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INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL

THE HAGUE

FRENCH FORENSIC MISSION

KOSOVO - SUMMER 1999

SITE REPORT

CIREZ SITE

2 AND 3 JULY 1999

FRENCH FORENSIC MISSION

KOSOVO – SUMMER 1999

CIREZ SITE

PURPOSE: Findings and investigations of evidence in the CIREZ site.

APPENDED DOCUMENTS: - two maps of the area;
- a general map of the premises;
- an album comprising 49 pages and 64 photographs.

The expert mission on the CIREZ site was carried out on 2 and 3 July 1999.

It was conducted by: Professor **Dominique Lecomte**, forensic scientist, director of the Paris Forensic Institute;
Doctor **Walter Vorhauer**, forensic scientist at the Paris Forensic Institute;
Mr. **Dominique Gaillardon**, police chief superintendent, chief of the Central Criminal Identification Department, Sub-Directorate of the Technical and Scientific Police;
Mr. **Bernard Ceccaldi**, Gendarmerie lieutenant-colonel, commander of the Orléans investigations section;
Mr. **Michel Poirot**, police captain at the National Investigation, Documentation and Training Centre, Sub-Directorate of the Technical and Scientific Police;
Mr. **Marc Giaveri**, police captain, Central Criminal Identification Department, Sub-Directorate of the Technical and Scientific Police;
Mr. **Christian Fouladeau**, police lieutenant, Criminal Identification Department, Paris police prefecture;
Mr. **Richard Junca**, police officer, Central Criminal Identification Department, Sub-Directorate of the Technical and Scientific Police;
Mr. **Franck Pages**, police officer/ballistician, National Gendarmerie Criminal Research Institute;
Mr. **Ludovic Lecomte**, police officer, criminal identification technician, Luce departmental Missing Persons Bureau.

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THE FACTS:

On 17 April 1999, eight women were abducted from the village of Kozhice by forces of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They were taken to the village of Cirez where they were held for a few days before being thrown into several of the wells there.

GEOGRAPHY:

The village of Cirez lies at UTM co-ordinates 34 T 47 29 250 – 4 91 250. It is 19 km south of Kosovska Mitrovica as the crow flies.

CONDITION OF THE SITE UPON ARRIVAL:

The village of Cirez was subject to significant material damage. Several houses and the mosque were destroyed. (Photographs pages 7 and 14).

The three wells examined are in the yards of separate farms to the east of the village. The wells are outside and the depths of the wells from the base of the coping to the surface of the water varies between six and eight metres. The first well is partly filled in with rubble, the other two contain floating bodies. (Map of the premises page 3).

There is evidence of military quartering with heavy artillery gun emplacements from the two 150mm shell case storage points. Both of these are to the east of the village. The first is close to the property where well number one is located. The second is in one of the houses on this property.

(Map and photographs pages 3, 15, 16, 21 and 22).

FINDINGS, METHODOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES:

The wells are coded SI P1, SI P2 and SI P3. (Sites of wells 1, 2 and 3). They were mechanically excavated since the bodies could not be brought up any other way.

For each well, the bodies found were coded with the letter C and another number chosen in chronological order.

FINDINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS OF THE EVIDENCE:

Each body underwent investigation. The clothes were inventoried and then shown to people who knew the victim for identification sake. The body was then returned to the villagers who buried it at the local cemetery.

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WELL NUMBER 1 (pages 17 to 21).

The entrance to the property where the well is located is 200 metres south-east of the mosque, very close to the road to the extreme east of the village. The well is outside, 55 metres from the entrance and facing it. The well is 1,10 metres in diameter with a wooden coping. The distance between the base of the coping and the surface of the water cannot be measured exactly due to the rubble but is estimated at 5 or 6 metres.

Four bodies were taken out of the well.

SI P1 C1 (page 23 and 24)**External examination of body:**

Putrefying body of Caucasian woman, appears to be 20 years of age, of medium build, with dark brown hair and about 1,60 metres in height.

Clothes and objects found on the body:

- black woollen sweater with a multi-coloured pattern of the alphabet and stars;
- white vest with "BLUE DENIM" written on it;
- light green long-sleeved vest with the design of a child with a baseball bat and "I PROTECT NATURE" written on it;
- size 40 red corduroy BENETTON trousers, Made in Italy;
- thick white woollen vest;
- handkerchief, box of matches, "Dermo-System" stick for lips, multi-coloured pearl bracelet and bracelet watch.

Identification:

Lumnije ZYMERI, born on 27 June 1979, at KOZHICE.

SI P1 C2 (page 25 and 26)**External examination of body:**

Putrefying body of Caucasian woman, appears to be between 20 and 30 years of age, with long black hair, of medium build and between 1,60 and 1,65 metres in height.

Clothes found on the body:

- blue socks with an orange, green and purple pattern;
- left "ALL STAR" basketball shoe;
- beige woollen sweater with black monochromes;
- white tee-shirt;
- thin black sweater with a high neck.

Identification:

Bukurije DIBRANI, born in 1976, in KOZHICE.

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SI P1 C3 (pages 27 and 28)External examination of body:

Putrefying headless body of a Caucasian woman, appears to be between 20 and 30 years of age, of medium build and 1,60 metres in height.

Clothes found on the body:

- green socks;
- brown leather lace-up shoes;
- hooded nylon jacket with a black, red and cream pattern;
- black tracksuit bottom;
- brown tracksuit bottom;
- black underpants.

Identification:

Antigona DIBRANI, born in 1969, at KOZHICE.

SI P1 C4 (page 29 to 31)External examination of body:

Putrefying body of Caucasian woman, appears to be between 20 and 25 years of age, with mid-length brown hair, of medium build and 1,60 metres in height.

Clothes found on the body:

- pink, green and blue monochrome vest;
- red woollen sweater;
- long underpants with a white and blue pattern.

Identification:

Merishahe DIBRANI, born in 1979, at KOZHICE.

WELL NUMBER 2 (pages 32 to 37).

The property where this well is located is beside the previous one. The entrance is 133 metres south-east of the mosque, very close to the road to the extreme east of the village. The well is outside, 65 metres from the entrance and facing it. The well is 1,05 metres in diameter with a concrete coping. The distance between the base of the coping and the surface of the water is estimated at 8 metres. There are traces of blood on the inside wall of the coping and at the bottom, on the first stones of the well.

One body was taken out of the well.

SI P2 C1 (page 38 and 39).External examination of the body:

Putrefying body of Caucasian woman, less than 20 years old, of medium build, with dark brown hair and about 1,65 metres in height.

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Clothes and objects found on the body:

- purple and blue quilted jacket;
- marine blue quilted sleeveless jacket;
- purple and beige tee-shirt with horizontal stripes;
- beige short-sleeved tee-shirt with "EXOTIQUE" written on it;
- orange long-sleeved tee-shirt;
- polo-neck sweater with blue, purple and beige stripes;
- marine blue tracksuit bottoms
- blue cordoroy "GOLDEN TEAM" trousers.

Identification:

Xhema ZAHIDE, 18 years of age, born at KOZHICE.

WELL NUMBER 3 (pages 40 to 43).

The property where this well is located is beside the previous one. The entrance is 65 metres to the east of the mosque and very close to the road to the extreme east of the village. The well is outside, slightly left of the entrance and 20 metres from it. The well is one metre in diameter with a wooden coping. The distance between the base of the coping and the surface of the well is estimated to be 6 metres.

Three bodies were taken out of the well.

SI P3 C1 (page 44 and 45)External examination of the body:

Putrefying body of Caucasian woman, appears to be between 50 and 60 years of age, of heavy build, with black hair and about 1,70 metres in height.

Clothes and objects found on the body:

- red lined vest with shoulder pads;
- black and grey checked sari;
- purple and green skirt;
- material belt;
- scarf worn as a belt;
- sleeveless beige woollen jacket;
- white blouse with a blue pattern;
- black and white pearl necklace.

Identification:

Fahrje ADEMI, 50 years of age, born at KOZHICE.

SI P3 C2 (page 46 and 47)External examination of body:

Putrefying body of Caucasian woman, appears to be between 40 and 50 years of age, of heavy build, with black hair and about 1,62 metres in height.

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Clothes found on the body:

- blue woollen sari with green stripes, tweed style;
- long black velvet underwear;
- pink sweater turned purplish-blue;
- beige sweater with small buttons;
- green woollen sweater;
- beige tee-shirt with black polka-dots;
- light green sweater.

Identification:

Miradije DIBRANI, 50 years of age, born at KOZHICE.

SI P3 C3 (page 48 and 49)

External examination of body:

Putrefying body of Caucasian woman, appears to be between 50 and 60 years of age, of heavy build, with brown hair and about 1,60 metres in height.

Clothes found on the body:

- blue sari;
- long white underwear;
- sleeveless thick ribbed woollen vest;
- purple woollen jacket;
- long purple-brown buttoned tunic;
- green woollen vest with a black pattern;
- V-neck vest with a pink floral pattern on the left side

Identification:

Tahire SHALAHU, 60 years of age, born at DUBOCE.

SHELL CASE STORAGE POINTS (map page 3 and photographs page 15, 16, 21 and 22).

The first storage point is close to the property where well number 1 is located, that is 230 metres south-east of the mosque and 10 metres from the road, just beside one of the farm's outbuildings. Seven 105mm shell cases and eight encasings were on the ground.

The second storage point is in an outbuilding on the property where the well number 1 is located, 45 metres away from the well and 10 metres from the road. Eight 105mm shell encasings were on the ground.

This seven page report and the appended album comprising two maps of the area, a general map of the premises and sixty-four photograph negatives assembled in forty-nine pages were drafted and prepared by the follow experts:

Dominique Gaillardon \signed\

Richard Junca \signed\

Michel Poirot \signed\

Marc Giaveri \signed\

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MAP OF THE AREA

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MAP OF THE AREA

GENERAL MAP OF WELLS
Scale: 1/1000

CIREZ VILLAGE

West
South North
East

Shell case storage points and encasings

Well number 1

Well number 2

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Well number 3

Aerial view of CIREZ with the area where the wells are situated in the foreground.

Aerial view of CIREZ

Arrow A: the area where the wells are situated.

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Aerial view of CIREZ with the zone where the wells are situated in the background.

Aerial view of CIREZ.

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DAMAGE WROUGHT
ON CIREZ VILLAGE
AND
THE LOCATION OF ONE
SHELL CASE STORAGE POINT

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105mm shell case storage point close to the site of well number 1.

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Entry to the property where well number 1 is situated.

WELL NUMBER ONE

Same view from inside the property.

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View in the direction of the well.
ARROW: location of the well.

Well number 1.

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Well number 1.

The entrance to the property seen from the well.
ARROW: the house where the shell encasings were found.

The bottom of the well.

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The 105mm shell encasings.

Clothes and objects found on body number 1 identified as Lumnije ZYMERI, born on 27 June 1979, at KOZHICE:

- black woollen sweater with a multi-coloured pattern of the alphabet and stars;
- white vest with "BLUE DENIM" written on it;
- light green long-sleeved vest with the design of a child with a baseball bat and "I PROTECT NATURE" written on it;
- size 40 red cordoroy BENETTON trousers, Made in Italy; thick white woollen vest;

The 105mm shell encasings.

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Handkerchief, box of matches, "Dermo-System" stick for lips, multi-coloured pearl bracelet

Body number 2 identified as that of Bukurije DIBRANI, born in 1976, at KOZHICE.

Bracelet watch.

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Clothes found on body number 2 identified as those of Bukurige DIBRANI:

- blue socks with an orange, green and purple pattern;
- "ALL STAR" basketball shoes;
- beige woollen sweater with black monochromes;
- white tee-shirt;
- thin black sweater with a high neck.

Body number 3 identified as that of Antigona DIBRANI, born in 1969, in KOZHICE.

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Clothes found on body number 3 identified as those of Antigona DIBRANI:

- green socks;
- brown leather lace-up shoes;
- hooded nylon jacket with a black, red and cream pattern;
- black tracksuit bottom;
- brown tracksuit bottom;
- black underpants.

Upper part of body number 4 identified as that of Merishahe DIBRANI, born in 1979, at KOZHICE

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Clothes found on body number 4 identified as those of Merishahe DIBRANI:

- pink, green and blue monochrome vest;
- red, woollen sweater;
- long underpants with a white and blue pattern.

Lower limbs of body number 4 identified as that of Merishahe DIBRANI, born in 1979, at KOZHICE.

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Entrance to the property where well number 2 is located.

WELL NUMBER TWO

View in direction of the well.
ARROW: location of the well.

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Well number 2.

Entrance to the property as seen from the well.

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Traces of blood on the inside wall of the coping of the well.

Traces of blood on the first stones of the well, under the coping.

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View of the bottom of the well.

Body number 1 identified as that of Xhema ZAHIDE, eighteen years old, born at KOZHICE.

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Clothes found on body number 1 identified as that of Xhema ZAHIDE:

- purple and blue quilted jacket;
- marine blue quilted sleeveless jacket;
- purple and beige tee-shirt with horizontal stripes;
- beige short-sleeved tee-shirt with "EXOTIQUE" written on it;
- orange long-sleeved tee-shirt;
- polo-neck sweater with blue, purple and beige stripes;
- marine blue tracksuit bottoms;
- blue cordoroy "GOLDEN TEAM" trousers.

WELL NUMBER THREE

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Entrance to the property where well number 3 is located.

Entrance to the property as seen from the well.

Well number 3.

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The bottom of the well with human remains on the surface.

Work carried out with a mechanical shovel to take the human victims out of the well.

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Body number 1 identified as that of Fahrije ADEMI, 50 years old, born at KOZHICE.

Clothes and necklace found on body number 1 identified as that of Fahrije ADEMI:

- red lined vest with shoulder pads;
- black and grey checked sari;
- red cordoroy trousers;
- purple and green skirt;
- material belt;
- scarf worn as a belt;
- sleeveless beige woollen jacket;
- white blouse with a blue necklace;
- black and white pearl necklace.

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Clothes found on body number 2:

- blue woollen sari with green stripes, tweed style;
- long black velvet underpants;
- pink sweater turned purplish-blue.

Body number 2 identified as that of Miradije DIBRANI, 50 years of age, born at KOZHICE.

Clothes found on body number 2:

- beige bottoms with small buttons;
- green woollen sweater;
- beige tee-shirt with black polka-dots;
- light green sweater.

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Body number 3 identified as that of Tahire SHALAQU, 60 years of age, born at DUBOCE.

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Clothes found on body number 3:

- blue sari;
- long white underpants;
- sleeveless thick ribbed woollen vest;
- purple woollen jacket.

Clothes found on body number 3:

- long purple-brown tunic with buttons;
- green woollen vest with a black pattern;
- V-neck vest with a pink floral pattern on the left side.

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*French Forensic Mission***KOSOVO**

Summer 1999

Cirez site
Autopsies**CIREZ**

The mission at the Cirez site took place on 2 and 3 July 1999.
It was conducted by:

Professor **Dominique Lecomte**, forensic scientist, director of the Paris Forensic Institute;
Doctor **Walter Vorhauer**, forensic scientist at the Paris Forensic Institute;
Mr. **Dominique Gaillardon**, police chief superintendent, chief of the Central Criminal Identification Department, Sub-Directorate of the Technical and Scientific Police;
Mr. **Bernard Ceccaldi**, Gendarmerie lieutenant-colonel, commander of the Orléans investigations section;
Mr. **Michel Poirot**, police captain at the National Investigation, Documentation and Training Centre, Sub-Directorate of the Technical and Scientific Police;
Mr. **Marc Giaveri**, police captain, Central Criminal Identification Department, Sub-Directorate of the Technical and Scientific Police;
Mr. **Christian Fouladeau**, police lieutenant, Criminal Identification Department, Paris police prefecture;
Mr. **Richard Junca**, police officer, Central Criminal Identification Department, Sub-Directorate of the Technical and Scientific Police;
Mr. **Franck Pages**, police officer/ballistician, National Gendarmerie Criminal Research Institute;
Mr. **Ludovic Lecomte**, police officer, Lucet Missing Persons Bureau.

The Facts:

According to information gathered by ICTY investigators, eight women were abducted from the village of Kozhice on 17 April 1999 by forces of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They were taken to the village of Cirez where they were held for a few days before being thrown into several of the wells in the village.

Geography:

The village of Cirez lies at UTM co-ordinates 34 T 47 29 250 – 4 91 250. It is 19 kilometres south of Kosovska Mitrovica as the crow flies.

Extensive damage was done to the village. Several houses and the mosque were destroyed.

The three wells examined were in different farmyards to the east of the village. The wells were open and varied in depth from six to eight metres from the base of the coping to the surface of the water. The first well was partially filled in with rubble. The two others contained floating bodies.

Two 105mm shell storage dumps indicated the presence of a military encampment with heavy artillery emplacements. The storage dumps were also to the east of the village. The first was near the property on which well number 1 stood while the second was in one of the houses on the property.

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Findings Methodology And Techniques:

Five wells were found on the site, four of them inside the farmyards. A sixth was 450 metres away, on the eastern road out of the village. They were coded SIP1, SIP2, SIP3, SIP4, SIP5 and SIP6.

SIP4 was in a courtyard. There was a child's shoe on the surface of the water which was fished out. It turned out that it belonged to a child from the house who had thrown the shoe into the well. Probing did not show up any body parts.

SIP5 was on the edge of the village square. Probed, no body parts. It was polluted by fuel oil. SIP6 stood in a courtyard some distance from the village and did not contain any body parts.

The three other wells, in which bodies were found floating, were coded SIP1, SIP2 and SIP3. A mechanical excavator from the Engineers was used because the bodies could not be brought up any other way. The wells would be filled in after extraction.

The bodies discovered in each well were coded using the letter C and a sequential number.

An autopsy was performed on each body that was discovered. The clothes on it were inventoried and then shown to people who knew the victim for identification. The body was then returned to the villagers who buried it at the local cemetery.

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SIP1: 4 female bodies numbered SIP1C1 to SIP1C4**SIP1C1:****Examination of clothing:**

Grey woollen tights

White thick woollen cardigan

White vest (Blue Denim)

Long-sleeved light green vest with a design of a child holding a baseball bat and the French wording: "*je protège la nature*"

Red corduroy trousers, size 40, brand Benetton Made in Italy, with a white handkerchief with red edging, a box of matches, a lipstick and a small multicoloured pearl bracelet in the right pocket

Black woollen round-neck sweater with orange, blue and yellow alphabet and stars

Two pairs of long underpants

External examination of body:

Putrefying female body with extensive maceration and skin peeled off limbs like stockings (without nails) indicating that the body was in the water for about two and a half months. White, apparent age 20 years old, height about 1.60 metres, medium build, dark brown hair, oval face, medium-sized nose.

Cyanosis not visible (no nails).

No traumatic cutaneous marks, no injuries, on the entire body. Deep incisions did not reveal any haematomata.

Red blood on vulvar opening, but not in the vaginal cavity.

The state of putrefaction made it impossible to see any fissure-type lesions in the vulvo-vaginal or anal region.

Autopsy:**Head:**

No traumatic lesions of the scalp, no skull fractures.

No traumatic facial lesions.

Neck:

No fractures or laryngeal or perilaryngeal haematomata.

Thorax:

Haemorrhagic fracture of the anterior arch of the 9th right rib.

Lungs – sign of pneumothorax.

Abdomen and true pelvis:

No intra-abdominal haematomata. Empty stomach. No liver or spleen traumatism.

Uterus normal.

Skeleton:

Spinal column and limbs intact.

Conclusion: death by drowning, with *ante-mortem* fracture of the 9th right rib.

No injuries, no deep haematomata, no gross external lesions, no laryngeal lesions. The presence of red blood on the vulvar opening (state of putrefaction made it impossible to discern any injuries) and the lack of blood in the vagina suggested an act of violence involving the vulva.

No lesions where the body was gripped or defence wounds.

Identification: in view of the clothes and what the family said, the victim was Lumnije Zymeri, born on 27/06/1979, in Kozhice.

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Photo 1: presence of blood on the vulvar opening (PIC1).

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SIP1C2:

Examination of clothing:

Blue socks with blue and green design
Trainer-style shoe, brand All Star
Beige woollen sweater with shades of black
White tee-shirt
Black thin woollen turtleneck sweater

External examination of body:

Putrefying female body with extensive maceration and skin peeled off limbs like stockings (without nails) indicating that the body was in the water for about two and a half months. White, apparent age between 20 and 30 years old, height 1.60 – 1.65 metres.
The skull and face were smashed by the excavator *post-mortem*. Some tufts of long black hair were found in the cranio-facial fracture.
No identifiable cyanosis as the nails had fallen off.
Deep incisions did not reveal any haematomata.
No injuries on the rest of the body but abrasion wounds scattered over an area of about 12cm by 6cm on the inside of right thigh and the outside upper third of left leg. Red blood on vulva but no blood in the vagina. The state of putrefaction made it impossible to see any vulvar or anal fissures.

Autopsy:

Head:

The edges of the cranial and facial bony fragments were not haemorrhagic: *post-mortem* lesions made by the excavator.

Neck:

No fractures or laryngeal or perilaryngeal haematomata. Flexible larynx.

Thorax:

No fractures of the thoracic cage.
Lungs – sign of pneumothorax.

Abdomen and true pelvis:

No intra-abdominal haematomata. Empty stomach. No liver or spleen traumatism.
Uterus normal

Skeleton:

Spinal column and limbs intact.

Conclusion: death by drowning.

The red blood at the vulvar opening, the lack of any in the vagina and the presence of abrasion on the inside of the right thigh bore testimony to an act of violence involving the vulvo-vaginal junction, as seen in rapes.

Identification: in view of the clothes and what the family said, the victim was Bukurije Dibrani, born in 1976, in Kozhice.

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Photo 1: lesions from act of violence on the inside of the right thigh (P1C2).

Photo 2: lungs – sign of pneumothorax (P1C2).

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SIP1C3:

Examination of clothing:

Green sock
Laced brown leather shoe and a second one separate
Black tee-shirt
Nylon hooded jacket with red, black and creme design
Black tracksuit bottoms
Brown tracksuit
Black underwear

External examination of body:

Putrefying female body with extensive maceration and skin peeled off limbs like stockings (without nails) indicating that the body was in the water for about two and a half months. White, apparent age between 20 and 30 years old, height 1.60 metres, medium build.
No cyanosis identifiable as the nails had fallen off.
No head, no neck, mandible found detached with intact set of teeth, young. The right arm was ripped out of the joint by the excavator and found nearby.
Deep incisions in the torso and limbs did not reveal any haematomata.
Examination of the external genital openings and the anus did not reveal any blood or injuries because of the state of putrefaction. There was however defecation.

Autopsy:

Head:

It was not found except for a few cutaneous strips from the neck and the occiput torn off by the excavator.

Thorax:

Crushing and fractures of the entire right side of the thorax, without related cutaneous lesions.
Lungs – sign of pneumothorax.

Abdomen and true pelvis:

No intra-abdominal haematomata. Empty stomach. No liver or spleen traumatism.
Uterus normal.

Skeleton:

Spinal column, left arm and both legs intact.

Conclusion: death by drowning.

No lesions where the body was gripped or defence wounds.

Skull, face and neck torn out by excavator *post-mortem*. Not found.

Right arm torn out but found in a jacket sleeve.

Crushing of the right side of the thorax.

No signs indicating sexual violence because of putrefaction.

Identification: in view of the clothes and what the family said, the victim was Antigona Dibrani, born in 1969, in Kozhice.

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Photo 1: general view of the body without sexual violence lesions (P1C3).

Photo 2: post-mortem cranio-facial lesions (P1C3).

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SIP1C4:

Examination of clothing:

Cardigan with pink, green and blue shades
Red woollen sweater
White vest with design "Keep out"
Vest with small black bow-tie.
Black cloth trousers with zip
Grey chevron-patterned trousers
Long underpants with blue and white designs
Black underwear
Dark grey sock

External examination of body:

Putrefying female body with extensive maceration and skin peeled off limbs like stockings (without nails) indicating that the body was in the water for about two and a half months. White, apparent age between 20 and 25 years old, height 1.60 metres, medium build. The mid-length brown hair had come away due to putrefaction. The face was oval.
The body was disarticulated into two parts as a result of excavation, with plain *post-mortem* bony disruption of the viscera.
No vital traumatic cutaneous marks, no injuries, on the entire body. Deep incisions did not reveal any haematomata.
No blood on the vulvar opening. No gross vulvar or anal lesions because of putrefaction.

Autopsy:

Head:

No vital traumatic lesions of the scalp. No skull fractures.
No traumatic facial lesions.

Neck:

No fractures or laryngeal or perilaryngeal haematomata.

Thorax:

Thoracic cage intact.
Lungs – sign of pneumothorax.

Abdomen and true pelvis: (separated from the thorax)

No intra-abdominal haematomata. Empty stomach. No vital liver or spleen traumatism.
Uterus normal.

Skeleton:

Spinal column and limbs without vital fractures.

Conclusion: death by drowning, without superficial or deep traumatic lesions. No gross sexual violence lesions.

Identification: in view of the clothes and what the family said, the victim was Merishahe Dibrani, born in 1979, in Kozhice.

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Photo 1: upper part of body without vital traumatic lesions (PIC4).

Photo 2: lower part of the body without sexual violence lesions (PIC4).

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SIP2: 1 female body numbered SIP2C1

SIP2C1:

Examination of clothing:

Purple and blue padded jacket with zip
 Navy blue sleeveless padded jacket
 Purple and beige tee-shirt with horizontal stripes
 Short-sleeved tee-shirt, put on inside out, with beige design "Exotic"
 Orange long-sleeved tee-shirt
 Patterned polo-neck sweater with beige, purple and blue stripes
 Navy blue tracksuit bottoms
 Blue Golden Team ribbed trousers with zip
 Green tracksuit trousers with a blue patch on the left knee
 Beige long underpants
 Soiled underwear

External examination of body:

Putrefying female body with extensive maceration and skin peeled off limbs like stockings (without nails) indicating that the body was in the water for about two and a half months. White, apparent age less than 20 years old, height 1.65 metres, medium build, with tufts of dark brown hair remaining, a set of teeth intact, not worn, young.

Upper posterior part of scalp intact but loss of cutaneous matter from the frontal region, with blackish rim, no facial haematomata. This all suggested that the frontal scalp had probably been torn off.

Cyanosis not visible (no nails).

No vital traumatic cutaneous marks, no injuries, on the rest of the body. Deep incisions did not reveal any haematomata. Two cases of crushing and disruption of the right forearm and arm were caused by rubble falling when the excavator was extracting the bodies.

No blood at the vulvar opening. The hymen was clearly visible, permeable and not torn. The state of putrefaction made it impossible to see any fissure-type lesions in the anal region.

Autopsy:

Head:

No skull fractures.
 No traumatic facial lesions.

Neck:

No fractures or laryngeal or perilaryngeal haematomata.

Thorax:

Haemorrhagic fractures of the posterior arches of the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th right ribs, with dark brown pleural liquid.
 Lungs – sign of pneumothorax.

Abdomen and true pelvis:

No intra-abdominal haematomata. Some water in stomach. No liver or spleen traumatism.
 Uterus normal.

Skeleton:

Spinal column intact.

Conclusion: death by drowning, with *ante-mortem* fractures of right ribs. No injuries, no deep haematomata, no gross external lesions, no laryngeal lesions. The fracture/crushing of the bones of the right arm was caused by falling rubble when the wall collapsed while the

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body was being extracted. The loss of frontal scalp matter, with blackish edges, seemed to correspond to rubbing, with tearing, against a stone in the first layer underneath the coping, on which significant blood stains were found when the well was examined. No lesions where the body was gripped or defence wounds. No gross sexual violence lesions because of putrefaction.

Identification: in view of the clothes and what the family said, the victim was Xhema Zahide, 18 years old, born in Kozhice.

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Photo 1: general view (P2C1).

Photo 2: rib fractures and pleural haematic effusion (P2C1).

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SIP3: 3 female bodies numbered SIP3C1 to SIP3C3**SIP3C1:**Examination of clothing:

Red cardigan with red lined shoulder pads
 Black and grey checked sari
 Red overalls
 Purple and green skirt
 Belt
 Scarf used as belt
 Beige sleeveless woollen jacket
 White buttoned blouse with blue design
 Pearl necklace with black and white beads

External examination of body:

Putrefying female body with extensive maceration and skin peeled off limbs like stockings (without nails) indicating that the body was in the water for about two and a half months. White, apparent age 50 to 60 years old, height about 1.70 metres, heavily built, some tufts of black hair. Cyanosis not visible (no nails).
 No traumatic cutaneous marks, no injuries, on the entire body. Deep incisions did not reveal any haematomata.
 No blood on the vulvar opening.
 The state of putrefaction made it impossible to see any fissure-type lesions in the vulvo-vaginal or anal regions.

Autopsy:Head:

No traumatic lesions of the scalp. No skull fracture.
 No traumatic facial lesions.

Neck:

No fractures or laryngeal or perilaryngeal haematomata.

Thorax:

Blood clots in the right pleural cavity. *Ante-mortem* fractures of right ribs: posterior arches of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th.
 Lungs – sign of pneumothorax.

Abdomen and true pelvis:

No intra-abdominal haematomata. Empty stomach. Liver traumatism. Rupture of the upper edge of the liver's left lobe. No splenic lesions.
 Uterus normal.

Skeleton:

Spinal column and limbs intact.

Conclusion: death by drowning, with posterior right thoracic traumatism and rupture of the liver's left lobe.

No injuries, no deep haematomata, no gross external lesions, no laryngeal lesions.

No lesions where the body was gripped or defence wounds.

No gross sexual violence lesions.

Identification: in view of the clothes and what the family said, the victim was Fahrije Ademi, 50 years old, born in Kozhice.

Photo 1: posterior right rib fractures (P3C1).

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SIP3C2:Examination of clothing:

Blue woollen sari with green stripes, Tweed-style
 Black velvet long underpants
 Green woollen sweater
 Beige sweater with small buttons
 Purplish pink sweater
 Light green sweater
 Beige tee-shirt with black polka dots

External examination of body:

Putrefying female body with extensive maceration and skin peeled off limbs like stockings (without nails) indicating that the body was in the water for about two and a half months. White, apparent age 40 to 50 years old, height about 1.62 metres, heavily built, some tufts of black hair.

Post-mortem crushing of the cranial vault.

Cyanosis not visible (no nails).

No traumatic cutaneous marks, no injuries, on the entire body. Deep incisions did not reveal any haematomata.

No blood on vulvar opening.

The state of putrefaction made it impossible to see any fissure-type lesions in the vulvo-vaginal or anal regions. Defecation.

Autopsy:Head:

Crushing of the cranial vault, with non-haemorrhagic, greyish, diffluent brain.
 No traumatic facial lesions.

Neck:

No fractures or laryngeal or perilaryngeal haematomata.

Thorax:

Ante-mortem fractures of the anterior arches of the right ribs – 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th.

Lungs – sign of pneumothorax.

Abdomen and true pelvis:

No intra-abdominal haematomata. Some unidentifiable solid matter in stomach. No liver or spleen traumatism.

Uterus normal.

Skeleton:

Spinal column and limbs intact.

Conclusion: death by drowning, with *ante-mortem* right thoracic fractures.

The fracture of the cranial vault had no cerebral haemorrhagic lesion and was caused by the excavator.

No injuries, no deep haematomata, no gross external lesions, no laryngeal lesions.

No lesions where the body was gripped or defence wounds.

No gross sexual violence lesions.

Identification: in view of the clothes and what the family said, the victim was Miradije Dibrani, 50 years old, born in Kozhice, mother of SIP1C2, SIP1C3 and SIP1C4.

Photo 1: lungs – sign of pneumothorax (P3C2).

Photo 2: rib fractures (P3C2).

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SIP3C3:Examination of clothing:

Blue sari
 White long underpants
 Long brown and purple buttoned tunic
 Sleeveless thick woollen ribbed cardigan
 Green woollen cardigan with black design
 Purple woollen jacket
 V-neck vest with simple rose design

External examination of body:

Putrefying female body with extensive maceration and skin peeled off limbs like stockings (without nails) indicating that the body was in the water for about two and a half months. White, apparent age 50 to 60 years old, height about 1.60 metres, heavily built, tufts of loose black/brown hair.

Cyanosis not visible (no nails).

Post-mortem crushing of the cranial vault.

No traumatic cutaneous marks, no injuries, on the rest of the body. Deep incisions did not reveal any haematomata.

No blood on vulvar opening.

The state of putrefaction made it impossible to see any fissure-type lesions in the vulvo-vaginal or anal regions.

Autopsy:Head:

Post-mortem non-haemorrhagic crushing of the cranial vault.

No traumatic facial lesions.

Neck:

No fractures or laryngeal or perilaryngeal haematomata.

Thorax:

Fractures of the right lateral arches of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th ribs.

Lungs – sign of pneumothorax.

Abdomen and true pelvis:

No intra-abdominal haematomata. Empty stomach. No liver of spleen traumatism.

Uterus normal.

Skeleton:

Spinal column and limbs intact.

Conclusion: death by drowning, with *ante-mortem* fractures of the right lateral thorax resulting from the fall.

No injuries, no deep haematomata, no gross external lesions, no laryngeal lesions.

No lesions where the body was gripped or defence wounds.

No gross sexual violence lesions.

Identification: in view of the clothes and what the family said, the victim was Tahire Shalaqu, 60 years old, born in Duboce.

Photo 1: rib fractures (P3C3).

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SUMMARY

The site of the wells took in Cirez, Baksi, Prellovci, Krasras Mirovici, Krasaliqi, Kozhice.

Traces of a military encampment with artillery emplacements could be seen (cases for heavy and light weapons).

The first storage dump was close to the property on which well number 1 stood, that is 230 metres south-east of the mosque and 10 metres from the road, beside one of the farm's outbuildings. Seven 105mm shell cases and eight casings were on the ground.

The second storage dump was in an outbuilding of the property on which well number 1 stood, 45 metres from that well and 10 metres from the road. Eight 105mm shell casings were on the ground.

Five wells were found on the site, four of them inside the farmyards. A sixth was 450 metres away, on the eastern road out of the village. They were coded SIP1, SIP2, SIP3, SIP4, SIP5 and SIP6.

Of the six wells, five were open and one filled in with rubble. Three were examined and no bodies found. Two contained floating bodies. The wells were about six metres deep, except for P2 which was between eight and ten metres deep (surface of the water).

The wells examined had to be excavated mechanically using excavators because the bodies could not be brought up any other way.

Well SIP1

The entrance to the property on which the well stood was 200 metres south-east of the mosque, very close to the road to the extreme east of the village. The well was outside, 55 metres from the entrance and facing it. The well was 1.10 metres in diameter and had wooden coping. The distance between the base of the coping and the surface of the water could not be measured exactly due to the rubble but was estimated at 5 or 6 metres.

Four bodies were taken out of the well.

Well SIP2

The property on which the well stood was next to the previous property. The entrance was 133 metres south-east of the mosque, very close to the road to the extreme east of the village. The well was outside, 65 metres from the entrance and facing it. The well was 1.05 metres in diameter and had concrete coping. The distance between the base of the coping and the surface of the water was estimated at 8 metres. There were traces of blood on the inside wall of the coping and at its base, on the first stones of the well.

One body was taken out of the well.

Well SIP3

The property on which the well stood was next to the previous property. The entrance was 65 metres to the east of the mosque and very close to the road to the extreme east of the village. The well was outside, slightly left of the entrance and 20 metres from it. The well was one metre in diameter and had wooden coping. The distance between the base of the coping and the surface of the well was estimated to be 6 metres.

Three bodies were taken out of the well.

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Eight women's bodies were taken out of the three wells examined. Four young women's bodies were in well P1, three older women's bodies (50 years of age) in P3 and a very young woman in P2.

We did not observe any *ante-mortem* gunshot, cutting weapon or blunt force wounds on the bodies. The *ante-mortem* fractures of the thoracic cage, which did not have related cutaneous injuries, corresponded to great pressure against the well coping during the fall into the well. The lack of defence wounds or lesions from holding onto the well walls on the hands, forearms and arms indicated that they fell head-first. The tearing of the front of the scalp observed on victim P2C1 could be explained by the impact against the stone where traces of blood were quite visible. Moreover only one victim in the well inhaled and ingested water.

The *post-mortem* non-haemorrhagic traumatism caused by crushing and disruption of the skull (five cases) were due to the teeth of the excavator and to the rubble which fell down during extraction.

Two of the P1 women (C1 and C2) had sexual violence lesions with red blood in the vulvar region but not the vagina. Putrefaction made the search for fissures or injuries in this area difficult. Moreover, one of the victims had abrasions on the internal antero-lateral surface of the right thigh.

The eight women died from drowning and so must have been thrown into the wells alive. It was estimated that all of the victims spent about two and a half months in the water, which corresponded with the time of the facts. The date was compatible with the date of 17 April 1999 indicated to us.

The eight women were identified by having family members examine their clothes at the mission site. Mrs. Dibrani, a mother, and her three daughters were identified. Seven of the women did not live in the village but came from Kozhice. After autopsy, the bodies were buried in the village by the inhabitants who were there. Engineering machines were used to dig the graves.

CONCLUSIONS

THE EIGHT WOMEN, ALL OF WHOM WERE IDENTIFIED, WERE TAKEN OUT OF THREE WELLS. THEY DIED FROM DROWNING AND SO MUST HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO THE WELLS ALIVE. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ALL OF THE VICTIMS SPENT ABOUT TWO AND A HALF MONTHS IN THE WATER, WHICH CORRESPONDED WITH THE TIME OF THE FACTS. THE DATE WAS COMPATIBLE WITH THE DATE OF 17 APRIL 1999 INDICATED TO US.

This report was drafted and prepared by the following experts:

/signed/
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Lecomte

/signed/
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