

PROTOCOL

ON JOINT VERIFICATION TEAMS ON HIDDEN PRISONS

Preamble

1. Based on the Common Document signed between FRY and UNMIK on 05.11.2001 and considering that there continues to be a wide spread belief in all communities in Kosovo and Serbia proper that there are hidden prisons where those who have been kidnapped or detained before, during and after the 1999 conflict in Kosovo, are kept as hostages and for forced labour, it has been suggested that Joint Verification teams on hidden prisons be formed. Lists of the locations of these hidden prisons, in Kosovo and in Serbia proper, have circulated widely for the past two years without any evidence supporting these allegations. After having undertaken numerous investigations of these allegations of hidden prisons UNMIK has declared that there is no evidence of any hidden prisons holding missing Kosovo Serbs or minorities in Kosovo. FRY authorities have also declared that there are no hidden or illegal detention centres in Serbia proper. In order to dispel these rumours and to build confidence amongst all communities, joint verification activities will be organised in Kosovo and in Serbia proper.

Objectives

2. Both Parties will take an active part working jointly in the activities undertaken to search for any hidden prisons and report the results to competent bodies to allay the fears of all communities regarding this issue.
3. Both Parties will exchange information on those individuals or organisations which print or publicise these allegations, in order to institute criminal proceedings against those who perpetuate these allegations without proof to extort money from the families of missing persons.

Procedures

4. In Kosovo Joint Verification Teams will be organised comprising representatives of UNMIK Police and, as observers, representatives of FRY, representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and Non-Governmental Organisations, in particular, missing persons associations. The number of observers shall not exceed four.
5. In Serbia proper the Joint Verification Teams will be organised comprising representatives of the MUP and, as observers, representatives of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations, in particular, missing persons associations. The number of observers shall not exceed four.

Confidentiality

6. Prior to the visit of each site both Parties will respect the confidentiality of information to ensure that the alleged sites are not interfered with and that civil unrest is not provoked which might compromise the verifications and the security of personnel.

Publicity

7. Both Parties will inform their constituents in the most appropriate and public manner AFTER each verification with due consideration to the requirements of Article 6 of this Protocol. Special efforts will be made to ensure the results of these inspections will be accurately reported, and refrain from politicising the issue or contributing to the further dissemination of disinformation.

Changes to the Protocol

8. Each Party can request, in writing, that changes to be made to this Protocol, which shall be undertaken only on the basis of mutual agreement.

Duration

9. This Protocol shall take effect from the day of signing. It should be reviewed by the Parties at 12 monthly intervals or at other times as Article 8 of this Protocol is invoked

10. The present Protocol shall be signed in two copies, English and Serbian. The English text of this Protocol shall alone be authentic and shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency between the English and Serbian texts.

11. In this Protocol, the term "Serbia proper" shall mean the territory of the Republic of Serbia outside Kosovo.

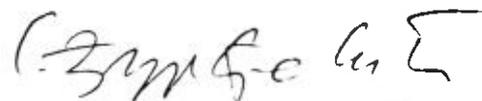
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being fully authorized thereto, have on behalf of the Parties signed the present Protocol.

For the United Nations Interim
Administration Mission in Kosovo



Jean-Christian Cady
DSRSG, Pillar I (Police and Justice)

For the Government of the
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/
Republic of Serbia



Major-General Svetislav Djurdjevic
Governments of FRY/Republic of
Serbia/Coordination Centre for Kosovo
and Metohija

Date: 11 February 2002

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