

INDICTMENTS FILED FOR WAR CRIMES IN KOSOVO JANUARY- JUNE 2025

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Since the end of the armed conflict in Kosovo, the Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo (HLCK) has been monitoring war crimes trials before Kosovo's courts. HLCK has consistently published, and will continue to publish, case analyses and newsletters aimed at informing the wider public about these judicial proceedings.

This newsletter presents general information on all war crimes indictments filed by the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) during the period January–June 2025, including indictments filed in absentia.

During this period, the **Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo filed six (6) indictments**. Regular court proceedings will be conducted in two (2) cases: *Prosecutor against Jusuf Shujak* and *Prosecutor against Dragan Ristić*. Meanwhile, four (4) indictments were filed in absentia, in the following cases: *Prosecutor against C.K.*, *Prosecutor against M.I.*, *Prosecutor against R.V.*, *A.Č.*, and *M.V.*, and *Prosecutor against J.J. and V.T.*

A brief overview of the indictments and the criminal offenses the accused are charged with is provided below. Some of the accused are identified only by their initials, as their indictments had not been made public at the time of this newsletter's publication.

1. PROSECUTOR AGAINST JUSUF SHUJAK

On 27 April 2024, the Kosovo Police arrested the defendant, Jusuf Shujak, on suspicion of participation in the commission of the criminal offense of *war crimes against the civilian population*.

Following the initiation of an investigation on 27 April 2024, the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) filed an indictment against the defendant, Jusuf Shujak, on 24 January 2025, charging him with *war crimes against the civilian population*.

According to the SPRK, there is grounded suspicion that in May 1999, during the war in Kosovo, in villages of the Municipality of Gjakovë/Đakovica, the defendant Shujak, as a member of Serbian forces, uniformed and armed, participated in the killing of three (3) civilians of Albanian ethnicity, as well as in the expulsion and destruction of movable and immovable property belonging to the Albanian civilian population, who were not involved in the conflict.

On 13 February 2025, an initial hearing was held before the Special Department of the Basic Court in Prishtinë/Priština.

As of the date of publication of this newsletter, the main trial in this case had not begun.

2. PROSECUTOR AGAINST C.K. (IN ABSENTIA)

On 27 January 2025, the SPRK filed an indictment in absentia against C.K., charging him with the criminal offense of *war crimes against the civilian population*, currently criminalized under the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo (CCRK) as a *crime against humanity*.

According to the SPRK, there is grounded suspicion that in April 1999, during the war in Kosovo, in the vicinity of the Municipality of Vushtrri/Vučitrn, the accused, as a mobilized member of the police forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia, in co-perpetration with other uniformed and armed persons, committed sexual violence (rape) against a woman of Albanian ethnicity.

As of the date of publication of this newsletter, the main trial in this case had not begun.

3. PROSECUTOR AGAINST M.I. (IN ABSENTIA)

On 13 March 2025, the SPRK filed an indictment in absentia against M.I., charging him with the criminal offense of *war crimes against the civilian population*.

According to the SPRK, there is grounded suspicion that in 1998, during the war in Kosovo, in the vicinity of the Municipality of Gjakovë/Đakovica, the accused, uniformed in police attire and armed, in co-perpetration with other members of the police forces, directly participated in the killing of one (1) person and in the mistreatment of Albanian civilian citizens. Furthermore, there is grounded suspicion that the accused, in co-perpetration with other armed persons, committed sexual violence (rape) against a woman of Albanian ethnicity.

As of the date of publication of this newsletter, the main trial in this case had not begun.

4. PROSECUTOR AGAINST R.V., A.Č., AND M.V. (IN ABSENTIA)

On 21 March 2025, the SPRK filed an indictment in absentia against R.V., A.Č., and M.V., charging them with the criminal offense of *war crimes against the civilian population*.

According to the SPRK, there is grounded suspicion that on 7 May 1999, during the war in Kosovo, Serbian military, police, and paramilitary forces, of which the accused were also members, uniformed and armed, in the village of Ozdrim/Ozrim and surrounding villages in the Municipality of Pejë/Peć, committed the killing of approximately fourteen (14) civilians; raids, torture, and cruel and inhumane treatment; unlawful detention under conditions amounting to slavery; the expulsion and forcible displacement of dozens of Albanian civilians; as well as the looting, burning, and destruction of homes belonging to the Albanian civilian population, who were not involved in the conflict.

As of the date of publication of this newsletter, the main trial in this case had not begun.

5. PROSECUTOR AGAINST DRAGAN RISTIĆ

On 25 February 2025, the Kosovo Police arrested the defendant, Dragan Ristić, on suspicion of participation in the commission of the criminal offense of *war crimes against the civilian population*.

Following the initiation of investigations on 26 February 2025, the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo (SPRK) filed an indictment against the defendant on 27 June 2025, charging him with *war crimes against the civilian population*.

According to the SPRK, there is grounded suspicion that in May 1999, during the war in Kosovo, in the territory of the city of Gjakovë/Đakovica, the defendant Ristić, in co-perpetration with police and military forces of which he was a member, participated in killings, mistreatment, and arrests, expulsions, and the destruction of movable and immovable property belonging to the Albanian civilian population, who were not involved in the conflict.

The initial hearing is scheduled to be held on 22 July 2025 before the Special Department of the Basic Court in Prishtinë/Priština.

6. PROSECUTOR AGAINST J.J. AND V.T. (IN ABSENTIA)

On 27 June 2025, the SPRK filed an indictment in absentia against J.J. and V.T., charging them with the criminal offense of *war crimes against the civilian population*.

According to the SPRK, there is grounded suspicion that on 30 March 1999, during the war in Kosovo, in the village of Kaçanik i Vjetër/Stari Kačanik, Municipality of Kaçanik/Kaçanik, the defendants, uniformed in Serbian police uniforms and armed, in co-perpetration with other members of the Serbian police, military, and paramilitary forces, participated in killings, physical and psychological maltreatment, and the looting of movable property belonging to the Albanian civilian population, who were not involved in the conflict.

As of the date of publication of this newsletter, the main trial in this case had not begun.

HLCK FINDINGS:

After 2023, a trend has been observed in Kosovo of predominantly filing indictments in absentia, especially in cases related to war crimes. This practice risks becoming a standard approach to handling such cases, which could negatively affect the efficiency and credibility of the judicial process.

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