

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT

ERASING HISTORY

ETHNIC CLEANSING IN KOSOVO

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	5
Overview	10
Documenting the Abuses	13
Atrocities and War Crimes by Location	19
Chronology of Recent Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo	24
Important Links for Kosovo Information	27

PREPARED BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MAY 1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is part of a larger international effort to lay out the contours of the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, which dramatically accelerated in mid-March 1999.

In preparing this report, the United States Government has drawn on its own resources, as well as on reports received from international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to date.

We encourage others to make their own contributions to record these events, get the facts out, and, ultimately, hold the perpetrators of these crimes accountable.

This document provides a chronology of events after the departure of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Kosovo Verification Mission on March 19, 1999, which prior to its departure had been regularly issuing human rights reporting. It is compiled from hundreds, if not thousands, of reported violations of human rights and humanitarian law since late March 1999. Due to lack of outside access to Kosovo, this report represents only a partial account of the ethnic cleansing.

The term "ethnic cleansing" generally entails the systematic and forced removal of members of an ethnic group from their communities to change the ethnic composition of a region. Although we are still gaining information on all aspects of Serbian efforts to ethnically cleanse Kosovo, reports of human rights and humanitarian law violations we have received fall under seven broad categories:

FORCED EXPULSIONS: The regime of Slobodan Milosevic is conducting a campaign of forced migration on a scale not seen in Europe since the Second World War. More than 90 percent of all ethnic Albanians have been expelled from their homes in Kosovo. In contrast to last fall, when attacks on civilians by Serb security forces generally occurred in small villages, this spring Yugoslav Army and Special Police units have joined with recently-armed Serb civilians to expel their neighbors from almost all towns and villages in Kosovo:

- An estimated 600,000 internally displaced persons are now struggling to survive in Kosovo. They are scattered throughout the province, often taking shelter in isolated forests and mountain valleys.

- Approximately 700,000 Kosovars have taken refuge in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Republic of Montenegro since hostilities commenced in March 1998. Over three-fourths of these people have arrived since late March 1999.

LOOTING AND BURNING: We have confirmed that some 500 residential areas have been at least partially burned since late March, including over 300 villages burned since April 4. Besides houses and apartments, mosques, churches, schools, and medical facilities have also been targeted and destroyed. Many settlements have been totally destroyed in an attempt to ensure that the ethnic Albanian residents do not return.

DETENTIONS: There are consistent refugee reports that Serbian forces are separating military-aged men from their families in a systematic pattern. At the time of writing, the total number of missing men and their fate are unknown.

SUMMARY EXECUTION: Refugees have provided accounts of summary executions in at least 70 towns and villages throughout Kosovo. In addition to random executions, Serbian authorities are targeting intellectuals, professionals, and community leaders.

RAPE: Ethnic Albanian women are reportedly being raped in increasing numbers. Refugee accounts indicate systematic and organized mass rapes in Djakovica and Pec. We believe that many crimes of gender violence have not been reported due to the cultural stigma attached to these offenses in Kosovar society.

VIOLATIONS OF MEDICAL NEUTRALITY: NGOs report that since late March, violations of medical neutrality in Kosovo have accelerated dramatically. Serb authorities have looted and destroyed dozens of medical facilities, murdered Kosovar Albanian physicians, expelled ethnic Albanian patients and care providers from hospitals, and used large numbers of health facilities as protective cover for military activities. The apparent goal is to effectively deny health care to ethnic Albanians and extinguish the community base that Kosovo's health professionals provide.

IDENTITY CLEANSING: Refugees report that Serbian authorities have confiscated passports and other identity papers, systematically destroyed voter registers and other aspects of Kosovo's civil registry, and even removed license plates from departing vehicles as part of a policy to prevent returns to Kosovo. Reports of identity cleansing are prevalent in refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania.

INTRODUCTION

With this report, the United States offers a documentary record of the war crimes, crimes against humanity, and human rights violations that underpin the current tragedy of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

At this writing, the forces of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic continue to burn, loot, rape, shell, and de-populate Kosovo, and thousands of refugees continue to flee into neighboring Albania and Macedonia. Although we do not yet know all the details, the fact that this crisis has happened so quickly, so methodically, and so savagely strongly suggests that Serb forces acted based on plans drawn up long before NATO intervened.

The refugees coming out of Kosovo are only now beginning to tell their stories. Yet even these fragmented accounts portray a systematic policy of ethnic cleansing:

❑ Serbian forces have made Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, a ghost town. Serbian military, police, and paramilitary forces reportedly expelled between 100,000 and 120,000 persons from Pristina in only four days. Kosovars now in Macedonia have claimed that only 100 ethnic Albanians remain in Pristina. Serbian forces reportedly had been taking furniture from abandoned homes.

❑ In Pec, Serbian forces allegedly herded young Albanian women to the Hotel Karagac and raped them repeatedly. The commander of the local base reportedly used a roster of soldiers' names to allow his troops to visit the hotel on a rotating basis. The Hotel Karagac is only one example of the gender violence that plays such a large role in Serbian actions in Kosovo.

❑ Reports indicate that the violence in western Kosovo is stronger than in any other region of the province. Serbian forces emptied Pec of ethnic Albanians in 24 hours. In Djakovica's old city, Serbian forces allegedly burned 200 to 600 homes the day after NATO airstrikes began. By the next day, the rest of the old city had been torched.

❑ Serbian forces have forced thousands of Kosovars onto trains and sent them to border crossings in Macedonia. Some refugees reported arriving at train stations in buses arranged by the Serb army. Others reported a mass of humanity — thousands — waiting for trains at gunpoint.

❑ Based on consistent refugee accounts, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees reported that the Djakovica region "undoubtedly has been one of the most violent and cruel in the whole of Kosovo, turning it at times into a virtual killing field."

The United States had hoped to resolve the crisis in Kosovo through the use of diplomacy backed by the threat of force. Only after Belgrade repeatedly rejected the diplomatic solution offered and re-offered at Rambouillet — and only after it became clear that the Milosevic regime launched attacks on the civilian population in Kosovo and demonstrated its determination to have its way in Kosovo no matter what the consequences — did NATO pursue a policy of force backed by diplomacy, justified by law and humanitarian necessity.

We have made it clear to the government of Serbia what it will take to end NATO intervention: an immediate halt to all violence and repression in Kosovo; the withdrawal of Serbian military, paramilitary, and police forces; the unconditional safe return of all refugees and internally displaced persons; the stationing of an international security force; and the establishment of a political framework for Kosovo based on the Rambouillet accords.

In the meantime, we will continue to seek justice for the hundreds of thousands of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians who have suffered at the hands of Serbian forces. We are working closely with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the appropriate United Nations human rights and refugee mechanisms to address, document, and ultimately reverse the damage created by these crimes. As part of this effort, non-governmental organizations working in Macedonia and Albania have joined international organizations in an unprecedented alliance to document abuses, supply evidence to the ICTY, and get the story of ethnic cleansing out to the public at large. We wish to thank the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Coalition for International Justice for their contributions to this effort.

We also have secured general agreement among the ICTY, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the major UN human rights institutions, and many of the leading NGOs in-theater to use a standard form for refugee accounts (**SEE FIGURE 1**) that will allow for the coherent collection and packaging of refugee accounts. Refugees are participating in this effort on a voluntary basis. In response to requests from the ICTY, the U.S. Government is ensuring that refugees who have been selected for residence in the United States are properly interviewed for ICTY purposes. By coordinating and standardizing the refugee interview process, not only will we ensure that the ICTY has information in a usable form for

future investigations and prosecutions, but the resulting data can be aggregated and used as the basis for future reports and updates on war crimes, crimes against humanity, and human right violations in Kosovo.

This report chronicles the history of the recent ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, beginning with the withdrawal of the OSCE's Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) on March 19, 1999. The KVM had been issuing reports on human rights conditions until its departure. With the crisis still taking place, it is not yet possible to provide a complete appraisal. Furthermore, the Serbian government's refusal to cooperate with the ICTY or to allow any independent monitors or media into Kosovo since the withdrawal of the KVM has limited efforts to document the scope and extent of ethnic cleansing. Due to limited access to Serbia, the report also does not address the situation of Serb refugees from Kosovo. Thus the report should be regarded only as a snapshot of the tragic events and incidents that have unfolded in recent weeks. A more comprehensive accounting, built in part on refugee interviews and in part on on-site investigations, still must take place, hopefully in the near future.

Staff in the Bureaus of Intelligence and Research and Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the Department of State, working in conjunction with staff from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the Bureau of European Affairs, and the Office of War Crimes Issues, undertook the research and writing of this report. It is based on multiple sources, including foreign governments, international organizations, non-governmental human rights and humanitarian relief organizations, refugees, combatants, and the press.

This report begins the process of telling the world a story it has heard thus far only in bits and pieces. Although incomplete, it already has taught us much. We have watched families, uprooted and torn asunder, stagger across Kosovo's borders. We have seen the locked trains on one-way missions of despair. We have consoled children weeping for parents they cannot find. We have listened to the stories of people whose fathers, brothers, sons, and husbands were led away. We have reached out to rape victims struck mute by savagery. We have seen ominous overhead photos of freshly-upturned earth and burned-out towns. Already we can testify to the horror. Already we are witnesses.

We — as a people, as a nation, as a world — cannot let such outrageous violations of human rights stand. That is why NATO continues to fight for the victims of Belgrade's ethnic cleansing.

Route taken to exit Kosovo and mode of travel: _____

2. Freedom of Movement Problems

Is free movement a problem? Yes () No ()

If Yes:

Lack of Ids: () Fear in General: ()

Harassment at checkpoint (specify: fixed/mobile/KLA/Police) _____

Other reasons: _____

3. Security Problems - Physical Security

Were there acts of violence against you or any members of the family? Yes () No ()

When _____ By whom? _____

If Yes, relationship to the victim: _____

Location _____

Describe the circumstances: _____

Were you a direct witness? _____

Type of Violence: _____

Threats (verbal/physical) _____

Other (specify): _____



4. Arrest/Detention

Were you or any members of your family ever arrested? Yes () No ()

If Yes: Where? _____ When? _____

By whom? MUP/VJ/KLA, Others (specify): _____

5. Enforced Disappearance/Abduction/Missing

Are there any family members missing/disappeared/abducted? Yes () No ()

If Yes, Who? _____ When? _____ Where? _____

Perpetrators: _____

Probable cause of disappearance? _____

6. Documentation Problems

Are you in possession of valid documents? Yes () No ()

OVERVIEW

What began in late February 1998 as a Serb government campaign against the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has evolved into a comprehensive, premeditated, and systematic program to ethnically cleanse the Serbian province of Kosovo of its roughly 1.7 million ethnic Albanian residents (also referred to as Kosovar Albanians). Because Serbian authorities have denied access to international monitors, documentation efforts have been too fragmented to estimate definitively the number of missing and dead.

Serb military, paramilitary, and police forces have forcibly expelled over 1.5 million Kosovars from their homes. Since March 1998, approximately 700,000 Kosovars have fled to neighboring states, including Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Republic of Montenegro. As many as an additional 600,000 Kosovars could be internally displaced. In the process, Serbian forces have conducted summary executions, separated military-aged men from their families, raped women and girls, destroyed mosques and churches, converted medical facilities to military outposts, and looted and burned homes and villages.

The term “ethnic cleansing” first came into use during the mass expulsions of ethnic Muslims from towns in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992; since then, media outlets, human rights groups, and governments have used it on enough occasions to require careful definition. As used in this report, ethnic cleansing is defined as the systematic and forced removal of the members of an ethnic group from a community or communities in order to change the ethnic composition of a given region. In Bosnia, many ethnically cleansed towns and regions were eventually reoccupied by members of another ethnic group (who themselves often had been cleansed).

From the beginning, the regime in Belgrade has deliberately misled the international community and its own people about its ethnic cleansing campaign. Counterinsurgency operations against the KLA began in late February and early March 1998, when Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs Police (MUP) attacked the villages of Likosane and Cirez. These attacks resulted in the deaths of 25 Kosovar Albanians, of which as many as 14 may have been summarily executed. Since then, the MUP, Yugoslav Army (VJ) forces, and paramilitary units have made little effort to distinguish between KLA fighters and civilians.

In late March 1999, Serbian forces significantly increased the scope and pace of their efforts, moving away from selective targeting of towns and regions suspected of KLA sympathies toward a sustained and systematic effort to ethnically cleanse the entire province of Kosovo. To date, Serb forces conducting ethnic cleansing operations have not yet tried to repopulate the over 500 towns and villages from which residents have been evicted. Some villages are now used as cover for Serb military emplacements. Many, however, remain depopulated. NATO is committed to ensuring the return of all Kosovars to their homes.

Since the March 19, 1999, departure of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that over 700,000 Kosovars have fled to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (211,000), Albania (404,000), Bosnia-Herzegovina (18,000), the Republic of Montenegro (62,000), and elsewhere (as of May 5, 1999). The Governments of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia, and Montenegro have provided land for camps, logistical support, and protection. NATO forces in Macedonia and Albania have helped establish transit camps. Other governments have begun to accept varying numbers of refugees to ease the pressure on the so-called “front-line” states. Even with such support, however, the front-line states will continue to bear the brunt of these mass expulsions, which has badly burdened the economies and upset the political balances of these states.

Although the media has focused almost exclusively on the story of the hundreds of thousands of exhausted refugees arriving at camps in Macedonia and Albania, another story has escaped their attention, in large part because Serbian authorities have not permitted entry into Kosovo. Those left behind in Kosovo — known as internally displaced persons, or IDPs — suffer under much worse conditions than even those faced by refugees. While independent sources have not been able to confirm reports of starvation among IDPs in Kosovo, many in all likelihood are experiencing food shortages, malnutrition, health problems, and other types of deprivation as a result of having to hide from Serbian forces

for weeks in neighboring mountains and forests. Needless to say, they also likely face attack by Serbian forces. According to some reports, VJ units have thrown grenades from helicopters at fleeing IDPs. Shelling of civilians reportedly has been used to herd groups of refugees for later deportation.

Reports of the detention and summary execution of military-aged men continue to increase. In recent weeks, refugees have reported that Serbian forces have undertaken mass executions and individual summary executions in at least 70 towns and villages throughout the province. Overhead imagery confirms the presence of mass grave sites in Pusto Selo and Izbica (**SEE FIGURES 2 AND 3**); there may be other sites in Drenica, Kaaniku, Malisevo, Rezala, and the Pagarusa valley. Anecdotal refugee accounts suggest that Serbian forces have executed at least 4,000 Kosovars. This number is likely to increase with the collection of additional data, and there is also a much larger number of persons unaccounted for.

In recent weeks, refugees have reported a new method of execution: Serbian forces order unarmed ethnic Albanian men to run away, and then shoot them. Serb authorities apparently favor this method so that they can portray the murders as collateral casualties of military operations.

There are increasing numbers of reports of the rape of ethnic Albanian women by Serbian security forces, both on an organized basis and by individual members of Serbian forces. According to refugees, organized rape has occurred in Djakovica and at the Hotel Karagac in Pec.



FIGURE 2

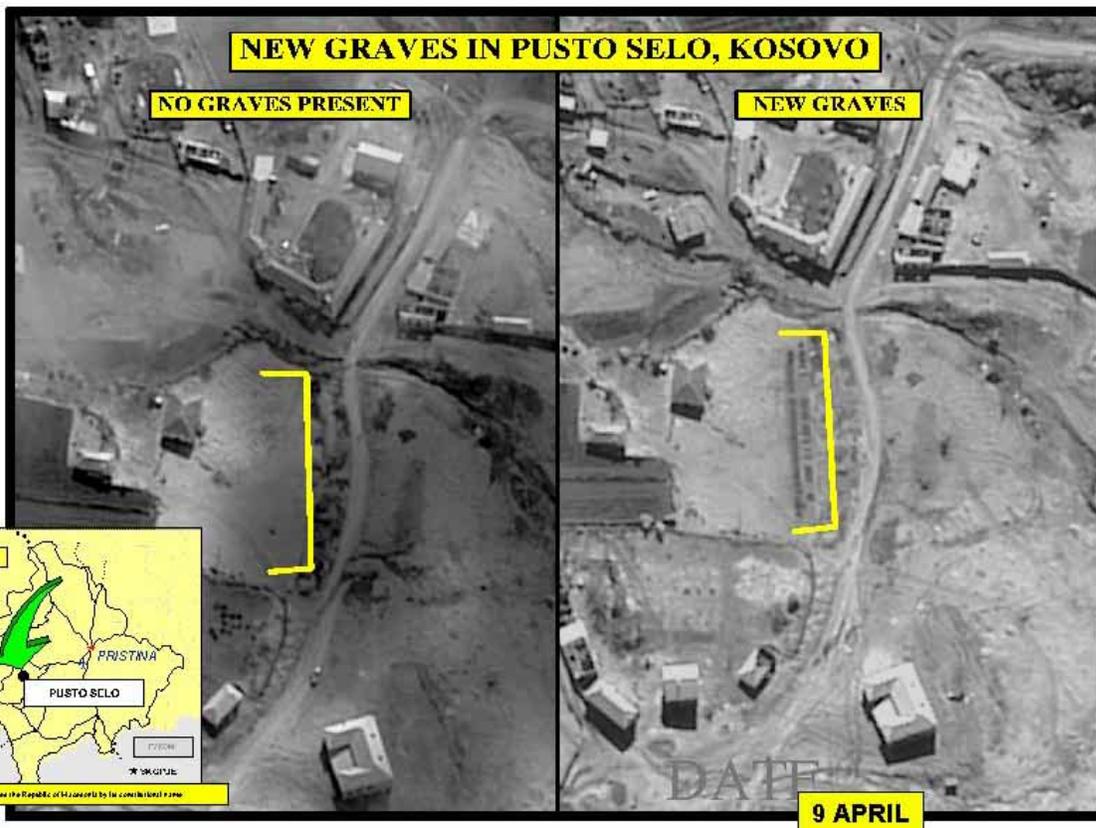


FIGURE 3

DOCUMENTING THE ABUSES

I - FORCED EXPULSIONS

Since the withdrawal of the KVM on March 19, 1999, Serbian military, paramilitary, and police forces in Kosovo have committed a wide range of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

This report briefly reviews seven categories of such crimes: forced expulsion of Kosovars from their homes; burning and looting of homes, schools, religious sites, and health care facilities; detention, particularly of military-aged men; summary execution; rape; violations of medical neutrality; and identity cleansing.

The regime of President Slobodan Milosevic is conducting a campaign of forced migration on a scale not seen in Europe since the Second World War. Serbian forces appear to have driven the vast majority of Kosovars from their homes, trapping many within Kosovo, while pushing even larger numbers over Kosovo's borders. The Serbian authorities' claim that the refugee crisis is the result of popular fear of NATO airstrikes is belied by the regime's redeployment of its military forces in the weeks prior to its rejection of the Rambouillet settlement. Refugees consistently report that they fled their homes not because of any concern about NATO airstrikes, but because Serbian forces threatened them at gunpoint.

In contrast to last fall, when attacks on civilians by Serbian security forces generally occurred in small villages, this spring VJ and MUP units have apparently joined with recently armed Serb civilians to expel their neighbors from both villages and the larger towns of Kosovo. Serbian forces reportedly have been going house-to-house to rob Kosovars before looting and burning their homes. Before allowing ethnic Albanians to flee Kosovo, some Serbian officials have forced them to sign disclaimers saying that they left voluntarily. The fact that many of the places targeted reportedly had not been the scene of any previous fighting or KLA activity indicates that these expulsions were part of a systematic effort to depopulate the region of Kosovar Albanians.

CURRENT STATUS OF IDPs. About 600,000 internally displaced persons are now struggling to survive in Kosovo. They are scattered throughout the province, often seeking shelter in isolated forests and mountain valleys. Many have not been able to move very far from their home villages. Typically, they are found in encampments with a combination of tents, crude shelters, tractors, flatbed trailers, farm tractors, and automobiles. In some areas, there are reports of severe shortages and hunger, particularly in the mountain encampments.

Major clusters of IDPs can be found at the following sites

(SEE FIGURE 4):

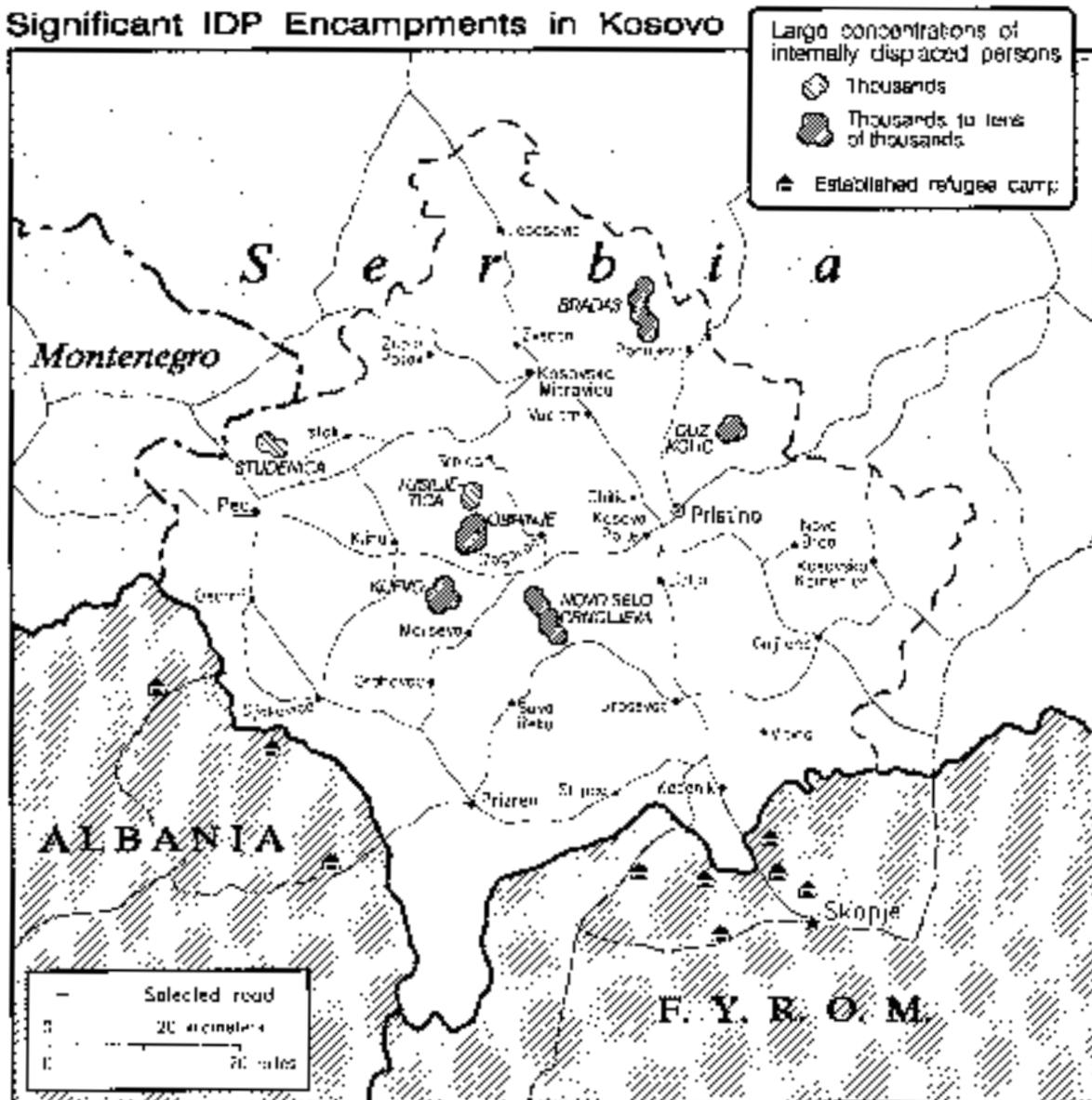
- Tusilje-Tica camp
- Obrinje camp
- Novo Selo-Crnoljevo camp
- Kijevo camp
- Studenica camp
- Bradas camp
- Duz-Kolic camp

CURRENT STATUS OF REFUGEES. Almost 700,000 Kosovars have fled to Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (SEE FIGURE 5) since hostilities commenced in March 1998. The number of displaced persons outside of

Kosovo but in Serbia proper is unknown. Over three-fourths of the 700,000 refugees have arrived since late March 1999. At the peak of the exodus, refugees attempting to enter Albania and Macedonia formed lines many miles in length from the border. While Serbian authorities have caused this mass exodus to take place, they have alternately allowed refugees to cross the border and then prevented them from doing so. This has made the efforts by refugee and relief agencies to accommodate refugees even more difficult by creating confusion and uncertainty. Serbian authorities overseeing the expulsion seem to systematically expel Kosovar Albanians, distributing the movements among crossing points so as to manage the expulsions to achieve a political result.

According to the UNHCR, some 65,000 refugees left Kosovo during a one-week period in mid-April, and various

Significant IDP Encampments in Kosovo



Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a civil independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States

Some land boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

FIGURE 4

Kosovar Refugees, April 1999



FIGURE 5

sources indicate that tens of thousands more are moving toward the Albanian and Macedonian borders. The UN has more recently reported that thousands of additional refugees have arrived in Macedonia, and that the situation in the refugee camps there has reached a critical point. Macedonian camps are overcrowded, and tensions are rising. The health and sanitation situation is quickly deteriorating, leading relief workers to fear the outbreak of epidemics in the camps with the onset of warmer weather.

As of May 5, an estimated 1.5 million Kosovar Albanians had been displaced from their homes:

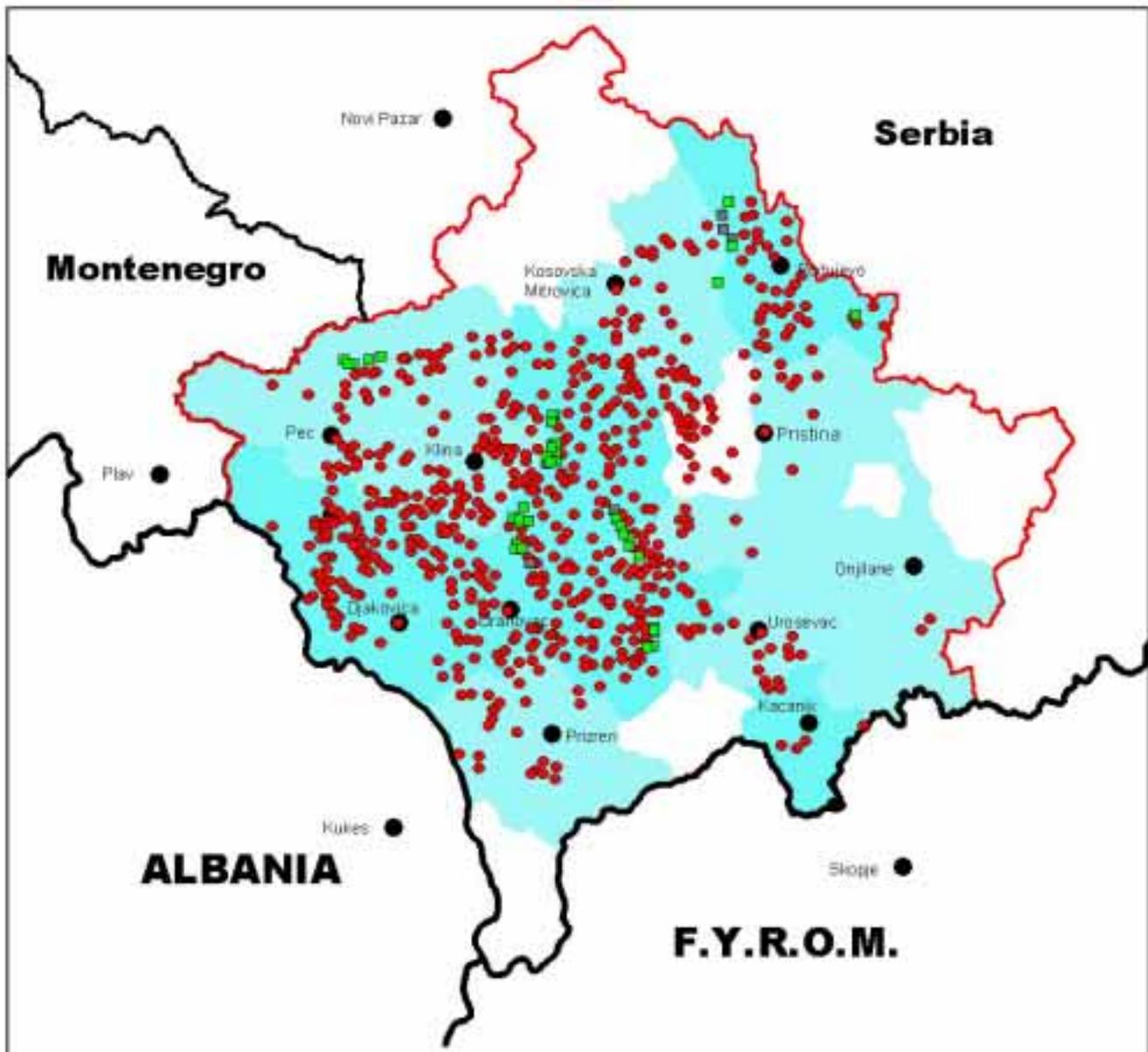
Kosovo (IDPs)	600,000
Albania	404,000
Montenegro	62,000
Macedonia	211,000
Bosnia	38,000 (includes 20,000 Sandzak Muslims)
Other Countries	160,000 (includes 30,000 ethnic Serbs)

2 - LOOTING AND BURNING

More than 600 settlements have been at least partially damaged since October 1998, including over 300 villages burned since April 4 (**SEE FIGURE 6**). Most Serb homes and stores reportedly have remained intact; according to refugee reports, Serb civilians in the town of Vucitrn painted a Cyrillic "S" on their doors so that Serbian forces would not attack their homes by mistake. The destruction appears to be much more extensive and thorough than occurred last summer. Many settlements were totally destroyed in an apparent attempt to ensure that the ethnic Albanian population could not return. Serbian forces have reportedly burned all houses previously rented to OSCE observers in Vucitrn, Stimlje, and Mitrovica. Refugees report that mosques and religious sites have been attacked or destroyed in at least 21 villages and towns. Refugees report that schools have been attacked or destroyed in at least 14 villages and towns.

KOSOVO

**More Than 600 Damaged Settlements
(October 1998 through May 6, 1999) ***



Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States.

* refers to assessment, based on available multi-source data.

Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

Percentage Ethnic Albanian, 1991 Census

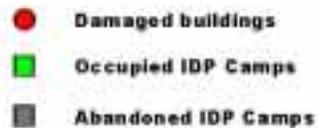


FIGURE 6

We have confirmed that the following villages have been burned or largely destroyed:

Bajcina	Bajgora	Banja
Batlava	Bela Crkva	Bradas
Celine	Crebnik	Crni Lug
Dobri Do	Donja Penduha	Donja Lapistica
Donji Retimlje	Donji Streoci	Dumos
Gajrak	Gedje	Godisnjak
Gornja Zakut	Gornje Pakastica	Gornji Crnobreg
Gornji Streoci	Jablanica	Jovic
Kacandol	Klincina	Letance
Lipovac	Luzane	Mamusa
Madare	Mala Hoca	Malisevo
Mirusa	Neprebiste	Novo Selo Begovoa
Pantina	Pasoma	Radoste
Randubrava	Retimlje	Rogovo
Skorosnik	Slatina	Smac
Sopnic	Stanica Donje Ljupce	Suvi Do
Vlaski Drenovac	Vucitrn	Vujitun
Zrze		

3 - DETENTION

There are consistent refugee reports that Serbian forces are separating military-aged men from their families, in what appears to be a systematic pattern. A disproportionate percentage of refugees allowed to flee Kosovo, especially into Albania, are women, the elderly, and children. At this writing, the number of missing men and their fate are unknown. Mass detention sites include:

- ❑ **DJENERAL JANKOVIC:** A cement factory in this town is reportedly being used as a detention center for 5,000 ethnic Albanians.
- ❑ **GLOGOVAC:** The Ferro-Nickel factory in this town is reportedly being used as a detention center for a large number of Kosovars; it was allegedly used as a detention and execution site during last year's security operation.
- ❑ **SRBICA:** Press sources report that as many as 20,000 ethnic Albanians — including women and children — were taken by forced march from the town of Cirez to Srbica as human shields for Serbian tanks before being detained in a munitions factory.
- ❑ **VUCITRN:** An unknown number of ethnic Albanians were reportedly herded into a school in this town.

4 - SUMMARY EXECUTION

Refugees have provided accounts of summary executions in at least 70 towns and villages throughout Kosovo. Kosovar Albanian refugees from throughout the province continue to report mass executions. In addition, there are reports of mass graves in Drenica, Kaaniku, Rezala, Malisevo, Pusto Selo, Izbica, Velika Krusa, and the Pagarusa valley. About 150 bodies reportedly were discovered in Drenica, and 34 in Malisevo. Serbian security forces reportedly locked an entire family into a house in a village in Drenica and burned them alive. Overhead imagery has provided evidence that appears to corroborate at least two reports — the summary executions at Velika Krusa and Pusto Selo. In addition to random executions, the Serbian authorities appear to be targeting Kosovar intellectuals, professionals, and leaders.

5 - RAPE

Ethnic Albanian women are reportedly being raped in increasing numbers; according to refugees, Serbian forces have raped women in an organized and systematic fashion in Djakovica and Pec. Rape victims were reportedly separated from their families and sent to an army camp near Djakovica where they were repeatedly raped by Serbian soldiers. In Pec, refugees alleged that Serbian forces rounded up young Albanian women and took them to the Hotel Karagac, where they were raped repeatedly. The commander of the local base reportedly uses a roster of soldiers' names to allow all of his troops an evening in the hotel. In addition to these specific accounts, refugees claim that during Serbian forces' raids on their villages, young women have been gang raped in homes and on the sides of roads. We believe that there may be many more incidents that have not been reported because of the cultural stigma attached to this offense in traditional Kosovar society.

6 - VIOLATIONS OF MEDICAL NEUTRALITY

Refugees have reported that Serbian forces systematically attacked ethnic Albanian physicians, patients, and Kosovar medical facilities. Reports indicate that violations of medical neutrality by Serbian forces include killings, torture, detention, imprisonment, and forced disappearances of Kosovar physicians — one NGO has documented the killings of seven ethnic Albanian doctors within the past year. In addition to targeting individuals, Serbian forces reportedly have looted and destroyed numerous clinics, private health

centers, pharmacies, and other medical facilities run by ethnic Albanian medical personnel. According to reports, since late March violations of medical neutrality have accelerated dramatically and have been directed against the entire ethnic Albanian population throughout Kosovo, effectively depriving them of medical and health care altogether. In the past month, Serbian health care providers, police, and military reportedly have expelled ethnic Albanian patients and health care providers from health facilities, and then used a number of these health facilities as protective cover for military activities. In late March the Serbian medical directors of the state hospitals of Pristina and Pec allegedly dismissed all ethnic Albanian physicians from their staffs and expelled all ethnic Albanian patients, including those critically ill.

Refugees have reported that government and private clinics, pharmacies, and other health care structures in the following cities and villages are among those that have been damaged or destroyed:

Cirez	Decani	Glogovac
Gnjilane	Gornja Klina	Grebno
Kacanik	Kamena Glava	Klina
Kosovska Mitrovica	Lipljan	Magura
Malisevo	Nevoljane	Orahovac
Obilic	Pristina	Shtimlje
Srbica	Urosevac	Vucitrn

7 - IDENTITY CLEANSING

In addition to reports of Serbian VJ, MUP, and paramilitary forces looting Kosovar homes and businesses, refugees report that Serbian forces robbed them of their remaining personal belongings before they allowed them to leave Kosovo. There are reports of Serbian forces confiscating documentation, including national identity papers, and telling Kosovars that they would never be allowed to return to their villages. The destruction of voter registers and other aspects of Kosovo's civil registry, along with the removal of license plates from departing vehicles, have also been reported. The United States and others are in the process of fully documenting the scope of Belgrade's identity cleansing.

ATROCITIES AND WAR CRIMES BY LOCATION

The following is a partial list of alleged war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law committed in Kosovo since late March 1999. These are fragmentary accounts that are being investigated and documented.

BELA CRKVA Serbian forces reportedly killed 35 people, then dumped their bodies near the Bellaja River (between the Rogova and Bela Crvka railroad). By March 28, Serbian forces reportedly had killed as many as 500 civilians in this town.

BELENICA Serbian forces reportedly executed 60 young male Kosovar Albanians on April 1.

BRUSNIK Serbian forces reportedly burned down this village near Vucitrn in early April. A Kosovar refugee claimed that Serbian forces killed 100 ethnic Albanians there following the Rambouillet conference.

CECELIIJA On May 4, refugees arriving in Albania from the Kosovo village of Shale reported that they were stopped in the village of Cecelija, where Serbian forces removed all the men from a tractor convoy and killed them. Also on May 4, Albanian TV in Tirana reported by telephone from Shale on the burial of 63 bodies of individuals killed by Serbian forces on May 2. These may be the bodies of those killed in Cecelija.

CIREZ 20,000 Albanian Kosovars were reportedly used as human shields against NATO bombings.

DJAKOVICA Armed Serb civilians have been active in the town and reportedly burned a building while a group of ethnic Albanians were taking cover in it during a NATO airstrike. Kosovars in the town were warned to leave by March 29. Serbian forces began burning their homes and businesses. Men reportedly were separated from women and children. In addition, over 100 ethnic Albanians reportedly were executed by MUP and paramilitary units in this city. Seventy bodies reportedly were found in two houses, and 33 were found in a nearby river. Nearly 14,000 refugees from Djakovica fled to the Albanian border crossing point at Prushit on April 5. According to refugee reports, on April 27, Serbian forces executed 200 military-aged ethnic Albanian men.

DJENERAL JANKOVIC Several refugees claim that Serbian security forces have detained as many as 5,000 ethnic Albanians in a cement factory in this border town.

GLODJANE A large concentration of displaced Kosovars have been observed in this town under guard by Serbian forces.

GLOGOVAC The Albanian residential area has been burned, sending IDPs into the Cicavica mountains. On April 12, Serbian forces reportedly executed 50 ethnic Albanian refugees as they were leaving town. Glogovac also reportedly houses a mass detention and execution center for Kosovar men.

GNJILANE Between April 7 and 15, Serbian VJ and paramilitary forces reportedly physically abused and extorted money from ethnic Albanians in this town. On April 16, the paramilitary units allegedly ordered that all ethnic Albanians leave the town or be killed. At least 1,000 IDPs departed and were reportedly harassed by Serbian forces along the way. Men were reportedly separated from the convoy of refugees and killed; Serbian forces reportedly ordered other refugees to bury the bodies of at least six ethnic Albanians. Two of the bodies allegedly had been burned, while the other four had bullet wounds to the back of the head.

GODEN On March 25, Serbian forces allegedly executed 20 men, including schoolteachers, before burning the village.

GORNJE OBRINJE A refugee claimed that Serbian forces executed 12 ethnic Albanians on April 5.

HADE All 1,400 villagers reportedly were expelled by Serbian forces, and five men were reportedly executed.

ISTOK One thousand refugees from this town arrived at the border with Macedonia on April 8. Some refugees reported that an unknown number of people had died en route and that others were turned back by Serbian police near Raska and Novi Pazar.

IZBICA Serbian forces reportedly have killed approximately 270 ethnic Albanians since mid-March. Refugees reportedly saw bodies that appeared to have been tortured and burned.

JOVIC Serbian forces reportedly separated men from the columns of ethnic Albanian civilians, and a refugee claimed that he saw 34 corpses in the town.

KAANIKU Refugees claim that Serbian forces killed 45 ethnic Albanians on April 9 and buried their bodies in a mass grave.

KACANIK A refugee claimed that as many as 300 masked VJ and MUP soldiers forcibly expelled ethnic Albanian villagers towards Prizren. On April 14, Serbian paramilitaries reportedly separated men from women and children, drove them into a pasture, and forced them to kneel and pledge allegiance to Serbia. The paramilitaries then fired at them, killing at least 12, according to refugee reports.

KAMENA GLAVA On April 6, Serbian paramilitary units reportedly looted homes and burned the village. After driving the villagers into the woods for 10 days, VJ forces reportedly ordered all of them to leave the area on April 17.

KLINA The expulsion of the town's ethnic Albanian population began on March 28, with Serbian forces removing residents from their homes and ordering them out of the country. Serbian forces reportedly used 500 Kosovar men as human shields during fighting with KLA forces. A refugee who survived the fighting claimed that the men were robbed of their possessions and forced to strip naked and lie in a field for two hours while Serbian artillery fired on nearby KLA positions.

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA Serbian forces have reportedly expelled all Kosovar Albanians from this city since March 23. In addition, over 200 Albanian homes and shops reportedly have been torched, and Serbian forces reportedly have killed prominent Kosovars. Latif Berisha, a poet and president of the Democratic Alliance of the Mitrovica municipality, allegedly was executed in his home, and Agim Hajrizi, chairman of the assembly of the Independent Workers' Union, reportedly was murdered along with his mother and 12-year-old son. Serbian forces reportedly looted Kosovar Albanian shops and burned Albanian homes near a barracks that was targeted by NATO airstrikes in an apparent attempt to blame NATO for the damage. Serb forces reportedly were continuing to burn villages around this town as of April 2.

A refugee claimed that Serbian forces separated out young ethnic Albanian men, tied their hands together, and led them into the street. Although the refugee did not witness any mass executions, she claimed to have witnessed one VJ soldier shooting an ethnic Albanian while he sat in a car. A refugee from a nearby village claims to have witnessed Serb civilians executing a young ethnic Albanian boy. The ethnic Albanians who were expelled from nearby villages remain in the Cicavica Mountains, east of the town.

KOSOVO POLJE Serbian forces reportedly forced ethnic Albanians into their homes and then threw hand grenades inside. According to other refugee reports, ethnic Albanians were burned alive in their homes, and on March 28, Serbian paramilitary forces killed at least 70 Kosovar civilians. Refugees traveling from Pristina by train reported that Serbian paramilitary units boarded the cars and stole all of their valuables. Serbian forces reportedly entered the village on April 4, collected all the villagers, confiscated their personal documents and car keys, and then transported them to the border by train.

KOTLINA According to refugees from this town near Kacanik, between 50 and 60 ethnic Albanian men remain missing. The rest of the Kosovar inhabitants were reportedly loaded onto trains and sent to Macedonia. On April 8, ethnic Albanians discovered a mass grave, which it is suspected contains the bodies of some 26 persons, according to refugee reports. The victims allegedly were murdered in mid-March by a Serbian paramilitary group, which had reportedly entered the town and separated the ethnic Albanian men from their families.

KRALJANE Kosovar Albanian refugees claim that Serbian forces executed 100 ethnic Albanian civilians on April 4.

KURAZ Serbian forces reportedly killed 21 schoolteachers in this village near Srbica. Refugees also claim that as many as 200 ethnic Albanians were detained there by Serbian security forces as of April 5.

LIKOVAC Serbian forces reportedly burned this village south of Srbica on March 30.

LIPJAN Serbian forces reportedly forced ethnic Albanian villagers out of the area on April 20. In addition, they looted and burned Albanian residences. Serbian paramilitary forces allegedly shot more than 50 civilians in three surrounding villages.

LJUBENIC Refugees reported that on April 8 Serbian forces murdered at least 100 ethnic Albanians from this village in western Kosovo.

MALA KRUSA One hundred and twelve men were shot and their bodies burned in an apparent attempt to conceal the evidence, according to a wounded and burned survivor of the executions.

MALISEVO Serbian forces reportedly destroyed most of the town and its surrounding villages. Refugees from the town claim to have witnessed Serbian forces burning ethnic Albanians alive. Female refugees claim that Serbian forces were separating men from the groups of refugees. Serbian forces reportedly executed approximately 50 men in this town on March 27. Part of the town was set on fire on March 30. By April 1 the Serbian forces appeared to have emptied the town. Refugees reported that the 50,000 to 140,000 IDPs in the Malisevo-Dulje area had been bombed and strafed by Serbian aircraft and helicopters.

MORINA Refugees claim that on April 7 Serbian security forces laid mines at this main border post between Kosovo and Albania to prevent refugees from crossing.

NEGROVCE According to refugee reports, Serbian forces executed five ethnic Albanians on April 5.

ORAHOVAC Refugees reported that an unknown number of ethnic Albanian civilians were killed during the ethnic cleansing of the city. Members of a group of Roma who arrived at the Albanian border on April 8 claimed that they were expelled because Serbian authorities said that they were originally from Albania and were not "true" Kosovars. The group also reported that Serbian forces killed some 50 ethnic Albanians, including women, children, and the elderly.

According to refugees, as many as 700 men were used as human shields in early April. The ethnic Albanian men reportedly were forced to stand in front of tanks in the rain for two days with their hands tied behind their backs. A few of them reported that they eventually escaped by paying the soldiers 10,000 German marks.

ORLATE According to refugees, buildings in this small village located on the crossroads between Pristina, Pec, and Malisevo were set on fire by Serbian forces on March 30 after some 200 ethnic Albanian men had been executed.

OV CAREVA Serbian forces reportedly burned this village in the Drenica region on March 30.

PASTASEL The bodies of some 70 ethnic Albanians ranging in age from 14 to 50 were reportedly discovered by IDPs on April 1. Serbian authorities reportedly executed a survivor who sought medical treatment nearby.

PEC It was reported that at least 50 ethnic Albanians were killed and then buried in the yards of their homes on the evening of March 27. On the same day, many ethnic Albanians were reportedly herded into a five-story building in the center of town. MUP forces then loaded them on buses and transported them out of the city. On March 28, 200 ethnic Albanians who sought sanctuary in a Catholic church in Pec were removed and forced out of town. Serbian forces reportedly looted and burned homes and shops throughout the town. Refugees claim that the indicted war criminal Zeljko Raznjatovic (aka "Arkan") was responsible for these abuses. Serbian forces may have expelled 50,000 Kosovars from Pec and reportedly attacked a column of refugees leaving Pec on April 6.

PODUJEVO Serbian forces reportedly were continuing to burn villages east and southeast of this town as of April 5. Serbian forces allegedly executed 200 Kosovar Albanian men of military age. In addition, Serbian forces reportedly removed

ethnic Albanians from their cars and shot them on the spot. Ninety percent of the buildings in the town reportedly have been burned. On April 19, Serbian forces allegedly used ethnic Albanians as human shields along the road between Podujevo and Pristina.

PRISTINA Serbian forces appear to have completed military operations in the city and began expelling residents and internally displaced persons as of April 4. According to refugee reports, ethnic Albanians were forcibly expelled first from their homes and then from Pristina via train.

Approximately 25,000 ethnic Albanians were sent by rail from Pristina to Macedonia on April 1, and over 200,000 reportedly were detained pending transport. According to refugee reports, most of these IDPs were without food, water, medicine, or shelter. Several refugees claim that Serbian forces used loudspeakers and distributed pamphlets to warn ethnic Albanians to leave town or be killed. A Kosovar claimed to have seen three truckloads of dead bodies accompanied by three or four armored vehicles in a graveyard in Pristina on April 2.

Pristina police reportedly arrested as many as 20 former OSCE/KVM local employees, and authorities were said to have searched for ethnic Albanians who held official government positions, worked for international organizations, or worked with foreign journalists. Male ethnic Albanians, including prominent human rights lawyer Bajram Kelmendi and his two sons, reportedly were executed. Serbian paramilitary units reportedly burned and looted Albanian homes and stores throughout the city. Mixed Serbian police and paramilitary units allegedly separated men from women and children.

Kosovar civilians reportedly were processed at the Pristina Sports Complex and then marched to the train station. However, we have received conflicting reports on processing at the Pristina Sports Complex. Buses and large cargo trucks also reportedly were used to transport IDPs to within three to six miles of the border, where they were left to make their way on foot. Refugees reported that the ethnic Albanian neighborhoods of Pristina had been emptied.

PRIZREN Serbian forces reportedly executed between 20 and 30 civilians and transported ethnic Albanians to the border. Serbian paramilitary units operated freely throughout the town, according to refugee accounts. At the border, Serbian forces reportedly confiscated all personal documentation, removed license plates from vehicles, and warned the refugees never to return to Kosovo.

A Kosovar Albanian who traveled to Prizren for a funeral on April 2 claimed to have witnessed ethnic Albanian civilians being forcibly evicted from their homes. He alleged

that the families were given two hours to vacate their property and that the houses were then either burned or used to shelter Serbian forces. Another refugee from Prizren reportedly witnessed Serbian forces burying numerous ethnic Albanian bodies and burning homes throughout the town. According to refugee reports, many ethnic Albanians remain in hiding because they fear Serb reprisals.

POPOVO Serbian aircraft reportedly bombed this village southwest of Podujevo, killing 10 ethnic Albanians.

PUSTO SELO Overhead imagery confirms the presence of a mass burial site.

REZALA Serbian forces reportedly burned this village south of Srbica on March 30. According to refugees, a mass grave containing approximately 70 bodies was discovered on April 14.

RUGOVO Serbian forces reportedly executed at least 50 ethnic Albanians.

SOJEVO Serbian snipers reportedly killed eight ethnic Albanians, and security forces allegedly expelled the remaining villagers into a nearby field in early April.

SRBICA Serbian forces reportedly emptied the town of its Kosovar inhabitants and executed approximately 115 ethnic Albanian males over the age of 18. Serbian authorities reportedly are holding 20,000 detainees in an ammunition factory in the town.

STARI TRG On April 23, Albanian press reported that Serbian forces dumped the bodies of numerous ethnic Albanians from trucks into crematorium furnaces, apparently to eliminate evidence of these deaths.

STIMLJE Serbian forces reportedly burned the headquarters of a human rights committee and the Democratic League of Kosovo. Serbian forces also reportedly burned Kosovar homes, stores, and vehicles, and drove some 25,000 civilians out of the city to villages to the south. In addition, the building housing the former OSCE mission reportedly was burned.

SUVA REKA On March 25, Serbian forces reportedly killed at least 30 Kosovar Albanians, most allegedly by burning them alive in their homes. By March 28, Serbian forces reportedly had burned 60 percent of the buildings in the town. A refugee from the town claimed that Serbian forces killed 40 men on April 4 and dumped their bodies into two mass graves.

Serbian military and police forces reportedly killed as many as 350 ethnic Albanians in this town. According to refugee reports, a group of Serbian police officers and civilians robbed and killed an ethnic Albanian family living in a former OSCE office. The Serbian forces then reportedly burned the bodies of their victims. The entire ethnic Albanian population has reportedly been forced from the town.

UROSEVAC Serbian forces reportedly forcibly expelled Kosovar civilians from their homes on April 10 and are now using some of the homes as barracks. Former Kosovar shops and homes were reportedly given to Serb villagers. Serbian police officers allegedly transported the civilians to Blace by train. Serbian forces reportedly are targeting the homes of prominent politicians and intellectuals. As many as 40 ethnic Albanians allegedly have been killed. Refugees report the raping of young Albanian girls. According to a refugee, Serbian paramilitary units are forcing Albanian males to dig defensive positions on the southeast side of the city. Nearly 50 paramilitary members reportedly forced 25 civilians from the nearby town of Starosello to dig trenches for three days from April 10 to 12.

VAROS SELO According to refugee reports, Serbian paramilitary forces reportedly entered ethnic Albanian homes, forcibly expelled the residents at knife-point, and stole their belongings. They reportedly killed an unknown number of Kosovars and carried their bodies away.

VATAJ According to refugee reports, Serbian forces killed 14 ethnic Albanians on April 13. One refugee claimed that he was forced to bury the bodies and that the corpses had gunshot wounds to the back of the head.

VELIKA HOCA Two paramilitary units, Arkan's "Tigers" and the "White Eagles," are reportedly based in a housing complex in the town and control the area between Orahovac and Suva Reka.

VELIKA KRUSA There were reports from refugees in late March that Serbian forces killed between 150 and 160 ethnic Albanian men, after separating them from women and children, and dumped 50 bodies in a mass grave. These reports appear to be corroborated by a videotape shot by a

survivor, who stated that about 100 Kosovars had been shot; he gave the names of two dozen of the victims. The BBC aired the refugee's video showing several dead bodies lying in ditches and in the streets. According to the refugee, all of the victims had single bullet wounds in the back of the head or neck. A female refugee from the same village claimed that approximately 40 men were executed by Serbian forces, while other refugees claim that homes were burned, resulting in the deaths of over 60 Kosovars — including women and children, who were in them at the time. Police reportedly told residents of the nearby villages of Lashec, Kobanje, and Atmadja that "as a gift, we will only kill 10 of you," and then told the survivors to "go to NATO."

VRSEVAC Serbian police reportedly used ethnic Albanians as human shields on April 7.

VUCITRN Serbian forces reportedly burned all houses previously rented by the OSCE and looted Kosovar homes. Refugees from the town also claim that men were separated from their families. On March 27, Serbian forces reportedly killed four young ethnic Albanians, including a 14-year-old girl. By March 29, Serbian forces reportedly had herded Kosovars into a school in the city, and refugees from the town claim that the men were being separated from their families. On May 4, a newly arrived refugee in Albania reported that he had seen at least 50 dead bodies.

ZEGRA Serbian forces reportedly expelled all ethnic Albanians from this village, then burned all the buildings on April 13.

ZJUM Serbian forces reportedly burned this southern Kosovo town.

ZULFAJ Serbian forces reportedly expelled all ethnic Albanians from this village, then burned all the buildings.

ZUR On March 28, local police reportedly ordered all ethnic Albanians to leave town. As many as 7,000 Albanian Kosovars may have been displaced as a result.

CHRONOLOGY

Chronology of Recent Ethnic Cleansing in Kosovo

PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF NATO AIRSTRIKES

MARCH 19: Withdrawal of the Kosovo Verification Mission.

Extensive mobilization of Serbian security forces beyond earlier force deployments began several days prior to the March 19 withdrawal of the KVM monitors and most NGOs, following the failure of the Paris talks and in anticipation of NATO airstrikes. By the time OSCE Chairman-in-Office Knut Vollebaek authorized departure of the monitors for Macedonia, additional Serbian forces and VJ reinforcements had deployed to Kosovo to secure major transport routes and appeared to be poised for larger-scale operations. The speed with which the campaign was conducted and the breadth of the operation appear to indicate that there was a plan to ethnically cleanse at least the KLA strongholds, if not the entire province, of their ethnic Albanian population.

The humanitarian situation, which had improved somewhat in February, significantly deteriorated by mid-March — including the outflow of refugees and displaced persons — due to the widespread activities of Serbian forces. For example, a MUP/VJ force of 200 entered a village west of Djakovica on March 18 and engaged in looting and shooting, which resulted in the death of one person. The MUP was also active in Orahovac and Kacanik, and paramilitary forces were active near Gnjilane. Serbian spokesmen claimed that they were responding to KLA provocations, although KVM observers did not observe such incidents. In another example, Serbian forces on March 20 attacked three key towns — Srbica, Glogovac, and Luzane — on the pretense that the KLA had attacked police stations there on March 19. There is no evidence currently available to support the Serbian Government claim of the earlier KLA attacks.

On March 19, the UNHCR reported a total of 333,000 displaced Kosovars: 250,000 IDPs within Kosovo, 30,000 elsewhere in Serbia, 25,000 in Montenegro, as well as almost 10,000 refugees in Macedonia and 18,000 in Albania.

MARCH 20

VJ and MUP forces launched a significant operation against KLA forces in northeastern and north-central Kosovo to secure key lines of communication and the Cicavica mountains area apparently as a prelude to initiating their broader offensive against the KLA. One sector of the attack,

between Vucitrn and Pristina, had seen no recently reported KLA activity. The Podujevo-Pristina road was blocked by Serbian forces activity, which forced civilians to flee to the hills.

MARCH 21

By this date, 25,000 Kosovars were newly displaced in the Drenica region where Serbian forces were reportedly looting and burning homes; civilian executions were reported by the KLA in Srbica.

MARCH 23

By this time, most major cities were targeted by Serbian forces for ethnic cleansing: Pec, Prizren, Djakovica, Pristina, Urosevac, Podujevo, and Kacanik. The emptying of Kosovska Mitrovica had begun.

COMMENCEMENT OF NATO AIRSTRIKES

MARCH 24

Beginning on or shortly after the commencement of the NATO airstrikes, VJ forces reportedly joined police and paramilitary units in systematically expelling ethnic Albanians from both villages and larger towns. Population centers that had not been targeted before and had no KLA presence were now being emptied. Thousands of dwellings reportedly were looted and torched. Serbian forces allegedly significantly accelerated their large-scale confiscation and destruction of documents. Reports of atrocities increased significantly.

Russia suspended cooperation with NATO.

MARCH 25

Yugoslavia broke off diplomatic relations with France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

MARCH 26

The OSCE office in Tirana reported the burning of villages in Kosovo.

MARCH 27

Ethnic Albanians, fleeing or expelled from Kosovo, began to pour into Albania and Macedonia, leading to a refugee crisis.

MARCH 29

By this time there were reports that the majority of the 1.6 million ethnic Albanians in Kosovo may have been displaced from their homes. Whole towns and villages had been emptied. UNHCR reports estimated that Serbian forces had forcibly expelled upwards of 70,000 persons into Albania

over the weekend. Refugees reported the forced separation of military-aged men from groups, summary executions in at least 20 towns and villages, and the widespread looting and burning of homes.

MARCH 30

There were reports from an NGO that 10,000 Albanian men may have been herded into the Sports Stadium Complex in Pristina for detention, while press and refugee reports indicated that as many as 20,000 ethnic Albanians were taken by forced march from the town of Cirez to Srbica and were being detained in a factory.

MARCH 31

Trains carried Kosovar refugees to the Macedonian border. The UNHCR reported that 125,000 refugees had fled since March 24.

APRIL 2

The Governments of Albania and Macedonia reported that they were overwhelmed by refugees. Some 25,000 ethnic Albanians reportedly were forcibly transported by trains from Pristina to Macedonia.

APRIL 4

Western leaders proposed an airlift to take another 100,000 Kosovars to NATO countries. Macedonia agreed to let NATO set up camps for another 100,000.

APRIL 5

At least 560,000 Kosovar Albanians — over one-quarter of the province's pre-conflict population — had left Kosovo since the Serb crackdown that began in March of last year. Over half are in neighboring countries.

APRIL 6

Refugees reported the existence of mass graves in Drenica, Malisevo, and Pagarusa. Approximately 150 bodies reportedly were discovered in Drenica and 34 in Malisevo. Serbian forces reportedly locked the members of an entire family into a house in a village in Drenica and burned them alive.

About 150 Kosovo refugees were flown to Turkey, the first flight of the proposed airlift.

APRIL 9

An estimated 700,000 ethnic Albanians were reportedly displaced within Kosovo at this point. Refugee reports claimed that over 3,200 ethnic Albanians died as a result of executions by Serbian forces.

The UNHCR recommended that refugees should stay close to Kosovo; most NATO airlift plans were put on hold.

APRIL 12

The Yugoslav parliament voted to join a union with Russia and Belarus.

APRIL 13

Publicly-released NATO imagery appeared to corroborate refugee reports of mass burials at Velika Krusa and Pusto Selo.

APRIL 16

The refugee exodus returned to the crisis level of 20,000 new arrivals per day. Governments, international organizations, and NGOs were challenged to expand the camps to meet the need.

APRIL 17

The UNHCR reported that it might have to revive plans for a mass airlift of refugees to distant countries.

APRIL 18

NATO reported that 850,000 uprooted ethnic Albanians were being herded or attacked by Serbian forces in Kosovo.

The Government of Yugoslavia broke diplomatic relations with Albania.

APRIL 21

Press reports indicated that some 3,300 ethnic Albanians fled into Albania from Montenegro, probably in reaction to the killing of a group of Kosovar IDPs and a Montenegrin near Rozaj by VJ reservists on April 19.

APRIL 22

According to the UNHCR, the Bosnian Government was preparing to handle up to 100,000 more refugees from Kosovo in the event of a worst-case scenario. At this time, Bosnia hosted about 32,000 refugees from Serbia-Montenegro. Such a new influx would severely strain Bosnia's resources.

APRIL 23

The UNHCR estimated that some 1.2 to 1.5 million Kosovar Albanians were displaced from their homes since the conflict escalated in March of 1998. Some 400 towns and villages were reportedly damaged or destroyed by Serbian forces since mid-March 1999.

APRIL 27

According to refugee reports, Serbian forces killed 200 military-aged ethnic Albanian men along a road near Djakovica.

APRIL 30

The UNHCR reported over 3,000 refugees entering Albania and over 5,000 entering Macedonia from Kosovo. The UNHCR also reported that 6,000 to 8,000 refugees arrived from the southern Serbian town of Presevo, indicating that ethnic Albanian refugees are beginning to leave parts of Serbia outside of Kosovo. Refugees claimed that they left the Presevo area because they were either being conscripted or forced into military barracks by paramilitaries. Refugees also claimed that Serbian forces were storing military equipment in villages.

MAY 5

The UNHCR reported over 7,000 refugees entering Albania and 8,400 entering Macedonia from Kosovo. Many of the refugees entering Albania told stories of widespread abduction of hundreds of young men and the killings of some of those abducted. The UNHCR estimated that the number of Kosovars who have fled to neighboring areas reached a total of almost 700,000, including 404,000 in Albania, 211,000 in Macedonia, and 62,000 in Montenegro. The refugees entering Albania from the Djakovica region reported stories consistent with earlier reports. Based on these accounts, the UNHCR reported that the Djakovica region "undoubtedly has been one of the most violent and cruel in the whole of Kosovo, turning it at times into a virtual killing field."

INTERNET LINKS

IMPORTANT LINKS FOR KOSOVO INFORMATION

NATO

<http://www.nato.int>

The NATO site provides regular updates on the crisis in Kosovo in English and French. The site provides information on humanitarian aid by the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) established at NATO HQ by NATO Allies and Partners for Peace in June 1998.

UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND

http://www.eucom.mil/europe/serbia_and_montenegro/kosovo/

The public access Web information service of the U.S. European Command provides information for which the European Command headquarters is directly responsible. This URL leads directly to a page on Kosovo.

ALLIED FORCES SOUTHERN EUROPE

<http://www.afsouth.nato.int>

NATO's AFSOUTH is fully engaged in support of a peaceful resolution of the Kosovo Crisis with Operation Allied Force, Operation Allied Harbour, and NATO Forces in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia deployed as part of Operation Determined Guarantor and now engaged in providing support and humanitarian assistance to Kosovar refugees.

YUGOSLAVIA WEB SITE

<http://www.gov.yu/facts/facts.html>

This is the official Web site of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

RADIO B92

<http://www.b92.net>

The Web site of B92 Radio, now banned by the Milosevic Regime; in Serbian and English.

KOSOVO CRISIS CENTER

<http://www.alb-net.com/index.htm>

The Alb-Net.Com Group was established by a "few but very determined Albanian students and professionals" with the intent to provide Albanian communities around the world with up-to-date news directly from Pristina and other sources. The "Free Kosova" page presents "factual material that unveils a systematic pattern of Serb atrocities and aggressions against everything Albanian in Kosova."

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

<http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/sbalkans/kosovo.htm>

The International Crisis Group is a private, multinational organization committed to strengthening the capacity of the international community to understand and respond to impending crises. ICG's approach is grounded in field research, with reports distributed widely to foreign ministries, international organizations, journalists, and others. The ICG Board is chaired by former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, who recently brokered the "Good Friday" Peace Agreement in Northern Ireland. ICG currently operates field projects in eight countries. This is the ICG's South Balkans project on Kosovo.

THE BALKAN INSTITUTE

<http://www.balkaninstitute.org/internet.html>

This is the Balkan Internet Resources page with "up-to-date news analysis of current events in the Balkans." It is maintained as part of this archive site but updated regularly. The Balkan Institute was a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public, the media, and policy-makers about the conflict in the Balkans and related security and defense issues. It was created in May 1995 by two former U.S. diplomats who had resigned from the State Department in August 1993 to protest U.S. policy in Bosnia and the Balkans. The Institute closed July 31, 1998. The site contains a record of the news and analysis concerning Bosnia and the Dayton Accords, Kosovo, the Balkans, and related events that the Institute published during its more than three years in existence.

KOSOVO FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

<http://www.hrw.org/hrw/campaigns/kosovo98/index.htm>

The Kosovo Web site of Human Rights Watch, an organization “dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world.”

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

<http://www.amnesty.org>

Amnesty International is a worldwide campaigning movement that works to promote all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards. In particular, Amnesty International campaigns to free all prisoners of conscience; ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners; abolish the death penalty, torture, and other cruel treatment of prisoners; end political killings and “disappearances”; and oppose human rights abuses by opposition groups.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE

<http://www.usia.gov/usis.html>

This is the international site of the United States Information Agency (USIA), an independent foreign affairs agency within the executive branch of the U.S. government. See the Kosovo page <<http://www.usia.gov/regional/eur/balkans/kosovo/>> for comprehensive, up-to-date information on the Kosovo crisis in multiple languages.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

http://www.state.gov/www/regions/eur/kosovo_hp.html

This is the Kosovo page of the U.S. Department of State with official texts and situation reports on ethnic cleansing.

THE WHITE HOUSE

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

The White House site contains official statements from the president, the vice president, and White House spokespersons. Also features a link to the Kosovo Donations Coordination page of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

KOSOVO: NEWS, BACKGROUND AND RESOURCES

<http://www.mod.uk/news/kosovo/>

This Web site, produced jointly by the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, contains a wide range of information about the progress of Operation Allied Force and the actions of the United Kingdom and its allies in trying to resolve the political dispute behind the conflict. It offers a range of news items and background material on the course of the Kosovo conflict, as well as information on the forces — British, NATO, and Yugoslav — in the region. Links are also provided to useful sources of information elsewhere on the Internet. Information in Serbian is also provided.

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

<http://www.osce.org/news/kosovo.htm>

This is the Kosovo page on the OSCE Web site, with information on the Kosovo Verification Mission.

KOSOVA HOME PAGE

<http://www.kosova.com/>

The “Kosova Daily Report” from the Kosova Information Center, which claims to represent the “Republic of Kosovo.” Additional background information on Kosova also available.

HELLENIC RESOURCES NETWORK

<http://www.hri.org/news/balkans/kosova/>

This is the Kosova Information Center (KIC) page of HR-Net. The KIC claims to represent the “Republic of Kosovo.” HR-Net has become a leading source of information on and about Greece, and established its presence as an information exchange center for Greek and Greek-American organizations and news agencies. Special attention is given to providing a complete and user-friendly interface to all freely available Greek and Cypriot news.

INTERACTION

<http://www.interaction.org>

InterAction is a coalition of more than 160 humanitarian organizations working on disaster relief, refugee-assistance, and sustainable development programs worldwide. See the new page on Humanitarian Response for Kosovo Refugees.

RELIEFWEB

<http://www.reliefweb.int>

ReliefWeb is a project of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The purpose of this effort is to strengthen the response capacity of the humanitarian relief community through the timely dissemination of reliable information on prevention, preparedness, and disaster response.

LISTSERV

<http://listserv.acsu.buffalo.edu/archives>

From this page you can browse the online archives of the Albanian News and Information Network and the Albanian Discussion List.

BBC NEWS

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

The Web site of the British Broadcasting Corporation features up-to-the-minute news in multiple languages. Video and audio are also featured.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY NETWORK (ISN)

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch>

ISN is a one-stop information service in the fields of international relations and security. Among the services offered are an annotated links library, a limited area search tool (ISN LASE), a selection of resources on current world affairs, and specialized fact databases. ISN was started in 1994 as a result of the first "Institutes and the Security Dialogue" conference (now the "International Security Forum") held in Zurich. It is coordinated and developed by the Center for Security Studies and Conflict Research at the ETH Zurich in cooperation with numerous international partners. The project is supported by the Swiss Government as an official part of Switzerland's participation in Partnership for Peace.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

<http://www.unhchr.ch>

Welcoming message by Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: "Welcome to our human rights website and to the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — a document which speaks for all our hopes — for freedom and dignity, for justice and the rule of law, for equal opportunity and a better future. This anniversary year is All Human Rights for All. But, we are far from achieving this aim — many millions still live in fear and in want. This should be a year for recommitment and renewed effort. I hope this website will contribute to building up a global alliance for human rights."

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

<http://www.unhcr.ch>

"The premier online source for refugee-related information: includes country profiles, news, maps, publications, teachers' modules, 'Witness' multimedia documentaries and the REFWORLD research databases." The Web site features basic information about UNHCR and refugees — ordinary people who have left their homes to escape war, persecution, and human rights abuse — and press releases and other timely information about refugee situations worldwide. Includes the UNHCR Newswire Service and "Refugees Daily": a daily digest of the latest refugee news, as reported by the world's media.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

[HTTP://WWW.ICRC.CH](http://www.icrc.ch)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral, and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavors to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Web site features a section on "Crisis in the Balkans."

OPEN CHANNELS FOR KOSOVO

<http://www.dds.nl/openchannels>

A Press Now Web site on "Voices from the Region." Ever since April 1993, Press Now stands for the independent media in former Yugoslavia. Press Now wants to inform politicians, the press, and the general public on the media in former Yugoslavia by means of public programs and campaigns, to raise money and to gather an equipment for independent media in former Yugoslavia, and to bring the media there in touch with Dutch media to provide structural support to the related newspapers and broadcasters. Press Now supports those media in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia, where it is an established fact: 1) that they are not state-owned; 2) that their editorial policy is not influenced by governmental structures; 3) that they are not connected to any political party; 4) that they do not spread propaganda; 5) that they take a stand against war and ethnic conflicts; and 6) that they contribute to a reconstruction of democracy.

YAHOO

http://headlines.yahoo.com/Full_Coverage/World/Kosovo

The latest on Kosovo from Yahoo News.

THE VOICE OF AMERICA

<http://www.voanews.com>

The latest news from the VOA newsroom; see the “Crisis in Kosovo” page for the Live News Program Schedule for English and Balkan Services.

RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY

<http://www.rferl.org/>

“Everyone has the right...to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”
(Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

The RFE/RL Web site features up-to-the-minute audio in all its languages. There is a European mirror site for users in Europe and Asia.

MISSING PERSONS/PEOPLE LOCATOR SITES

<http://www.refugjat.org>

<http://www.redcross.org/intl/request.html>

<http://www.glaine.net/~kosovo>