

tions with reliable information and facts regarding the circumstances in which exactly 2,001 persons died or disappeared by force during the war of 1998, and to name each of them. We draw no legal conclusions, but we are convinced that the facts we present will be relevant to the prosecution of war crimes and to critical examination of the events and of the conduct of the conflicting sides, of institutions, and individuals.

Reading and Searching the Records

The records of the dead or disappeared are presented for each municipality, in alphabetical order. For each municipality, the records are provided with respect to the date and place of the murder, death or disappearance of a person on account of the war, or of the reasons that led to the war. Each record begins with personal details of the individual or individuals, proceeds to give a short summary of their life and death, and concludes by quoting the sources documenting the narrative. The basic details contain the first name of the murdered, dead or missing person, father's name, maiden name in the case of a woman, surname of the murdered/dead/missing person, as well as the date of birth, ethnic background, last known place of residence, occupation or profession, number of children and marital status, and, in the case of soldiers and police officers, name of the armed force to which they belonged. Where a greater number of people than usual have died or been forcibly disappeared at the same time and place, the record begins with the personal details of the oldest person and ends with the name and details of the youngest. We did not, however, adhere to this rule for mass incidents involving, for instance, several members of one family or clan. In such cases, we took care instead to keep them together as a group, from their personal details to the chronicle of their lives and deaths, out of respect for the family's need to keep their dead together.

The narrative section of the record attempts to describe as best we could the people, their lives and the circumstances of their death or forced disappearance. The narrative is clear, but becomes emotionally charged when we speak of the victims of war crimes. At the same time, it is obvious that there is far less information about the deaths of members of the VJ, the MUP or the KLA. Part of the narrative contains information on the places of burial, both those already known and those subsequently discovered, and on exhumation, identification and reburial, as it is our impression that these details mean a great deal to the families. Among the sources, we have listed the documents from which we were able to corroborate the death or forced disappearance of a certain person or persons, and for whom we compiled a record. The names of the documents used are frequently cited in their abbreviated form. The full titles are given in the appendices at the end of the book.

Research and analysis

It was from the Albanian media, the Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms and its local branches, the officials and activists of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK),