



Fate of the Missing Albanians in Kosovo

The report was composed on the basis of the statements given by witnesses and family members of the missing persons, data and observations of the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) Monitors who regularly followed the exhumation and autopsies of the bodies found in the mass graves in Serbia, as well as data on bodies that were identified and handed over, received from the families or Belgrade War Crimes Chamber Investigative Judge who signs the Record on Identified Mortal Remains Hand Over.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) information, missing persons' family members [Albanians, Serbs, Montenegrins, Bosniacs, Roma, Egyptians, and Ashkalis] reported to this organization disappearance of 5,950 persons in relation to the armed conflicts in Kosovo. Meanwhile, the fate of 3,462 persons has been revealed and there were 2,488 persons left on the List of the Missing Persons prepared by ICRC by 15 November 2005. According to the HLC's information, there are 1,785 missing Albanians, 538 Serbs, and 165 persons of other nationalities.

Until 15 November 2005, the Republic of Serbia handed over 615 identified Albanian bodies and 14 mortuary bags with unidentified mortal remains to the UNMIK Office for Missing Persons and Forensics [OMPF] and three bodies to the US authorities since those bodies found in the mass graves in Serbia belonged to the US citizens.

Serbian Ministry of Interiors [MUP] formed the concealed mass graves in Serbia in order to conceal traces of war crimes committed in Kosovo. Graves were dug out with the help of machines – excavators and bulldozers. It is certain that bodies at the location of Batajnica were transported in cool storages or regular trucks, as in the case of BA03 mass grave where one side of a truck was found among the bodies and most likely it fell off while unloading the bodies into the grave. A part of a truck was also found in BA05 mass grave. At the location of mass graves in Batajnica, tire prints used by construction machines and regular trucks were detected. Bodies with broken bones and cut body parts were found which indicates that bodies were thrown in and pressed by heavy machines. Since certain matters were found on the bodies and clothes that do not exist at the location of mass graves, it could be concluded that bodies were excavated from the primary gravesites in Kosovo. It is also certain that buried were incinerated in Batajnica. Certain bodies were found completely carbonized and with traces of burnt clothes and body.

The bodies found were in civilian clothes. Several dozens of bodies were found with no shoes on and a certain number of them didn't have any clothes on either. Only one body was found in military uniform [KLA], two bodies with battle vests, three bodies with plates with KLA sign pressed in them, one aluminium cup used by soldiers, and one military plate with signs 30.06.1980. – Esmaine Llazi – Tirane. Around 70 personal

identification documents were found in the mass graves. Money and valuables were found in extremely small number of cases.

Data, presented in the report, unambiguously show that Albanians found in the mass graves in Serbia were killed in groups of 10-300 people. Most of them were men eligible for military service, but it is interesting that among the victims there are over 60 children, 25 women, and 40 people who were over 70 years of age.

Exhumations and autopsies were carried out efficiently and in short term. It is not clear why the Belgrade Institute of Forensics experts did not determine the cause of death for the victims whose mortal remains were found in graves at the location of Batajnica and Military Medical Academy [VMA] experts, who autopsied the bodies found at the location of Perućac, in certain cases determined that death occurred as the consequence of projectiles fired in the back of the head.

There are serious indications that crimes in Serbia, during Milošević's regime, were concealed by burning Albanian victims' mortal remains in the factories, which used incinerators with high temperatures. A group of non-governmental organizations addressed the Serbian Assembly Chairman in December 2004 requesting from him to establish a commission, which would determine the facts regarding the HLC allegations that during the bombing, several dozens of Albanian victims' bodies transported from Kosovo, were burnt in *Mačkatica* Factory. Serbian Assembly Chairman has not yet responded to that non-governmental organizations' request.

The problem of the missing persons will not be resolved with the hand over of all exhumed bodies. Besides that humanitarian task, the Republic of Serbia is obliged to tell the families the whole truth about the fate of their family members and enable the justice for the victims.

I Exhumations and Autopsies of Mortal Remains Found in Mass Graves in Serbia

The first Republic of Serbia transitional Government confirmed the existence of mass graves and concealed graves in Serbia formed before and during the NATO air strikes after Slobodan Milošević was arrested and before he was transferred to The Hague Tribunal's jail on 28 June 2001. According to the Government's information, Serb forces moved from Kosovo around 1,000 bodies of Kosovo Albanians, who were previously buried also in concealed graves. The late Prime Minister Zoran Đinđić's Government revealed the mass graves at the Serbian Ministry of Interiors Special Counter Terrorism Unit's (SAJ) training range in Batajnica, Petrovo Selo at the Special Operations Unit's (JSO) training range near the town of Kladovo, and near the Lake of Perućac close to Bajina Bašta.

1. Batajnica 1 [BA01]

BA01 mass grave is located away from the rest of the mass graves at the police range in Batajnica. It is located away from the shooting range, which Special Counter Terrorism Unit members used for their shooting trainings. The surface of the grave is around 100 square meters, it is between 2 and 7 meters wide, and 4 meters deep.

The exhumation and autopsy of the mortal remains were carried out as investigative acts upon Belgrade District Court Investigative Judge, Goran Čavlina's order in the period 12-27 June 2001. Professor Dušan Dunjić from the Belgrade Institute of Forensics led the exhumation and autopsy team. Dr. Marija Đurić led the archaeologists' team. The Hague Tribunal (William Fulton) and International Commission on Missing Persons representatives, as well as the HLC monitor observed the exhumation and autopsy process.

The bodies of at least 14 women, 13 men and nine children, including one 9-12-months-old baby and one foetus around eight-months-old, were exhumed from the grave. During the exhumation, bodies and fragmentary body parts were marked from BA-1 to BA-44. The bodies were found on the wooden railroad sleepers in the shape of the grill, placed above the bottom of the pit. Most of the bodies had marks indicating burns, as well as damages caused by projectiles fired from handheld firearms. All bodies were in civilian clothes. Traces of fire were found on most of the bodies. BA-38 body had a children's white sneaker with black diagonal ornaments on the right foot. BA-44 was found with visible beard on the face. Parts of BA-37's body were burnt. Projectiles were found in two bodies. The cause of death was not determined in neither of the cases.

Several identification documents were found in this mass grave. ID card issued to the name of **Afrim (Musli) Berisha**, resident of Miladina Popovića Street, Suva Reka, was found in a wallet in BA-09's trousers pocket. In BA-19's clothes, ID card issued to the name of **Nedžmedin Berisha** was found. In the clothes scattered around ID to the name of **Fatmir (Veselj) Berisha** and health care card to the name of **Hamdi (Sahit) Berisha** were found, as well as ID card to the name **Musli Berisha**, several documents to the name of **Vesel Berisha**, ID card to the name of **Hasan Bitiqi**, and driver's license and vehicle registration book to the name of **Morina Miftar**.

ICRC documents contain records on the disappearances of all of the people, except Miftar Morina, whose identification documents were found in BA01 mass grave.¹

2. Batajnica 2 – [BA02]

BA02 mass grave was formed at the Special Counter Terrorism Unit's (SAJ) range, 300 meters away from the Danube River and around one kilometre south of the Beograd-Batajnica road. There is a dirt road on one side of the location, which goes along the Danube River leading to BA1 mass grave.

The exhumation of mortal remains was carried out upon the Belgrade District Court Investigative Judge, Milan Dilparić's order. Belgrade Institute of Forensics team, led by Professor Dr. Dušan Dunjić, carried out the exhumation and autopsy. The team was working without an archaeologist. The ICTY investigator William Fulton, ICMP Anthropologist Marc Sciner, OSCE representatives, and Humanitarian Law Center's monitor, periodically observed the exhumation and autopsy.

The exhumation and autopsy of mortal remains was carried out in the period 16 July – 12 September 2001. The team used a bulldozer for the exhumation and due to that

¹ *Persons Missing in relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC.

original edges of the grave were never precisely determined. Besides that, the use of bulldozer caused many bodies to be chopped and made it impossible to determine the exact number of victims. A total of 255 bodies were exhumed from the grave along with a great number of fragmentary parts of the bones. The bones were matched by the use of anthropological expertise. Based on the number of unmatched bones, the smallest number of bodies in the grave was determined. The minimum number of victims in the grave determined on the basis of the anthropological report was 269. All bodies were male, of different age, varying from 15 to over 65 years of age.

During the autopsy in 67 cases projectile fragments were found in bodies. Traces of fire were found on a smaller number of bodies. Certain bodies had damages caused by excavator. 2BA-09 body had a burnt leg bone, and pelvis bones were damaged by excavator. 2BA-12 body had a burnt skull.

Most of the victims wore several layers of cold weather clothes. There were no military clothes. One male jacket stuffed with artificial fur was found with a deformed military cup (so-called military portion) in it. Besides that, among the things, one military plate with the number 30.06.1980. and name **Esmaine Liazi- Tirane** printed on it was found. A large amount of so-called “loose clothes” was found and it was not determined which body did it belong to.

A smaller number of identification documents was also found: in the scattered clothes, an ID card to the name of **Esmain Liazi** from Tirana was found; in 2B-117 body a driver’s license to the name of **Isni Bajrami (Kadri) Ali** from Madanaj; on 2BA-177 body an ID card to the name of (name unreadable) **Sokoli**; in a back pack found on 2BA-186 body a health care document to the name of **Sezai (Hazir) Rama** from the village of Moliq; on 2B-221 body an ID card to the name of **Seyt (Gjon) Hasanaj**; in the clothes belonging to 2BA-225 an ID card to the name of **Krist (Ibrahim) Sokoli** from Korenica; in the clothes belonging to 2BA-240 an ID card to the name of **Gani (Ymer) Smajli** from the village of Novokaz were found. Among the things, an ID card to the name of **Brahim (Muharem) Gaxherri** from the village of Junik; on 2BA-241 body a Đakovica Treasury Department document to the name of **Qun (Bib) Krasniqi**; with 2BA-179 body an unreadable ID card; in the inner jacket pocket on 2BA-247, a red passport to the name of **Prelaj (Prele) Gjergj** from Korenice were found. Besides the passport, a health care identification card to the name of **Prelaj (Kole)** from Korenice and on 2BA-254 body an ID card to the name of **Quni (Ali) Muharem** from the village of Moliq were found.

Krist (Ibrahim) Sokoli, Gani (Ymer) Smajli, and Brahim (Muharem) Gaxheri were registered in the ICRC document on persons missing in the armed conflicts in Kosovo.²

3. Batajnica 3 [BA03]

BA03 mass grave was disclosed at the northern part of the SAJ’s shooting range. It is approximately 16.70 meters long, 2.80- 2.90 meters wide, and 2.50 meters deep. The unit members were using the range for shooting trainings. Hundreds of dispersed bullet cases of different calibre, deformed bullets, shrapnel fragments, and so on were found at the location. The walls of the grave facing north, south, and east showed traces of

² *Persons Missing in relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC, 2004.

exposure to extremely high temperature or fire. The location was covered with dirt in the shape of an embankment, supported by tires thrown over it, and flattened with several trucks of dirt.

The exhumation of mortal remains was carried out in the period 17 June- 29 July 2002 under the supervision of the higher Forensic Archaeologist Jan Sterenberg and higher Forensic Anthropologist Marc Sciner, appointed by ICMP. Mortal remains of 37 victims, according to the archaeological report, and 39, according to the autopsy, were exhumed from this grave. In anthropological expertise it was determined that in one case remains belonged to a female, while in the rest of the cases remains belonged to males. The victims' average years of age were between 30 and 50, but the youngest body exhumed from this grave belonged to a child between 18 and 20 years of age. Projectile fragments were found in five bodies: BA-03-064T, BA-03-057T, BA-03-122T, BA-03-142T, and BA-03-166T. Most of the bodies, mostly whole bodies, were found with clothes, jackets, shirts, trousers, socks, and shoes on. No military piece of clothing was found. Most of them were wrapped in blankets and then placed inside transparent nylon taped at the ends like packets. Some of the bodies were found in military black rubber mortuary bags with zippers, while some of the bodies were placed in open nylon. Most of the bodies from the middle of the grave had traces of intense burning, which in some cases led to the cremation of the body parts and destruction of the bags and nylon.

Three human bones, one animal bone, a small hydraulic lever, leather shoe, and two remnants of clothes were found at the top of the gravesite.

A big side of a truck, of reddish colour similar to hydraulic loading platform used by different types of trucks was found inside the grave. A broken towline, remains of several burnt tires mixed with a pile of bodies under the metal truck side, as well as several bullet casings, and preserved bullets were found. Garbage, which obviously had already been on the truck unloading the bodies, was mixed with a pile of bodies.

During the excavation, 12 identification documents were found, out of which several were separated from bodies and clothes: ID card to the name of **Musa (Sadik) Jahmurataj** from Peć; vehicle registration book to the name of **Ekrem Jahmurataj**; three displaced persons' registration documents from Montenegro; **Sadik Jahmurataj**, **Musa Jahmurataj**, and (name unreadable) **Jahmurataj**; ID card to the name of **Kadri (Sadik) Jahmurataj**; ID card and driver's license to the name of **Zija (Smajl) Alickaj** from Peć; ID card to the name **Riza (Hajdar) Mamaj**; ID Card to the name of **Muhamet (Rame) Bitiqi** from Peć, ID card to the name of **Ramiz (Brahim) Hamzaj** from the village of Lubeniq, ID card to the name of **Rustem (Male) Alimehaj** from the village of Lubeniq; ID card and passport to the name of **Fehim (Šaban) Huskaj** from the village of Lubeniq; ID card to the name of **Uke (Shpend) Selimaj** from Peć; and ID card to the name of **Din (Bajram) Haxiu** from Peć.

Disappearance of **Musa and Kadri (Sadik) Jahmurataj**, **Alickaj (Smajl) Zija**, **Mamaj (Hajdar) Riza**, **Hamzaj (Brahim) Ramiz**, **Alimehaj (Male) Rustem**, **Huskaj (Shaban) Fehim**, **Uke (Shpend) Selimi**, and **Haxiu (Bajram) Din** was registered in the ICRC List of Missing Persons.

4. Batajnica 4 [BA04]

Batajnica 4 is a location for disposing dirt dug out from locations designated for BA03 and BA04 mass gravesites. Traces of heavy machinery use and fire of high intensity were visible.

5. Batajnica [BA05]

The excavation was carried out in the period 1 August- 14 November 2002 with the help of the machine and manual scraping under the supervision of the higher Forensic archaeologist Jan Sterenberg, appointed by ICMP. Mortal remains of 293 people were found (archaeological record) and, according to the autopsy it was 287, out of which many had documents for the preliminary identification. Among the victims, there were 14 women, 19 cases in which it was impossible to ascertain the sex through anthropological analyses, and 257 males. Besides old people, victims of age between 15 and 19 years were found in this gravesite, as well as the body of a boy who was less than 15-years-old. (BA-05-088T).

Several piles of bodies were laid on nylons. Most of the bodies were found with their clothes on, but none of them wearing military clothes. More than 20 identification documents were found: ID cards to the names of **Selim (Homez) Liuhani** and **Bute Markaj** from Gjakove, **Selim (Zenun) Alickaj**, **Gani** and **Avdi (Smajl) Rustemaj** from Dečani and **Driton (Rifat) Murseli** from Prishtine. Documents issued to the following names were also found: **Ali Melenica**, **Shaban Melenica**, **Dafina Melenica**, **Ajida Melenica**, **Emine (Murselj) Melenica**, **Ferki (Zeqir) Kadriu**, **Qemal (Tefik) Ternava**, **Afrim (Osman) Bajrami**, **Idriz (Rakip) Hasani**, **Arsim (Hazir) Sejdiu**, **Bajram (Habib) Islami**, **Sekine (Qazim) Uka**, **Gerguri Mensur**, all from the municipality of Vučitrn, as well as documents issued to the names of: **Jusuf Kelmendi**, **Atdhe (Ruzhdi) Ramosaj** from Dečane, **Qun Morina** and **Rame (Ali) Avdullahaj** from Ljubeniq, **Blerim (Daut) Shala**, **Ibraj (Avdi)** (surname unreadable), and **Haxi (Xhemail) Idrizi** from Peć.

The ICRC List of Missing Persons contains a greater number of persons whose identification documents were found in BA05 mass grave: Bajram Islami, Rame Avdullahaj, Ali Melenica, Shaban Melenica, Ferki Kadriu, Qemal Ternava, Blerim Shala, Idriz Hasani, Morina Qun, Sekine Uka, and Blerim Shala.

In 13% of the cases wounds caused by projectile fragments fired from a handheld firearm were determined, while a great number of victims had piercing wounds. In all of those cases, forensic experts from the Belgrade Institute of Forensics failed to determine the cause of death.

Aluminium sticks 3m long, 12 cm thick; a deformed part of the plate from a truck, blue truck handle, 84 car tires of different sizes, loose nylon, chopped wood, parts of concrete, plaster, and bricks, loose blankets, remnants of two gloves, one industrial and another surgical, and so on, were found in this gravesite. Several plastic digital watches were also found, as well as one metal pocket watch. Victims were well dressed, some of them in very warm clothes, and some in lighter clothes.

Mortal remains were found on 12 piles, asymmetrically arranged inside the grave itself:

The pile on which 29 bodies were found contained a high percentage of young males with light clothes, thrown to the previously placed tires. A great number of them had identification documents in their clothes. At the connection point between two piles, traces of burnt and carbonized bodies and clothes were found.

On the pile where 27 bodies were found, remains of at least two female bodies were found. Most of the bodies from this pile were placed inside a big nylon. Bodies seemed to be lightly dressed in well preserved clothes. At the edge of this pile, several bodies were found damaged by fire. Bodies with lower limbs and skulls damaged were found which could be caused by the machine basked that pushed the bodies down the gravesite walls.

On the pile of 14 bodies, most had their clothes on. One body had rubber boots on. A lot of clothes and blankets not connected to the bodies were found in this gravesite. Some bodies had signs of broken and cut fingers, as well as fractured spine. One aluminium stick was found under the bodies

Other piles looked as if they were originated from the same event. They had a more clothes; they did not have almost any identification documents; and they did not have shoes. Most of the pockets were searched through. A lot of bodies from these piles were lightly dressed; many had no clothes on the upper part of the body. There were no visible traces of piercing wounds.

The pile of 29 bodies was pressed and exposed to fire of high intensity. Rather carbonized parts of the bodies, either completely or partially cremated were found, while one fractured body was missing the legs from the thigh bone down. (BA-05-259T).

On another pile, 27 bodies were found, relatively well preserved and completely dressed. Several blankets, which were in no connection to the bodies, were also found. At the edge of the pile, several bodies were found damaged by fire. On one body (BA-05-049-T) there were signs of tire pressing. Mortal remains of a juvenile person between 12 and 15 years of age (BA-05-083T) were found.

On the pile of 36 overlapped bodies, one female body (BA-05-150T) was found. On BA-05-150T body's skull a visible piercing wound was spotted on the right side.

On the pile of 14 bodies, also overlapped, none of the bodies had shoes on, even though several single shoes, parts of garment, and blankets not connected to the bodies were found in the mass. Some bodies had traces of burning and damages caused by fire, and at least one body had visible deformations caused by crushing.

On the pile of 20 bodies, mortal remains with damages caused by fire as well as those, which had not been exposed to fire, were found.

On the pile of four bodies, traces of melted nylon mixed with mortal remains were found. Remains found had traces of smashed skulls, without limbs, with completely scattered clothes.

At the edge of the grave a pile of 43 relatively preserved bodies, wrapped in nylon or connected to the nylon, was found. Several empty wallets, and identification documents were found in the loose nylon. Inside a pocket on one body's jacket a preserved rosary was found.

On the pile of 25 bodies a rather burnt coffin was found and a body in relation to it, which had damages caused by machine on the legs. All bodies indicated damages caused by pressing and burning. The remains of one female body BA-05-278T were found with upper part of the body and skull burnt.

On the last pile, 5 bodies were found, as well as fragmentary body parts. Three bodies were wrapped in the nylon leftovers. In the very deep tire track, very pressed remains of a female body were found.

6. Batajnica 6 [BA06]

Dimensions of this location are approximately 6 x 7 meters. The excavation was carried out under the ICMP team leader, John Sterenberg's supervision with the assistance of Hugh Taller, an archaeologist, also appointed by ICPM.

Between 19 August and 2 September 2002, body remains were exhumed from the burnt surface covered with a thin layer of dirt. A smaller number of human bones were found scattered on the surface. They were mostly fragmentary and with traces of burning. Remains of burnt clothes, wood, and rubber, as well as metal and glass objects, were found on the surface. Most of the bones collected were not in connection to other bones. All objects found indicated exposure to fire. Two shallow prints of loading machine's basket were discovered, as well as three tire prints with wide lines. The whole area was flattened with several trucks of material.

7. Batajnica 7 [BA07]

The excavation of mortal remains and collection of forensic material was carried out in the period 4 November-16 December 2002. The grave was 14 meters long, 2.80-2.90 meters wide, and 2.7 meters deep. The excavation was carried out under archaeologist Hug Taller's supervision. Five separated piles of mortal remains were found with around 74 people (archaeological findings), unevenly placed inside the gravesite. Most bodies were found with warm clothes on. There were no military types of clothes. Many pieces of garment were not connected to the bodies found inside the gravesite. Several fragmentary pieces of bodies were found. Several wrist watches were found, either on bodies or separated from them. Three watches were automatic-kinetic. A large number of casings of different calibres and preservation level were found. In BA-07-052T body's sweater a bullet casing was found. Four sets of identification documents were found. Five different parts of trucks were discovered in the mass of bodies: metal sticks, smooth aluminium panels, curvy aluminium panels, yellow and very thick foam, and insulation cargo door. In the grave itself, a truck cover with a "Trans-jug" from Rijeka

and “Beo(grad)” signs, a blinker belonging to a truck or some other heavy vehicle, and a part of a red light were found. Nine car tires of different sizes were taken out. Most of the tires were placed on the bottom of the grave. In some piles, fibre material, similar to corn fibres, was found. Two cell-phone cards, not connected to the bodies, were found, as well as other objects not connected to the bodies: two empty black bags with silver handles, surgical gloves, rosaries, polished and unpolished lumber, out of which some had traces of burning. Double tires’ prints, used by trucks and trailers for heavy loads were also discovered. Several prints of loading machine’s basket were spotted with basket’s “claws” marks.

On the first pile inside the grave, three bodies and two fragmentary parts of the bodies were found. BA-07-148T, a female body was found lying on the tire. There were no traces of burning on these bodies.

On the biggest pile, 42 bodies and 14 fragmentary parts of the bodies were found. A large amount of hay was found among the bodies. Four bodies were female. ID card and passport to the name of **Rahim (Xheladin) Barbatovci** from Kosovo Polje were found. On this pile, a cool storage door was found leaning against the grave’s west wall where different material was piled.

The biggest number of truck parts, mostly damaged and destroyed, was found on the pile of 11 bodies and seven fragmentary body parts. Most of the bodies were damaged and some of them had traces of burning. There were tire prints under the pile.

On the third pile, 17 bodies and seven fragmentary body parts were found. Several bodies were overlapped. BA-07-35T body was a female. Several bodies were mortal remains of teenager males.

On the last pile, only one body was found.

8. Batajnica 8 [BA08]

The excavation of mortal remains and forensic material was carried out in the period 21-26 November 2002 under the supervision of archaeologists Hugh Tallor and John Sterenberg. The grave was 4 x 2.60 meters wide. On the top of the location railroad sleepers up to 10 m high were found vertically positioned. Human skeleton remains, human bones, bullet casings, ceramic bricks, tire fortifying wires, and garment parts were found in the gravesite. A part of the upper jaw was found with only one molar tooth. Bones, parts of the bones, and parts of the clothes indicated different stages of burning. Two types of tire prints were found.

9. Perućac: the Derventa River Mouth into Lake Perućac

According to the HLC information, in early April 1999 residents of the village surrounding the Perućac dam noticed a truck container in the lake and corpses floating around it. Two or three days later, the corpses and the container resembling the cool storage, disappeared. There were rumours going around that corpses were from Kosovo and that there was an order coming from Belgrade to remove the corpses and place them at a concealed location. There were also rumours that corpses floating around were drowned in the lake by wrapping heavy stones around their necks. Everybody,

police and the people who saw the corpses, remained silent until the government in Serbia changed.

Perućac gravesite was formed on the little Derventa River's mouth into the Perućac Lake, around 6 kilometres away from the entrance to the Perućac power plant and around 20 kilometres away from Bajina Bašta.

Military Medical Academy (VMA) pathologists' team led by Dr. Zoran Stanković, carried out the exhumation in the period 6-8 September 2001, in the presence of the Bajina Bašta Municipal Prosecutor Dragan Manović, Užice District Prosecutor Branimir Petronijević, Užice District Court Chairman Ljubiša Radulović, and Bajina Bašta Municipal Court Chairman Milan Radulović. International Commission on Missing Persons and Humanitarian Law Center representatives visited the mass grave location on 10 September. The HLC monitor attended the autopsy of mortal remains.

26 whole bodies and 52 fragmentary body parts, which could not be matched, were exhumed from the grave. During the autopsy and anthropological expertise, the minimum number of 48 bodies, out of which 38 male victims and one female victim, was determined. For other nine bodies it was impossible to ascertain the sex because the level of damages on mortal remains was very high.

Two ID cards and one driver's license were found in the grave. ID card to the name of **Gezim (Mazzlam) Deva** from Đakovica was found on D-2 body. Besides this document, another drivers' license with ID card attached to it was found among the so-called loose objects. The ID card was completely destroyed, while name **Binishi Shkelzen** from Đakovica could be read from the drivers' license.

During the exhumation it was determined that a part of the burnt truck cool storage was laid over the bodies, which caused bones and body parts' fractures. In the metal truck cooler part, burnt parts of clothes were discovered: remains of a black male leather jacket, burnt blanket, and a part of clothes that could not be identified.

The autopsies were carried out in the period 9-14 September 2001, at the spot located 11 kilometres away from the excavation site, in one of the Perućac power plant facilities. From 10 to 12 September the autopsy of whole bodies was carried out, on 13 September the autopsies of fragmentary body parts, and anthropological analyses on 14 September, after which leg bones' parts were taken for DNA analysis.

The autopsy was carried out on 26 whole bodies marked from D-1 to D-26. On D-5 body a bullet was found in the vertebral column, which probably caused death. On the D-5, D-7, D-8, D-10, D-17, D-19, D-20, and D-25 skulls, traces of injuries caused by a projectile fired through the back of the head, which entered and exited the skull, were found. On D-8 body, the skull was found in pieces with green stains on it, which team leader interpreted as evidence of the 7.62 mm calibre firearm use. On D-22, a female body, a wound in the forehead area was found, which indicates the use of mechanical instrument, but it did not help determine the cause of death.

In the autopsy, it was determined that death of nine people was caused by a projectile fired in the back of the head and that probable cause of death of 30-40% of victims was also a projectile fired either in the back of the head or some other part of the head or body. Perućac is the only gravesite at the Republic of Serbia's territory where autopsy was carried out by determining cause of death in individual cases.

On many bodies, post-mortem fractures were noted, which probably occurred because bodies were dragged while being taken out of the lake and also because a metal truck cooler part was laid over the bodies. On some bodies, traces of burning were noted, which occurred when cooler was set on fire, before being buried inside the gravesite.

During the autopsy, the expertise on the metal truck part found inside the gravesite was conducted. Zvonko Laptošević and Dragan Nijemčević from Priboj, employees of the Poliester production unit of the FAP factory from Priboj, carried out the expertise and on that occasion they determined that the vehicle in question was green, produced abroad, and produced in the Western Europe, dimensions 6 x 2.5 x 2.5 meters.

In the ICRC document, disappearance of Gezim Deve and Shkelzen Binishi was registered. They were both last time seen in Đakovica on 31 March 1999. The K&M Coordination Centre handed over the identified body of Shkelzen Binishi to UNMIK administration 7 September 2005.

10. Petrovo Selo I [PS-I]

PS I mass grave was formed in a field around 350 meters away from the Republic of Serbia Ministry of Interiors Special Operations Unit building in Petrovo Selo, near Kladovo.

PS I mass grave was disclosed on 14 June 2001 and mortal remains' excavation and autopsy were carried out in the period 24-27 June 2001. Niš Institute of Forensics team, led by Professor Dr. Vujadin Otašević, carried out the exhumation and autopsy. Anthropologist Marc Sciner the ICMP monitor, the HLC monitor Mojca Šivert, and ICTY investigator William Fulton followed the procedure.

From PS I gravesite 16 male bodies were exhumed. In the autopsy, the presence of projectiles was determined and, in some cases, wounds inflicted by firearms. Most of the victims exhumed from this gravesite were dressed in many layers of civilian clothes.

None of the identification documents were found except for the piece of paper which said Bytyqi Argon, Bytyqi Mehmed, and Bytyqi (name unreadable) marked with CHICAGO, America. The bodies of the Bytyqi brothers were found at the top of the pit, lying with their faces down, in civilian clothes, their hands tied to their back and blindfolded. In the autopsy, it was determined that death occurred as the consequence of a projectile fired through the back of the head from a hand-held firearm and bone fractures probably occurred after the moment of death by the use of blunt mechanic instrument.

The names of those three brothers were registered in the ICRC document on missing persons.

11. Petrovo Selo II [PS II]

The location of PS II mass grave was disclosed 250 meters from PS I grave on a hill located inside a deep forest, resembling a dump site. The grave was covered with trash. A total of 58 bags, which contained mortal remains of around 62 persons, were excavated from this grave. Besides the black bags, there were also autopsy bags. Every

excavated bag was marked from PS – II – 1 to PS -II – 58. During the autopsy, in PS – II – 1 bag, besides the remains determined to belong to one male, body parts belonging to another person were found. After the autopsy they were separated and remains belonging to one male person were marked as PS – II – 1, and body parts with PS – II – 1a. In PS – II- 8 bag, a body with two skulls was found and after the autopsy the body with one skull was marked as PS – II – 8 and skull without the body as PS – II – 8a. All excavated bodies were well preserved because they were placed in closed nylon bags, which prevented air from entering the bags and slowed down the process of decomposition.

In the autopsy, it was determined that there were seven females between 50 and 60 years of age, while the rest of the bodies were male. Traces of firearms and projectiles were found on the bodies.

Five identification documents were found in this gravesite: four ID cards and one passport. In the bag with the body marked as PS – II – 25 and ID card to the name of **Jashar (Selman) Loshi** from Srbica was found and in the bag marked as PS – II – 42 ID card to the name of **Ilaz Musliu** from Srbica. In addition, ID cards to the names of **Hysen (Man) Mehmeti** and **Nazmi (Osman) Gradina** from Dečane were discovered. On one female body a passport to the name of **Mulaj Lavdim** from Peć was found.

The bodies excavated from the PS II mass grave were mostly dressed in civilian winter clothes, leather jackets, sweaters, except for one body, which was completely dressed in KLA uniform and two bodies wearing battle vests, and one of them had a German flag on. A lot of beech leaves was found in bags with bodies. Since there are no beech trees at the excavation site, it was concluded that PS II was a secondary mass gravesite.

Disappearance of the victims whose identification documents were found inside the PS II grave was registered in the ICRC document on the missing persons during the armed conflicts in Kosovo.

12. Conclusion

12.1. Graves were excavated by the use of machines – excavator and bulldozer. It is certain that bodies were driven to Batajnica in cool storages and regular trucks, as in the case of BA03 where a side of a truck was found among the bodies and most likely it fell off while unloading the bodies inside the gravesite. A part of the truck was also found inside BA05 gravesite. At the location of the gravesites in Batajnica tire prints belonging to construction machinery and regular trucks were spotted. Bodies with broken bones and body parts, which had been cut off, were found and that indicates that bodies were thrown inside the grave and pressed with the help of heavy machinery. Because of the presence of some matters, which could not be found at the locations of the mass graves, it was concluded that mass graves in Serbia are secondary gravesites. It is certain that bodies were incinerated in Batajnica. Bodies, which were completely carbonized with the signs of burnt clothes and body parts, were found.

12.2. Bodies were found in civilian clothes. Dozens of bodies were found with no shoes on. Only one body was found in KLA uniform, two bodies with battle vests, three bodies with plates, which had KLA printed on them, one aluminium cup used by soldiers, and a military plate marked as 30.06.1980. – Esmaine Llazi – Tirane.

12.3. Around 70 personal documents were found in the mass graves. Money and valuables were found in extremely small number of cases.

12.4. In the autopsy, it was determined that at least 60 victims were children, 25 women, and 40 persons over 70 years of age.

II Identity of Victims in Mass Graves in Serbia

By 15 November 2005, the Republic of Serbia handed over to UNMIK Administration i.e. OMPF 615 identified Albanian bodies and 14 mortuary bags with unidentified mortal remains found in the mass graves in Serbia. Bodies of three US citizens found in mass graves in Serbia were handed over to the US Government.

1. Batajnica 01 [BA01]

In BA01 gravesite, 38 bodies were found. By 15 November 2005 mortal remains of 12 victims were identified. Four victims from Beriša / Berishe family, who were last time seen alive on 26 March 1999 together with at least 45 of their closest relatives in Suva Reka / Suhareke, were among the identified.

1.1. Suva Reka/ Suhareke: 26 March 1999

The first identification of the mortal remains was carried out in November 2001 at the National Institute of Toxicology in Madrid (Institution National De Toxicologia) on the bone samples belonging to bodies BA-04, BA-15, BA-34, BA- 36.1, BA-36.2, BA- 46, BA-52 excavated from BA01 mass grave. That identification was carried out upon the ICTY's request. On the basis of the DNA analysis, Madrid Institute of Forensic Genetics team determined that bone remains of BA-34 and BA-52 belonged to Elmaza Hajrizi's grandchildren, **Granit (Besim) Beriša/ Granit (Besim) Berisha**, born on 27 March 1999 and **Genc (Besim) Beriša/ Genc (Besim) Berisha**, born in 1995, both from Suva Reka/ Suhareka.

According to the DNA analysis carried out by International Commission on Missing Persons [ICMP], it was determined that mortal remains marked as BA-30 belonged to **Mihrije (Raif) Beriša/ Mihrie (Raif) Berisha**, BA-28 to **Šaip (Arif) Gaši/ Shaip (Arif) Gashi**, BA/22 **Veselj (Šaban) Beriša/ Vesel (Shaban) Berisha**, and BA-56 to **Hasan (Misin) Bitići/ Hasan (Misin) Bitiqi**, all from Suva Reka/ Suhareke.

The identified victims' mortal remains from Suva Reka/ Suhareke were returned to Kosovo, on two separate occasions during the year 2003, in accordance with the bodies' hand over procedure between the Coordination Centre for Kosovo and Metohija [CC KM], on behalf of the Republic of Serbia, and OMPF, on behalf of UNMIK, at the border of Serbia on Kosovo, in Merdare KFOR base.

1.1.1. According to the HLC information, in the Suva Reka/ Suhareke town itself, Serb police on two separate occasions organized the killing of Albanian civilians, looted, and burnt their property.

After the news broke out about a Serb civilian from the village of Sopina/ Sopia being killed on 22 March 1999, local police killed 10 Albanians, nine males and one female from Bytiqi, Morina, Hoxha, and Kryeziu families in Suva Reka/ Suhareke old town.

By the method of DNA analysis, it was determined that BA-56 mortal remains belong to Hasan (Misin) Bitići/ Hasan (Misin) Bitiqi who was killed in Suva Reka/ Suhareke, on the same occasion when another eight males and one female were killed.

1.1.2. The second, even bigger action of the local police began at dawn of 25 March 1999. A doctor from Suva Reka, Agron Beriša/ Agron Berisha testified about this event before the Hague Tribunal in the *Milošević case*. He said that that morning between 30 and 40 policemen entered the Miladina Popovića Street, close to the police station where about 20 Beriša/ Berisha families lived. He saw that they surrounded the houses of his cousins Faton and Nedžat/ Nexhat in whose house OSCE was located, as well as the house belonging to his cousins Sedat and Bujar, in which OSCE staff lived. On that occasion, police confiscated the equipment and documentation, which OSCE locked inside one room. He saw them beating and threatening Nedžat/ Nexhat. They took a TV set from his house and put it in the police vehicle, type *Niva*. Then they took away the OSCE documentation and equipment. He saw trucks on the street, confiscated from Albanians, and policemen not known to him who were loading those trucks with property from Albanian houses. After looting, those policemen were burning Albanian houses. According to his assessment, half of the town was set on fire that day.

1.1.3. Next day, around noon, 10 to 15 policemen entered Faton's house. Among them, witness Agron Beriša recognized a policeman from Suva Reka Municipal Police Administration named Miki, the son of Laza and Vera, who he went to school with. He was standing on the second floor of his house looking through the window when he saw policemen who chased his cousins Faton, Nedžat/ Nexhat, Sedat, and Bujar out, lined them in the area between their houses, and shot at them from a very small distance. Further on, he said:

As soon as they lined the men, women and children, along with Sedat and Bujar's brother Nexhmedin Berisha, ran out on the road leading to Priština- Prizren road. Soon after that I saw policemen dragging the bodies of Faton's mother Fatima and Seda and Bujar's mother Hava to the location where bodies of four men were already lying. I saw seriously wounded Nexhamedin, who ran along with women and children, being dragged inside the shelter by his wife. She was in the eighth month of pregnancy.

1.1.4. The following day, 27 March police continued looting and burning the houses. Agron Beriša testified that policemen went in groups of three and burned Albanian houses. That day, police came to his house, too. According to him, they stayed alive because his brother knew two of the policemen who let them leave the house after taking 1,000 Deutsch Marks from them.

1.1.5. Širete Beriša/ Shyrete Berisha testified before the Hague Tribunal. Her whole family was killed 26 March: her husband Nexhad/ Nedžat, daughters Majlinda (1985) and Herolinda (1985), and sons Altin (1988) and Redon on (1997). OSCE and OSCE Operational Centre were located in their house, while three OSCE employees rented her husband's brother Faton's house to live in it. In December 1998 when they rented the house, both brothers moved in with their cousins in the outskirts of Suva Reka/ Suhareke to live. They returned to their houses after OSCE left Kosovo on 20 March. When they first entered their houses, police took 50,000 Deutsch Marks from them. 26

March, around noon, when police came to the Beriša/ Berishe settlement for the second time, Faton and Nedžat / Nexhat's families were in uncle Veselj/ Vesel's house on the same street, some 30 meters away from their houses. Around noon, they saw their houses were on fire, Širete then heard one Serb calling her husband's brother Bujar in Albanian. It was Zoran. Širete knew him as a bus driver. He yelled and cursed in Serbian: "Where are your Americans now? Come over here." Bujar came out and Širete heard two shots, and then she heard Bujar's wife Flora: "They have just shot my Bujar". Širete further stated in her evidence given before the court:

I recognized a man who stopped my husband. That was a man called Mišković, the owner of the "Boss" Hotel. He was short, fat, and he had moustache. He was standing at our door. I held my oldest son Altin by the hand and my daughter Majlinda held Redon. I heard Mišković told Nexhat to raise his hands. When he did that, he shot him three times in the back. I think he fired a pistol, but I am not sure. My daughter Majlinda screamed out loud: "Dad" I remember Nedžmedin and his wife Lirie started running when they saw what happened to my husband. Nedžmedin pulled his wife by the hand and one of the civilians yelled in Serbian: "Shoot! What are you waiting for?" There was confusion. We started running in all directions. Majlinda went with two of her brothers in one direction and I went in another. We stopped at the place where an Albanian bar used to be and we found three more Berisha families there. Women and children from our house were there, and Majlinda arrived after one minute. I saw Altin was bleeding and I asked him what happened. He told me he was shot in the arm and the leg, but that I shouldn't worry. In that moment Lirie arrived and asked for help for her husband Nedžmedin. She said she was running with her husband when they shot him and he fell on the ground. She pretended to be dead and then she ran away.

Police arrived and yelled in Serbian for us to go in. I am pretty sure I heard Zoran's voice: "There will be no living Albanians left. We will eliminate them." We went in and sat when they came and started shooting at us continuously. I did not hear children screaming at all. There were between 40 and 50 people, women, children, and only four men. Vjolca/ Vjollca lied in front of me with her youngest son Gramos. Hava and Edon lied near her. Hava was moaning. I heard Edon say to Vjollca: "They killed mom and Doretina". Vjollca told me: "Look at my Dafina moaning". When I looked behind me I saw her lying on her back and moaning. My children Majlinda and Redon were not wounded just as Sabahete and her sons Ismet and Eron weren't. In that moment Redon told Majlinda he wanted to go to mama. I took him and gave him milk I had in the trousers. Majlinda took him again and Altin stayed beside me. Then Majlinda showed me Harolinda was killed. She lied with her face turned to the ground. I saw five or six wounds and I could see her flash.

Soon after that, hand grenades flew inside the café. They were thrown from the door. Širete/ Shyrete saw her son Redon covered in blood with the bottle of milk in his hands. She saw Majlinda with half of her head missing. Engineer Hajdin and his wife Lika were not wounded. She saw Vjolca/ Vjollca was wounded. She felt a wound in her stomach. She recognized the sound of bodies being dragged and put on the trucks. She heard some people who were still alive moaning and engineer offering money for his and his wife's salvation. After that she did not hear them again. They started dragging her son Altin's body and one said he was still breathing. After that she heard something dropping on him and child releasing some kind of a sound.

1.1.6. Širete/Shyrete, Vjolca/ Vjollca, and her son Gramos survived the massacre. They jumped off the truck with bodies from the café in the village of Ljutiglava/Llutoglave on the road to Prizren, first Šireta/ Shyrete, and then Vjolca/ Vjollca with her son Gramos. According to Vjolca Beriša/ Vjollca Berisha, who talked with the HLC researchers in June 2000 in Suva Reka/ Suhareke, she held her son in the arms and jumped off the truck near the bus station. They crawled to a field close to some house with a yard in which some people were sitting. I raised my hand in order to ask for help and one older lady in Serb traditional clothes approached her bringing water. She took her to the first Albanian house without saying a word. Vjolca/ Vjollca stayed in Kosovo with her son until the end of the war in Kosovo hiding in the village of Caparce/Ćarapče.

1.1.7. Two months after international forces deployed to Kosovo, British forensics specialists excavated Vjolca/ Vjollca's husband Sedat, his brothers Nedžmedin/ Nexhmedin, and Bujar, as well as cousins Nedžat/ Nexhat, Faton, and Fatima Beriša/ Berisha at the cemetery in Suva Reka/ Suhareke. In September 1999 British forensic specialists found, at the former Yugoslav Army's shooting range, between the villages of Koriša/ Korisha and Ljubidža/ Ljubizhde near, Prizren, two locations with the remnants of clothes, shoes, and personal effects, which cousins of the victims from the café recognized as effects belonging to these victims.

1.1.8. The Prosecution's witness in the Milošević case, AGJ revealed information about the exhumation of the bodies from these two mass gravesites at the shooting range and another one by the main road to Suva Reka/ Suhareke. At the time of the event, the witness worked in the public utility company "Higijena" in Prizren. One evening in April 1999, a Serb by the name of Budimir Spasić from the utility company administration came to get him with several other labourers and took them all to the shooting range location where they found two excavators and two trucks with cool storages. That evening they took between 80 and 90 bodies of men, women, and children. From another gravesite they excavated around 30 bodies, loaded them in the cool storage in which around 500 bodies could fit, according to the witness's assessment. This witness stated that the same night, after the shooting range, he was taken with the same Romanies to the location of the grave at the dump area by the road to Suva Reka and from there they excavated and loaded around 20 bodies on another truck with a cool storage. He did not know where those trucks went to.

1.1.9. According to the information, which HLC received from the cousins of the victims in the café, 44 Beriša/ Berisha family member were killed on 26 March³: Vesel Šabana/ Vesel Shaban (61) and his wife Sofia (58), son Hajdin (37), and daughter –in-law Mihrije (26), son Besim (26) and daughter-in-law Mevlude (26), and daughter Fatmire (22); Hava (63), a wife of Vesel Berisha, their son Sedat (45), son Bujar (40), daughter-in-law Flora (38), son Nedžmedin/ Nexhmedin (37) and daughter-in-law Lirije/ Lirie (24), Sadat and Vjolca's children, Dafina (15), Driton (13), Bujar and Flora's children, Vlorijan (17), Edon (12), and Doretina (4), and Lirije/ Lirie's unborn child (fetus); Fatime (48) and Nedžat/ Nexhat (44), children of Vesel/ Vesel's brother Faik, Fatima's son Faton (27), daughter-in-law Sabahate and her sons Ismet (2) and

³ Disappearance of 36 Beriša/ Berisha family members was registered in ICRC document, *Persons Missing in Relation to the Events in Kosovo*, 2004.

Eron (1), and daughter Šerine/ Sherine (17), and four Nedžat/ Nexhat and surviving Šireta/ Shyrete's children: Majlinda (15), Herolinda (13), Altin (11), and Redon (1); Sait (83) and Hanumša/ Hanumshe's (81) son Musli (63), daughter-in-law Nefije (54), and their children, Zumrete/ Zymryte (30) and Afrim (24), son Avdi (43), daughter-in-law Fatime (37), and their son Kuštrm/ Kushtrim (11), and son Hamdi (54), daughter-in-law Zelihe (50), and their children Artta (18), Zana (13), Merita (10), Hanumša/ Hanumshe (9), and Mirat (7).

2. Batajnica 02 [BA02]

In BA02 mass grave 269 bodies were found. There are 203 victims among the identified mortal remains. They were, according to the ICRC records and HLC information, last time seen on 27 April 1999 in the village of Meja/ Meje, the municipality of Đakovica/ Gjakove.

2.1. Meja/ Meje, 27 April 1999

According to the HLC information, Serb forces were deployed in the Đakovica/ Gjakove Municipality, in the Caragoj/ Carragojs valley during spring/ summer 1998. Tanks were located between the Čarabat/ Čabrat hill and the village, up to Junik/ Junik, the biggest Albanian village. Civilians left that village late March 1998 because the conflicts between KLA and Serb forces were intensifying. Most of the residents found shelter in the villages of Dobroš/ Dobrosh and Šeremet/ Sheremetaj. At the end of the summer 1998, after the OSCE intervention, Albanian citizens were enabled to return to their homes. However, in the meantime, their houses were looted and burnt. When NATO started bombing, the situation became even worse. Police began to arbitrarily arrest Albanians and their freedom of movement was significantly limited.

14 April 1999 Serb forces entered the villages in the Caragoj/ Carragojs valley, including the village of Racaj/ Rracaj and forced the residents to leave the village and go to Albania. convoys of people took the road to Đakovica/ Gjakove. Near the catholic village of Bastrožin/ Bastrozhin, NATO bombed the convoy. Around 85 civilians were killed, while around 120 were wounded. After the Serb forces' attack, the residents were allowed to return to their villages from which they were chased out the same day. Some of them found shelter in Bistražin/ Bistrashin, and some in other surrounding villages because their houses were set on fire.

12 April 1999, in the village of Madanaj/ Madanaj, Milutin Prašćević, Coordinator of the local police units composed of Albanians loyal to Serbia, was killed in an ambush. Another four policemen were killed along with him. A week after that event, 27 April, Serb forces undertook a joint military- police operation in which at least 20,000 Albanians were forced to leave their homes and take refuge in Albania. During the operation on 27 April, Serb police, military and paramilitary formations, separated more than 250 men from their families in the village of Meje/ Meje, and more than 50 men in the village of Korenica/ Korenice.

2.1.1. During the early morning on 27 April 1999, Serb police and Yugoslav Army soldiers surrounded the village of Dobroš/ Dobrosh and on that occasion some of the villagers were killed. Civilians from Dobroš/ Dobrosh took refuge in the neighbouring village of Racaj/ Rracaj where they told the residents, whom they happened to find

there, that Serb forces will very soon reach their village as well. All together, in the convoy of tractors, horse-drawn carts, and cars they took off towards Albania. The convoy was stopped at the Meje/ Meje check point. On that occasion, 24 men from a part of the line where Beće Bećaj/ Beqe Beqaj⁴ was were separated and taken to a field nearby where they were forced to sit with their hands at the back of their heads. 13 men out of those 24 were witness Bećaj/ Beqaj's close relatives, including two of his sons Emin (1944) and Milazim (1968), brother Tafe (1946), and cousins: Armend (1983), Kujtim (1984), Umer (1945), Bajram (1948), Rasim (1953), Bedri (1963), Mentor (1980), Driton (1982), and Brahim (1965). Those 24 men have not been seen ever since. When convoy reached the Orize school building, they were robbed, their valuables were taken from them, as well as documents. Near the school, witness saw Serb policemen lining some men, and after that he heard shots.

In the identification of the bodies found in BA02 mass grave, it was determined that 2BA-192 mortal remains belong to the missing **Umer/ Umer**, 2 BA-042 to Tafe, Beće Bećaj/ Beqe Beqaj's brother, 2BA-043 to **Kujtim (Tafe)/ Kujtim (Tafe)**, and 2BA-079 to Rasim (Brahim) Bećaj/ Rasim (Brahim) Beqaj.⁵

2.1.2. The HLC researcher talked to Marija Hasanaj/ Marie Hasanaj from Meje/ Meje in March 2001.⁶ She talked about the circumstances under which her husband Džon/ Gjon (1933), son Šit/ Shyt (1954), and grandson Ljuan/ Luan (1982) disappeared on 27 April 1999. On that occasion, witness said it was 8:00 in the morning when seven persons wearing uniforms came to her yard and without an apparent reason started beating her husband who was sitting with her in the yard. They threw him on the ground and asked who he was hiding in the house. He told them that only family was in the house and that they could check. They ordered everybody to come outside of the house. All family members, including the sick boy Mentor, were lined along the wall. They asked for the car keys from son Šit/ Shyt. Since keys were in the house, Džon/ Gjon sent his son Ljuan/ Luan to get them. When Ljuan/ Luan brought the keys, one of the soldiers took him and Šit/ Shyt behind the house. Other one took Džon/ Gjon inside the house. Other family members were ordered to go towards Albania. Marija/ Marie tried to explain to the soldiers that she could not go without men because she had a sick son Mentor, but they threatened her that they would have killed them all if they hadn't had left the house the same moment, after which she picked up her sick son and left the house. On the street, they met Džon/ Gjon brothers Mitar and Ndue Hasanaj's families. They found out from them that "paramilitary forces" came to their homes, too, and kept the men: Mitar, Ndue, and Mitar's son Elson. Several hundreds of meters away they heard shots coming from the direction of their houses. Near the Orize school building, a group of women and children (a total of 31 persons) was stopped by a group of soldiers and threatened with knives to give money. They gave them 100 Deutsch Marks after which they took off towards Đakovica/ Gjakove upon order. They were walking until the line of refugees from Korenica/ Korenice reached them and they gave them a ride on the tractors. That same day they reached the territory of Albania. After they came back from the refuge in June 1999 they found their homes burnt. They did not find bodies in the ruins.

⁴ Transcript from the trial of S. Milošević, 29 August 2002.

⁵ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Found in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

⁶ Witness MH's statement, March 2001, HLC, database.

During the identification of the bodies found in BA2 gravesite, it was determined that 2BA-206 mortal remains belonged to **Džon Hasanaj/ Gjon Hasanaj**, 2BA-170 to **Ljuan Hasanaj/ Luan Hasanaj**, and 2BA-221 to **Šut/ Shyt Hasanaj**, the missing from 27 April 1999 in Meja/ Meje.⁷ Belgrade Institute of Forensics failed to determine the cause of death. In the repeated autopsy, which is being carried out in the case of every body handed over, OMPF determined that death occurred as the consequence of a piercing wound inflicted by a firearm in the abdominal. CC K&M handed over Ljuan/ Luan and his father Šut/ Shyt's mortal remains to UNMIK on 7 May 2003 and Džon/ Gjon's body 15 October 2003.

2.1.3. Merfidete Seljmani/ Merfidete Selmani is a Kosovo Albanian who was 16 year old at the time of the event. She testified in the Milošević case.⁸ She was talking about how she and her cousins escaped from the village of Dobroš/ Dobrosh for the first time in August 1998 when Serb forces entered the village. Even though one of her brothers, Špend/ Shpend, was a member of KLA at the time, he left KLA one week later. Until the end of October 1998 she lived with her family in Đakovica/ Gjakove and then they returned to the village of Dobroš/ Dobrosh. Serb soldiers entered her village 14 April 1999. Other residents of the village started running away and her family joined the convoy going towards Meja/ Meje, in the direction of Đakovica/ Gjakove. After the convoy passed the village of Meja/ Meje, Merfidete heard a strong detonation from the direction of Meja/ Meje. Later on, she learned that bombs fell from the air and hit one house in Meja/ Meje. Her convoy continued and passed Đakovica/ Gjakove near the bridge in Bistražin/ Bistrashin. She heard a detonation and she saw smoke coming from the part of the convoy, which was in front of her. When they reached the spot of explosion, she saw corpses lying on the road and realized that bombs from the air stroke tractors with people. She saw two white planes flying over the area. Her family spent the night in a field near the explosion site. In one moment Merfidete saw a child sitting on the side of the road and crying next to one of the trailers, which was still on fire. She saw two men in uniforms throwing this child in the burning trailer. The same night four men in civilian clothes and video camera arrived. They spoke Serbian and they taped the whole scene with destroyed tractors and bodies of people who were killed in the explosion. The following morning, after the police told refugees they could return to their homes, Merfidete's family returned to their home in Dobroš/ Dobrosh. Until 27 April they lived without any major incidents. On 27 April 1999, early in the morning, Merfidete took the cows out to grazing and saw Serb policemen hitting one of her cousins and one neighbour with gunstocks. She went back home and warned her brothers telling them they needed to run away. Her brother Špend/ Shpend, along with some other male cousins, ran away into the woods close to Dobroš/ Dobrosh. Other members of her family joined the convoy of people who were escaping from Dobroš/ Dobrosh and going in the direction of Đakovica/ Gjakove. Serb policemen were on positions along the road where convoy was passing. In one moment a shooting from the forest was heard and a group of young men ran out of the forest and jumped on the tractor on which Seljmani/ Selmani family was. When Seljmani family reached the checkpoint, police ordered men to get off and leave the tractor. Her father Zenun Seljmani/ Zenun Selmani, brother Špend/ Shpend, uncle Džeme/ Xheme, his sons Bakir and Burim, Šerif Seljmani/ Sherif Selmani, his brother Ali Selmani, his son Ujkan, cousin Bećir/ Beqir, his son Nedžat/ Nexhat, neighbour Avdi Hadžiu/ Avdi Haxhiu,

⁷ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

⁸ Transcript from the trial of S. Milošević, 16-17 July 2002.

Nijazi Rama, and Zenun Rama were among those people. While men were running towards the field, Merfidete saw police officers beating them with gunstocks. When men reached the field, they were ordered to squat. Around 80 men had already been in the field and Merfidete recognized a couple of them. She has not seen any of them alive ever since. Serb forces ordered the rest of her family to continue the same road. Around 12:30 convoy reached the village of Orize and there, Serb forces ordered some people in the convoy to collect money from Albanians. There, in Orize, she saw two policemen and two other men with masks on their faces taking one group of men in civilian clothes behind the school building. As they disappeared behind the school, she heard several shots. When convoy finally reached the border on Albania, police took all documents from the people.

This witness stated before the court in the Milošević case that after the war, in June 1999 she saw Šerif Seljmani/ Sherif Selmani's body in the Hasanaj family's field, at the same spot she had last seen him alive on 27 April 1999.

The bodies of five men, who were separated from the group in front of Merfidete on 27 April 1999 in the village of Meja/ Meje, were identified with the help of the DNA analysis. CC K&M returned to Kosovo the mortal remains of **Bećir/ Beqir** (1959), **Ujkan/ Ujkan** (1981), **Džeme/ Xheme** (1940), **Jonuz/ Jonuz** (1963), and **Alji Seljmani/ Ali Selmani** by May 2005.

2.1.4. The citizens [Albanians] of the Batuša/ Batusha village were also driven out of the village on 27 March 1999. Rame Ramaj's family found refuge in Dobroš/ Dobrosh with Beć Seljmanaj/ Beqir Selmanaj's family. The HLC researcher talked to them on 25 November 2000. At that time, he was still hoping his son Zenun was alive and in prison in Serbia. Serb policemen separated him from the convoy of people on 27 April in Meja/ Meje, together with his juvenile son Bećir Seljmanaj/ Beqir Selmanaj, Nedžat/ Nexhat, and Nijazi Ramaj from Batuša. Rame Ramaj⁹ said in his statement given for the HLC:

Soldiers stopped us in Meje. There were our Serb neighbours from Dalashaj and Rracaj among them, but I don't know their names. First they ordered Beqir to get off the tractor, then they came to the trailer and ordered my and Beqir's sons to get off. They asked money from them, and then they ask money from us in the trailer. They kept Beqir's son only because he said he didn't have any money. They took them to a field. My son was the last. One policeman walked behind him with a stick in his hand. When my son reached the field near some pit he turned around and this policeman hit him in the head with the stick. I saw my son falling and getting up again, then this policeman hit him once more and my son fell again. I carry that image inside of me, I constantly see that person hitting my son, but I cannot see whether he got up or not.

CC K&M handed over **Zenun Rama/ Zenun Rama**'s body to UNMIK on 15 October 2003, after the identification, which determined that 2BA-025 mortal remains found in BA02 mass grave belong to Zenun Rama.

⁹ Witness RR's statement, February 2000, HLC database.

2.1.5. The same day Pašk (Ndue) Dužmani/ Pashk (Ndue) Duzhmani, his brother **Marian**, and nephew **Mikel** were separated near the Orize Elementary School. The HLC's witness, Ndue Dužmani/ Ndue Duzhmani¹⁰ claimed that he had seen the Ponoševac/ Ponosec Chief of Police, the alleged Dragutin called Guta [Josifović Dragutin] at the checkpoint in Meja/ Meje.

He approached us and started cursing. He ordered the guys to lie with their faces turned to the ground, and he told me and other family members to take everything from our pockets and leave it on the road. So we had to throw our documents and money, everything we had, we had to throw on the road. After that he spoke to me and said: "Drive, old man" and he pointed to the tractor.

This witness saw 19 men from Korenica who were separated by the Elementary School in Orize. Those people's names were: Albert (Ndrece) Krasniqi, Pjeter (Dede) Krasniqi, Llazer Krasniqi, Agron (Tome) Duzhmani, Pashk (Ndue) Duzhmani, Pale (Kole) Duzhmani, Marjan Duzhmani, Florim (Iusuf) Haxhiu, Afrim (Iuduf) Haxhiu, Pjeter and Tom Kacoli, Vitor (Gjon) Prendi, Sokol Prendi, Mark Prendi, Robert Prendi, and Gjergj Prendi, Robert and Lulzim Gashi.¹¹

In the identification of the bodies found in BA02 mass grave, it was determined that 2BA-129 mortal remains belong to **Albert Krasnići/ Albert Krasniqi**, BA-05-016T to **Pjeter Krasnići/ Pjeter Krasniqi**, 2BA-062 to **Agron Dužmani/ Agron Duzhmani**, 2BA-175 to **Pašk Dužmani/ Pashk Duzhmani**, 2BA-082 to **Palj Dužmani/ Pale Duzhmani**, 2BA-004 to **Florim Hadžiju/ Florim Haxhiu**, and 2BA-172 to **Vitor Prendi/ Votor Prendi**. The bodies were returned to Kosovo on several separate occasions during the year 2003. In the Institute of Forensics' autopsy reports there are no causes of death. OMPF determined in the repeated autopsy that death occurred as the consequence of piercing wounds inflicted by a firearm in the head area.

2.1.6. Fifteen years old Hadži/ Haxhi (Muharem) Pajaziti from Dobroš/ Dobrosh was separated, along with another 11 men from his family, at the Meja/ Meje checkpoint. His mother Dževahire/ Xhevahire, who talked to the HLC researched in October 2000, said that she tried to offer money in order to save her son, but she didn't succeed. Policemen, with masks on their faces, told her that they were taking her son and other people to check if they had gunpowder on their fingers and they said they would release them soon after that. On that occasion Znelj/ Zenel (Mehmet), Smajl/ Smail (Mehmet), Idriz (Mehmet), Ćerim/ Qerim (Pajazit), Škeljzen/ Shkelzen (Muje), Špend/ Shpend (Halit), Halil (Muje), Muje (Isuf), Ismet (Redžep/ Rexhep), Avdul/ Avdyl (Mehmet), and Gani (Redžep/Rexhep) Pajaziti were separated.

In the identification through DNA means, it was determined that that 2BA-011 mortal remains belong to **Škeljzen/ Shkelzen**, 2BA-050 to **Ismet/ Ismet**, 2BA-018 to **Muja**, 2BA-53 to the underage **Hadži/ Haxhi**, 2BA-109 to **Špend/ Shpend**, and 2BA-185 to **Zenelj Pajaziti/ Zenel Pajaziti**. The identified mortal remains were returned to Kosovo on two separate occasions during the year.¹²

¹⁰ ND's statement, January 2001, HLC database.

¹¹ Persons Missing in Relation to the Armed Conflicts in Kosovo, ICRC, February 2004.

¹² See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

2.2 Korenica/ Korenice, 27 April 1999

According to the HLC's information army surrounded the village of Korenica/ Korenice on 27 April 1999 at 6:30. Soon after that, infantry and police entered the village, chased the women and children out, kept the men, and then killed them. They transported the bodies to Serbia in order to conceal the crime.

2.2.1. Merita Dedaj from Guske/ Guske testified on this event before the court in the Milošević case.¹³ Her father, uncle, and cousin were among those men. Merita said in her testimony that policemen and soldiers first beat Bekim, the son of Mark Markaj, and then they confiscated all valuables from the people who were there. She saw her father giving the money, ring, and everything else he had in his pocket. Soldiers were beating her grandfather Pašk/ Pashk with gunstocks. They chased women and children out of the house. They made them raise three fingers and shout "Serbia, Serbia". While she was coming out of the house, she saw her father Marko/Mark; uncle Pašk/ Pashk; cousin Linton/ Linton Dedaj, 16 years-old; Prend Markaj/ Prend Markaj, 60 years-old; Prend's son Pašuk Markaj/ Pashuk Markaj, 38 years old; Mark Markaj/ Mark Markaj, 65 years old; two of his sons Bekim and Petrit Markaj/ Bekim and Petrit Markaj; and Skender Markaj/ Skender Markaj lined along one wall. Later one, some 20 meters away, she heard the shooting, which lasted for about one minute, she turned around, and saw those men falling on the ground. The witness joined the convoy and took off towards Đakovica/ Gjakove. On the road, she saw two unidentified male corpses covered in blankets and Yugoslav Army soldiers loading those bodies on a truck. The convoy was ordered to follow that truck. When they arrived to Bistražin, the convoy was stopped at one checkpoint. Serb police took several men from the convoy away and most of them have not been seen ever since. Witness and her cousins found shelter in the village until the end of the war. When she returned to her original village after the war, she found her house destroyed, looted, and cattle dead.

On the basis of the identification through DNA means, it was determined that among the bodies found in BA05 gravesite, there were bodies of some Markaj and Dedaj family members who were kept in Marko Markaj's house in Korenica/ Korenice on 27 April by Serb forces. The body of **Marko Dedaj/ Mark Dedaj** was returned to Kosovo in December 2003. Bodies of **Ljinton Dedaj/ Linton Dedaj**, **Pašk/ Pashk Dedaj**, **Marko/ Mark** and **Bekim Markaj/ Bekim Markaj** were returned to Kosovo in March 2004.

2.2.2. On 27 April, around 9:00, two policemen entered Zoja Preljaj/Zoja Prelaj's house, with 25 people, family members and cousins, in it. Zoje, whose son was taken from the house on that occasion, told the HLC researcher:¹⁴

Policemen told that they were ordered to arrest young men from our family. They pointed their fingers at my son Driton, then Sokol, Gjergj, Ardian, and Tome. Ndue Krasniqi was there, in our house, by accident, and they arrested him, too. At the end, they told my husband Pal to come with them. Then I approached one policeman, grabbed him by the shoulder and asked where they were taking our guys. Then he spoke to my husband Pal and said we didn't have anything to worry about because

¹³ Transcript from the trial of S. Milošević, 16 July 2002.

¹⁴ Witness ZP's statement, January 2001, HLC database.

they were taking the guys to the gas station in the village to check if they were KLA members. If they were not, they would release them right away, he said. He told me to go back inside the house and wait for my son to return. My husband and the guys followed the policemen towards the gas station. They did not handcuff or push them. Some ten minutes later, the shooting became louder and we decided to go out on the street. We saw everybody running away towards Gjakove. One old man that I knew, offered us a ride on his tractor, which we accepted. On the road through the village we did not have any problems with police or army, probably because there was no other grown up male on the tractor with us, except for the old man who was driving. Police stopped us in Bistarzhin. There, they separated the old man, along with some other men. They ordered one boy to drive the tractor. There, near the church, was Nike Marko's house who invited us to stay with him saying that we wouldn't have any problems. We accepted the invitation and stayed there until the end of the war. There were around 60 of us in his little house. And, we really did not have any problems.

After the war, we returned home, which we found destroyed. Two days later, my husband appeared. I learned from him that police kept only young men at the gas station. They ordered him to go back home and take his family to Albania. He did not find us, so he joined some convoy and went to Albania. While he was still at the gas station, police did not mistreat the young men. We have never found out where is my son Driton, then Sokol, Gjergj, Ardian, and Tome Prelaj, as well as Nue Krasniqi. We hope they are still alive.

In the identification of 2BA-241 mortal remains found in BA02 gravesite, it was determined that they belong to **Ndue Krasnići/ Ndue Krasniqi** who was last time seen on 27 April 1999 in Korenice. It was also determined in the identification, that 2BA-247 mortal remains belong to **Derdo Preljaj/ Gjergj Prelaj** whose track was lost under the same circumstances along with other men listed by witness Zoje Prelaj.

2.2.3. Nik Peraj, former Yugoslav Army officer, who was on duty from December 1998 until the end of the war in Kosovo testified in the Milošević case¹⁵ and he claimed that massacre in Meja/ Meje and Korenica/ Korenice was committed as a revenge for the killing of the Serb policeman Milutin Prašćević. He named the then Yugoslav Army Colonel Momir Stojanović, Commander of the Priština Corps Security Headquarters, and said that he ordered Nikola Mićunović, the Commander of the Yugoslav Army Reserves in Đakovica, and Colonel Milan Kovačević, the Commander of the police units and paramilitary formations, which were not from Kosovo, to drive out the residents of the villages in the Caragoj/ Carragojs valley, burn their houses, and kill 100 "heads". In his statement given to the ICTY investigators (K0223465), Nik Peraj said that he was, together with Yugoslav Army Major Ljubiša Živković, near the school building in Orize [several houses continuing on the village of Meja/ Meje], at the checkpoint under the command of Inspector Dimitrije Rašović on 27 April around 15:00 and that they saw four bodies lying on the grass. From that point, they went to Meja/ Meje, to the checkpoint near the Hasanaj family's house where they found Milan Šćepanović wearing the Serbian Ministry of Interiors uniform, holding 12 men lined on the side of a house and three tractors full of women and children. In the field, which is the property of Hasanaj family, they saw some 20 massacred bodies. They succeeded in

¹⁵ Transcript from the trial of S. Milošević, 13 May 2002.

convincing Šćepanović to release the men and let them join their families on the way to Đakovica. The same day, witness Peraj, together with Major Živković, visited Madanaj and Korenica/ Korenice and they saw bodies of killed people everywhere.

2.2.4. By 15 November 2005, the fate of 203 missing from Meja/ Meje and 34 missing from Korenica/ Korenice was revealed. DNA test results received in the analysis of the mortal remains, found in BA02 gravesite, show that the bodies in question are those of persons missing from Meja/ Meje and Korenica since 27 April.¹⁶

Batajnica 03 [BA03]

Mortal remains of 37 victims, according to the archaeological report, and 39, according to the autopsy findings, were found in this gravesite.

By 15 November 2005 CC K&M handed over to UNMIK the identified mortal remains of 31 males who were, according to the ICRC record, last time seen on 1 April 1999 in Ljubenić/ Lubeniq. Those mortal remains were excavated from BA03 grave, while 12 of them were excavated from BA05 grave, together with male bodies from Peć/ Peje.

By 15 November 2005 CC K&M also handed over to UNMIK the identified mortal remains of 50 males who were, according to the ICRC record, last time seen on 28 April 1999 in Peć/ Peje. The bodies of 11 men were found together with the bodies of men from Ljubenić/ Lubeniq in BA03 gravesite, and 39 were found in BA05 gravesite, together with the bodies of men from Ljubenić/ Lubeniq.

3.1. Ljubenić/ Lubeniq, 1 April 1999

According to the HLC's information, around 60 men were killed in the centre of the Ljubenić/ Lubeniq village on 1 April 1999. Upon return from the refuge, late June 1999, the residents of the village found 11 bodies buried in the cemetery, along with certain number of burnt fragmentary body parts.

3.1.1. Adem (Sadik) Haradinaj and Uke (Hajdar) Bushati/ Uke (Hajdar) Bushati were the first persons to be killed in the centre of Ljubenić/ Lubeniq where Serb forces killed around 60 men. Demush Ukshinaj, one of nine people who survived, gave statement to the HLC¹⁷ in which he explained in details what had happened on 1 April:

On 1 April 1999 around 7:30, we heard shooting in the village. I was scared, so I headed out with my family. At the gate we ran into three paramilitary soldiers. They wore old military uniforms and looked very untidy. One of them had a bandanna tied around his head. They ordered us to go to the centre of the village. There, we saw that paramilitaries brought other men, too. They separated males. Women had to go, as they told them, to Albania. According to my assessment, there were 60 of us. There were also men from other villages who found shelter in our village. Those paramilitaries asked us who had burnt the houses, pointing to the houses around us. Adem Haradinaj said that police

¹⁶ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

¹⁷ DU's statement, January 2001, HLC database.

had done that. One of the paramilitaries responded to this by saying, “We are neither army nor police”, and then he ordered Adem to step forward. Adem stepped forward and this one shot him and killed him at the spot. Then he killed Uke Bushati. I was scared to death. I could not comprehend how somebody could kill a person in so cold blood. Then they told us, “Lie down, you Albanian bastards”, and they burst rifle shots at us. I think four of them were shooting. I fell on the ground. I was hit with four bullets, two in the right leg and two in the stomach area. I heard somebody screaming for help. I didn’t dare move. Then I heard a conversation in Serbian language and shooting after that. I don’t remember what happened after. I felt somebody lifting me. Nine of us survived. Seven people from Alimehaj families were killed, four from Hamzaj, eight from Huskaj, three from Ukshinaj, four from Bushati families, then Bobi, etc. After the war, we found 11 bodies, scattered clothes, and a lot of empty bottles. Other bodies were missing.

Among the identified bodies that CC K&M handed over to UNMIK there were bodies of **Adem (Sadik) Haradinaj/ Adem (Sadik) Haradinaj, Uke (Hajdar) Bušati/ Uke (Hajdar) Bushati**, three men from Hamzaj families: **Seljim (Sadik) Hamzaj / Selim (Sadik) Hamzaj, Ramiz (Brahim) Hamzaj/ Ramiz (Brahim) Hamzaj, Džavit (Jašar) Hamzaj/ Xhavit (Jashar) Hamzaj, then Rame (Binak) Ukšinaj/ Rame (Binak) Ukshinaj, Ruždi (Ćerim) Ukšinaj/ Ruzhdi (Qerim) Ukshinaj**, five men from Huskaj families: **Fehim (Šaban) Huskaj/ Fehim (Shaban) Huskaj, Rame (Sadik) Huskaj/ Rame (Sadik) Huskaj, Naim (Hime) Huskaj/ Naim (Hime) Huskaj, Haradin (Jahe) Huskaj/ Haradin (Jahe) Huskaj, and Tafilj (Haradin) Huskaj/ Tafil (Haradin) Huskaj, Bajram (Salji) Bušati/ Bajram (Sali) Bushati, Rustem (Malje) Aljimehaj/ Rustem (Male) Alimehaj, Hadži (Mustafe) Aljimehaj/ Hayhi (Mustafe) Alimehaj, Smajlj (Isuf) Bušati/ Smail (Isuf) Bushati, Bajram (Redže) Bobi/ Bajram (Rexhe) Bobi, Beke (Redže) Bobi/ Beke (Rexhe) Bobi, Kadri (Sadik) Jahmurataj/ Kadri (Sadik) Jahmurataj, etc.¹⁸**

3.1.2. The body of Hadži (Bećir) Huskaj/ Haxhi (Beqir) Huskaj was found after the war at the Muslim cemetery in Peć/ Peje. His wife Zelfija/ Zelfie identified him by the clothes he was wearing.¹⁹

3.1.3. In the identification of BA-05-500T mortal remains, found in BA05 mass grave, it was determined that they belonged to Adem (Isuf) Bušati/ Adem (Isuf) Bushati who was killed in front of his cousin Gani Bušati/ Gani Bushati’s house. On that occasion Gani’s brother Iber (Deme) Bušati/ Yber (Deme) Bushati was killed. Gani Bushati gave a statement for the HLC.²⁰

Our neighbour Emrush Aliqkaj came around 7:30 and said we were surrounded and army entered the village. Only brother Yber and neighbour Adem Haradinaj were the only ones in our house, besides women and children. We all went to leave the house. In front of the house, we found three soldiers in old military uniforms and bandannas around their heads. They said that women and children should leave the village and men should stay. Emrush held a little child in his arms, so they told him he could go with women and children. As soon as my

¹⁸ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

¹⁹ ZH’s statement, January 2001, HLC database

²⁰ GB’s statement, January 2001, HLC database.

family went a little further, paramilitaries asked money from us. I gave them 200 Deutsch Marks. They didn't believe that we gave them all the money, so they searched us. When they were done with the search, one of them, an older guy, pointed at me and Adem and said we could go down to the village. My brother Yber and cousin Adem Bushati were kept. When we stepped on the road, we saw a line of our neighbours going to the centre of the town. We joined them. When we walked some 100 meters away, we heard rifle bursts coming from the direction of my house. I knew they killed Yber and Adem. I didn't dare return because paramilitaries and policemen were on both sides of the road. We came to the centre and there I saw men who were separated; around 60 of our neighbours. They separated me and Adem Haradinaj from the line of people and lined us beside other men. Then, one of the paramilitaries spoke to Adem Haradinaj and Uke Bushati because they were standing closer to them and asked them who had burnt the houses, pointing to the house around us. Anyway, police had burn those houses already in 1998. Adem told them that and that paramilitary answered, "We are neither police nor army" and shot Adem and Uke. In that moment one of the paramilitaries shouted, "None of them alive" and started shooting at us. I saw that two of them were firing automatic rifles and one was firing a machine gun. I think I fainted right away. I was shot several times and I was bleeding. After some time I saw Demush Ukshinaj getting up. All of us, who were alive, got up: Besim Huskaj, Isuf Avdullahu, Gjavit Talickaj from the village of Irznic, Ali Shoshi, Sadik Jahmurataj, Sadik Berisha, and Tafil Huskaj. They were all wounded, and young Tafil was the most seriously wounded one. He died in the forest, where we found shelter.

Identification of BA-03-070T mortal remains showed that they belonged to **Adem (Sadik) Haradinaj/ Adem (Sadik) Haradinaj**, who was killed on 1 April 1999 in the group of his 60 neighbours. CC K&M handed over the body to UNMIK/OMPF on 16 December 2004.²¹

3.1.4. According to the Yugoslav Army's documentation²², Yugoslav Army units exhumed and forensic team, led by Dr. Gordana Tomašević, carried out the external examination and identification of 14 corpses exhumed in the village of Ljubenić/ Lubeniq.

3.2. Peć/ Peje, 27 March- 29 April 1999

According to the HLC's information, on 27 March 1999 in the settlement of Brženik/ Brzenik, in Peć/ Peje, 67 Albanians were killed. The HLC's witnesses saw that bodies were taken away on a truck. After the war, over 80 opened and empty graves were found at the Muslim cemetery in Peć/ Peje.

1. **3.2.1.** Atve (Ruždi) Ramosaj/ Atdhe (Ruzhdi) Ramosaj was among the people who were killed on 27 March in the Brženik/ Brzenik settlement. He was born in 1982 and his disappearance was recorded in the ICRC document.²³

²¹ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

²² Yugoslav Army and Kosovo and Metohija 1998-1999. *Application of International Humanitarian Law*, published by Vojska, 2001.

²³ *Persons Missing in Relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC, March 2001/ February 2004.

His mother Florije Ramosaj/ Florie Ramosaj²⁴ was present when reserves separated her son and her husband:

More Serbs than Albanians lived on our street in the settlement of Dardanija I, previously called Brzhenik. Me, my husband Ruzhdi, sons Adriatik (18) and Atdhe (17), and daughter Dhurata (16) were in the house at the time when bombing started. My mother-in-law Nurie was with us. My husband was a LDK (Democratic League of Kosova) activist and his opinion was that we should leave the house.

On the day when bombing started, a police checkpoint was installed at the beginning of our street. Saturday, 27 March around 9:00 in the morning I heard from our neighbours that Burim Mustafa, the son of our neighbour, tried to go out and buy bread, but police sent him back and told him to tell everybody to get ready to leave the houses and go to Albania.

We didn't know whether it was true or not. We were waiting to see what would happen. Around 13:00, a neighbour Branko Dedić, came to our house and said that we all had to leave our homes by 16:00. He was wearing civilian clothes, but he was very hostile. After he exited our house, he went to every house and ordered Albanians to go to Albania. We were organizing ourselves and around 14:30, we all left homes, except for Shaban Galani and his family. He was married to a Bosniac woman.

When we went out of our street, people just dispersed. We went to my mother Hajrie Vokshi to Dardania II, some 500 meters away from our street. It was peaceful until 16:00. I went to have coffee at my neighbour's for a moment and on my way back, some ten minutes later, I heard an automatic weapon shooting. I turned around and saw a lot of uniformed men on the street. I hurried inside our home. Ruzhdi was on the balcony. I told him we were surrounded. In that moment two persons in uniforms came to our yard. I think they were reserves. They were not wearing masks. I didn't recognize them, but I still remember their faces. They were around 40 years old. Children sat next to me. Ruzhdi was still standing on the balcony. Two minutes after, they came to our room, looked, and said, "Everybody, get out and leave the house. Go as far from here as you can. This is not a place for you. You asked for NATO."

We got up quickly and went out. I saw two more soldiers in the yard. Ruzhdi was still standing on the balcony. They ordered us to stand in the line and lean against the yard wall. While we were all standing like that Ruzhdi was watching us from the balcony on the second floor. They did not let him stand beside us. Two uniformed persons were guarding Ruzhdi, while other two were standing beside us. While we were standing like that, one of the reserves spoke to my younger son Atdhe and told him, "You, lie down". Atdhe lied on the ground, but he didn't bend his head, but he was leaning on his hands, and he was lying with his face towards the ground. Then the same person told him, "Your head down, you Shiptar bastard. Do you understand Serbian". He aimed his automatic rifle at him. Atdhe put his head down and said, "Here, I understand Serbian" and he

²⁴ FR's statement, December 2000, HLC database.

stretched. In that moment I noticed that Ruzhdi turned his back on us. I thought he understood they were going to kill our son, so he didn't want to watch that.

They held us for about ten minutes without a word. They were just walking and looking all over us. Then somebody ordered Atdhe to get up and told us, "Come on, everybody on the street, quickly, quickly. We started to walk. Atdhe went first. The reserve that ordered him to lie on the ground, stopped him, and said, "Where are you going. Stay here". We stopped, too. Then they pushed us and forced us out. While I was walking out of the yard I saw my son's look full of fear following us. While one of the reserves was pushing me, I just managed to say the last words to my son, "Woe is me, your mother, to leave you here". Ruzhdi stayed on the balcony.

In a second, we found ourselves on the street. The street was full of police, army, and reserves. There were also lots of Albanians who, just like us, were driven out of their home. We were walking, I wanted to go back to see once more what was happening with my son and my husband, but my mother-in-law didn't let me do it. She went back and we stood on a spot from which we were able to see her and a part of the yard. We saw her going inside the yard, but she came out rather fast. She told us that some reserve chased her out with the gunstock. They were hurrying us. We went for another 20 meters and then I heard three rifle bursts coming from the direction of our house. I started to bewail. I had a feeling they killed my son and my husband in that very moment.

When we reached Nevzat Kastrati's house, I heard male voices, which gave me the creeps. I stopped like crazy and asked others what was that, what we were hearing. Neighbour told us that Nevzat stayed in that house with his mother and a refugee called Adem (42) from Jashanice. Later on, we heard they massacred them, first with knives and then they finished them with firearms in front of Kimete, Nevzet Kastrati's mother who is still living. Kimete was the only one to stay in the settlement that night, and the following day, they drove her out, too.

We have not found their bodies. Besides my husband and my son, on that 27 March between 16:30 and 17:00, 64 men from Dardania settlement were separated from their families. I remember some of them: Xhelal Gega, Arbnor Gega, Jusuf Kelmendi, Besim Gigolli, Milaim Hoxha, and Din Gashi. Nevzet Kastrati (30) and Adem the refugee (42) were killed for sure, but their bodies are missing.

2. During the identification of the mortal remains found in BA05 gravesite, it was determined that BA-05-414T remains belong to **Atve (Ruždi) Ramosaj/ Athde (Ruzhdi) Ramosaj**, born in 1982 in Peć/ Peje, and BA-05-460T to his father **Ruždi (Bajram) Ramosaj/ Ruzhdi (Bajram) Ramosaj**, born in 1950 in the village of Crnobreg/ Carabreg, the municipality of Dečani/ Dečan. They were last time seen on 27 March 1999 in Peć/ Peje. CC K&M handed over the identified mortal remain to UNMIK on 12 March 2004.
3. The identified mortal remains of **Din (Brahim) Gaši/ Din (Brahim) Gashi, Jusuf (Džeme) Keljmendi/ Jusuf (Xheme) Kelmendi, Arbnor (Musa) Gega/ Arbnor**

(Musa Gega, and Dželjalj (Musa) Gega/ Xhelal (Musa) Gega²⁵, all mentioned in the witness Florie's statement given to the HLC were returned to Kosovo.

4. **3.2.2.** Kimete Kastrati was in the house with her son Nevzati/ Nevzat when police came to Dardania II suburb on 27 March. Kimete heard shooting and instantly went out in the yard to see where the shooting was coming from. She first saw neighbour's dog killed. Then she saw police going in the yard. Her son was sitting in the car listening to the news. She was looking when they dragged him out and leaned against the wall. Then one policeman took Nevzet towards the house and another one was shooting in their direction from the yard. Further on Kimete described the scene to the HLC:

Nevzat was climbing the stairs when a policeman shot and killed him at the spot. I spitted on him. He turned the automatic rifle at me and he wanted to shoot me, however the other one said, "Let her go, let her mourn for her son". After that, they left. I went out on the street to look for help and get Nevzet inside the house. There was nobody. I returned to my son and tried to get him inside. Then neighbour Ymer Gashi came. He asked me for his family. When he saw Nevzet, he was all pale. He helped me carry him inside and then he left.

Kimete stayed alone beside her dead son all night. There was nobody in Dardania suburb. Tomorrow morning, she heard steps in the corridor. She hid behind the door. She didn't see how many of them entered the room. She just heard them speaking in Serbian and dragging something. When they left she saw that they took her son's body. Further on, she said:

I went out on the street. There was nobody. A little further I saw Ymer Gashi killed. Then I heard somebody asking for water. I went a little further on and saw Arbnor Gega. He was wounded in several places. His brother Xhelal was lying next to him. I went inside one of the houses and got some water. I told Arbnor that Nevzet was killed, too. As soon as he drank some water, he passed away.

The following day Kimete left for Albania along with the convoy of civilians. When she returned in June 1999 she was looking for her son everywhere. The bodies of all other people killed in Dardania II were missing.

5. The bodies of **Imer (Alji) Gaši/ Ymer (Ali) Gashi, Arbnor and Dželjalj (Musa) Gega / Arbnor and Xhelal (Musa) Gega** last time seen by Kimete were found in BA05 mass grave. They were returned to Kosovo.²⁶

3.2.3. On 7 May 1999 in the centre of Peć/ Peje Rustem Ibraj/ Rustem Ibraj and his nephew Valbona Ibraj/ Valbone Ibraj were killed, while his daughter, a 14-year-old Lendita/ Lendite was seriously wounded. 14-year-old Lendita/ Lendite gave a statement to the HLC in relation to this event.²⁷

²⁵ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

²⁶ Same

²⁷ LR's statement, August 1999, HLC database.

We heard on TV that NATO hit the bus in which my mom was riding to Montenegro and we heard she was wounded. That was on 3 May. Father went to visit her the following day in the Peje hospital. When he returned he said she was well and there was no need for us, children, to go to the hospital. It was hard for me not to see my mother. Several days after my father told me that there was no need to go to the hospital, I went to my uncle's house and asked my cousin Valbone, who is 24-years-old, to go to the hospital with me. We were on our way when we ran into my father who was carrying some juice. When I told him we were going to the hospital he said he would join us.

When we were passing by the Police Department [SUP], I noticed how one man in civilian clothes was looking at us and following us with his eyes. Father and Valbona didn't notice that.

We were walking normally up to the Catholic Church and nobody stopped us. Right in front of the church, one vehicle, a bronze Opel Askona, stopped and two guys walked out of it, one was short and another was the guy who was watching us from the Police Department [SUP]. That one approached my father and ordered him to stop. Then he asked him where he was going. Father answered he was going to visit his wife in the hospital. He asked for an ID card. Father raised his hand towards the inner pocket in his jacket. In that moment, the other guy pulled his pistol out and shot at father, I don't know whether he shot once or twice. Father instantly fell on the ground as if he was swept away. Valbona screamed "Kuku, mixhe" [Woe is me, uncle] and I screamed "Woe is me, daddy". This guy turned to Valbone and shot at her. I turned to her and then he shot at me, and he shot me in the right side of the lower jaw. I saw Valbone lying on her back. I fell, too. They turned around and headed towards the vehicle. I started rising, and one of those two shot me again. He shot me below the right shoulder. Then I fell and I didn't rise again.

I saw blood under Valbone. I tried with my healthy hand to stop some vehicle, but nobody stopped. My dad was foaming and bleeding at the mouth. I started screaming for help. Some people came closer to me and told me that Ambulance would arrive. They were all speaking only Serbian. I begged for somebody to help me, but they just stared at us as if we were some kind of a wonder. Some time after, a military truck pulled over. Soldiers came out of it. They came to us, raised us, and put us on the truck. They carried me on a stretcher to the truck and they constantly held my hand up, so that bullet wouldn't go down.

They put me on the stretcher in front of the Operation Room. There, I saw my dad, lying on the stretcher. I was certain that he was alive. He was scratching his leg that he had broken a year before. I saw his hand at the place of the fracture.

I was very cold. I heard somebody say turning his head to me, "Look, she opened her eyes". He came to me, shielding the view of my dad and said, "We will treat you now, don't worry". He gave me something to inhale. Then I don't remember anything until I woke up in the intensive care room. Two or three days later, they told me I was supposed to go to hospital in Priština. They took me to a military bus. However, one woman in uniform came to me and said that I was not going. Dr. Stijović came and told me he would get me to Priština and

took me on the bus, but she threw me out again saying, “She may go as well to the place where other two went”. The same doctor yelled at her, grabbed me by the hand, and took me on the bus again. He asked one soldier to let me sit in his seat. I was treated in Priština until 18 June 1999.

6. Mortal remains of **Rustem (Uke) Ibraj/ Rustem (Uke) Ibraj** were returned to Kosovo on 27 May 2005.²⁸ In the identification by DNA analysis it was determined that BA-05-284T mortal remains found in BA05 gravesite belong to Rustem (Uke) Ibraj/ Rustem (Uke) Ibraj.

According to the HLC’s information, inspectors from the Peć Police Department [SUP] and Dr. Stijović were at the scene of the crime after Lendita/ Lendite was transferred to hospital. Inspectors found out from a witness that Ilija Maksić’s brother committed the crime. They made a report and informed the Chief of Police, Boro Vlahović, who ordered them to forget about the witness and write in the report that an unidentified perpetrator committed the crime. The HLC also learned that inspectors also informed Vladan Bojić, the Investigative Judge, of the murder.

According to the information received from the policemen who were working in the Peć Police Department [SUP] during the NATO bombing, the excavation of Albanian civilians from the individual graves in the Muslim cemetery and their transfer to Serbia were carried out around 1 June 1999. Chief of Police, Boro Vlahović, and Miladin Milojević – Mingo, Chief of the Operational Unit, gathered all operational officers from the General Crime Department, 21 or 22, and ordered them to be present while bodies were excavated from the Muslim cemetery individual graves. Bato Bulatović, the inspector, and Mingo led that operation. Chief of Technical Support, Zoran Stanišić, was also present²⁹, as well as several traffic police officers who noted down the information on the number of bodies in relation to the sex and age, since all of those graves were marked as UNIDENTIFIED. They were working upon order to remove all civilian victims and leave only those of the KLA members. A group of Utility Company’s labourers worked for one whole night. Rajko Darmanović and certain Cerović from Bijelo Polje were in that group of labourers that manually exhumed the bodies. Since exhumation was slow, the following day they used an excavator. They exhumed 82 or 83 bodies, out of which 10-12 were females, among which some young girls, too. The bodies were placed in the cool storage that wasn’t working. The truck driver was certain Boća from the utility company and Rajko Darmanović was with him in the driver’s booth. A duty vehicle driven by policeman Slavko Balević, was escorting the truck. The truck with bodies went through Rožaje (Montenegro) to Serbia.

According to the secondary source information, Blagoje Pavlović, a utility company employee, was also working on the exhumation of the bodies. Lazar Pavlović, a member of the paramilitary unit under the command of the late Nebojša Minić called Mrtvi (Dead) was also present at the cemetery when bodies were loaded on the truck.

Information that the body of Hadži (Bećir) Huskaj/ Haxhi (Beqir) Huskaj from Ljubenić/ Lubeniq was found at the Muslim cemetery in Peć/ Peje and that the bodies of

²⁸ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

²⁹ According to the HLC’s information after the war Stanišić was the Chief of Security for Velja Ilić, who was the Mayor of Čačak at the time.

other Huskaj family members were found in the mass graves in Serbia, leads to conclusion that the bodies of the killed in Ljubenić/ Lubeniq were primarily buried in the Muslim cemetery in Peć/ Peje, and then transferred to Serbia.

Information unambiguously show that Albanians killed in the period 27 March- 7 May 1999 in Peć/ Peje were also buried in the Peć/ Peje cemetery and they were excavated and transferred to Serbia on the same occasion when the bodies of the killed in Ljubenić/ Lubeniq were excavated and transferred to Serbia.

4. Batajnica 05 [BA05]

According to the archaeological record, mortal remains of 293 people were found in this gravesite. According to the autopsy, it was 287 bodies that were found in this gravesite. Among the victims there were 14 women, 257 men, while in 19 cases it was impossible to determine the sex through anthropological analyses. Besides the bodies of older people, mortal remains of victims between 15 and 19 years of age, as well as the body of a boy who was under the age of 15 (BA-05-088T) were found.

4.1. Most Talić/ Ura e Taliqit, Đakovica/ Gjakove, 7 May 1999

Based on the information received by the identification of mortal remains found in BA05 mass grave, it is certain that 16 Albanian bodies from Đakovica/ Gjakove are among the victims. According to the HLC information, Serb police kept those people at the bridge Talić/ Ura e Taliqit in Đakovica/ Gjakove on 7 May 1999 in the group of 24 men: **Ajroni (Riza) Shkelzen, Bicurri (Alush) Esat, Ferat and Nexhet, Luzha (Musa) Shani, Luzha (Tefik) Gezim, Binaku (Sinan) Musa, Zherka (Avni) Kastriot, Efendia (Musa) Agim, Rexha (Hadi) Astrit, Axemi (Bajram) Halil, Bardhi (Bujar) Burim, Lata (Isuf) Demush, Mejzini (Shefqet) Ziber, and Shtrezi (Osman) Gani.** Their mortal remains CC K&M handed over to UNMIK on three separate occasions during the years 2004 and 2005.³⁰

4.1.1. According to the HLC witness's statement³¹ who was the only one from the group of separated men who actually survived, in the morning of 7 May, Serb police and army blocked the settlement of Cabrat/ Çabrat. They ordered all the men they found there to leave the houses. The HLC witness claims that Predrag Ristić called Peđa was in command of the police, and that he recognized Obradović Ljubiša, Pantović Rajko, Šabanović Miloš, and one policeman called Goran who he saw before.

When we went out on the street, we saw our neighbours were driven out of their homes. All together we went towards the centre of the town, just as we were ordered to do. Near Ura e Taliqit, me and my father were separated from the rest of the family and they ordered my mother and the rest of the people to go on. I saw some other men were separated, too: Luzha (Zeqirija) Sami, Luzha (Zeqirija) Florim, Bicurri (Alush) Esat, Bicurri (Alush) Ferat, Bicurri (Alush) Nexhet, Mejzini (Shefqet) Yiber, Efendia (Musa) Agim, Luzha (Musa) Shani, Shtrezi (Osman) Gani, Zherka (Avni) Kastriot, Axhemi (Bajram) Halil, Luzha

³⁰ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

³¹ Witness AB statement, December 2000, HLC database.

(Tefik) Gezim, Rexha (Hadi) Astrit, Jaka (Hajdar) Lulzim, Barhi (Bujar) Burim, Binaku (Islam) Sadri, Lata (Isuf) Demush, Berisha (Hysen) Gezim, Berisha (Hysen) Florim, Binaku (Sinan) Musa, Hayhidauti (Ramiz) Fehmi, Ajroni (Riza) Shkelzen and Boshnjaku Megzon.

Policemen divided us into two groups. One group consisted of me, Sadri Binaku, Musa Binaku, Agim Efendia, Lulzim Jaka, Astrit Rexha, Shani Luzha, Burim Bardhi, Basri Nura, Gani Shtrezi, Halil Axhemi, and Gezim Berisha, The rest of the people were in another group. Police ordered them to enter one back street. Right after that, I heard rifle bursts and people screaming. I was sure they were killed and that the same thing awaited us. Policemen ordered us to walk for 200 meters. They lined us along some wall. After that they asked for our identification documents and took all of our money. One house was burning beside us. Halil Axhemi couldn't find his ID card, so all policemen gathered around him. I seized that chance and ran inside the burning house. Police shot at me and they wounded me in the leg. I didn't stop but I carried on running until I came to some yard. There, I lied in some nettle. After a couple of minutes I heard rifle bursts and people screaming. My father was among them. Right after that, police came calling me to come out, they promised allegedly that nothing would happen to me and that they just wanted to ask me something. I did not move. They waited and then I heard them leave. Around midnight, I stood up and went to Nadir Shllaku's house. Nadir treated my wound. Tomorrow morning I took his bicycle and took off, together with Nadir's son who was 10 years old, towards my house, to see what was going on with my mother and sisters. On the road, some men in uniforms stopped me asking for ID card. Fortunately, Nadir arrived and said I was his son and he guaranteed for me. So they let me go.

7. **4.1.2.** The HLC witness³² who lives on the "Rruga e Dashit" Street (Goats' Street) claims that police brought 15 men [first group] up to Xhevdet Rame's house and lined them along some wall. He heard short gun bursts from his house. Tomorrow, through the openings on the yard fence, he saw corpses lying on the ground. He saw one young man who was seriously injured; he was alive. However, he could not find the way to help him. Later on, he learned it was Boshnjaku Megzon and his father found him wounded on the street, but he did not manage to get him to hospital because the young man was losing a lot of blood. This witness saw a body of a young girl a little further from those 15 men, also lying on the street.

9. **4.1.3** The HLC witness, who is still searching after her husband's body, was personally present at the Talić Bridge when her husband Gezim Luža/ Gezim Luzha was separated. Witness Agron Binaku also saw this man among the people who were separated. This witness said in her statement given to the HLC.³³

Police and army surrounded our town (Çabrat) around 8:30. My husband, I, and our children were in the house. That day we did not go out of the house because there was a conflict between the KLA and police. KLA forces were stationed behind our house.

³² Witness NL's statement, December 2000, HLC database.

³³ NL's statement, December 2000, HLC database.

Practically, there was a war going on and bullets were flying over our house in different directions. We were scared, and mostly children were scared. We wanted to go to another town, where there wasn't any shooting going on. We went out on the street. It was already getting dark. There, I saw children, old people, women, young men, healthy and sick people – everybody was panicking and walking. So, walking like that without a final destination, we passed three patrols. In the first patrol there were some policemen that I knew. Those were Srđan Krstić and Ljubiša Obradović. They are from Gjakove and we all know them. Ljubiša Obradović was a nurse, but during the war, he became a policeman. We passed another two patrols and reached the Ura e Taliqit Bridge. Some men had already been separated. Around 20 men stood aside. One policeman ordered my husband to go to another side where separated men stood. He ordered us to go on. We did not walk 100 meters when we heard shooting. Sound was coming from the direction of the bridge. I wanted to go back, but children were with me, so I gave up that idea.

Tomorrow, 8 May, police did not let anybody go to Çabrat. There were rumours going around the town that police killed all the men that they kept at the bridge. There were opposite rumours, too. I talked to one old man who said that police released all of the men and that they are in the new block of houses in the town. Sunday, 9 May, I went home. Nobody prevented me from doing that. The house had been broken into, but nothing was stolen. In the evening I heard on the Serb TV (RTS) that "KLA gang of 24 people was destroyed in Đakovica". It was clear to me that it related to my Gezim and others who were at the bridge.

Two weeks after, I went to the Police station and asked for explanation where my husband was. They sent me to the Chief of Police. I asked him what happened to my husband and where was he. He took some documents out of the drawer, looked at them, and then passed them to some policeman. I noticed they were both nodding their heads and then Chief of Police told me that my husband was in Peć and he did not know what happened to him. It was clear to me that they knew he was killed.

After the war, I talked to one Romany who told me that bodies of all who were killed on 7 May were buried in the cemetery and by the middle of May an excavator dug them out and some truck took them somewhere.

10. 4.1.4. Astrit (Hadi) Redža/ Astrit (Hadi) Rexha, born in 1961 in Đakovica/ Gjakove was also detained at the Talić Bridge on 7 May. In the identification of the mortal remains found in BA05 gravesite, it was determined that BA-05-342T body belonged to Astrit Redža/ Astrit Rexha. CC K&M handed over his body to UNMIK on 12 March 2004. His wife³⁴ said the following:

There was some shooting in our settlement, when somebody started banging on our yard door. We were scared and we decided to run away. We saw our neighbours on the street leaving their homes. We took off towards the centre of the town.

³⁴ HR's statement, November 2000, HLC database.

When we reached Ura e Taliqit we saw a lot of people waiting. On the other side of the street, several men stood separated from others. Then I noticed two persons wearing uniforms. One of them was wearing a black mask on his face and the other one had no mask, he was tall, blond, around 35 years old. The man with a mask aimed his rifle at us and ordered us to stop. He started yelling at us and then he separated my husband Astrit and ordered him to cross the street where other separated men stood. I recognized Lulzim Jaka, Shani Luzha, Kastriot Zherka, Halil Agjemi, and Burim Baroni. Policeman with a mask wanted to separate my husband's brother Petrit, too. My four-year-old daughter started crying and grabbing her uncle by the hand. The man with the mask seemed to have changed his mind, he started yelling and hurrying us, so Perit went with us.

4.2. Čabrat/ Çabrat, 10 May 1999

The HLC information shows that police searched house by house on 10 May in Čabrat, ordered women and children to go towards Albania, kept men, out of which at least 41 were killed at the spot and 145 were taken to prison in Peć and after that to prisons in Serbia.³⁵

Disappearance of 41 Albanians was registered in the ICRC list of the missing. Those persons were last time seen on 10 May 1999 in Đakovica.³⁶

By the end of October 2005 CC K&M took back to Kosovo the identified mortal remains of 30 Albanians from Đakovica, excavated from BA05 gravesite and registered as missing in the ICRC list of the missing. According to the HLC information, the identified mortal remains belong to men (Albanians), who were taken from the settlement of Čabrat/ Çabrat on 10 May 1999 in the presence of their families.

4.2.1. Arben (Qamil) Gexha was found among the identified victims. He was taken away from home on 10 May 1999 in the presence of his wife and parents. Regarding this event, his wife stated as follows:³⁷

Arben, I, and his parents were in the house. Around 8:00 we heard female voices bagging for their sons not to be taken away. We heard police ordering somebody to put hands in the air. Somebody knocked on our door and Arben's mother opened. Three Frankie's guys, those with hats, entered. They knew Arben was an interpreter in OSCE. They said that right away and pushed him out. They ordered us to leave the settlement. Women were crying all around us because police took their sons, husbands and cousins away.

4.2.2. In September 2005, CC K&M handed over the body of the Professor from the Priština Law School and President of the Kosovo Democratic Union in Đakovica,

³⁵ Đakovica group was sentenced in Serbia to severe prison penalties for the alleged terrorism, but under the International Community's pressure they were all released and taken back to Kosovo, March 2001.

³⁶ *Persons Missing in Relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC, March 2001/ February 2004.

³⁷ LG's statement, November 1999, HLC database.

Bardulji (Riza) Čauša/ Bardhyl (Riza) Caushi, along with the bodies of other Albanians, found in BA05 and missing since 10 May 1999.

Arsim Domi, a lawyer from Đakovica, is the last person who saw Professor Čauši on 10 May in Čabrat near Doctor Blerim Zune's house who resided in the hospital, along with his family, since March 1999. KLA headquarters was located in this empty house. Arsin said in the statement given to the HLC:³⁸

Around 10:00 we heard voices and the sound of fences being smashed. Serb forces entered the settlement from the direction of the town, but they were also coming down the Čabrat hill. Blerim Zune's house was set on fire. Out of the window I spotted Bashkim Domi and Barghyl who were hurrying across the yard in front of that house. I didn't know that Barghyl found shelter at Bashkim's. I wanted to find out what was happening because I didn't leave the house from 7 May, after that shooting. Only Bardhyl stopped there. He was wearing a long coat and a shawl around his head. I would say he tried to camouflage. He waved at me showing me to leave and he continued with Bashkim. Two weeks later, one of the neighbours found Bardhyl Chaushi's passport in Blerim Zenun's back yard, behind the burnt house where a gate leading to the Čabrat hill was located.

This witness left the house with his family, on 7 May during the conflict between police and KLA, and went through the gate to a forest where he found other people who also left their homes for the same reason. There, witness saw a young girl Ilka Domi³⁹, a young man whom he knew by the last name Kepuska, and a girl called Mimoza who was wearing a black KLA uniform. Witness claims that two "Frenkie's" guys then showed up with the hats on the back of their necks and those people started running away, but one bullet hit Ilka and killed her.

11. **4.2.3.** The KLA members Sefedin Xerxa, Dashamir Krasniqi, Agim Haxhiavduli, and Ali Hoxha were last time seen in Čabrat/ Čabrat on 10 May, according to the HLC information. In the identification of the bodies found in BA05 gravesite, it was determined that BA-05—167T mortal remains belong to Sefedin (Rifat)Xerxa and BA-05.167T to Dashamir (Aslan) Krasniqi.⁴⁰

12. **4.2.4.** Eight men from Dana family and two men from Haracia family: Kastriot (Avni), Afrim (Taip), Gezim, Osman, and Agron (Ramadan), Albert (Ekrem), Luan, adm Labinot (Afrim) Dana, and Haracia father and son, Mehdi (Zenel) and Genz (Mehdi) were last time seen on 10 May, early in the morning, on the street in front of the Dana family's house. Nobody saw what happened to them after they were taken out of the house.

CC K&M handed over the identified bodies of **Kastriot** (BA-05-053T), and **Afrim Dana** (BA-05-172T), and **Mehdi Haracia** (BA-05-092T) to UNMIK in December 2005, **Gezin**'s body in March 2005, **Agron**'s body in May 2005, and **Luan and Labinot**'s bodies in August 2005. .

³⁸ AD's statement, October 2000, HLC database.

³⁹ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

⁴⁰ Same

L. Dana⁴¹ was 18 year-old at the time and thanks to one Serb soldier he stayed alive. L. was in a group of men who were ordered by the police to come out on the street :

Among the policemen who entered our home, I recognized brothers Vladimir and Čedomir Božović, and one guy with the surname Đikić. Men were ordered to come out on the street and women to stay in the yard. They lined us along the wall and started searching us. One policeman, unknown to me, asked me to put my hands in front of me, and then he asked me why my fingers were yellow. I said I didn't know. Then he started saying I was a KLA member and that he could see I had been shooting. He took my golden ring off my finger. He, and others, too, started, punching, kicking, and hitting me with the gunstocks. They didn't beat other men, they just ordered them to turn towards the wall and bend their heads towards the ground. I fell to the ground because of the hitting. I heard one policeman saying that they needed to search the house. In that moment they stopped hitting me and went inside the yard. One soldier, whom I saw in a group of several soldiers who watched what was going on, approached me and asked me if I could get up on my feet. With his assistance, I got up. Then he pointed his finger at one back street and told me to run. I was astonished and I couldn't move. However, the next moment soldier yelled at me to get lost towards that street. I don't know how, but I did run, I escaped to that street and went towards the centre.

4.2.5. Police took nine men out of Tahir Šarani's house on 10 May: Tahir (Murtez) and his brothers Mentor and Skyfter, Valon (Skyfter), Visar (Skender), Agim and Veli (Rifat), Arben (Veli), and Isuf (Isa) Sharani. Tahir's wife Pranvera⁴² was the last person to see these men on the street lined along the wall with their hands above their heads. She recognized Nenad, a policeman, a short fat guy with a wide face who ordered her to go towards the centre.

On the basis of the identification of the bodies found in BA05 gravesite, it was determined that BA-05-148T belong to **Tahir Šarani/ Tahir Sharani**, BA-05-153T to his brother **Mentor**, BA-05-199T to their brother **Skifer/Skyfer**, and BA-05-246T to their cousin **Isuf Šarani/ Isuf Sharani**.

4.2.6. Transfer of Bodies from Đakovca/ Gjakove Cemetery to Serbia

According to the HLC information, *Çabrat* Utility Company workers buried the bodies of the killed persons in *Çabrat* between 7 and 10 May in the town (Muslim) cemetery in Đakovica/ Gjakove. Those bodies were excavated in the night of 16 and 17 May and transferred to Batajnica, to the Special Counter Terrorism Unit's range, on the trucks. Late Director of the Utility Company *Çabrat*, Faton Polloshka/ Faton Pološka⁴³ gave a detailed statement to the HLC, and excavator operator gave a statement about the excavation process since he worked on that upon the Đakovica/Gjakove authorities' call and order:⁴⁴

⁴¹ Witness LD's statement, December 2000, HLC database.

⁴² PSh's statement, December 2000, HLC database.

⁴³ FP's statement, April 2001, HLC database.

⁴⁴ NN's statement, July 2005.

When bombing started, our superior was appointed by the Municipality. Municipal inspectors informed him, Slobodan Matanović, the Dean of the “Emin Duraku” Elementary School, where were the corpses, then he would tell us where to go and collect the corpses. Mašan Raković, a Municipal Inspector, informed Slobodan Matanović. When we would go out to get the corpses, Slobodan would ride in his own car, and I would ride with the rest of the workers in our “Lada”. Slobodan was always taking me with him because he didn’t know the streets. The first news I heard on 25 March, when I came to work, was that Doctor Izet Hima was killed. He was a greatly respected doctor in Gjakove and everybody knew him. Together with other workers, Romanies, I was told to go to “Ismajl Qemajli” Street where Izet was killed. In the meantime, I found out that another three men were killed. Those were members of the Zherka family i.e. Qamil Zerhka (70), a pensioner; his son Nexhdet (39), a mechanic; and his brother Sadik (82), a pensioner. We picked up their bodies, too, and buried all four of them in the town cemetery. We took the coffins from our company. Besides me, Genz Juniku, an Albanian Lawyer, continued working in our company.

Later that day, I heard that driver Kujtim Dula was killed in his house. We buried his body three days later, on 28 March. We transported the bodies with our company’s car, a black “Lada”. Romany workers, Deme Selimi with sons Hysen and Bekim, then Bajram Cufaj, Xhavit Salihu, Arben Morina, Rexhep, Xhevat Zeka, and Muhamet Ibrahimimi used to work with me. We were the team that worked during the whole time of the bombing on burying bodies of the killed Gjakove citizens. I started keeping record of the killed. I noted every body that I buried in a notebook and under the name I put the location of the grave.

On 29 March, we buried another nine persons, killed close to the Fire Department. Those were: Mark Malota, Kosovo Democratic Union in Gjakove President; Avni Ferizi, Manager of the Textile Factory; Shefqet Pruthi, and artist; then four men from Osmani family; Xhevdet Rakoci; and Myrteza Kurti. All those persons were civilians, killed in their homes, yards, or on the street in front of their homes. We didn’t know who was killing, whether it was the army, police, paramilitaries, or deployed local Serbs.

After 29 March, killings in the area between Ilir Soba Street and Jakova Hotel, which took place on 1 and 2 April followed. Mithat Radoniqi was killed then in his home. Then Hazir Lushta was killed in his yard, then Shpetin Morina, brother Hajdar and Mahmut Vula, who were killed in their homes, and Arbresha Zherka, a mentally ill person killed in her sister’s home. We buried her also in the yard. We had to bury the aforementioned persons in their yards because police returned us when we were going to the cemetery.

On 2 and 3 April we buried in the cemetery the persons killed in the settlements close to the bus station: Astrit Spahiu, a student; Ali Spahiu, a labourer; Qamil Spahiu, a student; Marie and her husband Ndrek Nushi, Shahindere Hoxa, Flaka Hoxha, Arlind Vejsa (5), Dorina Vejsa (11), Fetic Vejsa (60), Marigona Vejsa (9), Rita Vejsa (2), Sihana Vejsa (7), and Tringa Vejsa(30). Vejsa family members were killed in their cellar. The house, along with their bodies, was set on fire afterwards, so when we buried them, the bodies were carbonized.

From 24 March until 6 May, a total number of killed civilians was 130. All bodies were buried in the town cemetery and I kept record for each one of them. I kept the book in which I noted the information in one little house at the cemetery, which belonged to our company and only Romany labourers, Genz Juniku, and myself knew about it.

After the war, except for Izet Hime's body, all other bodies were found and families identified them in the presence of the ICTY investigators.

It was a little more peaceful until 6 May. I remember the rumours going around about Russians having negotiations with Milošević and about the soon end of the war. Some rumours even said that local Serbs who were deployed during the war took off the uniforms, and they are back in civilian clothes, which told us that there will be no further killings.

That day, 6 May one policeman was wounded in the Cabrat settlement and one police vehicle was set on fire. There were rumours going around that a group of 30 KLA members was in the Cabrat settlement and that they attacked the police members. I know that Albanians from Cabrat, after the killing of policeman, started to leave that settlement, but KLA members returned them by telling them that there was no need for doing that because they would protect them and they couldn't leave the Cabrat. I know Perolli was among them, too.

Tomorrow, on 7 May, police surrounded Cabrat. Then, it was like in hell. People started running away in panic. My colleague Genzo and myself went to work around 12:00, but when we reached Ura e Taliqit, police prevented us from passing even though we were in the company's vehicle. There, we heard that police was driving the citizens out of the settlement of Cabrat and separating men.

I didn't go to work until 11 May. I was told that there was no need for me to come to work and that I shouldn't go to the cemetery. On 11 May I went to work and on my way I ran into Hysen Selimi, a Romany, who told me that he, together with his father Deme, brother Bekim, and other labourers, Bajram Cufaj, Xhavit Salihu, Arben Morina, Rexhep and Xhevat Zeka, Muhamet Ibrahim, all Romany labourers from our company buried 87 persons in the town cemetery, among which one young girl, too. Hysen also told me that those were people who were separated from their families in Cabrat from 7 to 11 May. Hysen continued telling me how police picked up the bodies of the killed, drove them on a tractor to the town cemetery, and then our Romany labourers opened 87 individual graves, and buried all killed. As Hysen told me, they were burying them from 7 to 12 May during the night time. Hysen was regularly reporting to me with what was going on. He told me that among those 87 persons, there were men from Domi family, brother Bicurri, then men from Sharani, Stavileci, Shasivari, Dana, Rama families, as well as one girl called Yllka Domi (17). They are all considered missing today. Except for Yllke Domi's family, which somehow accepted the fact their daughter was killed, other families do not want to hear that their men were killed. That's probably because the bodies were missing.

On 17 May, when I came to work, Hysen told me he was at the cemetery the whole night. Police brought other Romany labourers there, too. Police came with the ULT excavator and one truck, tow truck, and with that excavator they opened all 87 graves and then they ordered the labourers to load the corpses on the truck. Hysen doesn't know where they took the bodies.

Hysen also told me that police required from them not to say anything to me. They asked if I was keeping some record. Romany labourers told them about the notebook and then they had to show it and give it to them.

Hysen told me that police demanded to see Doctor Izet Hima's grave. Hysen had to show it and then police ordered his coffin to be excavated and they took his body away. From 7 to 12 May, except those 87 missing (killed), another 200 men was separated from their families in Cabrat and other settlements. 144 were taken to prison in Peć, and others were released.

When investigators from The Hague came to Gjakove, I went to the town cemetery with them. We found 87 open and empty graves. Some ID cards, socks, and shoes, which really belonged to the persons who were buried there, were found in the graves. But there families still don't want to accept the fact that they are dead.

I cannot say anything of this that I know to the families because they still believe their closest family members are still alive. Nobody dares express condolences to the families because the bodies are missing, and that gives hope to the families that their closest relatives are still alive, somewhere in Serbia.

4.3. Vučitrn/ Vushtrri, 22 May 1999

In the Batajnica 05 mass grave, 34 personal documents were found, out of which 14 were issued to the names of Albanians from Vučitrn/ Vushtrri. Ten Albanians whose personal documents were found in BA05 mass grave, were registered in the ICRC list of the missing: Dritan Murselji/ Driton Murseli, Alji Meljenica/ Ali Melenica, Šaban Meljenica/ Shaban Melenica, Ferki Kadriu/ Ferki Kadriu, Kemajlj Ternava/ Kemail Ternava, Idriz Hasani/ Idriz Hasani, Arsim Sejdiu/ Arsim Sejdiu, Bajram Isljami/ Bajram Islami, Sekine Uka/ Sekine Uka, Gerguri Mensur/ Gerguri Mensur, All of them, in a group of 68 Albanians, were last time seen on 22 May 1999 in Vučitrn/ Vushtrri.⁴⁵

By 15 November 2005, CC K&M handed over to UNMIK 49 mortal remains, which were determined to belong to Albanians who were, according to the ICRC information, last time seen on 22 May 1999 in Vučitrn/ Vushtrri.

4.3.1. Luftije Behrami/ Luftie Behrami buried her husband Rafet/ Rafet's mortal remains in December 2004. His body was found in BA05 gravesite. On 10 August 2005 CC K&M handed over to UNMIK the body of her son **Burim (Rafet) Behrami/ Burim Rafet Behrami.**⁴⁶

⁴⁵ *Persons Missing in Relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC, March 2001/ February 2004.

⁴⁶ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

According to witness Luftija's allegations⁴⁷ two policemen came to Enver Mulji/ Enver Muli's house, near the town cemetery where she was temporary residing, along with her husband, son, and Ćemal Ternave/ Qemal Ternave's family. Police ordered the women and children to go the town cemetery to receive the green cards, which would allow their movement, while they kept Rafet/ Rafet and Ćemal/ Qemal allegedly to witness the search of the house. In relation to the events that followed, witness Luftija said:

The scene on the street was horrifying. There were lots of police, army, paramilitaries, as well as women and children who were wailing because they were chased out of their homes. They were lining men at one corner. One guy came to us and ordered us to give him all of our money and jewellery. Women were giving money, gold. I saw how he ripped necklace and earrings off Ajnur. I didn't have anything. He asked me, "Where are you going, Mam". I told him we were going to get the cards. In that moment he ordered Burim to join a group of some twenty separated men on the other side of the street. I started crying and begging him to leave him, I said that he was only 16-years-old, that he was a child, but the policeman didn't want to listen to me. He pushed me aside, aimed his gun at my son saying he would kill him if I said another word. I stopped wailing right away. The separation of men took some 20 minutes. They instructed us and others to go to the town cemetery. There was a huge group of people, some 5,000 of people who were driven out of their homes. Again they started taking our money, jewellery, and this time, cell phones, too. They would shoot in the air from time to time. There, they continued separating men. They separated 930 men 16 to 65 years of age. People were counting the separated men and we all knew how many were separated. They loaded them on four big trucks and drove away. Later on, we found out from those who were released that they spent three days in jail in Smrekovnica/ Smrekovnice, and then police took them to border on Albania and released them. Some stayed in jail.

Around 17:00 we received the cards and they told us to go home. I was running towards the place where they took Burim away from me. On the way, I saw houses burning, furniture on the street and on several spots I saw large puddles of blood. There were no traces on the spot where they separated Burim and other men. I ran home to see if Refat and Ćamil were there. They weren't there. I went out on the street, wailing and asking people, who were also wailing and searching for their closest relatives, if anybody had seen my family members. In the evening, all of us whose family members were separated gathered at Džezair Pasome's house. We counted 68.

4.3.2. During the "Green Card" operation on 22 May 1999, police separated three Melenica brothers: Alij/ Ali (1941), Hasan/ Hasan (1948), and Šaban Melenica/ Shaban Melenica (1950), then Ali's son Nusret/ Nysret (1968) and son Muslije/ Musli, Šefki/ Šefki (1977). Musli, the fourth brother who was not separated probably because he was the oldest, saw them then for the last time. According to him⁴⁸, on 22 May around 7:00, police surrounded their settlement. That was a sign that they would be driven out of their homes. Before that, on 19 April, an operation of driving out of homes was

⁴⁷ LB's statement, March 2000, HLC database.

⁴⁸ MM's statement, March 2000, HLC database.

carried out. Serb forces emptied one part of the town ordering Albanians to move to the part around the town cemetery. This time, on 22 May, they were sent to the town cemetery where they were supposed to receive green cards allowing them to move freely. The HLC witness, Musli Melenica said that around 8:30 six persons in uniforms with tiger patches on their arms came into their yard calling the head of the household to come out. Musli came out and they ask him if they had cards. He answered that police informed him that cards would be handed out on 24 May and one soldier said to this, "Prepare your family and go to the cemetery". Musli informed the family, and 28 of them went out on the street. There he saw his neighbours Hamdija/ Hamdi and Bajram Osmani / Bajram Osmani with their families. Together with them, there were 40 people. Along the way, Macastena and Musa families joined them, as well as other families that were in the neighbourhood and were driven out of the houses, too. Police was escorting them along the way. Near Džezair Pasome/ Xhezair Pasome's house they were stopped by a group of some 20 "paramilitaries" who were asking for money and gold. Witness Musli remembers one tall, dark haired guy whom other guys called by the name of "Boss Roki". He didn't speak. He only pointed his finger at men who should be separated. He first separated the youngest brother Šaban/ Shaban, then Hasan, Ali's son Nusret, Musli's son Šefki/ Šefki, then neighbours Muharem/ Muharrem (1967), Ljulzim/ Lulzim (1972), Naim/ Naim (1962), and Afrim/ Afrim Bajrami (1968). Additionally, they separated his brother Alija/ Ali. Musli saw when they separated Šaban Merovci/ Shaban Merovci's son and son-in-law, Dritan (1968) and Mensur Gerguri/ Mensur Gerguri (1964). They ordered others to continue towards the cemetery. They were kept by the cemetery until 17:00 and then they told them to go home. Musli tried to return the same way he came to the cemetery, but police didn't let him. Tomorrow he went to Džezaira Pasome/ Xhezaira Pasome's house.

Everything looked like the horror movies. The house was burnt. In one room that was not caught by fire, I found big puddles of blood and bullet casings. Carpet was soaked in blood and there were bullet traces on the walls. It was all pointing to the fact the executions were carried out there. In the bathroom, I saw a bathtub full of blood. Parts of burnt clothes were scattered around the yard. I went to the neighbouring house, Sezair's house located in the same yard and I saw traces of blood there, too. I found several ID cards and passports in that house. In Mikullovcı and Feka families' houses, both near the Pesome families' houses, I found traces of blood, but there were no corpses.

During the identification of the mortal remains excavated from BA05 gravesite, it was determined that BA-05-377T, BA-05-307DT, and BA-05-309DT remains belong to **Nusret Meljenica/ Nysret Melenica**, BA-05-340T to **Šaban (Ibrahim) Meljenica/ Shaban (Ibrahim) Melenica**, BA-05-269T to **Aljija (Ibrahim) Meljenica/ Ali (Ibrahim) Melenica**, and BA-05-367T to.⁴⁹

Until 15 November identified mortal remains of **Muharem/Muharrem, Šaban/Shaban, Afrim/Afrim, and Ljulzim/Lulzim Bajrami, Dritan/Dritan Merovci and Mensur Gerguri/Mensur Gerguri**, seen by the HLC witness among the separated men on 22 May, were returned to Kosovo.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

⁵⁰ Same

Dritan Merovccki, along with his wife Graniti and three children, lived in his father's house. His father was Šaban/ Shaban, a well-known neuro-psychologist, on 3 Gjergj Fishta Street. At the time of NATO bombing, Šaban/ Shaban invited his daughter Nerimane/ Nerimane with her husband Mensur Gerguri/ Mensur Gerguri and three of their children so that they could be together. A total of 15 of them were in the house on 22 May when two reserves came into their yard ordering men to come outside and women and children to stay in the house. They didn't ask for money nor did they mistreat anybody. They took Šaban/ Shaban, Dritan/ Dritan, and Mensur/ Mensur with them. They were going down Sitnica Street towards the town cemetery. They were stopped in front of the Džezair Pasome/ Xhezair Pasome's house. As Šaban / Shaban said, they found a lot of men with their faces turned to the wall of the house. There were a lot of police and army under Inspector Dragan Mihajlović's command. There he saw Zoran Vukotić as well. None of them wore camouflage uniforms. They ordered Šaban/ Shaban to carry on towards the cemetery, and Dritan/ Dritan and Mensur/ Mensur to join other men beside the wall. Before he took off, Šaban / Shaban approached Inspector Mihajlović and other police officers and asked them why were they separating men when all of them had cards and were allowed by the Vučina Chief of Police to stay in Vučitrn/ Vushtrri. Mihajlović told him to continue walking to the cemetery and that the rest of the men will be there soon after a short interrogation. He arrived to the cemetery along with the convoy of civilians. He said that all the people from Vučitrn/ Vushtrri were gathered there. He was sitting in the field when Safer, a Muslim policeman, and Zoran Dančetović, the son of "Čičavica" Trade Company Director, approached him. They asked him what was he doing there and he told them he was, like other people, driven out of the house. They told him he was free to go home. Šaban/ Shaban says he was the only one who was released that day and he doesn't know why they did that. Police didn't let him return home the same way they brought them to the cemetery. He arrived home around 12:30 and his wife and daughter told him that police returned Dritan/ Dritan and Mensur/ Mensur and they asked a car from Dritan/ Dritan and 500 DM from Mensur. Dritan gave them the keys to Mercedes and Mensur asked his wife for 500 DM. in panic she took 10,000 DM and gave them. Šaban & Shaban said that his wife told him how she heard Dritan/ Dritan addressing this policeman, "Zoran, please, let me go. I have three children." Dritan drove the car out of the yard. Zoran and another guy left with the car and money. Three policemen followed Dritan/ Dritan and Mensur/ Mensur.

Tomorrow, Šaban Merovci/ Shaban Merovci went to look for the Mayer Slobodan Donkić, to beg him to help him. He claims that Mayer literary told him, "Shaban, seven people were killed in Xhezair Pasome's house. I cannot tell you who they were, but be sure that your son and son-in-law are not among them. They were probably taken to prison in Smrekovnica. I will check if they are there and I will let you know". Two days later, he called and said they weren't in Smrekovnica, but that they were alive and taken in unknown direction.

Šaban Merovci/ Shaban Merovci said during the interview with the HLC researchers in March 2000 that he was negotiating with some Serbs at high positions and that they were asking 188,000 DM to release Dritan and Mensur. He said he was requiring for those people to be taken back home from where they were taken away.

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4.3.4. Ćazim Uka/ Qazim Uka was the first to enter Džezair Pasome/ Yhezaira Pasome's house in search of his daughter, son, and daughter-in-law. According to him, the last time he saw them, they were entering this house upon a Local Serb Zoran Vukotić's order. At the time of the event, Ćazim Uka/ Qazim Uka's family lived in neighbour Ekrem Maljoku/ Ekrem Maloku's damaged house because Serb forces burnt his house on 3 May, along with 17 other houses. Uka family had nine members: Ćazim/ Qazim's wife Sevdije/ Sevdie, daughter Sekine/ Sekine, son Ahmet/ Ahmet, daughter-in-law Ajše/ Ajshe, three of their children, and Ćazim/ Qazim's mother Mete/ Mete. On 22 May around 6:00, three policemen came to Ekrem Maljoku/ Ekrem Maloku's house and ordered everybody to go out on the street. On that occasion, they searched the men, took 300 DM that they found, and threw ID cards on the floor. They ordered them to go to the cemetery in order to receive the green cards. According to Ćazim Uka/ Qazim Uka⁵¹, in the moment when they were chased out, there very people in different uniforms on the street, but no civilians. Džezaira Pasome/ Xhezaira Pasome's house was 30 meters further. When they reached it, "a uniformed person, blond, athletic type, not older than 30" who was standing at the door, stopped them and when they came closer, they recognized a Serb from Vučitrn/ Vushtrri, Zoran Vukotić, the employee of the Municipal Court clerical office.

Zoran spoke to my son Ahmet asking him who we were. My family, he said to Zoran, and then he asked if Sekine was married. Then he told Ahmet to put down the chilled from his arms and to stay there with his wife Ajshe, and sister Sekine. He told me that he will have some interview with them and that they would join us by the cemetery. I saw fear in my children's eyes, but I told them that everything would be fine because Zoran said so. My last words to them, as they were entering Yhezaira Pasome's house through the fence, were that we would wait for them by the cemetery. I saw Zoran behind them. There is more than 200 meters from the house where my children stayed to the cemetery. There were already people there and more of them were coming. I saw Shaban Merovci and he told me they separated his son Driton and son-in-law Mensur. Then I saw Ukshin Musa who told me that they took his son Fehmie and nephew Arsim. They started separating men again, but this time they drove them away somewhere on the trucks. Several days later, we found out that they were taken to Smrekovnice prison and then to the border on Albania. But our closest family members weren't among those people. Around 17:00 they let us go home. I went to see what happened to my children. I ran into the Police Chief Simić who was ordering police to retreat at that moment. I insisted to speak with him. He was telling me he didn't have time. When I told him they could kill me, but I had to find out what happened to my children, he said that nobody would kill me and that I was free to go. There was nobody in Pasome's yard. I saw a pile of burnt clothes in front of the door. A trace of blood led all the way through the yard and up to the door. It looked at me as if corpses were dragged from the house, through the yard, and to the street. On the balcony, I also was

⁵¹ QU's statement, March 2000, HLC database.

blood stains, and scattered shoes and sneakers. I was looking for my children's shoes, but I didn't find them. There were blood stains on the kitchen tiles. Carpet in the living-room was soaked in blood. In the bathroom I saw the most horrifying scene. The bathtub was full of blood. In Sezair Pasome's house I found traces of blood, but not so much as I saw in the first house. There I found 15 ID cards, which were clean on the outside, but on the inside they were stained with blood. A lot of people came to me in the evening. We counted 68 people who were detained in front of Xhezaira Pasome's house. People were mentioning different Serbs that they saw in front of Pasome's house and by the cemetery. Besides Zoran Vukotić, they also mentioned Goroljub Paunović who worked in the Post Office, Zoran Dančetović, Predrag Martinović, Slobodan Trifunović, Nikola Ivanović, and others.

The identified mortal remains of Sekine (**Ćazim**) Uka/ **Sekine (Qazim) Uka** were returned to Kosovo on 26 May 2004; the mortal remains of **Ahmet (Ćazim) Uka/ Ahmet (Qazim) Uka** were returned on 29 March 2005; and mortal remains of **Ajšë (Azem) Uka/ Aishe (Azem) Uka** on 27 May 2005.⁵²

4.3.5. In Šahin Feka/ Shahin Feka's house, on Kosova Street, there were 21 persons in the moment when police came into the yard around 7:30. Besides Šahin/ Shahin, there were: his wife Bahtije/ Bahtie⁵³, four of their children, cousins Sadrija/ Sadri and Ekrem Feka/ Ekrem Feka. They chased them out on the street and then one policeman entered the house, and after five minutes he started shooting. Nobody knows why that policeman was shooting when the house was empty. He came out carrying cassettes. Bahtije/ Bahtie claims that they didn't belong to them. He asked Ahmet where the cassette player was. Ahmet told him he didn't have one and those cassettes weren't his.

Policeman didn't listen to his explanation, but he grabbed Shahin by the shoulder, took him inside the yard, and closed the fence. It wasn't two or three minutes after that we heard shooting. When it stopped, policeman came out on the street. My mother-in-law Miradie, Shahin's mother, and I started wailing. The policeman approached me asking me to let a child kill me. I stopped, but my mother-in-law couldn't. Then that policeman took Miradie, took her inside the yard and we heard shooting again. Policeman came out on the street, crossed the street to the side where Ekrem was standing with his children. He started beating him. Children were crying, and Ekrem fell on the ground because of the beating. That policeman saw a golden necklace around Ekrem's neck, so he started pulling in order to take it off. Ekrem said he would give it to him, but policeman said that there is no need for him to give it when he himself could take it. He took him inside the yard and came out five minutes after. We didn't hear the shooting. At that time nobody but us was on the street. Some time later, lines of people started coming and policeman ordered us to join. Police escorted us to the cemetery where they again separated men. We received green cards and we were told to go home. We saw from far that our house was on fire. We settled at our neighbour's since her house was less damaged. Sadri then went to our yard to search it. He told us he saw three puddles of blood in our yard. He brought Miradie's scarf. There was a bullet hole on it. Bodies were gone.

⁵² See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

⁵³ BF's statement, March 2000

Tomorrow, we found out from one young man called Agim Oshlani that he ran away in front of the police when they came to his house. He found shelter in our yard thinking they wouldn't return to the scene of the crime. When he heard the fence was opening he hid in the manhole. From there he could hear a voice giving order to collect bodies and load them on the truck. When he was certain that police left, he came out and saw that they took away the corpses.

On the basis of the DNA analysis of the mortal remains found in BA05 gravesite, it was determined that BA-05-181T remains belong to **Miradije (Hajzir) Feka/ Miradie (Hajzir) Feka**, BA-05-372T and BA-05-361D to **Šahin (Dževat) Feka/ Shahin (Xhevat) Feka**, and BA-05-329T to **Ekrem (Jahir) Feka/Ekrem (Jahir) Feka**. According to witnesses' allegations, they were executed on 22 May 1999 in Vučitrn/ Vushtrri. The bodies were returned to Kosovo.⁵⁴

4.3.6. Ferat (Sami) Tirići/ Ferat (Sami) Tiriqi's two sons were killed on 22 May and their bodies were found in BA05 gravesite. The identified mortal remains of Murat and Serhat Tirići/ Murat and Serhat Tiriqi were returned to Kosovo on 12 March 2004.⁵⁵

The HLC researcher talked to their father Ferat (Sami) Tirići/ Ferat (Sami) Tiriqi in March 2000 in Vučitrn/ Vushtrri about the circumstances under which they were missing [killed]. On that occasion, father of the missing young men said that on 22 May he was at his sister's on Methojska Street, near the old outpatient hospital. Around 6:30 they were driven out of the house and sent towards the cemetery. In front of Džezair Pasome/ Xhezair Pasome's house they were stopped by a group of police officers and separated 10 or 11 men. Ferat and his sons were among those men. From the father they took 790 DM that he had with him. They lined the men along the wall and made them sing "*Ko to kaže ko to laže Serbia je mala...*" [Who says and who lies that Serbia is small...] they were beating them with batons and gunstocks, and they were kicking them. One policeman first called the younger son Serhat/ Serhat to step out of line, he asked him about KLA, and then he took him by the hand, and led him inside Feka family's house. Half an hour later, another policeman separated other Ferat's son Murat, took off his wrist watch, then he took Arian Prokupla/ Arian Prokupla and Šahedin Madžunija/ Shahedin Maxhuni, as well as other men that Ferat didn't recognize. Police kept beating other older men. On that occasion Ferim had two of his ribs fractured. 40 minutes later they ordered them to go to the cemetery.

In the evening, Ferat entered Feka family's house to which his son Serhat was taken. There he found a burnt male corpse that he couldn't identify. The following day he wasn't able to get out of the bed because of the fractured ribs. He learnt from his neighbours that Deputy Police Commander Slobodan Trifunović was in the neighbourhood, so he sent a neighbour to call him. Deputy Commander accepted the invitation and came to Ferat's house. He said in front of the family members that they had nothing to worry about and that their sons were not executed in Xhezair Pasome's house.

Ferat kept asking around and from the Romany labourers in the utility company he found out that on 22 May in the afternoon they saw a truck in front of Džezair Pasome/

⁵⁴ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

⁵⁵ Same.

Xhezair Pasome's house, that truck driver was a refugee from Croatia, and that truck took the bodies from there to Mitrovica and after that to Kraljevo.

5. Batajnica 07 [BA07]

Around 74 bodies were exhumed from this gravesite. By 15 November 2005, 56 identified mortal remains were returned to Kosovo. Among them, there were remains of 38 persons who were registered in ICRC record as last time seen in April 1999 in Kosovo Polje/ Fushe Kosove and 14 persons last time seen on 24 May 1999 in the village of Slovinje/ Sllovi, the municipality of Lipljan/ Lipjan.

5.1. Kosovo Polje/ Fushe Kosove, April 1999

During April, on two separate occasions, on 1 and 21 April, 33 Albanians disappeared in Kosovo Polje/ Fushe Kosove. Their families suspected they were killed, but since they hadn't found their bodies, they believed they were alive.

5.1.1. On 1 April 1999 in the suburb 11 of Kosovo Polje/ Fushe Kosove, eight members of three Krasniqi families were killed: Hamit (Kadri), Vezire (Halil), Fatmir (Hamit), Arben (Hamit), Bljerta/ Blerta (Fatmir), Hamdi (Riza), Agron (Hamdi), and Miradije (Zecir)/ Miradie (Zeqir), as well as four members of Sila/ Sylva family: Zumer (Ismail)/ Zymer (Ismail), Nazmije (Miftar)/ Naymie (Miftar), Naim (Zimer)/ Naim (Zymer), and Valjbona (Zimer)/ Valbona (Zymer). Their bodies disappeared.

The HLC learned about this event straight from Ljeme Krasniqi/ Leme Krasniqi, mother of 14-year-old Bljerta Krasniqi/ Blerta Krasniqi.⁵⁶

Our three Krasniqi families lived in the Suburb 11, in houses: 34, 35, and 36. Two days after the bombing started, we all headed to Prishtine because we thought it was safer in a bigger city. Four policemen stopped us at the intersection. Two of them had black masks on. They started beating our men right away, with no apparent reason. One of them spoke to Naim, my husband's brother, saying that he should be decapitated and asking him if he could recall how they fought when they were children. Naim could not recognize his voice. Other policeman with the mask on was beating Arben so heavily that he ripped his lip. Arben had four stitches after that. My husband, who was a doctor, performed that operation. They ordered us to go back home, which we did. Upon return, we decided to hide men in Zymer Sylva's attic. Thing that we feared the most happened on 1 April around 18:00. In that moment I was at neighbour Sadete Mresori's. I saw, out of her house, that a police vehicle parked in front of Zymer Sylva's house. Six policemen, out of whom two wore masks, headed towards Zymer's house. To me, those policemen with masks on resembled the other two with masks that stopped us at the intersection five days before. I saw when they came out of the house with Fatmir and headed towards other houses in the same yard. They gathered everybody at the same place and held them like that for about an hour. During that time I heard the policemen calling each other

⁵⁶ Witness LK's statement, October 1999, HLC database.

by the names of “Cucla”, “Peđa”, and “Draga” or “Drago”. One hour later that Cucla guy said something that I couldn’t understand to his fellow policemen, but I heard he addressed our people with, “Gentlemen, Ladies, and Misses”. Right after that I heard shooting and then silence. Several minutes after the shooting, I saw policemen who got into the car and left. I didn’t see them taking the corpses with them. I stayed at my neighbour’s for two days. I didn’t have courage to go and check what happened to my daughter, husband, and others. It was clear that they were executed. I wanted to kill myself; I had no reason to live. Mresori family looked after me constantly. Two days later, my neighbour Sahadete Mresori, found courage, went to all three houses, and found blood stains there. In Hamit’s house, she found Hamiat, Zymer, Miftar, and Hamdie’s bodies. She told me there were no other corpses. I am sure that policemen didn’t take the bodies that night; I could have seen it clearly. So I hoped that policemen took the living with them that night, but I just didn’t see it. I was hoping my daughter, my husband, and others were still alive.

On 10 August 2005, CC K&M handed over to UNMIK the identified mortal remains of **Bljerta/ Blerte (Fatmir)** (1985), **Vezir (Haljilj)/ Vezire (Halil)**, and **Arben (Hamit) Krasnići/ Arben (Hamit) Krasniqi**, and **Zumer (Smajl) Sulja/ Zymer (Smail) Sylja**. On 7 September CC K&M returned to Kosovo the mortal remains of **Hamdija (Riza)/ Hamdi (Riza)** and **Miradija (Zećir)/ Miradie (Zeqir) Krasniqi**, and **Valjbone (Zimer)/ Valbone (Zymer)**, **Naim (Zimer)/ Naim (Zymer)**, and **Nazmija Miftar Sila/ Nazmie (Miftar) Sylja**, found in BA07 gravesite.⁵⁷

5.1.2. Mirena families lived in the Nakarada/ Nakarade suburb in Kosovo Polje/ Fushe Kosove. On 21 April, 16 men from those families disappeared. Makfirete, Kimete, and Nurije/ Nurie’s father Ismet Mirena was among the men who disappeared. According to their allegations, policemen and their Serb neighbours reserves took away their father, along with 15 cousins: Idriz (Zenun), Mentor (Idriz), Veton (Idriz), Hakif (Zenun), Nazif (Zenun), Nezir (Zenun), Avni (Bećir)/ Avni (Beqir), Hilmi (Džafer)/ Hilmi (Xhafer), Fehmi (Džafer)/ Fehmi (Xhafer), Hamdi (Džafer)/ Hamdi (Xhafer), Bedri (Muharrem, Zećir (Muharrem)/ Zeqir (Muharrem), Sami (Muharrem) Mirena, as well as Sokol (Ćazim) Rama/ Sokol (Qazim) Rama.

In the statement given to the HLC, Mekfirete⁵⁸ first mentioned that on 24 March her cousin Mehdi was killed. She stated that on that day around 14:00 she saw a white Mercedes passing down her street [Kruševačka] and stopping by the Kruševac/ Krishevc Bridge. Then she heard shooting and saw Mercedes driving fast away from the bridge. Nobody from her suburb dared go out and see what happened at the bridge. In the evening, when Mirene families gathered around, they noticed that Mehdi, who had left home early that morning to go and take care of some business, was missing. Tomorrow, her father went to look for Mehdi at the bridge where they heard the shooting mentioned by Mekfirete, and he found his body. He was shot in the stomach. They buried him in the village of Kruševac/ Krishevc because, as witness stated, police did not let them bury him in the town cemetery.

⁵⁷ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

⁵⁸ Witness MM’s statement, December 1999, HLC database.

After that event, Mirena families decided not to go out of their homes. On the event from 21 April, witness said the following:

Around 19:30 our uncle Hamdi came to our place. We were listening to the Montenegro TV News hoping that the night will pass without incidents. Then we heard three shots. In that moment, Hamdie's wife Hyrie came in and told us, little girls, to find shelter quickly, to run away from home. She also said that police surrounded the suburb and wounded cousin Nazif. Nurie saw that, too. She heard policemen calling men by their names telling them to come out to have their ID cards checked. I heard them calling cousins Hakif, Bedriu, and Zeqir; and I saw cousin Hakif going from one house to another calling the men to gather in cousin Zenun's yard.

Three of us, sisters, together with our mother Azemina and our aunts Sanie, Hidajete, Hyrie, and her son Fatlum, Qamil, and Ajkun, went out and hid in a stream located some 80 to 100 meters from our house. As we were going towards that stream we heard policemen's voices calling our men by the names. We heard them asking our father's ID card and saying they were all from KLA. Ten minutes later, we saw two trucks entered our houses' yard and stopped in front of cousin Zenun's house where all men were gathered. We heard the sound of the engine. Ten minutes later, we heard some screaming and 48 bursts of shots. We saw them taking off. Some fifteen minutes later, we saw a big fire near Lismir Bridge where we saw police bringing firewood during the day. That fire didn't put out until 6:00 o'clock the following day. We stayed by the stream until 2:00 in the morning; in the water; inside that stream because we were afraid that somebody would reveal us. There was thick silence. Only the fire from Lismir Bridge could be seen. We froze in that stream because we were standing in water, so we decided to go back home, whatever circumstances of that act might be. There was nobody at home. We spent the night all together in cousin Muharrem's house.

Tomorrow, 22 April, we searched the neighbourhood and we found no traces, except for blood near cousin Nazif's house. We knew Nazif was wounded because that happened in Nurie's presence, but what we didn't know what happened to him and other men after that.

On two separate occasions, in May and August 2005, the mortal remains of 11 men from Mirena families were taken from Serbia back to Kosovo. Those persons were: **Bedri Muharem Mirena/ Bedri (Muharem) Mirena, Idriz (Zenun) Mirena/ Idriz (Zenun) Mirena, Zećir (Muharem) Mirena/ Zeqir (Muharem) Mirena, Sami (Muharem) Mirena/ Sami (Muharem) Mirena, Arben (Bećir) Mirena/ Arben (Beqir) Mirena, Nazif (Zenun) Mirena/ Nazif (Zenun) Mirena, Ismet (Zumer) Mirena/ Ismet (Zymer) Mirena, Avni (Bećir) Mirena/ Avni (Beqir) Mirena, Hamdi (Džafer) Mirena/ Hamdi (Xhafer) Mirena, Haćif (Zenun) Mirena/ Haćif (Zenun) Mirena, and Nezir (Zenun) Mirena/ Nezir (Zenun) Mirena.**⁵⁹

⁵⁹ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

5.2. Slovinje/ Sllovi, 24 May 1999

According to the Kosovo Verification Mission's information⁶⁰, Serb forces killed 16 or 17 Albanian civilians in the village of Slovinje/ Sllovi. Serb doctors carried out the autopsies and bodies were buried in individual graves.

Disappearance of 15 men and 2 women from Slovinje/ Sllovi was registered in the ICRC List of the Missing.

By 15 November 2005 the fate of 14 men was revealed. Their bodies were exhumed from BA07 gravesite: **Raif (Maljić) Šalja/ Raif (Maliq) Shala, Ramadan (Azem) Sopi/ Ramadan (Azem) Sopi, Zećir (Hamdi) Etemi/ Zeqir (Hamdi) Etemi, Isak (Zejnula) Bitići/ Isak (Zejnula) Bytyqi, Hasan (Šefki) Bitići/ Hasan (Shefki) Bytyqi, Fatmir (Šefki) Bitići/ Fatmir (Shefki) Bytyqi, Faik (Baljik) Gerbeši/ Faik (Balik) Gerbeshi, Haki (Hasan) Ismailji/ Haki (Hasan) Ismaili, Baljik (Feriz) Gerbeši/ Balik (Feriz) Gerbeshi, Jonuz (Hamdi) Pacoli/ Jonuz (Hamdi) Pacolli, Šaip (Baljik) Gerbeši/ Shaip (Balik) Gerbeshi, Heset (Iljaz) Lekići/ Heset (Ilaz) Lekiqi, Naser (Redžep) Ismailji/ Naser (Rexhep) Ismaili, and Bejtuš (Salji) Gerbeši/ Bejtush (Sali) Gerbeshi.**⁶¹

6. Perućac

A total of 26 whole bodies and 52 fragmentary body parts were exhumed from this grave. In the autopsy and anthropological analysis a minimum number of 48 bodies was determined, out of which 38 were male victims, one female victims, while in the cases of nine victims it was impossible to determine the sex because mortal remains were very damaged.

Until 15 November 2005 20 mortal remains found in this gravesite were returned to Kosovo. 14 of them were Albanians last time seen in Đakovica/ Gjakove and 6 were Albanians last time seen in Kraljane/ Kralan.

6.1. Kraljane/Kralan, 2, 3, and 4. April 1999

Until 15 November 2005, CC K&M returned six Albanian bodies to Kosovo. They were last time seen in the village of Kraljane/ Kralan in the municipality of Đakovica on 2, 3, and 4 April 1999.

According to the HLC's information, Yugoslav Army members separated several dozens of Albanian young men on 3 and 4 April 1999 in the village of Kraljane/ Kralan. In the DNA analysis of the mortal remains found in the Perućac mass grave it was found that bodies of six males that were handed over to OMPF, belonged to persons detained by the regular Yugoslav Army on 2, 3, and 4 April 1999.

ICRC registered disappearance of 64 persons on 3 and 4 April in the village of Kraljane/ Kralan.⁶² According to the HLC's information, Yugoslav Army members separated 94

⁶⁰ *As Seen, as Told*, The OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission Report, Published by HLC, reprint 2004

⁶¹ *Persons Missing in Relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC, March 2001/ February 2004.

⁶² *Persons Missing in Relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC, March 2001/ February 2004.

young men from their families on 2, 3, and 4 April and their families haven't seen them alive ever since.

6.1.1. Bekim Gaši/ Bekim Gashi was among the emissaries from Kraljane/ Kralane. In the statement given to the HLC, his wife said⁶³ that police drove out Albanian citizens from the village of Vojnik on 28 March 1999 and forced them to go towards Albania. People headed towards Kraljan/ Kralan in convoy in order to get to Đakovica/ Gjakove and from there to Albania u Albaniju. She said that Klina/ Kline citizens were also among them. Eight members of the Gaši/ Gashi families, including Bekim were walking. The convoy came across a KLA unit in Kraljane/ Kralane and their commander said he would not allow people leave their homes. After that order, the whole convoy stayed in Kraljane/ Kralane and found shelter in a forest nearby. They spent two or three days in that forest. Witness claims that Serb forces attacked the village on 2 April and they clashed with KLA at the entrance to the village. Civilians were in the forest waiting for the situation to calm down. They heard shooting. KLA soldiers came to the forest around noon. Their commander told the civilians, "We are withdrawing; we are not able to stop Serb Army; we are leaving; people who want to come with us are welcome and who do not want to, God help them". KLA unit went through the forest and people stayed where they were.

After KLA left, we decided to continue our journey towards Albania through the village of Kromovik, so that we could get to Gjakove and from there to Albania. While we were going, Serb Army stopped us and separated all men, among whom my husband Bekim, too, from the convoy. I saw that they stripped all the men to their waists, tied their hands, and then they ordered us, women and children, to continue our journey. They sent all the men to one field. The convoy continues the journey and arrived to Albania on foot.

A lot of men who were detained arrived to Albania several days later, Haxhi Derguti among them. He was my husband's uncle. When we asked him for the fate of Bekim and others, he said that they held them tied for three days and three nights and after that they kept only 96 men, exclusively young men, and Bekim was among them. They released the rest and enabled them to get to Albania. He didn't know what happened to those 96 men later.

Upon our return from Albania we tried to find out anything about the fate of my husband and the rest of the group of 96 men, but we failed.

Disappearance of **Bekim (Muharem) Gaši/Bekim (Muharem) Gashi**, born on 23 September 1974, registered in ICRC as BLG-802782. Disappearance of 82 men and one woman, last time seen on 2, 3, and 4 April 1999 in Kraljane/ Kralan, was registered in the ICRC.⁶⁴

6.1.2. Osman Dušiju/Osman Dushi's son Nazmi (1968) and cousins Masar (Ymer)/Masar (Imer) (1972), Šefčet i Dževdet (Ismail)/Shefqet (1971) i Xhevdet (1969) (Ismail) were detained in Kraljane/ Kralan. The HLC witness spoke of the events that

⁶³ Witness NG's statement, February 2000, HLC database.

⁶⁴ *Persons Missing in Relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC, March 2001/ February 2004.

followed the arrival of a group of policemen to the village where Dushi families live on 27 March:⁶⁵

In the morning of 27 March, around 9:00, a group of policemen came to our village in the moment when my cousin Sylejman was standing by the fence. They shot straight away and killed him. When we heard the shots, we went out and found Sylejman who was still alive at our threshold. He had seven wounds. We hurried to drive to the hospital in Peje. Doctor Hysen Mazrekaj, who was on duty, said that Sylejman died in the meantime. Policemen from Kline killed him, but I don't know who exactly was there.

Tomorrow we decided to leave Kline. After Sylejman was killed, we had a feeling that everything is possible to happen. We were preparing, but we didn't know where to go. There were over 100 of us because besides our Dushi families, we also had several families from Joshanice, Bokshiq, and Mali Gjurgjeviki. We were preparing the tractors, loaded the food, and everything we thought might be necessary.

Around 18:30, a group of 10 policemen arrived, along with the Kline Deputy Chief of Police who told us that we have 20 minutes to leave the house and head towards Albania. Since we had a truck and two cars, an Audi and Golf, in the yard, one policeman called Điki asked for the keys and I had to give them to him.

We found other families on the main street and we all headed towards Gjakove. There were thousands of us. Around midnight, the convoy arrived to Kromovik, and in the conversation we had near the bridge, we heard a rumour that a lot of people were killed in Gjakove.

We decided to go to Kralan and continue to the village of Glllogjan and look for the shelter in the church there. So, instead of going straight to Albania we turned to go to Kralan. It was peaceful until 2 April. However, that day, army came to the village with tanks and armoured vehicles. We had no other solution, but to take one white sheet as a sign of surrender and go to the centre of the village and we did that. Army came and started separating men from women and children. They sent us, men, to a street next to the main street. They kept around 50-60 tractors and 10 personal vehicles, and then they ordered women, children, and several old men who were among them, to go to Albania. They told us, men, to go by the stream. It was raining and soldiers ordered us to strip down to our waists. And they sent us, naked, a little lower, around 20 metres away from the place where we left our clothes. The stream at that place was a little deeper. They ordered us to stand on the bank of the stream and put our hands behind our necks, and stand in the line. Then somebody ordered a soldier to go with a tank on us. We heard the tank coming, I think it was only some 10 metres away, and then suddenly we heard some officer's voice, ".who ordered to go over the people with the tank. Go back right away". Tank turned around and went back. We spent three hours at this place, naked down to our waists. It was raining all

⁶⁵ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

the time. We froze because it was cold. Three hours later, they ordered us to get dresses, but not our own clothes, but to take clothes randomly.

Tomorrow, 3 April around 9:00 two soldiers came and addressed Enver Hoti, since we designated him to communicate with the army, and they told him to collect 10,000 DM and we would be free. “You can go to Albania right away. Enver designated one group of men to collect money. I don’t know how much money was collected, but I saw Enver handing the money to this soldier. After they took the money those two soldiers left and another one came and said that we needed to give 100 DM for each tractor if we wanted to go to Albania with tractors. We collected that money, too, and gave it to this soldier. It wasn’t long after that when we saw soldiers burning our tractors and cars with flame-throwers.

One officer arrived in the evening and told us he was ordered to transport us on the trucks to the border on Albania and that we should wait for the trucks to arrive. Two trucks arrived and they transported older and sick people on them. We, other men, were allowed to make fire to get warm.

Tomorrow morning, one officer came and preached to us how what was happening was no good for anybody, neither Serbs nor Albanians, that this war was organized by inner and foreign enemies led by America. At the end, he said we would be free to go to Albania. He wasn’t even done with the speech when a group of five or six soldiers came and started separating and taking away young men. This officer didn’t react. When we saw they were taking 94 men we asked this officer where they were taking them and he told us not to worry because they would soon return. He said they were just going to cover the tracheas, which KLA left open. We believed him and when he said we could go, we went, and we were sure those young men would reach us later.

We arrived to Albania and waited, but our young men never showed up. Besides my son and cousin, army kept some other guys that I know by name: Valdet (Isuf) Buqani), Pashtrik (Vesel) Krasniqi, Bajram (Riza) Bytyqi, Qaush (Musli) Morina, Illir (Avdyl) Kelmendi i Sheremet Ismaili, a former police officer. They first separated Sheremet Ismaili, and since his son was sick, Sheremet showed the medications to the soldiers and offered to go with them instead of his son and so he went with them.

I am sure that Army in Kralan was a regular army. They had heavy weapons, military uniforms, and they didn’t have paint of their faces. Army is responsible for all that we went through in Kralan and for the disappearance of 96 young men.

The fate of two men mentioned by witness Duši/Dushi is known. The bodies of **Paštrik (Veselj) Krasnići/ Pashtrik (Vesel) Krasniqi i Enver (Husen) Hoti/ Enver (Hysen) Hoti** were found in the Perućac mass grave. In December 2004 their bodies were returned to Kosovo.⁶⁶

⁶⁶ Same.

6.1.3. Selman (Rrahim) Desku was in the group of old people whom army transported by trucks to the border on Albania. Upon return from the refuge he was at the spot where those men were detained.⁶⁷

After the war, when we came back from the refuge to Kralan at the place where those 96 young men were detained we found only some skeletons, and only some burnt skeleton parts. We were not sure if they were animal or human skeletons.

6.2. Đakovica/ Gjakove, 24 March – 2 April 1999

According to ICRC's information, 40 Albanian disappeared in Đakovica/ Gjakove on two separate occasions, 31 March and 1 April 1999. Until 15 November 2005, the fate of 14 people was revealed. CC K&M handed over to UNMIK their identified mortal remains.⁶⁸

6.2.1. Doctor Izet Hima was killed on 25 March. Late Faton Pološka/ Faton Poloshka who was the Director of the “Cabrat” Utility Company at the time of the killing and whose employees collected the corpses and buried them in the town cemetery, stated for the HLC that when bodies were being excavated in May 1999, police was especially looking for Dr. Izet Hima’s grave.⁶⁹

6.2.2. Twelve men disappeared after one Yugoslav Army officer took them to the Carbat Hill where army was situated: Sokol (Adem), Skender and Xahfer Berisha (Hazir), Arben and Ardian (Bajram) Krasniqi, Masa and Qenan (Xhemajl) Gjocaj, Gazmend (Muhedin) Krasniqi and Agim (Xheladin) Nushi and Shpetim (Musli) Zeka, Osman (Cenë), and Erkand (Osman) Smajlaj.

Š.B., the only one who avoided his cousins’ fate, stated for the HLC that he started burning the houses on the Bajram Curri Street where he lived on 1 April.⁷⁰

I saw seven police officers. Šćepanović Miloš was among them, as well as Drašković Lazar. They set the houses on fire. Later on, I found out that there were more police, but they were hiding. They set my father Adem's house on fire, Hazir Berisha, Bajram Krasniqi, Musa Matoshi, and Xhemalj Gjocaj’s houses on fire. They were first firing automatic rifles at the yard fence. We all ran behind the house and escaped over the fence. Women and children ran out on the street and police allowed them to carry on. We all gathered in Xheladin Bozhadaj’s house, located behind my house. There were thirteen men there: Sokol (Adem), Skender and Xahfer Berisha (Hazir), Arben and Ardian (Bajram) Krasniqi, Masa and Qenan (Xhemajl) Gjocaj, Gazmend (Muhedin) Krasniqi and Agim (Xheladin) Nushi and Shpetim (Musli) Zeka, Osman (Cenë), and Erkand (Osman) Smajlaj. We were jumping over the fences and we got to the old mil – Guta family watermill over those fences and side doors. Some other people, whose names I do not know, who were also running away, joined us there.

⁶⁷ Witness SD’s statement, April 2000, HLC database.

⁶⁸ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

⁶⁹ See II Fate of the Missing Albanians 4.2.3.

⁷⁰ Witness ŠB's statement, November 2000, HLC database

Police spotted us and they started running after us. They chased us up to the brick factory. They were running and some “Zastava” and Pitzgauer were driving beside them. We jumped over the factory fence. We saw Yugoslav Army up on the Cabrat Hill. It was around 10:30. One officer with a rifle on dismounted towards us. We could have run away, but we knew police were on the street near the brick factory. The officer was dark haired and around 180 cm tall. I saw his rank- one thick and two thin lines. He ordered us to gather around and then he pointed into the direction of Cabrat and Army. There were around 30 of us and I was the last one. When we were passing by the brick factory, I ran away. One officer spotted me. He shouted for me to stop, but he didn’t shoot. I guess he thought that others would run away if he chased me. From far away I saw everybody climbing to the Cabrat Hilltop, but I didn’t hear shooting.

In one moment I noticed police approaching the spot where I was hiding, so I ran away. I saw them burning some other houses, too, and then they headed back to the centre. Women ran out of those burning houses so I mingled with them and passed by the police unnoticed. I went home and I saw it wasn’t standing there. I found a part of my family at the bus station. During the night police set all houses near the bus station on fire and ordered people to go to Albania. We were sent to the Qaf Prush border crossing, some 9 kilometres from Gjakove. Army was standing beside the road all the way to the border, but they didn’t harass us.

All the men mentioned by the witness were registered in the ICRC document. For two of them it was unambiguously determined they were killed and their bodies were sent to Serbia in a cool storage, which was drowned in Lake Perućac. After the cool storage was taken out of the lake, the bodies were also taken out and buried in a grave that was formed at the Derventa River mouth into the lake. In December 2004, CC K&M handed over to UNMIK/ OMPF the mortal remains of brothers **Džafer (Hazir) Beriša/ Xhafer (Hazir) Berisha and Skender (Hazir) Beriša/ Skender (Hazir) Berisha.**

6.2.3. Several days after the bombing started there were rumours spreading around that police was driving Albanians out of their houses and arresting men. Nesrete and Muharrem Kumnova were scared for their sons, so they wanted to leave Đakovica/ Gjakove. They packed on 30 March, but their neighbours saw them with bags and convinced them that anything was possible to happen to them because they heard police were separating men from the convoys and killing them in front of their families. When Kumnova family heard that, they decided not to leave the house. They called their cousins to stay with them in their house thinking they would feel safer if there were more people in the house. Tomorrow, on 31 March Kumnova family’s cousins from Qerkezi family came because police drove them out of their house on 27 March. The same day, only in the afternoon, neighbours Enver Bunjaku, Zekie Bunjaku, Lutfi Bunjaku, Bekim Bunjaku, Gezim Deva, Shkelzen Binishi/Škeljzen Biniši, Ferdeze Efendija, Artan Efendija, came to their house because they heard on the news that police were arresting men, so they thought it would be better if there were more of them together.

Nesrete i Muharrem’s son, Albion and several other young men were sitting in one room while others were in another room listening to the news. From that room, they were able to see the fence door. Suddenly, Bekim [Bunjaku], who was also listening to the news, shouted that three policemen entered the yard. He ran into the room where

other men were and they all together ran through the window before policemen entered the house. Zekie Bunjaku, a Bosnian Muslim opened the door. N.K. was telling the HLC what was happening after that:⁷¹

Two policemen that we didn't know entered the house. One was tall and blond with brown eyes and another one was short and dark. They behaved quite alright. They told us they were going to search the house and see who was in the house, after they checked our ID cards they told my husband Muharrem and Enver Bunjaku that they were safe and there was no need for them to leave the house. Then they searched the house and left. My daughter Arjeta ran into another room and saw out of the window that two policemen arrested Albiona, my son, Lutfi Bunjaku, Bekim Bunjaku, Gezim Deva, Shkelzen Binishi and Artan Efendiu. Artan Efendie's sister, Ferdeze ran out on the street next to the main street and saw young men lying with their faces turned towards the ground and surrounded by police. One of the policemen asked Ferdeze if she knew any of the young men. She was scared they would kill them if she said she knew them, she said she didn't know any of them. Ferdeze returned home and told us what she saw. My cousin Fikrije Puka who lives close to me, told me she saw the young men being put in a van and taken somewhere.

Two hours later, other police members that we also didn't know arrived and drove us out of the house. We went to Haxhiymer's village and stayed with my mother-in-law Xhejlane Kumnova.

One week later, police came. Those were the same police officers who were in our house and arrested our sons. One of them asked me where the men from my family were. "Police took our sons the same day you were in our house", I replied and that he said he didn't know anything about that and that somebody else arrested them. He asked for their names to ask around and said he would come back to inform me if he found out anything. He also told me not to worry because most likely they were in jail in Peje.

All the men mentioned by N.K. who were arrested on 31 March, were registered in the ICRC document on missing persons.⁷² In the identification of mortal remains found in Perućac mass grave it was determined that D-25 and DP-11, D-3 and DP-4, D-6 mortal remains belonged to persons who were last time seen on 31 March 1999 in Đakovica/Gjakove: **Shkelzen (Haqif) Binishi**, D-3 and DP-4 **Artan (Osman) Efendiu** and D-6 **Bekim (Lutfi) Bunjak**.⁷³

7. Petrovo Selo

7.1. Ćirez/Qirez, 30. April 1999

According to the HLC's information, the members of regular police, army, and paramilitary formations surrounded the "Jabukovo Polje" Forest near the village of Ćirez/Qirez on 30 April and found around 80 peasants who were hiding there. They

⁷¹ Witness NK's statement, January 2001, HLC database.

⁷² *Persons Missing in Relation to the Events in Kosovo*, ICRC, March 2001/ February 2004.

⁷³ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK.

took them to the Mosque in Ćirez/Qirez and beat them all the way to the mosque. The same day, another group of captured men, who were also hiding in the forests, was brought to the mosque. The HLC witnesses said they assessed the number of captured man to have been 230 including 36 juveniles. Five regular soldiers were guarding the mosque that night and tomorrow paramilitary formations known as “Seseljenci” and “Arkanovci” arrived. They took all grown up men on four trucks, two military green trucks and two civilian yellow trucks. The first truck took off in the morning and left in the direction of Lipljane/ Lipjan. Those prisoners were taken to prison in Dubrava near Peć/ Peje where several of them were killed by NATO bombs, and Serbian Ministry of Interiors [MUP] Special Units killed several dozens of them. Those who stayed alive were taken to prisons in Serbia 9 June. The second and third trucks took off several hours after in the direction of Glogovac/Gllogoc. The prisoners from the military truck were executed and prisoners from the yellow truck were taken to the Police Station in Glogovac/Gllogoc. The fourth truck with prisoners took off in the evening and those prisoners were taken to the Šavarin mine near the “Feronikl” Factory in Glogovac/Gllogoc and were executed. According to the allegations of the witnesses who survived the executions, the bodies of executed men were not found. There are no people who could witness about what had happened to 36 juveniles whom the witnesses saw in the mosque in the hands of the army. According to the HLC’s information, over 100 men were executed near Šavarina.

7.1.1. Behar Topilla was in one of the trucks, which took off at the same time on 1 May from the Ćirez/Qirez Mosque towards Glogovac/Gllogoc.⁷⁴ He was a student of Metallurgy in Mitrovica/ Mitrovice. According to his personal observations, one truck took prisoners to Police Station in Glogovac/Gllogoc and another pulled over somewhere near the “Feronikl” Factory where 45 men were executed and Behar Topilla was the only one who survived.

He was captured on 30 April in the Vrbovica-Verbovca forest, along with his cousins: **Islam, Rrahman, Osman, Rashit/Rašit, and Zeqir Topilla/Zećir Topila** from Gladno Selo/Gllanaselle. Zećir/Zeqir was killed while running away from the shells and everybody else, except Behar, were wounded. When they came close to the village of Baks/Baks, a group of soldiers caught them. They robbed them, took them to the mosque, and beat them all the way to the mosque. Tomorrow, paramilitaries came and drove the prisoners on four trucks, two military and two civilian trucks. Behar was in the first military truck along with 44 other men. Behar describer the scene of execution near the “Feronikl” Factory to the HLC as follows:

The truck on which I was, took off first and right after him a yellow truck took off. It was also loaded with prisoners. There were seven paramilitaries on the truck who were guarding us. Along the road, they made us sing Chetnick songs. While we were singing they were beating us. One paramilitary hit one of the prisoners who was sitting beside me in the head with a bottle. He screamed in pain and then the paramilitary said, “Only one more thing” and he stabbed a knife into his head. Black blood was flowing out of his head. Another paramilitary, around 30 years old, blond, tall, with short beard, in camouflage uniform and a blue bandanna around his head, who was sitting next tome, shouted to me, “What are you looking at” and took out a knife with which he cut

⁷⁴ Witness BT’s statement, September 1999, HLC database.

my middle finger on the left hand. Then he stabbed that knife into the left shoulder and neck. In that moment the truck driver shouted, “Đuro, come over here”. That’s how I know his name was Đura.

According to the same witness, it was around 14:00 when the truck pulled over at the “Feronikl” Factory. There, paramilitaries ordered the prisoners to line along the Šavarina [pit]. Behar continued his description:

While I was getting off the truck I noticed that the prisoner whom the paramilitary stabbed in the head stayed on the truck. He was dead. One reserve in the military uniform was standing beside the truck. He was around 40 years old, dark haired, with glasses. He was holding a notebook and he was writing something down. I had a feeling he was counting us. In the moment I passed by him, one of the paramilitaries who was with us on the truck came to him and asked, “What are we going to do, “Commander” and he replied, “Execute all, **Slavko**”.

Several minutes after they lined the prisoners, a reserve with glasses gave order and bursts of automatic weapons’ fire followed. Behar described how he survived:

I fell with the first bodies. Shooting lasted until everybody fell. I think it didn’t last more than ten minutes. They continued shooting even after all of us fell in the pit. When one of the guys beside me was shot, I was also wounded in the nose and left eye. People were moaning. I was frozen of pain and fear. In one moment I heard the conversation about if there were any survivors and that they should continue shooting. One of them suggested throwing a grenade and really, a grenade exploded. After that, there was silence. I hardly heard somebody say, “Let’s go”. I didn’t move for some time. I heard one scream. Through corpses, blood, cut hands and legs, I managed to find the wounded person. He was shot in the stomach, legs, shoulders, and head. He lived long enough to tell me to relay message to his brother Driton who, as he told me, was in Dobroshevac, that he, his brother Arben, and uncle Shpend, were killed by the factory. After those words, I heard a conversation in Serbian and laughter, “Look at 40 Shiptars”. They didn’t stay long; I heard the car leaving. There were no other survivors, but me.

After four attempts Behar got out of the pit 15 metres deep. Even though he couldn’t see well because his eye was hurt, he managed to find shelter in the forest nearby. Ten minutes later, two people in uniforms spotted him and started chasing him. While they were shouting, “Where are you, you Shiptar bastard” Behar lied on the ground and covered himself with leaves. Just before dusk he continued his journey. He didn’t know why, but he started singing Chetnick songs, which he didn’t know before, the same songs prisoners were singing on the way to the pit. When he arrived to the forest in the village of Globare/Gllobare, he noticed a nylon tent and heard voices speaking Albanian. In that group of refugees, he found his father.

In ICRC’s document on missing persons, disappearance of more than 100 men who were last time seen in Ćirez/Qirez or in Glogovac/Gllogoc. According to the HLC’s information all people executed by the “Feronikl” Factory were brought by truck from the mosque in Ćirez/Qirez. In that sense, 8 identified mortal remains that were handed

over until 15 November 2005 and who were allegedly last time seen in Glogovac/Gllogoc belong to: Zenel (Beqir) Veliqi, Selami (Ali) Dobra, Vehbi (Ismet) Gashi, Ismet (Hamdi) Gashi, Ferat (Islam) Krasniqi, Ramadan (Xhafer) Arber (Zeqir) Gashi i Abedin (Ymer) Nika. Those were the people captured in the mosque Ćirez/ Qirez who were taken by trucks near the “Feronikl” Factory where they were executed.

7.1.2. Velići Džafer/Veliqi Xhafer, from the village of Polac/Poljac is one of three people who survived the execution near the “Feronikl” Factory. He saw his son Šukrij/Shyqri (13) for the last time in the mosque, along with 35 other juveniles kept by the army after the paramilitaries took the grown ups in the direction of Glogovac/Gllogoc. According to the statement, which Xhafer gave to the HLC, he found shelter in the forest near the village of Vrbovac/Vrbovc, when Serb forces attacked the villages around Glogovac/Gllogoc and Srbica/Skenderaj on 30 April. That day, his oldest son Šukri/Shyqri who was with mother until that moment, joined Džafer/Xhafer. Around 13:00 while there was shooting still in Vrbovac/Verbovc, 25 persons in uniforms surrounded the forest and arrested everybody who was in the forest, around 130 men, among whom there were several juveniles who were there with their fathers. They took them to a valley, where one tank was parked. Džafer/Xhafer described to the HLC:

Besides 25 paramilitaries who captured us, there were around 50 other uniformed persons, soldiers, and police, Chetnicks with long beards, long hair, and big black hats in their heads. They were standing beside the tank. There were « Šešeljevci » and « Arkanovci », as well. Šešeljevci were wearing blue uniforms with ornaments, the same uniforms as regular police had, with white eagle patch and Šešelj written below it. Arkanovci had plain green uniforms. While they were beating us, when Šešeljevci finished, the others would say, “Let us, Arkanovci, enjoy a little”. Certain person named Ćarli was the chief. We recognized by the uniform that he was one of the Šešeljevci. He was tall, thin, around 45 years of age, and his hair was cut short. He had a light machine gun, a big knife, and pincers.

According to witness’s allegations, they were taken from the forest to the mosque ion Ćirez/ Qirez. Tomorrow, a group of paramilitaries entered the mosque, ordered the prisoners to line two by two, and exit the mosque.

After they took out a certain number of prisoners, there were 110 persons left in the mosque, including juveniles. A soldier named Bosanac came to me and said, “I am sorry because all of you will be executed, but don’t worry about the children, they will stay with us, and they will all be released.”

Džafer/Xhafer was last grown up who left the mosque. Before paramilitaries put him on the fourth truck, he heard one paramilitary say to this Bosanac, “*Do whatever you want with those children because we are not coming back with trucks*”. The fourth truck with 31 prisoners on it drove to the “Feronikl” Factory where 29 people were executed. Džafer/Xhafer managed to get away together with Bajram Xani/Hani. After the war, he started searching after his son and other juveniles who stayed in the mosque. The fate of juvenile Šukri Velići/Shyqri Veliqi, Betim and Shpetim Prokshi/ Betim and Špetim Prokši, Kushtrim Krasniqi/Kuštrim Krasnići, Veton Xani/ Veton Xani, Safet and Bahri Sokoli, Sami Sefedini, Agron Ibrahim and others still has not been revealed.

He has never found a trace nor did he find out what had happened with them. Near the “Feroniki” Factory he saw carbonized bodies for which Xhafer knew they belonged to grown up people. In the concealed mass grave disclosed in the village of Cikatove e Re, the clothes of juvenile Betim (13) were found over the body of a 74-year-old man. No bodies were found in those graves besides clothes.

7.2. Izbice, 28 March 1999

According to the HLC’s information received from a witness, after 24 March there were battles between Serb forces and KLA in the area of the Vojnik village. Due to that, local residents found shelter in the neighbouring village of Izbice. On 26 March, citizens noticed that military formations were grouping around that village as well. Citizens ran away to the forest nearby because they were scared. Two days later, Serb forces surrounded several hundreds of Albanian civilians and on that occasion they separated men from women and children. On that day, 148 civilians were killed and survivors buried them later on. In the middle of May, CNN broadcasted an unprofessional video from Izbica in which a pile of corpses and blooded clothes could be seen. The Hague Tribunal Prosecution announced the list of 130 killed as an appendix to the indictment of Slobodan Milošević.

7.2.1. Nezir Taçi/Nezir Thaci from Ozrim settlement in the village of Vojnik,⁷⁵ one of the survivors stated for the HLC that around 10,000 people gathered in Izbice on 26 March. On 28 March, around 10:00, army and police headed towards the forest where civilians were hiding. A certain number of men, Nezir among them, managed to run away towards “Mirush” and “Stojevc” forests, while women, children, old men, and a certain number of younger men who didn’t manage to run away stayed in the valley of “Lugu i Izbices”. Nezir and other men managed to hide in the forest for five days without food, only with water. They saw police and army withdrawing from Izbice and heading towards Turicevc. After five hours of walking, Nezir and other men arrived to Izbice to “Lugu i Izbices”. He described what they found there:

After five hours we arrived to the village and saw that a lot of killed people, 4 or 5 cows, and burnt tractors. We found scattered clothes. When we saw that horror, we ran to see who was killed because everybody had family. Killed people were piled on three or four piles of around 30 people. Some of them were on the hill on the right side and some were on the left side. There were several dead people at the entrance to the forest; they were probably killed as they were trying to escape. We turned every corpse to identify it. We all recognized either our family members or neighbours. We counted them and found that 148 people were killed. When we calmed down a little, we decided to bury the bodies because they were already decomposing. We worked up to 22:00 and we buried all corpses in that valley. We wrote name and surname on each grave.

7.3.2. Jašar/Jashar, his father Selman, and son Sami Ljoši/Loshi were killed on 28 March in Izbice. The HLC interviewed Kadrije Ljoši/Kadrie Loshi, who told us of how her closest family members and other men were separated:

⁷⁵ Witness NT’s statement, September 1999, HLC database.

We were sitting in the valley and one of our people raised a white cloth as a sign of surrender. Women were wearing white scarves so that it would be easier to see they were unarmed civilians. Army surrounded us. They had different uniforms. Twenty of them, in green uniforms, came among the people and asked for money. When they were done with looting, they started separating men. They had no mercy even for mentally ill people. From my family, they first took my father-in-law Selman, then my husband Jashar, and then they took them a little further from the mass. My son Sami had eight-month-old son Arlin on his lap. One of the uniformed people, in the dark green uniform, noticed him and said, "What are you waiting for" and right after that, "give that child to mother". Sami handed the baby to his wife Vjollca who was pregnant and she was shaking of fear. A reserve grabbed Sami by the shoulder and took him to the group of other separated men and hit him in the stomach all the way to there. They ordered us to go towards Albania. They pushed us with automatic rifles and shot in the air in order to scare us. While one soldier was pushing me, I begged him to release my son. He asked for 1,000 DM and without waiting for my reply he said, "I cannot release your son" and he continued pushing me. The convoy was leaving and since I was the last one I saw how they divided those separated men into two groups. From some 20 metres distance I saw them execute the first group. Sami and Jashar were in the second group. They took them to the opposite side of the forest so I wasn't able to see what happened with them. I didn't see my father-in-law Selman. They fired bursts of bullets for ten minutes and on the opposite side there was constant shelling.

Selman, Jašar/Jashar and Sami Ljoši/Loshi were registered in the ICRC document on missing persons from Izbice on 28 March 1999. In DNA analysis it was determined that PS-II-25 mortal remains belonged to Jašar/Jashar and PS-II-34 to Sami/Sami Ljoši/Loshi Jašar and they were found in another mass grave in Petrovo Selo.⁷⁶

7.3.3. Some of the people listed in the appendix to the indictment of Slobodan Milošević are: Bajram Derviši/Bajram Dervishi, Zade Dragaj, Halit Haliti, Rustem Hoti/Rrustem Hoti, Hajzer Kotori.Hajzer Kotori, Ilaz Musliu, Jašar/Jashar and Sami Ljoši/Loshi. Their mortal remains were found in the second mass grave in Petrovo Selo and returned to Kosovo.

7.3.4. According to the Yugoslav Army's documentation source,⁷⁷ Yugoslav Army units exhumed and forensic team, led by Dr. Gordana Tomašević carried out the external examination and identification of 101 corpses in the village of Izbice.

7.3.5. In DNA analysis it was determined that three Bitiqi brothers whose every trace was lost after they were released from Prokuplje prison on 8 July 1999 were killed and their bodies buried in the concealed mass grave in Petrovo Selo. The Republic of Serbia handed over the bodies of **Agron/ Agroni, Mehmet/ Mehmet, and Uli (Ahmet) Bitići/ Ylli (Ahmed) Bitiqi**, the US citizens, to the US authorities in March 2002.

⁷⁶ See Identified Victims Whose Mortal Remains were Exhumed in Mass Graves in Serbia and Handed Over to UNMIK

⁷⁷ Yugoslav Army and Kosovo and Metohija 1998-1999, *Application of International Humanitarian Law*, published by Vojska, 2001

Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers were detained on 26 June 1999 when they were trying to cross the border to Serbia without identification documents. That day, they went to transport two Romany families, their mother's neighbours, to the border on Serbia because they were scared to travel alone. At that time, the border crossing from Kosovo on Serbia was not properly marked and Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers and two Romany families entered the territory of Serbia without even being aware of it. Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers were punished with 15 days in prison for illegally crossing the border and they served their sentence in the Prokuplje District Prison. Romany families were asking the Investigator Zoran Stanković from the Police Department [SUP] about the Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers all the time and he told them that Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers would be released earlier, on 8 July and that they would escort them to Merdare. However, soon after that, Romany families found out that Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers didn't arrive home. They went to Investigator Zoran Stanković again in the Prokuplje prison, but nobody was able to tell them where Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers were, who took them from prison, and where.

It was determined in the autopsy that Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers were executed in Petrovo Selo, by the pit in which they were found with their hands tied and blindfolded.

The public in Serbia is very convinced that Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers were killed because they were members of the KLA Atlantic Brigade, formed of Albanians with the US citizenship, and that the killing was executed upon the order coming from the highest authorities in the Serbian Ministry of Interiors [MUP].

Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor's Office opened an investigation in the murder of Bitići/ Bitiqi brothers during 2003, but the results are still not known.

8. Conclusion

8.1. Data unambiguously show that bodies found in mass graves in Serbia were Albanians killed in the group of civilians in one village, settlement, or family. Most of them were men eligible for army, but it is interesting that, among the killed, there were a significant number of children and men over 60 years of age.

8.2. Exhumations and autopsies were carried out efficiently and in short term. Instead of handing over the exhumed bodies to UNMIK, which would organize the hand over of identified bodies in the atmosphere of paying respect to the victims, Serbian Government kept the bodies until the beginning of identification process. Albanian families and public had impression that Serbia was deliberately slow with the hand over.

8.3. Designated locations of the mass graves and condition of the mortal remains point to the fact that bodies were buried with intention of concealing traces of the crimes committed. In that sense, fire, heavy machines, and mechanical instruments were used to destroy and press the corpses.

8.4. There are serious indications that crimes in Serbia, during Milošević's regime, were concealed by burning Albanian victims' mortal remains in the factories, which used incinerators with high temperatures. A group of non-governmental organizations addressed the Serbian Assembly Chairman in December 2004 requesting from him to establish a commission, which would determine the facts regarding the HLC allegations

that during the bombing, several dozens of Albanian victims' bodies transported from Kosovo, were burnt in *Mačkatica* Factory. Serbian Assembly Chairman has not yet responded to that non-governmental organizations' request.

The problem of missing persons will not be resolved by handing over all exhumed bodies. Besides that humanitarian task, the Republic of Serbia will be obliged to tell the families the whole truth about the fate of their closest family members and enable justice for the victims.