

Jennifer King

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24/08/98 14:54

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cc:

Subject: Re: kosovo av material 

Dear all,

More information on the Kosovo rushes.

In a previous message to sections we said that we have recent professionally shot images from Kosovo. We requested that the last female interviewee in the footage should not be used for broadcast in Europe for security reasons. **This footage is now fine to give to broadcasters in Europe with the proviso that use only the INTERIOR shots (as opposed to the exterior views) that accompany the interview.**

If you wish to receive a copy, please contact Wayne Minter.

Best wishes,
Jennifer

Joanna Duchesne



Joanna Duchesne

14/08/98 12:44



To: \$sections, list (h:\groups\mavp\prp-1\androull\ms-dos.lst)

cc:

Subject: kosovo av material

Dear all,

As you will probably know, on 25 August we will be launching two reports (and possibly a third - to be confirmed) on Kosovo, accompanied by a press release. The first report will focus on human rights violations against women in Kosovo and the second report will look at the "disappearances"/"missing persons" in Kosovo.

This is just to remind you that we have made available to sections footage filmed in Kosovo in July. The footage illustrates some of the issues covered in the reports. If you are sure you can use this material, please contact Wayne Minter (audiovis@amnesty.org) no later than Monday 17 August so that he can send you copies in time.

Please note that the footage is a compilation of three tapes and is one and a half hours in length and therefore duplication will be expensive. Please also note that the last female interviewee on the tape requested that we not broadcast her interview in Europe as she was still in Kosovo

at the time. She has since left the country and we are checking whether she still has security concerns and will let you know about offering the interview for broadcast in Europe.



I enclose an attachment of the transcript of the footage for your information: KOS98.WP

Best wishes,
Joanna

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**FORMER YUGOSLAVIA****KOSOVO RUSHES****Filmed by Kenny Brown for Amnesty International, July 1998**

Note on Copyright: Amnesty International owns full broadcast rights to all footage. Most footage is for free and unrestricted worldwide broadcast and non-broadcast use until September 30 1998 but please note restriction on the usage of Timecodes 11:41:28 - 12:08:58 due to potential security risk for the interviewee. Not for library use. For details on sources of footage, please contact the Media Program of Amnesty International on Tel: +44 171 413 5560.

Please note that the following shot list is based on a compilation of three tapes of different formats. The timecodes do not therefore correspond from one tape to the next.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**PART ONE OF TAPE: 'VILLAGES'**

02:00:22 g/vs abandoned houses

02:01:05 Abandoned beds in house

02:01:55 Pan from Albanian village to Serb village
Views of neighbouring Serb village.
Civilians are now armed and occasionally take pot shots into the Albanian village.

02:02:51 Men of the town, hanging around and doing nothing. Not militarised. All women and children have left. (These are the women and children are seen in tape 1 'families'.) Earlier on in the day the Kosovo Liberation Army had offered them support, but the men had turned it down.

02:05:05 I/v in English with a local English speaker

Describes the situation in his village. The neighbouring villages are Serbian. They are now armed and are taking pot shots at them.

02:12:12 G/vs Countryside around Chabra (not correct spelling)

02:12:47 Local police check on the road to Montenegro.

02:13:18 Close ups of Chabra (not correct spelling).

PART TWO OF TAPE: 'Families'

00:00:20 i/v Ademi Xhevat

28-year old man showing his badly bruised legs. Filmed 8 July.

He explains that he was coming back from Pristina and was stopped by the police who accused him of being a terrorist and so was beaten on the back of his legs.

My name is Xhevat Ademi, I'm born in 1970 and I come from Mitrovica. Yesterday I went to Prishtina hospital to visit my mother. While coming back in a taxi, the police stopped me in the Nabakovc checkpoint. They wanted me to get out of the car, they said I must be a KLA member to have a beard like that. They began beating me up brutally in the back part of my knees. These beatings were accompanied by offending words like "You're a terrorist, you want to go to the hills now, you want to join KLA" (03:34) When the policemen first took me out of the car he hit me in the face. Then he called on his radio to find out more information on me from my files; to see whether I am suspected for something or whether I was under some kind of investigation. When they saw I had no record in their files they called me into the police station. They put me in the corner and began beating me up with a wooden stick in the back of both my legs and in the meantime saying their usual rude words.

(05:00) I must say that the stick that I was beaten up with was a broken stick. The taxi driver told me that a day before, while a police was beating up one of his colleagues, also a taxi driver, the wooden stick broke, so they used the other half of the stick to beat me up.

00:05:45 Refugee family; lots of women and babies.

00:07:21 i/v Elhame Ferizi

I'm from a village of Zubin Potok municipality (the village name can't be heard). It is the only Albanian village in that municipality. I live in Mitrovica but I went there to visit my cousins and spend the night. At 3:00AM they began shooting with different weapons, we couldn't tell where the shooting was coming from. We got dressed, got some stuff ready and gathered in one house. We started walking away from the village in different paths of the hills until we got to Mitrovica. So all of my cousins and their children came to my house in Mitrovica and the others were separated in different houses where they could find shelter. The children and the women were scared. The men stayed behind and we don't know what happened to them. We are waiting for some news of them. We are scared of bad news like what happened to other villages. We got in Mitrovica around 6:30 and now we are scared of the worst.

(9:12) For now we plan to stay here as long as we can, all me and my cousins, we are three families. Our village was across from a Serbian village. The shooting started at 3:00 and we got out of there, we don't know what happened afterwards. We didn't hear shooting before but it seemed like they were getting ready to attack!

(10:06) There are 130 families in that village. I believe that they all got out, we saw lots of women and children escaping from there but we have no information if someone was left behind. We believe we were among the last to run away because we saw lots of people in front.

00:10:23 Baby / set-up shots

00:11:31 i/v Ajete Deliu (old woman)

i/v with two internally displaced families from near Prekaz. (whichever Prekaz that did

not get destroyed)

00:11:34

We were scared, we walked for two or more hours in the hills, children were crying, some women fainted. I think that it was better for them if they had killed us than to make us go through that. ...Only our sons stayed behind. We left our animals too, they are closed in the barn and we left all our things.

00:12:37 i/v Long interview with a man (Januz Sylja) who describes the whole story.

00:13:15

The police tanks surrounded Ternovc village just before 5th of March. They stayed in a place called Tomislav, which we now call Vendi i Shqipeve (The Eagle Place - Albanian) This village is between the Prishtina and Mitrovica road. Those houses were being surrounded every day from 10AM to 2PM. The next day again, they stood in front of our doors. When children came from school they asked me "Dad, should we greet these people". I said "No, only bend your head down and get inside".

14:26 But, on the 5th of March at 4:45 we lost a child, my brother's son. The police surrounded us, I managed to get away through a passage that I made before so that I could get out in the hills. I took my children out of there before, because I knew what was going to happen. Suddenly, around 5:30 we heard my brother's daughter shouting and calling that her brother was shot. I was trying to get the girl in the hill but the police was observing her. I took her out of there and brought her to the hill but I had to go and see my nephew if he was still alive or not.

I tried to get in through a window but they saw me and called me in their language. I thought my life was over then. When I began walking in their direction my brother's wife wanted to stop me, the police threatened to kill her if she got near. I told her to stay away and that I was going to be fine.. They brought me to their tank and started beating me with tops of their guns; asking me how many of them (policemen) had I killed? I told them that we're not the ones that do the killing, but, as vice-president of an LDK (Democratic League of Kosovo - the biggest Albanian political party) branch that represented five villages, I told them that we are for peaceful ways, to see if we can sort this out by agreeing somehow. Then one policeman told the others to let me go to see my nephew if he is still alive. I came back and told them that he was dead, so they took me inside as a hostage. They told me to get in the house and not to move until they came back. The women and the children were screaming in the house, throwing themselves on the body of the dead son and brother. I began thinking of ways to get out of that place.

18:40 But armed Serbs started getting into the houses, we really didn't know what to do, we had a dead body and police around. Around 7:00 in the evening I saw a car with Mitrovica plates. While the police were observing it, I used the opportunity to throw the kids out of my house windows. The women jumped to and they started running close to the ground to escape to the hills, I saw that the whole village was running away.

The police started digging holes and making police headquarters in our houses.

Everything that was worth and that could be carried away was stolen. They also stole my 27 thousand DM that I was saving to renovate my house.

An old man and I came back in the house to bury the nephew and we saw that our houses were demolished. All my pictures in the walls were torn off, money and TV was stolen. They told us that if we knew what their orders were we would have never dared to come back in the house because they had orders not to let anyone come out of there alive. But I dared to go back to my house because I had to feed the animals and wanted to get at least that money. I decided to stay in the village while my brothers took the families to Mitrovica. I stayed with some villagers to organise some kind of defence plan. The shooting started in my wife's village too, in Padalishte. So, I went there and took my

family out and brought them here to Hajrizis house who offered us shelter, a corridor and a room. After some days, I decided to go back to the village to see what was happening. I went to the bus station, but I could take a bus only until the police checkpoint because I was already chased from police since they found LDK papers in my house. So, they were already looking for me. But on the 2nd of March, around 2 o'clock we saw tanks going to Skenderaj (official name Srbica) and by 3:00 they began major shooting in our village. I saw villagers running but went to my house to take those 100kg of flour for my family because we were running out of food.

25:25 They burned ours and the neighbours houses so now there was only ruins left from them. The houses of brothers and myself where burned with a pretext that they where terrorist and KLA houses; I'm sure that wasn't true. We choose the peaceful way, we wanted this to be solved with a dialogue. Now I am in Mitrovica and we are waiting if the situation gets better and I guess that in a way we expect the war to come here maybe. We can here shootings here too, every evening. There is no security here either although we feel calmer. Though, we are aware that we might have to be put out to move form here too.

I have seven members in my family, we don't get enough food aid, probably because they don't let the food to be transported here from Prishtina. The life is very difficult but since we still are under siege and alive than it is still good until now.

I/v his wife (Flierize Sylja)

00:29:07

we ran in the mountain, we walked for two days and slept in the hills. My little girl is seven, her feet where getting bloody. Than we came here, an old man gave us some food and gave us shelter in his house. My children were hungry, I have five children.

00:30:25 Family / set-up shots

PART THREE OF TAPE: Please note:

Please note that there is a temporary restriction on usage of this footage due to the fact that broadcasting of these images in Europe may present a security risk for the interviewee. Please contact the media program with any queries.

11:41:28 Refugee centre in Prishtina.

G/vs

no sound

all other refugees come and collect food.

11:48:00 Refugee woman with family

11:48:50 i/v begins with woman/ Tells the story of the situation in Prekaz.

In the morning of 5th of March shooting started in Jashari suburb of Prekaz village. We heard the first shootings when we woke up to do our work. We were used to hearing the shooting because the munition factory was near and we heard the shooting every day. But after some minutes we heard more shooting and they were getting closer to the house. Then I went to call Sherif (her husband) Because he was asleep. I told him about the shootings and he asked where are they coming from. I said "From the factory", he said "never mind". After those shootings our suburb was captured by this terrible noise. It wasn't a shooting noise but vehicle noise, big vehicles were starting to come to our

village. Then I called my husband and we got our children dressed. Our hands weren't moving but we knew that this wasn't a good sign. We could see what was happening, and we couldn't think of a place to take cover. The way they came with those big vehicles and weapons, we just knew that this meant no good.

11:50 Then we decided to defend ourselves somehow. We got together in a house that had three floors that seemed more secure. Five families, 34 people were there. But Sherif was in our house, he didn't leave because he said he would be defending his door step. Xhemajl stayed there too (her son) because he didn't want to leave his dad alone. Than is when I saw Sherif for the last time, I didn't know was he dead or alive until I saw him in a photo week ago. We kept the curtains down in that three floor house. They were shooting and I felt like the whole world was moving. We thought that they was going to attack only Adems house and that they had no buissnes with us. Then by 1:30 they came to the house where we were hiding, they shot down the third floor, than the second, the house near by was destroyed and we still kept sitting still in that room. The children began screaming when they heard the shooting getting lose, they threw a gas inside. I had to open the window. I then saw my house on fire across and I thought that Sherif and Xhemajl just got burned there. I decided not to stay in that room anymore. A policeman was by the window when I opened it. He told us to come outside. I went in the corridor and it was full of broken glass. I was barefoot but I wasn't scared, I went outside and ask him what does he want to do. He asked us to come outside one by one. I thought that maybe they'd let us go but he had four man inside and my son who is 17. I thought again about Sherif and Xhemajl and saw no way that they would be let to go out of that place alive. I wanted to save my son. I knew that Serbs waiting by the door won't let him go. I said to my son "Rifat, Sherif and Xhemajl are dead and they are not going to let you go", he was 17 but looked 2m. tall, so I suggested him to dress up like a woman with one of the dresses in that room. He said "No, let them kill me, I will not do that". I said that I needed to be saved from him too. I asked the others to go out but they didn't want to. I went out again and told them that people are to scared to come out. I saw that there were 4-5 policeman now, while there was one before. When I went out side they shot in front of me, but they didn't want to shoot me. Then I convinced my children to go out and seven of them went out after me. My little boy was scared to go first when he saw the policeman faces, they were all coloured and you could only notice their teeth. We got out in the yard and I told them to stay there so that I could call the others. When I came back I saw my children running. A policeman asked Rifat to stop because he noticed he is not a woman by the way he was running.

12:00

For him it is better that he got out of the country than if he stayed and being taken over by police. But I'm worried because he suffered a lot, that day when he ran away, he was wounded, he covered the hills with blood. I miss him a lot.

12:02

Because the place was suitable to be attacked, they thought they could do it. They were shooting for two hours but we thought they had nothing to do with us. Only Rifat was saved, other man that were with us in that house got killed and the woman survived.

12:03

This is Rifats jacket. The build went here but he kept running without stopping. It is difficult for me only when I see his jacket but he is better now. Here are the holes in the jacket.

12:05:00 g/vs woman showing bullet holes in jacket

12:06:17 g/vs unloading food

12:08:45 Child with cap on.