

### **Isa (Adem) Olluri**

(born 12/12/1979, Albanian from Kroimirë/Krajmirovce, Lipjan/Lipljan municipality, student, single, member of KLA)

### **Besim (Sylejman) Qarri**

(born 26/04/1979, Albanian from Grejqefc/Grejčevce, Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality, member of KLA)

### **Hysni (Shaip) Kajtazi**

(born 28/04/1979, Albanian from Trn/Tërrn, opština Ferizaj/Uroševac, car mechanic, single, member of KLA)

### **Kadri (Jahir) Gashi**

(born 26/03/1980, Albanian from Balincë/Balince, Malishevë/Mališevo municipality, unemployed, member of KLA)

### **Arben (Rexhep) Hyseni**

(born 12/04/1980, Albanian from Godanc i Poshtëm/Donje Godance, Shtime/Štimlje municipality, third-year student at the *madrasah*, member of KLA)

### **Hafir (Emri) Bajrami**

(born 15/04/1980, Albanian from Zborc/Zborce, Shtime/Štimlje municipality, member of KLA)

### **Faton (Nazif) Xhylani**

(born 6/04/1981, Albanian from Bajicë/Banjica, Glogoc/Glogovac municipality, single, unemployed, member of KLA)

On 13 December 1998, a group of 148 KLA soldiers who had completed military training in Albania gathered in the town of Cahan and set off from there back to Kosovo. The group was under the command of Mujë Krasniqi. The plan was to get to Lubizdë e Hasit/Ljubižda Has, where trucks would be waiting to take them to Kleçkë/Klečka [Lipjan/Lipljan municipality]. From there, each was supposed to return to his or her original zone. They were carrying a fair amount of weapons, ammunition and other equipment. They arrived near the border at about 16:00h that day and rested near some mountain huts. At about 23:00h, they crossed the border into Kosovo and continued to walk throughout the night. While descending Mount *Pashtrik/Paštrik* at dawn on **14 December 1998**, a reconnaissance company clashed at about 04:00h with members of the Yugoslav

Army near the *Liken* border post. Because of fog and snow, some of the KLA soldiers entered a minefield and were killed. In three separate incidents that afternoon, 40 KLA members died, among them a woman, Luljeta Shala. Hazir Kryeziu went missing. [In the course of the day, three soldiers died of hypothermia: Selim Selimi, Astrit Bytyqi and Besim Qarri]. At 17:00h that afternoon, the Yugoslav Army took nine KLA prisoners. The other soldiers managed to return to Albania with the wounded. At about 13:00h, the Serb soldiers air-lifted 35 bodies by helicopter to the hospital morgue in Prizren.

On 19 December 1998, with the mediation of the KVM, the families collected the bodies from the morgue. They took them to Krushë e Madhe/Velika Kruša, and next day buried them all together at Polac/Poļance [Skënderaj/Srbica municipality], at a place which from that day has been known as *Kodra e Dëshmorëve/Breg palih boraca (Hill of the Fallen Combatants)*.

Two bodies, unidentified at the time, were buried on 22 December 1998 in Kleçkë/Klečka. The bodies of Afrim Musliu, Selim Selimi, Astrit Bytyqi, Veli Ballazhi and Besim Qarri remained on the mountain until they were discovered by members of the KLA on 15 June 1999. They buried them on Mount *Pashtrik/Paštrik*, but a month later, their bodies were removed to cemeteries in their native villages and towns. The family of Veli Ballazhi removed his body on 29 August 1999 to the Cemetery for Fallen Combatants in Pustenik.

After the war, on 1 September 1999, Avni Kutllovci's family removed his body to the Cemetery for Fallen Combatants in Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality, at Stanoc i Epërm/Gornje Stanovce.

In October 1999, pathologists confirmed the identity of the two bodies buried in Kleçkë/Klečka as belonging to Gani and Ramadan Elshani. Ramadan was reinterred in the same grave, while Gani's family laid him to rest at the Cemetery for Fallen Combatants in Krajkovë/Krajkovo. Hazir Kryeziu's family are still searching for his body. On the ICRC list of missing persons, he is listed under BLG-804114-01.