

Elmaze (Muharrem) Bytyqi

(born 24/10/1982, Albanian girl from Dejnë/Danjane, Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, secondary school student)

Bahrije (Gazmend) Bytyqi

(born 2/11/1986, Albanian girl from Dejnë/Danjane, Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, primary school student)

Driton (Fadil) Hoti

(born 5/03/1997, Albanian from Dejnë/Danjane, Rahovec/Orahovac)

Throughout the summer of 1998, **Dejnë/Danjane** and the surrounding villages were controlled by KLA soldiers. On 3 September 1998, Serb forces surrounded the village with tanks and infantry and set up a police checkpoint at the entrance to the village. First, they shelled the village, so most of the inhabitants fled to a meadow called *Linova* in the *Gryka e Liskocit/Klanac Liskovac (Liskocit Gorge)*, above the village among the vineyards. There they spent the night. There were between 500 and 600 people. Next day, **4 September 1998**, three tanks accompanied by about 150 soldiers came within only 200 metres of the *Linova* meadow. Most of the villagers had fled and only about 200 women and children, with those of the elderly who could not run, had remained. Serb forces soon began to fire from the tanks at the people in *Linova*. One shell killed a brother and sister, Arben and Leonora, who were somewhat further away on a hill. Arben was a member of the KLA and was the only person in uniform. Elmaze, Shpresa and her daughter Bahrije were killed instantly by shells, and Sevdije and her infant son Driton were seriously injured, as was Mukadeze. The bodies of the dead were buried by their relatives next day, not far from where they were killed. Mukadeze was also buried there, as she had died from her wounds in the meantime. Arben and Leonora Bytyqi were buried not far from where they were killed. Over fifty women, children and elderly had received wounds ranging from serious to slight. Some have remained permanently disabled. After the war, Arben's mortal remains were removed to the Cemetery for Fallen Combatants in Dejnë/Danjane.

Sources: statement of D.B, HLC-15486; statement of A.B, HLC-2979; statement of B.B, HLC-2978; photography, HLC-18810; SHFĐUÇK, Feniksët...10, 29-32; *Serb Troops Launch Full-Scale Attack against Albanian Villages*, newsletter, KIC, 03.9.1998, HLC-29549; *Five Villages of Rahovec Attacked by Sebs Troops Today Morning*, newsletter, KIC, 03.9.1998, HLC-29549; *Serb Forces Continue Destroying, Torching Albanian Settlement in Rahovec Municipality*, newsletter, KIC, 05.9.1998, HLC-29551; *Serb Forces Kill at Least 11 Albanians in Two Villages of Rahovec Friday*, newsletter, KIC, 06.9.1998, HLC-29552.

Mark (Zef) Sopiani

(born 26/04/1950, Albanian from Doberdoll/Dobri Do, Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, farmer, three children, member of KLA)

Mark lived in **Doberdoll/Dobri Do** with his wife Lize, daughter Elberine, son Eduard and Eduard's wife Katarina. Another son, Musa, lived abroad. On 12 May 1998, Mark joined the KLA, but spent most of his time in the village with his family. Mark's family fled the village on 2 September 1998 and took shelter in Dobljarë/Doblibare [Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality], but Mark remained behind. He hid in a maize field with a small group of locals, near the *Drini i Bardhë/Beli Drim* River. At about 13:00h on **4 September 1998**, Mark was with two local men, Mehil and Frok, in Ejup Sopiani's field. They lit a fire and roasted some corn cobs. Mark was in civilian clothing and unarmed, because that day he had handed on his shift and his weapon. Just then an armed vehicle of the Serb forces came by and opened fire on them. Mark was hit in the chest, but Mehil and Frok managed to escape. Three days later, Mark's son Eduard, a relative and Mehil's son Ndrec found Mark's body. He was buried the same day in the village cemetery.

Sources: statement of M.G, HLC-12565; statement of E.S, HLC-35277; SHFĐUÇK, Feniksët...12, 164-166; *Bodies of Killed Albanians Scattered about in Rahovec Villages*, newsletter, KIC, 10.09.1998, HLC-29556; J. Martinson, *List.*, HLC-26092.