

Municipality Gjilan/Gnjilan

Xhemile (Kurta) Bekteshi

(born 18/03/1948, Albanian woman from Përlepnicë/Prilepnica, Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality)

Xhemile was last seen in **June 1998** in the village of **Përlepnicë/Prilepnica**. Her body was found in 2006 at an unidentified location.

Source: ICRC, *Persons missing..*, HLC-9795.

Mefail (Xhemajl) Fejzullahu

(born 15/05/1966, Albanian from Muhovac, Bujanovac municipality, worker, married)

Mefail had lived with his wife Xhevrije in the village of Muhovac [Bujanovac municipality], until moving to Gjilan/Gnjilane in 1997. They rented an apartment in Gjilan/Gnjilane, and Mefail did various jobs in order to provide income for his family. On **13 June 1998**, Mefail was selling some baking yeast at the local green market. Since there were no buyers for his product, he decided to go to a forest near the village of **Velekincë/Velekince** to pick wild mushrooms. The forest lay approximately one kilometre away from the Yugoslav Army barracks. Suddenly, without forewarning, Serb soldiers opened fire on him from the forest, wounding him. They dragged him to the barracks and then drove him to the hospital in Gjilan/Gnjilane, and thence to Prishtinë/Priština, where he passed away. His brothers collected his body on 15 June 1998 and buried him later that day in his native village of Muhovac.

Sources: statement of S.B, HLC-36705; *Albanian Picking Mushrooms Killed by Serb Military*

near Gjilan, newsletter, KIC, 14.06.1998, HLC-29319; ICTY, IT-05-87 (M. Milutinović et al.), Ex.4D00355, HLC-31362.

Rexhep (Rexhep) Bislimi

(born 13/06/1966, Albanian from Ferizaj/Uroševac, student, three children)

Rexhep was a human rights defender. He worked with the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms in Ferizaj/Uroševac. On 6 July 1998 he was arrested on a street in Ferizaj/Uroševac. The following day, the police brought him back home. He had bruises and blood on his face. He was forced to dig up his garden, because the police suspected him of having buried a weapon in it. Although they found nothing in the garden, the police took him away again. Three days later, Rexhep's family learnt that Rexhep was in the prison in **Gjilan/Gnjilane**, but they were not allowed to visit him there. On 19 July 1998, the family learnt that Rexhep had been taken to the hospital in Prishtinë/Priština and operated on. After two days in a coma, he died of wounds on **21 July 1998**. The autopsy report stated that he had died as a consequence of blows received to the head and torso. He was buried on 23 July 1998 in the cemetery in Ferizaj/Uroševac. After the war Rexhep was honoured as fallen soldier. On 12 September 1999 his mortal remains were transferred to the Cemetery for Fallen Combatants in Ferizaj/Uroševac.

Sources: HRW, *Violations..*, 70, HLC-31132; J. Martinsen, *List..*, HLC-26092; SHFDUÇK, *Feniksët...3*, 57-58; KMDLNJ, *Lista e civilëve..*, HLC-13491; N. Krasniqi, *Kohë..*, 273; FHP,