

INITIATIVE FOR DOCUMENTING CRIMES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING THE WAR IN KOSOVO

Project:

Enhance Transitional Justice Efforts in Kosovo through Documentation of Wartime Sexual Violence

Main Findings:

Over the last years (2019-2022), through the support of the Swiss Embassy in Kosovo, KRCT together with partner organizations (CPWR, Medica Kosova and Medica Gjakova) has collected data on 900 survivors of sexual violence during the war in Kosovo.

The main findings from documenting cases of sexual violence during the war in Kosovo are as follows:

Out of 900 documented cases, 844 are women and girls 56 are men and boys.
Based on documented cases, 4% of the victims belong to non-majority communities (Roma, Bosniak, Ashkali, Egyptian).
15% of documented cases are children who were under the age of 18 at the time when they experienced sexual violence.

- Rapes during wartime occurred more often in villages rather than cities, with 67% of cases occurring in villages and 33% in cities.
- The largest number of rapes occurred inside the house where the victim was staying, respectively in 20% of cases the rapes took place in the house of the victim, while 48% of rapes occurred in the houses where the victims were temporarily housed.
- In 34% of all documented rape cases occurred in the region of Prishtina, while 66% in other regions in Kosovo.
- In **69%** of documented cases more than one perpetrator participated.
- Group raping occurred in 47% of cases.
- Relatives of victims were witness in **71%** of cases where raping took place.
- Victims of sexual violence during the war in Kosovo in 99% of cases were civilians.
- —— In 8% of cases, victims have known the perpetrators or had circumstantial knowledge of them.
- Rape as a form of sexual violence was used in 99% of cases.
- —— Sexual violence has caused psychological consequences in 99% of cases, while in 85% of documented cases victims have also suffered physical injuries.
- **378** out of **900** documented cases have suffered genital injuries.
- **35** victims became pregnant because of sexual violence during the war in Kosovo, while in six cases the victim gave birth to a child.
- 731 victims or 81% of documented cases have applied for recognition of the status of "victim of sexual violence".

This project is supported by:

