

Halil (Rexhep) Mustafa

(born 1/02/1940, Albanian from Smrekonicë/Smrekovnica, Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality, miner, four children)

Halil worked at the *Trepça* Mining Complex. He lived in Smrekonicë/Smrekovnica with his wife Syle, their sons Nexhat and Nexmi, their daughters-in-law and a grandchild. At about 07:00h on the morning of **17 September 1998**, Halil's family sought shelter along with the other inhabitants in the neighbouring village of Kçiqi i Madh/Veliki Kićić [Mitrovicë/Kosovska Mitrovica municipality]. Word got around that Serb forces were drawing near to the village. Halil remained in the village with his brothers Hajzer and Habib and some of the other men. Soon the shelling of the village began, so the men took shelter in the house of Jahir Mustafa, until Halil left them and went towards the house of his brother Habib. Next morning, the men found Halil's body in the woods behind his house [Smrekonicë/Smrekovnica]. He had been shot 18 times. They buried him the same day at the village cemetery.

A man from a neighbouring village told Halil's family that on that day, 17 September 1998, he had been watching through binoculars as Halil set off from his house for the woods, but after soon spotting the Serb soldiers, had tried to go back. The Serb soldiers fired at him. When Halil fell to the ground, five of them came up to him and fired at him again. Then they took his wallet from his jacket.

Sources: statement of H.M, HLC-19578; *Serb Troops Kill Albanian in His Home in Vushtrri*, newsletter, KIC, 18.09.1998, HLC-29565; *LDK Activist, Shot and Wounded by Serb Forces, Dies*, newsletter, KIC, 21.09.1998, HLC-29567.

Faton (Fazli) Syla

(born 8/07/1983, Albanian from Beçuk/Bençuk, Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality, primary school student)

Faton lived with his parents Fazli and Bah-tija, his brother Ferki and Ferki's family. At about 07:00h on the morning of **22 September 1998**, Faton was getting ready for school. At that point, Serb forces began to

shell the village, so he went to hide with his family in the nearby wood. They halted at a place called *Gurët e Shabanit/Šabanove stene* (Shaban's Rocks), [Beçuk/Bençuk], where the other villagers were sheltering. At a moment when Faton was standing next to a tractor, a shell fell near him. He was struck by shrapnel near the left eye and died 15 minutes later. His parents and brother buried him in the wood. Three days later, the family returned to the village. On 20 September 1998, they exhumed Faton's body and brought it to the village cemetery.

Sources: statement of F.S, HLC-18749; *Serb Forces Continue Burning Vushtrri Villages*, newsletter, KIC, 24.09.1998, HLC-29570; ICTY, IT-05-87 (M. Milutinović et al.), Ex.P01434, HLC-33273.

Hajrullah (Halil) Gjaka

(born 1932, Albanian from Oshlan/Ošljane, Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality, farmer, eight children)

Hajrullah was elderly and only able to walk with the aid of two sticks. On 20 September 1998, his family left Oshlan/Ošljane when it was heard that Serb forces were drawing near the village. His son Rasim went with the KLA soldiers into the woods. Two days later, on **22 September 1998**, Rasim returned to get his father, but Hajrullah decided to stay at home. He had a hand grenade, although Rasim did not know where he had obtained it. The Serb forces entered the village later that day. The police came into Hajrullah's yard, and he activated the grenade, killing himself and a police officer [see record below]. In the course of the evening, Rasim and his uncle, Kamber Imeri, returned to the village. In the yard of Rasim's house they found the mutilated body of his father, and in the **Oshlan/Ošljane** woods, the body of Kamber's son [see two records below]. They buried them on 26 September 1998 in the Oshlan/Ošljane woods, when the Serb forces had gone. After the war, in June 1999, Hajrullah's body was removed to the Cemetery for Fallen Combatants and War Victims in Oshlan/Ošljane. On 22 August 2000, pathologists