



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

5224

**CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN THE WAR
AGAINST CROATIA 1991/94 AND SEVERE VIOLATIONS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF CIVILIAN POPULATION:
WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY
AND ETHNIC CLEANSING**

4. Abducted, detained and missing persons:

According to the results of action (February and March 1994) of renewing requests for tracing abducted, detained and missing persons, organized by Commission for detained and missing persons of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, in collaboration with Government's Office for Victims of War, Department of information and research of Ministry of Health, Croatian Red Cross and Associations of families of missing persons and Croatian defenders, and other requests registered by Commission for detained and missing persons to November 1994, total number of abducted, detained and missing persons in the Republic of Croatia is 2,836. According to this precise evidence, 1,647 persons (58%) among all abducted, detained and missing persons are civilians, while the number of 1,189 persons (42%) are Croatian defenders. The number of renewed requests is lower than the number of requests registered in 1993 by the Office for the Victims of War - Government's Commission for tracing detained and missing persons (7,827 missing persons), and significantly lower of number of requests for tracing abducted, detained and missing persons registered in the data base of the Croatian Red Cross in the period of 1991/1993 (13,000 missing persons). It can be explained by the fact that the majority of families learned, in different ways, the faith of persons for which they had submitted requests for tracing of missing persons in the period of 1991/1992, and one part of them was released through exchange.

During the action for collecting detailed information for tracing missing persons are assembled additional data and completed dosiers with all known circumstances of disappearances, witnesses' testimonies and with medical documentation, needed for further tracing of missing persons.

The highest number of missing persons (43,5%) is detained, abducted or disappeared on the territory of the Vukovarsko-srijemska županija, majority of them in the town of Vukovar itself.

5. Disabled persons

Until January 1, 1995, on the basis of collected medical documentation, Department of Information and research Ministry of Health, registered 9,161 disabled persons with serious body impairments as consequences of wounding. It is estimated that this number represents about 90% of all disabled persons with serious body impairments. Furthermore, 97 children with serious bodily impairments have been registered until August 1994.

6. Detained in Serbian concentration camps and prisons:

Until November 16, 1994 Commission for tracing detained and missing persons has recorded 6,660 persons released through exchange from Serbian concentration camps and prisons. According to the results of comprehensive medical examinations, about 90% of all detainees were maltreated and tortured; extensive medical documentation about the victims of torture in detention has been collected until the present.

7. Displaced persons in Croatia and refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina:

On January 12, 1995 Office for Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Government of the Republic of Croatia has registered 194,519 displaced persons within Croatia plus 189,678 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina i.e. the total of 384,197 displaced persons and refugees in Croatia. According to the estimation of the Office, 6% of displaced persons and refugees has not been registered.

PHONE NO. : 177 701

FROM : URH-Ured za zrtve rata

According to the official records of the Ministry of Defense there were 5,858 killed and 17,802 wounded soldiers. According to the official records of the Division of Information & Research, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia (dated November 16, 1994) there were 8,646 wounded and 3,024 killed civilians, as the direct result of aggressive attacks of Yugoslav Army and Serbian paramilitary troops. Among these civilian casualties, there were 844 children, 3 priests and 30 medical doctors or other members of medical personnel wounded and among killed civilians there were 241 children, 3 priests and 5 medical doctors or other members of medical personnel. These data alone point to the unusually high proportion of civilians among the total casualties (one third of all wounded and killed persons!). However, these data represent only the minimal number of firmly ascertained casualties (based on medical and autopsy records) and therefore they significantly underestimate the total number of casualties. The following data represent the estimation of additional casualties and they also point out clearly that the proportion of civilian casualties is definitively much higher.

1. Civilians massacred and executed within the occupied territory of Croatia:

According to the number of well-documented independent testimonies of survivors and eye-witnesses, at least 1,000 Croatian civilians (mostly elderly people, over 60 years of age) were massacred, executed or brutally murdered by Serbian paramilitaries in a number of villages within the presently occupied part of the Croatian territory (in the regions of: Eastern Slavonia excluding Vukovar; Western Slavonia; Baranja; Kordun; Lika and Dalmatia). Additional killings of Croatian civilians (at least 500 victims) occurred in UNPROFOR Sector East (Baranja and Vukovar) and Sector South (Benkovac, Zadar hinterland) after the UNPROFOR had taken responsibility in these occupied parts of Croatia.

2. Civilians massacred and executed from the town of Vukovar alone:

According to the official records of the Division of Information & Research, Ministry of Health there were 2,464 persons wounded in Vukovar during the aggression, out of which 60 were children.

According to the present official data, there were at least 1,851 killed citizens of Croatia in the town of Vukovar, as follows: 690 recorded in the Division of Information & Research Ministry of Health until November 6, 1991 (out of which 13 were children); 709 as listed on the "List of identified dead" presented by Yugoslav Army pathologists after the occupation of Vukovar; 266 persons executed or murdered after the occupation in Vukovar itself or subsequently in Serbian camps, according to written testimonies of survivors and eye-witnesses and 286 according to the list compiled by grave-digger from Vukovar. However, since there are still 1,228 missing or forcefully disappeared persons from Vukovar (who disappeared after the occupation of Vukovar by Yugoslav Army - 294 of them disappeared directly from Vukovar hospital, as follows: 18 employees of Vukovar hospital, 25 members of hospital assisting personnel, 57 civilians and 194 wounded patients), and we have every reason to believe that most of them were killed, too, we estimate the total number of casualties in Vukovar to about 3000 to 3500 people.

3. Mass graves in the UNPROFOR Sector East "Sector E":

As a consequence of a number of summary executions and arbitrary mass killings of Croatian civilians as well as some captured Croatian soldiers, jointly committed by Yugoslav Army and Serbian paramilitary troops, there are presently a number of mass graves within the occupied part of Croatia (UNPROFOR Sectors East, West, North and South as well as so-called "pink zones"). The exact number of mass graves and victims of summary executions is still unknown. However, to illustrate the extent and brutality of that kind of war crime, here we offer a concise and selective list of eleven such localities (the probable number of victims murdered and buried at each locality is given in brackets) within the present UNPROFOR Sector "F" only: 1. Ovčara (about 300 victims); 2. Five localities within the town of Vukovar: sports stadium "Sloga" (120 victims), near the shop "Kivi" (about 360 victims), New Cemetery of Vukovar (about 1,200 victims), Old Brickery building at Sajmište (about 250 victims), Gelesova Dol near Petrova Gora (about 70 victims); 3. Lovas (about 140 victims); 4. Tovarnik - four mass graves with about 250 victims; 5. Jakobovac (about 300 victims); 6. Petrovec (16 victims); 7. Ernestinovo (several mass graves); 8. Tordinci (208 victims); 9. Dalj (about 300 victims); 10. Berak (32 victims) and 11. Bogdanovci-Vukovar line (over 300 persons disappeared in this area).