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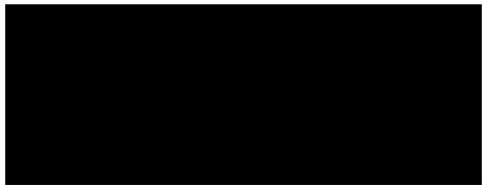
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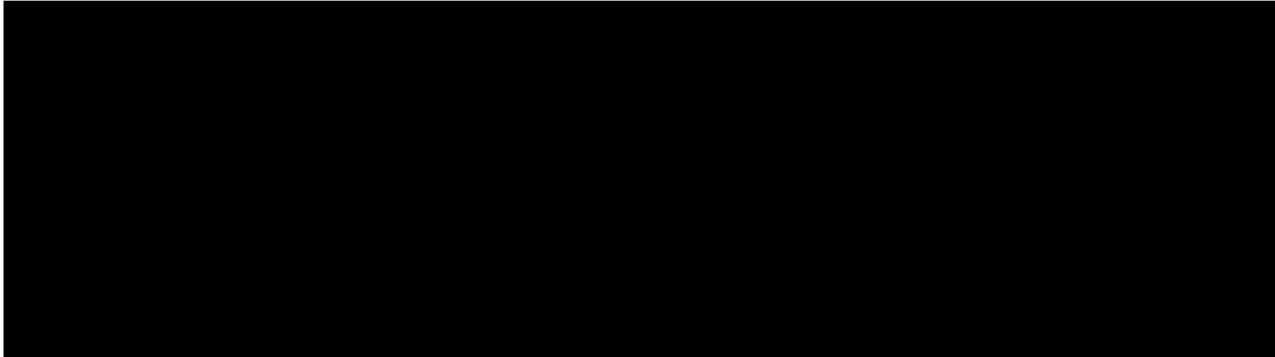
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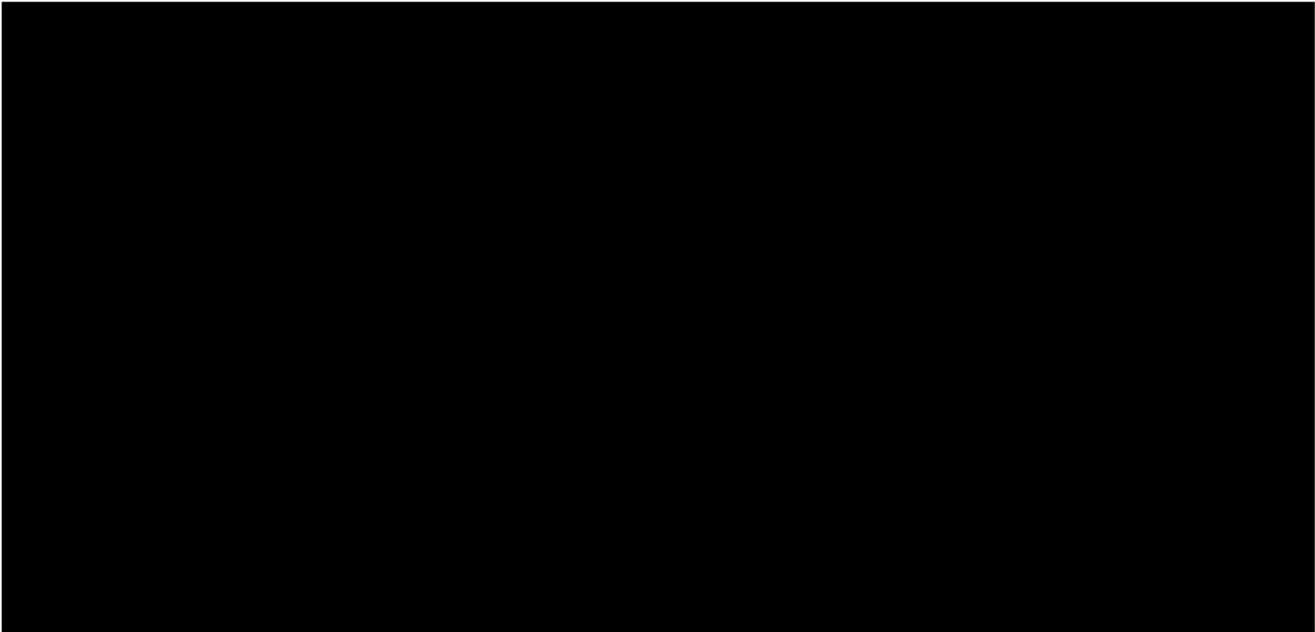
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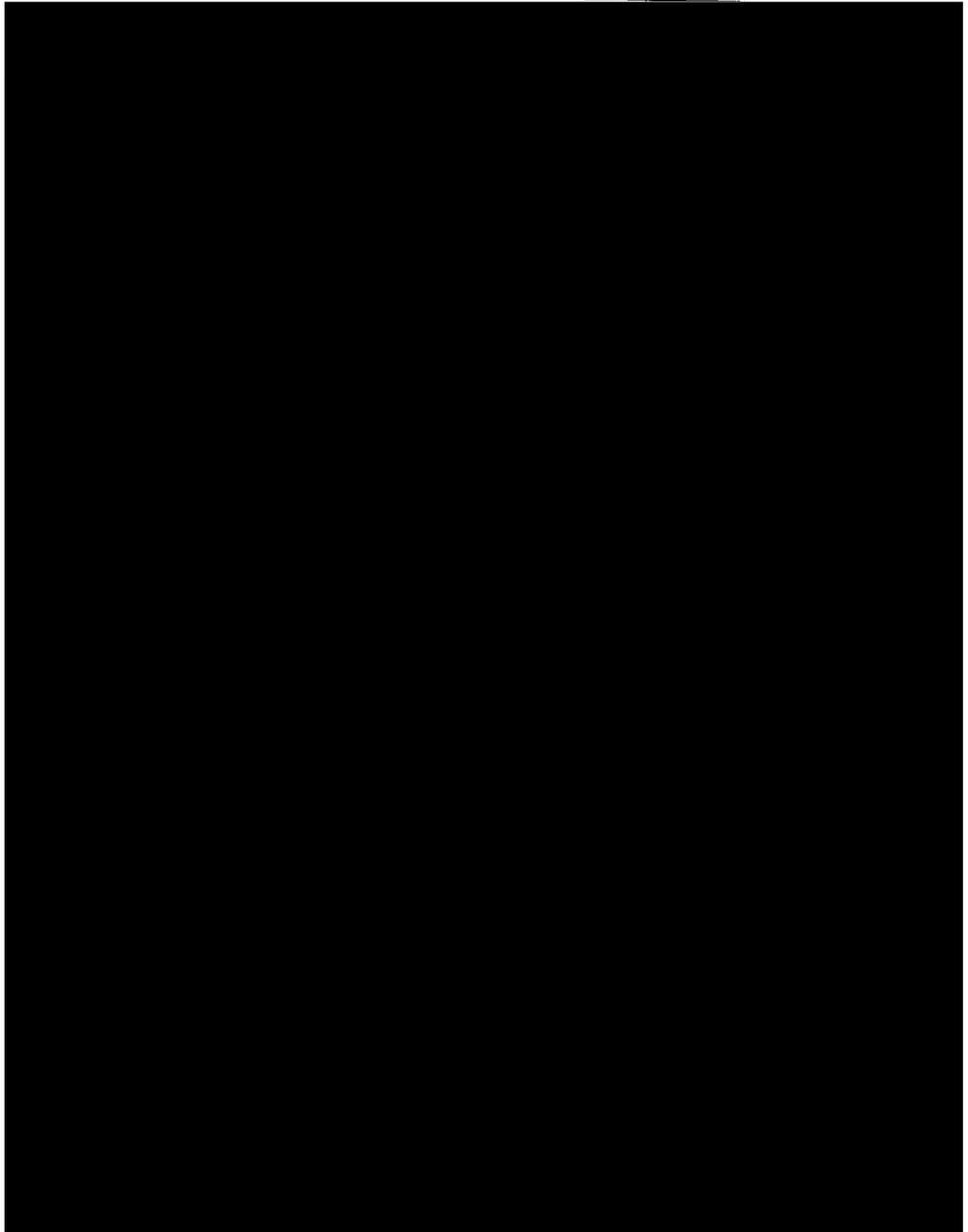
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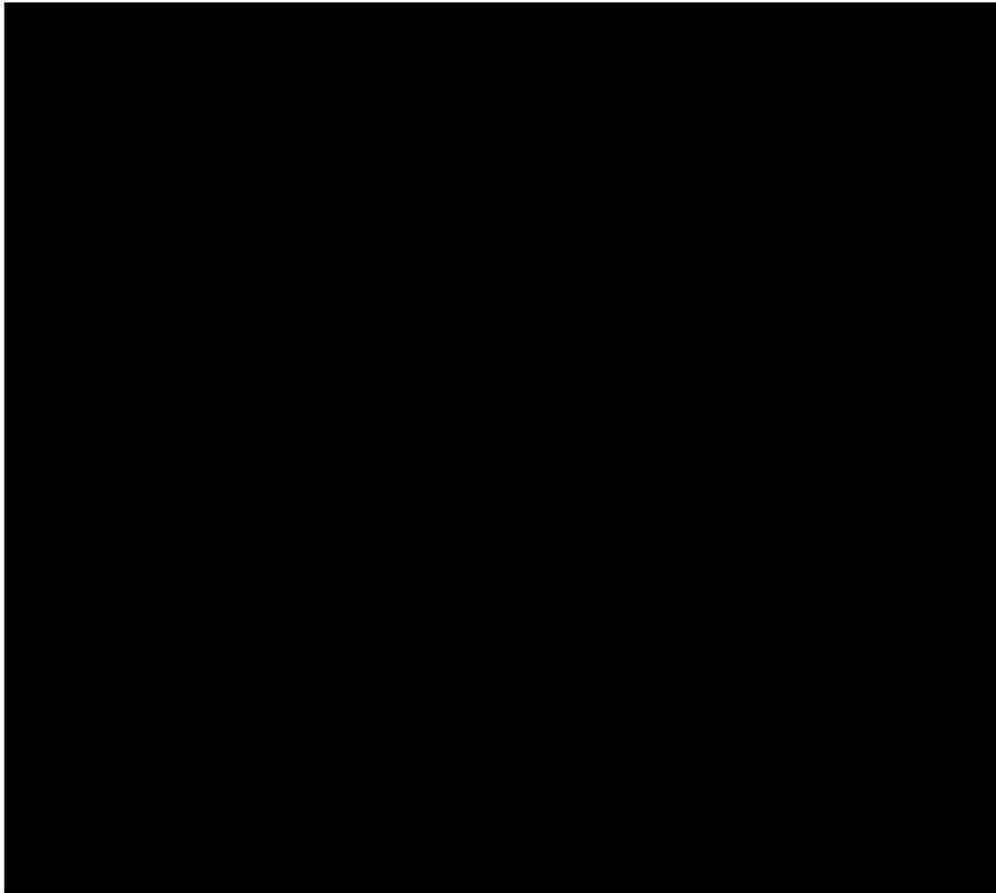
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Leading Developments



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Kosovo:
Analytic Perspective

Lessons From Bosnian Refugee Crisis

Kosovar refugees trying to return home will face several of the hurdles that the remaining 1.2 million displaced people from Bosnia have encountered: intransigent local officials, lack of economic opportunity and security, housing damage, and insufficient documentation. As with the Bosnians, the Kosovars' desire to return will diminish the longer they stay away—especially as those in Western Europe become accustomed to a higher standard of living.

- Refugees in their late teens to 30s will have the strongest inclination to begin a new life in the asylum country.

Kosovar refugees may avail themselves of a well-established alien smuggling network with hubs in Albania, Greece, and Turkey.

Factors dissimilar to the Bosnian experience, however, will make refugee returns to Kosovo easier, assuming a secure environment. Kosovo's preconflict demographics—90-percent Albanian and 10-percent Serb—suggest returning Kosovars are more likely to find their homes still vacant than did the Bosnians, whose homes had been taken over by Serbs.

- Some 80 percent of the people leaving Kosovo are still in the "frontline" states of Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro rather than other countries, and press reports say that is their preference.
- Other countries are limiting the number of refugees they will accept, whereas Bosnian refugees inundated West European states before they could coordinate acceptance plans.

Open-Ended Need

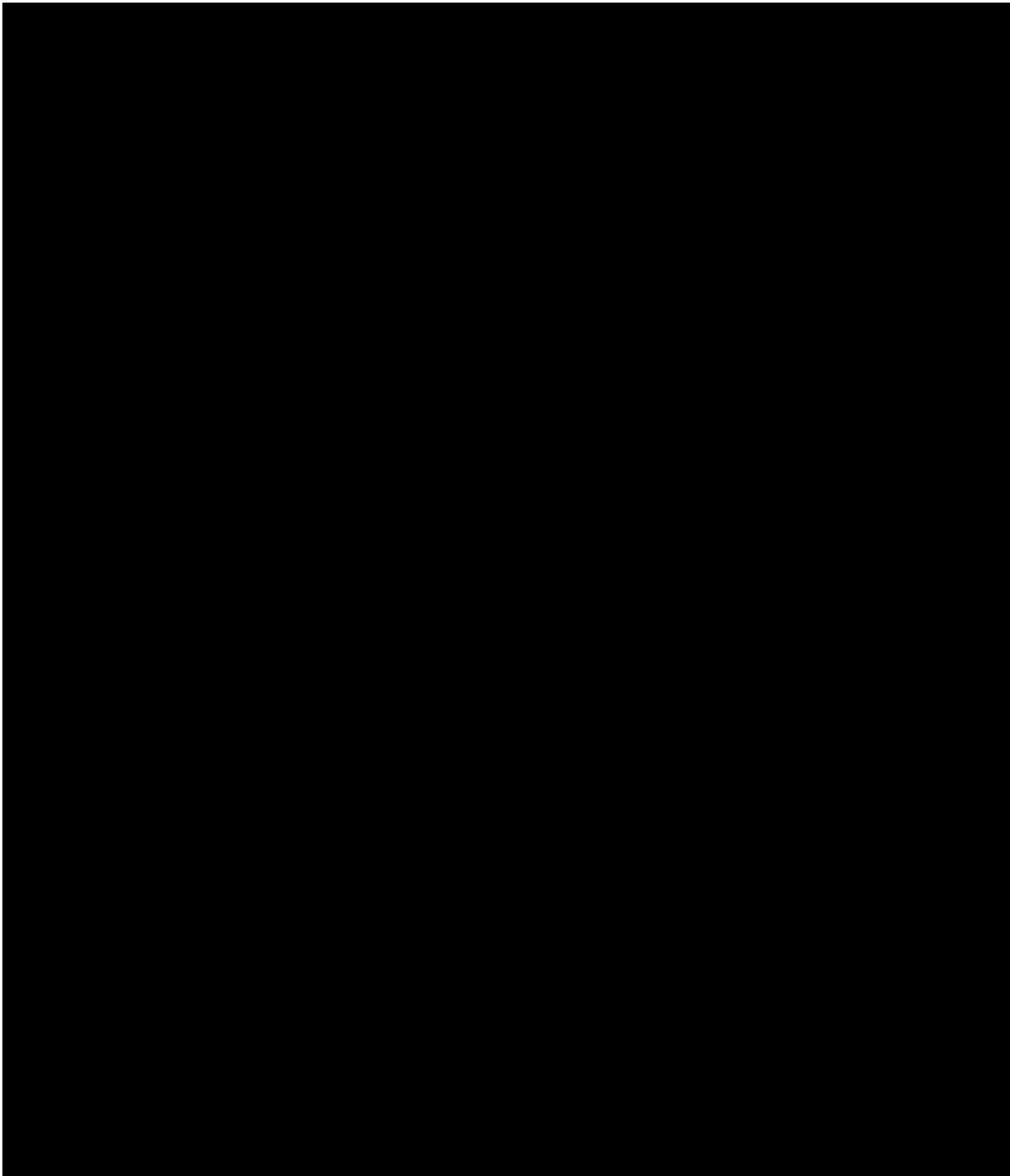
A large-scale international presence will be necessary for quick and sustainable refugee returns. The Bosnian experience shows how resistant people are to living under the rule of a rival ethnic group,

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The poverty and instability in the region will persist, moreover, unless all ethnic groups gain economic opportunity. The stability of Kosovo also is challenged by the depth of the criminal underworld, which the international community underestimated in the similar situation in Bosnia.

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Bosnia:
Analytic Perspective

Kosovo Polarizing Factions

NATO airstrikes against the FRY are polarizing Bosnia's ethnic communities. Serb leaders have condemned Muslim public support for airstrikes and protested Muslim acceptance of NATO's use of Bosnian airspace for bombing and reconnaissance operations and of Bosnian airports for disabled aircraft.

- The Croat press has decried Muslim assistance to some 11,000 Sandzak Muslim refugees from the FRY, which is fueling Croat skepticism about the outlook for the return of Croats and Serbs to Sarajevo.

If Bosnia's ethnic groups become more directly involved in the Kosovo war, ethnic relations will deteriorate further.

Dayton Stymied, Tension Rising

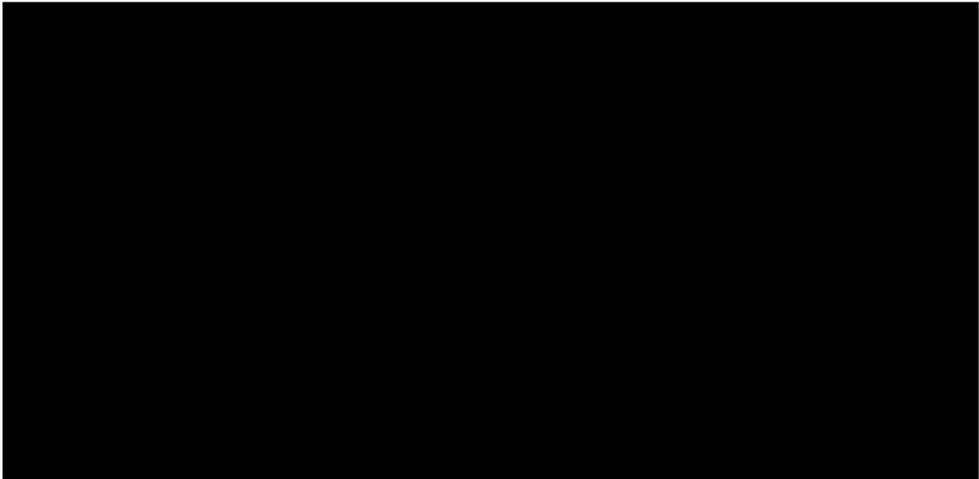
Dayton implementation—already under strain—has nearly ground to a halt. Croat officials have ended their boycott of Federation and national institutions over the assassination of Federation Deputy Interior Minister Leutar, but they blocked progress this week in a Federation legislative session.

- Republika Srpska representatives continue to boycott tripartite institutions.

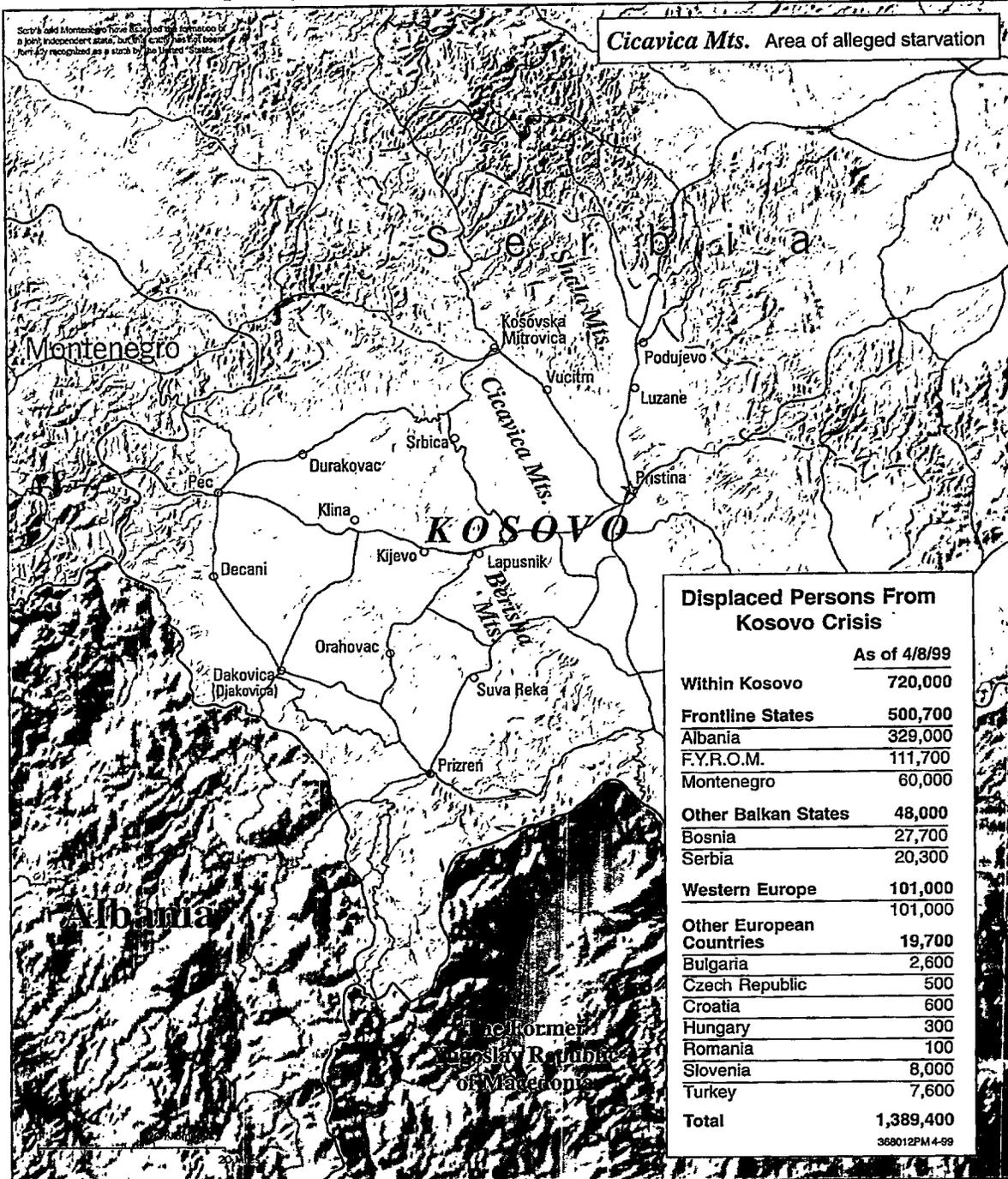
The security situation in the Republika Srpska has deteriorated, and SFOR is vulnerable to low-level attacks by disgruntled groups motivated by the Serb Radical Party. In the wake of the SFOR operation last week to interdict the Bar-Belgrade rail line, Serb leaders claim SFOR, which they generally have supported, has put itself in the service of NATO.

- In the past week, an SFOR base on the outskirts of Sarajevo and an SFOR vehicle in the same vicinity were fired on, a rocket-propelled grenade was launched at an SFOR helicopter, and a grenade was thrown at an SFOR convoy.

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Kosovo: Anecdotal Reporting of Areas of Alleged Starvation, 8 April 1999 (U)



Unclassified

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Kosovo:

Food Stocks Low

Those inside Kosovo will face food shortages this summer unless they receive large-scale aid. Fighting last fall restricted the planting of winter wheat—Kosovo's main foodgrain—to only 45 percent of the normal cultivation area, and Serb forces in recent weeks have looted or burned food stocks.

— *Poor security conditions will hinder the planting of spring grains next month and could prevent harvesting in June and July.*

— In addition, at least half of rural Kosovars—most of whom engaged in agriculture—have left their homes.

press reports of starvation in Kosovo *but presume there are pockets of deprivation, particularly among those who have been in the hills for weeks.*

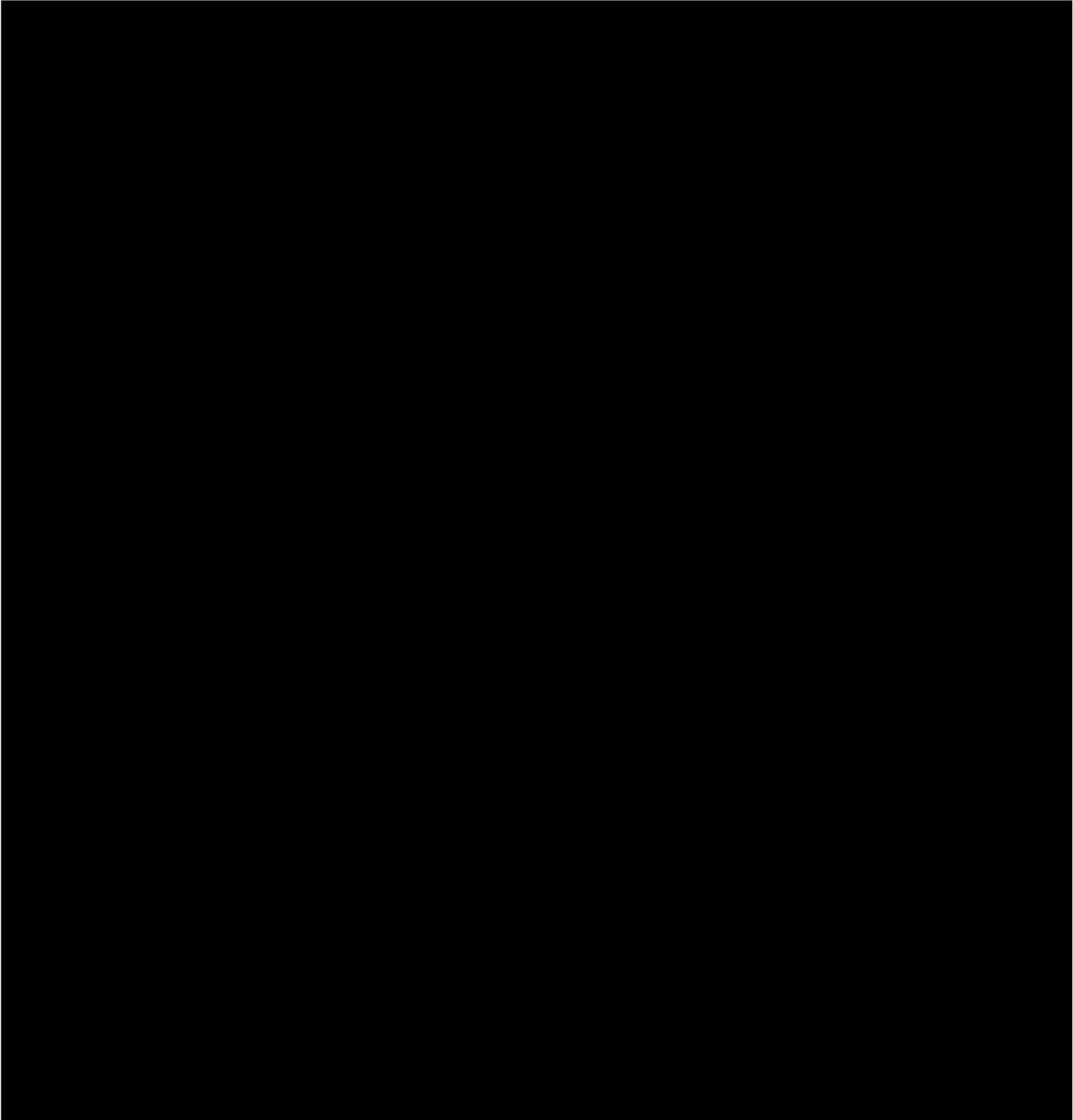
50,000 to 90,000 internally displaced people in the Shala Mountains of Podujevo lack food.

— The conditions for 60,000 in the Berisha and Cicavica Mountains also are grave.

People experience symptoms of starvation after several days without food, but the lack of potable water is a greater health risk. Infants, young children, and adults with preexisting illnesses are more prone to dehydration and starvation than healthy adults.

— Susceptible people could dehydrate within two days.

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