and who told him they had crossed the administrative boundary with Kosovo at 6 a.m. They were stopped by uniformed and masked KLA members at Livadice village. The KLA men dragged Živković out of the car and ordered the Albanian to continue.

The car was subsequently found in Podujevo. Ten days later, Živković's daughter heard that the Albanian who was travelling with her father was in the Priština hospital, that he had been knocked unconscious by the KLA abductors and did not remember what had happened. She believes the incident occurred on the stretch of the road between the Bosanka Cafe and the woods. Albanian friends told her that her father was kidnapped by KLA members from Gornja and Donja Repa villages.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Nedeljković, Zoran (M, 46), Serb, from Priština (8 Tomislava Sekulića St.) – abducted at the market near the Boro and Ramiz Center between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 18 August 1999.

Nedeljković, who spoke fluent Albanian, helped Serb residents of his building who were afraid to leave their apartments by shopping for them. A neighbor told the HLC that on 18 August he asked Nedeljković to help him take his weapons to hand them in at the Peace and Tolerance Center. They wrapped the guns in paper bags and, as they were carrying them downstairs, an Albanian resident noticed the protruding barrels. The witness believes that this might have been the reason for Nedeljković's abduction two days later, when he went to the market to buy tomatoes for his neighbors.

Mrs. Nedeljković was at work at the time of her husband's abduction. When she came home and realized he was missing, she reported his disappearance to KFOR. Some Albanian neighbors told her Nedeljković had been attacked by four uniformed KLA members, dragged into an automobile and driven away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Simović, Aleksandar (M, 31), Serb, from Priština (5 Patrijarha Danila St.), translator/interpreter for Media Action International – abducted on 21 August 1999 at the Pikaso Cafe in Priština.

Simović and his father lived alone as his brothers and mother had fled Priština to Serbia. His brother Slaviša told the HLC that Simović left the apartment about 9 a.m. on 21 August and did not return. The family subsequently heard from Albanian friends that he was at two Priština cafes, the Kukri and Pikaso, that day with an Albanian friend whose name the family does not know.

Another Albanian friend of Simović, Agron Duši (Agron Dushi), told the family he saw Simović at the Pikaso Cafe, that two armed and uniformed KLA men came in around noon and took Simović and the Albanian away. Duši added that he saw this Albanian in town a few days later and heard from others that he had been held by the KLA for 24 hours and released while Simović was retained.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jović, Tihomir (M, 47), Serb – abducted in early September 1999 in Priština.

Jović was taken by unidentified persons from the Priština hospital when he addressed the staff in Serbian.

Source: *Fire Opened on Convoy of Serbs*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 14 September 1999

Škripac, Vera (F, 70), Serb, from Priština 43/1 Vladimira Stefanovića St., Dardanija district) – abducted from her apartment on 11 September 1999.

Slobodan Škripac recounted that he and his family fled to Serbia on 12 June so that his mother was alone in Priština. His wife spent a few days with her in July and returned to Serbia. Mrs. Škripac had no problems at that time.

In late August, unidentified Albanian civilians on several occasions came to Mrs. Škripac and threatened her with death unless she left Priština. Her son asked his Albanian lawyer friend Bedri Krasnići (Bedri Krasniqi) to sell his mother's apartment and arrange for her to leave for Serbia. Krasnići was henceforth at the apartment almost daily and was there when the same Albanians who had threatened Mrs. Škripac earlier came again about 10 p.m. on 11 September. A neighbor told Slobodan Škripac that the Albanians led both his mother and Krasnići out of the apartment. He heard Krasnići arguing with them in the hallway and saw when they were pushed into separate cars outside the building and driven away.

Three days later, Škripac spoke on the telephone with Krasnići who told him that the abductors had beaten him up and released him, and that he did not know the whereabouts of Mrs. Škripac.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Čelić, Ivan (M, 37), Serb, from Priština (building 22, Sunčani Breg district), engineer, employee of Serbian Power Company, worked at the Belačevac coal mine – disappeared on 14 June 1999.

Mrs. Čelić recounted that her husband stopped going to work when the mine was occupied by the KLA on 12 June. At about 1 p.m. on 14 June, Krnetić, the mine manager, phoned her husband and suggested that they meet at 2 p.m. that day at the Grand Hotel to discuss the future of the company. Mrs. Čelić last saw her husband when he left in his black WF Golf (license plates PR 998-08) to meet with Krnetić.

When he failed to return home by the evening, Mrs. Čelić called the mine manager who told her other business had prevented him from keeping the appointment. Friends told her Čelić had been at the Grand Hotel, waited for Krnetić and left when the manager did not turn up.

Čelić's brother told the HLC that, upon learning of their son's disappearance, his parents went to the home of KLA spokesman Adem Demaći (Adem Demaqi) in Dubrovačka Street, believing that he was implicated in the abduction. Demaći gave them no information about their son's abduction.

They reported his disappearance to KFOR and the International Red Cross, spoke with KFOR commander General Jackson, and Čelić's brother posted and handed out all over Priština leaflets in English with a photograph of Čelić.

Mrs. Čelić stayed in Priština until 24 June, never leaving her apartment. Albanian neighbors brought her food and necessities. When the neighbors told her the KLA was questioning people about who was supplying her with food, she was frightened and left for Serbia with her children.

In late September 2000, the ICRC, OSCE and UNMIK police organized in Gračanica and Zvečan preliminary identification of some 250 bodies uncovered in Kosovo in the past year. Families were shown photographs of clothes and other belongings. Mrs. Čelić recognized her husband's belt.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Bojanić, Milo (M), Montenegrin – disappeared in the first half of June 1999 in Priština. His remains were found in early August in Priština.

Source: *Kosovo and Metohija Events*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 17 August 1999

Piljević, Petrija (F, 57); her neighbor **Djošić, Zoran** (M, 56), Serbs, from Priština (Dardanija district) – abducted on 28 June 1999.

Mrs. Piljević's son Dragan alleged that his mother's Albanian neighbors in the same building, Adeljina (Adelina) and Mona Ismailji (Mona Ismaili) (apart. 8) and Ljuljeta Djonbaljaj (Luleta Gjonobalaj) (apart. 35) were responsible for her abduction. The abduction was reported to KFOR by Mrs. Djosić and S. J., a Serb neighbor. S.J. saw three KLA members and Adeljina Ismailji outside Mrs. Piljević's apartment. Mrs. Djosić saw six persons entering the apartment. When Zoran Djosić attempted to come to Mrs. Piljević's assistance, he too was abducted. Mrs. Piljević's son stated that both were taken first to apartment 25 from which screams and cries for help were heard, and then to apartment 8, from where they were taken to an unknown destination at about 10 p.m.

In an interview with The Guardian, Adeljina Ismailji said she found her apartment plundered when she returned from Macedonia, and a photograph of Dragan Piljević and his baby in it. Another neighbor, Hosnija Jašić, told the paper's reporter that Petrija Piljević was implicated in the looting of Albanian-owned apartments and that her son's guitar was found in Mrs. Piljević's home. An ethnic Turk resident of the building told the reporter that Dragan Piljević brought people to loot Albanian apartments. Dragan Piljević categorically denied all these allegations and said the photograph of him and his baby was extracted from his coat pocket by Adeljina Ismajli when she was in the Piljević apartment. He also denied claims that he and his brother were members of the Serbian police force, and said that his brother was a security guard at the Post Office and Panorama buildings.

In late September 2000, the ICRC, OSCE and UNMIK police organized in Gračanica and Zvečan preliminary identification of some 250 bodies uncovered in Kosovo in the past year. Families were shown photographs of clothes and other belongings. Piljević recognized his mother's clothes. The whereabouts of Zoran Djošić remain unknown.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Šabić, Dimitrije (M, 62), Serb, from Priština (Solidarnost building 41, Sunčani Breg district), X-ray technician at Priština hospital – disappeared on 15 July 1999 in Priština.

Mrs. Šabić last saw her husband when he left home at 6.30 a.m. on 15 July. She said her husband's Albanian colleagues had warned him of the danger of coming to work when the hospital had been taken over by the KLA. On one occasion, a KLA man physically assaulted Šabić but an Albanian colleague intervened and the KLA man beat up another Serb member of the hospital staff instead.

Mrs. Šabić recounted that another Albanian colleague of her husband, Rudžija Havolija (Ruxhaj Havolli), had told him on 14 July that he had reported him to the KLA police for stealing his car. During the NATO intervention, Ruždija gave the car to Šabić for safekeeping but it was commandeered by the Serbian forces. Rudžija held Šabić responsible and said he had two days to return the vehicle or be arrested by the KLA police. After Šabić's disappearance, his wife and daughter managed to find Ruždija's car and returned it, and asked him to help them obtain Šabić's release. He took them to the KLA headquarters opposite the Hasan Priština (Hasan Prishtina) elementary school, told them to go in by themselves and said there was nothing more he could do for them. Mrs. Šabić and her daughter were afraid to go in and reported Šabić's disappearance to KFOR and the International Red Cross.

In late September 2000, the ICRC, OSCE and UNMIK police organized in Gračanica and Zvečan preliminary identification of some 250 bodies uncovered in Kosovo in the past year. Families were shown photographs of clothes and other belongings. Mrs. Šabić recognized her husband's clothes.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Popović, Milovan (M, 22), Serb – abducted on 28 July in Donja Brnjica near Priština. His remains were found on 13 August 1999 in Priština.

Source: PRAVOSLAVLJE PRESS, 13 August 1999; *KFOR-u podvaljuju i prevodioci Albanci* [Albanian Interpreters Duping KFOR], POLITIKA, 15 August 1999

Budimir, Rade (M, 59), Serb, from Priština (10th Housing Development), economist, manager of Putnik Travel Agency – disappeared on 2 August 1999 in Priština.

Following the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police from Kosovo, Budimir and his wife moved in with his mother. His wife left Priština on 29 June and went to stay with relatives in Blace (Bllace), Suva Reka Municipality. Budimir remained in his mother's apartment (Kragujevačka St. 11) with his brother-in-law.

Budimir's brother told the HLC that he last saw Budimir about 10 a.m. on 1 August when both of them saw off their uncle and aunt who were moving out to Serbia, after which they went to their respective homes. The brother recalls that Budimir told him he was meeting a young man who worked for the OSCE the next day to look at an apartment the young man wished to rent in the Sunčani Breg district. The young man confirmed that he was to meet with Budimir but told his brother that he failed to appear.

On 30 June, Mrs. Budimir's brother went to Blace to see her and stayed over the weekend. Budimir called his wife there at 11.30 p.m. on 1 August and that was

the last time they spoke. Mrs. Budimir's brother returned to Priština the next day and reached the apartment at 6.30 p.m. The door was locked but all the cupboards were open, and Budimir was not there. A neighbor told him that she had recently seen Budimir and believed he had gone to Mt Kopaonik in Serbia with his wife, which they had planned to do. On 3 August, Mrs. Budimir's brother called her to check if her husband had left for Mt Kopaonik earlier than planned. She telephoned the travel agency where Budimir worked and was told that none of the staff were aware that he had left Priština. Her brother spent the night in the apartment and went to Kosovo Polje on business the next day.

On 5 August, Mrs. Budimir asked her brother to go to Priština to retrieve the money she had left in the apartment. He found four young Albanians there who said they were students and had moved in when they found the door open. They said they would leave if he had papers proving that the apartment was his. Since they had put a new lock on the door, he asked them to show him the old one. They brought it and he saw Budimir's key still inserted in the lock. The students left, agreeing to come back at 7 p.m. to see the papers pertaining to the apartment. Mrs. Budimir's brother did not find the money she had asked him to retrieve but noticed nothing else missing from the apartment. He called Budimir's brother who reported the disappearance to KFOR.

KFOR members were in the apartment when the Albanian students came at 7 p.m., took them in for questioning and allowed them to go at midnight. Searching for Budimir, KFOR members went to the apartment he and his wife had abandoned. They found an Albanian neighbor in that apartment. Budimir had given him the key to look after the apartment while he and his wife were away. The neighbor returned the key to Budimir on 15 July, saying KLA men were constantly in the building and that he could no longer look after it. A few days later, the apartment was burglarized and, after Budimir's disappearance, the neighbor moved in.

In late September 2000, the ICRC, OSCE and UNMIK police organized in Gračanica and Zvečan preliminary identification of some 250 bodies recovered in Kosovo in the past year. Families were shown photographs of clothes and other belongings. Mrs. Budimir recognized her husband's clothes.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stević, Miodrag (M), Serb, from Laplje Selo, Priština Municipality – abducted on 24 August 1999. He was found severely beaten the next day by KFOR and taken to the Priština hospital. He died of his injuries after a month in a coma.³¹

Source: HLC, witness statement

³¹ Witness statement on the abduction of Stević: Priština, 2.2.2. Escaped.

Mićić, Branislav (M, 24), Serb, from Priština – disappeared on the night between 3 and 4 September 1999 in Priština. His body was found on 6 September 1999 in the Ulpijana district, Priština.

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Cvijanović, Djordje (M, 57), Serb, from Priština, auto mechanic, employee of the Ibar-Lepenac company – disappeared about 8 a.m. on 6 October 1999 in Priština.

On 25 October, Major Steiner of KFOR asked Cvijanović's wife and daughter to come to Priština. He met them at Merdare on the border with Serbia on 2 November and informed Mrs. Cvijanović that her husband's body, with five gunshot wounds, had been found about 5 p.m. on 6 October on the Priština-Glogovac road. KFOR buried the body in the Orthodox cemetery in the Dragodan district of Priština under the number 1161.

Mrs. Cvijanović told the HLC that KLA police came to their apartment in early August and gave her husband one day to move out. Mrs. Cvijanović was in Serbia at the time. Her husband had stayed on to complete legal requirements for exchanging their apartment for one in Belgrade. He was not harassed but the Albanian with whom he was negotiating an exchange complained that he had been threatened by the KLA for legally acquiring a Serb-owned apartment.

On 4 October, Cvijanović and this Albanian signed a contract. Cvijanović was to move out his belongings at 8 a.m. on 6 October with a KFOR presence. At 7.30 a.m., he called his wife, said the KFOR members had not yet arrived, that he was going to the ring road near the hospital to wait for the truck and would drop in to see her parents who lived near by. The truck driver called Mrs. Cvijanović about 8.30 to tell her that her husband had not showed up. The family reported Cvijanović's disappearance to KFOR.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Perić, Miodrag (M, 59), Serb, from Gračanica, Priština Municipality, teacher at the secondary technical school – disappeared on 20 October 1999.

Perić was last seen when he left a cafe in Gračanica for home in his beige Zastava 128 (license plates PR 152-01). UNMIK police found his body on 30 October 1999.

Mrs. Perić stated that her husband left home at 7.30 a.m. on 20 October and went to work. It was a payday and he invited a few friends for drinks at the Kod Jugeta Cafe in Gračanica. These friends told Mrs. Perić they were at the cafe until 8 p.m. and that they were all intoxicated. The last they saw of her husband was when he got into his car and drove away.

On 30 October, UNMIK police notified Mrs. Perić that her husband's body had been found in a field two kilometers from the road near the all-Albanian village Ajvalija. He had been shot in the right side of the head. The body was taken to the Priština hospital. A friend of Perić went to identify it the same day but the staff could not find the body. The friend saw Perić's car in front of the Oda Cafe in Ajvalija and UNMIK police investigated. There were no signs of violence in the car. The slip covers and radio had been stolen. Several strands of long black hair, obviously not Perić's, were found on the seat. The friend went again to the hospital on 5 November and identified Perić's remains.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

B.S. (M, 21), Rom, from Velika Slatina, Kosovo Polje Municipality – abducted on 20 June, held in a KLA prison at an unknown location for 10 days and released.

B.S. recounted that he was in Priština on 20 June with another Roma man, helping to move a Serb woman to Lipljan. As they were loading the truck, B.S. noticed a young man in KLA uniform watching them from a window in the same building. The KLA man came down and said to B.S., "You, come with me. I see you're a good worker. I only need some information." B.S. refused, the KLA man left and shortly afterwards came back with an automatic gun. At that moment, an armored personnel carrier pulled up beside them, 16 KLA members surrounded B.S., forced him into the personnel carrier and drove him away. One hour later, they stopped outside a building with the number 25 and led B.S. into apartment number 3. A KLA man of about 40 asked B.S. if he had been in the Serbian army and he replied he had only dug trenches as a civilian. Five minutes later, KLA men led him out of the apartment, pulled a bag over his head, put him in a car and drove away. B.S. recalls that there were seven KLA members in the car with him and that the drive was a long one.

"When they got me out of the car, I saw we were in front of some building, like an abandoned army barracks. Two women of about 30 in KLA uniforms were waiting. The KLA took me into a room and started beating me. There were 10 of them. One punched me in the back, others kicked me and hit me with their hands. They beat me day and night, taking turns. I was alone in the room. There were always about 10 of them. I never left the room. I don't remember sleeping or eating anything. For nine days I was beaten. On the tenth day, they brought a Serb into the room, about 30 he was. He was all bloody from being beaten, his hands and feet were tied and he had a wide piece of tape stuck over his mouth. They took us both to the basement. There was a bread oven down there. They put the man in the oven and he screamed when they turned it on. Eight

Albanians and me stood there while he burned, in front of our eyes. He screamed for a long time. He burned for two hours. They took me back upstairs where a woman in KLA uniform was waiting. I recognized her, her name is Afterdita (Afërdita) and she's from Drenica. There were another two women with her. They stripped me, put me naked on a bed with wheels, stuck some wires to my body and covered me with a lid-like glass thing. Then they turned on the electricity. The jolts bounced me off the bed several time and then I blacked out. When I came to again, Aferdita dressed me and said, 'We're going to KFOR.' They drove me there."

Before leaving him outside the KFOR building, Afterdita threatened to kill B.S. if she saw him again and said he had to move out of Kosovo. After he made a statement, KFOR members drove him to Čaglavica, a Serb village near Priština. B.S. does not know the location where he was handed over to KFOR and remembers only it was 6 a.m. when he was brought to Čaglavica.

B.K., a Gračanica Serb who had hired B.S. and T.S. (M, 21) described the abduction to the HLC:

"We had the moving of a Serb woman to Bujanovac scheduled at 7 a.m. on 20 June 1999. We were loading her things onto the truck when an Albanian came out of the neighboring yellow multi-story building next to the Zeta-Trans company and the bookstore. He went up to B.S. and pulled him aside so that we wouldn't hear what they were saying. They spoke quietly, in Albanian, but I heard the Albanian ask him his father's name and address. The Albanian knew B.S. from Velika Slatina. After a while, he went back into the building. We finished the loading at 9.30 and planned to go to Bujanovac together. Then the same Albanian came out of the building again, with another six or seven Albanians, all in black. The one who had talked earlier with B.S. ordered him to go with them to answer some questions. Then he turned to me, said the Roma in Velika Slatina had committed many crimes against Albanians and that he had to check whether B.S. was involved. I told him B.S. was my worker, that we all had to leave together and that I was responsible for him. He replied that we would all have to go with them then. The other Albanians said nothing. S.B. got out of the truck and we left. The two of them stood talking in the street so that I wasn't able to see in which direction B.S. was taken. I informed his parents as soon as I reached Gračanica and reported the incident to KFOR the next day. A few days later, B.S.'s father came to my store in Gračanica and said his son had been released and was all right."

Source: HLC, witness statements

Z.P. (M, 19), Rom, from Kosovo Polje – abducted on 21 June 1999 in Priština and released in the evening.

Z.P. was in Priština to check up on the damaged house of a relative. He was outside the house when a group of Albanians seized him, pushed him into an Opel Astra car and drove him to the Roma cemetery where they beat him and threatened to kill him. Somewhat later, they took him to the KLA headquarters in a private house where he was held for seven hours. He was beaten and asked to identify Serbs who had committed crimes against Albanians. They released him in the evening and threatened him with death if he reported them to KFOR.

Source: *Roma from Kosovo Testify*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 12 September 1999

Š.K. (M), Rom, from Priština (15 Kolubarska St.) – abducted by the KLA on the night of 20/21 June 1999; released on 21 June 1999 after his family paid ransom.

Š.K.'s uncle recounted that four KLA men came to their house that night. They beat up Š.K. and took him to the KLA headquarters, telling the family he would be released if they paid 500 deutsche marks. The family paid the ransom and Š.K. was let go the same day. The KLA then torched the house of Š.K.'s family and gave them five minutes to leave Priština. The family fled to Montenegro.

Source: HLC, witness statement

F.F. (M, 23), Rom – abducted by the KLA on 21 June 1999 in Priština and released several hours later.

F.F. was stopped by KLA members in a street near his home and taken by force to their base in the Dragodan district of Priština. He was physically abused, questioned and ordered to name persons who had committed crimes against Albanians. He was released later that day.

Source: *Abuses against Serbs and Roma in the New Kosovo*, HRW, August 1999

P.D. (M, about 60), Serb, from Priština – abducted and imprisoned by the KLA from 22 to 26 June 1999 at Zlatare (Zllatare) near Priština.

A relative of P.D. stated that he was abducted by KLA members outside his apartment building. A cloth was thrown over his head and he was forced into a car and taken to the nearby village Zlatare. P.D. was led into a building and locked in a room with four other Serbs whose names are unknown to the relative. The prisoners slept on old military sacks. KLA members took them out every 20 minutes for to be questioned and beaten. On the last day of P.D.'s imprisonment, an Albanian friend of his was among those who questioned him. This Albanian said he could arrange for P.D.'s release but would not be able to protect him in the future, and that he and his family had to leave Priština. P.D. was released and fled to Serbia the next day with his family.

Source: HLC, witness statement

R.J. (F, 60), Serb, from Devet Jugovića, Priština Municipality – abducted on 24 June 1999 on the road from Čaglavica to Devet Jugovića, and left tied up beside the road later that day.³²

Source: HLC, witness statement

Lj.D. (M, 65), Serb, from Priština, retired – abducted and held in a KLA prison from 28 June to 16 July 1999.

Lj.D. stated that he was stopped in the street by four Albanians in civilian clothes about noon on 28 June. In Serbian, they asked for directions and when he began to tell them the men seized him, dragged him into a car parked near by, blindfolded him and drove him to the Meto Barjaktari elementary school.

“They led me into a room and began to hit me on the head with hard objects. Several of them beat me at the same time. Saying they had found some weapons in my apartment building, they demanded that I tell them where other weapons were cached. After the beating, they took me to a concrete-floored solitary. They beat me again the next day and demanded I tell them who looted and torched Albanian houses, who killed Albanians and where my sons were. They threatened to kill my wife. In the beginning they beat me once or twice a day and then they forgot about me. I was in the solitary for 18 days and got only some thin soup to eat. I heard them bringing new people in all the time, the sound of beatings and cries.”

On 16 July, the abductors handed Lj.D. over to KFOR who transferred him to Kosovo Polje. A few days later he and another 20 Serbs left Kosovo for Serbia under KFOR escort.

Source: HLC, witness statement

B.A. (M, 33); **M.R.** (M), Roma, from Priština – abducted in June 1999 and released a few hours later.

B.A. told the HLC that two Albanians accosted him and M.R. in the street and forcibly took them to a private house in the Dragodan district of Priština. Another Albanian who was already there questioned them.

“He asked if we were Gypsies or Albanians. We said Albanians so they wouldn’t kill us. They tried to make us admit we were Gypsies. They beat us with baseball bats and kicked us. We didn’t admit anything. They took our ID cards and said since we were Albanians, we had to go with them tomorrow to kill Serbs and Gypsies. They threatened to kill our families and burn down our houses if we said anything to KFOR. Then they drove us home.”

³² Witness statement on the abduction and release of R.J.: Priština, 2. Abducted.

The same two Albanians came to B.A.'s home the next day at 1 p.m. He saw them coming and escaped through a window. B.A. and his family fled Kosovo to Serbia after the incident.

Source: HLC, witness statement

(Last name unknown), Fajik (M), Rom, from Priština – abducted in June 1999 and released a few days later.

Serb acquaintances of Fajik told the HLC that several Albanian women forced him to go with them to Maticane near Priština where they reportedly beat and questioned him. Fajik was released a few days later.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojanović, Miloš (M, 51), Serb, from Priština (63 Miladina Popovića St.) – abducted by unidentified persons from his house about 9 p.m. on 10 July and released on 13 July 1999.

Source: *Albanski ekstremisti oslobodili Miloša Stojanovića* [Albanian Extremists Release Miloš Stojanović], POLITIKA, 14 July 1999

Dabižljević, Radun (M, 65), Serb, from Priština, retired military officer; **two unidentified men**, drivers of a truck with Kruševac, Serbia, license plates – abducted on 13 July. Dabižljević was released on 16 July 1999, the truck and its load were retained by the KLA, while the whereabouts of the two drivers remain unknown.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Č.P. (M, 63), professor of civil engineering at Priština University and manager of Grading construction company; his relative **Š.J** (M. 57), retired, Serbs, from Priština – abducted on 14 July 1999, held in the KLA police headquarters in the Dragodan district, Priština, for eleven hours and released.

Č.P. told the HLC what happened at 12.30 p.m. on 14 July when he went to a store opposite his house to buy cigarettes:

"I was getting the cigarettes when three men unknown to me, members of the KLA guard, came in. One shut the door and ordered me into the storeroom. They were in civilian clothes, one was dressed all in black. They didn't take their guns out. They searched me and then took me to my house."

As they went into the house, Č.P.'s relative arrived. The KLA men took both of them out, forced them into a car and drove them to a private house in the Dragodan district where the KLA police headquarters was located. They were

questioned and asked if they knew who was responsible for the destruction of Albanian property.

"They took us up to the attic and ordered us to sit with our backs to the wall, facing the window. Two of them stood guard over us all the time. When we went to the toilet, we had to leave the door open. They didn't tie us up."

The witness said the KLA members behaved correctly and did not physically abuse them. When they were released eleven hours later, their papers were returned to them but not their money. They were told they could come back for it the next day. Their abductors drove them home. Both Č.P. and Š.J. fled Kosovo to Serbia after the incident.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tanasković, Ljubiša (M, 53), Serb, from Priština, art historian, director of the Priština Modern Art Gallery – abducted on 6 August 1999, questioned and released the same day.

Tanasković recounted that an Albanian civilian attempted to force him into the basement of a store in which he was shopping with his wife on 2 August. He managed to get away and run into the street. His wife called a KFOR patrol but the assailant escaped.

On 6 August, Tanasković was stopped by KLA members in civilian clothes in Goleška Street after parting from officials of the Serbian Ministry of Culture, the director of the Belgrade Modern Art Gallery, and a woman from the Belgrade Ethnographic Museum. The KLA men took him to the basement of the Beograd Cafe in the same street.

"They ordered me to sit. One began to question me, another had a Motorola and, I believe, was talking to someone about me, and the third stood by the door. The one who questioned me was polite but the one with the Motorola threatened me repeatedly, saying I should be liquidated. They asked if I knew any Serb surgeons in Priština. I mentioned Tomanović and Sekulić. They asked about others. I asked them what had happened to Tomanović but received no reply. When I asked why they needed surgeons, one of them replied that they did not have qualified people, and that a young man who had been wounded in the leg lost it because the surgeon did not perform the operation properly. They ordered me to empty my pockets and the bag I had with me. They kept everything, my address book, my father's contract for his apartment, and some papers from my office. Among those papers was a letter from the Kosovo Helsinki Committee which confirmed that I had protected the property of one of the Committee members during the war. Actually, the son of this member had a computer center and I placed the Gallery plaque on its wall so that our army and

police wouldn't steal the computers. They asked me about some Albanian friends whose names were in my address book. I think they were surprised because some of them were high up in the KLA hierarchy. They said over and over that I had to leave Priština.

"After they had questioned me for two hours, two of them went out, saying they would be back shortly, and the third one stayed with me. As soon as they had left, he took the 10 dollars I had put on the table when I emptied my pockets. He said he would give me a receipt for it. When the other two returned, they told him to give back the money. He did and they said I could go but had to move out of Priština. They made me an offer to exchange my apartment with an Albanian from Merdare or Bujanovac (Serbia). I asked them to return my papers and address book and they promised they would tomorrow. We agreed to meet at noon the next day in front of the same cafe."

Tanasković kept the appointment. One of the KLA men was waiting outside the cafe. He said the papers and address book could not be returned yet as they were still being checked and the KLA police were slow. They agreed to meet again at 2 p.m. the next day. All three of his abductors appeared at the time set. They said they had found some Albanians who were willing to exchange their apartments in Lebane and Merdare for Tanasković's apartment. He turned down the offer. They told him his papers would be returned later that afternoon and Tanasković suggested that they come to his home as moving about town was dangerous in the afternoon. They agreed but did not show up. Tanasković and his family fled Priština to Serbia on 18 August.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2.2. Escaped

K.B. (M, 27), from Kojlovica, Priština Municipality, Telecom employee; his brother **K.S.** (M, 31), worker at the Dobri Do coal mine; **D.** (or **P.**) **S.** (M, 42), electrician with Priština Police Department, Serbs – abducted by the KLA on 14 June 1999 and escaped three days later.

K.B. recounted to the HLC that Kojlovica Serbs were leaving their homes on 14 June as their Albanian neighbors, who had returned to the village, threatened to kill them all unless they moved out. K.B.'s family set out on two tractors, with K.B., his mother and uncle riding on the first and his brother K.S. on the second. They were stopped on the road from Kojlovica to Priština by members of the KLA who were not in uniform but wore red armbands inscribed with the letters UÇK (Albanian acronym for KLA). K.B. recognized some of them as villagers from Nova Kojlovica but does not know them by name. They ordered the brothers to go with them.

"They set on us as soon as they had us off the road. They hit us with spades and punched and kicked us. Then they dragged us another 500 meters in the direction of Taslidže (Taslixhe). A car came for us, an old model, metallized blue Mercedes 200. Some men got out of the car. They tied our hands with rope and blindfolded us. They pushed me into the back seat; I sat between two of them. Though he is bigger than me, they made my brother get in the trunk. They stopped and got us out of the car. They led us into the yard of a house in Taslidže. It was above the teachers' college, on the left side, the last house on the hill. They took off our blindfolds. A girl of maybe 23 motioned for them to take us down into the cellar. She drew her hand across my throat as if telling me I would be slaughtered. My brother was all bloody from the beating he got."

Another Serb prisoner, D. (or P.) S., also bound, was in the cellar. They were led out one by one, their eyes blindfolded, and taken to another house where they were questioned and beaten. The interrogators mainly demanded that they reveal the names of Kojlovica villagers implicated in crimes against the Albanian population.

"When they had questioned us all, they moved us to some other house and made us strip down to our underpants. Almost naked, we were tied up, separately and then to each other, with a thick rope. We sat with our backs to each other. We were made to sit up straight for hours and not allowed to lower our heads or lean against each other. That was where we got the worst beatings. They kicked and punched us and when they got tired, they'd get a plastic hose or a metal tube from a vacuum cleaner and beat us with them.

"They didn't care where they hit us – on the head, body, wherever they could. They cursed and swore at us and spat on us. At one point, I went crazy from the beating and started yelling that I wanted to see the one in charge. They barged in and stuck the barrel of a pistol in my mouth. I thought they were going to shoot me. They took off my blindfold and I saw Čamilj Pajazit (Pajaziti Qamil) from Nova Kojlovica (Kolovicë e Re) among them. I know him well from the village, he's 39 years old. He's the one who beat me most. A young guy of no more than 19 who was with him tried to defend us. Pajazit might have killed me if it hadn't been for that young man. He asked me who had torched his house. I said I didn't know and asked him where he was at the time. He replied that he had fled. And then I asked him if anyone had tried to stop him or had given him a hard time. No, he said. I asked why he was doing this to us. He just went on beating me and said that his time had come. They poured cold water over us at about 3 a.m. and left us there. One of them came in later and threw a blanket over us. It was the young man, I think."

The next day, 15 July, the three prisoners found a piece of glass on the floor with which they were able to cut their bonds. They took advantage of a moment when a KFOR truck was passing the house to escape.

"The door wasn't locked. I suppose they thought they had tied us up so tight that we wouldn't be able to get free. There was a KFOR soldier patrolling the street about 500 meters from the house. I told my brother to run out of the house and toward the soldier. The electrician went after him and I was the last." As they spoke with the KFOR soldiers, local Albanians gathered around and abused and threatened them. They were taken to a KFOR command post where they gave statements about their abduction. The Albanian interpreter refused to translate everything they said and told them, "This is war, it happened to us too. I'm not going to translate that."

K.B. and K.S. fled to Serbia on 17 June.
Source: HLC, witness statement

S.M. (M, 47), Serb, from Priština, financial manager of the Komunalac company – abducted by the KLA on 19 June 1999 when leaving the company building; escaped the next day.

S.M. described what happened:

"I saw seven men come into the building. Four climbed up to the mezzanine. An Albanian employee called to me to come out, saying there was something he wanted to ask me. As I went toward the entrance, I passed by the four men and left them behind me. They came after me and grabbed me as I was going down the stairs and took me outside. They were in civilian clothes apart from one who was wearing the KLA uniform. Two automobiles arrived. Some other men took over and pushed me into the back seat. I sat in the middle with one on either side of me. One showed me a pistol fitted with a silencer. We drove toward the center of Priština. They put a hood over my head."

S. M. was taken to a house in Zlatare village. He was held in the cellar, beaten and questioned. His captors demanded the names of Serbs involved in crimes against the Albanian population.

"They punched me on the head and in my stomach. As they beat me they kept saying, 'Serb mafioso, how many Albanians have you killed, how many women have you raped?' One of them took off the hood and kicked me in the chest so hard that I fell off the chair. After a while, the one in charge came down and said, 'Sorry for giving you such a hard time. You're lucky you landed in my hands. All we want is the truth. Come on, admit with whom in the Army and police you collaborated!'"

At times, two KLA members would take M. S. to a nearby woods where they tied him to a tree, beat him and threatened to kill him.

"We walked for about 20 minutes. They tied me to a tree and asked if I wanted to be taken back to the boss to start talking or be killed. When I repeated that I knew nothing, one put the barrel of his automatic to the back of my head and squeezed the trigger. The gun wasn't loaded. After some more of the same kind of talk, the other one came up and pressed his pistol to my temple and squeezed the trigger. It didn't go off - it was empty too. They tormented me in this fashion for an hour and then took me back and continued beating me, all over the body."

S.M. was held in the cellar, tied to a chair. In the evening, his captors brought him water and a piece of pie. He refused to eat or drink as he was not allowed to go to the toilet. They put the pie in a paper bag and left it on the window sill.

"I couldn't sleep at all. I had cramps in my legs. Rats squealed and fought over that piece of pie, running over the paper bag and making it rustle. I was afraid they would jump on me. At about 10 the next morning, they came down to the cellar again, tore off the tape over my mouth and asked if I had changed my mind. They beat me and forced the pie into my mouth. They took me to the woods again."

The KLA men again tied S.M. to a tree, placed a hood over his head and debated between themselves whether to leave him or take him elsewhere. The men finally went away, leaving him tied to the tree. He managed eventually to free himself and escape. He made his way to his in-laws, phoned his family and told them to leave their apartment immediately and go to his mother in Kosovo Polje, after which he reported the incident to KFOR. Relatives drove him to Kosovo Polje and, two days later, he and his family fled to Serbia. S.M. heard subsequently that KLA members had been to his apartment in Priština's Sunčani Breg district on the day of his escape and questioned neighbors about his and his family's whereabouts.

Source: HLC, witness statement

C.S. (M, 55), Serb, from Priština, retired police officer, worked as driver for the Priština branch of the National Bank – abducted by the KLA on 20 June 1999, held in Srbica until 23 June when he escaped.

C.S. left work for home at 3 p.m. on 20 June. He described what happened then: "It was 3.30 when I went into my building. I live on the fourth floor but the elevator was out of order and kept getting stuck on the fourth so I hit the button for the fifth. When I got up to the fifth floor, three KLA members came into the elevator. They didn't let me out, just pushed me back and got the elevator down to the ground floor. They wore black vests and spoke Albanian. One put his knife against my throat, two pointed their pistols at me. They took my wallet and watch, took off my shoes, and took the car keys - the keys of my metallized grey BMW 318, license plates PR 193-14, and the bank's metallized gray Opel Vectra

with Belgrade license plates. They handcuffed me, led me out of the building and put me in their gray Opel Ascona. They asked where the cars were and I said in the National Bank's parking lot. We went there and cruised around the building for a while but couldn't get in because our security guards, some retirees, were there.

"Then they drove me to Srbica and took me into a private house. Their commander was there, a thin man with slicked-down hair. 'How was your trip,' he asked in Albanian and I replied it hadn't been bad. They beat me, each of them every time he passed near me. They asked why I hadn't run and what I was still doing there. Then they put me into a Lada car and took me to the guardhouse at the Srbica mill. Three of them guarded me by day. They would leave in the evening and another one would come. The man who guarded me at night was from Srbica. He was much better than the others. His house was near by and once he brought me bread just baked by his wife and a piece of cheese. I couldn't eat. He gave me cigarettes too. They gave me water regularly. During the day, they demanded that I write down on a piece of paper the names of Albanians I had killed, raped, robbed... One time, one of them brought a paper bag and asked me how much it could hold. I said 20 to 25 kilos and he replied that I would fit into the bag when they killed me. One made me kiss the flag-badge on his uniform three times. Then he said he was going to ask me a question and would kill me if I gave the wrong answer. He asked who I would choose to be the president of Kosovo – Ibrahim Rugova or Hašim Taçi (Hashim Taqi). I said Rugova was prone to hem and haw, that Taçi did what he said he would do so I would choose him if I was them. He said that was the right answer.

Three days later, at about 8.30 in the evening of 23 June, I told the guy from Srbica I had to go to the toilet. I wasn't tied – they had taken the cuffs off because my hands had swollen up badly. I sneaked out and escaped through the woods. I ran to a field where some Gurkhas with KFOR were clearing mines. I told them what had happened to me and they offered me food and drink. I spent the night there, they took down my statement on eight pages, and then they drove me to Priština."

On arriving home, C.S. found that his wife had already left Priština and was with her sister in Čaglavica village. C.S. spent the night with a friend in Priština and joined his wife the next day. They left Kosovo for Serbia a week later.

Source: HLC, witness statement

M.M. (M, 34), Serb, from Priština, police officer – abducted on 26 June 1999 in Priština; held for four days in a KLA prison in the Sunčani Breg district, Priština. M.M.'s wife and children left Priština immediately after the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police. He and his mother stayed. Before 25 June, an

Albanian friend told M.M. the KLA had questioned people in Mušutište, a village near Priština, about him.

At 5 a.m. on 26 June M.M., who kept watch alternately with his mother, noticed three armed KLA men entering his building.

"I woke my mother, put my weapons in a duffel bag, and we climbed to the roof of the building. We descended on the other side and went into the entrance opposite. An apartment had been looted and its door was open. I don't know by whom; everybody was looting. I concealed my mother and the duffel bag there. I gave her my pistol, took it off safety and cocked it and told her to shoot if anyone came near her. I left the building and ran toward the shopping center that was being built near the School of Humanities. The KLA men saw me and gave chase. They caught up after about 300 meters, struck me on the head with a rifle butt, and tied me up. My mother saw, ran out into the street and after us, shouting, 'Leave him alone – he's done nothing.' They hit her on the head with a rifle butt, she fell, they gave her several more blows and left her in the street. They took me to private house in the Sunčani Breg neighborhood and down to the basement. They led two bound men out. I don't know who they were and only heard the KLA men say 'Take these Škije out and bring in the new one.'

"They untied me and started beating me. They beat me every day, asking which unit I had been in, what I did, who I had killed, where I kept my weapons. They used a baseball bat, hitting me mainly on the soles of my feet and palms. I told them I had stayed because my conscience was clear, that I had not killed or robbed anyone. They just went on beating me. One was called Ljuljzim (Lulzim), a man with brown hair and a dark complexion, about 190 centimeters tall and approximately 30 years old. The other was Gazmend. He was dark and had a mustache and was about 40. The third one didn't come so often. They gave me water in small plastic Coca Cola bottles. It was the second day before they gave me a quarter of a loaf to eat. I was sick from the beatings and couldn't get it down. In the morning of the fourth day, 29 June, they led me out of the house to take me somewhere. I wasn't tied up – all three of them were with me. When we were out in the street, they said in Albanian, 'Go on, run.' I thought they were going to shoot me but I still ran. They fired after me. I don't know how they missed. They probably fired over my head. It seems they didn't want to kill me. I don't know why."

M.M. and his mother immediately fled Kosovo to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

J.V. (M, 26), Serb, from Priština, university student – abducted on 28 June 1999 and escaped the same day.

J.V. was alone at home on 28 June. A group of armed Albanians came into the building in which some Serbs still lived. They first robbed a Serb resident, Božidar, and then threatened another with death unless he rang J.V.'s doorbell. J.V. opened the door and saw his injured Serb neighbor and the armed Albanians, who ordered him to go with them. They drove him to a private house near the Muslim religious school in Priština where they questioned him about a murder and physically abused him. J.V. seized a moment when he was not being watched to escape through a window. He and his mother fled Kosovo to Serbia after the incident.

Source: HLC, witness statement

S.B. (M, 62), Serb, from Gornja Brnjica (Bernica e Epërme), Priština Municipality - abducted in late June 1999.

S.B.'s relative recounted to the HLC that S.B. was abducted by the KLA and imprisoned at an unknown location outside the village. He was able to escape and return to the village.

Source: HLC, witness statement

A.D. (M, 54), Serb, from Priština, lineman, employee of the Serbian Power Company, Dobri Do installation - abducted on 8 July 1999 and imprisoned by the KLA for four days.

A.D. stated that the day before his abduction, 7 July, he and two co-workers were waiting for the company bus some 200 meters from his building to take them to work. A white Yugo car without license plates with three young men between 20 and 25 years of age drove past them. One of the men opened the window and fired a burst of shots at the feet of the three Serbs.

Scared by the incident, his two co-workers did not go to work the next day so that A.D. was alone when left his apartment at 5.45 a.m. on 8 July. When he exited the building, he was stopped by three young KLA men he believes were the same men who had fired him and his co-workers the previous day. One aimed his pistol at A.D. and in Albanian said, 'Get in.' The KLA men forced him into a white Yugo without license plates and drove him to Block D7 in the Ulpijana district. They took him to a private house next to the Catholic church on which the flag of neighboring Albania was hoisted. A.D. learned subsequently that the house belonged to a medical doctor but does not know his name. Armed and uniformed guards stood outside this KLA headquarters. A.D.'s captors handed him over to two men with hoods over their heads.

"One of them pulled my arms behind my back and handcuffed me. The cuffs were so tight that my wrists hurt terribly. Then the two with hoods pushed me into some cellar. It was more like a bunker than a real cellar – a very cramped

space, the door no more than 80 centimeters high and the ceiling barely one meter from the floor. There wasn't room for me to stand up. They locked me in between 6 and 7 a.m. and I was there until 10 p.m. I moaned with pain, my arms hurt, I was all cramped up and couldn't stretch out. I shouted in Albanian for them to take me to their commander. They came for me at 10 p.m., took me out of the cellar and upstairs to their commander's office. He was a very civilized man, I must admit. He was about 35, good-looking, tall, dark, probably an intellectual.

"First they beat me. The commander didn't beat me a lot but his people did. There were both men and women, all in uniform and all quite young. The women dealt out the worst beatings. They had some kind of clubs with which they hit me most of the time. They broke all my teeth. When they stopped sometime before morning, the commander began to question me. While his soldiers were in the office, he spoke Albanian but when they went out and the two of us were alone he spoke perfect Serbian. He asked if I had been mobilized, if I had weapons, both of which I denied. They had found a photo of my son on me and asked where he was, said my boy was a criminal and had killed Albanians. They asked in which unit he was. That wasn't true. I had sent my son to Serbia back in May. He's nineteen and hasn't spent a day in the army, hasn't even done his pre-military training. I told them so but they didn't believe me.

"Every day I was held there was more or less the same as the first. I was locked in the cellar by day, taken out and beaten in the evening, and then taken to the commander's office for questioning. Sometimes we talked nicely. I'm a fisherman and he seemed to like fishing too. We talked about fishing on the lake here, about hooks and stuff like that. They didn't give me any food apart from the third evening when I got a piece of bread and cheese. That was all. They gave me water regularly and, when I was with him, the commander gave me cigarettes.

"On the fourth evening I was being questioned by the commander in his office as usual. The window was broken – I think a draught had banged it and shattered the glass. They had just taken off the cuffs and the commander had given me a cigarette when a loud noise was heard from the ground floor. I have no idea what was going on but they were all very wrought up and ran downstairs, leaving me alone in the office. I didn't think about it long because I knew I had very little time. I went to the broken window. There was a tree below it, an apple or pear, I think. I jumped on the tree, from the tree into the yard and took off. As I tried to get over the fence into the street, the guards began shooting at me. I got into the street, the guards ran out after me, and I saw a dumpster which hadn't been emptied for a long time, with a lot of garbage around it. I hid in the garbage, waited until the guards went back into the yard and when they had gone, started to run. I walked to Kosovo Polje, went into a cafe and called my

wife, told her what had happened, that I had escaped and that she had to flee. She had already reported my disappearance to KFOR, the Red Cross and the Peace and Tolerance Center. She and a woman friend of hers went also to the KLA headquarters to ask about me but they refused to talk with her because she spoke Serbian. My wife doesn't speak Albanian."

From Kosovo Polje, A.D. proceeded to Zvečan from where he fled to Serbia. His wife left Priština several days later, also for Serbia. No KLA members came to their apartment while she was still in Priština.

Source: HLC, witness statement

J.Ž. (M, 40), Serb, from Ugljare; Priština Municipality; **Dj.S.** (M), Serb, from Gornja Brnjica, Priština Municipality; **Stević, Miodrag**, Serb (M), from Laplje Selo, Priština Municipality – abducted by Albanian civilians in Priština on 24 August 1999. J.Ž. and Dj.S. escaped; Miodrag Stević was found severely injured by KFOR on 25 August 1999 and died in the Priština hospital a month later.

J.Ž., the brothers Dj.S. and Dj.N. and Miodrag Stević were hired by the farm cooperative in Laplje Selo to help bring in the harvest in Gornja and Donja Brnjica villages. They left Laplje Selo in a truck about 3 p.m. on 24 August and, running out of fuel in the Vranjevac district of Priština, stopped outside the Municipal Court building and went to the Priština Radio-Television building to seek assistance from KFOR. Dj.N. went with a KFOR patrol to look for fuel while Dj.S., J.Ž. and Stević waited beside the truck. A small boy came up to them between 4 and 5 p.m. and asked for a cigarette in Albanian. They said, also in Albanian, that they had none and the boy left. A few minutes later, a large group of Albanian civilians gathered around them. J.Ž. described what happened then:

"They separated the three of us and started beating us. They swore and cursed our Serb mothers. They punched and kicked me, hit me with metal bars, thick wooden sticks and various tools. Then two Albanians dragged me into a white Audi car. I couldn't see Dj.S. and Miodrag for the crowd of yelling and cursing Albanians around me. The two who took me were almost the same height. One was a bit larger and the other one, who drove, was very fair. They asked if I wanted to be taken to Obilić, Kruševac or Orlović villages. They ordered me to lie down on the back seat but I was able to see that we passed the bus stop and turned right toward the Automobile Alliance.

"They stopped at the Matička River and the one in the passenger seat took me to Matičane village on foot. The one who drove stayed in the car. We went through the orchards alongside the river and, about 100 meters farther on came to a house in Emširovo (Rruga e Emshirit) hamlet under Veternik Hill. Two men came out of the house. I saw it only from the back. It was between 500 and 700 meters from the main road, had two stories and wasn't plastered on the outside.

There was a window on the second floor, the fence was of large red bricks topped with concrete. One of the men was very tall. He wore a red T-shirt and carried a wooden bat. The other one was shorter. All three began to beat me. They forced me to jump over the river. I didn't make it, fell and blacked out. It was about 7 p.m. when I came to. There was a lot of blood around me – it was coming out of my nose, mouth and ears. When I saw I was alone, I managed somehow to get to the river and wash. Then I saw the three Albanians going toward where I had been laying. I hid in the bushes beside the river and they didn't see me. They looked around for a while and left. I set off downriver to Ugljare village. It took me four hours to walk there. I went into a store and told the people there what had happened to me. I blacked out again as I was telling them."

Dj.S. also was able to escape. Miodrag Stević was found by KFOR the next day, severely beaten, and was taken to the Priština hospital where he died after a month in a coma.

Source: HLC, witness statement

G.D. (F, 22); her son **G.N.** (2), Serbs, from Priština - abducted by the KLA on 18 June 1999. They were taken to a brothel in the As Cafe in Sankovce, Macedonia, where G.D.'s son was separated from her and she was forced to prostitute herself. They managed to escape on 9 September 1999.

G.D. stated that KLA commander Imer Marmulaku (Ymer Marmullaku) and his brothers repeatedly came to her home after the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police from Kosovo, and threatened to kill her and her son unless she moved out. She reported these threats to KFOR several times but was advised only to keep her door locked. She described what happened next:

"Somebody rang the doorbell between 6 and 7 p.m. on 18 June. A man said he would put a bomb by the door unless I opened. When I did, four Albanians came in – Imer Marmulak; Ismet from Taslić (Tasligje) Street, a cigarette vendor; Fadilj (Fadil), a KLA commander from Podujevo. I didn't know the fourth. They had KLA uniforms but wore shirts over them. They came in and showed me a cloth KLA badge. All had knives in their belts and pistols. Imer said I would definitely move out now and put his knife to my son's throat. The others searched the apartment, and took the money and gold jewelry. Imer said they were taking me somewhere and told me to get a sweat suit for my son. The door of the apartment was open and the noise they were making could probably be heard. Two of my neighbors and another man came in and threw out the attackers. The three of them spent the night at my place and left at about 7 p.m. the next day to find me transportation to Sušica where I planned to flee. As soon as they left, four Albanian men – Femija, about 45; his brother; Fadilj, the KLA commander in Podujevo; and Isat from Drenica, came in. Isat asked if I had any weapons and said he was going to move his family into my apartment. Fadilj said

to him that he was taking me away and that Isat had all day to move his family in. They said we were going to leave at once and that I should take a sweat suit for my son. I started weeping and said to Isat that he could come with his family, that we could all live together, me in one room and they could take the rest of the apartment. They wouldn't listen. I asked where they were taking me but they wouldn't say. They led me out to a white Mazda car with Tetovo [Macedonia] license plates. Ismet, from Gostivar in Macedonia, was behind the wheel. My son and I got in the car, followed by Femija and his brother. Fadilj and Isat went back to the apartment.

"I don't know which road we took. We went through some woods, stopped at a spring where Femija filled a bottle with water for me and my son. We reached the Macedonian border at 10 p.m. Femija got out at the border crossing and his brother pointed his pistol at my son. He said he would shoot him if I tried anything. Femija knew the man in a yellow T-shirt and vest who worked at the border. The man had some kind of tag on his chest but I couldn't see what was written on it. I saw Fadilj give the man a refugee ID in which there were several bills. The man took the money and put it in his pocket. Femija got me out of the car, the man took my photo with a Polaroid camera so that the picture came out at once. He cut the photo to size and stuck it in the refugee ID. In the meantime, Femija's brother talked in Albanian with several policemen who worked at the border while Ismet held my son. I tried again to ask them where they were taking me and why but they did not answer.

"Femija's brother got out of the car when we crossed the border and we drove on for about another hour. We reached Gostivar about 11 p.m. and went into a cafe with a door painted black. We sat down in the garden where there were two or three tables. All the people in the cafe knew Ismet and said hello to him. When I asked yet again where we were going, they replied that we would be there soon. In the cafe, Ismet talked to a man he called 'Boss.' The boss asked him if he was bringing something new and Ismet said he was. Then we got back in the car, drove back to the intersection and turned left and then into the first street on the right. It was an asphalt road and a lot of houses were being built alongside. We went by a medical station, across the street from which was the Gurman Cafe. We went into this cafe. There were two booths on one side and a bar with two Romanian women behind it on the other. Ismet went up to them and asked for the boss in Albanian. They greeted him and Femija heartily and asked if he was bringing me from Kosovo.

"They took me up to the stairs to the first floor where there was a striptease bar. It was empty except for the owner and a girl. Then Ismet and Femija and the owner tried to talk me into working there, waiting tables and sleeping with the customers if I wanted to. They said I would get money if I did. I said I had never worked as a waitress before and started weeping and begging them to take me

back to Kosovo. We went back downstairs and they led me into a room behind the bar. There were three beds in the room on which two girls from Bulgaria were sitting. They were kind, told me to put my son to sleep in another room and come back. When I came back, the bartender brought some food and soft drinks. After we ate, the two girls went out and locked me in. Ismet and another man, Fadilj from Žerovnica (Zharevice), woke me about 5 a.m. and said I was to go with them. They drove me and my son to the As Cafe in Sankovce (Shakovice) village. It was cheaply furnished. The tables were of planks and covered with checked cloths. There were a lot of girls inside. They took me behind the bar and through a short corridor to a room on the right side. There were six beds in the room, a lot of girls and it smelled horrible. There were about 70 girls from Kosovo, Romania and Bulgaria in this cafe. When Ismet and Fadilj took me to the room, the cafe owner also came. He took my son from me and took him to his house, next to the cafe. From then on, I could only see my son secretly, through a crack in the wall through which I could see into the cafe owner's yard. His family called my son by a different name and spoke only Albanian with him. When he asked for his mother or said something in Serbian, I heard a woman tell him that mama was gone and that he was not to talk Serbian.

"I was in that cafe from 20 June to 9 September 1999. I was raped three to five times every day. The men almost never used condoms. Many asked specifically for me because they had heard I was Serb. They said they had never had sex with a Serb woman before. After raping me, they would very often beat me. A man once set my clothes on fire. There were about 20 girls from Kosovo there and they were all treated the same as me. One was Serb and, like me, had been brought there with her son. They cut off her son's tongue before her eyes and forced her to swallow it."

G.D. was able to steal a cellular phone on 7 September 1999 and call her mother. Two days later, on 9 September, she escaped together with her son.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2.3 Set free

N.M.(F); her daughter, Serbs – abducted in mid-October 1999 in Priština.

The mother and daughter were abducted by a group of Albanians in mid-October in Priština. They were taken to a private house near Uroševac where they were physically and sexually abused until they were freed by the UNMIK police in mid-November.

Source: *Mother and Daughter Raped Every Day*, Kosovo Daily News, 14 November 1999.

3. Detained

Panić, Radivoje (M), Serb, from Priština, Orthodox clergyman – detained by the KLA outside his parish house on 9 July 1999.

Father Panić related the incident to the HLC:

"I left my parish house at noon that day, opened the garage door and got into the car. Suddenly, three KLA members were around me: one on the right side with his fingers on the pin of a hand grenade, another of the left side with his pistol aimed at me – he was shorter than the other two and very dark, about 30 – and the third in front of me with his knife drawn. They ordered me to get out of the car and warned me against trying to escape. One asked why I had taken their car. I said that wasn't true, that the car was the property of the Diocese of Montenegro and the Coastlands. There was another priest in the parish house but I was afraid to call out to him. The KLA man with the pistol got into the car but couldn't start it. The other two told me to get in, which I refused to do. I saw that they were in a dilemma – whether to beat me up on the spot or force me into the car. They knew I was a priest because I was in my robe. Then the KLA man in the car started the engine, the other two opened the gate and he drove it out into the street. I saw a lot of people in the street. The two KLA men also went out and left, without saying another word."

Priests in Gračanica told Father Panić they had seen unidentified men driving the stolen car through the village.

Source: HLC, witness statement

PRIZREN

1. Missing

Tanasković, Dragoljub (M, 53); **Vučetić, Dragan** (M, 32) Serbs, both captains in the military police reserve; **Pantić, Žarko** (M); **Todorović, Života** (M, 32); **Filipović, Žarko** (M, 37), from Prizren; **Cvetković, Bojan** (M, 27), Serbian Serbs, from Niš, Yugoslav Army reservists – last seen on 11 April 1999 at Suva Reka on the Priština-Prizren road.

The families have learned that the missing men were travelling in a red Iveco van (license plates PZ 106-341, owned by the Prizren cigarette factory) and were last seen when they turned off the main road toward Lešane (Leshanë), Suva Reka Municipality. Colonel Tomislav Mitić told the families that Captains Tanasković and Vučetić were taking two arrested reservists, Filipović and Cvetković, to Priština. Somewhat later, an Albanian who introduced himself as Baljaji (Balaji) said he was the KLA commander in Prizren, called Col. Mitić, said he had Capt. Vučetić and would exchange him for an Albanian prisoner in Serbia. There was no further word from Baljaji.

Capt. Vučetić's sister stated that the commanding officer of the police force in Prizren, where her brother worked until he resigned in January 1999, had called her sister-in-law to inform her that a KLA commander named Ekrem Redža³³ (Ekrem Rexha) had contacted him and inquired whether and until when Vučetić had been on the Prizren police force.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Andjelković, Stojan (M, 47), Serb, from Zojić (Zojiq), Prizren Municipality – disappeared on 5 June 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Drakulović, Radivoje (M, 67), Serb, from Prizren (55 Metohijska St.) – last seen on 10 June 1999.

Drakulović's daughter said her father remained alone in Prizren after her brother and his family fled to Serbia on 10 June. On 24 June, a relative informed them the KLA had forced Prizren Serbs from their homes and that KFOR had found them shelter in some barracks. One day, Drakulović went to check up on his apartment and did not return. Before leaving the barracks, he gave his personal papers and a letter to his family to a friend who was also there for safekeeping.

In the letter, which was undated, he wrote that he had been threatened by the KLA and forced from his home.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Andjelko (M, 80); **Ristić, Jovanka** (F, 76); **Ristić, Milevka** (F, 50); **Ristić, Mirko** (M, 52), Serbs, from Dvorane (Dvoran), Suva Reka Municipality – disappeared on 11 June 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Janičević, Stanimir (M, 59), Serb, from Gornje Selo (Gornasellë), Prizren Municipality – disappeared on 13 June 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Mirković, Srečko (M); **Mirković, Tomislav** (M); **Tlokoć, Veselin** (M, 71); **Jovanović, Dejan** (M); **Arsić, Jovan** (M, 33), Serbs, from Prizren – disappeared on the Prizren-Brezovica road after 14 June 1999.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

³³ Ekrem Redža was killed in Prizren on 8 May 2000.

Pantaloni, Djordje (M, 31), Serb, from Prizren – disappeared on 15 June 1999 in Prizren.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Veličković, Biserka (F, 48), Serb, from Prizren – disappeared on 15 June 1999 in the Prizren area.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Stanković, Borka (F, 43); her grandson **Miloš** (9 months), Serbs, from Prizren – last seen on 16 June 1999 in Karadjordjeva Street in Prizren.

Source: *Nema ni glasa o Borki i Milošu* [No Trace of Borka and Miloš], DANAS, 27 August 1999

Djordjević, Evica (F, 30), Serb, from Prizren (2A Karadjordjeva St.), legal officer with secondary school student hostel – disappeared on 16 June 1999.

A neighbor told the HLC that Ms. Djordjević lived with her brother, a Yugoslav Army reservist who was called when the NATO intervention started. The brother left for Serbia when the Yugoslav Army withdrew from Kosovo and she remained alone in their apartment. An Albanian woman friend offered to move in with Ms. Djordjević to protect her. Ms. Djordjević told her that she had no weapons in the apartment, only the jacket of her brother's military uniform. When the KLA came to the apartment, the friend told them Ms. Djordjević was a good person and should be left alone. They searched the apartment, found firearms in a bag and said to the friend, "See, there's your good person!" The KLA members took Evica Djordjević to their headquarters in the former Yugoslav Army Cultural Center, questioned her and then allowed her to go home but ordered her to return the next day. When she returned to her apartment building, she told her friend and neighbors she had kept the guns for self-protection. Her friend went to her home and Ms. Djordjević stayed alone in her apartment that night and was not since again by her neighbors.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Nuhić, Sehida (F), Muslim, from Prizren; **Rama, Sefer** (M), Muslim, from Musnikovo (Mushnikovë), Prizren Municipality; **Hajredin Fadilj** (M), Muslim, from Planjan, Prizren Municipality - disappeared in mid-June 1999 in Prizren.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Muharemi, Ramiz (M, 21), Rom, from Prizren – disappeared on 18 June 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Roma in the Kosovo Conflict*, ERRIC, November 1999

Azari, Fadilj (M), Muslim, from Planjane, Prizren Municipality; his friend **Milenković, Momir** (M), Serb, from Vrbičane, Prizren Municipality – disappeared on 29 June 1999 in Prizren.

Azari and Milenković left Planjane for Prizren in a yellow Zastava 750 car. A man called Asim thumbed a ride from them at the Muslim village Rečane on Mt. Brezovica and they drove him to Prizren. Azari's family spoke with Asim who said Azari and Milenković dropped him off in the Rahlin (Rahllin) quarter in Prizren and proceeded to the Kurili (Kurilli) neighborhood where Milenković had a house. Asim was the last person to see the two missing men.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Nekić, Miloš (M, 70), Serb, from Prizren (Narodnih Heroja St.), retired – disappeared in late June 1999.

Nekić's niece recounted that her mother Magdalena Jovanović fled her home to the Serbian Orthodox seminary when unidentified persons slit the throat of a neighbor in mid-June. Nekić came to the seminary in late June. A few days later, Mrs. Jovanović left for Montenegro while Nekić stayed in the seminary.

Prizren Serbs who had found refuge in the seminary arrived in Serbia in August 1999. Nekić's relatives inquired about him but were told that he was not at the seminary and that no one had seen him.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djekić, Srećko (M, 50), Serb, from Dojnice, Prizren Municipality – disappeared in late June when he left the Serbian Orthodox seminary in Priština to meet with an Albanian friend.³⁴

Source: HLC, witness statement

Kadriu, Ljuan (Kadri, Luan) (M); **Ekremi, Nedžat (Ekrem, Nexhat)** (M), Turks, from Prizren (Nos. 64 and 65 Durmiš Aslani (Durmish Asllani) St.)) – disappeared in early July 1999.

Source: *Od dolaska KFOR-a kidnapovano 645 civila* [645 Civilians Kidnapped Since KFOR's Arrival], POLITIKA, 22 October 1999

Ilić, Petar (M, 17), Serb, from Gornje Selo, Prizren Municipality – last seen on 9 July 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Simonović, Nenad (M, 42), Serb, from Prizren (24 Gani Čavdarbašija (Gani Čavdërbasha) St.)), travel agency employee – disappeared on 16 July 1999.

³⁴ Witness statement on Djekić's abduction, escape and disappearance: Prizren, 2. Abducted.

The majority of Prizren Serbs left the town on 13 and 14 June. Simonović, his mother, wife and three daughters decided to stay. Three armed Albanians came to their house on the night of 13/14 July and demanded that Simonović hand over his weapons. He denied having any. They searched the house, found no firearms and then demanded Simonović's car. He gave them the registration and keys. At first, the Albanians wanted to take Simonović with them but changed their minds and left, after warning him that his entire family would be killed if he reported them to KFOR.

The next day, Simonović and his wife went to see an Albanian friend to seek help. He offered to put them in touch with foreign reporters under whose protection they could reach Kosovo Polje. On 15 July, Simonović went to see another Albanian acquaintance, Sami, proprietor of the Pojate Restaurant and a grill room in central Prizren, and offered him his house in exchange for Sami's car since they needed transportation to leave Prizren. Sami took their ID cards and title deed to the house and said he would consult a lawyer as to whether such an exchange could be made. They agreed to meet again the next day at Sami's grill room. Simonović kept the appointment but Sami did not turn up. This was confirmed by staff at the grill room. Simonović was last seen outside the grill room.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stevanović, Ljubisavka (F, 63), Serb – disappeared on 20 July 1999 in Prizren
Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Nikolić, Ratko (M); **Stanković, Dejan** (M), Serbian Serbs, from Niš – last seen on 24 July 1999 in Prizren.
Source: *In Prizren Ethnic Cleansing of Non-Albanians Continues*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 15 August 1999.

Stančić, Milan (M), Serb, from Prizren – disappeared on the night of 26/27 July 1999.

A neighbor recounted to the HLC that Mrs. Stančić fled Prizren to Serbia while her husband stayed. It was his custom to hang the cage with his budgerigars on the terrace every morning and then have coffee with his neighbors. The neighbors called him in the morning of 27 July but there was no reply nor was the bird cage on the terrace. The neighbors called KFOR, a patrol came and entered the apartment. There were no signs of a forcible entry but Stančić was not there. A few days before Stančić's disappearance, KLA members came to his apartment looking for weapons, the neighbor added.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Zeković, Vojislav (M, 58), Serb, from Prizren – last seen on 29 July 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Antić (first name unknown) (M), Serb, from Prizren, son of Dobrila Antić – disappeared in July 1999 when he left Brezovica to where he had been displaced to check up on his apartment in Prizren.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Jeftić, Budimir (M, 72), Serb, from Prizren – disappeared in July 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Mirčević (first name unknown) (M), Serb – disappeared in early August 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *In Prizren Ethnic Cleansing of Non-Albanians Continues*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 15 August 1999.

Nikolić, Tatjana (F), Serbian Serb, from Kruševac – disappeared in early August 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *In Prizren Ethnic Cleansing of Non-Albanians Continues*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 15 August 1999.

Stojković, Dejan (M), Serb, from Štrpce – disappeared on 4 August in Prizren.

Stojković came to Prizren on 4 August to see his grandparents. He was last seen in a car with the license plates PZ 216-53.

Source: *In Prizren Ethnic Cleansing of Non-Albanians Continues*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 15 August 1999.

Petković, Vidoje (M), Serb – disappeared on 4 August 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *In Prizren Ethnic Cleansing of Non-Albanians Continues*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 15 August 1999.

Nikolić, Dragan (M, 28); **Arsić, Stevan** (M, 36), Serbian Serbs, from Babušnica, Pirot Municipality – disappeared on 7 August 1999 in Prizren.

Nikolić and Arsić went missing in Prizren when transporting construction materials in a truck (license plates PI 226-07).

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [Eleven Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999; Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Dimov, Trajče (M, 29), Macedonian Macedonian, from Tetovo – disappeared on 11 August 1999 in Prizren.

Dimov was last seen transporting foodstuffs to Prizren in a truck (license plates TE 448-98).

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [Eleven Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999; Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Stanojević, Stanislav (M), Serb – disappeared on 13 August 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [Eleven Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999

Mojsilović, Dragan (M, 24), Serbian Serb, from Prokuplje - disappeared on 15 August 1999.

Belgrade newspapers reported that Mojsilović was staying temporarily in Štrpce village. On 15 August, he left for Prizren to bring his mother and sister to Štrpce.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [Eleven Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999; *Majka i beba žive zapaljane* [Mother and Baby Burned Alive], POLITIKA, 28 June 1999

Stojković, Dragana (F, 33), Serbian Serb, from Niš – disappeared on 15 or 16 August 1999 when she came to Prizren to take her grandparents out of Kosovo.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [Eleven Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999

Šurdić, Dragan (M, 37), Serb, from Prizren (7 Lenjinova St.), mechanical engineer, employee of Prizren waterworks – disappeared on 18 August 1999

Šurdić lived with his 72-year-old mother who is blind and hard of hearing. She told the HLC that armed KLA members came to their apartment on 17 August and threatened to kill them unless they moved out. In the evening of 18 August, Mrs. Šurdić took some sleeping pills, fell asleep and did not hear what happened to her son.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Mirković, Stojadin (M); his wife **Mirković, Rada**, Serbs, from Prizren – disappeared after 23 August 1999 in the Prizren area.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Batronožić, Mirko (M), Serb – last seen on 2 September 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Kosovo Flash News*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 3 September 1999

Jovanović, Miloš (M, 49); **Djukić, Stevan** (M, 63); **Djukić, Jovanka** (F), Serbs – disappeared on 3 September 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Killing, Torching and Expulsion*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 7 September 1999

Čeku, Fahri (Çeku Fahri) (M, 49), medical technician; **Tufa, Suzana** (F, 29), nurse, Roma –disappeared on 4 September 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Ubistva i otmice civila (jun-septembar)* [Killing and Abduction of Civilians (July-September)], ODGOVOR, 23 September 1999

Dojčinovski, Trajče (M, 30), Macedonian Macedonian, from Skopje, truck driver – last seen on 6 September 1999 in Prizren.

Dojčinovski disappeared on 6 September when he arrived in Prizren from Tetovo, Macedonia, with a load of foodstuffs ordered by an associate in Prizren.

Source: *Od dolaska KFOR-a kidnapovano 645 civila* [645 Civilians Kidnapped Since KFOR's Arrival], POLITIKA, 22 October 1999

Biliban, Ekrem (M, 29), Turk – disappeared on 7 September 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Rafal na kolonu Srba* [Fire Opened at Column of Serbs], BLIC, 15 September 1999.

Stojković, R. Dragan (M, 33), Serb, from Prizren, employee of Prizren utilities company – last seen on 7 September 1999 near Landovica (Landovicë) village on the Prizren-Suva Reka road.

Source: *Rafal na kolonu Srba* [Fire Opened at Column of Serbs], BLIC, 15 September 1999.

Aslani, Tefik (Asllani, Tefik) (M, 46); his relative **Kuksi, Aćif (Kukësi, Aqif)** (M, 52), Turks – last seen in Prizren on 8 September 1999.

Source: *Rafal na kolonu Srba* [Fire Opened at Column of Serbs], BLIC, 15 September 1999.

Sagati, Ahmet (M, 51), Muslim, from Prizren (entrance 1, building VII, Ortolak (Ortakoll) neighborhood)), employee of Printeks textile factory – last seen on 11 September 1999.

Sagati's brother-in-law Džemail (Xhemail) stated that he and his wife last saw Sagati when they visited with him on 11 September. They left him about 9 p.m. to return to their village Rečane (Reçan) and invited Sagati to come to see them the next morning. Sagati did not come and three days later they went to Prizren to look for him. Neighbors told them they had not seen Sagati recently. They reported his disappearance to UNMIK and KFOR.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jović, Stojadin (M, 63), Serb – disappeared on 15 September 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Nastavljen teror nad srpskim stanovništvom* [Terrorization of Serb Population Continues], DANAS, 20 September 1999

Lukić, Petar (M, 32), Montenegrin Montenegrin; **Lulić, Zekrija** (M, 26); Montenegrin Muslim, from Cetinje, truckers – disappeared on 15 September 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Nastavljen teror nad srpskim stanovništvom* [Terrorization of Serb Population Continues], DANAS, 20 September 1999

Simić, Ljubiša (M, 42), Serb – disappeared on 15 September 1999 in Prizren.

Source: *Nastavljen teror nad srpskim stanovništvom* [Terrorization of Serb Population Continues], DANAS, 20 September 1999

Cvetović, Dragan (M); **Veljković, Bane** (M, 69), Serbs; **Redžepi, Beskim (Rexhepi Bashim)** (M, 46); **Batoli, Osman (Batolli Osman)** (M, 39); another **four unidentified Roma** – disappeared after 15 September 1999.

Source: *New Wave of Violence*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 19 September 1999

Cvetković, Dejan (M), Serb – disappeared on 23 September 1999 in Prizren

Source: *Albanian Terrorists Burn Alive Six-Month Baby*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 26 September 1999

Ogarević, Božidar (M, 76), Serb, from Prizren (45 Durmiš Aslani St.) – disappeared on 29 October 1999.

Ogarević's daughter recounted that the family fled Prizren on 14 June. Only her father stayed to take care of his 96-year-old mother, who was the last person to see him in the morning of 29 October. In early November, her brother called her to say amateur radio operators had passed him a message from Father Ilija of the Serbian Orthodox seminary in Prizren that their father was missing.

Father Ilija learned of Ogarević's disappearance from KFOR. Ogarević had gone to buy bread at a bakery some 100 meters from his home in the morning of 29 October and failed to return. His mother called neighbors who informed KFOR and the International Red Cross. The elderly woman was in Prizren until 25 February 2000 when she was evacuated to Serbia by the International Red Cross.

Ogarević's son spoke with an Albanian neighbor in Prizren, Ljuan Emra (Luan Emra), who first told him his father had been killed and, later, that he had heard this was not true. Emra lived opposite Ogarević and on 28 October, when he saw him last, advised him to keep off the streets as much as possible.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jovanović, Tomislav (M, 45), Serb, from Gornje Selo, Prizren Municipality, employee of Prizren-Prevoz – disappeared on 1 November 1999.

Mrs. Jovanović stated that her husband went missing after he left home for work at 9.30 a.m. on 1 November.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

2. Abducted

Šalja, Beaidin (Shala, Beaydin) (M, 34), farmer; **Morina, Mahmut** (M, 34), Turks, from Mamuša (Mamushë), Prizren Municipality – abducted in April 1999.

Raman Šalja stated his brother, eight-year-old nephew Ergilj (Ergyl), and Morina went to a hill known as Kolibar (Kollibar) to round up livestock belonging to Albanians who had fled the village in order to make a list, take care of the animals and return them to their owners when they came back to Mamuša. Somewhat later, Ergilj came running home and told his uncle that four Serbian soldiers had tied up his father and Morina and taken them away. The boy said the soldiers were in camouflage uniforms with red strips on their lapels.

Hasan Hajredini, a member of the KLA, told Raman Šalja that he had seen his brother and Morina in a shed close to the vineyards, that they were bound, and that he was unable to help them as there were many Serbian soldiers at the location. A friend told Raman Šalja he had heard on Radio Deutsche Welle that his brother was in the Sremska Mitrovica prison in Serbia. The names of Beaidin Šalja and Mahmut Morina, however, are not on the official lists of Kosovo detainees and prisoners in Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stevanović, Vlastimir (M, 29), Serb, from Dojnica, Prizren Municipality, civilian, employed as waiter by the Yugoslav Army – abducted on 12 June 1999 near Skorobište (Romaje), Prizren Municipality; **S.Z.** (M), Serb, from Prizren, who was with Stevanović, managed to escape.

At noon on 12 June, Stevanović and his friend S.Z. left Dojnica in a yellow Zastava 750 (license plates PZ 100-90) for Prizren. They were stopped at a KLA checkpoint outside Skorobište. S.Z. told the HLC that two KLA members in camouflage uniforms and armed with automatic rifles ordered them out of the car to be searched. S.Z. is certain that one of the men, who was about 30, was from the nearby village of Koriša (Korishë).

After searching S.Z., the KLA men found that Stevanović had an automatic rifle he had received from the Yugoslav Army. As Stevanović and the KLA men argued about the rifle, S.Z. jumped over a fence and ran away. The KLA men fired after him but missed. S.Z. walked back to Dojnica and fled to Serbia with his family. Three days later, Stevanović's father **Slobodan** was abducted by the KLA from the home of his other son (building 2, entrance IV, Dositejeva St.) in Prizren. He

was held in the cellar of a house belonging to a Serb who had fled, Dragan Spasić, together with **Stanković Novica** (20). Stevanović and Stanković were freed by KFOR the same day.³⁵

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ilić, Ilija (M, 49), Serb, from Prizren, employee of Prizren waterworks – abducted on 14 June 1999.

A group of KLA members came to Ilić's home. When Ilić handed over his gun, the KLA men took him away.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

(**Last name unknown**), **Dejan** (M), Serb, from Prizren, medical technician at the Prizren hospital – abducted by the KLA on 15 June 1999.³⁶

Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristanović, Momčilo, Bosnian Serb, refugee, employee of the Prizren Monuments Protection Authority – abducted by the KLA from his apartment in Prizren on 17 June 1999.

Mrs. Ristanović and her son were told by neighbors that Muhamed Krasnići (Muhamed Krasniqi), an Albanian who subsequently moved into their apartment, and another man wearing a black uniform with KLA insignia, came on 17 June, tied up her husband Momčilo Ristanović, forced him into a van parked outside the building and drove him away. The nameplate on their apartment door was removed and replaced with another inscribed KLA.

Mrs. Ristanović heard from friends that her husband was taken to Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in order that the Bosnian authorities could determine whether he had been indicted for war crimes. The Bosnian authorities officially notified her that they were not holding her husband and that he had not been indicted.

"When I received the notification, I made a statement to KFOR in Štrpce. Robert Paliuk, a Polish member of KFOR wrote up a report and sent it to the UNMIK police in Prizren. He said it would be a month before the reply came. A month later, they told me to wait another 10 days. I went to KFOR again on 4 May 2000. Paliuk told me he hadn't received a reply yet but they were going to Prizren the next day and I could go with them.

"We started out at 8 a.m. on 5 August and went first to the UNMIK police. Paljuk gave them my particulars, ID card, and the title deed to the apartment in Prizren. Then, with three UNMIK policemen and an Albanian woman interpreter,

³⁵ Witness statement on abduction and freeing of Stevanović Slobodan and Stanković Novica: Prizren, 2.2.3. Set free.

³⁶ Witness statement on the abduction of Dejan: Prizren, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

we went to our apartment. The window panes were broken and there was a nameplate reading Krasnići on the door. We rang the bell but no one answered. An Albanian woman resident went to call the woman who was living in our apartment and was visiting with another neighbor. She came, unlocked the door and said she lived there. The policemen showed her the title deed and said it was my apartment. She just shrugged and said she knew nothing about it. She said she was the wife of Muhamed Krasnići, that she was in Montenegro with her children, that her husband first lived in the apartment with some other man and afterwards brought her and the children back from Montenegro. We asked about her husband but she said she didn't know where he was or when he would be back. I asked her to let me take a look at my things. The apartment had been looted, the carpet burnt and only the big pieces of furniture were left. I asked her if I could take my electric heater and some other things but she said she couldn't let me have anything without asking her husband first. Then we left and they drove me back to Štrpce at 5 p.m. the same day."

Robert Paliuk, Mrs. Stevanović's, only contact with KFOR, was transferred to Kačanik so that she has no information on whether or not an investigation was instituted by UNMIK.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Šasivari, Maljić (Shasivari, Maliq) (M, 63), Muslim, from Grncare (Grëncare), Prizren Municipality, retired – last seen on 27 June 1999.

Mrs. Šasivari told the HLC that her husband left home at 8 a.m. on 27 June to see his sister in the nearby village of Skorobište. He did not return that day and Mrs. Šasivari and her son went to Skorobište early the next morning to look for him. Her sister-in-law told her that he had not been to see her.

They went then to the KLA headquarters in Skorobište. A KLA member by the name of Velija (Vellija) promised to try to find Šasivari and, while they waited at the headquarters, three other KLA men left to seek information about him. They returned shortly and said they had not been able to find out anything. Mrs. Šasivari and her son returned home and reported Šasivari's disappearance to KFOR, the UNMIK police and the International Red Cross.

A few days later, a Skorobište Albanian told them he had seen several men in uniform stop Šasivari at the substation near Dojnica village. An argument ensued, and the uniformed men took Šasivari away with them. The Albanian believes they were KLA but is not certain as they were too far away for him to make out their insignia. Mrs. Šasivari's daughter went again to the KLA headquarters in Skorobište and spoke with two KLA men, Binak and Jusuf, both from Koriša village. They said they would try to find out who had taken her father but never contacted her again.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Spasić, Jefta (M, 70); his wife **Spasić, Bosiljka** (69); **Stefanović, Milica** (F, 70); **Stevanović, Slavica** (F, 40); **Antić, Čedomir** (M, 70); **Antić, Marija** (F, 70);, **Nikolić, Vasiljka** (F, 72); **Djekić, Draga** (F, 70); **Djekić, Srečko** (M, 50); **N.B.** (M, 75); **S.M.**; **Radivojević, Tomislav** (M, 70); his wife **Radivojević, Moma** (70); **Stojković, Trifun** (M, 84); **Stojković, Živka** (F, 80); **Stojković, Natalija "Natka"** (F, 79), last remaining Serbs in Dojnice, Prizren Municipality; **Natalija Stojković's** brother (**last name unknown**), **Bogdan**, from Brbičane (Berbiqanë), Prizren Municipality – abducted on 27 June 1999.

Srečko Djekić, N.B. and S.M. were able to get away and conceal themselves until they were found by KFOR and escorted to the Serbian Orthodox seminary. A few days later, Srečko Djekić left the seminary to meet with an Albanian acquaintance from Skorobište, Prizren Municipality, and failed to return.

The son of Jefta Spasić, Djuro, stated that his father discussed the surrender of arms by the Dojnice villagers with Ekrem Redža, the local KLA commander, and Sullejmani Rifat (Sulejmani Rifat), also a KLA member and a former Yugoslav Army officer. The agreement was for a KLA group to come to Dojnice to collect the weapons. This did not happen as a clash between Serbian forces and the KLA occurred in neighboring Skorobište village that same day. The Dojnice villagers heard about the fighting and sought refuge at the Serbian Orthodox seminary in Prizren. A few days later, the Spasićs and about a dozen other Serbs returned to their village.

Djuro Spasić told the HLC that the KLA attacked Dojnice on the day the villagers returned, torched the houses and took away the Serbs. His friend B.D. was in a field not far away when he saw smoke rising above the village, went to investigate and saw KLA members loading the villagers into a truck and driving them away. He observed three KLA men lifting the elderly Spasić into the truck as the women stood in a group on the road.

Another HLC witness, the son of the missing Antićs, stated that a Dojnice villager, Boško, was in a field from where he saw a large number of KLA members in the village and the houses burning. He went immediately to Prizren and reported the attack to KFOR. When KFOR reached Dojnice, the houses were still burning but no one was there. Shortly afterwards, they heard Srečko Djekić, S.M. and N.B. calling from their hiding place. Djekić had been wounded in the leg. The KFOR members gave him first aid and then took them all to the seminary. A few days later, Albanians from Skorobište asked for a meeting with Djekić. He left the seminary to keep the appointment and never returned.

Source: HLC, witness statements

Gaši, Djemailj (Gashi, Gjemail) (M), Turk – abducted by the KLA in early July 1999.

According to media reports, Gaši was abducted because he did not speak Albanian.

Source: *Od dolaska KFOR-a kidnapovano 645 civila* [645 Civilians Kidnapped Since KFOR's Arrival], POLITIKA, 22 October 1999

Kastrati, Enver (M, 21); his daughter **Samira** (6 months); his sister **Mirijeta** (17); Roma, from Prizren – abducted in early July 1999.

Unidentified Albanians forced their way into the Kastrati home in the Roma neighborhood of Prizren, slit the throat of Ljuan Kastrati (Luan Kastrati) and took away his son Enver Kastrati, his daughter Mirijeta, and Enver's baby daughter Samira.

Source: *Od dolaska KFOR-a kidnapovano 645 civila* [645 Civilians Kidnapped Since KFOR's Arrival], POLITIKA, 22 October 1999

Blagojević, Srećko (M, 59), Serb, from Ljubidža (Lubizhde), Prizren Municipality, retired – abducted by the KLA from his home on 2 July 1999.

Duško Blagojević recounted that his parents, wife and five children were at home in the evening of 2 July when four armed and uniformed KLA men, including Sami Vehabi (22) from Ljubidža, came to the family's house. In Serbian, the KLA men said they needed a statement from the elder Blagojević and took him to their headquarters, promising to return him soon.

The same KLA men came back at 2 a.m. that night, without Srećko Blagojević, and demanded to see his son, who had in the meantime returned home, heard that his father had been taken and concealed himself. The KLA men searched the house, aimed their cocked guns at the members of the family and threatened to kill them all. They claimed to have found out that Duško Blagojević had been called up for military service and had killed Albanians. Duško Blagojević's 14-year-old daughter was so frightened that she lost the power of speech.

The Blagojević family remained in the village until 10 July when KFOR transferred them to the Serbian Orthodox seminary. With a KFOR escort, Duško Blagojević's wife returned to the village on 12 July for some belongings but found that their house had been burned down. The family fled to Serbia on 15 February 2000.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Fazlić, Muharem (M, 41), Muslim, from Nebregošte (Nebregoshi), Prizren Municipality, courier – abducted by the KLA on 11 July 1999.

Fazlić and his wife were walking home in the afternoon of 11 July after visiting with relatives in Drvarska Street. They were stopped by five or six KLA members who asked in Albanian for directions. When Fazlić said he did not understand Albanian, the KLA men grabbed him, forced him into a car and drove away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djukanović, Dragomir (M, 71), retired; his son **Djukanović, Jovica** (44), director of the Meteorological Bureau, Serbs, from Prizren (5/2 Djerdapska St.) – abducted on 12 July 1999.

Djukanović's daughter stated that her brother Jovica and his wife, who were staying in Brezovica, Štrpce Municipality, came to Prizren on 11 July to see his parents. Early on 12 July, his wife went to the pharmacy where she had worked to pick up her papers. She was accosted there by several Albanian civilians who threatened to kill her unless she left Prizren immediately. Her former colleagues, fearing that she would be injured, led her out of the pharmacy. Since she had been away longer than expected, her mother-in-law went to look for her about 9.30 a.m. Shortly afterwards, five men, none of whom older than 30, came to the Djukanović home. Three were in black uniforms and two in civilian clothes. The three uniformed men remained silent while the two in civilians did all the talking and used Serbian. They searched the apartment and demanded that the Djukanović father and son hand over their weapons. The elder Mrs. Djukanović, who had returned home in the meantime, told them they had a certificate proving that there were no firearms in the house, which had been issued to them earlier by the KLA. The men then ordered Jovica Djukanović to go with them to the KLA headquarters; his father objected and insisted that his son be questioned in his home. The men assured him that his son would be back in half an hour, adding that he could go too if he did not trust them. They told Mrs. Djukanović to get the certificate and when she came out of the house with it, the three uniformed KLA men put her husband and son in an ivory Mercedes 163 and drove them away. Mrs. Djukanović did not see where the two men in civilian clothes went. When her daughter-in-law returned, they went to KFOR to report the incident.

Djukanović's daughter was in Belgrade at the time and, when she heard about the abduction of her father and brother, she telephoned her friend Ekrem Redža, a KLA commander. Redža told her he could not speak with her on the phone and that she could send him a letter by a man he designated. She wrote and asked if he knew what had happened to her father and brother. Redža replied shortly, saying he did not know their whereabouts or who had abducted them, that he was afraid her father might be dead as he knew the KLA shot elderly persons they took in, but that he was not certain if her father was among those shot as his name was not on the list of people the KLA considered war criminals.

Source: HLC; witness statement

Mladenović, Dragana (F), Serb, from Prizren – abducted by Albanian civilians in mid-July in Prizren.

Before her abduction, Mrs. Mladenović was threatened with death unless she moved out of her house. She refused, her house was set on fire and her six-month baby boy Sava was thrown into the flames.

Source: *Od dolaska KFOR-a kidnapovano 645 civila* [645 Civilians Kidnapped Since KFOR's Arrival], POLITIKA, 22 October 1999

Radojković, Velimir (M), Macedonian Serb, from Skopje, driver with the IGM-Skopje company – abducted about 11 p.m. on 16 July 1999 near the Djeneral Janković border crossing between FR Yugoslavia and Macedonia.

Radojković and another IGM-Skopje driver were hauling construction materials from Macedonia to Skopje. The other driver, who was right behind Radojković's truck, saw when four armed Albanians in a Mercedes without license plates abducted Radojković near the border crossing point.

Source: *Kidnapovan vozač IGM-Skoplje* [IGM-Skopje Driver Kidnapped], POLITIKA, 21 July 1999

Caca, Abdulah (M, 50); his son **Caca, Abedin** (26), Roma, from Prizren (14 Podrimska St.) – abducted on 18 July 1999.

Mrs. Caca recounted that her husband and son left home in the morning of 18 July for the nearby village of Dušanovo (Dushanovë) where they had a metalworking shop. They did not return and she went to Dušanovo the next day to look for them. The shop had been looted. Some children playing outside told her four men, two of whom in KLA uniforms and wearing glasses, had come in a jeep the previous day about 11 a.m., entered the shop and ordered her husband and son to get in their Renault 4 car and follow the jeep. The two vehicles drove off in the direction of the Djakovica road.

Mrs. Caca then went to the KLA headquarters in the Ćulhan (Qulhan) neighborhood of Prizren where she spoke with a KLA commander called Baša (Basha). He told her he had no knowledge of her husband and son and that the KLA was not responsible for their abduction. Baša added that KLA uniforms were often abused, that the abductors might have been Serbs or criminals from neighboring Albania, and promised to let her know if he heard anything.

After some time, Mrs. Caca went to the KLA headquarters again. This time she spoke with one Osman, who also said the KLA had no reason to abduct her husband and son. Osman explained to her that the manner of their abduction differed from that of the KLA who, he said, would have also torched the Caca

house and taken her as well. In the event she received a ransom demand, he said she should immediately report this to the KLA headquarters and refrain from handing over the money.

Mrs. Caca reported the disappearance of her husband and son to KFOR and the International Red Cross.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Bens, Afrim (M), Rom, from Prizren – abducted by the KLA after 20 July 1999.³⁷
Source: HLC, witness statement

Todorović, Marko (M, 47), Serbian Serb, from Belgrade, driver with the Moć Priode company – disappeared on 21 July 1999 on the road between Prizren and Lipljan.

Todorović's sister and mother recounted that a private businessman from Prizren to whom Todorović had delivered goods called them on 23 July to inquire if he had arrived home safely. The businessman called again three weeks later to say he had learned that Todorović was abducted by the KLA, that he was being held in one of the KLA camps in the hills around Prizren and would most probably be exchanged for Kosovo Albanian prisoners in Serbia.

Todorović had a mobile phone on him at the time of his abduction. The Mobtel Company established that the phone was used in the 6-18 August period. The person or persons using the phone called numbers in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, two numbers in Montenegro and one in Serbia. The Montenegrin police checked out the two numbers in Montenegro but were unable to obtain any information about the possible abductors.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Antić, Zlatko (M, 35), Serb, from Prizren, technician with PTT company – abducted on 28 July 1999 in Prizren.

Mrs. Antić said her son and his family, like the majority of Prizren Serbs, left the town on 14 June for Brezovica, Štrpce Municipality. He asked his Albanian neighbors to look after his apartment and left them the key. About 7 p.m. on 28 July, he returned to Prizren in his dark red Yugo Florida car for his mother-in-law. Wishing to check up on his own apartment, he went to get the key from the neighbors. Five minutes later, six armed KLA members came in, shouted, "So! You're hiding Serbs!" and took Antić and the woman neighbor to the KLA headquarters in the former Yugoslav Army Cultural Center for questioning. The neighbor was released several hours later, and she and her husband fled Prizren.
Source: HLC, witness statement

³⁷ Witness statement on the abduction of Bens: Prizren, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

Seferi, Bajram (M), Muslim, from Musnikovo, Prizren Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 30 July 1999 from a cafe in Recane, Prizren Municipality.

Sefer went to nearby Recane on 30 July to buy construction materials. He stopped by the cafe owned by Jusuf Jašarević where he met two friends, A.N. and A.R. Soon afterwards, five young men in civilian clothes who said they were KLA police came in, ordered Sefer to go with them and drove him away in a Golf car.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Nikolić, Stanoje (M), Serb – abducted on 4 August 1999 in Prizren.

Nikolić was beaten by a group of Albanians in the street but managed to get away. He went to the hospital for medical attention but the assailants caught up with him before he reached it and took him away.

Source: *In Prizren Ethnic Cleansing of Non-Albanians Continues*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 15 August 1999

Gunice, Adem (M), Turk, from Prizren (145 Durmiš Aslani St.) – disappeared in early August 1999. Gunice was abducted from his apartment by unidentified persons.

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Cvetanovska, Ljiljana (F), Serb, from Prizren (apart. 4, 65 Karadjordjeva St.) – abducted on 11 August 1999.

Ljiljana Cvetanovska was taken from her apartment by unidentified persons on 11 August. She had complained earlier to the Peace and Tolerance Center that some Albanian civilians had burst into her apartment and physically abused her.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [11 Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999; Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Tošić, Ilija (M), Serb, from Prizren (14 JNA St.) – abducted from his apartment by unidentified persons on 12 August 1999. The abductors looted the apartment and set it on fire.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [11 Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999; Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Aleksijevski Toni (M, 27), Macedonian Macedonian, from Skopje, truck driver - abducted on 13 August 1999 in Prizren.

Aleksijevski was abducted by unidentified persons as he was unloading goods he had hauled from Macedonia in his truck.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [11 Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999; Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Lazić, Bojan (M, 26), **Joksimović, Dejan** (M, 36), Serbs, from Prizren – abducted by unidentified persons on 13 August 1999 in Prizren.

Lazić and Joksimović fled Prizren in mid-June and returned on 13 August to check up on their houses.

Source: *Nastavljen teror nad srpskim stanovništvom* [Terrorization of Serb Population Continues], DANAS, 20 September 1999

Veljković, Stanislav (M), Serb, from Prizren (60 Radeta Končara St.) – abducted from his home on 13 August 1999 by unidentified persons who also looted and torched the house and business premises.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [11 Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999; Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Aleksić, Bojan (M, 19), Serb, from Prizren (Dositeja Obradovića St.) – abducted from his apartment by unidentified Albanians on 14 August 1999.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [11 Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999.

Jovanović, Velimir (M), Serb, from Prizren (Dositeja Obradovića St.) – abducted from his apartment by unidentified Albanians on 14 August 1999.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [11 Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999.

Stanojević, Žarko (M); his sister **Stanojević, Dejana**, Serbs, from Prizren – abducted by the KLA on 14 August 1999.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [11 Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999.

Jokić, Zlatko (M, 47), Serb; **Jetisi, Usni (Jetishi, Usni)** (M, ethnicity unknown), from Prizren – abducted by unidentified persons in the evening of 16 August 1999.

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

Takić, Veselin (M, 71), Serb – abducted by a group of Albanians in late August 1999.³⁸

Source: *Massacre of Serbs in Prizren*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 1 September 1999

Patrnogić, Tihomir (M, 85), from Prizren (81 Petra Kostića St.), retired – abducted on 1 September 1999.

³⁸ Witness statement on the abduction of Takić: Prizren, 2.1. Killed.

Patrnogić's sister recounted that he went to the post office on 1 September to complain that their telephone was out of order. She tried to persuade him to stay at home as the town was crowded because it was a market day and she was afraid for him. He disregarded her fears and left for the post office at 11 a.m. She learned later from post office staff that he had been there, that the malfunction was fixed and he left for home. Acquaintances told her they saw uniformed men stop her brother just outside the post office and take him away. Some 10 days later, an Albanian she did not know came to her apartment. Speaking Serbian, he told her that Patrnogić was alive and well and would soon be released. He left without saying how he obtained this information. Patrnogić did not return and his sister fled Kosovo to Serbia in late January 2000.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Jovanović, Dragan (M), Serb, from Prizren (98 Dositejeva St.) – abducted on 10 September 1999 from his home by unidentified Albanian civilians.
Source: *Rafal na kolonu Srba* [Fire Opened at Column of Serbs], BLIC, 15 September 1999

2.1. Killed

Father Hariton (Lukić, Radoslav) (M, 40), monk at the Monastery of the Holy Archangel near Prizren – abducted by uniformed men on 15 June 1999.
Father Hariton was driving a Golf car (license plates PZ 120-91) on 15 June when he was stopped and taken away by several uniformed men. A German news reporter witnessed and photographed the abduction and informed Bishop Artemije. He promised to bring the photographs to the Bishop but did not contact the Raška-Prizren Eparchy again.

In late September 2000, representatives of the OSCE mission brought to the Gračanica monastery photographs of remains that had been uncovered in Kosovo. The fathers and lay brothers at the monastery recognized Father Hariton's robe and rosary, which were handed to them together with an ID card on which only the date and place of Father Hariton's birth were legible.

The OSCE representatives stated that the decapitated remains of Father Hariton had been recovered from a grave in the Tusus neighborhood of Prizren but did not say when or whether or not a forensic autopsy had been performed.
Source: Raška-Prizren Eparchy; HLC, witness statement

Radivojević, Nikola (M, 60), Serb, from Prizren – disappeared on 27 June 1999. KFOR informed the family that Radivojević's remains were found on 23 July 1999.
Source: PRAVOSLAVLJE PRESS, 28 July 1999

Skenderi, Djumred (Skenderi, Gjumred) (M, 31), Gorani, from Prizren (195 Ulcinjska St.), employee of Progres-Prizren company – disappeared on 16 July 1999. His body was found on 17 July 1999.

Skenderi's father recounted that he was at home with his wife, daughter, son Djumred and Djumred's wife and children when someone knocked at the front door at 9 p.m. His son went to the terrace to see who it was. The family heard him speaking with somebody, he came for the key to the front door and went outside. When he did not return, his father went to look for him. A girl from the neighborhood told him she had seen some men approach his son in front of the house and lead him away at gunpoint. The elder Skenderi reported his son's disappearance to KFOR and, through an Albanian friend, contacted the local KLA commander, one Elbasan, who told him the KLA had not ordered his son to be captured or killed, and promised to help locate him. At 8.30 a.m. the next day, Elbasan took Skenderi to the outskirts of Prizren in the direction of Petrovo (Petrovë) village and showed him the body of his son, whose skull had been crushed by blows with a blunt object. Elbasan told the father not to touch the body as KFOR had to carry out an investigation.

When Skenderi went to claim his son's remains after the investigation, the body could not be found as it had been mistakenly buried by KFOR as an unidentified person. He was able to rebury his son the next day, 18 June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Milovanović, Jovan (M), Serb – disappeared on 26 July 1999. His remains were found in Landovica, Prizren Municipality, on 5 August 1999.

Source: *In Prizren Ethnic Cleansing of Non-Albanians Continues*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 15 august 1999

Takić, Ana (6), Serb – abducted by a group of Albanians in late August 1999.

Ana was abducted together with her grandfather, **Veselin Takić**. Her mutilated body, with one arm missing, was found a few days later. The whereabouts of her grandfather remain unknown.

Source: *Massacre of Serbs in Prizren*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 1 September 1999

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

G.S. (M, 22), Rom, from Prizren – abducted on 14 June 1999 and held in a KLA prison for over 24 hours.

G.S. was stopped in the street by KLA members on 14 June and taken to the former police station. About a dozen other KLA men were there, four of whom

led G.S. into a room in which there was another **Roma man** of unknown identity. G.S. was beaten and threatened with death unless he admitted to looting Albanian homes. The KLA demanded that G.S. tell them the whereabouts of Luan Koka, a Rom who was on the Serbian delegation at the Rambouillet talks. They told him that Roma and Serbs together looted and torched Albanians homes and that he would be expelled to Serbia just as Kosovo Albanians had been expelled to neighboring Albania.

The next morning, a KLA man came with a list containing the names of 10 to 15 local Roma, including G.S., and demanded that he point out those who were "Serbian spies." When G.S. said he knew none of the names, the beating continued. He was then made to clean up the building and, when he finished about 10.30 p.m., was told he could go. The KLA threatened to kill him if he went to the hospital or reported them to KFOR.

Source: *Roma from Kosovo Testify*, ERRIC, 2 August 1999

G.N. (M, 36), Serb, from Prizren, employee of the Health Insurance Office – abducted by the KLA on 15 June 1999. He was questioned and beaten and released in the evening. While G.N. was at the KLA headquarters a Serb, **Dejan** (last name unknown), a medical technician at the Prizren hospital was brought in. Dejan's whereabouts remain unknown.

G.N. recounted that two Albanians dressed in black with KLA badges and armed with automatic rifles accosted him outside his home at 9.45 a.m. on 15 June. They demanded to see his ID and, establishing that he was Serb, ordered him to go with them. His request to be allowed to go home first to give his family the car keys and money they had collected to leave Kosovo was denied. His Albanian neighbors, who watched the scene, loudly approved the KLA men's action. The KLA men led him in the direction of the hospital and, when they saw a TV crew in the street, pulled G.N. into a side street and waited for the crew to leave. During these 15 minutes, they beat G.N. with their rifle butts, cursed him and Milošević and asked why he had not yet left Kosovo. G.N. was then taken to the KLA headquarters in a newly built private house. His ID card was taken from him and he was locked in a room. He did not see the KLA men who had brought him in again. G.N. described what happened next:

"There was a set of plastic garden furniture in the room. I immediately noticed traces of blood on the table and in the corners. I was sure they were going to kill me. There were two KLA guards in the room. One put a chair near the wall and order me to sit in it, facing the wall. Then three KLA men came in, one wearing a red beret and carrying a double-barreled shotgun. He was Zenelj (Zenel), the commander, and ordered one of the men to search me. Another pumped a round into the barrel of his gun. They took my papers, 8,500 dinars, family photos, wristwatch and belt. Zenelj ordered me to strip to my underwear, told

the soldiers to shoot if I moved, and left. Two KLA men came in five minutes later. One came up and pulled out the chair from under me. When I fell, the other one set on me with a nightstick. The one who had pulled the chair got out a knife, threatened to butcher me and punched me in the face several times. Swearing, all four left the room.

"Through the window, I saw my Albanian friend Č.B. in the yard. Then another two KLA men came in. They brought a hose with which they beat me all over, swearing and insulting me and my family. They too left after a while. Half an hour later, two KLA members who spoke perfect Serbian came in with another Serb, Dejan, a medical technician at the hospital. He had been beaten and was bleeding from the nose. He was in the room for only ten minutes before they came and took him to the next room from which I then heard screams. Two KLA men came into my room and began beating me. One hit me all over the body with a nightstick and the other kicked me. When commander Zenelj came in again after some time, the two men left. Zenelj offered me a cigarette and ordered me to turn to face him. He asked if I had weapons and a uniform or if I had given them back already. He warned me not to lie, saying they had all the information on me and photographs. When I said I had an automatic rifle and pistol, he asked if I would send a message to my wife to bring the weapons to the headquarters, to which I said yes. He left, saying he would let me know what he had decided.

"Two KLA men came in after that, one of whom was missing his right forefinger. They asked the guard if I was the Serb who had been caught that morning and if I had started 'singing.' The guard told them they had to work on me some more to make me spill everything I knew. One got a baseball bat, the other a nightstick and they began to beat me, trapping me in the corner of the room. They beat me, cursed my Serb mother, asked how many Albanian children I had killed and said they would do to me what Serbs had done to them. They poured water over me and when I came to ordered me to put my legs through the back of the chair. One first burned me on the legs with a lighted cigarette and then hit me on the soles with a nightstick. The other one beat me with the hose. The guard told the two of them to go just before commander Zenelj came back. He asked if I was ready to call my wife and tell her to bring the guns, and threatened to kill me unless she came within an hour. They ordered me to dress and Zenelj and the KLA guards led me to the neighboring building where they had their headquarters. I telephoned my wife and told her to come with her father and the guns to the gate of the Fadilj Hisari (Fadil Hisari) school.

"Then they took me back to the same room. Zenelj offered me coffee and cigarettes and told the soldiers to leave me alone. He said I would be released when they got the weapons. When he left, a man and a woman, both KLA members, came in. They asked where I had been caught and what I did before

the war. The man said he lived in Serbia, in Subotica, with his wife and children and had a cafe near the Orthodox church. He suggested that we get together there for drinks sometime. They looked at my papers and spoke Turkish between themselves. When they were gone, commander Zenelj came back with an automatic rifle. He asked if it was mine and I said it wasn't and he nodded approvingly. He sat down at the table, opened a notebook and started asking questions about where I had stolen things, killed, raped Albanian women and who was in charge of the Serbian forces' operations around Prizren. He warned me to tell the truth or every lie would earn me ten blows. When I denied all his accusations, he said I was lying and that I had torched Albanian houses in the Tusus neighborhood. I denied that too and he ordered me to lie face down on the floor with my arms alongside my body. He and the two guards beat me with the baseball bat, nightstick and hose until they were all tired out. Then he ordered me to sit in the chair, angrily cocked his pistol and said I wouldn't leave the room alive. He asked when I was called up, what assignments I had in the army and if I had torched the Skenderbeg Cafe in Dušanovo village, Prizren Municipality. I denied it and said I had helped many Albanians in the town and he could easily check it out. He was angry, got up and began hitting me on the legs with the nightstick, threatening to break both of them. As he left, he told the guards to shoot me if I tried to escape.

"Soon afterwards, G., an Albanian acquaintance of mine, came in. He was in civilian clothes and unarmed. He asked one of the guards, calling him Nazmi, what I was doing there and who was questioning me. He told the guard I wasn't to be beaten any more and went out. The guard offered me a cigarette and a drink of water, and said I was sure to be released. Twenty minutes later, Zenelj came back and asked for the names and dates of birth of my family members. He said I would be let go on condition that I cooperated with them. He added that my children would go to an Albanian school and learn the Albanian language because there would be no more Serbs in Kosovo. He gave me three days to collect weapons from all the Serbs who were still in Prizren and said he would kill my children and rape my wife if I didn't do it. He gave me back my papers but kept my ID, and said I could go."

G.N. went home and with his family sought refuge at the Serbian Orthodox seminary the same day. KFOR escorted them to Gnjilane from where they fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dj.M. (M, 52), from Prizren (5 Lole Ribara St.), building inspector; his wife **Dj. S.** (49), accountant with the Progres company in Prizren; **V.M.** (M, 56), secretary of the Red Cross organization in Prizren; **Č.S.** (M, 54), managing director of the Prizren tobacco factory; **J.V.** (F, 35), social worker in Prizren, all Serbs; **K.B.** (M, 55), Serbian Serb, from Kruševac; **N.G.** (M, 56), Albanian, from Prizren,

interpreter - abducted on 16 July, questioned at the KLA headquarters and released.

Dj.M. recounted that, just before 11 a.m. on 16 June, he and his wife went to the Prizren Red Cross where he had earlier worked as a volunteer to meet with friends. V.M., Č.S., J.V., K.B., and N.G. were already there. A few minutes after their arrival, five armed KLA members, some in uniform and others in civilian clothes, entered the building. Since none of those present recognized any of KLA men, the witness believes that they were not from the Prizren area. Only one of them spoke Serbian and introduced himself as Jakob from the vicinity of Mališevo. He demanded that they hand over their weapons. While Dj.S. and J.V. stayed in the Red Cross office, the men, accompanied by three KLA members, went to collect the weapons. Dj.M. described what happened:

"They drove us to our homes in the Red Cross van, first to Č.S.'s, then to V.M.'s and then mine. I gave them an automatic rifle but they claimed I had more firearms. They began to punch and kick me. I swore I had no more weapons and pleaded with them to stop. They just kept repeating in Albanian that I had to hand over more guns. When they realized the rifle was all I had, they led me out to the van and drove back to the Red Cross. From there, they took us all to the building of the Prizren District Prison where the KLA had its headquarters. They questioned us, whether we had taken part in the fighting, robbed or torched Albanian houses, killed or raped Albanian women. We were interrogated by two of their inspectors, who were polite and didn't beat us. One was wearing a black uniform and the other was in civilian clothes. They questioned me in Albanian because I understand the language. The others were questioned in Serbian. When they finished the questioning about 8 p.m. they let us go home and said we had to report to the KLA headquarters in the morning.

"My wife and I came at 8 a.m. the next day. None of the others did because they had already left town. They told us they had checked out the information we had given them and that everything was in order, and said we were to come again the next day at the same time. We did and they said that there was no need for us to come again, that we were free."

Dj.M. and his wife stayed in Prizren until the end of August 1999 when they fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

M.A. (M, 69), Serb, from Prizren (10 Mostarska St.), retired – taken to the KLA police prison on 16 June 1999 and held for several hours.

On 14 June, M.A. stated, gunfire was heard in the town and some houses were set on fire. On the night of 14/15 June, unidentified persons threw a hand

grenade into his yard and fired off several rounds in front of the house. In the evening of 16 June, KLA police members came and demanded that he surrender his weapons. His Albanian neighbor came to see what was going on and advised him to hand over the weapons. The witness described what happened then:

"They came into the house and started beating me and threatened to kill me. I handed over the guns but they went on beating me. They took me to the KLA police prison in the northern part of town, called Severni Ljakurić (Lakuriqi i Veriut). The prison was in the basement of the white Yugoslav Program buildings near the Yugoslav Army Cultural Center. They continued to beat me there with bats and a rifle butt. I couldn't see their faces because they were wearing ski masks with slits for the eyes and mouth. They threatened me with liquidation all the time, asked me why I was still in Prizren, said this was Albania, that there was no place for us Serbs here and that all Serbs who had stayed would be killed. They beat and abused me for about three hours. From other rooms I heard the screams of people being beaten. Then they took me out to the corridor in the basement and left me there to wait. I sat on the floor and waited for another hour until a man in uniform and a hood came and told me to get up. He led me outside and told me to go home. It was evening by that time."

Two days later, on 18 June, M.A. went to the Serbian Orthodox seminary to inquire about leaving Prizren. Returning home, he found KLA men beating his wife and searching the house. The men started beating him too. A KFOR patrol passing the house heard the disturbance and came into the house to investigate. The attackers were arrested, M.A. and his wife were escorted to the seminary from where they fled to Serbia in late August.

Source: HLC, witness statement

B.T. (M, 21), Roma, from Prizren – abducted by the KLA in morning of 18 June 1999, held for five days and released.

B.T. was taken to the building of the former police station, beaten on the way and accused of stealing and killing Albanians. He shouted to draw the attention of people in the street, none of whom reacted. He was held for five days, physically abused and questioned about persons who allegedly committed crimes against Albanian civilians. Asked how he had acquired the 9,700 dinars he had on him, B.T. replied that he sold cigarettes. Claiming that he must have stolen the money, the KLA men took it. Before releasing him, they threatened to kill him if he reported them to KFOR.

Source: *Roma from Kosovo Testify*, ERRRC, 2 August 1999

M.T. (M, 24), Rom, from Prizren (Terzi Mahala (Mahalla e Terzive) neighborhood)) – abducted by the KLA on 27 June 1999, beaten and questioned for several hours before being released.

M.T. recounted that KLA members came to his home on 27 June and ordered him to go with them because their commander wanted to see him. When he refused, one of the men put his pistol to the head of M.T.'s wife and said he would shoot her unless he agreed to go with them. Before leaving with M.T., they told his wife her children's throats would be slit if she told anyone about her husband being taken.

M.T. was taken to the basement of the school for deaf-mute children where another Rom, **P.L.** was being beaten and questioned about his son. The KLA gave P.L. three hours to come back with his son and let him go. Then they began to beat M.T. and question him about weapons in his neighborhood, if he had killed any Albanians or raped Albanian women. They demanded that he write down the names of Roma who had looted Albanian houses and asked if he knew where the Roma leader Ljuan Koka (Luan Koka) was. Before being released about 5 p.m., M.T. was threatened with death if he told anyone what had happened.

Source: *Roma from Kosovo Testify*, ERRRC, 2 August 1999

M.L. (M, 19), Rom, from Prizren (Dušanovo neighborhood) - abducted by the KLA on 27 June 1999 and released after several hours of questioning and physical abuse.

M.L. stated that three KLA members came to his home on 27 June and ordered him to go with them to the KLA headquarters to be questioned. They drove him to the school for deaf-mute children where they beat him and demanded that he tell them where he had concealed an automatic rifle. They asked how many people he had killed, how many houses he had torched and where the Roma leader Luan Koka was, threatening to kill him unless he told them everything he knew. M.A. was beaten for four hours and, before being released, threatened with death if he told anyone what had happened. Before he left, the KLA members told him there was no place in Kosovo for Roma.

Source: *Roma from Kosovo Testify*, ERRRC, 2 August 1999

Petrović, Mitra (F, 54); her daughter **Andrejević, Danijela** (26); her son-in-law **Andrejević, Žarko**; her grandchildren **Andrejević, Darko** (4 months) and **Andrejević, Tamara** (18 months), Serbs, from Prizren (Karadjordjeva St.) – abducted on 9 July 1999.

Danijela Andrejević's brother recounted that the family were riding in a Lada car driven by a man whose name he does not know. In the town center, unidentified persons opened fire at the car. The driver was killed and Žarko Andrejević was wounded. Leaving the dead man in the car, the assailants pulled out the passengers and took them away. Mitra Petrović, her daughter and grandchildren

were subsequently released and found refuge at the Serbian Orthodox seminary. Žarko Andrejević died of his wounds.

Source: Belgrade Centre for Human Rights

G.B. (M, 27), Rom, from Prizren (222 Ulcinjska St.) – abducted by the KLA on 10 July and released 10 days later. G.B. learned subsequently that his relative Afrim Bens was also abducted by the KLA and disappeared.

G.B. stated that five KLA members came to his home on 19 July and took him to the KLA prison in the basement of the school for deaf-mute children. He described his experience there:

“They tried to make me admit I had been mixed up in the looting, which wasn’t true. I was at home during the war. They tortured me, punched and kicked me, and beat me with everything they had at hand – thick sticks, crowbars, bats. My mother died while I was in the prison. The neighbors asked KFOR to get me released so I could bury her. KFOR did nothing and my mother was buried by a neighbor. They let me go after torturing me for 10 days but told me I had to leave the town.”

G.B. fled Kosovo to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Altiparmak, Ajse (F), Turk, from Prizren, employee of the Prizren pharmaceutical plant – abducted by the KLA in late June, held and physically abused and shortly released. Altiparmak and her family fled Kosovo for Turkey the day she was released.

Source: Priština Peace and Tolerance Center website

2.2.2. Escaped

N.B. (M, 75); **S.M.** (M), Serbs, from Dojnica, Prizren Municipality – abducted on 27 June 1999, escaped and later found by KFOR.³⁹

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2.3. Set free

Stevanović, Slobodan (M), Serb, from Dojnica, Prizren Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 15 June 1999 in Prizren, held in the basement of a private house together with another Serb, **Stanković, Novica** (M, 20). Both were set free by KFOR the same day.

Stevanović came to Prizren on 15 June to report the abduction of his son, Vlastimir, by the KLA on 12 June, and to check up on the apartment of his other

³⁹ Witness statement on the abduction and escape of N.B. and S.M.: Prizren, 2. Abducted.

son in Dositejeva Street. When he and his wife came arrived at their son's apartment in Dositejeva Street (apart. 29, entrance IV, building 2), they found an Albanian, his wife and mother-in-law in it. The Albanians apologized, saying someone had broken into the apartment and they had found the door opened and moved in because their home in the Ortakovo neighborhood had been destroyed. They began to pack to leave. As the apartment door was open, an Albanian woman resident who was in the hallway heard their conversation and shouted to the Albanian family that they should not leave. "It's been yours for long enough. It's ours now," she said to Stevanović. The Albanian family then decided to stay, saying that in the circumstances the Stevanović family would not be able to live there anyway, and agreed to leave Stevanović and his wife alone in the apartment until they packed and moved their son's belongings.

Mrs. Stevanović left to take some things to the apartment of her daughter while her husband stayed. He heard the Albanian woman resident tell someone to call the KLA. A few minutes later, someone banged on the door. Stevanović opened it and saw three armed KLA men in black uniforms. The KLA men searched him, took the 5,000 deutsche marks he had, led him out of the building and forced him into a black Golf car. Two KLA men sat on either side of him in the back seat. At that moment, Stevanović saw his wife coming back and tried to attract her attention by thumping on the car window with his hands, but was beaten down by the KLA men. His wife did not notice him and entered the building. Stevanović was taken to the basement of a house that had been abandoned by its Serb owner. He saw there a young Prizren man, Stanković, who had been abducted the previous day in the town center. Stevanović described what happened next:

"Stanković had his arms and legs tied to a chair. They tied only my hands with a piece of electric cord, left and locked the door behind them. Two KLA members came in later on and questioned me. They asked if the man who had been captured on 12 June in Skorobište was my son, Vlastimir, and said he supposedly had a pistol on him when he was taken, hidden in his sock, and that he had killed one of their soldiers. They said they would give me two days to sell my property and give them 100,000 deutsche marks and they would let me, my son and the youngster go. I said I couldn't sell my property that fast and offered to sign everything I had over to them if they would just let my son go. I said they could kill me if they wanted.

"The basement had a window and five KLA guards standing outside it. When the first two left, the guards climbed in and began to beat us – with rifle butts, nightsticks and a knife scabbard. They left when they got tired. It wasn't long when another four came in through the window and beat us again. They too went after a while. The two who had questioned me came in, through the door, and asked who had beaten us. When I said it was the KLA men, they said I was lying. One pushed the barrel of his pistol in my mouth and the other put a knife

to Stanković's throat. Then they brought in three Albanian girls, no older than 14. They lined them up in front of Stanković and asked if he remembered them, to which he said he didn't. They started beating him and demanded that he admit which one of them he had raped. The girls were scared and ran away and they went out after them.

"A bit later, Stanković started moaning and asked for water. There was a small bottle of water on the table beside us. Since only my hands were tied and he was bound hand and foot, I got up and tried to get the bottle to him somehow. The guard outside the window saw me and started yelling at us. As he was yelling, a KFOR patrol came up from behind him. A KFOR man ran up to see what was going on and the KLA guard took off. The KFOR man spoke a little Serbian. He leaned through the basement window and asked if we were Serbs and what we were doing there. I said we had been taken by the KLA and that they were beating us. The other soldiers in the KFOR patrol came into the house and tried to break down the locked basement door. I shouted to the one who spoke Serbian that they could come in through the window. He took my advice and they came in through the window. In the meantime, other KFOR members battered down the basement door. That's how we were freed.

"They told us it was dangerous for us to go back to town and said they would take us to the church. They took us first to an abandoned church by mistake and, when they saw it was empty, to the seminary. I asked the one who spoke Serbian to help me find my son and said I didn't know where my wife was. He replied that he didn't know how he could help with my son but that he supposed my wife was at the seminary because almost all the Serbs in the town had gone there. My wife was at the seminary when I got there at 11.30 that night. All of us in the seminary left at 6 o'clock the next evening in a convoy of buses under KFOR escort. Just as we were about to leave, Ekrem Redža, the KLA commander in Skorobište, and a woman in KLA uniform stood in front of the convoy and said: 'Gentlemen, don't go, there's no need for you to go. Stay at the seminary for a few days more. The situation is a bit tense now but it will be all right soon. There's no need for you to leave Prizren. Everything will be fine.' I went up to him, because I know him, and asked how we could trust him when KLA members had kidnapped my son and beaten me up. He looked at me – there I was, still in my torn and bloodstained clothes. He didn't reply, just stood there for a while and then went."

Source: HLC, witness statement

SRBICA

1. Missing

Milosavljević, Dragan (M, 36), Serbian Serb, from Svilajnac – last seen on 12 May 1999 in Srbica.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

2. Abducted

Osmani, Balj (Osmani, Bal) (M), Rom, from Srbica (Cara Uroša St.) – abducted by the KLA on 26 April 1999.

Osmani's neighbor recounted that two KLA members from Srbica, Ramadan Seferi and Farudin Tekaru, stormed into the Osmani house about 7 p.m. on 26 April. They put a wire around Osmani's neck and started throttling him to force him to tell them where he kept the money sent by his sons who worked abroad. Osmani told them nothing and they took him to the KLA headquarters in Lauša (Llaushë), Srbica Municipality. His whereabouts remain unknown.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Free

2.2.1. Escaped

Miljačić, (first name unknown), Serb, deserter from the Yugoslav Army – captured by the KLA in May 1999.

KLA members tied Miljačić with wire and held him in the cellar of a private house in Srbica. He was able to escape when Yugoslav Army forces attacked Srbica.

Source: HLC, witness statement

ŠTIMLJE

1. Missing

Stolić, Mića (M, 19), Serb, from Donje Godance (Godanc i Ulët), Štimlje Municipality – disappeared on 17 June 1999.

A relative recounted that Albanian neighbors stole Stolić's tractor on 17 June. One of them came back later and told Stolić to go with him to have his tractor returned. He went and was not seen again. A neighbor who accompanied him to get the tractor refused to speak with members of the Stolić family, who left the village immediately after Stolić's disappearance.

Source: HLC, witness statement

(**Last name unknown**, maiden name **Talić**), **Vera** (F); her husband (last name unknown), **Bora**, Serbs from Štimlje – last seen on 10 July 1999. Vera's parents, **Mirko** and **Jovanka Talić**, were killed in Štimlje the same day.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Blagojević, Mihailo (M, 55), Serb, from Mužičane (Muzeqinë), Štimlje Municipality – disappeared in late August 1999.

Friends said Blagojević was last seen walking home to Mužičane from Gračanica.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2. Abducted

Stolić, Slobodan (M, 55), Serb, from Štimlje (Devetačka St.), veterinary technician, employee of the veterinary station in Uroševac – abducted on 13 June 1999.

Stolić's son related that the family left Štimlje on 12 June and moved to Čaglavica, a village in Priština municipality some 30 kilometers from Štimlje. His father returned to Štimlje the next day, saw his brother and went to his home to feed the pigs. Four armed KLA members in black uniforms entered the house, led Stolić out and into a black Mercedes without license plates and drove him away. Staff at a retirement home near the Stolić house witnessed the abduction and immediately informed the family. His son came the next day. He found the front door open and his father's key still in the lock. The house had been ransacked and some belongings of lesser value taken: camera, tape-recorder, shoes, slippers.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stoletović, Bora (58), Serb, from Štimlje, ambulance driver at the Štimlje Medical Center; **Duši, Bahri (Dushi, Bahri)** (M), Turk, from Priština, salesclerk at the Grmija department store in Priština – abducted by the KLA in Štimlje on 4 July 1999.

Members of the two families recounted that Stoletović accompanied Duši and his daughter on a visit to Duši's relatives in Štimlje. A group of KLA members came to the relative's house, searched it for weapons and found only an old trophy rifle. They said Stoletović and Duši had to go with them to their headquarters for questioning. Stoletović was driven away in a white Yugo while Duši, with two KLA men guarding him, drove his own white Zastava car. Both vehicles departed in the direction of Uroševac. The families reported the abductions to KFOR.

While the KLA men were searching the house, Duši's daughter heard one of them addressed as Ramadan by the others. The families on several occasions

inquired about Stoletović and Duši at the KLA headquarters in Uroševac and provided photographs of the two men, but to no avail.

Source: HLC, witness statement

ŠTRPCE

1. Missing

Dobrosavljević, Ljubiša (M, 49), bus conductor with the Polet-Uroševac bus company; **Djordjević, Ratko** (M, 41), driver with the Polet-Uroševac company, Serbs, from Popovci, Štrpce Municipality – disappeared on 2 May 1999 on the road between Partizanski Put, Kačanik Municipality, and Štrpce.

Dobrosavljević left for work at 5 a.m. on 2 May. When he did not return by 10 p.m., his son called a co-worker of his father's who told him Dobrosavljević and Djordjević had bussed Yugoslav Army troops from Uroševac to Kruševac in Serbia. The co-worker last saw them at Partizanski Put in Kačanik Municipality as they were driving the empty bus (license plates UR 111-81) in the direction of Serb villages in Štrpce Municipality and they sounded the horn to greet him. All trace of the two men as well as the bus was lost.

The Dobrosavljević family reported his disappearance to KFOR. Two weeks later, a man who did not give his name called on the telephone. Dobrosavljević's daughter answered, the man asked if she was the younger or elder daughter, said she should be good if she did not want to disappear like her father and hung up.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Andjelković, Živojin (M, 50); his son **Andjelković, Ivan** (26); their close family friend **Živković, Vlastimir** (M, 50), Serbs, from Gotovuša (Getovushë), Štrpce Municipality – disappeared on 21 July on the road from Štrpce to Vranje, Serbia.

A relative told the HLC that the three men were last seen about 3.30 p.m. on 21 July when they left for Vranje in their blue Zastava truck. They planned to join a convoy of trucks hauling construction materials from Serbia to the Bonsteel KFOR base. The Andjelkovići had a large sum of money on them as they intended by goods to replenish Ivan Andjelković's grocery store.

When the family called a brewery in Vranje, Serbia, where the Andjelkovići were expected, they were told that the Andjelkovići and Živković had not been there as planned. Mrs. Živković spoke with some KLA members in Štrpce who told her they knew nothing about the missing men. The KLA members checked their lists of alleged war criminals and informed Mrs. Živković that neither her husband nor

the Andjelkovićs were on the lists, adding that this ruled out the possibility of their having being abducted for political reasons.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2. Abducted

Dogandžić, Dragan (M, 28), Serb, from Štrpce – abducted on 21 June 1999 on the road between Štrpce and Raka (Rakë) village, Uroševac Municipality.

Dogandžić's parents recounted that their son left home in his dark red Zastava 128 (license plates UR 391-50) at 4 p.m. on 21 June to pick up some shepherders who were still on the sheep farm in Raka village, 15 kilometers from Štrpce. On the way, he met a friend and told him he would be back in an hour or two. Another friend saw Dogandžić drive through Drajkovce (Drajkoc) village, Štrpce Municipality.

His parents went to Raka the next day with a KFOR escort to inquire about him. The farm manager Izet, and a worker called Halid told them they had not seen their son and that the shepherders he was to pick up had left the previous day for Stari Kačanik. The parents saw some 20 KLA members on the farm. They went then to Stari Kačanik where the shepherders told them they had not seen their son, and that Albanian co-workers had advised them to leave the farm as it was not safe for them to stay.

On 23 June, Captain Taylor of the US contingent with KFOR informed the parents that Dogandžić had been abducted by a group of KLA members led by Šuki Buja (Shuki Buja), commandant of the KLA prison in Uroševac, but could not say where he was being held. Two days later, on 25 June, he called again and said that KFOR would arrange for them to visit their son and suggested that the elder Dogandžić be the one to go. Capt. Taylor called again the next day, said Dogandžić would be upset by a visit from his father and advised that a priest come to see him instead. When, however, a priest went to the KFOR base the day after, Capt. Taylor told him he could not see Dogandžić.

A month later, Capt. Taylor notified the parents that their son would be tried for war crimes and that the proceedings could take several months. On this occasion, he said he knew where Dogandžić was being held but was not at liberty to disclose the location, and advised them to ask Albanian friends to try to arrange his release. The parents contacted an Albanian friend who learned that Dogandžić was at Firaja village, Štrpce Municipality, and that the trial had taken place and it was established that he had committed no crimes. There has been no word of him since.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Markočević, Božidar (M, 58), Serb, from Sušica, Štrpce Municipality, janitor at the Lahor children's recreation center – last seen on 30 June 2000. His body was found by KFOR on 4 July in a woods.

Mrs. Markočević said her husband took his cows and goats to pasture in an outlying meadow called Vršara in the morning of 30 June. The closest Albanian village, Kaštanjevo (Koshtanjevë), is located four kilometers from the meadow. When her husband failed to return in the evening, she reported his disappearance to KFOR.

Two days later, KFOR members found Markočević's shoe and bag in a woods near the meadow and, on 4 July, some 300 meters farther away, his body with two gunshot wounds in the head. His 30 cows and 19 goats were not found.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Escaped

M.J. (M, 16), Serb, from Sušica, Štrpce Municipality – abducted by four armed and uniformed Albanians on 2 July. He managed to escape when a KFOR patrol appeared.

M.J. recounted that he took the family's livestock to pasture in a nearby meadow just before 10 a.m. on 2 July. Four armed Albanians, one in black and three in camouflage uniforms without insignia, came up to him between 10 and 11 a.m. All four were masked and one had a walkie-talkie. M.J. described what happened:

"They asked in Serbian from which village I was and my age. I answered them and they knocked me down and kicked me in the head two or three times. I got up and they tied my hands and gagged me. We set off toward the Albanian village Jezerce. We had been walking for about two hours when I heard a Polish KFOR patrol coming. I broke away from the Albanians and started running to my village. The Polish soldiers were only about 20 meters from us so the Albanians didn't dare fire after me."

Source: HLC, witness statement

SUVA REKA

1. Missing

Staletović, Slobodan (M, 50), Serb, from Popovljane (Papalan), Suva Reka Municipality – last seen on 4 April 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Ozegović, Aleksandar (M, 26), Serbian Serb, from Belgrade – last seen on 14 April 1999 in Belanica (Bellanicë), Suva Reka Municipality.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Ozegović, Milan (M, 29), Serb, from Blace, Suva Reka Municipality – last seen on 19 April 1999 in Belanica, Suva Reka Municipality.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Mihailović, Predrag (M), Serb – last seen on 19 April 1999 in Belanica, Suva Reka Municipality.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Jovanović, Jovan (M, 71), Serb, from Lešane, Suva Reka Municipality – disappeared on 11 June 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Karanović, Duško (M, 43), municipal court judge; his wife **Karanović, Snježana** (34), economist, Serbs from Suva Reka – disappeared on 13 June 1999 in Suva Reka.

The Karanovići fled Suva Reka on 10 June and were placed in a refugee center in Belgrade. On 11 June, Karanović was instructed by the Serbian Deputy Minister of Justice to return and left Belgrade with his wife at 11 a.m. on 12 June in a yellow Fiat 125 car. They were seen by a friend at Merdare on the boundary with Kosovo.

A neighbor of the Karanovići who was interviewed by the HLC stated that she last saw them when they arrived in their apartment in the afternoon of 13 June. KLA members stormed into the neighbor's home the next day and told her all Serbs in the Karanovići's building had been killed during the night.

Another neighbor told the family she had seen the bodies of Karanović and his wife not far from their building and that they had been shot to death.

The family heard that many Suva Reka Serbs were killed on 13 and 14 June, that their bodies lay in the streets until they were collected by the KLA and covered up with earth by bulldozers.

Source: HLC, witness statements

Nikolić, Miodrag (M, 42), from Niška Banja, electrician; **Ivković, Predrag** (40), from Niš, machinist; **Marković, I. Zoran** (22), from Džepnica near Blace; **Bojić, Dragoljub** (44), all Serbian Serbs, Yugoslav Army reservists – disappeared on 13 June 1999 near Suva Reka.

Ivković's father told the HLC his son and a group of reservists arrived in Niš from Kosovo with military equipment on the night of 11/12 June 1999. Ivković came to see his parents and returned to barracks about 9 a.m. on 12 June.

At 3 p.m. the next day, Ivković left Niš for Suva Reka in a column of six vehicles. He and Nikolić were in a Raba semi-trailer (license plates DJ 330-11), and Marković and Bojić in a blue Mercedes truck. The column was ambushed by the KLA near the Balkan Hotel in Suva Reka. Fighting broke out, during which the reservists disappeared.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jovanović, Ivica (M, 36), from Pančevo; **Rašović, Dragiša** (M, 31), from Gornji Stepoš, Kruševac Municipality, Serbian Serbs, Yugoslav Army reservists – disappeared on 13 June outside Suva Reka.

Jovanović's father stated that the 3rd Army Command informed the families about the circumstances in which Jovanović and Rašović went missing as follows: Yugoslav Army troops were on 13 June transporting damaged military hardware from Gnjilane, Suva Reka, Prizren, Djakovica and Peć to Serbia. Jovanović and Rašović were driving two flatbed trailers. Lt Vlada Panić and Djura Kornov, a reserve driver, were with them, and Lt Dejan Vuković and seven soldiers were the security detachment.

They completed their assignment and were returning when they were ambushed by the KLA just outside Suva Reka about 6 p.m. Lt Panić and Kornov were wounded in the ensuing fighting but were able, together with six soldiers from the security detachment's FAP truck, to pull out to a nearby village. Later that night, about 11 p.m. they went back and managed to extract the wounded Igor Smiljković from the FAP truck and have him transferred to the Prizren hospital. The next morning, the Yugoslav Army officer in charge of security in the area requested a KFOR escort for a unit to evacuate Jovanović and Rašović and the flatbeds. The request was denied on the grounds that KFOR could not guarantee the safety of the soldiers.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Bijelić, Mirko (M, 20), Serbian Serb, from Bačka Palanka, Yugoslav Army member – disappeared on 13 June 1999 near Suva Reka.

Bijelić's father stated that his son and other soldiers were transporting military hardware from Prizren to Leskovac in Serbia. Their column was ambushed by the KLA near Suva Reka.

Bijelić's commanding officer, Janko Popović, informed the family that the KLA immediately killed all those taken, and that Bijelić's body was found and buried in Prizren on 29 June 1999.

When the families attempted to claim their sons' remains, the military authorities informed them that the bodies had not been recovered and that the identifications were based only on the boots and military identification tags found on the scene.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Burdžić, Dragan (M, 39), driver with the Medical Center in Prizren; **Bucalo, Dragan** (M, 43), driver, Serbs, from Prizren; all Yugoslav Army reservists – disappeared on 13 June 1999 between Suva Reka and Koriša, Prizren Municipality.

Mrs. Burdžić recounted that her husband had driven a truck loaded with military equipment to Serbia. He was returning in a column of five military vehicles, three of which managed to join a KFOR column and reach Prizren. The remaining two trucks, in which Burdžić, Bucalo, **B.M.** (M), Muslim, from Grnčare, Prizren Municipality, Yugoslav Army reservist and another soldier were travelling, fell somewhat behind and were attacked by the KLA near Suva Reka about 4 p.m. The soldier was killed and his body was found a few days later on the road at the location of the attack. Only B.M. managed to escape, but he declined to say anything about the incident.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Marković, Novica (M); his brother **Marković, Mirko**; **Jovanović, Božidar** (M, 51), retired; **Živanović, Svetlana** (F, 45); **Nikolić, Marko** (M, 79); **Nikolić, Cveta** (F, 74), Serbs, from Mušutište, Suva Reka Municipality – last seen on 15 June 1999 in Mušutište.

The majority of villagers left Mušutište immediately after the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police from Kosovo, and only 25, mostly elderly, stayed in their homes. Since the village had no telephones, their families were unable to contact them. The local priest, Father Ilija, told the families he was in the village on 15 June when he saw and spoke with the Serbs from Mušutište for the last time.

When the village was occupied by the KLA a few days later, the priest could no longer visit it. He spoke, however, with persons who subsequently passed through Mušutište and told him it was uninhabited.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Crevar, Dušan (M, 31), Serb, - last seen on 20 June 1999 in Suva Reka.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Beriša, Afrim (Berisha, Afrim) (M, 30), Rom, from Suva Reka – disappeared on 30 June 1999.

Source: Roma From Kosovo Testify, ERRC, 2 August 1999

Popović, Dragan (M, 30), Serb, from Pečka Banja, Peć Municipality – last seen in June 1999 in Dvorane, Suva Reka Municipality.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Tomić, Ivo (M, 52); his son **Tomić (first name unknown)** (18), Serbian Serbs, from Negotin – disappeared on 18 August 1999 between Dulje (Duhël), Suva Reka Municipality, and Prizren.

Source: *Ubijeno 11, oteto 20 ljudi* [11 Killed, 20 Abducted], BLIC, 18 August 1999

Stojkov, Atanasije (M, 62); his son-in-law **Andjelković, Dejan** (29), Serbian Serbs, from Vranje – disappeared on 22 August between Suva Reka and Priština. Stojkov and Andjelković were last seen in Suva Reka where they unloaded a delivery of humanitarian aid and set off in the direction of Priština.

Source: *Od dolaska KFOR-a kidnapovano 645 civila* [645 Civilians Kidnapped Since KFOR's Arrival], POLITIKA, 22 October 1999

Nedeljković, Ljubiša (M, 43); his wife **Nedeljković, Leposava** (47), Serbs, from Suva Reka (3 Devet Jugovića St.) – disappeared in the summer of 1999 in Suva Reka.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

2. Abducted

Stanković, Todor (M, 52), trucker; **Trajković, Dejan** (29), driver with the Proleće hotel company, Serbian Serbs, from Bujanovac (Železnička St.) – abducted on 13 June 1999 in Suva Reka.

Stanković was hired by R.M. from Djakovica to transport his belongings to Bujanovac in Serbia, and asked Trajković to accompany him. They left Bujanovac at 12.30 p.m. on 13 June in Stanković's Mercedes truck (license plates VR 498-

19) with the logo "TAXI 120-Stanković Todor" on the door panel. R.M. described what happened:

"When we reached Štimlje, we decided to go to Prizren to ask if the road to Djakovica was safe. A tanker and semi-trailer were in front of us on the road. We passed Crnovlje and Dulje villages and, at the entrance to Suva Reka, I noticed four or five KLA members in black uniforms on the right side of the road, near the houses. Not long after that, there was the sound of a loud blast. The semi, about 100 meters ahead of us, burst into flames and some people pulled an injured man out of it. Then long bursts of shots came at the semi.

"The three of us got out of the truck and went into a small street in which there were some small children and an elderly Albanian who offered to help us. I had a TT 7.62 pistol and the Albanian insisted that I get rid of it right away. I told Todor and Dejan that we should start running but they didn't agree because I was carrying papers showing I was a police reservist. I went down the street to see where it led and then went back to tell Todor and Dejan to come with me. They were with the Albanian, standing at the gate of a yard. They went into the yard and the Albanian told the children playing in the street to go and call the KLA and closed the gate.

"I ran to the main road where I saw a truck with Djakovica plates. I went up to it and, hearing Albanian music, realized that there were Albanians in it and went to ground in some bushes. I heard gunfire all the time. I reached a barn and hid inside it. I tore up and buried all my papers – I had thrown the pistol away before. I heard some men speaking Albanian outside the barn. When they left, I decided to walk to Štimlje. I ran into a Yugoslav Army unit in the woods at Dulje. I gave myself up and they tied me up right away but untied me as soon as I explained who I was. I spent the night with them in the woods and in the morning KFOR escorted us all to Prizren. Todor's truck wasn't there any more when we passed through Suva Reka but I saw KLA members by the road. We reached Prizren about noon on 14 June."

R.M. spent the night at the Yugoslav Army Cultural Center in Prizren and returned to Serbia with the troops the next day at 6 a.m.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Killed

Krehić, Raza (F, 54), Muslim, from Suva Reka, post office employee – abducted by the KLA on 14 June 1999 and killed shortly afterwards.⁴⁰

Source: HLC, witness statement

⁴⁰ Witness statement on the abduction and killing of Raza Krehić: Suva Reka, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

Jovanović, Radisav (M); **Mitić, Jovana** (F); her husband **Mitić, Boža**; their relative **Mitić, Stanislav** (M); **Božović, Svetlana** (F); her three-year-old child, Serbs, from Mušutište, Suva Reka Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 15 June 1999 and killed shortly afterwards.⁴¹

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.3. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

Jovanović, Tonku (F, 84), Serb, from Mušutište, Suva Reka Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 13 June and released.

Mrs. Jovanović 's grandson related that his grandmother told him she was abducted by members of the KLA who burned her son alive in his house, killed her daughter Jovana Mitić, her husband Boža, and brother-in-law Stanislav Mitić, as well as Svetlana Božović and her three-year-old child, all Serbs from Mušutište.

In early January 2000, KFOR transferred M.T. to the Serbian Orthodox seminary from where she fled to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

P.V. (F, 59); **G.K.** (F, 75), Serbs, retired, from Suva Reka – taken by the KLA on 17 June 1999 and released the next day. **Raza Krehić** (F, 54), Muslim, from Suva Reka, with whom they shared an apartment, was abducted by the KLA on 14 June 1999 and killed.

P.V. told the HLC that she, G.K. and Raza Krehić, a Muslim woman, moved into an abandoned Albanian apartment in their building on 13 June following the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police from Kosovo. They believed they would thus avoid the KLA attacks on Serb apartments until KFOR troops arrive to ensure their safety.

KLA members stormed into the apartment the same day, searched it for weapons and threatened to kill the three women unless they moved out of Kosovo. The next day, 14 June, three KLA men came at 12.30 p.m. and took away Raza Krehić, saying she would be returned shortly. The men returned at 2.30 p.m. and told P.V. and G.K. they had slit Raza Krehić's throat. They came

⁴¹ Witness statement on the abduction and killing of these persons: Suva Reka, 2.2.1. Released by the KLA.

for the third time at 12.30 p.m. on 17 June and led away P.V. and G.K. P.V. described what happened then:

"They took us to what used to be the police station. They asked where my sons were, if I had any weapons, if I knew somebody in Serbia who worked for the State Security Service, if I knew the whereabouts of an Albanian they thought was a Serbian spy. They began to beat us. The soldier who questioned and beat us was wearing black pants and a black shirt with a KLA badge on the sleeve. He hit me so hard that I fell off the chair. For a time I couldn't hear anything he said because he kept hitting me hard on the head and ear. I had to read his lips to understand what he was saying. He pulled my hair, pushed the barrel of his pistol in my mouth. He said over and over that I was going to die now."

After some time, P.V. and G.K. were released on condition that they moved out of Kosovo. The KLA commander, Sabit Gaši (Sabit Gashi), wrote them a safe passage to leave Suva Reka.

P.V. and G.K. fled Kosovo to Serbia immediately after their release.
Source: HLC, witness statement

UROŠEVAC

1. Missing

Stojčetočić, Djordje (M, 44), Serb, from Štrpce – last seen at the railway station in Uroševac on 18 May 1999 from where he planned to leave for Macedonia.

Marko Stojčetočić recounted that his brother boarded a bus for Skopje, Macedonia, about 6 a.m. on 18 May. He was turned back at the border by Macedonian police because his passport had expired and returned to Uroševac from where he planned to try to cross the border, this time by train. He met a friend at the railway station and asked her to take a carton of cigarettes to his father. Another friend saw him there somewhat later, about 10 p.m.

Since Stojčetočić was not in the habit of telling his family when he traveled, his brother heard about his disappearance two weeks later when the friends in Macedonia he was to visit called and asked about him. Marko Stojčetočić reported his brother's disappearance to KFOR and the Red Cross.
Source: HLC, witness statement.

Kolarević (or **Kolčetočić**), **Novak** (M); **Kolarević** (or **Kolčetočić**) **Zorka** (F), Serbs, from Gatnja, Uroševac Municipality – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in the Uroševac area.

Source: *U selu Gotiva oteta porodica Jokić* [Jokić Family Kidnapped in Gotiva Village], BLIC, 19 June 1999; *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Dabić, Milosav (M); **Dabić, Radmila** (F), Serbs, from Nerodimlje (Nerodimje), Uroševac Municipality – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in the Uroševac area.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999; *OVK otima, KFOR oslobadja* [KLA Abducts, KFOR Releases], BLIC, 20 June 1999

Kocić, Stanislav (M); **Marković, Desimir** (M); **Stolić, Nebojša** (M), Serbs – disappeared in Varoš (Varosh), Uroševac Municipality, after 14 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

(Last name unknown), Ilija (M), Serb – disappeared in Zaskok (Zaskoc), Uroševac Municipality, after 14 June 1999.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Čungurović, Stanko (M, 50), Serb, from Uroševac (Cara Uroša St.), retired police officer – last seen on 15 June 1999.

At about noon on 15 June, a neighbor saw Čungurović arguing with an Albanian in Cara Uroša Street. A woman was trying to calm them down. Other Albanians gathered around and began to shout. Fearing that the incident could escalate, the neighbor went to an office building in the same street to call KFOR but no one answered the phone. Ten minutes later, he left the building and saw that Čungurović was no longer in the street. Later that day, he spoke to a relative on Čungurović who confirmed that he had not returned after leaving his home that day.

Source: HLC, witness statement.

Milivojević, Srdjan (M, 27), Serb – last seen at 12.30 p.m. on 18 June 1999 in Kamena Glava (Komogllavë), Uroševac Municipality.

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

Djordjević, Perica (M, 31), Serb, from Uroševac – last seen on 23 June 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Trajković, Dragan (M), Serb – disappeared during June 1999 in Uroševac.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Dejanović, Živka (F), Serb – disappeared in the first half of July 1999 in Muhadžer Talinovac (Talinoc i Muhaxhërve), Uroševac Municipality.

Source: *Terror Continues in Kosovo*, KOSOVO DAILY NEWS, 16 July 1999

Šabani, Ekrem (Shabani, Ekrem) (M, 48), Rom, from Uroševac – last seen at 4 p.m. on 12 October 1999 in his yard (17 Šefki Hajdini (Shefki Hajdini) St.)).

Source: "OZNA" Detective Agency website

3. Abducted

Vuksanović, Mile (M, 60), Serb, from Priština, engineer, acting director of the Public Health Office in Priština; **Dj.Lj.** (M), Albanian, from Priština – abducted on 2 April 1999 at Trn, Uroševac Municipality. Dj.Lj. was subsequently released.

Mrs. Vuksanović said her husband traveled to Uroševac on 2 April in a white Zastava car with the Red Cross emblem to test the quality of the Uroševac water supply. He was accompanied by an Albanian friend, Dj.Lj., who planned to fetch his wife and children from Trn village. A KLA patrol stopped them just outside Trn, found three pistols in the trunk of the car and took them away. Dj.Lj. was subsequently released.

Mrs. Vuksanović heard later from Albanian friends that one Miljezim, a shopkeeper in Trn, was a member of the KLA patrol and that he took the weapons seized from her husband.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Zabunović, Aleksandar (M, 68), retired; his wife **Zabunović, Kruna** (66), Serbs, from Uroševac – abducted on 15 June 1999 in Uroševac.

Unidentified men took Aleksandar Zabunović in the afternoon of 15 June and drove him away in a red Yugo car. Mrs. Zabunović returned home soon afterwards and, half an hour later, the same men came back and abducted her too. A neighbor saw them driving her away in a white car.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Kotarević, Sreta (M, 47), Serb, from Gatnje, Uroševac Municipality, judge in Uroševac – abducted on 17 June 1999.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Obradović, Miodrag (M, 52), Serb, from Srpski Babuš, Uroševac Municipality, teacher at the Jedinstvo elementary school – abducted on 18 June 1999.⁴²

Source: HLC, witness statement

⁴² Witness statement on the abduction of Obradović: Uroševac, 2.1.1. Escaped.

Djordjević, Milorad (M, 56), Serb, from Donje Nerodimlje (Nerodimje e Ulët), Uroševac Municipality – taken by the KLA on 19 June 1999, questioned and released a few hours later. KLA members returned and abducted Djordjević and his brother, Miloš Djordjević (58), at 11 p.m. that night.

At about noon on 19 June, two KLA members took Milorad Djordjević from his home to the KLA headquarters in Baliće (Beliqë) village, Uroševac Municipality. As they led him into the headquarters, located in a fruit storage facility, he saw another two KLA men taking Dinko Parlić, out of the building.⁴³

Djordjević was questioned by the KLA commander, Sadiku, and another five men, all wearing camouflage uniforms with KLA badges. He was asked who had torched the homes of two Albanian villagers, where his three sons did their military service, how many Albanians they had killed, how many houses they had burned, and constantly punched in the back, stomach and head. After two hours, two KLA men took him home in a yellow Zastava car which had been seized earlier by other KLA members from Svetozar Milić, a Serb from Donje Nerodimlje.

About 11 p.m. that night, five KLA members, among whom the HLC witness recognized Meti Moljaku (Meti Molaku), their commander, and one Hadžiemin (Haxhidemin) from Manastirce village, came to the Djordjević home again. All five were armed with automatic rifles, had knives in their belts and wore camouflage uniforms with KLA badges on their left sleeves and caps.

The KLA men demanded that Miloš and Milorad Djordjević hand over to them a machine-gun, hand grenades and a mortar. When they said they had turned over their weapons to KFOR, the KLA men took them to their headquarters in Baliće to be questioned by commander Sadiku. The brothers were pushed into the same car in which Milorad Djordjević was returned home earlier that day. There was no room in the car for Moljaku and Hadžiemin, who left on foot.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Dejanović, Čeda (M); **Dančetović, Božidar** (M); **unidentified man**, Serbs, from Srpski Babuš, Uroševac Municipality – abducted in their village by Albanian civilians.

Source: HLC, witness statement; *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999; *OVK otima, KFOR oslobadja* [KLA Abducts, KFOR Releases], BLIC, 20 June 1999

Stojković, Milan (M, 85); his wife **Stojković, Danica** (78), Serbs, from Uroševac (4 Miladina Popovića St.) – abducted after 20 June 1999.

⁴³ Witness statement on the abduction of Parlić: Uroševac, 2. Abducted.

Their daughter-in-law stated that the elderly couple were taken from their apartment by Albanian civilians.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Djordjević, Ljubomir (M); his wife **Djordjević, Rada**; their children **Sanja** and **Goran**, Serbs, from the vicinity of Uroševac – abducted by the KLA in Uroševac on 22 June 1999.

Source: *Državljeni Albanije stižu u Prištinu* [Albanian Nationals Arriving in Priština], BLIC, 24 June 1999; *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Parlić, Dinko (M, 49), Serb, from Donje Nerodimlje, Uroševac Municipality, employee of motor oil refinery in Uroševac – abducted on 25 June 1999.

Parlić's cousin related that non-Albanian villagers began to leave Nerodimlje on 17 June. Dinko Parlić decided to stay. Between 4 and 5 p.m. on 23 June, KLA members came to his home and took him to their headquarters in Baliće village for questioning. He was asked if he had weapons, where he was during the war, if he had killed Albanians and torched their homes. He was released at 7 p.m. and, on his way home, was attacked and severely beaten by four Albanian boys of about 14 or 15 years of age.

KLA members came to his home again the next day and took him to the headquarters for more questioning. He was released several hours later, waylaid by the same boys who took him into an abandoned Serb house and beat him up again.

Parlić was taken to the KLA headquarters for the third time on 25 June and did not return. His family fled to Serbia following his disappearance.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Tasić, Ljubinka (F); **Tasić, Miodrag** (M), Serbs, from Uroševac – abducted in the second half of June 1999 by unidentified persons from a refugee column making its way from Uroševac to Serbia.

Source: *List of Serbs Kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija (June-August)*, KOSOVO.COM

Šabić, Milan (M, 65), Serb, from Gornje Nerodimlje (Nerodimje e Epërme), Uroševac Municipality, resided in Priština, railway worker; **four or five unidentified elderly men**, Serbs, from Gornje Nerodimlje – abducted on 2 July 1999 in Gornje Nerodimlje.

Šabić's son said his father moved from Priština to his house in Gornje Nerodimlje on 25 June while he and his family fled Kosovo to Serbia. Villagers later told the

family that Šabić was in a neighbor's house with another four or five elderly Serbs on 2 July when a group of KLA members came and took them away. Šabić was first taken to his house and the KLA men tried to force him to set it on fire. He refused, they torched the house themselves and led him away. One of the elderly Serbs, **Mile** (last name unknown), called "Šumar," was wounded by the KLA men during the abduction and left on the road to bleed to death.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Grković, Jova (M, 50), Serb, from Uroševac – abducted from his home by unidentified persons on 5 July 1999.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Stojanović Marko (M, 52), former elementary school principal; **Živković, Paun** (M, 51), former secondary school principal – abducted on 28 September 1999 in Uroševac.

The HLC's witness recounted that Stojanović, Živković and four other Serb teachers came to Uroševac from Štrpce with a KFOR escort to pick up the school records and papers of Serb students and teachers. They went first to the Technical and Economics Schools and, about noon, to the elementary school. One of the teachers asked the KFOR members to take her to Duganjevo village to check up on her house. They agreed and the four teachers left while Stojanović and Živković remained in the school to finish their business as the Albanian principal had guaranteed their safety. When the teachers and KFOR members returned, the principal told them an Albanian in a black uniform had come and taken Stojanović and Živković.
Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Free

2.1.1. Released by the KLA

S.T. (M, 41), Serb, from Uroševac, post office employee – abducted by the KLA on 14 June 1999, held in a KLA prison in Gajre, Kačanik Municipality, until 17 June 1999 and released.

S.T. described what happened when two KLA members abducted him on 14 June as he was returning home after buying gasoline:

"I noticed two KLA members following me. A jeep came from the opposite direction and swerved to a halt, blocking the road. Two KLA soldiers got out, one pointed his pistols at me and ordered me into their vehicle. They drove me to Varoš (Varosh), a village two kilometers from Uroševac, and led me into the schoolhouse. There were six soldiers in black there. The KLA members who had

kidnapped me asked for one of the commanding officers. One of the soldiers said the man they wanted wasn't there and we went to Kamena Glava, Uroševac Municipality. On the way they asked if I had been in the Serbian forces and if I had killed anyone. They didn't find the man they wanted in Kamena Glava either so we went to Gajre in Kačanik Municipality.

"The village had been abandoned. The KLA men took me into the last room in a half-ruined house. There was a pile of straw in one corner; someone had obviously been there before me. I saw six to eight KLA members in the house. All were young, between 18 and 25, unshaved, armed and in camouflage uniforms. A KLA commander who was not in uniform questioned me. Unlike the others, he was polite and even offered me a cigarette. He left when we finished talking. I don't know if he gave a signal to the others but, as soon as he left, four of them began to beat me. They kicked and punched me and kept asking questions without waiting for me to answer. They asked how many Albanians I had killed, how many Albanian houses I had set on fire and robbed. They hit me on the head with a pistol and kicked me in the shinbone with their booted feet. They left after 15 minutes.

"I was locked in that room for two more days, 15 and 16 June. The beating was repeated over and over again. A KLA member I knew from before came in the morning of 17 June. He gave me a furtive sign and said to his people that he would take me to their command post. I got into his car about 9 a.m. He drove me to the overpass in Uroševac and said, 'I know you haven't done anything but perhaps I was harassed like that too. I don't know how things will turn out but you had better leave.'"

S.T. and his family fled Kosovo to Montenegro a few days later.
Source: HLC, witness statement

Ristić, Dragan (M); his neighbor (**Last name unknown**) **Marija** (F), Serbs, from Srpski Babuš, Uroševac Municipality – abducted around 14 June 1999 in the Uroševac areas, taken to the local KLA headquarters, beaten and released.
Source: HLC, witness statement

M.S. (M, 31), Serb, from Zaskok, Uroševac Municipality – abducted on 15 June 1999, held for two days, questioned and beaten, and released.

Eight KLA members stormed into M.S.'s yard about 11 p.m. on 15 June and said they were going to search the house for weapons. During the search, they verbally abused the family and told them to leave for Serbia. They searched for an hour, took all the money they found and struck M.S.'s father. They grabbed M.S. by the arms, pushed him into a car and drove him away. M.S. recounted what happened next:

"They took me to a private house in Šerete (Sheret) village near Uroševac. They tied my hands behind my back and locked me in the bathroom. Six KLA soldiers took turns to beat me with nightsticks. They held a knife to my throat, cocked a pistol and put it against my forehead, insulted me and threatened all the time to kill me. I thought death would be better than the torment they were putting me through. I don't know how long it was before an Albanian I knew by sight from Uroševac came in. He just looked at me. I don't know if he recognized me and said something to the men who were beating me, but when he left they didn't beat me any more that night.

"He came again the next day and, when he left, they gave me something to eat for the first time. An hour later, two KLA men grabbed me – I was still tied up – and led me outside. I thought they were taking me out to be shot. They put me in a car and drove me to a headquarters in a house on the Plešenski road near Uroševac. They didn't beat me there, just questioned me about where I had been during the bombing, if I had looted Albanian houses. They kept insulting me, saying we Serbs were garbage and should all be liquidated. I repeated that I was called up, that I wasn't in any mopping up operations, that the Albanians in my village were there all during the war and nobody touched them.

"There were KLA officers at this headquarters. They filmed the questioning. One of them said they would let me go but that I had to work for them, disarm the village. After the questioning, they took me to a car and ordered me to get in the trunk. Again I thought they were going to shoot me. I heard the car start and after a time it stopped, they opened the trunk and I saw they had brought me to my house. They ordered me out. I climbed out and they got in the car and left." M.S. found the house empty as his family had already fled the village. He joined a group of Uroševac Serbs who were leaving the town under KFOR escort. He fled to Serbia where he now lives with his family.

Source: HLC, witness statement

P. (first name unknown) (M), Serb, from Uroševac, judge – abducted by the KLA in June 1999, released 10 days later through the intercession of Albanian friends.

A friend of P. stated that he was stopped in the street by KLA members who placed a sack over his head, threw him into the trunk of a car and drove him away. He was locked in an empty room with only animal skins on the floor. The KLA members threw knives at him, gave him a bowl of soup with a mouse in it to eat, psychologically abused him but did not beat him. Albanian friends interceded and P. was released 10 days later. A sack was again placed over his head, he was pushed into the trunk of a car and thrown out in front of his house.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1.2. Escaped

S.B.(M); Obradović, Miodrag (M, 52), teacher at the Jedinstvo elementary school, Serbs, from Srpski Babuš, Uroševac Municipality – abducted on 18 June 1999. S.B. escaped; the whereabouts of Obradović remain unknown.

Mrs. Obradović related that S.B. went to see a friend and arrived when KLA members were searching the friend's house. The KLA men then took S.B. back to his house, searched it for weapons and, taking S.B., went to the Obradović house where they tied up her husband and S.B. and beat them. After a time, they led them both in the direction of the Nerodimka River, which runs between Srpski Babuš and Muhadži Babuš (Muhaxhërve Babush) villages. Near the river, S.B. managed to escape. As he ran away, he saw an expensive car drive up. The bound Obradović was pushed into the car and driven away.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Z.G. (18), Rom, from Uroševac (25 Maja St.) – abducted in late June 1999, held in the house of a KLA member for one day and set free by an elderly Albanian woman.

Z.G. stated that he was in an Uroševac cafe with his brother when six KLA members came up to them: Becar, Feta and four known locally as "Kozanci." All were in uniform and armed with pistols and knives. Z.G.'s brother was able to get away while Z.G. was taken to Becar's house. He described what happened there:

"They demanded that I give them the names of people I had killed, what I stole and everything else I did. I said I hadn't been mixed up in anything like that. They tied me to a chair and hit me with baseball bats. First they hit me on my right ankle, then in the stomach. They demanded the names of Serbs and Roma who did such things. I didn't know what to do so I gave them the names of people who lived abroad or had already moved out. Then they left. An old Albanian woman came, untied the ropes and said, 'Son, I know you're feeling poorly. You saved my son so run now, and good luck to you.' I ran to the Serb cemetery and from there to the railway station where the Serbs were staying."

Z.G. fled Kosovo to Serbia four days later.

Source: HLC, witness statement

VITINA

1. Missing

Petrović, Dragan "Laki" (M, 35), Serb, from Vitina, psychiatric patient – disappeared on 14 June 1999 soon after leaving him home.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jacić, Kosta (M, 56), Serb, from Vitina – last seen on 17 July 1999.

Source: *Persons missing in relation to the events in Kosovo from January 1998*, ICRC

Mladenović, Stojance (M, 64); his wife **Mladenović, Zorica** (65), Serbs, from Novo Selo (Novosellë), Vitina Municipality – disappeared on 19 June 1999 on the road to Novo Selo.

Friends of the couple recounted that the Mladenovići fled Kosovo to Serbia on 16 June 1999. Their daughter remained in the village and they returned for her on 19 June. They were last seen near Požaranje (Pozharan) on the road to Novo Selo. Their daughter had in the meantime been transferred to Serbia by KFOR and does not know what happened to her parents.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2. Abducted

2.1. Killed

Stojković, Radomir (M, 65), Serb, from Klokot, Vitina Municipality – last seen alive on 23 July 1999.

Neighbors saw Stojković working in his field on 23 July. His body, bearing signs of violence, was found by KFOR in a stream at Požaranje village, Gnjilane Municipality, on 28 September 1999.

Source: HLC; witness statement

2.2. Free

2.2.1. Released by the KLA

Stanimirović, Stojadin (M, 45), Serb, from Novo Selo, Vitina Municipality, elementary school principal, lieutenant in the reserve, called up during the war; **Stanimirović, Tihomir** (M, 53); Serb, from Novo Selo, elementary school principal in Tankosić (Tankosiq), called up during the war; **Mladenović, Slaviša** (M, 26), Serb, from Novo Selo, police officer; **Djordjević, Žarko** (M, 37), Serb, from Čerkez Sadovine (Sadovine e Cerkezev), Vitina Municipality, electrician; his son **Djordjević, Aleksandar** (14); **Andjelković, Predrag "Pepe"** (M, 27), Serb, from Gušice (Gushice), Vitina Municipality; **Kojić, Srdjan** (M, 23), Serb, from Vrbani (Urban), Vitina Municipality; **last name unknown, Srdjan** (M, 23),

Serb, from Klokot, Vitina Municipality; **Novićević, Suzan** (M, 20), from Vitina; **last name unknown, Milan** (M, 30), Bosnian Serb, refugee – imprisoned by the KLA in Vrbane village, five held for two days and five for seven days.

Slaviša Mladenović was taken on 16 June and released on 17 June on the grounds that the KLA was not allowed to hold persons in uniform for more than 24 hours. He was questioned and beaten to make him confess to looting Albanian property. Predrag Andjelković was released after his father paid a ransom of 100,000, which he allegedly earned by driving Kosovo Albanians to neighboring Albania. Aleksandar Djordjević was released after two days. He too was beaten because, his captors claimed, they had not known he was a minor. Srdjan Kojić and Srdjan (last name unknown) were held for two days, severely beaten and released.

The remaining five were held from 15 to 21 June. Stojadin Stanimirović was questioned about the killing of Rustem Zećiri (Rustem Zeqiri) and had two ribs broken during the severe beatings he was subjected to. When they released him, the KLA told him that he had been taken "by mistake." His relative Tihomir Stanimirović was questioned about the murder of Šaban Topali (Shaban Topalli) and his nephew, whose bodies were burned after they were killed. He too was beaten and released when "KLA members established that he did not kill and did not know who had killed Shaban Topalli and his relative." Žarko Djordjević was seriously injured while being questioned about the murder of two Albanians at the Jerli Sadovine (Sadovine e Jerlive) gasoline station during the war. He, Suzan Kojić and the Bosnian Serb refugee were released to KFOR by the local KLA commander, Alji Aljija (Ali Alija).

One of the men described the beatings inflicted on them by the KLA: "A dozen of them would barge into the room and beat us until they floored us. Our hands were tied and we had to stand against the wall, first facing it and then with our backs to it. When we were down on the floor, they stomped on us with their boots. Or they would take us out one by one, beat us with rifle butts, punch and kick us and make believe they we were going to be shot. They wanted to make us confess that we had killed, raped, looted. I had nothing to confess."

Another of the witnesses said that, while beating him, the KLA men would tell him they had killed his son, raped his daughters and were going to kill his wife too. "On the third day, the commander came and said I had been brought in by mistake, that I wasn't guilty of anything and that he would hand me over to KFOR so they could take me home. I refused to go home because I was convinced that they had killed my family. He said they were all alive, only he did not know where they were. I didn't believe him. He ordered my hands to be untied and the tape taken off my eyes. He asked his men which of them had beaten me. They brought in a young one in a black uniform who said he beat me

just because he felt like it. The commander said he would show him what it felt like, and sent him to prison.”

This witness said Vitina Serbs and Albanians got on well. One one occasion during the NATO intervention, he was going home on leave from his military position when he heard a cry for help. “I turned around and saw a village Albanian who had been caught by reservists. I heard a lieutenant say he should be shot. I went up and told them to let the man go. They weren’t able to tell me what he had done. I saved him. Maybe something like that happened to Rusto but there wasn’t anyone around to save him. Our district suffered because of the Leskovac garrison. They robbed Albanians, and Serbs too. They took money, gold. We paid for it after the war. Everything we had was burned.”

Source: HLC, witness statement

VUČITRN (VUSHTRRI)

1. Missing

Knežević, Ljubomir (M, 60), Montenegrin, from Vučitrn (14 Trg Slobode), reporter on the *Jedinstvo* newspaper, Radio Priština and correspondent of the Belgrade daily Politika – disappeared on 6 May 1999.

Knežević’s son recounted to the HLC that about noon on 6 May his father went to see the Laketić family about whom he had written a story. The family lived near the railway station, some three kilometers from the town center. Knežević left them about 5 p.m. to walk home and disappeared.

His wife fled Vučitrn to Serbia on 12 June.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Janačković, Ćirilo (M, 82), Serb, from Novo Selo Mudjansko (Novosellë Maxhune), Vučitrn Municipality – last seen on 15 June 1999.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Brakus, Dušan (M, 71), Serb, from Donji Svračak (Sfraçaku i Ulët), Vučitrn Municipality, retired – disappeared on 19 June in Nedakovac (Nedakofc), Vučitrn Municipality.

Brakus, his son and son-in-law went to Nedakovac village on 19 June to check up on their property there. When they arrived, they found the barn on fire and started to fight the blaze to prevent it spreading to the house. When the flames were extinguished at 2.30 p.m., the son and son-in-law noticed the Brakus was no longer with them.

They immediately sought KFOR's assistance and returned to the property with a KFOR patrol. A group of some 50 Albanians was already there, and threatened the Serbs with arrest and liquidation by the KLA police. The KFOR patrol escorted them out of the village.

The HLC witness returned to Nedakovac on 22 June to try to learn something about his father-in-law's disappearance. KFOR members accompanied him to the property but no leads to Brakus' whereabouts were found. The family then fled Kosovo to Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Popović, Petar (M, 64), Serb, from Vučitrn (4 Trg Slobode), retired – disappeared on 21 June 1999 in Vučitrn.

Mrs. Popović recounted that she left Vučitrn with her son to stay with her daughter in Zubin Potok. Her husband remained in their house with Ramadan, an Albanian friend who moved in with him. She last spoke with her husband on the telephone at 8.30 p.m. on 21 June when he told her he planned to join her shortly.

With KFOR assistance, Mrs. Popović was able to contact Ramadan in late July. He told her he went out in the afternoon of 22 June to buy bread, leaving Popović and his own 13-year-old son in the house. Four armed KLA members in black uniforms stormed into the house and, when Ramadan returned, he found a severely beaten Popović lying on the bed with his face badly swollen.

In the evening, Popović went to report the incident to KFOR and did not return. In August 1999, Ramadan was hit by a car whose driver remains unknown and died of the injuries he sustained.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Savić, Ljubodrag (M, 52), Serb, from Gojbulj (Gojbuje), Vučitrn Municipality, laborer – last seen around 27 June 1999.

Savić's neighbors stated that he left Gojbulj for Novo Selo on foot and did not return.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Baltić, Slobodan (M), Serb, from Vučitrn – disappeared after 14 June 1999 in Vučitrn.

Source: *Centar za mir i toleranciju u Prištini* [Peace and Tolerance Center in Priština], BLIC, 5 July 1999

Papić, Enver (M); **(last name unknown) Dejmo** (M), Serbian Muslims, from Duga Poljana near Novi Pazar – disappeared on the Vučitrn-Priština road in August 1999

Papić and Dejmo were transporting goods to Priština where they were taken on a consignment ordered by a business in Sjenica. They were last seen on the road from Vučitrn to Priština.

Source: *Dvadesetak Srba ranjeno ili oteto* [Some 20 Serbs Wounded or Kidnapped], POLITIKA, 20 August 1999

Vukmirović, Milovan (M, 53), Serb, from Grace, Vučitrn Municipality – disappeared on 9 October 1999.

Vukmirović was last seen between 2 and 3 p.m. riding his bicycle in Grace.

Source: Church Committee, Kosovo

Čizmalji, Džemailj (Çizmali, Xhemail) (M, 47), Hashkali, from Vučitrn, bookkeeper with the Perporin company – disappeared on 13 October 1999.

Enver Čizmali told the HLC that his brother Džemail was in Novi Sad, Serbia, during the NATO intervention and returned to Vučitrn in early July 1999. On 13 October, he visited relatives and told them that someone from Perporin had called and said he should come to see about renewing his employment with the company. He left the relatives' home at 9.30 a.m. and headed for the company offices.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Stanimirović, Igor (M, 20); **Stanojević Branko** (M, 22), Serbs, from Plemetina (Plemetinë), Obilić Municipality – last seen on 31 March 2000 near Vučitrn while travelling from Priština to Kosovska Mitrovica.

Source: *New Kidnapping of Serbs*, SERBIA INFO, 3 April 2000

2. Abducted

Baltić, Slavoljub (M), Serb, from Vučitrn – last seen about 8 p.m. on 15 June on the road from Vučitrn to Miloševo village.

Albanian civilians stopped Baltić in the street, handcuffed him and took him in the direction of Mt Čičavica (Çiçavicës).

Source: *KFOR oslobodio vojnika i dva brata* [KFOR Frees Soldier and Two Brothers], BLIC, 17 June 1999; *Teroristi protiv mira* [Terrorists Against Peace], POLITIKA, 17 June 1999

Mihajlović, Branimir (M, 28), employee of the Ekstra paint and varnish company; his brothers **Vladimir** (M, 22), police officer and **M.A.** (M, 13), elementary school student, his father **M.N.**, Serbs, from Gojbulj, Vučitrn Municipality; their friend **Mladenović, Vladimir** (M, 28), employee of the Startis

galvanization plant, Serb, from Novo Selo Begovo (Novosellë e Begut), Vučitrn Municipality – abducted by the KLA from the Mihajlović house on 25 June 1999. M.A. was subsequently released and M.N. escaped.

Mrs. Mladenović said her family fled Novo Selo Begovo on 18 June. Her son Vladimir decided to go back to Kosovo to sell their cattle and then return to Serbia. He spoke with a friend who told him it was safe for him to come to Kosovo.

On 24 June, Vladimir Mladenović took the cattle to the Mihajlović farm in Gojbulj and planned to stay with his friends until he sold the animals. The next day, M.N. was accosted by three Albanian civilians armed with automatic rifles who forced him to open the gate and let them into his house. At gunpoint, the Albanians then led M.N., his three sons and Vladimir Mladenović toward the neighboring village of Gornje Sudimlje (Studime e Epërme). The youngest son cried and complained of a pain in his leg and was allowed to go home, and M.N. somewhat later seized a chance to escape by leaping into a gully. The abductors fired after him and, mistakenly believing they had shot him, continued to Gornje Sudimlje with the two elder Mihajlović brothers and Mladenović.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Plavci, Rifat (M, 49), Rom, from Vučitrn (4 Gračanička St.), butcher – abducted by the KLA on 5 July 1999.

Plavci's relative recounted that Rifat and his family fled Vučitrn to Serbia on 12 June 1999. He returned on 5 July to check up on his house. The owner of the butcher's shop where he had worked called the family and informed them that KLA members abducted Plavci from the house that same evening.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Plavci, Aljija (Plavci, Ali) (M, 36); his mother **Plavci, Sahara** (64), Roma, from Vučitrn (Gračanička St.) – abducted by the KLA on 5 July 1999.

Relatives stated that three KLA members came to the Plavci home on 5 July and took him to their headquarters in the house of Hasan Begeši (Hasan Begeshi). Three hours later, his mother went to the headquarters to inquire about her son. Two KLA men beat her up in front of the house and then took her inside.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Plavci, Avdulah (M, 68), Rom, from Vučitrn, restaurant owner – abducted by the KLA from his home on 5 July 1999.

Plavci's nephew recounted that KLA members came to Plavci's home on 5 July and led him into the barn behind the house. Neighbors heard his screams but

were afraid to go to his help. Somewhat later, the KLA men left, taking Plavci with them.

Source: HLC, witness statement

Jocić, Srdjan (M, 30), Serb, from Banjska (Bajskë), Vučitrn Municipality, police officer – abducted by the KLA on 22 August on the road between Veliki Kičić (Kqiqi i Madh) and Kosovska Mitrovica.

Mrs. Jocić recounted that her husband went to his parents' home in Veliki Kičić, Kosovska Mitrovica Municipality to take his mother to Kosovska Mitrovica. They left the village at 10.30 a.m. on 22 August in Jocić's yellow Zastava 101 car (license plates KM 266-99).

The car broke down and Jocić got out to see if he could fix it. Five minutes later, an expensive car with four men inside, two in KLA uniforms and two in civilian clothes, drove up and stopped. The men in civilian clothes got out, one aimed his rifle at Jocić and the other seized him and pushed him into their car. When his mother cried out for help, the man threatened to kill her. They drove Jocić away, leaving his mother on the road.

A KFOR patrol appeared somewhat later and Mrs. Jocić tried to tell them of her son's abduction. The KFOR members did not understand her and continued on their way. Then some Albanians came, managed to start the car and, against Mrs. Jocić's protests, drove her toward the nearby village of Šupkovac (Shupkofo). The car, however, broke down again and the Albanians left Mrs. Jocić on the road. She walked to Kosovska Mitrovica and reported her son's abduction to KFOR.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1. Free

2.1.1. Released by the KLA

Kordić, Jovicu (M, 40), Serb, from Leposavić (Leposaviq), Vučitrn Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 17 June, held for several hours and released.

Kordić's friends stated that he was accosted by KLA members about 3 p.m. on 17 June, forced into a car and taken to Smrekovina (Smrekovnicë), a village between Vučitrn and Kosovska Mitrovica. He was held in a building there, beaten and questioned, and released several hours later.

Source: HLC, witness statement

R.Ž. (M, 56), employee of the Obilić thermo-electric power plant; his wife **R.J.** (52), Serbs, from Donje Stanovce (Stanovc i Poshtem), Vučitrn Municipality –

abducted by armed Albanian civilians on 24 June 1999. They were set free by an Albanian neighbor the next day.

R.J. recounted that a group of armed Albanians came into their home about noon on 24 June and demanded that her husband hand over an automatic rifle. They searched the house and found only a pistol but still insisted that R.Ž. give them an automatic rifle. He denied having one but the Albanians did not believe him. They forced him and his wife into a car and drove them to the hills near the village, saying they were taking them to their commander. R.J. described what happened next:

“They led us into a barn, handcuffed us to each other and began to beat us. They kicked my husband, hit him with thick sticks and pistols. They kept demanding that he tell them where the automatic was. They hit me twice with a club on the back. I didn’t feel it at the time but the bruises came up later on. The next morning we saw our Albanian neighbor in KLA uniform. He recognized us and gave us a sign not to worry. He took us to the KFOR soldiers.”

R.Ž and his wife fled Kosovo to Serbia after the incident.

Source: HLC, witness statement

M.A. (M, 13), Serb, from Gojbulj, Vučitrn Municipality, elementary school student – abducted by the KLA on 25 June 1999 and released while being led to the local KLA headquarters.⁴⁴

Source: HLC, witness statement

2.1.1. Escaped

M.N. (M), Serb, from Gojbulj, Vučitrn Municipality – abducted by the KLA on 25 June 1999 and escaped while being led to the local KLA headquarters.⁴⁵

Source: HLC, witness statement

ZVEČAN

1. Missing

Milojević, Goran (M, 21), from Sevojno; **Kovačević, Dragan** (M, 47), from Zlakusa, Užice Municipality, Serbian Serbs, employees of Užička Mlekara company of Sevojno, Serbia – last seen on 23 June 1999 near Zvečan on the Kosovska Mitrovica-Prizren road.

⁴⁴ Witness statement on the abduction and release of M.A.: Vučitrn, 2. Abducted.

⁴⁵ Witness statement on the abduction and escape of M.N.: Vučitrn, 2. Abducted.

Milojević and Kovačević were in a blue Mercedes truck (license plates UE 166-00) owned by the dairy they worked for. They were last seen on 23 June near Zvečan by co-workers who were in a truck behind them.

The managing director of the company hired one Kočović, a journalist and former State Security Service officer, to try to locate the missing men, and paid him 10,000 deutsche marks for the expenses of the investigation. Kočović reported to the director that he had personally seen 94 Serb prisoners who were being held in a wine cellar in Dušanovo near Prizren. All the prisoners had long beards and Kočović said he two of them fitted the descriptions of Milojević and Kovačević. He later informed the director that the prisoners had been transferred elsewhere, and mentioned the possibility of their being exchanged for Albanian prisoners in Serbia.

Source: HLC, witness statement

2. Abducted

Hajdarpašić, Nedžad (M, 18), driver; **Šabović, Safet** (M, 36), laborer, employees of the Unionik company, Muslims, from Vitimirica, Peć Municipality – abducted on 17 July 1999 on the road from Berane, Montenegro, to Priština.

Family members told the HLC that the two missing men were travelling with Osman Sejđović in a white Yugo car with Peć license plates from Berane in Montenegro to Peć on 17 July. Sejđović told the families that they were stopped at Kula (Kulle), Zvečan Municipality, by Yugoslav Army members who retained Hajdarpašić and Šabović and the car, and allowed him to go.

Source: HLC, witness statement