

UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION
OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS
OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED
IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
SINCE 1991



CPX-103

NATIONS UNIES

TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL CHARGÉ DE POURSUIVRE
LES PERSONNES PRÉSUMÉES RESPONSABLES
DE VIOLATIONS GRAVES DU DROIT INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITAIRE COMMISES SUR LE TERRITOIRE DE
L'EX-YOUGOSLAVIE DEPUIS 1991

72/30

To: Patrick Lopez Terres, Chief of Investigations		FROM: Eamonn Smyth, Head of Mission, Skopje and Pristina	
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SUBJECT: ISSUES FROM THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR'S VISIT
MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR, DOJ, UNMIK

Patrick,

Following the visit on 23 October 2003, I met Mr. Paul Coffey, Director, Department of Justice, UNMIK yesterday evening (29 October). Please find enclosed:

- a. The Albanian issue.
Please find enclosed the relevant material received from DOJ relating to this issue.
Photographs of the location will be provided later
Marked Annex 'A'
- b. War Crimes cases - Pre-trial - UNMIK
Please find the current list.
Marked Annex 'B'
- c. Information regarding UNMIK War Crimes arrests
Please find the 'Request for the Conduct of an Investigation'.
Marked Annex 'C'

Regards

Eamonn

ICTY Investigations	
Date	03 NOV 2003
Name	P. LOPEZ-TERRES
Signature	

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SUMMARY

Beginning in mid-1999 (and possibly earlier), between 100 and 300 people were abducted and taken by truck and van to detention facilities in or near the northern Albanian towns of Kukes and Tropoje. Most of these people were Serbian men from Kosovo taken captive between June and October 1999. Beginning in August 1999, some of these captives (24-100) were transferred from northern Albania to secondary detention facilities (private homes and rough industrial compounds) in central Albania, mainly near the town of Burrel (or Burreli), about 110 kilometers southwest of Kukes. Captives were also moved to detention facilities near Peshkopi, about 50 kilometers east of Burrel.

The captives taken to central Albania were again moved, in small groups, to a private house south of Burrel that was set up as a makeshift clinic. There, medical equipment and personnel were used to extract body organs from the captives, who then died. Their remains were buried nearby. The organs were transported to Rinas airport near Tirana (approximately 75 kilometers southwest of Burrel) and flown abroad. Other captives taken to the house/clinic near Burrel included a smaller number of females from Kosovo, Albania and eastern Europe. The last delivery of captives to the house/clinic was reported in spring or early summer of 2000.

In addition to captives taken to Albania alive, an unknown number of bodies of Serbian civilians killed in Kosovo were transported to Albania and buried in remote locations.

This summary is based on interviews with at least eight sources, all ethnic Albanians from Kosovo or Montenegro who served in the Kosovo Liberation Army. Four sources directly participated in the transport of at least 90 ethnic Serbs and others to detention facilities in northern and central Albania. Of these, three sources delivered captives to the house/clinic south of Burrel, two sources claim to have participated in the disposal of human remains near the house and one source claims to have participated in the delivery of body parts and/or organs to Rinas airport near Tirana. None of the sources witnessed the medical operations.

According to all sources, the transports and surgical procedures were carried out with the knowledge and/or active involvement of mid-level and senior KLA officers as well as doctors from Kosovo and abroad. The operation was supported by men with links to Albanian secret police operatives of the former government of Saliu Berisha.

SITE LOCATION

The house where the organ extractions allegedly took place is located 14.58 kilometers south of Burrel, at approximately 41.32.49 N and 20.00.19 E. The house is situated in the hamlet of Kurteshi, which is located six kilometers west of the main road connecting Burrel and Klos (Klosi). The junction for the dirt road to Kurteshi is approximately 8.57 kilometers south of the first bridge south of Burrel.

SOURCES

Our sources have requested that their identities be withheld. They are identified by number:

1. An ethnic Albanian from southwestern Kosovo who served as a driver and low-level fighter in the KLA during the war. Claims to have directly participated in transporting captives from Kosovo and others to detention facilities in northern and central Albania.
2. An ethnic Albanian from northwest Kosovo who joined the KLA in 1998 and served mainly as a low-level fighter and driver. Claims to have directly participated in transporting captives from Kosovo and others to detention facilities in northern and central Albania and in disposing human remains near the house/clinic south of Burrel.
3. An ethnic Albanian from northwest Kosovo who was a driver and security guard assigned during the war to a regional KLA headquarters. Claims to have directly participated in transporting captives from Kosovo and others to detention facilities in northern and central Albania and in disposing human remains near the house/clinic south of Burrel.
4. An ethnic Albanian from Montenegro. Served in the KLA as a platoon commander. Claims to have directly participated in the burial of Serbian civilians in Kosovo and in transporting captives from Kosovo to northern Albania.
5. An ethnic Albanian from Kosovo who was a mid-level logistics operative in the KLA. Claims direct knowledge of the transport of captives from Kosovo to northern and central Albania. His direct role remains unclear.
6. An ethnic Albanian from Prizren who was detained by the KLA and accused of collaborating with Serbian authorities. He was held along with his brother at the KLA base in Kukës. He was released and returned to Prizren after the war (his brother died in detention in Kukës). Claims to have seen Serbian captives being held at the KLA base in Kukës and "heard" that some Serbs were being taken to Burrel.

7. An ethnic Albanian from Montenegro who served as a low-level soldier in the KLA. Claims to have seen Kosovo Serbs in private detention facilities in northern Albania.

8. An ethnic Albanian catholic who served under the late Commander Drini. Claims indirect knowledge of the transport of captives from Kosovo to northern Albania.

VICTIMS

The list below contains the names of captives reportedly taken to Albania.

1. Vlastimir Stevanovic. Seen in Kosovo by sources #2 and #1 among a group of Serbs transported from a village near Suva Reka to Albania in late July or early August, 1999.
2. Dragan Jacimovic. Seen in Kosovo by source #2 in same group of Serbs transported from a village near Suva Reka to Albania in late July or early August, 1999.
3. Zlatko Antic. Seen in Kosovo by source #2 among a group of Serbs transported from a location near Prizren to Albania in July or August 1999. Source #1 says a friend also saw Antic among a group of captured Serbs but believes Antic may have been killed prior to reaching Albania.
4. Sinisa Vitosevic. Seen by source #7 in detention facilities near Tropoje in late July or early August 1999.
5. Gradimir Majmarevic. Seen by source #7 in detention facilities near Tropoje in late July or early August 1999.
6. Dragoljub Slavkovic. Seen by source #7 in detention facilities near Tropoje in late July or early August 1999.
7. Mladen Vasic. Seen by source #7 in detention facilities near Tropoje in late July or early August 1999.
8. Mileta Djukic. Seen by source #7 in detention facilities near Tropoje in late July or early August 1999.
9. Pera Ristic. Seen by source #7 in detention facilities near Tropoje in late July or early August 1999.
10. Sladjana Fan. Seen by a friend of source #1 in a detention facility in Peshkopi in September or October, 1999. Source #1 says he saw a woman who resembled Fan in Albania and believes she was taken to the house/clinic south of Burrel.

TESTIMONY

Most sources were only willing to provide short answers and tried to obscure their

specific roles in the operation. This was due in part to fears that the information could be traced back to them. However, four sources who say they directly participated in transports gave these accounts.

Source #2

This man recalls participating in three shipments of captives and human remains from Kosovo to northern Albania and two deliveries of captives to a house/clinic in central Albania.

My first delivery from Kosovo was around July 20, the second was around July 23 and the last one was in early August. On the morning of July 20 (plus or minus one day) I was in a town near my village, east of Peja. I came to see my superior PA. He said he was asked by RZ to get a driver for some job. I knew that this group (or "gang") was dangerous for they were well known for killing Serbs in Pasino Selo. At that time our town had no Serbs. I was told I would have to drive a truck from Peja to Prizren. PA told me to do the job, keep my mouth shut and forget about the task so I could live to reach old age. I was given a dusty dirty SAAB. The freezer unit (in the container) didn't work. I drove from Peja to Prizren, 80km. I drove for an hour and a half. PA was the only one with me on the truck. After arriving in Prizren he told me to turn toward Suva Reka. I drove 15 minutes. We passed by Ljutoglav and then pulled over 1km after Ljutoglav. Ljutoglav is between Suva Reka and Prizren. I turned right. There was one big three floor house on the right side and there I turned right and drove between 100 to 200m. There were thirty prisoners there, including one woman, waiting for us and 10 KLA soldiers. The prisoners obviously had a long walk. They were dusty and dirty and some of them had bruises. The atmosphere was normal there and at the beginning I thought they would be exchanged for our men. There was one KLA soldier interrogating a few Serbs. One of them said he was Dragan Jacimovic from Silovo. He was about 40. Silovo is near Gnjilane. Other Serbs were from Ratimlje; Ocerusa and Gnjilane. The people were forced onto truck. I drove back to Prizren. PA got off in Prizren and two KLA who had joined me in the cabin stayed all the way. They were not in uniforms. We had a discreet escort in Golf 2 with four KLA in it. One of the KLA men in the cabin was very unpleasant. I asked him about the destination. He told me to shut up and drive.

As we were leaving Prizren I had to pull over because one of the vehicles had a problem with a tire.

Near the main road there arrived a (separate) group of fifteen captured Serbs. A jeep was slowly driving ahead of them with KLA inside. Four or five KLA were walking along with the Serbs. They stopped to smoke a cigarette. Among the men I recognized Vlastimir Stevanovic from Prizren. He worked as a waiter at the Army club in Prizren. He was

thin, about thirty. A few of the Serbs wore uniforms. I was told they were captured MUP and Army. I asked one KLA what would they do with them. He told me they would practice timbering (felling trees) in Albania. The group turned right off the main road and crossed into Albania over Pastrok mountain.

We drove on to Kukes. We crossed the border at Morine. The traffic was very heavy and no one stopped us at the border. Refugees were coming back and there were many trucks going in both ways. We arrived to Kukes at around 4pm. The drive took about an hour and a half. When we arrived to Kukes we took another road and turned to the north and then I delivered the Serbs. Then we drove back to Prizren.

July 23

The same two KLA men who drove in the cab on the first trip. The same route, the same truck. This time we drove further from the previous place on the road to Suva Reka. We arrived nearly 1.5 km before entrance of Suva Reka. Then I turned left onto some village road. We were awaited by a KLA gang led by Ismet Tara. This time I saw corpses wrapped up in gray army blankets. I felt the smell of blood so I knew they were fresh. Both sexes though mostly men. They loaded the corpses onto the truck. The unpleasant KLA man from the cabin told me when the truck was being loaded: "Take a good look at these. My brother had ended up in Trepca" (it is believed that the bodies of some ethnic Albanians killed by Serbian forces were destroyed at the Trepca industrial complex). They poured "Kaporit" powder we used for disinfections and stench. Then the same route to Kukes.

We arrived around 12.30. This time I turned south. I think the bodies were people from around Suva Reka, Gnjilane and Orahovac. When we arrived at the site we saw Enver Cokolli from SHIK. Until 1991 he was in Serbian MUP in Pristina. The people from the escort Golf 2 unloaded the truck. They used masks and gloves again. Around 15 holes were already dug when we came. Two corpses into one hole. It took us one hour and half to finish off. The place was very remote. It looks like Afghanistan, only more trees. Then we went back to Prizren and from Prizren to Peja where I delivered back the truck to the people who had given it to me.

After we returned from Albania the unpleasant guy told me he would be in touch.

August 2 or 3

It was about 10 or 11 in the morning. I don't know for sure but it was before noon. I received a call from the unpleasant guy. I don't know where he is from but I know for sure he is not from Peja. He told me I had a cargo to transport. I came to Kapisnica in Peja. An old Mercedes fridge truck was there. It was already loaded with lock and chains on the back door. The same team in rode in the Golf 2 and the same two were with me in the truck cabin. This time I drove to Morina, not Morine and then to Tropoja. It took one hour and 45 min to get to Tropoja from Peja. It was slightly raining at Morina. The same procedure as before. All well organized. The graves were already prepared. It took about

one hour and half to finish off. This time it was difficult for me for it was very high up in the mountains and it was steep so I had problems with the truck to drive it all the way up. Three men waited for us there. This time I don't know how many bodies were thrown into the holes. I was in the truck all the time.

Source #2 says he made at least two trips to the house/clinic south of Burrel. The first trip was in October, 1999. He drove four or five Serbs from Kukes to a house south of Burrel and delivered them to a man named Besim Vokshi (a KLA operative nicknamed "the Chinese"). The source described the house as traditional and relatively large, divided into two sections. He said it was at the end of a dirt road some twenty minutes off the main road south of Burrel. He said the house was painted light yellow and the owner was not from the same clan as the other inhabitants of the village. The captives were kept in a shack behind the house. The second shipment occurred in May or early June, 2000. The source drove some 20 women (mostly Slav speakers from eastern Europe and former USSR) from a location in northern Albania to a house north of Burrel. The source recalls that the truck had no windows and poor ventilation and when they opened the rear door they had to help several girls who had nearly suffocated. The source says they unloaded the truck. Five women were separated from the group and were driven to the house south of Burrel. The source says later he was ordered to escort a vehicle carrying body parts and/or organs to the Rinas airport near Tirana. He was ordered back to the house later to help bury (or rebury) human remains that were in black body bags. He provided another description of the house and area and eventually directed us, via cell phone, to the site. When presented with images of 10 different houses, the source identified the suspected house. He said the human remains were buried in several locations near the house and in a nearby graveyard. Source #2 disappeared in the Kлина area in March 2003. A family member told us they believed he was killed because of unpaid debts. The family has not recovered his body or reported his disappearance to authorities for fear of retaliation. We were unable to get a full description of his trips to the clinic/house.

Source #1

This man recalls participating in one shipment of captives from Kosovo to northern Albania and at least five deliveries of captives to private homes in central Albania.

I got involved in transporting captives in the middle of August, 1999.
I was called by some people, KLA men. I was under some obligation to do what they told me to do. I knew the routes in Albania well because I had driven "prostitutes" there (to and from Kosovo and Macedonia). My commander said that since I knew the roads I should drive.

In mid August they told me to go to Kriva Reka. When I arrived they told me I had to take some people to Albania. I collected the people there, four Serbian men. It was late afternoon, and we went to Prizren. We were in an old Volkswagon combi. There was a man in the cab with me, two others with the Serbs who had their hands tied behind their

backs and were tied to the van. And there were three other men driving in an escort car. I knew the other guys because we were together in the KLA. I didn't know who the Serbs were. They were in their late twenties or early thirties. Based on their appearance and clothes they looked like villagers. We were told not to talk with them (the Serbs) but on the way they kept asking us where we were taking them. The guards in the back kept things quiet. They told them to shut up or they would beat them. "We're taking you to cut trees and work on farms."

In Prizren, we were told not to beat the captives, to treat them well. This was the first time I heard this and it surprised me since before that we could always beat them (Serbs) and break arms and legs almost at will. There were a lot of women-"prostitutes"-in the place where we slept in Prizren. The captives slept in a different room. The next day we went to Albania. We were in uniform. Went across at Morina, there was a huge crowd, returning refugees and we passed without any problems. We arrived in Kukes, didn't stay long, and went on to a place called Bicaj. There we stopped and were met by two dark men...maybe Arabs...I'm not sure what their nationality was. They joined us and we continued south. Then we went to Burrel. We stayed overnight in Burrel there and there were more (of the same kind of people as in Prizren) women, people, Serbs. All in that place. They (the women and Serbs) stayed in a sort of storehouse (or warehouse) and we went to another house to sleep. I don't know for sure how many people were in the warehouse, but I heard voices so I think it was 6, 7, maybe 10. I heard them speaking Serbian.

The next day we drove them to a house southwest of Burrel in Fushe-Kruje. Before we left a doctor gave a soldier a bag, a black satchel, I think with papers in it. In all subsequent trips we would always be given a briefcase or file with papers that would be given to the doctor when the captives were delivered. When we arrived it was night and several people were waiting for us. There was an Albanian doctor, Djamil, he looked at them, especially at their mid-sections, and asked if they were beaten. We joked about them. They took them and I went to a different house where I slept and returned to Kosovo the next day.

The second trip was in November or December 1999. I was in Burrel after driving some women. I was driving a different vehicle, a Mercedes van. They put four Serbian men in the van. They were young and in good shape. We had two people in escort and drove to a house south of Burrel. About twenty minutes from Burrel you cross a bridge and turn onto a dirt road. The road follows a river. We drove to the end of the road where there was a light yellow house. It was old and had eaves. At the house were several men and two doctors (the men were referred to as doctors). One was an Arab and the other was an Albanian called Dr. Admir. The men (Serbs) were really nervous. The Serbs were taken out of the van and led to a building (a shack or barn) behind the main house.

The third trip was in Spring, 2000. I was again in Burrel and took one Serbian man and a Serbian woman. She was young and they spoke Serbian. The Serbs were frantic. At one point the man asked us to kill them immediately, 'We don't want to be cut into pieces,' he said. We drove them to the same house south of Burrel in the early evening.

When I had made the first delivery in Burrel I thought they were testing them, taking blood samples I had heard earlier that they were taking blood samples from captives. But this confused me. Why?

But after the third trip I knew something else was happening. I had gone into the first room of the house south of Burrel to get a drink of water. It was clean and there was a very strong smell of medicine. It reminded me of a hospital, you know, sickly sweet, and made me sick. I wanted to get out of there. I thought about how this was the only house where I brought people but never picked anyone up. It was around this time that I heard other guys talking about organs, kidneys, and trips from the house to the airport.

The fourth trip was in late May or early June, 2000. In Burrel I was ordered by SS to go with another man to Mirdite (a region in Albania about 30 kilometers north of Burrel) to collect two women and bring them to the house north of Burrel where "prostitutes" and Serbs were kept. It was on the outskirts and was enclosed like a compound with two houses, a barn of some kind, an older house. Once I had seen a doctor there, an Arab doctor I think, who was looking after the men. We picked up the girls in Mirdite and took them to the house in the same day. It was at that time that I heard they had ultra-sound equipment at that house north of Burrel. I slept somewhere else and the next day I went back to the house north of Burrel and was told to drive two Serbian men and three women. The men had been brought from another location near Peshkopi. The women were from eastern Europe I think. We took them to the house south of town (the house/clinic). Soon after I heard from a friend who was also a driver that the two girls from Mirdite were also taken to the house (house/clinic) and were used for "spare parts."

I remember being very unhappy because these were Albanian girls. And they were young. The first time I didn't know what was going on, the second time I thought it was all about prostitution, but the third time when I realized what was going on I was horrified, and just wanted to hide. These were good soldiers but they really disappointed me. I thought they were fighting a war but this was something entirely different.

After the fourth trip I told them I was sick. In fact I really was sick but I told my commander it was pneumonia and that I had to go away.

The source says he made several other trips delivering Serbs from Peshkopi to the Burrel area. He said that in conversations after his last trip he learned his suspicions were correct. He spoke with other former KLA comrades who conducted similar deliveries and who did late night and early morning runs from the house/clinic to Rinas airport. The source said these vehicles used a back entrance to the airport (We believe the source might be concealing his role in making deliveries to the airport). We presented the source with images of eight different houses from Albania. He pointed to the suspect house south of Burrel and says this is where he made most deliveries in central Albania and where he saw indications of a makeshift clinic. The source was surprised to see that the house was painted white (an earlier photo of the house in our possession shows the

color was pale yellow). The source said that he believed human remains were buried behind the house and in a nearby graveyard.

Source #4

This man was involved in burying Serb civilians killed in the Djakovica area. He also was involved in at least three transports of captives from Kosovo to northern Albania.

After the war ended there was revenge. Then they started to move (living) people away, to Bicaj and other places (in Albania). There were also truckloads of medical gear and supplies from Pristina, Djakovica, Prizren, (the KGB there), taken to Albania. They took a group of people, alive, from Prizren across the border at Vrmica along the main road... A second group was taken over Pastrok mountain to Tropoja. That was not the main road. It was wide enough for one vehicle

I was ordered by men in Dzavid Elshani's unit (the source says Elshani commanded the KLA's 128th special unit that wore black uniforms) to assist in the transports. They told us to go to Kukës, then Bicaj. There were four of us ordered to do this, but there were others. In the first group there were 15 or 20 people, all men. They were healthy and strong aged late 20s to late 40s. They were ordinary civilians, Serbs. Villagers. The first group was from Zociste, Oraovac, Musutiste (a village near Suva Reka), Ljubizda, Retimlje. The truck we used was an ordinary truck, like a refrigerator lorry. It didn't have air conditioning or anything else. I thought they would be killed but we were under strict orders not to hurt the captives not to beat the captives and to give them food and water. This was after the revenge killings, in late July or early August.

There were two cars in front of us to make sure no one would try to stop us. But no one stopped us. I was sitting next to the driver. We made it to the border fast, in 40 minutes. But the road on the Albanian side was bad and it took two hours to get to Bicaj. We drove to a house on the outskirts of the village. A second group of (Albanian men) was there and took the captives into a house. There was one man there who people called a doctor. He was an Albanian from Kosovo. The people at the house were again talking about how the captives were not to be mistreated.

The second transport happened four or five days later. There were 20 or 25 men, mainly from Oraovac and Djakovica.

We picked them up near the auto school (auto skola) in Prizren. It was daytime. As you drive on the left side, toward Albania, the driving school is on the left side and the men were picked up there. The truck was already there when I arrived. The men were the same age, healthy. I didn't recognize any of them. It was dark in the truck. We headed toward the border, this time going the small road through Nasec over Pastrok mountain. Near the border we handed off the men to another group who drove them into Albania, to Tropoje.

After that they stopped using me, but I know from others that the transports continued, at

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least during 1999. They tried not to use the same group too many times for transport from Kosovo.

The source said he later visited a detention facility near Kukes where more Serbs were being kept. He said he was told by superiors that some of the captives were being moved to central Albania. He said he heard that blood and urine tests were being conducted on the captives. He said several low-level operatives spoke to him about the Serbs being used for their organs and that extractions were being conducted somewhere in central Albania.

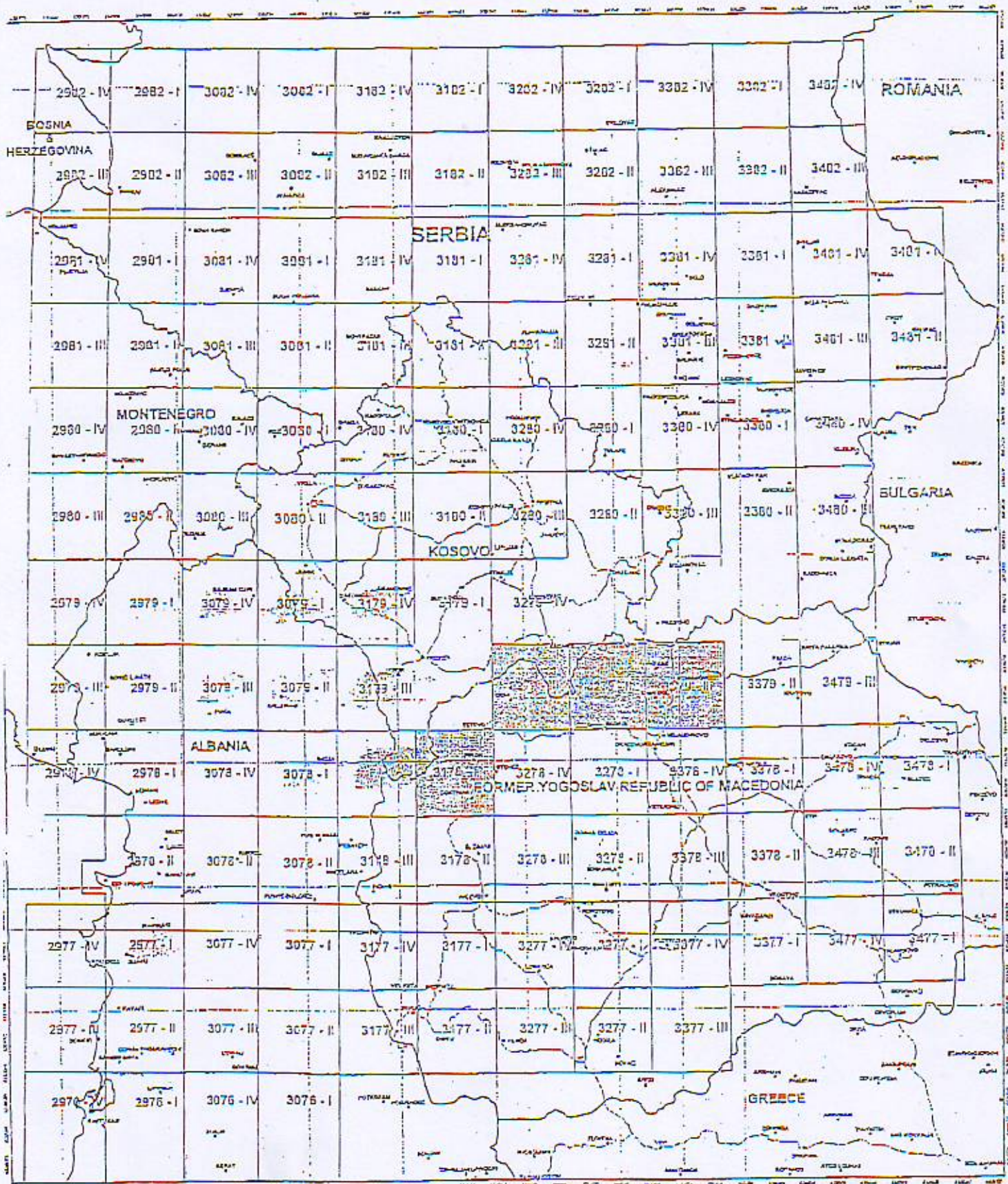
Source #3

This man declined to specify his role in transporting Serbs to Albania, but indicated that as a driver and security officer he made at least three trips to the Burrel area in 1999 and 2000 and that they related in part to captive Serbs being held in Albania. The source described one trip in which he drove his superior (a KLA operative) to a house south of Burrel. There, his superior directed men who were burying, or re-burying, human remains in body bags. The source says he watched from the car 10 to 20 bodies buried in a small graveyard about one kilometer from the house. The source said the man directing the burials was Besim Vokshi. We showed the source images of ten houses from Albania and he selected the same house identified by others. The source also said that he remembered the house, which was painted white in the photograph, had been painted yellow.

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THEATRE 50k MAP SHEET FINDER



M709 M7020

M7024

Letter to Albanian Liaison Office
supplying info to them & them
to Tirana

Tirana most likely wants DOS
to join in the examination (good)

Support will be given

Mickanti raises issues of OS who
are sentenced here surrendered to
Albania

Extradition: Fugitives - no extradition
agreement yet.

These issues were raised previously w/
LPU.

IFC can discuss these issues
in Tirana

Clint:

As you will see, some of these descriptions are difficult to follow. I think it will be essential for our researcher to go through this material closely with the map.

I will have to find a way to forward you details on Site 3. Our researcher may have more sites now.

Witness "N" says he has personal knowledge of seven shipments to Albania. He was a driver.

Site One: Tropoje. Multiple graves (apparently not one common grave). Transport occurred on or around August 2, 1999. Bodies taken from Peja area.

"When you drive you of Tropoje, about one km or 2-3 minute drive you turn to the right, towards Hoshaj. You pass the bridge and go to the north. You pass Gosturan, still going to the north, then a bit later you pass two springs on the right side and then it becomes steep and there are curves further up towards Maja e Shkelzenit. Until the end of the curves you have beech trees and when you pass the curves you have mostly evergreen tress though quite rare. Now, when you pass the curves you turn to the right on a forest path. Now there is part of the mountain diagonally stretching from Tropoje direction to the North-West. The point is to drive around the mount or cliff, however you call it, through mostly evergreen forest and when you pull around you'll see "ponornica" (disappearing stream, or brook going underground). The path is very steep. There are several paths on the right side after you pass the curves. I think this is either third or fourth. But don't get confused. You must go around the mount and see the brook going underground. If you miss the path, then go back and take the other one because there's only one path going around the mount. So when you see the brook drive down along the course of the brook. Drive to the end when it goes underground. Then pull around the brook and drive to a small plateau on the left side of the brook. The plateau is about in the middle between the end of the brook and the mountain ridge on that side. From the plateau upwards you'll see great rocks and the path going near the ridge to the peak over. Now, from the plateau looking down you'll see the brook. The distance from the end of the brook to the site is about 50 meters by air. But when you drive from the end of the brook to the site you have around 100 meters. You drive almost to the end of the plateau, where the rocks begin. That's it. You just see how far the truck can go and then you stop at the corner. Dig there. When we were there we saw some small bushes on the plateau. The site is at about 1600 to 1700 (I think that's based on info from our map).

Site 2: Kukes.

Bodies taken from Suva Reka area. N saw bodies wrapped in gray army blankets. Mostly men but some women. Loaded bodies and poured "Kaporit" powder to cut the stench. Drove to Kukes, then turned south and drove to a village called Nanga...before Bicaj. Then turn left to Maja e Gjalices. Do not go to Bicaj. The road is on flat ground then

suddenly becomes steep. The forest we were driving through (on a forest road) was of a mixed sort. There are also high trees on it. As a digression, he spoke about a prison camp that was previously based on the other side of the mountain near a spring flowing toward Kosovo. The camp was about 50 meters down the brook. Most prisoners there were, according to N, ex MUP and VJ that had been previously kept in the village of Zrza in Kosovo and then taken to Albania in early July. They worked as wood cutters. The camp consisted of about ten shacks. The prisoners were given Albanian names. After some rumours and noise about the camp, the prisoners were taken to the other side of the mountain where a new camp was formed and where more Serbs were brought. Miliri told me that some of them were dying out of exhaustion and were allegedly buried near the place where his cargo was thrown. Also the camp, he says, became the place for "high altitude preparations" for those Serbs who would become organ donors. So we drove through the forest until we came to the spring. The spring was in a clearing which was slightly above the forest. The shacks were there as well. N says he saw some prisoners there. The truck didn't pass the spring. We turned the trucks to the right down the hill about 50 meters where there was one huge cracked beech tree which marked the entrance into the forest. We pulled over about 10 meters before the cracked tree because it was steep and the truck was unloaded and the corpses were carried down the slope into the forest. When we arrived at the site we saw Enver Cokolli from SHIK. Around 15 holes were already dug when we came. Two corpses into one hole. It took us an hour and a half to finish off. The place was very remote. It looked like Afghanistan, only more trees. The holes were behind the tree stretching from two to 15 meters deep into the forest in a straight line. The holes were pretty shallow and when the bodies were buried there more earth was put on the holes along with fallen leaves and small branches. I saw raspberry bushes before the trees and around the camp.

Site Three: Fushe Kruja.

I do not have my notes for this site and will have to pass them on later.

CKX-103

417/30



SENSTIVE

CKX-103

P18/30

Jose:

I'm scheduled to leave San Francisco Monday, June 16. That will get me into Podgorica on Weds. Morning. I am planning to go with my researcher to the location near Burrel to take GPS readings and, hopefully, confirm a possible second site near the house. I am also hoping to shore things up with Z. I would then head down to Kosovo...hopefully by Sunday. I depart Belgrade for Paris and the U.S. on Friday, June 27.

I am writing to give you an overview of the information we have developed over the past year regarding the fate of Serbs and others who were abducted or went missing in Kosovo and Albania.

Though a complete picture of what happened to these people, when and why, has still not emerged, we have multiple (largely anonymous) sources that tell us:

1. Between 50 and 300 people were held by men with strong links to the KLA in locations near Tropoje and Kukes (Bicaj). The overwhelming majority of these people were Serbs from Kosovo. According to our sources, some of the captives were still alive and being held in Albania until at least summer 2000. This information is based on interviews with these sources:

*Three men (low-level members of the KLA) say they helped transport Serbs from Kosovo to Albania on at least six different occasions beginning in June, 1999. Two of these sources also say they transported a smaller number of captives from locations in northern Albania to houses near Burrel, in central Albania.

*One man (also low level KLA) reports seeing Serbs who were being held in a location near Tropoje (also in summer 1999). He gave us the names of four of these Serbs, which I have provided already.

*Another low-level KLA operative described seeing Serbs held captive in a village on the Kosovo side of the border on the way to Tropoje. He says when he returned to the village in September 1999 he was told most of the Serbs had been taken into Albania.

*One Kosovar Albanian man who was held at the KLA base in Kukes says he saw at least three Serbian civilians also detained there and heard about others who were taken to Burrel.

*One former mid- to high-level KLA officer who also reported the existence of the detention facilities in northern Albania.

*One former mid- to high-level KLA officer (who was allied to the later Commander Drini) also reported on the existence of the northern and central Albania facilities.

2. The three men who assisted in the transport of Serbs from Kosovo to Albania say they received unusual orders to not harm the captives (unusual in the sense that this was the first time they had received these kinds of orders). They were specifically told not to hit

captives in the torso with guns or other blunt instruments. Two of these men say that upon arrival at drop-off locations in Albania the captives were examined for signs of beatings such as bruises.

3. The Serbs taken alive to Albania were overwhelmingly civilian men between the ages of 25 and 50. One of the men who transported the Serbs reported seeing a Serbian woman among the captives who were eventually taken to central Albania (Burrel). This source and one other "transporter" described the presence of "prostitutes" from Albania and other countries in captivity in central Albania with the Serbs.

4. Three sources described two Kosovo Albanian doctors (I've provided their names) who were present at the detention facilities in northern Albania and the location in central Albania. The doctors' precise role remains unclear but two sources say the doctors (and at least one other doctor from an Arab country) examined the captives and seemed to hold positions of authority. These sources say they believe the also doctors helped run medical tests on the captives, though none of the sources reported seeing these tests being conducted. Two of the sources say they "heard" that ultra-sound tests were being conducted on the captives.

5. Two sources (two of the three transporters) described driving captives from the detention facility near Kukes (Bicaj) to another location near Burrel. These sources described in detail the house where the captives were taken. A third source (the former high- or mid-level KLA officer) gave a physical description of the house and its environs that closely matches details provided by the first two sources. One of the transporters whom I'll call "M" directed us to a house south of Burrel that matched the descriptions. We made photographs of that house and presented them to the second source, "A," along with photos from 10 other houses of similar appearances. "A" selected the suspect house from the others and said this was the location where he made three deliveries of Serbs beginning in late summer 1999 and ending in the later summer of 2000.

"M" and "A" (who we met through separate connections and do not appear to know each other) both said they believed the house near Burrel contained medical equipment that was used to extract organs from the captives. "M" says he learned this from others who were at the site while "A" describes going into the entry hall of the house and encountering a "hospital-like" smell which he believed was anesthetics.

The third source, the former mid- or high-level KLA officer, also described how a make-shift clinic set up in a house in central Albania (possibly using medical equipment stolen from hospitals and clinics in Kosovo) was used to perform organ extractions. However, this source would not confirm the location of the house despite

providing physical descriptions of the area.

These sources said they believe the organs were driven to Rinas airport near Tirana, about a two-hour drive from the house and flown to Istanbul. "A" may have driven organs to the airport on at least one occasion, though he's refused to give specific details on this.

These sources say the human remains were buried near (behind) the house and in one or two other locations nearby.

All our sources say this operation was coordinated by mid- and high-level members of the KLA. However, only a few witnesses were willing to name KLA officers who were present when captives were brought to Kosovo. One of the names that emerged in this context was that of Ismet Tara in Orahovac. One of the transporters says Tara was present in at least one episode when Serbs were collected in Kosovo and driven to Albania. However, many sources were willing to name names of men they believe (or were told) were involved.

6. Three sources reported seeing medical documents detailing specifics about certain captives. One source, a former mid- or high-level KLA officer says these documents were an essential part of the organ trade and were used to match "donors" to recipients.

7. Three sources described how corpses were also transported from Kosovo to Albania to hide evidence of civilian killings. However, only one source (one of the transporters) says he actually witnessed this.

*** END PGP DECRYPTED/VERIFIED MESSAGE ***

N

"I had three deliveries. First on July 20, then July 23 and the last one was either on August 2 or 3.

On July 20 AM I happened to be around Klina which is 30km from Peja. I came to see my superior Petrit Agusholli. PA said he was asked by Reshad Zajmi to get a driver for some job. I knew that the group was dangerous for they were well known for killings of Serbs in Pasino Selo. At that time Klina had no Serbs. I was told I would have to drive a truck from Peja to Prizren. He told to do what I am told, to keep my mouth shut up and to forget about the task so I can reach old age. I was given dusty dirty SAAB. The freezing (at the container) didn't work. I drove from Peja to Prizren, 80km. I drove for hour and half. PA was the only one with me on the truck. After arriving to Prizren he told me to turn to Suva Reka. I drove 15 minutes. We passed by Ljutoglav and then pulled over 1km after Ljutoglav. Ljutoglav is between Suva Reka and Prizren. One km after Ljutoglav I turned right. There was one big three floor house on the right side and there I turned right and drove between 100 to 200m. There were thirty prisoners there, including one woman, waiting for us and 10 KLA soldiers. The prisoners obviously had a long walk. They were dusty and dirty and some of them had bruises. The atmosphere was normal there and at the beginning I thought they would be exchanged for our men. There was one KLA soldier interrogating a few Serbs. One of them said he was Dragan Jacimovic from Silovo. He was about 40. Silovo is near Gnjilane. Other Serbs were from Ratimlje, Ocerusa and Gnjilane. There were several people with surname Kostic from Ratimlje. The people were forced onto truck. I drove back to Prizren. Petrit got off in Prizren. Two KLA were with me in the cabin all the way. They were not in uniforms. We had a discreet escort in Golf 2 with four uniformed KLA in it. Petrit was dressed as civilian. One of the KLA in the cabin was very unpleasant. I asked him about the destination. He told me to shut up and drive. We drove to Kukes. It took me one hour and half to come to Kukes. We crossed the border at Morine. The traffic was very frequent and no one stopped us at the border. Refugees were coming back and there were many trucks in both ways. But as we were leaving Prizren I had to pull over for we had problem with one tire.

There arrived a group of fifteen captured Serbs. They were cutting the way. Pinisgauer jeep was slowly driving ahead of them with KLA inside. Four of five KLA were walking along with the Serbs. They stopped to smoke a cigarette. Among the men I recognized Vlastimir Stevanovic from Prizren. He was thin, about thirty. Some of the Serbs had uniforms. I was told they were captured MUP and Army. I asked one KLA what would they do with them. He told me they would practice timbering in Albania. The group turned right off the main road and crossed into Albania over the Pastrik mountain. We arrived to Kukes at around 4pm. When we arrived to Kukes we took another road and turned to the north and then I delivered the Serbs. Then we drove back to Prizren.

July 23 9-10 AM

The two KLA from the truck again. The same route, the same truck. This time we drove further from the previous place on the road to Suva Reka. We arrived nearly 1.5 km before entrance of Suva Reka. Then I turned left onto some village road. We were awaited by KLA gang led by infamous Ismet Tara, allegedly from Suva Reka. This time I saw corpses wrapped up in gray army blankets. I felt the smell of blood so I knew they were fresh. Both sexes though mostly men. They loaded the corpses onto the truck. They poured "Kaporit" powder we used for disinfections and stench. The same route to Kukes. Around 12.30. This

time I turned south. Corpses (vaguely-Suva Reka, Gnjilane, Orahovac). When we arrived at the site we saw Enver Cokolli from SHIK. Until 91 he was in Serbian MUP in Pristina. He was a man of trust of Bashkim Gazidede. BG was chief of SHIK in Berisha's time. The escort in Golf 2 unloaded the truck. They used masks and gloves again. Around 15 holes were already dug when we came. Two corpses into one hole. It took us one hour and half to finish off. The place was very remote. It looks like Afghanistan, only more trees. Then we went back to Prizren and from Prizren to Peja where I delivered back the truck to the people who had given it to me.

The unpleasant KLA man from the cabin told me when the truck was being loaded near SR: "Take a good look at these. My brother had ended up in Trepca." After we returned from Albania the unpleasant guy told me we would be in touch.

August 2 or 3

It was about 10 or 11 in the morning. I don't know. I know for sure it was before noon. I received a call from the Unpleasant guy. I don't know where he is from but I know for sure he is not from Peja. He told me I had a cargo to transport. I came to Kapisnica in Peja. Old Mercedes fridge truck was there. Already loaded with lock and chains at the back door. The same team in Golf 2 and two from the cabin. This time I drove to Morina, not Morine and then to Tropoja. It took one hour and 45 min to get to Tropoja from Peja. It was slightly raining at Morina. The same procedure as before. All well organized. Graves already prepared. It took about one hour and half to finish off. This time it was difficult for me for it was very high up in the mountains and it was steep so I had problems with the truck to drive it all the way up. Three man waited for us there. This time I don't know how many bodies were thrown into the holes. I was in the cabin all the time. The person in charge from SHIK this time, though not present at the spot was a local mafia guy from Dibra or Peshkopi- the same place. His name is Samuri Amre. I know for sure about seven shipment to Albania altogether"

N said four other shipments were done by his brother. I asked how he knew about the names of people from SHIK. He said he heard the two of them speaking in the cabin about the guys from SHIK and that he also heard that the current chief of SHIK, Fatos Klosi had no idea about these operations.

P & C

According to P, and I think his words have credibility, nothing can be done in southern Kososo apart from the clans in Peja and Prizren, nothing that is related to organized crime (narcotics, prostitution, cigarettes, weapons, money laundering etc).

According to P, Daut Haradinaj and Naim Maljoku were personally in charge for Peja, Gjakove and all the way down to Junik and the dividing line goes through Metohija valley up to Malisevo. He says that Maljoku is very powerful and is almost equal partner to Ramus. He financed and brought a lot of weapons before and during the war. He is very much in narcotic business. In the other sector consisting of Prizren, Suva Reka, Orahovac, Ferizaj and a part of Malisevo municipality there was another group, autonomous but still under Ramus and Daut Haradinaj. The ring leaders were Islam Kastrati, Shiquri Qelaj and Dzavid Elshani. Elshani is from the village of Pirane, near Prizren while Kastrati and Qelaj are from Prizren itself. There was a KLA officer in Ferizaj called Naser who was supplying the second group with captured Serbs from his area. P couldn't remember his last name. He said that KLA from his zone was buying Serbs from northern municipalities as well.

Daut Haradinaj was in charge for KLA bases in Tropoja area since 1998. P was there often times and personally communicated with Daut and Ramus, but much more with Daut. Even during and before the bombardment some Serbs were brought there as prisoners but the main arrival occurred shortly after the war. Just like the others said, P told me that Ramus and Daut asked the local KLA commanders to restrain from further revenge in early July 1999. On the other hand they organized kidnappings of the remaining Serbs in areas under their control and their deportations to northern Albania. They continued with executions as retaliation but it was better controlled. Ramus gave strict orders to all local commanders to report to him if they arrested any Serbs. In Gjakove area significant part of this was done with a help Dzafer and Genc Pozhega and certain Naser who was the tire repair specialist before.

In Prizren area Dzavid Elshani from the village of Pirane was very active in catching Serbs alive. He very enjoyed to torture them. He was chief of KLA military police. They wore black uniforms with KLA insignia. (C confirmed the stuff and said he was born in a very poor family and committed his first murder when he was very young. He killed a number of policemen before the war escalated and much more civilians and also Albanians who were suspected for corroboration with Serb occupation forces. He is very unscrupulous and he even killed two very close associates because they tricked him for a small amount of narcotics worth only 2000\$). P said Dzavid and Daut were on very good terms. Elshani ran a camp in the village of Nasec, near Prizren and also organized two camps for captured Serbs in the north of Albania. One was in Bicaj, south of Kukes and another one was on the mountain east of Bicaj-that's where our second location is-N said there was a prison camp near the grave site. (C confirmed that the guy organized lodgings for Serbs and food in Albania). Elshani was closely working together with the Kastrati and the Qelaj family from Prizren.

Islam Kastrati owns restaurant "Skendeberg" in Dusanovo. Islam is an ex policeman with the Serbian MUP. He is the head of the family. (C told me that no one could run any business or open anything in Prizren without his blessing). The other members of the family are Daut, nickname Daci who is a sexual maniac according to both P and C, then

Fadil who is a heavy drunkard and often in Elbasan in Albania, Redjep and a few others whose names P could not remember. They are on extremely good terms with Ramus and Daut H.

The other family Qelaj is very closely related to Islam. Shiquri Qelaj is a coach of a football team called "Lirija" and owns restaurant "Mlini" on the road to Brezovica, near Prizren. His brother's name is Feim. According to C and P, Shiquri is extremely intelligent and is acting like consigliere to Islam. Basically he is Islam's brain.

It's interesting that all these families, Elshani, Qelaj and Kastrati are originally from the same tribe in northern Albania. The name of the tribe is Ljuma. The Kastratis and the Qelaj are cousins while Elshani is not a cousin to them but he is from the same tribe and the Elshani family has been keeping excellent relations with the other two families for decades. All these families are heavily involved in narcotics, prostitution, racketeering, extortion etc.

P also gave me a few other names involved in similar 'business activities' He mentioned certain KLA Daut Lausha from Suva Reka who was helping them to collect the Serbs.

Also to say that P told me that half of the Haradinaj and Maljoku tribe lived on the other side of the border in Tropoja area. Daut and Ramus, but especially Daut has extremely good relationships with the Middle East and Turkey. Many Islamists came to the KLA bases in Tropoja and Kukes before and during the war.

P told me that lot's of Serbs were working on the farm in the north when he was there. He told me they also had orders to remove corpses from certain sites and take them to Albania so to remove evidence. In the fall of 1999, KLA much more used mountain path and roads or small river valleys to transport both dead and alive Serbs because it was more difficult drive across the border.

C finally mentioned one name in relation to the organ trade: Alija Ljulaj from Elbasan. Also in the same 'business activities' and with good contacts in Turkey and 'some other countries' in that region. He was bringing the money from the organs to 'them'. Who were 'them' - was my question. "Well, Dzavid... and a few others. Dzavid has no soul so I don't mind telling his name in regard to this business".

P was then asked about Alija Ljulaj. He promptly responded he knew him and he was the cousin of Islam Kastrati and Shiquri Qelaj and a good buddy of Daut.

P told me that they used many draft dodgers after the war to do dirty things for KLA like digging and transportation of corpses to Albania or some were forced to execute Serbs and Albanian defectors plus many were obliged to pay protection money and so to make up the debt to the Albanian cause. "By this all were somehow involved in something dirty and there was no way out".

C told me that many Serbs were brought high up in the mountains to have "their blood profile improved". They were given good food and had intense work at the farms and were timbering. After a while, when they had received orders for organs, they were taking them to Burell where they waited until operations. On the day before the operation they were

taken down to Fushe Kruja, or better to say a ranch nearby, east of the town. They were also dumped there after they took everything worthy from them. So the burial sites are at the private land. He also mentioned some cemetery near the town but no more details. Then he finally confirmed that Elshani was heavily involved in the business. When I asked about Qelaj and Kastrati his answer was "Well.... shit, well.. logistics, ... I'll call you back".

C said that to the first couple of Serbs only two kidneys were taken out and then they were killed. The intention was to breach the market. Later they made it much better and were making up to 45000\$ per person. The largest shipment was when they did 5 Serbs together and then straight to the airport. He said they took a fortune that time. Other shipments were usually from two or three Serbs. He said Daut Haradinaj was coming to Tirana a few times to see how it was going on and had a dispute with one family in Fushe Kruja but then all calmed down. He says that Ramus came to Tirana a couple of times. Adis knows nothing about Ramus' direct involvement in this but he must have known it and have committed all to Daut. He also added that not many people were directly involved in the organ stuff. Local KLA commanders were obliged to hand over their prisoners to Elshani and Daut, while drivers and security people were not given much money at all.

He told me that they usually flew on commercial flights on Monday and Wednesday to Istanbul. He said that the capacity of airplanes was 70-80 passengers. B confirmed the Morning flight on Monday to Istanbul. He was silent about other details except that he added that operation were also done in Burrell for it was like only two hours from the airport and that there was also a prison for Serbs in Kruja in central Albania, where they were waiting for operations in Fushe Kruja.

C told me there were no problems at the airport at Rinas. People working there were given some money to close their eyes and the same story in Istanbul.

It is important to know that Fush Kruja is almost entirely populated by the people from Bajram Cur and Tropoje during the communist era and is dangerous place. If we know that the Haradinajs are connected by family links to Bajram Cur and Tropoje we can freely infer that they have good contacts with their cousins living in Fushe Kruja as well whose land and farms they used for this.

B joined KLA in September 1998. He is from a suburb in Prizren.

First shipment

He says he received an order on July 2 from his commander to go from Suva Reka to Ferizaj with another soldier (fellow driver) and deliver a paper to a high ranking KLA officer and after that to do whatever they would be told. It was about 10am. When they arrived there they found the guy and he told them to wait. They were waiting at some house until 2pm (they also had lunch there) and then they were told to drive to Talinovci and pick up one more KLA soldier (we call him the Third guy from now onwards) at the exit of Ferizaj. They were driving white VW van. So they picked up the guy, B remembered he had met him in Prishtine twice.

They drove to Talinovci and then for another 100metres north and went to a house in which's basement five Serbs were being kept by the KLA. He saw two older men in sixties, two younger men, maybe in their late twenties or early thirties. They were very dirty with bruises on their heads. One of them had VJ shirt on himself. There was also one woman, maybe in her late fifties. The third guy was swearing at them and yelling that the Serbs would have to pay for everything they had done to the Albanians. He grabbed one of the older men and asked him about his son. The older man was silent and then the Albanian hit him with a fist and the Serb fell down. Then he took a good look at the younger Serbs and led them out. He put them handcuffs and took them into the van. Then the three of them drove back to Suva Reka and stayed over night there. Very early next morning another KLA patrol brought one more Serb there. The third guy had a talk with them and gave some package to the patrol and took the Serb in. It was about 6am.

B brought them breakfast. He says he was surprised that the food was so abundant for prisoners. Around 6.30 along with the third guy another Albanian came in dressed as civilian. He ordered the Serbs to take off their shirts and asked them if they were beaten with clubs or batons or anything. The Serbs picked up at Talinovci said they had received a few hits at head and that was all. Then they were told to dress and around 7 they were on the way to Prizren. B was surprised with the way how they were treated. He thought they would be exchanged for captured Albanians. After arriving to Prizren they made a break for half an hour and then the seven of them continued to the border. There were four Albanians and three Serbs in the rear of the van. They put strips on their mouths, they already had handcuffs and they were told to be quite or they'd be shot down at the spot. They crossed the border without any problems. They honked the horn to the Germans and that was all. The road was clogged with refugees returning. They drove to Kukes first and there they picked another Albanian who got off at Bicaj, south of Kukes. Also the fourth guy dressed as civilian and the third guy from Ferizaj got off at Bicaj. There they received two other Albanians (well, later it turned out that one of them was an Arab from Egypt) and drove all the way down to Burrel in central Albania where they delivered the Serbs.

It took them the whole day to get there because the road was terrible. The guys they picked up were not talkative at all. One of them was living in Turkey for five years and he said a few words to them where to drive. (Later as I talked to B he told me he felt so unpleasant with these two men. They didn't allow him and his fellow driver to talk at all and they asked them to pull over twice so they could spread the carpets and pray. He said he had heard from the third guy later that the other 'worshipper' was Egyptian).

Second shipment

The next day they returned to Kosova and rested until July 14. Then B and his colleague drove to Grekovci, that's between Prizren and Suva Reka. From there he went to another village called Dubrava and then back to Grekovce and then east from Grekovce near two monasteries where they picked three Serbs at the Dushnica river shore. Later on the way back to Prizren when they hit the main road they picked two more Serbs from a KLA unit. Actually one of them was a Slav Muslim. He didn't tell me how he knew that. They were terribly beaten up and he said that later the rear of his van was stained with blood. They also had two KLA soldiers as escort in the van and that time they had a small lorry behind. When they arrived at Tusus they took the Serbs into the house of one local Albanian and there were also six Serbs in that lorry which pulled over near them. They were all taken into the same house. There was one Gypsy girl with them and also some elderly woman. The Gypsy girl was taken out that night. He heard that KLA soldiers raped her. He never saw her again. The next morning they picked up three Serbs among the group brought the other day.

That morning came to Tusus the third guy from the previous shipment and he picked up the younger Serbs who looked well. Then they all (three Albanians and three Serbs) drove to Kukes where they met the Turkish Albanian again, this time alone. B says the third guy greeted him with 'Hi Mahmut' while this answered Selam Aleikum or something in Arabic. 'Mahmut said something like we were late and we should stick better to the deal and that the aircraft would be waiting. This time we drove all the way down to Fushe Kruja. We arrived late at night. Terrible drive'. He said he drove to a ranch near that town. (Again later in the conversation I found out that they found four Arabs and two Albanians inside who also returned from the north, from Bajram Curi. Two Arabs were in KLA uniforms. He said there was terrible stench in the house and that all over the walls were written verses from the Koran). They locked the Serbs in one of the rooms. The next morning B, his fellow driver and the third guy returned to Kosova. On the way back the third guy warned them to keep their mouth shut up and they would be properly awarded. He explained that the war and chaotic vacuum afterwards was a perfect situation for business 'for they had already had many orders and they had to convince the clients they were not lying and that Mahmut was great help'. Most of the time the third guy talked to B's fellow driver. He also added that he didn't like 'them' either but they paid well. I asked who 'them' were and B only replied: 'Clients'.

Third shipment

After this they had a break for three days. In the meantime another group took his van and did a drive to Kukes and returned the same day. Then on July 18 B had another delivery, this time only to Bicaj. They picked up three Serbs in Suva Reka early in the morning. The third guy joined them some time before the border in another van and then he moved to B's van. In the other van there were two Serbs. They arrived together to Bicaj where they were delivered to local men who worked for 'one famous family'. They returned to Prizren the same day.

Fourth shipment

After this B was 'on leave' until August 19 while his fellow driver did a few more shipments and two other groups. Then on August 19 his fellow driver and the third guy called him to join them. First they drove to Landovica and then to Pirane where they pulled over near the Drini and Bardhe river. They took from ten to twelve Serbs to the lorry (this time it was redish dusty Volvo lorry), and then between Pirane and Landovici they took six or seven Serbs more. The third guy explained it would be easier if they took them all at once to Albania because it was becoming more and more sensitive and would not like to gamble if there would be problems with KFOR and other KLA fractions. They arrived at Kukes that day and stayed over night at a nearby farm where there were already five Serbs held prisoners. The next morning he, the third guy and the fellow driver continued to Burell with four Serbs at the van while others remained in Kukes area. This time they drove to a different part of Burell to a house which interior looked like a small clinic. The house had only a ground floor and it looked like it was a restaurant before. The third guy said that most 'organs' go to the Middle East, especially to Damascus, 'that's in Syria' he explained. They again delivered the Serbs to local armed men and there B noticed one guy with darker skin and beard who could easily be an Arab. B and the two others spent a night in another part of Burell and went to Tirana next day where the third guy visited Mahmut and the Arab B had met first time. He wasn't at the meeting. They stayed another day in Tirana and then back to Kosovo and that was all.

B's fellow driver said to him that about 60 Serbs had been taken to Albania by their groups but maybe a half of were used for that 'kind of business'. He added that some of them were 'medically tested' in Kukes and Bicaj but he couldn't explain how. I asked if the blood samples were taken from the Serbs or what and he didn't know how to answer. His fellow driver obviously was not happy with the money he got. He said that Mahmut with his friends, third guy and KLA senior officers and Albanian gangsters made fortune while they were given crumbs. The fellow driver ridiculed Mahmut's story that they had high expenses because they had to hire a jet etc. Mahmut told the fellow driver that the organs could not last forever in the fridges etc.

At the end he added that Bashkim Ibrahim and Azem Hoxa were in charge from the Albanian side as men who worked for the people who also organized the smuggling of weapons for KLA during the war. He didn't want to give me the names of the big fish. Also regarding the KLA side he said almost nothing. He only mentioned that 'very important people' were involved in the job and that he dared not to speak out for the safety of his family. He says that even some catholic Albanian girls from the north had been kidnapped and used for 'this purpose instead of being sent to Italy to prostitute like many others'. After this last trip he didn't make new shipments though he thinks that the business is still going on but without transfer over the border. One thing he was absolutely positive was that The Atlantic brigade had nothing to do with that business.

Reference: DOJ/DIR/2774/pec/03

12 December 2003

Dear Mr. Sutch,

Set out below are details pertaining to the alleged Albanian war crimes case of recent discussions.

1. Beginning in mid-1999 (and possibly earlier), between 70 and 200 people were forcibly taken alive by truck and van to private detention facilities near the northern Albanian towns of Kukes/Bicaj and Tropoje. Most of these people were ethnic Serbs from Kosovo abducted between June and October 1999. The Serbs taken to Albania were mainly men between the ages of 27 and 50. Beginning in July 1999, according to multiple sources of unknown reliability, some of these captives (24 - 100) were transferred from northern Albania to a private house (or houses) near the town of Burrel (or Burreli), about 110 kilometers southwest of Kukes. Medical equipment bought to the house was used by doctors to extract body organs from the captives who then died. Their remains were buried nearby. The organs were transported to Rinas airport near Tirana (approximately 75 kilometers southwest of Burrel) and flown abroad. In addition to ethnic Serbs, other captives brought to the house were described as female "prostitutes." At least two of the women may have been from Mirdite, Albania. The last delivery of captives from northern Albania to the house near Burrel was reported in spring or early summer, 2000.

2. In addition to captives taken to Albania alive, an unknown number of corpses, believed to be Serbian civilians, were allegedly transported from Kosovo to Albania where they were buried in remote locations.

3. The above information is based on interviews with at least eight sources, the credibility of whom is untested, all ethnic Albanians from Kosovo or Montenegro who served in the Kosovo Liberation Army. According to these sources, the transports and surgical procedures were carried out with the active involvement and/or knowledge of mid-level and senior KLA Officers as well as doctors from Kosovo and abroad.

4. The house where the organ extractions allegedly were conducted is located 14.58 kilometers south of Burrel, at approximately 41.32.49 N and 20.00.19 E. The house is situated in the hamlet of Kurteshi, which is located six kilometers west of the main road connecting Burrel and Klos (or Klosi). The junction for the dirt road to Kurteshi is approximately 8.57 kilometers south of the first bridge south of Burrel.

Mr. Jonathan Sutch
ICTY Head of Mission
For Kosovo and Macedonia

5. These sources asked that their identities be withheld. They are identified by number.

1. An ethnic Albanian from southwestern Kosovo who served as a driver and low-level fighter in the KLA during the war. Source #1 claims to have directly participated in transporting captives from Kosovo to northern and central Albania.
2. An ethnic Albanian from northwest Kosovo who joined the KLA in 1998 and served mainly as a low-level fighter and driver. Source #2 claims to have directly participated in transporting captives from Kosovo to northern and central Albania.
3. An ethnic Albanian from northwest Kosovo who was a driver and security officer assigned to a regional KLA headquarters in western Kosovo. Source #3 claims to have directly participated in transporting captives from Kosovo to northern and central Albania.
4. An ethnic Albanian from Montenegro. Served in the KLA as a low-level fighter and driver. Source #4 claims to have directly participated in the burial of Serb civilians in Kosovo and in transporting captives from Kosovo to northern Albania.
5. An ethnic Albanian from Kosovo who was a mid-level logistics officer in the KLA with close links to Ramush Haradinaj. Source #5 claims direct knowledge of the transport of captives from Kosovo to northern and central Albania. His direct role remains unclear.
6. An ethnic Albanian from Prizren who was accused by the KLA of collaborating with the Serbs. He was taken captive along with his brother and held at the KLA base located in a factory in Kukes. He was released and returned to Prizren after the war. He claims to have seen Serbian captives being held by the KLA in Kukes.
7. An ethnic Albanian from Kosovo who served as a low-level soldier in the KLA. Source #7 claims direct knowledge of private detention facilities in northern Albania.
8. An ethnic Albanian who served under the late Commander Drini. Source #8 claims indirect knowledge of the transport of captives from Kosovo to northern Albania.

Sincerely Yours,

Paul E. Coffey

Paul E. Coffey
Director

Department of Justice