

THE NATO AGGRESSION AGAINST THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA TWENTY YEARS LATER AND CONSEQUENCES FOR TOURISM SECURITY AND THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

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Abstract

This paper addresses the problems of the NATO intervention in the Republic of Srpska in 1995 and the NATO aggression over the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999. The NATO Alliance, as the most powerful military armed force, was formed to defend and protect member states, as its founders. The Alliance, however, was backed by political and military authorities to invade the Republic of Serbia. As a military institution, it changed the idea and role of its founders and made itself one of the biggest threats to, and thus an aggressor of, non-member states and members who are not among the Alliance's founders.

Key Words: *NATO, consequences, pollution, poisoning, aggression, tourism, hotel industry, employment*

JEL classification: *Z32, Z39*

Instead of an introduction

The authors addressed this criminal phenomenon and the problem of modern civilization shortly after the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, through a scientific paper in the journal *Civitas* 2015, *NATO agresija na SRJ 1999* (Pejanović, 2015) *Nato argesija na SRJ 1999*, Novi Sad, as well as a proposal for a paper under the banner of the NATO aggression and the consequences twenty years later, for the same journal. The authors' wish for the publication of the aforementioned paper is based on facts about the aggression, the consequences on human life, health and social values, as well as consequences, after twenty years, on

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the environment and ecology, which include tourism and hotel management. In addition to pointing out, proving and reminding of the aforementioned problems for contemporary civilization, we would also like to draw attention to the fact that this crime should not be forgotten, to be repeated and hidden. The aforementioned papers have analyzed the duration and existence of, primarily, the most dangerous threats to civilization and all its values among which are life, health and values, which have been destroyed, which are being destroyed and which increasingly contribute to the consequences to health, life and the environment, globally.

The concept and definitions of interventions and aggression

"*Aggression*, an unprovoked attack by one or more states on a state or states (in this case 18 states), which threatens the independence, sovereignty or territorial integrity of the country under attack (v. aggression). Most often aggression is armed, *i.e.*, the use of military force, but includes any action directed against the territorial whole and independence of another state or against global peace. In this sense, this is economic and political subversion and other types of aggression." (Ratković and Petrović, 1981).

"Aggression, assertiveness in the general sense, violence towards something that impedes the attainment of an intended or planned goal. In state law, it involves a crime against peace-state of threat from an external force or unprovoked armed attack on a sovereign state, its territorial integrity and independence." (Bošković, 2015). With this act of unprecedented violence, the victim had no right to defend itself, but was expected to bow down and surrender.

Therefore, the two offered definitions, from the military and legal-security aspect, illustrate what, and in what sense of the word, significance aggression has in our paper. Starting from the above definitions, the 1999 NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was not a humanitarian action, as presented and analyzed by NATO commanders, members and sympathizers of the NATO Alliance. It was an occupying aggression with the objective of breaking up the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the destruction of significant military, police, medical, and natural resources and similar objects. By presenting the actual circumstances of NATO's aggression on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999, we cannot in any way imply, nor accept, represent and justify that this form of aggression was a humanitarian action, it can only

be a crime against those people and that state. A humanitarian action is assistance to a people, an institution or a state. If we were to accept and interpret NATO's message in this respect, it would imply that NATO provided humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, *i.e.*, Serbia and Montenegro, via missiles, bombs, cluster bombs, explosive devices, biological-chemical and radioactive agents, as well as nuclear waste (uranium and plutonium) instead of food, medicine or other humanitarian aid.

In this regard, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was expected to accept and acknowledge assistance and to thank the Alliance for its gift, not to consider the action aggression. In other words, our society survived the aggression, and we understood that the NATO Alliance had bombed our country, polluted our territory, destroyed our facilities, the economy, inflicted human casualties and contributed, with chemical, biological and radiation assets, to the increase of instances of cancer and other serious illnesses (through pollution to agriculture and ecology), for a very long period of time up to 4500 years.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and society, had not asked for or demanded NATO to provide any assistance, as they claim, but to avoid it, as we had, in no manner, deserved to have them destroy and inflict such an unprecedented catastrophe upon us. NATO leadership and command tried, utilizing all available means, to persuade us, as well as other opponents of the intervention, that the intervention was a humanitarian action and that its purpose was to protect and allegedly prevent the persecution of the Albanian population from Kosovo and Metohija, even though the Serb population was the one under threat.

Another objective was to, supposedly, prevent conflict in Kosovo instigated by the Yugoslav Army, under the regime of Slobodan Milošević. These interpretations and explanations have no factual basis as these were invented and constructed scenarios which allegedly involved the murder of numerous Albanians. One of the many scenarios is Račak in Kosovo and Metohija, which was invented, planned, and executed by now retired, US General Walker. The scenarios were planned by bringing in dead Serb and Albanian soldiers, from the battlefields, and citizens who lost their lives on the field, dressing them in civilian attire and portraying them as civilian casualties.

Conceptual determination and definition of the NATO Alliance and the endangerment of tourism and the hotel industry

The NATO bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (codenamed Operation Allied Force) or, in the US, Operation Noble Anvil, also known in Serbia as Merciful Angel or NATO aggression, was the final phase of the Kosovo and Metohija war, which lasted from March 24th until June 10th 1999. It was NATO's second major military interference after the bombing of Republic of Srpska in Operation Deliberate Force in 1995, and the largest military conflict in Serbia-Montenegro since World War II.

NATO's intervention was carried out without the approval of the UN Security Council, after charges that Serb security forces were conducting ethnic cleansing of Kosovo Albanians. The immediate cause for action was Račak and the refusal of the Yugoslav delegation to sign the Rambouillet Agreement. NATO launched an air attack on military targets located in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at 8:45 PM on March 24, 1999, later expanding its targets to commercial and civilian facilities.

The attacks, which lasted for 78 continuous days, severely damaged the infrastructure, business facilities, schools, health institutions, media houses, cultural monuments, churches and monasteries, police and military facilities, transformer stations and transmission lines covered with metal networks, etc. Although police and military forces protected those territories, they failed to save them. "Security measures were taken, like the private security sector, through the structure of the system covering all areas of security and protection, practice and what belonged to that practice." (Pejanović et al., 2016).

The estimated damage to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was from \$ 30 billion to \$ 100 billion. The final death toll has not been officially announced, with Serbian estimates ranging between 1,500 and 3,000 dead. "Terrorism is a phenomenon of the modern age in its threat to contemporary civilization, and it happened during the conflict in Kosovo." (Pejanović and Stojanović, 2018).

Several hundred thousand Albanians according to the scenario, all returned later, while Serbs cannot return to their hearth, even to this day. The attacks were ceased on June 10, following the signing of a military-technical agreement on the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army and police from Kosovo and Metohija. On the same day, the Security Council adopted

Resolution 1244, under which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia) retained sovereignty over Kosovo and Metohija but, on this issue, the international community made a reversal under the administration of UNMIK and KFOR.

On February 17, 2008, Kosovo Albanians unilaterally declared Kosovo's independence from Serbia, which Serbia does not recognize. In this respect, the cited quotation reminds us of the reasons for the attacks on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia, what these goals were, and which were attributed, allegedly, to the Albanians.

Therefore, NATO's "intervention" in the Republic of Srpska, was carried out with an attack on its forces in Hadžić and Han Pijesak, to prevent them from protecting their positions and population in Sarajevo, and, NATO and the B&H Army carried out the "bombing scenario on Markale market in Sarajevo" in order to justify NATO's military assault on Serbian positions. On the other hand, al-Qaeda terrorists, jihadists, Wahhabists and the B&H army carried out attacks, killings and crimes throughout the Bosnian territory, for which they did not even receive a warning, while the Serbs were denied the right to defend themselves.

NATO carried out the same intentions and actions in Kosovo and Metohija, with attacks and aggression on military and police forces defending the border and territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The NATO aviation, the Albanian army, the Kosovo Liberation Army, al-Qaeda terrorists, jointly carried out attacks from Kosovo and Metohija and Albania. In this case, terrorism can pose a major problem to tourism and the hotel industry. Terrorism as a phenomenon with established modems and the theater of modern civilization threatens the entire planet." (Pejanović and Stojanović, 2018).

In this respect, NATO was neither entitled nor required to engage in such actions because no NATO member state was attacked or threatened, and these rules are embedded in the organization of the Alliance, obliging them to defend their members. In other words, there was no need to attack, kill, demolish and destroy territories that do not belong to them, which actions were the cause of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo and Metohija.

NATO aggression 20 years later and NATO's acknowledgement of the reason for the bombing

Only in 2019, on the 20th anniversary of NATO's aggression on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, *i.e.*, March 24, 1999, did NATO acknowledge why they bombed us. NATO's bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, codenamed Operation Allied Force or US Operation Noble Anvil, in Serbia also called and known as NATO aggression, or erroneously called Merciful Angel, was the final phase of the war in Kosovo and Metohija which lasted from March 24 until June 10, 1999. On the same day, the Security Council adopted resolution 1244 under which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia) retained its sovereignty over Kosovo, while they became internationally recognized under the administration of UHMIK and KFOR, with an army and police, while more than 200,000 Kosovo Serbs and others non-Albanians, escaped to Central Serbia.

Serbia has become the country with the largest number of refugees and internally displaced persons in Europe. On February 17, 2008, Kosovo Albanians unanimously declared the independence of Kosovo and Metohija from Serbia. In this imposed regime, the Serbs did not have any rights or consent to this decision. Thus, among the numerous scenarios during the NATO aggression on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Srpska, US intelligence officer Walker created a false scenario by bringing dead Serb and Albanian fighters from the battlefields and filming them in Račak, regardless of the numerous denials from witnesses, the scenario was accepted and the bombing of the Republic of Serbia was carried out. When it comes to the Republic of Srpska, intelligence officers also staged the Markale Market scenario, and accused the Serbian army of attacking it in order to kill Muslims in the market and the surrounding area. The scriptwriters knew full well that they had commissioned Muslim forces from Sarajevo to attack the Savo Miskin market at Markale in Sarajevo.

"Some Western European governments, advocates and planners for the use of the NATO Alliance, military and terrorists on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999, were not anything new at that time. These plans existed much earlier and preparations were being made for the aggression over a period of several years. First of all, the intelligence services of these countries trained, prepared, educated and persuaded the terrorist organization KLA (Walker) for many years, which they called and registered as a terrorist organization themselves, to rename and form it as

the KLA, *i.e.*, the Kosovo Liberation Army. In addition to Western intelligence officers, KLA members were trained by ISIS members. In any case, ISIS fighters trained in Syria and Iraq to carry out terrorist attacks can use migrant routes to reach Europe, at any time" (Skakavac and Skakavac, 2017). These groups (ISIS and KLA) were used for terrorist purposes back in 1997 when, together with foreign intelligence services, they carried out various incidents, *i.e.*, terrorist killings, persecutions, destruction of facilities in Kosovo, *etc.* Thus, in 1998, the KLA terrorist organization and al-Qaeda and ISIS members, with aid from the Albanian army, carried out numerous attacks on the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In this respect, at 9:30 PM on May 09, 1995, an attack was carried out on the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the area of the Dejan Krstić watchtower near Đakovica. At that time and in that area, the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Albania was constantly under threat. These attacks were attempts to invade the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and transfer large quantities of small and large caliber weapons, as well as other military equipment. On August 29, 1995, a patrol of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Army was once again attacked at the Dejan Krstić watchtower, the municipality of Đakovica. Among the numerous attacks, in 1988 alone, 114 terrorist attacks were carried out on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia border. In addition, in 1998, 176 border incidents took place in which terrorists attempted to illegally bring in over 80 tons of weapons, ammunition, equipment and other means.

Given the limitations of this paper, it was not possible to explain this type of threat in any greater detail. Thus, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) started war conflicts in Kosovo and Metohija with numerous attacks on the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including March 5, 1998 when the KLA attacked a police patrol in the village of Lauš in the Drenica area. In a counterattack by the police of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the group's leader, Adam Jashari, who initiated the attack, was killed (Srpski telegraf, 2019a).

The battle for Košara and other border crossings in that area continued in the war for Kosovo and Metohija. In those clashes, 108 officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers were killed, about 150 KLA members were also killed in conflicts with the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which battle ended with the signing of the Kumanovo Agreement. However, the first cruise missiles from the NATO aviation started the aggression on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at 8 PM on

March 24, 1999 and did not stop until the signing of the Kumanovo Agreement on June 11, 1999. In this regard, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Army had 14 M-29 aircraft, 11 of which were raised in defense of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, all of which were hit, six while airborne and five on the ground.

In these conflicts, two Federal Republic of Yugoslavia pilots were killed, one near Bijeljina, Republic of Srpska, and one near Valjevo. The first pilots of the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ilić and Arizanov, took off from Niš in partially defective planes, their radars were not working and they were quickly hit, Ilić returned with the damaged plane to Niš, while Arizanov jumped out of the plane and made his way to the military airport in Priština on foot. After all of the above, and the signing of the Kumanovo Agreement, the Army and police forces were withdrawn from Kosovo, and KFOR and SFOR, which remain there to this day, took their place.

The most hazardous ammunition was released in Southern Serbia over Pljačковиć, near Vranje, Borovac near Bujanovac, Bratosele, Bukurevac and Reljan near Preševo. This is also the location of the highest radiation measurements in Serbia. An enormous quantity was also released on the Southern Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija (primarily the Podujevo region with its surrounding villages, the area of Kosovska Mitrovica), the area around Dečani, Đakovica, Prizren, etc.

NATO sustained consequences because of the planes downed by the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Seven F15 aircrafts, 3 F-117A aircrafts, 2 F117 aircrafts, 19 F-16 aircrafts, 7 F/A-18 Hornet aircrafts, 12 A-10 Thunderbolt aircrafts, 8 Harrier aircrafts, 6 F-2000 Mirage aircraft, 19 Tornado aircrafts, 3 Stora helicopters (rescue), 4 NATO helicopters, 14 NATO rescue helicopters, 4 AH-64 apache helicopters, 3 B-2As, 6 B-52Hs, 1 RAF C-130, 154 unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, and other aircraft, were hit and downed.

The area where NATO aircraft were downed

a) **Downed aircraft**; in Sombor 1, Bečej 2, In Vojvodina farther from town 2, (3 F-117 aircraft were shot down - invisible, the first in Buđanovci, the second landed in Zagreb and the third one fell in Bosnia), Novi Sad, 2, Sremska Mitrovica 3, Mitrovica-Šabac 3, Bijeljina 3, Užice 4, Loznica 1,

Belgrade 1, Smederevo 1, Požarevac 1, Valjevo 1, Sarajevo 1, Priboj 1, Aleksinac, 2. Niš 4, Prokuplje 2, Kuršumlja 1, Leskovac 1, Danilovgrad-Podgorica 3, Peć-Đakovica 3, Peć-Priština 4, Priština 2, Gračanica 1, Vranje 1, Đakovica-Prizren 1, Ulcinj 2, Albania 4 pieces,

b) **Downed helicopters**; Šabac 1, Kosovska Mitrovica 3, Priština 2, Đakovica 1, Gnjilane 1, Albania near the SRY border 1, Tirana 1 piece,

c) **Downed unmanned aerial vehicles**; Bečej 1, Bijeljina 1, Sremska Mitrovica 1, Rožaje 1, Prizren-Macedonia 2, Macedonia 1 piece (Srpski telegraf, 2019b).

"NATO command, *i.e.*, NATO tried hard to hide its losses, but failed in doing so... Report of NATO's ongoing losses during the aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were transmitted by radio amateurs from Serbia and abroad and is the best testimony of damages suffered by the Alliance. Information on the same was verified through several sources and as we were told, by amateurs who provided us with the document, there is no doubt of its authenticity. More than 2,000 radio amateurs in Serbia, plus their counterparts from abroad, were involved in the daily collection of data on attacks conducted by the NATO aviation and strikes by cruise missiles, drones and helicopters. The main center for the collecting of this data was located in New Belgrade and in times of emergency, for the needs of the state, would organize into a radio network throughout Serbia" (Srpski telegraf, 2019c).

"At 8 PM on March 24, 1999, the US-led North Atlantic Alliance, with some indication but without a declaration of war and without the approval of the UN Security Council, launched an aggression by striking at military-police targets located within the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, thereby launching the announced air operation, *i.e.*, unprovoked, and not sanctioned by the UN Security Council. NATO launched an aggression with rocket planes by striking at military-police targets located within the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, thereby starting an announced air operation, *i.e.*, unprovoked aggression." (Pejanović, 2015). Almost 20 years later, the exact number of missiles dropped on our country has not been determined, nor have the consequences to the health of the population.

"In addition to the aforementioned cases, downed planes were also recorded in other areas: 2 B-52H above Cer Mountain, one 22-man

helicopter in combat with an infantry unit hit by 1M gunfire, there were no survivors. A-10 Thunderbolt II was shot down near Tetovo, Macedonia. An A-10 plane was shot down in the vicinity of Petrovac Airport, from where the wreck was transported to this airport. An F-16 aircraft was downed in Kovilov. Another F-16 was also shot down near Kovilov. A rescue helicopter was hit, seventeen soldiers were killed while three were taken hostage in Resnik near Belgrade. One crashed in the vicinity of Svriljig, one near Sićevo-village Malča, one near Pirot and one near Laskovac, a total of 5 aircraft in one hour. One F/A-18 Hornet which took off in Bulgaria was hit, and its pilot catapulted from the plane. Two minutes later, a British airplane Harrier was shot down, which had also flown in from Bulgaria, its pilot also catapulted from the plane. One plane crashed on Šar Mountain, *i.e.*, a British Tornado, the crew was rescued and accepted by the KLA who handed them over to NATO. One B-2 crashed into Spačva Forest in Croatia, no crew data is available" (Srpski telegraf, 2019c).

Table 1: *Number of cancer patients in Central Serbia 1990-2012*

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
9,898	9,175	8,591	6,254	5,889	7,056	17,223	17,974	1,884	19,625
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
22,123	22,359	23,828	23,944	24,755	24,369	24,593	25,662	25,235	26,663
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
26,156	26,949	26,218	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Source: *Data, Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut", Belgrade, 2019.*

In the aforementioned period, 103,569 individuals, or 10.3 per year, were diagnosed with cancer in Central Serbia (Table 1). These are the results from the beginning of the NATO bombing, up to the incubation period of 10 years, *i.e.*, until 1999.

Table 2: *The number of deaths in Central Serbia from 1990-2012 from the effects of cancer, data for 2013-2019 is not available .*

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
9,814	9,661	10,627	10,674	19,715	11,194	11,407	11,788	12,162	12,312
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
12,653	12,702	13,067	13,487	13,708	14,000	14,114	14,373	14,655	15,042
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
15,053	14,924	15,231	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Source: *Data, Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut", Belgrade, 2019.*

Table 2 is a tabular illustration of deaths after 13 years of bombing, i.e., after the incubation period 2000–2012, during which time 323,939 persons, or 24.10 per year, died as a consequence of cancer. Therefore, the number of deaths increased by 14.7 per year.

NATO projectiles with depleted uranium and biological-chemical content

"During 1999, about 15 tons of depleted uranium were dropped on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, most of them in the south of Serbia, including Kosovo and Metohija. Is there a direct link between that ammunition and cancer patients, radiologist Professor Slobodan Čikarić, DMSC says for Mondo (Mondo, 2019).

"Depleted uranium emits low-level alpha radiation as well as low-beta and low-gamma radiation. Regular military uniforms are sufficient protection against absorption through the skin. The real danger is however from the potential inhalation of depleted uranium dust" (Božović, 2019).

According to experts, depleted or discarded uranium from aircraft has been taking its toll on Serbia for years, this is supported by the fact that more and more people are diagnosed with cancer, while the number of newly diagnosed and deceased patients has increased. Doctor Slobodan Čikarić, a professor at the Faculty of Medicine and a retired radiologist, claims, according to years of research, that there is, without a doubt, a link between increased malignancies in Serbia and depleted uranium dumped by NATO onto our territory.

"Merciful Angel comes and sprinkles 15 tons of depleted uranium, which during the war is converted to uranium oxides, micronic in size. Air currents carry dust into higher layers of the atmosphere, after which wind spreads that dust across Serbia and the Balkans. Bulgarians and Greeks measured radiation during the war activities - March, April, May 1999, and found that radiation was increased by 20-30 percent.

Therefore, those who claim that the dust did not spread from the territory of Kosovo and Metohija were mistaken, and why they make such claims, I do not know", says Čikarić, who is also president of the Serbian Cancer Society.

Causes of disease onset and increase in certain areas during the aggression

Therefore, the NATO Alliance planned, organized and targeted, primarily, the Pčinjski district and Kosovo and Metohija, precisely due to the concentration of the Yugoslav Army and technology, *i.e.*, tanks, located in these areas. The NATO alliance dropped the largest number of missiles in this region because this was the location of the tank units of the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. NATO had plans and wanted to attack Kosovo and Metohija from Albania, by land. They attempted to invade the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia through Albania, with the help of the KLA and with the assistance of the Albanian armed forces, which engaged in heavy fighting with the Army and police of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but failed, as did their attempts through Macedonia. Čikarić explains that a large armored unit of the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was in Kosovo and Metohija, who tried to disable it.

"The US-led NATO plan attempted a land attack on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia via several routes, with five options: 1. NATO's invasion from Macedonia, through the Preševo Valley via Skopje, into Central Serbia; 2. Through the Kačanička Gorge, although there were no conflicts in this area, with entry into Kosovo and Metohija; 3. Through the high mountains from Albania towards Kosovo; 4. A helicopter-parachute assault executed by several thousand NATO troops, in order to divide the Yugoslav units into two parts and invade Priština; and 5. Land assault with the above mentioned combinations from Hungary, and an attack on Belgrade." (Srpski telegraf, 2019a). "However, a large number of cluster bombs, air bombs, unmanned Tomahawk bombs, remained unactivated, in buildings, fields and rivers, which is a major, difficult and unsolvable problem, both in terms of deactivation and cleaning, as well as the consequences of radiation from hazardous chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear materials" (Mihailović, 2011). Among other spaces, pollution would also impact tourism and the hotel industry.

However, various accidents and incidents at power plants and nuclear power plants have contributed drastically to an increase in illnesses, including cancer. In 2011 in Fukushima, Japan, an accident occurred on a nuclear reactor after a severe earthquake which caused enormous threats and damage. In that case, the Americans helped Japan, providing them with various assistance. The Ronald Regan aircraft carrier passed Fukushima at

a distance of 150-200 kilometers. During the voyage, they discovered that the ship deck was contaminated with radioactive waste from Fukushima. They decontaminated, and the 79 sailors who were irradiated sued the Japanese government, and the owner of Fukushima, for heavy damages the following year. In that case, the sailors found themselves, unwillingly, in a zone of high risk of radiation.

This type of radiation can cause carcinogenesis and genome mutation, according to Professor Čikarić. However, he also claims that they asked for \$ 12.5 million per sailor, though none of them had cancer. In the end, a Japanese court ruled that they would receive damages but would be "capped at two million dollars per sailor" (Mondo, 2019). None can predict or estimate how ill, or the consequence of the aggression on, the citizens of the Republic of Serbia will become. If others are entitled to seek indemnification, why could not the residents of the Republic of Serbia seek damages.³

Environmental issue and the criminality of environmental threats

First of all, it is necessary to point out and remind both citizens and representatives of the authorities of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Srpska, (Bosnia and Herzegovina), that NATO has committed a crime against the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Srpska and an environmental crime. The crime involves, primarily, polluting the territory with the most hazardous and destructive explosive and other assets, the murder of people, the affliction of a great number of people by diseases such as all forms of cancer, as pointed out by Professor Čikarić. Secondly, bombings and the release of an enormous amount of biological, chemical and radiation means has polluted the territory for centuries, causing an environmental crime and terrorism.

"The environment is a set of natural values of which it is comprised, and which form a part of its surroundings, creating the basis for life within a given space, *i.e.*, Planet Earth. Ecology, environmental crime, pollution to the environment and environmental hazards are a contemporary problem of modern civilizations." (Pejanović, 2016). *"Now look at our situation, radioactive material arrived in Serbia in 1999, it was not at the level of*

³ The 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant accident in Japan can serve as an example of the extent to which radiation and nuclear waste are a threat to the safety of life and environmental pollution.

Fukushima but there was an increased level of radiation. If officially recognized and approved by the world organization, our report, where we provide reasoning for the link between uranium and cancer, we could be compensated, and this would automatically be transmitted to other bombed countries - Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya... " explains Čikarić.

The threat to human lives with radioactive and waste materials

Radioactive waste and material is located 12 kilometers away from Belgrade, which poses a further threat to citizens, as well as employees at Vinča, from radiation, poisoning and potential explosions. When it comes to NATO strikes on facilities, it is also interesting that the last ten days of the Merciful Angel mission were the most intensive ones. Therefore, about 112 strikes were conducted on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 98 of them on Kosovo and Metohija, 12 on Southern Serbia and 2 in Montenegro. Of these, 60 percent were civilian targets. In Kosovo and Metohija, the most bombed area was Podujevo with its surrounding villages, *i.e.*, the vicinity of Kosovska Mitrovica, the area around Dečani, Đakovica, Prizren, followed by others. NATO, The air strikes on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia began on March 24, 1999 and lasted for 78 days, *i.e.*, until June 9, 1999.

Conclusion

The NATO military alliance, as a modern form of threat, execution of military interventions and aggressions, has become the most dangerous threat to economically underdeveloped, small societies, developing countries and even to competition within the international community. Economically developed countries from the West, *i.e.*, a part of their governments, for the purpose of influence, benefit, exploitation and trade, provoke conflicts with competitors and the underdeveloped, in order to use NATO forces to intervene or indicate a threat, thereby securing the desired and planned objectives in all of the cited cases.

Although the NATO Alliance was superior in both the armed sense as well as in the quantity and age of its weapons, the Serbian Army successfully resisted and stopped the aggression. The Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had succeeded in striking down over 150 military aircraft, helicopters, tomahawks, as well as stopping NATO special forces, the Albanian army and terrorist organization, in their attacks on the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from the direction of the Republic with

the support of KLA in Kosovo and Metohija, also did great harm. In this respect, part of the Islamic world such as: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Palestine, Turkey, Kashmir, Morocco, Iraq and Albania, secretly and covertly, and sometimes openly, supported, organized and financed extreme terrorist groups in the Middle East and Kosovo (Pejanović, 2017). In Kosovo and Metohija, the Army and police made a significant contribution to the protection of citizens and territory. Therefore, "systemically coordinated security entities" are necessary (Pejanović and Stojanović, 2012).

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