



Consulat Général de la République du Kosovo à Strasbourg

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NOTE VERBALE

The Consulate General of the Republic of Kosovo in Strasbourg expresses its compliments to the Head of Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to enclose herewith a Non Paper of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Kosovo in Strasbourg avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Head of Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.



To: Head of Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs

NON PAPER

Prishtina, December 12th2018

On the occasion of 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an annual commemoration of violation of human rights there is the aim to highlight human rights issues.

Kosovo's path to independence is the process that has been marked with heavy violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law. Accordingly the tribute paid to human rights as supreme value needs to be observed and respected.

During the period 1981-1990, over 90% of political prisoners in former Yugoslavia penitentiary institutions were Kosovars. Between 1981 and 1986, 1289 Kosovo Albanians were convicted on political grounds, the prison terms ranging between 10 to 15 years. Violence against the Albanian language schools had become an ordinary experience due to the fact that the Serbian regime had introduced a segregation scheme in elementary and secondary schools. On 20-23 March 1990, the Serbian regime has poisoned over 7.000 Kosovar children. Later on, Mr. Stipe Mesic, former Yugoslav President, confirmed it as a mass intoxication as well as on international level. In a short time, 140,000 Albanians were fired from publicly owned companies.

The decade of systematic abuse of human rights (1989-1999) ended in an unprecedented international armed conflict and the final status of Kosovo, as evaluated by the International Court of Justice, also came as a result of international armed conflict. During the conflict, about 2000 children were assassinated. Yugoslav Army and Police of the Republic of Serbia have maintained raping women as a method of warfare. 20.000 women has been raped.

BATAJNICA

Batajnica is located on the outskirts of the northwestern part of Belgrade in the Municipality of Zemun. In the urban area "13 Maj" there is a small community, during 1999, there was a Training Center of the Anti-terrorist Special Unit of the Ministry Interior(SAJ).

According to the exhumation experts report published on November 24th2005, and signed by Jon Sterenberg, the head of excavations at the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), the Forensic Office identified 705 bodies were taken out of the cemetery in Batajnica.

Causes of death for 535 individuals were covered in mass graves in Batajnica and Perucac; 531 of them died from a gunshot wound, of which 300 were shot in the head.

PETROVO SELO

Petrovo Selo is a village located on the eastern slopes of Mount Miroc, located in the municipality of Kladovo. During 1999, there was a training center of the Ministry Interior of

Republic of Serbia the same place where PJP members received training. Occasionally the members of the Special State Security Operations Unit.

Between June 25th and 28th 2001, a team of Forensic Institute experts exhumed two mass graves discovered in Petrovo Selo in the presence and monitored by the ICTY and HLC. The report produced by the exhumation experts says that 75 people were exhumed from two mass graves in Petrovo Selo, near the police training center. It was found that 53 of the victims died of injuries, 20 of them were shot in the head.

LAKE PERUCAC

Lake Perucac is located in the municipality of Bajna Basta in western Serbia. The exhumation of a mass grave was discovered near the lake, which began on September 6th 2001. The legal investigation ended the exhumation of the mass grave on September 14th on the same year.

According to the exhumation experts' report, at least 48 bodies were completely exhumed from the mass grave near Lake Peruçac. The remnants of the people who were taken from that location, where it found 48 bodies were complete and 84 bodies were incomplete.

THE ORIGIN OF CORPSES FOUND IN MASS GRAVES IN SERBIA

Corpses discovered at the mass graves in Batajnica originated in Kosovo. Kosovo ethnic Albanian victims executed in Kosovo during the period from March 24th to May 22nd 1999 were mainly in Suhareka/Suva Reka, Gjakova/Djakovica, Peja/Pec, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Prizren, Vushtrri/Vucitrn, Lipjan. A number of assassinated persons are from Mitrovica, Rahovec/Orahovac, Podujevo, Istog, Deçan/Decane.

FUSHË KOSOVË/KOSOVO POLJE

According to witness statements, the crime in Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje was committed by members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. During the conflict in Kosovo, well known criminal in both wars: in Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina Zeljko Arkan leading his Unit "Tigers", the Special Anti-Terror Division of the Public Safety Division (RJB) and "Vukovi sa Vucjaka", a unit that came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, operated in Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje.

The remains of 30 victims from Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje were exhumed in Batajnica, while 22 others were discovered after the end of the conflict in the territory of the municipalities of Prishtina and Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje.

SUHAREKA/SUVAREKA

Assassination of 49 family members Berisha. Family Berisha on March 26th 1999, among whom were 12 men, while the rest of the victims were women and children, most of them were killed in the "Calabria" pizza in Suharekë / Suva Reka.

The crime in Suharekë / Suva Reka was conducted by members of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia based in Suharekë / Suva Reka (OUP). The remnants of the 24

family members of Berisha family were exhumed in Batajnica, while the bodies of five other victims were exhumed in Suharekë / Suva Reka in September 1999.

The ICRC Missing Persons List still holds the names of 20 victims of this family.

LANDOVICË (Municipality of Prizren)

The murder of 17 Kosovars of Albanian ethnicity, including five women and seven children, on March 26th 1999 were assassinated. The crime in Landovicë was committed by a joint activities of FRY (VJ) Army lead by the Ministry of Interior of Republic of Serbia.

The remains of six victims from the village of Landovicë were exhumed in Batajnica, while five other troops were found in Landovicë. The termination of the conflict led to the finding of four victims found in other parts of Kosovo. The names of the two victims are still recorded on the ICRC's Missing Persons List.

DARDANIA neighborhood (Pejë/Pec Municipality)

On March 27th 1999 military forces of the Republic of Serbia committed the massacre of 48 Kosovo civilians of Albanian ethnicity.

The crime was committed during a joint operation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia and the Serbian Army (VJ) of the FRY. Support was also provided by the Special Police Unit of Serbia and some members of the VJ armored battalion, located in Peja/Pec.

The remains of 40 victims assassinated in Peja/Pec were exhumed in Batajnica; three other bodies were exhumed in the territory of the city of Peja/Pec. Upon the end of the conflict, the five names of the victims were recorded on the ICRC's Missing Persons Lists.

LUBENIQ village (Pejë/Pec Municipality)

The murder of 48 Kosovo civilians of Albanian community has been executed on April 1st 1999. The crime in Lubeniq was carried out by members of the paramilitary units "Jackals" group (Sakali) under the direct command of security related institutions of the republic of Serbia.

The remains of 29 victims from Ljubeniq were exhumed in Batajnica, while the mortal remains of 11 other victims were exhumed after the war in Peja/Pec Municipality. Remnants of the three victims were found in Lubeniq.

Five names of victims are still registered as missing on the ICRC's Missing Persons List.

SLOVI village (Lipjan/Lipljane Municipality)

Murder of 40 Kosovo civilians of Albanian community, including six women, on April 15th and 16th 1999. The crime in the village Sllovi, based on witness statements, was conducted by members of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the "paramilitaries". The remains of 15 victims from Sllovi were exhumed in Batajnica, while 25 bodies were found in Sllovi and the surrounding villages.

NAKARADE village (Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo polje)

Murder of 16 men, members of the Mirena family, who were massacred on April 21st 1999. The crime in the village of Nakarade, according to witness statements, was conducted by members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the republic of Serbia and individuals wearing masks, military camouflage uniforms and other groups around them. Captured Kosovars were executed, and then bodies were removed by police.

The mortal remains of all 16 victims of the village Nakarde were exhumed in Batajnica/Belgrade-Zemun.

“Operation REKA” (Municipality of Gjakova/Djakovica)

The murder of 348 civilians, including 36 children in Meja - Korenica - Dobrosh and other villages near Gjakova, April 27th and 28th 1999 - The crimes were committed in an operation launched under the command of FRJ Army (VJ) based in Prishtina. Crimes has been perpetrated by Serbian 63 "Parashutists" Brigade of the VJ and the Military Police Battalion.

The corpses of 309 victims of this operation most of them Kosovo Albanian of Catholic community, were exhumed in Batajnica near Belgrade, while the bodies of 26 victims were found in Kosovo in the villages of Korenica and Meja.

The names of 67 victims are also listed as missing.

GJAKOVA/DJAKOVICA

Asasination of 90 Kosovo Albanian civilians between May 7th and 11th, 1999

Crimes in Gjakova were committed during the conflict by the FRJ Army (VJ) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia –as a joint operation. Battalion of Military Police, the Territorial Army in Gjakova and the 124 PJP brigade has been involved.

The remnants of 77 victims from Gjakova/Djakovica were exhumed in Batajnica, while seven bodies were found in Gjakova/Djakovica itself and its surroundings, right after the crime was committed, but also at the end of the conflict.

The ICRC's Missing Persons List still has six names of victims, registered as missing.

VUSHTRRI/VUCITRNO

The assassination of 71 Kosovo citizens of Albanian community, including four women and six children, were expelled from their homes on May 22nd 1999 and then taken from the refugee line at the exit of Vushtrri/Vucitrno.

The largest number of civilian casualties resulted in the Pesoma family - 64 members of this family were killed in "Sitnicka" street in Vushtrri/Vucitrno while the rest were executed in other places in this city.

Crimes in Vushtrri/Vucitrno were committed during the conflict by the FRJ Army (VJ – 58th Infantry Brigade, 35th Brigade of the PJP and the PJP Brigade 122.)as well as members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The remains of 66 victims from Vushtrri/Vucitrno were exhumed in Batajnica, while four other bodies were exhumed in Vushtrri/Vucitrno, after the end of the conflict.

One person is still registered on the ICRC Missing Persons List.

As of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Laws, Kosovo has embodied the principles of non-discrimination and equal protection under the law. It has defended and promoted the rights of all communities in Kosovo and created the necessary conditions for their effective participation in political and decision-making processes. The authorities of Kosovo have fully accepted the obligations for Kosovo contained in the Ahtisaari Plan and have fully implemented those obligations, including the priority adoption of the legislation included in its Annex XII particularly the one that protects and promotes the rights of communities and their members.