

Camps and Internment Centres in Lushnjë



SECTION

Camps of Lushnja

PERIOD

1954 - 1990

The camps and internment centres in Lushnjë were part of the system of internment and forced labour during Albania's communist regime. After 1950, hundreds of persecuted families were interned in these centres, including prominent political families and established Albanian families such as Markagjoni, Pervizi, Bajraktari, Dukagjini, Kokalari, Dine, Vatnikaj, Koliqi, Biçaku, Mulleti, Merlika, Topalli, Alizoti, Kupi, Dosti, Kaloshi, Kolgjini, and Mirakaj, among others. Internees were engaged in agricultural work, digging canals and draining marshlands, while living in difficult conditions and under continuous control and surveillance. Their movement was restricted and required official permission. The archival documents presented in this section provide evidence of the organisation of these centres and the lives of families subjected to internment in the Lushnjë area.

Camps and Internment Centres in Lushnjë

Following the closure of the Tepelena internment camp at the end of November 1953, a large number of internees were transferred to the Lushnjë area. Savra was designated as one of the main internment centres and as the location of the administrative command. Interned families were initially accommodated in barracks and subjected to continuous administrative control, daily roll calls, and compulsory agricultural labour. The Savra Camp, one of the best-known internment centres in the Lushnjë area, was opened in 1953 and remained in operation until 1990. It held the families of prominent political figures and several former prime ministers from the pre-World War II period. Savra became one of the main points for the organisation and administration of the internment system in the area. Another important centre was the Plug Camp, associated with the “29 November” Farm. According to historical sources, the camp was established in 1950 as an enclosed camp where internees and emigrants were engaged in heavy agricultural labour. Harta e Kujtesës – “29 November” Farm Camp Over time, the internment system expanded to several villages and sectors in the Myzeqe area, including Çërma Camp, Çërma Sector, Grabian, Gradishtë, Kryekuq, Karavasta, Bedat, Plug, Gjazë, Rrapëz, Kolonjë, Dushk, Zhamë, Sulzotaj and Karbunara. These centres served as places of compulsory residence for families classified by the regime as “dangerous” or “enemies” of the state, under the supervision of state authorities. Internees were subject to restrictions on their movement outside the village where they lived and were required to obtain official permission to leave it. Agricultural labour was one of the main features of everyday life in these centres. Internment periods, often imposed for five years, could be extended by decisions of the Internment and Deportation Commission, resulting in some families remaining under internment for many years. The internment system in Lushnjë combined restrictions on freedom of movement, administrative surveillance, compulsory labour and the forced removal of families from their places of residence. The archival documentation therefore concerns not only internment orders and their extensions, but also the day-to-day administration of internees, their movements, labour, relations with state authorities, and their family and social lives. The documents presented in this section provide evidence of the functioning and development of the internment system in the Lushnjë area, from the establishment of its early centres to its subsequent expansion across the villages of Myzeqe. They constitute primary sources for studying the policies and administration of internment, as well as the individual and family experiences of those subjected to it.

Internment Card

The internment card is an official administrative document created by the former State Security structures and the Ministry of Internal Affairs during Albania's communist regime (1944–1991). It was used to register, identify and monitor individuals or families subjected to internment or deportation. The card contained personal information, the grounds and duration of the measure, the place of internment, and administrative notes concerning its implementation. Today, these documents are administered by the Authority for Information on Former State Security Documents (AIDSSH) and constitute archival sources for documenting the history of internment and political persecution. The following section presents four types of internment cards, dating from 1956, 1957, 1962 and 1965, selected to illustrate different forms of implementing and administering internment and deportation measures during the communist regime. The documents reflect cases involving internment on grounds of “social dangerousness,” release from internment, the internment of family members, and the conversion of internment into deportation. Taken together, these four cases illustrate the administrative mechanisms through which internment and deportation were imposed and controlled by the state authorities.

Internment Card

MEDIA ITEMS #1

Dr-sig-st.
Emërtimi i fondit *Hetuesi.*
Sektori i veprimtarisë

Viti *1956.*
Rrethi _____

Fondi Nr. _____ Dosja Nr. *24.* Kutia Nr. _____ Arka Nr. _____

Inventari Nr. _____ Indeksi *A* [REDACTED]

Me vendim komis. št 14 olt 21. 11. 56. pr. MPB
interuohet në detyrë sepse parapet rrezikshm.
shpëtor. Dënim fillon më 21.9.56 deri 21.9.61

PËRPILUESI _____ DATA _____

Fleta Nr. _____

TITULLI _____

Internment Card

INFORMATION

Internment Card

Authors: Internment and Deportation Commission

TRANSCRIPT

No transcript is available for this media.

Internment Release Card

MEDIA ITEMS #1

Dr. Sip. Sut
Emërtimi i fondit *He Lorenç*
Sëktori i veprimtarisë *Xh. № 14.*
Fondi Nr. _____ Dosja Nr. *28.* Kutia Nr. _____ Arka Nr. _____
Inventari Nr. _____ Indeks *[redacted]*
Fleta Nr. _____ *H* *[redacted]*

T I T U L L I

*Ue vend. komis. № 13 dt. 25.12.57 pr. MPB,
lirohet nga intervizimi (int në dushinë)*

PËRPIJES *[signature]* DATA _____

Internment Release Card

INFORMATION

Internment Release Card

TRANSCRIPT

No transcript is available for this media.

Internment release card

MEDIA ITEMS #1

Dr. Lig. Lletket
Emertimi i Qonlit *Dega e Fletuesisë* Viti *1962.*
Sektori i veprimtarisë *M 032* Kretshi *ER*
Fondi Nr. _____ Dosja Nr. *55* Kutia Nr. _____
Inventari Nr. _____ Indeksi *AC* _____
Fleta Nr. _____
T I T U L L I
*Me vendim N° 67 dt 15.8.62 të Komisionit të
Internim - Dëbimore pranë Kësh. të Ministrave
lirohen nga internimi në Lushnjë.*
PËRPILUESI *h.* DATA *1991.*
PËRPILUESI _____ DATA _____

Internment release card

INFORMATION

Internment release card

TRANSCRIPT

No transcript is available for this media.

Conversion of Internment into Deportation

MEDIA ITEMS #1

Daja Hetuesis
Emërtimi i fondit Viti 1965

Spektori i veprimtarisë Brethi SR

Fondi Nr. _____ Dosja Nr. 84 Kutia Nr. _____ Arka Nr. _____

Inventari Nr. _____ Indeksi A _____

Fleta Nr. 54 " _____

TITULLI, _____

*✓ kthehet internimi në dëbim me vendim
NR 44. dt. 16. 12. 1965. të internuar në
Lushnje me vendim NR 28. dt. 8. 5. 1961. se
paragjishin rrejtshmëri orar të dëbuar për 5 vjet
korë.*

PËRPILUESI *[Signature]* DATA _____

Conversion of Internment into Deportation

INFORMATION

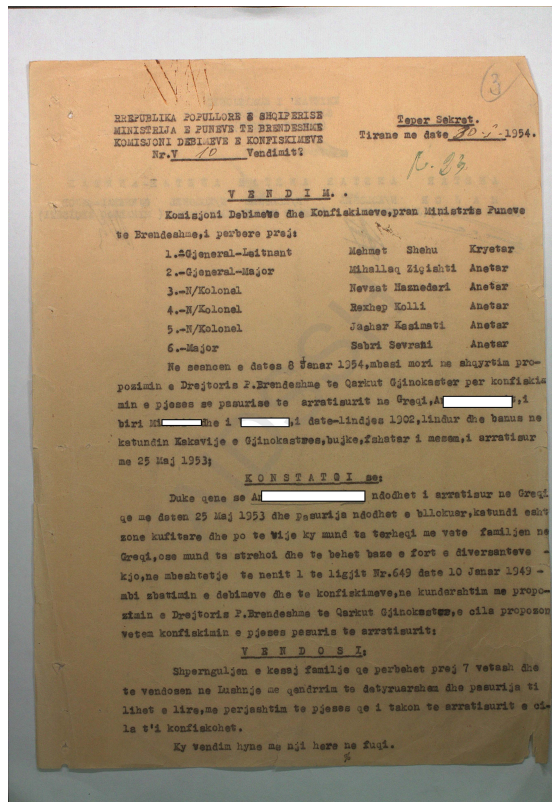
Conversion of Internment into Deportation

TRANSCRIPT

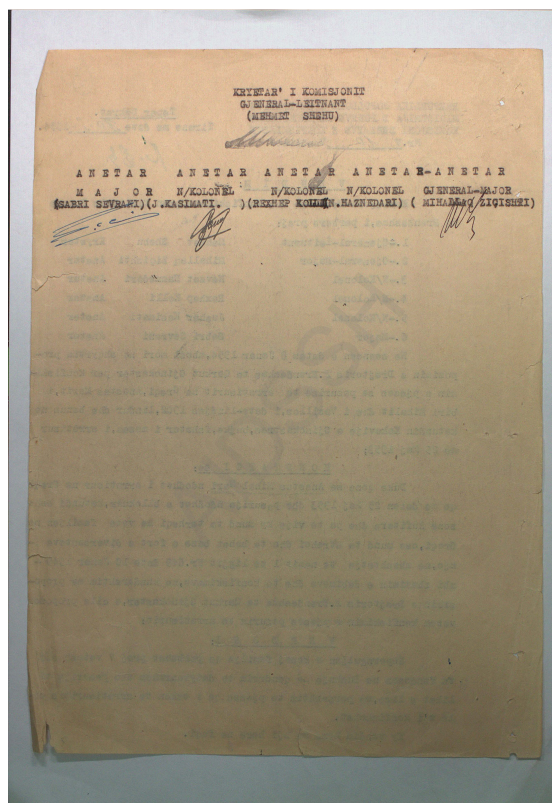
No transcript is available for this media.

Media 5

MEDIA ITEMS #1



MEDIA ITEMS #2



INFORMATION

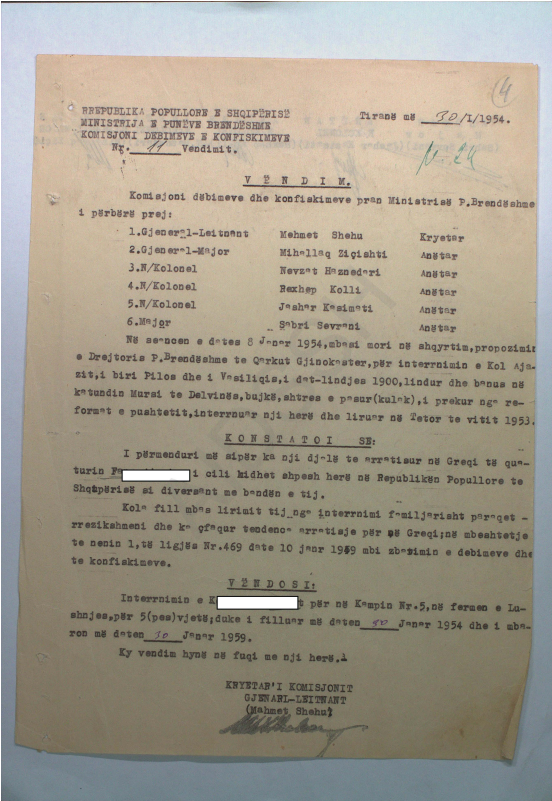
No additional information is available for this media.

TRANSCRIPT

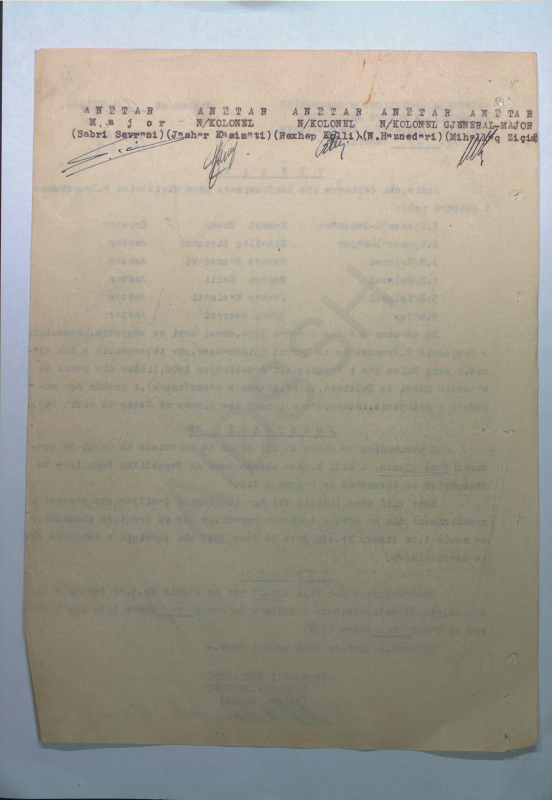
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Media 6

MEDIA ITEMS #1



MEDIA ITEMS #2



INFORMATION

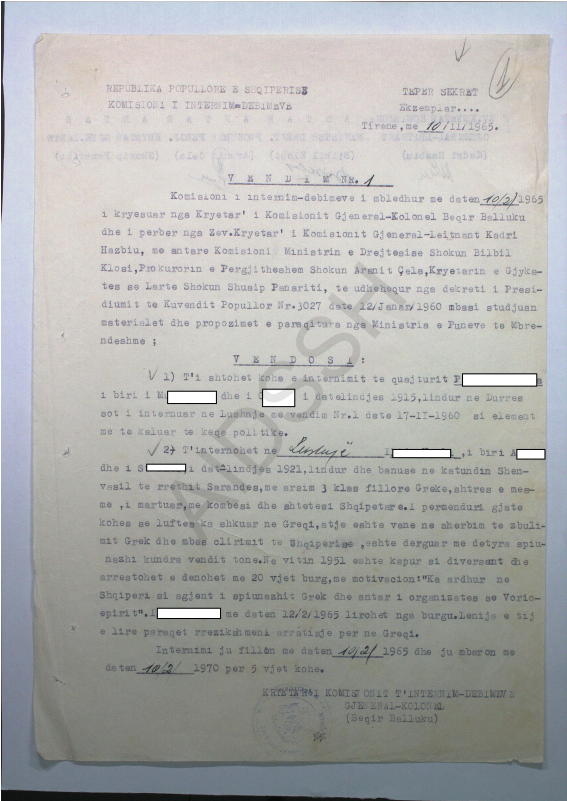
No additional information is available for this media.

TRANSCRIPT

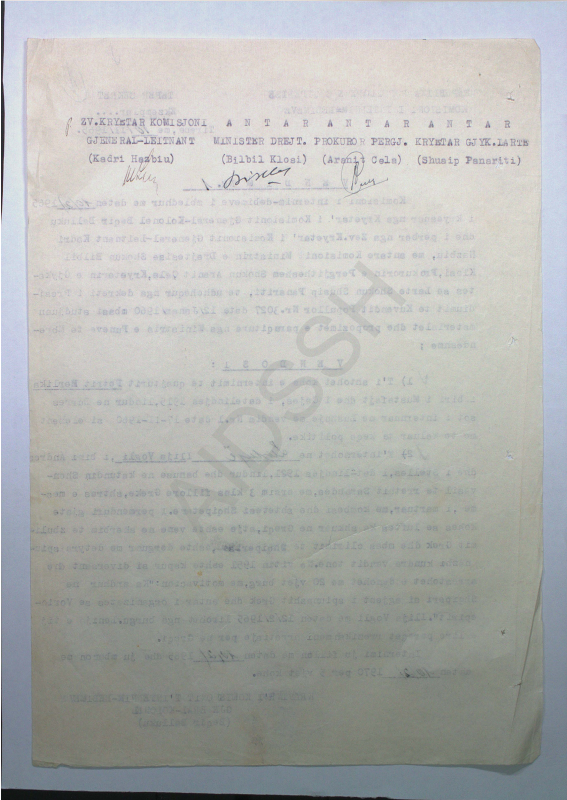
No transcript is available for this media.

Media 7

MEDIA ITEMS #1



MEDIA ITEMS #2



INFORMATION

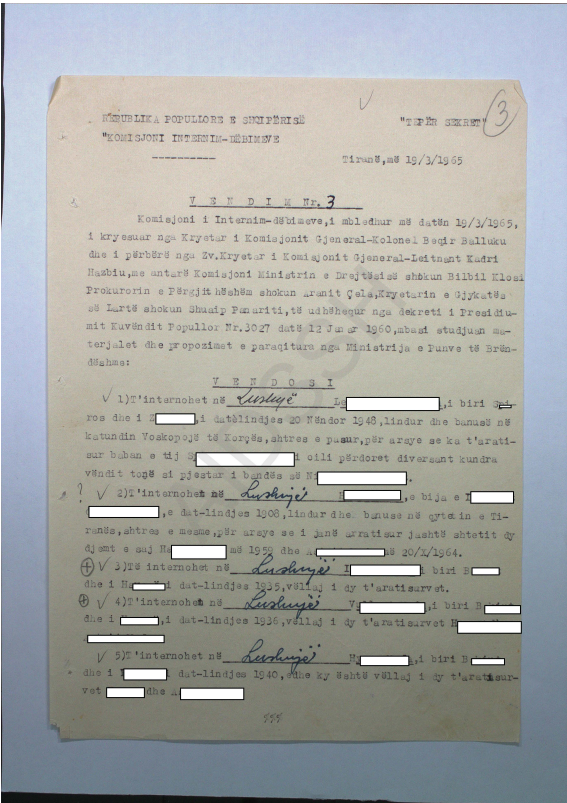
No additional information is available for this media.

TRANSCRIPT

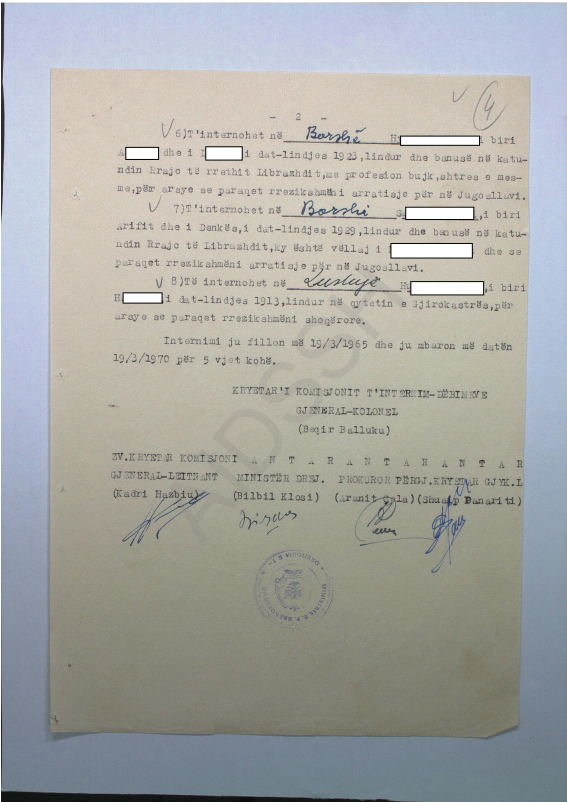
No transcript is available for this media.

Media 8

MEDIA ITEMS #1



MEDIA ITEMS #2



INFORMATION

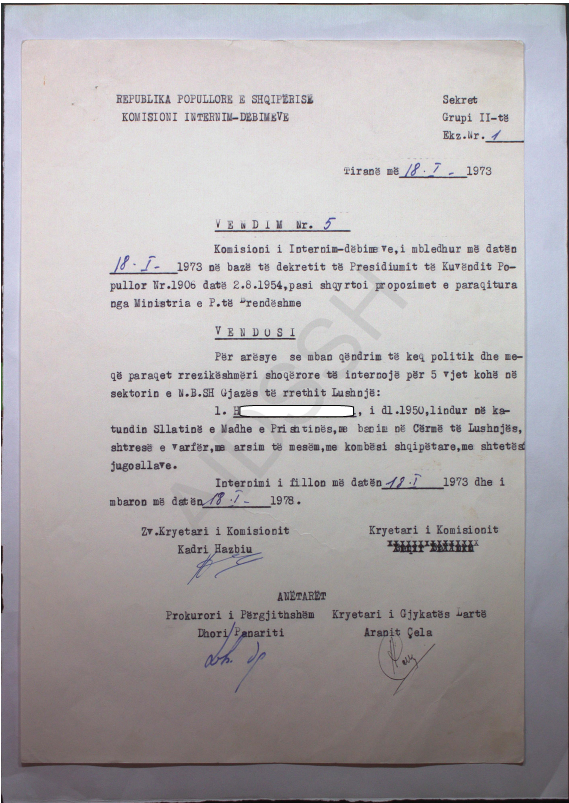
No additional information is available for this media.

TRANSCRIPT

No transcript is available for this media.

Media 9

MEDIA ITEMS #1



INFORMATION

No additional information is available for this media.

TRANSCRIPT

No transcript is available for this media.