
RESEARCH & ANALYTICAL PAPERS

ATROCITIES IN KOSOVO

Central European & Eastern Adriatic Research Group

During the conflict in Kosovo in 1999 the Secretary of State agreed to provide Parliament with a chronology of atrocities based on open source information. The chronology was first produced in May 1999. This is the updated version produced in June 1999 to cover the period from the Racak massacre in January 1999 to the end of the conflict. The chronologies were laid in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament. By their nature most of the reports were unconfirmed during the conflict. Since the end of the conflict a process of verification involving the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has been underway.



INTRODUCTION

On 12-13 May UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson visited the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). The final report on her visit was released on 31 May and blames the FRY authorities for "gross violations" of human rights in the region. By the end of the conflict in mid-June Serb military action had resulted in the exodus of over 860,000 refugees as well as hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people in Kosovo.

This paper presents a chronology of atrocities committed in Kosovo as reported in the media and by refugees fleeing the territory. It covers the period from the Racak massacre in January 1999 to the suspension of the NATO air campaign and the start of the Serb withdrawal from Kosovo in June. Background references providing the context against which these events took place are included in brackets. An illustrative map, produced separately by the Ministry of Defence, accompanies this paper (see <http://files.fco.gov.uk/info/research/kosovo/massgraves.gif>). A copy of the indictment by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) against President Milosevic and four of his closest senior colleagues is available on the ICTY website: <http://www.un.org/icty/indictment/english/mil-ii990524e.htm>.

These reports could not be fully confirmed during the conflict. Now that the conflict is over the process of verification has begun.

KEY

UCK	Albanian initials for the Kosovo Liberation Army
LDK	Democratic League of Kosovo
MUP	Serbian Ministry of Interior forces
VJ	Yugoslav Army
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
KVM	Kosovo Verification Mission

A CHRONOLOGY OF ATROCITIES IN KOSOVO (Based on open sources)

From the Racak massacre in January to the suspension of NATO air operations and the start of the Serb withdrawal from Kosovo in June.

1999

- 15-16 Jan** Security forces operation around Racak, near Stimlje; 45 civilians, mainly male, found massacred. Human Rights Watch report that at least 23 were apparently executed and 18 others, including a twelve-year-old boy and 2 women, were also killed.
- 24 Jan** Five Albanian civilians (2 men, a woman and 2 children) killed near Rakovina, Djakovica area. According to an eye witness their tractor was ambushed by the MUP.
- 29 Jan** MUP operation in Rogovo, between Djakovica and Prizren; 1 MUP member, 24 Albanians killed (some UCK members, some probably civilians).
- (6-23 Feb** Rambouillet talks).
- 12 Feb** Council for Human Rights reports 20 Albanians kidnapped over the previous 2 months in Pec were found executed.
- 22-23 Feb** Security forces carry out operation west of Vucitrn (north Kosovo) displacing over 4,000 Albanian villagers.
- 26 Feb** Serb attacks on 3 villages south of Kacanik sends 530 refugees fleeing across border into Macedonia.
- 2 March** Security forces launch operation against UCK west of Kacanik-Djeneral Jankovic road.
- 5 March** UNHCR estimated that there were 210,000 people currently displaced within Kosovo.
- 9 March** Serb forces attack Ivaja, and 5 other villages near Kacanik, displacing some 4,000 ethnic Albanians and burning houses.
- 10 March** UCK Kosovapress report that 27 villages in the region of Vucitrn (north Kosovo) had been under attack for more than two weeks. The villages had been shelled and some 20,000 people driven from their homes.

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- 12 March** Serb and Albanian sources reported twelve ethnic Albanians killed and three Serb police officers injured in separate clashes between the UCK and Serb forces near Prizren, Kosovska Mitrovica, Vucitrn and Podujevo.
- 13 March** 3 explosives devices detonated in Mitrovica and Podujevo markets. At least 6 killed and dozens injured. Serb Radio B92 reported that at least 5 people had been killed and 60 wounded in three bomb blasts in the centre of Podujevo and Kosovska Mitrovica (north Kosovo).
- 16 March** Albanian TV reported 7,500 Albanians driven from their homes in the villages of Klina (central Kosovo) by Serb shelling.
- (Serb forces launch attack on Cicavica ridge in central Kosovo).
- 17 March** FRY newsagency Tanjug reported the discovery of the bodies of three ethnic Albanian brothers showing signs of torture. Serb police said that the brothers had reported that the UCK had threatened to kill them if they associated with Serbs.
- 18 March** (Kosovo Albanian delegation signs Rambouillet Accords after talks reconvened in Paris).
- 20 March** (KVM monitors complete their withdrawal from Kosovo).
- Bosnian Serb newsagency SRNA reported that the UCK killed a Serb policeman near Luzani (near Pristina).
- 20-1 March** VJ offensive against UCK strongholds in central Drenica region of Kosovo. Reports in Srbica of the MUP forcing Albanian civilians out of their homes, separating men from women and children and executing up to 20. Muhamet Ahmeti, a member of the Human Rights Watch Committee, was amongst those wounded. He also claimed to have witnessed some of the executions.
- 22 March** 2 separate attacks on Albanian cafes in Pristina. 2 dead, 6 injured.
- Kosovo Albanian website Radio 21 reports most of Srbica burned to the ground, male residents taken hostage in the ammunition factory and 15,000 people displaced from the central Drenica region.
- 24 March** (NATO bombing starts).
- FRY newsagency Tanjug reported that ethnic Albanians killed two policemen in the village of Ljubodza near Istok (north west Kosovo).
- UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had set Podujevo (north east Kosovo) on fire.

25 March Refugees reported that more than 60 ethnic Albanian men were executed in Bela Crkva near Orahovac (SW Kosovo), including 20 members of the Popaj family and 25 members of the Zhuniqi family. (Human Rights Watch) Refugees arriving in Albania from the villages of Goden and Zylfaj, near Dobrunë on the Kosovo-Albanian border report that their villages had been razed by artillery fire and 20 teachers massacred in front of 96 school children.

Refugees reported that the VJ had rounded up 20,000 ethnic Albanian civilians in Qirez.

Survivors reported massacre in which 117 men and boys from the village of Little Krushe (south west Kosovo) were shot and then burned.

26 March Prominent Human Rights lawyer, Bayram Kelmendi, and his two sons, found shot dead after being taken away by police in Pristina on the first night of NATO air strikes.

US officials produced an aerial photograph showing signs of a mass grave in Velika Krusa. Human rights workers previously alleged that 40 Kosovar males had been killed by Serb forces.

Aftermath of alleged massacre in the village of Velika Krusa near Prizren (SW), captured on video tape by survivor Milaim Bellanica. The tape showed the bodies of 15 men lying amid burnt out houses, some shot in the back of the head, others charred beyond recognition.

Albanian radio reported that Serb forces had set the entire Podujevo neighbourhood alight and were carrying out massacres of civilian ethnic Albanians.

OSCE monitors reported that Serb forces had attacked and burned the villages of Rahovec and Babaj Boks near the Kosovo-Albanian border.

27 March UCK Kosovapress reported that 2 FRY airforce MiGs bombed the village of Berisha.

UCK Kosovapress reported that 500 people had been massacred in villages in the Orahovac region.

UCK Kosovapress reported that the bodies of 200 massacred Albanians were in the Pristina hospital morgue.

The UCK reported that Serb paramilitary gangs may have killed 70 Kosovars in 2 houses in Djakovica.

UCK Kosovapress reported that 20 people were burned inside their houses in Djakovica and a further 12 executed in Pec.

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- 28 March** UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb "special forces" sealed the routes leading out of Pristina to use the population as human shields against NATO airstrikes. Anyone attempting to leave the town was either maltreated or killed.
- UCK Kosovapress reported that 30,000 Kosovars had been forcibly expelled from Pec (west Kosovo).
- UCK Kosovapress reported that the Serbs had massacred 53 people at Bellaja Bridge (between Bellacerk, Celina and Rugova).
- UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had displaced thousands of people in the Klina-Srbica-Glogovac triangle (central Kosovo).
- UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb military police were issuing ultimatums to people in villages of western Kosovo to leave their homes.
- Chairman of the Human Rights watch Committee in Kosovoska Mitrovica, Hari Drani, says on Albanian TV that Serb forces had forced over 70,000 people from their homes in Mitrovica (north Kosovo) and that they were staying in the open on Mt Smiq.
- 29 March** Refugees report that Serb forces ethnically cleansing Pec.
- UCK Kosovapress reported terror and massacre in Djakovica (south west Kosovo).
- 30 March** UNSG issues statement expressing "profound outrage" at reports of ethnic cleansing conducted by Serbian military and paramilitary forces.
- UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces were rounding up Albanian men in Pristina stadium.
- Serb forces reported to be shelling the Paragusa valley (south Kosovo) where thousands of displaced ethnic Albanians had fled for safety.
- 31 March** UNHCR estimates numbers of Kosovo refugees at 90,000 in Albania, 42,000 in Montenegro and over 30,500 in Macedonia as well as some 260,000 internally displaced within Kosovo.
- Serbs destroying repositories containing Kosovo Albanian legal documents (birth certificates, etc) to make return of refugees more difficult.
- UCK Kosovapress reported that 100 people had been killed in Djakovica.
- UCK Kosovapress reported that 22 people had been murdered by Serbs and buried in a mass grave in the village of Kotlink.

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- 1 April** UCK Kosovapress reported the discovery of massacres in southwest Kosovo including the villages of Pastasel (82), Burim (38), Kaznik (7) and Polluzhe (10).
- Albanian TV reported that Serb paramilitary forces had burnt alive a number of (named) disabled ethnic Albanians in their homes in the villages of Sec and Lubove from the Istok area in western Kosovo.
- 1-4 April** According to refugees Serb security forces killed at least 47 men in a violent depopulation campaign in Djakovica. (Human Rights Watch).
- 2 April** UCK Kosovapress reported a massacre of over 150 Albanian civilians, including children, women and old people, in the village of Izbice in Drenice (central Kosovo).
- Albanian TV reported that Serb paramilitary forces had executed more than 100 men in Lubenish (Ljubenic, west Kosovo near Pec) before burning homes in the area.
- Albanian TV reported that over 100,000 people in the Drenica region (central Kosovo) were now homeless and hiding in the mountains without food or shelter.
- 3 April** Chairman of the Council for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Kosovska Mitrovica, Halit Berani, reported that from 24 March onwards Serb police, together with Serb civilians and gypsies, had killed over 100 Albanians in Mitrovica, burnt more than 300 Albanian shops and houses and displaced some 70,000 Albanians from their homes by force.
- Albanian TV reports that the town of Malisevo in central Kosovo and surrounding villages had been razed to the ground by Serb forces and 75 percent of the Albanian inhabitants forced to flee to Albania.
- Italian journalist Antonio Russo reported that he had witnessed executions in Pristina over the previous week as Serb forces went about looting, burning and forcing Albanians from their homes.
- 4 April** UCK Kosovapress reported that 35 people had been executed in the village of Sopi (near Suva Reka).
- 5 April** Refugee Hasim Berisha arriving in Albania reported that Serb forces had killed about 40 men in Suva Reka (south west Kosovo) and buried them in 2 mass graves.
- 6 April** BBC Monitoring reported an (unconfirmed) eye witness account by villagers in the Prizren area (SW) of a mass grave dug under militia supervision into which tractors tipped dead bodies.

A member of ICTY investigating team in Kukes, Albania reported that there had been so many credible reports of rape that the team was convinced that it was part of a systematic campaign of sexual abuse by the Serb forces.

(6-11 April Milosevic offers unilateral ceasefire over Orthodox Easter).

7 April Albanian TV reported continued fierce fighting in northern and central parts of Kosovo.

UCK Kosovapress reported that the UCK had discovered 51 bodies, including men, women and 5 children, in the village of Celin (SW of Orahovac).

UCK Kosovapress reported that over 250,000 displaced people in north east Kosovo in serious condition.

8 April Albanian TV reported that Serb forces continued shelling villages in the Pec area.

9 April A Pentagon spokesman reported that Kosovar women were being systematically raped at a VJ training camp near Djakovica (south west Kosovo) and that as many as 20 women may have died as a result.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had killed 15 members of the same family near Istok (north west Kosovo).

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had massacred 45 people in Kacanik (south Kosovo).

10 April Pentagon officials report possible evidence from satellite images of three mass graves containing up to 200 bodies each at Malakrusa (south Kosovo), Podujevo (north) and Pastasel.

11 April NATO issued an aerial photograph showing what appeared to be a mass grave at Pusto Selo near Orahovac (SW Kosovo).

12 April UCK Kosovapress reported the discovery of 21 bodies in villages near Malisevo (west of Pristina).

13 April Serbian army deserter said that he was ordered to shoot 25 Kosovar women, children and pensioners.

14 April Refugees reported that Serb helicopters had attacked a group of refugees near Prizren killing 40 of them.

Refugees reported that Serb forces had killed 47 men in Djakovica (south west Kosovo).

UCK Kosovapress reported "massive killing" of over 1,000 people in the Srbica area (north west Kosovo).

15 April Albania's Chief Prosecutor, Albert Rakipi, said that his office was detailing acts of rape, murder and violence and that those interviewed claimed evidence of massacres at Raak, Goden, Orahovac, Djakovica, Kosovska Kamenica amongst other places.

UCK Kosovapress reported a massacre of 31 people at Lipljan in central Kosovo.

Albanian TV reported the discovery of a mass grave containing 70 bodies in the village of Rrezall and strong suspicions of mass graves in Polas near Srbica and Prekaz.

16 April Refugees claim Serb troops using young Albanian men as "slave labour" digging trenches and to provide blood for wounded Serb troops. One labour camp said to have been set up in a sports centre at Prizren.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had set fire to villages around Lipljan (south of Pristina).

17 April UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb police had killed 53 civilians and burned the bodies in the village of Poklek i Vjeter in the commune of Gllogoc (south of Pristina).

18 April The UCK reported that Serb forces had shelled a group of refugees on the high ground between Lopusnik and Orlate (west of Pristina). Of the estimated 10,000 refugees 100 were said to have been killed.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had launched an attack on 40,000 refugees in Berishk mountains in Kosovo from positions in Tkrepezk and Krizharekk.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb police and paramilitary units had killed 40 people in 8 villages in Lipljan area (south of Pristina).

Albanian TV reported that Serb forces had killed dozens of people in the village of Sopinj (south west Kosovo) and buried them in mass graves. There were reports of similar occurrences in neighbouring villages.

19 April The UCK reported that Serb forces had burnt 8 villages near Istok (north west Kosovo). The villages are Novosellk, Jabllanick e Vogkl, Jabllanick e Madhe, Kaligan, Studenick, Vrellk and Prigodk.

20 April Refugees reported that 6 Kosovo refugees, including a 70 year old woman and a 13 year old boy, were killed on the Kosovo-Montenegro border near Rozaje by unidentified uniformed forces.

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- 22 April** Albanian TV reported the massacre of 64 Albanians at Poklek, near Glogovac on 18-19 April.
- 24 April** UCK Kosovapress reported that the UCK had found 15 bodies, including that of a young boy, in the Shale area (north Kosovo south of Vucitrn).
- UCK Kosovapress reported that up to 6 people were executed in the Gnjilane area. A separate report suggested that Serb forces had seized 6 young Albanian women in the village of Katundi Vjekr (Urosevac area). It also reported that 20 other women had been raped in the village of Mirash.
- 25 April** Albanian TV reported the discovery by the UCK of 71 bodies in the villages of Sfecel, Rimanishte, Dyze and Koliq (in north east Kosovo)
- The UCK claimed to have evidence of 3 massacres in Poklek (61), Koliq (51) and Izbica (160 plus) (Srbica area).
- 26 April** Refugees arriving in Albania told UNHCR that a group of women and young children were being held as human shields in Prizren (south Kosovo).
- Refugees reported that over 100 people had been killed in the village of Slavina.
- UCK Kosovapress reported that on the mountain called Shirin near the village of Ternavc near Srbica (north west of Pristina) Serb Chetniks had executed 24 young people who had been taken from a column of displaced people in Srbica on 25 April.
- 27 April** 300 Kosovo Albanian women refugees arriving in Albania reported having been imprisoned for three days by Serb soldiers in a rape camp near Dragocin, near Suva Reka.
- On the basis of refugee reports UNHCR said that it was sure that a massacre had taken place. Between 100 and 200 men evicted from their homes in Djakovica were reported to have been taken from a refugee convoy near the village of Meja (SW Kosovo) and shot.
- 28 April** Refugees reported that Serb forces were ethnically cleansing the Presevo area (outside Kosovo itself in Serbia).
- 29 April** Albanian TV reported the identification and burial in Negroc (central Kosovo) of some 20 civilians executed by Serb forces.
- 30 April** UNHCR said that judging by the numbers of refugees entering Albania they believed that the "final cleansing" of Prizren (south Kosovo) was

underway. On 2 May refugees were reporting that the city was almost deserted.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had killed at least 40 civilians and taken hostage over 200 from the village of Verboc in the commune of Gllogoc (south of Pristina).

1 May UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had attacked the villages of Verboc and Shtutice in the municipality of Gllogoc (south of Pristina) forcibly displacing 7,000 civilians and possibly killing over 100 people.

A refugee in the Stankovic refugee camp in Macedonia claimed that the Serbs had sliced off his ear four days previously. He sported a large dressing on his head where his ear used to be.

2 May Refugees reported that several thousand people had been herded into a field in the village of Smrekonice near Vucitrn (north Kosovo). Over 100 young men taken away to prison had not been seen since.

Albanian TV reported that Serb forces had burned the village of Nadergjan (western Kosovo) killing 12 civilians, mainly old men and women.

Albanian TV reported that Serb police had expelled the inhabitants of the village of Zest (unknown) and buried 70 bodies in the village graveyard.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had burnt and looted the villages of Dubove and Nabrgjan in the commune of Pec (western Kosovo) killing 12 civilians from Nabrgjan.

Albanian TV reported that Serb Chetniks had attacked the village of Morine in the Srbica region (north west of Pristina) killing 19 elderly men.

3 May UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had killed more than 100 refugees and used a tractor to bury the corpses in a mass grave in Studime te Poshteme in the municipality of Vushtri (north west of Pristina).

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had ordered the opening of a mass grave of people killed in Hallaq te Vogel in Lipljan region (south of Pristina). Their families were forced to come and identify the bodies and to bury them again separately.

4 May Refugees reported that 100 men were dragged from their refugee convoy and shot dead between the villages of Upper and Lower Studime, near Vucitrn (north Kosovo).

UCK Kosovapress reported the names of 15 people from the village of Klloernice (central Drenica region) who had been executed, along with many others from other villages in the region, by Serb Chetniks.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb Chetniks, together with Serb civilians and gypsies, had burned over 950 houses in the Mitrovice region (north Kosovo).

Albanian TV reported that Serb Chetniks had shot 150 men and women in the villages of Vergoc, Qirez, Shtukiz, and Gllanaselle (central Drenica region). Another 30 people were reported to have been forced to undress and were then subjected to acts of unprecedented violence and brutality before being taken to a place called Shavarina and shot.

5 May Albanian TV reported the discovery of several mass graves in the village of Jashanice in Kline (6 bodies) and in the villages of Buroje (4 bodies), Turiqec (2 bodies), Llaushe (5 bodies), Kopiliq i Eperm (16 bodies) and Rezalle in Srbica (100 bodies). Most of the victims were young people.

Albanian TV reported that Serb forces had expelled civilians sheltering in Gillogovc (central Kosovo).

UCK Kosovapress reported that the bodies of 5 civilians had been found and identified in the village of Popova (north east Kosovo).

9 May Relatives confirm death of Fehmi Agani, senior LDK member and member of Kosovo Albanian negotiating team at Rambouillet. Reportedly taken from a train trying to flee to Macedonia and shot by Serb police on 7 May.

10 May UCK Kosovapress reported the discovery of 25 bodies of men, women and children in Carralluk in the Malisevo municipality (south west Kosovo). The bodies had been burned. 36 more bodies were reported found in other villages in the area.

UCK Kosovapress reported that 12 civilians, including women and children, had been executed in Orahovac (south west Kosovo).

11 May UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces were shelling 70,000 civilians on Mt Topilla (south of Kosovo).

Albanian TV reported that mass graves had been discovered in the villages of Kline e Eperme and Klina e Mesme (central Kosovo) with 7 bodies and 5 bodies respectively.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb police took a 60 year old man from the village of Budakova in the Suva Reka region (south west Kosovo), put him on a hay stack and set fire to him. His family was forced to watch as he burned to death. A 55 year old man from the same village was burned to death in his home tied to his stove. Burning oil was poured on another two men.

13 May UCK Kosovapress reported that in south Kosovo Serb forces had executed 3 civilians from the village of Jeserci and detained 50-60 young

men in a primary school at Shtime. 7 more (named) men from neighbouring villages, mostly elderly and disabled, were also reported to have been executed.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb police killed 35 civilians from the villages of Vraniq and Magiteve in the Suva Reka region (south west Kosovo). One man had had his eyes gouged out while still alive and salt poured in his wounds.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb police executed some 30 civilians, many of them elderly, sick and paralysed in the village of Reke te Keqe in the Suva Reka region (south west Kosovo).

The Serbs claimed that NATO cluster bombs killed about 100 ethnic Albanians in the village of Korisa near Prizren. A Kosovo "eyewitness" subsequently claimed that Serb forces were holding villagers in Korisa as human shields.

14 May UCK Kosovapress reported that four bodies and evidence of a mass grave had been found in the village of Meje near Djakovica (south west Kosovo). Another body, showing signs of having been electrocuted, was found in the village of Dobrush.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had killed 27 men at Radafc (north of Pec) on the road from Rozaje. The bodies were buried using a bulldozer. Some of the victims were not yet dead.

15 May Albanian TV reported that Serb forces had executed 12 boys aged between 12 and 16 in Izbice near Srbica (north west of Pristina) in retaliation for the death of a Serb soldier killed during fighting. 3 women were also reported killed at Zabelet in Kline e Poshteme.

16 May UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces in Glllogoc (south of Pristina) had exhumed the bodies of 50 civilians, who had been executed and buried in a mass grave near the factory of Ferronikeli, transported them towards Old Cikatova and buried them separately.

17 May Refugees reported that a group of about 100 men were rounded up by Serb soldiers as they attempted to leave Montenegro for Albania on 15 May. They were transported across the country into Serbia before being released on 17 May. The men, aged between 15 and 55, allege that while being held by the Serbs they were beaten, robbed and in some cases forced to strip naked and perform oral sex on each other.

18 May Albanian news agency ATA reported that Serb forces were burning and looting houses in south east Kosovo. One civilian was reported killed in the Kamenice region and three in Hogosht and Kopernice.

David Scheiffer, the US State Department Ambassador at large for war crimes, claimed that at least 5,000 people, and probably many more, had been killed in mass executions in 75 villages in Kosovo. About 225,000 men in Kosovo between the ages of 14 and 59 were unaccounted for.

19 May Albanian TV reported the murder of a number of civilians by Serb forces in the Drenica region (central Kosovo) including two women and two girls aged 15 and 11 in the village of Tic, three people in Rezala (south of Srbica) and two boys aged 11 and 9 in Ovcarevo (north east of Klina).

20 May Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug reported that Kosovo Albanian terrorists had shot dead a 51 year old man outside his house in the village of Dubovo in Istok municipality (north west Kosovo) and cut off his left ear.

UCK Kosovapress reported that there was evidence of Serb civilians participating in the murder and looting of Kosovo Albanian neighbours' property. In the Tusus quarter of Prizren a man and his nephew were killed in their garden by armed Serb civilians.

UCK Kosovapress reported that the number of people killed at Verboc (on 30 April) was now thought to exceed 200. 152 bodies had been identified and buried, 22 of whom were children aged between 12 and 17. 5 bodies including 3 children were found in a well.

23 May UCK Kosovapress reported that 12 dead civilians, including women and children, and 7 injured had been found near the village of Stagova. They had apparently been killed by retreating Serb forces in revenge for losses incurred in battle.

23-25 May Some 2,000 Kosovo Albanian men from the Kosovska Mitrovica region allowed to cross into Albania had been held captive by the Serbs for three weeks in squalid conditions. Some showed signs of moderate malnutrition. Some reported having been beaten.

24 May UCK Kosovapress reported an eye witness survivor's account of a massacre committed by Serb paramilitary forces in the village of Shtutice (central Drenica region). About 200 people from Shtutice, Daheci, Verboci, Qirez and other villages were taken to the mosque in Shtutice where they were beaten and tortured. People had their eyes gouged out, heads split open and limbs sawed off. They were then taken by truck to the Ferronikeli factory (see entry for 16 May), pushed towards large ditches and shot.

Head of UN humanitarian mission Sergio Vieira de Mello said after his three day visit to Kosovo that the situation was worse than expected with clear evidence of widespread ethnic cleansing by Serb forces. He described the situation as revolting.

25 May UN Population Fund report, based on interviews with refugees, concluded that Serb forces were committing widespread rape. Villages in the area of Djakovica, Pec and Prizren were often indicated as places where kidnapping and collective rapes took place. Refugees reported that any resistance was met with threats of being burned alive. Kosovo Albanian men who tried to intervene were killed on the spot. Women reported that in Berlenitz masked soldiers had slit the throats of young boys and then cut open the stomachs of pregnant women, skewering their foetuses on sharpened knives.

UCK Kosovapress reported a refugee who claimed to have witnessed two weeks earlier in Regani near Suva Reka (south Kosovo) Serb police using bulldozers to open a grave in which 30 bodies were buried.

26 May A refugee arriving in Albania reported that Serb forces arriving in the Tusus district of Prizren (south Kosovo) burned houses leaving the old and disabled inside and executed 22 members of her family including her husband, 2 sons-in-law and 2 nephews.

UCK Kosovapress reported the discovery of bodies in a number of homes in the village of Vushtrrise near Vucitrn (north Kosovo).

A writer for the 'Koha Ditore' daily newspaper arriving in Albania, who had been released from the Smrekonica concentration camp, reported that the Serbs were torturing their victims in the camp.

UCK Kosovapress reported the murder of 5 civilians following a Serb offensive at Begiq in the central Drenica region.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces in the region of Kacanik (south Kosovo) kidnapped 20 civilians killing 6 of them and injuring 2 in retaliation for the deaths of 20 Serbs killed in fighting. Those kidnapped included women, children and the elderly.

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb soldiers were unearthing mass graves in Rezalle (see entry for 5 May) and forcing captives to dig individual graves and rebury the dead.

27 May International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) listed more than 340 ethnic Albanians whose killings form the core of the evidence in an indictment against President Milosevic and four of his closest senior colleagues. The list included the shooting of 19 women including a 2 year old girl by Serb police during the mass expulsion of ethnic Albanians from their homes in Djakovica on 2 April. Most of them were gunned down in a single house Milos Gilic Street, which was then torched. The oldest of the named victims was 95 years old and was executed in the massacre in the village of Izbica on 25 March (see entry for 25 April and copy of indictment attached).

UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces set fire to 450 houses and killed over 20 civilians in the Tusus district of Prizren (south Kosovo) in retaliation for the death of 21 Serbs killed in fighting. One woman had petrol poured over her and was set on fire.

UCK Kosovapress reported that in the Stimlje, Ferizaj and Shterpce region (south Kosovo), Serb forces had used the "Panvera beer hall" located behind the ex-prison of Ferizaj as a place of torture for some of the 3,000 civilians held there.

28 May UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had attacked the villages of Gikatove e Re and Shtrubullove in the Glogovac region (central Kosovo) beating people with wooden clubs and steel poles and taking 350-400 people hostage in a concentration camp set up at a dairy farm in Kroikove. They killed a young man by firing flame throwers at him. His father similarly received serious wounds. A young woman was also killed.

29 May Swiss-based Kosovo Albanian daily newspaper 'Koha Ditore' reported claims by a driver from Vojvodina that since the beginning of February and on a regular basis he had personally transported the bodies of Kosovo civilians and VJ soldiers in a military refrigerated van to a foundry at an undisclosed location in Serbia. On arrival the bodies were cremated. He fled FRY 3 days before NATO bombing started. He said that he would be willing to testify to the International Court in the Hague.

(Kosovo Albanians in Pristina and Urosevac reported that Serb forces were registering the remaining Kosovo Albanians in these towns and issuing them new green cards. Those found not to be normally resident were forcibly evicted).

30 May UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb police had shelled a convoy of IDPs attempting to escape the Shala region near Vucitrn (north Kosovo). The attacks resulted in more than 100 dead.

31 May UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces opened fire on a column of civilians near the Smerkovnica concentration camp. There were no details of numbers killed and injured.

2 June A representative of the World Food Programme told Reuters that 51 males released from Lipjan prison and interviewed in Macedonia were undernourished and had been cruelly treated. One had been beaten to the point of unconsciousness revived with water and beaten again. They reported that other prisoners had broken limbs.

3 June UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had reopened mass graves of civilians killed on 28 March and 11 May in the village of Izbice near Srbica, loaded the bodies onto trucks and taken them away in the direction of Klina. (See entries for 2 April and 15 May).

(Milosevic, Serb parliament (136 votes for, 74 against, 3 abstentions) and FRY government accept "Chernomyrdin/Ahtisaari document").

4 June Human Rights group "Association for People in Danger" based in Goettingen in Germany estimates at least 30,000 Kosovo Albanians killed though says that the number could be many more. Reports that 650 villages destroyed, old historical sites such as Pec and Djakovica destroyed and most Catholic churches burned down.

5 June UCK Kosovapress reported that Serb forces had attacked villages in the Malisevo region (south west of Pristina) killing 3 civilians in the village of Senik.

6 June Various Kosovo Albanian sources reported that the Serbs have been disposing of the evidence of atrocities in Kosovo by burning bodies at the Trepca mine.

FRY state newsagency Tanjug reported that in Rudnik near Kosovska Mitrovica (north Kosovo) the UCK killed a Serb trade union official from Krusevac (central Serbia) taking humanitarian aid to Kosovo.

7 June Swiss-based Kosovo Albanian daily newspaper 'Koha Ditore' reported an eyewitness account of Serb forces torching houses, including his own, in the Srbica area (north west of Pristina) at the start of the conflict. He also saw an excavator digging a hole in the new cemetery in the village of Obiliq and a tractor and horse and cart unloading 30 corpses into it.

8 June Albanian TV reported receipt of a letter from a Pristina based family which claimed that on 9 May Serb Chetniks had shot a 75 year old woman and her 55 year old daughter for refusing to leave their home.

9 June A refugee arriving in Macedonia reported that Serb forces had attacked the villages of Vranic and Bukoc a week earlier. He witnessed them filling a house with women and children and throwing in a grenade.

FRY state newsagency Tanjug reported that on 7 June Albanian terrorists had killed three civilians in the village of Trgovac in the Orahovac region (south west Kosovo).

10 June Pentagon releases aerial images which spokesman said provided first firm evidence that the Serbs had been trying to conceal evidence of atrocities. The images appear to show that the Serbs forces had dug up the bodies of massacre victims at Izbice. (See entry for 3 June).

Kosovo Albanian website Radio 21 reported that on 9 June Serb police had gathered a large number of Kosovo Albanians in the village of Zhabar in the Mitrovica region (north Kosovo) and killed 7 men.

(NATO Secretary General Solana announces the suspension of NATO's air operations against Yugoslavia).

(FRY starts withdrawal of forces from Kosovo).

(UNSCR 1244 on Kosovo adopted).

12 June

Kosovo Albanian website Radio 21 reported that Serb forces were still burning villages in western Kosovo (Junik, Baba i Bokes, Korenice, Nec, Ponoshec and Nivokaz). In Djakovica Serb paramilitaries were reported to be demanding money in return for the release of Albanian hostages. They are reported to be holding some 1,000 hostages.