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Preface

Human rights organisations like the Society for Threatened Peoples (Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker, GfbV), several experts on southern Europe, parliamentarians and media commentators have been warning us for years: Bosnia was not the last stage of the politics of "ethnic cleansing" for the Milosevic regime. To violently secure the supremacy of the Serbian people in Yugoslavia: this plan of the Serbian chauvinist, Slobodan Milosevic was taking shape already in 1988 in Kosovo.

In 1989 and 1990, he abolished the autonomy of Kosovo and Vojvodina. After three attacks against Slovenia (1991), Croatia (1991) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992), after war crimes in East Slavonia and the genocide in Bosnia, the Milosevic regime has been making war once again since March 1998 – this time against the Albanian population of the formerly autonomous region of Kosovo.

For ten years, under the leadership of their president, Ibrahim Rugova, the two millions Albanians of Kosovo have protested against their oppression and persecution using peaceful means and passive resistance. However the governments of the West have not honoured this position. They have watched the increasing repression and the flight of over 300,000 Kosovo Albanians, predominantly to Germany and to other countries in middle Europe, without acting. Slobodan Milosevic, mainly responsible for the aggression and genocide in Bosnia, was made the treaty and peace partner of the West in 1995 through Dayton. In 1996, the states of the Bosnian Contact Group (with the exception of the USA) recognised the new "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia", without enforcing the self-determination of Kosovo. As a result of this process the facts of international law were created which today allegedly make intervention in the "internal affairs" of Serbia impossible. All the same, in July 1998, the US Senate demanded unanimously that the Yugoslavian President be put before the UN Tribunal in The Hague for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

After the Dayton Agreement, the economic sanctions against Yugoslavia were lifted. Also Germany resumed political and economic relations. In 1996 the German Parliament made a "Repatriation Agreement" with Belgrade, to legalize the deportation of 120,000 refugees to Serbia. With the reimbursement of transport costs for the deportations, Bonn became a business partner of the ailing Yugoslavian airline, JAT, after the years of sanctions.

The deportations into the area of war from Stuttgart, Munich or Dusseldorf were carried out for the German side by Serbian "security forces", who took over the Albanian refugees already in German airports. That means concretely that the Serbian police service, who are again and again entangled in cases of mistreatment, torture, arbitrary imprisonment and murder, have practised subsidiary services for the German authorities. Since March 1998 Serbian police units have been destroying Albanian villages and liquidating Albanian women, children and elderly people. Since this date, at the latest, the German Interior Ministers have borne responsibility for these crimes: Albanian refugees have been murdered by Serbian security forces after their forced return to Kosovo.

The Serbian regime has been arming itself since 1995 for the Kosovo war, as it did before the aggression against Slovenia and Croatia in the shadow of an Iraq crisis. In November 1997 there were the first calls of warning from Vojvodina.

Representatives of the Hungarian minority reported about preparations of war and protested against the mobilisation of those of military age from the Hungarian population. On 21 January 1998 the president of the neighbouring country Macedonia, Kiro Gligorov, divulged at a press conference that Macedonia was expecting a war in Kosovo and was prepared to establish a corridor for "hundreds of thousands of refugees" towards Albania. On 22 February, as US Special Envoy for the Balkans, Robert Gelbard, expressed understanding for Belgrade's "fight against terrorism", he involuntarily gave the starting signal for the war of the Milosevic regime in Kosovo. One week later the Serbian offensive began in Skenderaj: Serbian forces bombarded the villages in the Drenica region and committed the first massacres.

After not even half a year of war in Kosovo, we must draw a terrible balance: far over two hundred thousand people, more than ten per cent of the population of Kosovo have been expelled or had to flee, at least a thousand people have been killed or massacred, over 250 Albanian villages and settlements have been bombarded with heavy artillery, some of them for months. Bosnia should not be repeated, stated leading politicians of the western world and demanded a fast military intervention to rescue the Albanian civil population. However the West is repeating every mistake of the Bosnian War. Ultimatums are given to Milosevic which expire without consequences. Examining commissions are sent which confirm what has been known for a long time. Endless negotiations are held with the perpetrators. "Monitors" are stationed. And, Russia is drawn into the conflict, as in Bosnia, in order to distract from their hesitation with reference to Moscow's obstructions.

Tilman Zülch
President of the Society for Threatened Peoples

The War In Kosovo Was Planned And Prepared

The new war of the Milosevic regime in Kosovo did not first begin on 28 February 1998 with the massacres in the Drenica region. Although most German and international media, and most western diplomats follow the portrayal of events of the Serbian propaganda, that the Serbian police only reacted to provocation and an assault made by the Albanian "terrorists", there have been signs for months that Belgrade has been arming itself for a new war. After the lifting of the sanctions, that were introduced because of the Bosnian War, the regime began to recover economically by privatising state companies. Predominantly foreign investors were in the running. In June 1997, the Italian telephone association, STET, and the Greek, OTE, acquired 47 per cent of Serbian Telecom. In February 1998, the Greek company, Mytilneos, which had already bought the "ethnically cleansed" mine in Trepca¹ in Kosovo in 1997, closed a cooperation contract with the copper producer, Bor. Thyssen invested in the Kosovo company, Ferronickel, in Glogovc/Glogovac.² And, the British company, Readymix, was interested in the Beocin cement works on the Donau.

Already at the end of 1997, warnings about new Serbian preparations for war against the Albanians in Kosovo reached the public ear. Two weeks before the massacres in Likoshan, Qirez and Prekaz, the opposition in Serbia sounded the alarm: on 11 February 1998 at a press conference in Novi Sad, Nenad Canak, President of the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina, who had previously organised a referendum against the war in Croatia in 1991, and Miodrag Isakov, President of the Reform Democratic Party of Vojvodina, reported that they had "incontrovertible evidence" of a mobilisation of the army for a war in Kosovo, which was similar to the preparations for the Croatian War in 1991. On 5 March, a few days after the first massacre, UNHCR speaker, Mons Nyberg protested against the illegal recruitment of Serbian refugees from Croatia for military service in Kosovo. Also members of ethnic minorities are employed in the war in Kosovo against their will. On 22 June, **Hungarians from Vojvodina** turned to the Society for Threatened Peoples (Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker, GfbV) with a call for help: "Members of the Hungarian and other ethnic minorities are being forced to fight in Kosovo. Over 300 Hungarian soldiers are employed in Kosovo against their will. Please influence the government in Belgrade to stop playing off the minorities against each other." The Hungarian Prime Minister, Victor Orban, spoke of 500 Hungarians liable for military service in Kosovo at the end of July.³ Gazmend Malshaj and other young **Roma** from Veriq near Istog, who resisted their mobilisation, fled on 2 July 1998 after they were threatened to be shot.⁴

The resistance in Yugoslavia against the new campaign is slight. In Montenegro, the vexation with Milosevic is growing. Out of fear of being attacked by

¹ Despite the war in Kosovo, the Trepca mine achieved a record result in the first half year of 1998: 610,000 tons of zinc and lead were extracted, 60 per cent more than last year in the same period. There has been shooting since May in the neighbouring town of Stanterg/Stari Trg. Reuters, 21 July 1998, "Trepca raises output despite Kosovo violence".

² In the Ferronickel Mines in Glogovc, Serbian paramilitary bands are stationed today, see amongst others Kosova Information Center 6 July 1998

³ Reuters, 24 July 1998, "Hungary steers clear..."

⁴ ARTA 30 June 1998

NATO and new sanctions, the Parliament in Montenegro condemned Serbian actions in Kosovo and demanded – without success – the return of Montenegrinian soldiers. When the Yugoslavian Army began manoeuvres on 23 June in the surroundings of the capital, Podgorica, in Montenegro, only a few kilometres away from the Albanian border, there was open criticism. Novak Kilibard, President of the People's Party appealed to the government and parliament of Montenegro to have all military air bases "protected" by the police immediately, and to prevent their use by the Yugoslavian Air Force in order to avert the expected NATO attacks on Montenegro. Pulitzer Prize winner, Roy Gutman warned of an "impending crisis" in Montenegro which could surpass Kosovo.⁵ **Twenty thousand refugees have poured into Montenegro up to the 20 July: expelled from Kosovo with the participation of soldiers from Montenegro.**

On 20 June, in Vreme, the Serbian journalist, Stojan Cerovic warned: "Kosovo is becoming our Chechnya."⁶ On 17 June, the small Serbian anti-war movement demonstrated in Belgrad in front of the headquarters of the Yugoslavian Army. Serbian mothers called for the surrender of their sons who are employed in Kosovo. "The people are tired of war. They want a future. They want credit cards and holidays. They do not want Kosovo", said the student speaker, Zdravko Jankovic.⁷ The Serbian human rights activist, Sonya Biserko, together with her colleagues from the Helsinki Committees in Kosovo, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia and Greece, appealed several times to the Contact Group not to treat Kosovo as an internal affair and to send UN or NATO peace troops to Kosovo, in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charta.⁸

Deserters

The Serbian troops have the command not to spare the civil population. This is reported by deserters, and also soldiers in service who have spoken with international media anonymously.⁹ On 21 June, the Kosovo Liberation Army, UCK, in Albanian Bajram Curri, delivered up two Muslim-Bosniac deserters from Serbia to the OSCE. Fahrudin Muric (26) and Fahrudin Avdic (29) reported that they had received the command to shoot at civilians. At the end of June, reports of deserters accumulated. On 27 June six Montenegrinian soldiers fled under a rain of fire from their officers in a wooded area near Fushe Kosove/ Kosovo Polje. In the middle of June dozens of recruits from Montenegro deserted the army in Kosovo, and hundreds of policemen refused to go to the front¹⁰, according to information in the

⁵ In the US newspaper, Newsday (New York), 29 June 1998, Gutman warned that the conflict which is now developing in Montenegro could be more fateful than the violent military attack against the Albanians in Kosovo. After the electoral victory of Milo Djukanovic at the presidential elections, Milosevic appointed his competitor, Mojmir Bulatovic, as Yugoslavian head of government. This man froze all payments for retired people in Montenegro, imposed a trade ban on Montenegro, sealed off Montenegro's borders to Croatia and Albania and demanded a 50 dollar visa charge from tourists who wanted to visit the small country on the Adriatic coast.

⁶ Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing 8, contact: Jay Wise, Washington Office, Tel. 001.202. 496-2401

⁷ Balkan Institute, Balkan Watch No. 527, 7 July 1998

⁸ Press release of the International Helsinki Federation IHF, 3 April and 10 June 1998

⁹ Report from Reuters on 17 June 1998 from Junik

¹⁰ Financial Times, 15 July 1998, Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing 10, contact: Jay Wise, Washington Office, Tel. 001.202. 496-2401

Salzburg News, the figure was in the thousands.¹¹ On 14 July, Albanians observed an exchange of fire in which the Serbian police from Stanterg/Stari Terg fired at soldiers deserting the Yugoslavian Army from Kutloc (near Mitrovica). In the night of the 14 July, at the bus station in Mitrovica, soldiers were observed hiding from police and asking passers-by for civilian clothing.¹² Although the employment of the army against its own people must be recognised as a violation of international law in every country in the world, experience shows that no western European country will grant these brave young men asylum.

Otherwise the resistance against the policies of Milosevic is slight. The once celebrated "opposition leader", Vuk Draskovic takes the Milosevic line: On 24 June, he called Nato to bombard the Albanian "terrorist camps" in Albania. **The Serbian bishop "from Raska and Prizren", Artemije Radosavljevic** disputed that there was a war at all: "our" army is attempting to secure the borders to Albanian, so that weapons do not fall into the hands of the "Albanian terrorists", we are dealing with fighting "between Albanian terrorists and police".¹³ On 14 June, Zoran Djindjic (Democratic Party), Vesna Pesic (Citizen's League) and Vuk Obradovic (Social Democrats) met with Albanian journalists and the politician, Veton Surroi, to exchange views without tangible results.¹⁴

Flight, Expulsion, Systematic "Ethnic Cleansing"

After the Serbian offensive in the Drenica region at the beginning of March, the war zone quickly expanded. The estimates of the strength of the Serbian troops vary between 15,000 and 50,000 men.¹⁵ According to estimates made by the Economist, the cost of the war in Kosovo amounts to two million US dollars daily, according to a calculation made by the Croatian newspaper, Jutarnji List, the figure is three million US dollars.¹⁶ Dutch UNPROFOR troop tanks have been discovered on several occasions in the colonies of the Serbian troops, which the Bosnian Serbs illegally seized during the storming of the Bosnian enclave, Srebrenica, in July 1995.¹⁷

¹¹ "Thousands of Serbs flee to neighbouring Montenegro, in order not to have to fight against the UCK", Clemens Hutter: "Suppe mit Gabeln auslöffeln", in Salzburger Nachrichten, 17 July 1998

¹² ARTA 14 July 1998

¹³ Junge Welt Interview, 7 July 1998

¹⁴ see ARTA on 14 July 1998

¹⁵ 15,000: NATO details, cited from the Stuttgarter Zeitung (report by Thomas Gack) from 22 July 1998; 50,000: NATO details, cited from the Balkan Institute, No. 525, 23 June 1998, Week in Review. The NATO press office made no comment on the differing figures after inquiries by the GfbV on 22 July 1998. The German weekly magazine, Focus, referring to an estimate made by the OSCE mission in Albania in a press briefing on the 9 July 1998, gives the figure of Serbian fighters, including paramilitary, to be 23,000. Renate Flottau, Balkan correspondent of the German news magazine, Der Spiegel, estimated the number of Serbian police at 30,000 and Yugoslavian soldiers at 20,000 (Der Spiegel 31/1998, 27 July 1998)

¹⁶ Article by Marijan Heski in Jutarnji list, Zagreb, 4 July 1998. Basis of the calculation: police salaries in Kosovo daily, 1.7 million dollars; material: 100,000 to 300,000 cartridges per piece daily, 50 Pfennig, granade per piece between 100 and 1,500 dollars, costs for one hour employment of a helicopter of the Gazelle or MI-8 type, 600 to 1,200 dollars; material loss 864,000 dollars monthly; costs for the Yugoslavian Army (20,000 soldiers in Pristina alone) daily, 500,000 dollars; fuel consumption per day for a tank unit according to the monthly requirements of Belgrade transport services. Cited from BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 16 July 1998

¹⁷ Deutsche Presseagentur 5 June 1998: "Den Haag fordert von Belgrad gestohlenen Panzerwagen zurück"; Sunday Telegraph on 12 July 1998: In Peja/Pec special units of the Belgrade Home Office were collected, who

After the villages around Skenderaj/Srbica, the regions Peja/Pec, Decan and Gjakove/Djakovica on the Albanian border were attacked. From the middle of June onwards the war had arrived in central Kosovo, by the end of June the districts of Mitrovica and Fushe Kosova/Kosovo Polje – near to the capital, Pristina – was reached. In July there was fighting in the area around Shtime/Stimlje and – after a visit by the suspected war criminal and "Chetnik" leader, Vojislav Seselj¹⁸ – in the surroundings of the second largest city of Kosovo, Peja/Pec, with 120,000 inhabitants.¹⁹ In the middle of June the fighting worsened in the region of Mitrovica and Prizren. On 14 June Serbian deployment of troops were observed in the region of Opoje on the border to Macedonia.²⁰ In Gjilan/Gnilane, Viti/Vitina and other districts the Serbian population have been mobilised.²¹ On 18 June heavy fighting broke out in Rahovec/Orahovac (see also under 'Massacres').²² On 25 June the Serbian troops started a big offensive in central Kosovo. On 28 June, the UCK stronghold, Malisheva, was taken by Serbian troops.

The **number of refugees** climbed into the thousands within a few days. According to estimates made by a Serbian human rights activist, in the period between 5 and 20 March 1998, six thousand people, almost all women and children, were fleeing from the Drenica region towards Vushtri/Vucitrn, Obiliq/Obilic and Mitrovica. The GfbV estimates that, from the beginning of March until the beginning of July, the number of refugees (Albanians, Muslim Slavs and Roma) amounted to 160,000 inside Kosovo, the neighbouring countries and western Europe.²³ According to statements made by the German Government, the number of Kosovo Albanians who have fled to

had with them an armoured vehicle which was taken from the UNO in Srebrenica. On 20 July 1998 a Dutch armoured vehicle from the UNO troops was sighted in a Serbian transport of troops from Prizren to Rahovec/Orahovac. (Kosova Information Center, No. 1496, 20 July 1998)

¹⁸ The Serbian Deputy Minister President and "Chetnik Vojvod" Vojislav Seselj is one of those mainly responsible for the "ethnic cleansing" and massacres of the Muslim population in Bosnia. According to details given by the Balkan Institute, Seselj called up the local Serbs – 30% of the population of Peja – for training in the paramilitary units during his visit. Balkan Institute, Military Watch, No. 314, 16 July 1998.

¹⁹ According to a report from ARTA from the 13 July 1998, 30-40 tanks and three buses containing special police, as well as jeeps from the Arkan troops, were seen in the Drenica region. According to the Sunday Telegraph (12 July 98), on the 10.7 near Peja/Pec, special units of the Belgrade Interior Ministry were drawn up under the direct command of Slobodan Milosevic, who had with them one of the armoured vehicles taken from the UNO in Srebrenica, who are known for mutilating their victims beyond recognition: "Special troops attached to the Serbian Ministry of Interior were sent to the front lines in the past two days. The forces, thought by Western diplomats to be under the direct command of the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, moved in British Land Rovers pulling artillery pieces. They were followed by a Dutch armoured personnel carrier, stolen from peacekeepers in Srebrenica in Bosnia in 1995. Refugees said that the special Serb Anti-Terrorist forces were maltreating older Albanians as they took up positions around the town of Lodja. 'I watched from a window as they beat my wife in the back of the head with a rifle butt', said Rexhep Morina, an elderly Albanian. Yugoslavia's most polished security forces are based outside Pec in the town of Dubrava. Albanian human rights workers accuse them of some of the war's worst atrocities, including a recent massacre in the town of Lubinic. 'Whenever these troops get involved the situation just deteriorates,' said Hajdar Mekaj, an Albanian monitoring human rights. 'They strip their victims, stab and often mutilate them beyond recognition.' Cited from the Electronic Telegraph, 12 July 98 (electronic edition).

²⁰ ARTA 14 July 1998

²¹ Distribution of weapons to the Serbian population in the areas not yet directly affected by the war, Gjilan, Kamenice, Viti and Novoberde, in order to strengthen the Serbian troops, ARTA 15 July 1998, Kosova News No. 30, 16 July 1998

²² Report by Erich Rathfelder in Nürnberger Nachrichten, 20 July 1998

²³ Press release by the GfbV from the 2 July 1998: 115,000 internal refugees inside Kosovo, 15,000 in Albania, 15,000 in Montenegro, 2,000 in Macedonia, several thousand in western Europe.

Germany has sharply increased: 2,800 people arrived in June 1998 alone, 1,066 more than in May.²⁴

On 16 June, Albanian relief organisations stated that the number of refugees was 200,000, of which 33,000 had fled in the week of 9 until 16 June alone.²⁵ Between 10 and 14 June, as a result of the Serbian offensive at Peja/Pec, 2,900 people arrived in Montenegro, where already 14,300 registered refugees are staying, according to the UNHCR. On 17 June, the total figure had risen to 20,000.²⁶ The Montenegrinian Information Minister spoke of a daily stream of 300 refugees.²⁷ After the Serbian offensive on Rahovec/Orahovac on 18 and 19 June, a further 25,000 people fled to the UCK controlled area, encircled by Serbian troops, Malisheva/Malisevo.²⁸ On 21 June the Red Cross delivered two HGV holds of medicine and foodstuffs: considering that there are tens of thousands of needy people, this was hardly more than a symbolic gesture.²⁹ With the Serbian offensive in central Kosovo from 25 June onwards, the war reached a new stage of escalation, at least 20,000 people were expelled within three days. **The aid organisation, Mother Theresa, estimated the number of internal refugees to be 263,000 on 29 June, more than ten per cent of the population of Kosovo.**³⁰

Macedonia rejects Kosovo refugees with a registration trick: they are classified as "tourists" and receive a visa for six days only. Then they are deported to Albania.³¹ The leader of the Swedish catastrophe aid corps, SKH, Charles Raedersdorf, who returned from a fact-finding mission in the region on 14 June, said that the winter breakthrough was to be expected in the middle of October. The housing of the refugees with up to forty people in one room is said to be without

²⁴ Deutsche Presseagentur, 7 July 1998, "Zahl der Asylbewerber aus Jugoslawien..."

²⁵ Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing 10, contact: Jay Wise, Washington Office, Tel. 001.202. 496-2401. The UNHCR estimates the number of refugees inside Kosovo on the 28 July at 107,000 and the total number at 500,000, Reuters, "Serb forces deal stinging blow", 28 July 1998

²⁶ Radio B92 Open Yugoslavia Daily News, 19 July 1998

²⁷ On 20 July 1998 the Montenegrinian Information Minister, Bozidar Jaredic, gave the number of Kosovo refugees at 15,000, according to particulars from the UNHCR mission leader in Podgorica, Francesco Natta, it was 13,000. The number is increasing daily by 250 to 300 people. Montenegro is still housing 30,000 "old refugees" from Bosnia. At 50,000 refugees, the country with 650,000 inhabitants should actually close it's borders. The international refugee relief organisations have largely stayed away, the ICRC have brought in only a few tons of sugar, flour, and cooking oil. Clothes, blankets, mattresses should be brought in, and refugee camps must be established. At the moment, predominantly private families are caring for the refuge seekers. According to the Austrian press agency, PTE, 60% of the refugees are coming through Rozaje and Plav. The boss of the refugee relief organisation in Rozaje and at the same time local president of the Democratic League of Montenegro, Ali Daci, who represents the interests of the Albanians in parliament, is housing 29 refugees in his house alone. In the present places of rest, there are no sanitary facilities, and absolutely no medical care. The refugees are starving and must beg for food. In Plav, two political organisations of the Albanian minority, the Democratic League in Montenegro and the Democratic Union, are organising supplies. The bitterly cold winter begins in the mountain region in a few weeks time, the refugees have no warm clothes. Agentur Preetext Online (PTE), Vienna, 20 July 1998

²⁸ ARTA 19 July 1998: "25 thousand IDPs in Malisheve"

²⁹ Douglas Hamilton for Reuters, 21 July 1998, "Corpses said to lie..."

³⁰ Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing No. 12

³¹ Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing No. 9, contact: Jay Wise, Washington Office, Tel. 001.202. 496-2401

electricity and flowing water, and only one fireplace is provided. In northern Albania criminal bands are trying to profit from the refugees' misery.³²

At the same time, more and more Serbs are leaving Kosovo, up to the beginning of July, according to Christian Science Monitor, up to 60,000 local as well as forcibly settled Serbian refugees from Croatia and Bosnia. Many leave empty handed: after the special Serbian laws in Kosovo, the Serbs are not allowed to sell their property to Albanians. Brother Sava, the Vice-Abbot of the Serbian monastery in Decan, commented on Belgrade politics bitterly: "The Serbs in Kosovo are hostage to the Belgrade regime." He stated that the confrontation course in Kosovo made the local Serbs the actual losers in the long-term, and the arming of the Serbian civil population was a misuse of humiliated, frustrated people who have already suffered immensely.³³

According to an analysis made by the Boston human rights organisation, Physicians for Human Rights³⁴, who interviewed several hundred refugees in Albanian in the middle of June, the conquest of the villages and the expulsion always has the same course.

Sudden **attacks occur early mornings while it is still dark**, partly with heavy weapons like **surface to surface missiles and grenades**. Snipers are positioned and make it impossible to walk around freely or even to leave the house in order to obtain food. Therefore, many civilians hide themselves in the woods during the day and return by night in order to pick up food and other necessities.³⁵

Finally, heavily armed troops draw up who blockade all streets during the day. Under their protection, special forces in dark uniforms with machetes and "scorpion" guns of Czech production, arrive in the city. These troops are supposed to commit massacres. Mahije Kodra, mother of five children and surviving eyewitness to the Serbian attack on Prekaz on 5 th and 6 June 1998, described proceedings "in three waves": a heavily armed vanguard, followed by soldiers with knives clothed in black, who are in turn safeguarded by men with light weapons in light coloured uniforms.³⁶

After days or weeks of this terror, the shelling is increased once more, including nights, until the population leave the town. In this way, over 500 grenades hit the villages of Carrabreg, Drenoc and Prejlep in the district of Decan/Decani, on 14 June, between 5 and 10 o' clock in the morning. on the same day, the village of Lausha in the district of Skenderaj/Srbica was bombarded for 18 hours without a break.³⁷ Looting on a large scale follows, the houses are burnt to the ground, the cattle remain uncared for or are killed.

The refugee, Naser Mulej (40), from the village of Izniq/Isnica near Peja/Pec in Plav (Montenegro) told the Balkan correspondent, Erich Rathfelder, on 6 June, that his 25 head family had been on the road for two days. First of all, electricity and the

³² Neue Zürcher Zeitung Online, 14 July 1998

³³ Main Echo, 17 July 1998, Gregor Mayer: "Ein Rufer zwischen den Fronten"

³⁴ Physicians for Human Rights: Individual testimony recounts human rights abuses in Kosovo, 30 June 1998 (<http://www.phrusa.org>), contact: PHR, Boston, Barbara Ayotte, Tel. 001.617.695-0041.

³⁵ Markus Pucnik: "Wir leben jetzt in den Wäldern", Der Standard (Vienna), 10 July 1998

³⁶ Kosova Information Center, 7 March 1998

³⁷ Kosova Information Center, No. 1460, 14 June 1998

telephone lines had been cut off, then Serbian units with artillery and helicopters moved closer. Then surface troops came, one house after another went up in flames. The people fled. The attackers went into the houses, looted, and then set the houses on fire. From the 700 houses in the village, more than half of them had been burnt down by the time of his flight. Also the mosques had been burnt to the ground. They also killed the animals: in the village there were over 10,000 cows, horses and pet animals. All villages west of the street, Peja/Pec-Gjakove/Djakovica were "ethnically cleansed".³⁸

At the beginning of July, a similar balance was shown by a reporter for the Washington Post. "They take three days to destroy a village", a refugee bitterly told him. "On the first day they fire grenades so that the civilians flee. On the second day they encircle the village with tanks and loot the houses. They come with tractors and HGVs. On the third day they burn the houses to the ground." Zalit, Ljubusa, Drenoc/Drenovac, Prejlep/Prilep, Rastavica, Plancor, Junik, Morine/Morina, Ponosevac, Batusa, Barab, Bac, Izniq/Isnic, Baran, Zerze: at least two dozen villages within a fifty mile radius of Decan in the south west until Carraleve/Crnoljevo, 20 miles south west from Pristina have been destroyed and depopulated, a further corridor in central Kosovo possesses a dozen destroyed villages. More than 85,000 people are said to have become homeless. Carraleve/Crnoljevo, once home for 1,400 people, no longer exists.

The small mosque was destroyed by mortar fire. Two thirds of the place were destroyed, the shops were looted and burnt. In some houses there were still food on plates on the table. In other cases the Albanian population was called upon with ultimatums to clear the area, for example this happened on 25 May in Deva on the Albanian border, where the Serbian troops ordered the population to leave the village by 1 June.³⁹ The Serbian Helsinki Committee established "ethnic cleansing and destruction of civilians property modelled on Bosnia" during a fact-finding mission in the region of Gjakove and Peja.⁴⁰ According to GfbV statistics, from the beginning of March until the end of July 1998, over 250 Albanian villages were attacked by Serbian troops, sometimes lasting for months, bombarded with heavy artillery and partly or completely destroyed (see appendix).

For days, and for weeks, the Serbian troops besieged Albanian villages and fired with heavy artillery until only ruins remained. The people fled: abroad, in the case that they were able to leave the areas encircled by the Serbian forces, or they wandered about inside the besieged zones. On 15 June the Serbian troops sealed off the flight routes over the mountains towards Albania. Helicopters – one with a Red Cross emblem – fired at refugees who were hiding in the mountains and were waiting for a possibility of fleeing further. Tens of thousands of people are in this situation. Already at this time, more than one hundred thousand people are wandering around inside Kosovo, they are leaving their villages in fear of a Serbian attack, moving to friends or relatives, or secretly returning home when they think that the situation has calmed down, and they are expelled once again. On 19 July

³⁸ Tageszeitung (Berlin), 6 June 1998

³⁹ Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post, 3 July 1998

⁴⁰ International Helsinki Federation, Press Release 10 July 1998, <http://www.ihf-hr.org>

Serbian troops fired three mortar grenades at a bus full of refugees, who were waiting for their departure to Prizren in Brestovc near Rahovec.⁴¹

Rape

On 14 June BBC World News gave the first news that Albanian women had apparently been raped by members of the Serbian troops. Also the American human rights organisation, Physicians for Human Rights, who interviewed several hundred refugees from Decan and Gjakove between 15 and 22 June, reported that women had been arrested, raped and had "disappeared". On 1 July, the Kosovo Albanian human rights activist, Sevdije Ahmeti confirmed to the Balkan correspondent, Erich Rathfelder, that many women were raped during the conquering of the town of Decan at the beginning of June, but it is not allowed to be spoken of in Kosovo Albanian society. Two girls aged 13 and 14, committed suicide out of shame on 9 June, after they had been raped by Serbian police.⁴² In the middle of July, in Albanian Bajram Curri, an Albanian called Merita Vulaj, who had fled from Peja/Pec on 3 July, reported that she had seen the rape of young girls, aged 12 and 13, by members of Serbian troops.⁴³

Massacre, Mass Execution, Execution of Non-Combattants

Since the offensive at the beginning of March in the Drenica region, the Serbian troops – Serbian special police, Yugoslavian Army and paramilitary "Chetnik" troops under the leadership of the suspected war criminals Zeljko Raznjatovic "Arkan" and Vojislav Seselj⁴⁴ – have continued to commit severe violations of human rights against the Albanian population.⁴⁵ On 12 June, the UN Tribunal for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, announced that investigation into crimes in Kosovo have been undertaken. During the attacks against alleged "Albanian terrorists", the Serbian troops are taking no consideration for the civilian population. While the Serbian journalist, Stojan Cerovic, is reminded of the events in Chechnya⁴⁶, the US newspaper, Boston Globe, discovered "echoes of Hitler" in the proceedings of the Serbian troops, which reminds one of the tactics of the German Wehrmacht in World War II against the partisans, the civil population are being punished so that they are against the armed resistance.⁴⁷

⁴¹ Kosova Information Center, No. 1495, 19 July 1998

⁴² Erich Rathfelder in Die Presse, Vienna, 1 July 1998

⁴³ Reportage by the Albanian news agency, ATA, Ylli Pata: 48 hours from a mother's life, distributed by the Kosova Crisis Center, 16 July 1998

⁴⁴ The "Chetnik-Vojvode" Seselj is Deputy to the Serbian Minister President.

⁴⁵ The portrayal of the situation that has been spread by the German Foreign Office in the reports of 11.3 and 8 June 1998 that it is a question of an employment of Yugoslavian "police" against armed Albanians is false. In Kosovo, beside the police troops and special units of the Interior Ministry as well as the Yugoslavian Army, there are also the paramilitary "Chetnik" troops of the suspected war criminals "Arkan" and Vojislav Seselj present. These troops are known for their particularly terrible crimes committed during the Bosnian War. The suspected war criminal and member of the mafia, Zeljko Raznjatovic "Arkan" is at home in Kosovo: he is the owner of the Serbian football club in Obilic near Pristina.

⁴⁶ Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing No. 8

⁴⁷ Boston Globe, 29 June 1998

Albanian⁴⁸ and Serbian⁴⁹ human rights organisations as well as Human Rights Watch⁵⁰, Amnesty International⁵¹, Physicians for Human Rights⁵² and UN investigators⁵³ have documented several massacres, mass shootings and executions of non-combatants as a result of investigations at the place of events and eyewitness statements: their reports confirm the statements of the Albanian Kosova Information Center in Pristina and the Kosovo Government in exile immediately after the events.

28 February /1 March 1998 Qirez/Cirez and Likoshan/Likosan

The first massacre happened of the weekend of the **28 February /1 March 1998 near Skenderaj/Srbica**, where the Serbian special units attacked the **villages of Qirez/Cirez and Likoshan** with helicopters, tanks and heavy weapons.⁵⁴

In **Qirez** the related families, **Sejdiu und Nebihi** died: the brothers, Bekim Sejdiu (23), Beqir Sejdiu (28), as well as the twins, Nazmi and Bedri Sejdiu (24), and the brothers, Ilir Nebiu and Xhemsir Nebiu as well as Xhemsir's wife, Rukije Nebiu.

Beqir Sejdiu was a »rejected asylum seeker« from Schleswig-Holstein, who departed "voluntarily" under pressure from the German authorities in order to prevent a deportation and be delivered up to the Serbian authorities. Beqir Sejdiu's cousin, Sefer Nebiu, a 62 year old former "guest worker" and retired with an unlimited residence permit in a city in Nordrhein-Westfalen, was on a visit home on the weekend in question in Qirez and was badly injured during the massacre. He was patched up by Albanian doctors. Two of his four sons, Xhemsir and Ilir Nebihi, were murdered. Ilir Nebihi was mutilated alive in that the perpetrators cut off several parts of his body one after another, and later violated the corpse further. Xhemsir's heavily pregnant wife, Rukia Nebihi, who was approximately fourteen days before the delivery, was murdered with a shot in the face. During the same massacre, the Serbian troops also killed the visitors Ibish Rama and Behram Fazliu, Ismail Behrami, Bekim Beqir Deliu, as well as the 63 year old, Ajet Rexhepi.

On the same weekend, in **Likoshan**, the Serbian troops murdered every male member of the **Ahmeti** family and two guests: Ahmet Ahmeti (51), Gani Ahmeti (46), Elmi Ahmeti (49), Hamyz Ahmeti (40), Driton Ahmeti (24), Naim Ahmeti (23), Lumni Ahmeti (21), Shemsi Ahmeti (20), Basri Ahmeti (20), Elhami Ahmeti (17), Behram Fazliu (50) from Gradica, and Shaban Muja (32) from Gradica⁵⁵. In the neighbouring

⁴⁸ Council for the Defence for Human Rights and Freedoms, Pristina

⁴⁹ Humanitarian Law Fund HLF, Belgrade

⁵⁰ Human Rights Watch: Yugoslav military and Serbian police commit war crimes, 30 June 1998 (<http://www.hrw.org/hrw/press98/june/kosovo630.htm>), contact: Emily Shaw, Tel. 001.212.216-1845

⁵¹ Amnesty International, June 1998 (Violence in Drenica, AI Index EUR 70/33/98)

⁵² Physicians for Human Rights PHR: Individual testimony recounts human rights abuses in Kosovo, 30 June 1998 (<http://www.phrusa.org>), contact: PHR, Boston, Barbara Ayotte, Tel. 001.617.695-0041

⁵³ Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Bosnia, Croatia and Yugoslavia, Jiri Dienstbier, on the events in the Drenica region. 14 April 1998 (UN Economic and Social Council, E/CN April /1998/164, 14 April 1998)

⁵⁴ The details of the massacres in Qirez and Likoshan are based predominantly on the reports from HLF, CDHRF and investigations made by the GfBV; further documentations: UNO, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International

⁵⁵ CDHRF, Statement III/III/98, 3 March 1998

house the 70 year old Muhamet **Gjeli** and his son Naser (37) were killed. With regard to the old man, it was a question of a return from Germany, which was made under pressure from the German authorities and said to be leaving the country "voluntarily"; in the place where he was killed, the Serbian human rights organisation, Humanitarian Law Fund, later found a pool of blood and an axe. According to statements made by the surviving Mirsije Ahmeti, whose three brothers and father were murdered, the police separated the men from the family and took them away. Only the day after, their corpses were discovered by chance in the mortuary in Pristina. On 3 March, the investigators of the Humanitarian Law Fund found body parts, teeth and pieces of clothing lying around the house of the Ahmeti family; a sign and inscription scratched onto the wall point to the bloody work of the so-called "Chetniks", the same killers who were at work in Bosnia.

5/6 March 1998 Prekaz

On 5/6 March 1998 in Prekaz near Skenderaj/Srbica, further massacres were committed by the Serbian special forces.⁵⁶ During this massacre, at least 56 people were killed, from a five year old child to a 74 year old grandfather, predominantly members of the **Jashari** family. The attack was undertaken on the morning of 5 March at 5.30 by special units who were stationed in the "munitions factory" in Skenderaj/Srbica. Directly before the attack, Prekaz was encircled by tanks with heavy weapons. Then, those present were bombarded with artillery for hours. Special forces penetrated, then shot at houses. The survivors had to leave the houses individually, the men were shot as they stepped out of their houses or on the grounds: Nazmi Jashari had to do press-ups before he was killed by a shot in the back of his head. The houses owned by Shaban and Hajdar Jashari as well as by Beqir Lushtaku were burnt to the ground. Later military vehicles levelled the ruins in order to destroy the traces. The body of Shaban Jashari was found mutilated: an arm was cut off, the eyes cut out, the whole body showed bayonette wounds. The children Blerim, Bujar and Abdulah, sons of Zene Jashari (48) were taken by the police to the headquarters of the Serbian troops in the munitions factory in Skenderaj/Srbica. Their corpses showed traces of blows with blunt objects. Six members of the family of Sadik Jashari have been missing until today. It is believed that their bodies are to be found under the rubble in Prekaz. Also missing is Smajl Asllan Jashari, who was last seen in the Serbian headquarters in the munitions factory in Skenderaj/Srbica.

The following 42 members of the Jashari family were killed:

Shaban Murat Jashari (74), Zahide Jashari (72), Hamez Shaban Jashari (47), Adem Shaban Jashari (42), Zarife Bahtir Jashari (49), Feride Jashari (43), Adile Bahtir Jashari (40), Hidajete Rifat Jashari (18), Igball Rifat Jashari (13), Igballe Rifat Jashari (11), Valdete Rifat Jashari (14), Selvete Hamez Jashari (20), Besim Hamez Jashari (16), Afete Hamez Jashari (17), Blerim Hamez Jashari (12), Fatime Hamez Jashari (8), Blerina Hamez Jashari (7), Lirije Hamez Jashari (14), Fitim Adem Jashari (17), Kushtrim Adem Jashari (13), Elheme Jashari, Blerim Zene Jashari (16), Bujar Zene Jashari (12), Abdullah Zene Jashari, Hajzer Zymer Jashari (20), Halit Imer Jashari (65), Qazim Osman Jashari (47), Nazmi Zuke Jashari (26), Sinan Ramadan Jashari (66), Ali Ramadan Jashari (68), Feride Ramadan Jashari (43),

⁵⁶ Regarding the details of the massacre in Prekaz we refer to the reports from HLF and CDHRF.

Beqir Bajram Jashari (43), Halil Bajram Jashari (35), Sherif Brahim Jashari (47), Bahtije Muharrem Jashari (45), Murtez Zymber Jashari (22), Faik Tahir Jashari (30), Qerim Huse Jashari (54), Sale Hajzer Jashari (60), Kajtaz Jashari (44), Hamit H. Jashari (65), Hamide Jashari (70).

24 March 1998, Glogjan/Glodjan

On 24 March 1998, while the Bosnian Contact Group met in Bonn, the Serbian troops started an offensive against the villages in the surroundings of Decan. On 23 April, two bodies were delivered to the hospital in Gjakove. Only after three days, the police did allow entry into the morgue. The dead were identified as Gazmend Hysen Metaj (20) and Agron Nimon Mehmetaj (19) from **Glogjan** (Gloxhan). After the retreat of the Serbian troops, Ymer Cenë Sylaj (65) was found heavily injured in a coma in his house in Glogjan.⁵⁷

23 April 1998, Zhara

On 23 April 1998, according to an eyewitness statement made by a survivor, the following 19 Albanians were killed by Serbian troops during a mass execution in the village of **Zhara bei Batusha (south of Decan, 4 km before the Albanian border)**: Shefqet Selim Aliaj (29), Bekim Sali Aliaj, Hasan Bajram Tahiraj, Skënder Qazim Hajdari (29), Gazmend Hasan Ramaj (26), Ukë Misin Shabani (28), Sadik Lush Aliaj (37), Hajdar Ramadan Thaçi (26), Vehbi Asllan Hasanaj (31), Veli Noci, Astrit Xhafer Hadërgjonaj (21), Beqë Binak Lokaj (30), Imer Isuf Lokaj (28), Bekë Sefer Hadërgjonaj (23), Tahir Abaz Mazrekaj (36), Bekim Shefqet Mazrekaj (22), Selman B. Lokaj (48), Hajdar Lokaj (23) and Xhemajl Mazrekaj (29).⁵⁸

29 April 1998, Drenoc

On 29 April 1998 – the Bosnian Contact Group were meeting in Rome – the Serbian police executed a visitor at a burial on the street between Prejlep/Prilep and Drenoc (district Decan), the 26 year old, Bilall Idriz Mazrekaj. He was on his way, together with a group of women, to the burial of Haxhe Mustafa Tolaj, Sadri Latifaj and Edmond Hysni Dabicaj from Prejlep, who had been killed on 26 April. Mazrekaj was separated from the women, driven away and executed.⁵⁹

25 May 1998, Lubeniq/Ljubenic

On 25 May 1998 at about 7 o'clock in the morning, residents of Lubeniq/Ljubenic (near Peja/Pec) heard an exchange of shots in the main street. According to an eyewitness report, Albanian fighters in the UCK had stopped a car containing five people, four of whom were said to be civilians. As the driver wanted to break through the roadblock, the Albanians fired at the car. At about 13.30, a 250 to 300 strong police unit from Strelac/Strelac with HGVs, buses, four-wheel-drive vehicles and tanks encircled Lubeniq. After artillery fire, Serbian police in fighting uniforms entered the place, during which 130 Albanian children of the primary school were

⁵⁷ Humanitarian Law Fund: Glodjane – The March Clash and the Aftermath, in Report No. 26, **ÓöÜëá! Äáí Ý÷áé ñéóóáß óáééáíááßéóçò**. CDHRF Quartely Report January – March 1998

⁵⁸ CDHRF Report April 1998

⁵⁹ Kosova Information Center 29 April 1998, Reuters 29 April 1998, CDHRF, No. 407, 8 May 1998

used as a "human shield".⁶⁰ Some of the attackers had beards, and therefore belonged to the "Chetnik" bands. An eyewitness observed how the police made ten men form a line. They had to undress themselves completely before they were shot. Then Albanian houses were looted. At 15.30 the troops left the place.⁶¹ According to a statement made by 26 year old, Ardeshir Gogaj (26) to the Albanian human rights organisation, CDHRF, who was wounded by Serbian troops in Lubeniq, the army and police moved into the village from Peja on 25 May at midday. They hit passers-by, women and children indiscriminately. Then they went into the house of Shaban Husku where he and nine other men were hiding. They had to get into a line, and the Serbian soldiers opened fire. While he survived with injuries, his brother, Haxhi Mehmet Gogaj (24) died beside him.⁶² The following male members of the Hamzaj and Gogaj families were executed: Zeqe Misin Hamzaj (68), his sons Gani Zeqe Hamzaj (25) and Rifat Zeqe Hamzaj (24), the brothers Hamzaj (64) and Dervish Uke Hamzaj (51), Ymer Deli Hamzaj (53) and his son Bashkim Ymer Hamzaj (23), Hysen Daut Alimehaj (Delimetaj) (40) and his guest Haxhi Mehmet Gogaj (Familie Gogaj-Cacaj).

31 May 1998, Poklek i Ri near Glogovc/Glogovac

During the conquest of the **village of Poklek i Ri in the Glogovc/Glogovac district**, on **31 May 1998**, the following people were murdered: Ardian (Ardijan) Haxhi Deliu (18), Ahmet Berisha (40), Fidaim Berisha (17), Sefer Qorri (55), Sahit Qorri (57), Hajriz Hajdini (45), Muhamet Hajdini (50), Blerim Shishani (16), Ferat Hoti, and Rame Asllam (51). Refugees from the village later reported that Serbian special police had encircled the village, fired with mortar and machine guns and burnt 29 houses to the ground. One eyewitness told the Albanian human rights organisation, CDHRF, that he had seen human organs lying around the murdered people. The police laid weapons next to those killed in order to present them to the world as "terrorists", and photographed them. Then all corpses, except that of Ardian Deliu, were loaded onto a lorry and transported away. The families believe that they were buried in a mass grave or were burnt.⁶³ UN investigators who visited the village On 28 June and were able to question witnesses, confirmed the statements of the CDHRF: they found plates filled with food still on the table in the houses one month later.⁶⁴

Beginning of June 1998, Drenoc near Decan

On 16 June 1998, the New York Times reported of **mass executions at the beginning of June in the villages of Drenoc and Vokshit near Decan**.⁶⁵ An eye witness called Ndue Biblekaj – an Albanian, who had first of all fought on the side of the Serbian troops and changed sides because of the Serbian atrocities at the conquest of Decan – reported that a Serbian special force with "black hats" had 13

⁶⁰ Reported by Humanitarian Law Fund.

⁶¹ Press release from Humanitarian Law Fund, 30 May 1998, "Mass killing at Ljubenic village"; Amnesty International: "Police out of control", 20 July 1998, AI Index EUR 70/48/98

⁶² CDHRF, Quarterly Report April-June 1998, 17 July 1998; CDHRF, Report No. 415, 9 June 1998

⁶³ CDHRF May Monthly Report 1998, published on the 1 July 1998

⁶⁴ Tim Butcher: "Hidden massacre is uncovered in Kosovo village", Electronic Telegraph, 28 June 1998

⁶⁵ Chris Hedges: "Serb Forces Said to Abduct and Kill Civilians in Kosovo", New York Times, 16 July 1998, cited according to Bosnet Digest No. 939

civilians stand in row and shot them to the ground. The bodies were then mutilated. A mass grave was made with a digger. "I will never forget this picture", he said, "there were other executions, in which women, children and elderly people were shot. You could see a group of fifteen people laid out in a row on the side of the street."

18 July 1998, Padesh in the mountains near Decan

On 18 July 1998 the Serbian troops shot at a convoy of refugees in the mountains on the border to Albania, near **Padesh in the Decan district**. At least 60 people were killed, predominantly women, children and old people. The attack was described as a military action against a 1,000 strong group of UCK fighters by Serbian propaganda and the international media, in which 100 guerillas had died.⁶⁶ According to the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms (CDHRF), a Kosovo Albanian human rights organisation, it was a question of a trek of about 120 refugees who wanted to return to their homes in Kosovo and passed the border at 2.30 a.m. The convoy detonated landmines. The group was shot at with heavy artillery from three sides. The shooting lasted half an hour, the Serbian troops fired light rockets in order to light up the area. Approximately thirty horses and the women and children sitting on them were killed, several hundred people were injured, without help.⁶⁷

18 July -22 July 1998, Rahovec/Orahovac

Comprehensive reports about the events in the town of Rahovec/Orahovac (20,000 residents) during the conquest by Serbian troops and paramilitary from the 18 to 22 July 1998, have only been available from the Albanian side until now.⁶⁸ As journalists were able to enter the town on 22 July, all traces of the crimes had been removed. Jeffrey Smith, a reporter for the Washington Post, chose the following title for his report: »**Kosovo town is destroyed so the Serbs could save it.**»⁶⁹

Already on 23 and 30 June, Albanian sources were reporting about newly arrived contingents of the special police. On 10 July, 200 Serbian police were stationed in the Park hotel, snipers took position. In the suburb, Bellacerke/Bela Crkva (2,500 residents) there was fighting with the UCK who had erected a checkpoint the day before and dug trenches. While the Serbian residents of the suburbs, Retia and Repterusa, were ready to surrender, the Serbian residents in the village of Hoca alarmed the Yugoslavian army and militia.⁷⁰ According to the Serbian mayor, Angelo Kolasinac, the UCK marched into Rahovec on 17 July in order to conquer the police station.⁷¹ The telephone lines, water and electricity were cut off in the town. The

⁶⁶ Reuters, 21 July 1998, Douglas Hamilton: "Yugoslav forces deal double blow to KLA"

⁶⁷ Call for help from Musa Berisha, CDHRF branch in Decan, to the ambassadors of the Contact Group in Belgrade, 21 July 1998

⁶⁸ Kosova Information Center No. 1497a, No. 1497b, 21 July 1998, No. 1498, 22 July 1998, CDHRF, ARTA

⁶⁹ Jeffery Smith: »Kosovo town is destroyed so the Serbs could save it«, Washington Post, 23 July 1998

⁷⁰ Reported by an independent human rights activist from Prizren to Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post, 22 July 1998

⁷¹ Report by Stephan Israel in the Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 July 1998

residents of Rahovec poured out of the town in their thousands, the majority through forest and hills, into the then UCK controlled Malisheva.⁷²

On 18 July, strong Serbian special units and the paramilitary units, "Arkan", were transported to Rahovec. Those residents who had stayed in the town were trapped. On Sunday the 19 July, the town was bombarded for several hours, the soldiers with guns roamed through the town. Refugees told journalists that the militia killed indiscriminately everyone they met.⁷³ The International Red Cross was refused entry.⁷⁴

According to the secretary of Rahovec's Islamic community, Halit Shala, many women and children had found refuge in the Muslim house of prayers (masjid). They were massacred. The dead and wounded lay all over the town, bodies of murdered Albanians hung on the electricity poles. Two men, Haxhi Sharku and Ali Percaj, were massacred in Tumba Square, where six other bodies were lying, made unidentifiable. The Imam of the mosque, Shani Sylka, was wounded. According to Albanian particulars, at least 21 houses were burnt to the ground,⁷⁵ according to observations made by the reporter of the Washington Post, at least 30 Albanian houses near the police station, while the Serbian residential area remained relatively undisturbed.⁷⁶ In the suburb Bellacerke/Bela Crkva all houses were destroyed.⁷⁷ Survivors told a correspondent from the Neue Zürcher Zeitung about a paraffin test which the men were subjected to, that was done to establish the existence of traces of gunpowder in order to find out who had fired a gun and who not. The Serbs threatened one group that men with a positive test would be shot on the spot; all test results were negative.⁷⁸

To the Washington Post, the survivors, Hidajete Ramaj and Skender Sylka reported about a massacre of seven men on 20 July 1998. Sylka had hidden in the house cellar together with fourteen men for three days. The men were unarmed and wanted to surrender. They stepped out of the cellar, Hidajete's husband, Xhemail, first. He called to the armed Serbs who wore grey towels bound around their heads: "We must talk, there are women and children here." The Serbian attackers opened fire and killed seven men. The others fled back into the cellar. The Serbs threw a grenade into the front room of the cellar and injured a child. The police burnt the bodies.⁷⁹ According to Albanian particulars, there were nine dead, amongst them two women, who were covered with straw after the executions and were burnt: Ramadan Kërndali (72), Qemail Rama (60), Faik Rama (52), Nesim Rama (30),

⁷² Albanian eyewitnesses told Pulitzer Prize winner, Roy Gutman that Serbs in the uniforms of the UCK had provoked shooting on 17 July ; the UCK had sent support to the supposed comrades in distress and then fell into a trap. On 18 July the Serbian police showed no presence in the streets. While the UCK claimed, in complete misjudgement of the situation, that they controlled the town, the Serbs brought at least 30 tanks and hundreds of soldiers into strategic positions. *Newsday*, 27 July 1998

⁷³ Report by Stephan Israel in *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 24 July 1998; Mike O Connor : "12,000 flee Serbian attack" in *New York Times*, 22 July 1998

⁷⁴ Press conference by the ICRC on the 23 July in Pristina, ARTA 23 July 1998

⁷⁵ CDHRF, 21 July 1998, "The massacre perpetrated by the Serbian army and Arkan's paramilitary units in Rahovec"

⁷⁶ Jeffrey Smith: "Kosovo rebels stumble as gamble backfires", *Washington Post*, 22 July 1998

⁷⁷ Kosova Information Center, No. 1497a, 21 July 1998

⁷⁸ *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, "Greuelthaten von Serben", 24 July 1998

⁷⁹ Jeffrey Smith: *Washington Post*, 22 July 1998

Eqrem Rama (42), Sylka Rama, Fetije Mullaabazi (f), Mejreme Mullaabazi (f) and Baki Shehu.⁸⁰ One survivor told the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* of his ordeal that lasted for days in a cellar.⁸¹

According to the CDHRF, on the evening of 20 July, two lorries with Albanian prisoners (about 80 people) arrived in Prizren, women and children were released, the men stayed under arrest. On 21 July there were three further transportations to Prizren, containing 20, 40 and 31 prisoners respectively, one of them with an HGV from the company, Progress.

Amongst the prisoners were also wounded. Contacts in Prizren told the *Washington Post* that they estimated the number of prisoners to be over 500. Women and children were released immediately. One hundred and fifty men were interned in a building belonging to the fire brigade in Prizren, of these men only "a few" were freed.⁸² The Serbian police speaker, Milan Sipko, told journalists that 223 Albanians had been imprisoned temporarily, and all had been released with the exception of 26 of them.⁸³ According to statements made by the Albanian human rights organisation, CDHRF, only 108 Albanians were released on 22 July.⁸⁴

Released prisoners told the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* that they were tortured in Prizren.⁸⁵ On 21 July, Samie Zeqiraj from the Albanian LDK Women's Forum reported of mistreatment in Prizren's prison. She was imprisoned together with twelve other travellers in the bus from Mamushe on the morning of the 19 July, taken

⁸⁰ Kosova Information Center, No 1498, 22 July 1998

⁸¹ *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 24 July 1998, Eyewitness statement by a prisoner: "A man from Orahovac reported: «We were in the cellar, about one hundred people. The police came on Saturday at about midday and broke open the house door. We cried: «Don't shoot, we have women and children here!» Then they fired shots with a light machine gun. The bullets hit the walls, no one was injured. Then a police commander shouted: «Don't shoot, there are women!» They brought us out and separated the men from the women and children into separate rooms. They took me and four other men into the cellar again. A policeman ordered: «Now shoot them away!» They made their weapons ready, but another commander came and gave the order: «Don't shoot!» Then we were taken away, the women and children stayed; I don't know where they are now. We were taken to the street and positioned as a human shield in front of an armoured personnel carrier. We had to march to prison in front of the tank. There, I was locked up in a cell with five others. The heating was turned right up to the highest temperature, we went to the window in turns in order to breathe in fresh air. We received no water: I don't know how long it took, I lost my sense of time. Finally a Serbian policeman brought us some water, a resident of Orahovac, who had sympathy for us. Then we heard how the Serbs celebrated their victory. They lashed the barred doors from outside. Drunken civilians, Serbs from Orahovac, who I know, came with axes and tried to break open the cell door. They roared: «We'll kill all of you!» The police had disappeared; we were delivered up to the civilians. But they gave up and went on their way. Again we were used as a human shield in front of an armoured personnel carrier and a police vehicle. We marched to the petrol station. There, they threatened us: «We'll scratch your eyes out! We'll cut your ears off! We'll kick your kidneys in!» Then we were taken to Prizren.» The man was taken to the prison in Prizren on Tuesday and released on Wednesday."

⁸² Jeffrey Smith, *Washington Post*, 22 July 1998

⁸³ Jeffrey Smith, *Washington Post*, 23 July 1998

⁸⁴ ARTA 22 July 1998

⁸⁵ *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 24 July 1998: "Sadists in Prizren's prison: Later the men who had not fired a gun, were brought to Prizren's prison with lorries. There, residents also saw a delivery of injured people, among them some who had died during the transportation. According to their reports, the prisoners were always locked up in groups of 90 to 300 people and tortured in numerous ways. They received too little water – in high summer heat – and hardly anything to eat. Some of them had to hold out for 36 hours in a crouching position. Others were indiscriminately beaten every half an hour. Others were interrogated individually and tortured. One of them escaped torture because he was too small and emaciated - the policeman demanded a fat one. They were released later."

to the police station in Prizren and kept until 10 p.m. According to her observations, the men were "tortured barbarically". On leaving the police station, she saw dozens of handcuffed Albanians covered with blood.⁸⁶

One of those released reported that he was imprisoned together with other residents after hiding in a cellar, and then transported to Prizren. Muse Kasapi and his son, Metush Canziba and his son, as well as Beqir Haxhimusa and Mazllum Haxhimustafa were transported in the direction of Vermice on the Albanian border, and that the police had told them that they were killed.⁸⁷

On 21 July, twelve dead people were delivered to Prizren's mortuary.⁸⁸ On 22 July, the Serbian security dug two mass graves in the graveyard in Prizren, and buried an unknown number of dead who were transported with a lorry from the company, Liria, and two tractors.⁸⁹

During a visit by reporters of the Washington Post on 22 July in Rahovec, hundreds of houses and shops were shelled, looted and burnt to the ground, many to the foundations. The Serbian troops had "tidied up" before the arrival of the journalists: only a few dead were still to be seen. The reporters discovered a group of fifty people, amongst them twenty children under five years old, who after five days hiding in a cellar hesitated to come out on the afternoon of 20 July. One of the few men reported that he had observed from a sky window, how police had loaded corpses onto tractors shortly before the arrival of the press.⁹⁰ The German daily, Die Welt, reported from Rahovec the day after the engagement: "Hundreds of emaciated figures are packed into the narrowest room, there is hardly any water, hardly any food, and this has lasted for more than a week. In one cellar there are only corpses. The UN refugee aid jeeps are no more than a facade."⁹¹

According to the Pristina-based Kosova Information Center, at least 34 Albanians were killed.⁹² The Washington Post reporter, in view of the destruction, had the impression that "dozens, if not hundreds" must have been killed.⁹³ Bosnian television gave a figure of 150 dead on the Albanian side and 30 dead on the Serbian side.⁹⁴ From the 20,000 residents of the town, all except 2,000 had fled according to Serbian police statements, which journalists doubted: only Serbian police and not a single Albanian civilian were to be seen.⁹⁵

27 July 1998, Junik near Decan

During the offensives against the areas controlled by the UCK in the last weeks of July, the Serbian troops executed all twenty members of one family in Junik, who

⁸⁶ Kosova Information Center No. 1497a, 21 July 1998

⁸⁷ Kosova Information Center, No. 1497b, 21 July 1998

⁸⁸ Kosova Information Center, No. 1498, 22 July 1998

⁸⁹ ARTA, 22 July 1998, "Fighting continues"

⁹⁰ Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post, 23 July 1998, and Stephan Israel, Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 July 1998

⁹¹ Report by Boris Kalnoky in Die Welt, 27 July 1998

⁹² Kosova Information Center, No. 1497a, 21 July 1998

⁹³ Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post, 23 July 1998

⁹⁴ BBC News World Europe, 22 July 1998, "Ghost town after Serbs repel attack"

⁹⁵ BBC News World Europe, 22 July 1998

had surrendered, reported the Kosova Information Centre on 28 July 1998.⁹⁶ The names were kept secret at first in order to be able to inform the relatives. Further information has not been presented to the editorial office of the GfbV yet.

Camps

According to some reports, in the Serbian troops' base, the "munitions factory" in Skenderaj/Srbica, prisoners have been temporarily interned, tortured and probably executed. According to the Greek Helsinki Committee and Human Rights Watch, refugees have named the secondary school and the "Decor" building again and again, as intern camps for Albanian men.⁹⁷ Balkan correspondent, Erich Rathfelder, who was able to visit the completely destroyed and depopulated town of Decan in the second half of June, had a close look at a warehouse which was named by refugees as a prisoner camp. He was able to discover a witness who confirmed that 38 people were delivered by the police, had stayed the night and were then taken away, he was not allowed to say more.⁹⁸ In Gjilan/Gnilane's prison, Albanian prisoners were so severely mistreated that their cries of pain could be heard on the street.⁹⁹

Hostage Taking and "Disappearances"

The entire province of Kosovo is under the control of Serbian troops, who have erected a network of checkpoints on all motorways, important crossroads, stations, bus stops, arterial roads in towns and villages. Men of military age in particular, are incessantly being pulled out of buses and trains at control points, predominantly by Serbian troops but also by the UCK, and are being arrested and mistreated during the conquest of towns and villages, and also **imprisoned and abducted**. In the middle of June 1998, the **number of abductions** by the Serbian troops was estimated to be over 350, of which 300 came from the area of Decan, in **the middle of July at 400**. Daan Everts, OSCE ambassador in Albania, said on 15 June in the Dutch TV-channel, Nova, there were serious reports from refugees that Albanian men of military age had been collected together and disappeared in Decan.¹⁰⁰

Fourty six year old, Idriz Idrizi has been missing the longest. He "disappeared" from Prekaz in the Skenderaj district, two months before the outbreak of war on 23 January 1998. He was last seen near the "munitions factory" in Skenderaj. The fate of the doctor, Hafir Shala, an activist of a humanitarian organisation in Glllogovc, is still unexplained. He was imprisoned together with his colleagues Hetem Sinani and

⁹⁶ Kosova Information Center, No. 1504, 28 July 1998

⁹⁷ Human Rights Watch: Yugoslav Military and Serbian Police Commit War Crimes in Kosovo, Some Abuses by KLA. Also Documented, 30 June 1998; Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing 7

⁹⁸ Tageszeitung (Berlin), 22 June 1998

⁹⁹ After an unknown number of Albanian men were arrested in the until now peaceful Ferizaj/Urosevac and taken to Gjilan's prison on the 30 June, passers-by heard cries of pain on the streets. ARTA 1 July 1998

¹⁰⁰ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 17 June 1998

Shaban Nezrin on 10 April. While the other two were released, Dr Shala has been missing until today.¹⁰¹ The Serbian authorities dispute having imprisoned him.

On the night of 9 June, Serbian troops attacked the village of Suhogerlle in the Skenderaj district with artillery. Fifty of the fifty three houses were burnt to the ground. Brahim Rushiti (70) and his wife, Qerime Rushiti (70), the epileptic Afrim Rushiti (36), Osman Osmani (45), and Rexhep Osmani (58) have been missing without trace since this date. On 8 July, a commission of the Democratic League for Kosova, LDK, reported that numerous Albanians had been imprisoned in Gjakove.¹⁰² During the Serbian offensive in Rahovec/Orahovac, the Serbian special units and "Chetnik" troops commanded by Arkan conquered the village of Bellacerke on 20 July. The brothers Isuf, Ismet, Mejdi and Kollarin Bekeri, Masar Ejupi, Agim Canzibaj, Mustafa Kasapi, a teacher called Behxhet, and an unknown Albanian from Prizren were taken prisoner by the Arkan troops. Alisa Berisha (15) and Violeta Krasniqi (30), who fled to Prizren on 20 July with a group, reported that the Serbian police separated the men from the women and children and imprisoned them, among them Alisa's father, Ymer.¹⁰³

On 18 June – one week after the conquest of Decan – passers-by in Novi Pazar observed a ghostly scene at a petrol station: three buses with Albanian prisoners escorted by Serbian police, had broken down. The men had visible wounds on their bodies and faces, they lifted their handcuffed hands. The passers-by were prevented from coming near by automatic machine guns.¹⁰⁴

While on the one hand, 400 Albanians have disappeared without trace, on the other hand, again and again, corpses have been found in unexplained circumstances, also unidentified, or have been delivered to hospitals by the police. Some examples: On 24 May the 70 year old, Zeke Azem Brahim was found massacred in Bokshiq in the Klina district. On 8 June the police had three unidentified Albanians buried in the town grave in Gjakove. On the same day in Peja/Pec, under police orders, two Roma had to bury the body of Zymber Hysen Berisha (60) from Kryshec, who was found dead in unexplained circumstances near the Bistrica. On 3 June Bajram Binak Aliaj (38) from Shushica was found massacred in the area of the Uca mountains: he had started off his journey abroad on 28 May. On 16 June the police delivered three male corpses (aged between mid twenties and early forties) in Peja: this was reported by the Islamic community of the town who had to bury the unknown dead on the command of the police.¹⁰⁵ In Pirane near Prizren, on 6 July the mutilated corpses of Muhamet Elshani (56), his sons, Afrim and Sali Gashi (20) were found in a field.¹⁰⁶ On 8 July the state company, Higjiëna, in Peja/Pec, buried five unidentified people.¹⁰⁷ The Albanian human rights organisation, CDHRF, made a dramatic appeal to "all sides" to keep to the Geneva

¹⁰¹ Report by Humanitarian Law Fund among others, further Human Rights Watch: Yugoslav military and Serbian police commit war crimes, 30 June 1998 (<http://www.hrw.org/hrw/press98/june/kosovo630.htm>), contact: Emily Shaw, 001.212.216-1845, or New York Times, 16 July 1998, Chris Hedges: "Serb forces said to abduct and kill civilians in Kosovo"

¹⁰² Kosova Information Center, No. 1484, 8 July 1998

¹⁰³ Kosova Information Center, No. 1496, 20 July 1998

¹⁰⁴ CDHRF Report No. 419

¹⁰⁵ CDHRF 16 June 1998, "Three unidentified corpses in Peja"

¹⁰⁶ Kosova Information Center, No. 1482, 6 July 1998

¹⁰⁷ Kosova Information Center, 13 July 1998, Kosova News, 13 July 1998

Conventions and release all prisoners: they gave the number of missing Albanians to be over 400, the number of missing Serbs, 32.¹⁰⁸

Forced Labour

There has been only one report of **forced labour of prisoners** until now. The Albanian human rights organisation, CDHRF reported that Albanian prisoners from the Smrekovnica prison had to dig trenches around the checkpoints, Ternavc, Klina e Eperme, Lausha and Turiqevc from 9 to 5 April.¹⁰⁹

Encircled towns and regions

The humanitarian situation has been tense in the whole Kosovo area since March because thousands of refugees from the immediate war zones must be cared for. The capital of the province, Pristina, compares more and more to a "hostaged city", reported the Albanian news agency, ARTA, at the end of July. Since the storming of the city of Rahovec, strong bands of police and paramilitary have been patrolling Pristina, arbitrarily stopping, mistreating and arresting passers-by.¹¹⁰ In addition, there is chicanery like the return of 80 lorries with food and other necessities by the Serbian toll and finance authorities on 12 June in Rudare (on the border area to Serbia).¹¹¹ The aid from international organisations like Mercy Corps (USA) or the International Red Cross are confiscated or stopped and not allowed to pass into the emergency areas.¹¹²

In twelve districts (regions) of Kosovo, predominantly in the west and south west, the supply of food stuffs, medicine and other aid has been partly or completely blocked since May, electricity and water have been partly or completely cut off: Skenderaj/Srbica, Glogovc/Glogovac, Klina, Peja/Pec, Gjakove/Djakovica, Decan/Decani, Shtimje/Stimlje, Rahovec/Orahovac, Malisheva/Malisevo, Istok, Suhareke/Suva Reka, Ferizaj/Urosevac.¹¹³ The population in these areas was estimated to be 750,000 people, amongst them over 100,000 refugees.

While the Kosovo Albanian Liberation Army, UCK, controlled areas – mainly the region of Malisheva – are hermetically sealed by the Serbian troops, the people in the Serb controlled areas are living in an exceptional situation. Serbian snipers often

¹⁰⁸ CDHRF appeal for the release of hostages, 8 July 1998

¹⁰⁹ CDHRF Report No. 405

¹¹⁰ cited from Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing 12.

¹¹¹ Kosova Information Center, 12 June 1998

¹¹² Report by Balkan correspondent Norbert Mappes-Niediek, "NATO, nur du kannst den Schlächter des Balkan stoppen", Berliner Zeitung, 11 June 1998

¹¹³ Open Society Institute, 19 June 1998, Kosovo Briefing No. 6, contact: Jay Wise, Washington Office, Tel. 001.202. 496-2401

control every movement, no one can enter or leave the area freely¹¹⁴, in Suhareke police with blacked faces have been patrolling the streets since the middle of July.¹¹⁵

The people are living – some since May – from stocks and smuggled in goods. According to details given by the International Helsinki Federation, IHF, who were able to visit the area at the beginning of July, medical care no longer exists, except for the opportune deliveries of the relief organisation, Doctors Without Borders.¹¹⁶ The Kosovo Albanian relief organisation, Mother Theresa in Malisheva, who supported the poorest of the poor during peacetime (families with over five children without income), complained that the number of people that they are taking care of has increased from 8,000 to 20,000.¹¹⁷ Again and again, aid transports are sent back and workers from Albanian aid organisations are imprisoned for "supporting the enemy". On 20 June in Vodice (near the mine Bardh te Madh/Belacevac that was reconquered by Serbian troops at the end of June), an aid transport from Mother Theresa was seized and two workers were imprisoned. On 16 July the Serbian public prosecutors made charges against the Albanians, Enver Hashani (48), Halit Sallova (38) and Ahmet Gjinovci (51) for "supporting the terrorists", who had smuggled food and medicine to Glogovc and Skenderaj.¹¹⁸ On 12 July, the president of Mother Theresa's office in Gjakove, Fatime Boshnjaku, together with two of her colleagues, were arrested.¹¹⁹ The British humanitarian activist Sally Becker, known as "Mostar's Angel" was arrested on 18 July and condemned to 30 days imprisonment for illegal crossing of the border, while bringing a family from Kosovo over the border to Albania.¹²⁰ On 27 July the police seized twelve tons of flour and 800 kg of food stuffs from Mother Theresa's camp in Vushtrri.¹²¹

The scale of the emergency is clear from the cries for help which have hardly been taken notice of by the international public so far. Some examples: On 10 June the basic food stuffs, flour, oil and sugar came to an end in Dollova, Grabanica, Bokshiq, Kepuz, Ceskova, Zajm, Jashanica i Eperm, Jashanica e Poshtme, Dush, Gjurgjevik i Madh, Gllareva, Rigjeva, Stapanica and Cerovik (**Klina district**).¹²² On 24 June - the first time since March - aid convoys were granted entry to **Gjakove/ Djakovica** (100,000 residents, of which 50,000 are refugees) and **Peja/Pec** (120,000 residents, of which 60,000 are refugees).¹²³ On 25 June an aid convoy reached **Junik**, then controlled by the UCK and encircled by the Serbian troops; from the 12,000 inhabitants only 1,500 civilians are living here, of which 600 are refugees.¹²⁴

¹¹⁴ On 20 June refugees from Decan reported that they had to pay 1,000 DM per head to the Serbian troops in order to be let out of the besieged region. (Kosova Information Center) On 12 July, after the outbreak of fighting in Loxhe, a suburb of Peja/Pec, the Serbian troops demanded 100 DM from every refugee who wanted to leave Peja on the street, Peja-Kulla-Rozhaj. (ARTA, Koha Ditore)

¹¹⁵ ARTA 14 July 1998

¹¹⁶ IHF Press release 10 July 1998: "Medical care is virtually non-existent, except for modest efforts by Medecins sans frontieres".

¹¹⁷ ARTA 27 June 1998

¹¹⁸ Kosova Information Center, No. 1492, 16 July 1998

¹¹⁹ ARTA 13 July, Open Society Institute Kosovo Briefing No. 10

¹²⁰ Radio B 92 Open Yugoslavia, 18 July 1998

¹²¹ Kosova Information Center, No 1503, 27 July 1998

¹²² Kosova Information Center, 10 June 1998

¹²³ Kosova Information Center 29 June 1998

¹²⁴ Report from the encircled town of Junik on the 26 June by Balkan correspondent, Erich Rathfelder, in Tageszeitung (Berlin), 26 June 1998

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, the "refugees, predominantly women and children, were in a rather bad shape"¹²⁵ On 1 July, the Albanian relief organisation, Mother Theresa in **Mitrovica**, appealed to the world to help the town. Since the 11 May, no food or medicine transports have reached the town, which houses 21,000 people, among them 5,500 refugees from the Drenica region. Four aid transports were turned back in Nedakovc, twenty kilometres north of Pristina.¹²⁶ In Gradica, Godanc, Dobrashec, Likoshan, Krasmiroc, Qirez in the **Drenica region near Skenderaj**, where refugees from Hade, Bivolak, Bardh, Hamide and Lajthishte have found accomodation, there has been no food or medicine since the 3 July.¹²⁷ On 3 July, the Albanian emergency committees in **Gjilan/Gnilane and Suhareke/Suva Reka** complained of the lack of flour, oil, salt and sugar. From the 2 July, flour, oil, sugar and milk were in short supply in **Rahovec/Orahovac**.¹²⁸ On 5 July, ARTA reported of "more and more difficulties with the supply of basic necessities and medicine" from the Serbian controlled **Gjakove (over 100,000 people)**¹²⁹, on 20 July there was no more bread in Gjakove.¹³⁰ On 24 July from Malisheva, a German journalist reported that the traders in the main square had nothing more to offer apart from cigarettes.¹³¹ At the end of July, Serbian troops burnt down the fields ready for harvest near Glogovc.¹³²

Human Rights Violations by the UCK

The Kosovo Albanian guerilla army, Kosovo Liberation Front, UCK, which claimed to have 30,000 men under waepons and would thereby be stronger than the army of neighboring Albania,¹³³ have declared their respect of international humanitarian law.¹³⁴ Massacres and the employment of artillery against Serbian civilians are

¹²⁵ Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty 25 June 1998

¹²⁶ ARTA 1 July 1998

¹²⁷ CDHRF, No. 422

¹²⁸ ARTA 4 July 1998

¹²⁹ ARTA 5 July 1998

¹³⁰ Kosova Information Center 20 July 1998

¹³¹ Stephan Israel, "Banges Warten in den Kellern", Frankfurter Rundschau, 22 July 1998

¹³² Kosova Information Center, Nr. 1503, 27 July 1998; Open Society Institute, Kosovo Briefing 12.

¹³³ Electronic Telegraph, 20 July 1998, "Serb police besieged as rebels take war to cities" by Philip Schmucker

¹³⁴ UCK Commander, Lum Haxhiu from Junik, interview in the Süddeutschen Zeitung, 14 July 98: "We recognise the international conventions and have not committed crimes in any case." UCK speaker, Jakub Krasniqi in an interview with Koha Ditore, 12 July (quoted from BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 18 July 1998, Bosnet Digest 921): "It does indeed seem to us ridiculous to equate the operations of the UCK with those of the Serbian occupier, which are notorious throughout the world. On this point, it seems to me that the international community is not respecting its conventions, starting with the UN Charter, etcetera, because the UCK has never dealt with civilians, or only if they have been in the service of the army and the police and have done serious harm to the people and the Albanian national cause. There have been cases in which they have been kidnapped, but in this event they have been handed over to international organizations, of course when they have been innocent. First of all, all Serbian forces, whether the police, the military, or armed civilians, are our enemy. From the start, we had our own internal rules for our operations. These clearly lay down that the UCK recognizes the Geneva Convention and the conventions governing the conduct of war, even though it has not been offered the chance of signing them, as it would have done. We do not go in for kidnapping. (...) [Q] What message would you have for the Serbian people? [A] We would appeal to the Serbian people in Kosovo not to become involved in terrorist operations organized by the Serbian army and police, and to mind their own business. The UCK has no intention of getting involved with the civilian population, and has not done so hitherto. We appeal to civilians who have taken up arms to surrender them and not to oppose the UCK, or, worse, to set themselves against their neighbours. If they do not do these things, they will come to no harm."

unheard of until now. **In an interview in the middle of July, the Serbian vice-abbot of the monastery in Decani, Brother Sava, confirmed that the UCK have respected orthodox holy shrines in Kosovo**, while the Serbian troops have destroyed Muslim places of worship.¹³⁵

According to trustworthy sources,¹³⁶ the UCK are taking part – if not to the same degree as the Serbian troops – in hostage taking, mistreatment and "disappearances", predominantly of male Serbian civilians and non-combatants. While the Albanian human rights committee, CDHRF gave the number of missing Serbs to be 32 on 8 July,¹³⁷ the American ambassador, Richard Miles, estimated the number of Serbs imprisoned by the UCK to be between 50 and 60 at the beginning of July.¹³⁸ The Serbian "Media Centre" in Pristina, an establishment of Serbian Government propaganda, gave the figure of missing (civilians) to be 59 on 13 June.¹³⁹ The newspaper, Politika, sympathetic to the Serbian regime, spoke of 140 abducted Serbs and "disloyal" Albanians.¹⁴⁰ International Red Cross, ICRC, speaker, Beatrice Weber spoke of 130 people of Serbian nationality who were missing on 30 July.¹⁴¹ The ICRC communicated that the UCK have handed over 35 Serbs on 23 July, among them one nun and seven monks.¹⁴²

UCK speaker, Jakup Krasniqi, openly admitted to punishing Albanian "collaborators" and executions, in an interview with the independent Albanian newspaper, Koha Ditore.¹⁴³ The same newspaper had already reported on 27 April that the UCK had executed five abducted Serbs, without naming names.¹⁴⁴ Already in March 1998, the UCK admitted to 50 executions since September 1997, in which Serbian police, and also Albanian "collaborators" were killed.¹⁴⁵

Old people and women are apparently fairly treated by the UCK¹⁴⁶, while men of military age are the victims of human rights violations. During the heavy fighting in

¹³⁵ Main Echo 17 July 1998

¹³⁶ The GfV refers to the report no. 26, May 1998, Kosovo: Human Rights in Times of Armed Conflict (<http://www.hlc.org.yu/iz26e.htm>), and no. 27, June 1998, Enforced Disappearances in Kosovo January – May 1998, the independent Serbian human rights organisation, Humanitarian Law Fund (Fond za humanitarno pravo) HLF. The document by Amnesty International of June 1998 (Violence in Drenica, AI Index EUR 70/33/98) on the crimes of the UCK refers only to the details given by the HLF.

¹³⁷ CDHRF appeal for the release of hostages, 8 July 1998

¹³⁸ Kosova Information Center, 1482, 6 July 1998

¹³⁹ AP, Ismet Hajdari: "Death toll in Kosovo has risen to more than 300", 13 June 1998

¹⁴⁰ Berliner Zeitung, 19 July 1998

¹⁴¹ ARTA 30 July 1998

¹⁴² Stuttgarter Zeitung, 24 July 1998

¹⁴³ "Even if some people have suffered, these have been more Albanian collaborators than Serbian civilians.

We do not deal with civilians, and we return those whom we take as prisoners of war. A few days ago we handed over two Serbs originating from Croatia to the International Red Cross. Those we have kidnapped are either announced in a list or reported to be executed, but we do not behave in a base fashion like Serbia". UCK speaker, Jakub Krasniqi in an interview with Koha Ditore, 12 July (cited from BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 18 July 1998, Bosnet Digest 921)

¹⁴⁴ Humanitarian Law Fund HLF: Report 26, May 1998, Belgrade: Kosovo: Human Rights in Times of Armed Conflict (<http://www.hlc.org.yu/iz26e.htm>), chapter 9.2.

¹⁴⁵ Electronic Telegraph (London), 22 March 1998, Philipp Sherwell: "Kosovo's peasants prepare for battle"

¹⁴⁶ On 22 April 1998, during the conquest of their hometown, Pocar, the Serb, Kostadin Stijovic, together with his daughter-in-law, Milka, and neighbour, Stana Popovic, were taken to the headquarters of the UCK in Glogjan/Glodjane, but then released immediately. He reported: "They said they wouldn't harm us old folks. They didn't touch the women. They let us go the same day, taking us to Reznic by tractor. At every 200 metres

Rahovec/Orahovac in the middle of July, the UCK abducted 40 Serbian residents of the town, according to Serbian particulars.¹⁴⁷ on 21 July, the UCK took nine monks, an old nun and 30 Serbian refugees from the monasteries, Cosma and Damian, hostage, as the abbot had flew the white flag; they were released after intervention of the Red Cross.¹⁴⁸

Two Montenegrinians, Dragoslav and Mijat Stojanovic, from Dubrava, were captured by uniformed Albanians on 18 April 1998, and taken to the UCK headquarters in Glogjan/Glodjane where they were interrogated, beaten and kicked, and subjected to degrading treatment. Both of them were released. Dragoslav Stojanovic was so seriously injured that he had to be operated on.¹⁴⁹ On 21 April the sisters, Dara (69) and Vukosava (65) Vujocevic "disappeared". They did not flee their village, Gornji Ratic, during it's conquest by the UCK. Since then their family have received no news from them. On 22 April, Novak Stijovic was captured by the UCK while looking for his father, accompanied by his mother, Rosa, and an acquaintance called Stanisa Radosevic, near Glogjan. He was taken to the UCK headquarters, searched with a gun to his head, beaten, kicked and interrogated under blows.¹⁵⁰ Since the 22 April, the Vlahovic family from the village of Gornji Ratic conquered by the UCK, have missed their grandparents, Milovan (64) and Milka (60). The fate of Milo (60) and Milica (59) Radunovic from Dacinovac, conquered by the UCK on 22 April, is also unexplained. Their relatives fled, but the two elderly people refused to go. The neighbours heard shots from the Radunovic's house, later, it was reported on the radio of the capture of the two old people. Since then there has been no trace of them. The following people are also missing: Radomir Ivanovic from Maznik since the 23 April, Branko Stamatovic (69), who disappeared on the way to Prelep/Prilep On 21 April, Zarko Spasic (35) from Sibovac near Obilic, Dostana Zmigic from Leocin near Skenderaj/Srbica since the 18 May, the policeman Dejan Stamenkovic

or so we'd come upon one of their patrols but they left us alone. We walked home and left Pocar for Decani in the morning. Neighbours asked why we were leaving. I left because nobody can guarantee that I'll live to see the morning if I stay in the village. They didn't hit me at the headquarters. But they beat my son when he came to the village to get me." Humanitarian Law Fund, Report No. 26, May 1998, Belgrade: Kosovo: Human Rights in Times of Armed Conflict (<http://www.hlc.org.yu/iz26e.htm>).

¹⁴⁷ Kosova Information Center, No. 1494b, 18 July 1998

¹⁴⁸ Thomas Schmid: Der gute Mensch von Decani, in Berliner Zeitung, 28 July 1998. Report about the abductions also in the Stuttgarter Zeitung, 24 July 1998

¹⁴⁹ Humanitarian Law Fund HLF: Report 26, May 1998, Belgrade: Kosovo: Human Rights in Times of Armed Conflict (<http://www.hlc.org.yu/iz26e.htm>)

¹⁵⁰ HLF: Report 26

from Ropotovo near Kamenica since the 19 May, the Serb Ivan Zaric and the Romas Gurim Bejta and Agron Berisa from Dolac near Klina since the 20 May, Miroslav Sulevic from Vidanje near Klina since the 21 May, the police officer Ivan Bulatovic from Glogovac, who was abducted from a train in Banjica in civilian clothing on 23 May, the 54 year old Radomir Zmigic from Leocin near Skenderaj since the 27 May 1998,¹⁵¹ the married couple Ratomir and Cedomirka Miljkovic from Pantine near Vushtri/Vucitrn since the 25 June.¹⁵²

¹⁵¹ HLF: Report 27, June 1998, Belgrade: Enforced Disappearances in Kosovo January – May 1998.

¹⁵² According to statements made by her daughter, Snezana in the regime loyal, Serbian newspaper Politika, 14 July 1998.

Appeal of the Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV)

The GfbV appeals to the governments of the so-called Bosnian Contact Group, in particular to the German Government, to put a stop to the "ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and to stop the Serbian troops immediately.

The governments of the Contact Group must give the Serbian leadership an ultimatum for the fulfilment of the following demands:

- immediate retreat of all troops of the Serbian police, the Yugoslavian Army and the paramilitary militia into the barracks
- the withdrawal of all troops out of Kosovo within 14 days
- the release of all Albanian prisoners of war, abductees and prisoners
- complete freedom of movement for representatives of the UN War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague and relief organisations
- the stationing of international troops on the border between Serbia and Kosovo for the protection of the Albanian civil population against further attacks

If these conditions are not fulfilled, the governments of the Contact Group must let actions follow their words and authorise NATO to intervene in order to protect the Albanian population of Kosovo.

The GfbV appeals to the governments of the Contact Group to demand of the Albanian resistance movement, the UCK, the fulfilment of the following demands:

- the release of all hostages and prisoners of war
- the punishment of all perpetrators of violence within the UCK
- the explanation of the fate of those Serbian civilians whose disappearance is connected with the operations of the UCK
- the end of the practice of condemning alleged "collaborators" without a fair trial, imposing and executing the death sentence
- the respect of cultural, historical and religious monuments and establishments of the Serbian minority in Kosovo

The GfbV calls upon the governments of the Contact Group

- to organise free and secret elections for the people of Kosovo, including all ethnic minority groups, under international control
- to recognise the decision of this parliament on the future status of Kosovo as binding by international law and to guarantee its realisation
- to protect the human and minority rights of the Serbian and Montenegrinian, the Muslim-Bosniak, Turkish and Roma peoples in Kosovo by an international monitored minority statute

The GfbV calls upon the governments of the Contact Group to immediately dissolve their observation team that is presently comprised of diplomats who are bound to the political instructions of their national governments and are approved of by the Belgrade Government. They must be replaced by politically neutral UN monitors who must not be dependent of the good will of the Belgrade regime.

The GfbV appeals to the governments of the Contact Group, in particular to the German Government, to furnish the UN War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague with additional means in order to clarify the war crimes, mass executions and massacres committed by the Serbian troops and paramilitary militia on the civil population in Kosovo, to secure the evidence and to determine and condemn the perpetrators – those responsible as well as those who performed the crimes.

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Appendix: Attacks by the Serbian Troops and Snipers on Albanian Villages and Settlements, March until July 1998

District	Town, Village, Hamlet	Attacks
Decan/Decani	Municipal area Decan	24 March offensive begins, as the Contact Group meets, 12 April shots in the suburb, Dubovik, 20 April offensive against civilians using aircraft, weapons, 22 June Decan is completely destroyed like Vukovar, of 20,000 people only 200-300 remain, predominantly the elderly
Decan	Baballoc, Baballoq, Babaloq	24 March, 20 April offensive using tanks and aircraft, Yugoslavian Army, 22 April attacks against a TV team from AP; 24 April, 25 April several hours, 28 April, 29 April, 30 April, 30 April, 1 May, 3 May, 4 May, 5 May, 9 May from 1am to 5am, 10 May, 14 May, 16 May, 17 May, 18 May, 21 May, 22 May, 24 May, 25.5, 150 grenades in one hour, destruction in the first week of June, 21 June, 22 June 62 grenades, 25 June several hours, 30 June attack from the air, 2 July, 3 July, 5 July, 8 July, 11 July, 12 July ; snipers on 16 July, 18 July, 20 July, 24 July
Decan	Beleg	25 May, 30 June 30 large calibre projectiles, and 8 surface-to-surface rockets, 8 July, 27 July
Decan	Carrabreg i Eperm, i Poshtem	23 May, 25 May, 8 July, 11 July, on 14 July five hours long, 18 July, 19 July, 24 July, 27 July, 28 July, 30 July
Decan	Dujaka	27 July
Decan	Dubrave	24 March ; 25 May, 21 June,
Decan	Firaje	24 March
Decan	Glogjan, Gloxhan	24 March shelling from 10.30 until 21.00, 17 houses destroyed and burnt, 22 June, 29 June, 2 July, 5 July, 8 July
Decan	Gramacel	24 March, 24 April, 28 April, 29 April, 30 April, 10 May, 25.5, 25 June, 29 June, 2 July, 3 July, 5 July, 8 July, 11 July, 12 July, snipers on 16 July, 18 July, 24 July, 26 July, 28 July

Decan	Hulaj	10 May
Decan	Isnig, Iznig, Iznig, Irznig	25 May, 21 June, 30 June 30 grenades and 3 surface-to-surface rockets, 8 July, 11 July, 14 July, 28 July
Decan	Kodrali	27 July, 28 July
Decan	Lebushe	28 July
Decan	Lloqan	25 May
Decan	Lluke	8 July
Decan	Pobergje	25 May, 11 July
Decan	Prekolluke	25 May
Decan	Prejlep, Prelep	1 May shots at a farm, 23 May heavy attack, 25.5, 150 grenades, 21 June, 25 June, 30 June attack from the air, 2 July, 8 July, 11 July, 13 July, 14 July, snipers on 16 July, 18 July, 19 July, 24 July, 27 July, 28 July, 29 July
Decan	Rastavica	25.5, 150 grenades, 21 June, 30 July
Decan	Shaptej	24 March, 22 June, 2 July, 3 July, 5 July, 11 July, 24 July, 26 July, 28 July
Decan	Sllup, Slup	20 April with rockets, 23 May, 25 May, 27 July
Decan	Strellc i Eperm, i Ulet	4 May, 25 May, 22 June, 10 July two hours after midnight, 11 July 3 for hours, 250 grenades, 14 July, 19 July, 24 July, 27 July, 28 July, 30 July
Decan	Suke	24 March
Decan	Voksh, Vokshi	30 April, 3 July, 10 July, 11 July, 26 July, 27 July
Ferizaj/Urosevac	Gllavice	27 July
Ferizaj	Jezerc	21 July exchange of shots, 24 July,
Ferizaj	Manastirc	28 July
Ferizaj	Mollopolc	27 July
Ferizaj	Nerodime	28 July
Fushe Kosova/Kosova Polje	Grabovc/Grabovac, Grabofc i Ulet, i Eperm	13 July tanks, deployment of troops
Fushe Kosova	Shipitulle	13 July tanks, deployment of troops
Gjakove/Djakovica	Batusha	3 May
Gjakove	Berjah, Berjahe	23 May, 24 May artillery, 8 June, 22 June, 23 June, 28 June, 29 June, 10 July, helicopters with Red Cross

		emblem, 11 July, 16 July, 27 July, 28 July, 30 July
Gjakove	Brovine, Brovina	3 May, 4 May, 24 May artillery, 8 June, 22 June, 23 June
Gjakove	Deva	7 May stationing of troops, arrests
Gjakove	Dol	1 May villages is encircled
Gjakove	Dushkaja region	on 20 April troops are stationed, 25 April
Gjakove	Duzhnje	20 June, 16 July elementary school and Albanian houses are bombed to the ground
Gjakove, Has region	Goden	7 July, 28 July
Gjakove	Herec, Hereq	25 April
Gjakove	Junik	3 May, 27 June from 12,000 residents, 1,500 civilians remain, town is encircled, 600 in the forests on the border to Albania, 130 houses destroyed by grenades, 10 July new offensive, 11 July, 27 July, 28 July, 29 July
Gjakove	Koshare	24 May artillery, 11 July
Gjakove	Moglica	1 May is surrounded
Gjakove	Molliq	3 May, 8 June, 10 June
Gjakove	Morina/Morine (not to be confused with Morina near Skenderaj)	20 April deployment of troops, 25 April, 3 May, 4 May, 7 May, 8 May, 15 May, 19 May, 23 May, 24 May artillery; 25 May, 8 June, 21 June tanks, 22 June, 23 June, 28 June, 29 June, 2 July, 5 July, 8 July, 10 July helicopters with Red Cross emblem, 11 July, 13 July, 14 July, 18 July, 30 July
Gjakove	Nec	20 June, 22 June, 23 June, 25 June, 28 June, 29 June, 10 July helicopters with Red Cross emblem, 11 July, 13 July, 14 July, 16 July, 18 July, 19 July, 20 July, 27 July, 28 July ; 30 July
Gjakove	Nivokaz	4 May, 24 May artillery, 28 June, 27 July, 28 July, 30 July
Gjakove	Ponoshec	19 April Yugoslavian Army from Gjakove surrounds the village; 22 April troops are stationed in »Virginia» tobacco plant, 3 May, 8 May with heavy weapons, 12 May, 14 May, 23 May, 24 May artillery, 25.5 artillery,
Gjakove	Popc; Popoc	23 May, 24 May artillery; 25 May artillery, 8 June, 12 June villages is burnt down, 37 houses completely destroyed
Gjakove	Prekoc	raid on 15 July, 1 death
Gjakove, Has region	Prush	7 July, 28 July
Gjakove	Raca	1 May surrounded

Gjakove	Ramoc	24 May artillery, 11 July, 13 July, 16 July,
Gjakove	Sheremetaj, Sheremet	24 May artillery, 27 July
Gjakove	Shishman i Bokes	20 April deployment of troops, 1 July village is burnt down; 5 July, 11 July, 18 July
Gjakove	Skivjan	9 June,
Gjakove	Smolice/Smolica	20 April deployment of troops, 3 May, 6 May, 8 May with heavy weapons, 12 May, 14 May, 22 May, 23 May, 24 May artillery; 25 May, 8 June, 20 June, 22 June, 23 June, 28 June, 29 June, 2 July, 5 July, 10 July helicopters with Red Cross emblem, 11 July, 13 July, 14 July, 16 July, 18 July, 19 July, 20 July, 27 July, 28 July, 30 July
Gjakove	Stublla, Stubell, Stubel	4 May, 7 May, 19 May, 23 May, 24 May artillery, 8 June, 22 June, 23 June, 29 June, 10 July helicopters with Red Cross emblem, 11 July, 16 July, 20 July, 27 July, 28 July, 30 July
Gjakove	Suka e Cermjanil	24 APRIL, 25 APRIL,
Gjakove Has region	Zylfaj	7 July
Glogovc, Glogoc/Glogovac	Glogovc Stadt	27 March, 1 April, 11 May, 7 June, 26 June snipers
Glogovc	Arllat	9 May use of helicopters, 27 July : burning down of houses
Glogovc	Balince	4 July shelling from the Ferronickel plant in Glogovc
Glogovc, Glogoc, Glogovc	Citakova e Vjeter, e Re (same name as Citakova near Skenderaj)	26 May, 7 June
Glogovc	Dobroshec, Dobrosh	16 July, 27 July
Glogovc	Gjergjica, Gjergjice	9 May, 26 July
Glogovc	Komoran – suburb	14 July, 25 July, 27 July : burning of houses
Glogovc	Korotica e Larte, e Ulet	7 June
Glogovc	Krajkova	13 May use of rockets
Glogovc	Lapushnik, Llapushnik	26 April, 30 April, 9 May use of helicopters, 13 May use of rockets, 24 May, 7 June, 2 July, 3 July, 27 July: burning of houses, 28 July
Glogovc	Negroc, Negrofc, also Nekovc or Nekofo	27 April, 9 May use of helicopters, 27 July : burning of houses
Glogovc	Poklek i Ri, i Vjeter	31 May massacre, 29 houses burnt down, 7 June shelling
Glogovc	Poterk	7 June, 25 July, 26 July
Glogovc	Vukoc	7 June
Glogovc	Zabeli i Ulet	7 June

Glogovc	Poklek e Vjeter	26 May
Istog	Belice	18 June
Istog / Istok	Kernine	18 June
Kacanik	Kacanik town	3 March stationing of strong troops
Klina	Klina town	3 March surrounded by strong police troops
Klina	Berkova	24 May
Klina	Bokshiq	17 May, 22 May, 24 May besieged, 25 May destroyed, 9 June, 12 June
Klina	Bubel	28 July
Klina	Budisac	19 June besieged
Klina	Cabiq, Cabic, Qabiq, Qabic	30 April, 13 May 40 grenades, 17 May, 3 July,
Klina	Callapek	30 June heavy shelling using grenades
Klina	Carralluke	28 July
Klina	Ceskova, Qeskova	13 May, 17 May, 22 May, 24 May besieged, 25 May artillery, 9 June, 12 June
Klina	Cupeve, Cupeva, Qupeva	12 July
Klina	Doberdol	17 May
Klina	Dollc	25 May artillery, 3 July, 12 July,
Klina	Dollova, Dellova	13 May, 17 May, 22 May most houses burnt, 24 May besieged, 25 May artillery, looting, destruction of houses, 9 June shelling, 12 June
Klina	Domanec	28 July
Klina	Drenoc, Dranoc	1 May death of a visitor at a funeral, 23 May heavy attack, 28 June village is full of civilians and is attacked, 29 June, 30 June, 1 July heavy shelling, most houses damaged, only on 1 July the UCK are able to evacuate civilians, 11 July, 13 July, 19 July, 27 July, 28 July, 30 July
Klina	Dugajeve	1 July population flee, 3 July attack
Klina	Dush	23 June, 12 July
Klina	Gjurgjevik e Madh	30 April, 17 May, 25 May artillery, 23 June, 28 July
Klina	Gllareva, Gllarevo	30 April, 17 May, 22 May looting, 25 May artillery, 19 June, 3 July, 5 July,
Klina	Grabanica, Grabanice	17 May burning of houses, 19 May, 21 May 4 deaths and 11 burnt down houses, 22 May, 24 May besieged, 25.5 artillery, 9 June, 12 June
Klina	Gramnik, Gremnik	25 May artillery, 10 July morning at 5, two hours long with 60 mortars, 11 July, on 12 July allegedly under

		UCK control, 23 July, 25 July
Klina	Jablanice	1 July population flee
Klina	Jagode	30 June
Klina	Jashanica, Jashanice	8 March, 25 April, 30 April, 1 May, 2 May, 25 May artillery, 19 June, 22 June, 23 June, 3 July, 12 July, 25 July, 28 July
Klina	Jellovc, Jellofc	25 April, 30 April, 22 June, population flee, 23 June village is burnt down, 3 July, 12 July, 28 July, 30 July
Klina	Kepuz	13 May, 22 May, 24 May besieged, 25 May artillery, 9 June, 28 July
Klina	Kernice	19 June, 27 July : the deserted houses are burnt down
Klina	Klicine	1.7 population flee
Klina	Kramovik	13 May
Klina	Krusheve, Krusheva	24 May, 19 June besieged
Klina	Lecan, Leqan	28 July
Klina	Llozica	3 July
Klina	Lubizhde	28 July
Klina	Ozrim	19 June, 12 July
Klina	Pogragja, Pograxhe, Pograxha,	30 April, 24 May, 25 May, 28 July
Klina	Poterc	30 June
Klina	Resnik	25 April, 30 April, 1 May, 25 May artillery, 22 June, population flee
Klina	Rosuje	1.7 population flee
Klina	Rudice, Rudica	24 May, 8 July 10 men abducted, 10 July discovered in the state security prison in Peja/Pec
Klina	Siceva, Siqeva	25 April, 3 July
Klina	Sverk i Gashit	11 July numerous Albanian houses destroyed
Klina	Shtupell	23 May, 19 June
Klina	Turjaku	28 July
Klina	Ujmir, Ujmire	3 July
Klina	Volljak	13 May
Klina	Zajm	24 May besieged, 9 June
Klina	Zlakuqan	19 June besieged
Lipjan	Baice, Baica	27 July
Lipjan	Leletiq	27 July
Lipjan	Shala/Sedlar	27 July

Lipjan	Vershec	27 July
Malisheva/Malisevo	Bainca, Baince	27 April deployment of troops, 8 May,
Malisheva	Bubavec	25 May fighting helicopters from the Yugoslavian Army take fire, 28 June helicopters, 3 July, 4 July, 6 July, 19 July, 19 July destruction of the mosque, 28 July
Malisheva	Cerovik, Cerrovik	25.4, 27 April, 29 April, 30 April, 13 May 40 grenades, 17 May, 24 May, 25 May fighting helicopters, 23 June, 5 June, 3 July, 5 July, 8 July, 25 July, 26 July, 28 July
Malisheva	Gllareve, Glareva, Gllareva	17 May, 3 July, 25 July
Malisheva	Kijevo/Kijevo	24 March one hour long shooting against Albanian residents, 3 July offensive against Albanian positions
Malisheva	Llazice, Llozice, Llozica, Llazica,	27 April deployment of troops, 8 May, 28 June helicopters, 3 July shelling, 4 July, 28 July
Malisheva	Mlecan, Mleqan	27 April deployment of troops, 8 May, 25 May fighting helicopters from the Yugoslavian Army, 28 June helicopters, 3 July, 4 July, 6 July, 19 July, 28 July
Malisheva	Ponorc	28 July tens of thousands of people closed in by Serbian troops
Malisheva	Rigjeve, Rigjeva, Rixheva, Rixheve	17 May burning of houses, 3 July use of 50 tanks, fighting jets, Katyusha-missiles, 6 July, 25 July, 26 July, 28 July, 30 July
Malisheva	Shkoze, Shkoza	18 July, 19 July, 30 July
Malisheva	Stapanica, Stopanica	17 May attacks and looting, 25 May fighting helicopters 3 July use of Katyusha missiles, fighting jets, 50 tanks, 3 July, 6 July, 25 July, 26 July, 28 July
Malisheva	Zabergje, Zaberxhe (near Klina)	17 May, 3 July use of Katyusha missiles, fighting jets, 50 tanks, 25 July, 26 July
Mitrovica – region		16 July deployment of troops on the street Mitrovica-Skenderaj, 72 heavy military vehicles
Mitrovica	Caber	8 July attack from 2 until 9, 11 July
Mitrovica	Bare	11 July, 14 July, 16 July, 30 July
Mitrovica	Kutllovc, Kutlloc, Kutloc, Kutlofc	11 July, 16 July, 30 July
Mitrovica	Mazhiq	11 July, 14 July, 16 July, 30 July
Mitrovica	Pasome	14 July
Mitrovica	Rahove	30 July
Mitrovica	Rashan	14 July, 16 July, 30 July
Mitrovica	Stanterg/Stari Trg	heavy fighting in the Trepca mine 11 July, 14 July, 16 July, 30 July

Mitrovica	Terstene	16 July
Mitrovica	Tuneli i Pare	30 July
Mitrovica	Vidishiq	11 July, 14 July, 16 July, 30 July
Obiliq/Obilic	Babinoc	1 May deployment of troops
Obiliq/Obilic	Bardh te Madh/Belacevac	23 June UCK occupied mine, population flee because of fear of following Serbian troops, 28 June 140 Serbian tanks brought into firing range, 29 June Serbian offensive, withing a few hours 8,000 refugees, grenades every second, 30 June offensive, paramilitary with black masks, 14 Katyusha missiles, 1 July, 2 July, 5 July, 6 July, 7 July, 11 July, 14 July attacks by Serbian paramilitary and Arkan militia, shelling with tanks
Obiliq	Graboc	13 July deployment of troops with 30-40 tanks and Arkan paramilitary
Obiliq	Hade	6 July, 7 July, 11 July snipers
Obiliq	Hamide	19 July, 22 July, 29 July
Obiliq	Lajtishte/Leskosic	6 July, 11 July, 22 July, 29 July
Obiliq	Lismir/Dobri Dub	19 July looting
Obiliq	Palaj/Vodica	1 May deployment of troops, 11 July
Obiliq	Sibovc, Sibofc	11 July evening shooting, snipers, 12 July, 29 July
Peja/Pec	Peja Stadt	13 July deployment of troops, vehicles with number plates from Vojvodina
Peja	district Dardania	18 July snipers and flight because of fighting in neighbouring Loxhe
Peja	Klicina	14 May
Peja	Loxhe, Loxha, Logje, Logja, Serbian: Lodja	6 July attack on village by the Army and Seselj paramilitary, five Albanian houses burnt down, Albanian population fled, 10 July heavy fighting with many deaths, 11 July at 9 o'clock surface-to-surface missiles, 18 July, 27 July
Peja/Pec	Raushic, Raushiq	11 July
Peja/Pec	Stroce	8 June village is burnt down and depopulated
Pristina	Pristina	5 March snipers are positions near Rogova's office
Prizren	Prizren town district Tusus	15 July,
Prizren	Billushe	16 July
Prizren	Brezne	29 July
Prizren	Buqe	29 July

Prizren, Has region (south of Gjakove on the border to Albania)	Gjonaj	26 April deployment of troops, shooting, women and children flee
Prizren, Has region	Gorozhup	26 April
Prizren	Hoce, e Qytetit	16 July
Prizren	Jeshkove	16 July
Prizren	Koshare	10 July Army against 30 Albanians at dusk
Prizren	Landovice	13 July artillery
Prizren	Leskovec	16 July
Prizren, Has region	Mazrek	26 April
Prizren, Has region	Planeje	26 April
Prizren	Pllave, Pllava	29 July
Prizren	Poslishte	16 July
Prizren	Qafe e Prushit	10 July shelling, death
Prizren	Vermice	9 July arrest of numerous Albanian doctors from the medical centre, 11 July attacks early morning and raids in the village with 40 police, four tanks, etc., 2 dead, 28 July
Prizren	Zym	26 April, 18 July
Rahovec/Orahovac	Rahovec – town area town: 20,000 residents, 80 per cent Albanians district Rahovec: 60,000 residents, 92 per cent Albanians	on 10 July 200 police arrive, snipers are positioned on the roof of the Park hotel, 18 July /19 July offensive, many dead, electricity and telephone lines are cut off, 25,000 refugees from the town and villages, 20 July stormings and massacres
Rahovec	Bellacerka, Bellacerke, Bellaqerke, Bellaqerka	14 May snipers, 19 July heavy artillery, 20 July destruction
Rahovec	Brestovc	19 July mortar grenades on a bus with refugees
Rahovec	Gexha, Geca, Gece, Gexhe	14 May, 15 May, 17 May, 19 May, 23 May, 13 July
Rahovec	Gradisha	17 May
Rahovec	Malesia e Vogel/Radosta	14 May, 15 May, 23 May, 13 July
Rahovec	Opterushe	19 July
Rahovec	Pastaselle	30 July
Rahovec	Potocan	19 July
Rahovec	Ratkoc	12 May use of helicopters, 2 dead, 13 men are abducted, 14 May, 15 May, 17 May, 13 July
Rahovec	Reti	19 July
Rahove	Senoc	30 July
Rahovec	Spanic	19 July,

Rahovec	Xerxa	15 May
Rahovec	Zocishte	19 July
Shtimje/Stimlje	region	20 April deployment of troops and stationing of 43 tanks
Shtimje	Belince, Belinc	19 June shelling, looting, 20 June, 25 July, 27.7, 29 July
Shtimje	Biraq	26 July 300 grenades
Shtimje	Carraleva/Crnoljevo	17 June 60 grenades, 19 June shelling, looting, 20 June, 23 June, 25 July, 27 July
Shtimje	Krojmir	18 June, 29 July
Shtimje	Luzhak	18 July, 19 July
Shtimje	Pjetershnice, Pjetershica, Petrashtice	18 June, 20 June, 27 June
Shtimje	Rance	18 July, 19 July
Shtimje	Recak, Racak	23 June, 18 July, 19 July, 25 July
Shtimje	Zborc, Zbore	17 June 60 grenades, 19 June looting, 20 June, 25 July, 26 July 70 per cent destroyed, 27 July
Skenderaj/Srbica	Skenderaj district	2 March electricity cut off in Skenderaj and 52 villages, 16 March still strong police forces in the "munitions factory", 20 July shelling of the town district, Lagija e re
Skenderaj	Acareve, Acareva	5 March, 6 March, 8 March, 10 March besieged, 11 March besieged, 24 March attack using tanks and mortar, 27 March, 8 April, 12 April, 20 April heavy artillery, 24 April, 1 May, 14 May, 18 May
Skenderaj	Balinca	5 March all residents flee to Mitrovica, 28 July
Skenderaj	Beqiq, Becic	5 March
Skenderaj	Broja	6 March, 8 March, 10 March besieged, 24 March attack using tanks and mortar, 27 March, 8 April, 12 April, 17 April, 20 April heavy artillery, looting, cattle are killed, 24 April, 25 April, 1 May, 7 May looting, 14 May, 17 May heavy attacks, 18 May
Skenderaj	Citakova, Citakove Namensgleichheit mit Citakova bei Glogovc	5 March, 6 March, 15 May 2 dead, 18 May, 27 July
Skenderaj	Dubofc	5 March
Skenderaj	Galice	5 March
Skenderaj	Gradica	1 March all residents flee to Cicavica near Vushtri
Skenderaj	Kline e Eperme	5 March, 26 July, 27 July
Skenderaj	Kline e Ulet	5 March, 26 July, 27 July

Skenderaj	Kline e Poshtme	2 March police occupy the houses of several Albanians for stationing
Skenderaj	Kopiliq, Kopilic	6 March several houses totally destroyed, 8 March, 10 March besieged, 11 March besieged, 26 March attacks with artillery, looting, destruction, all residents flee except several old people over 70, 31 March, 8 April, 12 April, 14 April, 20 April heavy artillery, 72 grenades, 24 April, 25 April, 26 April shots at a Japanese diplomat at a checkpoint, 1 May, 7 May looting, 14 May, 18 May
Skenderaj	Kopriva	8 March
Skenderaj	Kotorr	27 July
Skenderaj	Kozhica	1 March all residents flee to Cicavica near Vushtri
Skenderaj	Krajmiroc	1 March all residents flee to Cicavica near Vushtri
Skenderaj	Krasaliq	5 March
Skenderaj	Laushe, Lausha, Llausha	5 March several hours artillery, Serbian troops invade, 6 March artillery, 11 March, 22 March snipers shoot Muhamet Spahiu, who is looking after the cattle of his neighbour who has fled, 24 March in Gllavica before Lausha a missile is positioned, 27 March, 4 April, 8 April, 12 April, 21 April, 24 April, 1 May, 6 May, 7 May, 14 May, 18 May, 22 May, 24 May artillery, 7 June troops shoot guests at a burial, 9 June, 10 June, 21 June surrounded for 100 days, 20 July, 21 July, 26 July, 27 July
Skenderaj	Lecine	27 July
Skenderaj	Mikushnice	5 March several hours artillery
Skenderaj	Morine, Morina, Marina, (not to be confused with Morina near Decan)	5 March several hours artillery, 6 March, 25 March, 27 March, 6 May, 22 May, 10 June
Skenderaj	Padalishte	15 May, 18 May, 27 July
Skenderaj	Polac, Pollac	5 March several hours artillery, 6 March, 11 March besieged, 12 March Xanaj district looted and destroyed, 29 March, 16 April, 17 April the wood near Polac – where residents are hiding – is set on fire by missiles
Skenderaj	Prekaz, Prekaz i Poshtem	1 March massacre, all residents flee or are murdered, 5 March several hours artillery, Serbian troops invade, 12 March looting of the district of Dushkaja
Skenderaj	Prelloc	1 March all residents flee
Skenderaj	Rakinica	5 March, 6 March, 11 March besieged, 25 April use of missiles, 1

		May
Skenderaj	Rakosh	27 July entrance to the village blockaded
Skenderaj	Radisheve	27 July
Skenderaj	Rezalla	6 March
Skenderaj	Runik	6 March, 27 July
Skenderaj	Suhogerlle, Suhogerrla, Suhogerle, Suhogerla	7 June military and paramilitary, 48 of 52 houses burnt down, 3 dead, among them the invalid, Rushiti, 27 July
Skenderaj	Ternavc, Ternac	5 March, 8 March, 11 March looting, 29 June shots at a bus
Skenderaj	Turicevc, Turiqevc	5 March, 6 March, 10 March besieged, 11 March besieged, 27 March, 29 March, 8 April, 11 April, 25 April, 7 May, 14 May, 17 May heavy attack, 18 May
Skenderaj	Tushilla	1 May
Skenderaj	Uce	27 July entrance to the village blockaded
Skenderaj	Vojnik	5 March several hours artillery, Serbian troops invade, 6 March shooting, 8 March, 10 March surrounded, 11 March besieged, 27 March, 8 April, 22 April, 25 April, 1 May, 7 May looting, 14 May, 18 May
Suhareke/Suva Reka	Suhareke Stadt	4 July a fighting helicopter with a Red Cross emblem flies over the town
Suhareke	Bllace, Bllaca	21 June, 23 June, 25 June, 25 July, 26 July, 27 July, 28 July
Suhareke	Budakove	17 July, 1 dead (Raza Palushi, 12)
Suhareke	Duhla, Duhle, Duhel	1 May shots at a house of the family Rafshi, 25 July, 26 July, 28 July
Suhareke	Grejcevc	6 July, 26 July, 27 July
Suhareke	Javor	26 July
Suhareke	Krushice i Ulet, i Eperm, Krushica	3 July 2 tanks, 4 armoured vehicles attack, 3 houses burnt, 4 July, 5 July ; 18 July
Suhareke	Luzhnice	26 July
Suhareke	Muhlan	5 July
Suhareke	Pecan	13 July shelling from 7 o'clock, several dead, snipers, 23 July
Suhareke	Recan, Reshtan	5 July, 28 July
Suhareke	Sllapuzhan	23 July
Viti/Vitina	Debellde	26 April stationing of troops
Vushtrri/Vucitern	Bivolak	11 June

Vushtrri	Brusnik	19 April deployment of troops, 300 Serbian soldiers, 3 June, 5 July Serbian troop supply point, 5 July shots at Albanian houses
Vushtrri	Cicavica	Place of residence of many refugees, bombarded by Serbian troops from Brusnik on 2 July, 3 July shelling of wells where the population get water, 21 July,
Vushtrri	Frasher/Svinjare	23 June expulsion of Albanians from the villages, 30 from 130 houses destroyed, 10 July 4 further Albanian houses burnt down
Vushtrri	Kolle	3 July
Vushtrri	Novolan	23 July
Vushtrri	Okrashtice, Okrashtiva	26 June, 27 June, 28 June, clouds of smoke, 10 July, 11 July, 12 July Serbian paramilitary and local Serbs
Vushtrri	Pantine, Pantina	17 May looting, 26 June, 27 June, 28 June clouds of smoke, 24 June expulsion of 2,000 Albanians from the village, 1 July, 3 July shelling from Frasher, 10 July, 11 July, 12 July
Vushtrri	Shallc	5 June, 3 July
Vushtrri	Shtitarice	26 June
Vushtrri	Vernica	23 July