

Massacred persons

The cruelty and insidiousness exhibited in the attacks on Serb villages, the ruthlessness towards villagers taken prisoner or captured, without distinction as to sex, age, whether they are soldiers or civilians, healthy or wounded and ill, the bestial treatment in prisons in which no water or food is the mildest punishment, represents a special chapter in the events in this region. It is hard to say whether such an attitude stems from the religious fanaticism of Islam, their jihad, or from the aroused basic, animal instincts of their warriors. And perhaps simply sadists, torturers and killers by nature, led the actions and gave the orders. Irrespective of the reasons, the consequences for the Serbian people are horrendous.

Many of the killed, but also of the wounded and even live and uninjured people were burned together with the houses they had been occupying. That happened in Zalazje on St. Peter's Day (July 12, 1992), where about twenty people were burned in three buildings. Or in Podravanje, where people were roasted on the spit (on the basis of the found corpses it could not be concluded whether the victims had already been dead or had been tortured thus while still alive). People were burned in their homes in many villages: Blječeva, Krnjići, Ratkovići, Ježestica. Tens of family houses were consumed in flames together with their occupants.

Many of the killed persons who were exchanged or were pulled out in other ways from the place of their death had traces of burns, parts of their bodies were charred, their throats had been slit, skulls smashed, arms and legs broken and in several cases, their heads had been cut off. Not infrequently even the dead were massacred.

A very large number of the victims were killed in very perfidious ways in various ambushes and by individual rifle shots (snipers). Vehicles and passers-by were waylaid not only on local and regional thoroughfares but also in fields, country lanes, forest

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paths... Everywhere where people moved. Almost a third of those on the attached list were killed in ambushes.

It is not even possible to imagine the number of people massacred, burned, those whose throats were slit, or were killed in other ways in prisons in the Moslem-controlled area. The truth about the fate of imprisoned and detained Serbs will have to wait for better times. It is to be expected that at such a time the documentation which we have will have to undergo radical changes and that the final death and casualties toll will present an even more tragic picture.

On the basis of preliminary insight into the massacres committed over the civilian population or prisoners or detainees, the first findings and results of investigations so far can be given. Victims put to death by torture or massacred, which is testified to by either authentic documentation or witnesses are exclusively in question.

It is thus quite certain that the following persons were massacred and put to death by torture:

- Kristina Lazić, Brežani, blind girl, mental patient, burned in her house on June 30, 1992.
- Kosana (Novak) Zekić, 1928, Blječeva, her throat was slit in her house in the same village on May 6, 1992.
- Radojko (Rajko) Milošević, 1928, burned in his own house while celebrating St. George's Day on May 6.
- Sekula (Nikola) Ristanović, 1906, Osredak, burned in his house on May 15, 1992.
- Nenad (Bora) Rankić, 1967, Srebrenica, caught and tortured bestially by knives, fire and blunt objects. Died on May 26, 1992 in the Moslem village of Čizmići.

- Dikosava (Drago) Petrović, 1932, Oparci, her throat was slit in her village on June 1, 1992.
- Srećko (Drago) Spajić, 1928, Obadi, throat slit in his village on June 8, 1992.
- Milovan (Andjelko) Grujičić, 1943, Gostilj, his throat was slit in the village of Zalazje on June 8, 1992.
- Dostana Cvijetinović, Obadi, killed after torture in Zalazje on June 8, 1992.
- Živorad (Sreten) Zarić, 1956, Tegare, bestially tortured and killed in the same village on June 9, 1992.
- Milojko (Milovan) Gagić, 1947, Karna, died under torture in the same village on June 15, 1992.
- Radomir (Milorad) Maksimović, 1942, Ratkovići, died after torture in the same village on June 21, 1992.
- Desanka (Pera) Stanojević, Ratkovici, burned in her house in the same village on June 21, 1992.
- Radenko (Milorad) Stanojević, 1940, his throat was slit in the same village in his house on June 21, 1992.
- Vidoje (Srećko) Radovanović, 1939, Žabokvica, killed with a blunt object, a sledgehammer, in the same village on July 2, 1992.
- Nedjo (Borisav) Simić, 1951, Krnjići, his throat was slit in the village of Radoševići on July 3, 1992.
- Vaso Porača, 1912, Krnjići, his throat was slit in his house in the same village on July 5, 1992.

- Dušanka (Periša) Paunović, 1954, Zagoni, killed by a blunt object, a sledgehammer, in the same village on July 5.
- Rada (Ilija) Milošević, 1968, Zagoni, massacred in the same village on July 5, 1992.
- Radinka (Dragomir) Cvjetinović, 1952, Azlica, massacred in Zalazje on July 12, 1992.
- Marko (Jakov) Mičić, 1949, Slapašnica, wounded and taken prisoner and his throat was slit in the village of Glogova on July 24, 1992.
- Vidoje (Pavle) Lazić, 1937, Brežani, crucified and burned on July 30, 1992.
- Ljubica (Drago) Gagić, 1950, Pribićevac, committed suicide in prison in Srebrenica, because of constant maltreatment and torture, probably on July 7, 1992.
- Andjelko (Ljubomir) Mladjenović, 1965, Ježestica, caught while working with his mother on his holding, his head was cut off and taken away from the place of the crime on August 8, 1992.
- Savka (Obren) Mladjenović, 1931, Ježestica, caught and killed while working with her son on their holding on August 8, 1992.
- Branislav (Svetozar) Lazić, 1937, Toplica, massacred in the same village on August 10, 1992.
- Dragomir (Jefta) Mitrović, 1939, Ranča, died under torture in the Moslem village of Potočari on August 12, 1992.
- Miloš (Veselin) Jovanović, 1928, Loznica, killed in the same village on December 14, 1992.
- Uroš Jovanović, 1921, Mlečva, beaten in the prison in Srebrenica or in Potočari as a consequence of which he died in the ZVornik

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hospital.

- Božidar (Nikola) Kovačić, Tegare, due to torture committed suicide in the Moslem village of Potočari.

- Rado Jovanović from Fakovići killed as a prisoner,

-Krstó (Dušan) Lazić, 1933, Brana Bačići, his throat was slit on January 7, 19923.

-Simo Tanasijević, Čičevci, found killed and castrated.

- Aleksa (Stevan) Perić, 1928, Radoševići, tortured and his throat was slit , a letter "U" was carved on his chest, and then he was burned on May 15, 1992.

- Milun Zarić , 1957, Tegare, tortured and his throat was slit in his own house.

- Živan (Petar) Prodanović, 1966, Ratkovići, his throat was slit in the same village on June 21, 1992.

- Nikola (Todor) Stanojević, 1958, Ratkovići, massacred and burned in the same village on June 21, 1992.

- Milka Prodanović, Sikirić, burned in her house.

-Mato (Ratko) Matić, 1966, Postolje, his throat was slit in his house in the same village in May 1992.

- Miloš (Rade) Novaković, 1956, Brežani, killed by an axe, his head was cut off and taken away, the body buried on June 30, 1992.

-Radomir (Marko) Milanović, 1966, Toplica, his throat was slit and he was burned in his house on June 2, 1992.

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- Zora (Drago) Prodanović, Ratkovići, maltreated and killed in her house on June 21, 1992.

- Stojan (Dragomir) Stevanović, 1939, Ratkovići, tortured, beaten with a blunt object, especially about the head, stabbed by a knife, found castrated with his penis in his mouth, on June 27, 1992.

- Soka Vujić, 1932, Krnjići, found killed and her body stabbed with a pitchfork.

- Milisav (Mika) Rankić, 1947, Brežani, burned in his house in the same village on June 30, 1992.

- Mirko (Milisav) Rankić, 1972, Brežani, burned in his house in the same village on June 30, 1992.

- Dragosav (Milisav) Rankić, 1974, Brežani, burned in his house in the same village on June 30, 1992.

This list of victims which we have already said to be only provisional and incomplete as well as the additional list of tortured and massacred persons, also provisional and incomplete, are sufficient testimony of the heavy death toll exacted from the Serbs in villages and settlements and even in houses in which they had been living from times immemorial. This misfortune is only heightened by the fact that the initiators and direct perpetrators of all these massacres and crimes against the Serbian nation is the local Moslem population, not for the first time in our more recent history.

DESTROYED PERSONAL PROPERTY AND MATERIAL GOODS

The destroyed goods and property of the villagers and their families become insignificant in the face of their immense personal tragedies and ordeals. Nevertheless, it is impossible and would be unfair to disregard the consequences of the ruthless destruction of Serb villages and Serb houses in mixed settlements and towns. Their owners, those who are still alive, but also the families of those who have been killed, are today refugees living off the aid of others and the generosity of those who have taken them in. All their former movable and immovable property has been either destroyed or plundered and taken away. This is undoubtedly property of great value, that had been acquired painstakingly over many years of hard work.

In Bosansko Podrinje (the Drina river valley area), as in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the third time in this century, everything that the Serb population had was destroyed. The same thing is happening in this war, which is still raging, as in the previous two wars . Almost every Serb house stood only to the next war. That is why every generation had to build anew, and everything they created lasted at most for several decades between wars. Through some irony of fate people became witnesses of the destruction of what they had created but rarely of the renewal of their households. That was left to the children to whom the same would happen again just like it happened to their parents. And, now for the third time. The only thing left to them from their grandfathers and from their fathers are meadows, pastures, forests, i.e. titles to the land and the sites of their ancestral homesteads. Once again, in barren areas and barren land. The present young generation shall have to start all over again, mainly single-handedly and without their parents. That is the fourth generation to have to do so after three wars and three devastations in the 20th century.

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Of a total of 5759 Serb families in the communes of Bratunac, Skelani and Srebrenica, 4246 or 74 % have remained without their holdings. The number of destroyed family houses is approximately the same and that of other auxiliary facilities (stables, pens, cribs, sheds, silos, summer lean-tos, etc) comprised within a rural household, is even larger. In this case too, we will be able to give more precise data only after the war is over. In addition to the above, with respect to immovable property, on this occasion we should at least mention the destroyed or seized business facilities, the number and value of which cannot even be estimated at this point of time. These are artisan workshops, trading outlets, catering facilities, premises for hire, and especially, means of production: technical facilities, machines and apparatus, tools... It is impossible to determine the worth of all this, i.e. the amount of war damage the Moslems caused the Serbs by destroying their immovable property alone.

It is no less difficult to establish the damage caused by the looting and destruction of their movable property: household appliances and effects, furniture, food. Here too in question is the property of the already mentioned 4246 families inhabiting before their banishment the 79 today destroyed settlements and villages of the commune of Bratunac, Srebrenica and Skelani. (We should perhaps draw attention to the fact that in this area there were a total of 130 villages, of which 37 purely Moslem, 39 purely Serb and the remaining 59 were mixed. In the mixed ones all the Serb hamlets were destroyed and burned). According to estimates made on the basis of statistical data from the 1991 census of the livestock in individual villages, and data on the number of saved livestock, about 6700 heads of cattle, 1400 of sheep and 33000 of poultry were stolen. The case of pigs is interesting. About 11000 were destroyed. They were mainly killed or burned in their pens, but there are testimonies to the effect that they were taken away to be eaten. The only thing not known now is whether the Moslems broke the rules of Islam or had in their ranks mercenaries, Christians, whom they supplied with pork.

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This is a hilly and mountainous region, which means that the main source of livelihood is agriculture and livestock breeding. The losses of livestock alone were about US \$ 10 million in current prices. And that is perhaps the smallest part of the overall losses. At the same time, Moslem villagers and families looted so much that today they have all kinds of things, including livestock and food, like they never had before. An exception perhaps, are the years of the past wars.

The mentioned losses do not include the property damaged in the Serb settlements exposed to constant shelling from Moslem heavy artillery.

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REFUGEES

People who lost their property, whose houses were destroyed and whose lives were in constant danger had no other alternative but to abandon everything and seek refuge in other places and towns. This was also done by the villagers of the burned and razed Serb villages in the communes of Skelani, Srebrenica and Bratunac. Having lost virtually everything they set out to places in which they could expect at least some degree of safety for themselves and their families. Many of them have remained near their villages hoping to return to them soon. Others went to places where they have kinsmen. And many of them, who had no other option, sought refuge with different humanitarian organizations i.e. their refugee centres.

This exodus involved a large number of people, in particular the vulnerable ones, children, women, the elderly and the sick, and has been going on for almost a year now.

According to the data of the Republican Statistical Office and the Republican Committee of the Red Cross, the number of refugees from the areas of the communes of Bratunac, Srebrenica and Skelani, registered in January 1993 was 9,661, or 45% of the number of inhabitants of Serb nationality in these communes. But this figure should not be taken at face value because Moslems, at least from the areas of the mentioned communes, account for 24% of the refugees in Serbia. The stated number of refugees is neither complete nor final. In order to avoid military service many men have not registered as refugees... This is particularly true of Serbs of conscription age. In addition, there are both Serb and Moslem refugees from this territory, albeit in much smaller numbers, in the neighbouring Republic of Montenegro, as well as abroad. It is already evident that refugee migrations are very frequent and dynamic.

Persons who are well-off mainly do not register with the competent services, the Red Cross and Commissioner for Refugees, and

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thereby do not verify their refugee status. The extent of their well-being is another matter. These records largely exclude children, especially those taken in by the close relatives of their parents.

However, irrespective of all this the sad truth stands that almost a half of the Serb population of the communes in question is outside not only their communes but also their state.

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