

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION  
OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS  
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY  
OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991




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WITNESS INFORMATION

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Last Name: RRAHMANI

First Name(s): Xhevahire

Father's First Name: Selim

Nickname:

Gender: Female

Date of Birth: 30-09-1966

Place of Birth: DUBOVAC

Address: BUKOS, VUCITRN Municipality.

Telephone: None

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Ethnic Origin: Albanian

Religion: Muslim

Language(s) Spoken: Albanian and English

Language(s) Written (if different from spoken):

Language(s) Used in Interview: Albanian and English

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Current Occupation: Housewife

Former: Same

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Date(s) of Interview(s) and place: 14-10-2000, 17-10-2000, 20-10-2000

Interviewer: Annette MURTAGH

Interpreter: Fatime LEPAJA, Ardiana SADIKOVIC

Names of all persons present during interview(s):  
AS ABOVE.

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Signature Xhevahire Rrahmani  
(Witness)

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A.S.

(Others present)

[Handwritten Signature]

## WITNESS STATEMENT:

I am giving this statement to tell about the events that occurred in CIREZ in April 1999. I am aware that I give this statement to an Investigator from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. I am also aware that this statement can be used as evidence in court. I have been told that it also means that I might have to give my testimony to the Court in The Hague and I am willing to do so if necessary.

My name is Xhevahire RRAHMANI, I am 34 years old I live in the village BUKOS/BUKOSH in the Municipality of VUCITRN with my husband Xhavit RRAHMANI he is 38 years old. I have 3 children; Armend aged 10 years, Xhevdet aged 8 years and Arbnora aged 3 years.

I am originally from the village of DUBOVAC/DUBOC also in the Municipality of VUCITRN.

Two days after the Nato bombs started last year on 26-03-1999, I left my home with my husband and my children, and also my brother in law Bajram his wife Mihrije and their 5 children; Bashkim aged 16 years, Naim aged 14 years, Adelina aged 12 years, Nafije aged 10 years and Fitim aged 7 years. We all went to the village of KOZICA/KOZHICE in the Municipality of SRBICA, we stayed there for 3 nights in the house of Xhemajl XHEMA in KOZICA village. After 3 days the Serb forces shelled the village and all the men went to CICA VICA Mountain. I could see the forces in the village about 500 metres away from the house.

First I saw soldiers walking towards the house there was about 30 of them, I also saw a tank behind them. These soldiers were dressed in green camouflage uniforms, some were wearing plain green uniforms. I saw they had a red ribbon tied on their arm but I cannot remember which arm. About 300 people from the village gathered in the yard of Rrahim LNU house I was there with my children, 7 people were killed by the shelling of the Serb forces. They tried to give first aid to the wounded. They had a doctor with them, 3 people were wounded, and there were only women and children there and 2 old men with us.

The Serbs left us in that yard and started to burn the houses in the village. We stayed in that house for about 3 hours, the soldiers left a guest room in the house we were in, they did not damage it and they put the groups of women in there and asked them for money and jewellery. We left there after 2 hours and went towards Srbica but on the way there we came to a police checkpoint and they would not let us through. We then went back to GLOGOVAC/GLLOGOC to the house of my husband's uncle and stayed there for 10 days.

After that we went back to KOZICA because we had no food. When I went back to KOZICA I met my husband, that night I was in Xhemajl XHEMA's house, all the men came from the mountain and met us there. In KOZICA during the day we stayed in the valley in KRASMIROVC/KRASMIROC in the Municipality of Srbica and during the night we stayed in Xhemajl XHEMA'S house.

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(Others present)

We were there about 3 days and 3 nights. After the third night in Xhemajl's house we went to Xhafer DAKA's house also in KOZICA village, we moved there because the weather was bad it was raining and we could not stay in the valley during the day. We had arrived at DAKA's house one morning at about 7 o'clock. It was the middle of April but I do not know the exact date. My husband was with me at Xhemajl's house but that morning we went to DAKA's house we had heard shelling and my husband and the other men fled to the mountain.

Those days we were in KOZICA there was no forces in there but they were in CIREZ/QIREZ in the Municipality of SRBICA. KOZICA village is high up on the mountain and you can see the village of CIREZ from KOZICA, we could see the forces there. I could see 3 or 4 lorries and some tanks.

That morning I went to DAKA's yard and into one of the houses there with;  
My three children

Mihrije RRAHMANI with 3 children the oldest 2 had gone to the mountains.

Violeta SHALAKU and 1 child, she was also pregnant.

Tahire SHALAKU my mother.

Hajrie XHEMA with her 3 children; Zahide 19 years old, Vahide 12 years old and Egzoni 7 years.

Fahrije ZYMBERI and 3 children her eldest son was in the mountain with the men. Her children are Lavdie aged 12 years old I think, Lavdim aged 10 years, and Valmir about 7 years old.

Sevdije ZYMBERI with her children Lumnije aged 20 years and Bashkim aged 15 years  
Bukurije LNU and her daughter 2 years old.

In another house in DAKA's yard there was the DIBRANI family, Miradije the mother and 4 daughters; Anitgona, Bukurije, Mirishahe and Vlora. There was 2 older women Ajete ADEMI and Fahrije ADEMI there also.

When we went to DAKA's house that morning we were there about half an hour inside the house when we heard the shootings but we did not go out because it was raining. A boy came to the house his name was Fatlum LNU he was from the village of KLINA/KLINE in the SRBICA Municipality. The boy told us the soldiers had said "It is better for you to come to Abedin's house than we come to get you" I could see the soldiers at another house, they were about 50 metres away. There was 7 soldiers there dressed in green camouflage uniform some had dark green and some had light green coloured, probably they were regular Yugoslav Army (VJ).

We all left DAKA's house immediately and went towards Abedin DURMISHI's house. Another group of people who were in another house in DAKA's yard also left and went towards DURMISHI's house. The Serb soldiers searched our bags, they thought we had weapons but we did not. Nobody in our group was in any type of uniforms or members of KLA and none of us had any weapons. In DURMISHI's house all of the people who had come from DAKA's house were sent to the ground floor.

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Another group of people arrived at DURMISHI's house at the same time as us and they were put on the first floor. I recognised some of the group they were from KOZICA. I would say there was about 28 people altogether women and children.

On the second floor there was also a group of people they were from the villages of PREKAZ and KLINA/KLINE in the SRBICA Municipality. They arrived there on the same day but after us. Altogether in the house I would say there was about 60 women and children.

There were more than 25 soldiers there that morning but there were others also in other houses in the yard but I don't know how many in total. We were there for 2 days and 2 nights, we were treated good while we were there, they allowed us to chose 2 girls to go out to get the water in the well and they allowed us to prepare the food. They slaughtered sheep and brought the meat to us to cook. That time my daughter had a very high temperature and they gave me a tablet to give her. Our clothes we were wearing were wet when we arrived, some of the soldiers went to the other empty houses and brought us dry clothes.

While I was there for the 2 days in DURMISHI's house there was one girl there she was called Miridite I don't know her last name, she was always with the Serb soldiers and always talking to them. She was about 170 cm tall, 35 years old, she had long blonde curly hair. She was medium build and pregnant, I would say about 4 months pregnant.

She said she was from the village of TRNAVCE/TRNOC in the Municipality of SRBICA. I never spoke to her or asked her anything, I did not like her at all I think she was spying on us. She was Albanian.

After 2 days there a soldier came to our room with Miridite, it was 7 o'clock in the morning, he said to us get the children ready, you have to go to CIREZ/QIREZ in the Srbica Municipality. Miridite said to my group you have to go first, then after 2 days another group will go there. Mihrije RRAHMANI asked Miridite why we had to go there, because Mihrije's daughter's leg was broken, then Miridite said to her you can stay here. Miridite did not tell us why we had to go, Mihrije and her daughter then went to stay on the second floor with the others.

The group of us that went to Cirez that morning were;  
My 3 children and myself.

Violets SHALAKU and her young son one year old.

Tahire SHALAKU my mother.

Hajrihe XHEMA with her 3 children; Zahide, Vahide and Egzoni.

Fahrije ZYMBERI and her 3 children.

Sevdije ZYMBERI. With her children Lumnije and Baskim.

Bukurije LNU and her daughter.

Miradije DIBRANI.

Antigona DIBRANI.

Bukurije DIBRANI.

Mirishahe DIBRANI.

Vlora DIBRANI.

Adjete ADEMI.

Fahrije ADEMI.

Signature Xherahire Brahmani  
(Witness)

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We left for Cirez and 3 soldiers escorted us there, it took us about half an hour to walk there, it was a nice day but the roads were muddy. On the way the soldiers just said to us to stop to have a rest and to clean our shoes because they were full of mud. On the way to Cirez I think it was Sevdije ZYMBERRI who asked the soldiers why they were taking us to Cirez, she asked because she was concerned for her daughter Violeta who was 8 months pregnant. The soldier told her "they are moving you out of Kozica because it is too close to the mountain and soon there will be an offensive in Kozica".

When we arrived in Cirez and before we went to the barn we met about 10 soldiers who had come from the direction of the school, the soldiers who had escorted us there handed us over to these soldiers it was as if they had arranged it before we arrived. These soldiers who had escorted us there went back to Kozica. The soldiers they handed us over to were dressed in brown and black camouflage uniform one of them had 5 five stars on the shoulder. Two of these soldiers took us to a barn the others did not come with us. They told us to go into the barn. They said to us whatever you have; Identification cards, money, jewellery you have to hand over to us, I did not give them anything.

These two soldiers who brought us to the barn I would describe them as:

No. 1, He was very big and tall and fat, aged about 40 years old. He had dark skin and dark hair cut short. I did not see any marks or tattoos on him. He was wearing brown and black camouflage uniform. He was carrying a short barrel automatic gun, and I could see one grenade hanging on the right side of his jacket. He was carrying a long bladed knife, it was about 50cm long.

No. 2, He was the one staying by the door, very dark skinned dark. He had long black hair, I would say he was a gypsy. He was about 36 years old. I remember he had a mole on his left side of his face beside his ear. He was also wearing brown and black camouflage uniform. He was carrying some sort of a gun, I cannot remember what type and I cannot remember if he had any grenades or knives.

We were all put into a barn, it was about 3 metres by 5 metres, and there was straw on the floor, and a stove probably somebody stayed there before. It had just one door and a small window with plastic instead of glass, there was no animals there. The first soldier I have described above came in immediately and pointed to Zahide XHEMA and said come with me, she went out she did not say anything. She was outside about 20 minutes

When Zahide came back she sat beside me. I asked her "what did they do to you?", she said "my god what happened to us, they took all my clothes off" I did not ask her anything else nor did she tell me anything else we were only whispering, we were afraid to talk because there was the soldier by the door. Her face looked "black" she was very frightened. I did not notice anything unusual about her clothes and I did not see any marks or bruises on her.

Then they took somebody else after Zahide I don't remember who. After she came back the first soldier I have described above took me outside to the wall, he searched me. When he brought me out he asked me "where is your husband?" I said he was abroad. He said to me "you are lying" I said to him "he's in Germany". He said "you all say your husbands are abroad you are lying".

Signature Xherahire Rrahmani (Witness) Page 5 of pages Initials M.S. (Others present) [Signature]

He told me to take my jacket off, and said to me if you have something it is better to hand it over now. After I took my jacket off I thought he was going to tell me to take my blouse off and I started to take it off, he said there is no need just lift it up, I was wearing a bra and I lifted it up too. I was frightened I did not know what he was going to do to me, he touched me on my breasts and then laughed with the other soldier who was by the door. He said something in Serbian to him. I could not understand what he said, then he told me to put on my clothes.

There was 3 houses opposite the barn and he asked me "which house do you want to go to with me to sleep in?", by that I know he meant to have sexual intercourse with me. One of these houses was not burned, it was about 20 metres from the barn the other 2 were further away one 40 and the other 70 metres away and these 2 houses were burned. I think he wanted to frighten me by saying this. I was wearing a track suit bottoms but he did not make me take them off. Then I looked down and he said "lift your head and look me in the eye", he said my name he had asked me earlier. Then he grabbed his penis outside his clothes and said "do you want to eat this?" I did not say anything I just looked down, he grabbed my chin again and said "look up". He said "tell me if your husband is a member of KLA" I said "he is in Germany and it was my big mistake I did not go with him but I stayed here to suffer with my children".

The rest of the women I had come with could not see this they were inside the barn I was there outside on my own with this soldier, the one by the door sometimes looked at us. Then he said to me go inside the barn. I was outside the barn about 20 minutes.

When I went back in I think Fahrije ZYMBERI was taken out after me, I remember her daughter Lavdie started to cry. The one that took Fahrije outside kicked Lavdie on the knee, he said to her "be quiet otherwise I will kill you".

Everybody in the barn was taken out one by one to be searched except Bukurije ADEMI and Ajete ADEMI. When I went back to the barn a third soldier arrived. I would describe him as very tall about 2 metres. He had a shaved head but he was blonde. He was wearing the same uniform as the others I did not notice any marks or emblems. He was so blonde he was very handsome with dark eyes.

Also taken out was Lumnije ZYMBERI, Bukurije and Mirishahe DIBRANI, I don't remember who was taken first, they were all out about 20 to 25 minutes. I did not notice anything wrong with their clothes or anything, we were frightened to ask them anything I don't remember anything else about them when they came back in. The older darker soldier I have described above took them out the first time.

Violeta SHALAKU was taken out of the barn 3 times. She was carrying her son and the soldier, the one that took me out grabbed the boy and threw him in Sevdije, her mothers arms. They kept her out for 25 minutes and her son was crying, then after they had taken 2 or 3 others out they took Violeta again. My mother Tahire SHALAKU thought they were going to kill her unborn child. Violeta said they did not touch her but I do not know what they did to her. The second and third time she was taken out was shorter than the first time.

Then the blonde soldier came in for the first time he just said "Miridite" in albanian, he spoke to us in albanian all the time he said "you are asking for NATO, for THAQI and RUGOVA". He just went outside put on a mask and came back inside and he was pretending he was not

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the same person but we could recognise his voice and his build and blonde hair. He said to Antigona stand up, and he had the knife in the pocket of his trousers and he asked Antigona how old was she, she answered, 20 years old then he said to her in front of us "you are good to make a salad of you are you coming with us?" she did not say anything and he said to her "you are coming with us". He took Antigona outside and she did not come back in. She had already been out once.

I believe these 5 girls; Antigona, Lumnije, Zahide, Bukurije and Mirishahe when they were taken outside were raped, I could not hear any of them while they were out. Nor could I see what was happening to them either but by their appearances and actions when they came back in I knew something bad had happened to them.

The last time they were taken out, I remember that Antigona was the first one to go out and Lumnije was the last to go out. After they took the girls they tied the door with wire then the blonde one came back after 20 minutes and pointed to Miridije DIBRANI, Tahire SHALAKU my mother and Fahrije ADEMI and said come with me. Fahrije said to him she had given him the jewellery then he tapped her shoulder and said "come with me". These 3 women went out with him then. That was the last time I saw these women and the 5 girls. Then the door was tied again. We could hear 3 shots I said to the others that they killed the 3 old women.

I don't think the older women were raped simply because they were older.

After 15 minutes a soldier came in and opened the door, I had not seen them before he had a moustache, he was dressed the same as the others in black and brown uniform. He said to us "you can go where you came from". Then we left the barn to go back to Kozica. At the time he came in Violeta's son was crying and this soldier had a small carton of milk which he gave to the child. We had been in the barn about three and half-hours I would say.

When I came out of the barn I could see 3 gypsies covering graves in the cemetery which was about 150 metres away from the barn. I thought the 3 older women they had taken maybe they were burying them there. While we were inside the barn I could hear the noise of vehicles outside but when I went out I did not see any soldiers or tanks or vehicles. The one who had let us out stayed by the barn until we had gone.

When we left Cirez we went back to DURMISHI's house in Kozica. When we arrived back there we met the Serb forces and told them 5 girls and 3 women were taken and they asked us who were those soldiers there and what uniform did they have. They also asked us if they were the "Black Hand". I did not know who the Black Hand was or anything about them. I had heard somebody mention The Black Hand when the killings happened in LIKOSHANE/LIKOSAN in GLOGOVAC Municipality during February 1998. While we were there I noticed one of the soldiers who had escorted us from Kozica to Cirez earlier in the day. I told the other women he was one of the ones who had escorted us and then he went into the house.

After 3 or 4 hours in Kozica the soldiers took us back to Cirez to see what had happened to the women and girls, they took us back because our women were crying and upset and wanted to know what had happened to the other 8. Two soldiers escorted us to Cirez I told one of them we were in a barn and the girls and women were taken out of the barn and he just said, "I know, I know". When we arrived back in Cirez they sent us to another house in the

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(Witness)

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village. After 3 or 4 hours some other soldiers brought a group of people to this house, there was about 70 people, they were from Krasmirov. We stayed there for 3 or 4 days, nobody went to look for the girls there was always soldiers around and after 7 o'clock in the evening they did not allow us to be out of the houses. The soldiers did not tell us what had happened to the girls.

After those 3 or 4 days Miridite and her group of people arrived in the village of Cirez they were brought to the same house I was in. The other group that was originally with us moved to another house. We all stayed in Cirez for 3 weeks. During these 3 weeks regular soldiers brought us food and flour to bake bread. There was a store in Cirez where the agencies have supplies and the soldiers brought diapers to us for the children.

During this time one afternoon 2 soldiers came and asked us for money but they probably did this unknown to the others. It was surprising they spoke in Albanian, we did not have any money to give them one of the other groups had given them 400DM but they asked for 600DM. One of these said to Hajrihe to stand up and when she did he held a gun out the window and shot it.

After 3 weeks soldiers came and told us to go to Glogovac they said it was because there was going to be an offensive in Cirez, and when we went to Glogovac we would get busses to Macadonia.

In July 1999, 8 bodies were found in 3 wells in Cirez. I was not there when they were taken out. I had been there a few days before waiting for the team to take out the bodies, I could not wait any longer I had to return to take care of my family

A KLA soldier I don't know who he was, was the first to notice the bodies in the well. My brother Nezir was there when this soldier saw the bodies and he used a mirror to see the water reflection, he could see my mother's clothes she was on top of the bodies in that well. I did not see my mother when she was taken out my brother was the one to identify her clothes to the team.

**WITNESS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This Statement consisting of 9 pages has been read over to me in the Albanian language and is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given this Statement voluntarily and am aware that it may be used in legal proceedings before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and that I may be called to give evidence in public before the Tribunal.

Signed: Xhevdhite Rrahmani

Dated: 11.6.2001

Signature Xhevdhite Rrahmani  
(Witness)

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(Others present) [Signature]



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**INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION**

I, **Fatime LEPAJA** Interpreter, certify that:

1. I am duly qualified and approved by The Registry of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to interpret from the Albanian language into the English language and from the English language into the Albanian language.
2. I have been informed by **Xhevahire RRAHMANI** that she speaks and understands the Albanian language.
3. I have orally translated the above statement from the English language to the Albanian language in the presence of **Xhevahire PPAHMANI** who appeared to have heard and understood my translation of this Statement.
4. **Xhevahire RRAHMANI** has acknowledged that the facts and matters set out in his Statement, as translated by me, are true to the best of her knowledge and recollection and has accordingly signed her signature where indicated.

Dated: 11.6.2001

Signed: *[Handwritten Signature]*

Signature *Xhevahire Rrahmani*  
(Witness)

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(Others present) *[Handwritten Initials]*