



United Nations
Nations Unies



International
Criminal Tribunal
for the Former
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yugoslavie

Office of the
Prosecutor

Bureau du
Procureur

Our ref: 982115/ULAGM/sf(46)

02026367
17 March 1998

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that, in view of my responsibilities under the Statute of this Tribunal, I am currently gathering information and evidence in relation to recent developments in Kosovo, with a view to determining whether there are grounds for believing that crimes within the jurisdiction of this Tribunal may have been committed, or may be in the course of being committed.

In light of the urgency of the situation, I have taken the liberty of addressing this request for assistance directly to you. I have simultaneously forwarded a copy of it through the usual channels.

Under Articles 1, 6 and 8 of its Statute, this Tribunal has jurisdiction to prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991. Recent events in Kosovo have clearly occurred in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991.

I am presently seeking information from a variety of sources on these events. At this stage, under the authority of Article 18 of the Statute, I request your Government's co-operation in providing me, as a matter of urgency, with a report giving your Government's account of those events in as much detail as possible. This will assist us in ascertaining whether there are grounds for further detailed investigations by my Office.

The report should include as much of the following specific information as possible:

- the names of all persons killed in Kosovo in March 1998, and details of the circumstances of their deaths;
- the names of all persons arrested, detained or otherwise deprived of their liberty in Kosovo in March 1998, and details of the circumstances of their arrests or detention, of the place and length of their detention, of their treatment while detained, of any crimes with which they have been charged, of any appearances before a judicial body since their arrest, and of any decisions of those judicial bodies;
- the names of all persons injured in Kosovo in March 1998 as a result of acts by any member of a military, paramilitary, police, civilian or other authority of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or the Republic of Serbia, and details of the circumstances in which the injury was sustained;

President Slobodan Milošević
President
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
Belgrade

Cc: Ambassador Milan Grubić
Mr Zoran Knežević, Federal Minister of Justice

Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW The Hague, P.O. Box 13888, 2501 EW The Hague, Netherlands
Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW La Haye, B.P. 13888, 2501 La Haye, Pays-Bas
Tel.: 31.70.416.5330 Fax: 31.70.416.5358

02026368

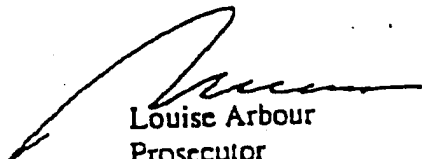
- the names of any persons sexually assaulted in Kosovo in March 1998 in any circumstances whatsoever, and details of the circumstances of the sexual assault including any alleged or suspected perpetrator;
- the names of any persons in Kosovo in March 1998 who have been forcibly transferred or deported, either within Kosovo or to a place outside Kosovo, and details of the circumstances of such forcible transfer or deportation;
- the details of any property expropriated or destroyed in Kosovo in March 1998 as a result of acts by any member of a military, paramilitary, police, civilian or other authority of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or the Republic of Serbia, and details of the circumstances in which the expropriation or destruction occurred.

For the purpose of determining whether there is, or has been, an armed conflict in Kosovo in March 1998, I hereby further request your Government to provide me without undue delay with any documents or information in its possession relating to the following:

- the composition, strength, command structure, history, and aims of the forces or organisations opposing the government forces in Kosovo in March 1998, and the political control exercised over these opposing forces or organisations;
- the arms and equipment available to these opposing forces or organisations;
- the nature and extent of control over territory exercised by these opposing forces or organisations, or by those exercising political control over them; and
- any information relating to the record of compliance with international humanitarian law by these opposing forces or organisations.

Pending your provision of the report, information and documents referred to above, I hereby request that you provide me, by no later than 25 March 1998, with the names of all persons killed in Kosovo in March 1998, and details of the circumstances of their deaths.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Louise Arbour
Prosecutor