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THE DEPORTATION OF SERBIAN FAMILIES TO BĂRĂGAN AN ETHNIC AND STATISTICAL STUDY

The Bărăgan deportations took place on the Pentecost night of 17–18 June 1951 (Rusalii in Romanian, Духови / Duhovi in Serbian) and lasted until 1956. Their purpose was the forced relocation of the wealthy population (*chiaburi*), potentially hostile or Tito sympathizers from a radius of 25 km from the common border between the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia[2] and the Romanian People's Republic[3] who could have become opponents of the communist regime. The study is based on the Reports resulting from the Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs no. 161 of 29 June 1954[4], that established who could return to their places of residence and who had to remain under compulsory residence. The aim was to identify ethnic Serbs born on the territory of the RPR who were deported, to create a database with them and their departure/residence status, statistics on the localities of departure and deportation, to create maps and to find the reasons for their deportation. The identification was based on the name of the head of the household, as most entries in these reports specify only the name of the father and the number of members with whom he was deported.

Keywords: Banat, deportations, Bărăgan, Securitatea[5], archives, Serbian families

1. Introduction

Interest in this field began after the creation of the website deportatiinbaragan.ro[6], that represents more than 30 years of interviews, Securitatea dossiers, locations and survivors seeking all gathered by PhD. Prof. Smaranda Vultur in a

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[2] Socijalistička Federativna Republika Jugoslavija / Социјалистичка Федеративна Република Југославија – abbr. as СФРЈ.

[3] Republica Populară Română – abbr. as RPR.

[4] All reports available here: CNSAS, 2025: Deciziile de internare în unități și colonii de muncă and Deportați în Bărăgan 1951-1956, https://deportatiinbaragan.ro/

[5] Securitatea = Department of State Security, was the secret police agency of the Socialist Republic of Romania. It was founded on 30 August 1948 with help and direction from the Soviet MGB.

[6] Deportați în Bărăgan 1951-1956, https://deportatiinbaragan.ro/

dense cultural project containing precious archives of written and spoken history as part of the national cultural heritage. The reconstruction was conducted under the guidance and supervision of PhD candidate Mălina Duță from the Central University Library „Eugen Todoran" in Timișoara. Also, my father-in-law was born in Măzăreni, one of the localities where they were deported, thus having contact with family members who suffered because due to these deportations.

The challenge to begin this ethnical-oriented research came from PhD. Prof. Mihai Radan and its initial results were presented at the *Materijalna i Duhovna Kultura Srba u Multietničkim Sredinama i/ili Perifernim Oblastima* Conference at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš in October 2025 and in December 2026 at the Central University Library „Eugen Todoran" in Timișoara.

The Bărăgan deportations were a large-scale action of penal transportation, undertaken during the 1950s by the Romanian Communist regime. Their aim was to forcibly relocate individuals who lived within approximately 25 km of the Yugoslav border (in present-day Timiș, Caraș-Severin, and Mehedinți counties) to the Bărăgan Plain. They were called *chiaburi* – rich people who were considered "Titoiști" = followers of Tito, dangerous elements of population that were willing to side with the Serbian regime. In 1948, СФРЈ was excluded from Cominform[7], the border between the two countries became a sensitive area for the communist regime in Bucharest. The ethnic groups present here were considered "elements with a high-risk factor". (Enciclopedia României, 2025; Milin & Stepanov, 2003; Vultur, 2009; Milin, Mihailov & Milin, 2016)

Chiabur, derived from Turkish, is a term that, during the communist period designated a rich peasant (a model farmer) who belonged to the village middle class (bourgeoisie), who owned more land than he could work alone (usually more than 5 ha), owned agricultural machinery, used permanent paid labor or day laborers, owned numerous animals, a business or a workshop, a mill, a restaurant or tavern or a grocer's shop. (Dexonline, 2026: *chiabur*)

[7] The Communist Information Bureau was founded in September 1947, with nine members: the communist parties of the USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, France, and Italy. Belgrade was selected as the seat of the organization. Mounting tension, however, between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union led ultimately to the expulsion of Tito's party from the Cominform in June 1948, and the seat of the bureau was moved to Bucharest (Britannica, 2026: Cominform). Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – abbr. as USSR (URSS in Romanian).



Figure 1 Propaganda caricature by Cik Damadian, published in "Humorous Couplets and Scenes – Almanac 1950" (Wikipedia 2025, Chiabur)

2. Legislative framework and numbers

The legislative framework was created through the Decisions of the Council of Ministers no. 1154/October 26th, 1950 and no. 344/March 15th, 1951, under the rule of Constantin Ion Parhon.

A total of 12.791 families containing 40.320 people from 258 localities were taken from their homes in the Pentecost night of the following ethnicities: Romanians, Germans, Serbians, Bulgarians, Aromanians (*Vlahs* from N. Macedonia, Greece & Albania[8]), refugees from Basarabia and North Bucovina (birthplace written in reports: U.R.S.S.). Their properties were bought back by the state at a modest price.

The logistics used consisted of around 10.000 soldiers to apply the orders, 2.656 train carriages for cattle and 6.211 heavy trucks to carry them. They were allowed to take with them the bare minimum and they had to live in those carriages for two weeks before they reached their destination. (Enciclopedia României, 2025)

They took complete families: men, women, pregnant women, the elderly, the sick people, the children and transported them with train carriages used for cattle! They were unloaded in the open field, far from other settlements and they were ordered to build houses – some were even sentenced to prison for not doing so! The land had been parceled out with a plow, and each plot had a stake with a house number on it.

A document written in 1956 in Timișoara showed that the main reason was "igienizarea Banatului" = to sanitize the Banat region of the main ethnical groups

and targeted Germans, Serbians, USSR refugees and Aromanians! (Enciclopedia României, 2025) They targeted the large properties farmers, industrialists, innkeepers, restaurant owners, tavern owners, Basarabia refugees, Aromanians, former Wafen SS soldiers[9], foreign citizens, refugees' relatives, Romanians who traveled or worked abroad Tito supporters, former military and administrative personnel, ethnical group leaders.

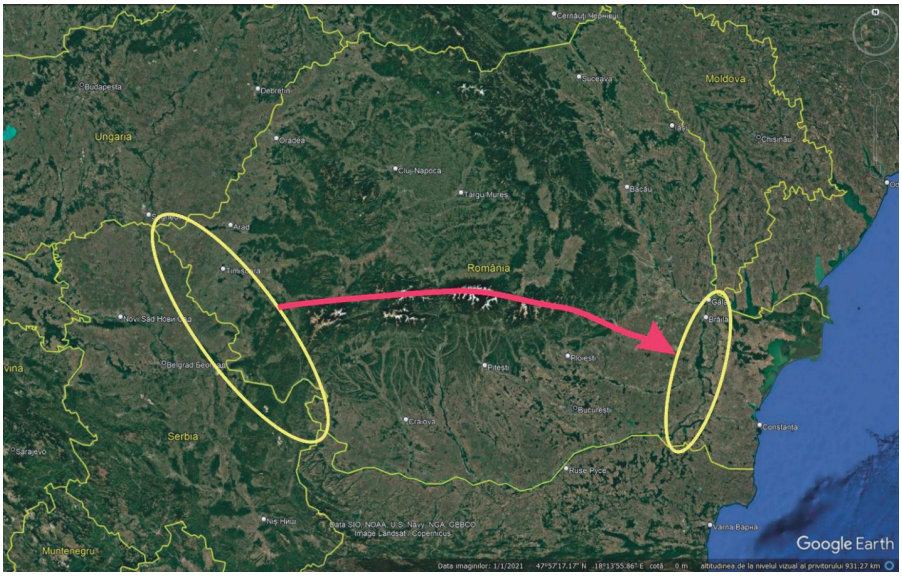


Figure 2 - Current day Google Earth image of Romania containing the area of dislocation and the area of deportation (Google Earth, 2025)

3. Research methodology

The aim was finding all the Serbian deportees who were born on the RPR territory – mainly in the Romanian Banat area. Thus, the plan was reading all the archive Reports resulting from the Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs No. 161 of June 29, 1954 and to check the situation of each family in the 18 settlements of deportees and identify all the Serbian families with the head of the household born in RPR and create screenshots with all found and file them in folders by settlement and by their departure/residence status. There are 36 reports, 2 for each settlement, one containing the families that could return to their homes and the other one containing those who had to remain in the deportation settlements.

[9] The German ethnics in Banat had the possibility to enroll in the German army during the Second World War and they chose to do so, as the Romanian army had inferior equipment and conditions. German authorities recruited extensively for the Waffen SS among ethnic Germans in the Banat, the Backa, Baranja, and Croatia. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2026)

The workflow started with screenshots of the Serbian ethnics identified and by creating an MS Excel spreadsheet[10] with the following fields: number, file entry number, name, surname, reason of deportation, birthplace, deportation place, compulsory domicile, Stay/Leave status and number of people dislocated and after it was completed, filters could be applied.

My **analysis** tried to identify the percentage of Remain / Return status after the 1954 evaluation, to create a map of the deportation area and a percentage status based on the number of people deported, to create a map with the 18 Bărăgan settlements and the number of people settled there, to create a numeric report/settlement and to create a statistics of reasons used to deport these Serbian ethnics.

The plan was to find the Serbian deportees who were born on the RPR territory, all the reports were completely read and screenshots with each individual family found were made. Thus, from the 36 reports studied[11] a total number of 458 families were found with 1.713 total number of Serbians deported[12]. Each of the 458 family entries has its own screenshot saved in the settlement folder, within the remain/return subfolder, according to the report. Each screenshot is named with the entry number within the report, for fast identification in the main *pdf* file.

Research exclusions: the reason for choosing only the Serbian families born on the RPR territory is that these reports also mention for some people *născut în Jugoslavia* (*born in Jugoslavia*) with localities of origin from the area that was under the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918 and on the Western part of the common СФРЈ-RPR border, in today Republic of Serbia. Also, many entries show people born in Macedonia, today Republic of North Macedonia, and, for the 1950s and СФРЈ-RPR and Securitatea context, they were Yugoslavs. A clear separation was necessary, as the aim of the study was to identify the Serbian deportees born in the Romanian Banat region. Also, the mixed families with the head of household who was not Serbian were excluded. A large number of German, Jewish and Hungarian names were found who had Jugoslavia as birthplace, they were also excluded.

It is important to mention that only 34 of the reports have Serbian names listed, the other 2, corresponding to Pelicanu (Borcea Nouă) have no Sebian families. So, it means we can talk about 17 settlements in Bărăgan when we discuss about this ethnic group.

Another important observation is that 14 of these reports only display the name of the head of the household and the number of members with whom he was dislocated, without naming them (Figure 3).

[10] The spreadsheet is available online: https://deportatiinbaragan.ro/adrian-cintar-serbian-families-deported-in-baragan-study/

[11] There were 18 settlements created with the deportation, each settlement had 2 reports: with people who were allowed to return to their places of residence and with people who had to remain under compulsory residence.

[12] Out of a total of 10.099 heads of households and 43.591 persons that were deported that night.

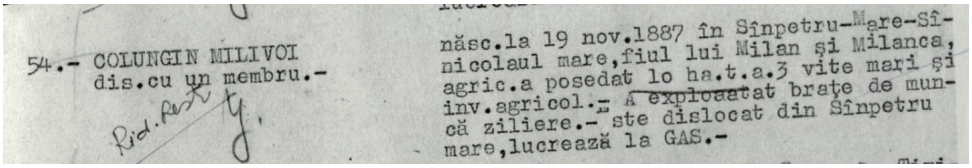

54.- COLUNGIN MILIVOI
dis.cu un membru.-
Rid.Rest. Y.
născ.la 19 nov.1887 în Sînpetru-Mare-Sînicolaul mare,fiul lui Milan şi Milanca, agric.a posedat 1o ha.t.a.3 vite mari şi inv.agricol.- A exploatat braţe de muncă ziliere.- ste dislocat din Sînpetru mare,lucrează la GAS.-

Figure 3 Entry no. 54. in the Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou) settlement report with the families that were allowed to return to their homes[13]

Screenshot translation (Figure 3):

54.- COLUNGIN MILIVOI dislocated with one member.- *pencil writing:* Rid.Rest. = *removal of restrictions* and a *Y.* signature (different code letters appear throughout the report)	born 19 Nov. 1887 in Sînpetru Mare – Sînicolau Mare, son of Milan and Milanca, farmer possessed 10 ha. agricultural land. 3 large cattle and agricultural inventory. – He exploited day laborers.- Is dislocated from Sînpetru Mare, works at GAS[14].-

Three of the reports, the ones for the following settlements: Dâlga (Dâlga Nouă), Fundata (Perieți) and Viișoara (Mărculeștii Noi) - all of them for families that had to remain under compulsory residence, display the head of the household name and also the family members listed below (Figure 4). The reason for this situation is unclear, the names of the Securitate officers that sign these reports are the same in all of the 36 documents. It may be a possibility that there were different typists that had to typewrite or transcribe the reports or there was a special situation involving these settlements or the people that had to remain here under compulsory residence.

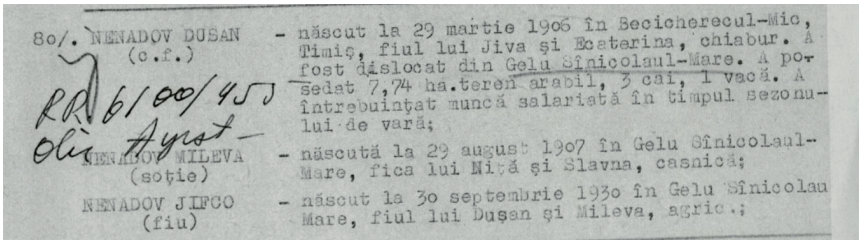

8o/. NENADOV DUŞAN (c.f.) - născut la 29 martie 1906 în Becicherecul-Mic, Timiş, fiul lui Jiva şi Ecaterina, chiabur. A fost dislocat din Gelu Sînicolaul-Mare. A posedat 7,74 ha.teren arabil, 3 cai, 1 vacă. A întrebuinţat muncă salariată în timpul sezonului de vară;
RD 6/00/455
Oliv Ayost
NENADOV MILEVA (soţie) - născută la 29 august 1907 în Gelu Sînicolaul-Mare, fica lui Mită şi Slavna, casnică;
NENADOV JIFCO (fiu) - născut la 3o septembrie 1930 în Gelu Sînicolau Mare, fiul lui Duşan şi Mileva, agric.;

Figure 4 Entry no. 80. in the Fundata (Perieți) settlement report with the family that had to remain unde compulsory residence[15]

[13] See full report here: https://deportatiinbaragan.ro/wp-content/uploads/BUMBACARI-Tatarul-Nou-ridicarea-restrictiilor.pdf

[14] GAS (State Agricultural Farms), along with GAC (Collective Agricultural Farms), were the main types of collective agricultural structures imposed through communist collectivization, where peasants' land and animals were forcibly combined into state farms (GAS) or cooperatives (GAC), with peasants becoming agricultural workers, with the aim of centralizing and controlling agricultural production subordinated to the interests of the communist state.

[15] See full report here: https://deportatiinbaragan.ro/wp-content/uploads/Raport-com.-Fundata-

Screenshot translation (Figure 4):

80/. NENADOV DUSAN (c.f. = cap familie / head of the household) *pen writing: R.R. = removal of restrictions* and the decision number *6/00(oo)/455 din August* (wrote after December 1955, when they were allowed to return to their homes) NENADOV MILEVA (wife) NENADOV JIFCO (son)	- born 29 March 1906 in Becicherecul-Mic, Timiș, son of Jiva and Ecaterina, *chiabur*. He was dislocated from Gelu Sînicolaul-Mare. He possessed 7,64 ha. agricultural land, 3 horses, 1 cow. He used paid labor during the summer season; - born 29 August 1907 in Gelu Sînicolaul-Mare, daughter of Niță and Slavna, housewife; born 30 September 1930 in Gelu Sînicolaul-Mare, son of Dușan and Mileva, farmer;

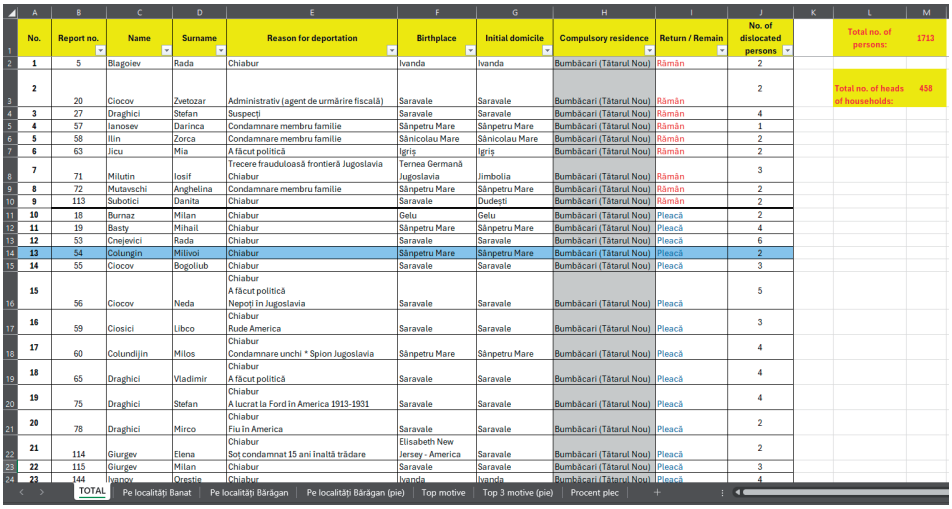
These report entries were easier to follow, as the names and surnames of the members of the family and of their parents were clear ethnic factors of identification. Many mixed families were found, even having children with both Serbian and Romanian (also German and Bulgarian) surnames.

Mixed families are something usual in the area, this is why the database contained only the families with the head of the household with Serbian name, thus assuring consistency in the research with the rest of the 14 reports that do not mention the family members' name.

The database contains all the heads of household found, with report identification number, name and surname, reason for deportation, birthplace, initial domicile, compulsory residence, return or remain status and number of dislocated persons for that family (including the head of the family) for a total number of persons numbering. In the reasons column, keywords were used for later filtering, such as: *chiabur*, spy, America, Jugoslavia, politics, administration, sentenced to prison. The purpose was to have a clean spreadsheet with filtering and, based on formulas, to add sheets with the information needed for my analysis: statistics by localities in Banat, by settlements in Bărăgan, by reasons for deportation and remain / return percentage after the settlement's examinations by Securitatea that lead to these 36 Reports files. The Excel spreadsheet solution was chosen for its ability to apply filters, formulas for statistics and counting and also for charts rendering for the conference presentation and also for publishing[16].

Raionul-Slobozia-propusi-sa-ramana.pdf

[16] The spreadsheet is available online: https://deportatiinbaragan.ro/adrian-cintar-serbian-families-deported-in-baragan-study/



No.	Report no.	Name	Surname	Reason for deportation	Birthplace	Initial domicile	Compulsory residence	Return / Remain	No. of dislocated persons
1	5	Blagoiev	Rada	Chiabur	Ivanda	Ivanda	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	2
2	20	Ciocov	Zvetozar	Administrativ (agent de urmărire fiscală)	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	2
3	27	Draghici	Stefan	Suspecți	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	4
4	57	Ianosev	Darinca	Condamnare membru familie	Sânpetru Mare	Sânpetru Mare	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	1
5	58	Ilin	Zorca	Condamnare membru familie	Sânicolau Mare	Sânicolau Mare	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	2
6	63	Jicu	Mia	A făcut politică	Igriș	Igriș	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	2
7	71	Milutin	Iosif	Trecere frauduloasă frontieră Jugoslavia Chiabur	Ternea Germană Jugoslavia	Jimbolia	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	3
8	72	Mutavschi	Anghelina	Condamnare membru familie	Sânpetru Mare	Sânpetru Mare	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	2
9	113	Subotici	Danita	Chiabur	Saravale	Dudești	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Rămân	2
10	18	Burnaz	Milan	Chiabur	Gelu	Gelu	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	2
11	19	Basty	Mihail	Chiabur	Sânpetru Mare	Sânpetru Mare	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	4
12	53	Cnejevici	Rada	Chiabur	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	6
13	54	Colungin	Milivoi	Chiabur	Sânpetru Mare	Sânpetru Mare	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	2
14	55	Ciocov	Bogoliub	Chiabur	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	3
15	56	Ciocov	Neda	Chiabur A făcut politică Nepoți în Jugoslavia	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	5
16	59	Ciosici	Libco	Chiabur Rude America	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	3
17	60	Colundijin	Milos	Chiabur Condamnare unchi * Spion Jugoslavia	Sânpetru Mare	Sânpetru Mare	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	4
18	65	Draghici	Vladimir	Chiabur A făcut politică	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	4
19	75	Draghici	Stefan	Chiabur A lucrat la Ford în America 1913-1931	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	4
20	78	Draghici	Mirco	Chiabur Fiu în America	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	2
21	114	Giurgev	Elena	Chiabur Soț condamnat 15 ani înaltă trădare	Elisabeth New Jersey - America	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	2
22	115	Giurgev	Milan	Chiabur	Saravale	Saravale	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	3
23	144	Ivanov	Orestie	Chiabur	Ivanda	Ivanda	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	Pleacă	4

Total no. of persons: 1713

Total no. of heads of households: 488

TOTAL | Pe localități Banat | Pe localități Bărăgan | Pe localități Bărăgan (pie) | Top motive | Top 3 motive (pie) | Procent plec

Figure 5 Excel database screenshot with the filtered fields (highlighted in blue at line 13 is the deportee presented in Figure 3)

The analysis began by generating the sheets seen above and the first observation regards the percentage of people who had to remain with compulsory domicile, compared with the ones who were allowed to return to their homes. The pie chart below shows that less than 1/3 of them, 481 people meaning 28% of the total number of Serbian ethnic deportees were allowed to return, a part of them having the following mention: *not allowed to settle on border localities or in Bucharest*.

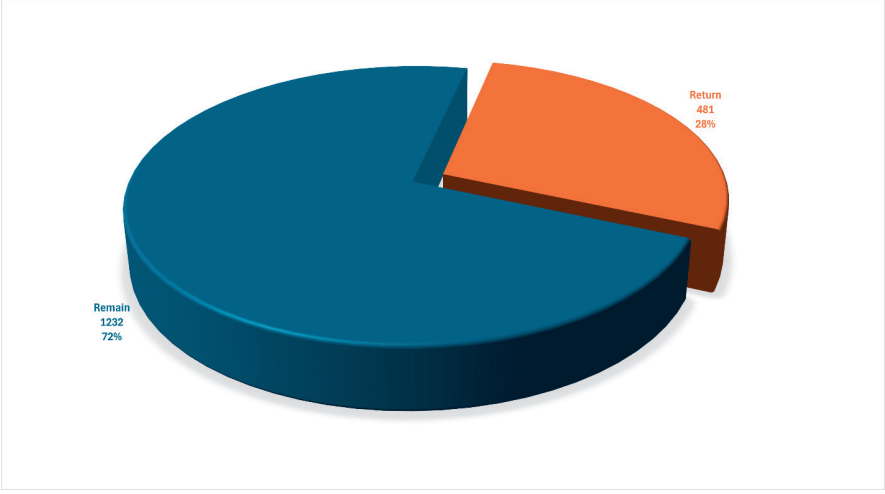


Figure 6 The percentual situation of Remain / Return status of the Serbian deportees after the 1954 evaluation

The next information extracted from the spreadsheet was the total number of families and of people who were deported from each locality from the common border area and filters were set on the initial domicile column. The top three localities that were almost depopulated of Serbian ethnics were: Diniaș, with 159 persons / 37 families, Variaș with 147 persons / 40 families and Sânmartinul Sârbesc with 121 persons / 27 families. There are 63 localities in total that represent the domicile from which they were deported. Table 1 presents the results extracted from the reports and of these filters sorted by number of people and is followed by Map 1 with their geographical spread and a pie chart with the main dislocations[17].

Map 1 code	Locality	No. of families	No. of persons	% by no. of families	% by no. of persons
18	Diniaș	37	159	8,08	9,28
61	Variaș	40	147	8,73	8,58
51	Sânmartinul Sârbesc	27	121	5,90	7,06
46	Rudna	24	96	5,24	5,60
3	Becicherecul Mic	22	87	4,80	5,08
10	Cenei	19	76	4,15	4,44
52	Sânpetru Mare	22	73	4,80	4,26
47	Saravale	21	72	4,59	4,20
9	Cenad	20	69	4,37	4,03
24	Gad	18	69	3,93	4,03
26	Gelu	19	63	4,15	3,68
30	Ivanda	14	53	3,06	3,09
16	Denta	12	49	2,62	2,86
36	Moldova Veche	11	39	2,40	2,28
8	Câmpia	8	38	1,75	2,22
49	Sângeorge	7	35	1,53	2,04
55	Socol	10	32	2,18	1,87
5	Beregsăul Mic	8	31	1,75	1,81
34	Liubcova	7	31	1,53	1,81
50	Sânicolau Mare	10	31	2,18	1,81
63	Zlatița	6	30	1,31	1,75
33	Lescovița	8	27	1,75	1,58
48	Satchinez	7	24	1,53	1,40
15	Dejan	6	22	1,31	1,28
60	Tolvădia (Livezile)	5	21	1,09	1,23
11	Checea	5	16	1,09	0,93
17	Deta	5	16	1,09	0,93

[17] The spreadsheet is available online: https://deportatiinbaragan.ro/adrian-cintar-serbian-families-deported-in-baragan-study/

23	Foieni	4	16	0,87	0,93
43	Pojejena	4	14	0,87	0,82
44	Pustiniș	3	14	0,66	0,82
27	Giera	4	13	0,87	0,76
4	Belobrești	3	12	0,66	0,70
1	Banloc	4	10	0,87	0,58
13	Comloșu Mare	1	8	0,22	0,47
6	Birda	2	7	0,44	0,41
29	Igriș	2	6	0,44	0,35
31	Jamu Mare	2	6	0,44	0,35
35	Mânăstire	2	6	0,44	0,35
56	Șemlacu Mare	1	6	0,22	0,35
14	Comorâște	1	5	0,22	0,29
19	Divici	2	5	0,44	0,29
28	Hinova	1	5	0,22	0,29
2	Beba Veche	2	4	0,44	0,23
38	Oravița	1	4	0,22	0,23
40	Partoș	1	4	0,22	0,23
41	Petroman	1	4	0,22	0,23
12	Ciacova	2	3	0,44	0,18
20	Drobeta Turnu Severin	1	3	0,22	0,18
32	Jimbolia	1	3	0,22	0,18
37	Naidaș	1	3	0,22	0,18
59	Timișoara	1	3	0,22	0,18
62	Vălcani	1	3	0,22	0,18
21	Dudești	1	2	0,22	0,12
25	Gaiu Mic	1	2	0,22	0,12
39	Orșova	1	2	0,22	0,12
45	Radimna	1	2	0,22	0,12
53	Sfânta Ecaterina (Elena?)	1	2	0,22	0,12
54	Soca	2	2	0,44	0,12
57	Șvinița	1	2	0,22	0,12
7	Bodo	1	1	0,22	0,06
22	Ferendia	1	1	0,22	0,06
42	Poieni	1	1	0,22	0,06
58	Teremia Mare	1	1	0,22	0,06

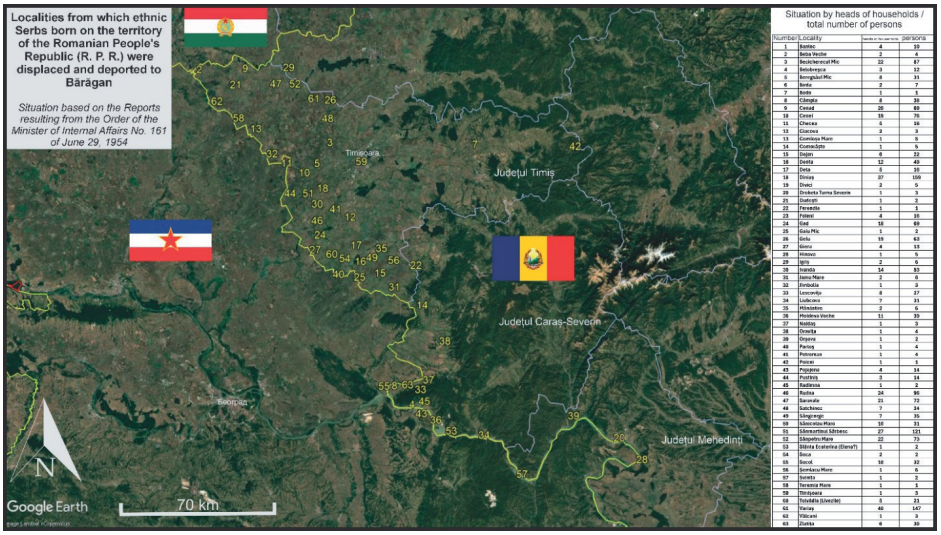


Figure 7 Map 1 showing the localities of deportation

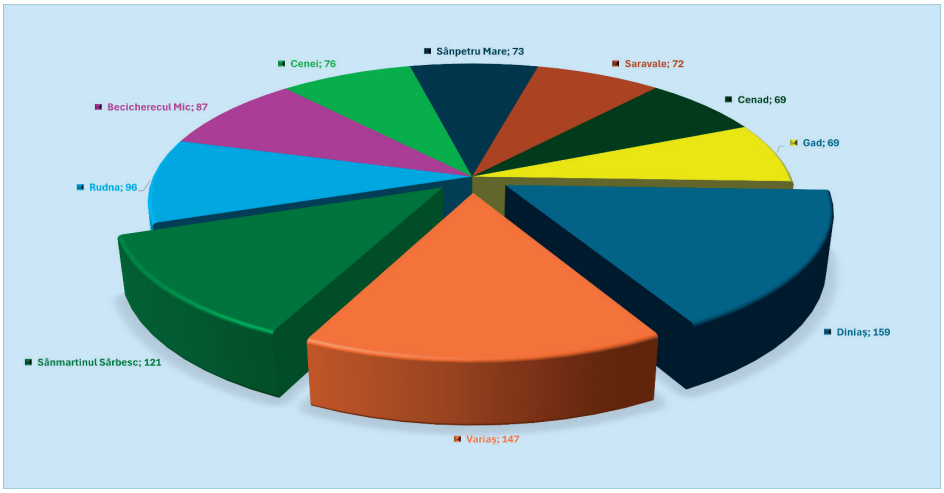


Figure 8 The top ten localities of Banat from which Serbian deportees were dislocated (by number of people)

The next filter in the analysis regarded the number of families and people distributed in the Bărăgan settlements. From the 18 settlements, no Serbian ethnics name was found in Pelicanu (Borcea Nouă) and only one family for Măzăreni (Urleasca) and Dropia (Dragalina Nouă). Most of them were deported to Valea Viilor (Feteștii Noi), Schei (Stăncuța Nouă), Olaru (Roseții Noi), Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou), Movila Gâldăului (Petroiu) and Fundata (Perieți), as can be seen in the following table and is followed by Map 2 with their geographical spread and a numerical chart with the situation / settlement sorted by number of people deported.

Map 2 code	Bărăgan Settlement	No. of families	No. of persons	% by no. of families	% by no. of persons
16	Valea Viilor (Feteștii Noi)	104	397	22,71	23,18
15	Schei (Stăncuța Nouă)	50	211	10,92	12,32
10	Olaru (Roseții Noi)	37	152	8,08	8,87
1	Bumbăcari (Tătarul Nou)	45	151	9,83	8,81
9	Movila Gâldăului (Petroiu)	30	124	6,55	7,24
6	Fundata (Perieți)	34	108	7,42	6,30
17	Vișoara (Mărculeștii Noi)	26	92	5,68	5,37
12	Răchitoasa (Giurgienii Noi)	24	88	5,24	5,14
18	Zagna Vădeni (Vădenii Noi)	22	82	4,80	4,79
14	Salcâmi (Jăgălia Nouă)	21	79	4,59	4,61
7	Lătești (Bordușanii Noi)	20	72	4,37	4,20
2	Dâlga (Dâlga Nouă)	18	60	3,93	3,50
4	Ezeru (Cacomeanca Nouă)	11	50	2,40	2,92
5	Frumușița (Brateș)	7	20	1,53	1,17
13	Rubla (Valea Călmățui)	7	20	1,53	1,17
8	Măzăreni (Urleasca)	1	4	0,22	0,23
3	Dropia (Dragalina Nouă)	1	3	0,22	0,18
11	Pelicanu (Borcea Nouă)	0	0	0,00	0,00

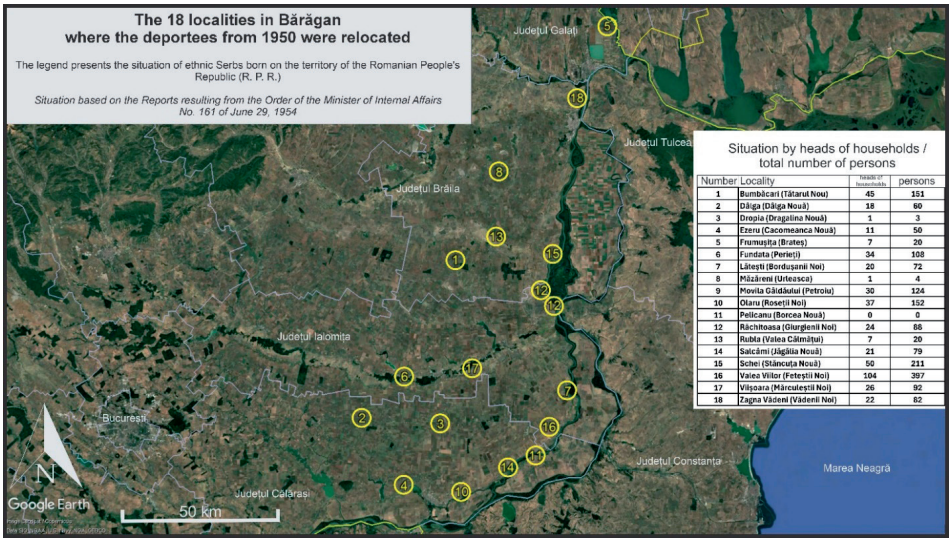


Figure 9 Map 2 – The spread of the 18 settlements in Bărăgan

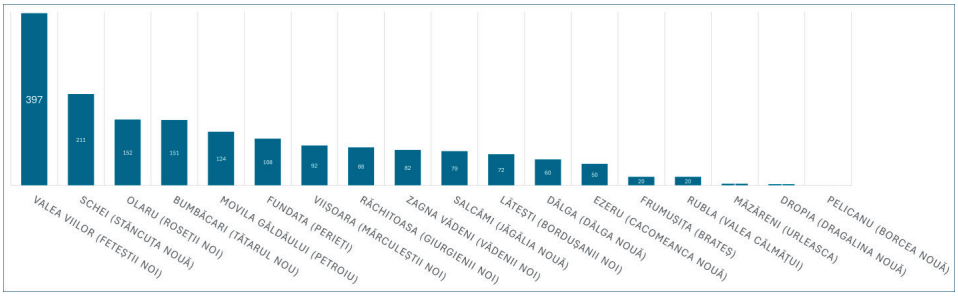


Figure 10 Graph showing the distribution of Serbian ethnics deportees by number of people / settlement

The last part of the analysis, and maybe one of the most interesting ones, regarded the reasons invoked by the communist regime for deportation. Filters were added to the keywords inserted during the filling-in step of the database creation. As expected, the *chiabur* status was majoritarian and was applied from all angles of its definition: number of hectares of land owned, number of animals, agricultural inventory, paid labor, permanent labor, businesses and so on.

But we can also find specific reasons, typical for the Serbian ethnic group: connections to Jugoslavia, espionage for Jugoslavia, Tito sympathizer, fraudulent border crossing to Jugoslavia, smuggling of goods to and from Jugoslavia, Serbian partisans, connections to a Serbian spy and relatives living in Jugoslavia.

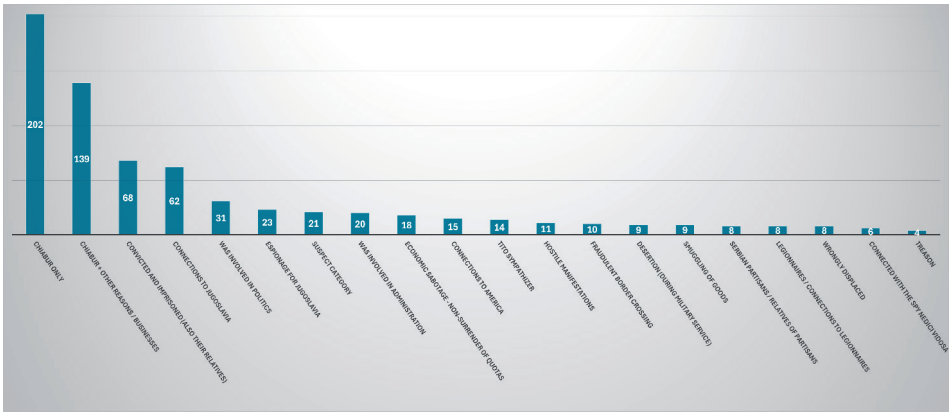


Figure 11 Main reasons of deportation for the Serbian ethnics / no. of heads of households

The first 202 families had only the *chiabur* description without any other administrative, political or judiciary reason. They had the surface of the agricultural land mentioned, the number of animals, the laborers and their personal details, just like

the examples in Figures 3 and 4. An observation about the land surface required to fit in the *chiabur* status is that it had to be over 5 hectares. There are only 3 cases of heads of households that have less surface of agricultural land, they were deported for other reasons. There is an explanation regarding this threshold of hectares: The agrarian reform of 1944-1945, through which peasants (including the Aromanians deported from Banat) were granted ownership of 5 ha plots of land. So, from the communist perspective, *chiaburi* were the ones that owned more than the regular surface.

The second 139 *chiabur + other reasons* families were the ones that also owned businesses: shops, workshops, mills, restaurants, taverns and even extraordinary situations: hotel, cinema, wheelwright, tannery, a bus, a taxi, a motorboat or a ferry!

The 68 heads of households convicted or imprisoned themselves or a relative of their family are the third percentage from these statistics, there were a few that did not surrender their quotas, but also convicted for other delicts: theft, murder, plot to murder a minister, attacking a collector and others.

The *connections to Jugoslavia* reason for 62 families was due to relatives living in СФРЈ, which was natural, as the Austro-Hungarian Empire contained both areas before 1918 and the population moved freely. This also explains the presence of villages with Romanian population in СФРЈ and of villages with Serbian population in RPR. If one had a relative married in a village close to the border, but on СФРЈ territory, then he/she was a suspect!

All those who were involved in politics, administration or held a public office in the previous regimes were deported, so many the Serbian deportees were part of these categories.

The economic sabotage reason regarded those who refused to surrender their agricultural products to the state to be sent to USSR. They were also accused of hostile manifestations.

Reasons regarding fraudulent border crossing and smuggling of goods were only natural for the Serbian ethnics, as they knew the language, the border area, had connections and relatives in СФРЈ and could easily move persons and goods. These movements happened, all who were involved were on the deportation list.

The connections to America reason appears in the case of 15 families, they had relatives there or traveled and worked overseas, thus they were a threat.

Eight heads of households were known to have been part of the Serbian partisan movement or had close connections to the movement, they were seen as experienced fighters against a regime, so they had to be deported far from the border area.

Six families were collateral victims as they were relatives or were involved with Vidosa Nedici, a known torturer and spy[18]. A dedicated article about her will be available in a future study.

Eight families for wrongly displaced and were allowed to return to their home after the evaluation.

[18] A study about Vidosa Nedici will be published in a future issue of ISHODIŠTA.

4. Conclusions

The initial interest in the Bărăgan deportations derived from my family's history, and for this particular study, it derived from the importance of the Serbian ethnics in relation to the geographical, political and cultural setting of the events due to their connections with the language, the traditions, the culture and the connections with localities over the border in СФРЈ. All these families were suspect Tito sympathizers, as they could easily switch to the Serbian side and become a threat for the newly avid for power regime. They had a background in smuggling goods, in crossing the border and a few of them were also involved in the partisan movement. They owned land, large animals, agricultural inventory and businesses, thus being able to support an opposition, from the communist regime's point of view.

Of course, in such a vast cultural and ethnic melting pot as the Banat region, mixed families are something usual, thus making the identification even more difficult. Many deportees declared themselves as being *Romanian* initially, hoping they will be allowed to return to their homes, but they were not. In the reports, in some cases, pencil hand-written notes were added with the ethnicity: *sârb, german, bulgar* and so on. This is why, in some cases, the ethnical statistics vary between deportation and evaluation numbers.

The creation of the database led to the discovery of amazing life stories, of people who traveled all over the world or had economic relationships that were hard to imagine for those times, of prosperous businessmen, of farmers who were able to amass wealth, but also of extraordinary tragedies due to the need for freedom, the zealous communist context, the desire to flee the war and the punishments received by them, but also by their families who were collateral victims through these deportations.

The maps were created to highlight the scale of these forced population movements and the concentration of the population from 63 localities to 18 - and that's just for these ethnic Serbs born on the RPR territory. Numerical statistics and graphs help us understand the mass of displaced population and the massive depopulation of villages, even more so in this particular case of Serbian villages.

The reasons written on these reports were mainly *chiabur*, but they also mixed with business-related activities, then we have the categories: suspect, *Titoists*, former administrative positions, relatives living abroad, illegal border crossing, legionaries and partisans. There were also families persecuted as collateral victims for a son, a husband, a nephew or a grandson who did something wrong against the regime.

It is important to mention that I found numerous spelling errors of names and localities in Banat in these reports, clear evidence that those who wrote the reports had no connection to the region – understandable fact, since the regime would not have wanted the officers to fraternize with the inhabitants.

But most men, in general with these deportations and in this special research on the Serbian ethnics, had a major flaw in terms of the regime: they were too hardworking, they accumulated too much wealth, they had the possibility to hire workers and maybe own a business and thus became a threat to the class struggle.

On December 7th, 1955, a decision of the Council of Ministries ordered the deportees to be allowed to return to their initial domicile, as RPR was about to join the United Nations a week later and this was one of the conditions[19].

Most reasons were of propaganda facade, when in fact there were measures to punish all the elements that disturbed the regime or could have disturbed it in the future. The real reasons were to remove anyone who could disturb the rise of the class struggle, the Romanian Workers' Party (to become Romanian Communist Party) and the new servants of the regime!

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Адријан Кантар

ДЕПОРТАЦИЈА СРПСКИХ ПОРОДИЦА У БАРАГАН ЕТНИЧКА И СТАТИСТИЧКА СТУДИЈА

Резиме

Бараганске депортације су се догодиле у ноћи Духова између 17. и 18. јуна 1951. године и трајале су све до 1956. године. Њихов циљ је био присилно пресељење богатог становништва - кулака („кјабури“), потенцијално непријатељски настројеног или Титових симпатизера из радијуса од 25 км од заједничке границе између Федеративне Народне Републике Југославије и Народне Републике Румуније, који су могли постати противници комунистичког режима. Студија се заснива на извештајима који су произашли из Наредбе Министарства унутрашњих послова бр. 161 од 29. јуна 1954. године, којом је утврђено ко се може вратити у своја места пребивалишта, а ко мора остати под присилним боравком. Циљ рада је да се идентификују етнички Срби рођени на територији Народне Републике Румуније који су депортовани, да се направи база података са њима и њиховим статусом одласка/боравишта, статистика о местима одласка и депортације, да се креирају мапе и пронађу разлози за њихову депортацију. Идентификација је заснована по имену главе породице, јер већина записа у овим извештајима наводи само име оца и број чланова са којима је депортован.

Кључне речи: Банат, депортације, Бараган, „Секуритатеа“ - румунска безбедност, архиве, српске породице