

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



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TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL CHARGE DE POURSUIVRE
LES PERSONNES PRÉSUMÉES RESPONSABLES
DE VIOLATIONS GRAVES DU DROIT INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITAIRE COMMIS SUR LE TERRITOIRE DE
L'EX-YUGOSLAVIE DEPUIS 1991

To: Patrick Lopez Terres, Chief of Investigations	FROM: Eamonn Smyth, Head of Mission, Skopje and Pristina
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ATTN.: As directed by Patrick Lopez Terres	REF.: RP/79/03
DATE: 30 October 2003	PAGES:
DRAFTED ES BY: TEL/FAX:	AUTHORISED ES BY:

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
- b. War Crimes cases - Pre-trial - UNMIK
Please find the current list.
- c. Information regarding UNMIK War Crimes arrests
Please find the 'Request for the Conduct of an Investigation.'

Marked Annex 'A'

Marked Annex 'B'

Marked Annex 'C'

Regards

Eamonn

ICTY Investigations

Date	03 NOV 2003
Name	G. 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 [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED], about [REDACTED] kilometers [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] sources, all ethnic Albanians [REDACTED] who served in the Kosovo Liberation Army. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the transport of at least 90 ethnic Serbs and others to detention facilities in northern and central Albania. [REDACTED] delivered captives to the house/clinic south of Burrel, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the disposal of human remains near the house and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the delivery of body parts and/or organs to Rinas airport near Tirana. None of the sources witnessed the medical operations.

[REDACTED] 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 Salihi Berisha.

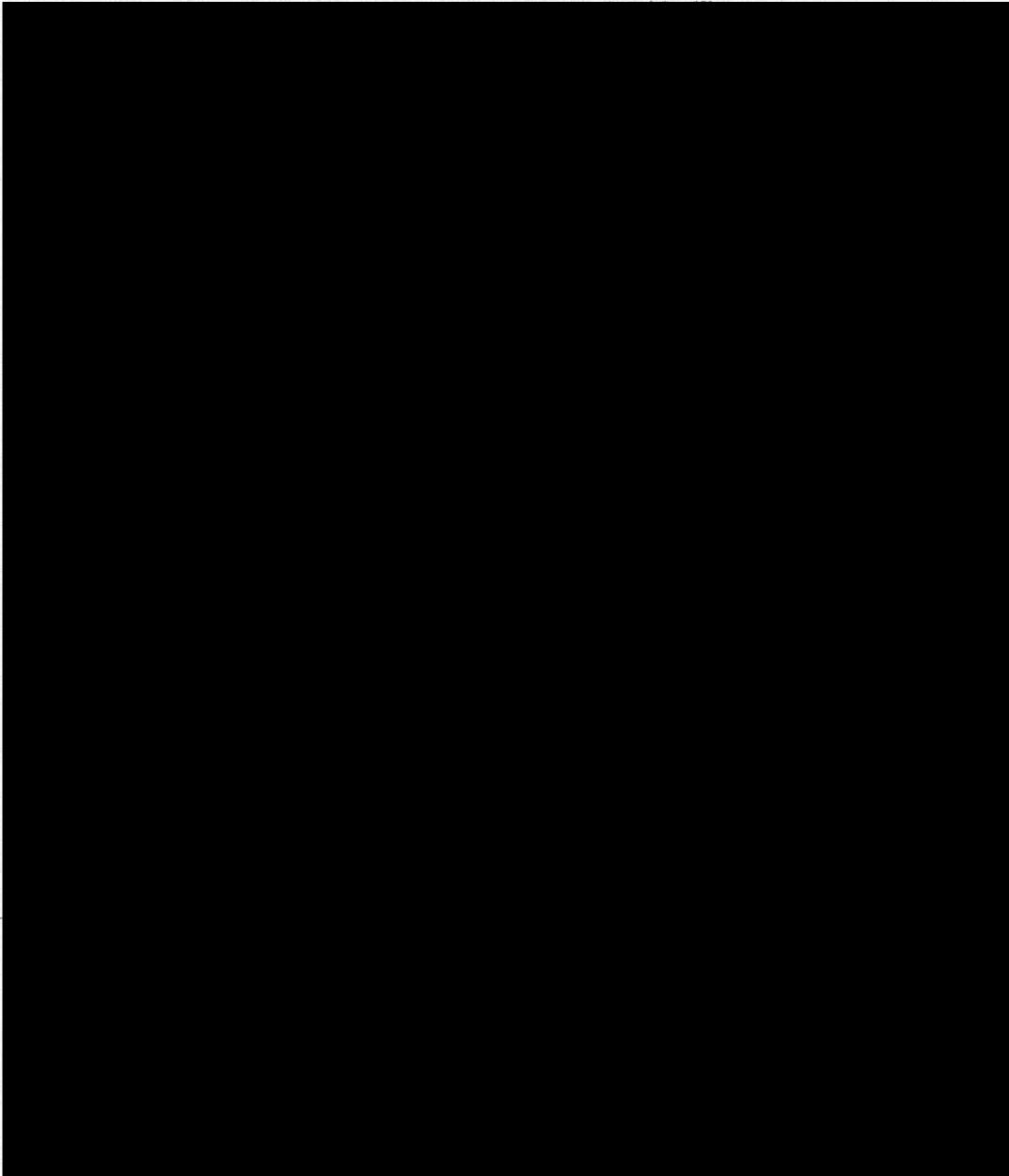
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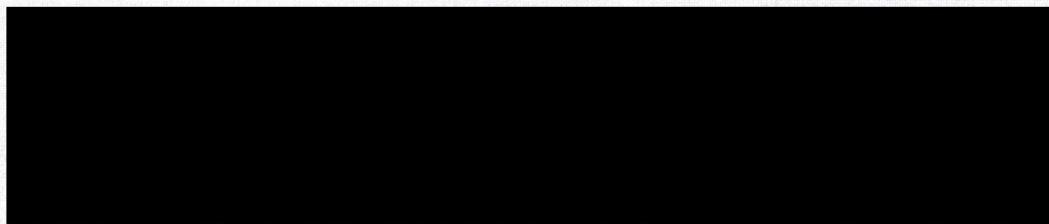
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The house where the organ extractions allegedly took place is located 14.58 kilometers south of Burrel, at approximately 41.32.49 N and 20.00.19 E. The house is situated in the hamlet of Kurteshi, which is located six kilometers west of the main road 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





VICTIMS

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

1. Vlastimir [REDACTED] transported [REDACTED] to Albania in late [REDACTED] 1999.
2. Dragan [REDACTED] transported [REDACTED] to Albania [REDACTED] 1999.
3. Zlatko [REDACTED] transported [REDACTED] to Albania in [REDACTED] 1999.
4. Siniša [REDACTED] in detention facilities near Tropoje in [REDACTED] 1999.
5. Gradimir [REDACTED] in detention facilities near Tropoje in [REDACTED] 1999.
6. Dragoljub [REDACTED] in detention facilities near Tropoje in [REDACTED] 1999.
7. Mladen [REDACTED] in detention facilities near Tropoje [REDACTED] 1999.
8. Mileta [REDACTED] in detention facilities near Tropoje in [REDACTED] 1999.
9. Pero [REDACTED] in detention facilities near Tropoje in [REDACTED] 1999.
10. Sladjana [REDACTED] facility in Peshkopi in [REDACTED] in a detention [REDACTED] 1999.

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]. On the morning of [REDACTED] (plus or minus one day) I was in a town near my village, [REDACTED] I came to see [REDACTED]. I knew that this group (or "gang") was dangerous for they were well known for killing Serbs [REDACTED]. At that time our town had no Serbs. I was told I would have to drive a truck from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There were [REDACTED] prisoners there, [REDACTED] waiting for us and [REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

We drove on to [REDACTED]. We crossed the border at [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] at around [REDACTED]. The drive took about [REDACTED]. When we arrived to [REDACTED] we took another road [REDACTED] and then I delivered the Serbs. Then we drove back [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The same route, the same truck.

[REDACTED] 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.

We arrived around [REDACTED]. This time I turned south. I think the bodies were people from around [REDACTED]

The people [REDACTED] unloaded the truck. They used masks and gloves again. Around [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

After we returned from Albania [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] procedure as before. All well organized. The graves were already prepared. It took about [REDACTED] the same

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[REDACTED] This time I don't know how many bodies were thrown into the holes.

[REDACTED] he made [REDACTED] trips to the house/clinic south of Burrel. The first trip was in [REDACTED] 1999. He drove [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] to a house south of Burrel and delivered them to a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] shipment occurred in [REDACTED] 2000. [REDACTED] drove some [REDACTED] women (mostly Slav speakers from eastern Europe and former USSR) from a location in northern Albania to a house north of Burrel.

[REDACTED]
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.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] one shipment of captives from Kosovo to northern Albania and [REDACTED] deliveries of captives to private homes in central Albania.

I got involved in transporting captives in [REDACTED] 1999.
I was called by some people, KLA men.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the Serbs who had their hands tied behind their

backs and were tied to the van.

I didn't know who the Serbs were. [REDACTED] 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."

[REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED] we went to Albania. We were in uniform. Went across at [REDACTED] there was a huge crowd, returning refugees and we passed without any problems. We arrived in [REDACTED] didn't stay long, and went on to a place called [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] women, people, Serbs. All in that place. They (the women and Serbs) stayed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I don't know for sure how many people were in [REDACTED] 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, [REDACTED] he looked at them, especially at their mid-sections, and asked if they were beaten. We joked about them. They took them [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 1999. I was in Burrel after driving some women. I was driving a different vehicle, [REDACTED]. They put [REDACTED] Serbian men in the van. They were young and in good shape. We [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] doctors (the men were referred to as doctors). One was an Arab and the other was an Albanian called [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] trip was in [REDACTED] 2000. I was again in Burrel and took [REDACTED] Serbian [REDACTED] 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.

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When I had made the [redacted] 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 [redacted] trip I knew something else was happening. I had gone into the first room of the house south of Burrel [redacted]. 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 [redacted] trip was in [redacted] 2000. In Burrel I was ordered [redacted] to go [redacted] to collect [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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. [redacted] I went back to the house north of Burrel and was told to drive [redacted] Serbian men and [redacted] women. The men had been brought from [redacted]. 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 [redacted] that the [redacted] girls from [redacted] 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. [redacted] I thought it was all about prostitution, but [redacted] 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.

[redacted]
[redacted]

The source says he made several other trips delivering Serbs from [redacted] to the Burrel area. He said that in conversations [redacted] 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 [redacted]

[redacted] 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

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color was pale yellow). The source said that he believed human remains were buried [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This man was involved in burying Serb civilians killed in the [REDACTED] area. He also was involved in [REDACTED] transports of captives from Kosovo to northern Albania.

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

[REDACTED]
In the first group there were [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The truck we used was an ordinary truck, [REDACTED] It didn't have [REDACTED] 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, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] But no one stopped us. [REDACTED] We made it to the border fast, in [REDACTED] But the road on the Albanian side was bad and it took two hours to get to [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] The people at the house were again talking about how the captives were not to be mistreated.

[REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED]

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.

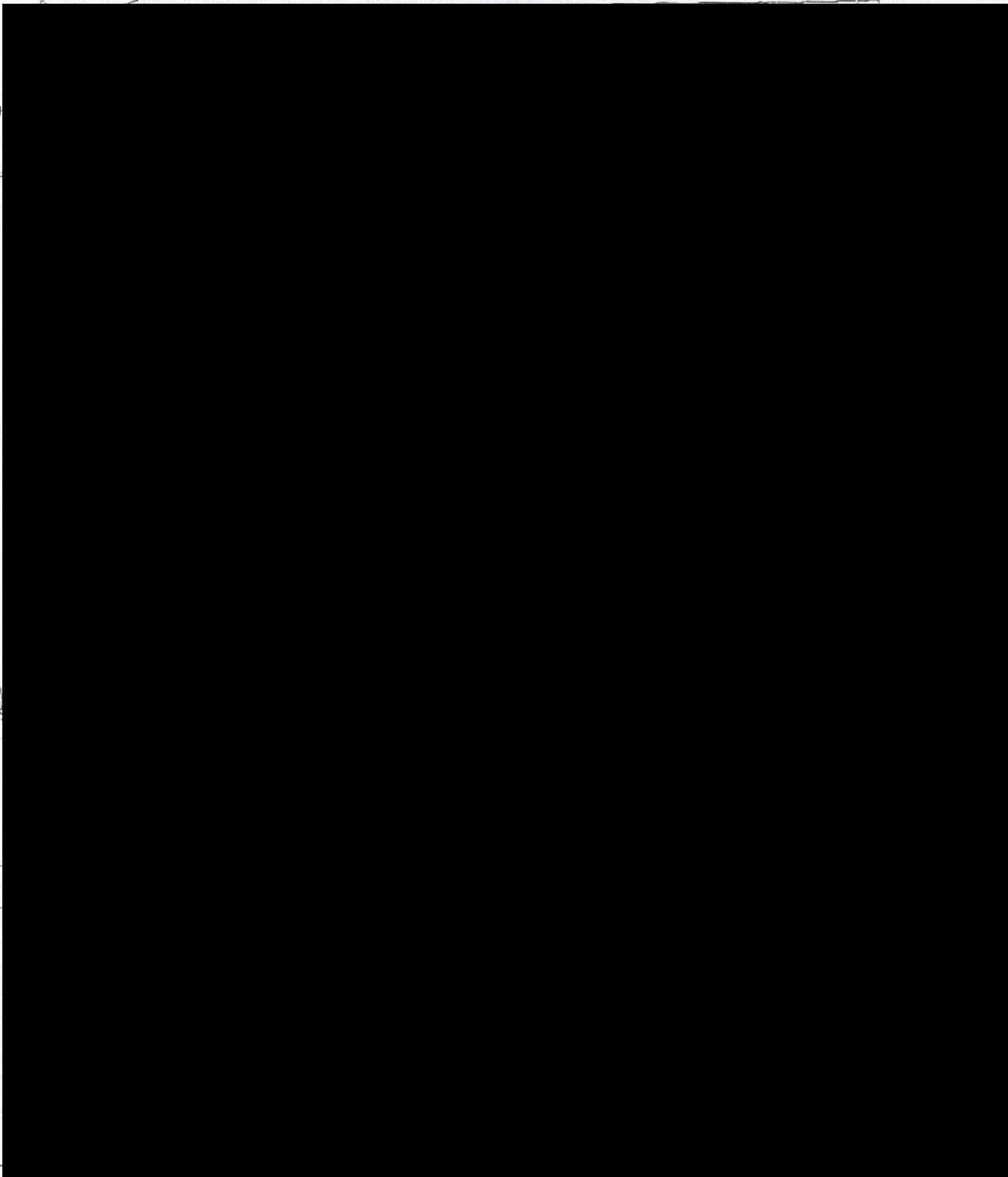
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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THEATRE 50K MAP SHEET FINDER



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Letter to Albanian liaison office
requesting info to them & then
to Twain

Twain most likely wants D.O.J.
to join in the exhumation (good)

Support will be given

Mikappi raises issues of os who
are sentenced here surrendered to
Albania

Extradition: Fugitives - no extradition
agreement yet.

These issues were raised previously w/
L.P.U.

PFC can address these issues
in TWOME

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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./

[REDACTED]

Site One: [REDACTED] Multiple graves (apparently not one common grave). Transport occurred on or around [REDACTED] 1999. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

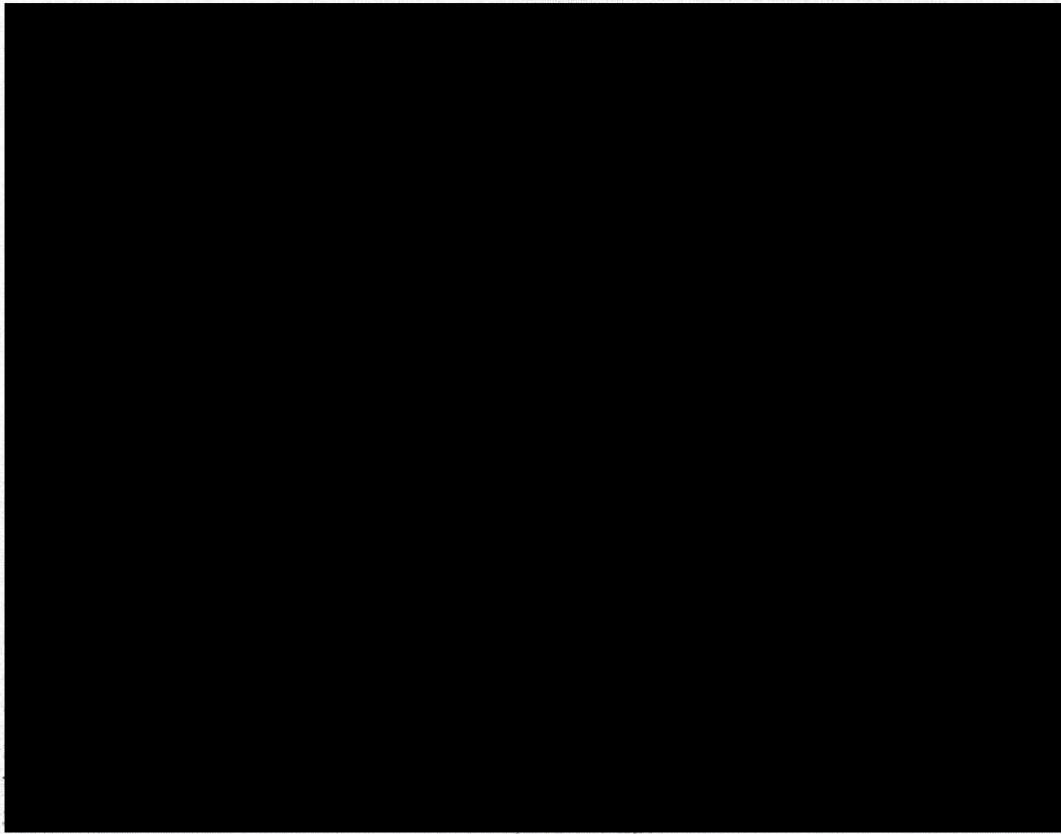
Site 2: [REDACTED]

Bodies taken from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Site Three: [REDACTED]

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

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SENSITIVE

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

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 [REDACTED]. 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:



2.

[REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] described the presence of "prostitutes" from Albania and other countries in captivity in central Albania with the Serbs.

4. [REDACTED] described two Kosovo Albanian doctors [REDACTED] who were present at the detention facilities in northern Albania and the location in central Albania. The doctors' precise role remains unclear but [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] they "heard" that ultra-sound tests were being conducted on the captives.

5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] sources described in detail the house where the captives were taken. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] gave a physical description of the house and its environs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] directed us to a house south of Burrel that matched the descriptions. We made photographs of that house and presented them to [REDACTED] along with photos from 10 other houses of similar appearances. [REDACTED] selected the suspect house from the others and said this was the location. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (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. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] encountering a "hospital-like" smell which he believed was anesthetics.

[REDACTED] 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

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providing physical descriptions of the area.

[REDACTED] they believe the organs were driven to Rinas airport near Tirana, about a two-hour drive from the house and flown to Istanbul. [REDACTED]

These sources say the human remains were buried near [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED] sources reported seeing medical documents detailing specifics about certain captives. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] says these documents were an essential part of the organ trade and were used to match "donors" to recipients.

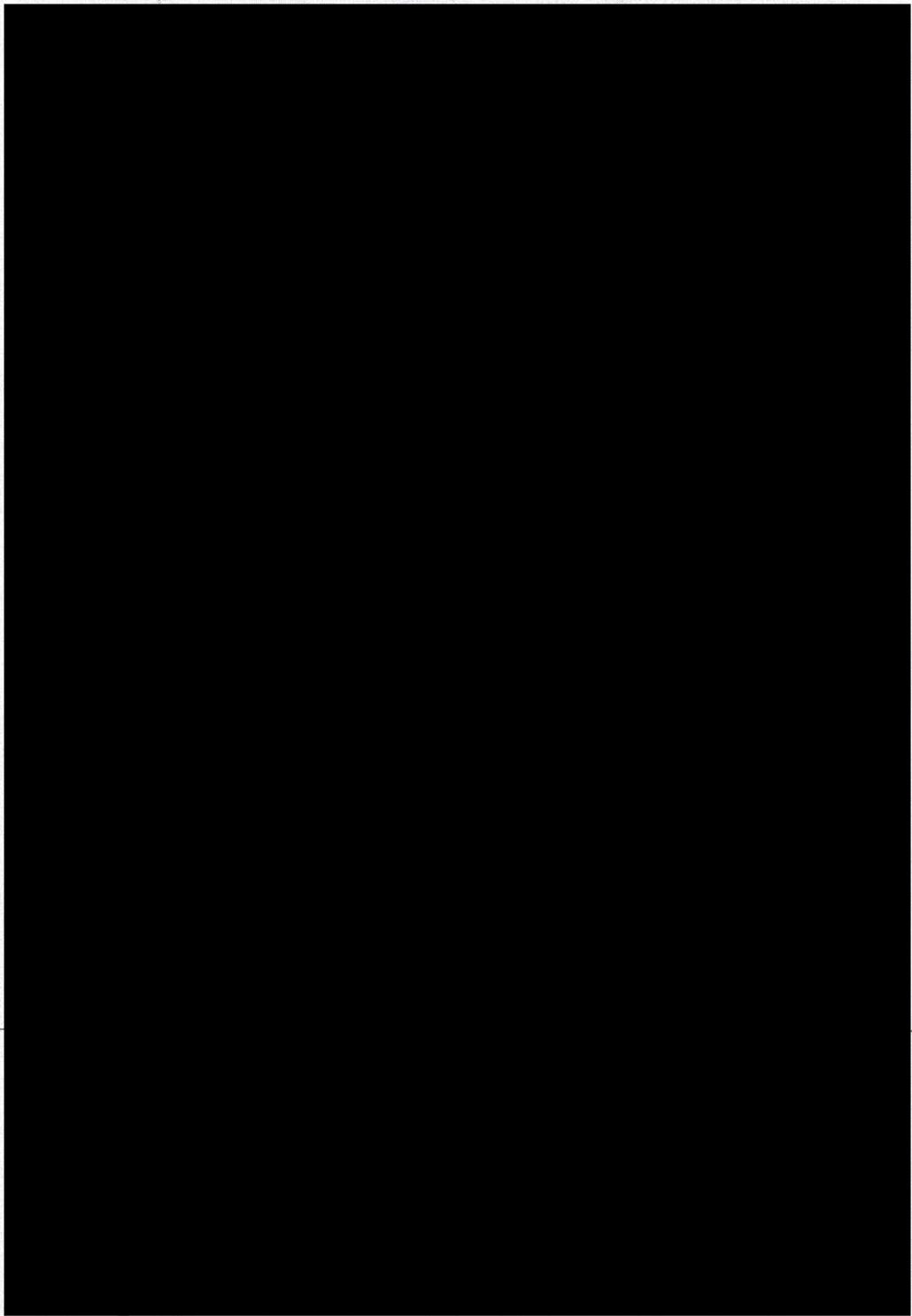
7. [REDACTED] sources described how corpses were also transported from Kosovo to Albania to hide evidence of civilian killings. [REDACTED]

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

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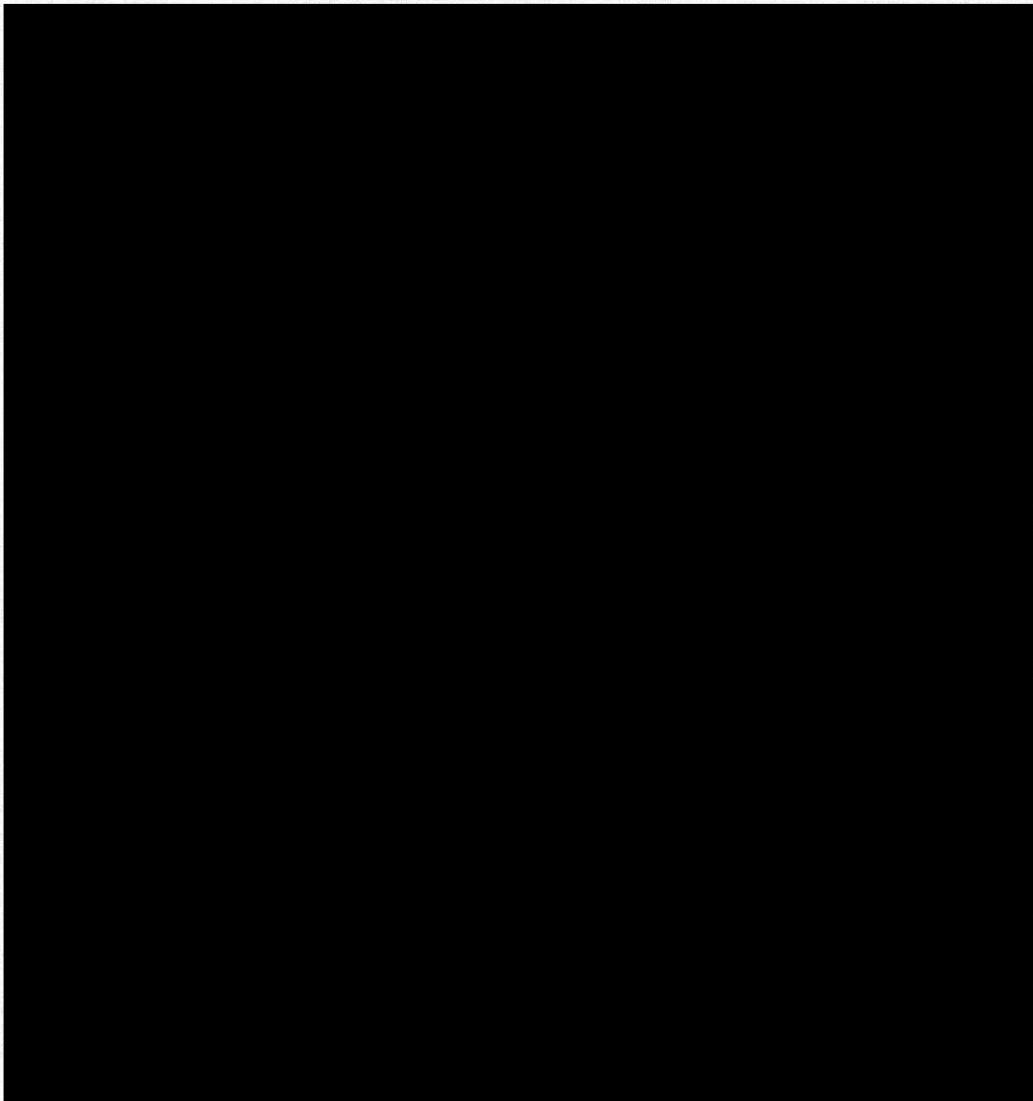
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[REDACTED] and I think his words have credibility, nothing can be done in southern Kosovo apart from the clans in Peja and Prizren, nothing that is related to organized crime (narcotics, prostitution, cigarettes, weapons, money laundering etc).

[REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED] Dzavid Elshani is from the village of Pirane, near Prizren while Kastrioti and Qelqaj 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. [REDACTED] 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.

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, [REDACTED] 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.

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. [REDACTED] 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 collaboration 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\$. [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] and another one was on [REDACTED] said there was a prison camp [REDACTED]

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Daut H.

Daut H.

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.

Daut and Ramus, but especially Daut has extremely good relationships with the Middle East and Turkey. Many Islamists came to the KLA bases in [redacted] before and during the war.

told me that lot's of Serbs were working on the farm in the north [REDACTED] remove corpses from certain sites and take them to Albania so to remove evidence. In [REDACTED] 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.

I told me that [REDACTED] Serbs were brought high up in the mountains to have "their blood profiles 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 [REDACTED]. They were also dumped there after they took everything worthy from them. So the burial sites are at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] the Morning flight on [REDACTED] to Istanbul. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

went to a house in
which's basement [REDACTED] Serbs were being kept by the KLA. He saw [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They were very
dirty with bruises on their heads. [REDACTED]

The [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] men and asked him [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] man was silent and then the
Albanian hit him with a fist and the Serb fell down.
Serbs [REDACTED] He put them handcuffs

[REDACTED]

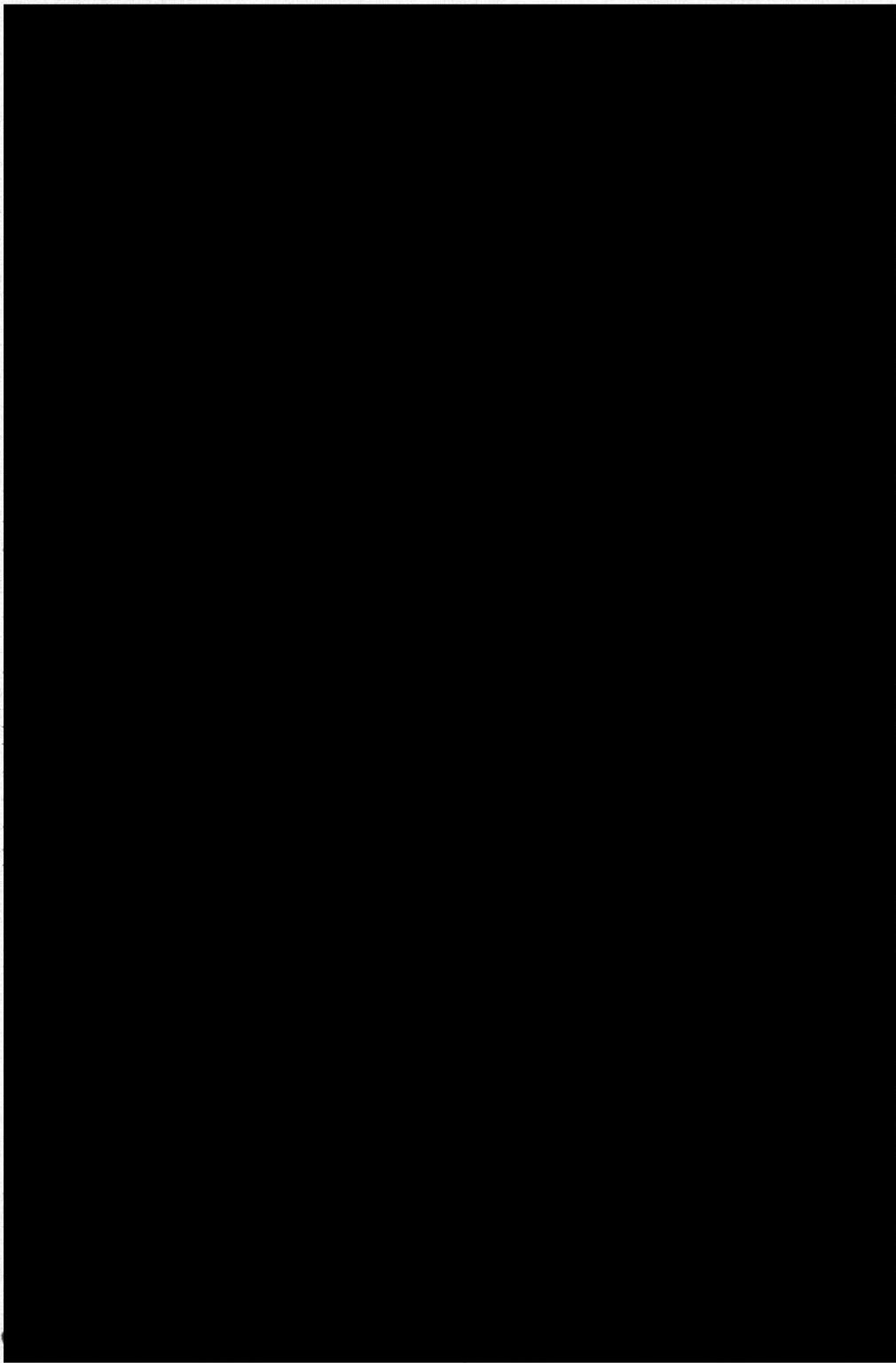
[REDACTED] brought them breakfast. He says he was surprised that the food was so abundant for
prisoners. [REDACTED] another Albanian came in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He ordered the Serbs to take off their shirts and asked them if they were beaten
with clubs or batons or anything. The Serbs [REDACTED] said they had received a
few hits at head end that was all. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was surprised with the way how they were treated. He thought they
would be exchanged for captured Albanians.

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] first and
there they

[REDACTED]

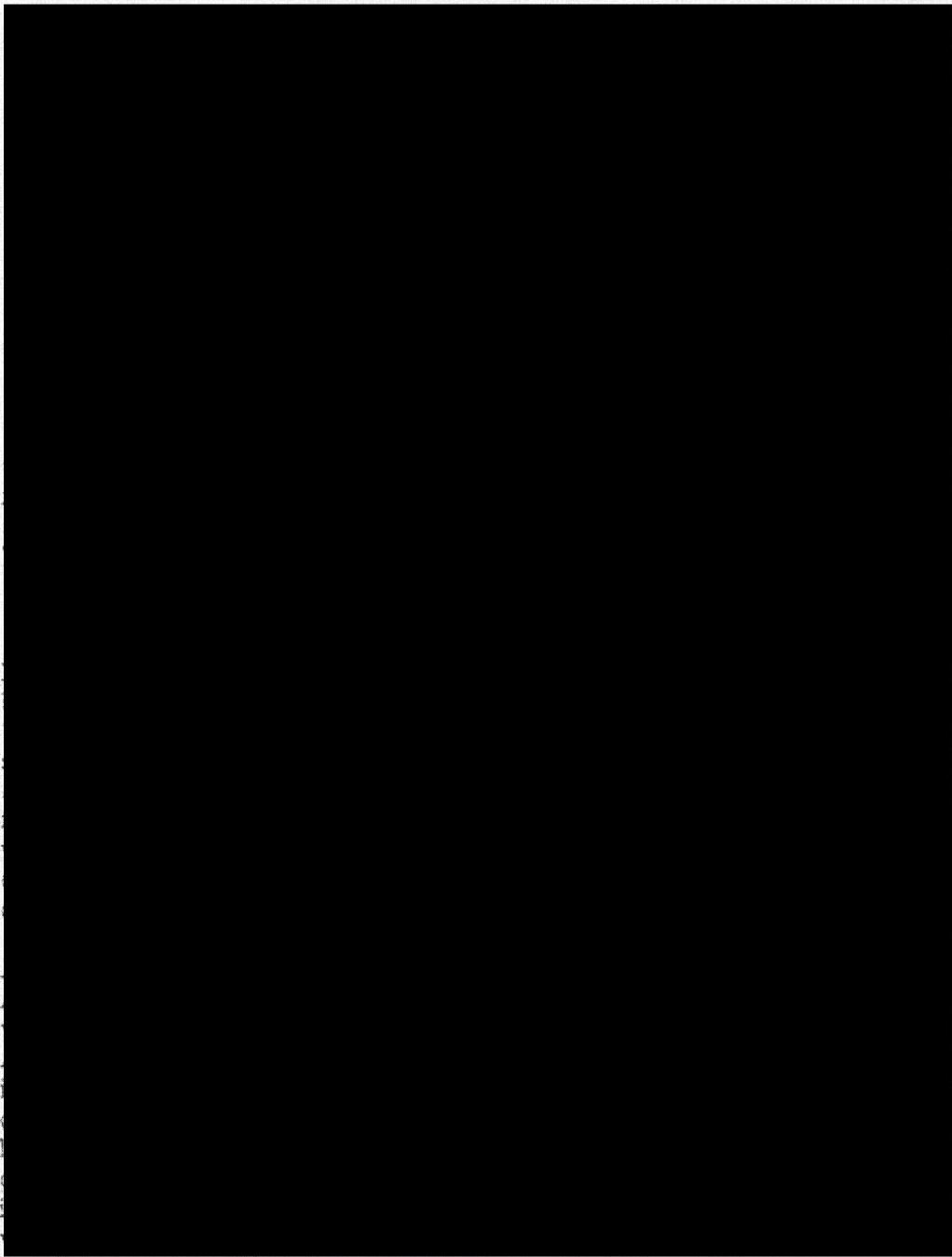
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UNITED NATIONS
United Nations Interim
Administration Mission
in Kosovo



NATIONS UNIES
Mission d'Administration
Temporaire des Nations Unies
au Kosovo

Reference: DOJ/DIR/2774/pec/03

12 December 2003

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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 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] Albania. The last delivery of captives from northern Albania to the house near Burrel was reported in [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] the credibility of whom is untested, all ethnic Albanians from [REDACTED] 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

